

Wickham Market

Local Green Space Assessment

Introduction

Wickham Market has a number of ‘green spaces’ that make an important contribution to the natural environment and fulfilment of resident’s lives. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) identifies the possibility of identifying green spaces that fulfil criteria in that they are:

- a) in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
- b) demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and
- c) local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

This paper provides an assessment of the green spaces in the village against the above criteria in order to support the designation of Local Green Spaces in the emerging Wickham Market Neighbourhood Plan.

The Identified Green Spaces

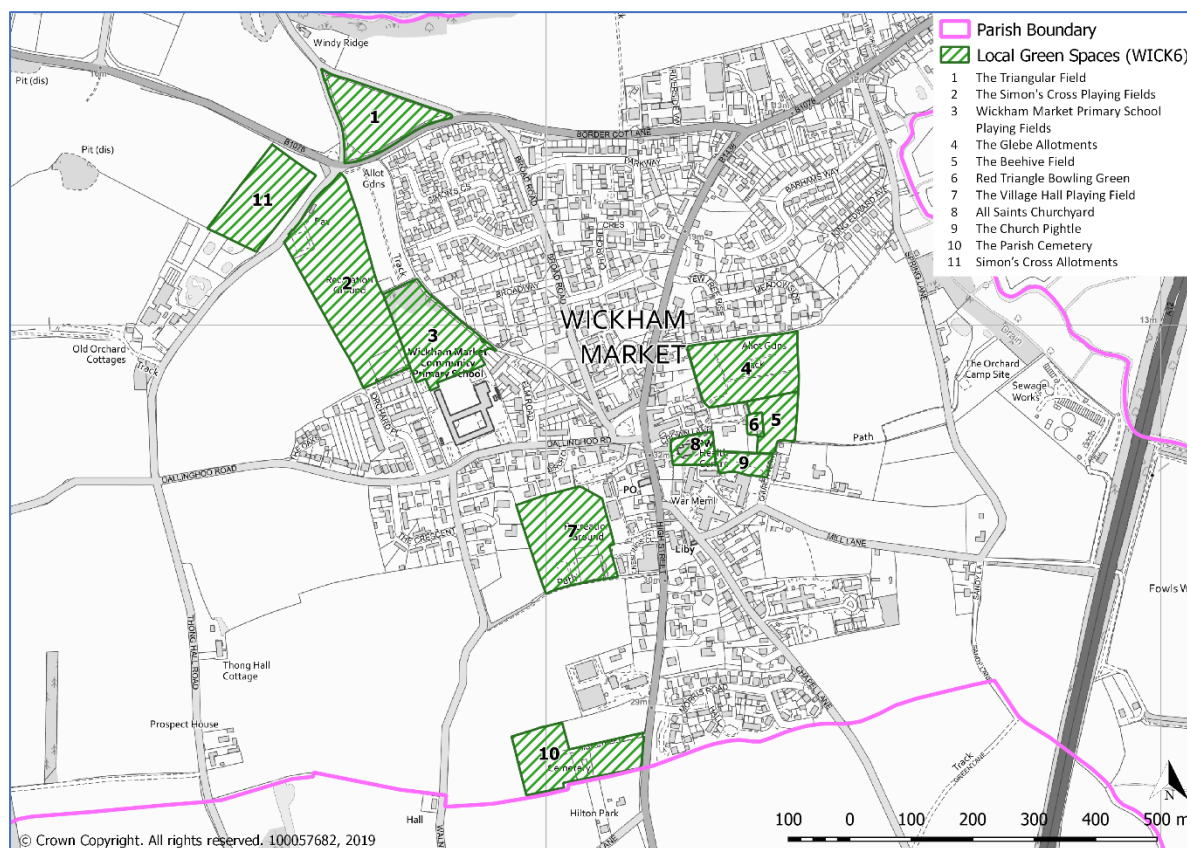
The following list of green spaces have been identified in the Neighbourhood Plan and have been assessed

1. The Triangular Field
2. The Simon's Cross Playing Fields
3. Wickham Market Primary School Playing Fields
4. The Glebe Allotments
5. The Beehive Field
6. The Red Triangle Bowling Green
7. The Village Hall Playing Field
8. All Saints Churchyard
9. The Church Pightle
10. The Parish Cemetery
11. Simon’s Cross Allotments

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Date: 8th March 2021. Updated 21st Oct 2021 to include Red Triangle Bowls Club.

Map of Green Space Locations



Assessment Appraisal

The following pages provide a detailed assessment of each of the identified spaces to ascertain whether they conform with the Local Green Space criteria of the NPPF and the Neighbourhood Planning Local Green Spaces guidelines.

1.The Triangular Field



Site Details	
Description and purpose	The Triangular Field lies at the north west corner of the village (see map) near to the Simon's Cross development and on the B1078. It has parking nearby and is popular with families, hikers and dog walkers.
Checklist	
Are there any statutory designations?	No
Is the site designated for any purpose in the Local Plan?	No
Are there any current planning permissions on the site?	No
What is the Site Area?	1.27 Ha
Who owns it?	Mr N Holland
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Is it close to the community it serves?	Yes. It is adjacent to housing on the north western edge of the village
Is there public access?	Yes
Is it historically significant?	No
Is it demonstrably special to the local community and hold a particular local significance	Provides play area for children as well as an amenity area for whole community. Well used by dog walkers.
Is it historically significant?	No
Does it have recreational value	Yes
Is it a place of tranquillity	Yes
Does it have a richness of wildlife	Yes
Is it local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	Yes
Conclusion:	Yes It satisfies the NPPF criteria for Local Green Space

2.The Simon’s Cross Playing/sports Fields



Site Details	
Description and purpose	This is located to the west of the village (see map) and is extensively used by the Wickham Market Youth Football Club. A corner of the field also has dedicated tennis courts for the Wickham Market Tennis Club.
Checklist	
Are there any statutory designations?	No
Is the site designated for any purpose in the Local Plan?	No
Are there any current planning permissions on the site?	No
What is the Site Area?	3.28 Ha
Who owns it?	Suffolk County Council leased to Wickham Parish Council
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Is it close to the community it serves?	Yes. It is adjacent to housing and to the school
Is there public access?	Yes
Is it historically significant?	No
Is it demonstrably special to the local community and hold a particular local significance	Used extensively by youth football club and village tennis club. It is also used by families and dog walkers.
Is it historically significant?	No
Does it have recreational value	Yes
Is it a place of tranquillity	No
Does it have a richness of wildlife	No
Is it local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	Yes
Conclusion:	Yes It satisfies the NPPF criteria for Local Green Space

3. Wickham Market Primary School Playing Fields



Site Details	
Description and purpose	This is the main play area for Wickham Market Primary School and supports two football pitches which are used by the school. It is also used as a general grass games area for the school.
Checklist	
Are there any statutory designations?	No
Is the site designated for any purpose in the Local Plan?	No
Are there any current planning permissions on the site?	No
What is the Site Area?	1.54 Ha
Who owns it?	Suffolk County Council, leased to the Avocet Trust on a 99-year lease.
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Is it close to the community it serves?	Yes. It is adjacent to the school
Is there public access?	Yes, but only through the school gates
Is it historically significant?	No
Is it demonstrably special to the local community and hold a particular local significance	Provides play and sports area for children. It is used for school events and sports days.
Is it historically significant?	No
Does it have recreational value	Yes
Is it a place of tranquillity	No
Does it have a richness of wildlife	No
Is it local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	Yes
Conclusion:	Yes It satisfies the NPPF criteria for Local Green Space

4.The Glebe Allotments



Site Details	
Description and purpose	The Glebe allotments is the last vestige of the ancient farm field structure which once encircled centre of the village. It has been in continual use as allotments for over 135 years and is a registered as an asset of community value.
Checklist	
Are there any statutory designations?	No
Is the site designated for any purpose in the Local Plan?	No
Are there any current planning permissions on the site?	No
What is the Site Area?	1.67 Ha
Who owns it?	Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Is it close to the community it serves?	Yes. It is very close to the village centre with easy access.
Is there public access?	Yes
Is it historically significant?	Yes
Is it demonstrably special to the local community and hold a particular local significance	It has over 60 plots which are all in use and has a waiting list. It supports ploholders from the local community and surrounding villagers
Is it historically significant?	Yes
Does it have recreational value	Yes
Is it a place of tranquillity	Yes
Does it have a richness of wildlife	Yes
Is it local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	Yes
Conclusion:	Yes It satisfies the NPPF criteria for Local Green Space

5.The Beehive Field



Site Details	
Description and purpose	The field is located close to the east of the All-Saints Church and the Beehive. It belongs to the Church and is used extensively by the Church for youth activities such as camping, football, games, etc.
Checklist	
Are there any statutory designations?	Yes. In Conservation Area
Is the site designated for any purpose in the Local Plan?	No
Are there any current planning permissions on the site?	No
What is the Site Area?	0.52 Ha
Who owns it?	Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Is it close to the community it serves?	Yes. It is adjacent to the Church, Church Hall, and Church Beehive building
Is there public access?	Yes
Is it historically significant?	Yes
Is it demonstrably special to the local community and hold a particular local significance	Used extensively by the Church for youth activities such as camping, football, games, etc.
Is it historically significant?	Yes
Does it have recreational value	Yes
Is it a place of tranquillity	Yes
Does it have a richness of wildlife	No
Is it local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	Yes
Conclusion:	Yes It satisfies the NPPF criteria for Local Green Space

6.The Red Triangle Bowling Green



Site Details	
Description and purpose	The bowling green is at the end of Crown Lane, near to the Beehive and lies at the western end of the Beehive Field.
Checklist	
Are there any statutory designations?	Yes. In Conservation Area
Is the site designated for any purpose in the Local Plan?	No
Are there any current planning permissions on the site?	No
What is the Site Area?	0.09 Ha
Who owns it?	Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Is it close to the community it serves?	Yes. It is adjacent to the Church, Church Hall, and Church Beehive building
Is there public access?	Partially but mainly for club use only.
Is it historically significant?	Yes
Is it demonstrably special to the local community and hold a particular local significance	It is one of two very active bowling clubs within the village. 'Friendly' matches are played here and they have a Junior Club with children aged from 7 years old
Is it historically significant?	Yes
Does it have recreational value	Yes
Is it a place of tranquillity	Yes
Does it have a richness of wildlife	No
Is it local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	Yes
Conclusion:	Yes It satisfies the NPPF criteria for Local Green Space

7.The Village Hall Playing Field



Site Details	
Description and purpose	This is the main recreational field for the village and is situated next to the Village Hall. It is home to Wickham Market Football Club, Wickham Market Bowls Club, a skate park, zip wire, Multi Use Games Area, and a large, enclosed children's play area. The field is for village events and has in the past been used for the annual village carnival.
Checklist	
Are there any statutory designations?	No
Is the site designated for any purpose in the Local Plan?	No
Are there any current planning permissions on the site?	No
What is the Site Area?	1.96 Ha
Who owns it?	Wickham Market Parish Council
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Is it close to the community it serves?	Yes. It is adjacent to housing, the village hall, the football club, bowls club and close to village centre
Is there public access?	Yes
Is it historically significant?	Yes
Is it demonstrably special to the local community and hold a particular local significance	Provides play area for children as well as an amenity area for the whole community.
Is it historically significant?	No
Does it have recreational value	Yes
Is it a place of tranquillity	No
Does it have a richness of wildlife	No
Is it local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	Yes
Conclusion:	Yes, It satisfies the NPPF criteria for Local Green Space

8.All Saints Churchyard



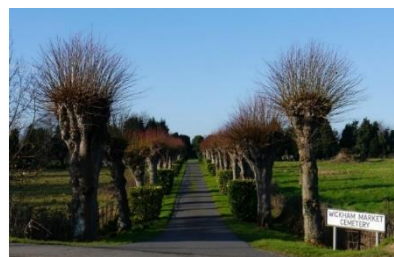
Site Details	
Description and purpose	The Church of All Saints dates back to the 14 th century and was built on the site of an earlier Anglo Saxon Church. The churchyard has therefore been used since early times but no longer has the capacity for village burials which is now transferred to the Parish Cemetery.
Checklist	
Are there any statutory designations?	It is in the Conservation Area
Is the site designated for any purpose in the Local Plan?	No
Are there any current planning permissions on the site?	No
What is the Site Area?	0.34 Ha
Who owns it?	East Suffolk Council
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Is it close to the community it serves?	Yes. It is adjacent to housing on the north western edge of the village
Is there public access?	Yes
Is it historically significant?	No
Is it demonstrably special to the local community and hold a particular local significance	Provides a place of tranquillity and contemplation for village residents.
Is it historically significant?	No
Does it have recreational value	Yes
Is it a place of tranquillity	Yes
Does it have a richness of wildlife	Yes
Is it local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	Yes
Conclusion:	Yes It satisfies the NPPF criteria for Local Green Space

9.The Church Pightle



Site Details	
Description and purpose	Situated close to All Saints Church and Lehmann House Care Home. It is a small, enclosed field dating back to medieval times and has been used for village and Church functions such as Fetes. It was the site of the first Suffolk Show which was established in 1831
Checklist	
Are there any statutory designations?	It is in the Conservation Area
Is the site designated for any purpose in the Local Plan?	No
Are there any current planning permissions on the site?	No
What is the Site Area?	0.28 Ha
Who owns it?	Wickham Market Parish Council
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Is it close to the community it serves?	Yes. It is close to the village centre
Is there public access?	Yes
Is it historically significant?	Yes
Is it demonstrably special to the local community and hold a particular local significance	Provides general play and recreation area and has been used for church fetes etc. It used as an exercise area for Lehmann House Residents
Is it historically significant?	Yes
Does it have recreational value	Yes
Is it a place of tranquillity	Yes
Does it have a richness of wildlife	Yes
Is it local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	Yes
Conclusion:	Yes It satisfies the NPPF criteria for Local Green Space

10.Parish Cemetery



Site Details	
Description and purpose	Situated just off the southern part of the High Street near to Old School Farm is the Parish Cemetery. It was established in 1875 and is now the main cemetery for the village.
Checklist	
Are there any statutory designations?	No
Is the site designated for any purpose in the Local Plan?	No
Are there any current planning permissions on the site?	No
What is the Site Area?	1.47 Ha
Who owns it?	Wickham Market Parish Council
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Is it close to the community it serves?	Yes. It is adjacent on the edge of the village
Is there public access?	Yes
Is it historically significant?	No
Is it demonstrably special to the local community and hold a particular local significance	It is now the only burial place in Wickham Market
Is it historically significant?	No
Does it have recreational value	No
Is it a place of tranquillity	Yes
Does it have a richness of wildlife	Yes
Is it local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	Yes
Conclusion:	Yes It satisfies the NPPF criteria for Local Green Space

11.The Simon’s Cross Allotments



Site Details	
Description and purpose	The Simon’s Cross allotments were moved to a new location next to Gelham Hall, just off Thong Hall Road. The old allotment site has been allocated for development within the Neighbourhood Plan.
Checklist	
Are there any statutory designations?	No
Is the site designated for any purpose in the Local Plan?	No
Are there any current planning permissions on the site?	No
What is the Site Area?	1.29 Ha
Who owns it?	Mr N Holland
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Is it close to the community it serves?	Yes. It is located on the western edge of the village with easy access by road and pedestrians.
Is there public access?	Yes
Is it historically significant?	No
Is it demonstrably special to the local community and hold a particular local significance	It has over 40 plots which are all in use and has a waiting list. It supports plottolders from the local community and surrounding villagers
Is it historically significant?	No
Does it have recreational value	Yes
Is it a place of tranquillity	Yes
Does it have a richness of wildlife	Yes
Is it local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	Yes
Conclusion:	Yes It satisfies the NPPF criteria for Local Green Space