

Local Green Spaces and Destination Open Spaces in Havant Borough

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Havant Borough Local Plan 2036

Local Green Spaces and Destination Open Spaces in Havant Borough

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1. Introduction

The purpose of this background paper is to explain the designation of Local Green Spaces and Destination Open Spaces in the Havant Borough Local Plan 2036 (HBLP 2036). It sets out the national and local background to Local Green Space designations and makes clear the methodology for Local Green Spaces and Destination Open Spaces designations used by the council. A full list of greenspaces proposed for designation is set out in Appendix 1 along with reasons for their inclusion or non-inclusion.

2. Policy Context

National Policy Context

- 2.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) published in 2018 recognises the need for access to high quality open spaces due to the opportunities it provides and how it helps society. It also sets out the concept of Local Green Spaces. Paragraph 99 of the document states that local communities should be given the opportunity to identify green areas of particular importance through local and neighbourhood plans. Designation of land as a Local Green Space in the plan would rule out development other than in very special circumstances and would need to live on beyond the end of the plan period.
- 2.2 Paragraph 100 of the NPPF notes that the designation would not be appropriate for most green areas. It sets out the following criteria for designating Local Green Spaces:
- In reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
 - 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), tranquility or richness of its wildlife; and
 - Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

Local Policy Context

- 2.3 Havant Borough is experiencing a high level of housing need. The Council is preparing the Havant Borough Local Plan 2036 to address this need for housing and other development, together with supporting infrastructure.
- 2.4 The NPPF states that Local Green Spaces should only be designated when a plan is prepared or reviewed, and be capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period. In preparing the new Local Plan, the Council has reviewed what green spaces should be protected.
- 2.5 Local communities were given the opportunity to propose areas of open space for designation as part of their representation on the Regulation 18 Draft Local Plan 2036 in early 2018. As part of that consultation, individuals and community groups were asked to propose new spaces, which they consider to meet the criteria set out in the NPPF. They were also asked to suggest any amendments or deletions, again having regard to the criteria. Suggestions were considered against the evaluation matrix and any proposals which are considered appropriate for designation, have been taken forward into the HBLP 2036.
- 2.6 The following section of this report explains the methodology used to decide which of these greenspaces were designated.

3. Methodology

- 3.1 The designation of green spaces as either a Local Green Space (LGS) or a Destination Open Space (DOS) is dependent on meeting the criteria as set out in this document.
- 3.2 The starting point was to consider all spaces for designation as Local Green Spaces. This is because it is a formal designation recognised in the NPPF, and the Borough residents had been specifically asked to suggest sites for designation under this category. However, this designation required very specific criteria to be met, one of which is related to size ('an extensive tract of land').
- 3.3 A number of sites were suggested to the Council as Local Green Spaces, which were too extensive to meet the nationally set criteria for Local Green Spaces, such as woodlands. Nevertheless, the Council recognises the value of these spaces to the local community and in this assessment introduced a category of 'Destination Open Spaces' to allow these sites to be protected similarly to Local Green Spaces.
- 3.4 On this basis, if a site was under 10 hectares it was considered for Local Green Space designation. If it was over 10 hectares it was considered for Destination Open Space designation.

Local Green Spaces

- 3.5 The NPPF sets out criteria for designating Local Green Spaces in paragraph 100. These criteria were used to create the Local Green Space and Destination Open Spaces evaluation matrix, shown in Appendix 1 and Appendix 3. All the greenspaces proposed during the initial public consultation into the Allocations Plan were entered into this matrix, along with the open spaces allocated under Policy CS1 of the Havant Borough Local Plan (Core Strategy) and, the open spaces proposed as part of the consultation for the Regulation 18 Draft Havant Borough Local Plan 2036.
- 3.6 To designate a space, it needs to meet three criteria:
 - proximity to the community,
 - special significance, and
 - site size.
- 3.7 The assessment of site proximity to the local community is based on both the distance that the site is from the local community, and whether the public can access the site. For allocation to be successful both points need to be achieved. As Havant Borough covers quite a small mainly urbanised area, most of the proposed greenspaces were located in reasonably close proximity to the community they serve. In terms of public access, the main effect of the application of this criterion was that allotments could not be designated due to not necessarily being publicly accessible. However, allotments will continue to be protected under a different policy mechanism in the Havant Borough Local Plan 2036.
- 3.8 The assessment of whether a site is of special significance to the local community is based on its beauty, historic significance, recreational value, tranquility, and richness of wildlife which are largely subjective judgements. For designation to be successful a minimum of three points needed to be achieved. The scoring varied widely with some sites appearing to have no special attributes with other sites being demonstrably special in respect of all five criteria.

- 3.9 Finally, it is not possible to designate areas which are extensive tracts of land as a Local Green Space. However, land which met the Local Green Space criteria apart from site size was then considered for Destination Open Space designation.

Destination Open Spaces

- 3.10 Open spaces were designated as Destination Open Spaces if they were over 10 hectares in size and considered particularly important due to their range of multifunctional uses and activities and, as such, mean residents are likely to travel further to access them. For example, Staunton Country Park, Hayling Beach and the Hayling Billy Trail.
- 3.11 Other examples are protected by other policy designations in the Local Plan 2036, including a policy to protect allotments, a policy specifically on the Hermitage Stream, and an extensive suite of policies to protect sites important to nature conservation interests

4. Local Green Space and Destination Open Space Designations

- 4.1 All sites proposed for designation underwent a detailed appraisal applying the criteria as set out in Section 3. The reasons for inclusion and rejection from designation as a Local Green Space or Designation Opens Space are set out in Appendices 1 and 2 respectively.
- 4.2 The final selection of sites to be designated as Local Green Spaces and Designation Open Spaces, and to be given protection through a policy in the Local Plan is listed in Table 1 below and shown on Figure 1.

Table 1: Sites proposed for protection through Havant Borough Local Plan 2036	
Local Green Space	Destination Open Space
Emsworth Recreation Ground	Nore Barn Woods
Brook Meadow Local Nature Reserve	Hollybank Woods
Hayling Park	Hayling Billy Trail
St Clare's Wood	Hayling Beach
Hollybank Recreation Ground	Queen's Inclosure
Victoria Cottage Hospital Gardens	Staunton Country Park
Langstone Meadows	
Havant Park	
Bidbury Mead	
Cowplain Recreation Ground	
Front Lawn Recreation Ground	
Battins Copse	
Great Copse	
Stockheath Common	
Gundymoor Wood	
Park Wood	
Newlease Coppice	
Purbrook Heath	
Waterlooville Recreation Ground	

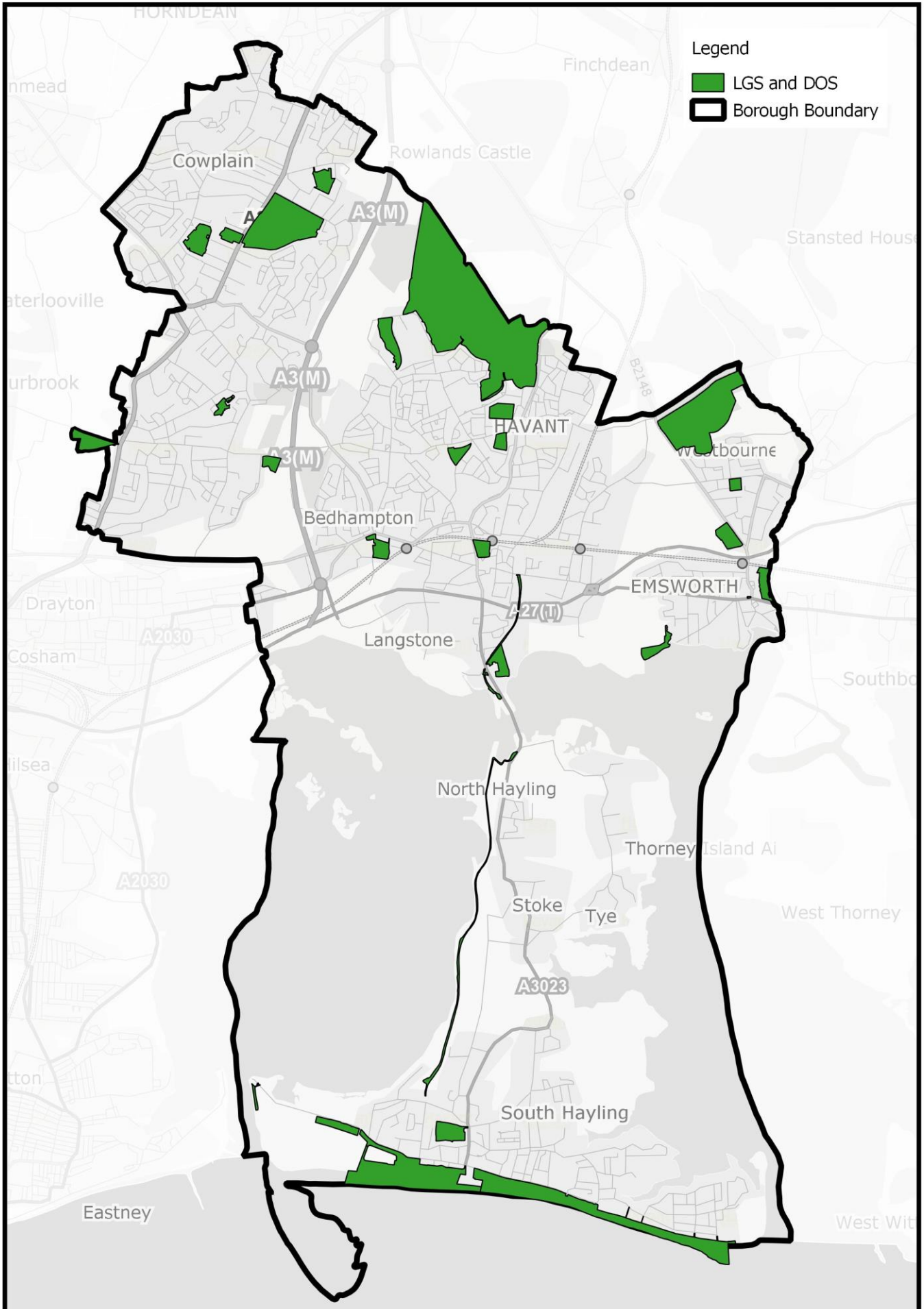


Figure 1. Local Green Spaces and Destination Open Spaces

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 The designation of Local Green Spaces and Destination Open Spaces has offered local communities the opportunity to suggest green spaces that are important to them for protection from development. This paper has sought to explain the process the Council used to decide which green spaces put forward by the public should be protected through a policy in the Havant Borough Local Plan 2036.
- 5.2 A specific policy on the protection of existing green infrastructure spaces is being proposed for the Havant Borough Local Plan 2026. It will apply to these sites, which means that only proposals that protect or enhance these spaces will be permitted. Development proposals that would harm them will only be permitted under very special circumstances.

Appendix 1: Sites for Designation

Local Green Space (LGS) and Destination Open Spaces (DOS) Evaluation Matrix

About the site		Proximity to the community		Special Significance					Site size	Decision	
Site	Area of Borough	Close proximity to community	Publicly Accessible	Beauty	Historic Significance	Recreation	Tranquillity	Wildlife	Extensive Tract of Land	LGS or DOS	Comments
Emsworth Recreation Ground	Emsworth	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	LGS	An important urban greenspace
Brook Meadow Local Nature Reserve	Emsworth	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	LGS	Demonstrably special nature reserve on the edge of Emsworth looked after by Brook Meadow Conservation Group
Hollybank Recreation Ground	Emsworth	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	LGS	A well-used local park by the community with a cricket pitch and pavilion, children's play area, and skate park.
Victoria Cottage Hospital Gardens	Emsworth	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	LGS	A small pocket of green space located in an urbanised area of Emsworth. An area of green space which is maintained by the Friends of Emsworth Community Health as a public amenity.

About the site		Proximity to the community		Special Significance					Site size	Decision	
Site	Area of Borough	Close proximity to community	Publicly Accessible	Beauty	Historic Significance	Recreation	Tranquillity	Wildlife	Extensive Tract of Land	LGS or DOS	Comments
Nore Barn Woods	Emsworth	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	DOS	Demonstrably special nature reserve on the edge of Emsworth looked after by Friends of Nore Barn Woods
Hollybank Woods	Emsworth	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	DOS	Demonstrably special nature reserve on the edge of Emsworth looked after by Friends of Hollybank Woods
Langstone Meadows	Havant	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	LGS	Demonstrably special open fields with a public right of way running through it linking Langstone Village to the Billy Trail. Medieval ridge and furrow field markings evident in the upper fields.
Havant Park	Havant	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	LGS	An important urban greenspace.
Bidbury Mead	Havant	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	LGS	Well used local park in historic setting with a number of facilities including cricket pitch and equipped children's play area.
Hayling Billy Trail	Hayling Island	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	DOS	Well used footpath and cycle way following the former railway line between Havant and Hayling Island. Due to it being an extensive tract of land it cannot be allocated as a LGS.
Hayling Park	Hayling Island	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	LGS	An important urban greenspace.

About the site		Proximity to the community		Special Significance					Site size	Decision	
Site	Area of Borough	Close proximity to community	Publicly Accessible	Beauty	Historic Significance	Recreation	Tranquillity	Wildlife	Extensive Tract of Land	LGS or DOS	Comments
Hayling Beach	Hayling Island	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	DOS	Policy E1 site; although it is a demonstrably special area, it is an extensive tract of land and cannot be allocated as a LGS
Front Lawn Recreation Ground	Leigh Park	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	LGS	A well-used local park with a number of facilities including a cricket pitch and equipped children's play area.
Battins Copse	Leigh Park	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	LGS	Demonstrably special area that is a fragment of ancient woodland from the Forest of Bere in the heart of Leigh Park
Great Copse	Leigh Park	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	LGS	Demonstrably special area that is a fragment of ancient woodland from the Forest of Bere in the heart of Leigh Park
St Clare's Wood	Leigh Park	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	LGS	Demonstrably special area with both woodland which is managed by the Woodland Trust and open space, with a children's play area and cycle area.
Stockheath Common	Leigh Park	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	LGS	The common is in the heart of Leigh Park and is well used for community events such as Bonfire Night
Staunton Country Park	Leigh Park	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	DOS	A demonstrably special greenspace with farm, gardens and country park

About the site		Proximity to the community		Special Significance					Site size	Decision	
Site	Area of Borough	Close proximity to community	Publicly Accessible	Beauty	Historic Significance	Recreation	Tranquillity	Wildlife	Extensive Tract of Land	LGS or DOS	Comments
Gundymoor Wood	Waterlooville	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	LGS	An area of woodland providing public access and a diverse range of wildlife, managed by the woodland Trust.
Newlease Coppice	Waterlooville	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	LGS	A well laid out green space with woodland vegetation, and clearly defined paths used by the local community.
Park Wood	Waterlooville	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	LGS	Demonstrably special area that is a fragment of ancient woodland from the Forest of Bere in the heart of Waterlooville.
Purbrook Heath	Waterlooville	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	LGS	An important urban greenspace
Waterlooville Recreation Ground	Waterlooville	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	LGS	An important urban greenspace. A well-used park with facilities including; cricket pitch and pavilion, bowls green, tennis courts, cycle track, and children's play area.
Complain Recreation Ground	Waterlooville	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	LGS	An important urban greenspace. A well-used park with facilities including; cricket pitch and pavilion, bowls green, tennis courts, and children's play area.

About the site		Proximity to the community		Special Significance					Site size	Decision	
Site	Area of Borough	Close proximity to community	Publicly Accessible	Beauty	Historic Significance	Recreation	Tranquillity	Wildlife	Extensive Tract of Land	LGS or DOS	Comments
Queen's Inclosure	Waterlooville	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	DOS	Demonstrably special area that is a fragment of ancient woodland from the Forest of Bere in the heart of Waterlooville

Appendix 2: Discounted Sites

Local Green Space (LGS) and Destination Open Spaces (DOS) Evaluation Matrix

About the site		Proximity to the community		Special Significance					Site Size	Decision	
Site	Area of Borough	Close proximity to community	Public open space	Beauty	Historic Significance	Recreation	Tranquillity	Wildlife	Extensive Tract of Land	LGS / DOS	Comments
All Allotments	Havant Borough	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	Due to allotments not being accessible to the public they cannot be classed as a LGS. However, the protection of allotments is now in Policy E19 in the HBLP 20136.
The SYRCH Centre at Spencers Field	Emsworth	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	Open space well used by young people but not demonstrably special in terms of beauty, history, tranquillity or wildlife
Land west of the River Ems and east of Westwood Close	Emsworth	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	There is an informal access route however, the land is privately owned and used for agricultural uses.
The Horse Field, Havant Road (UE11)	Emsworth	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	The fields are privately owned therefore cannot be designated as a LGS due to lack of access.

About the site		Proximity to the community		Special Significance					Site Size	Decision	
Site	Area of Borough	Close proximity to community	Public open space	Beauty	Historic Significance	Recreation	Tranquillity	Wildlife	Extensive Tract of Land	LGS / DOS	Comments
Fields along the Solent Way between Emsworth and Warblington (H23F, H23E)	Emsworth	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	The land is not publicly accessible therefore does not qualify for LGS designation.
Land around Warblington Church and Farm	Emsworth	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	The land is privately owned therefore does not qualify.
All green spaces between Havant, Warblington, Emsworth, Prinstead, Southbourne etc. should be maintained particularly Nore Barn Woods, Hollybank Woods and Brook Meadow	Emsworth	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	The areas listed are not specific enough therefore, we cannot designate.
Interbridges East	Emsworth	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Private field with no public access that is not demonstrably special
Southleigh Strategic Site: eastern edge to the north and south of the site, and the green strip through the centre.	Emsworth / Havant	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Southleigh Strategic Site is not completed therefore, it is difficult to identify whether the criteria have been met currently. The site will be reassessed in the next review of LGS and DOS in the Borough.
Southmere Field, Langstone	Havant	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	Private field with no public access that has no special significance.
Bosmere School Playing Fields	Havant	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Well landscaped school grounds but without public access

About the site		Proximity to the community		Special Significance					Site Size	Decision	
Site	Area of Borough	Close proximity to community	Public open space	Beauty	Historic Significance	Recreation	Tranquility	Wildlife	Extensive Tract of Land	LGS / DOS	Comments
Open green space between Rowans Road and Elder Road, Denvilles	Havant	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Attractive pocket park with mature trees, but is not demonstrably special
Open green space lying between Japonica Way, Snowberry Way and Acer Crescent	Havant	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	Attractive pocket park, but is not demonstrably special
Brockhampton Springs	Havant	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Demonstrably special location of Brockhampton Springs in the heart of Havant, but public access is not permitted in order to protect water supply
Warblington School's playing fields	Havant	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	Well used school playing fields but without public access
Grounds of the Public Service Plaza	Havant	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Well landscaped grounds for Public Service Plaza, but not demonstrably special
Scratchface Lane Recreation Ground	Havant	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	Well used recreation ground but not demonstrably special
Hooks Lane Recreation Ground	Havant	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	Well used recreation ground but not demonstrably special
Foreshore between Langstone and Warblington	Havant / Emsworth	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Due to the mixed ownership of land and not having a defined boundary to assess the criteria against it cannot be afforded formal designation.

About the site		Proximity to the community		Special Significance					Site Size	Decision	
Site	Area of Borough	Close proximity to community	Public open space	Beauty	Historic Significance	Recreation	Tranquillity	Wildlife	Extensive Tract of Land	LGS / DOS	Comments
Stokes Common and Stokes Wood	Hayling Island	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Land is privately owned and there is no public access.
Land East of footpath 102, including Tournebury Golf Course	Hayling Island	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	It is not a public open space therefore it does not qualify.
Existing agricultural land to East and West of Northney village and Copse Lane	Hayling Island	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	It is not a public open space therefore it does not qualify.
Existing agricultural land to the East of A3023	Hayling Island	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	It is not a public open space therefore, it does not qualify.
Land at Goldring Close (UE16)	Hayling Island	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	Private field with no public access that is not demonstrably special
Open green space next to Old Copse Road	Leigh Park	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	Well landscaped area that appears well used by local people but not demonstrably special
Hermitage Stream	Leigh Park	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Demonstrably special area forming a green/blue corridor in the heart of Leigh Park. It is already protected under another policy within the HBLP 2036 therefore does not need LGS or DOS designation at this time.
Barton Road Open Space	Leigh Park	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Private field with no public access that has planning permission for a crematorium; not wholly located in Havant Borough

About the site		Proximity to the community		Special Significance					Site Size	Decision	
Site	Area of Borough	Close proximity to community	Public open space	Beauty	Historic Significance	Recreation	Tranquillity	Wildlife	Extensive Tract of Land	LGS / DOS	Comments
Blendworth Crescent Open Space (L86)	Leigh Park	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Small area of grassland that is not demonstrably special
Extention of Purbrook Heath to include woods	Waterlooville	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Purbrook Heath is already allocated however extending the boundary of LGS allocation is not possible due to being outside the Havant Borough boundary.
Covert Grove, off Holst Way	Waterlooville	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	It is not demonstrably special.
Hurst Wood of Dornmere Lane	Waterlooville	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	It is not demonstrably special.

