

Local Green Space Assessment Report Summary (Dec 2025)

This report assesses open areas in Barrowby for potential designation as Local Green Spaces (LGS) in the Neighbourhood Plan, in accordance with guidance and criteria set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2024). Each site has been evaluated against national criteria, local context, and evidence of community value.

The site surveys and assessments were carried out by members of the Neighbourhood Plan working group, with findings and preliminary recommendations being recorded on LGS Site Assessment Forms. The information set out in the Site Assessment Forms was then considered by an independent consultant¹ appointed to provide professional advice to support the preparation of the Barrowby Neighbourhood Plan.

1. Purpose of Local Green Space in the Planning Process

Local Green Space (LGS) designation enables communities to protect certain green areas of particular importance to them. It affords protection similar to Green Belt land, preventing development other than in very special circumstances. The designation must be consistent with national policy guidance, and the local planning of sustainable development and complement investment in sufficient homes, jobs, and other services.

2. Criteria for Designation

According to NPPF (2024), paragraph 105, to qualify as Local Green Space, the green area must be:

- Reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
- Demonstrably special to a local community and hold particular local significance;
- Local in character and not an extensive tract of land.

3. Site Assessments and Recommendations

Each of the open areas has been assessed against the criteria described in 2, above, and they are all considered to meet the relevant criteria for designation as Local Green Space.

¹. Steve Kemp BA, DipTP, MRTPI, of OpenPlan, checked the assessments and confirmed the recommendations summarised in this report.

Local Green Space Assessment

Ref ID	LGS 1	Site Name and Address	All Saints' Churchyard
Assessment carried out by:	Phil Cupit Chairman Barrowby Neighbourhood Planning Group	Date of Assessment:	10 th December 2025
Site Ownership	Barrowby Parish Council	Owner Comments re Designation	The designation will be supported by the owner.
Planning Status	No planning applications or permissions for development.	Land Allocation	There is no planned allocation for development. It is subject to a non-development covenant.
Area of Proposed Site (hectares)	Approximately 0.8Ha		
Is the Site an "Extensive Tract of Land"?	No. The Churchyard is a relatively small open space with clearly defined boundaries.		
Is the Site "Local in Character"	Yes. It is situated in the "old village"		
Is the Site "in Close Proximity to the Community it serves"?	Yes, The Churchyard serves the whole Barrowby community. It is readily accessible from the core of the village by pavements and by recognised public footpaths from other parts of the village.		

What attributes contribute to the value of this green space to the community?	
Beauty	<p>The Churchyard is no longer “Open” for more burials. As such it is a mature, mainly grassland area with impressive mature trees. The Churchyard holds particular local significance for its beauty, arising from the combination of mature tree cover, tranquil rural setting on the crest of the escarpment, and integration within the historic urban fabric of Barrowby. The site is highly visible from public routes including pedestrian pathways as well as from the A52 when approaching the village from the west. Its proximity to the neighbouring primary school presents a resource for studies of the natural world. It provides an attractive habitat for a wide variety of wildlife and fauna. Local ecologists have employed a sophisticated management plan for the maintenance of the area as a wild-life resource, ensuring that mowing is controlled in such a way as to encourage some of the rarer wild-life species to thrive. The natural canopy provided by the mature provides habitats for different species of bat as well as insects and birds.</p> <p>Its location on the escarpment contributes significantly to the character and setting of Barrowby’s position as a viewpoint overlooking the Trent Valley, offering a visual and spatial counterpoint to adjacent built form.</p> <p>Despite being modest in scale, the Churchyard creates a sense of openness and calm in a part of the village which would otherwise be subject to constant noise from the traffic on the A52 and A1 as well as the railway line to the north and east. The serenity of the Churchyard provides a balance to the hustle and bustle of modern 21st century life. The tranquillity it offers makes the Churchyard, a place of everyday beauty that is appreciated by the local community not for its dramatic features, but for its simple integration of greenery, wildlife, and space.</p>
Historic Significance	<p>Historically, this area would have been integral to village life being a focal area for social interaction. Apart from the wide diversity of fauna, the church yard also celebrates the skills of Victorian masons in the carvings on the slate gravestones. Many of the mature trees would have been saplings when the church yard was active and in use as a burial area.</p> <p>In more recent times, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission has erected memorials to the fallen in both World wars.</p>

Recreational Value	<p>Mown footpaths and bench seating both provide ease of access to the whole of the churchyard. Some stroll amid the fauna and the gravestones whilst others take advantage of the historical interest. Others study the rich natural history of the environment. The whole area can be used for either relaxation or private study and interest. The site is not used for formal activities and contains no built recreation infrastructure, but its open grassed area and network of shaded pathways offer opportunities for walking and quiet reflection.</p> <p>The space is physically and visually open, with unrestricted access via Church Street to the south. A surfaced path running to the entrance door to the church and then to the north down the hill to the Parish Burial Ground, enhances inclusive access for wheelchair users and those with limited mobility, and the open sight lines improve the sense of safety and welcome.</p>
Tranquillity	<p>Being on the summit of the scarp face of the Lincolnshire Edge, the church yard provides a rare and valued pocket of tranquillity, appreciated by local people for its calming atmosphere and natural setting. Surrounded by mature deciduous trees and bordered by the primary school to the east and the Trent Valley to the northwest, the space offers visual, acoustic, and sensory separation from nearby urban activity. Views of Lincoln Cathedral (25 miles away) and south Yorkshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire are all visible on a clear day. Nearby parking areas are scarce but the approach from Church Street is along a metalled road surface and there exists an adequate footpath for pedestrians. The internal environment of the Churchyard feels sheltered and removed from traffic and noise.</p> <p>This tranquil character is reinforced by the subdued soundscape: rustling leaves, bird calls, and the occasional movement of the trees in the westerly breezes. The site appears to be regularly used for peaceful activities—sitting, reading, feeding birds, and reflection.</p> <p>Overall, the Churchyard provides a meaningful and accessible opportunity for rest and reflection, and its tranquil qualities form a key part of its value to the Barrowby community.</p>
Richness of Wildlife	<p>Barrowby All Saints' Churchyard, though not designated as a formal wildlife site (e.g. SSSI or LWS), clearly supports a variety of flora and fauna and forms an integral part of the local ecological network. The mature trees across the site provide valuable habitat for nesting and roosting birds—including pigeons and songbirds. The proximity of the church bell tower and the mature trees provide a wealth of roosting and feeding opportunities for a healthy population of bats and birds.</p>

	<p>The area offers potential for local wildlife observation and education, particularly for families, the neighbouring schools, and informal naturalists.</p> <p>In this way, the Churchyard plays a modest but important role in sustaining biodiversity in Barrowby and offers everyday encounters with nature for residents and visitors alike - supporting the goals of local green infrastructure and public well-being.</p>
Any Other Reason	The Churchyard is thought of by many residents as a sacred area and as such its character and appearance should be preserved. .
Conclusion	
<p>Barrowby All Saints' Churchyard is demonstrably special to the local community and holds particular local significance for its beauty, historic association with the original medieval village, recreational value as an accessible and inclusive open space, tranquil character within a busy village, and its contribution to urban biodiversity. The Churchyard provides opportunities for informal recreation, quiet enjoyment, and contact with nature, and enhances the character and setting of the surrounding Conservation Area.</p> <p>In accordance with paragraphs 106 and 107 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, December 2024), the site is considered suitable for designation as Local Green Space. It is close to the community it serves, is not an extensive tract of land, and is locally valued for the reasons set out above. Designation would ensure long-term protection of this important green space and its role in supporting the health, well-being, heritage, and environmental quality of Barrowby.</p>	

Location of the Proposed Local Green Space



Local Green Space Assessment

Ref ID	LGS 2	Site Name and Address	Village Green
Assessment carried out by:	Phil Cupit Chairman Barrowby Neighbourhood Planning Group	Date of Assessment:	10 th December 2025
Site Ownership	Barrowby Parish Council	Owner Comments re Designation	The designation is supported by the owner.
Planning Status	No known planning applications or permissions for development.	Land Allocation	There is no planned allocation for development. It lies in the Barrowby Conservation Area.
Area of Proposed Site (hectares)	Approximately 0.82Ha		
Is the Site an “Extensive Tract of Land”?	No. The Village Green is a relatively small open space with clearly defined boundaries.		
Is the Site “Local in Character”	Yes. It is situated in the “old village”. It already has a designation as a Village Green.		
Is the Site “in Close Proximity to the Community it serves”?	Yes, The Village Green serves the whole Barrowby community. It is readily accessible from the core of the village by pavements and by recognised public footpaths from other parts of the village as well as by road traffic.		

What attributes contribute to the value of this green space to the community?	
Beauty	<p>The Village Green is recognised as being at the heart of the village. It is a mown lawned area which is frequently used during the summer months for picnics and family activities. It is often used for whole village events/celebrations where the whole community can gather.</p> <p>The Village Green has a sympathetic children's play area on its northern side comprising 15/20% of its total grassed area. It is bordered on its northern and eastern sides by mature trees which offer shade in the summer months. In Spring the tree blossom is beautiful and in Autumn the change in leaf colour is equally spectacular. On its south side it is bordered by a mature beech hedge which hides the urban nature of the street scene beyond. It is an area of calm and beauty during most of every day, which springs to life at the end of the school day when upwards of 70 parents and children descend upon the green space for either play or picnic. The six benches facilitate respite and conversation.</p> <p>It is bordered on its north and east sides by Casthorpe Road and Low Road respectively.</p> <p>The Village Green is widely appreciated as a space where "children can be children" actively participating in physical activity as well as having quiet time with parents/carers collecting them from school. In many respects is a traditional, idyllic village green.</p>
Historic Significance	<p>This area used to be a farmyard and also housed the village penfold. Historically it was known as Stephen's Gutter, as an open drain known by the same name, used to flow from the springs on Casthorpe Road along the northern and eastern boundaries of the Village Green alongside a stone wall. Over the years it has been used for a vast array of village events from concerts, barbeques, parties, fetes and National Celebrations. It is also the site where the village beacon is lit when called upon to do so.</p>
Recreational Value	<p>Apart from the enjoyment offered to children of the village through play on the play equipment, there is ample opportunity for play in the wider expanses of the open grassland areas. The trees along the periphery afford ample shade in the summer months and the metal benches offer seating for those who wish for a more sedentary enjoyment of their surroundings. Occasionally informally organised team games take place when groups of friends or family groups arrive for both play and picnics. The Village Green is used for all manner of events accessible to local residents. Activities such as concerts, barbeques, fetes, beer festivals</p>

	<p>and national celebrations have all taken place on the Village Green. Marquees have been erected and time capsules buried as part of village celebrations.</p> <p>The space is physically and visually open, with unrestricted access via Low Road and Casthorpe Road. The Village Green is an oasis of calm during the days of school but it erupts to life at the end of the school day when upwards of 75 children and associated parents/carers arrive for playtime or a chat about the day's events at school. The 9 metal bench seats around the green afford an opportunity to those wishing a more sedentary appreciation of their surroundings.</p> <p>The Village Green is also used by dog owners for the purpose of exercising their dogs.</p>
Tranquillity	<p>The Village Green is an oasis of green in an otherwise urban landscape. Birdsong can be heard throughout daylight hours and owls are often heard during the hours of darkness. Squirrels, deer and foxes are known to visit the area during the hours of darkness.</p> <p>Apart from the occasional vehicle passing along the Low Road, the sound of rustling leaves and bird song fill the air and give rise to an aura of serenity and tranquillity for most of the day.</p> <p>Overall, the Village Green provides a meaningful and accessible opportunity for rest and reflection, and its tranquil qualities form a key part of its value to the Barrowby community.</p>
Richness of Wildlife	<p>Because of its popularity as a recreational area in the heart of the village and the frequency of grass mowing, the Village Green is not recognised as a haven for wildlife. However, the village Green lies along the route of a wildlife corridor through the village and foxes, deer and squirrels are often seen to pass through during the hours of darkness. Birds are known to nest in the surrounding hedges and trees during their breeding seasons.</p>
Any Other Reason	<p>The Village Green is recognised as “the centre of the village” and is an essential feature of the character of Barrowby. It is fiercely defended by residents and resists change as it is recognised as a link between Barrowby’s past and its future development.</p>

Conclusion

Barrowby Village Green is demonstrably special to the local community and is of significant importance as a key feature of the community. Its link between its historical past as a farmyard and penfold and its current use as an area of recreation and leisure are important to village residents. They take great pride in the Village Green and its appearance and do not wish either its appearance or usage to be altered.

The Village Green provides opportunities for informal recreation, quiet enjoyment, and contact with nature, and enhances the character and setting of the surrounding Conservation Area.

In accordance with paragraphs 106 and 107 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, December 2024), the site is considered suitable for designation as Local Green Space. It is close to the community it serves, is not an extensive tract of land, and is locally valued for the reasons set out above. Designation would ensure long-term protection of this important green space and its role in supporting the health, well-being, heritage, and environmental quality of Barrowby.

Location Map of the Proposed Local Green Space



Photographs of the Proposed Local Green Space



Local Green Space Assessment

Ref ID	LGS 3	Site Name and Address	Lowfields Sports Field
Assessment carried out by:	Phil Cupit Chairman Barrowby Neighbourhood Planning Group	Date of Assessment:	10 th December 2025
Site Ownership	Barrowby Parish Council	Owner Comments re Designation	The designation will be supported by the owner.
Planning Status	No planning applications or permissions for development.	Land Allocation	There is no planned allocation for development. It is subject to a no development covenant.
Area of Proposed Site (hectares)	Approximately 5.8 Ha.		
Is the Site an “Extensive Tract of Land”?	No. The Sports Field is a relatively small open space with clearly defined boundaries. It contains a cricket pitch and two football pitches with an associated training area. It also contains a sports pavilion		
Is the Site “Local in Character”	Yes. It is situated within the village curtilage.		
Is the Site “in Close Proximity to the Community it serves”?	Yes, The Sports field serves the whole Barrowby community. It is readily accessible from the core of the village by pedestrian footpaths and by vehicular traffic.		

What attributes contribute to the value of this green space to the community?	
Beauty	<p>The Sports Field is on the western edge of the residential area of the village. It comprises of an expanse of mown grass with a strip of trees crossing the field east/west. The underlying grass area beneath the trees is left as a wildlife corridor giving a natural environment for insects and small vertebrates.</p> <p>The fact that the western side of the field is bounded by trees and a wild hedge contributes to the natural beauty of the site and the high hedges to the eastern side and the length of the adjacent gardens minimises the fact that the field is in an urban setting. The blossom from the trees in Spring and the leaves in Summer create an attractive and appealing setting.</p>
Historic Significance	<p>Historically, this area has been integral to village life being a focal area for social interaction and sporting events. The field was donated to the Parish Council by the land-owner with the Parish Council having to pay the legal costs of the transfer of ownership. A condition was attached to the transfer of ownership, namely that the field could only ever be used for the purpose of sport and recreation by the residents of the village and that the field be maintained by the Parish Council.</p> <p>The Parish Council, with the support of FA funding built a new Sports Pavilion 10+ years ago.</p> <p>Nearby in the next field to the west there are buried remains of a second world war aircraft.</p>
Recreational Value	<p>The field is an essential element of the recreational facilities of the village. Apart from being the home of Barrowby Football Club and its 26 teams (at the time of writing), the field also supports occasional sports events and community activities. An active cricket team is also based on the field and pavilion. The sports clubs concentrate on developing young talent and have reputations for their inclusivity and the promotion of sport for healthy living.</p> <p>Village fetes, celebrations and national celebrations have been held on this field both in the past and present.</p> <p>Many villagers use the field as an exercising ground for their dogs and the car park to the southern end of the field facilitates parking for visitors who bring their dogs to the field for exercise.</p>

	The space is physically and visually open, with unrestricted access via the footpath to Low Road and the heart of the village to the east. Footpaths from the field go in both a northerly direction to Casthorpe Road and a western direction into open countryside.
Tranquillity	Being separated from the built up area of the village by virtue of the height of the hedges to the east and the length of the adjoining gardens, the field offers a feeling of calm and tranquillity. Traffic noise is minimal due to the field's distance from the nearest road. This tranquil character is reinforced by the subdued soundscape of bird song, (sky larks in particular) and the occasional movement of the trees in the westerly breezes.
Richness of Wildlife	Lowfields Sports Field clearly supports a variety of wildlife. Badger setts, fox dens and rabbit holes are all to be found on the margins of the field. The mature trees, both across and bordering the field, together with the ample bordering hedges the site provides valuable habitat for nesting and roosting birds—including pigeons and songbirds.
Any Other Reason	The Lowfields Sports Field is regarded by many as a key feature of the landscape of Barrowby. It is thought of by many residents as an important recreational facility for the community as a whole.
Conclusion	
<p>Lowfield Sports Field is demonstrably special to the local community. It has multiple functions depending upon which interest group one belongs to and is appreciated for its expanse of mown grass and wild borders. It is recognised as a village amenity and its protected status due to the covenants applied at the time of transfer of ownership to the Parish Council.</p> <p>In accordance with paragraphs 106 and 107 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, December 2024), the site is considered suitable for designation as Local Green Space. It is close to the community it serves, is not an extensive tract of land, and is locally valued for the reasons set out above. Designation would ensure long-term protection of this important green space and its role in supporting the health, well-being, heritage, and environmental quality of Barrowby.</p>	

Location of the Proposed Local Green Space



Local Green Space Assessment

Ref ID	LGS 4	Site Name and Address	Barrowby Allotments
Assessment carried out by:	Phil Cupit Chairman Barrowby Neighbourhood Planning Group	Date of Assessment:	10 th December 2025
Site Ownership	Barrowby Parish Council	Owner Comments re Designation	The designation is supported by the owner.
Planning Status	No known planning applications or permissions for development.	Land Allocation	There is no planned allocation for development. It lies in the Barrowby Conservation Area.
Area of Proposed Site (hectares)	Approximately 1.1Ha		
Is the Site an "Extensive Tract of Land"?	No. The Allotments are a relatively small open space with clearly defined boundaries.		
Is the Site "Local in Character"	Yes. It is situated on the southern edge of the village. The majority of plot holders are resident within the village.		
Is the Site "in Close Proximity to the Community it serves"?	Yes, The Allotments serves the whole Barrowby community. It is readily accessible from the core of the village by pavements and by recognised public footpaths from other parts of the village as well as by road traffic. It has a surfaced car park.		

What attributes contribute to the value of this green space to the community?	
Beauty	<p>The allotments are recognised as being an essential part of the village.</p> <p>It comprises of 50+ plots tended by individual plot holders to raise vegetable and flower crops for their personal use. The plot appears as a hive of industry during the “growing months” when the smell of farmyard manure, turned soil and blossom fill the air. It is bordered by open farmland to the east, south and west with local authority/private housing to the north.</p>
Historic Significance	<p>This area used to be a farm land. Historically it was part of a small holding owned by the County Council. It became allotments after the County Council decided to promote the original allotment site as a potential residential area back in 1974. The houses were finally built in 2022. The County Council offered the current site by way of compensation for the lost amenity. The Parish Council then became the owners of the site</p>
Recreational Value	<p>Allotmenteering is recognised as a positive influence on mental as well as physical health. Apart from the enjoyment generated by “growing one’s own”, there exists a strong community spirit making all newcomers welcome. The varying levels of horticultural competence among the allotmenteers means that there is always a plentiful supply of advice and assistance available should it be required.</p> <p>There is a strong social interaction among members with several communal events catered for every year.</p> <p>The space is physically and visually open, with unrestricted access via The Drift.</p>
Tranquillity	<p>Apart from the occasional vehicle passing along The Drift, the sound of rustling leaves and bird song fill the air and give rise to an aura of serenity and tranquillity for most of the day.</p>
Richness of Wildlife	<p>The Allotments are a pocket of rural tranquillity on the edge of the village. Birdsong can be heard throughout daylight hours and owls are often heard during the hours of darkness. Red kites, deer and foxes are known to visit the area as well as summer visitors such as swallows, martins and swifts.</p>

Any Other Reason	The Allotments are an important community facility, of significant recreational, social and sustainability value.
Conclusion	
<p>Barrowby Allotments provide an essential source of physical and mental well-being. The popularity of allotmenting is ever growing and an extensive waiting list for plots is managed by the Allotment Committee on behalf of the Parish Council.</p> <p>In accordance with paragraphs 106 and 107 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, December 2024), the site is considered suitable for designation as Local Green Space. It is close to the community it serves, is not an extensive tract of land, and is locally valued for the reasons set out above. Designation would ensure long-term protection of this important green space and its role in supporting the health, well-being, heritage, and environmental quality of Barrowby.</p>	

Location Map of the Proposed Local Green Space



Photographs of the Proposed Local Green Space

