



GS14 Towpath

1	General Information
1.1	<p>Name and address of site <i>Some sites have several names and all known names should be given</i></p>
Towpath	
1.2	<p>Site location plan <i>The plan can be at any scale, but must show the location and boundaries of the site. Please indicate the scale.</i></p>
	
1.3	<p>Organisation or individual proposing site for designation <i>This will normally be a Town or Parish Council or a recognised community group</i></p>
Barrow Parish Council	
1.4	<p>Ownership of site if known <i>Information on land ownership can be obtained from the Land Registry. Some land parcels are not registered however local people may know the owner.</i></p>
Canal and River Trust?	
1.5	<p>Is the owner of the site aware of the potential designation?</p>
Yes	
1.6	<p>Does the owner support the designation? <i>Sites may be designated as Local Green Spaces, even if there are objections from the site owners</i></p>
Unknown	

1.7	Photographs of site
	 <p>The photographs show a site with a gravel path leading through a grassy area towards a building. There are several ponds or water features surrounded by lush green trees and vegetation. The water in the ponds is dark and reflects the surrounding greenery.</p>
1.8	<p>Community served by the potential Local Green Space i.e. does the site serve the whole village/town or a particular geographic area or group of people?</p>
	<p>Whole community plus visitors</p>
2	Planning History
2.1	<p>Is there currently a planning application for this site? If planning permission has been permitted could part of the overall site still be used as a Green Open Space?</p>
	<p>No</p>
2.2	<p>Is the site allocated for development in the Local Plan? If allocated, could part of the overall site still be used as a Green Open Space?</p>
	<p>No</p>
3	Size, scale and “local nature” of proposed Local Green Space
3.1	<p>Area of proposed site <i>It is unlikely that a site of over 20ha (50 acres) would be considered suitable for designation.</i></p>
	<p>0.1ha</p>
3.2	<p>Is the site an “extensive tract of land”? <i>(Extensive tracts of land cannot be designated as Local Green Space) e.g. how large is it in comparison to other fields; groups of fields; areas of land in the vicinity etc.? Does the site “feel” extensive or more local in scale?</i></p>
	<p>No</p>

3.3	Is the proposed site "local in character"? <i>e.g. does the site feel as though it is part of the local area? And why? How does it connect physically, visually and socially to the local area? What is your evidence?</i>
	Yes
4	Need for Local Green Space
4.1	Is there a need for a local green space in this location? <i>e.g. is there a shortage of accessible greenspace in the area? Is there a village needs survey or parish plan that provides evidence of that need. Further information – Natural England (Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard)</i>
	No as there are other local green spaces around 500m away.
5	Evidence to show that "the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves"
5.1	How far is the site from the community it serves? Is the site within 2km of the local community? <i>Possible evidence – a map to show that distance</i>
	Very close, within 300m of housing
5.2	Are there any barriers to the local community accessing the site from their homes? <i>e.g. railway line; main road</i> <i>Possible evidence – a map to show any potential barriers and how those can be overcome.</i>
	No
6	Evidence to show that the green area is "demonstrably special to a local community"
6.1	Evidence of support from Parish or Town Council <i>e.g. letter of support; Council minutes</i>
	Identified as Local Green Space in Neighbourhood Plan
6.2	Evidence of support from other local community groups or individuals. <i>e.g. letters of support; petitions; surveys etc.</i>
	Barrow Upon Soar Neighbourhood Development Plan Consultation Survey 2015: 93.9% of respondents valued this green space as part of canal and river corridor.
6.3	Evidence of support from community leaders <i>e.g. letters of support from Ward Members; County Councillors; MP etc.</i>
6.4	Evidence of support from other groups <i>e.g. letters of support from organisations such as Campaign to Protect Rural England; local amenity societies; local schools etc.</i>
7	Evidence to show that the green area "holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty," (if applicable)

7.1	Is this criteria relevant to this site?
	No
7.2	Describe why the community feels that the site has a particular local significance for its beauty.
7.3	Site visibility e.g. <i>is it easy to see the site from a public place? Are there long-distance views of the site? Are there views of the site from any key locations?</i>
7.4	Is the site covered by any landscape or similar designations? e.g. <i>Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty; Conservation Area; Special Landscape Area</i> <i>Further information –Natural England</i>
7.5	Is the site (or the type of site) specifically mentioned in any relevant landscape character assessments or similar documents? <i>Further information –Natural England</i>
7.6	Does the site contribute to the setting of a historic building or other special feature?
7.7	Is the site highlighted in literature or art? e.g. <i>is the site mentioned in a well-known poem or shown in a famous painting?</i>
8	Evidence to show that the green area “holds a particular local significance for example because of its historic significance” (if applicable)
8.1	Is this criteria relevant to this site?
	Yes
8.2	Are there any historic buildings or remains on the site? e.g. <i>listed buildings; scheduled ancient monuments; registered parks and gardens; war memorials; other historic remains or structures.</i> <i>Further information –English Heritage; local history society</i>
	Although now a recreational waterway, characteristic canal-side features can be seen in the locks, stone bridges and waterside pubs. The Grand Union Canal with its bridges, canal-side cottages, pubs, marinas, boatyards and locks and towing paths are a popular and accessible leisure attraction for boating, fishing and walking.
8.3	Are there any important historic landscape features on the site? e.g. <i>old hedgerows; ancient trees; historic ponds or historic garden features</i> <i>Further information –English Heritage; local history society</i>

	No
8.4	Did the site play an important role in the historic development of the village or town? <i>e.g. the old site of the town railway station; the old garden for the manor house etc.</i>
	Sections of the River Soar were canalised in the late 18th century as the Leicester Navigation, later becoming part of the Grand Union Canal, linking London to the Trent and Mersey Canal.
8.5	Did any important historic events take place on the site?
	No
8.6	Do any historic rituals take place on the site? <i>e.g. well-dressing; maypole dancing etc.</i>
	No
9	Evidence to show that the green area “holds a particular local significance, for example because of its recreational value (including as a playing field)”, (if applicable)
9.1	Is this criteria relevant to this site?
	Yes
9.2	Is the site used for playing sport? <i>If so what sport? How long has it been used for sports provision? Is this sports provision free or is a club membership required? Further information – Sport England</i>
	No
9.3	Are the public able to physically access the site? <i>e.g. are there any public rights of way across the site? Or adjacent to the site? Has access been allowed on a discretionary basis? Is there public access to the whole site or only part? Is there good disabled access to the site? (A site can still be designated even if there is no public access.)</i>
	Yes, however it is tricky for disabled to access due to the rough ground
9.4	Is the site used by the local community for informal recreation? And since when? <i>e.g. dog walking; sledging; ball games etc.</i>
	The Grand Union Canal with its bridges, canal-side cottages, pubs, marinas, boatyards and locks and towing paths are a popular and accessible leisure attraction for boating, fishing and walking.
10	Evidence to show that the green area “holds a particular local significance, for example because of its tranquillity” (if applicable)
10.1	Is this criteria relevant to this site?
	No
10.2	Do you consider the site to be tranquil? <i>e.g. are there any roads or busy areas close by?</i>

10.3	Is the site within a recognised tranquil area? e.g. <i>within the Campaign to Protect Rural England's tranquillity maps</i>
11	Evidence to show that the green area "holds a particular local significance, for example because of the richness of its wildlife"; (if applicable)
11.1	Is this criteria relevant to this site ? No
11.2	Is the site formally designated for its wildlife value? e.g. <i>as a site of special scientific interest; a key wildlife site etc Further information - Natural England</i>
11.3	Are any important habitats or species found on the site? e.g. <i>habitats and species listed in the UK priority habitats and species lists or in Biodiversity Action Plans or protected species or on the red/amber lists of birds of conservation concern. Further information - Natural England; National Biodiversity Network; RSPB</i>
11.4	What other wildlife of interest has been found on the site? <i>Further information - Natural England; National Biodiversity Network</i>
11.5	Is the site part of a long term study of wildlife by members of the local community? e.g. <i>long-term monitoring of breeding birds.</i>
12	Evidence to show that the green area "holds a particular local significance, for any other reason"; (if applicable)
12.1	Is this criteria relevant to this site? No
12.2	What are the other reasons why the site has a particular local significance for the local community?

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