

**Local Green Space and Protected Open Space
Background Paper**

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The local green space (LGS) designation is a way to protect green areas or open spaces against development where they are of particular importance to local communities. LGS designations are made for use in local plans or neighbourhood plans. These plans can identify on a map ('designate') areas for special protection. Once designated, LGSs receive protection consistent with national Green Belt policy.
- 1.2 Protected open space (POS) designation is a way to protect other areas of open space which are valued for their local amenity and for informal or formal recreational purposes, but which do not meet the full LGS criteria. Once designated, they should be safeguarded and only lost where a number of detailed criteria are met.
- 1.3 The purpose of this background paper is to explain the process which will lead to the proposed designation of areas of LGS and POS in the Newton on the Moor and Swarland Neighbourhood Plan. It sets out the national and local backgrounds to LGS / POS and explains the methodology used in the assessments.
- 1.4 Comments are invited on the background papers as part of the consultation on the presubmission draft plan.

2. Planning policy background

- 2.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2024) sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. Section 7 of the NPPF highlights the important role the planning system can play in facilitating social interaction and creating healthy, inclusive communities.
- 2.2 Paragraph 103 identifies that access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and wellbeing of communities. Paragraph 104 states that:

'Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- a) an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or*
- b) the loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or*
- c) the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use.'*

- 2.3 With regard to Local Green Space (LGS) designation, paragraph 106 states:

'The designation of land as Local Green Space through local and neighbourhood plans allows communities to identify and protect green areas of particular importance to them. Designating land as Local Green Space should be consistent with the local planning of sustainable development and

complement investment in sufficient homes, jobs and other essential services. Local Green Spaces should only be designated when a plan is prepared or updated and be capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period.'

2.4 Paragraph 107 explains when the designation should be used:

'The Local Green Space designation should only be used where the green space is:

- 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.'*

2.5 Paragraph 108 identifies that local policy for managing development within a LGS should be consistent with policy for Green Belts. National Green Belt policy requires that inappropriate development, that which is harmful to the allocation, on land designated as LGS will only be permitted where very special circumstances can be demonstrated.

2.6 National Planning Practice Guidance states that:

- a) Designating LGS needs to be consistent with local planning for sustainable development in the area. Plans must identify sufficient land in suitable locations to meet identified development needs and the LGS designation should not be used in a way that undermines this aim of plan making (Paragraph: 007 Reference ID: 37-007-20140306);
- b) LGS designation will rarely be appropriate where land has planning permission for development. Exceptions could be where the development would be compatible with the reasons for designation or where planning permission is no longer capable of being implemented (Paragraph: 008 Reference ID: 37-008-20140306);
- c) LGS may be designated where those spaces are demonstrably special to the local community, whether in a village, neighbourhood, town or city (Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 37-009-20140306);
- d) If land is already protected by another designation, consideration should be given to whether any additional local benefit would be gained by designation as LGS (Paragraph: 010 Reference ID: 37-010-20140306);
- e) The LGS will need to meet the criteria set out in paragraph 107 of the NPPF (see paragraph 2.4 above). Whether to designate land is a matter for local discretion. For example, green areas could include land where sports pavilions, boating lakes or structures such as war memorials are located, allotments, as well as urban spaces that provide a tranquil oasis (Paragraph: 013 Reference ID: 37-013-20140306);
- f) The proximity of a LGS to the community it serves will depend on local circumstances, including why the green area is seen as special, but it must be reasonably close. For example, if public access is a key factor, then the site would normally be within easy walking distance of the community served (Paragraph: 014 Reference ID: 37-014- 20140306);
- g) There are no hard and fast rules about how big a LGS can be because places are different, and a degree of judgment will inevitably be needed. However, paragraph 107 of the NPPF is clear that LGS designation should only be used where the green area concerned is not an extensive tract of land. Consequently, blanket designation of open countryside adjacent to settlements will not

be appropriate. Designation should not be proposed as a 'back door' way to try to achieve what would amount to a new area of Green Belt by another name (Paragraph: 015 Reference ID: 37-015-20140306);

- h) Provided land can meet the criteria at paragraph 107 of the NPPF there is no lower size limit for an LGS (Paragraph: 016 Reference ID: 37-016-20140306);
- i) Land can be designated as LGS even if there is not public access e.g. green areas which are valued because of their wildlife, historic significance and/or beauty. Designation does not in itself confer any rights of public access over what exists at present. Any additional access would be a matter for separate negotiation with landowners, whose legal rights must be respected (Paragraph: 017 Reference ID: 37-017-20140306);
- j) Areas that may be considered for designation as LGS may be crossed by public rights of way. There is no need to designate linear corridors as LGS simply to protect rights of way, which are already protected under other legislation (Paragraph: 018 Reference ID: 37-018- 20140306);
- k) A LGS does not need to be in public ownership. However, the qualifying body should contact landowners at an early stage about proposals to designate any part of their land as LGS. Landowners will have opportunities to make representations in respect of proposals in a draft plan (Paragraph: 019 Reference ID: 37-019-20140306);
- l) Designating a green area as LGS would give it protection consistent with that in respect of Green Belt, but otherwise there are no new restrictions or obligations on landowners (Paragraph: 020 Reference ID: 37-020-20140306);
- m) Management of land designated as LGS will remain the responsibility of its owner. If the features that make a green area special and locally significant are to be conserved, how it will be managed in the future is likely to be an important consideration. Local communities can consider how, with the landowner's agreement, they might be able to get involved, perhaps in partnership with interested organisations that can provide advice or resources (Paragraph: 021 Reference ID: 37-021-20140306);
- n) Land designated as LGS may potentially also be nominated for listing by the local authority as an Asset of Community Value. Listing gives community interest groups an opportunity to bid if the owner wants to dispose of the land (Paragraph: 022 Reference ID: 37-022- 20140306).
- o) POS designation can be applied to those areas of open space which are valued for their local amenity value and for informal or formal recreational purposes, but which do not meet the full LGS criteria. NPPG identified that open space, which includes all open spaces of public value, can take many forms, from formal sports pitches to open areas within a development, linear corridors and country parks. It can provide health and recreational benefits to people living and working nearby, have an ecological value and contribute to green infrastructure, as well as being an important part of the landscape and setting of built development, and an important component in the achievement of sustainable development.

3. Local Green Space methodology and Protected Open Space methodology

3.1 In order to seek to identify areas of LGS which meet the requirements of the NPPF and NPPG, a methodology has been designed. The application of the methodology is described below.

Step 1: Identification of green/ open spaces, including early engagement

3.2 The first step was to identify a list of green areas and open spaces to assess as potential LGS. A variety of sources of information was used to inform this process:

- a) Sites allocated in the development plan;
- b) Northumberland Open Space, Sport and Recreation Provision Assessment (2011)1;
- c) Northumberland Green Infrastructure Strategy (2011);
- d) Review of current information, such as local studies, character appraisal etc; and
- e) Feedback from early engagement on the neighbourhood plan (Autumn 2023).

Step 2: Assessment of spaces, including further engagement

3.3 Once the list of green spaces and maps was collected from the sources listed in step 1, their suitability was assessed for designation as LGS against the criteria in the NPPF and NPPG as outlined in section 2.

3.4 In order to be identified as LGS all of the following criteria, identified in Table 1 below were required to be met:

Table 1: LGS Assessment Criteria required to be met.

Criteria	Explanation
Land is not subject of a planning permission for development.	LGS designation will rarely be appropriate where the land has planning permission for development. Exceptions could be where the designation would be compatible with planning permission or where planning permission is no longer capable of being implemented. <i>Q Does that space have planning permission ?</i>
Land is not allocated or proposed for development in the local or neighbourhood plan. Unless it can be shown that the LGS could be incorporated within the site as part of the allocated development.	LGS should be consistent with the local planning of sustainable development and complement investment in sufficient homes, jobs and other essential services (NPPF Paragraph 106) Designating any LGS will need to be consistent with local planning for sustainable development in the area. In particular, plans must identify sufficient land in suitable locations to meet identified development needs and the LGS designation should not be used in a way that undermines this aim of plan making (NPPG Paragraph: 007 Reference ID: 37-007-20140306) The space should be capable of enduring beyond the plan Period (NPPF Paragraph 106) <i>Q: Is the space allocated or proposed to be allocated in a Development Plan?</i>

The space is not an extensive tract of land and is local in character.	LGS designation should only be used where the green area is not an extensive tract of land. Blanket designation of open countryside adjacent to settlements will not be appropriate. (NPPG Paragraph: 015 Reference ID: 37-015-20140306) <i>Q: How close is the space to the community it serves? Q: Where are the nearest centres of population?</i>
The space is demonstrably special to the local community and holds particular local significance.	LGS may be designated where those spaces are demonstrably special to the local community, whether in a village or a neighbourhood in a town. (NPPG Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 37-009-20140306) The space must be demonstrably special by meeting at least one of criterion in the following table. <i>Q: Is the proposal to designate supported by any of the following: A friends group, local community groups, a parish plan, the town council, ward member(s)?</i>

3.5 The criteria in Table 2 below then seeks to draw out what it is about the space that makes it ‘*demonstrably special to the local community*’. A LGS should meet at least one of the criteria in the table below, although some spaces will meet more than one of the criteria:

Table 2: LGS assessment criteria to identify why site is demonstrably special to the community

Criteria	Explanation
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its beauty.	How is the proposed space of particular local significance, in respect of its beauty? Does the space contribute to the visual attractiveness of the townscape or character / setting of the settlement? Is the space covered by other landscape or townscape designations? (e.g. conservation area)
The proposed space is of particular local historic significance.	How is the proposed space of particular local significance in respect of its historic significance ? Does the proposed space or elements of the space have local historic significance (e.g. conservation area) Are there any historic buildings or structures in the space (i.e. listed building or scheduled monument) Are there any important historic landscape features on the space (e.g. veteran trees or old hedgerows) Does the space have a historic literature or art connection?
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its recreational value.	How is the proposed space of particular local significance, in respect of its recreational value?

	<p>There is no need to designate linear corridors as LGS simply to protect rights of way, which are already protected under other legislation. (NPPG Paragraph: 018 Reference ID: 37-018-20140306)</p> <p>What variety of recreational activities does the space support? (e.g. the space is used for playing sport and for informal recreation)</p> <p>Is the space already identified in the Northumberland Open Space study?</p>
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its tranquillity.	<p>How is the proposed space of particular local significance, in respect of its tranquillity?</p> <p>Why is the space considered to be tranquil?</p> <p>Is the space used for quiet reflection?</p>
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its richness of wildlife.	<p>How is the proposed space of particular local significance, in respect of its richness of wildlife?</p> <p>Is the proposed space formally designated for its wildlife value? (e.g. is it a SSSI, SNCI or local nature reserve).</p> <p>Are any important habitats or species found in the space?</p> <p>Does the proposed space support species of fauna or flora? (e.g. protected under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 or Habitat Regulations 2010, Section 41 of the Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006)</p> <p>Does the proposed space support species of birds listed on the red, amber or green lists of species of conservation concern or notable assemblage of invertebrates?</p> <p>Does the proposed space support irreplaceable habitats such as ancient semi-natural woodland and veteran trees?</p> <p>Does the proposed space function as part of a wildlife corridor or green infrastructure enabling the dispersal of species of flora and fauna?</p>
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of another reason not covered by criteria above	<p>Are there any other reasons why the proposed space has a particular local significance for the local community?</p>

3.6 The assessment then concluded whether all the nationally required criteria have been met and listed the relevant local criteria and whether the space is considered to be suitable as LGS.

3.7 For sites that were not considered to meet the required criteria, consideration was then given to whether they should be allocated as Protected Open Space (POS). This considered whether the space was valued for its local amenity and/ or informal recreation. In addition, consideration was given to whether another, alternative allocation would be more appropriate such as allotment or open

countryside designation. Sites that were already protected in other ways, for example designated wildlife sites/ nature reserves, were not proposed for further protection.

3.8 Prior to formal consultation on proposed areas for designation, contact was made with the owners of the sites where ownership information was available.

Step 3: Feedback - pre-submission neighbourhood plan

3.9 The pre-submission neighbourhood plan will propose the allocation of a number of sites as local green space. Through consultation on the plan, the Steering Group will seek further feedback on the proposed designations.

Step 4: Submission neighbourhood plan

3.10 Responses received to the consultation on the pre-submission draft neighbourhood plan will inform the preparation of the submission plan, which will be subject to a further six-week public consultation organised by Northumberland County Council.

Step 5: Examination/ referendum/ adoption

3.11 Following the submission of the neighbourhood plan, it will then be examined by an independent examiner. The examiner will review the evidence base for the plan – including whether there is evidence to justify the allocation of LGS. Once the plan passes examination it will then go to referendum and will be formally ‘made’ by Northumberland County Council.

4. Conclusion and next steps

4.1 This background paper explains the process which has led to the proposed designation of Local Green Spaces and Protected Open Space in the Newton on the Moor and Swarland Neighbourhood Plan. It summarises the national and local background to LGS and POS and explains the methodology that has been used in the assessments.

4.2 All of the sites that have been assessed for designation are included in Appendix 1 – this provides a brief explanation of the reasons why a site has or has not been proposed to be included in the submission draft neighbourhood plan. Further details on those sites that have been proposed to be designated as Local Green Spaces are included In Appendix 2 and site maps included within Appendix 3. Details of Protected Open Spaces are included within Appendix 4 and site maps included within Appendix 5.

Appendix 1: Newton on the Moor and Swarland Neighbourhood Plan: Green Space Audit

Site Ref	Site Name	Location	Description & Purpose	Not designated for development	Proximity to Community	Demonstrably Special?					Local in character	Designate as LGS or POS	Comments
						Beauty	Historic significance	Recreation	Tranquillity	Wildlife			
1	Vyner Park, Swarland	NE65 9BQ	Park and recreation / sports area with pavilion and café.	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	LGS	Vyner Park is owned by the Parish Council and run as a charity by the Vyner Park Trust. The sports field element of the park is already identified as a Protected Open Space in the Local Plan. The Park is a valued and well used recreational space for the community, containing sports facilities, a pavilion and cafe, dog walking area, wildflower meadow and wooded area and allotments. The proposal is designate the trees and amenity areas of the park as a Local Green Space.
2	Swarland Wood	NE65 9JG	Open coniferous and mixed forest owned by Forestry England	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	LGS	Formerly part of Swarland Old Hall Estate and now owned and managed by Forestry

Site Ref	Site Name	Location	Description & Purpose	Not designated for development	Proximity to Community	Demonstrably Special?					Local in character	Designate as LGS or POS	Comments
						Beauty	Historic significance	Recreation	Tranquillity	Wildlife			
													England. There is a small resident population of red squirrels. There is also an area of Wet Woodland (identified as such by NWT) which is considered a relatively unusual habitat. The woods are well used by the community for walking and cycling and are subject to Open Access Regulations.
3	Percy Wood Holiday Park Golf Course	NE65 9JG	Part of Percy Wood Golf Course and Holiday Park, owned by Harrison Leisure	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	POS	The land is owned by Harrison Leisure and does not generally have public access, although there is a footpath across the land. The golf course contains a mix of woodland, trees and ponds. Some of the features on the course were part of the original Swarland Estate (e.g. trees lining the drive and stone gate posts).

Newton on the Moor and Swarland Parish Council

Site Ref	Site Name	Location	Description & Purpose	Not designated for development	Proximity to Community	Demonstrably Special?					Local in character	Designate as LGS or POS	Comments
						Beauty	Historic significance	Recreation	Tranquillity	Wildlife			
													<p>This area is near to a large area of Open Access land (Swarland Wood).</p> <p>It is recommended to become a POS would help to protect a more continuous area for wildlife.</p>
4	Land to the south and east of Percy Wood Holiday Park		An area of open land with some mature and newly planted trees.	Y	Y	Y			Y		Y	LGS	The site plays an important role in maintaining a tranquil edge along the settlement boundary.
5	Nile Park	Land to the east of Park Road NU165028	Farmland containing the remains of the Nile Plantation dating from around 1800.	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	LGS	Originally part of Swarland Estate and now farmland, the plantation was originally designed to reflect the shape of the British fleet at the Battle of the Nile. An interpretation board on Park Road explains the historic significance of the design.

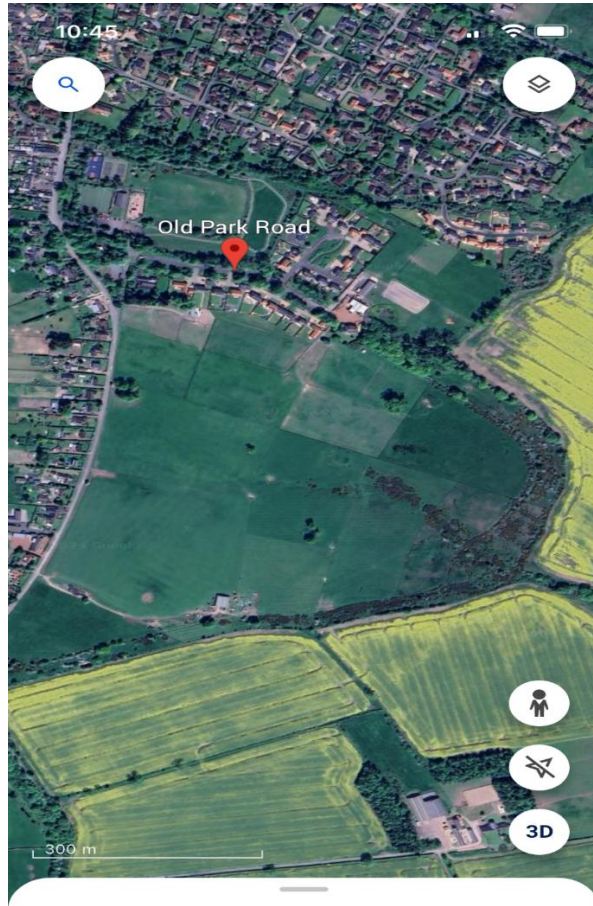
Newton on the Moor and Swarland Parish Council

Site Ref	Site Name	Location	Description & Purpose	Not designated for development	Proximity to Community	Demonstrably Special?					Local in character	Designate as LGS or POS	Comments
						Beauty	Historic significance	Recreation	Tranquillity	Wildlife			
6	Swarland School Playing Fields		School playing fields	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	The school playing fields are a valued resource for the school and are protected under section 77 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.
7	Site of former Whittle Colliery	Botton of Hampeth, close to junction with A1	Remains of former Whittle Colliery Yard, Hampeth.	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	Since the Whittle Colliery closed in 1987 the area has been used for various commercial purposes. It is directly adjacent to the A1 and here is no public access. It is not in close proximity to any of the settlements within the parish.
8	Tree belt along eastern side of The Avenue and eastern end of Leamington Lane	Eastern side of The Avenue and eastern side of Leamington Lane, Swarland	Woodland	Y	Y	Y			Y	Y	Y	N	The area contributes significantly to the character of Swarland. It is already subject to a Woodland Order placed on the tree belts.
9	Tree belt along west	Western side of The	Woodland	Y	Y	Y			Y	Y	Y	N	The area contributes significantly to the


Newton on the Moor and Swarland Parish Council


Site Ref	Site Name	Location	Description & Purpose	Not designated for development	Proximity to Community	Demonstrably Special?					Local in character	Designate as LGS or POS	Comments
						Beauty	Historic significance	Recreation	Tranquillity	Wildlife			
	of The Avenue and western end of Leamington Lane	Avenue and western end of Leamington Lane, Swarland											character of Swarland. It is already subject to a Woodland Order placed on the tree belts.
10	Tree belt and verge alongside Old Park Road	Old Park Road, Swarland	Verge	Y	Y	Y			Y	Y	Y	LGS	The verges contain a mix of mature and new trees and shrubs and maintain the green and leafy character of Swarland.

Appendix 2: Local Green Space Assessment


Site Reference	LGS 01																			
Site Name	Nile Park and surrounding woodland strip (Land to the east of Park Road)																			
Ownership	Various																			
<div></div>																				
<div><table><tr><td>All the following criteria must be met</td><td></td><td>Comments</td></tr><tr><td>Land is not subject of a planning permission for development</td><td>✓</td><td>There are no planning permissions for this area.</td></tr><tr><td>Space is not allocated or proposed for development in the Local or Neighbourhood Plan.</td><td>✓</td><td>The land is not allocated or proposed for development.</td></tr><tr><td>The space is not an extensive tract of land and is local in character</td><td>✓</td><td>The site is not considered extensive. It is of particular importance to residents as it is an important part of the legacy relating to Alexander Division and his connection with Lord Nelson.</td></tr><tr><td>The space is within close proximity of the community it serves</td><td>✓</td><td>Nile Park is located within Swarland, in easy walking distance of the centre of the village. The parish boundary runs through part of the area.</td></tr><tr><td>The space is demonstrably special to the local community and holds particular local significance</td><td>✓</td><td>Nile Park is a part of the landscape legacy left by Alexander Davison of Swarland Park; he was a close friend of Lord Nelson.</td></tr></table></div>			All the following criteria must be met		Comments	Land is not subject of a planning permission for development	✓	There are no planning permissions for this area.	Space is not allocated or proposed for development in the Local or Neighbourhood Plan.	✓	The land is not allocated or proposed for development.	The space is not an extensive tract of land and is local in character	✓	The site is not considered extensive. It is of particular importance to residents as it is an important part of the legacy relating to Alexander Division and his connection with Lord Nelson.	The space is within close proximity of the community it serves	✓	Nile Park is located within Swarland, in easy walking distance of the centre of the village. The parish boundary runs through part of the area.	The space is demonstrably special to the local community and holds particular local significance	✓	Nile Park is a part of the landscape legacy left by Alexander Davison of Swarland Park; he was a close friend of Lord Nelson.
All the following criteria must be met		Comments																		
Land is not subject of a planning permission for development	✓	There are no planning permissions for this area.																		
Space is not allocated or proposed for development in the Local or Neighbourhood Plan.	✓	The land is not allocated or proposed for development.																		
The space is not an extensive tract of land and is local in character	✓	The site is not considered extensive. It is of particular importance to residents as it is an important part of the legacy relating to Alexander Division and his connection with Lord Nelson.																		
The space is within close proximity of the community it serves	✓	Nile Park is located within Swarland, in easy walking distance of the centre of the village. The parish boundary runs through part of the area.																		
The space is demonstrably special to the local community and holds particular local significance	✓	Nile Park is a part of the landscape legacy left by Alexander Davison of Swarland Park; he was a close friend of Lord Nelson.																		

		The original planting represented the British fleet at the Battle of the Nile.
At least one criteria must be met		
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its beauty		
The proposed spaces is of particular local historic significance	✓	<p>Nile Park was laid out in 1807 by Alexander Davison, a close friend of Lord Nelson and resident of Swarland Hall. Clumps of trees represent the British fleet at the Battle of the Nile.</p> <p>Whilst many of the clumps are no longer present, the earthworks and the location of the clumps can be made out from the air.</p> <p>More detail about the connection between Alexander Davison and Swarland can be found in the article <i>'Nelson's Obelisk: Alexander Davison, Lord Nelson and the Northumberland Landscape'</i> by Leslie W Hepple, which includes a plan of the 'Battle-Park', an aerial photograph taken in 1958.</p> <p>Source: Archaeologia Aeliana Series 5. Vol34, pp.129-150 and found in https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/library/).</p>
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its recreational value		
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its tranquillity		
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its richness of wildlife.		The woodland strip at the edge of Nile Park provides a valuable wildlife corridor linking areas within and outside the parish boundary.
Conclusions		
<p>Nile Park represents a unique legacy from Alexander Davison and his connection with Lord Nelson. It now consists of a number of open fields with the remains of the original trees and earth banks which formed the 'Battle Park' planted in 1807 still visible in places.</p> <p>Although there is no public access, the area is visible from the road, and it affords views from Swarland to the coast. Nile Park is part of an important historic legacy linking present day Swarland to the Swarland of the 1800's and its connection to Alexander Davison and Lord Nelson.</p> <p>Some of the original planting is now to the west of Old Park Road and was the site of some of the original settlers' houses. This part is not included in LGS01.</p> <p>The site is highly valued by the local community and as it meets the requirements of national policy, it is considered appropriate to designate it as a local green space.</p>		

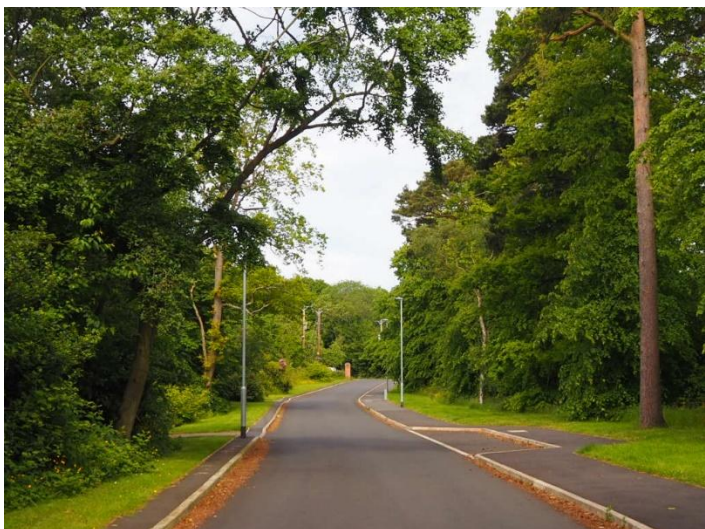
Site Reference	LGS 02	
Site Name	Land to the south and east of Percy Wood Holiday Park	
Ownership	Harrison Leisure	
		
All the following criteria must be met		Comments
Land is not subject of a planning permission for development	✓	There are no planning permissions for this area.
Space is not allocated or proposed for development in the Local or Neighbourhood Plan.	✓	None of the land is allocated or proposed for development
The space is not an extensive tract of land and is local in character	✓	The land is not considered extensive
The space is within close proximity of the community it serves	✓	The site is adjacent to the settlement boundary.
The space is demonstrably special to the local community and holds particular local significance	✓	The area is important to the local community because of the role it plays in maintaining the existing character of the village.
At least one criteria must be met		
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its beauty	✓	The site provides an important setting to the village of Swarland as it sits between the settlement and Percy Wood Holiday Park.
The proposed spaces is of particular local historic significance		
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its recreational value		
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its tranquillity	✓	The site plays an important role in maintaining a tranquil edge along the settlement boundary.
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its richness of wildlife.		
Conclusion		
This site sits between the approximately 450 caravans situated within Percy Wood Holiday Park and part of the settlement boundary of Swarland village. It consists of a mix of mature tree and new planting. As evidenced through consultation exercises, it is of particular importance to the village in maintaining a tranquil area between the caravan park and the village.		

Site Reference	LGS 3a and 3b	
Site Name	Swarland Wood	
Ownership	Forestry England	
<div></div>		
All the following criteria must be met		Comments
Land is not subject of a planning permission for development	✓	There are no planning permissions for this area.
Space is not allocated or proposed for development in the Local or Neighbourhood Plan.	✓	None of the land is allocated or proposed for developmentperce
The space is not an extensive tract of land and is local in character	✓	The land is not extensive
The space is within close proximity of the community it serves	✓	The site is adjacent to the settlement boundary.
The space is demonstrably special to the local community and holds particular local significance	✓	The area is important to the local community because of the role it plays in maintaining the existing character of the village.
At least one criteria must be met		
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its beauty	✓	There are many beautiful views through the woods and to the hills beyond.
The proposed spaces is of particular local historic significance		
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its recreational value	✓	The woods are used by many local residents for walking and other recreational activities.
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its tranquillity	✓	The woods and the various walks within them provide a peaceful and tranquil setting for local residents to enjoy.

The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its richness of wildlife.	✓	The woods are home to a small population of red squirrels and well as other woodland birds, mammals and flora. There is also an area of 'Wet Woodland' which is considered a relatively unusual habitat.
Conclusion		
Swarland Wood is loved by local residents who value it for its wildlife, beauty and tranquillity. As it meets the requirements of national policy, it is considered appropriate to designate it as a protected open space.		


Site Reference	LGS 04	
Site Name	Trees and amenity areas around Vyner Park	
Ownership	Newton on the Moor and Swarland Parish Council	
<div></div>		
All the following criteria must be met		Comments
Land is not subject of a planning permission for development	✓	There are no planning permissions for this area.
Space is not allocated or proposed for development in the Local or Neighbourhood Plan.	✓	None of the land is allocated or proposed for development
The space is not an extensive tract of land and is local in character	✓	The area is not considered extensive. It is local in character.
The space is within close proximity of the community it serves	✓	Vyner Park is centrally located within Swarland and is easily accessible on foot.
The space is demonstrably special to the local community and holds particular local significance	✓	The area is very well used by local residents, with a variety of facilities on offer and providing a range of walks, sitting areas and different habitats.
At least one criteria must be met		
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its beauty		
The proposed spaces is of particular local historic significance		
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its recreational value	✓	Vyner Park provides an invaluable resource for residents of the village. It provides a wide range of options for families and local residents to meet, be active or enjoy the open space. These facilities include allotments, a dog walking area, play and sports facilities, a wildflower area and areas left for nature. The Park also hosts a popular café, Nelson's at the Park. Vyner Park also hosts the annual Swarland Show and other events.
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its tranquillity		
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its richness of wildlife.		The park includes a substantial wildflower meadow which was surveyed in 2024 and found to contain a good variety of meadow species. The 'wild areas' within

		the park are being encouraged with the recent additional of a large bug hotel and hibernaculum.
Conclusion		
<p>Vyner Park is run as a registered charity, with the land owned by the Parish Council. The park is named after Commander Vyner of Ripon, who set up the Fountains Abbey Charitable Trust which created the Swarland 'settlement'.</p> <p>The area comprising the sports playing areas has already been designated as a Protected Open Space in the Northumberland Local Plan.</p> <p>Vyner Park provides an invaluable open space for local residents, providing opportunities for children's play, sports facilities, walking, allotments, wildflower meadow etc. It is central to the village and much loved by local residents.</p> <p>The site is highly valuable to the local community and as it meets the requirements of national policy, it is considered appropriate to designate as a local green space.</p>		

Site Reference	LGS 05	
Site Name	Tree belt and verge along Old Park Road	
Ownership	Rosetta Gardens (Swarland) Management Company Limited	
<div></div>		
All the following criteria must be met		Comments
Land is not subject of a planning permission for development	✓	There are no planning permissions for this area.
Space is not allocated or proposed for development in the Local or Neighbourhood Plan.	✓	None of the land is allocated or proposed for development
The space is not an extensive tract of land and is local in character	✓	The area is not considered extensive. It is local in character.
The space is within close proximity of the community it serves	✓	The area is in close proximity to the community.
The space is demonstrably special to the local community and holds particular local significance	✓	The area contributes to the green and leafy character of the village.
At least one criteria must be met		
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its beauty	✓	This area contributes to the green and leafy character of the village.
The proposed spaces is of particular local historic significance		
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its recreational value		
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its tranquillity	✓	The area is covered by a Woodland Tree Preservation Order which provides a green habitat and creates a tranquil setting.
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its richness of wildlife.	✓	The planting in this area provides a wildlife corridor and links with other elements of the green infrastructure in the village. It is the subject of an existing woodland Tree Preservation Order
Conclusion		

This area, which is covered by a Woodland Tree Preservation Order and consists of a mix of mature and new planting. It provides an attractive, leafy setting for this relatively new housing development and maintains the leafy character of the village and contributes to the green infrastructure in the area.

Appendix 3: Protected Open Space Assessment

Site Reference	POS 01	
Site Name	Percy Wood Holiday Park Golf Course	
Ownership	Harrison Leisure	
		
All the following criteria must be met (for LGS)		Comments
Land is not subject of a planning permission for development	✓	There are no planning permissions for this area.
Space is not allocated or proposed for development in the Local or Neighbourhood Plan.	✓	The land is not allocated or proposed for development.
The space is not an extensive tract of land and is local in character		
The space is within close proximity of the community it serves	✓	The area is directly adjacent to the village and close to existing walking routes.
The space is demonstrably special to the local community and holds particular local significance	✓	The land is part of the estate belonging to the former Swarland Hall and the outline of the area can clearly be seen in historic OS maps from approx. 1920.
At least one criteria must be met		
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its beauty	✓	The space is an attractive area of mature parkland with views to the Simonside Hills.
The proposed spaces is of particular local historic significance	✓	The golf course encompasses some of the original Swarland Hall estate.
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its recreational value	✓	The space is available to users of Percy Wood Holiday Park. A public walking route bisects the golf course area.

The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its tranquillity	✓	The parkland setting adds to a feeling of tranquillity within the area.
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its richness of wildlife.	✓	The area provides valuable habitat for local wildlife, particularly as it adjacent to Swarland Wood, which belongs to Forestry England. Swarland Wood and the surroundings are home to a number of Red Squirrels which are protected under Schedules 5 & 6 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981).
Conclusions		
<p>Percy Wood Holiday Park Golf Course cover part of the estate of the former Swarland Hall consisting of a mature parkland setting, with a range of broadleaf and coniferous trees. Whilst public access to the course is not permitted, a footpath bisects it leading further into Swarland Wood. This is a very popular walk for local residents and the course retains a sense of the tranquillity and open space that would have characterised the estate.</p> <p>The mature parkland aspect of the site is valued by local residents. As it meets the requirements of national policy, it is considered appropriate to designate it as a protected open space.</p>		