

PART A: Nature and Open Space Information Guide



Part A is an information guide to accompany worksheet Part B. This should help to explain the characteristics that help to explain nature and open space in your area. This should assist you in defining open and natural spaces within your village that will help to inform a sense of place and village distinction.

Nature and Open Space



When looking at nature and open space whilst drafting your design code, you should look not only open spaces but also the network of green spaces, such as green corridors and trees, play areas, pitches as well as the biodiversity of these spaces. Water and drainage are another key element in the built and natural environment, design codes should consider rivers, ponds, water drainage and flood alleviation measures. Nature is integral to the built and historic environment, design codes should ensure nature is integrated into the design of places.

There are a number of different types of open spaces and green spaces to consider, including the examples in the following page. The accompanying map in Part B, is an example for you to show how the current uses of public space around the village can be mapped.

For the worksheet in part B, please outline each area on a map and label from 1 up to as many as you need. Against each corresponding number on the table, add a brief description of what the area is currently used for. If there are any areas identified that could be used but aren't currently please add those too, along with a suggested use for the area if appropriate.

Examples of natural and green open spaces

Natural spaces: Within built-up areas these include land that has never been developed as well as formerly developed sites that have been reclaimed by nature. They include canals, rivers, former railway lines, roadside verges and other transitional land that form important green corridors.



Local Green Spaces - designated within your NDP as locally important for setting and nature conservation.



Parks and formal green spaces: Most settlements have a legacy of parks and other public green spaces like sports pitches, recreation grounds, and cemeteries.



Semi-public spaces: Many institutions like schools and churches are custodians of green spaces.



Squares, village greens and pocket parks: At the neighbourhood level there are smaller areas of green space that are used for local recreation and play.



Small play areas with play apparatus.



Streets: Can include street trees, verges and planting areas that bring the benefits of green infrastructure to the heart of the built environment.



Communal gardens: Residential areas can include communal gardens within the village area, block or at roof level.



Allotments and food growing: This can include community gardens, orchards, and urban farms.



Private gardens: Within built-up areas a large part of the land is private gardens that contribute significantly to biodiversity.



Balconies: External spaces in apartments can be important for wellbeing and nature.



Green walls and roofs: There are opportunities for greenery and biodiversity through green walls and roofs.



Farmland: Land that is within the settlement boundary, possibly with public walkways across.



References



Photos Herefordshire Council.