



St Edmundsbury
BOROUGH COUNCIL

St Edmundsbury Local Development Framework

Site Allocations Development Plan Document

SITE SUBMISSION FORM

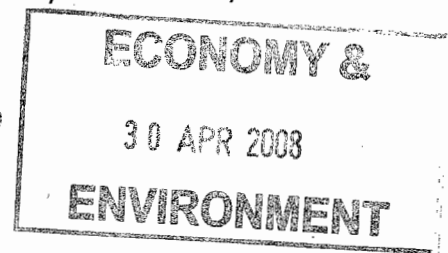
We are currently identifying sites with development potential as part of the Local Development Framework. This form should be completed to suggest sites that you think should be considered by the Council for their availability for development over the next 20 years.

Please return this form and a **map** clearly identifying the boundary of the site by:
Friday 9 May 2008 to:

Planning & Engineering Services
St Edmundsbury Borough Council
PO Box 122
Bury St Edmunds
IP33 3YS

5593

Or email it to: LDF@stedsbcc.gov.uk



ALL INFORMATION SUBMITTED WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION AND MAY BE THE SUBJECT OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION AS PART OF THE LDF PROCESS

Guidance

- 1 Please use a separate form for each site and complete the form to the best of your knowledge.
- 2 Do submit sites that:
 - would be available for development or redevelopment in the next 20 years; and
 - are more than 0.2 hectares (0.5 acres).
- 3 Do not submit sites that:
 - already have planning permission for development unless a new and different proposal is likely in the future; and
 - are outside of the St Edmundsbury local authority area.
- 4 Details of existing constraints can be obtained from a number of sources.
 - ~~Information on floodplains can be found at~~ www.environment-agency.gov.uk
 - Information on nature designations can be found at www.natureonthemap.org.uk
 - Details of special landscape areas and conservation areas can be obtained from the existing replacement Local Plan at www.stedmundsbury.gov.uk

Site Plan

This form should be accompanied by a site plan on a recognised Ordnance Survey base. The site plan should clearly illustrate the following information:

- The exact boundary details (**coloured red**) of the site that you would like considered
- Potential access points (*vehicular and non-vehicular*)
- Those areas identified as brownfield (**shaded blue**) and/or greenfield land (**shaded green**)

ECONOMY &
30 APR 2008
ENVIRONMENT

1. CONTACT DETAILS

Your name CHARLES STENNETT
Organisation GENEVIEVE FARMS
Address PARK FARM
FORNHAM ST GENEVIEVE
BURY ST EDMUNDS
SUFFOLK Postcode IP28 6TS
Telephone 01284 728834
Email address Charlie@stennetts.co.uk

Your agents (if applicable) _____
Organisation _____
Address _____

Postcode _____
Telephone _____
Email address _____

Site Owner MALCOLM CHARLES STENNETT
Address PARK FARM
FORNHAM ST GENEVIEVE
BURY ST EDMUNDS
SUFFOLK Postcode IP28 6TS

Please indicate if you have the consent of the landowner to promote this site for inclusion in the Local Development Framework: Yes /

2. SITE DETAILS

Site name PARK FARM QUARRY

Location FORNHAM ST GENEVIEVE, TIMWORTH

Total Area 86 (ha)

Of which 86 (ha) is on brownfield land

Of which 0 (ha) is on greenfield land

Ordnance Survey Grid Reference TL 850690 GB grid

Current use(s) (please specify last use if vacant)

GRAVEL EXTRACTION QUARRY + CONCRETE MIXING PLANT

Suggested uses FISHING, SAILING, ROWING, DIVING

WINDSURFING, HORSE RIDING, MOUNTAIN BIKING,

WALKING, EQUESTRIAN EVENTS

CAMPING AND CARAVAN SITE (TOURING CARAVANS) HOLIDAY

COTTAGES, TIMBER LODGES

EVENTS AREA, AGRICULTURAL SHOWS, CONCERTS ON THE LAKE

3. DEVELOPMENT CONSTRAINTS

Is the suggested use subject to any of the following constraints?

Constraint	Yes/No	Comments
Flood Plain	NO	
Nature designation	NO	
Land contamination	NO	
Conservation Area	NO	
Special Landscape Area	NO	

How close is the nearest bus stop?	1700 metres Bus service numbers <u>332, 333</u>
How close is the nearest primary school?	<u>4900</u> metres
How close is the nearest shop that will provide day-to-day food needs?	<u>1800</u> metres
How close is the nearest doctor's surgery?	<u>5.5</u> kilometres

If there are constraints to development, what interventions could be made to overcome them?

NONE

Policy constraints: How does the proposal conform with current national, regional or local planning policies?

CONFORMS TO PLANNING POLICY GUIDANCE 17
PLANNING FOR OPEN SPACE, SPORT AND

RECREATION. COPY ENCLOSED

CONFORMS TO STEDMUNDSBURY LOCAL PLAN

-LEISURE-TOURISM L1, L2, L3 - COPIES ENCLOSED

4. OTHER INFORMATION

Has the viability of the site been tested? If so, please include details.

NO.

NO SUCH SITE IS SIMILAR IN THE LOCAL
AREA

Level of developer interest, if known:

Low

Medium

High

Likely time frame for development:

0-5 years

6-10 years

10-15 years

Beyond 15 years

Any further information: (Continue on separate sheets if necessary) Please supply four copies of any supportive statements or an electronic version.

ENCLOSED ARE 4 COPIES OF INGHAM QUARRY
PROPOSED RESTORATION PLAN.

ALSO ENCLOSED IS AN ELECTRONIC VERSION
OF A VIRTUAL HELICOPTER FLY BY OF THE
FINISHED SITE.

ALSO AVAILABLE ON GOOGLE-SEARCH PARK FARM QUARRY
<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=8681884186782097570&hl=en-GB>

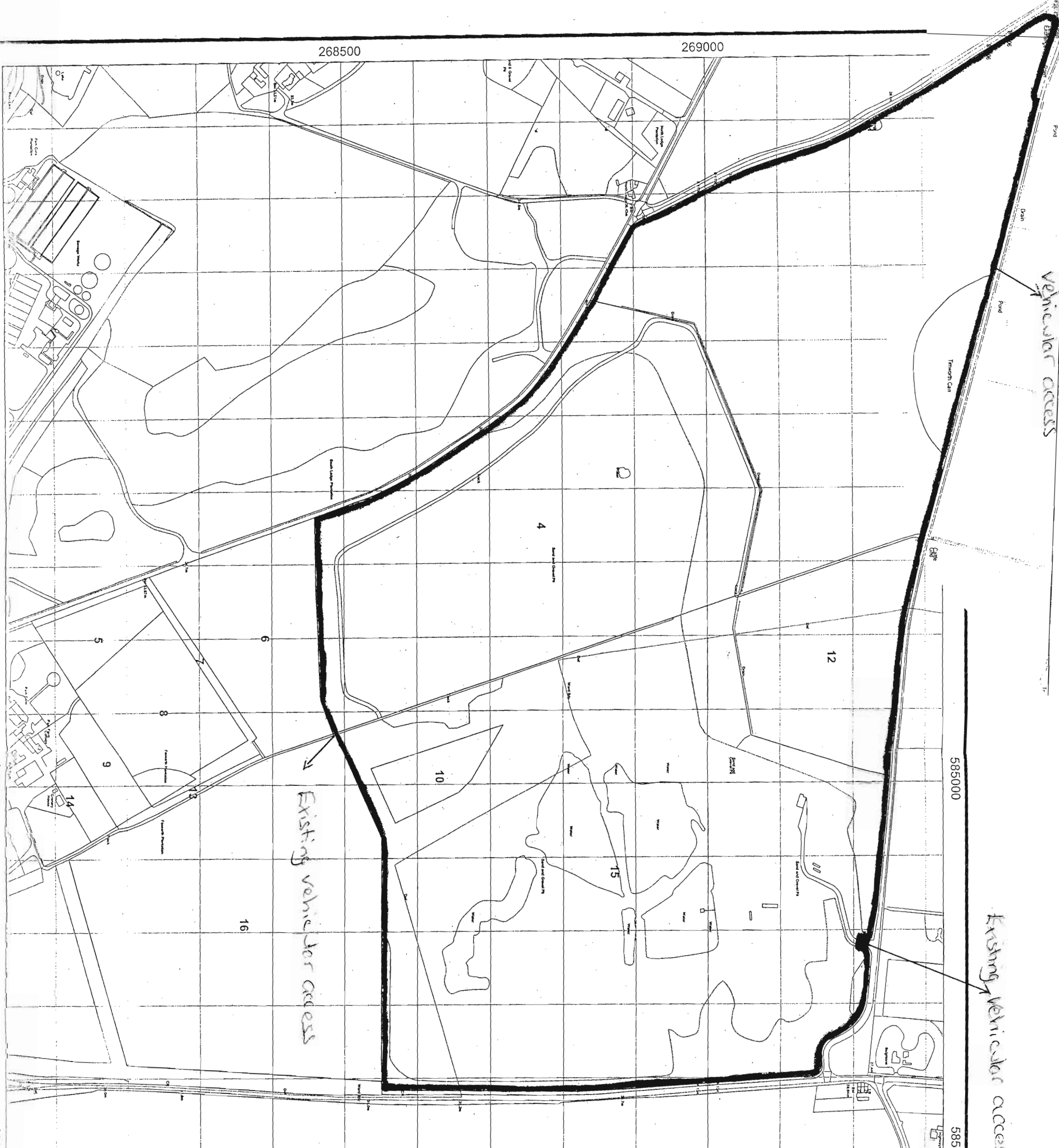
St Edmundsbury Local Development Framework

Site Allocations Development Plan Document

SITE SUBMISSION SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL

	SA Objective	Please indicate whether your proposal will have a positive or negative contribution towards each objective
1	To improve the health of the population overall	+
2	To maintain and improve levels of education and skills in the population overall	+
3	To reduce crime and anti-social activity	
4	To reduce poverty and social exclusion	+
5	To improve access to key services for all sectors of the population	
6	To offer everybody the opportunity for rewarding and satisfying employment	+
7	To meet the housing requirements of the whole community	
8	To improve the quality of where people live and to encourage community participation	+
9	To improve water and air quality	+
10	To conserve soil resources and quality	+
11	To use water and mineral resources efficiently, and re-use and recycle where possible	+
12	To reduce waste	+




	SA Objective	Please indicate whether your proposal will have a positive or negative contribution towards each objective
13	To reduce the effects of traffic on the environment	-
14	To reduce contributions to climate change	+
15	To reduce vulnerability to climatic events	+
16	To conserve and enhance biodiversity	+
17	To conserve and where appropriate enhance areas of historical and archaeological importance	
18	To conserve and enhance the quality and local distinctiveness of landscapes and townscapes	+
19	To achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth throughout the plan area	+
20	To revitalise town centres	+
21	To encourage efficient patterns of movement in support of economic growth	+
22	To encourage and accommodate both indigenous and inward investment	+



rpa

Land Parcel Change Map
 Customer Reference Number
 106547196

Map 3/10

-  IACS Symbols
-  IACS Parcel Boundary
-  Adjacent Parcel Boundary

Updated IACS 2006 Information

Plot ID	Sheet ID	Parcel ID	GIS Field Size (ha)	Agreed Field Size (ha)	LFA
4	TL8468	6577	21.28	21.28	N
5	TL8468	8016	1.32	1.32	N
6	TL8468	8039	4.58	4.58	N
7	TL8468	8330	0.53	0.53	N
8	TL8468	9025	3.22	3.22	N
9	TL8468	9717	0.88	0.88	N
10	TL8468	9963	1.07	1.07	N
11	TL8469	1123	0.03	0.03	N
12	TL8469	8317	5.76	5.76	N
13	TL8568	0129	0.19	0.19	N
14	TL8568	0212	0.89	0.89	N
15	TL8568	1287	36.25	36.25	N
16	TL8568	1936	15.35	15.35	N

Scale 1:5000
 50m 0m 50m 100m 150m 200m

This information can be used for IACS purposes.
 This material has been reproduced from Ordnance Survey digital map data with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright.
 DEFRA License Number 100018980, 2005.

Date: 06/06/2006

Tourism

6.9 Tourism is becoming an increasingly important element of the economy of the borough. The County Structure Plan encourages the development of accommodation and facilities for tourists and so the Borough Council supports the development of sustainable tourism which has no adverse impact on the conservation of towns, villages and the countryside and the quality of life for residents. The diversification of rural industries, particularly farming, is an issue which the local planning authority will support in appropriate cases.

POLICY L2: TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

Proposals for new tourism development, including visitor centres and attractions, will be permitted where:

- i) for tourism development that falls within one or more of the main town centre uses set out in paragraph 1.8 of PPS6, it can be demonstrated that a sequential approach based on paragraphs 2.44-2.46 of PPS6 has been adopted in selecting the site;**
- ii) the proposal is accessible by a choice of transport;**
- iii) the development would be visually unobtrusive and able to be screened in a manner which enhances the surrounding landscape; and**
- iv) it is of a scale related to its setting.**

6.10 Visitor accommodation is an important means of increasing tourism expenditure in the local economy. There is scope for extra accommodation, especially in the main towns. The overall strategy for development in the borough and the quality of the environment means that, as a general principle, new purpose-built holiday accommodation will not normally be permitted in the countryside. New accommodation will only be permitted which involves the change of use or conversion of existing buildings or is either integral or ancillary to a leisure or sporting facility, and such a use would not result in a detrimental impact.

POLICY L3: VISITOR ACCOMMODATION

Proposals for additional visitor accommodation within Housing Settlement Boundaries, including extensions, conversions and intensification of existing premises, will be permitted where the development will not have a detrimental impact on the environment and local amenity. In the case of new build, proposals will be required to where appropriate, satisfy the sequential approach to development in Policy DS2. Proposals for new visitor accommodation involving a "main town centre" use as defined in paragraph 1.8 of PPS6 will also be required to satisfy the sequential approach.

New holiday accommodation outside of Housing Settlement Boundaries will only be permitted if:

- i) it is provided through the conversion or change of use of existing buildings in accordance with Policy RU4; or**
- ii) it is an integral part of, or ancillary to, a leisure or sporting facility and is essential for its successful operation and proposals are of a high standard of design and sympathetic use is made of materials traditional to the area.**

Parks and Open Spaces

6.11 Open spaces near residential areas can add significantly to quality of life. They not only help people to take part in outdoor pursuits, they also contribute to the quality of the environment. More formal parks can also serve a much wider catchment area and, as in the case of the Abbey Gardens in Bury St Edmunds, also serve as a major tourist attraction.

6.12 The National Playing Field Association (NPFA) suggests an overall standard of 2.43 hectares of outdoor playing space per 1,000 population. This standard is intended as a general guide and needs to be modified to take account of local demand and range of facilities available.

6.13 St Edmundsbury will be carrying out a detailed assessment of playing field needs in the borough, the results of which will be included in the Open Space Strategy. Minimum standards of open space provision are set out in Appendix E and Planning Guidance. This will be reviewed once the assessment of playing field need has been completed and a Supplementary Planning Document will be produced.

6.14 Within new residential development in the main towns and villages, developers will be expected to provide appropriate public open space as formal recreation areas, informal open space and play areas. New public open space is proposed at Moreton Hall, Bury St Edmunds, and various locations in Haverhill. There are also a number of settlements that do not have enough playing fields. The Borough Council will encourage new facilities where there are no overriding detrimental effects on agricultural land, residential amenity and conservation interests.

6.15 Casual play areas in residential neighbourhoods are an essential part of the amenity of an area. Adequate play space will be needed in new residential areas and the Borough Council will refer to Appendix E and Planning Guidance which includes standards for the size of play area to be provided. Great care will be necessary in the location of the play areas in order to cut disturbance to nearby residents.

6.16 In office, retail and other commercial and mixed development schemes there may also be the opportunity for creating new public open space or providing particular sports and recreation facilities. When applying the approved standards of open space provision to residential and commercial development, the Borough Council will consider the nature of the demand generated and the level of existing open space and recreation provision.

6.17 The borough's countryside provides a rich resource and considerable potential for recreational uses. Public interest in the countryside in general and nature conservation in particular continues to grow. Although recreation in the countryside is primarily limited to a network of footpaths and bridleways, there is growing pressure for new and improved facilities such as car parks, picnic sites and overnight accommodation. The demand for more organised sports provision is also growing. These pressures must be balanced against the need to protect the character and appearance of the countryside and prevent inappropriate development from damaging those qualities which attract people in the first place.

POLICY L4: STANDARDS OF OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PROVISION

Index of Policies

Developers of new housing areas will be required to provide open space

including play areas, formal recreation areas and amenity areas and where appropriate, indoor sports facilities in accordance with the local planning authority's approved standards of provision.

Where appropriate, the local planning authority will seek the provision of recreational open space and sports and recreation facilities as part of office, retail and other commercial and mixed development schemes.

In addition to policies and proposals elsewhere in this Plan, proposals for the provision of new playing fields and sports facilities should be accompanied by a demonstration of need.

In appropriate circumstances, the local planning authority will permit the provision of indoor recreation facilities as an alternative to outdoor open space provision.

Note: Standards for open space provision are incorporated within Appendix E and Planning Guidance and any subsequent replacement Supplementary Planning Document.

6.18 Keeping and enhancing existing facilities for sport and recreation is important for the borough and the Borough Council will seek to safeguard this provision. School playing fields are an especially important amenity and are protected by the minimum statutory requirements for school playing field areas set by the Government. The Borough Council will take into account government advice and directives concerning the referral of applications for development that would mean losing open space or playing fields.

6.19 Parks, including country parks also play an important role in providing a mix of open space, both through organised and informal sport and leisure.

POLICY L5: SAFEGUARDING PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

The local planning authority will seek to safeguard existing parks, amenity areas and recreational open space. Development on public, private and school playing fields will not be permitted unless:

- i) the development is for buildings and/or facilities ancillary to, or enhancing, the amenity or recreational value of the open space; or**
- ii) any playing field(s) which would be lost as a result of the proposed development would be replaced by a playing field(s) of an equivalent or better quality and equivalent or greater quantity, in a suitable location and subject to equivalent or better management arrangements, prior to the commencement of the development ; or**
- iii) there is clear evidence through a quantified and documented assessment that now, and in the future, the land will no longer be needed for its current purpose or has no special significance to the interest of sport, other recreational uses or the local community ; or**
- iv) the proposed facility is for an indoor or outdoor sports facility, the provision of which would be of significant benefit to the development of sport as to outweigh the detriment caused by the loss of the playing field(s).**

Parks, Important Amenity Open Space and Important Areas of Recreational Open Space are identified on the Proposals Map.

6.20 Allotments: Allotments provide a popular form of recreational pursuit, a source of healthy food and exercise. If there is a demand for them and they are well maintained, they provide an environmental resource in towns.

POLICY L6: ALLOTMENTS Index of Policies

The local planning authority will seek to ensure that an adequate supply of allotments is maintained. Proposals which will result in the loss of allotments will be approved only where:

- i) an assessment of the long term need for the site has been carried out; and, if necessary**
- ii) alternative provision of a similar standard is available within the area;**
- or**
- iii) alternative provision of a similar or improved standard can be made available in a location accessible to existing users.**

Note: Standards for allotments are incorporated within Appendix E and Planning Guidance and any subsequent replacement Supplementary Planning Document. The designation of unused allotments as Important Open Areas may be covered in further guidance. The local planning authority will secure the alternative provision of allotments through the use of conditions and/or planning obligations.

Planning Policy Guidance 17: Planning for open space, sport and recreation

On 5th May 2006 the responsibilities of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) transferred to the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Department for Communities and Local Government
Eland House
Bressenden Place
London SW1E 5DU
Telephone: 020 7944 4400
Website: www.communities.gov.uk

Documents downloaded from the www.communities.gov.uk website are *Crown Copyright* unless otherwise stated, in which case copyright is assigned to *Queens Printer and Controller of Her Majestys Stationery Office*.

Copyright in the typographical arrangement rests with the Crown.

This publication, excluding logos, may be reproduced free of charge in any format or medium for research, private study or for internal circulation within an organisation. This is subject to it being reproduced accurately and not used in a misleading context. The material must be acknowledged as Crown copyright and the title of the publication specified.

Any other use of the contents of this publication would require a copyright licence. Please apply for a Click-Use Licence for core material at www.opsi.gov.uk/click-use/system/online/pLogin.asp or by writing to the Office of Public Sector Information, Information Policy Team, St Clements House, 2-16 Colegate, Norwich NR3 1BQ. Fax: 01603 723000 or e-mail: HMSOlicensing@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk.

This publication is only available online via the Communities and Local Government website: www.communities.gov.uk

Alternative formats under Disability Discrimination Act (DDA): if you require this publication in an alternative format please email alternativeformats@communities.gov.uk

Contents

Planning Objectives
National Planning Policies
Assessments of Needs and Opportunities
Setting Local Standards
Maintaining An Adequate Supply Of Open Space And Sports And Recreational Facilities
Playing Fields
Development Within Open Spaces
Enhancing Existing Open Space and Sports and Recreational Facilities
Planning for New Open Space and Sports and Recreational Facilities
General Principles
Mixed-use Sport, Recreation and Leisure Facilities
Stadia and Major Developments
Local Facilities
Open Spaces
Urban Fringe Areas
Rural Areas
Sports and Recreation Provision in Designated Areas
Sports and Recreation Requiring Natural Features and Water
Recreational Rights of Way
Planning Obligations
Annex : Definitions

Foreword

Planning Objectives

Open spaces, sport and recreation all underpin people's quality of life. Well designed and implemented planning policies for open space, sport and recreation are therefore fundamental to delivering broader Government objectives. These include:

supporting an urban renaissance - local networks of high quality and well managed and maintained open spaces, sports and recreational facilities help create urban environments that are attractive, clean and safe. Green spaces in urban areas perform vital functions as areas for nature conservation and biodiversity and by acting as 'green lungs' can assist in meeting objectives to improve air quality.

supporting a rural renewal - the countryside can provide opportunities for recreation and visitors can play an important role in the regeneration of the economies of rural areas. Open spaces within rural settlements and accessibility to local sports and recreational facilities contribute to the quality of life and well being of people who live in rural areas.

promotion of social inclusion and community cohesion - well planned and maintained open spaces and good quality sports and recreational facilities can play a major part in improving people's sense of well being in the place they live. As a focal point for community activities, they can bring together members of deprived communities and provide opportunities for people for social interaction.

health and well being - open spaces, sports and recreational facilities have a vital role to play in promoting healthy living and preventing illness, and in the social development of children of all ages through play, sporting activities and interaction with others.

promoting more sustainable development - by ensuring that open space, sports and recreational facilities (particularly in urban areas) are easily accessible by walking and cycling and that more heavily used or intensive sports and recreational facilities are planned for locations well served by public transport.

National Planning Policies

Assessments Of Needs And Opportunities

1. To ensure effective planning for open space, sport and recreation it is essential that the needs of local communities are known. Local authorities should undertake robust assessments of the existing and future needs of their communities for open space, sports and recreational facilities. Assessments will normally be undertaken at district level, although assessments of strategic facilities should be undertaken at regional or sub-regional levels.

2. As a minimum, assessments of need should cover the differing and distinctive needs of the population for open space and built sports and recreational facilities (as outlined in the annex). The needs of those working in and visiting areas, as well as residents should also be included.

3. Local authorities should also undertake audits of existing open space, sports and recreational facilities, the use made of existing facilities, access in terms of location and costs (such as charges) and opportunities for new open space and facilities (see endnote 1). Audits should consider both the quantitative and the qualitative elements of open space, sports and recreational facilities. Audits of quality will be particularly important as they will allow local authorities to identify potential for increased use through better design, management and maintenance.

4. Assessments and audits will allow local authorities to identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in their areas. They form the starting point for establishing an effective strategy for open space, sport and recreation at the local level (tied into the local authority's Community Strategy), and for effective planning through the development of appropriate policies in plans.

5. Good quality assessments and audits, leading to clear strategies supported by effective planning policies, will provide vital tools for resolving the potential conflicts that arise between different uses and users of open space, sports and recreational facilities. The Government expects all local authorities to carry out assessments of needs and audits of open space and sports and recreational facilities in accordance with the paragraphs above. Good practice guidance (see endnote 2) being published in tandem with this PPG provides more detailed advice on how to undertake these assessments and audits.

Setting Local Standards

6. The Government believes that open space standards are best set locally. National standards cannot cater for local circumstances, such as differing demographic profiles and the extent of existing built development in an area.

7. Local authorities should use the information gained from their assessments of needs and opportunities to set locally derived standards for the provision of open space, sports and recreational facilities in their areas. Local standards should include:

- i. quantitative elements (how much new provision may be needed);
- ii. a qualitative component (against which to measure the need for enhancement of existing facilities); and
- iii. accessibility (including distance thresholds and consideration of the cost of using a facility).

8. Setting robust local standards based on assessments of need and audits of existing facilities will form the basis for redressing quantitative and qualitative deficiencies through the planning process. Standards should be included in development plans.

9. Assessing needs and opportunities: A companion guide to PPG17 provides further guidance on setting local standards for open space, sport and recreation.

Maintaining An Adequate Supply Of Open Space And Sports And Recreational Facilities

10. Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land should not be built on unless an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space or the buildings and land to be surplus to requirements. For open space, 'surplus to requirements' should include consideration of all the functions that open space can perform. Not all open space, sport and recreational land and buildings are of equal merit and some may be available for alternative uses. In the absence of a robust and up-to-date assessment by a local authority, an applicant for planning permission may seek to demonstrate through an independent assessment that the land or buildings are surplus to requirements. Developers will need to consult the local community and demonstrate that their proposals are widely supported by them. Paragraph 15 below applies in respect of any planning applications involving playing fields.

11. Open space and sports and recreational facilities that are of high quality, or of particular value to a local community, should be recognised and given protection by local authorities through appropriate policies in plans. Areas of particular quality may include:

- i. small areas of open space in urban areas that provide an important local amenity and offer recreational and play opportunities;
- ii. areas of open space that provide a community resource and can be used for informal or formal events such as religious and cultural festivals, agricultural shows and travelling fairs. Travelling fairs may also require suitable winter quarters (DoE Circular 22/91 refers); and
- iii. areas of open space that particularly benefit wildlife and biodiversity.

12. Development of open space, sports or recreational facilities may provide an opportunity for local authorities to remedy deficiencies in provision. For example, where a local authority has identified a surplus in one type of open space or sports and recreational facility but a deficit in another type, planning conditions or obligations may be used to secure part of the development site for the type of open space or sports and recreational facility that is in deficit.

13. Equally, development may provide the opportunity to exchange the use of one site for another to substitute for any loss of open space, or sports or recreational facility. The new land and facility should be at least as accessible to current and potential new users, and at least equivalent in terms of size, usefulness, attractiveness and quality. Wherever possible, the aim should be to achieve qualitative improvements to open spaces, sports and recreational facilities. Local authorities should use planning obligations or conditions to secure the exchange land, ensure any necessary works are undertaken and that the new facilities are capable of being maintained adequately through management and maintenance agreements.

14. Parks, recreation grounds, playing fields and allotments must not be regarded as 'previously-developed land', as defined in annex C of PPG3. Even where land does fall within the definition of 'previously-developed', its existing and potential value for recreation and other purposes should be properly assessed before development is considered.

Playing Fields

15. In advance of an assessment of need, local authorities should give very careful consideration to any planning applications involving development on playing fields (see endnote 3). Where a robust assessment of need in accordance with this guidance has not

been undertaken, planning permission for such developments should not be allowed unless:

- i. the proposed development is ancillary to the use of the site as a playing field (eg new changing rooms) and does not adversely affect the quantity or quality of pitches and their use;
- ii. the proposed development only affects land which is incapable of forming a playing pitch (or part of one);
- iii. the playing fields that would be lost as a result of the proposed development would be replaced by a playing field or fields of equivalent or better quantity and quality and in a suitable location - see paragraph 13 above; or
- iv. the proposed development is for an outdoor or indoor sports facility of sufficient benefit to the development of sport to outweigh the loss of the playing field

Developments within Open Spaces

16. The recreational quality of open spaces can be eroded by insensitive development or incremental loss of the site. In considering planning applications - either within or adjoining open space - local authorities should weigh any benefits being offered to the community against the loss of open space that will occur. Planning authorities may wish to allow small-scale structures where these would support the existing recreational uses (for example, interpretation centres, toilets, and refreshment facilities), or would provide facilities for new recreational uses. They should seek to ensure that all proposed development takes account of, and is sensitive to, the local context.

17. Local authorities should:

- i. avoid any erosion of recreational function and maintain or enhance the character of open spaces;
- ii. ensure that open spaces do not suffer from increased overlooking, traffic flows or other encroachment;
- iii. protect and enhance those parts of the rights of way network that might benefit open space; and
- iv. consider the impact of any development on biodiversity and nature conservation.

Enhancing Existing Open Space and Sport and Recreational Facilities

18. Where recreational land and facilities are of poor quality or under-used, this should not be taken as necessarily indicating an absence of need in the area. Local authorities should seek opportunities to improve the value of existing facilities. Usage might be improved by better management or by capital investment to secure improvements. Planning obligations may be used where improvements are required to meet identified needs (see paragraph 33). In looking to improve existing open space and facilities, local authorities should:

- i. promote the compatibility of the uses made of open spaces and sport and recreational facilities with adjoining land uses;
- ii. encourage better accessibility of existing open spaces and sports and recreational facilities, taking account of the mobility needs in the local population; and
- iii. promote better use of open spaces and sports and recreational facilities, by the use of good design to reduce crime.

19. In considering applications for floodlighting, local authorities should ensure that local amenity is protected. The impact on the openness of the Green Belt, or on the character of the countryside, of floodlight towers or pylons should be a key factor in determining whether planning permission should be granted. Further guidance is contained in the companion document to this PPG.

Planning For New Open Space And Sports And Recreational Facilities

General principles

20. In identifying where to locate new areas of open space, sports and recreational facilities, local authorities should:

- i. promote accessibility by walking, cycling and public transport, and ensure that facilities are accessible for people with disabilities;
- ii. locate more intensive recreational uses in sites where they can contribute to town centre vitality and viability;
- iii. avoid any significant loss of amenity to residents, neighbouring uses or biodiversity;
- iv. improve the quality of the public realm through good design;
- v. look to provide areas of open space in commercial and industrial areas;
- vi. add to and enhance the range and quality of existing facilities;

- vii. carefully consider security and personal safety, especially for children;
- viii. meet the regeneration needs of areas, using brownfield in preference to greenfield sites;
- ix. consider the scope for using any surplus land for open space, sport or recreational use, weighing this against alternative uses;
- x. assess the impact of new facilities on social inclusion; and
- xi. consider the recreational needs of visitors and tourists.

In addition to these general principles, paragraphs 21-32 below apply in respect of specific types of facilities or areas.

Mixed-use Sport, Recreation and Leisure Facilities

21. Many sporting and recreational facilities will be similar in their land use characteristics to some forms of leisure - by making intensive use of land and attracting a large number of visits. Indeed, some will be mixed with significant elements of entertainment, retail or leisure uses and will function for many hours of the day. Planning permission for such developments should only be granted where they are to be located in highly accessible locations in or adjacent to town centres, or in district or neighbourhood centres. Planning permission should not be granted for a location outside such a town centre if the resulting development would undermine the centre. Sites in central locations should be allocated where there is a high level of demand for such mixed use facilities. The guidance in PPG6 explains the principles that should be applied to the location of town centre uses.

Stadia and Major Developments

22. Planning permission for stadia and major sports developments which will accommodate large numbers of spectators, or which will also function as a facility for community based sports and recreation, should only be granted when they are to be located in areas with good access to public transport. Planning permission for additional facilities (such as retail and leisure uses) should not be granted for any out-of-centre developments unless they comply with the policy set out in PPG6.

Local Facilities

23. Local authorities should ensure that provision is made for local sports and recreational facilities (either through an increase in the number of facilities or through improvements to existing facilities) where planning permission is granted for new developments (especially

housing). Planning obligations (see paragraph 33 below) should be used where appropriate to seek increased provision of open spaces and local sports and recreational facilities, and the enhancement of existing facilities. Where local facilities will attract people from a wider catchment, especially in urban areas, planning permission should not be granted unless they are located where they will be well served by public transport.

Open Spaces

24. In planning for new open spaces and in assessing planning applications for development, local authorities should seek opportunities to improve the local open space network, to create public open space from vacant land, and to incorporate open space within new development on previously-used land. They should also consider whether use can be made of land which is otherwise unsuitable for development, or procure public use of privately owned areas of land or sports facilities.

Urban Fringe Areas

25. The countryside around towns provides a valuable resource for the provision of sport and recreation, particularly in situations where there is an absence of land in urban areas to meet provision. Subject to paragraphs 27-30 below, local authorities should encourage the creation of sports and recreational facilities in such areas and the development of areas of managed countryside, such as country parks, community forests, and agricultural showgrounds. Where planning permission is to be granted for such land uses, local planning authorities should ensure that facilities are accessible by walking, cycling and public transport as alternatives to the use of the car.

Rural Areas

26. In rural areas those sports and recreational facilities which are likely to attract significant numbers of participants or spectators should be located in, or on the edge of, country towns. Smaller scale facilities will be acceptable where they are located in, or adjacent to villages to meet the needs of the local community. Developments will require special justification if they are to be located in open countryside, although proposals for farm diversification involving sports and recreational activities should be given favourable consideration. All development in rural areas should be designed and sited with great care and sensitivity to its rural location.

Sports and Recreation Provision in Designated Areas

27. Designation of areas as National Parks or Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty does not preclude the use of land for sporting and recreational activities, but noisy or other

intrusive activities should be restricted to locations where they will have minimal or no impact on residents or other recreational users. National Park Authorities should work with other local authorities and with sports and recreational bodies with a view to securing new sports and recreational facilities in appropriate locations within National Parks.

28. In Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty local planning authorities should look to meet the demands for sporting and recreational activities where the proposals are consistent with the primary objective of conservation of the natural beauty of the landscape, and the needs of agriculture, forestry and other uses.

29. Planning permission for development in or near a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) for temporary or permanent sporting and recreational activities, should be granted only if the permission is subject to conditions that will prevent damaging impacts on the SSSI, or if other material factors are sufficient to override nature conservation considerations.

30. Planning permission should be granted in Green Belts for proposals to establish or to modernise essential facilities for outdoor sport and recreation where the openness of the Green Belt is maintained. Development should be the minimum necessary and non-essential facilities (eg additional function rooms or indoor leisure) should be treated as inappropriate development. Very special circumstances which outweigh the harm to the Green Belt will need to be demonstrated if such inappropriate development is to be permitted.

Sport and Recreation Requiring Natural Features and Water

31. Some activities (eg climbing, potholing) rely on particular natural features. Where these features exist, local authorities should recognise their actual and potential recreational value, possibly to more than the local population. Planning permission should be granted but only where the impact of sports and recreational activities on natural features can be minimised. Facilities should be planned carefully to ensure that conflicts between sport and recreational activities and other interests do not arise. In considering planning applications for development near water, local authorities should ensure that access for sport and recreation purposes is not restricted and should, where possible, be enhanced. The visual amenity, heritage and nature conservation value of water resources should also be protected.

Recreational Rights of Way

32. Rights of way are an important recreational facility, which local authorities should protect and enhance. Local authorities should seek opportunities to provide better facilities

for walkers, cyclists and horse-riders, for example by adding links to existing rights of way networks.

Planning Obligations

33. Planning obligations should be used as a means to remedy local deficiencies in the quantity or quality of open space, sports and recreational provision. Local authorities will be justified in seeking planning obligations where the quantity or quality of provision is inadequate or under threat, or where new development increases local needs. It is essential that local authorities have undertaken detailed assessments of needs and audits of existing facilities, and set appropriate local standards in order to justify planning obligations. Further advice to authorities on seeking planning obligations for open space, sports and recreational facilities is contained in the good practice guide associated with this guidance (see endnote 4).

Annex : Definitions

Open Space

1. Open space is defined in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as land laid out as a public garden, or used for the purposes of public recreation, or land which is a disused burial ground. However, in applying the policies in this Guidance, open space should be taken to mean all open space of public value, including not just land, but also areas of water such as rivers, canals, lakes and reservoirs which offer important opportunities for sport and recreation and can also act as a visual amenity (see paragraph 3(vi) below).

2. The following typology illustrates the broad range of open spaces that may be of public value:

- i. parks and gardens - including urban parks, country parks and formal gardens;
- ii. natural and semi-natural urban greenspaces - including woodlands, urban forestry, scrub, grasslands (eg downlands, commons and meadows) wetlands, open and running water, wastelands and derelict open land and rock areas (eg cliffs, quarries and pits);
- iii. green corridors - including river and canal banks, cycleways, and rights of way;
- iv. outdoor sports facilities (with natural or artificial surfaces and either publicly or privately owned) - including tennis courts, bowling greens, sports pitches, golf courses, athletics tracks, school and other institutional playing fields, and other outdoor sports areas;

v. amenity greenspace (most commonly, but not exclusively in housing areas) - including informal recreation spaces, greenspaces in and around housing, domestic gardens and village greens;

vi. provision for children and teenagers - including play areas, skateboard parks, outdoor basketball hoops, and other more informal areas (eg 'hanging out' areas, teenage shelters);

vii. allotments, community gardens, and city (urban) farms;

viii. cemeteries and churchyards;

ix. accessible countryside in urban fringe areas; and

x. civic spaces, including civic and market squares, and other hard surfaced areas designed for pedestrians;

This typology, or variations of it, should be used by local authorities when preparing assessments of need and audits of existing open space and recreational facilities.

3. Local authorities should also recognise that most areas of open space can perform multiple functions. They should take account of the various functions of open space when applying the policies in this document. These include:

i. strategic functions: defining and separating urban areas; better linking of town and country; and providing for recreational needs over a wide area;

ii. urban quality: helping to support regeneration and improving quality of life for communities by providing visually attractive green spaces close to where people live;

iii. promoting health and well-being: providing opportunities to people of all ages for informal recreation, or to walk, cycle or ride within parks and open spaces or along paths, bridleways and canal banks. Allotments may provide physical exercise and other health benefits;

iv. havens and habitats for flora and fauna: sites may also have potential to be corridors or stepping stones from one habitat to another and may contribute towards achieving objectives set out in local biodiversity action plans;

v. as a community resource: as a place for congregating and for holding community events, religious festivals, fêtes and travelling fairs; and,

vi. as a visual amenity: even without public access, people enjoy having open space near to them to provide an outlook, variety in the urban scene, or as a positive element in the landscape.

Sport And Recreation

4. Sport and recreation is not formally defined for the purposes of this PPG. With the exception of limited cases where the policies are specific to sporting activities (eg those for location of stadia), policies are generic and should be applied to all forms of sport and recreational activities.

5. For the purposes of assessments of need and audits of existing built facilities for sport and recreation, local authorities should use a typology which includes swimming pools, indoor sports halls and leisure centres, indoor bowls centres, indoor tennis centres, ice rinks, community centres, and village halls.

Endnotes

1. The Annex to this statement provides further guidance on the use of these terms
2. ODPM: Assessing needs and opportunities: A companion guide to PPG17
3. As defined in *Statutory Instrument 1996 No. 1817* which amends the Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995(b). This amendment requires local planning authorities to consult Sport England about developments that affect land used as playing fields.
4. ODPM: Assessing needs and opportunities: A companion guide to PPG17