



HESLINGTON PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

September 2019

**BCS: Appendix 1
Local Green Space
Evidence Base**

Appendix 1: Local Green Space – Site Selection and Designation

This Appendix explains the designation of Local Green Spaces in the Heslington Parish Neighbourhood Plan (HPNP). It sets out the background to Local Green Spaces and explains the methodology and evidence base used.

1. Policy Context

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) introduced the concept of Local Green Space (LGS) designation. LGS designation is a way to provide special protection against development for green areas of particular importance to local communities.

NPPF (2019) paragraph 99 provides the following information on LGS designations:

“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.”

It is noted that several of the sites proposed already have some protection through their position within the general extent of the Green Belt. National Planning Practice Guidance on Local Green Space designation suggests that where land is already protected by another designation consideration should be given as to whether any additional local benefit would be gained by identifying it as a LGS. An important consideration in the HPNP was that a new Green Belt boundary for York is proposed in the emerging York Local Plan but not yet adopted and that there had been examples of green spaces that communities have considered to be special that have been lost to development of a type that is inappropriate in the Green Belt. This includes both built development and garden extensions.

The intention is that designation would give these areas additional protection over that provided through any national Green Belt policy protection.

Additional guidance is provided in the National Planning Practice Guidance on ‘Open space, sports and recreation facilities, public rights of way and local green space’.¹

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/open-space-sports-and-recreation-facilities-public-rights-of-way-and-local-green-space>

2. Process for Designation

Whilst the NPPF (2019) paragraph 99 establishes the concept of LGS designation and provides some guiding principles, it also gives local communities preparing a neighbourhood plan some discretion to determine how to implement this at the local level.

The Heslington Parish Neighbourhood Plan (HPNP) adopted a five-stage approach:

Step 1: Potential sites were identified and considered. These sites were derived from local knowledge together with information from other sources such as *City of York Local Plan Evidence Base: Open Space and Green Infrastructure (Update September 2017)*², *CYC Biodiversity Audit 2010*³ and the emerging York Draft Local Plan.

Step 2: Each site was then assessed to consider whether it was suitable for LGS designation. To allow comparative assessment of the sites an assessment form was created based on the criteria set out in the NPPF (2019) paragraph 100:

“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), tranquility or richness of its wildlife; and*
- c) local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.”*

These criteria were used to create a LGS evaluation format. This enabled a consistent and transparent methodology for identifying LGSs in the Parish.

In undertaking the LGS analysis, challenges were identified with the absence of a statutory or commonly used definition of these terms, particularly, what constitutes “special”, what comprises an “extensive tract of land”, or is “in reasonable close proximity”. A common sense approach was taken, while at the same time having regard to good practice and the experiences of LGS designations in other accepted neighbourhood plans.

Step 3: All the proposed sites were then finally reviewed for their appropriateness for designation as LGS.

Step 4: Satisfied that the sites met the criteria for LGS designation and are included in the HPNP, they were then tested through the Pre-Submission Plan process.

Step 5: Assessment forms

² https://www.york.gov.uk/downloads/file/16040/sd085_-_city_of_york_local_plan_evidence_base_-_open_space_and_green_infrastructure_update_september_2017

³ https://www.york.gov.uk/downloads/file/16047/sd089_-_city_of_york_council_biodiversity_audit_2010

3. Local Green Space Site Assessment Forms

Reference No.	1
Site Name	Allotments between the southern half of Boss Lane and Holmefield.
Address/location⁴	Heslington (627 500)
Description	Popular, well-used allotments that also form a narrow buffer between the built-up area of Holmefield and Boss Lane.
Public Access	Allotments: Local membership association Open to the public.
Approximate Area	0.3ha
Is it in close proximity to the community it would serve? i.e. within 600m	Yes. Located within 150m of Main Street [West].
Is it beautiful?	No
Does it have historic significance?	No
Does it have recreational value? Including playing fields, in/formal, etc	Yes. Allotments.
Is it tranquil? Is it a peaceful place away from noise and bustle?	Yes
Does the site have wildlife value? Biodiversity?	Part of the wildlife corridor along Boss Lane for birds, small mammals and pollinating insects such as bees.
Is the site local in character? (i.e. serves local community and not extensive)	Fully self-contained area, clearly defined by a boundary fence.
Does the site contribute to Local Plan strategic requirements for provision of homes, employment or services?	No



⁴ Site locations are identified by a National Grid Reference to their approximate centre or by two Grid References defining their maximum extent (N-S or W-E) as appropriate. All are in Grid Square SE. Some, but not all, of these sites are listed in CYC's *Local Plan Evidence Base Study: Open Space and Green Infrastructure Update September 2017*, and are given the Site ID number (e.g. **YLP123**) from that document.

Reference No.	2
Site Name	Allotments on Low Lane.
Address/location⁴	Heslington (633 502) (YLP726)
Description	A small group of allotments to the south of Low Lane designated as Existing Open Space in the Emerging York Local Plan.
Public Access	Allotments: Local membership association. Open to the public.
Approximate Area	0.15ha
Is it in close proximity to the community it would serve? i.e. within 600m	Yes. Located within 200m to the east of Main Street [South] and close to School Lane and The Crescent.
Is it beautiful?	No
Does it have historic significance?	No
Does it have recreational value? Including playing fields, in/formal, etc	Yes. Allotments.
Is it tranquil? Is it a peaceful place away from noise and bustle?	Yes
Does the site have wildlife value? Biodiversity?	Creates environment that supports small mammals as well as birds and important pollinating insects such as bees.
Is the site local in character? (i.e. serves local community and not extensive)	Self-contained area bounded by Low Lane and fields.
Does the site contribute to Local Plan strategic requirements for provision of homes, employment or services?	No



Reference No.	3
Site Name	Boss Lane and associated paddocks.
Address/location⁴	Heslington (N 626 503 to S 628 499)
Description	Boss lane is an ancient pathway, flanked by paddocks to the east and allotments (site 1) to the west. It is an important part of the Conservation Area.
Public Access	Boss Lane is a valued public right of way from Main Street [West] through to The Outgang (site 13) and Tillmire SSSI.
Approximate Area	3.8ha
Is it in close proximity to the community it would serve? i.e. within 600m	Yes. The Lane runs parallel to, and approx. 100m west of Main Street [South].
Is it beautiful?	Yes
Does it have historic significance?	Yes. Boss Lane was a route out of the Anglo-Saxon village to The Outgang (site 13) and the Tillmire (now an SSSI). The north half of the lane retains the feel and character of its ancient origins.
Does it have recreational value? Including playing fields, in/formal, etc	Provides important access to the allotments and The Outgang.
Is it tranquil? Is it a peaceful place away from noise and bustle?	Boss Lane is a quiet country footpath providing peaceful and safe pedestrian access between village areas to the north and south.
Does the site have wildlife value? Biodiversity?	Its ancient hedges and trees are a much-loved feature of the village and are a diverse habitat for native plant species. They support significant populations of insects and birds.
Is the site local in character? (i.e. serves local community and not extensive)	This is a much-loved part of the village and is used regularly by both residents and students.
Does the site contribute to Local Plan strategic requirements for provision of homes, employment or services?	No



Reference No.	4
Site Name	Church Field
Address/location⁴	Heslington (627 505)
Description	An open green space between Heslington Hall and Heslington Church (St Paul's) LEP.
Public Access	The area is open to the public.
Approximate Area	1.4ha
Is it in close proximity to the community it would serve? i.e. within 600m	Yes. Church Field is located at the heart of the village at the top of Main Street [South] and opposite Heslington Hall.
Is it beautiful?	Yes. The views across the field of the church and Heslington Hall are stunning images.
Does it have historic significance?	The open aspect of the field provides critical views of the historic Heslington Hall.
Does it have recreational value? Including playing fields, in/formal, etc	It is used frequently for picnics and informal games by both residents and members of the University.
Is it tranquil? Is it a peaceful place away from noise and bustle?	Even though it is surrounded by a road that carries local traffic, it nevertheless provides a peaceful place for recreation.
Does the site have wildlife value? Biodiversity?	The mature trees and wide expansive grassy area provides a habitat for birds, insects and rabbits.
Is the site local in character? (i.e. serves local community and not extensive)	The field is fundamental part of the character and ambience of the village.
Does the site contribute to Local Plan strategic requirements for provision of homes, employment or services?	No



Reference No.	5
Site Name	Dean's Acre
Address/location⁴	Heslington (629 506)
Description	Field to the east of Heslington Church, between Field Lane and Church Road.
Public Access	Public footpaths on its southern and northern boundaries.
Approximate Area	0.5ha
Is it in close proximity to the community it would serve? i.e. within 600m	The field is central to the village, lying just to the east of Heslington Church.
Is it beautiful?	Yes
Does it have historic significance?	Dean of York, Eric Milner-White (d. 1963) bequeathed this field to the University. His covenant was that it should be kept open <i>"to preserve the views of the church and Heslington Hall from the east."</i>
Does it have recreational value? Including playing fields, in/formal, etc	No
Is it tranquil? Is it a peaceful place away from noise and bustle?	While close to roads bearing traffic, the field is a tranquil corner providing an important green landscape buffer for the Church.
Does the site have wildlife value? Biodiversity?	The field has been generously planted with spring bulbs and provides a sanctuary for small mammals and insect life.
Is the site local in character? (i.e. serves local community and not extensive)	Dean's Acre is next to the Church and is an important part of the village character and setting.
Does the site contribute to Local Plan strategic requirements for provision of homes, employment or services?	No



Reference No.	6
Site Name	Main Street [South] Wide Grass Verges
Address/location⁴	Heslington (N 628 503 to S 629 501)
Description	Wide green verges on either side of Main Street [South].
Public Access	Yes
Approximate Area	0.15ha
Is it in close proximity to the community it would serve? i.e. within 600m	The verges lie at the very centre of the village Conservation Area.
Is it beautiful?	Yes
Does it have historic significance?	Fundamental to the rural appearance and setting of the village.
Does it have recreational value? Including playing fields, in/formal, etc	Public benches provide important seating for residents and visitors to enjoy Main Street [South].
Is it tranquil? Is it a peaceful place away from noise and bustle?	Main Street [South] would feel much busier and 'urban' in character without them.
Does the site have wildlife value? Biodiversity?	No
Is the site local in character? (i.e. serves local community and not extensive)	Yes
Does the site contribute to Local Plan strategic requirements for provision of homes, employment or services?	No
Other	New crossways damage their integrity and are strongly opposed by most residents.



Reference No.	7
Site Name	Heslington Hall Gardens (Rear)
Address/location⁴	Heslington (626 504)
Description	Formal Gardens to the rear of Heslington Hall consisting of an ornamental pool and ancient clipped yew bushes and larger unclipped trees.
Public Access	Open to the public.
Approximate Area	0.6ha
Is it in close proximity to the community it would serve? i.e. within 600m	Immediately behind Heslington Hall.
Is it beautiful?	Yes
Does it have historic significance?	Yes. The clipped yews are very old and reported to have originally been shaped as chess-pieces.
Does it have recreational value? Including playing fields, in/formal, etc	Children love it as a place to play hide-and-seek and residents, staff and students as a place for quiet recreation.
Is it tranquil? Is it a peaceful place away from noise and bustle?	Yes
Does the site have wildlife value? Biodiversity?	In the winter the unclipped yews are an important source of food for wintering thrushes. Nuthatches are resident.
Is the site local in character? (i.e. serves local community and not extensive)	Yes
Does the site contribute to Local Plan strategic requirements for provision of homes, employment or services?	Identified as existing open space in the emerging York Local Plan.



Reference No.	8
Site Name	Heslington Hill, Mill Mound and Siwards How
Address/location⁴	620 508
Description	Parts of a small hill on the northern edge of the Parish.
Public Access	Well used footpath through the area.
Approximate Area	0.4ha
Is it in close proximity to the community it would serve? i.e. within 600m	The site is immediately adjacent to University Campus North, 300m from Campus Central, and widely used by members of the University community.
Is it beautiful?	Yes
Does it have historic significance?	Yes. Siwards How is an Anglo-Saxon burial mound and is scheduled as an Ancient Monument (number 1015690). There is no evidence that it has ever been excavated or disturbed.
Does it have recreational value? Including playing fields, in/formal, etc	No
Is it tranquil? Is it a peaceful place away from noise and bustle?	Yes
Does the site have wildlife value? Biodiversity?	Yes. The woodland has a good assemblage of breeding woodland birds.
Is the site local in character? (i.e. serves local community and not extensive)	Yes
Does the site contribute to Local Plan strategic requirements for provision of homes, employment or services?	Identified as existing open space in the emerging York Local Plan.



Reference No.	9
Site Name	Heslington Village Sports Field The Outgang
Address/location⁴	628 498 (YLP555)
Description	An important local amenity with football and cricket pitches, children's play area (separately designated as YLP41 by CYC) and a pavilion.
Public Access	Yes
Approximate Area	1.8ha
Is it in close proximity to the community it would serve? i.e. within 600m	Yes. The entrance to the field is 200m from the southern end of Main Street [South].
Is it beautiful?	The field has some fine hedgerow trees.
Does it have historic significance?	It was given to the village residents in memory of Stephen Nicholas de Yarburgh-Bateson, 5th Baron Deramore who died in 1964.
Does it have recreational value? Including playing fields, in/formal, etc	Yes, with both cricket and football, adult and junior teams in local leagues, plus a children's play area
Is it tranquil? Is it a peaceful place away from noise and bustle?	Yes
Does the site have wildlife value? Biodiversity?	No
Is the site local in character? (i.e. serves local community and not extensive)	Yes
Does the site contribute to Local Plan strategic requirements for provision of homes, employment or services?	Identified as existing open space in the emerging York Local Plan.



Reference No.	10
Site Name	Heslington (St Paul's) Church Yard
Address/location⁴	628 506
Description	Small churchyard linking Church Field (site 4) with Dean's Acre (site 5).
Public Access	Yes
Approximate Area	0.3ha
Is it in close proximity to the community it would serve? i.e. within 600m	Yes
Is it beautiful?	Yes. In spring it has a breathtaking display of snowdrops.
Does it have historic significance?	Yes, several historically interesting and important tombstones.
Does it have recreational value? Including playing fields, in/formal, etc	No
Is it tranquil? Is it a peaceful place away from noise and bustle?	Yes
Does the site have wildlife value? Biodiversity?	Yes. Parts are managed as a wild-flower meadow.
Is the site local in character? (i.e. serves local community and not extensive)	Yes
Does the site contribute to Local Plan strategic requirements for provision of homes, employment or services?	No



Reference No.	11
Site Name	Lord Deramore's Primary School Grounds
Address/location⁴	629 504 (YLP724)
Description	As well as being important for the pupils of the village school, the field forms an important 'green buffer' between Campus East, School Lane and the village.
Public Access	Open to pupils and school staff, but not generally to the public.
Approximate Area	0.9ha
Is it in close proximity to the community it would serve? i.e. within 600m	Yes
Is it beautiful?	Boundary has a significant number of large trees.
Does it have historic significance?	No
Does it have recreational value? Including playing fields, in/formal, etc	Village primary school playing field and some inter-school football tournaments from time to time.
Is it tranquil? Is it a peaceful place away from noise and bustle?	Yes, when not in use as a village primary school playing field full of happy, noisy children!
Does the site have wildlife value? Biodiversity?	Boundary hedges and trees provide important habitat for birds and insects.
Is the site local in character? (i.e. serves local community and not extensive)	Yes
Does the site contribute to Local Plan strategic requirements for provision of homes, employment or services?	No



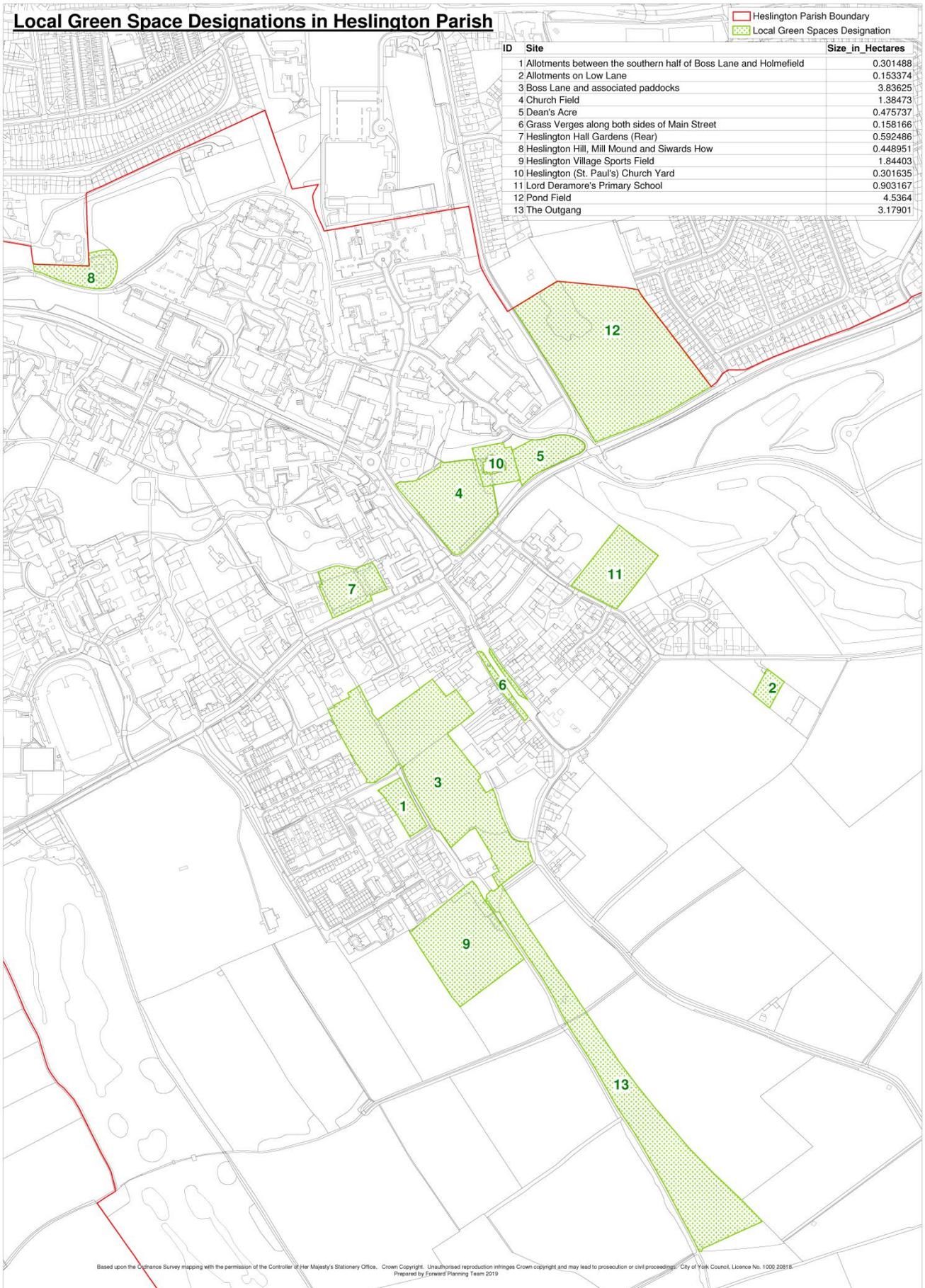
Reference No.	12
Site Name	Pond Field
Address/location⁴	629 508
Description	Field bounded by Windmill Lane, Badger Hill and Field Lane.
Public Access	No. A public footpath runs along its western boundary. Local children much enjoy feeding the grazing ponies from a fence in the south-west corner.
Approximate Area	4.5ha
Is it in close proximity to the community it would serve? i.e. within 600m	Yes. The southwest corner is 400m from Heslington Hall.
Is it beautiful?	Important green space carrying the Green Belt to the very edge of the city.
Does it have historic significance?	No
Does it have recreational value? Including playing fields, in/formal, etc	No
Is it tranquil? Is it a peaceful place away from noise and bustle?	Yes
Does the site have wildlife value? Biodiversity?	Yes. The ponds in the middle provide an important habitat for a variety of plants and animals
Is the site local in character? (i.e. serves local community and not extensive)	Yes
Does the site contribute to Local Plan strategic requirements for provision of homes, employment or services?	In the emerging York Local Plan this field carries the Green Belt to the very edge of the city.



Reference No.	13
Site Name	The Outgang
Address/location⁴	N 628 499 to S 631 493 (YLP558)
Description	Strip of open access land at southern end of the village.
Public Access	Yes. The site is designated as Common Land. ⁵
Approximate Area	3.2ha
Is it in close proximity to the community it would serve? i.e. within 600m	Yes. The north end of the Outgang is 300m from the southern end of Main Street [South].
Is it beautiful?	Yes
Does it have historic significance?	Yes. "Outgang" survives as the Anglo-Saxon name for the route out of the village. Part of the hedgerow is about 1000 years old, using well established dating techniques based on the number of woody-plant species, making it (arguably) the oldest structure in the Parish.
Does it have recreational value? Including playing fields, in/formal, etc	Heavily used by residents for activities ranging from dog-walking, bird-watching and just being there.
Is it tranquil? Is it a peaceful place away from noise and bustle?	Yes
Does the site have wildlife value? Biodiversity?	Yes. The site has a rich avifauna in both summer and winter, a wide variety of insects, and interesting wild-flowers
Is the site local in character? (i.e. serves local community and not extensive)	Yes
Does the site contribute to Local Plan strategic requirements for provision of homes, employment or services?	Identified as existing open space in the emerging York Local Plan.



⁵ <https://common-land.com/lands/view/3853>



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