Fulford Parish
Local Green Space Assessment

September 2026

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Introduction

The purpose of this report is to assess the potential of local green spaces across the rural parish of Fulford for designation as Local Green Space in the emerging Fulford Neighbourhood Plan. This document considers each proposed Local Green Space (LGS) in turn testing it against the relevant criteria of the NPPF.

Where other potential LGS identified, did not meet the LGS, NPPF Criteria. These have been covered by other policies in the Neighbourhood Plan, relating to the natural environment and landscape character.

National Policy

The National Planning Policy Framework, August 2026 sets out the criteria for designating Local Green Space, in 'Policy HC2: Local Green Space' as follows:

1. Local and neighbourhood plans may designate land as Local Green Space where this would safeguard green areas of particular value to the local community. Local Green Space should be limited to situations where the land concerned is:

a) In 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 not an extensive tract of land.

2 . Designating land as Local Green Space should be consistent with the local planning of sustainable development and the provision of sufficient land for homes, jobs and other needs. Local Green Space should only be designated when a plan is prepared or updated, and should be capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period.

Analysis of Sites

The following is an analysis of each site against the NPPF criteria. These will be tested through informal community engagement with landowners, stakeholders and the wider public.

1. Moss Gate Green

Location



Suitability for LGS Designation

Special Community Value	This is the grassed village green that includes a wooden bus shelter and old red telephone box with the defibrator. The LGS has been used for Community gatherings for over 50 years including community picnics and commemorative events etc. It is the largest green space in the village.
Not an extensive tract of land - Area of space (Ha)	0.028 Hectares
Planning permissions or site allocations	None.

Other Designations	The land is designated as access land.
Close to the community it serves	The Local Green Space is within Moss Gate and serves the rural community of Fulford Parish to come together as a community to celebrate memorable occasions.





2. Meir Heath Cricket Club

Location



Suitability for LGS Designation

Special Community Value	Meir Heath Cricket Club is a cricket club that adjoins the Blacklake Plantation in Meir Heath. For more than 80 years, Meir Heath Cricket Club has been at the heart of the local community, providing an outstanding sporting and social facility enjoyed by players, spectators, and visitors alike. The club has built a proud tradition of bringing people together through cricket while fostering a welcoming and inclusive environment for all ages. With participation and attendance continuing to grow year after year, the club plays an increasingly important role within both the local and wider community. Whether taking part on the field or supporting from the sidelines, visitors consistently enjoy the excellent facilities and vibrant atmosphere that make Meir Heath Cricket Club a valued community asset.

Not an extensive tract of land - Area of space (Ha)	1.74 Hectares
Planning permissions or site allocations	None.
Other Designations	
Close to the community it serves	The Cricket Club adjoins land behind a row of houses with access down a small lane. It also borders Blacklake Plantation.



3. Land behind Hilderstone Road / Blacklake plantation

Location



Suitability for LGS Designation

Special Community Value	An accessible woodland with paths that cross the entire site. It has been used and enjoyed by people within the Parish and wider area for over 80 years and is rich in flora, fauna and wildlife. The land also includes mature trees and includes Second World War structures for aircraft that landed at Meir Aerodrome. In addition, there are structures within the area that housed landing lights for planes landing at Meir Aerodrome from World War II that should be classed as War Heritage.
Not an extensive tract of land - Area of space (Ha)	5.20 Hectares

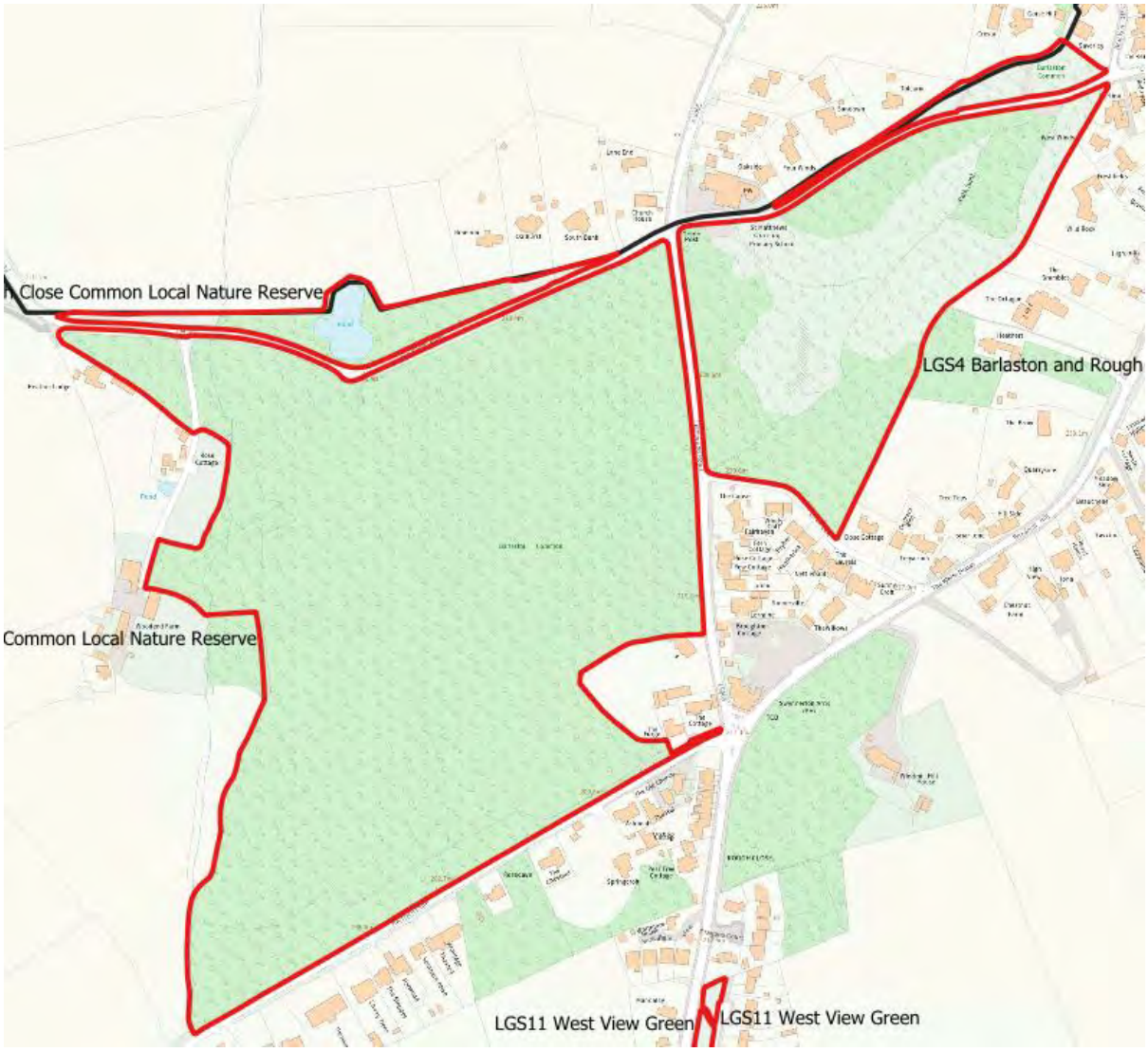
Planning permissions or site allocations	None.
Other Designations	
Close to the community it serves	The land is directly behind a row of houses with access down a small lane. It also borders the Meir Heath Cricket Club. It forms a part of Blacklake Plantation.





4. Barlaston and Rough Close Common Local Nature Reserve

Location



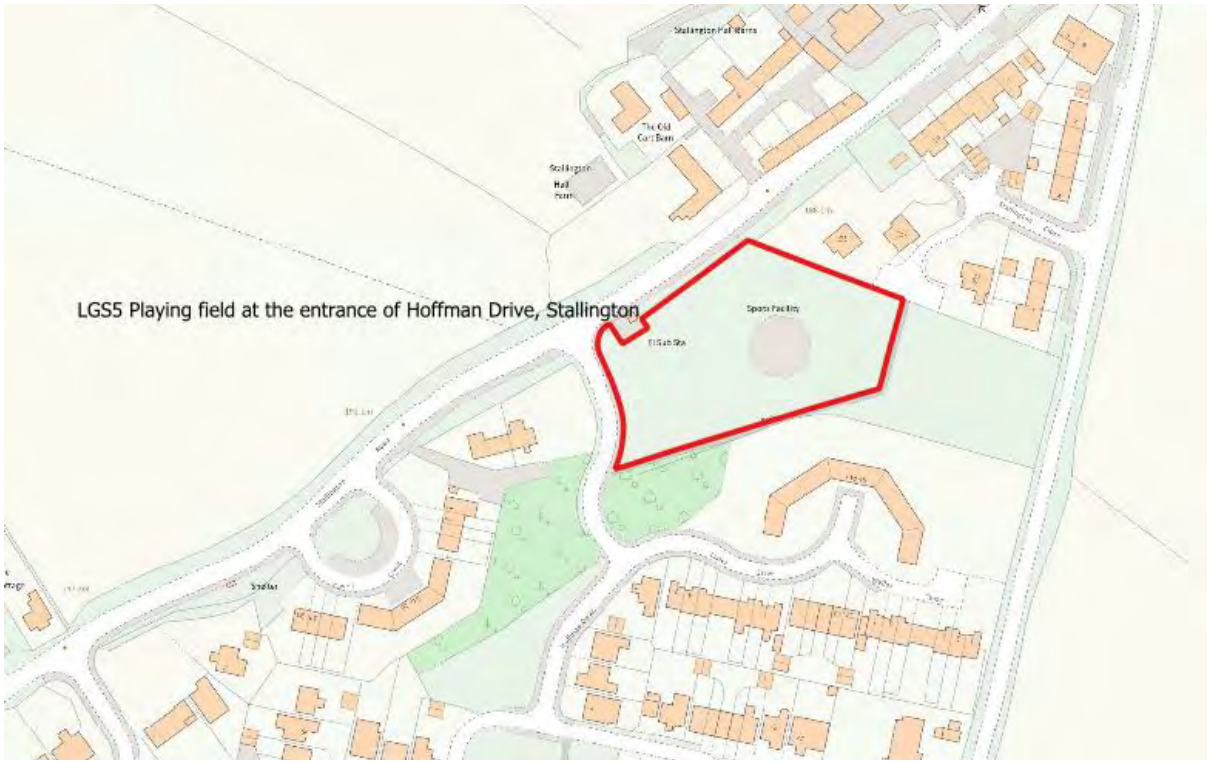
Suitability for LGS Designation

Special Community Value	The reserve covers approximately 20.6 hectares and contains several habitat types that are now uncommon in Staffordshire: Lowland heathland Wet heath Acid grassland Marshy grassland Scrub habitat Semi natural woodland Open water pond/pool habitat Former quarry exposures valuable for invertebrates

	These varied habitats support different groups of wildlife and create a mosaic is difficult to recreate once lost. Flors recorded on the Common: Heathland plants The heathland plants areas support: Heather (Calluna vulgaris) Bell heather (erica cinerea) Cross-leaved heath (Erica tetralix) Bilberry (Vaccinium myrtillus) These are characteristic heathland species and are increasingly scarce in many parts of the Midlands. Acid grassland and wet heath plants Purple moorgrass (Molinia caerulea) Wavy hair-grass (Deschampsia flexuosea) Soft rush (Juncus effusus) Heath rush (juncus squarrosus)
Not an extensive tract of land - Area of space (Ha)	21.05 Hectares
Planning permissions or site allocations	None.
Other Designations	The land is designated as access land.
Close to the community it serves	The Local Green Space is within the built area of Meir Heath and Rough Close serves both the rural community of Fulford Parish and wider urban area of the adjoining conurbation of Stoke-on-Trent. It is an important green space within easy walking distance of the communities that access and use the space.

5. Playing field at the entrance of Hoffman Drive, Stallington

Location



Suitability for LGS Designation

Special Community Value	This is an accessible playing field that set back at the entrance of a residential estate. It has a footpath stretching the length of the field. The playing field has been used for over 20 years since the housing estate was completed by dog walkers, children playing football and other recreational games, sports clubs, school holiday clubs and it valued and frequently used by the community for ease of access for recreational purposes.
Not an extensive tract of land - Area of space (Ha)	0.49 Hectares
Planning permissions or site allocations	None.
Other Designations	The land was designated as open green space by the developer.
Close to the community it serves	The Local Green Space is within the Stallington Hall housing estate and serves both the rural community of Fulford Parish and wider area as stated above

	It is an important green space within easy walking distance of the communities that access and use the space.



6. Blythe Close Green

Location



Suitability for LGS Designation

Special Community Value	This playing field is an open green space known as The Green. It is surrounded by residential dwellings and a road and footpath. The Green has been used by the immediate residents and the wider community in Blythe Bridge for generations for activities like playing football and cricket, picnics, biking, and it is used by many children for playing and meeting friends from the wider community. Many dog walkers also use it as it is large enough. Since the area was first built, generations of families and particularly children have valued it and used it daily. It is valued by the community as it is seen as a safe space to exercise and socialise.
Not an extensive tract of land - Area of space (Ha)	0.21 Hectares
Planning permissions or site allocations	None.
Other Designations	The land is designated as open green space for recreational purposes by Housing Plus group.

Close to the community it serves	The Local Green Space is within the built area of Blythe Bridge and serves both the rural community of Fulford Parish and wider urban area of the adjoining conurbation of Stoke-on-Trent. It is an important green space within easy walking distance of the communities that access and use the space.



7. Springcroft Primary School Playing Field

Location



Suitability for LGS Designation

Special Community Value	The playing field offers vital opportunities to school children, the local community, holiday clubs, extracurricular activities and community events. It is always being used for one purpose or another and plays it part in ensuring younger members of the community are able to exercise and participate in activities on a daily basis. The open green space is important for the community of Blythe Bridge given that it is a built-up area with limited access to open green space compared to other areas of the parish.
Not an extensive tract of land - Area of space (Ha)	0.80 Hectares

Planning permissions or site allocations	None.
Other Designations	The land is designated as open green space for recreational purposes and sports activities by Springcroft Primary School.
Close to the community it serves	The Local Green Space is within the built area of Blythe Bridge and serves both the rural community of Fulford Parish and wider urban area of the adjoining conurbation of Stoke-on-Trent. It is an important green space within easy walking distance of the communities that access and use the space.



8. Allotments, rear of Adamwaithe Drive, Blythe Bridge

Location



Suitability for LGS Designation

Special Community Value	The allotments are located at the rear of Adamwaithe Drive, behind the garages that are now removed. It has been a designated community allotment for years and used by residents. It offers an invaluable space for relaxation, mental health wellbeing and a place where people meet and interact with others. The local primary school also have a plot were students go weekly and learn to grow, reuse and recycle which has been a huge success in emotional and mental health for students.
Not an extensive tract of land - Area of space (Ha)	0.07 Hectares

Planning permissions or site allocations	None.
Other Designations	The land is designated as open green space for recreational purposes by Housing Plus Group, Fulford Parish Council and SBC
Close to the community it serves	The Local Green Space is within the built area of Blythe Bridge and serves both the rural community of Fulford Parish and wider urban area of the adjoining conurbation of Stoke-on-Trent. It is an important green space within easy walking distance of the communities that access and use the space.

9. Saverley Gren Notice Board and Bench

Location



Suitability for LGS Designation

Special Community Value	This land is used by the community as a walkway to Meadowside avoiding the road and as an access point to the Green and its woodland. Positioned on the left-hand grassed area is the Parish Council noticeboard with 2 flower containers maintained by the PC. In addition, there is a commemorative bench and a rowan tree planted to mark the Queen's Silver Jubilee. More recently a permanent Christmas tree has been planted which has brought the community together there whilst decorating it and then later it was the focus for communal carol singing. These, it is hoped, will be annual events. Also this grassed area is used by the local Speedwatch team who can stand safely here and monitor the traffic. The area is also used for parking for residents in Meadowside as there are no garages provided for the bungalows there.
Not an extensive tract of land - Area of space (Ha)	0.05 Hectares

Planning permissions or site allocations	None.
Other Designations	N/A
Close to the community it serves	This land is used by the community as a walkway to Meadowside avoiding the road and as an access point to the Green and its woodland.







10. Saverley Greens Green

Location



Suitability for LGS Designation

Special Community Value	This is an accessible-to-all green space comprising of a mixed deciduous woodland and a managed grassed area. A commemorative oak tree has been planted there by the community to celebrate the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee and another one, a Verdun Oak ,is due to be planted next year to mark 110 years since the battle of Verdun in WW1. The site is also rich in a variety of flora and fauna. It has been used as common land for at least the past 80 years which is in the living memory of several of the current residents of the village. It is used regularly as a play area for children, a dog walking space and as the venue for community get-togethers such as parties and picnics.

	The cut grass area is large enough for ball games and is protected from horse riding and bike riding. It is in close proximity to the majority of the dwellings in the village. A public footpath crosses the Green. The Green is local in character and not an extensive tract of land.
Not an extensive tract of land - Area of space (Ha)	0.52 Hectares
Planning permissions or site allocations	None.
Other Designations	The land is designated as access land.
Close to the community it serves	The Local Green Space is within the semi rural area of Saverley Green serving this area and the wider rural area within Fulford Parish Council and beyond. It is an important green space within easy walking distance of the communities that access and use the space.





11. West View Green

Location



Suitability for LGS Designation

Special Community Value	Two green spaces 140m each in circumference. These green spaces are used for various community events, gatherings and celebrations. They are also a valued asset for the younger members of the community as a safe place to play. They have been part of the community for 75 years.
Not an extensive tract of land - Area of space (Ha)	0.06 Hectares
Planning permissions or site allocations	None.
Other Designations	N/A
Close to the community it serves	The Local Green Space is within the built area of Meir Heath and serves both the rural community of Fulford Parish and wider urban area of the adjoining conurbation of Stoke-on-Trent. It is an important green space within easy walking distance of the communities that access and use the space.





12. Football Pitches, Hilderstone Road,

Location



Suitability for LGS Designation

Special Community Value	Grass Football pitches are low in numbers so it is important to be able to keep this space a sa green space used for football and also draws in audiences to watch local football. Flood lit with seating stadium
Not an extensive tract of land - Area of space (Ha)	0.71 Hectares
Planning permissions or site allocations	None.
Other Designations	The land is designated as access land.
Close to the community it serves	The Local Green Space is within the built area of Meir Heath and serves both the rural community of Fulford Parish and wider urban area of the adjoining conurbation of Stoke-on-Trent.

	It is an important green space for football to be played and watched



13. Leadendale Green, Leadendale Lane

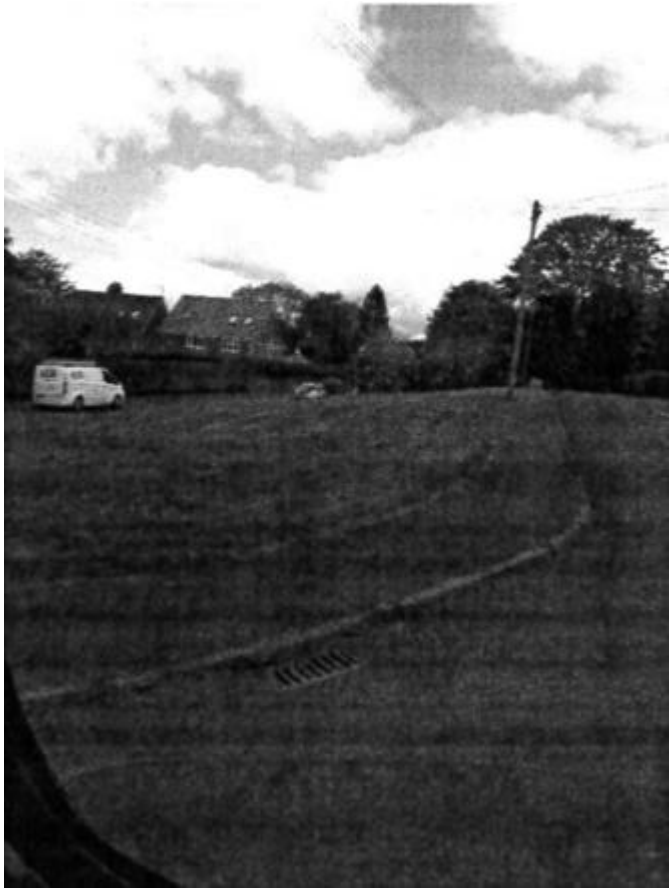
Location



Suitability for LGS Designation

Special Community Value	Leadendale Green is a prominent grassy area separated into two parts giving access to the small hamlet of Leadendale. The southern section has a large mature Sycamore Tree and a community Christmas Tree with two large wooden planters which are tended by the residents of Leadendale Lane. The larger northern grassy area houses the metal Fulford Parish Memorial Planter. The Green is used by residents of Leadendale Lane for dog walking, community activities e.g. Christmas Tree decorating, Remembrance Sunday and other notable dates. It also serves as a children's play area and additional overspill parking. The openness of this space allows necessary visibility for safe passage onto the busy A520 Stone Road.
Not an extensive tract of land - Area of space (Ha)	0.33 Hectares
Planning permissions or site allocations	None.
Other Designations	N/A

Close to the community it serves	his local Green Space serves the community of the small Leadendale Hamlet by Rough Close within the greater rural community of Fulford Parish.



14. Hilderstone Allotments

Location



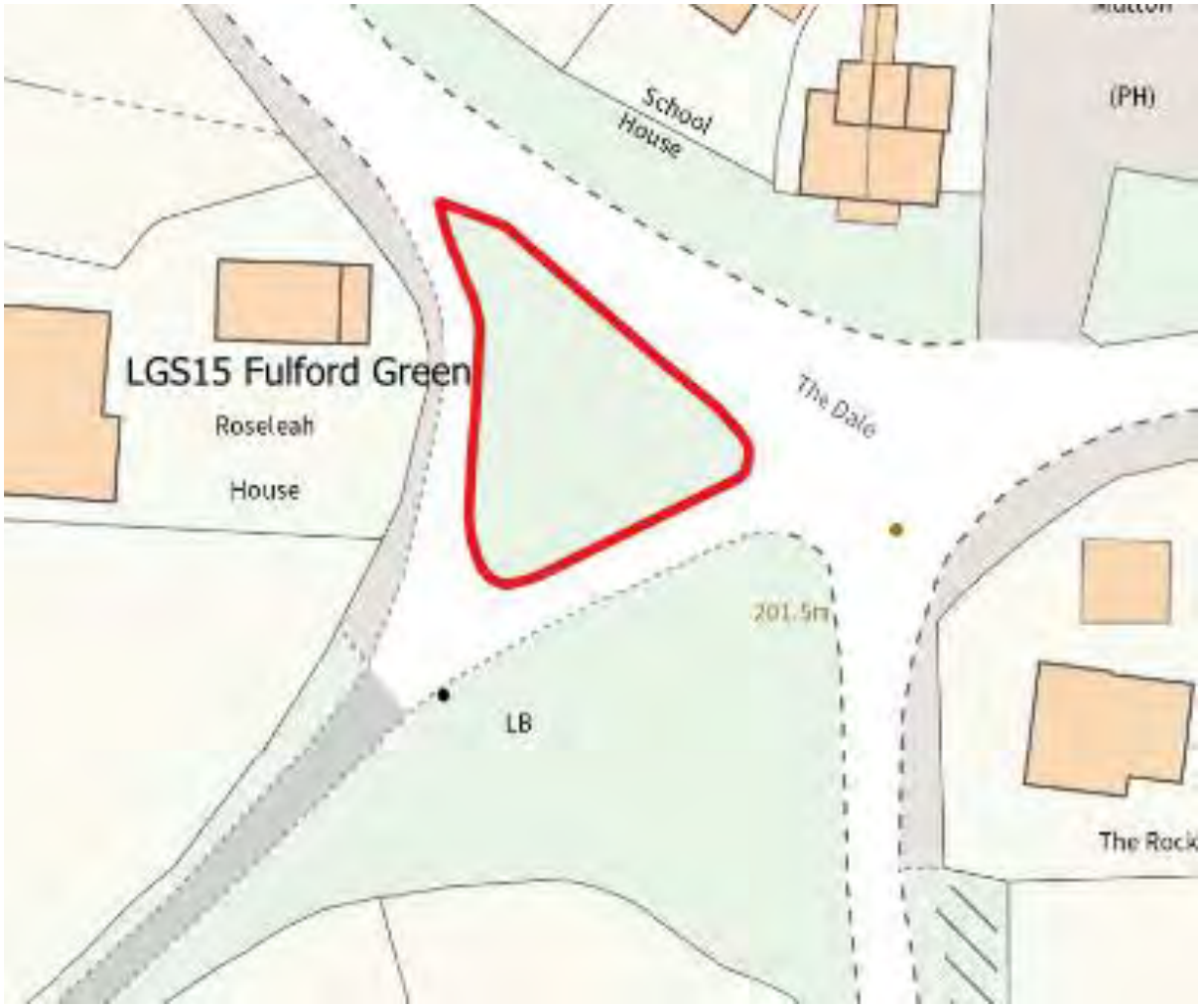
Suitability for LGS Designation

Special Community Value	An accessible moorland with permissible paths that criss cross the entire site. It has been used as Common Land and enjoyed by people within the Parish and wider area for over 80 years. The site also has a heritage value as the Common has also been used for airaid shelters. The site is also rich in flora and fauna. The land includes mature trees belts and is also used for grazing. The Natural England Green and Blue Infrastructure map shows the land is designated access land. The Historic Landscape Character map by Staffordshire County Council shows the land as 'Ornamental, parkland and recreational' and on the Medieval Historic Landscape map 'unenclosed land'.
Not an extensive tract of land - Area of space (Ha)	0.30 Hectares

Planning permissions or site allocations	None.
Other Designations	The land is designated as access land.
Close to the community it serves	The Local Green Space is within the built area of Meir Heath and serves both the rural community of Fulford Parish and wider urban area of the adjoining conurbation of Stoke-on-Trent. It is an important green space within easy walking distance of the communities that access and use the space.

15. Fulford Green

Location



Suitability for LGS Designation

Special Community Value	The Village regularly uses the green to come together as a community to celebrate Christmas with santa and soup, or Easter Egg hunts, the Christmas tree lives there and the is a buried time capsule
Not an extensive tract of land - Area of space (Ha)	0.03 Hectares
Planning permissions or site allocations	None.
Other Designations	The land is designated as access land.

Close to the community it serves	It is within proximity to the community it serves.





16. Cockieshall Lane Land

Location



Suitability for LGS Designation

Special Community Value	For bio diversity the land is just left and the grass is partially cut for children from Fulford Primary School to enjoy forestry school there
Not an extensive tract of land - Area of space (Ha)	0.66 Hectares
Planning permissions or site allocations	None.
Other Designations	The land is designated as access land.

Close to the community it serves	It is within proximity to the community it serves.







17. Grindley Park Land off Grange Road

Location



Suitability for LGS Designation

Special Community Value	An accessible moorland with permissible paths that criss cross the entire site. It has been used as Common Land and enjoyed by people within the Parish and wider area for over 80 years. The site also has a heritage value as the Common has also been used for airaid shelters. The site is also rich in flora and fauna. The land includes mature trees belts and is also used for grazing. The Natural England Green and Blue Infrastructure map shows the land is designated access land. The Historic Landscape Character map by Staffordshire County Council shows the land as 'Ornamental, parkland and recreational' and on the Medieval Historic Landscape map 'unenclosed land'.

Not an extensive tract of land - Area of space (Ha)	1.73 Hectares
Planning permissions or site allocations	None.
Other Designations	The land is designated as access land.
Close to the community it serves	The Local Green Space is within the built area of Meir Heath and serves both the rural community of Fulford Parish and wider urban area of the adjoining conurbation of Stoke-on-Trent. It is an important green space within easy walking distance of the communities that access and use the space.





18. Seating Area on Windmill Hill, Rough Close

Location



Suitability for LGS Designation

Special Community Value	This land has been used as a seating area for approximately 15 years. It contains three flower beds, 2 large and 1 small. It provides a seating area for the general public when walking up or down a very steep hill, it is regularly used by local care home residents. The flora and fauna encourage lots of bees and birds.
Not an extensive tract of land - Area of space (Ha)	0.02 Hectares
Planning permissions or site allocations	None.
Other Designations	None

Close to the community it serves	The Local Green Space is within the built area of Meir Heath and serves both the community as an area to sit and rest. It is an important green space within easy walking distance of the communities that access and use the space.