

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS

Environment chapters



Scoring system for sites of environmental significance

All scores should be supported by data or evidence, or reasoned justification.

Criterion (NPPF 2012)	Score range			Notes
ACCESSIBILITY	0	2	4	e.g. private – could be made accessible – accessed via PRoW – fully open to the public
PROXIMITY / LOCAL	0	2	4	Distant --- fairly near to --- adjoins or is within settlement
BOUNDED	0	2	4	Individual parcel of land (not an undefined or large area)
SPECIAL TO COMMUNITY	0	2	4	Opinion of local people via questionnaire or at consultation event
RECREATIONAL / EDUCATIONAL USE	0	2	4	Actual or potential
BEAUTY (including views)	0	2	4	Subjective, relative (give justification); use consultation map results
TRANQUILITY	0	2	4	Subjective, relative (give justification)
HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE	0	2	4	Extant, visible evidence. Number of periods/features/records etc.
WILDLIFE SIGNIFICANCE, GEOLOGY	0	2	4	Richness of species and habitats (Priority (BAP) spp. / Priority habitats)
[Maximum possible score]	36			Local Green Space designation can be considered for sites scoring 75% of the maximum possible total (i.e. 27 out of 36), but this proportion should be adapted to local circumstances; remember, “the Local Green Space designation will not be appropriate for most green areas or open space” (NPPF 2012, para. 77). In our view, the historical and wildlife significance criteria are essential because LGS is the only OSSR designation type under which they can be recognised and statutorily protected. Other OSSR types will probably be more appropriate for sites without significant historical or ecological features.