

Preserving our Green Spaces

Objective- To protect valued green spaces in Bures.

Context - This section sets out detail regarding designating local green spaces within the Bures NP. The 2017 survey and subsequent public consultations have shown how important the key green spaces in the village are to its residents. Some are already well protected. The Recreation Ground is a Queen Elizabeth Field in Trust and Bures Common is protected by the objects of the charity, Bures Common Land Trust. The extension of protection to cover all green space areas listed is of major importance when considering development within the two parishes.

55. Existing open green space within the built-up settlement is shown in **Fig. 24**. This includes the allotments off the Croft and Lamarsh Hill, the recreation ground off Nayland Road, play space off Tawneys Ride, St Mary's churchyard and the cemetery on Cuckoo Hill.
56. The Babergh District Council's Green Infrastructure Document (2020) states that all components of the green infrastructure network must be managed at a strategic level to ensure cross cutting and cumulative issues are effectively managed. This includes natural components, such as biodiversity, geodiversity, and landscape, as well as assets within settlements, including historic assets, green spaces, and recreational areas. Braintree District Council Local Plan (2022) Policy LPP 68 identifies the importance of green buffers between settlements. Although there are no green buffers identified by the local plan within Bures, it is important that Bures and Mount Bures remain distinctly separate settlements.
57. The Braintree Local Plan makes clear the importance of green infrastructure and the natural environment. It states that developing, protecting, and enhancing green infrastructure and the natural environment will also help protect urban and rural environments against the impacts of climate change. Protecting green infrastructure will also improve surface drainage, reducing flood risk, storing, and cleaning water and reducing the urban heat island effect. By developing and improving blue and green infrastructure within the area this can also increase the range of ecosystems in both rural and urban settings.
58. The NP sets out the protection of a range of local green spaces and important natural features to support this priority, as well as how we can adapt our blue and green infrastructure to support the natural environment. Gardens form a significant part of the natural environment within Bures and residents can make changes in their gardens, which collectively can make a large impact on biodiversity.
59. Parish council records and consultation in the Summer of 2022 resulted in the listing of several Local Green Spaces. The creation of the vision

statement identified the importance of the green spaces in Bures to those who live here. Residents were then asked to identify the green spaces that are important to them. 100% of those residents consulted regarded the proposed Local Green Spaces to be demonstrably special. The recreation ground and Bures Common were highly valued and some less obvious green spaces held particular significance for others.



Figure 1- Existing Green Spaces within Bures NPA

60. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out that specific areas of land that are demonstrably special to the local community may be protected against development through designation as Local Green Space (LGS). These are often found within the built-up area and contribute to the character of a settlement. These can vary in size, shape, location, ownership, and use, but such spaces will have some form of value to the community and help define what makes that specific settlement what it is.

61. The designation should only be used where:

- The green space is reasonably close to the community it serves;
- The green area is demonstrably special to the community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value, tranquillity, or richness of wildlife; and
- The green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

62. A robust process has been followed to determine which green spaces within Bures should be designated:

- Initial ideas were suggested by the community as part of consultation activities.
- These were reviewed to consider at a glance whether they would meet the national criteria for designation.
- A site visit was undertaken by the Steering Group and further evidence gathered on each of the remaining green spaces.
- An assessment against the national criteria for LGS was made for each of the potential areas.
- Landowners were contacted via letter in the early stages of plan preparation before the Regulation 14 Consultation to make them aware that their land was being considered for local green space designation.
- A final decision was made by the Parish Councils as to which green spaces to designate.

63. This NP designates **15** Local Green Spaces for protection, these are identified in **Figure 26** and on the **Policies Map in Appendix A**. These are important not only for the wildlife they support, but provide significant quality of life benefits to residents, for example through encouraging recreation. Justification for each Local Green Space is found in Bures Neighbourhood Plan Local Green Space Assessment.



Figure 2- Bures Station Garden (left) and St Mary's Churchyard (right)

Policy BP7: Local Green Spaces

The areas listed below and shown in **Figure 26** are designated as Local Green Spaces:

1. Recreation/Sports Ground

Policy BP7: Local Green Spaces

2. Lower part of Home Stable field Football club area and down to the riverbank
3. Pikes Marsh Play area and wild area
4. Bevills Estate Allotments (St Mary)
5. Glebeland Allotments including the copse (Hamlet)
6. Bures Common
7. Essex Knoll
8. Jubilee Grove
9. Water meadows between the B1508, the River Stour and the Cambridge Brook
10. Water Lane Triangle and Water Lane Stream
11. Bures Station Garden
12. St Mary's Churchyard
13. Bures Cemetery
14. Station Hill Garden
15. Claypits Community Woodland

These will be protected from inappropriate development in accordance with Green Belt Policy, except for the following deviations:

New buildings are inappropriate development, with the only exceptions to this:

- a) Buildings for forestry or agriculture where the Local Green Space is used for commercial woodland or farmland;
- b) The provision of appropriate facilities in connection with the existing use of land where the facilities preserve the openness of the Local Green Space and do not conflict with the reasons for designation that make it special to the community, such as for recreation or ecology;
- c) The extension or alteration of a building if it does not impact on the openness or the reasons for designation that make Local Green Space special to the community; or
- d) The replacement of a building provided the new building is in the same use and not materially larger than the one it replaces.

Other appropriate development includes:

- e) Engineering operations that are temporary, small-scale and result in full restoration;
- f) The re-use of buildings provided that the buildings are of permanent and substantial construction; or
- g) Material changes in the use of land where it would not undermine the reasons for designation that make it special to the community.

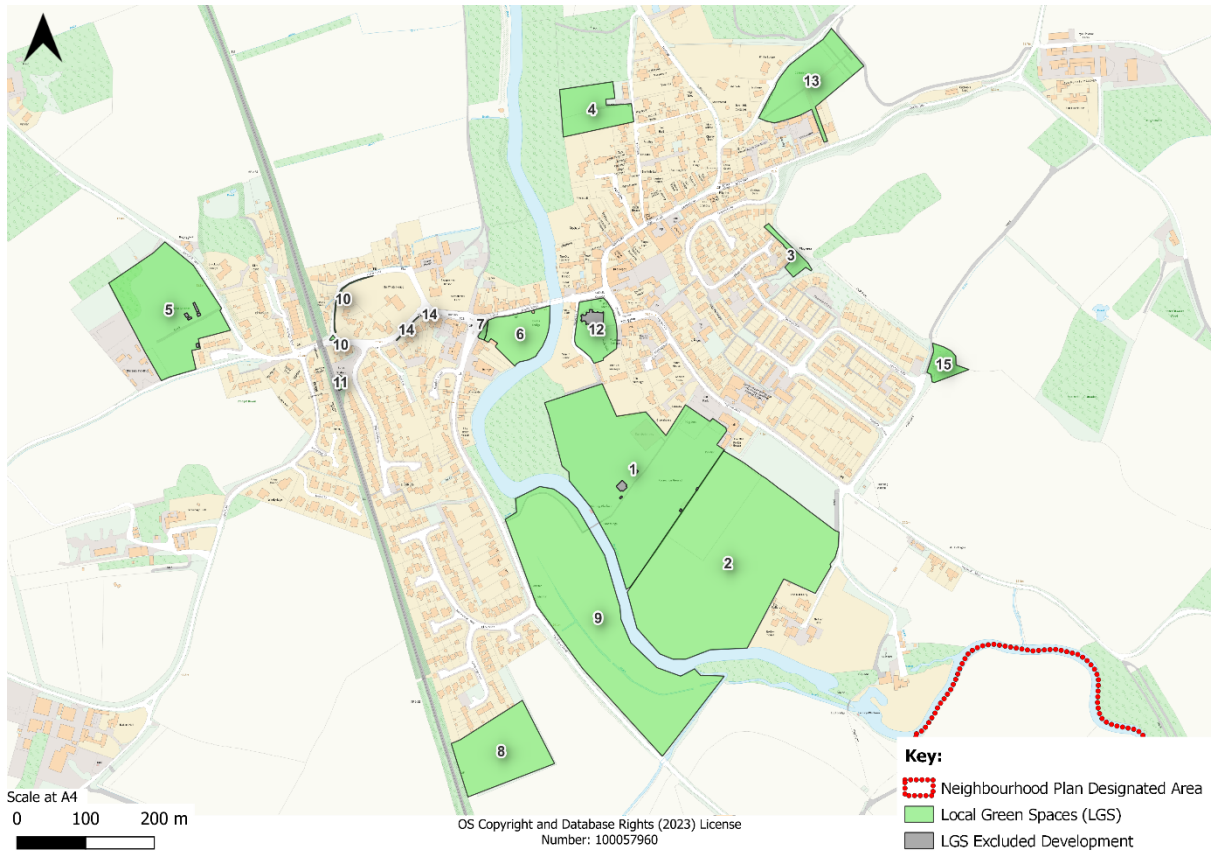


Figure 3- Local Green Spaces