



APPENDIX 4

LOCAL GREEN SPACE REPORT

Edenfield Neighbourhood Plan
2021 - 2036

Edenfield Community
Neighbourhood Forum
September 2022
(updated January 2024)



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1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report has been prepared to inform the approach of the Edenfield Neighbourhood Plan in relation to Local Green Spaces. This report sets out the methodology used to identify and assess areas with potential for Local Green Space designation. It sets out the conclusions of the Edenfield Community Neighbourhood Forum regarding sites to be designated as Local Green Spaces and the reasons for their inclusion.

NOTE

This report was written in September 2022 and makes reference to the version of the NPPF published in 2021.

A new version of the NPPF was published in December 2023. Sections in the NPPF in respect of Local Green Space designations remain unchanged but can now be found at new paragraphs.

Wherever a reference to the NPPF and paragraph number has been cited in this Local Green Space report it has been updated to match the new paragraph number in the December 2023 version of the NPPF.

All other text in this Local Green Space report remains as drafted in September 2022.

2. Policy Context

What are Local Green Spaces?

- 2.1 The Local Green Space designation allows local communities to identify and protect green areas that have particular importance to them. The concept of Local Green Space (LGS) designations was first introduced in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) published in 2012 and has been carried forward in more recent NPPF¹ updates published in 2018, 2019, 2021 and 2023 (December).

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

- 2.2 Paragraph 105 of the NPPF states that land can only be designated as LGS when either a local plan or neighbourhood plan is being prepared or updated and that such designation should be capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period.
- 2.3 Paragraph 106 of the NPPF recognises that the LGS designation cannot be applied to all green space and sets out the following criteria for designation of LGS sites:
- 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), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and
 - c) Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.
- 2.4 Paragraph 107 of the NPPF says that managing development within LGS should be consistent with policies for Green Belt.

National Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)

- 2.5 National Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)² provides further guidance on the policies contained within the NPPF regarding LGS designation. The guidance addresses many common questions about the LGS designation, particularly relating to what sort of sites would be suitable for designation and what the designation means in practice. The following paragraphs in the PPG (specifically the 'Open Spaces, sports, and recreation facilities, public rights of way and local

¹ DCLG, 2023, National Planning Policy Framework:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

² MHCLG, 2014, Planning Practice Guidance, Open space, sports and recreation facilities, public rights of way and local green space: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/open-space-sports-and-recreation-facilities-public-rights-of-way-and-local-green-space#Local-Green-Space-designation>

green space' section) are of relevance for the evaluation of sites for LGS designation. Key points of these paragraphs are summarised below:

- Paragraph 007 – LGS designation should be consistent with local planning for sustainable development and should not be used in a way that undermines this aim of plan making;
- Paragraph 008 – generally LGS designation is rarely appropriate for land which is subject to planning permission for development;
- Paragraph 011 – if land is already protected by designation (such as Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty or conservation area), then consideration should be given to whether any additional local benefit would be gained by LGS designation;
- Paragraph 014 – the proximity of LGS to the community it serves will depend on local circumstances, including why the green area is seen as special e.g. if public access is a factor, then the site should be in easy walking distance;
- Paragraph 015 – there are no hard and fast rules about how big LGS can be because places are different, and a degree of judgement will inevitably be needed; and
- Paragraph 017 – some areas that may be considered for designation as LGS may already have largely unrestricted public access, however land could be considered for LGS designation if there is no public access (e.g. if valued for biodiversity, historic significance and/or beauty). LGS designation in itself does not confer any rights of public access over what exists at present.

Rossendale Borough Council

- 2.6 The Rossendale Local Plan 2019-2036 was adopted in 2021³.
- 2.7 The PPG⁴ advises that a draft neighbourhood plan must be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the development plan in force borough wide, in order to meet basic condition (e). Basic condition (e) is specified in paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.
- 2.8 Policy ENV5 (Green Infrastructure networks) of the Rossendale Local Plan 2019-2036 states that:

“Development proposals will be expected to support the protection, management, enhancement and connection of the green infrastructure network, as identified on the

³ Rossendale Borough Council, Local Plan 2019-2036:
https://www.rossendale.gov.uk/info/210148/local_plan/10629/

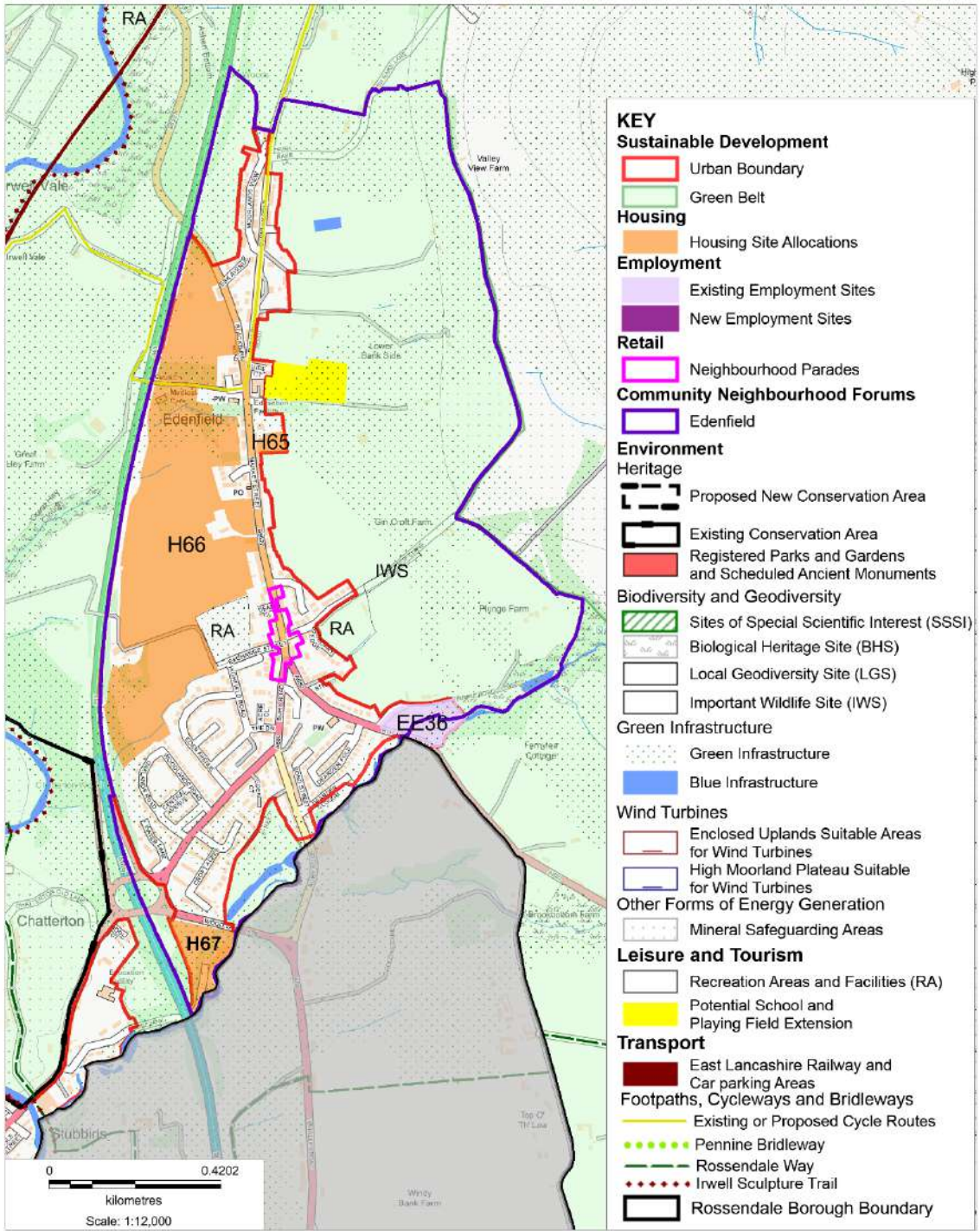
⁴ DCLG, 2020, Planning Practice Guidance, Neighbourhood planning, <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/neighbourhood-planning--2>

Policies Map (see Figure 1). Proposals which enhance the integrity and connectivity of the green infrastructure network will be supported.”

- 2.9 The Local Plan designates some land within the neighbourhood plan area, as well as one Important Wildlife Site (IWS) to the north of Plunge Farm and a Mineral Safeguarding Area to the east of the neighbourhood area boundary. There is also one recreation area and facilities designation outside of the urban boundary (see Figure 1). Edenfield Cricket Club is located to the east. This designation is protected by Policy LT1 (protection of playing pitches, existing open space, sport and recreation facilities) of the Local Plan, where development proposals on this site would be resisted except if there is replacement, enhancement of the facilities or there is a surplus in local recreational land.
- 2.10 An Environmental Network Study (2017)⁵ was commissioned by Rossendale Borough Council and this study forms part of the Local Plan evidence base. This document identifies the Borough’s environmental network and the ‘Greenland’ sites that are under pressure for development, before advising on policy for its protection and enhancement.

⁵ Rossendale Borough Council, 2017, Rossendale Borough Environmental Network Study:
https://www.rossendale.gov.uk/downloads/file/13608/environmental_network_study_report

**ADOPTED POLICIES MAP 2021 - ROSSENDALE LOCAL PLAN 2019 TO 2036
EDENFIELD COMMUNITY NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA**



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Date: April 2022
Forward Planning



Figure 1. Rossendale Local Plan 2019 – 2036. Adopted Policies Map

3. Methodology

Method Stage 1: Initial Desktop Review

- 3.1 The first stage of this evaluation involved an initial review of existing green space within the Edenfield Neighbourhood Area. This made the process of designating LGS easier so as to avoid any potential clash with adopted and emerging development plan designations and NPPF/PPG guidance:
- Where the green space is;
 - What type of green space it is;
 - Statutory or policy designation;
 - Quality and condition of the green space; and
 - Value and benefit to the community.
- 3.2 This information narrowed down the list of sites to determine if the green space should be considered for LGS designation.

Method Stage 2: Policy Audit

- 3.3 Once potential green space sites were identified, they were assessed against the NPPF criteria outlined in paragraph 106 and additional guidance provided in the PPG. The criteria are:
- The green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
 - The green space is considered demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance; and
 - The green space is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.
 - The green space does not already have planning permission for development;
- 3.4 There is no clear definition of what is 'an extensive tract of land'; however, the site should be a local facility and not just a green space in the countryside. There is also no clear definition of what is 'close proximity to the community', however as noted in the PPG, public access is a key factor so should be in easy walking distance of the community served.
- 3.5 Once satisfied that these sites met the criteria identified above, the Neighbourhood Forum identified the sites to go forward to be assessed in detail to determine those which should be designated as LGS.

Method Stage 3: Detailed Policy Analysis

- 3.6 Part (b) of Paragraph 106 of the NPPF states that the Local Green Space designation should be used where green space is:
- 3.7 *“...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.”*
- 3.8 As such, potential sites should meet at least one of the five criteria:
- Beauty (for example: local character, landscape, flora and fauna);
 - Historic significance (for example: conservation area, high archaeological importance and listed buildings);
 - Recreational value (for example: type of activity, facilities and events);
 - Tranquillity (for example: pollution, noise and natural environment); and
 - Wildlife (for example: ecological designation, SNCI, SSSI and SAC and any evidence of wildlife).
- 3.9 Figure 2 shows the location of each site which was assessed.

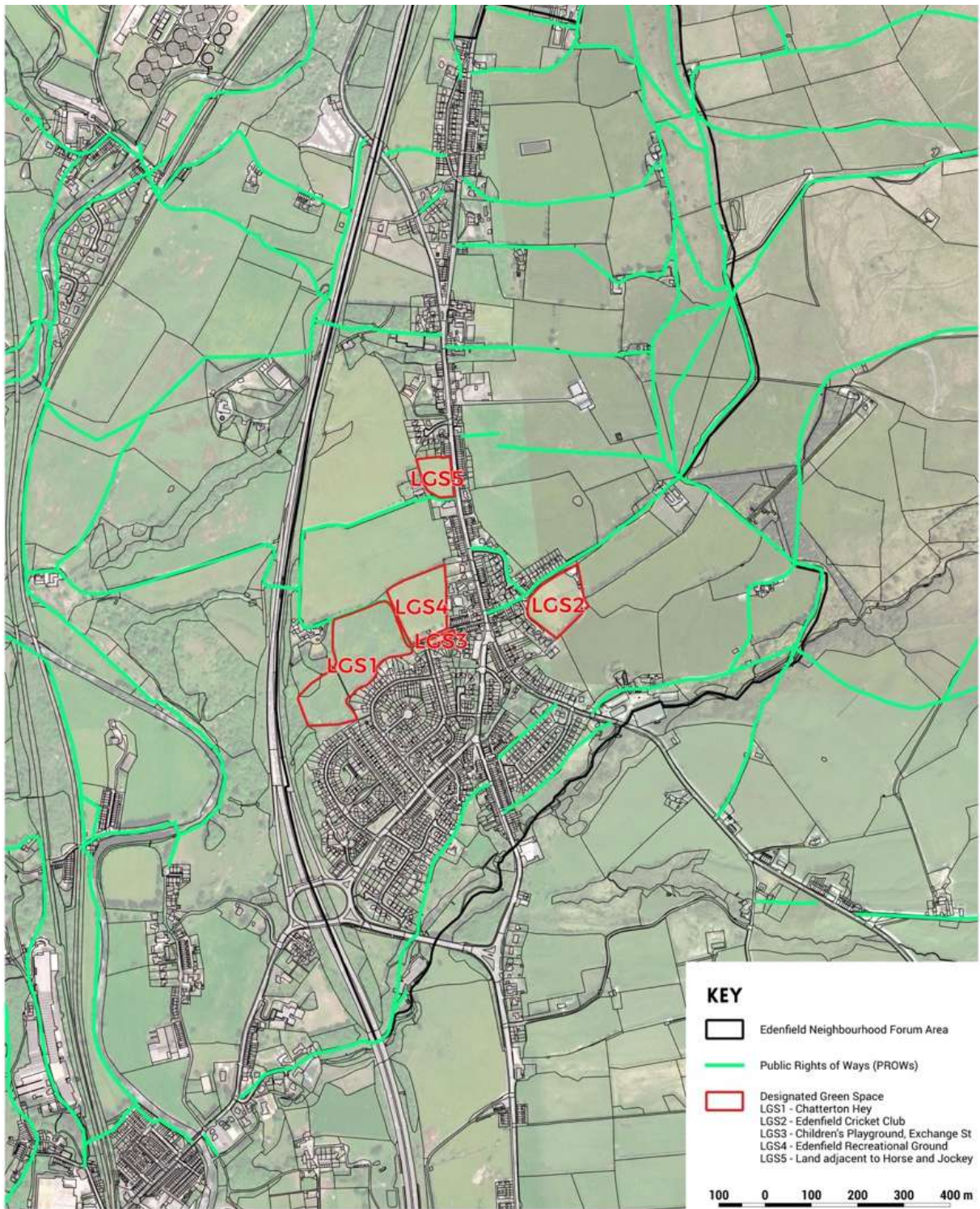


Figure 2. Location of the Local Green Spaces

4. Local Green Space Assessments

- 4.1 This section includes the assessment of all Local Green Space designations. It includes a map of each location, table of assessment that captures the criteria outlined in previous sections of the report, and summary of judgement used to determine which sites should be allocated.

LGS1: Chatterton Hey Field

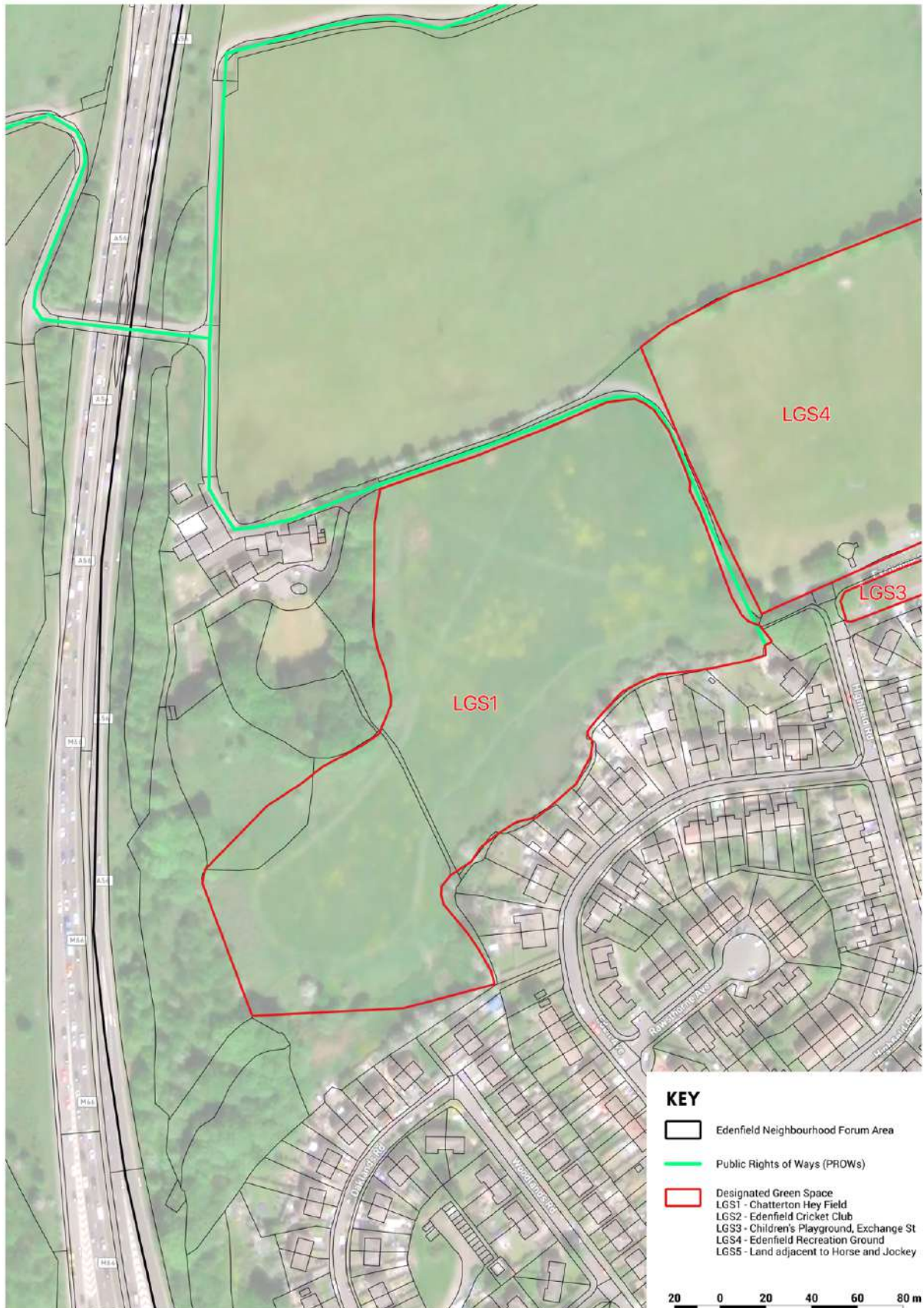


Figure 3. LGS1 Chatterton Hey Field

Grid Reference	SD 797191
Site Name	Chatterton Hey Field
Site Description and purpose	Untended field of approximately 4 hectares. The site is immediately adjacent to the village boundary. North and east boundaries incorporate single track access road (unfenced on the site side) for Chatterton Hey House and Alderbottom House with fenced field and recreation ground beyond. The road is also a footpath (FP 127) which continues northerly (becoming FP126) and then easterly passing Mushroom House to meet Market Street halfway along its length. West of sites is bounded by trees and Chatterton Hey House with A56 beyond. South bounded by houses of Oaklands Road and Eden Avenue.
Policy designations	H66 Housing Allocation (Local Plan 2019-2036)
Quality and condition	Untended grass land which is only maintained when being cut for silage.
Value and benefit to the community	Only significant area in the village where dogs can be allowed off leash.
Planning History (Are there any Planning Permissions at Site?)	The site does not have planning permission for development.
Proximity to the community it serves	Located 200 metres from the centre of Edenfield village and within 15 minutes' walk of all areas of the village
Is the site beautiful?	This site forms part of an area assessed in the Lives and Landscape Assessment for Rossendale Borough Council (2015). It was concluded that on landscape grounds, this site was suitable for development with mitigation. It was found that development of the site would have a moderate impact on the significance of the landscape. It was also found that development would have adverse impacts on both the residential and visual receptors. Given this, it is considered that the site is demonstrably beautiful both from a landscape and visual perspective.
Does the site have historic significance?	Not aware of any historical significance.
Does it have recreation value?	Yes – the site is actively used by residents for dog walking. Public use is currently permitted by landowner. Public footpath adjacent to north and east boundaries extensively used by walkers which is accessed off Exchange Street.
Is it tranquil? Is it a peaceful place away from noise and bustle?	There is some noise pollution from the A56 which borders the site to the west. The space is partially shielded from this noise by Chatterton Hey House and its grounds which have many mature trees, though less-so in wintertime when trees shed their foliage,

Does the site have wildlife and biodiversity value?	The site does not have relatively high levels of biodiversity or wildlife.
Other values	Unmade footpath inside southern boundary used by residents of south side of village as shortcut to village centre.
Is the site local in character and not an extensive tract of land?	Generally, only used by village residents. Site is large (4 Hectares) but not extensive. North and east boundaries incorporate single track access road for Chatterton Hey House and Alderbottom House with field and recreation ground beyond. West bounded by trees and Chatterton Hey House. South bounded by houses of Oaklands and Eden Avenue.

Table 1. Chatterton Hey Field Local Green Space Assessment

Summary

- 4.2 The site comprises an open field with a thin tract of deciduous woodland along its western boundary. The site is easily accessible via a pathway off Eden Avenue, and the site is only a short distance to the centre of Edenfield village. Chatterton Hey Field offers some recreational value through the provision of an open space for walkers and dog walkers. The site is relatively contained by the A56 to the west and housing to the south. A private road with public right of way on foot demarcates the edge of the site from wider open land to the north east.
- 4.3 The site was allocated for development (part of site H66) in the Local Plan 2019-2036.
- 4.4 The site is considered not suitable for designation, though it is acknowledged that it is valued locally in the village as the only place for off lead dog walking.

LGS2: Edenfield Cricket Club



Figure 4. Edenfield Cricket Club (Source: Google Earth)

Grid Reference	SD 801192
Site Name	Edenfield Cricket Club, Gincroft Lane
Site Description and purpose	In use as a cricket field since 1902. Site is approximately 1.01 hectares. The site is immediately adjacent to the settlement boundary. The club house is located on the eastern perimeter and is also used for social occasions and meetings for voluntary organisations. Central location in the village – north west corner is 100 metres from Market Street (main thoroughfare through the village) via Gincroft Lane. Bounded by houses to west, Gincroft Lane with houses beyond to north and open fields to east and south.
Policy designations	Green Belt Local Plan Policy LT1 (Recreation Areas)
Quality and condition	Good quality club house with changing facilities, bar and kitchen. Well maintained field.
Value and benefit to the community	Open and affordable membership. Coaching and matches for all ages from six years up. Club house used by local voluntary organisations and others for social functions and meetings. It contributes to the local character and provides the local community with a sporting facility and meeting place. Central location in the village.
Planning History (Are there any Planning Permissions at Site?)	The site does not have planning permission for development.
Proximity to the community it serves	Located 100 metres from the centre of Edenfield village and within 15 minutes' walk of all areas of the village
Is the site Beautiful?	The site is not demonstrably beautiful but it has extensive views to the west.
Does the site have historic significance?	While the site does not have any Listed heritage assets, the site has been in use as a cricket field since 1902.
Does it have recreation value?	Yes – it is well used as a cricket ground
Is it tranquil? Is it a peaceful place away from noise and bustle?	The site is located at the edge of the settlement and therefore the eastern and western parts of the site are relatively tranquil. Gincroft Lane and Boundary Edge border the site to the north and west, causing a very minor degree of noise pollution.
Does the site have wildlife and biodiversity value?	Not aware of any wildlife/biodiversity value.
Other values	The Club has a bar and function room which can be rented for private events, and is used frequently as a meeting point for events such as quiz nights, dinners and lunches. It hosts senior cricket team matches which are

	open to the public. The Edenfield Residents Association meets at this location monthly, and the Club hosts an annual Fell Race which attracts many runners and spectators.
Is the site local in character and not an extensive tract of land?	Not extensive – only 1.01 hectares. Bounded by houses to west, Gincroft Lane with houses beyond to north and open fields to east and south. Extensive use by residents but also attracts visitors.

Table 2. Edenfield Cricket Club Local Green Space Assessment

Summary

- 4.5 The cricket field is locally significant as it provides the local community with an outdoor space for recreational activities. It is recognised that the site hosts senior and junior cricket teams. Situated close to the centre of Edenfield, the site can be accessed via Gincroft Lane. The site is contained by development along its southern and north west boundaries. The eastern and southeast boundaries are composed of a clubhouse and treeline, which further highlight the site's rural character.
- 4.6 As such the site is considered suitable for designation

LGS3: Children's playground, Exchange St



Figure 5. Children's playground, Exchange St and Edenfield Recreation Ground

Grid Reference	SD 799191
Site Name	Children's playground, Exchange Street
Site Description and purpose	Grassed area (approximately 0.06 hectares) enclosed by one metre high fencing and two gates with three substantial trees and eight pieces of play equipment mainly suitable for children under 11 years. Open to the public. Central location in the village – north east corner is 100 metres from Market Street (main thoroughfare through the village) via Exchange Street. The north, west and east are bounded by roads and the south by a private road serving five semi-detached houses. The site is located immediately adjacent to and within the settlement boundary.
Policy designations	Green Belt Saved Policy E.2 (Recreation Areas) Local Plan Policy LT1 (Recreation Areas) Local Plan Policy ENV5 (Greenlands)
Quality and condition	The site is in good quality as it is regularly maintained by the Local Authority.
Value and benefit to the community	This is the only children's playground in the village and is therefore of great value and benefit to the community.
Planning History (Are there any Planning Permissions at Site?)	The site does not have planning permission for development.
Proximity to the community it serves	Located 100 metres from the centre of Edenfield village and within 15 minutes' walk of all areas of the village
Is the site Beautiful?	The site is not considered to be demonstrably beautiful.
Does the site have historic significance?	Not aware of any historical significance.
Does it have recreation value?	Yes – Children's play area
Is it tranquil? Is it a peaceful place away from noise and bustle?	The site is bordered on three sides by highways and is embedded within the built-up settlement. As a result, the site is not tranquil or away from noise and bustle.
Does the site have wildlife and biodiversity value?	The site does not have wildlife or biodiversity value.
Other values	Part of recreational area on west side of village – adjacent to recreation ground/community centre across Exchange Street.
Is the site local in character and not an extensive tract of land?	Site is not extensive – only 0.06 hectares. It is enclosed by one metre high fencing and two gates. Bounded by houses and residential roads. Used primarily by village residents.

Table 3. Children's playground, Exchange St Local Green Space Assessment

Summary

- 4.7 Contained all sides by urbanising influences (roads and housing), the playground has a distinct rural village character. The site is situated close to the centre of Edenfield, with access via Market Street, Highfield Road and Exchange Street. The site offers the local community outdoor play spaces.
- 4.8 As such the site is considered suitable for designation.

LGS4: Edenfield Recreation Ground



Figure 6. Edenfield Recreation Ground and Children's Playground, Exchange Street (Source: Google Earth)

Grid Reference	SD 798192
Site Name	Edenfield Recreation Ground, Exchange Street
Site Description and purpose	Large grassed area (approximately 1 hectare) open to the public for recreational purposes. The site is located directly adjacent but outside to the settlement boundary. Site includes a drinking fountain (not now operating) on the southern boundary. The fountain was erected in 1907 in memory of Alexander Barlow, a local industrialist and councillor, and has an inscription commemorating this. Central location in the village - south east corner is 100 metres from Market Street (main thoroughfare through the village) via Exchange Street. The site is bounded on the north and west by trees and walls/fences with open fields beyond. The east and south are bounded by the community centre and Exchange Street with the playground and houses beyond.
Policy designations	Green Belt Local Plan Policy LT1 (Recreation Areas) Local Plan Policy ENV5 (Greenlands)
Quality and condition	The site is in relatively good condition and is regularly maintained by the Local Authority.
Value and benefit to the community	Only public recreational area in the village of reasonable size. Sporting use (mainly football) is informal rather than organised. Used by children and families for ball games and play area. Used for annual village fete. Adjacent to the Community Centre and playground.
Planning History (Are there any Planning Permissions at Site?)	The site does not have planning permission for development.
Proximity to the community it serves	Located 100 metres from the centre of Edenfield village and within 15 minutes' walk of all areas of the village
Is the site Beautiful?	This site forms part of an area assessed in the Lives and Landscape Assessment for Rossendale Borough Council (2015). The wider site in which this Green Space is located was recommended as being unsuitable for development of landscape grounds as it is considered that development would have a moderate-substantial impact on the significance of the landscape character. Therefore, it can be considered that the site does have demonstrable beauty and is significant to the wider area.

Does the site have historic significance?	Yes. The drinking fountain was erected in 1907 in memory of Alexander Barlow, a prominent industrialist and councillor.
Does it have recreation value?	Yes – Used for football and other games and picnicking. Also, for annual village fete.
Is it tranquil? Is it a peaceful place away from noise and bustle?	The site is on the edge of the built-up settlement; it is bounded by Exchange Street to the south and residential properties to the east. As a result, the site does experience some noise.
Does the site have wildlife and biodiversity value?	Not aware of any particular wildlife or biodiversity value.
Other values	Used for annual village fete in conjunction with community centre.
Is the site local in character and not an extensive tract of land?	Not extensive – only 1.01 hectares. The site is bounded on the north and west by trees and walls/fences with open fields beyond. The east and south are bounded by the community centre and Exchange Street with the playground and houses beyond. Used primarily by village residents.

Table 4. Site Name: Edenfield Recreation Ground, Exchange Street Local Green Space Assessment

Summary

- 4.9 The recreation ground is located within the centre of Edenfield. The site consists of large open space (1 hectare) designed for recreational purposes, just 100m away from the centre of Edenfield village. The site has access via Exchange Street. The site is relatively contained by housing to the east and by Exchange Street to the south, with a tree line demarcating the western and northern boundaries. It is considered that the site is particularly special to the local community as it is the site of the annual village fete.
- 4.10 As such the site is considered suitable for designation.

LGS5: Land adjacent to Horse and Jockey

Grid Reference	SD798195
Site Name	Land adjacent to Horse and Jockey
Site Description and purpose	Site is within the settlement. Field bounded by a drystone wall on its easterly, southerly and (save for a gap by the adjacent field) westerly sides and by a post and wire fence, a boarded fence, the stone side wall of a domestic garage and a flag wall on its northerly side. Used for agricultural purposes, mainly the grazing of sheep.
Policy designations	H66 Housing Allocation (Local Plan 2019-2036)
Quality and condition	Good. Grazing controls growth of grass and vegetation. Drystone wall in good condition.
Value and benefit to the community	Visual amenity, with high quality, long landscape views.
Planning History (Are there any Planning Permissions at Site?)	The site does not have planning permission for development.
Proximity to the community it serves	It is adjacent to the main road through Edenfield.
Is the site Beautiful?	This site forms part of an area assessed in the Lives and Landscape Assessment for Rossendale Borough Council (2015). This wider site in which this Green Space is located was recommended as being unsuitable for development of landscape grounds as it is considered that development would have a moderate-substantial impact on the significance of the landscape character. Therefore, it can be considered that the site does have demonstrable beauty and is significant to the wider area.
Does the site have historic significance?	Not aware of any historical significance.
Does it have recreation value?	No, not publicly accessible
Is it tranquil? Is it a peaceful place away from noise and bustle?	The site is bordered at all sides by built form. Market Street runs to the east of the site and given that this road can be busy, this reduces the tranquillity of the site.
Does the site have wildlife and biodiversity value?	Foxes and deer have been seen around the site. Hedges shelter wild birds.
Other values	
Is the site local in character and not an extensive tract of land?	Yes - It is a small well-defined site within the village.

Table 5. Land adjacent to Horse and Jockey Green Space Assessment

Summary

- 4.11 The site consists of an open field used for agricultural purposes. The site is contained by housing to the north and south and is bounded by a drystone wall along its entire perimeter. The site is not publicly accessible and does not provide any direct benefits to the community. The site however does create an important visual break in the ribbon development along Market Street, thus providing extensive landscape views westward.
- 4.12 The site was allocated for development (part of site H66) in the Local Plan 2019-2036.
- 4.13 The site is considered not suitable for designation, though it is acknowledged that it is valued locally for its extensive views.

5. Local Green Space Designations

Nominated Site	Ref.	Valid	Special Role					Suitable for Designation
			<i>Beauty</i>	<i>Historic Importance</i>	<i>Recreation Value</i>	<i>Tranquillity</i>	<i>Richness of Wildlife</i>	
Chatterton Hey Field	LG1	Yes	Minor role	N/A	Yes	Minor role	Minor role	No
Cricket field	LG2	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Minor role	N/A	Yes
Exchange Street Playground	LG3	Yes	N/A	N/A	Yes	N/A	N/A	Yes
Recreation Ground	LG4	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Minor role	N/A	Yes
Field next to Horse and Jockey	LG5	Yes	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	Minor role	No

Table 6. Local Green Space Designations

Edenfield Community Neighbourhood Forum
Edenfield Neighbourhood Plan (ENP), 2021- 2036
Appendix 4: Local Green Space Report – January 2024



Edenfield Community Neighbourhood Forum
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