

The Seend Parish Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group is currently collecting evidence to support the designation of Local Green Spaces in their Neighbourhood Plan. Local Green Space (LGS) designation is a way to provide special protection in Neighbourhood Plans for green areas of particular importance to local communities.

The designation is very specific in that there are a number of criteria a space must satisfy in order to be suitable as LGS - see below extract from the National Planning Policy Framework (2019):

"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), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and
- c) local in character and is not an extensive tract of land." (para. 100)

The BRAG Picnic Area has been suggested as a potential LGS in the Seend Parish Neighbourhood Plan. The Plan consultants have advised that the space is not a typical strong contender for designation, as it is surrounded by open countryside and does not well fit criteria C above.

Melksham Without Parish Council support the potential designation of this locally valued space, and many of the people who use and value the space are Bowerhill residents. Melksham Without Parish Council are now working with the Seend Parish Neighbourhood Plan Group to collect local evidence to satisfy criteria B above. Items have been placed on social media and in the local news asking people to submit their support for designation referring to the qualities in B above.

This evidence will be part of the Seend Parish Neighbourhood Plan evidence base. It will be ultimately up to the independent Examiner on the Plan to use the evidence submitted to decide which spaces should be designated LGS in the Neighbourhood Plan.