

CHECKLIST AND CRITERIA FOR LOCAL GREEN SPACE DESIGNATION

1	General Information	Tick if relevant evidence provided
1.1	Name and address of site <i>Some sites have several names and all known names should be given</i>	
	Court View Newt Ponds, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire	
1.2	Site location plan	
	See attached map	✓ (1)
1.3	Organisation or individual proposing site for designation <i>This will normally be a Town or Parish Council or a recognised community group</i>	
	Stonehouse Neighbourhood Plan Group	
1.4	Ownership of site if known	
	Taylor-Wimpey builders own the site at present but Stonehouse Town Council are in negotiation to take over the site	
1.5	Is the owner of the site aware of the potential designation? Do they support the designation? (Sites may be designated as Local Green Spaces, even if there are objections from the site owners)	
	Taylor-Wimpey builders are aware	✓
1.6	Photographs of site	
	Attached.	✓(2)
1.7	Community served by the potential Local Green Space	
	Newt colony and public, residents from Stonehouse and people from surrounding area.	
2	Planning History	
2.1	Is there currently a planning application for this site? If permitted/allocated, could part of the overall site still be used as a Green Open Space?	
	No. Due to it being a Key Wildlife Site it is not suitable for development. See map of Key Wildlife sites in Stonehouse parish attached.	✓(3)
2.2	Is the site allocated for development in the Local or Neighbourhood Plan? If allocated, could part of the overall site still be used as a Green Open Space?	
	No. Due to it being a Key Wildlife Site it is not suitable for development. It is not mentioned in the Stroud District Council Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment Update report as of 1 April 2011.	
3	Size, scale and “local nature” of proposed Local Green Space	
3.1	Area of proposed site	
	It is 0.75 hectares	

3.2	Is the site an “extensive tract of land”?	
	It is a small area. See map.	✓(1)
3.3	Is the proposed site “local in character”?	
	The site is a Key Wildlife Site and of great interest to locals and those from surrounding villages and Stroud.	
4	Need for Local Green Space	
4.1	Is there a need for a local green space in this location?	
	Stroud Valleys Report, Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust Stonehouse Town Council	
5	Evidence to show that “the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves” <i>Please indicate what evidence you have provided against each point.</i>	
5.1	How far is the site from the community it serves? Is the site within 2km of the local community?	
	It is situated within 2km of the local community. See map.	✓(1)
5.2	Are there any barriers to the local community accessing the site from their homes?	
	There are fences with gates into each of the two parts of the site.	
6	Evidence to show that the green area is “demonstrably special to a local community”	
6.1	Evidence of support from Parish or Town Council	
	Stonehouse Town Council minutes shows several years of negotiations with the developer Taylor-Wimpey. The proposal to designate the site is supported by Stonehouse Town Council; see extract from minutes of Regeneration and Environment Committee meeting of 4 April 2016.	✓(4)
6.2	Evidence of support from other local community groups or individuals. <i>e.g. letters of support; petitions; surveys etc.</i>	
	Stroud Valleys Project annual Newt Count is well attended. See attached report of Newt Count and work done clearing the area in order to improve the habitat for the newts. See attached Stroud Valleys Project Management Plan 2015-17. Stroud Valleys Project support the proposal to designate this site as Local Green Space (see copy of e-mail of 6 May 2016). Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust have worked with Town Council with regard to this site. Local support for designating Court View Newt Ponds as a Local Green Space is evident in Neighbourhood Plan consultation results. (See http://www.stonehousetowncouncil.com/the-council/stonehouse-neighbourhood-plan/neighbourhood-plan-consultation-results/)	✓(5,6,7)

6.3	Evidence of support from community leaders	
6.4	Evidence of support from other groups	
	Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust have documented this site as plantation woodland, open water and grassland (see map attached) which forms the habitat for Great Crested Newts that are a European protected species. The animals, its eggs and their breeding sites and resting places are protected by law.	✓(8)
7	Evidence to show that the green area “holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty,” (if applicable) Please indicate what evidence you have provided against each point.	
7.1	Is this criteria relevant to this site ?	
	YES / NO	
7.2	Describe why the community feels that the site has a particular local significance for its beauty.	
	A significant newt colony of the rare Great Crested Newts are of major significance to local residents.	
7.3	Site visibility	
7.4	Is the site covered by any landscape or similar designations?	
	The Court View Newt Ponds are a Key Wildlife Site	✓(3)
7.5	Is the site (or the type of site) specifically mentioned in any relevant landscape character assessments or similar documents?	
	Stonehouse Town Character Assessment 2016	
7.6	Does the site contribute to the setting of a historic building or other special feature?	
	The site is opposite Stonehouse Court Hotel which was mentioned in the Doomsday book and the town is named after the original Stanhus	
7.7	Is the site highlighted in literature or art? <i>e.g. is the site mentioned in a well-known poem or shown in a famous painting?</i>	
8	Evidence to show that the green area “holds a particular local significance for example because of its historic significance” (if applicable) Please indicate what evidence you have provided against each point.	
8.1	Is this criteria relevant to this site ?	
	YES / NO	
8.2	Are there any historic buildings or remains on the site?	

8.3	Are there any important historic landscape features on the site?	
8.4	Did the site play an important role in the historic development of the village or town?	
	The area has some historic significance for its probable connection to Stonehouse Court, a Grade II* listed building.	
8.5	Did any important historic events take place on the site?	
8.6	Do any historic rituals take place on the site? <i>e.g. well-dressing; maypole dancing etc.</i>	
9	Evidence to show that the green area “holds a particular local significance, for example because of its recreational value (including as a playing field)”, (if applicable) Please indicate what evidence you have provided against each point.	
9.1	Is this criteria relevant to this site ?	
	YES / NO	
9.2	Is the site used for playing sport?	
	No	
9.3	Are the public able to physically access the site?	
	Yes public can access the whole site through gates surrounding the two parts to the site	
9.4	Is the site used by the local community for informal recreation? And since when? <i>e.g. dog walking; sledging; ball games etc</i>	
	Dog walking, wildlife observation, conservation work. See report and web links noted under 11.5 below.	✓(5)
10	Evidence to show that the green area “holds a particular local significance, for example because of its tranquillity” (if applicable) Please indicate what evidence you have provided against each point.	
10.1	Is this criteria relevant to this site ?	
	YES / NO	
10.2	Do you consider the site to be tranquil? <i>e.g. are there any roads or busy areas close by?</i>	
	The area is tranquil despite the nearby busy A419, the site is surrounded by large hedgerow.	
10.3	Is the site within a recognised tranquil area? <i>e.g. within the Campaign to Protect Rural England’s tranquillity maps</i>	
11	Evidence to show that the green area “holds a particular local significance, for example because of the richness of its wildlife”; (if applicable)	

	<i>Please indicate what evidence you have provided against each point.</i>	
11.1	Is this criteria relevant to this site ?	
	YES / NO	
11.2	Is the site formally designated for its wildlife value?	
	It is a Key Wildlife Site for a Great Crested Newt colony.	✓(3)
11.3	Are any important habitats or species found on the site?	
	Gloucestershire Centre for Environmental Records and Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust records the following UK Priority species at the site: Great Crested Newts, Smooth Newts, Palmate Newts and	
11.4	What other wildlife of interest has been found on the site?	
11.5	Is the site part of a long term study of wildlife by members of the local community?	
	Annual Newt count and regular voluntary maintenance work. See Stroud Valleys Project Newt Count report attached. See also following links to reports on Stroud Valleys Project website: http://www.stroudvalleysproject.org/index.php/news/398-bumper-crop-of-newts-found-by-stroud-valleys-project-volunteers-in-stonehouse- http://stroudvalleysproject.org/index.php/svp-projects/current-projects/9-projects/previous-projects/512-stonehouse-newt-pond-at-court-view-2	✓(5)
12	Evidence to show that the green area “holds a particular local significance, for any other reason”; (if applicable) <i>Please indicate what evidence you have provided against each point.</i>	
12.1	Is this criteria relevant to this site ?	
	YES / NO	
12.2	Are there any other reasons why the site has a particular local significance for the local community	