

Waltham on the Wolds & Thorpe Arnold Neighbourhood Plan (Submission Version)

APPENDIX E: ENVIRONMENTAL INVENTORY

Scoring system for sites of Environmental significance

Criterion (NPPF 2012)	Score range			Notes
ACCESSIBILITY	0	1-3	4	E.g. private, no access (0) – could be made accessible – accessed via PRoW – fully open to the public (4)
PROXIMITY / LOCAL	0	1-3	4	Distant (0) – fairly near to – adjoins (3) or is within (4) settlement
BOUNDED	0	1-3	4	Individual parcel of land (not an undefined or large area)
SPECIAL TO COMMUNITY	0	1-3	4	Opinion of local people via questionnaire or at consultation events
RECREATIONAL / EDUCATIONAL USE	0	1-3	4	Actual or potential, informal sports, dog-walking, Forest School use, informal or official open space, etc.
BEAUTY (including views)	0	1	2	Subjective, relative (give justification); use consultation map results
TRANQUILITY	0	1	2	Subjective, relative (give justification)
HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE	0	1-3	4	Extant, visible evidence. Number of periods/features/records etc. / Relevant existing designations (Historic Environment Records)
WILDLIFE SIGNIFICANCE, GEOLOGY	0	1-3	4	Richness of species and habitats (Priority (BAP) spp. / Priority habitats) / relevant existing designations (Habitat Survey, Local Wildlife Sites / site of geological/industrial history significance)
[Maximum possible score]			32	

Local Green Space designation is considered appropriate for sites scoring 75% or more of the maximum possible total (i.e. 24 out of 32). Other sites are designated as:

- Already Protected.
- Important Open Spaces.
- Other sites of Environmental Significance.

Local Green Space

Already protected

Important Open Space

Environmental significance

Ref	Description / Evidence	NPPF 2012 Local Green Space (LGS) Criteria (marks out of 4 except Beauty & Tranq. out of 2)									Total score/36
		Access	Proxim.	Bounded	Special	Rec/Edu	Beauty (views)	Tranq.	History	Wildlife etc.	
51	<p>St Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Thorpe Arnold</p> <p>The churchyard is central to the village and provides the setting for the prominent grade 2 listed church on the hilltop. The trees around the churchyard perimeter offer a sense of seclusion, although the adjacent A607 is an intrusion on the tranquil setting. The churchyard provides a central focus for a village divided by the busy road. It is a valued community and heritage space with good accessibility and visibility. The site could be enhanced to improve ecological value, in order to become multi-functional in addition to being an important heritage space.</p>	4	4	4	4	2	2	2	4	3	29 [n/a]
1	<p>St Mary Magdalene Churchyard, Waltham</p> <p>Embanked churchyard and burial ground surrounding the Grade 1 listed Church of St Mary Magdalene. Public footpaths pass through the churchyard and link through to the cemetery (see below) and its extension to the south. The churchyard is an important visual stop along the main routes through the village. It is clearly a well-used and maintained space with good accessibility and visual relationship with the wider village as well as having value as setting to the listed asset.</p> <p>Bordered to the west and north by a 120 metre long Grade II listed stone wall, including archway and well chamber.</p> <p>Prominent central village location – important heritage setting. Well-managed community asset that defines the village core and links (visually and physically) with other open spaces.</p> <p>Could leave more space for biodiversity contribution. Good accessibility / permeability.</p>	4	4	4	4	3	2	1	4	3	29 [n/a]
52	<p>Medieval village earthworks, Thorpe Arnold</p> <p>Permanent grazing field with areas of mature trees at east boundary (on moat earthworks), species-rich hedge to west, avenue of trees on part of A607 road.</p> <p>Extensive earthworks (Monument No. 321471 and HER MLE4181 & MLE4186 refer) incorporate the 'Castel' site, possibly the site of a moated manor house, house platforms, lanes and closes, an area of cultivation, etc. Earthworks here represent much of Thorpe Arnold's history from early medieval (possibly pre-Norman) to early modern (last manor</p>	3	3	4	3	3	2	1	4	2	26

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	house was demolished c.1795). Part of the moat earthwork retains water and there is another smaller fishpond. It is a tract of land strongly related to the wider landscape and is integral to the village character. It is a valuable piece of land that should be safeguarded. Access via footpath E19										
7	Waltham village playing field Sports field and children's play area around and to west of village hall, owned and maintained by the Parish Council. Designated as a Queen Elizabeth II Field, protected in celebration of the 2012 Diamond Jubilee, now under 'Fields in Trust'; protection is afforded by a <i>Deed in Trust</i> under which the owner (the PC) must seek approval for change of use or development. Thus protection is in the control of the Parish Council.	4	3	4	4	4	2	1	1	1	25
57	Thorpe Arnold cricket ground Thorpe Arnold Cricket club has a long and successful history, although the precise date of the formation of the club is unknown. moving to the present site in 1922. The ground started to take shape in 1956 when the outfield, which had been marshland, was drained to create an ideal playing surface and the club house was expanded and now is a successful asset to the club and village offering function room facilities. The outfield area has native trees and rough grass and with the small River Eye on one side is an important local biodiversity site.	3	3	4	4	3	2	1	2	3	25
2	Churchyard extension, Waltham Enclosed burial ground connected to the main churchyard. Important community and heritage feature. Mature trees contribute to village character and sense of enclosure / seclusion. A hedge borders a path to the west of Churchyard 2 that is known as Nun's Walk and appears to have historical connections. Potential to improve connectivity and ecological value.	4	4	4	3	2	1	2	2	1	24

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3	<p>Churchyard extension and allotments</p> <p>A single field of land originating in the Enclosure Award to the south of site 2. The whole field became allotment gardens around 1900 and was only divided, into extension burial ground and smaller allotment site, circa 1970.</p> <p>Important open space with high community and landscape value, contributing to the setting of the windmill and cottages on Mill Lane and more widely with the parish church and village centre.</p>	4	4	4	3	2	1	2	2	2	24
11	<p>Parish Council Allotments, Waltham</p> <p>The allotments are situated off the High Street, Waltham with a total of 28 plots available for rent by parishioners. They are very popular and a source of recreation and local amenity. However they have little history. The site is tranquil and has its own natural beauty. Wildlife is ever present due to its location adjacent to open fields and bordered by mature hedges.</p>	3	4	4	3	4	1	1	0	2	22
26	<p>Fields to west of Bescaby Lane adjacent to Twells Road, opposite Doctors Surgery and the Manor, Waltham</p> <p>Large field subdivided into three with mature hedging between, and large mature ash trees within. Mature hedge to Bescaby Lane. This hedging provides an important transition from village to countryside as one progresses North along Bescaby Lane towards the SSSI and Wildlife Trust nature reserve on the East side. Last remaining example of ridge and furrow earthworks adjacent to the village. Presently used for rough grazing of horses. Ash tree adjacent to Twells Road regularly used by nesting kestrels. Hedges provide habitat for wide range of passerines, small mammals and invertebrates. Land, particularly to the West. Tends to quickly become waterlogged during periods of heavy rain and is slow to drain.</p>	3	3	4	3	0	2	0	3	3	21
8	<p>Fields South of Mill Lane and east of Manor Court and Fair Field</p> <p>These fields are privately-owned paddocks crossed by two footpaths including the Mowbray Way. It is notable for the unkempt hedgerow on the south side that is a haven for resident small birds. Medieval earthworks (ref HER MLE 4205).</p>	3	3	4	2	2	1	1	2	3	21

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9	Field 1357 east of Melton Road, Waltham This agricultural field is pastureland used recently for grazing beef cattle. It is crossed by two footpaths including the Mowbray Way and has evidence ridge and furrow strip farming and a possible Iron Age or Roman site in the southern part (ref HER MLE 22474) and possible linear features and pits in the northern half (ref HER MLW 22475). It is in landscape assessment area LCZ 5 assessed as 'Medium to High' sensitivity to development (ref report INF_N0318 commissioned by MBC).	3	3	4	1	2	1	1	3	2	21
14	Village orchard off Goadby Road, near Waltham Planted with young fruit trees, mature hedges and accommodating honey bee hives. Owned by the Parish Council.	3	1	4	3	2	1	2	2	3	21
15	Disused railway line, west of Waltham Abandoned trackbed and cutting of Great Northern Railway Waltham branch, opened 1883, closed 1964. A locally important biodiversity site and wildlife corridor. Two main habitats: mixed scrub/trees (hawthorn, blackthorn, elder and dog rose, etc.) and rough grass The site is locally significant for wintering thrushes and finches and as a breeding site for otherwise locally-scarce farmland and woodland birds, mammals and invertebrates. In part adjacent to village orchard, site 14. Formal access is by landowner(s) and a shooting club, although there is informal recreational use at other times off bridleway E90	1	1	3	3	2	2	2	3	4	21
6	Malt House Green 'memorial garden', Waltham Central space with direct access from the busy road junction. Limited functionality – community asset and heritage value. Contributes to open texture of central road junction – intervisibility with the churchyard. The site has two mature cherry trees and also a birch and several semi-mature conifers. The responsibility for maintaining site rests with the Parish Council. It may be that, in the future, this site will be converted into a memorial garden that being the intention when the path and paved area were laid.	4	4	3	3	2	1	1	1	1	20
4	Village Green, Waltham Small triangle of land at the main crossroads of the village. Contains Grade 2 listed K6 phone box, bus shelter, well and numerous small trees (in need of maintenance). These are	4	4	1	4	2	2	0	3	0	20

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	conifers and a cherry, none of which are of any real amenity value other than age. Removal and new planting would enhance this feature in the middle of the village.										
10	Field south of the Rectory and east of the A607 and north of Freeby Lane, Waltham Privately-owned field with ridge and furrow earthworks plus numerous mature tree and fishpond. Trees protected by blanket TPO that includes the grounds of Waltham Care Home.	1	2	4	3	1	2	2	2	3	20
16	Copse and rough ground with small pond north of Goadby Road, Waltham With a stream giving wildlife corridor to Scalford Brook. This is quite a significant patch of uncultivated meadow and watercourses with multiple species using the area, notably finches feeding on the seeds of wild uncontrolled common plants such as thistles and cow kirk.	3	3	4	2	2	1	0	2	2	19
5	Forest School, Waltham Waltham Primary school (including the preschool) is a member of the Forest Schools Association. This site is being established in the copse at the bottom of the school playing field as the focus for Forest School activities. It is used by school students and local Scouts and Beavers.	0	2	4	4	4	1	1	1	3	20
53	Cemetery on north edge of the village, Thorpe Arnold Including car park and small field to the east.	3	3	4	3	1	0	1	1	1	17
12	Waltham Thorns Privately-owned deciduous woodland.	0	1	4	1	1	2	2	1	4	16
13	Waltham New Covert Privately-owned deciduous woodland.	0	1	4	1	1	2	2	1	4	16
17	Copse north of old chapel off A607 north of Waltham Planted with a variety of trees of early maturity.	1	3	4	2	1	1	1	0	3	16
21	Field to west of Garthorpe Road adjacent to and around water tower, Waltham Large field with mature hedge and large ash trees to Garthorpe road. Recently 'plantation' planted with range of British hardwood trees. Used for free range grazing of chicken. In time, when fully established, will provide important habitat for many birds, small mammals and invertebrates.	1	2	4	2	0	1	2	1	3	16

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55	Thorpe Ashes. Privately-owned deciduous woodland.	0	1	4	1	1	1	2	1	4	15
24	Field adjacent to and west of site 23, Waltham Large open field used for rough pasture with access to Mill Lane. Extensive views from Mowbray Way across field to village dwellings on Melton Road	2	2	4	0	0	2	1	0	4	15
25	The Mount, Waltham Stand of mature trees (beech and sycamore) adjacent to the Mount, providing vista at top of High Street. Although trees are overly crowded and in need of thinning and crowning preventing trees from taking natural form, they provide an important visual impact on exiting the village at the head of the High Street. Home to a large colony (a clattering) of jackdaws, wood pigeons and tawny owl roost.	2	3	2	2	0	2	0	1	3	15
20	Field at junction of Garthorpe and Stonesby Roads, Waltham Large field at entry to village used for arable cropping. Bounded on Stonesby Road by extensive mature hedge (hawthorn, blackthorn, elder, hazel, sycamore, holly, alder and rose briar) with mature ash and horse chestnut trees within. The diversity of tree and hedge species gives rise to extensive habitat for range of birds, small mammals and invertebrates. Extensive south-easterly outward views from Garthorpe Road across field and valley below to hills of Rutland beyond.	2	2	4	1	0	1	1	0	3	14
22	Field to north of water reservoir and west of Garthorpe Road, Waltham Large field used as rough pasture. With mature hedge to Garthorpe Road and small inter-divisional hedges within.	2	2	4	1	0	1	1	0	3	14
23	Field to south of Mowbray Way footpath and north of Fair Farm, Waltham Large open field with mature hedge to west side. Used for arable cropping. Immediately abuts Mowbray Way with extensive mature hedge and ash trees to north side at rear of dwellings in the High Street.	2	2	4	0	0	2	0	0	4	14

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56	Field opposite Wolds Farm Thorpe Arnold. This agricultural field is an area of permanent pastureland used primarily for grazing beef cattle. The field has evidence of early earthworks. It is situated to the north east of the main village, with the main A607 to the north of the field. It is cut off in part by the cemetery extension, which although the cemetery and car park are perimeter fenced the area of the cemetery actually extends to within a few metres of the eastern hedge, the northern hedgerow has been maintained within farming practices, the mature eastern hedgerow is in an unkempt state, but is an important wildlife link.	2	3	4	1	0	1	0	0	1	12
19	Grassed and tree-lined area east of the A607 and north of the village, Waltham At the point of entry to the village of Waltham there is a large grassed area that has, upon its boundary with land currently being built upon, a line of several local trees. These substantial trees act to provide an attractive view on entry to the village. The grassed area sweeps from the Melton Road to the end of Burgins Lane that in turn leads to open field space.	3	3	0	2	2	0	0	0	2	12
18	Grassed and tree-lined area left of A607 north of village towards Grantham, Waltham A large expanse of grass verge on the northbound side of the A607. The verge is lined with substantial trees that are a local mix of native species some of which are part of the land of the old Methodist Church. This verge continues up to the derestriction sign.	3	3	0	1	2	0	0	0	2	11
54	Field to north of A607 and west of the village centre, Waltham Earthworks to north of A607 were ploughed in 1983 (ref HER MLE4181).	0	3	4	0	0	1	1	0	1	10