

METHODOLOGY FOR ASSESSMENT OF GREEN SPACES AND SIGNIFICANT VIEWS IN HALLOW

The NDP Steering Group prepared the village walkabout to assess Green Spaces and Significant Views by drawing up guidance utilising NPPF and local (MHDC) criteria on green space and significant view assessment (Appendix 1, Appendix 2). Forty-two volunteers were recruited from across the village representing a wide range of parishioners, and the volunteer group also included members of Hallow Village Community Group, Parish Councillors, Hallow History Group, Hallow Church. The walkabout day began with a briefing from the Martley village NDP Lead and Locality Champion who presented a power point on Martley's methodology and some good practice tips (Appendix 5).

The 42 volunteers were split into groups and assigned to a pre-prepared walk route utilising Public Footpaths, paths and roadways- the village was split into a total of 4 walks. No-one assessed a view or green space near where they lived, and all were assigned to walk routes away from their area of residence. Group leads had some background experience or employment experience in geography, town planning, horticulture, landscape, or history of the village.

Each group had to assess any view or green space encountered on their walk against the criteria and complete the assessment sheet (Appendices 3 and 4). Photographs were also taken.

Assessment sheets were handed in and collated by the NDP landscape group with NDP lead, and then shared at public information events seeking public views on green spaces and views. Assessment sheets are available on request (hazelkemshall@gmail.com)

Green spaces and significant views were then independently quality assured by AECOM as part of the Design Code work-and can be found within that document (https://hallowndp.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Hallow-Design-Guide_2.pdf), and are only included in the NDP where they meet the criteria for inclusion.

APPENDIX 1: Local Green Space Assessment Criteria

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states that a Local Green Space must be:

- in reasonable close proximity to the community it serves
- demonstrably special to a local community and hold 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
- local in character and is not an extensive tract of land

Please use these criteria to identify any local green space on your designated walk.

Record the space on your map using a number and letters LGS1, LGS2. These should be **linked to your LGS record sheet** and you can record your observations about proximity, demonstrably special and local character in the spaces provided. The prompt questions below may help you with this task

Take photographs and record their subject on the photograph log sheet as you go.

Proximity to the community?

How close to the centre of Hallow? (LadyGo store to Village Green)

How close are the nearest buildings?

How is the space accessed?

Demonstrably special?

Does the space have a beauty or pleasing aspects that you can describe?

Does it have a historical significance?

How is it used? Does it have a recreational value?

Is it tranquil?

Does it include any special flora or fauna? (trees, hedgerows, plants, animals, birds insects etc)

Local in character?

What makes this space local to Hallow? Who uses it? Owns it? Cares for it?

Other ideas?

APPENDIX 2: Visual Amenity or Significant Views Guidance

South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP) 25 states:

‘Visual amenity is regarded as the overall pleasantness of the views people enjoy of their surroundings, which provides an attractive visual setting or backdrop for the enjoyment of activities of the people living, working, recreating, visiting or travelling through an area.’

Record the location of your view on your map using a number and letters SV1, SV2 etc. Use arrows to indicate the direction of the view. SV1



Use the **Significant View Record Sheet** to record more details about the landmark buildings and natural features present in each view; describe any obvious boundaries to the view and comment on the importance of the view to local community.

The prompt questions below should help you with this task

Take photographs and record their subject on the photograph log sheet as you go.

Features of the Significant View

Are you looking at any landmark buildings? (Spires, towers, houses, farms...) (Foreground or background?)

Are you looking at any landscape feature (Abberley hills, Malvern hills, woods, treeline, pastoral scene, water)

(Foreground or background?)

Boundaries to the view

Any features to the right or left which provide a frame for your view? These might be roads, paths, hedges, lines of trees, a building..?

What is on the horizon to the left, centre and to the right?

What makes this view special to the local community?

Is this view an important feature when entering or leaving the village?

Does this view have any historical significance? (eg views over and into parkland, of drovers' routes, of historical landscapes or buildings)

Does this view include special flora or fauna? (landmark trees, bird reserves...)

At the end of your walk, please offer a ranking from 1 to 5 for your significant views where 1 is your most important view and 5 is your least important. You can indicate equally important views using 1= etc.

APPENDIX 3: Local Green Space Recording Sheet

Local Green Space	Title/Description	Proximity to Community	Demonstrably Special	Local in character	Not extensive (<i>estimate size in square metres</i>)
<i>example</i>	Village Green	Triangular green space at centre of village at junction of Main Road and Church Lane	Historic open space with iconic Oak Tree and play space. Centre for events including Christmas display and May Pole dancing	Much used as focus for publicity about village events and surrounded by houses representative of Hallow history	100m x 30 m
LGS1					
LGS2					
LGS3					
LGS4					
LGS5					

APPENDIX 4: Significant Views Recording Sheet

Location No	Title/Description	Landmark buildings	Landscape features	Boundaries	What makes this view special	Ranking
example	Village Green looking south	Church spire centre background. Historic houses right and left of green	Oak tree centre foreground. Open green space for leisure use in foreground	Cedar Cottages to right. Houses on green to left. Church spire and parkland trees as skyline ahead	Green in use for centuries with historic oak and open space used for gatherings and maypole dancing. Visual traditional village green as heart of village	1
SV1						
SV2						
SV3						
SV4						
SV5						

What is a green space?

- 'Demonstrably special to the local community'
- Holds a particular significance...
- Because of its beauty
- Historical significance
- Recreational value
- Tranquillity
- Richness of wildlife
- Local in character and not a vast expanse of land



Aim of the day

- To identify green spaces for potential inclusion in the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)
- To identify open spaces for potential inclusion in the NDP
- To identify the views and vistas for potential protection under the NDP

What is a view?

SWDP 25 states:

- “Visual amenity is regarded as the overall pleasantness of the views people enjoy of their surroundings, which provides an attractive visual setting or backdrop for the enjoyment of activities of the people living, working, recreating, visiting or travelling through an area.”



Helpful to consider

- Views into the village including of key buildings, and landmarks
- Views out of the village towards key buildings, landmarks including landscape features
- Views within and through the village to historic buildings, key buildings, landmarks
- A visual setting or backdrop against which activities occur (walking, playing, etc)
- Also can enjoy whilst travelling through village
- Contribute to the character of the village
- Accessible to the public (not a private view) (e.g. from a road, pavement, public right of way, bridle way etc.)

Examples from Martley NDP

The protected Local Green Spaces are:

1. Chantry Academy Conservation Area
2. Millennium Green
3. Badger Green
4. Hollins Lane banks
5. Martley Playing Field
6. Crown Orchard
7. Hopyards Green
8. Crown Meadow
9. Ankerdine Common

How we chose our views in Martley

- Started with the views in the Conservation Area report.
- Identified those now lost (and gave reasons).
- Added views outside the Conservation Area.
- Provided evidence, reason and an “explanation” for each and a photo for each view included.

Example views from outside Martley Conservation Area

View 1. Looking east from the gate just South and on the opposite side of the road from the Crown public house, across the Paddocks towards the barns around Martley Court and the Parish Church. This view is particularly treasured because it is one most people in the village see every day.



View 2. Looking south from Martley Recreation Ground towards the Iron Age fort on Berrow Hill and the outskirts of Berrow Green.



Example views from Martley (2)

View 3. Looking north from the top of Hollins Lane across the fields to Martley village with the ride of hills leading up to Woodbury Hill in the background.



View 4. Looking west from the western edge of the new Crown Meadow (Hopyard) Estate across open fields to the old hedgerows along Kingswood Lane and the line of the Nubbins Wooded escarpment on the right.



What to do now

- Four groups with a walk allocated to you
- There is a group lead, a photographer, someone to help with log sheet and additional persons to help out
- Complete the survey form-we must do this and follow the guidelines
- Walk, stand and stare!
- Discuss what you see, apply the criteria, and complete the form, record carefully where you are
- Take photo(s), log it on sheet, state carefully where you are



Work together



- Use all the experience and knowledge in your group-small things matter
- Listen to your group lead and help them-they have a lot to do
- You do not have to be an expert to contribute-you have your lived experience of being in the village
- Share what you know
- Enjoy yourselves and do as much as you can, but don't worry!

Be safe!

- Remember the traffic, be aware of hazards
- Take a high viz vest and wear it
- Be careful you are volunteers-you do not have any insurance cover other than your own
- Take reasonable precautions walking about
- Take about 90 minutes to 2 hours-stay focused and be diligent
- Bring back clip boards and photos
- Come back and have light refreshments.

So good luck today

