



Appendix D:

Local Green Space
Designation Rationale

Introduction

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) introduces the concept of a Local Green Space designation.

The designation of land as Local Green Space allows communities to identify and protect green areas of particular importance to them. It affords the same level of protection as Green Belt status, ruling out development in all but very exceptional circumstances. It is a discretionary designation that can be made within a Local Plan or a Neighbourhood Plan.

Paragraph 102 of the NPPF sets out criteria for a green space to qualify as Local Green Space. The designation should only be used where the land is:

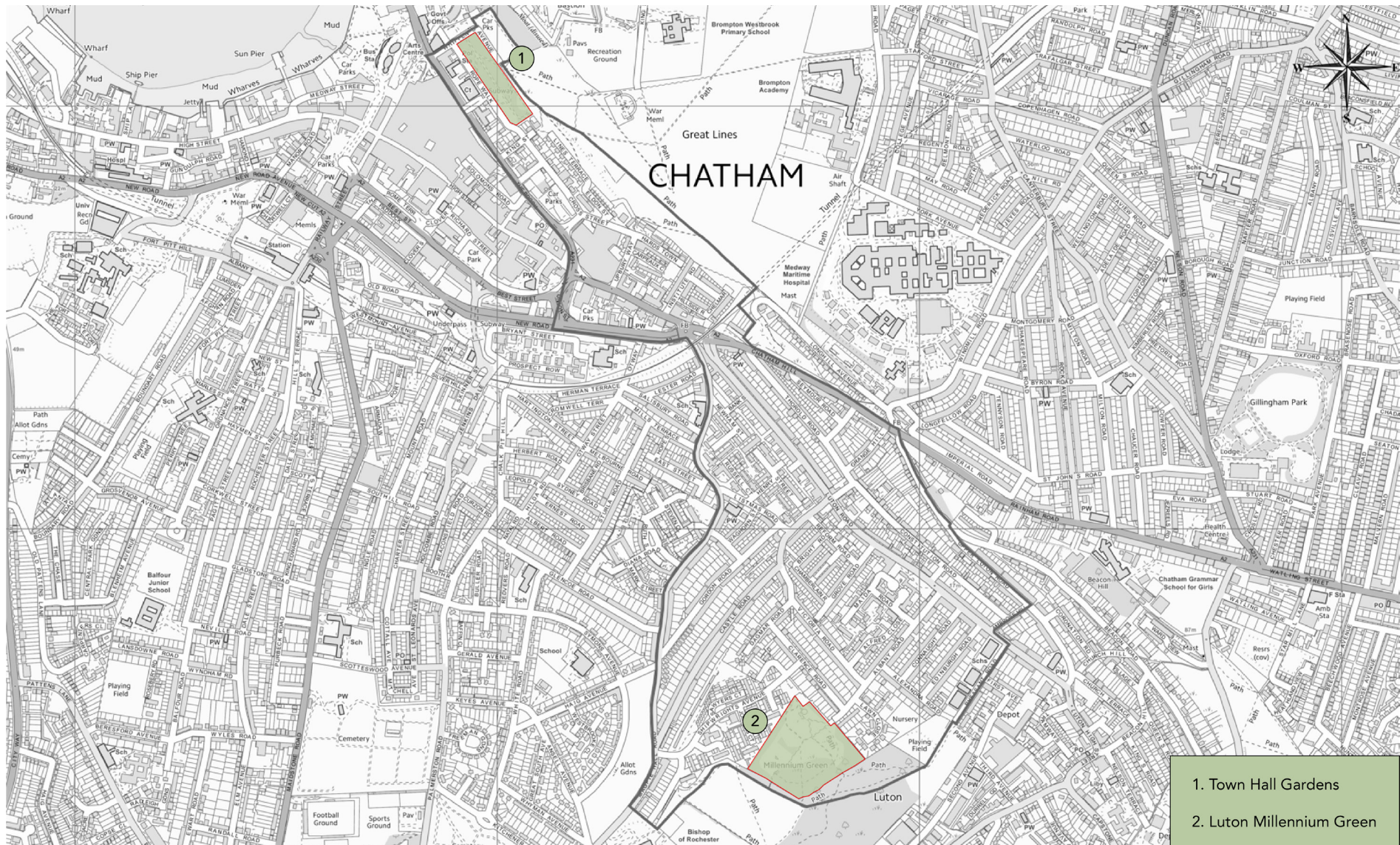
- a) in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
- b) demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and
- c) local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

Paragraph 101 further states that Local Green Space should be capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period.

The following green spaces have been identified by the Arches 'Chatham' Neighbourhood Forum for designation as Local Green Space (see Neighbourhood Plan Policy BNE2 - Local Green Space for policy wording). This document provides the rationale for the sites designated in Policy BNE2 of the Neighbourhood Plan.



The central path of Town Hall Gardens, Chatham.



Map 1
Local Green Space designations within the Neighbourhood Area.



The main entrance portico to Town Hall Gardens.

Fill me up,
buttercup

Recycle your empty
- put match to the bin, or
take it home with you

FREE

recycle

PUBLIC
FOOT
PATH

Town Hall Gardens

Demonstrably special significance

Close proximity	Beauty	Historic significance	Recreational value	Tranquillity	Wildlife richness	Local in character
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓

Town Hall Gardens encompasses approximately 1.4ha of public gardens, located off Rope Walk, Chatham. It is owned and managed by Medway Council.

The gardens are predominantly laid as close mown grass and formal mixed shrub beds with deciduous and coniferous trees. The open space is accessible by foot via five formal entrance points and is situated within less than a 5-minute walk from nearby homes.

The site of Town Hall Gardens was initially used in the 19th century for 'ropeworks' (where rope was made) due to the size and linear shape of the space. It was then gifted to the parish of Chatham from the Board of Ordnance and developed as a burial ground, after the existing churchyard at St Mary's in Dock Road became overcrowded. The burial ground opened in May 1828 and continued to operate until 1870 when it, too, reached its capacity. It was replaced by a new cemetery which opened in Maidstone Road.

Following the construction of Chatham Town Hall (now the Brook Theatre) in 1900, the closed burial ground was considered for use as public open space.

It was conveyed from Chatham Parish to Chatham Corporation on 9 September 1903 for its preservation and use as a public recreation ground under the Open Spaces Act 1877.

The name of the space was changed from the Old Burial Ground to Town Hall Gardens, which was first recorded on 14 January 1905. It was formally opened on 14 June 1905 by William D. Driver, the Mayor of Chatham Corporation.

Town Hall Gardens therefore survives as an early origin of civic open space in Chatham on land gifted from military to civilian ownership. It also represents Chatham Corporation's response to providing and preserving public open spaces for the health and wellbeing of local people. Additionally, there is significant archaeological potential as features of the burial ground, such as boundary walling, the entrance portico 'gateway', path layout and remnants of tombs, were retained and survive today. A number of early 19th century trees contribute to the aesthetic and tranquillity of the gardens by reflecting their earlier use as a burial ground.



The main entrance gateway to Luton Millennium Green, Chatham.

Images were created with the help of local children and represent the history of Luton

**LUTON
MILLENNIUM
GREEN**

Luton Millennium Green

Demonstrably special significance

Close proximity	Beauty	Historic significance	Recreational value	Tranquillity	Wildlife richness	Local in character
✓	✓		✓	✓		✓

Luton Millennium Green is an open space spanning approximately 2.8ha, located off Albany Road, Chatham. It is owned and managed by Medway Council.

It contains swathes of close mown grass, trees, an amphitheatre, a pocket park with natural play equipment and raised planted beds. The green is accessible by foot via three formal entrance points and is situated within less than a 5-minute walk from nearby homes. A footpath also connects it to the nearby Daisy Banks and Horsted Valley.

The site was mostly undeveloped land up until the 1890s, with an old clay pit occupying part of it. By the early 1900s, the site had become allotment gardens, which survived until the late 20th century and then became disused. It was transformed into a 'millennium green' as part of a nationwide project by the Countryside Agency and supported by the Millennium Commission. The intention of the scheme was to create around 250 areas of green spaces in local communities to celebrate the turn of the century.

A total of £200,000 was raised to finance the construction of Luton Millennium Green, which was championed by local resident Erica Thomas and volunteers,

with support from Groundwork, Rochester upon Medway Council (now Medway Council) and Medway Housing Society. Luton Millennium Green was formally opened on 15 September 2000 by Culture, Media and Sport Secretary Chris Smith.



A general view showing part of the pocket park.

AC
NF

