

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Submission for Spider Park as a Local Green Space (LGS) as part of the response to Emerging Draft Sheffield Plan
Date: 19 February 2023 21:49:59
Attachments: [Local Green Space designation HCYA submission.docx](#)

I have attached my submission for Spider Park (Fulwood / Lodge Moor area) to be considered for LGS status under the emerging Sheffield Plan.

Regards

Sam Saunders

Chair HCYA

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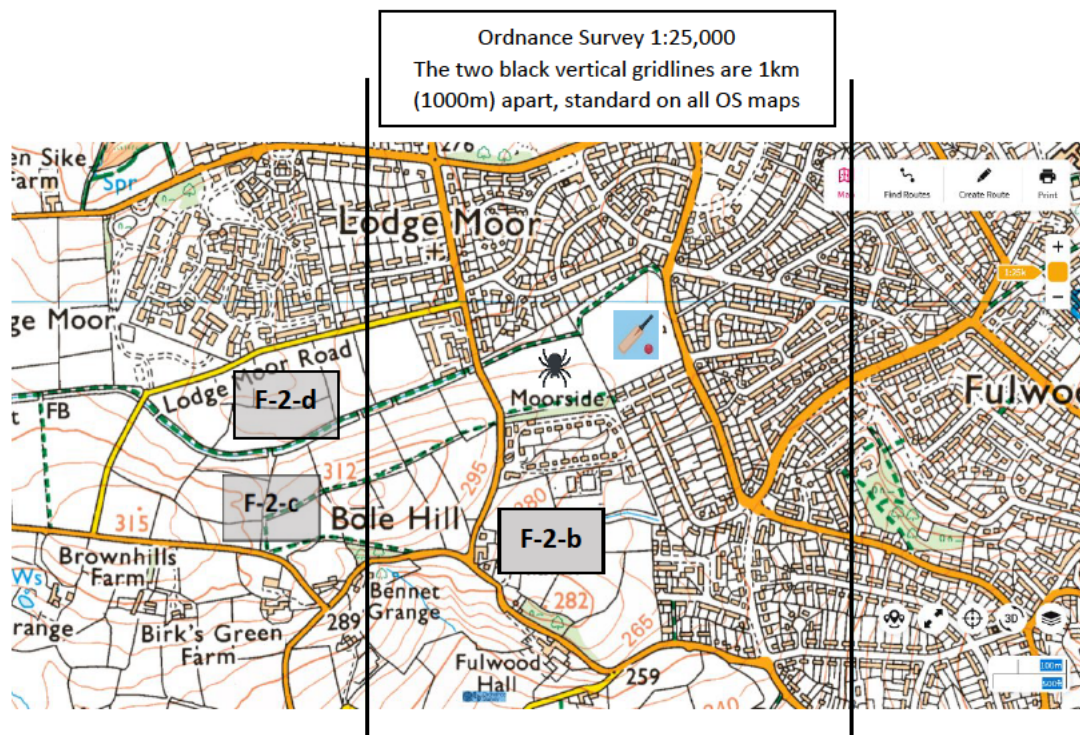
Submission for the designation of ‘Spider Park as a protected Local Green Space (LGS) for inclusion in the Sheffield Plan.



Introduction.

The parcel of land, known locally as Spider Park, lies between the sports field designated as C4SS01265 in *The Sheffield Plan Green Belt Review 2020*, and three parcels of existing Green Belt countryside shown in the map below as F-2-d, F-2-c and F-2-b. For clarity, we are using the phrase ‘Spider Park’ here to include:-

- the children’s playground, bordering Peterborough Road to the north,
- and the upward sloping grassy field leading towards Moorside and Crimicar Avenue in the south.

‘Spider Park’ is also bordered by Hallam Cricket club field in the east (C4SS01265) and by Blackbrook Road to the west. The relative positions of these areas are shown in the map below.



	‘Spider Park’ - the area for submission for designation as an LGS by Hallam Community & Youth Association (HCYA)
	Hallam Cricket Club - subject to a separate submission by the cricket club, which has the full support of HCYA. This sports field is shown in the current Sheffield Plan on page 62 as area C4SS01265
F-2-d	Green Belt ‘Parcels’ as shown in Appendix 5, page 63, of the Sheffield Plan, Green Belt Review, September 2020
F-2-c	
F-2-b	

The government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), updated 2021, lays out the mechanism by which local communities can lobby their local authority to provide the kind of protection from urban development, given by Green Belts, to smaller parcels of land important to these local communities. Government calls these protected parcels of land 'Local Green Spaces' (LGS). HCYA submit that the area known as 'Spider Park' should be awarded the status of an LGS. HCYA also supports the application by Hallam Cricket Club that their sports field (C4SS01265), bordering Spider Park and subject to a separate submission by the cricket club, should also be awarded LGS status.

Evidence

The NPPF also lays out the particular circumstances that qualify for the award of LGS status. HCYA has used a table format to provide evidence that we believe addresses these circumstances for the case of Spider Park.

NPPF asks what are the circumstances that qualify a piece of land for LGS status?	In the case of Spider Park
<p>1. Is the land reasonably close to the community it serves? The meaning of 'reasonably close' is open to interpretation, but various councils have already cited this to mean that people should be living within 400m to 600m of the proposed LGS.</p>	<p>We have highlighted two 1km gridlines on the OS map shown above. The distance between these two gridlines is 1000m. It is apparent that there are many hundreds of people living within half a kilometre of Spider Park. Incidentally this is also true of Hallam Cricket field.</p>
<p>2. The land has to be demonstrably special to the local community. NPPF are asking that the evidence of the land's value should be shown by its significance to the local community in terms of one or more of these criteria:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Beauty b. Historic significance c. Recreational value d. Tranquillity e. Richness of wildlife 	<p>HCYA would argue that the following criteria strongly suggest that Spider Park should be awarded LGS status:-</p> <p>c. Recreational value</p> <p>1. A popular and well-used children's playground (which gives the name to this area of land) has existed for many years. Built and funded originally by Sheffield City Council (SCC), the playground was in dire need of a serious make-over by the time of the millennium. HCYA fund-raised about £150k for its repair and renovation. This was completed in time for re-opening in 2001. HCYA were then given a 15-year lease on the playground, although any major on-going repairs were still funded by SCC. The lease lapsed in 2016, but HCYA still keep a 'parental' eye on the playground. Apart from the activities for younger children in the tarmacked and fenced off 'actual' playground, we also built a pair of football goalposts (one with a basketball hoop on the reverse side) and a seating and social area for teenagers. Both these were built on the grassy area leading uphill and away from the playground. Recently we gave SCC £1500 to pay for some vandal-proof wire nets for the goal posts. This was in response to concern from local parents that very few youngsters used the goal posts because there were no nets to stop the ball</p>

	<p>travelling far behind after shots on goal. I believe SCC are currently looking into improving the ground in front of the goals as well.</p> <p>It is difficult to under-estimate the importance of Spider Park for local parents with young children. On a good summer's day the park and surroundings are crowded with young families and grand-parents.</p> <p>2.The footpath in the northern edge of Spider Park is an important and natural link for walkers, runners and dog-owners on their way from housing in the east to more open countryside on the other side of Blackbrook Road (eg the conduit). As a walker and runner, myself, it seems that ever since the pandemic, there are considerably more people using this route across Spider Park for leisure activities.</p> <p>HCYA are of the opinion that the footpath through Spider Park, and the child-centred activities in the area itself, must be preserved for future local families and giving it LGS status is a vital way of doing this.</p> <p>d. Tranquility</p> <p>The grassy part of Spider Park, and the much less commonly used footpath through the small, wooded area at the southern (Moorside) edge of Spider Park provide an oasis of calm and a space for quiet reflection.</p> <p>e. Richness of wildlife</p> <p>SCC have deliberately avoided cutting the grass in a large area of the slope to increase the diversity of plants capable of growing there. HCYA think this approach is worthwhile and should be continued. Albeit in a small way, this must add to the variety of plants found there. Many years ago, HCYA were also involved in planting some new species of trees found in the small, wooded area referred to above in (d). And finally, the view across Spider Park, looking beyond Blackbrook Road and out towards Redmires, especially during a wild winter day, certainly adds an element of wild beauty (a) to the area.</p>
<p>3. The land has to be local in character and not an extensive tract of land, for example the area should be fairly self-contained and with clearly-defined edges.</p>	<p>Using the OS and 1km gridlines shown above, we can estimate that Spider Park is roughly rectangular, measuring c. 250m (east to west) x 200m (north to south). It is thus self-contained and it also has obvious and clearly defined edges.</p>