

## G. NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

### POLICY 16: Local Green Space

The sites in the Area listed below (a-o) and identified on Map 8 are all designated as Local Green Space:

- a) Fortune Green,
- b) Hampstead Cemetery,
- c) West End Green,
- d) Gondar Gardens Reservoir,
- e) Mill Lane Open Space,
- f) Westbere Copse & Jenny Wood Nature Reserve
- g) 1 Mill Lane/Minster Road Nature Reserve,
- h) Maygrove Peace Park,
- i) Hampstead & Cumberland Clubs,
- j) Sumatra Road playground,
- k) Iverson Road Open Space,
- l) Maygrove Open Space,
- m) Crown Close Open Space,
- n) Medley Orchard,
- o) Railway embankments (various locations).

**G1.** The NPPF states as a core planning principle (17) that planning should “contribute to **conserving and enhancing the natural environment** and reducing pollution”. It also states that “allocations of land for development should prefer land of lesser environmental value”.

**G2.** The Area has a number of green and open spaces which are highly valued by those who live and work in the Area, as well those who visit the Area. These areas shall be protected and enhanced (**Objective 6**). The NPPF (76) states that “local communities through local and neighbourhood plans should be able to identify for special protection green areas of particular importance to them. By designating land as **Local Green Space** local communities will be able to rule out new development other than in very special circumstances”. The sites listed in this section are all included and mapped in Camden Council’s Local Development Framework Proposals Map (2010). In a relatively densely developed urban community these sites have a vital role in providing an essential amenity, as well as space for exercise, relaxation and the appreciation of nature.

They all have a high environmental value, are local in character, are in close proximity to the community they serve, and provide important benefits to the biodiversity of the Area. They therefore fulfil the requirements set out in paragraph 77 of the NPPF.

This Plan uses the additional protection afforded in the NPPF to designate these sites as Local Green Space.



— Neighbourhood Boundary

■ Local Green Space



**Map 8: Local Green Space**

Neighbourhood Plan Map

Scale 1:2500 (A0)  
 0 125 250  
 Metres



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Details of the spaces and importance to the community are listed below:

- a) **Fortune Green (Queen Elizabeth II Field In Trust)** - a long standing public park which forms the focal point of the wider Fortune Green area and an important and significant local amenity.
- b) **Hampstead Cemetery is a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)** - a historical part of the wider area with significant heritage assets and listed structures (see A25) as well as an important area for biodiversity and wildlife.
- c) **West End Green (London Square)** - this public park forms the historic heart of the West Hampstead 'village' and dates from the previous hamlet of West End (see 2.2) and is vital asset to the community.
- d) **Gondar Gardens Reservoir (SINC)** - this large area of open space has a high environmental value, with significant biodiversity (including a habitat for protected slow-worms).
- e) **Mill Lane Open Space (SINC)** - this area provides an important local area of green space, as well as facilities for children and a garden centre.
- f) **Westbere Copse & Jenny Wood Nature Reserve (SINC)** - a well established nature site, providing a protected space for biodiversity with access to local residents.
- g) **1 Mill Lane/Minster Road Nature Reserve (SINC)** - this site was given to Camden Council as part of the development of 1 Mill Lane (The Mill Apartments); the site was designated as a protected nature reserve, with limited public access. The stated aim is that the site will become a significant location for biodiversity and wildlife in the years ahead.
- h) **Maygrove Peace Park** - this award-winning public park forms a focal point for the community in this part of the area. It has recently been upgraded to incorporate a children's play area, an outdoor gym, and new planting - and as such is a highly significant local asset.
- i) **Hampstead & Cumberland Clubs** - although in private ownership, these clubs provide an important local amenity, both in terms of opportunities for sport, exercise, and the provision of a significant area of green space.
- j) **Sumatra Road playground** - this small park provides an important site for recreation for local residents, particularly young children.
- k) **Iverson Road Open Space** - a small park with children's play areas which is well-used by local residents.
- l) **Maygrove Open Space** - a green strip of land on the north side of Maygrove Road, which provides an important space for trees and wildlife and makes a highly positive contribution to the character of Maygrove Road. Camden Council has stated that this site will be protected in any future redevelopment of the neighbouring Liddell Road site (see C1).
- m) **Crown Close Open Space** - a children's play area and small park providing an important amenity for local residents and for exercise.
- n) **Medley Orchard (SINC)** - a significant and protected space for biodiversity, trees and wildlife.
- o) **Railway embankments, various locations (SINC)** - as set out in G5 below, these sites provide hugely important spaces for biodiversity and wildlife and make a huge contribution to the 'green feel' of the Area, the number of trees in the Area, as well as to views through and across the Area (see A5 and Map 2).