

Dudley Local Plan Submission

Firstly, I would like to say thank you for the continued focus on protecting our green open spaces and including Corbett Meadow specifically.

My submission supports and repeats in an edited version, that of the Corbett Meadow Action groups representation as follows:

I **support** the following policies of the Dudley Local Plan published October 2024 under Regulation 19 of the Town & Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 :-

- **DLP LGS1 Corbett Meadow Local Green Space**
- **DLP 31 Nature Conservation** in particular the designation of Corbett Meadow as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation
- **DLP 60 Areas of High Historic Landscape Value** in particular the proposed designation of Corbett Hospital and the greenspace adjacent to it as AHHLV

Policy DLP LGS1 Corbett Meadow Local Green Space

The National Planning Policy Framework December 2023 (NPPF) states at para 106 that “The Local Green Space designation should only be used where the green space is ... demonstrably special to the local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value... tranquillity or richness of its wildlife ...”

Taking each criterion in turn:-

- that Corbett Meadow is special to the local community is amply demonstrated by the outcry over its proposed development, the weight of objections that were made against the subsequent planning application and the explicit support that its designation as LGS received when first mooted
- the Meadow sits above & rolls down into the Coalbournebrook Valley and is a key element of Amblecote's landscape & identity, and its beauty, both intrinsically and as a structural component of the character of the wider area, is self-evident but is also supported by Tree Preservation Orders and by SINC and AHHLV designations – see below
- its historic significance, from its earliest days as a rural hamlet, through to it being parkland associated with an eighteenth century mansion “The Hill” to the present day when it represents the only remaining greenspace of John Corbett's legacy is clearly special and well documented, most recently in “The Last Meadow” 2023 (see above)
- its recreational value has been demonstrated in the past through myriad uses by the local community. It is no longer accessible to the public but hold great potential for informal recreation, education, health & well-being. Indeed, the Friends of Corbett Meadow <https://www.friendsofcorbettmeadow.com/> vision & programme for delivery for the better use of the Meadow for public benefit is taking shape, led by the Stourbridge Community Land Trust and supported by local health practitioners
- the richness of the Meadow's wildlife is demonstrated by its upgrade from a SLINC (local interest) to SINC (regional significance) through a proper and fully evidenced process in October 2022. It is noted that the full site assessment is included in the Council's evidence base <https://www.dudley.gov.uk/media/joricypg/corbett-hospital-grounds-local-site-assessment-report-form-2022.pdf>

Therefore the proposed designation of Corbett Meadow as a Local Green Space is fully warranted, legally compliant and sound.

Policy DLP 31 Nature Conservation

CMAG support the hierarchy of protection for sites important for nature conservation as is required by para 181 of NPPF; and also support the designation of Corbett Meadow as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation.

As noted above, the Meadow was upgraded from a SLINC (local interest) to SINC (regional significance) through a proper and fully evidenced process in October 2022 <https://cmis.dudley.gov.uk/cm5/Meetings/tabid/116/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/543/Meeting/6444/Committee/468/SelectedTab/Documents/Default.aspx> and <http://planningdocuments.dudley.gov.uk/AnitePublicDocs/00655832.pdf> and so its protection as such is provided by the provisions of the adopted Black Country Core Strategy and Dudley Development Strategy.

However the Draft Local Plan provides the first opportunity for public & other stakeholder comment on the SINC designation; and so CMAG would wish to record here its full & strong support for such designation.

Again it is noted that the full site assessment is included in the Council's evidence base <https://www.dudley.gov.uk/media/joricypg/corbett-hospital-grounds-local-site-assessment-report-form-2022.pdf>

Therefore the proposed designation of Corbett Meadow as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation is fully warranted, legally compliant and sound.

Policy DLP 60 Areas of High Historic Landscape Value

CMAG support the designation of AHHLVs as providing necessary & appropriate protection for a key component of the Borough's heritage and character consistent with the provisions of paras 195 & 196 of NPPF; and in particular welcome the proposed designation of Corbett Hospital and the greenspace adjacent to it as AHHLV.

The historic interest & value of this area is comprehensively set out & referenced in "The Last Meadow" https://www.friendsofcorbettmeadow.com/files/ugd/db9101_caa75fad87264f0083a2639462dc62a8.pdf and need not be repeated here.

Therefore the proposed designation of Corbett Meadow as an Area of High Historic Landscape Value is fully warranted, legally compliant and sound.

End.