

BLACON NEIGHBOURHOOD ALLIANCE
The Designated Neighbourhood Forum for Blacon

BLACON GREEN SPACES

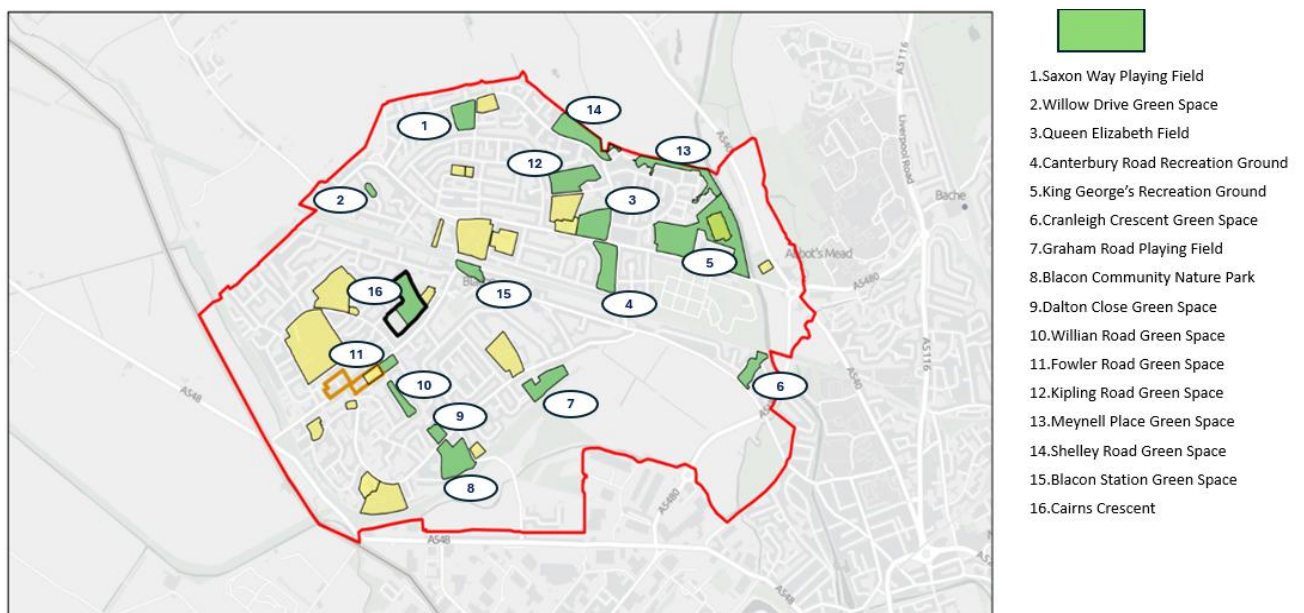
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Introduction

Blacon's network of green spaces plays a vital role in the health, wellbeing, and community life of local residents. From large, multi-functional recreation grounds to smaller neighbourhood greens, these spaces offer safe, accessible places for sport, play, relaxation, and social connection. In a community with high housing density and many households without private gardens, the availability of nearby green spaces is especially important.

The Blacon Neighbourhood Plan recognises this value by designating a number of sites as Local Green Spaces under Policy BLACON4. This designation gives them strong protection, equivalent to Green Belt status, ensuring they can continue to serve future generations. Each site has been identified using national criteria, informed by local consultation and a detailed review of open spaces carried out by the Blacon Neighbourhood Alliance.

This document sets out the evidence for each proposed Local Green Space designation. It explains why each site is of particular importance to the community, highlights its current uses, and describes how it contributes to local quality of life, biodiversity, and the distinctive character of Blacon. By formally recognising and protecting these spaces, the BCNP aims to maintain and enhance the environmental, recreational, and social benefits they provide.



1. Saxon Way Playing Field



Saxon Way Playing Field is a large, open green space located within a residential area of Blacon. It provides a safe and accessible environment for children and families to enjoy a wide range of outdoor activities. The field includes a well-maintained children's play area, equipped with play equipment that encourages physical activity, social interaction, and imaginative play. Additionally, goalposts are permanently erected on the open grass, offering space for informal football games and encouraging young people to be active within their own neighbourhood.

Surrounded by housing and easily reached by foot, this green space acts as an informal community hub, used daily for casual play, dog walking, and neighbourly interaction. Its size and layout make it especially valuable for unstructured recreation, giving local children a safe alternative to playing near roads or in unsuitable urban spaces.

Designating Saxon Way Playing Field as a Local Green Space will help ensure this much-needed area remains protected from future development, allowing it to continue serving as an essential space for sport, play, and wellbeing in the Blacon community.

2. Willow Drive Green Space

Willow Drive Green Space is a small but significant amenity area situated within the Willow Drive residential area in Blacon. The green space is surrounded by approximately 35 properties, providing immediate access to a natural environment for local residents. This open space offers a safe and accessible area for informal recreation, children's play, and community gatherings. Its presence is particularly valuable in a densely populated area where private gardens may be limited, offering residents a communal area for relaxation and social interaction. The green space contributes to the overall green infrastructure of Blacon, supporting local biodiversity and enhancing the visual appeal of the neighbourhood. Protecting Willow Drive Green Space from future development is essential to maintain the quality of life for residents and to preserve the environmental and social benefits it provides.

3. Queen Elizabeth Field



Queen Elizabeth Field is a well-used and much-loved green space situated in the heart of Blacon. It provides a safe, welcoming, and easily accessible area for sport, recreation, and a wide range of community activities. The space is regularly enjoyed by residents of all ages and supports informal games, children's play, dog walking, and social gatherings.

As one of the few large open green spaces in the area, the field plays a vital role in promoting physical health and mental wellbeing, particularly for young people and families. Community engagement platforms, such as local Facebook groups, frequently showcase the field being used for seasonal events like the Blacon Festival, underlining its social and cultural importance to the area.

Although the field previously offered a full-sized grass football pitch, these are no longer actively used. However, the site remains an essential community asset due to its size, versatility, and informal character. Without any commercial or institutional restrictions, it is freely accessible and inclusive, making it a popular and much-valued space for everyday use.

Designating Queen Elizabeth Field as a Local Green Space will ensure it is safeguarded from future development and continues to provide vital health, environmental, and social benefits to the people of Blacon for years to come.



4. Canterbury Road Recreation Ground



Canterbury Road Recreation Ground is a well-established, multi-functional green space located in the heart of Blacon. It plays a vital role in supporting physical activity, social connection, and community cohesion for residents of all ages. In 2019, the play area was significantly refurbished, enhancing safety and inclusivity and creating a welcoming environment for children and families.

The site also features a large open field with two permanent football pitches, which are regularly used by local residents and community football teams for training and recreational matches. In early 2025, Blacon Youth FC launched a new girls' football team based at this site, offering essential opportunities for young female players to train and compete within their own community. The ground has also proven itself to be a successful venue for large-scale community events, most notably Blacon's Platinum Jubilee Festival in 2022, which brought together families, local organisations and residents in a joyful celebration of community pride.

This substantial green space provides an essential escape from the densely built environment of the surrounding estate. Families gather, children play safely away from traffic, and local groups make use of the area for outdoor events, sporting activities, such as football, and social activities. For many residents, especially those without access to private gardens, it offers their only nearby access to open green space. This connection to nature supports mental well-being and creates a stronger sense of belonging and resilience within the community.

Like other valued parks on the Blacon Estate, Canterbury Road Recreation Ground promotes not only well-being and environmental health, but also social cohesion and biodiversity. It provides a safe, welcoming space for informal recreation and shared community use. Development on this land would erase these vital benefits, diminishing quality of life and undermining the social and environmental fabric of the neighbourhood.

Designating Canterbury Road Recreation Ground as a Local Green Space will help safeguard it against future development and ensure that it continues to support the physical, mental, and social wellbeing of Blacon residents for generations to come.

5. King George's Recreation Ground



King George's Recreation Ground is a key green space in Blacon, offering high-quality recreational and sporting facilities for local residents. In 2023, significant improvement works were carried out on the site, including the upgrading and rotation of the main grass pitch to enhance its quality and maximise the recreational value of the surrounding area. Although initially planned as a grass football pitch, the site now features a rugby pitch, complete with new drainage, re-seeding, levelling, and the creation of a small grass viewing bank for spectators. These enhancements were designed to improve the durability and usability of the field for community sport, while maintaining open green areas for dog walking, informal play, and outdoor exercise.

The site remains largely accessible to the public. A children's playground is also located on-site, providing a safe and well-used space for younger residents. In addition, the refurbished pavilion received new changing room benches in 2023, further improving the facilities for sports teams and visitors.

King George's is also home to Chester FC Community Trust, which manages the adjacent 4G artificial pitches. This close proximity to a hub of community sport and development programmes reinforces the strategic value of the site for health, fitness, and social cohesion.

Designating King George's Recreation Ground as a Local Green Space will ensure it remains protected from inappropriate development and continues to serve as a cornerstone of sport, play, and wellbeing for the Blacon community.

6. Cranleigh Crescent Green Space



Cranleigh Crescent Green Space is a vital amenity, providing residents with a nearby open area that supports informal recreation, children's play and everyday relaxation. Surrounded by residential housing, the site enables families to access greenery without the need to travel. Locally the green space offers a safe and accessible setting for children's kicking-about, dog walking, meeting neighbours and enjoying fresh air. Retaining and designating Cranleigh Crescent Green Space as a Local Green Space will secure its value for outdoor activity, community cohesion and mental wellbeing, safeguarding it from future development pressures and ensuring it remains a shared asset for current and future residents.

7. Graham Road Playing Field



Graham Road Playing Field is a well-used and valued green space in the heart of a residential area in Blacon. In 2018, the site benefited from a significant upgrade to its play area, with new equipment installed through a partnership between Avenue Services and Cheshire West and Chester Council. This investment created a more stimulating and inclusive environment for children, enhancing the play value and safety of the space for families in the area.

Alongside the formal play area, the field provides a large, open grassed space used informally for games, picnics, dog walking, and community gatherings. Surrounded by housing, the playing field is especially important for those without access to private gardens and offers a safe, traffic-free location for outdoor recreation and social interaction.

The green space also contributes positively to the environmental quality of the neighbourhood, acting as a green lung within the urban landscape. Its continued popularity and the community-led improvements made in recent years highlight its importance to residents.

Designating Graham Road Playing Field as a Local Green Space will safeguard this vital community asset from future development, ensuring that it remains a place for play, relaxation, and neighbourhood connection for generations to come.

8. Blacon Community Nature Park



Blacon Community Nature Park is a highly valued green space that combines environmental, social, and educational benefits in the heart of the community. It serves as a natural sanctuary for a wide variety of wildlife, supporting local biodiversity through its open meadows, woodland areas, and purpose-built habitats such as bug hotels and bird nesting boxes. These features have been developed and maintained with the help of local volunteers, underlining the park's deep community roots.

The park includes a network of accessible footpaths that allow residents to explore and enjoy nature on their doorstep, providing crucial opportunities for outdoor activity, mindfulness, and connection to the natural environment. It is especially important for residents living in nearby high-density housing, where access to private green space is limited.

The space is actively used for community-led activities such as regular litter picks, nature walks, school visits, and educational workshops. Its dedicated Facebook page demonstrates consistent local engagement and ongoing support from residents and partner organisations. As one of the few designated nature-focused spaces in Blacon, it plays a vital role in promoting environmental stewardship, physical wellbeing, and social cohesion.

Designating Blacon Community Nature Park as a Local Green Space will ensure its protection from future development and preserve its unique ecological and community value for generations to come.

9. Dalton Close Green Space



Dalton Close Green Space is a modest but well-utilised green area located within a quiet residential cul-de-sac in Blacon. Framed by a cluster of homes on three sides, the space serves as an informal communal area that provides essential outdoor access for families and individuals, particularly those without private gardens. The open layout allows for safe play, casual ball games, dog walking, and social interaction between neighbours, fostering a strong sense of community.

Its peaceful setting, set back from main roads, offers a safe and easily accessible outdoor environment for children and older residents alike. The green space also contributes to the visual character and environmental quality of the area, softening the built environment and supporting local biodiversity.

Designating Dalton Close Green Space as a Local Green Space will help preserve its role as a valued community asset and ensure that it continues to enhance the wellbeing, connectivity, and quality of life for residents in this part of Blacon.

10. Willian Road Green Space



William Road Green Space is a small but valued open area located within the residential setting of William Road in Blacon. Like the nearby green spaces at Dalton Close and Willow Drive, it provides an important communal area for local residents, many of whom have limited or no access to private gardens. The space is used informally by children for outdoor play and by families and neighbours as a convenient place to meet, relax, and enjoy the outdoors. Its open nature and central location within the housing area make it a safe and accessible environment for everyday recreation. The space also contributes to local biodiversity, helps to break up the built environment, and improves the overall visual appeal of the street. Protecting William Road Green Space through Local Green Space designation will ensure that this valued community asset remains available to support residents' wellbeing, foster social connections, and provide vital access to green space in the heart of the estate.

11. Fowler Road Green Space



Fowler Road Green Space is a well-used open area situated at the junction of Fowler Road, Western Avenue, Chevron Hey, and Wemyss Road. Its central location makes it easily accessible to a wide number of residents from surrounding streets, acting as a shared green space that bridges multiple roads. The space is frequently used for informal play and dog walking, and there is a public bench installed, offering a convenient resting point for pedestrians, especially older residents or those walking longer routes. Given its position along key walking routes, the green also provides a welcome visual break from the urban landscape, contributing to both the aesthetics and environmental quality of the area. In a community where garden space is limited for many households, Fowler Road Green Space is particularly important for promoting physical activity, mental wellbeing, and social interaction. Designating this site as a Local Green Space will protect it from future development and ensure it continues to benefit local residents and enhance the area's character.

12. Kipling Road Green Space



Kipling Road Green Space is a substantial open area located within a residential part of Blacon. Although currently fenced off and not in active public use, the land offers significant potential as a community asset. Its size and location make it particularly well-suited for recreational purposes, including the development of grassroots football facilities. If formally designated and protected, the space could accommodate junior-sized football pitches and provide a vital base for youth and community sports teams in the area.

The site could also support the installation of a secure container for storing equipment such as portable goalposts and nets, ensuring the space can be used effectively and safely by local groups. The protection and activation of this land would help address the growing demand for accessible, community-run sports facilities in Blacon, particularly for young people.

Designating the Kipling Road site as a Local Green Space would prevent future development that could permanently remove this opportunity, and instead safeguard the land for future generations to enjoy structured sport, physical activity, and improved community wellbeing.

13. Meynell Place Green Space



Meynell Place Green Space is a well-used and versatile area that plays a significant role in supporting the recreational and wellbeing needs of residents in this part of Blacon.

The green space is bordered on one side by a road and row of residential properties and framed by mature trees and shrubbery on the other, providing both natural beauty and a sense of enclosure and safety. A pathway runs through the space, offering a convenient and scenic route for pedestrians and dog walkers alike.

The site includes a small children's play area equipped with a climbing frame and swings, and also features a fenced basketball court, which provides a valuable outlet for older children and teenagers to play and socialise in a safe, outdoor setting. The court supports informal sporting activity and promotes physical exercise and community engagement among young people, helping to reduce anti-social behaviour by offering a dedicated recreational outlet.

The green space also backs onto wider open fields, adding to its visual appeal and strengthening its connection with the natural landscape. As a multi-functional space that caters to a range of age groups and activities, Meynell Place Green Space is particularly valuable to local residents, especially those without access to private gardens. It supports physical activity, mental wellbeing, and informal community interaction on a daily basis.

Designating Meynell Place as a Local Green Space will ensure this essential neighbourhood asset is protected from development, allowing it to continue benefiting the Blacon community for years to come.

14. Shelley Road Green Space



Shelley Road Green Space is a valuable and well-situated open area in Blacon, bordered on one side by a row of houses and on the other by mature trees and shrubbery. It backs onto a larger expanse of open green fields, which visually extends the landscape and provides a sense of openness for nearby residents. The space lies adjacent to a main road and is positioned along a key bus route, making it highly visible and accessible to the wider community.

A well-used pathway runs alongside the green space, offering a pleasant walking route for pedestrians, dog walkers, and those accessing local amenities or public transport. The green itself provides an important visual and environmental buffer between the residential area and the traffic of Shelley Road, enhancing the local streetscape and contributing to a calmer, greener neighbourhood environment.

For nearby residents, particularly those without access to private gardens, Shelley Road Green Space is a valued location for informal play, relaxation, and everyday connection to nature. Designating this area as a Local Green Space will help protect it from future development and ensure it continues to deliver environmental, aesthetic, and community benefits to Blacon for generations to come.

15. Blacon Station Green Space



Blacon Station Green Space is a linear, historically significant area located on the former site of Blacon Railway Station, which once served the local community before its closure. Today, the space forms a gateway to the Blacon Cycle Path, a well-used traffic-free route that provides safe access for pedestrians and cyclists travelling to and from the city centre and surrounding areas.

This green corridor not only offers a practical transport link but also preserves a sense of local heritage, with the station's former location contributing to the area's character and identity. The green space is bordered by trees and vegetation, supporting local biodiversity and offering a peaceful, natural environment in contrast to the urban surroundings.

Its connection to the wider cycle network encourages sustainable travel, physical activity, and outdoor recreation, making it especially valuable to families, commuters, and recreational users. The space also provides an informal walking route and a place for rest and reflection, helping to promote mental and physical wellbeing.

Designating Blacon Station Green Space as a Local Green Space will ensure the protection of this historically and strategically important site, preserving its ecological, recreational, and transport value for the Blacon community.

16. Cairns Crescent Playing Field



Cairns Crescent Playing Field is a long-standing and highly valued open space located in the heart of Blacon. It plays a vital role in supporting the physical, social, and emotional wellbeing of local residents, serving as a hub for grassroots football, school sports, informal recreation, and community activity. The site is home to a full-sized football pitch and two 7-a-side pitches, and also includes a youth centre and a children's play area that has long been central to local family life.

Recognising community concerns over the current condition of the play area, the CWaC has committed to funding its refurbishment to ensure that it remains safe, inclusive, and accessible to all residents. Investment in the existing facility is both urgent and appropriate, given that the proposed Indoor Sports and Community Hub, subject to approval via the Neighbourhood Development Order (NDO), may take several years to move from referendum to delivery. Any future relocation of the play area as part of the development can be carefully planned and budgeted for in due course.

Formal designation of Cairns Crescent as a Local Green Space under the Blacon Community Neighbourhood Plan will safeguard this much-loved public amenity from inappropriate development and ensure its continued use for outdoor recreation and community benefit. The protection aligns with the BCNP's core objectives to enhance Blacon's green infrastructure, promote active lifestyles, and respond to the needs of residents, particularly children, young people, and families, who rely on access to high-quality, local open spaces.