

APPENDIX 5 LOCAL GREEN SPACES EVIDENCE BASE

The two parts of Daleacre Hill were selected as Local Green Spaces on the basis of their value to the community as demonstrated by:

- the Open Event held in October 2021 in preparation for the launch of the preparation of the Plan. Daleacre Hill was the area in the Parish most highly rated for its value for recreation and views
- the Questionnaire processed in November 2021. Daleacre Hill received the highest number of nominations as a candidate Local Green Space with substantive supporting comments.
- the Environmental Inventory survey carried out between March and July 2022. Daleacre Hill achieved the highest scores* against the relevant NPPF 2021 Local Green Space criteria, as follows:

INVENTORY MAP REFERENCE	DESCRIPTION / EVIDENCE	NPPF (2021) CRITERIA FOR LOCAL GREEN SPACE ASSESSMENT							TOTAL /25
		LOCAL: BOUNDED, NOT EXTENSIVE YES/NO	PROXIMITY 0 - 5	SPECIAL TO COMMUNITY (<10)			LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE (<10)		
				BEAUTY 0 - 3	TRANQUIL 0 - 2	REC. VALUE 0 - 5	HISTORY 0 - 5	WILDLIFE 0 - 5	
022 023	Daleacre Hill, Lockington	Yes	3	3	2	3	3	3	17

Area: 14.8 ha

Privately owned

Daleacre Hill is an outlier of the elevated plateau to the south of the Plan Area. It commands extensive views from west through north to east, including the villages themselves, and is a feature shared by both communities that defines the landscape of the area and affords part of the sense of place for residents. Locals know it as ‘Dalagger’, suggesting that the modern spelling of the name may be a misinterpretation of an original Old Norse name. The District Council Ward is called Daleacre Hill in recognition of the feature’s local significance and familiarity.

Important as part of the *setting* of Lockington village: the *Conservation Area Appraisal and Study* for Lockington notes that ‘the village ... is dominated on its western side by Daleacre Hill’, while ‘good views into the Conservation Area are obtained ... from the eastern side of Daleacre Hill’.

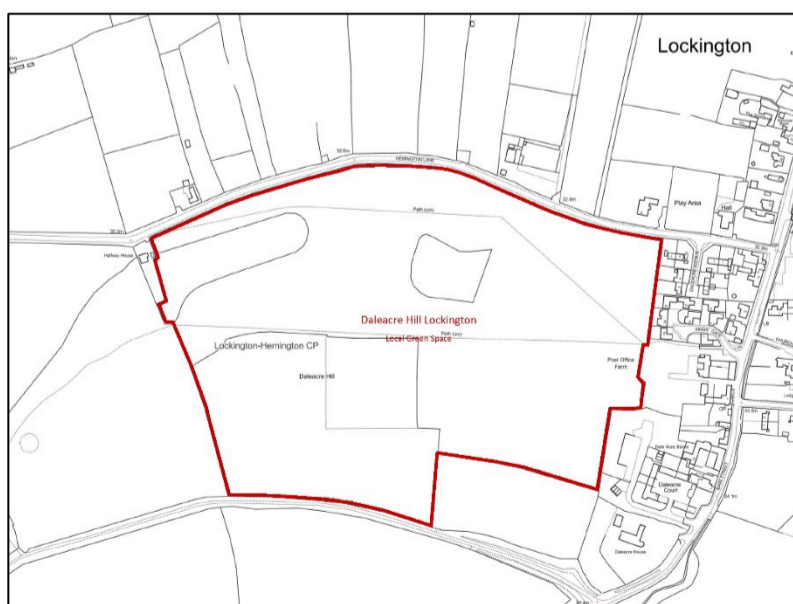
Access via LCC definitive footpaths L76 and L77, and parts of it also via several well-established (but not Definitive RoW) paths; other smaller areas have no formal public access but are part of the same visual space. The more popular path is the direct route over the top of the hill, with a lesser-used path running closer to the northern boundary, interrupted by a short diversion around Halfway House. Photographs taken around 1900 show that the main path was a popular feature at that time, and it was probably used well before that as a functional route between the villages as well as for recreation. The photographs also show that the woodland of Bainbrigg’s Folly, at the top of the hill, was a popular resting point with seats situated alongside the path overlooking the near and far views to the north. Today, the paths are used extensively by pedestrians, particularly dog walkers, with occasional horse riders and cyclists.

Three areas of ridge and furrow on grazed pasture fields.

The site has been part of the manorial, agricultural and recreational landscape of the parish since medieval times, with surviving evidence for arable farming (ridge and furrow) under the post-Enclosure pastures. Bainbrigg’s Folly (named for a family who owned the Lockington Estate and lived in Lockington Hall) dates from the late 19th century; it was felled in the 1940s but replanted in the 1960s, is now maturing coniferous and (mostly) deciduous woodland.

The topography has made the north-facing slopes of Daleacre Hill the traditional sledding field for Lockington. The site has also been a traditional venue for village events, including celebrations for VE day in 1945.

On the lower slope nearer the road there is a second wooded area of coniferous (north part) and deciduous (the rest). An 1883 OS map shows an icehouse in the NE corner of these trees, and it was known locally as Icehouse Wood. This section is part of **Local Wildlife Site 62232** (see 024/025) **Hemington grassland** for mesotrophic grassland, scrub, woodland, *Trifolium striatum*; it is also **Priority Habitat** deciduous woodland (Natural England designation). Several BAP species birds (farmland and woodland, raptors and owls), bats, other mammals. The hedgerow forming the southern boundary (with Dark Lane, formally Church Lane) is a mature (probably on a pre-Enclosure boundary), species rich (8 species) feature of locally high biodiversity value.



LOCATION



View northeast from Daleacre Hill, Lockington village in foreground



Daleacre Hill from Lockington (view southwest). Bainbrigg’s Folly woodland on the left hilltop



Woodland (Priority Habitat and LWS) and traditional pasture with ridge and furrow, viewed from Hemington Lane (Creative Commons rights)



Bainbrigge's Folly woodland in 1900, showing the long history of permissive public access to the site for recreation (local collection)

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				BEAUTY 0-3	TRANQUIL 0-2	REC. VALUE 0-5	HISTORY 0-5	WILDLIFE 0-5	
024 025	Daleacre Hill, Hemington	Yes	3	3	2	3	3	3	17

Area: 6.8 ha

Owned by Smisby Parochial Charity, under private agricultural tenancy

Two areas of permanent pasture with scrub and trees on the steep slope between them.

Daleacre Hill is an outlier of the elevated plateau to the south of the Plan Area. It commands extensive views from west through north to east, including the villages themselves, and is a feature shared by both communities that defines the landscape of the area and affords part of the sense of place for residents. Locals know it as 'Dalagger', suggesting that the modern spelling of the name may be a misinterpretation of an original Old Norse name. The District Council Ward is called Daleacre Hill in recognition of the feature's local significance and familiarity.

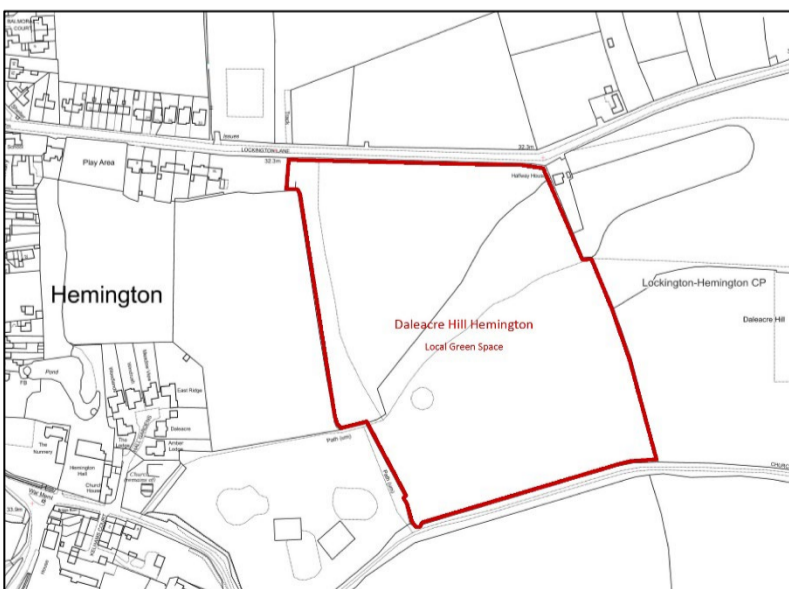
Access via LCC definitive footpaths L76 and L77, and parts of it also via several well-established (but not Definitive RoW) paths; other areas have no public access (necessitated by farming practice) but are part of the same visual space. The more popular path is the direct route over the top of the hill, with a lesser-used path running closer to the northern boundary, interrupted by a short diversion around Halfway House. Photographs taken around 1900 show that the main path was a popular feature at that time, and it was probably used well before that as a functional route between the villages as well as for recreation.

Two areas of ridge and furrow on the grazed pasture fields. That on the southern part is the best-preserved in the parish, with 24 well-defined ridges averaging 7 metres between crests and with 1-metre deep furrows.

The site has been part of the manorial, agricultural and recreational landscape of the parish since medieval times, with surviving evidence for arable farming (ridge and furrow) under the post-Enclosure pastures.

The whole site is covered by **Local Wildlife Sites LWS 71744 Hemington pasture** for mesotrophic grassland and **62232** (part; see 023/024) **Hemington grassland** for mesotrophic grassland, scrub, woodland, *Trifolium striatum*.

A large part of the character of the site is derived from the quality and diversity of the trees and hedgerows. On the north-west side of the hill, a densely wooded area runs parallel with and close to Lockington Lane from near Halfway House to Hemington as a mix of woodland and scrubland on a steep slope. Extensive bramble bushes are good habitat for whitethroats and other warblers and provide a rich supply of blackberries for local people. The hedgerow forming the southern boundary (with Dark Lane, formally Church Lane) is a mature (probably on a pre-Enclosure boundary), species rich (8 species) feature of locally high biodiversity value.



LOCATION



Daleacre Hill from Lockington Lane



Well-preserved ridge and furrow



Daleacre Hill (in distance) seen from Lady's Close, Hemington, 1906 (local collection)

*St Nicholas churchyard scores higher but is already comprehensively protected through the planning system by statutory designations, regulations and legislation

MAIN FEATURES OF THE TWO LOCAL GREEN SPACES

