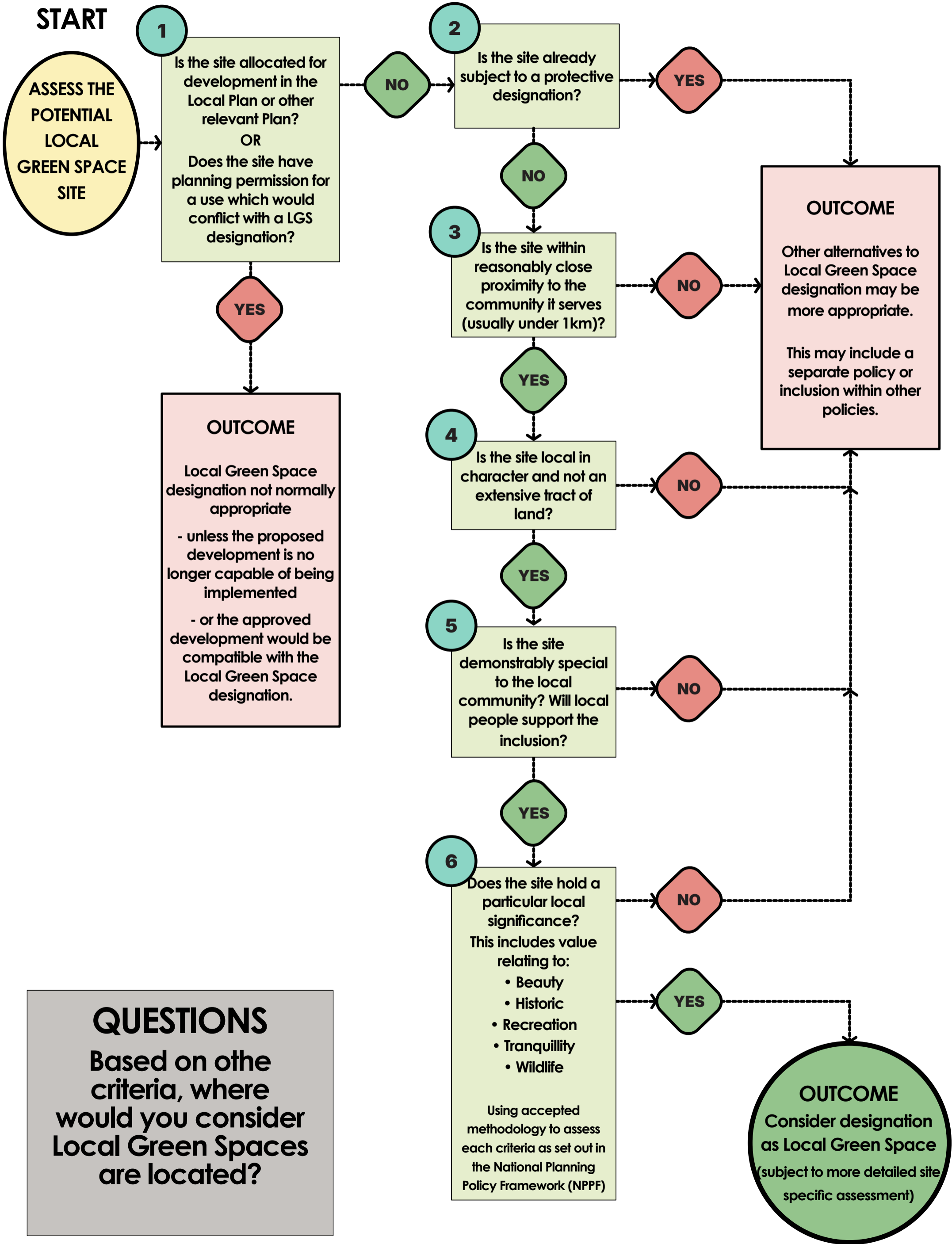


How to Assess a Local Green Space



What is an Important View?

- In the context of neighbourhood planning, '**Important Views**' refer to views or panoramas that are considered significant to the character and quality of the area.
- These views can be either natural or built-environment based
- They often contribute to the sense of place and amenity within a community.

Can you Provide Examples of Important Views?

Clearly this can be a subjective matter, but there are criteria to set out what is or is not considered to be 'important'. However, some generally accepted important views often contain:

- **Scenic vistas:** Panoramic views of the countryside, hills, or rivers. In this instance this could include the North Wessex Downs.
- **Historic landscapes:** Views of significant buildings, monuments, or archaeological sites.
- **Parish Character and Built Form:** Views of the villages with their distinctive architecture and design.
- **Natural features:** Views of trees, woodlands, rivers, or other natural elements that contribute to the area's character. These have been identified in our Biodiversity section

What Will Protection of these Views Mean?

Once identified, important views will be protected through neighbourhood plan policies and design codes. This may involve:

- Limiting development that could obstruct or degrade the view.
- Protecting significant trees and hedgerows and other natural features that contribute to the visual quality of the view.
- Maintaining existing public access to viewpoints and their enhancement where appropriate.
- Educational initiatives: Raising awareness of the importance of these views and encouraging their appreciation.

QUESTIONS

Based on othe criteria, where would you consider important views are located?

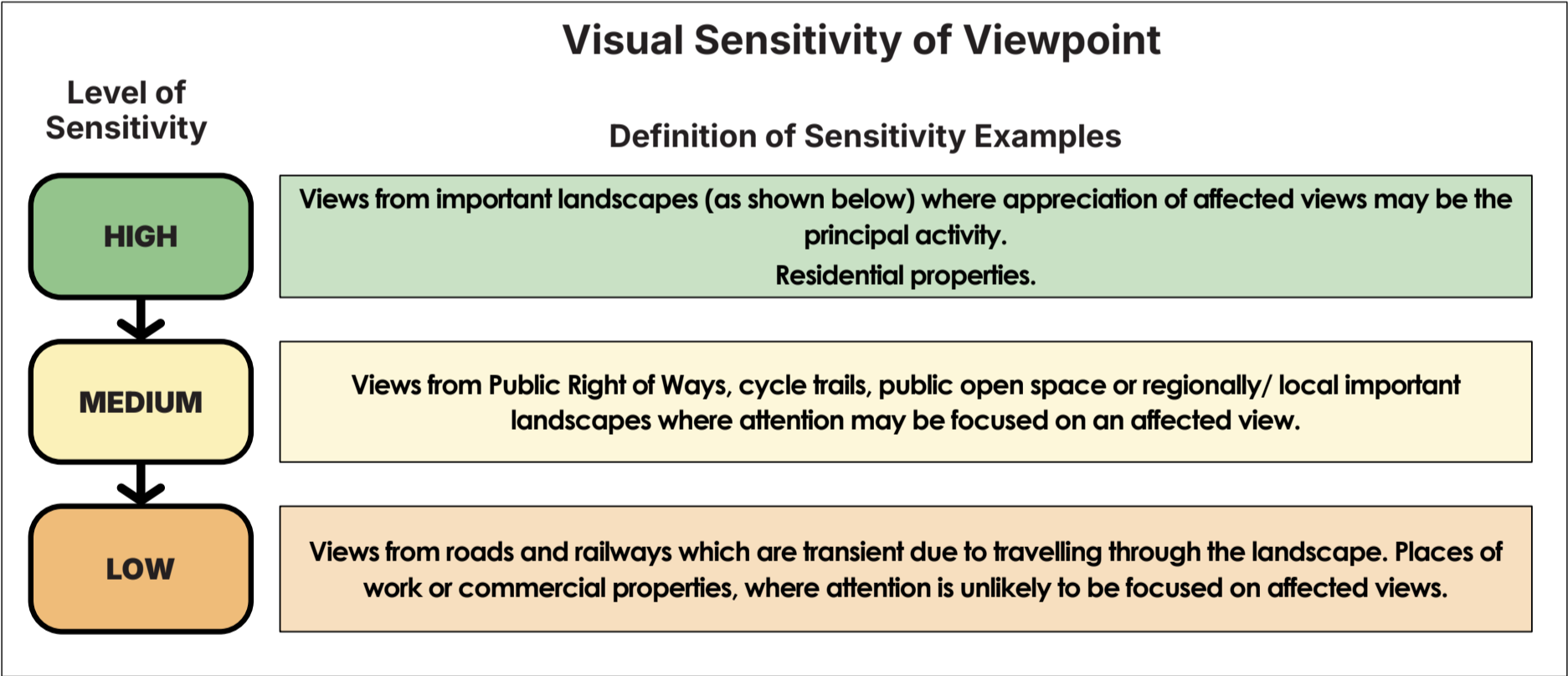
These can be countryside views or urban views, particularly of heritage assets, but must be public from roads and paths and not private views.



Criteria for Identifying Important Views:

The Landscape Institute provides guidance for identifying important views in neighbourhood plans. Key criteria include:

- **Visual Quality:** The view should possess exceptional visual appeal, offering a sense of awe, wonder, or aesthetic pleasure.
- **Distinctiveness:** The view should be unique or rare, standing out from surrounding landscapes due to its composition, elements, or cultural significance.
- **Cultural or Historical Significance:** The view may hold cultural or historical value, being associated with significant events, people, or landmarks.
- **Community Importance:** The view should be valued by the local community, with evidence of its significance in shaping the area's identity and character.
- **Accessibility:** The view should be accessible to the public, allowing for its enjoyment and appreciation.
- **Vulnerability:** The view should be assessed for its susceptibility to change or development pressures. Views that are particularly vulnerable to negative impacts may require additional protection.



Local Heritage

What Are Listed Buildings?

- Grade I: Buildings of exceptional interest, often unique or nationally important.
- Grade II*: Buildings of particular national importance, demonstrating special architectural or historical interest.
- Grade II: Buildings of special interest, warranting preservation.

Historic England provides a comprehensive database of listed buildings in England, including their grade, location, and historical significance. You can search for listed buildings in your area using their online database:

<https://historicengland.org.uk/>

What Are Non-Designated Heritage Assets?

In addition to these, the community can propose locally significant heritage assets, known as non-designated heritage assets. These can be buildings, monuments, sites, place or landscapes with significance to be noted in planning decisions.

The criteria for designation is shown on the adjacent table.

How is Asset Identification Helpful?

The identification of these can be used to develop policies within the neighbourhood plan to protect and enhance non-designated heritage assets.

It can enable design guidelines that allow for sensitive development or extension.

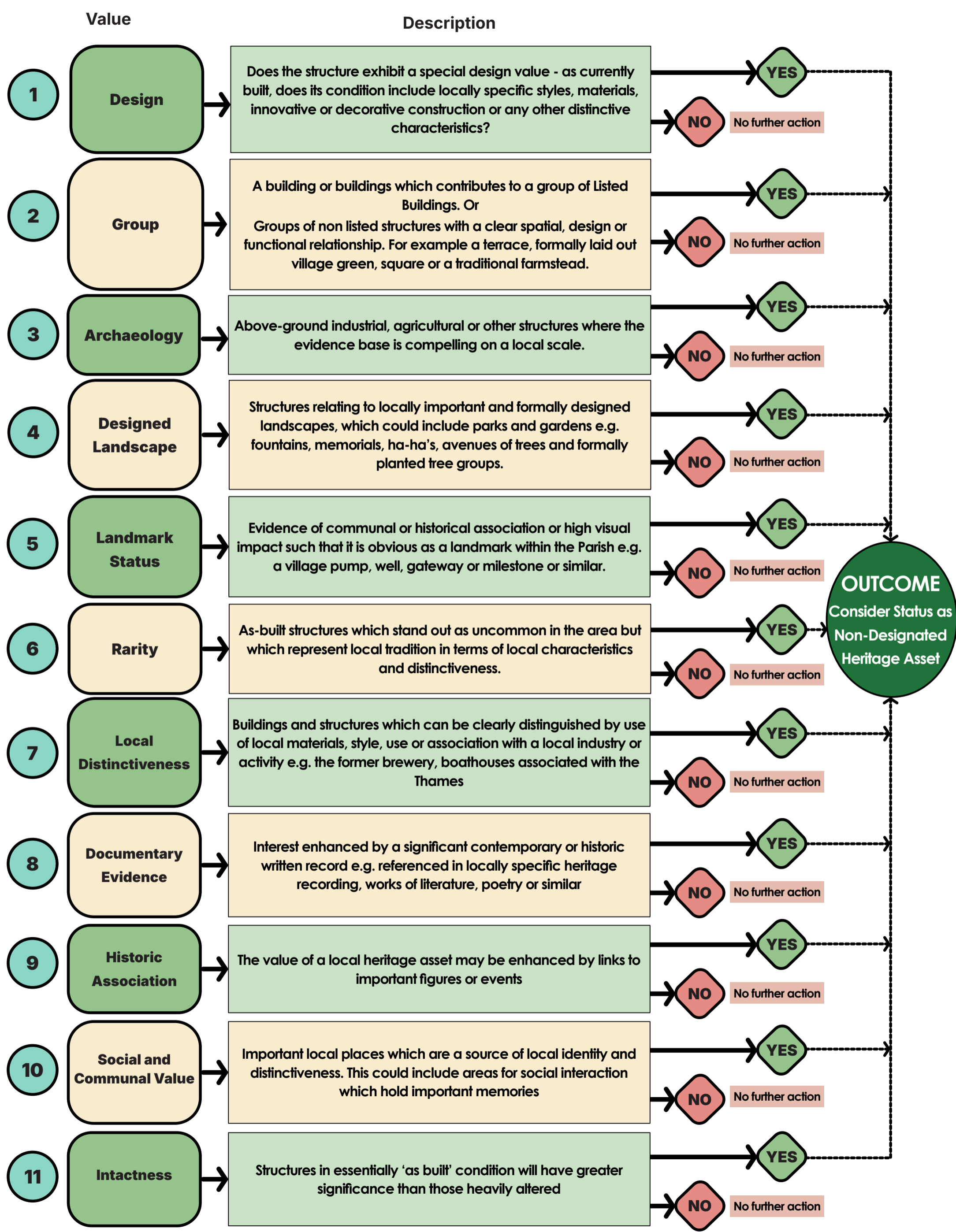
The status will be taken into account as a material consideration within planning applications that may affect the area or the surrounding environment.

QUESTIONS

Based on the criteria are there any non-designated heritage assets in the area?



Criteria for Assessing Non-Designated Heritage Assets Sites



Design

What is a Design Code?

A design code sets out a number of rules for new developments in a simple concise and illustrated way which is specific to your parish area.

They are often divided into different elements such as codes for household and small scale development, for businesses or for large scale development for example.

These are based on the an analysis of the character of an area and identifying what makes it special or appealing. These elements along with a series of other factors are used to create a Code which is specific to your local area.

The Design Code and any Character Appraisal of the Parish would be based on the National Design Guide which was published in 2019 and National Model Design Code in 2020. Whilst a lot guidance in the documents relates to a more urban environment than the Plan Area, there is also lot of guidance that can be used at Parish level. In general, they set out the characteristics of well designed places and demonstrates what good design means in principle and in practice.

Who Will Use it?

It is intended to be used by local authorities in determining applications and by the Parish Council and the local community in responding to proposals.

It is equally important for applicants and developers when drawing up their proposals allowing them to understand and establish design expectations.

Why do we Need it?

It is really important that we retain the elements of the Parish which make it unique and so valued by our community.

A Character Appraisal and Design Code identifies the key elements of design and appearance of buildings in the Parish including their materials, which is extremely important. As is how they are laid out around our green spaces, our mature trees and hedgerows.

This updates any previous work undertaken.

How Have we Responded to Climate Change?

With VoWHDC having declared a Climate Emergency, a section of the Design Code would look at sustainability and climate change for new development.

This would be undertaken through a number of different methods including:

- Responsive design
- Using the individual site characteristics (such as maximising sun and shade)
- Use of thermally efficient materials and design of buildings
- Rainwater harvesting and greywater recycling
- Renewable energy technologies

The appropriateness of each will depend on location and other factors such as landscape and heritage designations for example.