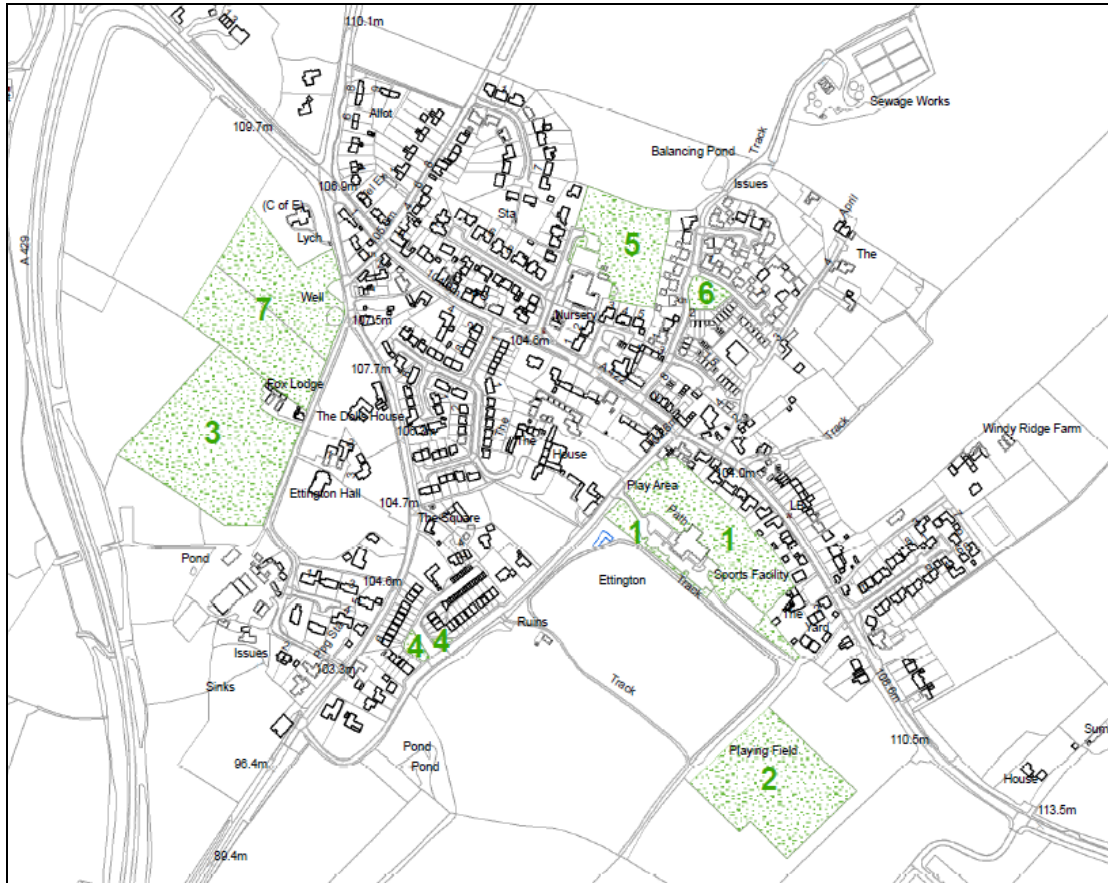


**Ettington and Fulready Neighbourhood Development Plan
Local Green Space Site Assessment - April 2017**

Site Address	Site Area	Site Ref
Land West of Rookery Lane, Banbury Road	Approx. 2ha	LGS E7

Plan



Site Description and Current Land Use

The site consists of a parcel of land fronting Rookery Lane which is currently used for equestrian purposes. The site is surrounded by land in the same use. The site is contained by a native hedgerow. There are clear and distinctive signs of ancient ridge and furrow on the site.

Recent and Relevant Planning History

None

Site Ownership

Private

Site Constraints

None

Public Access

The site does not have public access but is highly visible from Rookery Lane which is a very popular walking route for villagers.

Site Photo



Ecological Significance

The site is surrounded by mixed mature hedgerows (newer hedgerows tend to be single species). Mixed species hedgerows are important for a number of bird and mammals as they provide food, shelter and nesting sites. Mixed hedgerows increase the diversity of insect species (including butterflies and bees which are currently in decline), which are a food source for bird and mammal species and can also play an important role in the pollination of plants and crops in the surrounding area. The diversity and population numbers of insects directly impacts the food chain for other fauna in the area and has a wider impact on the cultivation of crops.

Trees provide nesting sites for birds as well as habitats for small mammal species e.g. squirrels. These are all vital for the wider food web and species diversity within the village ecosystem.

In the village there have been sightings of larger fauna species such as bats, birds of prey (e.g. Kestrels), rabbits and hedgehogs. The site plays an important contributory role in the wider ecological significance of the village.

The presence of a well and water adjacent to the site means that water specific flora and fauna species are likely to be present. This increases the diversity of species using this site and will also provide a water resource for wildlife.

Special Qualities and Local Significance

The special qualities of the site include its high amenity value and open aspect on the edge of the village which is extensively enjoyed from views along Rookery Lane. The site is currently undeveloped and affords open and unrestricted views of open countryside to the west.

The site is locally significant because Rookery Lane is a regular walking route for villagers and views across the site are significant and valued.

The site surrounds the village church and abuts the churchyard enhancing tranquillity for those attending church services and visiting the graves of loved ones.

Summary and Suitability for Designation as Local Green Space

This site is not considered to be an extensive tract of land and is contained within existing boundaries. It is well related to and used by the local community and makes a positive contribution to the health and well being local residents.

LGS E7 as outlined on the above plan is considered to be suitable for Local Green Space designation in accordance with paragraph 77 of the National Planning Policy Framework in that it:

- is in very close proximity to the community it serves;
- is demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance because of its beauty, historic significance, tranquillity and richness of its habitat and wildlife potential; and
- is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.