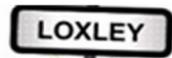




## **Loxley** *neighbourhood development plan*

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The Village & Parish of Loxley, Warwickshire



2011 - 2031

# Appendix 3

## Pre-Submission Consultation

May 2018

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# 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Neighbourhood Development Plans were introduced under the Localism Act 2011. This became law in April 2012 and aims to give local people more say in the future of where they live.
- 1.2 Once approved under a local referendum, this Neighbourhood Development Plan will, after independent scrutiny, be adopted by Stratford-on-Avon District Council (SDC) as part of the Development Plan to be used when determining planning applications within the Neighbourhood Area.
- 1.3 The Neighbourhood Development Plan will become part of the statutory Development Plan alongside SDC's Core Strategy.
- 1.4 For Loxley, this is a great opportunity for people living in the village to decide how the village should evolve in the years up to 2031. The Plan contains the vision for Loxley that was developed through consultation with the local community and key stakeholders, and sets out clear planning policies to realise this vision.
- 1.5 This Plan is in general conformity with the strategic direction of the Stratford-on-Avon District Core Strategy 2011 to 2031 which was adopted on 11 July 2016.
- 1.6 Policies within this Plan will allow the village to develop through small scale organic growth, meeting the housing needs of the community while at the same time preserving the importance of the open countryside, rural landscape and numerous heritage assets. It also considers the infrastructure needed to support such growth.
- 1.7 A Neighbourhood Development Plan must have appropriate regard to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and related Planning Practice Guidance (PPG). This Plan will demonstrate how the sustainability objectives of the Government are implemented through local policies.
- 1.8 The Stratford-on-Avon District Design Guide and the Landscape Sensitivity Study 2011 also provide essential guidance along with the evidence base supporting the Core Strategy.
- 1.9 On 18 February 2016, SDC approved Loxley Parish Council as an appropriate 'qualifying body' to submit a Neighbourhood Development Plan. It also approved the Neighbourhood Area which our Plan will cover.
- 1.10 The boundary of the Neighbourhood Area is contiguous with that of the Parish boundary of Loxley.

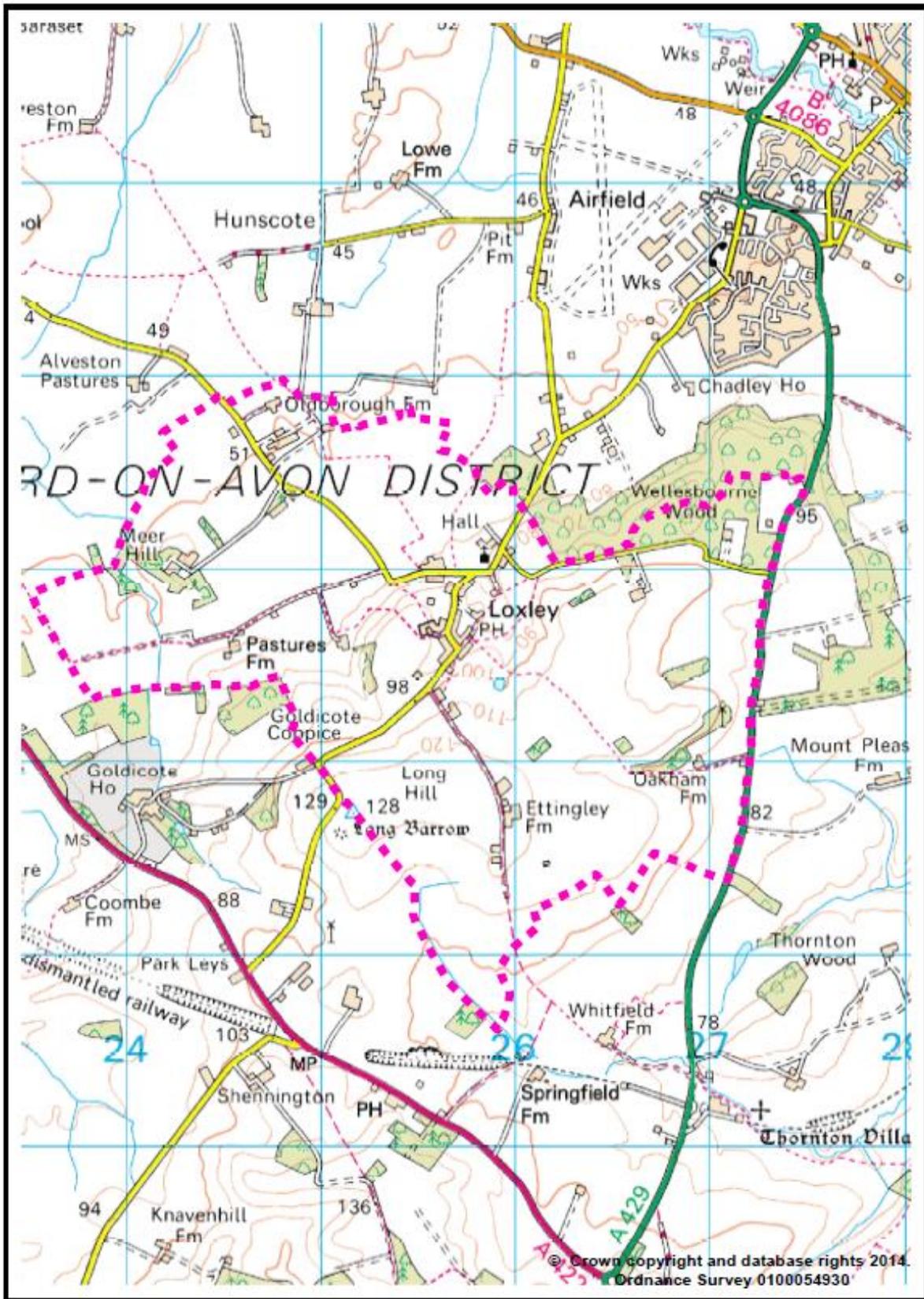


Figure 1 - The Neighbourhood Area

## 2.0 Loxley: Past, Present and Future

- 2.1 This section sets out the history of Loxley to the present day. In drawing on the evidence base and community views developed as part of the NDP process, including a detailed community survey, it aims to clearly identify the key social, economic and environmental issues. These issues underpin the vision, goals, objectives and actions detailed in the following sections of this Plan.

### **The built and natural environment - preserving valued characteristics**

- 2.2 This section begins by examining *what is it about the environment of Loxley that makes it special* and that the Plan should seek to protect.

#### *Built environment - ancient origins*

- 2.3 Loxley is an ancient settlement whose origins can be dated back to the Roman occupation. It became more permanently settled in medieval times and the village is recorded in the Domesday Book. Evidence from this period can still be seen in the landscape today, in the distinctive ridge and furrow patterns in some fields, as well as the built environment. The oldest structure remaining in the village is St Nicholas Church, which includes evidence of Saxon work from around the 8<sup>th</sup> century and other features dating from the 13<sup>th</sup> century. Loxley Farm is also of medieval origin, retaining its thatch it is one of three listed buildings in the village. While the village is not unique, this legacy does make it 'special'.

#### *Natural environment – quality and setting*

- 2.4 The sensitivity of the development context is heightened by its topography. While much of the medieval village in the valley was abandoned, new houses were built on higher ground. Today, much of the present day village is built on a hill which affords extensive views over the surrounding countryside and is readily visible for many miles. The quality of the environment has been recognised in national designations through listed building status and a Site of Special Scientific Interest. And a significant part of the Parish falls within a Special Landscape Area (SLA) designated in Stratford District Council's Core Strategy.

#### *Community perspectives and priorities*

- 2.5 The community survey indicates just how highly valued the environment is by local residents. Approaching 100% of respondents indicated that they value both the rural environment and access to the countryside as important or quite important.

- 2.6 In summary, the history, topography and quality of environmental assets combine to provide Loxley's special character which is highly valued by the community and provides a highly sensitive context in which to consider future development. A key priority for the Plan is to ensure that these valued characteristics are preserved.

### **The present day community of Loxley – addressing challenges and opportunities**

- 2.7 Below we highlight the *key socio-economic challenges and opportunities facing Loxley* that the Plan should seek to address.

#### *Viability of local facilities*

- 2.8 Most of the key facilities – the pub and the school – are Victorian. At this time, most inhabitants were employed in agriculture and the population peaked at 396 in 1871. The pub dates back to the early nineteenth century and possibly before. In 1874 a new larger school was built in the centre of the village and is still occupied by the primary school.

- 2.9 During the last century the community has continued to evolve and the pace of change has accelerated in recent years. Rising car ownership has brought an increase in mobility, reducing reliance on – and viability of - local facilities. For example:

- the local shop and post office closed many years ago;
- with fewer children in the village the school has been threatened with closure, but has managed to survive through federation ;
- Church attendance has fallen to very low levels; and
- the pub has closed several times and its future is uncertain.

- 2.10 While an increase in housing and population will help to contribute to the viability of local facilities, in relation to the school the presence of more local children of school age would also be of benefit; currently just four children from Loxley attend the school. While parental preferences play a role, local demand could be assisted by increasing the number of new homes that are affordable to young families (discussed further below).

- 2.11 The Community Survey underlined the extent to which the community value local facilities – the pub, church and school. In each case 70%+ respondents indicated these facilities were important or quite important.

#### *Mismatch in housing supply and household size*

- 2.12 There have also been more subtle social changes. The decline in employment available locally, the attractive features of the village, combined with the proximity to other nearby major employment centres has made Loxley an attractive location to live. This has resulted in strong demand for local housing from relatively affluent commuters.

- 2.13 The market has responded to this demand, and in recent times the village has seen the loss of several smaller cottages and the development of larger executive homes. In the late 1990s, around twelve larger 'executive' homes were built and several smaller, older cottages were redeveloped into larger properties. Loxley Park, developed at the turn of the millennium, provided an estate of thirty large executive homes. This trend to developing larger executive homes and loss of smaller cottages has continued to the present day, albeit the pace has somewhat slowed.
- 2.14 While the overall population of the parish at 399 has now returned to the peak of 1871, there have been significant changes to the stock of housing available. The stock is now significantly skewed toward larger homes in contrast to the small size of most households.
- Housing stock – the majority of the stock (87%) comprises 3+ bedroom properties. 3 bedroom homes comprise 25% of the stock; 4 bedroom 29% and 5+ bedroom 33%.
  - Household size – averages 2.56 persons per household (pph), the majority of households comprise 2 pph in stark contrast to the number of 2 bedroom properties available (which account for just 8% of the stock).
- 2.15 This is a mismatch in the housing stock available in the village relative to the small size of most households. This not only restricts the availability of more affordable housing for younger families, the limited choice also prevents downsizing opportunities for older residents looking to move but remain within the village.
- 2.16 This is reflected in the findings of the Community Survey with a largest proportion of respondents (47%) indicating the need for more low cost / affordable housing and more generally the need for greater choice (social housing, bungalows, family housing and retirement homes). Just over 90% of respondents indicated that there was no need for any more luxury housing.

#### *Balanced population and community*

- 2.17 The focus on developing larger and more expensive homes has contributed to an unbalanced population. The development of larger and more expensive homes has skewed the housing mix available and priced out many younger people and families. As a consequence, Loxley has a demographic structure that is skewed to older age groups (60-74), with far fewer younger people (0-34) relative to the national average.

#### *Traffic related issues*

- 2.18 The increase in car ownership, commuter traffic movements and the increase in traffic through the village - as the local service centre of Wellesbourne has grown in size - has brought with it more traffic and parking related issues. The Community Survey provides a clear indication of this with over 50% of

respondents identifying the volume and speed of traffic as a major issue and just shy of the remaining 50% identifying it as an issue.

### **Implications for the Plan**

- 2.19 This baseline assessment provides a clear focus for the Plan. It highlights the overwhelming value local residents place on the landscape, which together with national and local designations, highlight the sensitivity of the development context. The vast majority of residents (81% of respondents to the Community Survey) are supportive of housing development, to increase the choice of stock available, including lower cost housing. Equally, the vast majority oppose the development of more luxury homes. These principles are articulated in the following section which sets out the vision for Loxley.

## 3.0 A Future Vision for Loxley

### Vision

- 3.1 The Loxley NDP will create a more socially mixed and vibrant village that has evolved and grown to meet local housing needs and secure the long term viability of local facilities. The village will be an attractive place, to live, work and visit having retained its unique and distinctive character providing an outstanding quality of life, which is highly valued by residents, for the benefit of future generations.
- 3.2 The Parish Council will do this by:
- Encouraging a thriving, vibrant and viable community that delivers a high quality of life for all its residents
  - Supporting measured, proportionate, timely and sustainable housing development to meet local requirements
  - Maintaining a high quality natural environment that preserves and enhances biodiversity
  - Recognising and protecting the character and history of the village plan area
  - Endorsing policies that have a positive effect on the environment, including those that minimise flood risk, mitigate climate change and minimise pedestrian / vehicle conflicts.

### Goals

- 3.3 To realise the vision, the following goals are set out to inform and frame the objectives and detailed planning policies that are set out in the following sections.
- Promote high quality new build homes which increase housing market choices and are tailored to the needs and context of Loxley
  - Ensure sensitive development which protects and enriches the landscape and built setting
  - Sustain and improve local facilities for existing and new residents, including support for the development of viable new community facilities to promote sustainable living

- Provide a safe environment for road users and pedestrians
- Prioritise local distinctiveness in every element of change and growth
- Protect green space, the landscape and support nature conservation
- Involve local people on an on-going basis in the process of plan-making, monitoring, delivery and development.

### **The Neighbourhood Plan Strategy - Sustainable Development for the Whole Community**

- 3.4 Sustainable development is about positive growth – delivering economic, social and environmental progress for current and future generations. These dimensions constitute sustainability in planning terms.
- 3.5 **Economic** – contributing to a strong local economy
- 3.6 **Social** – supporting strong, vibrant and healthy communities
- 3.7 **Environmental** – contributing to protecting and enhancing the natural, built and historic environment.
- 3.8 To address the challenges facing the community and to achieve the vision set out previously, the Plan needs to acknowledge all of these aspects, the inter-dependencies between them and the way they combine uniquely locally.
- 3.9 **Environmentally**, Loxley is distinguished by its small size, rural aspect and elevated position. The built and natural environment incorporate recognised national and local designations. The environment is attractive, sensitive and valued by residents.
- 3.10 **Social** life is focused on the church, school and pub. The community is small and well networked, but over time there has been a decline in the number of informal social activities and organisations.
- 3.11 The small scale of the community is a challenge to the **economic** viability of these facilities, with a small housing stock providing limited choices in terms of size, type and tenure.
- 3.12 Moreover, recent trends have tended to undermine the community vitality. Affordable public and private rental properties have been sold to owner occupiers. And the market has focused on building larger executive homes, in some cases through the redevelopment of smaller cottages.
- 3.13 The focus on the development of larger homes is reflected in an unbalanced population and limited mix of housing, creating a mismatch between average household size (2.56 persons per household) and the available housing stock (which is mostly larger three bed+ homes).

- 3.14 Our vision is grounded in an understanding of these interlocking economic, social and environmental realities and recognition that the key to addressing the challenges outlined is through the housing market, allied to the principles of sustainable development.
- 3.15 This is critical to ensuring that: the development that is required addresses wider community needs, provides for a greater housing choice in locations that minimise environmental impact and delivers greater intergenerational equity. These are the keys to delivering the community vision.
- 3.16 The Plan is not therefore antidevelopment, but recognises the contribution proportionate new housing development, sensitively designed and located, can make to the character of the village. The key objective is to ensure development increases choice of homes to meet the needs of all sections of the community in a manner which respects the character of the village and the wider parish.
- 3.17 The following sections take forward the vision and goals above and set out a series of supporting policies in relation to the following policy areas:
- Housing and the built environment
  - Natural environment
  - Local community
  - Traffic and transport

## 4.0 Housing and the Built Environment

### Strategic Objective

- 4.1 To meet principally local, but also district sustainable housing needs, through moderate, small-scale and modest developments. Such development will encourage a socially mixed community to ensure the long-term sustainability of the village. New housing should increase the housing choice including the provision of affordable homes. All new development will preserve and be sensitive to the unique and distinctive character of the village.

### Policy H1 - Housing Growth

#### 1. Village Boundary

The built up area of Loxley is defined by the Village Boundary as outlined on Figure 2. New infill housing development within the Village Boundary will be supported in principle provided they accord with the principles and parameters set out in the Village Design Statement (see Appendix 1).

All areas outside of the Village Boundary are classed as countryside. New housing in the countryside will be limited to dwellings for rural workers, replacement dwellings, the appropriate conversion of existing buildings and new dwellings in accordance with Policy H2.

#### 2. Housing Allocations

The following sites, as outlined on Figure 2, have been identified for potential suitable small scale housing.

- a) Site A - Land adjacent to Clematis Cottage, Stratford Road  
(allocated for 2-3 dwellings)
- b) Site B - Land between Loxley Fields and Loxley House  
(allocated for 4-5 dwellings)
- c) Site C - Land to the south of Home Farm Drive  
(allocated for 1-2 dwellings)
- d) Site D – Land to the rear of Box Tree Cottage, Goldicote Road  
(allocated for 6-8 dwellings)
- e) Site E - Land adjacent to recreation ground, Goldicote Road  
(allocated for 4-5 dwellings)

Development on the above sites should have regard to the Village Design Statement in Appendix 1.

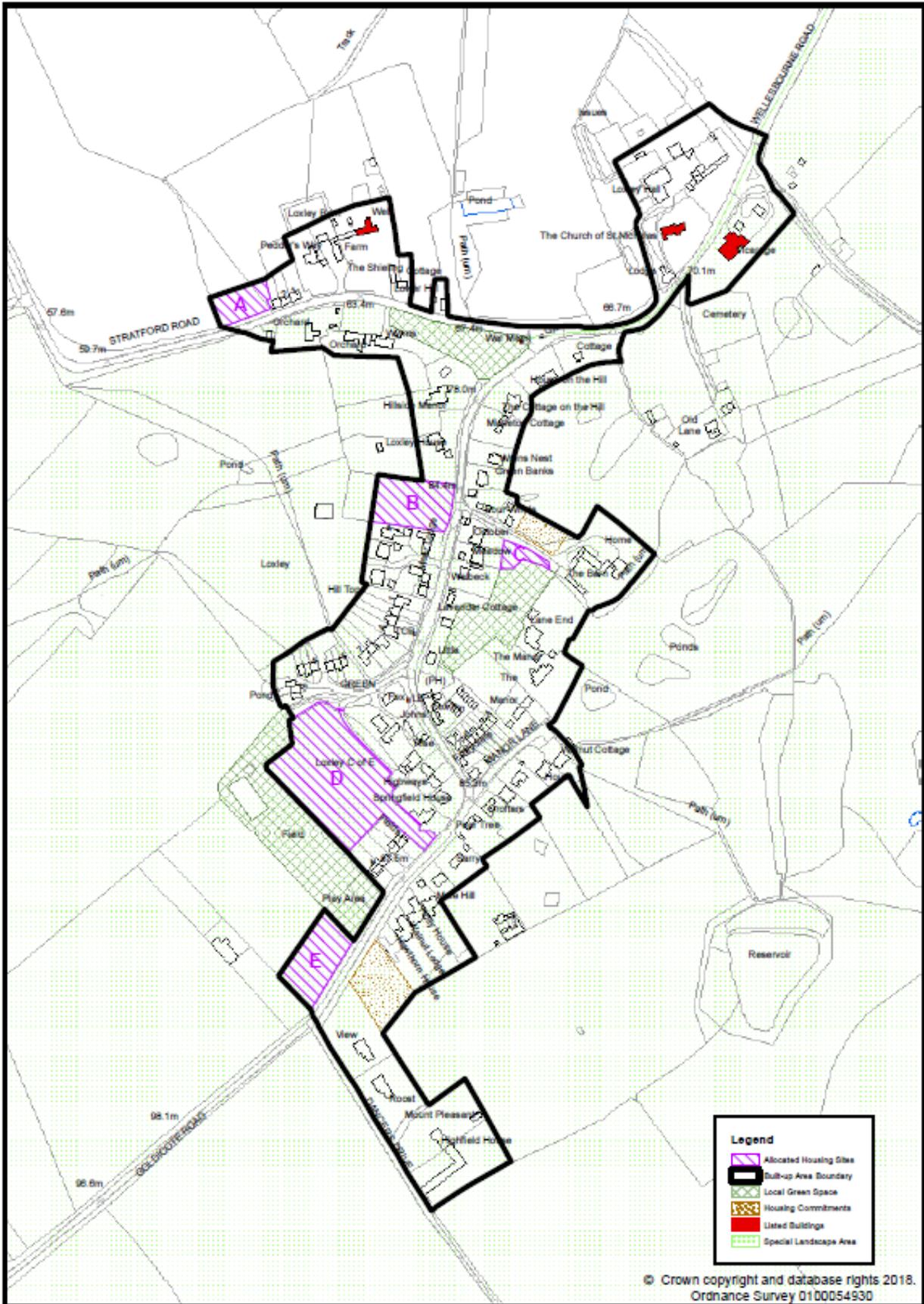


Figure 2 - Village Boundary and Site Allocations

## Explanation

- 4.2 The Core Strategy identifies Loxley as a Category 4 Local Service Village which is the lower tier of settlement. Consequently, this Plan seeks a positive approach to housing growth through natural organic limited infilling within the defined built up area boundary and 5 allocations as shown on Figure 2.
- 4.3 The selection of these 5 allocations was informed by a technical review provided by an independent consultant, drawing on comments from Warwickshire County Highways, of a range of sites throughout the village. The review of each site considered a number of technical issues including the status of the land, highway safety, topography, impact on landscape setting, flooding and drainage, accessibility to local services, and impact on natural heritage and heritage assets. The assessment process highlighted the challenging development context with no sites scoring strongly on all criteria.
- 4.4 The selection process has also been informed by the community survey (in 2016), and local consultations. The local community expressed a strong preference for development on individual plots or small scale developments, with strong opposition to one large development. There was also preference for sites on the village periphery and infill sites, with a slightly negative net balance in relation to backfill sites (space behind houses).
- 4.5 In the selection of these sites, the Plan has sought to continue the guiding principles in the Loxley Village Design Statement which was formally adopted by Stratford District Council on the 27 March 2007 and has since been updated and incorporated into this Plan (Appendix 1).
- 4.6 Whilst no homes have been built in the village since 2011, 5 homes have planning permission (see table below).

Housing Commitments Since 2011	Reference	Market Homes	Affordable Homes
Tanglewood Cottages, Manor Road	12/01592/FUL	-1	0
Home Farm	14/02224/FUL	1	0
Ettingley Farm, Dancers Drive	16/03236/COUQ	1	0
Land Off Goldicote Road	17/02943/VARY	3	0
Loxley Farm, Stratford Road	17/00763/FUL	1	0
<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total number of dwellings</b>		<b>5</b>	

- 4.7 This policy supports the notion of limited infill development within the defined Village Boundary where there is no adverse impact on the character of the area and where the development is sympathetic to its surroundings including neighbouring dwellings. It also seeks to resist other forms of inappropriate development in the countryside as detailed in the Village Design Statement.
- 4.8 The Village Boundary is defined as being the limits of existing, non-agricultural, buildings of a permanent nature and their immediate surroundings. The Village Boundary therefore excludes:
- Individual buildings and groups of dispersed or intermittent buildings that are clearly detached from the continuous built-up areas of the village;
  - Large gardens, paddocks and other undeveloped land in the curtilage of buildings on the edge of the settlement where they provide a transition between the surrounding countryside and the built-up areas of the village;
  - Agricultural buildings and associated land on the edge of the Village;
  - Outdoor sports and recreation facilities and other formal open spaces on the edge of the Village.
- 4.9 Policy H1 defines “limited infill” as developments to be allowed only within the built-up areas on available sites that fall between existing houses.
- 4.10 Future housing development within the Neighbourhood Area will need to be continuous but controlled in order to achieve steady and moderate growth.
- 4.11 The allocations of sites B, D and E to create small cul-de-sac developments could include a mix of smaller/modest, lower cost homes, which would also assist in the ability of existing residents to downsize from larger houses which would free them up for families to move into. And thereby contribute to the strategic objective of promoting small scale and modest developments.
- 4.12 Further details about the site allocation process, including all the sites which were appraised and the assessment matrix prepared by the independent consultant, are detailed at: [www.loxleyvillage.com](http://www.loxleyvillage.com)

## Policy H2 - Local Housing Needs

**Affordable housing development will be permitted on small sites beyond, but reasonably adjacent to, the Village Boundary of Loxley where the following is demonstrated:**

- a) There is a proven and as yet unmet local need, having regard to the latest Housing Needs Survey;**
- b) No other suitable and available sites exist within the Village Boundary of Loxley; and**
- c) Secure arrangements exist to ensure the housing will remain affordable and available to meet the continuing needs of local people.**

**Where viability for 100% affordable housing provision cannot be achieved, an element of market housing may be included within a rural exception scheme, to provide sufficient cross-subsidy to facilitate the delivery of affordable homes. In such cases, land owners will be required to provide additional supporting evidence in the form of an open book development appraisal for the proposal containing inputs assessed and verified by a chartered surveyor.**

### Explanation

- 4.13 Affordable housing is defined as social rented, affordable rented and intermediate housing, provided to eligible households whose needs are not met by the market<sup>1</sup>.
- 4.14 The NPPF allows for the provision of affordable housing through rural exception sites. These are additional housing sites that are used to meet defined affordable housing needs in rural areas where up-to-date survey evidence shows that local need exists. This enables small sites to be used specifically for affordable housing in small rural communities that would not normally be considered because, for example, they fall outside local plan development boundaries.
- 4.15 One of the ways local needs can be demonstrated is through a housing need survey or up-to-date evidence of local housing need. In addition Core Strategy Policy CS.15 allows local needs schemes within and adjacent to settlements including small-scale community-led schemes to meet a need identified by that community.
- 4.16 The 2014 Housing Needs Survey commissioned by the Parish Council through Warwickshire Rural Community Council concluded that there were 3

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<sup>1</sup> Definitions of general housing terms' Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, 14/11/12

specific housing needs; 1 two-bedroom home for rent; 1 two-bedroom house for shared ownership; and 1 two-bedroom house or bungalow for local market ownership.

4.17 For the purposes of local needs housing for Policy H2 this will be based on a local connection with the Parish. A local connection is defined as:

- Someone who has lived in the Parish for a minimum of 6 months
- Someone who has previously lived in the Parish for 6 out of the last 12 months or 3 out of 5 years
- Someone who has close family connection<sup>2</sup> residing in the Parish for at least 3 years
- Someone who has full or part-time work in the Parish and has been employed for at least 6 months
- Someone who can otherwise demonstrate a connection to the Parish.

4.18 To satisfy the local connection criteria an applicant only has to meet one of the above points, although many may have more than this.

### Policy H3 - Design and Character

**The scale, density, massing, height, landscape design, layout and materials of all development proposals, including alterations to existing buildings, will be required to sustain and enhance the distinctive character of Loxley village and its countryside setting.**

**Development proposals should comply with the following guiding principles taken from the previous Loxley Village Design Statement:**

- a) be compatible with the distinctive character of the area, respecting the local settlement pattern which is predominantly ribbon, building styles and materials whilst taking a positive approach to innovative, contemporary designs that are sensitive to their setting;**
- b) the detrimental erosion of space between and behind buildings will be resisted in order to preserve the open aspect of the village and retain links with the countryside beyond;**
- c) retain existing open green spaces within Loxley where they make an important contribution to the character and local distinctiveness of the area;**
- d) be of a density and scale that is in keeping with the character of the surrounding development and landscape;**
- e) conserve or enhance heritage assets including listed buildings and their settings;**
- f) protect, or enhance landscape and biodiversity by incorporating landscaping consistent with Warwickshire Landscape Guidelines;**

<sup>2</sup> A close family connection is defined as mother, father, sister, brother or adult children.

- g) conserve and not obstruct the enjoyment of views to and from higher slopes or skylines, or sweeping views across the landscape;**
- h) have regard to the impact on tranquility, including dark skies; and**
- i) not increase the likelihood of surface water flooding within the village or exacerbate foul drainage capacity problems; and be preceded by an appropriate archaeological survey to ascertain the implications of development on below ground heritage assets.**

**Development that does not positively contribute to local character will be resisted.**

### **Explanation**

- 4.19 The purpose of this policy is to manage development so that the most appropriate design is found for the site having regard to local character to ensure that all developments are of high quality and preserve and where appropriate enhance the character of the areas around them in spatial layout, scale, materials, design and landscape terms.
- 4.20 New developments which protect the character of the historic built environment and improve the quality of life through good design which is in sympathy with the special character of the area will be looked upon favourably.
- 4.21 The preservation of local distinctiveness and character requires that the appropriate density for new housing should in every case result in a development that is in character with the local surrounding area. It is also important that future development should ensure that the mass of building relates proportionally to the plot size.
- 4.22 Noise and activity arising from developments in the countryside together with lighting can have an adverse effect on tranquillity and dark skies. CPRE has issued a Statement on Tranquillity and Dark Skies with the objective of maintaining or improving the existing level of tranquillity. The recommendations within this statement are endorsed by this Plan.
- 4.23 This policy is not intended to impose a particular architectural style or stifle innovation, originality or innovative design through unsubstantiated requirements to conform to certain development forms or styles.
- 4.24 A major part of the distinctive character of Loxley is the strong visual connectivity between the village and the rural landscape. The village has a mostly linear structure meaning that the majority of houses front, in single row, onto a street and have direct rural views to the rear.
- 4.25 The greenfield areas encircling the village are sensitive to change which would alter the landscape and the essential character of the village as well as views across the countryside both from and into the village.

- 4.26 One of the guiding principles in the Loxley Village Design Statement which is incorporated into this Plan (Appendix 1) is the fact that ‘the rural character of Loxley should be preserved and (sub)urbanisation avoided’ and that ‘sufficient space should be left between and behind buildings to preserve the ‘open aspect’ of the village and retain links with the countryside beyond’.
- 4.27 The results of the 2016 Community Survey showed that the two aspects that residents valued most about living in Loxley were firstly its rural environment, and secondly, access to the countryside.
- 4.28 Good examples of new development in the village which has not created a detrimental erosion of space between and behind buildings can be found along the southern side of Goldicote Road as well as on the eastern side of the main thoroughfare through the village. In these examples open rural views to the rear have been maintained.

#### Policy H4 - Re-use of Rural Buildings

**The conversion of redundant buildings built of traditional materials or of historical or architectural merit to housing, permanent business space or residential tourist accommodation will be supported provided development:**

- a) **does not have an unacceptable impact on the visual and landscape amenity of the area;**
- b) **does not have an unacceptable impact on neighbours amenity;**
- c) **does not cause harm to nature conservation interests;**
- d) **benefits from a safe and convenient access to the site or a satisfactory access can be created; and**
- e) **ancillary and/or outbuildings and boundary treatments are in keeping with the character and setting of the original building.**

#### Explanation

- 4.29 This policy is designed to facilitate the re-use of the existing buildings with appropriate conversions. If sensitively converted the reuse of redundant buildings can have a positive impact on the amenity of the area and create a sustainable form of development without any additional harm to the landscape.
- 4.30 The reuse of redundant agricultural buildings can also be of benefit to the sustainability of farms and other rural businesses particularly when creating ongoing revenue through holiday lettings.

## Policy H5 - Replacement Dwellings

**Proposals for replacement dwellings must respect the character and appearance of the locality. Particular importance is placed on sensitive sites such as those within the special landscape area or affecting the setting of listed buildings. All proposals for replacement dwellings must:**

- a) Not be disproportionately larger, in volume, than the existing dwelling;**
- b) Include suitable facilities for garaging, garden maintenance and domestic storage;**
- c) Be on a similar footprint as the existing dwelling unless for site planning reasons an alternative footprint is necessary or beneficial;**
- d) Be of an appropriate scale so as not to be too dominant or adversely affect the amenity of neighbouring uses; and**
- e) Demonstrate that protected species will not be harmed as a result of the proposals.**

**This policy will only apply to lawful dwellings and does not apply to caravans or mobile homes.**

### Explanation

- 4.31 This policy is designed to facilitate the renewal of the existing housing stock with appropriate replacements. It is not intended to overtly restrict people's freedom of expression of interest in design and layout.
- 4.32 It is important, however, to recognise the role of sustainability by ensuring that good quality habitat dwellings are not simply demolished to meet a personal preference or desire. In this respect all new replacement dwellings will be expected to enhance design and create a more sustainable living environment in the longer term.
- 4.33 Much of the village is within the Special Landscape Area (SLA). The replacement of existing dwellings is supported provided they do not result in disproportionate replacements over and above the size of the original dwelling.
- 4.34 The Plan recognises that historically many of the smaller properties in the village have either been considerably enlarged or have been demolished in order to build substantially larger properties. As a result the village has a significant imbalance of larger properties to smaller ones which has had a negative impact on the social mix of the community and also created an imbalance in the demography. In the last 20 years 10 smaller properties in the centre of the village have either been rebuilt or significantly enlarged.
- 4.35 To address this issue and in order to ensure that replacement dwellings are not disproportionately larger this Plan considers that they should be no more than 30% larger in volume and footprint than the original dwelling as it currently exists.

## 5.0 Natural Environment

### Strategic Objective

- 5.1 The rural character of Loxley should be preserved by ensuring that any new development is sensitive to and protects the landscape and built setting. Such development should protect green spaces, minimise, and where appropriate, mitigate its impact on the existing landscape and be supportive of nature conservation. Furthermore, new development should endorse policies that have a positive effect on the environment and protect and enrich the landscape and built setting.

### Policy NE1 - Protection of Special Landscape Area and Valued Landscapes

#### 1. Special Landscape Area

**All development must conserve or enhance the high landscape quality of the Special Landscape Area which includes the majority of the village to the south of the Stratford / Wellesbourne Road.**

**Proposals which would have a harmful effect on the distinctive character and appearance of the Special Landscape Area will be resisted unless sufficient mitigation measures are put in place.**

#### 2. Valued Landscapes

**Proposals which have an adverse impact on the skylines or valued landscapes, as shown in Figure 3 and described within the Loxley Village Design Statement (see Appendix 1), will be resisted.**

### Explanation

- 5.2 It is important to protect the open and rural character of the landscape surrounding the built up areas of the village to ensure the separate identity of the settlement and in order that its distinctive features including its skyline and valued landscapes are retained.
- 5.3 The character of the landscape is derived from 'natural' factors, its geology, geographic location and the characteristic vegetation and habitat type it sustains.
- 5.4 All development proposals must ensure that valued landscapes from the village and into the village are maintained. Given the location of Loxley on a hill and designation of much of the village as an SLA (see Figure 2), there are a significant number of important views or valued landscapes into and out of

the village. Some of these are illustrated in Figure 3 below and are also referenced further in the Design Statement.

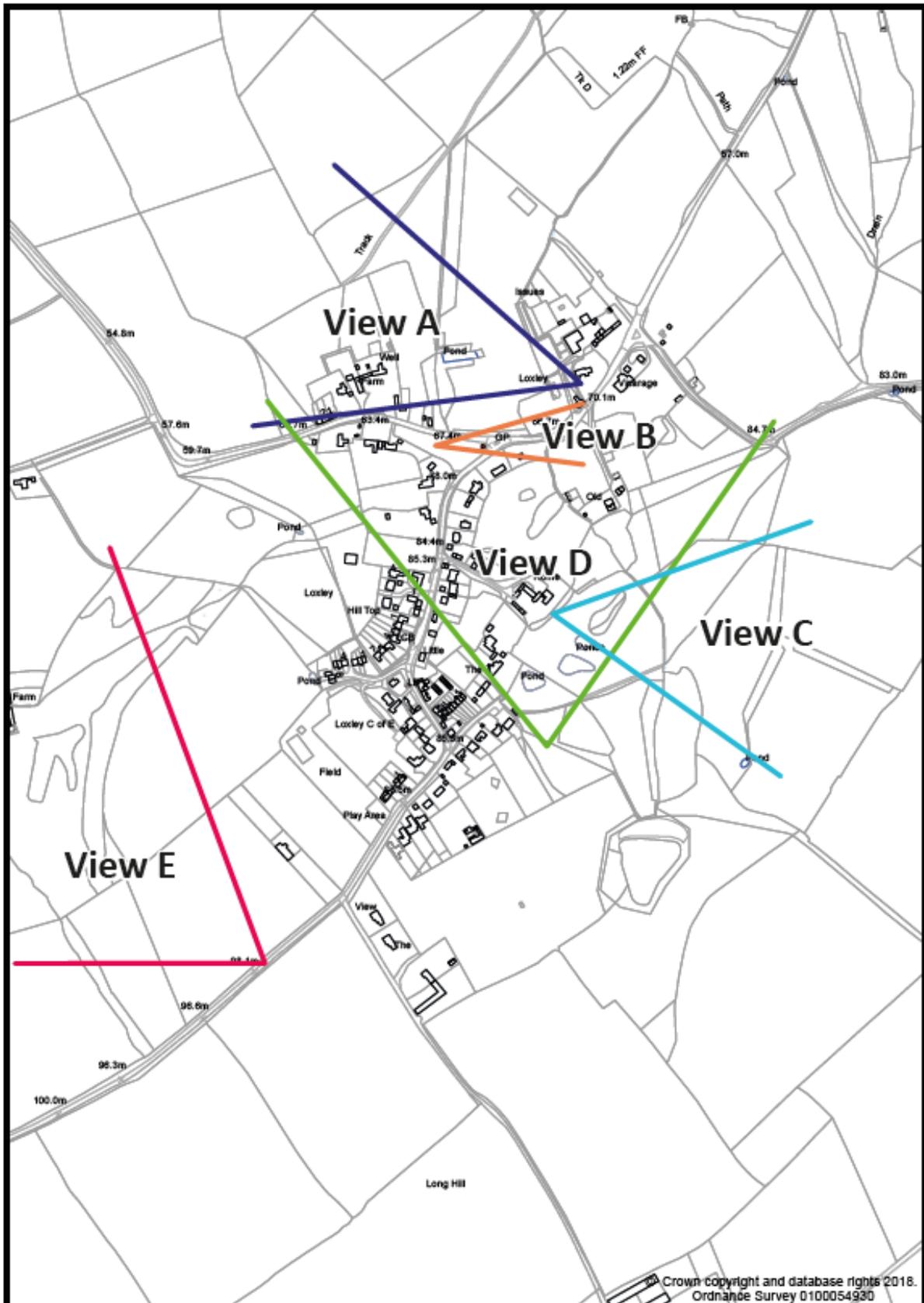


Figure 3 - Valued Landscapes

### **View A**

- 5.5 This view is from the churchyard looking WNW across the River Avon valley to the Welcombe Hills in the distance. The parkland in the foreground is particularly beautiful with the main features being two outstanding cedar trees in the centre.



### **View B**

- 5.6 This photograph was taken from the western side of the Village Green looking east across the lower half of the green towards the church and the Hall, which can be seen partly hidden behind the trees. The Village Green is ancient common land and is an oasis of green in the lower half of the village, edging onto the Stratford Road. In the springtime it is ablaze with daffodils which were planted by the villagers as a community project in 2009.



### **View C**

- 5.7 This view is from the public footpath behind Home Farm and is looking east over rolling countryside gradually rising in the distance. It is agricultural land often grazed by sheep. The small pond in the foreground is one of a series in this area which form part of the land drainage system for Goldicote Road and Manor Lane.



### **View D**

- 5.8 This is a view from the public footpath as it climbs away from the built-up area towards the Reservoir and Oakham Farm. It is looking north and down towards the village. The Manor and Home Farm are in the foreground with central village properties behind. The pond in front of The Manor is one of the land drainage ponds and is the habitat for water birds and much pond life.



## View E

- 5.9 This photograph is taken from the Goldicote Road as it rises out of the village towards the Banbury Road. This is an outstanding view looking north across the River Avon flood plain with the Welcombe Hills in the distance.



### Policy NE2 - Biodiversity

**Where appropriate, all development should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by minimising impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains in biodiversity wherever possible through new and improved green infrastructure.**

**Existing ecological networks should be retained and new ecological habitats and networks will be encouraged.**

**Measures to improve landscape quality, scenic beauty and tranquility and to reduce light pollution will be encouraged.**

### Explanation

- 5.10 Green infrastructure and the provision of green space have the potential to deliver multiple benefits for both people and wildlife, including opportunities for recreation, biodiversity enhancement and access to nature.

- 5.11 The protection of the rural character of Loxley needs to be ensured through the maintenance and enhancement of important landscape features such as trees, hedges and woodland.
- 5.12 Streams and ponds are significant landscape and ecological features. These need to be safeguarded for their importance for biodiversity, for amenity and for water resources that we need. Water quality needs to be maintained or improved in accordance with Water Framework Directive requirements<sup>3</sup>.

### **Community Aspiration**

- 5.13 A Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) could provide a neighbourhood level response to the Government’s National Action Plans for threatened habitats species and would sit alongside Warwickshire County Council’s LBAP, which is currently under review.
- 5.14 A LBAP would contribute to national targets wherever these are relevant to the neighbourhood area but also could set local targets.
- 5.15 This plan supports the formulation of a LBAP in consultation with the relevant authorities and amenity bodies including the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust.

### **Policy NE3 - Trees and Hedgerows**

**Development should retain and protect existing trees and hedgerows which are important for their historic, visual or biodiversity value unless the need for, and the benefits of, the development in that location clearly outweigh any loss.**

**Where it is not possible or feasible to retain such trees or hedgerows, in these circumstances replacement trees or hedgerows of an equivalent or better standard will be required in an appropriate location on the site.**

**Where necessary, all new development should incorporate the planting of appropriate native trees and hedges in their plans.**

### **Explanation**

- 5.16 New developments must not cramp the root run of established trees or require lopping to a degree that would materially hinder the future growth of the tree. Established native hedgerows should be preserved unless there are exceptional reasons justifying their removal.

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<sup>3</sup> Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework for the Community action in the field of water policy.

- 5.17 Hedgerows still exist within or close to the settlement which should be protected and enhanced to preserve biodiversity in the village. Hedgerows are important wildlife corridors connecting pastures around the settlement. They are significant features in the landscape, an important element in views largely unaltered for centuries.

#### Policy NE4 - Renewable and Low Carbon Energy

**Development proposals relating to the production of renewable energy will be supported providing they can be satisfactorily integrated into the character and appearance of the village and its environs.**

**Proposals which fail to preserve or enhance the established character of the Neighbourhood Area will not be supported.**

#### Explanation

- 5.18 The multiple and broad benefits of creating a low carbon neighbourhood are:
- To improve health, e.g. by improving air quality and cycling and walking infrastructure; improving the energy efficiency of homes
  - To empower your community: e.g. by building community owned renewable energy projects that generate funds for your community
  - To improve quality of life: e.g. improving public spaces and safeguarding green spaces
  - To benefit the local economy: e.g. reducing flows of money out of the area through energy bills
  - To improve resilience: e.g. through reduced exposure to rising energy prices and better preparedness for flooding and heatwaves
  - To address climate change: meeting ethical responsibilities and legal duties
  - To reduce energy bills: e.g. through more energy efficient homes
- 5.19 We are all charged by our future generations to work towards a more sustainable future and recognise the importance of mitigating climate change. We recognise the need to reduce carbon emissions and the use of fossil fuels and support developments that contribute to green energy production. However, their scale and appearance must not compromise the character of our village.

## 6.0 Local Community

### Strategic Objective

- 6.1 To ensure that existing community facilities are maintained and where possible enhanced to promote sustainable living.
- 6.2 To support the development of new community facilities in response to need in order to improve the quality of life in Loxley.

### Policy LC1 - Community Assets

**Development, which requires permission, that results in the change of use or loss of a designated community asset, as listed below and shown on Figure 4, will be resisted unless it can be clearly demonstrated that the use of the building and ancillary land is no longer viable or that the use can be satisfactorily relocated for the ongoing benefit of the local community:**

- 1) Loxley Primary School
- 2) St Nicholas's Church
- 3) The Fox Public House
- 4) The Recreation Ground
- 5) The Village Green

**Proposals to improve the viability of an established community use of the buildings and ancillary land by way of its extension or partial redevelopment will be supported, provided the design of the scheme and the resulting increase in use are appropriate in design terms and will not harm the amenities of adjoining residential properties.**

### Explanation

- 6.3 Whilst in some instances planning permission is not required to a change use, where permission is required the loss of an identified community asset (as shown of Figure 4), will be resisted. These assets and facilities are imperative in maintaining and supporting a strong, healthy, vibrant and cohesive community. Community facilities play a particularly important role in bringing together the community and preventing social isolation. This is especially important in vulnerable groups such as the elderly. Such assets will be protected from inappropriate forms of development which may cause harm either directly or indirectly through new development, redevelopment or changes of use.
- 6.4 This policy supports development proposals intended to secure the long term benefit of a range of facilities that are important to the local community. In

some cases, remaining viable will require investment in updating and/or increasing the size of the facility to support new uses. However, the policy requires that proposals avoid increasing the use of community facilities to the extent that they may harm the amenities of adjoining residential properties, for example through traffic movements, on-street car parking and noise or light pollution.

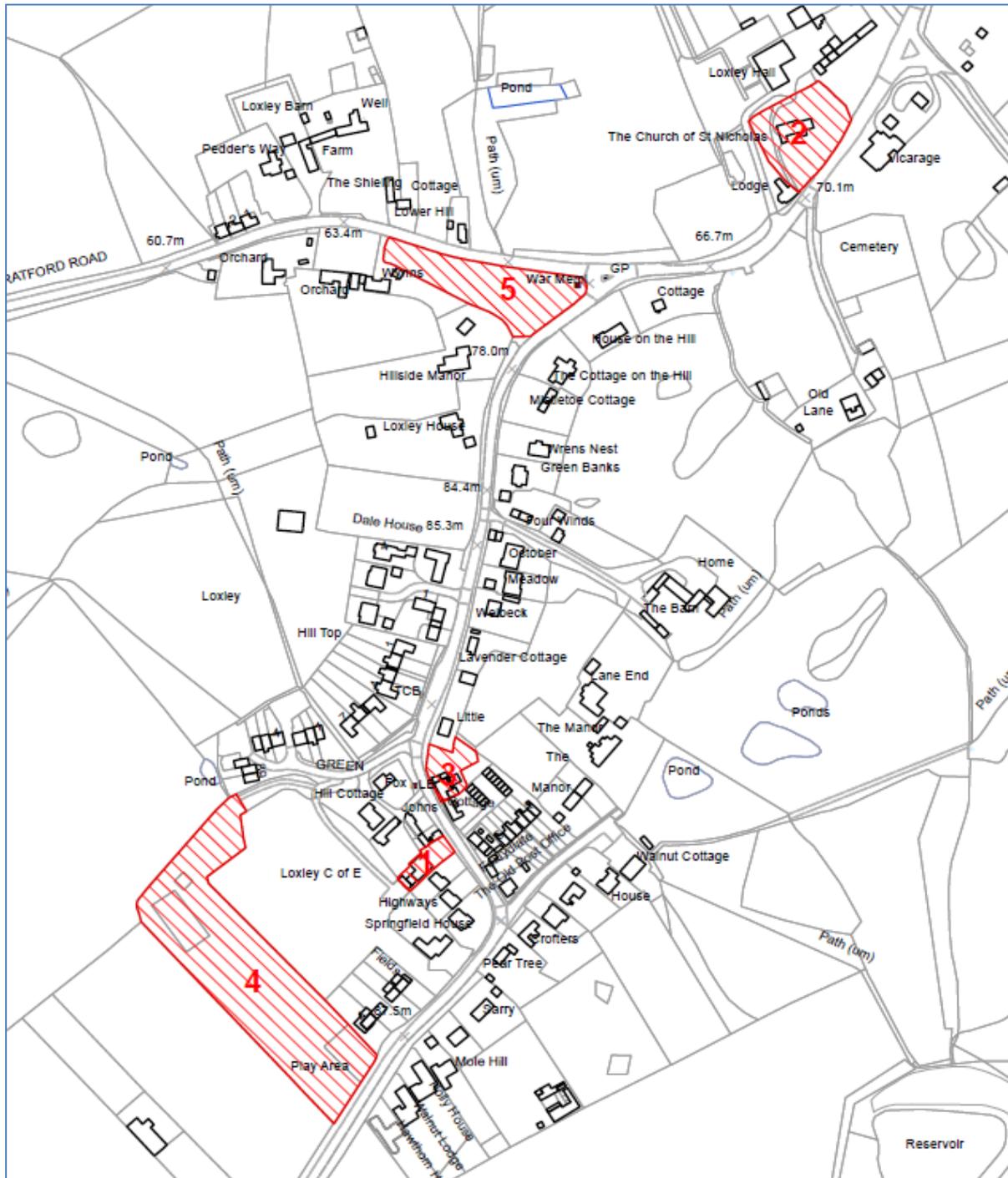


Figure 4 - Community Assets

## Policy LC2 - Designated Local Green Spaces

**This Plan designates the following areas of Local Green Space, as defined on Figure 2, at the following locations:**

- 1) Recreation Ground**
- 2) Village Green**
- 3) Pub Field**

**The above designations include a range of existing formal sports and recreational spaces along with informal areas of play and open space.**

**Development that would harm the openness or special character of a Local Green Space or its significance and value to the local community will not be permitted unless there are very special circumstances which outweigh the harm to the Local Green Space.**

**Where appropriate, CIL funds will be used to enhance these designations to ensure a suitable quantum and quality of recreational and amenity space is available for the Neighbourhood Area.**

### **Explanation**

- 6.5 This policy identifies a number of important green open spaces in the parish which are to be protected from development through designation as Local Green Spaces in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
- 6.6 In accordance with paragraph 76 of the NPPF, local communities through their neighbourhood plans can identify for special protection green areas of particular importance. By designating land as Local Green Space local communities will be able to rule out new development other than in very special circumstances.
- 6.7 In each case, the Local Green Spaces are an integral part of the village character and are therefore regarded as special to the local community. In the public consultation carried out in November/December 2017, 32 out of the 35 responses received were in favour of the three sites being designated.
- 6.8 The Local Green Spaces will be protected and, where possible enhanced, in order to ensure a suitable quantity and quality of recreational and incidental space is available for the residents of, and visitors to, the Neighbourhood Area. The policy will resist all proposals for development.
- 6.9 The minimum ratio of green space to population as set out in the Core Strategy (Policy CS.25) should be applied to all new developments in such a

way as to correct any shortfall across the parish within the next 10 years, and to comply with Natural England's Greenspace Standard recommendations.

### Policy LC3 - Encouraging the Use of Public Routes

**The Neighbourhood Area has a wealth of public rights of way which should be protected, enhanced and positively utilised, where possible, in all new development. New development must demonstrate how walking and cycling opportunities have been prioritised.**

**Proposals which either adversely affect existing walking and cycling routes or fail to encourage appropriate new walking and cycling opportunities will not be supported.**

#### Explanation

- 6.10 In order to encourage walking and cycling, new development must play its part in creating new recreational paths and safe cycle routes. Paths and routes should be direct, functional and link to the existing extensive network of rights of way within the Neighbourhood Area. This Plan is fully supportive of the work of Sustrans within the Neighbourhood Area.
- 6.11 Public routes include roads, footpaths, bridleways and cycle ways. Public routes are an intrinsic component of what defines sustainable development.
- 6.12 Public routes should be protected and where possible enhanced and improved. Special consideration should be given to the principal road through the village which is part of a popular national cycle route and is also regularly used by horse traffic.
- 6.13 New development should demonstrate how it utilises public routes to achieve sustainability. No new development should reduce the amenity currently enjoyed by the 'public route users' either physically or visually.

## 7.0 Traffic and Transport

### Strategic Objective

- 7.1 To provide a safe environment for drivers, pedestrians, schoolchildren and all residents travelling in and through Loxley.
- 7.2 To provide adequate parking in non obstructive/ dangerous areas for local residents without their own parking provision and for village visitors.

### Policy TT1 - Local Parking Standard

**All new development must include adequate and safe provision for off-road parking and accessing arrangements.**

**Dwellings will be expected to provide one space per bedroom. Additionally, dwellings must provide secure storage space for cycles.**

**In the absence of any adopted standards from Warwickshire County Council, the parking provision for non-residential developments will be considered on their own merits.**

**New developments should not undermine existing pedestrian and cycle routes into the village centre and to the village school.**

**Existing on-street parking problems must not be exacerbated by the development. In recognition of existing on-street parking problems in the village, any proposals which seek to increase the opportunity for off-road parking in or adjacent to the village centre will be supported.**

**New developments, where appropriate, should take any available opportunities to provide new, or enhance existing, accessible and safe pedestrian and cycle routes from the development to the village centre and school.**

### Explanation

- 7.3 Loxley is a car-dependent community. Public transport is inadequate and has been reduced. There is infrequent public transport access to local supermarkets in Wellesbourne and Stratford. Data from the 2016 Community Survey shows that car ownership averages 2.2 per household. The majority of residents travel to work outside the village by car.
- 7.4 Parking problems came 4th (50% of residents) in the list of things residents said they disliked about living in Loxley. Parking on the main thoroughfare in the village and some smaller roads like Manor Road reduce them to single-lane for much or all of their length. The danger this presents to both vehicle

drivers and pedestrians is increased by the blind bends in the road. In particular, parking outside Loxley Primary School at pick up and drop off times causes congestion, blocks roads and affects pedestrian movements. Measures to reduce this and to improve pedestrian access to the village are essential.

## Policy TT2 - Highway Safety

**All new development will be expected to demonstrate that:**

- a) the safety of all road users will not be compromised;**
- b) there will be no demonstrable adverse impact on the capacity and operation of the local highway network; and**
- c) there is safe access to and from the development with appropriate visibility at any road junctions.**

**Proposals which fail to demonstrate the above will be resisted.**

### Explanation

- 7.5 The 2016 Community Survey revealed that the two main dislikes of residents are traffic speeding (over 90% of residents) and the increasing volume of traffic (90% of residents).
- 7.6 Loxley has for many years been impacted by an increasing volume of commuter traffic as well as HGV and agricultural traffic using the main road through the village as a short-cut between the Stratford Road and the Banbury Road. Many of the latter vehicles use this route despite them exceeding the weight limit of 7.5 tons on the road. The volume of traffic using the road through the village as a 'rat-run' is set to increase as a consequence of the significant amount of new housing development in neighbouring Wellesbourne and surrounding villages.
- 7.7 A further concern is the danger presented by traffic speeding through the village despite clear speed limit warning signs. The narrow, right angled bend at the top of Manor Lane has been identified as a particular accident 'black spot'. There has been a history of a number of serious accidents (4 since 2006) occurring on this bend as a result of speeding which have also resulted in serious damage to property on the bend despite the installation of speed signs, road signs, chevrons etc. There is no street lighting in the village.
- 7.8 Traffic problems are further exacerbated by substantial on-street parking by residents and visitors. There is little or no off street parking and there is limited opportunity to create new additional spaces away from the village streets. The width of the roads in the village centre with on-street parking already creates issues for vehicles both delivering and passing through. This problem is

exacerbated by the number of parents parking on the main road during school drop-off and pick-up times.

- 7.9 Any new development should recognise the increase in vehicles attempting to negotiate the narrow restricted current road infrastructure. Routes to and from the primary school(s) require improved road infrastructure and provision should be required for adequate footpaths and cycle ways.
- 7.10 The interpretation of congestion is found in the DCLG 'Guidance on Transport Assessments 2007'.

## Appendix 1 - Village Design Statement



The Village Design Statement describes Loxley and the features that give it a distinctive character. It seeks to provide guidance on future development and ensure that any new development is in keeping with local character and distinctiveness. The statement is relevant to everyone affected by potential changes to the village and its surroundings - householders, planners, developers, builders & public bodies. Originally adopted by SDC as a material consideration in processing planning applications on the 27th March 2007, the Design Statement has been updated and incorporated within the Loxley Neighbourhood Development Plan.

### Settlement Evolution

The settlement site at Loxley is an ancient one, predating the Roman occupation of Britain, and probably began as a clearing in the woodland near the bottom of the hill that runs west from Wellesbourne. The Church is the oldest building in Loxley, dating back to the 8th century - a present day reminder of the settlement's ancient origins. The village is also recorded in the Domesday Book (1086).

While there are thatched cottages and buildings that date back to the 17th and 18th centuries, many are Victorian - including the school and the pub. Development has continued from this date up to relatively recent times in fairly piecemeal fashion, including construction of local authority developed housing in Manor Lane and Hilltop in the inter-war years. More recently, the Parish has been subject to development pressures with several new housing developments built. As a result, Loxley has a wide variety of housing types and styles widely dispersed throughout the village.



Listed Buildings - St Nicholas Church



Listed Buildings – Loxley Farm



Loxley's historic features, small-scale, diversity and elevated position - the main part of the village is situated on a plateau some 80 feet up from the Stratford / Wellesbourne Road – are key to defining its character.



The overwhelming 'feel' is rural, with houses maintaining open aspects to the rear. The hilltop location provides panoramic views across the countryside, notably from Long Hill.

Loxley is of architectural and historic interest. Landmark buildings include St Nicholas Church, which stands on the site given to the Cathedral Church of Worcester in circa AD 760. Re-built in the 1750s it still retains older features. Remains of the Saxon building can be seen in the herringbone stonework in the wall of the Chancel. There are 3 listed buildings - St Nicholas Church, Loxley Farm and the Old Rectory. Loxley Manor, Loxley Hall, the School and The Fox public house are also of historic interest. Other historical features include the churchyard monuments, the war memorial on the green and the village stocks kept in the Church.

While the predominant building material is brick, there is a wide mix of styles and types of housing. Buildings date from the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, ranging from manor houses, to simpler cottages. The 20<sup>th</sup> century saw the provision of social housing and the conversion of the post office and shop to housing. More recently, there have been several demolitions and extensions to provide larger modernised 'executive' accommodation.

Despite these changes key community buildings have been retained, including the local public house, the Church, community school and playing fields.

The village itself nestles in a patchwork of fields, hedges, woodlands and hills. The village to the south of the Stratford / Wellesbourne Road sits within a designated 'Special Landscape Area'. The Church Meadow Nature Reserve, where traditional ridge and furrow strips can be seen, is an SSSI.

The rural character of the village is further reflected in the absence of street lighting, the many established hedges that skirt the road through Loxley and several sites within the village fronting onto the road that continue to be used for grazing sheep.

### **Settlement Pattern and Character**

The Parish covers some 645 hectares. It contains 159 homes – around one-third of which have been built since the 1980s - two residential communities (Loxley Village and Loxley Park) and has a population of around 338.

It retains a rural character and agriculture is the main land use. The village is linear in form with development mostly one house deep, retaining open rural aspects to the rear. In addition to new housing developments at Barracks Green (1980s), Loxley Fields (1990s) and Loxley Park (2001), new houses have been built on the Goldicote Road. Several houses have been enlarged with several having been demolished and rebuilt from scratch since 2004. However, there has been minimal infilling facing the roads.

Today the village is characterised by considerable diversity in terms of the mixture of sizes, styles, type and density of buildings. The following areas can be distinguished:

#### ***Lower Loxley - low density, historic, open spaces***

Lower Loxley contains a great diversity of housing from Loxley Hall to smaller Victorian terraces. In the main it comprises older brick built properties and while the terraces front onto the road most are set well back and obscured by hedging. Several buildings are listed. Others such as Loxley Hall with its 18th century outbuildings are of historic interest. Several Victorian properties are painted in traditional black and white colours. The area is low density and rural in character, interspersed with fields and open spaces - the Churchyards, Loxley Church Meadow Nature Reserve and the Village Green. The Green has a War Memorial at the top and affords views across the countryside. Toward Stratford are several more isolated farms and houses.

#### ***Hill Side - diversity of tenure and housing type***

While uniformly brick built there is a diversity of sizes from larger detached properties to smaller retirement bungalows. Houses date predominately from the 20th century and include a mix of privately owned and social housing for rent. Barracks Green is a Housing Association development comprising 9 red brick homes for rent of different sizes including retirement bungalows. A further 7 new homes were built in the 1990s at Loxley Fields, a mixed development. Both developments have rear gardens and open plan frontage. There are views across the countryside from several vantage points, including the Special Landscape Area.

### ***Village Centre - higher density, historic heart of the community***

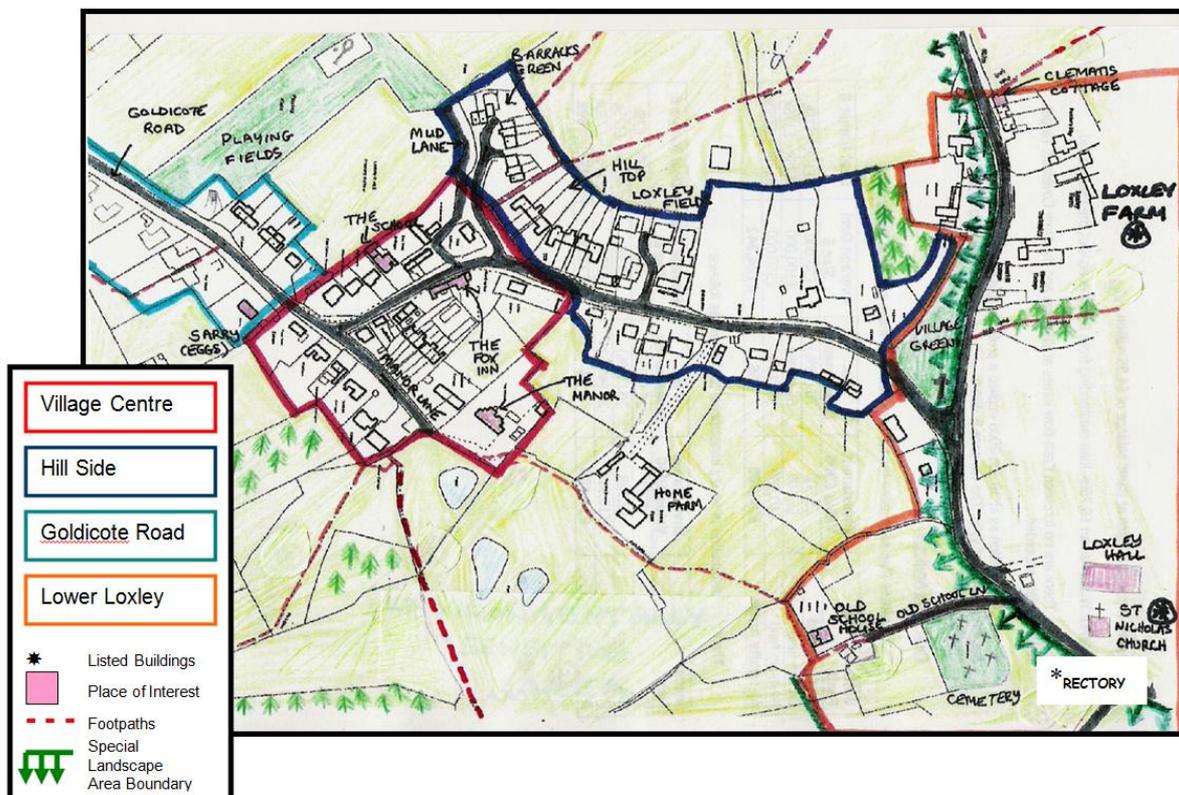
The village centre contains several historic properties and key community facilities - public house, school and the former Post Office. It is developed to a higher density with green spaces and rural views to the rear of most houses. The housing includes medieval structures (including the redeveloped Loxley Manor); Victorian houses several painted white and fronting directly onto the road; and more recent local authority developed cottages, brick built & set well back from the road (Manor Lane).

### ***Goldicote Road – recent development***

Five new large detached brick built houses - some with dormer windows, front drives, rear gardens and largely filling the width of the building plot - have been built on Goldicote Road. Prior to leaving the village there is a left turn into Ettingley Farm Drive, with houses to the left, which ends at Ettingley Farm. Goldicote Road leaves the village and climbs to the top of Long Hill (400 feet in height), providing panoramic views across Warwickshire.

### ***Loxley Park – executive housing estate on private road***

The largest and most recent development at Loxley Park (some three-quarters of a mile away from the village towards Stratford) comprises 32 homes. In the main these are large ‘executive’ red brick properties on relatively small plots, ‘neo-Georgian’ in style on a private road. A ‘brownfield’ site, the estate was developed on a previous industrial site.



## Design Guidance



Given the range of development, with no dominant style which can be used as a reference for new developments, the following guiding principles have been adopted to guide the design of building and ensure the rural and open character of the village is preserved.

- The rural character of Loxley should be preserved and (sub)urbanisation avoided.
- Sufficient space should be left between and behind buildings to preserve the 'open aspect' of the village and retain links with the open countryside beyond.
- Preserve the landscape setting, protecting important views and settings into, out of and within the village.
- Ensure that any development is of a scale and design that is in sympathy with its immediate surroundings (style and materials) and the character of the village.
- Conserve the variety of housing - a characteristic of the village – and promote privacy for existing and new build.
- Meet high standards in terms of energy efficiency and resource use; should make a positive contribution to the village environment; and should respect local tradition and context.
- Reflect the local context in materials, design and layout.
- All planning applications showing proposed changes to houses to be seen in the context of the neighbouring surroundings.
- Boundaries of natural materials should be incorporated (eg hedges, stone, brick).
- Ensure development on sloping sites has structural and visual problems resolved.

## Extensions

Extensions should respect the scale and style of the original building.

- Ensure that any extensions or alterations to existing buildings are in proportion to the original building and size of the site. The design should respect the character of the main building.



## Redevelopment

Redevelopment of older, smaller cottages should be resisted, as this reduces the diversity of the housing stock, and should be sensitive to plot size.

- Avoid wherever practicable, demolition of any habitable character cottages in the village, on design and sustainability grounds.
- Cramming large buildings on small sites should be avoided. Redevelopment should respect the context of neighbouring buildings and the wider village.



## Details and materials

The main building material is brick, although there is some stone and timber framed buildings.

- New buildings should be in brick. Extensions and conversions in brick should seek to match the original in style, colour and source of material.
- Bricks should be local red/brown and matched to the original.

Loxley has a varied roofline in keeping with the diverse age, style and size of homes. Houses built this century tend to have more steeply pitched roofs.

Older cottages tend to be 'flat fronted' and simple; for example most do not have any brick corbelling below the eaves. Roofing materials are mainly clay tiles, slate on older cottages with some thatch.

- New roofs should reflect local tradition and context. Materials should be plain clay tiles, slate or thatch.
- Interesting roof lines and chimneys are essential. Velux windows are to be discouraged.

Attention to detail is important. For example, windows in an extension should respect the original design. The use of UVPC for new doors and windows could have a negative impact on the character of the village.

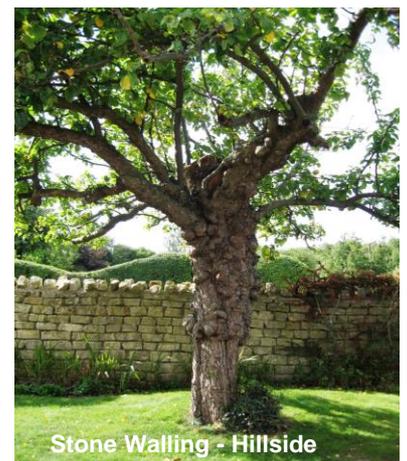
- Traditional materials should be used in replacement doors and windows in older dwellings.

## Landscape & Environment

Given the village's elevation, there are a number of places which afford spectacular views across the countryside, notably Long Hill, Ettingley Farm Drive and the Village Green. Views within the village tend to be more restricted by changes in topography, hedges and trees. Looking into the village there are views from the fields and footpaths behind Loxley Farm and Manor.

- Every effort should be made to preserve historical boundaries, landscapes and open views.

Key open spaces include the Village Green (1/2 acre), playing fields and the Loxley Church Meadow Nature Reserve SSSI, previously Glebe land and now managed by the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust (7.7 acres). There remain several privately owned fields in the village that front onto the road, used for grazing sheep.



The Nature Reserve is one of the finest cowslip meadows in the County. The ridge and furrow indicate it was cultivated in medieval times. The Meadow is characterised by plants such as dropwort, common spotted orchid, common knapweed, great burnet and crested dog's tail. Many varieties of Butterfly are also to be found in the Meadow, particularly in early Spring.

- Maintain the Village Green, the Playing Field and other Green Spaces to reflect the rural character of the Village.

Special Landscape Area (SLA) designation further reflects the high quality of the environment.

- Resist development proposals which would have a harmful impact on the appearance of the landscape.

The village includes a great number of trees – oak, ash and poplar. More trees need to be planted on the playing field's boundary where many are now dead.

- Protect existing trees, encourage planting and review Tree Preservation Orders.
- Tree planting of native species is encouraged. In the village vigorous conifers should be resisted.

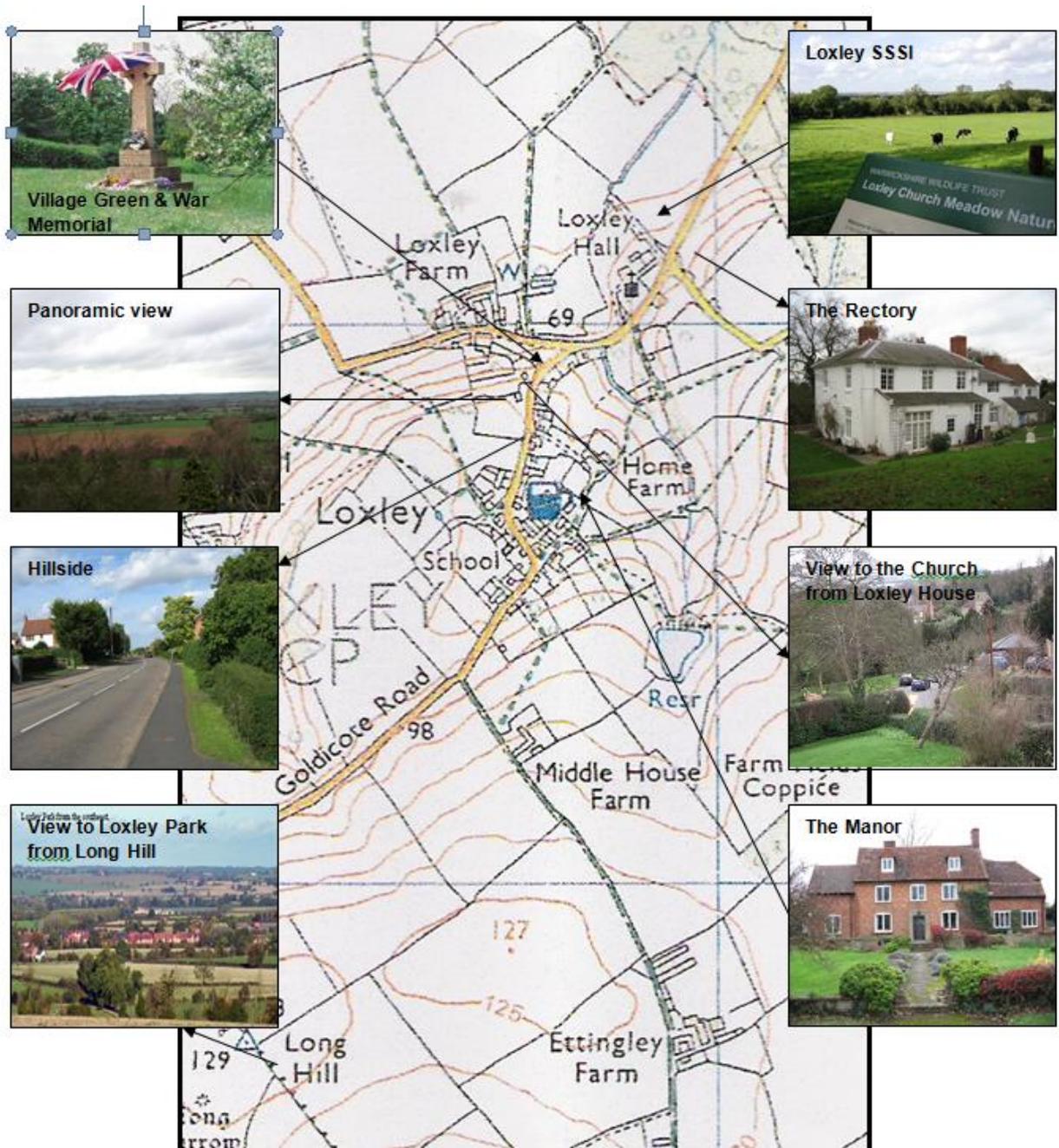
Those who own the land around Loxley and those who farm it maintain its rural aspect. This is reflected in the grass verges and significant network of hedges.

- Retain and maintain existing hedges, ditches and grass verges.

Boundary treatments contribute to the character of the village; in new developments they should be rural in character.

- Stone walls, picket fencing and hedges, characteristic of Loxley, are preferred.

## Views from within Loxley





The village of Loxley borders 3 main roads: the Wellesbourne /Stratford Road which runs through Lower Loxey; Goldicote Road which connects to the Banbury Road; and the main road through the village. While there are pavements alongside the road through the village, there are none along Goldicote Road. Equally, the pavement on the Wellesbourne Road only extends from the village to the Church where the road width is restricted.

Traffic speed is a major priority for the local community, especially in and around the school. Parents and schoolchildren expressed concern regarding the speed of traffic and the lack of pavements in parts of the village. While there are some practical limits to what can be achieved, greater consideration should be given to appropriate design, traffic calming and co-ordinated signage. The community is working with the Council to investigate the possibilities for establishing 'gateways' at the three entrances to the village and to make proposals for improving traffic signs.

- Encourage awareness of speed limits in the village through better 'design solutions', especially in the vicinity of the school.

Given the elevated position of the village, the gritting of roads in winter was highlighted as an issue in the parish plan survey.

- Ensure gritting takes place on all village roads in the future.

There is a network of footpaths through the village and into the fields, enjoyed by villagers and visitors to the countryside. The replacement of wooden stiles with kissing and metal opening gates has improved access to public footpaths.

- Promote the replacement of wooden stiles with kissing or metal opening gates where appropriate.
- Protect the existing rural rights of way network.

Protecting the rural character of the village by:

- Resisting street lighting.
- Encouraging any remaining overhead cables to be put underground.
- Ensuring signs are kept to a minimum and new signs and street furniture is well designed and located to avoid clutter and an urban effect.