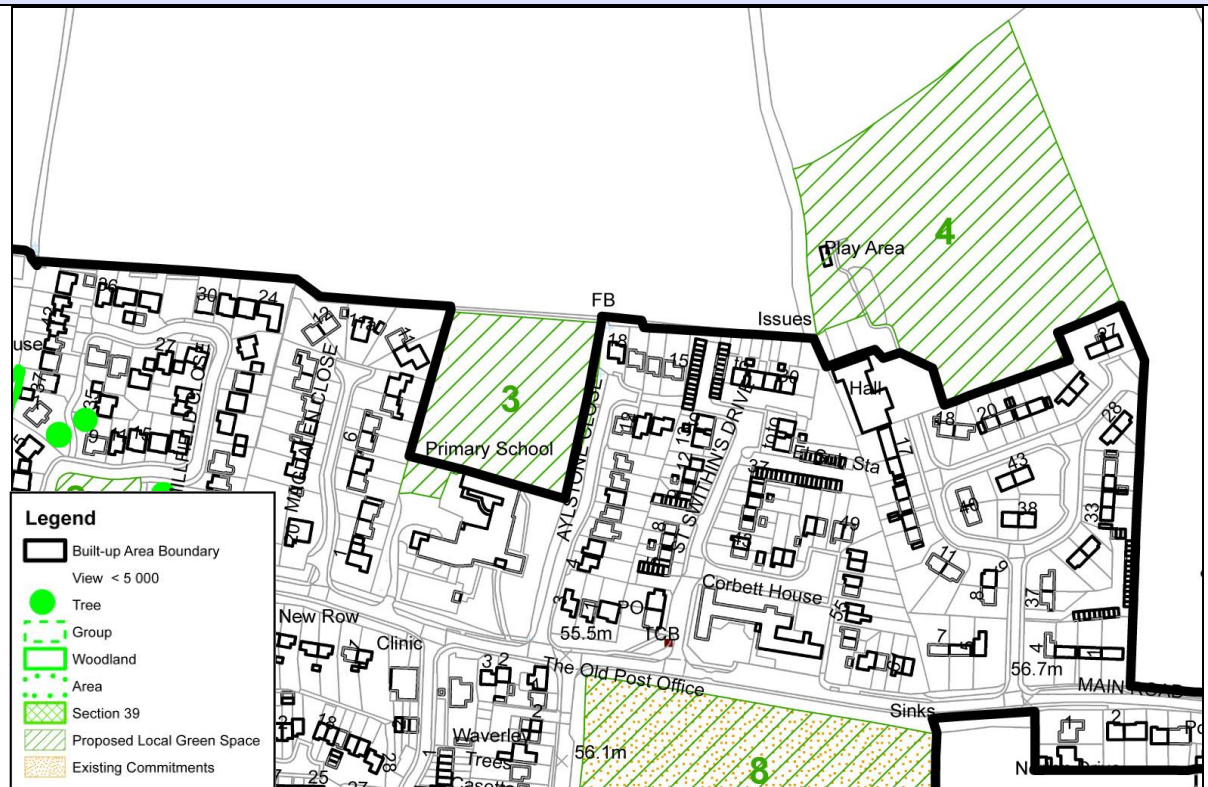


**Quinton Neighbourhood Development Plan
Local Green Space Site Assessment - January 2019**

Site Address	Site Area	Site Ref
Parish Playing Fields – The Close, Lower Quinton	Approx 2.0ha	LGS 4

Plan



Site Description and Current Land Use

The site is a well-maintained playing field located north of St Swithins Drive. Within the site are picnic benches, football pitches, well-stocked young children’s play area, outdoor gym equipment, a skateboard park and basketball area. To the southwest of the site are the Quinton and Admington Village Hall and associated car park. Residential properties lie to the south and southwest of the site.

Assorted trim hedges and clusters of mature trees line the site’s northern and eastern boundaries and the majority of the western boundary with views to the open fields beyond.

Relevant Planning History

- Application Reference:** 93/01490/FUL
Address: Playing Field The Close Lower Quinton Stratford-upon-Avon Warwickshire
Proposal: ERECTION OF CHANGING FACILITIES.
Decision: Application permitted
Date Decision Issued: 3/07/1994

- Planning permissions granted in 1975 (75/00411/FUL) and 2001 (00/03397/FUL) for extensions to the Village Hall.

Site Ownership

Unregistered. Parish Council have confirmed they are the owners.

Site Constraints

The site sits outside the development boundary. The site sit within (Q03), an area of High/Medium sensitivity to housing development and High sensitivity to commercial development according to the Landscape Sensitivity Study (2012) Vol. 2 by White Consultants for Stratford District Council. The study identifies the area as 'Parks, Gardens and Amenity Greenspaces'.

"The main sensitive's of the zone are its function as a gap between the old and new parts of the settlement opposite The Pound, its role as part of the wider countryside hinterland to the settlement separating it from Long Marston, the presence of the long distance footpath/s, and the beneficial uses of the playing fields and allotments. Housing development would be unacceptable to the east around the older part of the settlement and is problematic to the north and west as it would clearly extend the settlement form in this relatively open landscape." p.B651

The site is identified as 'Amenity Grassland' in the Stratford-on-Avon District Council Ecological and Geological Study of Local Service Villages by WCC Ecological Services & Habitat Biodiversity Audit, July 2012

The site has Medium/Low Archaeological Sensitivity and its landscape character is identified as Designed Landscape according to the Historic Environment Assessment of Local Service Villages, Stratford-on-Avon District County of Warwickshire On behalf of Stratford-on-Avon District Council, July 2012 AOC Project No: 32127

Public Access

The site is open and accessible to the public.

Site Photo



Ecological Significance

With the exception of the small number of trees and hedges within the site and lining its perimeter, the ecological value of the site is low.

However, those trees and hedges provide welcome habitats for shelter, nesting sites and food for many birds, small mammals, invertebrates and insects. As such, they play a minor contributory role for the wider food web and species diversity within the village's ecosystem and the wider ecological significance of the village.

Special Qualities and Local Significance

This well-used and maintained site is the main green recreational facility in Lower Quinton and provides a valuable facility for the area. The special qualities of the site include its recreational and social value for children and adults and amenity space for walkers and dog walkers by local residents, visitors and the wider community.

In addition to the football pitches, the site is also used seasonally for cricket and other field sports as well as for parish social events including summer fetes and barbecues. The village hall, adjacent to the site, is also available for hire for recreational and social functions.

The site is demonstrably special and locally significant as it is actively used and valued by the local community as a formal area of open space.

Summary and Suitability for Designation as Local Green Space

This site is well related to and used by the local community and makes a positive contribution to the health and well-being local residents.

This site as outlined on the above plan is considered to be suitable for Local Green Space designation in accordance with paragraph 99 and 100 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 active use as the main recreational facility in the village, tranquillity and richness of its habitats and wildlife potential and the contribution it makes to sustainability, health and wellbeing; and
- is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.