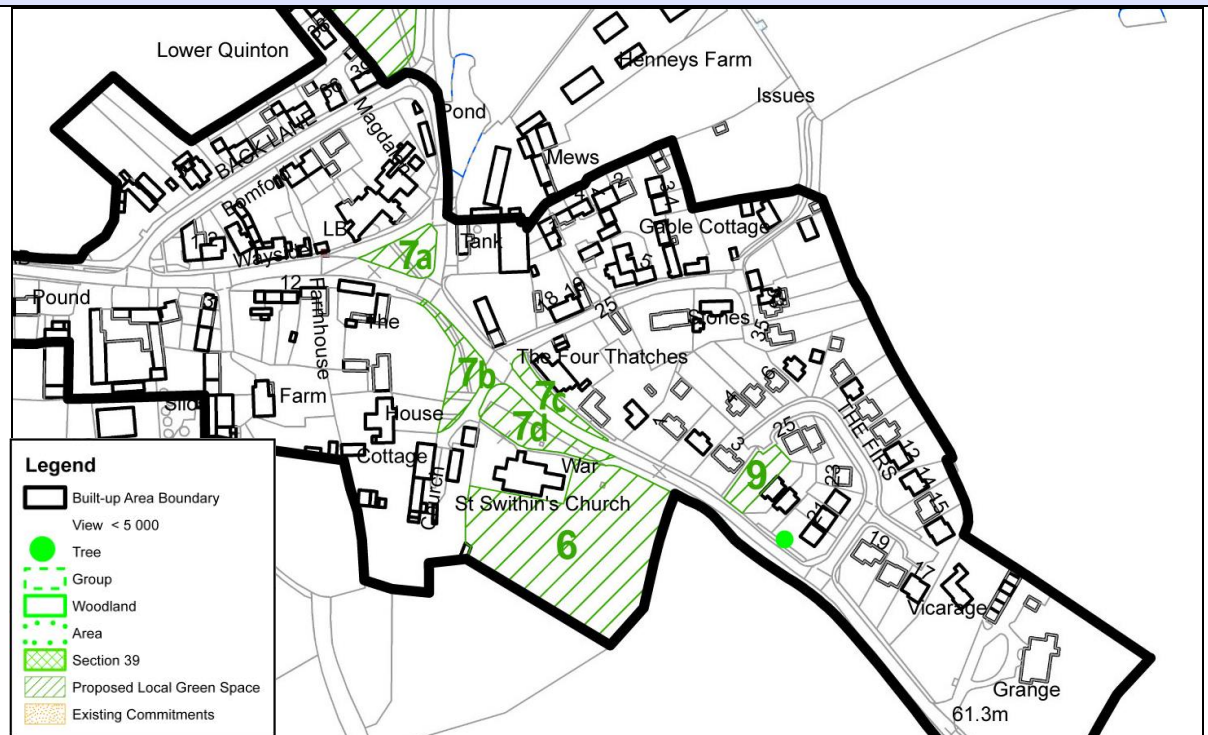


**Quinton Neighbourhood Development Plan  
Local Green Space Site Assessment - January 2019**

Site Address	Site Area	Site Ref
St Swithins Church Grounds, Main Road, Lower Quinton	Approx 0.53ha	LGS 6

**Plan**



**Site Description and Current Land Use**

The site is a churchyard which sits within the grounds and forms the setting of the nationally important Grade I listed Church of St Swithin. It is situated to the south of Main Road. The southwest area of the site consists of a large open green area. The eastern side of the site forms the village’s burial grounds with both ancient and contemporary gravestones interspersed with a variety mature and newly planted trees, shrubs and benches. Within the site is a dedicated wildflower area. The site also forms the setting for the village’s War Memorial.

The Grade II listed remains of Churchyard Cross is situated in close proximity to the site’s northwest corner. The site also forms the setting of a number other Grade II listed residential dwellings which are in close proximity to the north and west.

Open fields line the site’s eastern and southern boundaries. Mature trees and post and rail fencing line the southern boundary. Through them, panoramic views across open countryside to Meon Hill can be found. Hedges line the site’s northern, western and

eastern boundaries. A low dry stone wall lines the site along the road frontage. Residential dwellings lie to the west and north of the site. A public footpath runs through the site from Main Road at the northern end to the open countryside to the south.

#### **Relevant Planning History**

No relevant planning history found.

#### **Site Ownership**

Unregistered. Assumed ownership is Diocese of Gloucester.

#### **Site Constraints**

The site forms an important setting to a number of heritage assets including the grounds of nationally important Grade I listed Church of St Swithin.

To the south and east, the site borders (Q02) 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:

*“This zone is characterised by gently rolling arable farmland with a well defined pattern of medium sized regular fields bounded by thorn/elm hedgerows. There are few hedgerow trees allowing open views across the zone from rising ground within the Cotswolds AONB to the south. The sensitivity of this zone is associated with its open character, which acts as an important unspoilt rural setting to the older part of the settlement around St Swithin's church with its many listed buildings. Housing development is considered inappropriate within this zone.” p.B648*

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 High Archaeological Sensitivity 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 Photos



### **Ecological Significance**

With the exception of the mature trees, hedges and shrubs that frame and populate the site as well as the wildflower area, the majority of the site has limited ecological value but serves as a wildlife corridor to the countryside that surrounds it.

The mixed species trees, hedges, wildflowers and shrubs are important for a number of birds and mammals as they provide food, shelter and nesting sites. They 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's ecosystem. In the village, there have been sightings of larger fauna species such as bats, birds of prey (e.g. buzzards and owls), rabbits and hedgehogs. The site plays an important contributory role in the wider ecological significance of the village.

### **Special Qualities and Local Significance**

The site is the only burial ground in Quinton. It forms the setting of the Grade I listed St Swithins Church which is a landmark in the parish and, with its tall spire, is visible from all directions across open fields and from the hills of the AONB. It also forms the setting of the War Memorial and surrounding Grade II listed buildings. As such, it is a restful and open space that serves as a place of remembrance and reflection for the community.

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 green space. The special qualities of the site include its strong contribution to local character and distinctiveness due to its natural beauty.

### **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 tranquillity, area of reflection and richness of its habitats and wildlife potential and the contribution it makes to sustainability; and
- is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.