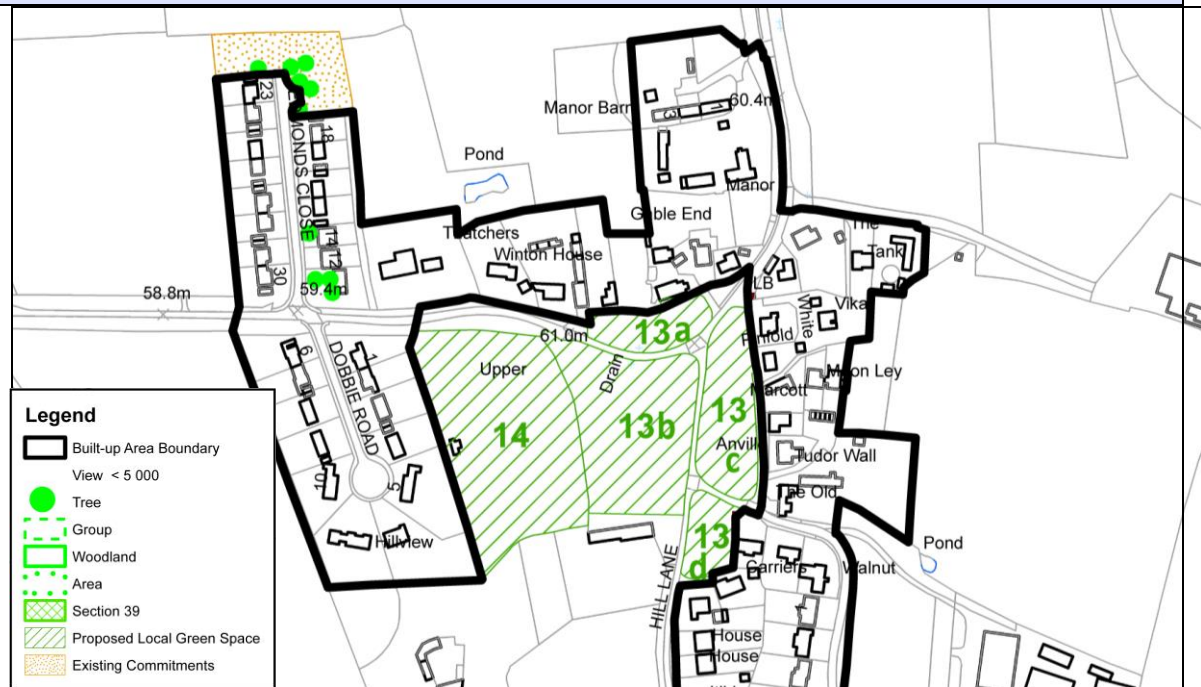


**Quinton Neighbourhood Development Plan
Local Green Space Site Assessment - January 2019**

Site Address	Site Area	Site Ref
Orchard west of Upper Quinton Green, Taylors Lane, Lower Quinton	Approx 0.9ha	LGS 14

Plan



Site Description and Current Land Use

The site is a privately owned, old orchard set within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. There are views through the orchard to the Iron Age hillfort and northernmost Cotswold outlier, Meon Hill.

It is located south of Taylors Lane and west of Upper Quinton Green. Residential dwellings line the site's western boundary and are situated along Taylors Lane to the north. Fields line its southern boundary and the Village Green lines its eastern boundary. Hedges and trees line the perimeter to the south, east and west. Particularly dense hedges and semi-mature trees which line its eastern boundary separate it from the green (LGS 13) adjacent to the site. Metal fencing with gate line the road frontage through which the majority of the site can be seen by passers by.

Within the site is a weathered large metal storage container on cement blocks. Also notable within the site is a ruin (*according to the Historic England map*) which sits along the middle of its western boundary.

Relevant Planning History

No relevant planning history found.

Site Ownership

IAN MCDONALD of Green Bank, Taylors Lane, Upper Quinton, Stratford-Upon-Avon, Warwickshire CV37 8SX

Site Constraints

The site is situated in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The site has Medium/Low Archaeological Sensitivity and borders an area of High Archaeological Sensitivity to the east 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

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

Public Access

The site is privately owned and there is no public access although there are extensive views into the site from the publically accessible areas to the east.

Site Photo



Ecological Significance

The site contains a mix of mature fruit trees and some shrubs. Mixed species hedgerows and trees 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 ecosystem. Old orchard trees provide an ideal habitat for the Nobel Chafer which is a protected species.

Within the site, there have been sightings of larger fauna species birds of prey (e.g. buzzards and owls), rabbits, foxes, pheasant and hedgehogs. Rooks and woodpeckers have also been seen to regularly nest and graze there. The site plays an important contributory role in the wider ecological significance of the village.

Special Qualities and Local Significance

The special qualities of the site include its strong contribution to local character and distinctiveness due to its natural beauty. The site sits in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and whose backdrop is the Iron Age hillfort and northernmost Cotswold outlier, Meon Hill.

Historically, the site provides an important link to the village's past when the area was covered with orchards and was a prominent part of the landscape. Orchards are disappearing at an alarming rate and are a declining land use. It is therefore a valuable land use resource.

The site is used by local farmers for their sheep to graze and lamb. It also provides a sense of tranquillity and openness within a residential area and for walkers and ramblers who can see into the site along the road frontage.

All of which contributes to the site's green setting and sustainability.

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 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.