

Local Green Space Assessments - README

Note the LGS assessments are numbered in the original Plan draft order. Two LGS's have been deleted and the others renumbered for the submission version of the plan.

The changes to the LGS numbering are listed below (in original numbering order).

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LGS 1 – Stowe Valley

No change to Plan number.

LGS 2 – Abbey Lane Green

No change to Plan number.

LGS 3 – Park Lane Recreation Ground

No change to Plan number.

LGS 4 – Tithe Lodge

No change to Plan number.

LGS 5 – The Grange Gardens and Peace Garden

No change to Plan number.

LGS 6 – Southam College Playing Fields

No change to Plan number.

LGS 7 – This LGS is has been moved from the LGS Policy and moved to be an aspirational project.

Not appearing as anLGS in the Plan.

LGS 8 – Merestone Park

Refers to LGS 7 in Plan

LGS 9 – Tollgate Road Play Area

Refers to LGS 8 in Plan.

LGS10 – River Stowe off A425 Daventry Road

Refers to LGS 9 in Plan.

LGS11 – Riverside Walk, Shepherds Hill

Refers to LGS 10 in Plan.

LGS12 – Allotments

Refers to LGS 11 in Plan.

LGS13 – Southam Cricket Ground

Refers to LGS 12 in Plan.

LGS14 - Southam UFC and Bowling Clubs

This LGS has been deleted from the Plan

LGS 15 – Southam RUFC, Kineton Road

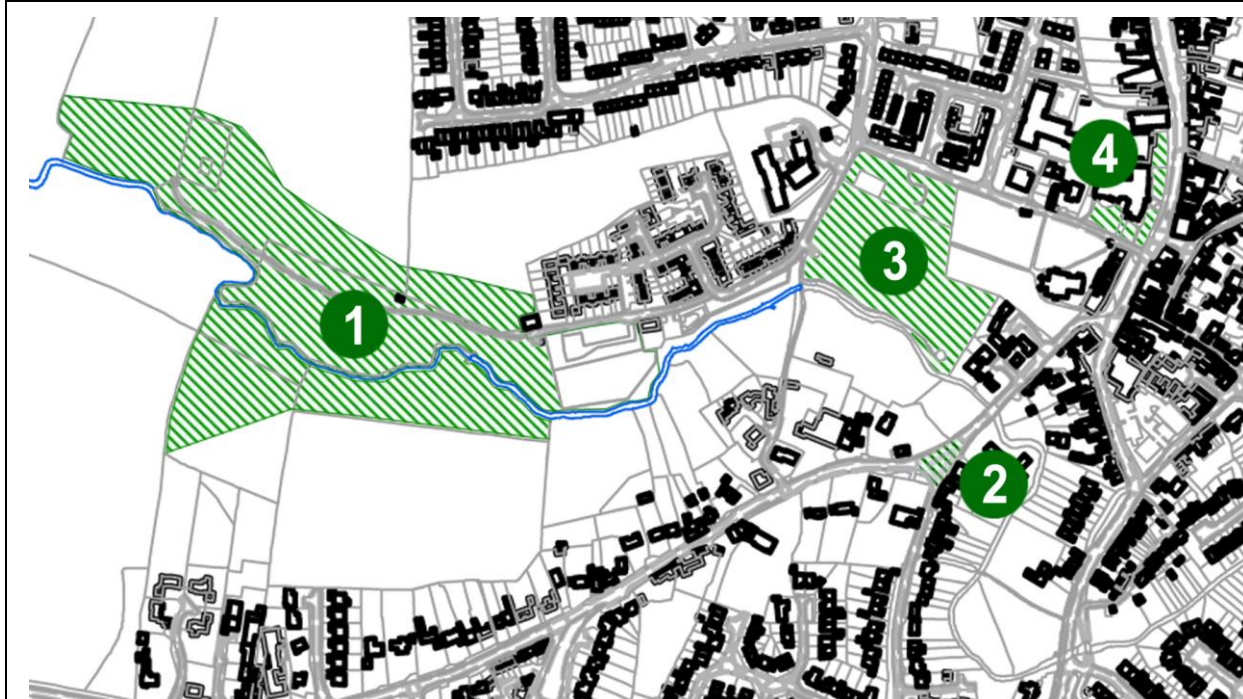
Refers to LGS 13 in Plan.

SOUTHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Local Green Space Site Assessment: April 2018

Site Address	Site Area	Site Ref
Stowe valley (Land north & south of River Stowe), known as Holywell Walk	Approx. 4.92 ha	LGS No: 1

Plan



Site Description and Current Land Use

The site is predominantly made up of green fields which run along part of the northern and southern sides of the River Stowe closest to the town. Mature trees sporadically line the riverside. A bridge near the entrance of the site connects both sides of the river. The site is traversed by a network of public rights of way which lead to the locally significant Blue Lias Ring walk. Green fields and farmland surround the site with some residential properties adjoining the eastern boundary. There are sweeping, picturesque panoramic views from within the site in all directions. Along the walk on the north side of the site is Holy Well. This fresh water spring has a stone built surround, an ornate wooden rustic bench and fencing.

Relevant Planning History
<p>Application Ref: 17/01254/OUT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed: Outline application with all matters reserved except for access for up to 175 dwellings and a publicly accessible riverside park Decision: Refusal of outline planning permission Decision Date: 13/10/2017 Appeal (APP/J3720/W/18/3200274) pending <p>ADJACENT TO THE SITE:</p> <p>Application Ref: 18/00144/FUL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed: Erection of a temporary haul road for construction vehicles associated with the development of permission 15/02047/OUT and the erection of a permanent new footpath link between the existing footpath from Watton's Lane to the south of the Cadet Centre and Holy Well Walk. Decision: Application pending <p>Application Ref: 17/02614/REM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed: Development of approximately 51 dwellings, access and other associated works. The appearance, landscaping, layout and residential development of approximately and an associated provision of public open space. outline application was not an environmental impact assessment application. Decision: Approved Decision Date: 12/03/2018 <p>Application Ref: 15/02047/OUT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed: Development of approximately 51 dwellings, access, and other associated works. Decision: Outline planning permission granted Decision Date: 31/10/2016
Site Ownership
<p>North of the River Stowe partly owned by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coventry Diocesan Board of Finance Ltd, The Diocesan Office, Cathedral and Diocesan Offices, 1 Hill Top, Coventry CV1 5AB (up to the western kissing gate) Stoneythorpe Hall (Jersey) Limited, Glendale Farm La Rue Mahier St Mary Jersey JE3 3DW (for the field up to the Holy Well and thereafter) <p>South of the River Stowe: No title found on Land Registry Search</p>
Site Constraints
<p>The site lies within an area of High Sensitivity to housing and commercial development according the Landscape Sensitivity Study (2012): Stratford Final Report Part A 270711 by White Consultants.</p>

Public Access

The site is open and accessible to the public along the public rights of way.

Site Photo





Ecological Significance

The area is designated as part of So09 within the Stratford-on-Avon District Landscape Sensitivity Assessment For Towns, White Consultants (June 2012). On page 233, the study notes that “This is a narrow valley floor zone with a meandering stream corridor and floodplain with penetrates into the settlement from the west and associated well-used PROWs. The associated wet grassland vegetation, in combination, with the mostly pastoral, valley sides form a landscape that is both visually and ecologically sensitive”. The presence of the River Stowe along its southern boundary provides a wildlife corridor for species such as amphibians, invertebrates, small mammals and insects.

The site contains a mix of mature trees and some shrubs. Mixed species hedgerows 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 town ecosystem.

In the town 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 town.

Special Qualities and Local Significance

Traversed by a network of PROWs and leading to the Blue Lias Ring walk this section represents a major part of the Holywell walk experience and lies in the highly valued Stowe Valley, the last true extensive tract of mixed open farmed and semi-wild land left in Southam. Holywell Walk is steeped in local historical significance. This extends south of the river to include this site. Along the walk is the thousand year old, Grade II listed and scheduled monument, The Holy Well and adjacent to the southern/western boundaries are the grounds of the Grade II listed, Stoneythorpe Hall. Just south of the site are the medieval Old Barn and Mill Pits (mentioned in the Domesday Book).

Panoramic views of the northern part of the town is evidenced when entering Southam from the A425 and for walkers and ramblers using the public rights of way. The vistas to the East provide a clearer view of St James church and the recreation ground.

Rich in wildlife and natural habitats the valley floor and Stowe riverside walk provides an environment enabling residents to exercise or enjoy quiet reflection, vital to resident health and wellbeing. Considered the 'green lung' of Southam, it delivers sweeping unbroken panoramic vistas in all directions. Part of this section is currently classed as an Area of Restraint.

The special qualities of the site include distinctiveness due to its natural beauty. It is well-used and cherished by the community, connecting the countryside to the built-up area. As such, it offers a sense of peaceful tranquillity for local residents, visitors, walkers, dog-walkers and ramblers.

Summary and Suitability for Designation as Local Green Space

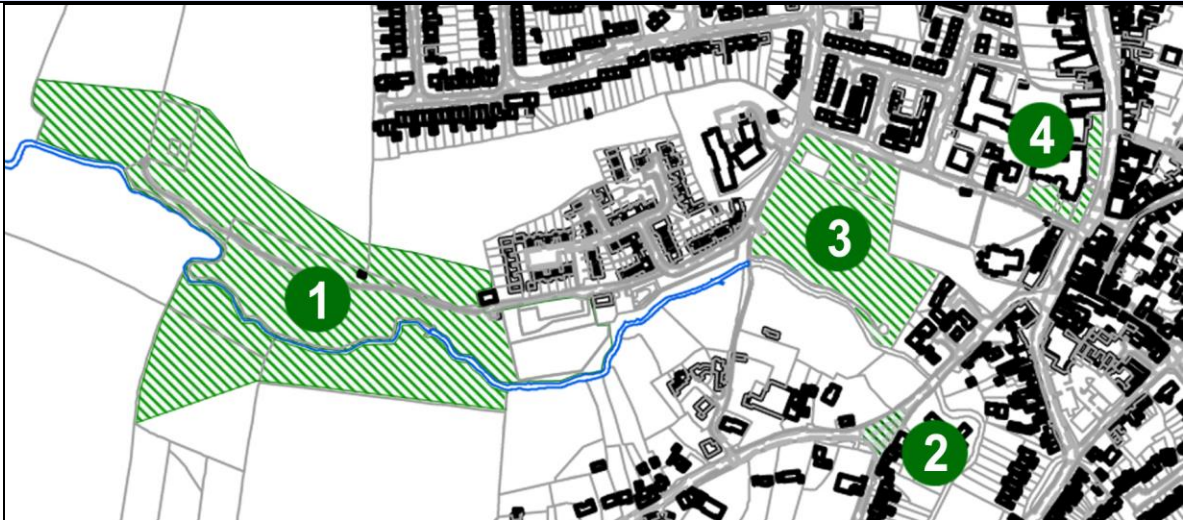
This site is well related to and appreciated and valued by the local community and makes a positive contribution to the local distinctiveness of the village.

The LGS as outlined on the above plan is considered to be suitable for Local Green Space designation in accordance with paragraphs 99-101 of the National Planning Policy Framework in that it is:

- in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
- demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance because of its recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity and richness of its habitats and wildlife potential; and
- local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

SOUTHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Local Green Space Site Assessment: April 2018


Site Address	Site Area	Site Ref
Abbey Lane Green: Junction of Abbey Lane and Warwick Road	Approx. 0.04 ha	LGS No: 2
Plan		
		
Site Description and Current Land Use		
<p>The site is a small, well-maintained triangular island of green space where Warwick Street and Oxford Street converge. On the site is a park bench and clusters of raised circular flowerbeds with seasonal planting. It is bound by roads on all sides.</p> <p>Looking north from the site on the east side Market Hill is the Grade II listed, 9 Market Hill. On the west side of Market Hill are the grounds of the Grade I listed, St James Church is its Grade II listed chest tombs and headstones.</p>		
Relevant Planning History		
None		
Site Ownership		
<p>Warwickshire County Council:</p> <p>Property Services Business Unit, Physical Assets Resources Group, Warwickshire County Council, Shire Hall, Market Place, Warwick CV34 4RL</p>		

Site Constraints
The site sits within the conservation area.
Public Access
The site is open on all sides but it does not benefit from footpaths along the road frontages.
Site Photo

Ecological Significance
Due to the nature of its use being an open green space, it has limited ecological value.
Special Qualities and Local Significance
<p>The special qualities of the site include its strong contribution to local character. It has the feel of a small green and sits firmly in the centre of the conservation area. It is surrounded by listed buildings and monuments and helps break up the surrounding built form.</p> <p>The site offers a sense of openness and restful spot for users and visitors to the site while taking in the surrounding listed buildings and their grounds.</p>
Summary and Suitability for Designation as Local Green Space
<p>This site is well related to and appreciated and valued by the local community and makes a positive contribution to the local distinctiveness of the village.</p> <p>The LGS as outlined on the above plan is considered to be suitable for Local Green Space designation in accordance with paragraphs 99-101 of the National Planning Policy Framework in that it is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves; • demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance because of its recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity and richness of its habitats and wildlife potential; and • local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

SOUTHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Local Green Space Site Assessment: April 2018

Site Address	Site Area	Site Ref
Park Lane Recreation Ground, Park Lane, Southam	Approx. 1.72 ha	LGS No: 3
Plan		
		
Site Description and Current Land Use		
<p>The site is a large green open space in Park Lane just off Market Hill situated in the heart of Southam, south of Park Lane and forms the setting of the Grade I listed, St James Church and associated graveyard which is east of the site. Views of the church and its spire can be seen from the site. On the site are a large natural grassy amphitheatre, numerous park benches along the riverside and a well-equipped children's play area which is the process of being renovated and refurbished.</p> <p>The River Stowe runs along the site's southern boundary. Mature trees including willow, Scotch Pine and Horse Chestnut and hedging line the majority of the site's perimeter. A wire and post fence line the northern border along Park Lane. A public footpath runs along the south, west and north boundaries with residential dwellings along the roads opposite. There are entrances to the site within the north and south boundaries and a double 5-bar gate is located on its southeast corner.</p>		
Relevant Planning History		
None		

Site Ownership

Warwickshire County Council:
Property Services Business Unit, Physical Assets Resources Group, Warwickshire County Council, Shire Hall, Market Place, Warwick CV34 4RL

Maintained by Southam Town Council

Site Constraints

The site sits within the conservation area. It lies within an area of High Sensitivity to housing and commercial development according the Landscape Sensitivity Study (2012): Stratford Final Report Part A 270711 by White Consultants.

Public Access

The site is open and accessible to the public

Site Photo



Ecological Significance

Due to the nature of its use, the site has limited ecological value. However, there is some ecological value within the site and along its periphery. The site contains a mix of trees including; mature, semi-mature and newly planted. Mixed species hedgerows and shrubs are also present along the periphery. These create a wildlife corridor and provide food and shelter for numerous species, such as insects, small mammals and birds and their associated nesting sites. The presence of the River Stowe along its southern boundary also provides a wildlife corridor for species such as amphibians, invertebrates, small mammals and insects. These are all vital for the wider food web and species diversity within the town ecosystem. And as such, the site plays a contributory role in the wider ecological significance of the town.

Special Qualities and Local Significance

The site is the main green recreational facility in the town for children to play in and which hosts the annual carnival and other open-air events such as concerts and civil war enactments. This space is a conduit to the Stowe Valley walk and in the opposing direction through St. James churchyard. Delivers one of the best viewpoints of the church and its spire.

This well-used and maintained facility creates a positive setting for the church and forms an important green corridor linking the built-up area to the countryside to the west. As a large open space with the River Stowe running alongside it, the site provides a tranquil and relaxing place for visitors, walkers and dog-walkers.

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 appreciated and valued by the local community and makes a positive contribution to the local distinctiveness of the village.

The LGS as outlined on the above plan is considered to be suitable for Local Green Space designation in accordance with paragraphs 99-101 of the National Planning Policy Framework in that it is:

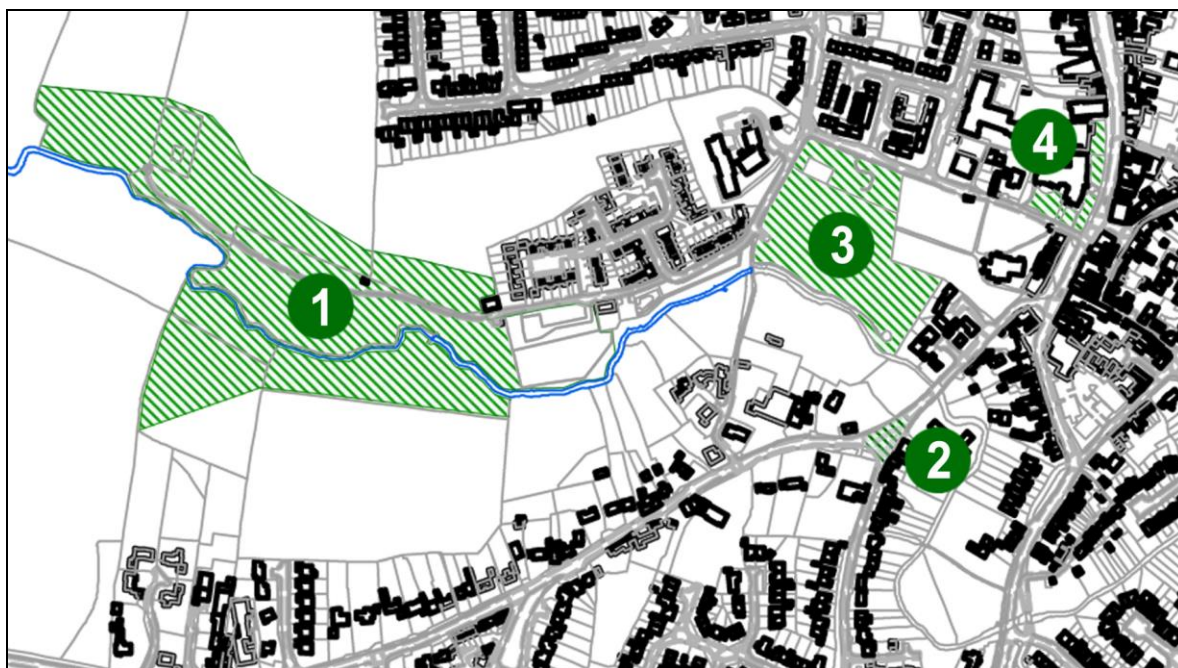
- in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
- demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance because of its recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity and richness of its habitats and wildlife potential; and
- local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

SOUTHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Local Green Space Site Assessment: April 2018

Site Address	Site Area	Site Ref
Tithe Lodge Garden, High Street CV47 0JJ	Approx. 0.14 ha	LGS No: 4

Plan



Site Description and Current Land Use

The site is situated in the heart of Southam retail area on the west side of High Street. It is a raised area of landscaped communal gardens for Tithe Lodge (west of the site), an independent living with care scheme designed for people aged over 55. Opened in 2016, the site was commemorated with a sundial which is inscribed with the quote, "In the garden of happy memories, it is always summer." Also on the site is Southam Stories, a large oak sculpture which explores Southam's local history and heritage through its myriad of small carvings.

Mainly laid to lawn with many veteran trees, flowerbeds, landscaped borders and park benches, a low red brick wall defines its boundaries to the east and south. Footpaths run along the site to the west and southern boundary along the road frontages. A wide paving stone path and steps with stainless steel handrails on either side lead onto the site from the footpath off High Street in front of Southam Library (adjacent / west of the site) and Tithe Café and another path leads onto the site off Park Lane to the south near the Town Notice Board. To the north of the site is the Police Station and Court house. Along the roads opposite to the east and south are numerous retail establishments with flats above including the Grade I, Church of St James and many Grade II listed buildings; 4, 5 and 5A High Street, The Manor House Taylors and Rockingham Motorcycles, Vivian House and Attached Railings.

Relevant Planning History

None

Site Ownership

Orbit Heart of England Housing Association, 10 Greenhill St, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 6LG

Site Constraints

The site sits within the Southam conservation area

Public Access

The site is open and accessible to the public.

Site Photo



Ecological Significance

Due to the nature of its use, the site has limited ecological value. However, there is some ecological value within the site with its veteran trees and shrubs which create a wildlife corridor and provide food and shelter for numerous species, such as insects, small mammals and birds and their associated nesting sites. These are all vital for the wider food web and species diversity within the town ecosystem. And as such, the site plays a contributory role in the wider ecological significance of the town.

Special Qualities and Local Significance

Under the ownership of Orbit Housing this relatively new landscaped green space re-worked when demolition was undertaken is the only visible and accessible green space in the main retail centre and defines the outer form of Tithe Lodge itself. It adds a natural break to the High Street / Market Hill streetscene and provides a restful place for visitors and residents to enjoy café facilities and al fresco dining. As a blank canvas for colourful planting schemes it serves to contribute positively to Southam in Bloom.

The special qualities of the site include its strong contribution to local character through the Southam Stories sculpture and views to the church as well as its distinctiveness due to its natural beauty. This green lung in the centre of the town is widely appreciated for its broad amenity value as it offers a sense of openness and tranquillity for users and visitors to the site.

Summary and Suitability for Designation as Local Green Space

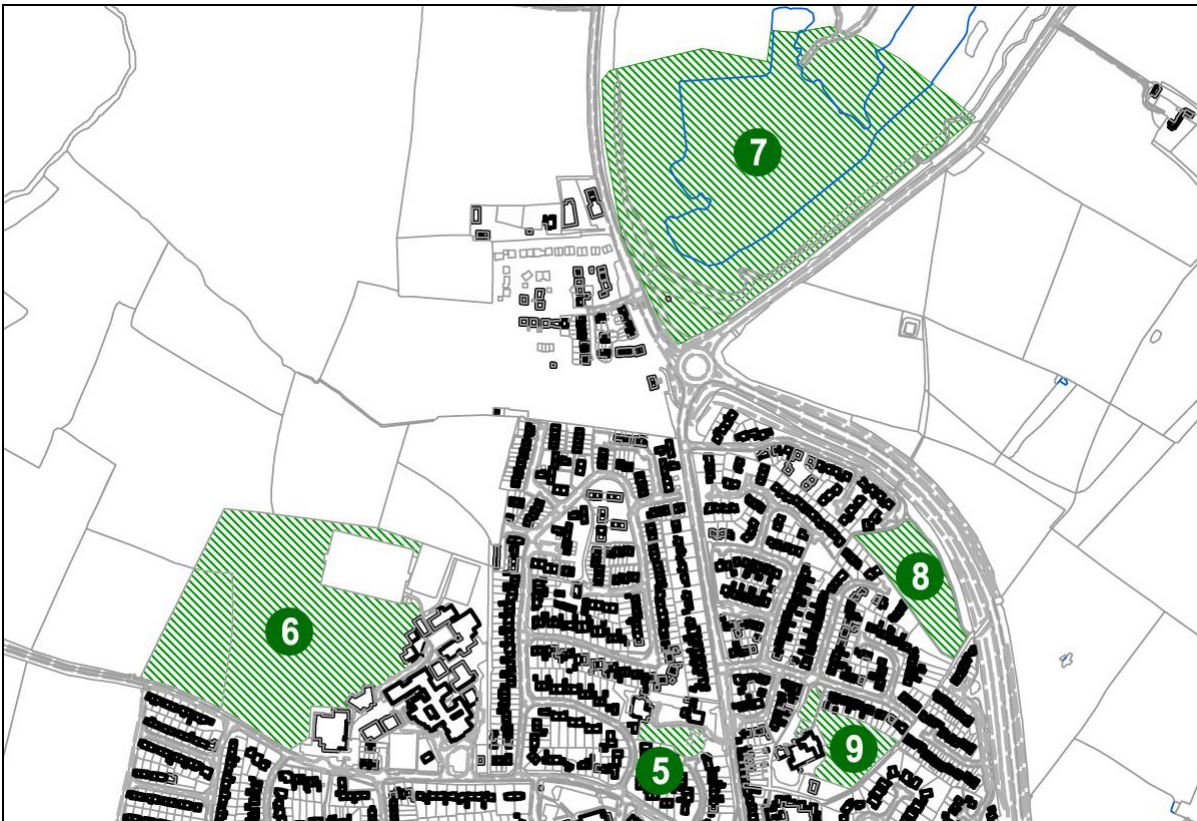
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SOUTHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Local Green Space Site Assessment: April 2018

Site Address	Site Area	Site Ref
The Grange Gardens and Peace Garden	Approx. 0.22 ha	LGS No: 5
Plan		
		
Site Description and Current Land Use		
<p>The site is situated off Coventry Road to the east and Grange Close to the south. Numerous footpaths traverse the site from east to west and north to south. The site forms the setting of the Grade II listed, The Grange, to the north and is adjacent to the Grange Hall</p> <p>Community centre to the north west which also home to the Town Council's offices. The terraced and landscaped peace garden to the south of the Grange is the most accessible part of this space. Steps lead down to a circular tiered planter flanked on three sides by park benches. The site is surrounded by residential dwellings to the south and to the east on the opposite side of Coventry Road.</p>		
Relevant Planning History		
None		

Site Ownership

Stratford District Council, Street Scene Team, Elizabeth House, Church Street, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire CV37 6HX

Site Constraints

The site is situated within the conservation area.

Public Access

The site is open and accessible to the public.

Site Photo



Ecological Significance

The site contains a mix of mature trees and some shrubs. Mixed species hedgerows 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 town ecosystem.

In the town 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 town.

Special Qualities and Local Significance

The site provides a green lung to the centre of the town as well as an open setting to the Grade 2 listed Grange and the Grange Hall Community Centre. The terraced and landscaped peace garden is probably the most accessible part of this space and does what it says on the tin. The Grange (unoccupied) and surrounding green areas up to the Grange Hall are under the ownership of Stratford District Council and may in future be under threat of development as the council has indicated its intention to dispose of their asset. This space, not previously deployed has the potential to hold outdoor events hosted by the Grange Hall, some are already planned for this year.

The special qualities of the site include its strong contribution to local character and distinctiveness due to its natural beauty. The site offers a sense of openness and tranquillity in a built-up area for users and visitors to the site.

Summary and Suitability for Designation as Local Green Space


This site is well related to and appreciated and valued by the local community and makes a positive contribution to the local distinctiveness of the village.

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SOUTHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Local Green Space Site Assessment: April 2018

Site Address	Site Area	Site Ref
Southam College Playing Fields, Welsh Road West CV47 0JW	Approx. 6.13 ha	LGS No: 6
Plan		
		
Site Description and Current Land Use		
<p>The site lies on the summit/edge on a low hill to the west of the town. It sits west of Southam College and forms its grounds and is well-used and maintained. Included on the site are 6 hardcourt tennis courts, a football pitch and a running track.</p> <p>Residential buildings are situated opposite Welsh Road West to the south. Open fields lie to the west and north of the site. It is screened by tree planting to soften the western and northern edges of the site. To the north and west are panoramic views toward open countryside.</p>		

Relevant Planning History
<p>Between 2006 and 2015, there have been numerous applications for new and temporary school buildings / classrooms, and extensions. All were granted.</p> <p>Application Ref: 13/03208/COUNTY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of a futsal/netball games facility with floodlighting, boundary screen mound and landscaping, enhancement of existing tennis/netball facilities with replacement fencing and floodlighting. • Decision: No objection • Decision Date: 13/12/2013 <p>Application Ref: 12/01938/COUNTY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extension to dining room and admin office floodlighting. • Decision: No objection • Decision Date: 06/09/2012 <p>Application Ref: 10/01626/COUNTY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed increase in size of floodlit pitch previously approved (ref 06/02850/COUNTY) and associated amendments to perimeter fencing locations and floodlighting column positions • Decision: No Objection • Decision Date: 19/10/2010 <p>Application ref: 06/02850/COUNTY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of a floodlit new generation artificial pitch plus associated changing facilities. • Decision: Permission with condition • Decision Date: 28/02/2007
Site Ownership
<p>Warwickshire County Council: Property Services Business Unit, Physical Assets Resources Group, Warwickshire County Council, Shire Hall, Market Place, Warwick CV34 4RL</p>
Site Constraints
<p>The site lies within an area of Medium/High Sensitivity to housing development and High Sensitivity to commercial development according the Landscape Sensitivity Study (2012): Stratford Final Report Part A 270711 by White Consultants.</p>
Public Access
<p>Access is limited to within school times.</p>

Site Photo



Ecological Significance

Due to the nature of its use, the site has limited ecological value. However, there is some ecological value along the periphery of the site which is lined with mature trees and hedges which create a wildlife corridor and provide food and shelter for numerous species, such as insects, small mammals and birds and their associated nesting sites. These are all vital for the wider food web and species diversity within the town ecosystem. And as such, the site plays a contributory role in the wider ecological significance of the town.

Special Qualities and Local Significance

The school field provides sports facilities for the local community although its greatest asset is the area opposite Windmill Way which provides a panoramic view over the fields to South Fields Farm. It is currently used by the school and local community for recreational purposes and functions as a well-used community resource.

Summary and Suitability for Designation as Local Green Space

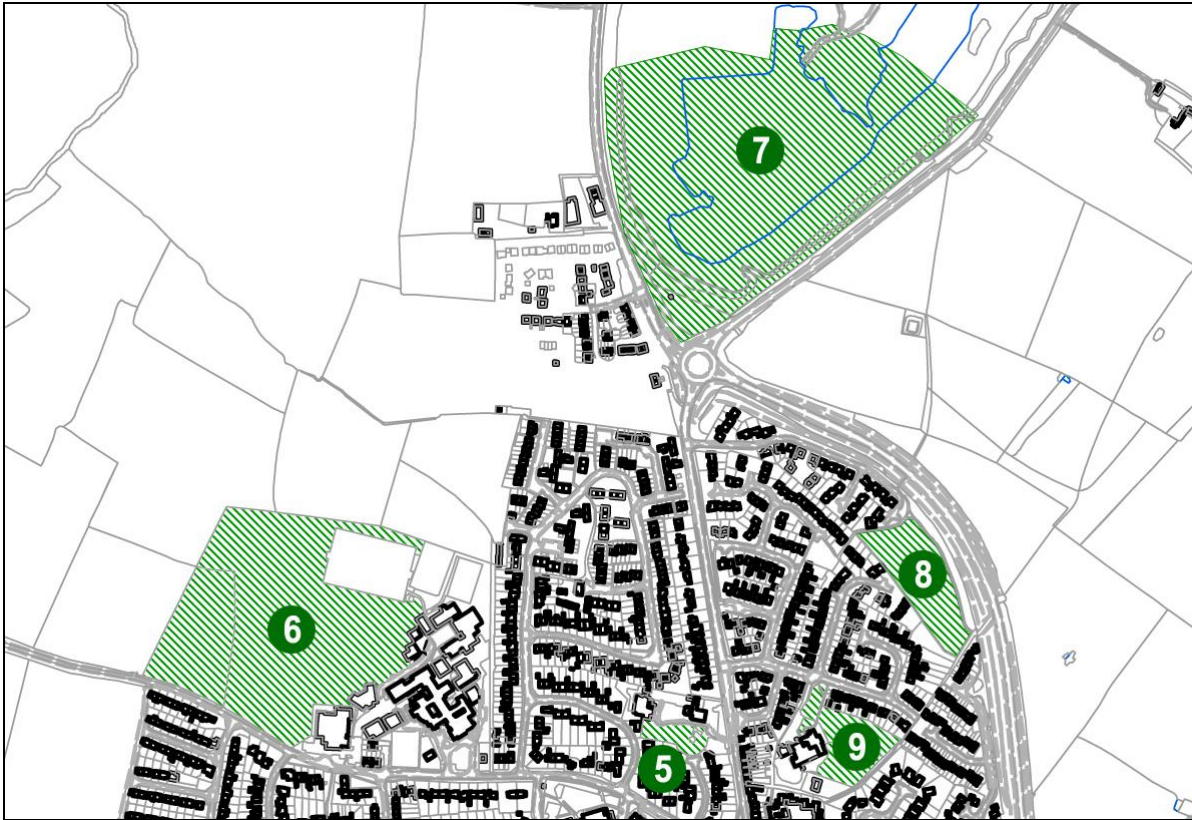
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SOUTHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Local Green Space Site Assessment: April 2018

Site Address	Site Area	Site Ref
Southam Quarry, Cemex UK Southam Cement Works Southam Road CV47 9RA	Approx. 10.90 ha	LGS No: 7
Plan		
		
Site Description and Current Land Use		
<p>The site is currently a working quarry for CEMEX UK coming to the end of its productive cycle. CEMEX UK has partnered with Butterfly Conservation to create habitats for threatened species at this site.</p> <p>Source: www.cemex.co.uk/su-southam-quarry.aspx</p>		
Relevant Planning History		
<p>Planning Ref: SCOPE/00033</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southam Quarry: Revised Infill Restoration Scheme • Scoping Application • Decision: Closed • Decision Date: 07/11/2017 		

Site Ownership

Cemex Scottish Ltd Partnership, Cemex 2, Kilmartin Place, Tannochside Park, Uddingston G71 5PH

(Cemex UK Operations Limited, Registered in England and Wales at CEMEX House, Evreux Way, Rugby, Warwickshire, CV21 2DT)

Site Constraints

The site is 'Local Wildlife Site' according to the Stratford-on-Avon District Landscape Sensitivity Assessment For Towns, White Consultants (June 2012).

Public Access

None at present

Site Photo**Ecological Significance**

Southam is a priority area for biodiversity conservation because the soil is alkaline. This encourages grassland rich in flowers - an important habitat for insects and butterflies. Several types of butterfly and moth are considered priority species by the UK Government's Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP), a nationwide programme that identifies and protects threatened wildlife and habitats.

CEMEX UK partnered with Butterfly Conservation, which works to halt the decline in butterfly and moth numbers, to create conditions that support threatened butterfly and

moth species at Southam.

CEMEX UK sowed locally sourced seeds to create grassland rich in flowers and we planted Kidney Vetch, a flower that helps the Small Blue butterfly to thrive.” They “have cleared approximately three hectares of scrub and built banks of earth, creating several different habitats within a small area to attract a range of species.

Butterfly Conservation used the site to trial conservation methods. They created micro-habitats for insects and introduced [grazing animals] to graze the area under careful management, as this can encourage different types of grass to grow.”

Within the “1.5 hectares of diverse grassland to support butterflies and moths, and their numbers increased significantly as a result. In particular, the number of colonies of Small Blue butterflies doubled from three to six. The UK BAP has a local target for increasing Small Blue numbers - and the colonies at Southam make up 75% of this target. Populations of the Dingy Skipper butterfly and the Chalk Carpet Moth have also increased by a third.”

Source: www.cemex.co.uk/su-southam-quarry.aspx

Special Qualities and Local Significance

The site is to be reserved as a wildlife area and nature reserve for the benefit of Southam, Long Itchington and surrounds. As well as its importance as a nature reserve, its future potential lies in its recreational value and tranquil setting for local residents, walkers and visitors.

Summary and Suitability for Designation as Local Green Space

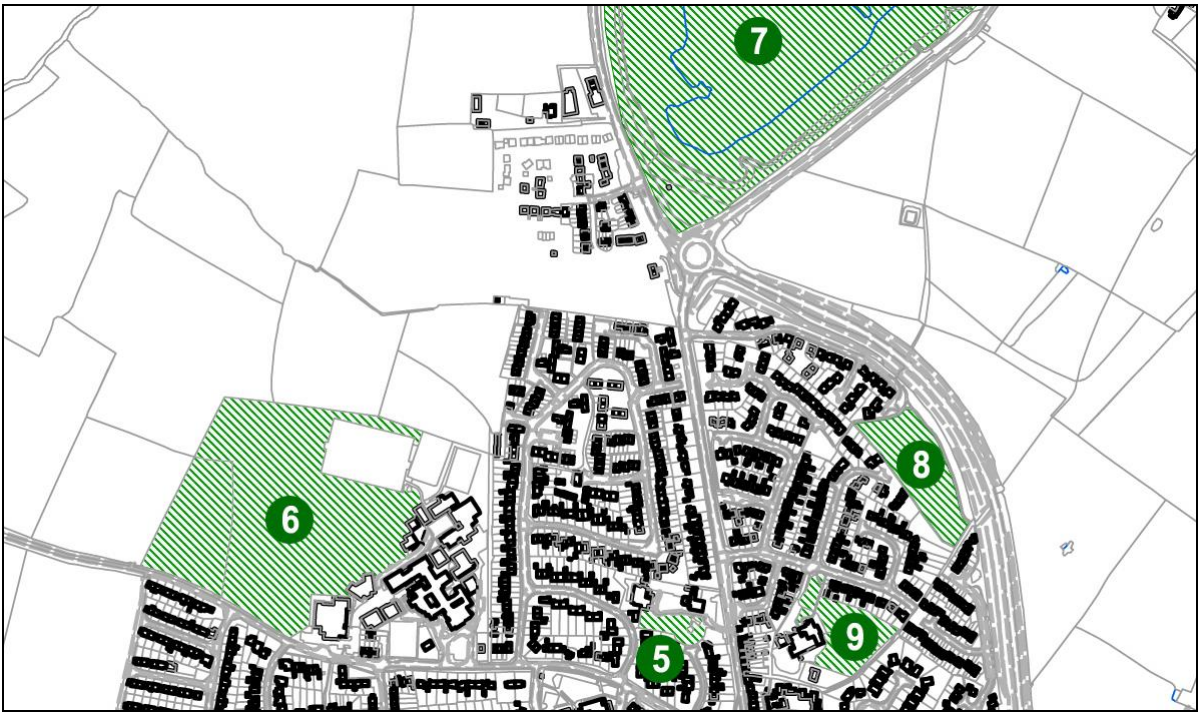
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- local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

SOUTHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Local Green Space Site Assessment: April 2018

Site Address	Site Area	Site Ref
Merestone Park, Merestone Close	Approx. 1.2 ha	LGS No: 8
Plan		
		
Site Description and Current Land Use		
<p>Opened in 2000, Merestone Park is a large well-maintained, open space situated on the northeast edge of the town of Southam. It is the highest point in Southam and has panoramic views over the countryside to the east. It is at this point a replacement Merestone is situated. It is inscribed 'Merestone, Original 998 AD, Replacement 2000 AD'. A public footpath runs through the site from north to south along its eastern edge. The site is well contained with mature trees and shrubs lining its boundaries. Also on the site are numerous park benches.</p>		
Relevant Planning History		
None		
Site Ownership		
Southam Town Council, The Grange Hall, Coventry Road, Southam CV47 1QA		
Site Constraints		
None		

Public Access

The site is open and accessible to the public.

Site Photo



Ecological Significance

The majority of the site is an open green space. Though the site is sparsely populated with young and semi-mature trees, due to the nature of its use, it has limited ecological value. However, there is some ecological value along its boundary which is heavily lined with mature trees and hedges. These provide a wildlife corridor and food and shelter for numerous species such as insects, small mammals, badgers and birds and their associated nesting sites. These are all vital for the wider food web and species diversity within the town ecosystem. And as such, the site plays a contributory role in the wider ecological significance of the town.

Special Qualities and Local Significance

Serving the north Merestone Estate, the site links the estate with The Furrows and Tollgate Road.

The park is an open green space serving the north Merestone Estate, linking the estate with The Furrows and Tollgate Road. It has recreational value being popular with families, walkers and dog-walkers as well as providing a sense of tranquility and relaxation for visitors with its breath-taking views of the countryside from its highest point. The special qualities of the site include its strong contribution to local character and distinctiveness due to its natural beauty.

The park also has local historical significance. In 1999, the Town Council decided to erect a new Merestone to mark the year 2000, in what is now Merestone Park on the edge of Southam. The original stone of the year 998 had been lost many years ago because of excavation at the cement works quarry.

According to the Southam Heritage website, "In the year 998 Aethelred (the Unready) gave some land which included Southam to Leofwine, the father of Earl Leofric of Coventry whose wife was the famous Lady Godiva. The description of the land still exists written in Old English in a Charter... The Charter describes the boundaries of Southam referring to these local landmarks, one of which is mentioned as a 'maerestane' (boundary stone). It is believed that the stone mentioned in the Charter was at the meeting point of three communities – Southam, Long Itchington and Stockton to the north of 'Sutham'.

(www.southamheritage.org/2017/11/14/the-merestone/)

Summary and Suitability for Designation as Local Green Space

This site is well related to and appreciated and valued by the local community and makes a positive contribution to the local distinctiveness of the village.

The LGS as outlined on the above plan is considered to be suitable for Local Green Space designation in accordance with paragraphs 99-101 of the National Planning Policy Framework in that it is:

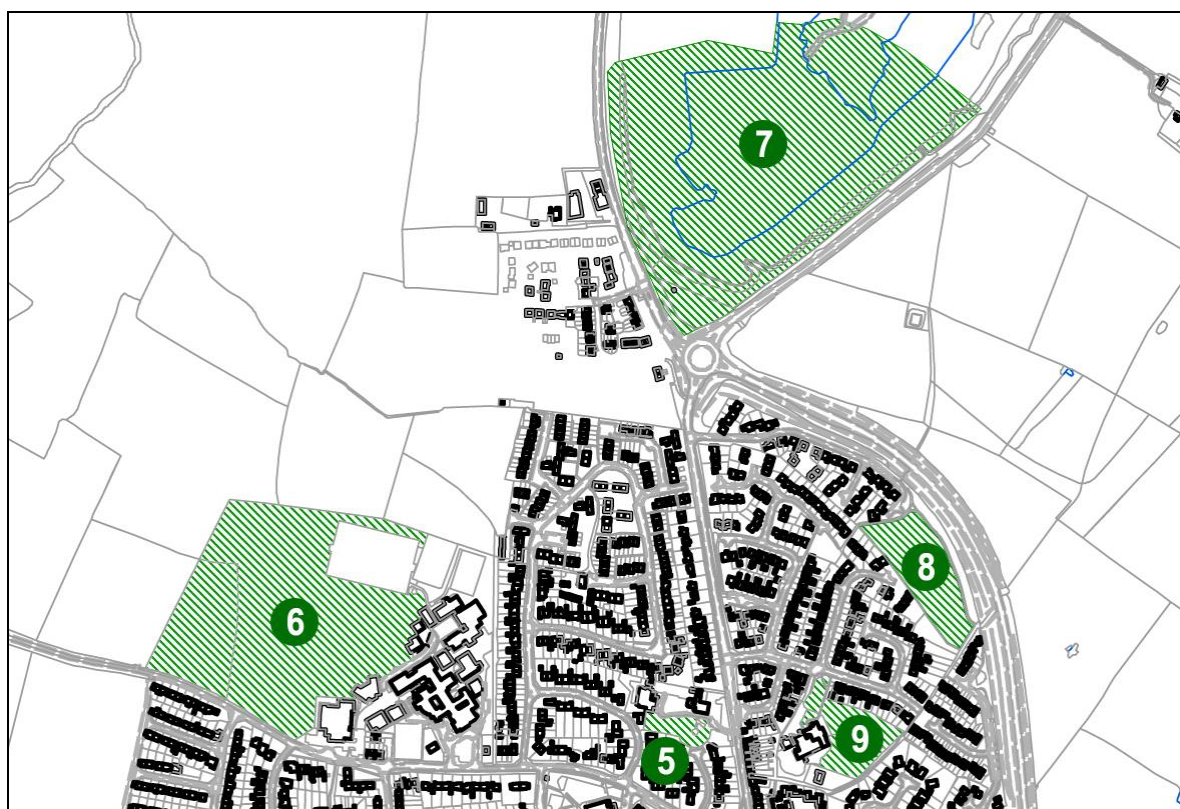
- in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
- demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance because of its recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity and richness of its habitats and wildlife potential; and
- local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

SOUTHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Local Green Space Site Assessment: April 2018

Site Address	Site Area	Site Ref
Recreational play area south of Tollgate Road and adjacent to St James C of E Primary School	Approx. 0.68 ha	LGS No: 9

Plan



Site Description and Current Land Use

The site mainly laid to lawn. Residential properties surround the site on all sides with the exception of the northwest corner which borders St James' C of E Primary School. The majority of the area has been enclosed for the sole use of the school; a small area has been retained for use as a children's play area. Two footpaths at the northern end of the site off Tollgate Road converge and lead to the school. South of the footpath and running from north to south is a long rectangular play area with a variety of children's play equipment.

To the west of this area, there is a line of fence separating it from the rest of the site. This separate area is bound by trees and hedges along its south, west and north boundaries. There is access to the school grounds along the northern border of this area. Football goal posts can be found in this section of the site.

Relevant Planning History
None
Site Ownership
Warwickshire County Council: Property Services Business Unit, Physical Assets Resources Group, Warwickshire County Council, Shire Hall, Market Place, Warwick CV34 4RL
Site Constraints
None
Public Access
The public children's play area can be accessed off Tollgate Road to the north. Access for school children and staff to the area retained for the school only is gained from the south of the school's grounds. This area of the site is not open to the public.
Site Photo

Ecological Significance
Due to the nature of its use, the site has limited ecological value. However, there is some ecological value along the periphery of the site which is lined with mature trees and hedges which create a wildlife corridor and provide food and shelter for numerous species, such as insects, small mammals and birds and their associated nesting sites. These are all vital for the wider food web and species diversity within the town ecosystem. And as such, the site plays a contributory role in the wider ecological significance of the town.

Special Qualities and Local Significance

The majority of the area has for the last few years been enclosed for the sole use of St James school; a small area has been retained for use as a children's play area.

The site is an open green space part of which is used daily as a recreational ground/facility by both the children of St James C of E Primary School and part by the children of the town. The special qualities of the site include the field's openness which creates a sense of space and tranquillity as well as contributing to the local character of the town.

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

Summary and Suitability for Designation as Local Green Space


This site is well related to and appreciated and valued by the local community and makes a positive contribution to the local distinctiveness of the village.

The LGS as outlined on the above plan is considered to be suitable for Local Green Space designation in accordance with paragraphs 99-101 of the National Planning Policy Framework in that it is:

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- demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance because of its recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity and richness of its habitats and wildlife potential; and
- local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

SOUTHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Local Green Space Site Assessment: April 2018

Site Address	Site Area	Site Ref
River Stowe off A425 Daventry Road	Approx. 1.22 ha	LGS No: 10
Plan		
		
Site Description and Current Land Use		
<p>The site is located to the east of the A423 and north of the A425 (Daventry Road). It is a long strip of open grassland that follows the River Stowe from west to east along the south boundary for a majority of the site with a line of trees and hedges along its south bank. The site carries on east. To the north are sweeping views of open countryside and green fields.</p> <p>A well-used footpaths and bridleway runs through the site following the river. A track lines the north boundary with farmland beyond and to the east. To the west of the site is a small road/track with a paddock/field beyond. To the south of the site going from west to east are: a thicket of trees, community orchard, the grounds of various residential properties and a farmstead. The site forms part of the setting of the Grade II listed Napton Road Farmhouse which is situated to the south.</p>		
Relevant Planning History		
None		
Site Ownership		
<p>A Land Registry title search was carried out by Southam's NDP Steering Group. The details of this site's ownership are held by the Parish Clerk.</p>		

Site Constraints

The site lies within Flood Zone 3. A large portion of the site lies within an area of Medium/High Sensitivity to housing and High Sensitivity to commercial development according to the Landscape Sensitivity Study (2012): Stratford Final Report Part A 270711 by White Consultants.

Public Access

Public rights of way traverse the site running from west to east. Access to site is gained via Glebe Farm, for the first part following the north side of the river Stowe until crossing fields to Stockton.

Site Photo



Ecological Significance

A large portion of the site is designated as part of So01 within the Stratford-on-Avon District Landscape Sensitivity Assessment For Towns, White Consultants (June 2012). On page 208, the study notes that “This area is sensitive as part of a stream corridor which should be retained...” This riverside setting provides a corridor for wildlife such as amphibians, small mammals, invertebrates and insects.

The site contains a mix of mature trees and some shrubs both within the site and along its periphery. Mixed species hedgerows 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 town ecosystem.

In the town 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 town.

Special Qualities and Local Significance

One of the few access areas to the river on the east side of Southam, providing access to countryside and the opportunity for physical exercise, open air activity improving wellbeing.

The area is regularly used by the Rambling society, dog walkers and families. PROWs run through the site linking the settlement to open countryside. The site forms part of the Blue Lias Rings Walks with panoramic views across open countryside to the north and east. The Blue Lias consists of a sequence of limestone and shale layers, laid down in latest Triassic and early Jurassic times, between 195 and 200 million years ago. The Blue Lias is famous for its fossils, especially ammonites.

The special qualities of the site include its distinctiveness due to its natural beauty, openness and sense of tranquillity.

Summary and Suitability for Designation as Local Green Space


This site is well related to and appreciated and valued by the local community and makes a positive contribution to the local distinctiveness of the village.

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SOUTHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Local Green Space Site Assessment: April 2018

Site Address	Site Area	Site Ref
Riverside Walk, Shepherds Hill	Approx. 1.03 ha	LGS No: 11
Plan		
		
Site Description and Current Land Use		
<p>The site is a well-maintained, long area of grassland situated along the A423. The River Stowe runs along the edge of western boundary from north to south accompanied by a public footpath to the east. The site is buffered from the road along its western and northern boundaries by a dense thicket of mature trees and large shrubs. Along its western boundary are a grass verge and low post and metal rail fence. Along the exterior of the north boundary is a grass verge and footpath. It has an open aspect to Welsh Road East. Within the site are a number of trees, picnic and park benches.</p> <p>The upper half of its eastern boundary is bordered by residential dwellings. The lower half of the eastern boundary and south boundary are bordered by road and residential dwellings opposite. Entrances to and associated footpaths within the site can be found along the north, south and east borders.</p>		
Relevant Planning History		
None		
Site Ownership		
Southam Town Council, The Grange Hall, Coventry Road, Southam CV47 1QA		
Site Constraints		
The site lies within Flood Zone 3 according to the Stratford-on-Avon District Landscape Sensitivity Assessment For Towns, White Consultants (June 2012).		
Public Access		

The site is open and accessible to the public.

Site Photo



Ecological Significance

As the majority of the site is a grass field. Due to the nature of its use, it has limited ecological value. However, there is ecological value with the presence of the River Stowe which runs along the western boundary of the site. The river provides a wildlife corridor for amphibians, small mammals, invertebrates and insects. Additionally, with the exception of the road frontage, mature trees and hedges line the site's along its periphery. These also provide a wildlife corridor and food and shelter for numerous species such as insects, small mammals, badgers and birds and their associated nesting sites. These are all vital for the wider food web and species diversity within the town ecosystem. And as such, the site plays a contributory role in the wider ecological significance of the town.

Special Qualities and Local Significance

Serving the local communities to the East of the by-pass, this green space runs alongside the river to the underpass, is popular with dog walkers and in the summer caters for residents wishing to picnic. Situated in a heavily built-up area set to substantially increase in size over the next 5 years this space is important for resident health and wellbeing reasons.

The special qualities of the site include its strong contribution to local character and distinctiveness due to its openness within a built-up area. It offers a recreational value to users and visitors to the site, e.g. for dog walkers and families.

Summary and Suitability for Designation as Local Green Space

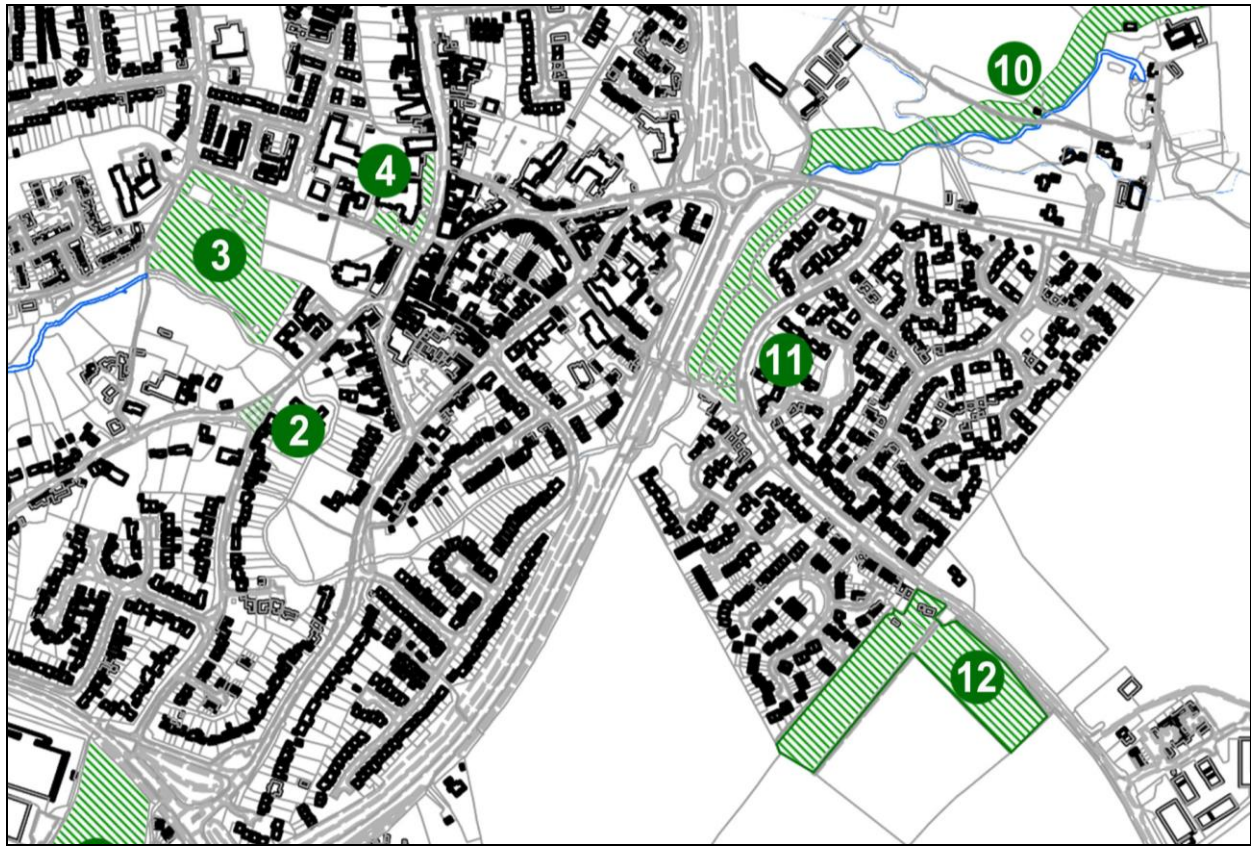
This site is well related to and appreciated and valued by the local community and makes a positive contribution to the local distinctiveness of the village.

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SOUTHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Local Green Space Site Assessment: April 2018

Site Address	Site Area	Site Ref
Allotments, Welsh Rd East and Daventry Rd A425	Approx. 2.0 ha	LGS No: 12
Plan		
		
Site Description and Current Land Use		
<p>The site is a very large L-shaped, well-contained allotment garden located at the southeast edge of the town. It is well-used and maintained. Welsh Road East runs along the northern border of the site with open green fields beyond. Open green fields also sit to the south and east of the site with residential dwellings lining the western boundary. Tracks run along its west and north boundaries. There is also an entrance and turning area along the northern boundary.</p> <p>Within the site are numerous tell-tended horticultural beds, wooden sheds and water butts. A small pond is situated in the northwest corner of the site.</p>		
Relevant Planning History		
None		
Site Ownership		
Southam United Charities: Mary Rouse, Clerk to Southam United Charities, Olympus Avenue, Leamington Spa CV34 6BF		

Site Constraints

The site lies within an area of Medium Sensitivity to housing development and Medium/High Sensitivity to commercial development according the Landscape Sensitivity Study (2012): Stratford Final Report Part A 270711 by White Consultants.

Public Access

There is an existing access off Welsh Road East for allotment users

Site Photo



Ecological Significance

Being an actively used allotment, the site has ecological value and makes a strong contribution to sustainability for the community. Additionally, the site contains a mix of other mature trees, hedgerows and some shrubs.

Mixed species hedgerows 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 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

Southam has had allotments since 1538. The Southam allotments are broadly speaking laid out as they were in 1824. The site is considered to be the second oldest allotment site in Warwickshire (ref: Southam Allotment Association website). Up until 1967, the lands on which the allotments are situated were managed by the Town Council, at which point, the Southam Produce Association (SPA) took over the day-to-day running of the sites. In 1990, following discussion with the Town Council, it was agreed that SPA would lease the land directly from 'Southam United Charities'. The allotments at Welsh Rd East are also home of an old air-raid shelter.

Allotments facilitate a healthy life style by providing a social experience with likeminded people, exercise and fresh fruit and vegetables increasing wellbeing; encourages a sustainable ecosystem by providing a green corridor preventing wildlife becoming stranded by impassable concrete; and forms a break between the built up area and the agricultural fields.

The special qualities of the site include its strong contribution to local character and distinctiveness due to its natural beauty. The site provides recreational value and a sense of openness and community for its users and visitors as well as contributing to local sustainability.

Summary and Suitability for Designation as Local Green Space

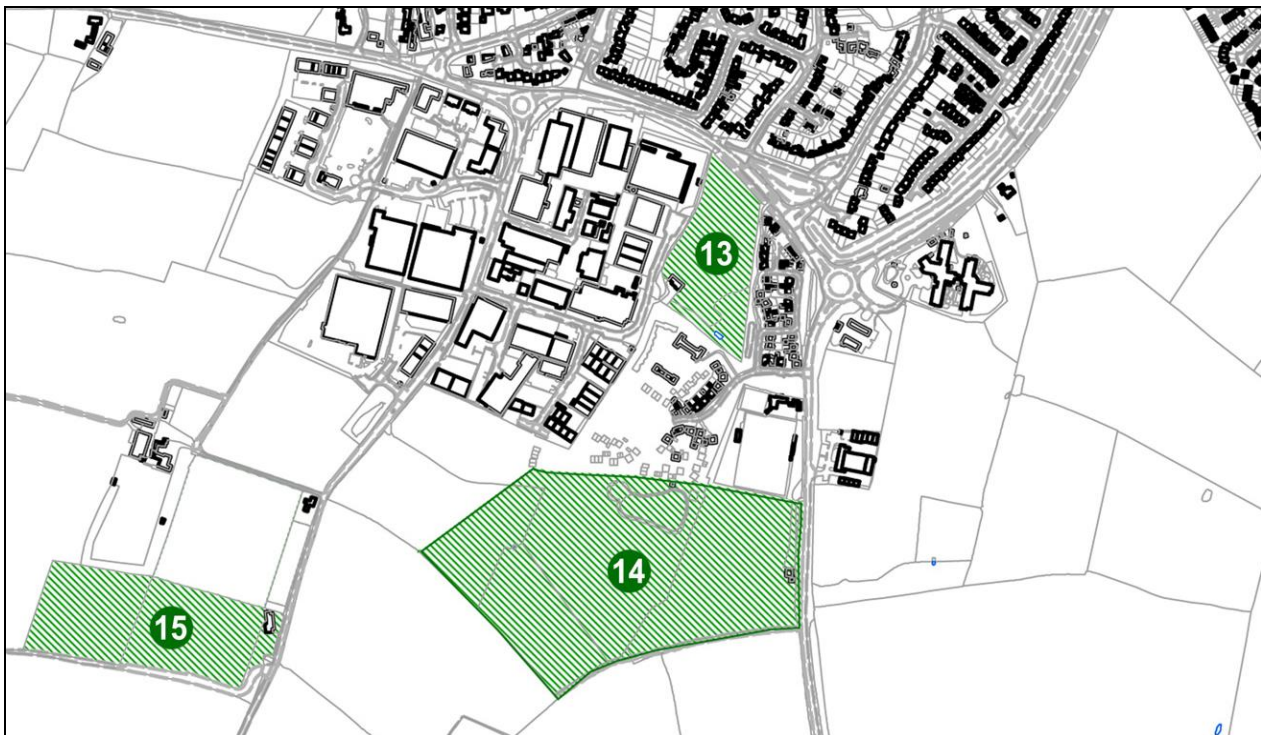
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SOUTHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Local Green Space Site Assessment: April 2018

Site Address	Site Area	Site Ref
Southam Cricket Ground, The Old Road Ground, Leamington Road CV47 0JH	Approx. 2.26 ha	LGS No: 13
Plan		
		
Site Description and Current Land Use		
<p>The site comprises of a cricket ground, club house, picnic benches and temporary marquees. The site is a formal sporting venue which consists of a large well-maintained playing field, cricket nets and bowling practice area. It is associated with the adjoining clubhouse to the south which has changing facilities. Situated south of the A425 (Leamington Road), the site is surrounded by either residential properties and/or industrial estates. It is bordered by mature trees and hedges with an entrance and parking facilities on the southwest corner. A track / footpath runs along the western boundary.</p>		
Relevant Planning History		
<p>Between 1992 and 2016, there have been 5 granted applications, the purposes of which include: extending / improving the clubhouse, changing and storage facilities and kitchen.</p> <p>Application Ref: 92/00003/ALT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed: Certificate of alternative appropriate development relating to class b1 and b2 or residential use. Decision: Cert of appropriate alt development Decision Date: 11/12/1992 		

Site Ownership
No title found in Land Registry search. It is understood to be owned by Southam Cricket Club.
Site Constraints
The site lies within an area of Medium Sensitivity to housing and commercial development according the Landscape Sensitivity Study (2012): Stratford Final Report Part A 270711 by White Consultants.
Public Access
The site is open and accessible to the public.
Site Photo

Ecological Significance
Due to the nature of its use, the site has limited ecological value. However, there is some ecological value along the site's boundary which is lined with mature trees and hedges which include old oaks, ornamental fruit trees and bramble. These provide a wildlife corridor and food and shelter for numerous species such as insects, small mammals, badgers and birds and their associated nesting sites. These are all vital for the wider food web and species diversity within the town ecosystem. And as such, the site plays a contributory role in the wider ecological significance of the town.
Special Qualities and Local Significance
<p>The site is well-used by the community and well maintained. It provides a useful larger venue for community events such as the annual Guy Fawkes bonfire and firework display. As an open green space, it is popular with dogwalkers and walkers by virtue of its footpath.</p> <p>As the only cricket ground in Southam, it contributes to general wellbeing by providing a sports and recreational facility, enabling social interaction and cohesiveness.</p>
Summary and Suitability for Designation as Local Green Space


This site is well related to and appreciated and valued by the local community and makes a positive contribution to the local distinctiveness of the village.

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SOUTHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Local Green Space Site Assessment: April 2018

Site Address	Site Area	Site Ref
Southam UFC and Bowling Clubs, Banbury Road CV47 2BJ	Approx. 11 ha	LGS No: 14
Plan		
		
Site Description and Current Land Use		
<p>The site is situated to the west of the Banbury Road and will be surrounded by commercial and residential developments to the north and west and Warwick House Industrial Park lies to the east of the site on the other side of Banbury Road. Green fields adjoin the site to the south.</p> <p>The site is currently a combination of greens fields and development sites. It is part of a larger re-development project which includes the relocation of the football and bowls clubs.</p> <p>Proposed for the re-location site are: 1 main stadium and associated clubhouse car park, 1 secondary stadium, stadium stand, bowling green and associated pavilion car park, 10 mini-pitches, 1 training pitch, 2 standard pitches and the re-location of the original pavilion. (see Boor Homes photo on subsequent page)</p>		

Relevant Planning History

In 2013, planning permission (13/00809/FUL) was granted for the re-development of the existing footballs club, bowls club and adjoin land for residential dwellings and for the relocation of the football and bowls clubs to land directly south of the its original site. Subsequent non-material amendments, variations and S106 applications were put forward and granted.

Between 1975 and 1987, numerous planning applications were put forward for the improvement of the site and the clubhouse. All but one were granted.

In 1975, an application (75/00772/FUL) was put forward and granted for the change of use from agricultural land to a sports playing field.

Site Ownership

Southam United Charities: Mary Rouse, Clerk to Southam United Charities, Olympus Avenue, Leamington Spa CV34 6BF

Site Constraints

The site lies within an area of Medium Sensitivity to housing and commercial development according the Landscape Sensitivity Study (2012): Stratford Final Report Part A 270711 by White Consultants.

Public Access

The site is open and accessible to the public during matches and competitions.

Site Photo





The plan above shows the masterplan for the new recreational facilities to which this assessment applies.

Ecological Significance

As the majority of the site will be grass pitches, it therefore has limited ecological value. Though the landscaping has yet to be confirmed, the main ecological value would tend to lie in the site's boundaries' trees, shrubs and hedgerows. These provide food and shelter for numerous species of insects, small mammals and birds and their associated nesting sites. These are all vital for the wider food web and species diversity within the town ecosystem. And as such, plays an contributory role in the wider ecological significance of the town.

Special Qualities and Local Significance

As well as a thriving adult and junior club, the SUFC offers developmental courses. Events during the season include three Charity Galas, a four-day Annual Tour, the Annual Duck Race and a Presentation Evening.

As the only football and bowls venues in Southam, it contributes to general wellbeing by providing a sports and recreational facility, enabling social interaction and cohesiveness.

Summary and Suitability for Designation as Local Green Space

This site is well related to and appreciated and valued by the local community and makes a positive contribution to the local distinctiveness of the village.

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- local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

The Planning Practice Guidance states:

What about new communities?

New residential areas may include green areas that were planned as part of the development. Such green areas could be designated as Local Green Space if they are demonstrably special and hold particular local significance.

Paragraph: 012 Reference ID: 37-012-20140306 - Revision date: 06 03 2014

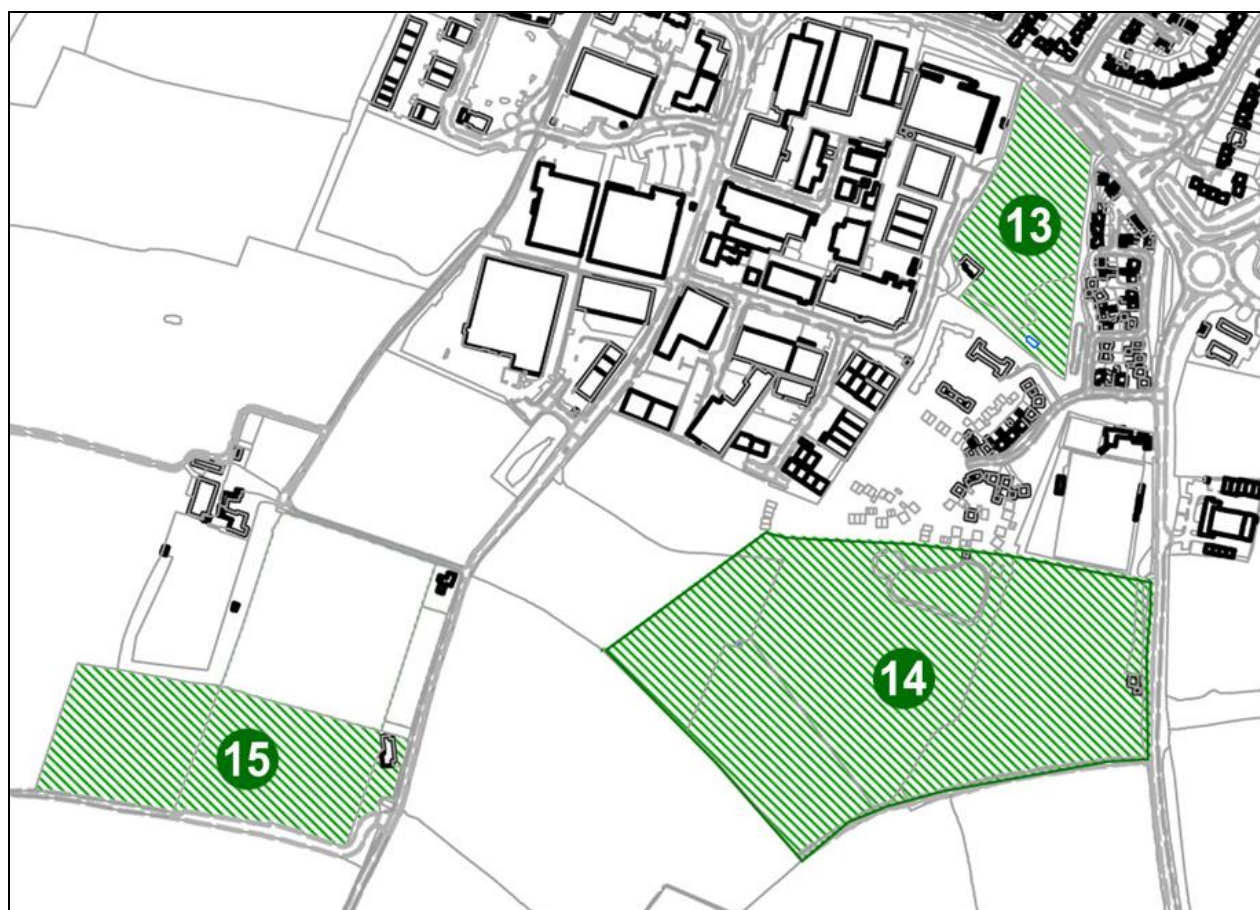
The eligibility of yet to be built LGS which is planned as part of a new community is acceptable and a precedent has been set in the Bidford-on-Avon NDP.

SOUTHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Local Green Space Site Assessment: April 2018

Site Address	Site Area	Site Ref
Southam RUFC, The Rugby Field, Kineton Rd CV47 2DG	Approx. 4.15 ha	LGS No: 15

Plan



Site Description and Current Land Use

The site comprises 4 full size pitches and goalposts along with an associated clubhouse with catering and bar facilities. The site is situated to the west of Kineton Road (B4451) where there is access to the site, clubhouse and parking area. A wide track/footpath runs along the southern and eastern boundaries. Mature trees and hedges surround the site on all but the western boundary. The site has a gated entrance off the main road and associated blue painting railings along the road frontage and gravelled car park.

Open countryside surrounds the site on all sides with the exception of western side of the north boundary which borders the grounds of the Grade II listed, The Fields House which has a trimmed hedge along its adjoining boundary.

Relevant Planning History

The clubhouse was extended twice between 1980 and 1990.

Site Ownership

Southam Rugby Club, Kineton Road, Southam, Warks CV47 2DG

Site Constraints

The site lies within an area of Medium/High Sensitivity to housing and commercial development according to the Landscape Sensitivity Study (2012): Stratford Final Report Part A 270711 by White Consultants.

The west side of the north boundary borders the grounds of the Grade II listed, The Fields House.

Public Access

The site is open and accessible to the public on match and event days.

Site Photo



Ecological Significance

Due to the nature of its use, the site has limited ecological value. However, there is some ecological value along the periphery of the site which is lined with mature trees and hedges which create a wildlife corridor and provide food and shelter for numerous species, such as insects, small mammals and birds and their associated nesting sites. These are all vital for the wider food web and species diversity within the town ecosystem. And as such, the site plays a contributory role in the wider ecological significance of the town.

Special Qualities and Local Significance

The site is well-used and well-maintained. It provides a useful larger venue for community events such as the annual Party in the Park event. As the only rugby union field in Southam, it contributes to general wellbeing by providing a sports and recreational facility, enabling social interaction and cohesiveness.

Summary and Suitability for Designation as Local Green Space

This site is well related to and appreciated and valued by the local community and makes a positive contribution to the local distinctiveness of the village.

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