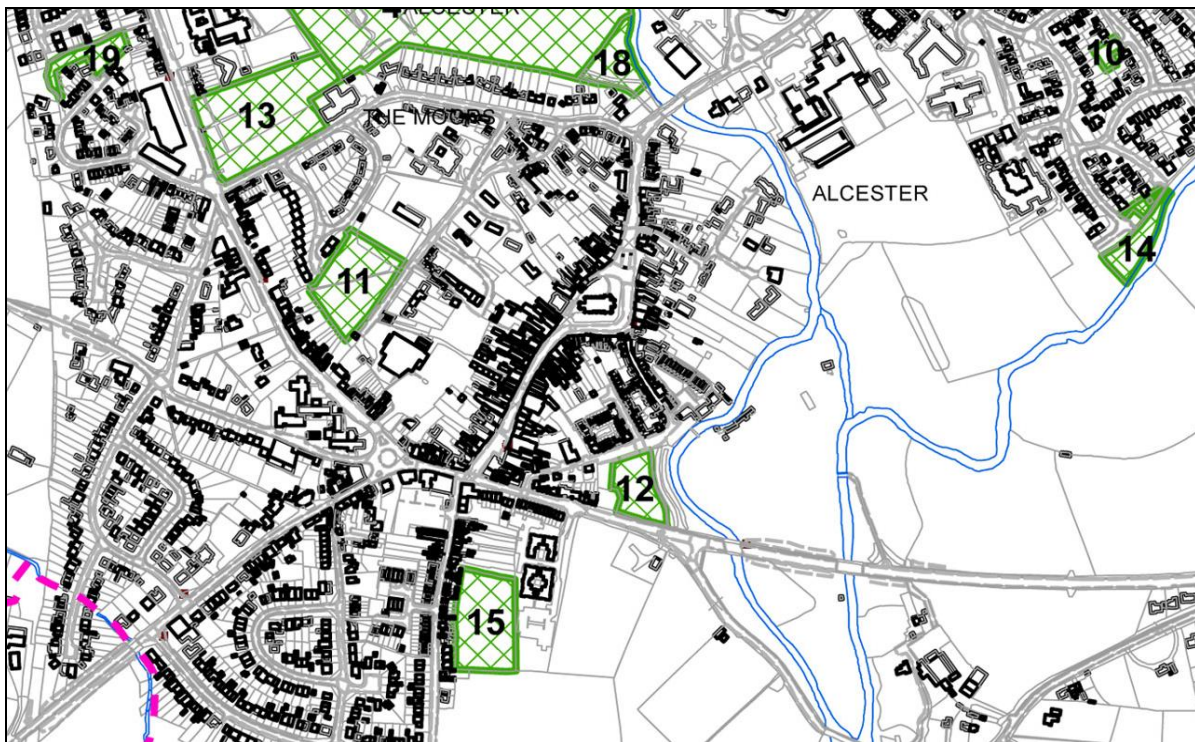


Alcester Neighbourhood Development Plan Local Green Space Site Assessment - August 2018

Site Address	Site Area	Site Ref
Moorfields Park, Northwest of Moorfield Road, Alcester	Approx. 0.65ha	LGS 11
Plan		
		
Site Description and Current Land Use		
<p>This well-used and maintained recreation ground and open green space is situated north of Moorfield Road and is surrounded residential dwellings on all but the northeast boundary where it is bordered by tennis courts and their associated fencing.</p> <p>Moorfields Park is the only play area near to the Town Centre. In addition to a post & rail fence enclosed younger children's play area, there is grass land for playing ball games and play equipment for older children. The play area is well-stocked and a number of benches are also contained within the site. Two pathways across the park link the Town Centre to residential areas via ramped entrances. The open aspect of the park is dotted with mature and semi-mature trees. Dense mix of mature trees and shrubs and brick walling line the northern and west boundaries and a well-trimmed hawthorn hedge line the south boundary. Pedestrian pavements line the road frontages.</p> <p>The park forms the setting of the grounds of the Grade II listed buildings that line the length of Priory Road to the west of the site.</p>		

Relevant Planning History

No relevant planning history found for the site itself.

Two planning applications were submitted and granted adjacent to/northwest of the site in 1975 (75/00094/FUL) and 1987 (87/01731/FUL) for the creation of tennis courts, associated car park, lighting and temporary Portakabin changing rooms.

Site Ownership

Trustees of the Moorfields Charity, Title Ref: WK416761. This site is managed under a long lease by Alcester Town Council.

Site Constraints

Forms the setting of the grounds of the Grade II listed buildings that line the length of Priory Road to the west of the site.

The site sits within the Built-up Area Boundary and conservation area.

Public Access

The site is open and accessible to the public along Moorfield Road gate/entrance on its southeast corner and through a footpath at this northwest corner and open entrance along Ropewalk to the north.

Site Photo





Ecological Significance

With the exception of the mature trees and shrubs that frame and sporadically populate the site, the majority of the site has low ecological value.

The mixed species trees 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's 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

Moorfields Park is the only play area for younger children near to the Town Centre. The special qualities of the site include its recreational and social value for both children and adults through the playground and walking / dog walking. The open grass area provides a place for playing ball games and play equipment for older children as well as creating a sense of space in a built-up residential area.

Additionally, it forms the setting to the grounds of Grade II listed buildings along Priory Road. 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 and 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.