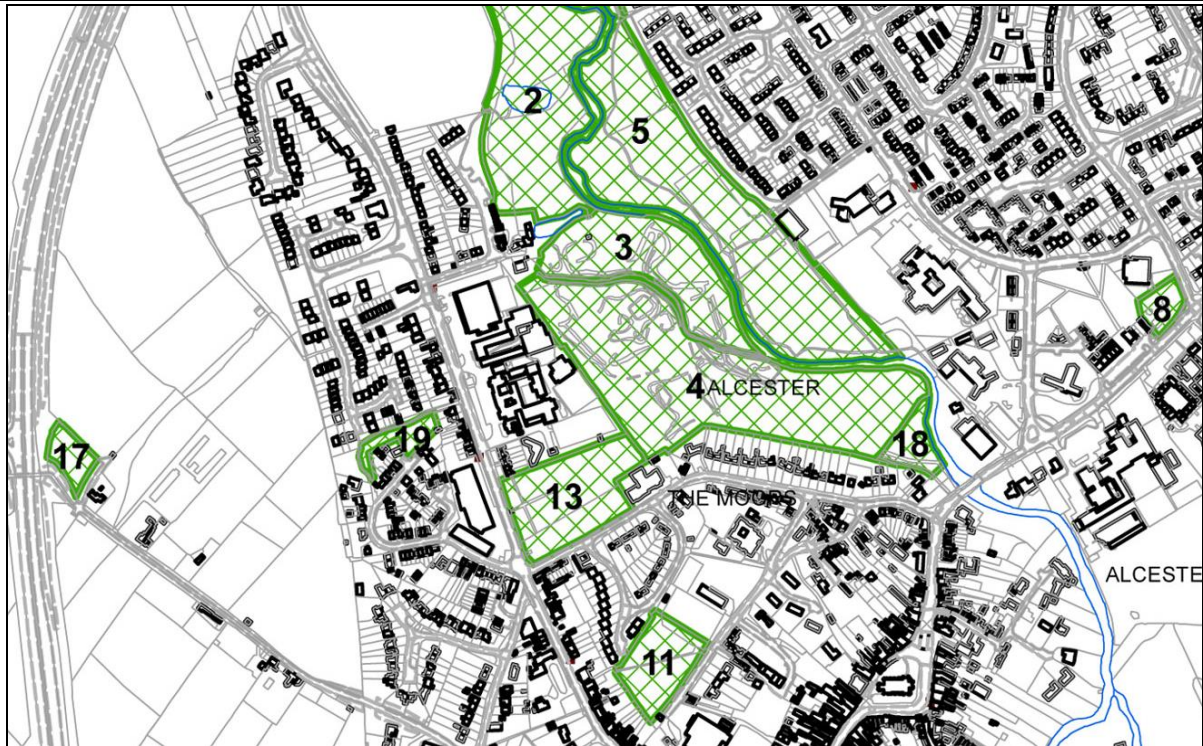


## Alcester Neighbourhood Development Plan Local Green Space Site Assessment - August 2018

Site Address	Site Area	Site Ref
Alcester Town Cemetery, North of School Road, Alcester	Approx. 1.3	LGS 13
<b>Plan</b>		
		
<b>Site Description and Current Land Use</b>		
<p>The site is a well-maintained burial ground situated in the heart of the town. It contains a combination of older stone and more contemporary gravestones. The southern portion of the site is more open and sparsely populated with gravestones.</p> <p>The entrance is notable for the steps leading up to the site with a roof-tiled arbour above them with barrel planters on either side with lavender. Also on the site are numerous benches, compost heap, storage shed and a number of shrubs and mature trees including fir, beech, holly and yew. An informal, signposted path traverses the site between the gravestones. It also includes a path which links Priory Meadow to School Road.</p> <p>The grass is well mown and well-contained with a brick wall along the north boundary and the road frontages to the west and south.</p> <p>Alcester Grammar School adjoins its northern boundary. There are panoramic views into Abbey Fields, a scheduled monument site, which lines the majority of the site's east boundary. Grade II listed, Minerva Mills, is situated across Priory Road to the west. Residential dwellings line the site to the south and southeast. Numerous Grade II listed buildings line Priory Road in close proximity to the site's southwest corner.</p>		

### **Relevant Planning History**

Application No: 06/00440/FUL

- Proposed: Reconstruction of air raid shelter, demolished and relocated from Bleachfield Street.
- Decision: Permission with conditions
- Decision Date: 11/04/2006

Application No: 91/00519/FUL

- Proposed: To improve the existing facilities and appearance of the existing old graveyard and provision of a new pedestrian entrance off School Road.
- Decision: Application permitted
- Decision Date: 20/12/1991

### **Site Ownership**

Owned and managed by Alcester Town Council. Title Ref: WK407773 and WK335374

### **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.

It borders Abbey Fields to the east, an area noted as a Scheduled Monument Site and as having high sensitivity to the commercial and residential development as noted in the B2 Alcester Landscape Sensitivity Study (2011) by White Consultants for Stratford District Council.

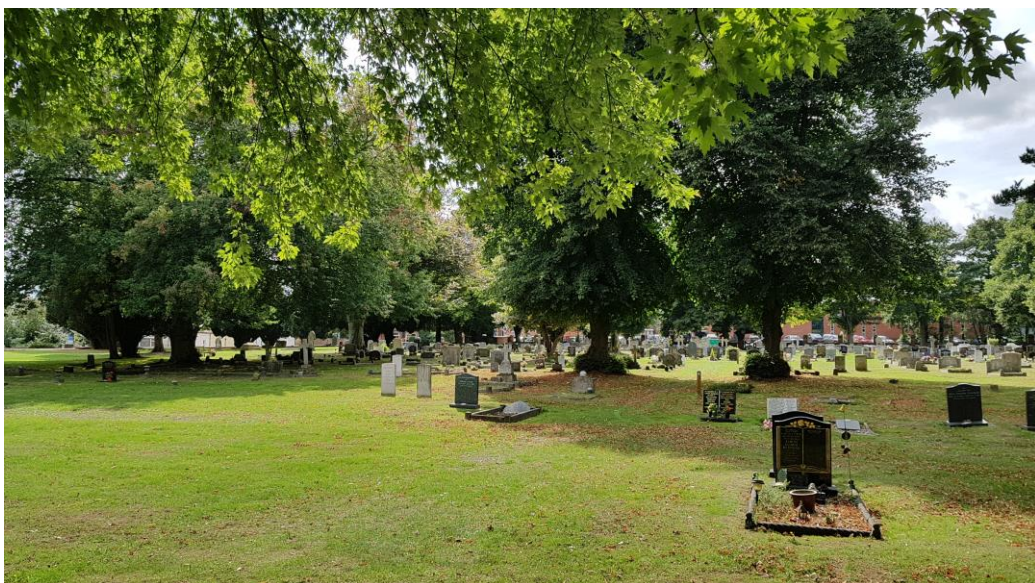
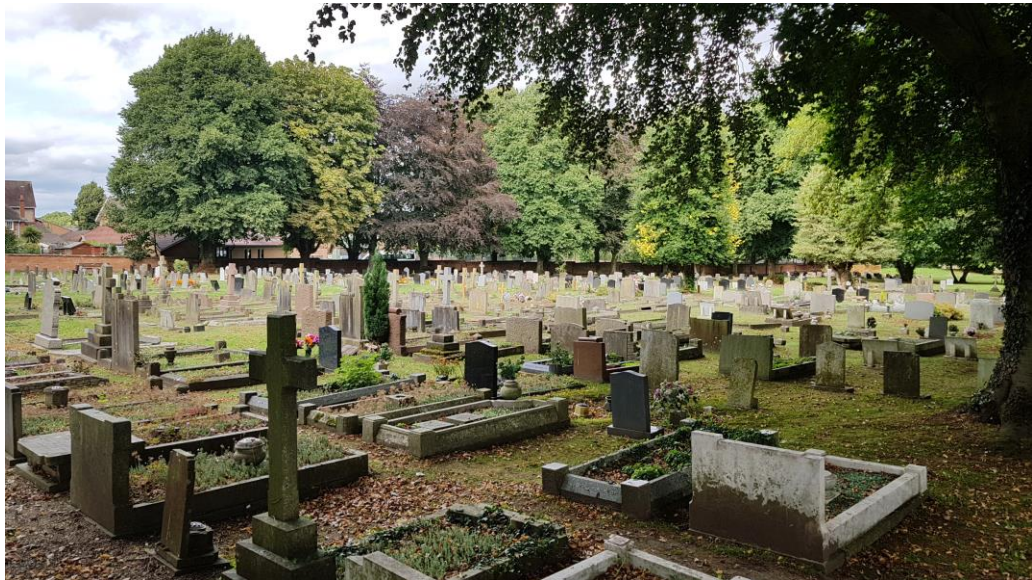
The site sits within the Built-up Area Boundary and conservation area.

### **Public Access**

The site is open and accessible to the public.



## 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**

The site is the only burial ground in the heart of the town and well-connected to the rest of the town and its amenities. It is a restful and open space that serves as a place of remembrance for the community.

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.

### **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.