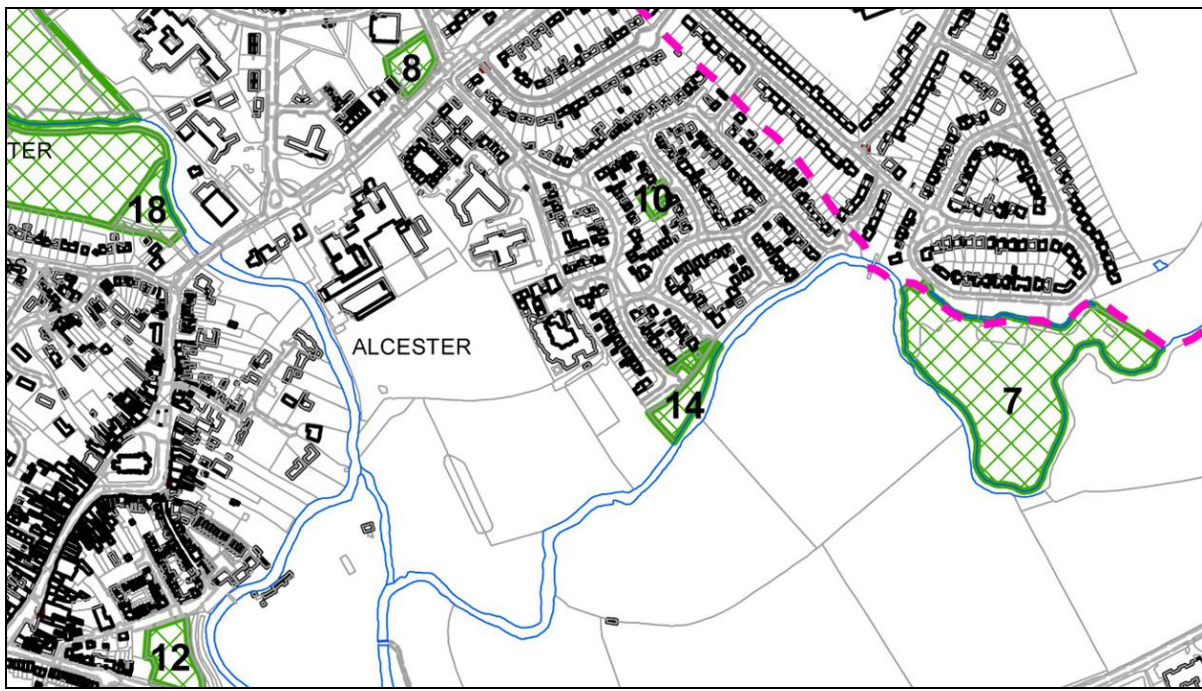



## Alcester Neighbourhood Development Plan Local Green Space Site Assessment - August 2018

Site Address	Site Area	Site Ref
Small green space, south of Fairwater Crescent, Alcester	Approx. 0.43ha	LGS 14
<b>Plan</b>		
		
<b>Site Description and Current Land Use</b>		
<p>The site consists of two pockets of open green space to the south / at the end of Fairwater Crescent; a large triangular area bordering the River Alne to the south of the strip of grassland and a small triangular shaped green to the northwest of the strip of grassland. The grass areas are all well-maintained and popular with walkers, dog walkers and young children with parents.</p> <p>Residential dwellings line the sites to the north and a dense area of mature trees sit to the west of the site with open fields beyond. The River Alne borders larger green area to the south with a density of mature trees, bramble and shrubs along the riverbank. An informal path leads down to the river. Within the smaller of the two triangular greens are a number of mature trees, shrubs, electrical transformer and square enclosed area and is bordered by an enclosed Severn Trent Station to the west.</p> <p>A tarmac path runs between the larger area of green and the two smaller areas. Both areas are readily available along the path.</p>		

Relevant Planning History
No relevant planning history found.
Site Ownership
Owned and managed by Alcester Town Council. Title Ref: WK246376
Site Constraints
<p>The site sits within the Built-up Area Boundary. The majority of site borders designated Green Belt (SDC Core Strategy Policy PR.2) and Special Landscape Area (SDC Core Strategy Policy EF.2) to the south. The area along the river sits within those to designated areas.</p> <p>The area along the river is also identified as a 'Park, Garden and Amenity Space' in B2 Alcester Landscape Sensitivity Study (2011) for Stratford District Council, White Consultants. It is also in Zone A06 of the B2 Alcester Landscape Sensitivity Study (2011) and is identified as having high sensitivity to both residential and commercial development. The study states:</p> <p><i>"This zone forms part of a pastoral, river valley landscape, associated with the flat, alluvial floodplains of the River Arrow and the River Alne. Although only patches of unimproved wet grassland vegetation now remain, the River Alne still retains a diverse profile, with many meanders, gravel shallows and steep river banks, which contribute to a biologically rich riverside habitat. Both rivers are prone to flooding after prolonged periods of heavy rainfall, when much of the valley floor can be inundated by water. The area acts as a very positive southern limit to the town, helping to define its character and providing a very positive introduction on the southern and western approaches. Alcester Roman Town SAM lies partly on the valley floor. The zone is thus highly sensitive to any new residential development."</i> p.B16</p>
Public Access
The site is open and accessible to the public the road frontage.
Site Photo






### Ecological Significance

The grass area within the site have low ecological value. However, there is a dense mix of species trees and shrubs that line site's along the riverbank. All of which 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.

Within 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 banks of the River Alne are provides the perfect habitat and feeding area for many birds, amphibians, invertebrates and insects.

These are all vital for the wider food web and species diversity within the town's ecosystem and they play an important contributory role in the wider ecological significance of the town.

### Special Qualities and Local Significance

The site is the only green open space on the residential estate to the south of Throckmorton Road, other than a child's play area a few streets away.

The site provides openness to this side of the street which in turn adds to the character and low density to this part of the town. The special qualities of the site include its importance as an open setting along Fairwater Crescent.

The site is locally significant because it is highly appreciated and valued by the local community as an undeveloped tranquil area of open land at the southern edge of the town and which contributes to its green setting.

### **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.