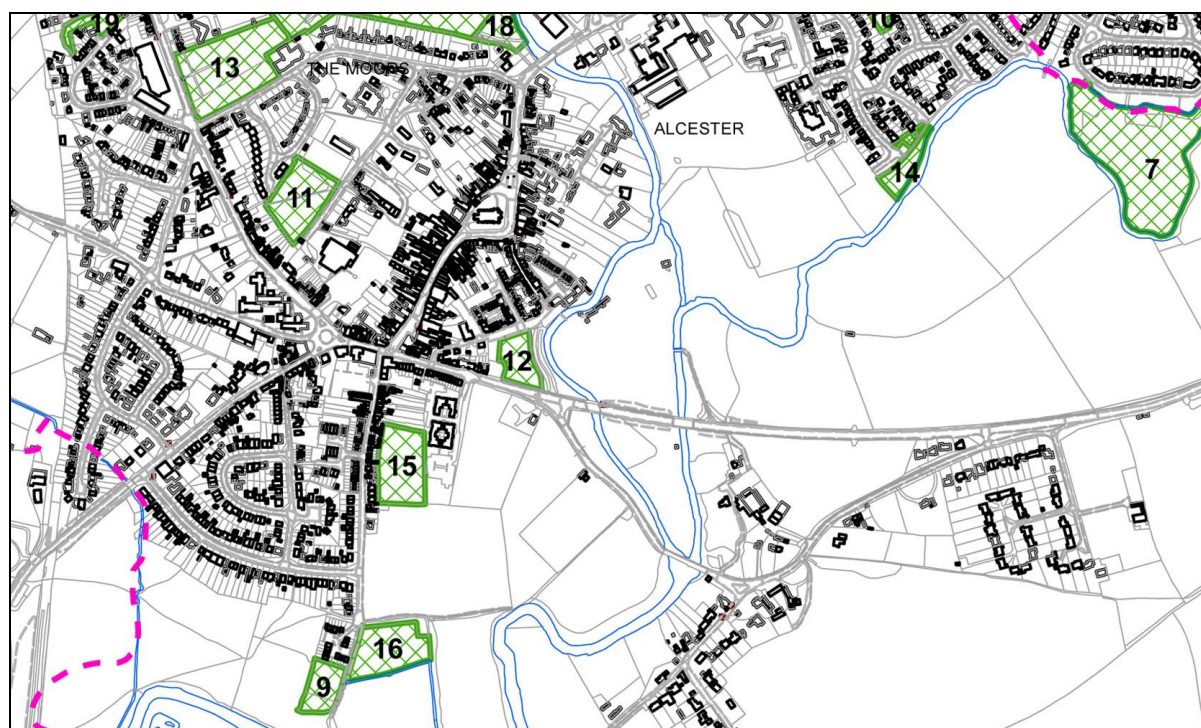


## Alcester Neighbourhood Development Plan Local Green Space Site Assessment - August 2018

Site Address	Site Area	Site Ref
Allotment, East of Bleachfield Street (north end), Alcester	Approx. 0.7ha	LGS 16

### Plan




### Site Description and Current Land Use

This well-maintained and well-used allotment is located at the southern end of Bleachfield Street. Residential properties lie opposite the site along Bleachfield Street and a fenced off section in the northeast corner of the site houses a pumping station as part of Alcester's Flood Alleviation Scheme. The remainder of the site is surrounded by open countryside where scenic views can be found to looking towards Oversley Wood to the southeast.

Within the site are numerous apple trees, well-tended horticultural beds, water butts, outside tap, sheds, compost bins and poly tunnels.

Informal footpaths run along the perimeters of the site and the Heritage Trail runs coterminous to the site's north boundary. A small gully runs along its south boundary, now dry during the recent drought. A majority of the site is fenced along its perimeters with tall mature trees and shrubs lining the south and west boundaries and a metal 5-bar gate to its west boundary. A large open green with a children's play area sits southwest of the site.

Relevant Planning History
No relevant planning history found.
Site Ownership
Stratford District Council. Title Ref: WK454735. This site is managed under a long lease by Alcester Town Council.
Site Constraints
<p>The site sits outside the Built-up Area Boundary but sits within, designated Green Belt (SDC Core Strategy Policy PR.2) and Special Landscape Area (SDC Core Strategy Policy EF.2).</p> <p>The site is situated 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 northern section of the zone is identified as a Green Area Belt and Schedule Monument area.</p>
Public Access
<p>The site is open and accessible to the public but only for use by allotment holders.</p> <p>There are access is gained from Bleachfield Street.</p>
Site Photo


<b>Ecological Significance</b>
<p>The allotment gardens contain a variety of food and ornamental planting. Within the site and along its boundaries are mixed species hedgerows, shrubs and trees, including mature apple trees. 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. In particular, old orchard trees provide an ideal habitat for the Nobel Chafer which is a protected species. The gulley, when full, can also provide a useful habitat and natural corridor to the River Alne to the south for amphibians, insects, invertebrates and small mammals.</p> <p>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. 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.</p>
<b>Special Qualities and Local Significance</b>
<p>Allotments are particularly popular among the residents Alcester. SDC Core Strategy Policy AS.2 B5 provided for additional allotments given a shortfall. Since then Alcester Town Council has established the School Road allotments and currently supply is equalling demand. The well-tended allotments provide recreational value for residents with the opportunity to exercise and socialise while gardening. The produce grown also contributes to sustainability.</p> <p>The site is locally significant because it is well used and valued by the local community as an allotment garden. The special qualities of the site include its strong contribution to local character and distinctiveness due to its natural beauty. It is also highly appreciated and prized by the local community as an undeveloped tranquil area of open land serving the southern section of the town with views across the open countryside toward Oversley Wood which contributes to its green setting.</p>
<b>Summary and Suitability for Designation as Local Green Space</b>
<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"> <li>• in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.</li> </ul>