

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

Site Address	Site Area	Site Ref
Amenity Land, Eclipse Road /west of Birmingham Rd, Alcester	Approx. 0.35ha	LGS 19

Plan



Site Description and Current Land Use

The site is an irregularly shaped, open area of grassland situated west of Birmingham Road surrounded by modern brick residential dwellings on three sides; north, south and east. An open field borders the site to the west. The site is generally well-maintained and views into the site are available from all sides.

Access into the site can be gained from Eclipse Road and Station Road as well as a path that leads from Birmingham Road. A tarmac path runs across the site from Eclipse Road to Station Road and is well-used by local residents, walkers and dog walkers. With the exception of the entrances, the site is enclosed by municipal black wrought iron fencing along Station Road to the south and wooden fencing to the west and north. Dense pockets of mature trees, tall shrubs and bramble line the east and west boundaries, with a single apple tree within the site.

It is located in close proximity to Alcester Grammar School across Birmingham Road to the east and the Eclipse Trading Estate at the site's southeast corner.

Relevant Planning History

This site was allocated as public open space under planning permission S90/0672. No other relevant planning history found.

Site Ownership

Owned by Central Corporate Services Ltd. Title Ref: WK408869

Site Constraints

The site sits within the Built-up Area Boundary. It is designated as a 'Park, Garden and Amenity Space' in B2 Alcester Landscape Sensitivity Study (2011) for Stratford District Council, White Consultants.

Public Access

The site is open and accessible to the public from entrances on Station Road, Eclipse Road and the path leading from Birmingham Road.

Site Photo



Ecological Significance

The centre of the site has low ecological value being mainly grass. However, there is a dense mix of species trees and shrubs that line site's east and west boundaries. They include birch, rowan, sycamore, hawthorne and bramble. 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 special qualities of the site include its recreational and social value for children and adults as the only green space to the west of Birmingham Road. This amenity space serves the local residents, walkers and dog walkers of the Eclipse Road area which provides a sense of openness and quiet within a densely built-up area.

The special qualities of the site also include its strong contribution to local character and green infrastructure. 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 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.