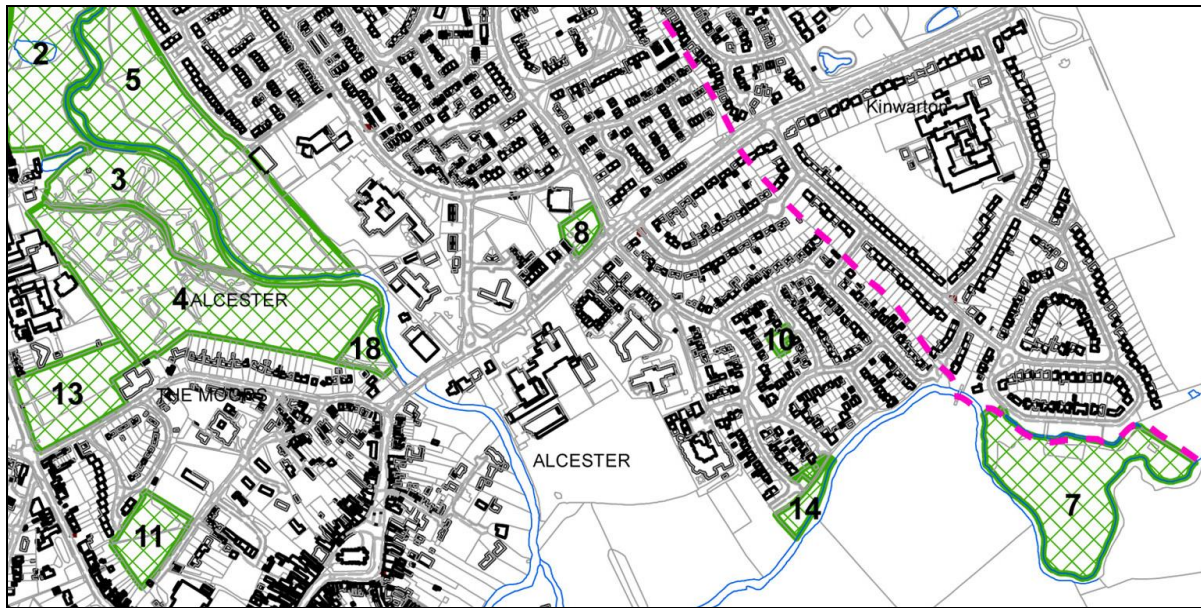



Alcester Neighbourhood Development Plan Local Green Space Site Assessment - August 2018

Site Address	Site Area	Site Ref
Kinwarton Park, St Mary's Road, Alcester	Approx. 2.9ha	LGS 7
Plan		
		
Site Description and Current Land Use		
<p>The site is a large well-maintained open green space containing a well-equipped young children's play area, enclosed by a wooden post and rail fence. It is located at the south-eastern tip of the town. The site is popular with both younger and older children, dog walkers and walkers.</p> <p>Within the site are football goal posts, a local noticeboard and numerous benches. Views to the River Alne to the South can be found through gaps in the dense thicket of mature and semi-mature trees, hedgerows and shrubs that line the site's perimeter. A gully runs along the site's northern boundary and an informal path leading to the river runs from north to south at the western end of the site.</p> <p>Residential dwellings are situated along the northern end of the site along St Mary's Road where entrances to the site can be found. Open countryside surrounds the site on all other sides.</p>		
Relevant Planning History		
No relevant planning history found.		

Site Ownership
Owned and managed by Kinwarton Parish Council. Title Ref: WK466323
Site Constraints
<p>The site sits outside 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.</p> <p>It helps for the setting of the Grade II listed, Oversley House across the road to the south.</p> <p>The site 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 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
<p>The site is open and accessible to the public from two entrances along the road frontage. At the northwest side is a drive and 5-bar gate and a wooden bridge leading into the park.</p>
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 perimeter. They include birch, ash, elderberry and willow. 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 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 recreation area and playground serving the large residential area to the north of Throckmorton Road/St Mary's Road and south of Captains Hill.

It is also an open and tranquil amenity space for visitors, walkers and dog walkers with its views overlooking the River Alne and as such it is distinctive due to its natural beauty. 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.