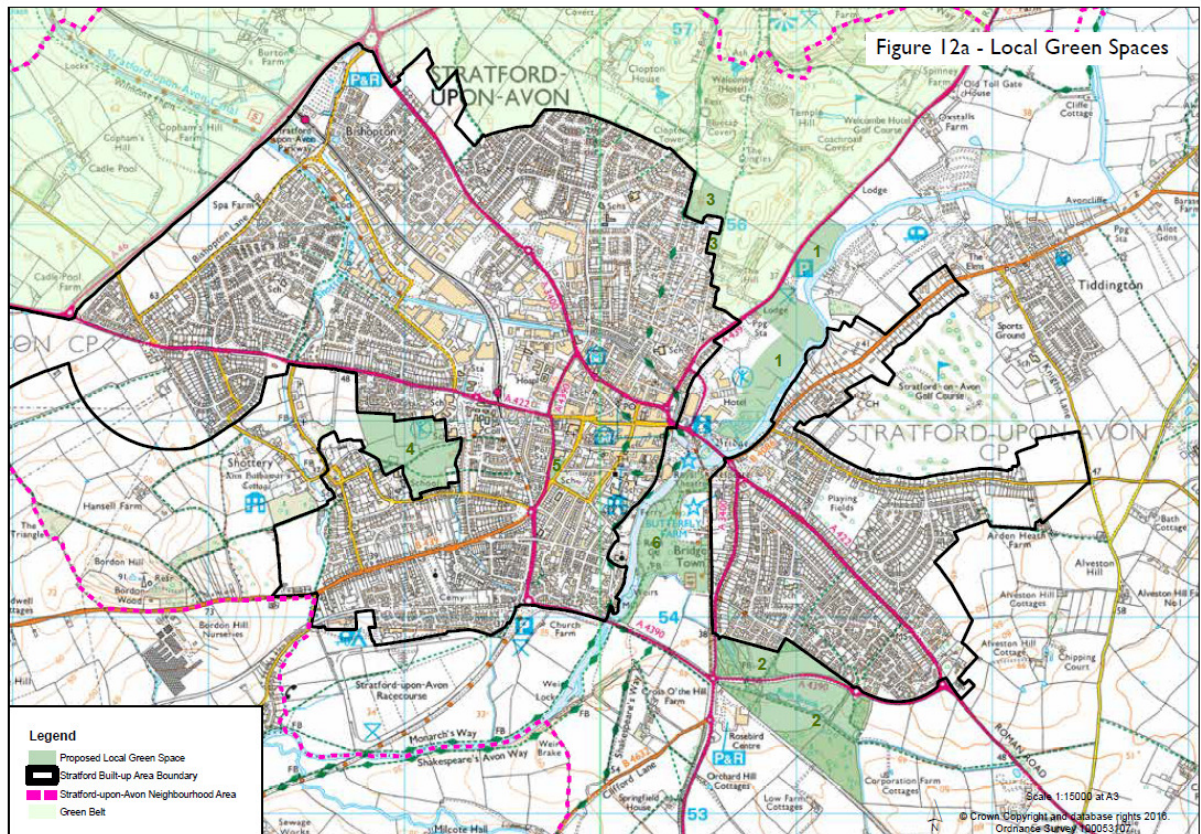


Stratford-upon-Avon Neighbourhood Development Plan Local Green Space Site Assessment - March 2016

Site Address	Site Area	Site Ref
Warwick Road Lands, Warwick Road	Approx. 23.4 ha	LGS1

Plan



Site Description and Current Land Use

This site, known as Warwick Road Lands, comprises a number of interconnected parcels of open land with a riverside setting. Parking facilities are available at the Fisherman's Car Park and the picnic area offers great access to the river. There are walks along the river to the north and south.

To the north the path passes through an overgrown scrub environment ideal for viewing the riverside wildlife. To the south the riverside path passes through a large conservation area of long grasses, scrub and sparse woodland, which eventually leads into Stratford town centre. South from the Fisherman's car park the footpath leads back to the Marina (in front of the Crowne Plaza) and on to town.

The site is extremely popular with the local community and the car park often reaches capacity.

Relevant Planning History
None
Site Ownership
Stratford-on-Avon District Council and Town Trust
Site Constraints
The site is in Flood Zones 2 and 3 of the River Avon, is an Area of Restraint identified in the Core Strategy (Policy CS.13) and is a Local Wildlife Site.
Public Access
The site has public access.
Ecological Significance
<p>The site has significant ecological value as a Local Wildlife Site and contains a number of habitats such as trees, grassland, hedgerows and river bank, all of which are ideal habitats for a variety of wildlife.</p> <p>Mixed species hedgerows are important for a number of bird and mammals as they provide food, shelter and nesting sites. Mixed hedgerows 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.</p> <p>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 village ecosystem. There have been sightings of larger fauna species such as bats, birds of prey (e.g. Kestrels), rabbits, hedgehogs and deer. The site plays an important contributory role in the wider ecological significance of the river and town.</p>
Special Qualities and Local Significance
The special qualities of the site include its recreational value, scenic beauty, tranquillity, high quality environment for wildlife habitats and ease of access for the community and visitors to enjoy. The site is locally significant because it is well used and valued by local residents as an area of open space which is well connected to the town via a riverside walk. It is closely related to the community.
Summary and Suitability for Designation as Local Green Space
<p>This site is not considered to be an extensive tract of land in the context of the scale of the town and is contained within existing boundaries. It is well related to and used by the local community and makes a positive contribution to the well being of local residents. The site outlined on the above plan is suitable for Local Green Space designation in accordance with the relevant Planning Practice Guidance.</p>