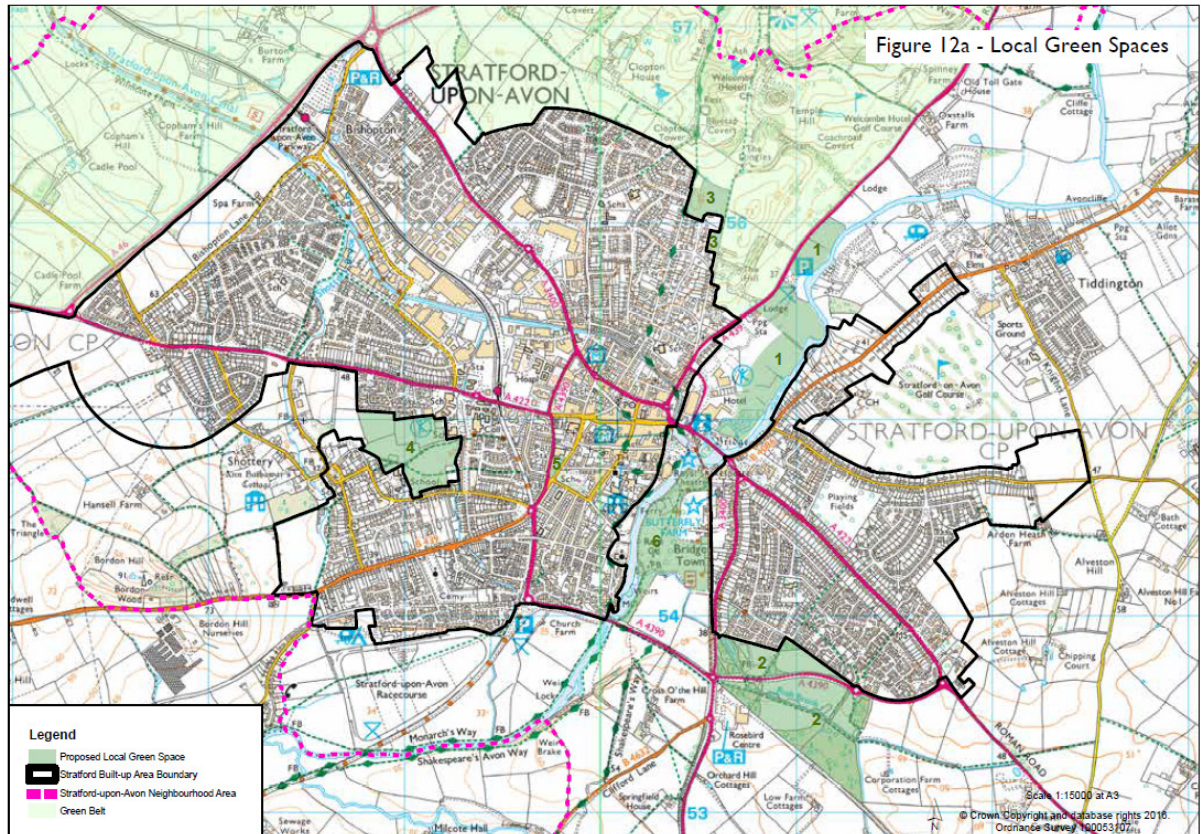


Stratford-upon-Avon Neighbourhood Development Plan Local Green Space Site Assessment - March 2016

Site Address	Site Area	Site Ref
Bridgetown Woodland and Meadows and Land North of Trinity Way	Approx. 34.3 ha	LGS2

Plan



Site Description and Current Land Use

This site is known as Bridgetown Woodland and Meadows, and includes land to the north of Trinity Way. The site comprises an open parcel of land close to a large residential estate (Trinity Mead).

This community woodland located to the south of the town was planted around the time Trinity Mead was developed. The area consists of large open fields, sparse hedgerows, mature trees and a community orchard.

Rushbrook, the dismantled railway track, the calcareous mound (back-filled gravel pit) and ponds, provide the important ecological and landscape features on an otherwise flat and open landscape.

Relevant Planning History

There are Section 106 agreements affecting this site.

Site Ownership

Stratford-on-Avon District Council (SDC) and Taylor Wimpey (leased to SDC).

Site Constraints

Part of the site is in Flood Zones 2 and 3 of the River Avon. The majority of the site is proposed as a Local Nature Reserve under Policy NE1 of the NDP.

Public Access

The site has public access.

Ecological Significance

The site has significant ecological value and consequently is a proposed Local Nature Reserve in the Neighbourhood Plan. The site contains a number of habitats such as trees, grassland and hedgerows all of which are ideal habitats for a variety of wildlife.

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.

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 and Buzzards), rabbits and hedgehogs. The site plays 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 value, scenic beauty, tranquillity, high quality environment for wildlife habitats and ease of access for the community 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. It is closely related to the community.

Summary and Suitability for Designation as Local Green Space

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 guidance.**