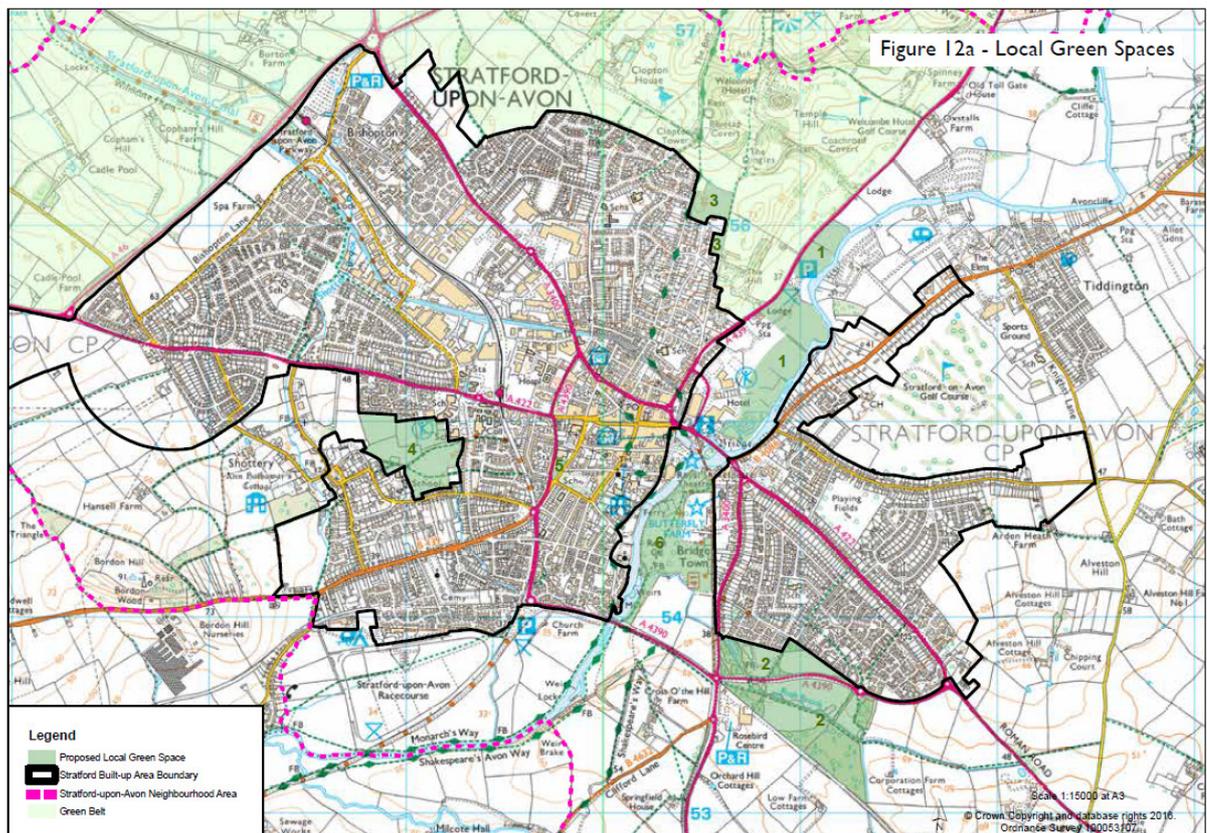


Stratford-upon-Avon Neighbourhood Development Plan Local Green Space Site Assessment - March 2016

Site Address	Site Area	Site Ref
Recreation Ground, Swans Nest Lane	Approx. 9.8 ha	LGS6

Plan



Site Description and Current Land Use

The Recreation Ground (or 'Rec' as local people know it) on Swan's Nest Lane in Stratford, is a large expanse of public open space and is home to many important activities including the Shakespeare Marathon, Stratford River Festival and Stratford Food Festival.

The space offers a range of facilities and makes available a large grass area for informal sports activities and general recreational use. The old chain ferry was built in 1937 and was the last of its type to be made and used in Britain.

The facilities that can be found on the 'Rec' include 2 senior football pitches, 2 junior football pitches, Pavilion (4 changing rooms), playground, paddling pool, outdoor gym, public toilets, bandstand, Avon Bowling Club and golf putting green.

Relevant Planning History
None
Site Ownership
Stratford-on-Avon District Council
Site Constraints
The site is in Flood Zones 2 and 3 of the River Avon and is an Area of Restraint identified in the Core Strategy (Policy CS.13).
Public Access
The site has public access.
Ecological Significance
<p>The site 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 and hedgehogs. 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>