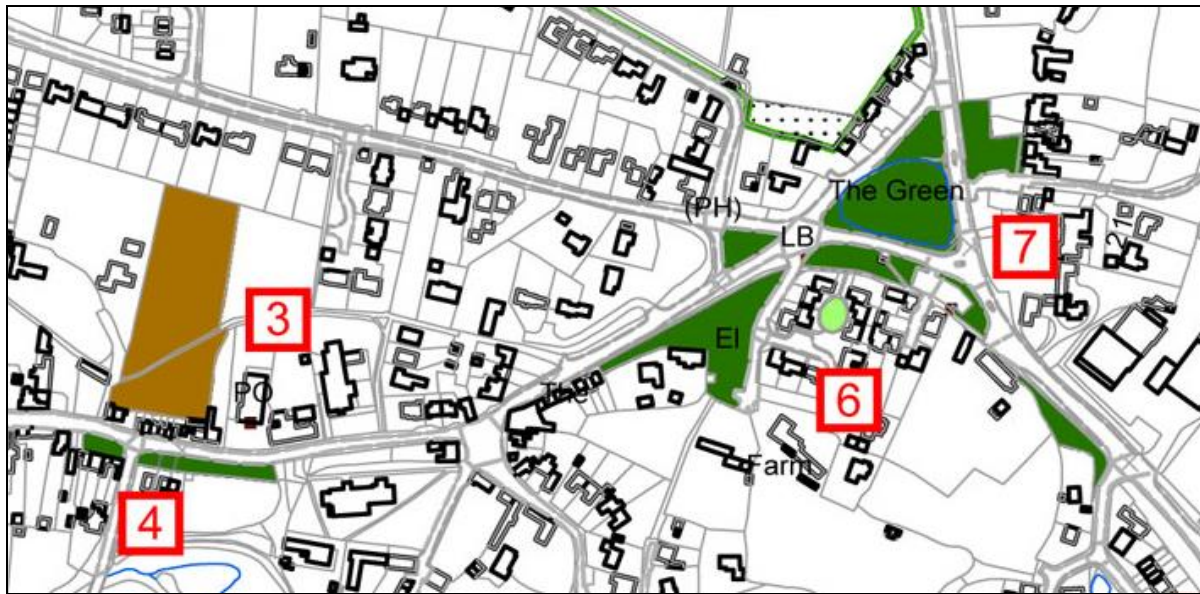


LONG ITCHINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Local Green Space Site Assessment: March 2019

Site Address	Site Area	Site Ref
Allotment Gardens, north of Church Rd / at the junction of Bascote Rd, Long Itchington	Approx. 0.62 ha	LGS No: 3
Plan		
		
Site Description and Current Land Use		
<p>The rectangular shaped allotment garden is well-maintained, and actively. It is located in the heart of the village, north of Church Road. It is intersected from southwest to northeast by a tarmac footpath at the southern end of the site and an informal grass path through the centre of the site from north to south.</p> <p>Within the site are numerous well-tended horticultural beds, water butts, outside tap, sheds, compost bins and poly tunnels. The Grade II* listed, Church of the Holy Trinity is a prominent feature in skyline looking southeast from the site. The grounds of residential dwellings border the site on all but the northeastern boundary where there is a cemetery.</p> <p>A combination of featherboard and wrought iron fencing line the site to the north, east and west. A brick wall lines the southwest corner and the back of residential dwellings line the southern boundary.</p>		
Relevant Planning History		
No relevant planning history found.		

Site Ownership

TBC

.Site Constraints

The southern part of the site below the footpath sits within the conservation area. It sits within an area of medium archaeology sensitivity and borders an area of high sensitivity to the south according to the Historic Environment Assessment (Ed. 4.9.1), Stratford-on-Avon District, July 2012 conducted by AOC Archaeology Group.

Public Access

The public do not have access to the gardens. There is, however, a public right of way (Footpath SM2 – Jubilee Way) through the site.

Site Photo



Ecological Significance

The allotment gardens contain a variety of food and ornamental planting. 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.

These are all vital for the wider food web and species diversity within the village's ecosystem. In the village, there have been sightings of larger fauna species such as bats, birds of prey (e.g. buzzards and owls), rabbits and hedgehogs. The site plays an important contributory role in the wider ecological significance of the village.

Special Qualities and Local Significance

The site is an important natural habitat that encourages wildlife.

The site is locally significant because it is well-used and valued by the local community as an allotment garden. This well-tended allotment garden provides recreational value for residents with the opportunity to exercise and socialise while gardening for a cross-section of the community. The produce grown also contributes to sustainability and encourages sustainable living.

The site represents a 'green lung' at the heart of Long Itchington village. The special qualities of the site include its strong contribution to local character and distinctiveness due to its natural beauty. It is also highly appreciated and prized by the local community as an undeveloped area of open land which contributes to its green setting and infrastructure.

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.