

LONG ITCHINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Local Green Space Site Assessment: March 2019

Site Address	Site Area	Site Ref
Lilac Field, west of Marton Road, Long Itchington	Approx. 2.29 ha	LGS No: 9

Plan



Site Description and Current Land Use

The site is a well-maintained, informal recreational and ecological area/ park located to the west of Marton Road. An assortment of trim hedges, shrubs and mature trees line its perimeter. Residential dwellings can be found to the east of the site. Open countryside borders the site to the north and west.

The site includes diverse wildlife habitats and a wetland area from a small stream that runs through the site from north to south. There are benches and picnic benches, a newly planted orchard, a gravelled memorial garden, natural garden and wildflower areas and a walkway route through the area that also links to the adjoining sports and recreation ground to the south at Green End. A dense thicket of trees and shrubs lines the northern boundary.

All-weather footpaths traverse the site and run parallel to the site's boundaries. There is a pond located in the northwest corner of the site. Two cargo containers and gravelled car park can be found in the site's southeast corner.

Relevant Planning History

Application Reference: 11/00285/FUL

- Address: Field Adj Playing Fields Marton Road Long Itchington View Map
- Proposal: Culverting existing surface water drainage trench, construction of car park and retention of a container for storage of sports equipment.
- Decision: Permission with conditions
- Date Decision Issued: 09/09/2011

Application Reference: 05/02258/FUL

- Address: Field Adj Playing Fields Marton Road Long Itchington Southam Warks
- Proposal: Change of use from agriculture to recreation/playing fields for public use.
- Decision: Permission with conditions
- Date Decision Issued: 21/09/2005

Application Reference: 95/01273/FUL

- Address: OS Plot 3857 Marton Road Long Itchington Southam Warwickshire View Map
- Proposal: OS PLOT 3857 Garretts Close Marton Road Long Itchington - change of use from agricultural land to cricket field, the formation of a new vehicular access to Marton Road, and the formation of a car park
- Decision: Application permitted
- Date Decision Issued: 28/11/1995

Site Ownership

Marton Road land identified on the plan as Green Amenity Space is owned by the developers pending transfer to the Parish(?) Council for future maintenance. **TBC**

Site Constraints

The northern half of the site sits within an area of low archaeology sensitivity and an area of medium sensitivity within the southern half according to the Historic Environment Assessment (Ed. 4.9.1), Stratford-on-Avon District, July 2012 conducted by AOC Archaeology Group.

The site lies within zone LI02, an area of Medium Sensitivity to housing and High/Medium to commercial development according to the Stratford-on-Avon District Landscape Sensitivity Assessments for Villages, Volume 1 (2012) by White Consultants.

Public Access

The site is open and accessible to the public through a metal kissing gate off Marton Road or through openings that link the site to the Recreation Ground, one of which is over a wooden bridge.

Site Photos



Ecological Significance

Due to the nature of its use, the site has high ecological value. The site contains a mix of mature, semi-mature trees, mature, wetland plants, spring bulbs and newly planted shrubs such as buddleia, dogwood and gorse. It includes diverse wildlife habitats including: a wetland area, natural gardens and wildflower areas. The newly planted orchard contributes to sustainability.

The site provides a haven for amphibians, invertebrates, small mammals, insects and birds and their associated nesting sites. It is home to a number of species including dragonflies, damselflies, whirligig beetles and great crested newts.

The site forms part of the village's wildlife corridor and provides food and shelter for numerous species. These are all vital for the wider food web and species diversity within the village ecosystem. And as such, the site plays a contributory role in the wider ecological significance of the village.

Special Qualities and Local Significance

The name Lilac Field an acronym derived from its full name: **L**ong **I**tchington **L**eisure **a**nd **C**ommunity project. As the names suggests, the site was land developed as a community leisure and recreation project.

In addition to its ecological contribution as noted above, its special qualities include its memorial garden which provides a place public and family gathering and remembrance.

This site has recreational and social value for children and adults as an informal open green space. It serves local residents, walkers and dog walkers of the immediate area and provides a sense of openness and tranquility.

It is demonstrably special by virtue its strong contribution to local character and green infrastructure. The site is locally significant as it is actively used and valued by the local community.

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.