


## BEARLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

### Local Green Space Site Assessment: March 2018

Site Address	Site Area	Site Ref
Sports Field at rear of Village Hall, Snitterfield Rd	Approx. 2.05ha	LGS No: 1
<b>Plan</b>		
		
<b>Site Description and Current Land Use</b>		
<p>The site is a well-used and well-maintained sports field consisting of formal cricket and football pitches which are associated with the village hall and the village hall's changing facilities. Benches, football posts and a bonfire pit can also be found here. The site sits outside the development boundary. A metal rail fence lines its west boundary which separates the site from the neighbouring industrial estate containing Countrywide Stores. Open fields adjoin its east and north boundaries. Mature trees and shrubs can be found along its north and south boundaries.</p>		
<b>Relevant Planning History</b>		
None		
<b>Site Ownership</b>		
THE PARISH COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF BEARLEY WARWICKSHIRE of Hallfield, Snitterfield Road, Bearley CV37 0EX		

### Site Constraints

The site falls within the Green Belt designation.

According to the Historic Environment Assessment of Local Service Villages Stratford-on-Avon District County of Warwickshire (July 2012), the site is a 'Designated Landscape' and sits within an area of 'Low Sensitivity' for archaeology.

The site sits within 'Medium/Low Sensitivity' for housing development and commercial development according to the Stratford-on-Avon District Landscape Sensitivity Assessment for Villages, White Consultants (June 2012).

### Public Access

The site is open to the public and accessible from Snitterfield Road. There is a car park directly off Snitterfield Road adjacent to the Village Hall.

### Site Photo



### Ecological Significance

The site contains a mix of mature trees and some shrubs around its boundaries. Mixed species hedgerows and shrubs 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.

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. buzzards and owls), rabbits, foxes, muntjac and roe deer and hedgehogs in the vicinity of the site.

The site plays an important contributory role in the wider ecological significance of the village.

### **Special Qualities and Local Significance**

The site is the only formal playing field in the village. The special qualities of the site include its recreational value for children and adults through sports as well as community events such as bonfire nights. It is home to the Bearley Cricket Club where matches are played regularly throughout the season. Although currently there is no football team the football team representing Bearley the pitch is utilised on Saturday afternoons and Sunday mornings by Stratford League Division 1 clubs and by Stratford Town Colts throughout the season. The open green fields surrounding the site create a sense of space and tranquillity.

The playing field is also used by village organisations holding community and fund raising events such as Christmas Craft and Fayre, Summer Craft and Fayre, Fireworks and fund raising events. Organisations hiring the village hall are also able to hold events on the playing field e.g., Duke of Edinburgh Award activities, car washes.

The site is demonstrably special and locally significant as it is actively used and valued by the local community as a formal well maintained area of open space.

### **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 and well being of the villagers.

This Local Green Space as outlined on the above plan is considered to be suitable for Local Green Space designation in accordance with paragraph 77 of the National Planning Policy Framework in that it:

- is in very close proximity to the community it serves;
- is demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance because of its recreational value, tranquillity and richness of its habitats and wildlife potential; and
- is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.