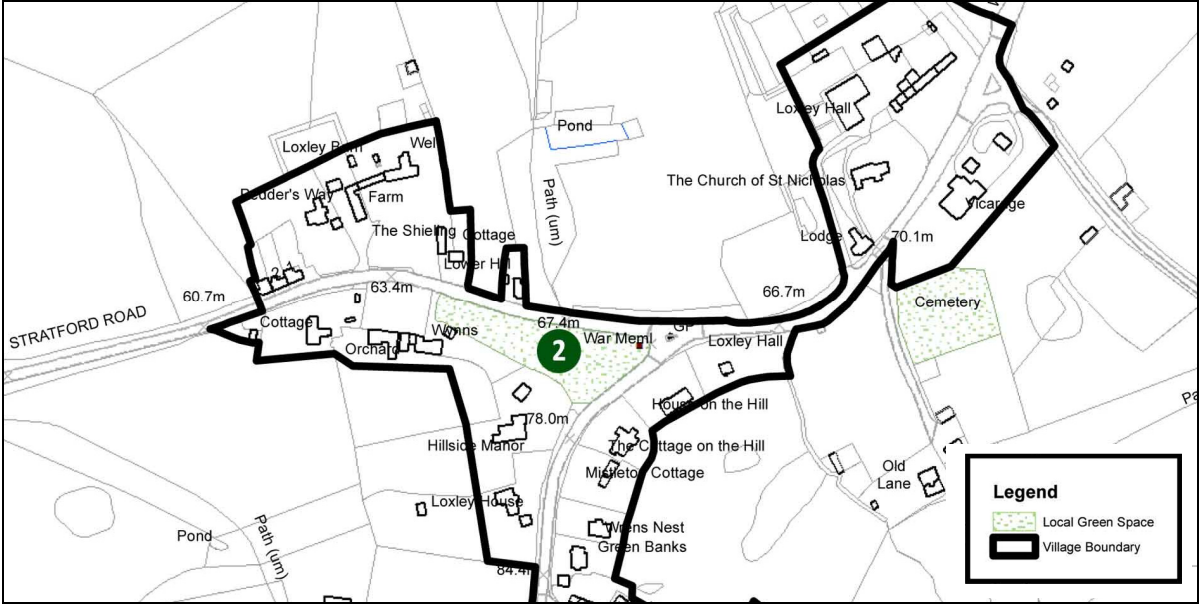


## LOXLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

### Local Green Space Site Assessment: January 2018

Site Address	Site Area	Site Ref
Village Green, Stratford Road	Approx. ha: 0.29	LGS No: 2
Plan		
		
Site Description and Current Land Use		
<p>The site is an open green space on sloping land. Within the site are mature trees and shrubs, a bench and war memorial. The site is surrounded on most sides and along the road opposite by sparsely spaced dwellings. The grass is closely mown and well-maintained. During the spring it is awash with seasonal flowers.</p>		
Relevant Planning History		
None		
Site Ownership		
This is owned by Loxley Parish Council and is registered as common land with Warwickshire County Council.		
Site Constraints		
<p>The site is a sloping, greenfield site at the edge of the village. It does not benefit from pavement along its road frontage although there are pavements along the road opposite on Goldicote Road.</p> <p>The grounds of Grade II listed Loxley Farmhouse are opposite the site's northwest corner.</p>		

### Public Access

The site is open to the public from both Stratford and Goldicote Roads.

### Site Photo



*Taken in January 2018*

### Ecological Significance

The site contains a mix of mature trees and some shrubs. 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.

In the village there have been sightings of larger fauna species such as muntjac deer, 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 open green space on the northern end of the village. The special qualities of the site include its sloping land which affords picturesque views of the hills and green fields to the north of the village which create a sense of space and tranquillity.

Due to its natural beauty and open aspect, the site makes a strong contribution to the village's local character, distinctiveness and green setting.

The school children have been involved in bulb planting on the site. The children visit the war memorial each year to commemorate Remembrance Day and to learn of the local history of the brave villagers who gave their lives in the wars.

It is also highly appreciated and valued by the local community because of its historical and social importance. The war memorial offers a place of public gathering and remembrance.

#### **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.

LGS2 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.