

## APPENDIX 4

# LOCAL GREEN SPACES: SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

This document explains the rationale and methodology for the designation of Local Green Spaces in the Ashby De La Zouch Neighbourhood Plan Review. It explains the methodology used, provides detailed descriptions of the sites designated in the 2017 Ashby de la Zouch Neighbourhood Plan and assesses them against the criteria for LGS designation in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

## 1. Policy context

The original NPPF (2012) introduced the concept of Local Green Space designation as a way to provide special protection against development for areas of particular importance to local communities.

Paragraph 106 of the current NPPF (December 2023) provides the following guidance on LGS designation:

*The Local Green Space designation should only be used where the green space is:*

- a) in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves*
- b) demonstrably special to a local community and holds particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and*
- c) local in character and not an extensive tract of land.*

Additional guidance is provided in National Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)

*Local Green Space designation is for use in Local Plans or Neighbourhood Plans. These plans can identify on a map ('designate') green areas for special protection. [Paragraph: 006 Reference ID: 37-006-20140306]*

*The green area will need to meet the criteria set out in paragraph 100 [now 106; see above] of the National Planning Policy Framework. Whether to designate land is a matter for local discretion. [Paragraph: 013 Reference ID: 37-013-20140306]*

North West Leicestershire District Council policy 10.5 (Local Plan Partial Review, 2021) provides the following clear guidance and endorsement to communities in the District:

*Local Green Spaces can be designated through either local or neighbourhood plans, providing that they meet the criteria set out within paragraph 77 [now 106; see above] of the National Planning Policy Framework. We do not propose to designate any Local Green Spaces as part of this Local Plan but instead leave such designations to be considered as part of Neighbourhood Plans.*

## 2. Methodology: process for designation

A four-step approach for identification and selection of Local Green Spaces in the Neighbourhood Area was adopted by the original Steering Group in 2016-17, and the same process has been used to update and confirm the original ten LGS designations for this Neighbourhood Plan Review.

### Step 1: Identification of potential sites

A long-list of potential sites was derived from two main sources:

- local knowledge, including site visits and recommendations from the NP Health, Leisure and Wellbeing focus group
- studies, such as the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities Assessment (2008) undertaken by North West Leicestershire District Council.

### Step 2: Assessment against NPPF criteria

These sites were then assessed for suitability/eligibility, using a proforma based on the criteria in the NPPF (paragraph 106) with additions to take account of local issues:

Site

Address/location

Description

Special to the Community:

Public Access

Is it in close proximity to the community it would serve? i.e. within 400m

Does the site have local significance?

Is it beautiful?

Does it have recreation value? including playing fields; formal/informal

Is it tranquil? Is it a peaceful place away from noise and bustle?

Is the site local in character? (i.e. serves local community and not extensive)

Environmental Significance:

Does it have historic significance?

Does the site have wildlife value? Biodiversity?

Does site contribute to LP strategic requirements for provision of homes, employment or services?

Other

This approach enabled a consistent, transparent methodology for identifying LGSs in the Neighbourhood Area and for producing an evidence-based set of designations. The Group, like others undertaking LGS analysis, faced challenges with the absence of a statutory or commonly-used definitions of these terms, particularly what constitutes 'close proximity' or comprises an 'extensive tract of land'. A commonsense approach was taken, while at the same time having regard to good practice and the experiences of LGS designations in Made Neighbourhood Plans elsewhere.

### Step 3 Further review

All the proposed sites were then reviewed for their appropriateness for designation as LGS by the independent consultant helping prepare the Neighbourhood Plan, acting in a 'critical friend' role.

### Step 4 Consultation

Sites that met all or most of the criteria were then tested through the Plan's drafting and consultation

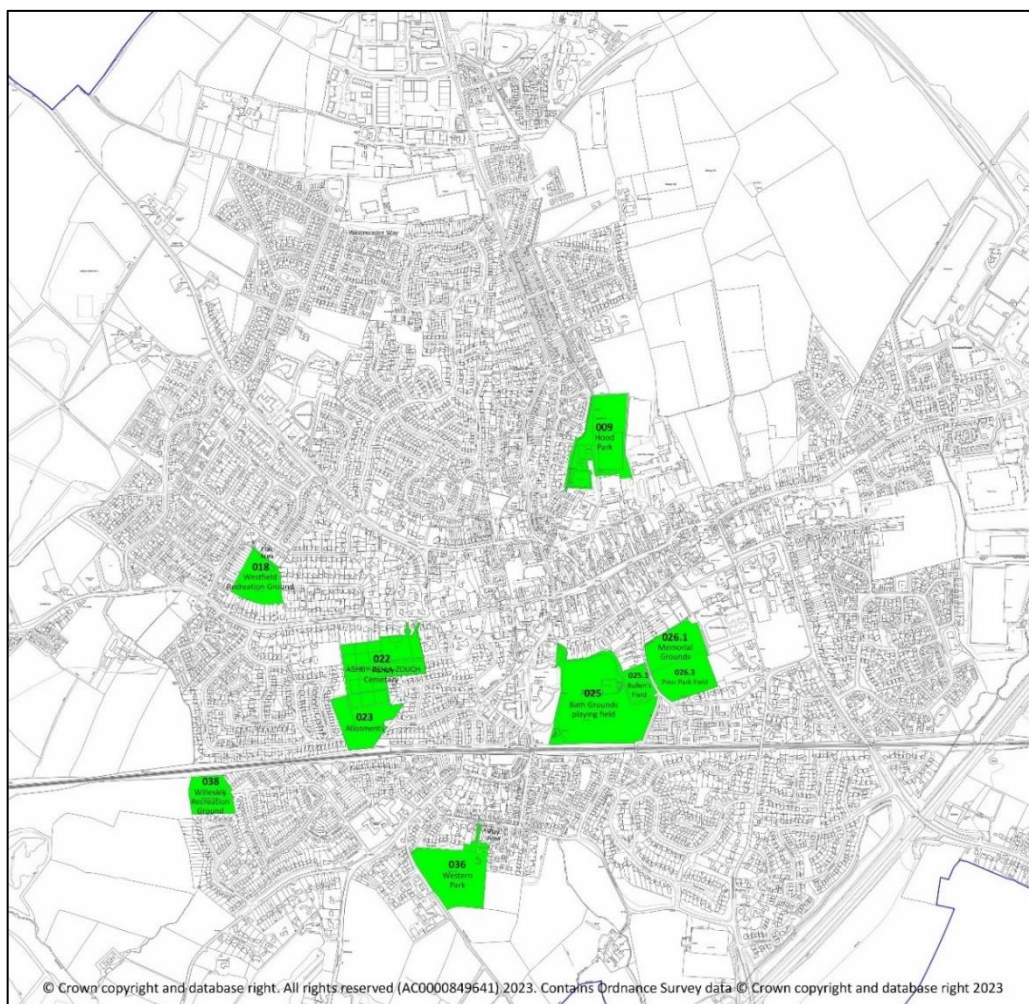
process. The sites were set out for comment at drop-in events in 2015, through the formal community/stakeholder consultation (Regulation 14), and subsequently as part of the Regulation 16 consultation conducted by NWLDC. Designation of the Bath Grounds as LGS was contested at R14 by the owner (although strongly supported by the community); its designation was confirmed at the NP's Examination, and the site has since been acquired by Ashby Town Council (see below), in part with the aim of consolidating its protection as LGS.

### 3. 2024 Neighbourhood Plan Review

An up-to-date re-assessment of all potential LGS candidates in the Neighbourhood Area, comprising those designated in the 2018 Neighbourhood Plan and all other potentially eligible open spaces (including all Open Space, Sport & Recreation sites and those with environmental significance), was carried out in 2023 as part of this Review. This process resulted in confirmation of the ten LGS designations made in the old Neighbourhood Plan. The list includes the Bath Grounds, whose ownership by Ashby Town Council since the 2018 Neighbourhood Plan was prepared removes any uncertainty about its designation as LGS.

All the other open/green sites of types (other than Local Green Space) audited in 2023, and whose protection at the appropriate levels in the Planning system is supported by both evidence and community value, are now covered by other policies in the Review Plan.

### 4. Location map



## 5. Updated Evidence Base, 2023-24: assessment forms

<b>009 Hood Park</b>	
<u>Address / location</u> Central Ashby off North Street	
<u>Description</u> A green field site with playing fields, all weather pitches, children's play area, skate park, adult outdoor gym equipment and pedestrian and cycle way linking residents from the north of Ashby to the Town Centre. Ashby Leisure Centre is in the grounds with sporting facilities including an outdoor lido.	
<u>Public access</u> Yes	
<u>Is it in close proximity to the community?</u> It is within Ashby de la Zouch Town Centre.	
<u>Does the site have local significance?</u> Yes, and put forward by the community.	
<u>Is it beautiful?</u> This is a large open space which is lined by trees. It runs alongside the Gilwiskaw Brook and comprises several acres of playing fields. The park's original large Edwardian wrought iron gates have been incorporated into the entrance drive.	
<u>Does it have historic significance?</u> The land was donated by Sir Joseph Hood as a recreation ground. He gave the land for the use of children in order to provide a safe play area away from traffic. The park was opened in 1927. Sir Joseph Hood was a local man who became a successful merchant and MP in London. There is a covenant which covers Hood Park which states that the land will only be used for public recreation purposes.	

<p><u>Does it have recreational value (including playing fields, formal/informal)?</u></p> <p>The entire area is used for public recreation, local football teams play on the grounds, There are all weather pitches for hockey, tennis and football. The large children's play area (fenced), consisting of play equipment for very young children and older children, including those with disabilities, and the skate park are well used facilities. There is also outdoor gym equipment and a basketball hoop.</p>	
<p><u>Is it tranquil – a place away from noise and bustle?</u></p> <p>Yes. Hood Park is an open space in the centre of Ashby which provides an area for relaxation as well as recreation. The Trent Rivers Trust has been carrying out work on the Gilwiskaw, which includes the provision of benches offering tranquillity away from the main playing fields.</p>	
<p><u>Does the site have wildlife value – biodiversity?</u></p> <p>Hood Park contains significant numbers of trees which are habitat to local birdlife and mammals. The land is bounded by the Gilwiskaw Brook which feeds into the River Mease. The Trent Rivers Trust has been carrying out works to encourage wildlife and promote biodiversity along the route of the river.</p>	
<p><u>Is the site local in character? (i.e. serves local community; not extensive)</u></p> <p>Yes. This is a well-defined area in the centre of the Town.</p>	
<p><u>Does the site contribute to LP strategic requirements for provision of homes, employment or services?</u></p> <p>No.</p>	
<p><u>Other</u></p> <p>No.</p>	



018 <b>Westfields Recreation Ground</b>	
<u>Address / location</u> Abbey Drive, Ashby de la Zouch	 
<u>Description</u> <p>The site is a recreation ground which is chiefly surrounded by a large estate of mainly social housing. The grounds are used by a local football team, with a football pitch marked out. They also make use of the pavilion. There is a small play area, a MUGA and beyond the football pitch there is an expanse of land used for informal outdoor activities and dog walking. It is the only piece of open public space in that area of town.</p> <p>Protected by <i>Fields in Trust</i> registration / covenant.</p>	
<u>Public access</u> Yes.	
<u>Is it in close proximity to the community?</u> It is surrounded by housing developments that have easy access to the grounds.	
<u>Does the site have local significance?</u> Yes, and put forward by the community.	
<u>Is it beautiful?</u> This is a large open space and is lined on one side with established trees and shrubbery.	
<u>Does it have historic significance?</u> n/a	
<u>Does it have recreational value (including playing fields, formal/informal)?</u> <p>The recreation ground has facilities for football, there is a children's play area, a MUGA (multi-use games area) and the remaining area is used for dog walking and informal outdoor activities. Every year the local tenant's association holds a Family Fun Day on the Recreation Ground.</p>	
<u>Is it tranquil – a place away from noise and bustle?</u> It is an essential open green space that provides Ashby residents with space for relaxation.	
<u>Does the site have wildlife value – biodiversity?</u> Yes, of some value - supports birds, small animals and flowers.	

<u>Is the site local in character? (i.e. serves local community; not extensive)</u> Yes. The boundaries are well defined.	
<u>Does the site contribute to LP strategic requirements for provision of homes, employment or services?</u> No.	
<u>Other</u> No.	

## 022 Ashby de la Zouch Cemetery

### Address / location

located on Moira Road (B5003), Ashby. From Ashby Town Centre follow the signs for Moira (B5003). Going up Kilwardby Street, past Holy Trinity Church. The Cemetery is on the left just over the brow of the hill.

### Description

Local cemetery serving the Parish of Ashby de la Zouch. Traditional burial site with lawns, trees and shrubs. Maintained by Ashby Town Council.

### Public access

Yes. Full public access within opening hours with pedestrian entrance from allotments and main vehicular access from Kilwardby Street. Includes visitor parking area.

Though not officially designated for cycling, nor a public right of way, provides safe pedestrian and cycle route around western side of town avoiding dangerous steep hill up Kilwardby Street for cyclists.

### Is it in close proximity to the community?

It is within the town of Ashby and reasonably accessible by most Ashby residents

### Does the site have local significance?

Yes, and put forward by the community.

### Is it beautiful?

Yes. The cemetery is on an elevated site offering beautiful panoramic views to south east, south and south west across Ashby, including Ashby Castle and St Helen's Church, and to distant countryside.

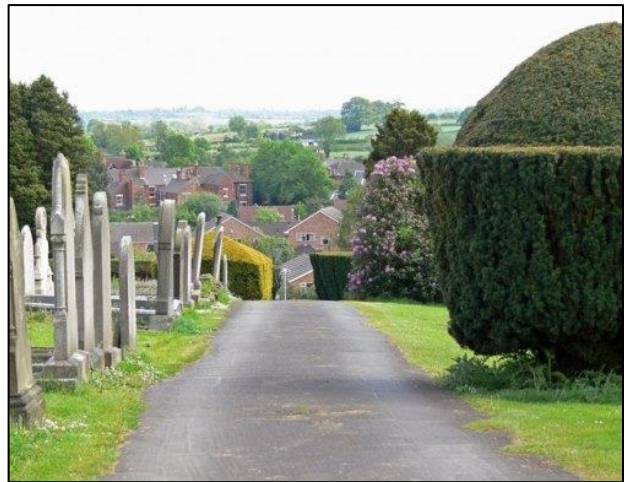
### Does it have historic significance?

Yes, used as a graveyard since Victorian times. There are burial sites dating back to 1857 with the associated varying designs of tombstones. Leicestershire Historic Environment site MLE 26404 as cemetery 1857-8, designed by John Salisbury for the local Burial Board. Includes 8 registered war graves


### Does it have recreational value (including playing fields, formal/informal)?

Yes, mainly informal. Walking and sitting. Dog walking also permitted.

### Is it tranquil – a place away from noise and





<u>bustle?</u> Yes. By the nature of its use this is a quiet and tranquil place which is used by local residents including to remember their lost ones.	
<u>Does the site have wildlife value – biodiversity?</u> Yes. Local Wildlife Site LWS 61209 as Ashby de la Zouch cemetery for mesotrophic grassland: south-facing dry and open site with species-rich grassland and flora on graves in older part of cemetery, and on bank between two levels. Corn salad (Leicestershire scarcity) abundant on graves.	<p>Corn salad <i>Valerianella locusta</i></p> 
<u>Is the site local in character? (i.e. serves local community; not extensive)</u> Yes. The boundaries are well defined.	
<u>Does the site contribute to LP strategic requirements for provision of homes, employment or services?</u> No.	
<u>Other</u> No.	

## 023 Ashby de la Zouch Allotments

### Address / location

The allotment gardens are situated on the western side of the Town, near the Cemetery on Moira Road and can be reached by road via Wilfred Gardens. They can also be reached on foot from Donington Drive and Moira Road.

### Description

Community allotments owned by the Town Council but managed by the Allotments Association.

### Public access

Yes, at all times. Includes very well used footpath (though not a public right of way) between Woodside housing estate into town avoiding busy main road and steep Kilwardby Street Hill. This provides safe pedestrian access to Hilltop School from the Town centre. Also used by cyclists, though not officially designated as cycle route, avoiding dangerous Kilwardby Street hill.

### Is it in close proximity to the community?

It is within the town of Ashby and reasonably accessible by most Ashby Residents.

### Does the site have local significance?

Yes, and put forward by the community. The Allotment Association has been in existence since 1978 and is thriving and successful with a waiting list. It allows members of the public to grow their own food.

### Is it beautiful?

This is an open green space which provides gardens. It is adjoined by the cemetery so creates swathe of green space within the centre of Ashby.

### Does it have historic significance?

The allotments offer an unrestricted view of the historic cemetery and water tower.

### Does it have recreational value (including playing fields, formal/informal)?

There is a wide spectrum of plot holders from young families to the very mature, from the novice to the experienced, all working together for the benefit of producing their own food and classic flowers. There is a plot designed for the less able with raised beds. Every year the



allotments form part of the Ashby Open Gardens event.	
<u>Is it tranquil – a place away from noise and bustle?</u> Yes. The area provides a calm and tranquil environment for its users. Bounded to the east by residential bungalows generally inhabited by elderly people who value the tranquillity provided by this green buffer.	
<u>Does the site have wildlife value – biodiversity?</u> Yes, of some value- supports birds, small animals and flowers. The range of produce grown means this is an excellent space for insect life, particularly bees.	
<u>Is the site local in character? (i.e. serves local community; not extensive)</u> Yes. The boundaries are well defined.	
<u>Does the site contribute to LP strategic requirements for provision of homes, employment or services?</u> No.	
<u>Other</u> n/a	

## 025 Ashby Bath Grounds

### Address / location

Station Road, Ashby de la Zouch

### Description

The historic Bath Grounds are a much loved, public Playing Field and park in the centre of Ashby, covering 6.2 hectares. The historic Royal Hotel and Rawdon Terrace overlook the Bath Grounds. The Grounds themselves offer views of the castle. They are also host to the Ashby Hastings Cricket Club and the Ashby Bowls Club.

### Public access

Yes. The Bath Grounds are available for public access for recreational and sporting activities throughout the year. They have recently been acquired by Ashby de la Zouch Town Council but have been open to the public for over 50 years. A Public Right of Way follows the western perimeter of the park between Station Road and South Street.

### Is it in close proximity to the community?

The Bath Grounds are close to the Town Centre and provide a scenic route into Town from several housing estates and local sheltered housing.

### Does the site have local significance?

Yes, and put forward by the community. They are deemed the most important green space in Ashby; tranquil, beautiful and in the heart of the town.

### Is it beautiful?

The Bath Grounds are an area of outstanding beauty and provide marvellous open vistas from the Royal Hotel in the west to the medieval Ashby Castle.

### Does it have historic significance?

Yes, the Bath Grounds derive their name from the Ivanhoe Baths which was built at the western end of the park in 1822. The raised single storey building boasted a 150 foot colonnaded front with an architrave supported by 32 fluted Doric columns. At this time, the Bath Grounds were laid out as an area of fashionable 'greensward' for the benefit of visitors to the Baths and included a carriage





drive and walks. In 1888 the Baths were refurbished, and the Bath Grounds transformed into 'pleasure gardens' with walks, paths, drives and seating. Large events were held including a visit by famous parachutist Dolly Shepherd who made her first solo parachute descent from a balloon on the Bath Grounds.

The Baths were demolished in the 1960's but the Bath Grounds were retained as a playing field and area for public recreation. Community events are held regularly, including the Ashby Show and annual Carnival.

A heritage trail has been laid out around the grounds by the Friends of Ashby Bath Grounds with notice boards and market posts, explaining the historical and modern contexts.

Does it have recreational value (including playing fields, formal/informal)?

The Bath Grounds has been established as a recreational area for many years. It is an important venue hosting the Ashby Bowls Club and Ashby Hastings Cricket Club, who both have pavilions in the grounds. As well as the annual Ashby 20 Road Race and Ashby Santa Fun Run.

It is a key area for daily recreation use for all ages including dog walkers, family ball games and picnics. It is used as a main pedestrian thoroughfare to the Town Centre. Throughout the year it is used for events including the annual Fake Festival, Jim's Tractor Run and Ashby Food and Drink Festival. They have been awarded and maintained Green Flag status for their level of maintenance.

Is it tranquil – a place away from noise and bustle?

Yes. With footpaths and seating, it is a popular place for people to find peace and quiet. Kenneth Hillier, local historian, in the latest, 2016 edition of his book, 'The Ivanhoe Baths and the Bath Grounds' says, "*They really are the countryside in the Town*".

Does the site have wildlife value – biodiversity?

There is a mixture of trees and flowerbeds providing a natural environment for insects, birds and animals. In addition, there are wild





<p>areas which provide an environment for frogs and a small wet area for frogspawn. An area of wildflowers, known as 'The Wildflower Walk' is established on the east side of the Bath Grounds. Six fruit trees were planted on 2023 to encourage further biodiversity. Includes areas (as mapped) of Priority Habitat deciduous woodland (Natural England designation). Habitat Scoping Survey (Leics CC Ecology, 2021) includes recommendations for biodiversity enhancement (mainly wildflower meadow creation and management). A tree survey (LCC) in 2015 recorded species and made recommendations for management.</p>	
<p><u>Is the site local in character? (i.e. serves local community; not extensive)</u> Yes. The boundaries are well defined.</p>	
<p><u>Does the site contribute to LP strategic requirements for provision of homes, employment or services?</u> No.</p>	
<p><u>Other</u> No.</p>	

<b>025.1 Bullens Field</b>	
<u>Address / location</u> Located on the western side of Prior Park Road	  
<u>Description</u> Bullens field is an area of approximately a third of a hectare located between the Bath Grounds and Prior Park Field. It is adjacent to the Ashby Conservation area. The area is not currently maintained and does not have general access for the public, but is important to the character of the area and has important views towards the Castle	
<u>Public access</u> No	
<u>Is it in close proximity to the community?</u> It is within the centre of Ashby and is reasonably accessible by most Ashby residents. The site enhances the view for tourists visiting the Castle	
<u>Does the site have local significance?</u> Yes, and put forward by the community.	
<u>Is it beautiful?</u> Not conventionally so – the site is currently in the process of naturally rewilding. It is however essential for maintaining the views of the Castle from the Bath Grounds, as well as the views from the Castle. It lies between the Memorial and Prior Park fields and the Bath Grounds and forms part of the green corridor from Station Road to the Castle. It is important to the character and setting of the local area.	
<u>Does it have historic significance?</u> Yes. Historically part of the Bath Grounds (18th century-on), and part of Leicestershire Historic Environment Record site MLE4277 for medieval ‘stew ponds’ (fishponds) associated with the Castle which are of significant archaeological interest. The field is shown on the 1725 map of ‘The lands in the Manor of Packington’. The site allows views of the Castle that have been recognised by Historic English England as being important to the overall setting of the castle.	
<u>Does it have recreational value (including playing fields, formal/informal)?</u> There is no public access to the site, but it is	

viewed (from adjoining open spaces and roads) by local people for its wildlife interest.	
<u>Is it tranquil – a place away from noise and bustle?</u> Intrinsically yes, but there is no access currently.	
<u>Does the site have wildlife value – biodiversity?</u> Yes. High local biodiversity significance: the site is a naturally 'rewilded' habitat site close to the centre of town. Mature trees on eastern roadside boundary, bramble scrub and margins, short and long grass in central area, pond with waterside flora, some natural woodland regeneration beginning. It is a haven for insect life and birds. Invertebrates including bees, butterflies and damselflies, amphibians, small mammals, bat foraging area, hedgehogs (seriously declining nationally), at least 18 bird species including 6 BAP species.	
<u>Is the site local in character? (i.e. serves local community; not extensive)</u> Yes. The boundaries are well defined. Its value is an essential ingredient to the overall character of a much wider area.	
<u>Does the site contribute to LP strategic requirements for provision of homes, employment or services?</u> No.	
<u>Other</u> No.	

## 026.1 Memorial Grounds

### Address / location

Central Ashby adjoining Ashby Castle, the Tennis Club and Prior Park Road. The Memorial Grounds lie immediately to the north of the Prior Park Field (see below) and are roughly of equal size, separated by a hedge containing some young trees

### Description

Green field site with playing fields. The Memorial Field is owned by the "Memorial Field Trust".

### Public access

No – see below.

### Is it in close proximity to the community?

It is within the Town of Ashby and reasonably accessible by most Ashby residents.

### Does the site have local significance?

Yes, and put forward by the community. This is a large open space which completes the much-loved green corridor around the southern edge of the town centre from Station Road to the castle. It is lined with trees and provides an open access view to the Castle and is adjacent to the Ashby Conservation Area.


### Is it beautiful?

There are beautiful views from the playing field across to the castle and the Bath Grounds.

### Does it have historic significance?

According to Mercian Archaeology's Geophysical and Topographic Survey report (2017), both the Memorial Grounds and the Prior Park Field were once part of "a formalised late medieval/post medieval garden" laid out to the southeast of Ashby Castle and shown on the oldest surviving map of 'The lands of Packington Manor' from 1735 by William Gardner. There are no visible signs of these gardens in modern times other than the hedgerow separating the two fields following the line of a tree lined avenue through the gardens shown in the 1735 map. This clear walkway going through this land shown on the map enabled Castle residents to access the fishponds on the now Bullens Field and Bath Grounds.



<p>The Memorial Field was established in September 1951 as a memorial to the old boys of Ashby Grammar School who had fallen in the World Wars. There is a bronze plaque on a boulder on the edge of the field which commemorates their sacrifice. The site is recorded on the Imperial War Museum register of war memorials. The opening of the field in 1951 was celebrated by a rugby match by the Leicester Rugby Club and a celebration dinner at the Royal Hotel.</p>	
<p><u>Does it have recreational value (including playing fields, formal/informal)?</u></p> <p>The Memorial Field has been used as a playing field for the Grammar School. Previously it was the site of a rugby pitch used by Ashby Rugby Club. It is still used by the minis section of the Ashby Rugby Club for training.</p>	
<p><u>Is it tranquil – a place away from noise and bustle?</u></p> <p>Yes, it is part of the green corridor up to the Castle. With the Memorial commemorating those who have died in combat.</p>	
<p><u>Does the site have wildlife value – biodiversity?</u></p> <p>Yes, of some value - supports birds and small animals</p>	
<p><u>Is the site local in character? (i.e. serves local community; not extensive)</u></p> <p>Yes. The boundaries are well defined.</p>	
<p><u>Does the site contribute to LP strategic requirements for provision of homes, employment or services?</u></p> <p>No.</p>	
<p><u>Other</u></p> <p>No.</p>	



### 026.3 Prior Park Field

#### Address / location

Between Prior Park Road and Ashby Castle.

#### Description

Former Grammar School Field on land adjacent to Prior Park Road.

A green field site owned and maintained by Ashby Town Council, with a pedestrian footpath (Public Right of Way) linking the Bath Grounds with the Castle. and potential to provide a playing field.

#### Public access

Yes. Footpath O107 provides an important, safe and beautiful walking link for visitors between Ashby's two most important heritage assets, the Royal hotel and Ashby Castle.

#### Is it in close proximity to the community?

It is within the centre of Ashby and reasonably accessible by most Ashby residents.

#### Does the site have local significance?

Yes, and put forward by the community. It is an essential part of Ashby's Green Corridor which extends around the south of the Town centre from the Royal Hotel in the west to the Ashby School playing field in the east. The green corridor comprises (west to east), Bath Grounds, Prior Park Field and Memorial Grounds, Ashby Castle Grounds and Ashby School playing fields.

#### Is it beautiful?

Yes. This is a large open space which completes the green corridor from Station Road to the Castle. It is lined with trees and provides an open access view to the Castle and the Bath Grounds.


#### Does it have historic significance?

All this land was originally part of the Castle grounds and can be seen on the 1735 map of 'The Lands of Packington Manor'. It would have formed part of the extensive hunting grounds. There is a clear walkway going through the land shown on the map which enabled the Castle residents to access the fishponds on the now Bullen's Field and Bath grounds. The walkway would approximate to the area of the hedge dividing this field with the



Memorial Grounds.	
<p><u>Does it have recreational value (including playing fields, formal/informal)?</u></p> <p>The site is regularly used as a playing field by children and dog walkers. It is part of the route of the Ashby Santa Run. It is also a popular 'picnic' location in the summer months due to its close proximity to town and beautiful vistas. Currently, it is not used for sports pitches but is available for adaptation if required.</p>	
<p><u>Is it tranquil – a place away from noise and bustle?</u></p> <p>Yes, it provides a quiet place to walk.</p>	
<p><u>Does the site have wildlife value – biodiversity?</u></p> <p>Yes, of some value - supports birds, small animals and flowers. 50 trees were planted for the Queen's Green Canopy project in 2021/2. Also, small groups of mature trees of varying native species in the SE, SW and NW corners with valuable wildlife habitat. It contains a very large and beautiful mature ash tree (in the national Inventory of ancient and veteran trees) in the southwest corner. The boundary hedgerow on the N edge contains an attractive evenly spaced line of 20+ Lime trees giving an avenue appearance.</p>	
<p><u>Is the site local in character? (i.e. serves local community; not extensive)</u></p> <p>Yes. The boundaries are well defined.</p>	
<p><u>Does the site contribute to LP strategic requirements for provision of homes, employment or services?</u></p> <p>No.</p>	
<p><u>Other</u></p> <p>No.</p>	

<b>036 Western Park Recreation Ground</b>	
<u>Address / location</u> Off Avenue Road, Ashby de la Zouch	
<u>Description</u> The site is a recreation ground bordered to the north by houses on Avenue Road and Park Close, and to the west by Packington Nook Lane and Willesley Primary School. There is open countryside to the South and East. There are playing fields, sports pitches, children's play area and a pavilion.	
<u>Public access</u> Yes. Owned and maintained by Ashby Town Council.	
<u>Is it in close proximity to the community?</u> Adjacent to private residential area and local primary school.	
<u>Does the site have local significance?</u> Yes, and put forward by the community.	
<u>Is it beautiful?</u> This is a large open green space. The southern boundary consists of traditional hedging and there are mature trees around the site. There is a public footpath running alongside and this forms part of the National Forest Way and connects Ashby and the village of Packington.	
<u>Does it have historic significance?</u> There has been a recreation ground on the site for many years. There are photographs of a previous pavilion in the 1930's. The land was transferred to the then Ashby Urban District Council in the 1920's. Since that time the area has been a recreation ground enjoyed by the residents of Ashby.	
<u>Does it have recreational value (including playing fields, formal/informal)?</u> The park has facilities for football and cricket. There is a children's play area. It is used by the public for dog walking and as an access to Willesley Primary School and the public footpath to Packington. Willesley Primary School uses the site for sports events e.g. sports relief mile. The small pavilion is used by local sports clubs.	
<u>Is it tranquil – a place away from noise and</u>	

<p><u>bustle?</u></p> <p>The park is an open green space on the edge of Ashby. It is in easy walking distance for people living on the south side of Ashby providing space for relaxation.</p>	
<p><u>Does the site have wildlife value – biodiversity?</u></p> <p>The park contains significant numbers of trees which are habitat for local birdlife and mammals. A new “Tiny Forest” was planted here by community volunteers in November 2023 (right).</p>	
<p><u>Is the site local in character? (i.e. serves local community; not extensive)</u></p> <p>Yes. The boundaries are well defined.</p>	
<p><u>Does the site contribute to LP strategic requirements for provision of homes, employment or services?</u></p> <p>No.</p>	
<p><u>Other</u></p> <p>No.</p>	

<b>038 Willesley Recreation Ground</b>	
<u>Address / location</u> Ridgway Road, Ashby de la Zouch	
<u>Description</u> Greenfield site with playing fields, sports pitches, children's play area and pavilion used by local community groups. Protected by <i>Fields in Trust</i> registration / covenant.	
<u>Public access</u> Yes.	
<u>Is it in close proximity to the community?</u> Adjacent to two housing estates.	
<u>Does the site have local significance?</u> Yes, and put forward by the community.	
<u>Is it beautiful?</u> This is a large open green space. The west boundary consists of woodland and mature trees and a brook. There are paths running through this woodland which link it up to a public footpath which leads to Hicks Lodge and the National Forest.	
<u>Does it have historic significance?</u> n/a	
<u>Does it have recreational value (including playing fields, formal/informal)?</u> Willessley Recreation Ground has facilities for football. There is a children's play area and it is used by the public for dog walking and as an access route to Hicks Lodge Cycle Centre. The grounds can also be used for informal recreation. The small pavilion is used by local voluntary groups.	
<u>Is it tranquil – a place away from noise and bustle?</u> The site is an essential open space on the edge of Ashby providing residents with space for relaxation.	
<u>Does the site have wildlife value – biodiversity?</u> The Recreation Ground contains significant numbers of trees which are habitat to local birdlife and other animals. Mature deciduous trees and a brook on the west side.	
<u>Is the site local in character? (i.e. serves local</u>	



community; not extensive) Yes. The boundaries are well defined.	
<u>Does the site contribute to LP strategic requirements for provision of homes, employment or services?</u> No.	
<u>Other</u> No.	