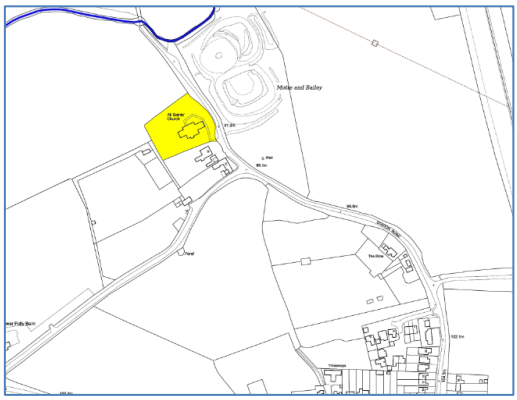
APPENDIX 4

LOCAL GREEN SPACE, OPEN SPACE SPORT & RECREATION SITES (OSSRs)

Evidence base

INVENTORY MAP REFERENCE	SITE NAME	NPPF (2024) CRITERIA FOR LOCAL GREEN SPACE DESIGNATION							TOTAL /25
		LOCAL: BOUNDED, NOT EXTENSIVE YES/NO	PROXIMITY 0 - 5	SPECIAL TO COMMUNITY (<10)			LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE (<10)		
				BEAUTY 0 - 3	TRANQUIL 0 - 2	REC. VALUE 0 - 5	HISTORY 0 - 5	WILDLIFE 0 - 5	
001	All Saints Church and churchyard, Lilbourne	Y	3	2	2	3	5	3	18









Bounded: Boundaries are a mix of walls and fencing on the south side, with a ditch and loose planting on the west side, including a wooden footbridge that provides access to the Avon Way long-distance footpath. The north side is largely ditch and loose planting, finishing with the east side, which is a well-established hedgerow bordering the lane.

Proximity: The Churchyard and Church are approximately half a mile from the centre of the modern village, and the walk takes about 10 minutes.

Special to the Community:

Beauty: Many well-established trees enhance this ancient churchyard. To the West and North, there are views across the fields, including the River Avon, and to the East is an excellent view of the Motte and Bailey castle mounds, which are a scheduled monument. To the South is the garden of the old rectory.

Recreational value: For some people, the walk to the churchyard and the time spent there, near deceased relatives, is comforting and revitalising, as well as recreational. Access by foot is always available, but there is no vehicular

access. Access to the churchyard can be via the road and footpaths, or via well-established footpaths across the fields. The churchyard is slightly outside the village, and its setting among the fields enhances the atmosphere, aiding quiet contemplation. The churchyard is open for church events, including a teddy bear zipwire, plant sales, cream teas, and bat evenings.

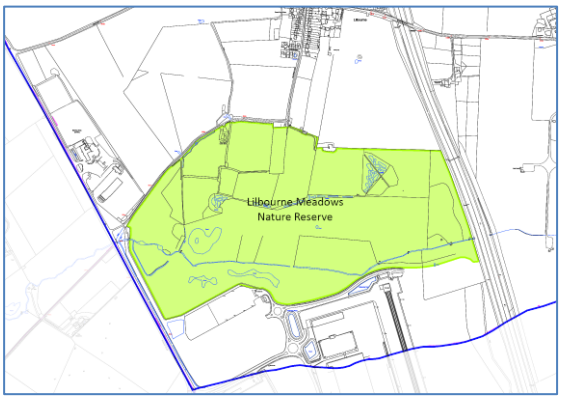
Tranquillity: The setting in a rural landscape of this quarter acre of land makes it particularly tranquil, and the provision of benches allows visitors to sit and enjoy the quietness.

Local Significance:

History: Burials in the churchyard have presumably taken place since the church was founded 1000 years ago, but the earliest records date to the 1500s. The earliest known graves are on the south side of the churchyard, and 9 of these are Grade 2 listed. All identified graves are numbered, and extensive records are available to genealogists.

Wildlife: The churchyard is situated a short distance from the village's residential area, making it a place where local people can appreciate wildlife. The trees and hedges, along with the habitat log piles, etc., are attractive to garden birds, rabbits, foxes, bats, green woodpeckers, and squirrels. Also, barn owls, kestrels, red kites and buzzards are regularly seen, as well as occasionally muntjac. The Churchyard recently attained its gold award for wildlife conservation.

INVENTORY MAP REFERENCE	SITE NAME	NPPF (2024) CRITERIA FOR LOCAL GREEN SPACE DESIGNATION							TOTAL /25
		LOCAL: BOUNDED, NOT EXTENSIVE YES/NO	PROXIMITY 0 - 5	SPECIAL TO COMMUNITY (<10)			LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE (<10)		
				BEAUTY 0 - 3	TRANQUIL 0 - 2	REC. VALUE 0 - 5	HISTORY 0 - 5	WILDLIFE 0 - 5	
002	Lilbourne Meadows Local Nature Reserve	N	3	3	2	3	3	4	18









Bounded:

The whole of the nature reserve is bounded by natural hedges and ditches. There are some wildlife ponds which are fenced off for safety. The reserve is maintained by the Wildlife Trust and funded by Prologis. Prologis are constantly monitoring the spoil mounds which separate the nature reserve from the Prologis DIRFT site and will continue to improve the boundary between the two, further enhancing the rural views.

Proximity:

Although the nature reserve is within Lilbourne parish, it does not border the settlement boundary.

Special to community

Recreational value:

The whole of the nature reserve is accessible to the public with extensive walks through the fields. Many bird watchers visit the reserve and spend hours watching the various species, particularly if they hear of a rare visitor.

Beauty:

The views over the fields to the M1 on the eastern side, the 'scrape' to the south side and the fields looking towards the A5 on the west side, are beautiful whatever the season of the year.

Tranquillity:

By virtue of this being a nature reserve, the tranquillity is only slightly marred by the M1 to the east and the A5 to the west.

Local Significance

History:

Part of Northants Historic Environment Record Monument 9842 Rugby Radio Station. Most of this site has been developed as the Prologis/ DRIFT distribution facility and Houlton (strategic residential development) but this section has been reserved and some heritage features survive.

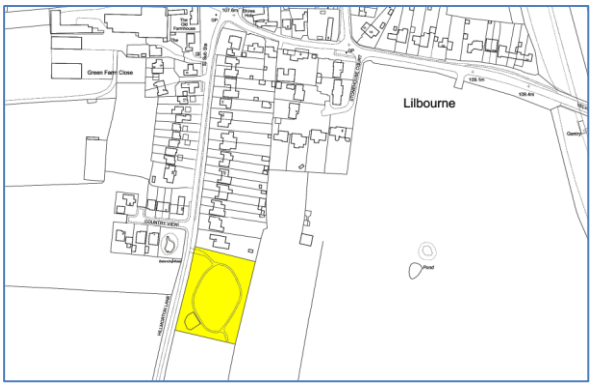
Historically, the nature reserve would have included some of the radio masts that were part of Rugby Radio Station, a large government transmission facility opened in 1926 and, at its height in the 1950's, the largest radio transmitting station in the world. The tallest masts were 820 feet (250m) tall and could be seen up to 20 miles away. Some of the concrete bases where the guy lines were attached to keep the masts upright are still in situ.

Wildlife:

Designated and manged as Lilbourne Meadows LNR (W. Northants Council) and Beds, Cambs and Northants Wildlife Trust Reserve

Newly-established, landscape-scale biodiversity net gain site. Numerous species of wildlife can be seen across the fields, with some birds permanently resident and others only visiting during their annual migrations. As there is a scrape in the reserve, there are often many species of wading birds, including Lapwings, golden plover, ducks, geese, Egrets and Curlews. Frequently, buzzards and red kites can be seen soaring above the nature reserve, and their whistling calls can be heard every day. At night, foxes and owls can be heard. There are bat boxes and a brick-built bat house within the nature reserve. There are also muntjac and roe deer, badgers, rabbits, hares, hedgehogs, and all manner of small rodents visiting regularly. The ponds are also home to Great Crested newts. Rare breeds livestock are used as part of the management plan of the site, and the Chris Lewis Barn is a developing visitor/interpretation centre.

INVENTORY MAP REFERENCE	SITE NAME	NPPF (2024) CRITERIA FOR LOCAL GREEN SPACE DESIGNATION							TOTAL /25
		LOCAL: BOUNDED, NOT EXTENSIVE YES/NO	PROXIMITY 0 - 5	SPECIAL TO COMMUNITY (<10)			LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE (<10)		
				BEAUTY 0 - 3	TRANQUIL 0 - 2	REC. VALUE 0 - 5	HISTORY 0 - 5	WILDLIFE 0 - 5	
003	Jubilee Meadow Park	Y	4	2	2	5	0	2	15









BOUNDED: The Jubilee Meadow Park is enclosed on four sides, with hedgerows on two sides and fencing on the other two. There are two entrances to the pocket park found on the northwestern and southeastern corners. The northeastern entrance opens out onto Hillmorton Lane, while the southeastern entrance opens to a public footpath and the farmers' fields.

PROXIMITY: Situated approximately 300 yards from the village centre (The Green), the pocket park is easily accessible via well-maintained pavements, ensuring a clear and safe route for visitors.

SPECIAL TO COMMUNITY

RECREATIONAL VALUE: This open space is accessible to the public 24/7 and features amenities such as a circular path, beaches and picnic tables, which are popular among local families and residents. During the summer, it serves as a venue for family activities like rounders and small sports games, and residents who enjoy their lunch in the outdoor space. In addition, it is often used by dog walkers throughout the year, creating a sense of community not just for residents but for their pets as well.

BEAUTY: The site is aesthetically pleasing and contributes to the village's natural landscape.

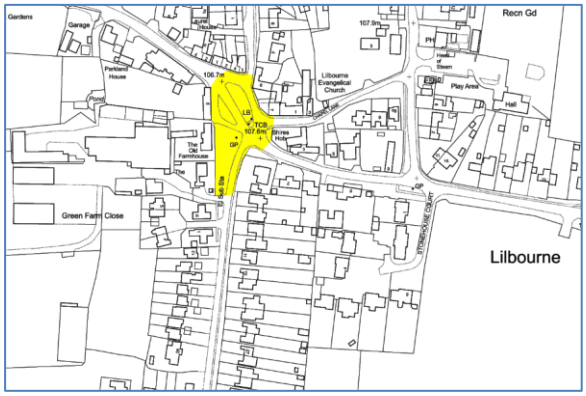
TRANQUILLITY: Despite its proximity to Hillmorton Lane, the site is still quiet, offering a calm environment for residents to relax and appreciate the park's views and surrounding fields. In the summer months, it is a well-frequented area, which may increase the noise heard here.

LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE

HISTORY: The site is a recent addition to the village and was developed in 2020

WILDLIFE: Situated in the south-west corner is a fenced-off pond and wildlife sanctuary for small wildlife species, including frogs, butterflies, and dragonflies, as well as other waterborne creatures. This feature also supports local birds as it is a home for insects, providing an essential food source for them. The hedgerows that surround the pocket park provide fruits for animals in the area, creating a strong local ecosystem

INVENTORY MAP REFERENCE	SITE NAME	NPPF (2024) CRITERIA FOR LOCAL GREEN SPACE DESIGNATION							TOTAL /25
		LOCAL: BOUNDED, NOT EXTENSIVE YES/NO	PROXIMITY 0 - 5	SPECIAL TO COMMUNITY (<10)			LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE (<10)		
				BEAUTY 0 - 3	TRANQUIL 0 - 2	REC. VALUE 0 - 5	HISTORY 0 - 5	WILDLIFE 0 - 5	
004	The Green	Y	5	2	0	3	3	1	14











BOUNDED: The Green is an open space in the centre of the village. It is bisected by the roads leading to Rugby Road/Yelvertoft Road.

PROXIMITY: This is the centre of the village, accessible via pavemented walkways and the main through roads. It connects the main roads in the village.

SPECIAL TO COMMUNITY

RECREATIONAL VALUE: The Green serves as the heart of the village, frequently used as a gathering place for residents. It features a community noticeboard for sharing important and interesting information. A memorial-themed bench provides a resting spot for villagers and visitors on walks or bike rides. The Lilbourne Memorial monument is located here, where the village holds annual remembrance events. Next to the memorial stands an original K6 telephone box. During the festive season, the village's Christmas tree is displayed.

BEAUTY: The Green is framed by historic cottages and mature trees, inviting you to slow down and take in the village scenery. In spring, the cherry tree softens the area with its blossoms, enhancing its beauty, which can be admired from the memorial bench and as one passes through the village.

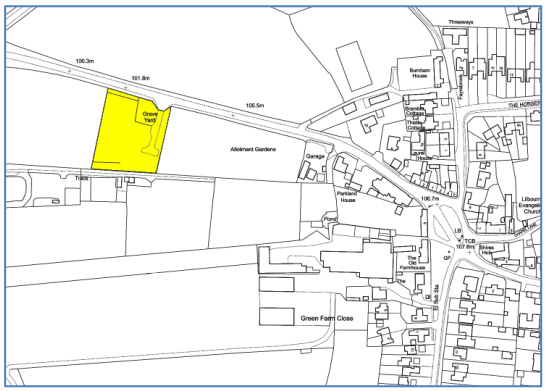
TRANQUILLITY: The area is generally calm, although it is well used throughout the day and evenings as it is bisected by the main route through the village, leading to Rugby Road and Yelvertoft Road and is used by cars and occasionally lorries.

LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE

HISTORY: The Green was historically significant, hosting the village post office, which also served as the village shop. It is home to the Lilbourne Memorial, installed by the Parish Council to honour those from Lilbourne who died or risked their lives for their country during wars. The memorial specifically commemorates those who died in the Great War (1914-1918), World War II (1939-1945), and those who lost their lives at Lilbourne Airfield during training.

WILDLIFE: The Green features a large tree on the main area with additional trees in the plot opposite the main land, creating a thriving habitat for birds and insects.

INVENTORY MAP REFERENCE	SITE NAME	NPPF (2024) CRITERIA FOR LOCAL GREEN SPACE DESIGNATION							TOTAL /25
		LOCAL: BOUNDED, NOT EXTENSIVE YES/NO	PROXIMITY 0 - 5	SPECIAL TO COMMUNITY (<10)			LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE (<10)		
				BEAUTY 0 - 3	TRANQUIL 0 - 2	REC. VALUE 0 - 5	HISTORY 0 - 5	WILDLIFE 0 - 5	
006	Lilbourne Burial Ground	Y	4	2	2	5	2	2	17









BOUNDED: The burial ground is enclosed on all four sides by fencing and hedgerows. The entrance to the grounds is via a metal gate opening onto Rugby Road.

PROXIMITY: The burial ground is found approximately 5 minutes from the centre of the village and accessible by car or by foot via Rugby Road. There are paved walkways for some of the route to the grounds.

SPECIAL TO COMMUNITY

RECREATIONAL VALUE: WNC OSSR (Cemetery) in draft emerging Local Plan audit as *Rugby Road Cemetery*

The burial ground is thoughtfully designed, with benches strategically placed throughout, providing a comfortable space for family and friends to gather and pay their respects to their departed loved ones. These benches offer a serene environment where visitors can sit, reminisce, and find solace during their time at the site. Beyond serving as a place of remembrance, the burial ground attracts individuals seeking a tranquil setting to unwind and reflect. Its peaceful atmosphere makes it an ideal location for meditation, contemplation, or simply enjoying a moment of quiet amidst nature. The combination of its respectful purpose and its calming ambience creates a unique space that caters to both those mourning and those in need of a peaceful retreat.

BEAUTY: The burial ground is enveloped in lush greenery, offering a beautiful setting enjoyed by villagers and providing a soothing backdrop. From any point within the grounds, visitors are treated to breathtaking views of the surrounding fields. The peaceful atmosphere makes it a perfect place for reflection and remembrance. Pathways meander through the grounds, inviting exploration and offering moments of solitude amidst nature's beauty. This provides a comforting and uplifting environment for all who visit. Views to the west put the site into a rural context (and contribute to its tranquillity).

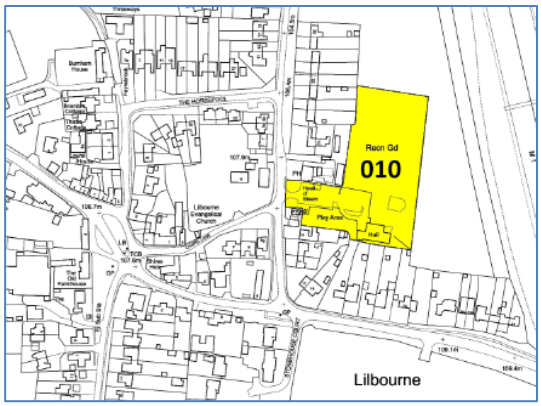
TRANQUILLITY: Located just off Rugby Road, the burial site offers a peaceful escape despite its closeness to the road. At the site, you can often hear birdsong. The hedgerows help minimise road noise, enhancing the peacefulness of the surroundings.

LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE

HISTORY: The burial ground has existed since 1970.

WILDLIFE: **xxxxxxxxxxxxx**

INVENTORY MAP REFERENCE	SITE NAME	NPPF (2024) CRITERIA FOR LOCAL GREEN SPACE DESIGNATION							TOTAL /25
		LOCAL: BOUNDED, NOT EXTENSIVE YES/NO	PROXIMITY 0 - 5	SPECIAL TO COMMUNITY (<10)			LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE (<10)		
				BEAUTY 0 - 3	TRANQUIL 0 - 2	REC. VALUE 0 - 5	HISTORY 0 - 5	WILDLIFE 0 - 5	
010	Lilbourne sports field	Y	5	2	1	5	3	2	18









Consists of Lilbourne Recreation Ground and Andy Hemmings children's play area

Bounded:

The sports field is bounded by hedgerows, open fields, the village hall and carpark and the rear gardens of houses on Station Road**.**

Proximity:

The sports field is within the settlement boundary, central to the village with access via the village hall car park.

Special to community

Recreational value:

Includes **WNC OSSRs *Station Road Recreation Ground*** and ***Lilbourne Play Space***, together with entrance, car park and open space surrounding the parish hall.

The sports field is for the use of the whole community with easy access off Station Road via the village hall car park. There are football goalposts that have been donated and funded by Prologis as part of the agreed measures to benefit Lilbourne following the construction of the large industrial units on the A5 and at DIRFT (Daventry International Rail Freight Terminal). There is also a netball/basketball hoop, together with various sports equipment, funded by Lilbourne Parish Council. The site also includes parking, seating and access to the village community centre.

The Andy Hemmings Memorial children's play area is bounded by a fence for the children's safety as it is to one side of vehicular access to the village hall. The play area is constantly in use by the local village children and their parents. There is the usual children's play equipment together with zip wire. There had been a children's play area in this location, but over the years it had become quite dilapidated until a donation towards new play equipment was received from Prologis as part of the compensation to the village following the building of DIRFT.

Its redevelopment also coincided with the death of one of the village's long- term residents so it was decided to name the play area after him.

B**eauty**

Although this is a green space, it serves a more functional role than a beauty role. The M1 is clearly visible from the sports field and the village hall, and cars parked in the car park detract from the area's natural attractiveness, particularly during daylight hours.

Tranquillity:

As mentioned, the M1 is clearly visible from the sports field, which means there is a constant traffic noise, both day and night. Also, the local pub (the Head of Steam) contributes to the lack of tranquillity, as vehicles come and go during opening hours, and some people sometimes use the village hall car park rather than parking on the road, blocking access to local houses.

<u>Local Significance</u>

History:

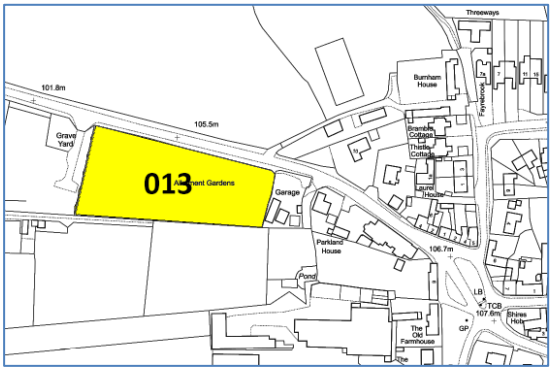
Part of Northants **Historic Environment Record *Monument 423/3*** as *possible medieval manor site.*

This is the long-standing (since mid 20th century) sports field for use by the villagers, particularly the younger residents who use the area to play ball games. The field has also been used as an extension to the village hall during fundraising events. Some years ago, there was a fundraising event for 'Dogs for the Disabled', and a dog show and police dog demonstration was staged on the field. There was also an event for Queen's Diamond Jubilee. When local villagers all came together to mark the event and used the field for a picnic area, they erected gazebos against inclement weather and pooled together to provide the food. More recently, the Lilbourne Local Olympics event was held at the location.

Wildlife:

As the sports field is bounded by a wooded area on one side, and an open field on the other, wildlife is common in the area, with sightings of badgers, deer and many species of birds including Song Thrush, Green Woodpecker and jackdaws and other smaller mammals.

INVENTORY MAP REFERENCE	SITE NAME	NPPF (2024) CRITERIA FOR LOCAL GREEN SPACE DESIGNATION							TOTAL /25
		LOCAL: BOUNDED, NOT EXTENSIVE YES/NO	PROXIMITY 0 - 5	SPECIAL TO COMMUNITY (<10)			LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE (<10)		
				BEAUTY 0 - 3	TRANQUIL 0 - 2	REC. VALUE 0 - 5	HISTORY 0 - 5	WILDLIFE 0 - 5	
013	Lilbourne Allotment Gardens	Y	5	2	1	4	1	2	15









WNC OSSR (*Allotments or Community Growing Space*) in draft emerging Local Plan audit

BOUNDED: The allotments are bounded on four sides by hedgerows, located off Rugby Road with a gated entrance.

PROXIMITY: The site is located a short walk from The Green via Rugby Road. There is a mixture of paved pathways and the main road used for this route.

SPECIAL TO COMMUNITY

RECREATIONAL VALUE: The allotments offer local residents a space to grow their own food and flowers. This provides an enjoyable activity for those interested in gardening and fosters a sense of community among the village's gardeners. The allotments are accessible 24/7 and used year-round.

BEAUTY: The allotments are most beautiful when in bloom in the spring, with the green space adding some colour. The allotments are populated by man-made structures, which add to the charm of the space but reduce its aesthetic appeal.

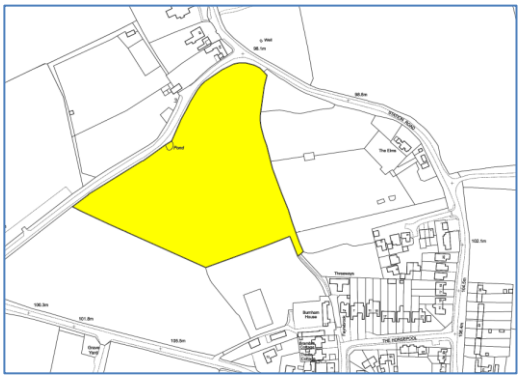
TRANQUILLITY: The site's tranquillity is somewhat disrupted by its proximity to Rugby Road and by villagers frequently working on their plots. However, the hedgerows help to dampen the noise experienced within the allotments, providing a barrier between the site and Rugby Road.

LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE

HISTORY: The initial allotments in Lilbourne were located on the hill at the intersection of Rugby Road and Church Lane. However, transporting water and manure to these plots proved problematic. In 1896, GC Benn generously donated 10 acres of land for the village's poor, which continues to serve as the site for the current allotments.

WILDLIFE: The rural setting of the allotments makes them a haven for biodiversity with bees, butterflies and birds populating the area. Many growers intentionally plant pollinator-friendly species, turning the plots into miniature ecosystems that support the local ecosystem.

INVENTORY MAP REFERENCE	SITE NAME	NPPF (2024) CRITERIA FOR LOCAL GREEN SPACE DESIGNATION							TOTAL /25
		LOCAL: BOUNDED, NOT EXTENSIVE YES/NO	PROXIMITY 0 - 5	SPECIAL TO COMMUNITY (<10)			LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE (<10)		
				BEAUTY 0 - 3	TRANQUIL 0 - 2	REC. VALUE 0 - 5	HISTORY 0 - 5	WILDLIFE 0 - 5	
009	The Butts	Y	3	2	1	2	3	2	13









Bounded: bounded by ancient hedges

Proximity: adjacent to residential area in the village of Lilbourne, the Butts is a pathway which links it to the church

Special to community

Recreational value: footpath through field, has been well used for many years to walk to the Church from the main residential area of the village.

Beauty: Unspoilt pasture land

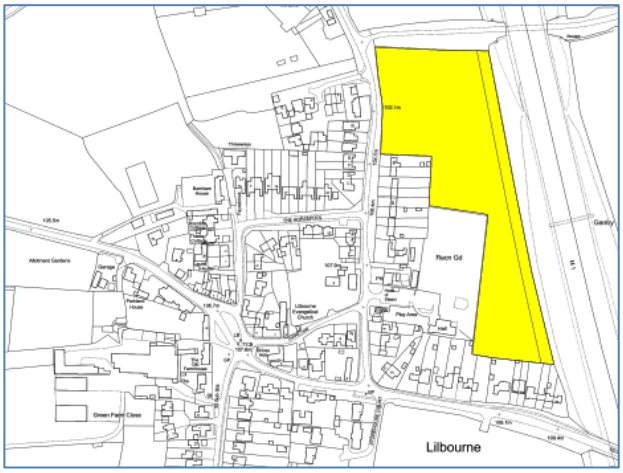
Tranquillity: Very rural, good views toward church and to the north and west over other pasture land.

Local Significance

History: Site of a Saxon-medieval thriving market, with a large pond for watering stock, which was drained in the 1960s. Previously the area was used for compulsory archery practice adjacent to the thriving market.

Wildlife: Includes a small pond, hedgerows with fruiting bushes, grasses and meadow flowers

INVENTORY MAP REFERENCE	SITE NAME	NPPF (2024) CRITERIA FOR LOCAL GREEN SPACE DESIGNATION							TOTAL /25
		LOCAL: BOUNDED, NOT EXTENSIVE YES/NO	PROXIMITY 0 - 5	SPECIAL TO COMMUNITY (<10)			LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE (<10)		
				BEAUTY 0 - 3	TRANQUIL 0 - 2	REC. VALUE 0 - 5	HISTORY 0 - 5	WILDLIFE 0 - 5	
020	'Land adjoining recreation ground'	Y	4	1	1	1	1	2	10









'Land adjoining Recreation Ground' (includes 020 Millennium Wood)

Bounded: Yes

Proximity: Adjacent to settlement boundary

Special to community

Recreational value: This a belt of trees screening a section of the M1 from the settlement, established in 2000 is owned by the parish council. The main field is owned by West Northants Council

Beauty: To the north and in the distance, the land overlooks the M1. However, on one side of the land, the wooded area (Millenium Wood) provide a buffer between the village and motorway

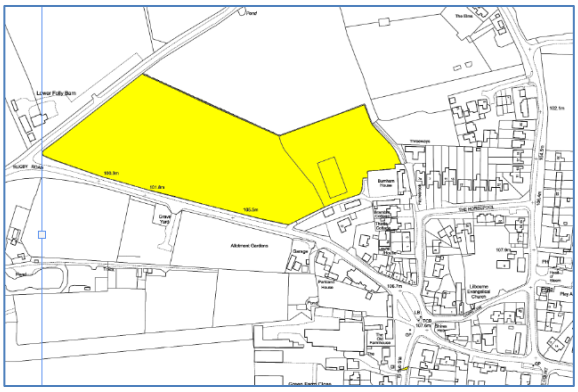
Tranquillity: too close to the M1 for tranquillity, and not a very deep belt of planting

Local Significance

History: The woodland was planted in c.2000 as a Millennium project.

Wildlife: Typical wildlife and birds in the wood, including badgers. The field is lightly grazed rough pasture with potential for biodiversity net gain by e.g. tree-planting, management as low-nutrient, species-rich floristic grassland or natural 'rewilding', etc.

INVENTORY MAP REFERENCE	SITE NAME	NPPF (2024) CRITERIA FOR LOCAL GREEN SPACE DESIGNATION							TOTAL /25
		LOCAL: BOUNDED, NOT EXTENSIVE YES/NO	PROXIMITY 0 - 5	SPECIAL TO COMMUNITY (<10)			LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE (<10)		
				BEAUTY 0 - 3	TRANQUIL 0 - 2	REC. VALUE 0 - 5	HISTORY 0 - 5	WILDLIFE 0 - 5	
016	Burnham House paddock	Y	4	2	1	3	3	2	15







Bounded: Yes

Proximity: Immediately adjacent to settlement boundary, houses on two sides.

Special to community

Recreational value: Paddock or grazing fields with one or more public footpaths. Burnham House often hosts the village fete, a biannual event open to all residents of the village.

The fete is often used to raise money for the Church in the village, which all residents are able to benefit.

Beauty: Offers a lovely view to the west, across pasture-land towards the church and the (putative) siege mound)

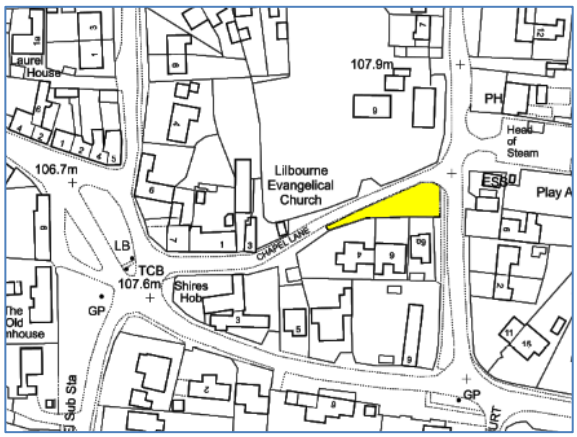
Tranquillity: a quiet, tranquil view.

Local Significance

History: The site includes a ridge and furrow field and a view of the Grade I Listed parish church tower.

Wildlife: swallows nest nearby; there is a pond and mature hedgerows. An array of wildlife is regularly seen.

INVENTORY MAP REFERENCE	SITE NAME	NPPF (2024) CRITERIA FOR LOCAL GREEN SPACE DESIGNATION							TOTAL /25
		LOCAL: BOUNDED, NOT EXTENSIVE YES/NO	PROXIMITY 0 - 5	SPECIAL TO COMMUNITY (<10)			LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE (<10)		
				BEAUTY 0 - 3	TRANQUIL 0 - 2	REC. VALUE 0 - 5	HISTORY 0 - 5	WILDLIFE 0 - 5	
021	Chapel Lane verge	Y	5	1	0	3	1	1	11





BOUNDED: The site is open on all sides. It is adjacent to Chapel Lane and Station Road, with a footpath on its other side.

PROXIMITY: The site is a short walk from The Green and accessible via Chapel Lane, which is a mixture of footpath and road.

SPECIAL TO COMMUNITY

RECREATIONAL VALUE: OSSR as amenity grass.

BEAUTY: The site has no significant beauty points.

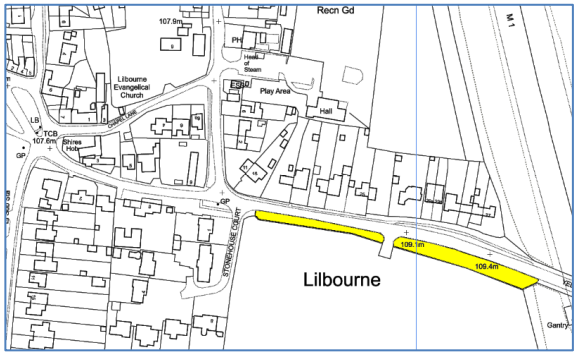
TRANQUILLITY: The site is surrounded on two sides by roads, which are well used by residents, limiting its ability to be a tranquil place for residents to relax in the village.

LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE

HISTORY: The site does not have any historical significance that is known to residents.

WILDLIFE: The site has minimal wildlife.

INVENTORY MAP REFERENCE	SITE NAME	NPPF (2024) CRITERIA FOR LOCAL GREEN SPACE DESIGNATION							TOTAL /25
		LOCAL: BOUNDED, NOT EXTENSIVE YES/NO	PROXIMITY 0 - 5	SPECIAL TO COMMUNITY (<10)			LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE (<10)		
				BEAUTY 0 - 3	TRANQUIL 0 - 2	REC. VALUE 0 - 5	HISTORY 0 - 5	WILDLIFE 0 - 5	
018	Yelvertoft Road verge	Y	5	1	0	3	1	1	11





Bounded: yes

Proximity: Adjacent to village housing

Special to community

Recreational value a wide roadside verge; OSSR as amenity grass

Beauty: includes a ditch which is full of bulrushes and kingcups in season. Wildflowers in the grass, and young trees.

Tranquillity: too close to the road for tranquillity

Local Significance

History: none

Wildlife: Species-rich hedgerow, grass managed for wildflowers, amphibians, observations include native and seasonal migrating birds, owls, bats, buzzards and red kites.