

# Almeley Neighbourhood Plan

## Local Green Space Assessment

Site Details		
Site/Area	Grid Ref.	Description and Purpose
Spearmarsh Common	3334 2517	Area of common land within centre of village used for both informal leisure and formal sports, containing a cricket wicket. It is also used by Almeley Primary School as its playing field as it has no other facility. It also performs the function of a village green and contributes significantly to village character surrounded by older properties that would have comprised the historic village.

Checklist		
Statutory designations (e.g. SSSI)	Site allocations (Give details)	Planning permissions (Give details)
Common Land. Almeley Conservation Area sits just to the west although does not abut area.	Allocated as 'Safeguarded Open Space' in former Herefordshire UDP. Herefordshire SHLAA indicates land just outside of its north-west boundary having high suitability for housing development.	None relevant

NPPF Criteria		
Close to the community it serves	Demonstrably special to local community (beauty, historic significance, recreational value, tranquillity, wildlife, or other)	Local in character and not extensive tract
Area falls within the village although not	The area contributes to the character of the	The area is demonstrably an important local facility

<p>within its settlement boundary, but it is immediately adjacent. It is within easy walking distance of the whole village.</p>	<p>village, has historic significance, is used for a range of local recreational activities, it is also a tranquil area for informal leisure when not in active use. In the latter regard, it contributes significantly to the health and wellbeing of the village as an accessible open space. The Parish Council is seeking to acquire the area from Herefordshire Council who currently own it.</p>	<p>and does not fall within the open countryside.</p>
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## Conclusion

The area is considered to meet the provisions of the NPPF in relation to Local Green Space. It should continue to be protected through the NDP now that the provision which previously protected this within Herefordshire UDP is no longer available and Herefordshire Local Plan Core Strategy does not include such detail but puts emphasis upon neighbourhood plans to perform this function.

