




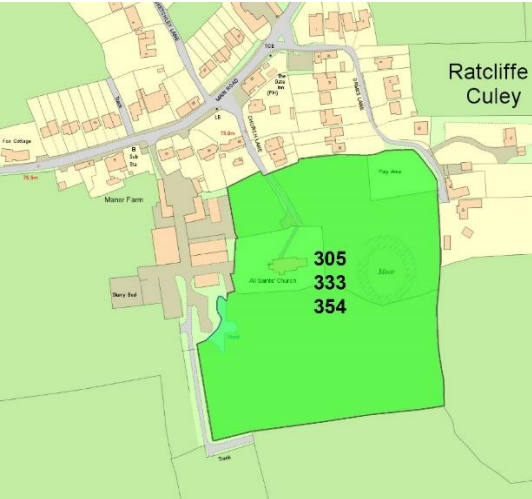




APPENDIX 8: Evidence Base for Local Green Space Designations

REF	DESCRIPTION / EVIDENCE	NPPF (2019) LOCAL GREEN SPACE CRITERIA						TOTAL /25	
		LOCAL BOUNDED, NOT EXTENSIVE YES/NO	SPECIAL TO COMMUNITY				LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE		
			PROXIMITY 0 - 5	BEAUTY 0 - 3	TRANQUIL 0 - 2	REC. VALUE 0 - 5	HISTORY 0 - 5		WILDLIFE 0 - 5
642	St. Peter's Churchyard, Witherley	Y	5	3	2	2	4	3	19
	<p>Area: 0.42 ha</p> <p>Set by the River Anker. With its tall steeple, the site is within the Conservation Area and Settlement Boundary. A bat roost has been identified in the Church and bat foraging area. JNCC UK BAP, LLRBAP & WP BAP Priority Habitat – Rivers. Recorded White Stonecrop & Columbine 2015/16.</p> <p>HBBC, St Peter's Church of England Parish Churchyard. Designated Cemetery and Churchyard (WIT04 – Open Space & WIT06 – Community Facility). Safeguarded by Policy DM8 & DM25, HBBC Local Plan 2006-2026. Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD. Adopted July 2016.</p> <p>History, site is within an area of archaeological interest recorded on the Leicestershire and Rutland HER (MLE8929). The historic settlement core of the village (Early Medieval to Late Post Medieval).</p> <p>History, the Church building is Grade I listed (Historic England Listing 1188486). The Church is first mentioned in the Metriculus of 1220 (Nichols, J).</p> <p>History, a chest tomb memorial 10m south of the church tower is Grade II listed (Historic England 1361315).</p> <p>Flood Risk, Land identified to be at risk of surface water flooding (Environment Agency Flood Risk Map). Flood Zone 2 & 3 (Environment Agency Flood Risk Map).</p> <p>Natural England Agricultural Land Classification (Provisional) 2019, Grade 3 Good to Moderate.</p>								

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			PROXIMITY 0-5	BEAUTY 0-3	TRANQUIL 0-2	REC. VALUE 0-5	HISTORY 0-5		WILDLIFE 0-5
603	Cottagers' Piece, Witherley	Y	4	2	1	3	4	4	18
	<p>Area: 5.17 ha WP Ecological Survey 2019, Cottagers Piece, semi-improved pasture with wetland (mill race), pond and River Anker, Parish Biodiversity Grade = 5 out of 5. Grassland – grazing. Private land with permissive access. Popular for recreational dog walking and fishing. 'Conservation Walk' designated by HBBC. N part hedgerow & part fence; E & SE fenced; S thick, species-rich hedgerow & weir and associated structures on River Anker; W River Anker. Numerous trees in hedges, near waterways and field, fenced off from cattle, all hedgerows have HCA plus Beech. WCA plus Red Champion, Crack Willows, bulrushes & reeds adjacent to waterways, fish in river. FBCA plus WP BAP species Heron, Moorhen. TMCA for example white butterflies - small & large, caterpillars, grasshoppers & dragonflies. Recorded Skylark 23/04/2015. Bat foraging area. The mill channel, a N-S running channel 233m in length, maximum 7m wide, total coverage 0.17ha and a pond at the north end of the channel, 20m x 23m, 0.05ha, still exist – Phase 1 Habitat Survey, Parish Level site. Natural England, JNCC UK BAP, LLRBAP & WP BAP Priority Habitat – River, Pond. Adjacent to settlement boundary, visible from properties. Footpath T30 runs E-W, small footbridge over River Anker providing pedestrian access from Witherley to school, shops, trainstation and workplaces in nearby town of Atherstone, NWBC, field on County border. Noisy as next to Atherstone Industrial Estate and A5. Dots map; Blue dots -community valued space for leisure & recreation. History, field known locally as 'Cottager's Piece'. However, the Tithe Map of 1848 shows the field(s) here to be named Mill Meadow and Home Paddock. The 1st Edition OS Map names abutting fields now in North Warwickshire 'Cottager's Piece'. Definite ridge and furrow medieval earthworks evident (Hall D. Turning the Plough Survey, circa 2000). The remains of a historic corn mill and mill race on the River Anker are visible in the field. Leicestershire & Rutland HER (MLE3299) records documentary evidence of a medieval water mill, Witherley Mill, first mentioned in 1265. MLE3300 records a post-medieval watermill. The mill was last worked in the 1920s but not commercially. It was demolished in the late 1950s. Ashton, Norman (1977) Leicestershire Watermills. p118.</p>								

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			PROXIMITY 0 - 5	BEAUTY 0 - 3	TRANQUIL 0 - 2	REC. VALUE 0 - 5	HISTORY 0 - 5		WILDLIFE 0 - 5
	History, site is within an area of archaeological interest recorded on the Leicestershire and Rutland HER (MLE8929). The historic settlement core of the village (Early Medieval to Late Post Medieval). Area flood plain, Low lying ground to the western border that floods regularly and extensively. Flood Risk, Land identified to be at risk of surface water flooding (Environment Agency Flood Risk Map). Flood Zone 2 & 3 (Environment Agency Flood Risk Map). Natural England Agricultural Land Classification (Provisional) 2019, Grade 3 Good to Moderate. Plot within Area of Separation.								
354 305 333	All Saints Churchyard, 'The Moats' and Children's Play Area, Ratcliffe Culey	Y	4	3	2	5	5	3	22
	<p>Area: 3.14 ha All Saints Churchyard (354) WP Ecological Survey 2019 records churchyard, mainly mown grassland with reasonable species diversity. Unmown grassland edges and hedgerows with good structure and species diversity, Parish Biodiversity Grade = 3 / 4 out of 5. All hedgerows have HCA plus Yew, Horse Chestnut. N hedgerow potential Local Wildlife Site. Needs to be surveyed. Phase 1 Habitat Survey bat roost identified within plot, bat foraging area. Tranquil and peaceful with the sound of FBCA plus WP BAP species Barn Owl, Bullfinch, Buzzard, Chaffinch, Dunnock, Fieldfare, Goldcrest, Goldfinch, Great Tit, Greater Spotted Woodpecker, Green Woodpecker, Grey Partridge, Heron, House Sparrow, House Martin, Jay, Kestrel, Long-tailed Tit, Mistle Thrush, Red Kite, Song Thrush, Sparrow Hawk, Starling, Swift, Swallow, Tree Sparrow, Wagtail, Wren Yellowhammers; TMCA plus WP BAP species Grass Snake, Common Lizard, West European Hedgehog, Shrew, Bumblebee, Brown butterfly, large white butterfly. This plot is located within the WP Great Crested Newt Zone 1. The site is within 1km of a pond recorded by resident sightings as containing Great Crested Newts. Full Access, Footpath T31 runs N-S and footpath T33 runs E-W, these footpaths are some of the most well used by villagers, the environment is calming and tranquil in nature, with full accessibility and benches to enjoy the extensive views southwards. History, Leicestershire and Rutland HER (MLE8928) records land is within an archaeological site: The Late Anglo-Saxon to Post Medieval (850 AD – 1899) historic settlement core of the village of Ratcliffe Culey.</p>	 <p>The map shows the village of Ratcliffe Culey with a green-shaded area representing the sites 305, 333, and 354. The sites are located near the church and the moats. The map also shows other features like 'Manor Farm', 'New Farm', and 'The Moats'.</p>							

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			PROXIMITY 0 - 5	BEAUTY 0 - 3	TRANQUIL 0 - 2	REC. VALUE 0 - 5	HISTORY 0 - 5		WILDLIFE 0 - 5
	<p>History, All Saints Church is a Grade II* listed building (Historic England Listing No 1188508). The building dates back to the early 14th Century, originally built as a Chapel of Ease for the Manor. In 1228 the manor of Ratcliffe Culey was held by Johannes de Cuyly and the church building bears the de Culey Family coat of arms. The surrounding medieval manorial site is a scheduled monument (Historic England Listing No 1010480). The church houses the conserved coat of arms of George IV and a wall biblical passage, dated 1534, quoting William Tyndale translation of the New Testament. The Churchyard has headstones from the early 18th century.</p> <p>HBBC: Designated Community Facility (RATC04). Safeguarded by Policy DM25, HBBC Local Plan 2006-2026. Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD. Adopted July 2016.</p> <p>All Saints Churchyard. Designated Cemetery and Churchyard (RATC02). Safeguarded by Policy DM8, HBBC Local Plan 2006-2026. Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD. Adopted July 2016.</p> <p>Community consultation valued view SE towards Merevale Hall on hilltop and all the way SW across the fields.</p> <p>Flood Zone 1 (Environment Agency Flood Risk Map).</p> <p>Natural England Agricultural Land Classification (Provisional). 2019, Grade 3 – Good to Moderate.</p> <p>The Moats (305)</p> <p>WP Ecological Survey 2019 records as semi-improved grassland grazed by cattle, Parish Biodiversity Grade = 3 out of 5. Earthworks (scheduled ancient monument) semi-improved grassland grazed by cattle but with more diverse flora, Parish Biodiversity Grade = 4 out of 5. Managed hedgerows, (3m x 2m), Parish Biodiversity Grade = 3 out of 5. Permanent pond surrounded by mature Crack Willow, Parish Biodiversity Score = 4 out of 5.</p> <p>Phase 1 Habitat Survey bat roost identified within adjacent plot.</p> <p>History, Annual Lane Setting, Lot 2, 0.52ha, verge east of plot. LLRBAP & WP BAP Priority Habitat - Roadside Verges.</p> <p>Permanent grazing.</p> <p>Adjacent to settlement boundary, visible from properties. Full access, includes children’s play area, MBC open space RATC03.</p> <p>N eastern half is resident’s property and Ratcliffe Culey park, plot 333, western half is well-established old, native species-rich hedgerow backs onto All Saints Church. E hedgerow is above H2m x W2m, laid, wet ditch with riparian flora and fauna - in/vertebrates. S hedgerow is above H3m x W3m. W hedgerow half onto field 332, old, native species-rich hedgerow, half borders Church Lane, see plot 355 for Ecological Survey 2019 details on Church Lane hedgerows. All hedgerows have HCA plus Red Chestnut tree, Horse Chestnut, Small-leaved Lime. NW corner pond, 24m x 9m, 0.02ha, with riparian flora and</p>								
	 <p>All Saint’s churchyard</p>  <p>Cemetery within churchyard</p>								


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			PROXIMITY 0 - 5	BEAUTY 0 - 3	TRANQUIL 0 - 2	REC. VALUE 0 - 5	HISTORY 0 - 5		WILDLIFE 0 - 5
	<p>fauna – invertebrates, several Crack Willow. JNCC UK BAP, LLRBAP & WP BAP Priority Habitat – Pond. Pond recorded on a map dated 1885. Tranquil as next to All Saints Church.</p> <p>Bat foraging area. FBCA plus WP BAP species Barn Owl, Buzzard, Chaffinch, Coal Tit, Corn Bunting, Dunnock, Fieldfare, Goldcrest, Goldfinch, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Great Tit, Green Woodpecker, Grey Partridge, Heron, House Sparrow, Kestrel, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Long-tailed Tit, Mistle Thrush, Red Kite, Song Thrush, Sparrow Hawk, Starling, Swift, Swallow, Tree Creeper, Tree Sparrow, Yellowhammer, Yellow Wagtail, Wren; TMCA plus WP BAP species Adder, Dormouse, Grass Snake, Common Lizard, West European Hedgehog, Fox, Hare, Shrew, Bumblebee, Mole. A local resident runs a Hedgehog Rescue Centre so hedgehogs have been released locally for over 10 years. This plot is located within the WP Great Crested Newt Zone 1. The site is within 1km of a pond recorded by resident sightings as containing Great Crested Newts.</p> <p>History, this parcel contains a Scheduled Monument: 1010480 'Moat and Fishponds at Ratcliffe Culey'. The monument comprises a moated site and fishponds grouped around the church on the south side of the village. The oval-shaped, dry moated site is situated 40m east of the church and measures 50 x 40m in overall dimensions. The moat ditch is deepest on the south side, measuring approximately 2.5m deep and 12m wide, and has traces of an outer bank on this side. A hollow way runs between the north-west side of the moat and the road leading to the church. Two fishponds, each measuring 25m long and about 1m deep, are located 100m to the south-west of the moated site. They are connected by a channel which also leads to a natural pond to the north. The fishponds appear to be linked to the moated site via a series of field boundary ditches. The boundary ditches have been extensively modified by modern ploughing and are not considered to be of national importance and have therefore been excluded from the scheduling.</p> <p>Leicestershire & Rutland HER (MLE19370) records medieval fishponds southwest of the Grade II* Church. The pond to the north is known locally as 'The Lady Pit', there are traces of a small building platform to its south and another pond.</p> <p>Leicestershire & Rutland HER (MLE3305) records a moated site east of Ratcliffe Culey Church: A low circular mound surrounded by a ditch or moat. It seems unlikely to be a castle but may have been the site of a manor house. It is surrounded by other features including a fishpond to the north. Plough damage makes interpretation difficult.</p> <p>The Culey name may indicate a village manorial residence of the de Culeys. Faint ridge & furrow, recorded by R F Hartley, circa 1947.</p>								



'The Moats' and play area, April 2020



Medieval earthworks, 'The Moats'

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	<p>Leicestershire and Rutland HER (MLE8928) records land is within an archaeological site: The Late Anglo-Saxon to Post Medieval (850 AD – 1899) historic settlement core of the village of Ratcliffe Culey. Footpath T33 to Ormes Lane, Kissing gate both ends & T31 towards Atterton, linking with the Parish Circular walk. Highly valued and well-used for recreation, forms part of village circular walk and Parish Circular walk. Dots map; Blue dots -community valued space for leisure & recreation; Green dots - community valued for visual amenity. Too many dots to count for both colours.</p> <p>Community consultation valued view to SW of Merevale Hall on hill top; S Hartshill Ridge. Very high open space and scenic views.</p> <p>Flood Risk, Land identified to be at risk of surface water flooding (Environment Agency Flood Risk Map). Flood Zone 1 (Environment Agency Flood Risk Map).</p> <p>Natural England Agricultural Land Classification (Provisional). 2019, Grade 3 – Good to Moderate</p>								
338	Lane setting lot 1: Gravel Pit Meadow	Y	3	3	2	3	3	4	18
	<p>Area: 0.92 ha Witherley Parish Land. Former worked site with shallow temporary pools and an open pond. Wet ground with good stands of marsh vegetation.</p> <p>Identified in WP Ecological Survey 2019 as one of the most biodiverse areas of the Parish that should be protected, Parish Biodiversity Score = 5 out of 5. Phase 1 Habitat Survey existing Site designation 2011, Parish level significance, seasonal pond 10m x 4m, in improved grassland, 0.04ha. Survey recorded FBCA plus WP BAP species Buzzard, Chiffchaff, Blackcap, Whitethroat, Wren.</p> <p>History, Annual Lane Setting, Lot 1, entire plot 2.25 acres (0.9ha). Natural England, LLRBAP & WP BAP Priority Habitat – Wet Woodland, Eutrophic Standing Water, Field Margins & Roadside Verges.</p> <p>Previously used for gravel extraction, leaving multiple holes, depressions, banks, ridges.</p> <p>N hedgerow Parish Ward boundary (History) and post & barbed wire; E old, native species-rich hedgerow that borders Ratcliffe Bridge, built 1811; S old, native species-rich hedgerow with gateway at NE end; W old, native species-rich hedgerow. All hedgerows have HCA plus WP BAP species Crab Apple, a wide variety of fungi was noted by WNDP field walker.</p> <p>This plot is located within the WP Great Crested Newt Zone 1. The site is within 1km of a pond identified in the Phase 1 Habitat Survey as containing Great Crested Newts.</p> <p>There are 3 ponds. JNCC UK BAP, LLRBAP & WP BAP Priority Habitat – River, Stream, Pond. 1 near gateway, seasonal. 2 – south border third of the way down the field, 9m x 8m, 0.01ha; 3 – large pond, 12m x 9m, 0.02ha – very variable is size, in bottom southern corner. All ponds are full in the winter and</p>								

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			PROXIMITY 0 - 5	BEAUTY 0 - 3	TRANQUIL 0 - 2	REC. VALUE 0 - 5	HISTORY 0 - 5		WILDLIFE 0 - 5
	<p>History, The Church of St Michael and All Angels is a Grade II* listed building (Historic England 1361313). Leicestershire and Rutland HER (MLE8927) records the church has been built upon or close to a Roman site (43 AD to 409 AD). Remains suggest the presence of a high status.</p> <p>Ditch (Roman - 43 AD to 409 AD)</p> <p>Posthole (Roman - 43 AD to 409 AD)</p> <p>There have also been associated finds in the area.</p> <p>The church and church sits within a locally listed monument: Leicestershire and Rutland HER (MLE 8930). This is the early medieval and post-medieval historical settlement core of Fenny Drayton deduced from documentary evidence.</p> <p>The village is best known as being the birthplace of George Fox, founder of the Religious Society of Friends, the Quaker movement. Born in 1624 and is said to have been baptised in the font which is still in use in the church today. Fenny Drayton regularly attracts Quakers and tourists from all over the world.</p> <p>The church is adorned with notable memorials to the Purefoy Family who held land within the village and surrounding area for over eight generations during the 15th and 17th Century. William Purefoy was an English politician who supported the parliamentary cause in the English Civil War and signed the death warrant for Charles I.</p> <p>Flood Zone 1 (Environment Agency Flood Risk Map).</p> <p>Natural England Agricultural Land Classification (Provisional) 2019, Grade 3 Good to Moderate</p>								

