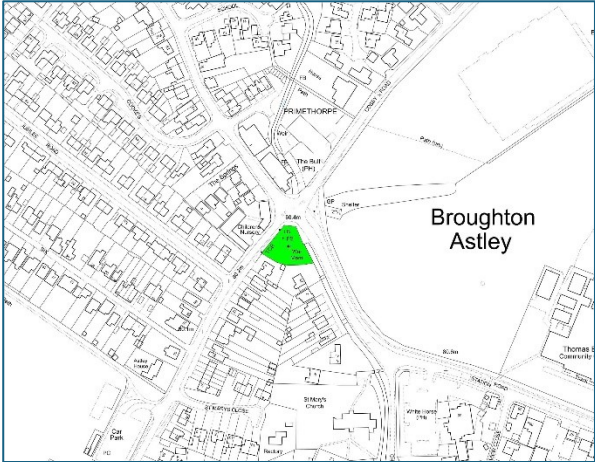




# APPENDIX E: LOCAL GREEN SPACES EVIDENCE BASE

## War Memorial Garden




Inventory reference 002

<p><u>Address/location</u> Frolesworth Road, Broughton Astley LE9 6HZ</p>	
<p><u>Description</u> A Memorial cross in a Memorial Garden in the middle of the village. Listed Grade II. Erected by the Parishioners of Broughton Astley in memory of the men who gave their lives in the great war 1914-1918. Additional names have been added for subsequent conflicts.</p>	
<p><u>Public access:</u> Yes: full, open access at all times</p>	
<p><u>Is it in close proximity to the community?</u> Yes. It is situated on the main crossroads in the centre of the village in a clearly visible position.</p>	
<p><u>Does the site have local significance?</u> Yes. It is a memorial site for Parish residents who have given their lives for their Country.</p>	
<p><u>Is it beautiful?</u> Yes, this is a small open space enclosed by substantial hedges on two sides and pretty fence with gate and is close to the local brook. The Parish Council has ensured that the correct, sympathetic maintenance of the stone work as been carried out to retain the Memorial's sober elegance.</p>	
<p><u>Does it have historic significance?</u> Yes, it is listed grade II and a memorial for The Great War</p>	

which was erected by the Parishioners of Broughton Astley.	
<u>Does it have recreational value (including playing fields, formal/informal)?</u> Yes, the area is used for the public to sit and reflect. Benches have been provided along with an explanation board to help educate visitors about the Memorial.	
<u>Is it tranquil – a place away from noise and bustle?</u> Yes. It is a small open space, surrounded on two sides by hedges, which provides an area for relaxation and reflection where you can watch the world go by.	
<u>Does the site have wildlife value – biodiversity?</u> Yes. The area contains a Black Spruce Tree and a White Beam tree with large hedgerows which are habitat to local birdlife and mammals. Broughton Astley Parish Council maintain the trees and hedgerows to encourage wildlife and promote biodiversity around the area.	
<u>Is the site local in character (i.e. serves local community; not extensive)</u> Yes. The War Memorial lists Parish residents who have given their lives for their country. Each year the Remembrance Service takes place at the site with veterans, uniformed groups from the village and members of the public present. A large crowd gathers around the outside to pay their respects.	
<u>Does the site contribute to LP strategic requirements for provision of homes, employment or services?</u> N/A	
<u>Other</u> N/A	

## Frolesworth Road Recreational Ground

Inventory reference 006

<p><u>Address/location</u> Frolesworth Road, Broughton Astley</p>	
<p><u>Description</u> Previously a greenfield site adjacent to farmland on two sides, ex-council housing on one and housing on the last side. Consists of two football pitches with changing facilities, cricket pitch, Pavilion and changing facilities, Rounders pitch, skateboard park, children's play area, climbing rocks, multi-use games area (MUGA), adults' gym equipment, open playing field space for ball games, picnics and dog walking. It incorporates on-site toilets and changing rooms along with car parking. Protected by Conveyance to remain Playing Field or open space.</p>	 
<p><u>Public access:</u> Yes</p>	
<p><u>Is it in close proximity to the community?</u> Yes. It is in close proximity of Broughton Astley Village Centre</p>	

<p><u>Does the site have local significance?</u></p> <p>Yes. Many generations have grown up enjoying the space for informal and formal recreation. It is a well-known landmark and reference point within the village.</p>	
<p><u>Is it beautiful?</u></p> <p>This is a large open space lined with aged trees &amp; hedgerow with farm land to two sides and comprises of several acres of playing fields. The view of the setting sun with the trees and fields beyond is idyllic.</p>	
<p><u>Does it have historic significance?</u></p> <p>The land was purchased from the Church of England</p>	
<p><u>Does it have recreational value (including playing fields, formal/informal)?</u></p> <p>The entire area is used for public recreation and is open to all, including dog walkers. Local football teams, Cricket teams &amp; Rounders teams play on the grounds. There is a large fenced children's play area consisting of play equipment for very young children and another play area for older children, including those with disabilities. The multi-use games area including two basketball hoops and the adults' gym equipment are both well used areas. The skateboard park is revered and used by skaters including those from other villages and towns. The area is used for the annual "Picnic in the Park" events, with music and stalls in the summer bringing a large number of residents together helping to maintain the social fabric of Broughton Astley. The car parking, toilets and changing facilities are invaluable to sports team members and the general public.</p>	
<p><u>Is it tranquil – a place away from noise and bustle?</u></p> <p>Yes. Frolesworth Road Recreational Ground is an open space, surrounded by trees and hedges, with arable farmland on two sides, which provides an area for relaxation as well as recreation.</p>	

<p><u>Does the site have wildlife value – biodiversity?</u></p> <p>Yes. The area contains significant numbers of trees and hedgerows which are habitat to local birdlife and mammals.</p> <p>Broughton Astley Parish Council maintain the trees and hedgerows to encourage wildlife and promote biodiversity around the area.</p>	
<p><u>Is the site local in character (i.e. serves local community; not extensive)</u></p> <p>Yes. The Frolesworth Road Recreational Ground not only serves the local community but serves surrounding villages too. Informal groups of dog walkers meet in the park all through the year, creating and maintaining a social network.</p>	
<p><u>Does the site contribute to LP strategic requirements for provision of homes, employment or services?</u></p> <p>Yes, maintenance of the Recreation Ground creates work for the grounds persons of the Parish Council.</p> <p>The local ice cream seller derives part of their livelihood from selling to families most of the year.</p>	
<p><u>Other</u></p> <p>No.</p>	



## Broughton Astley Leisure Centre grounds

Inventory reference 004

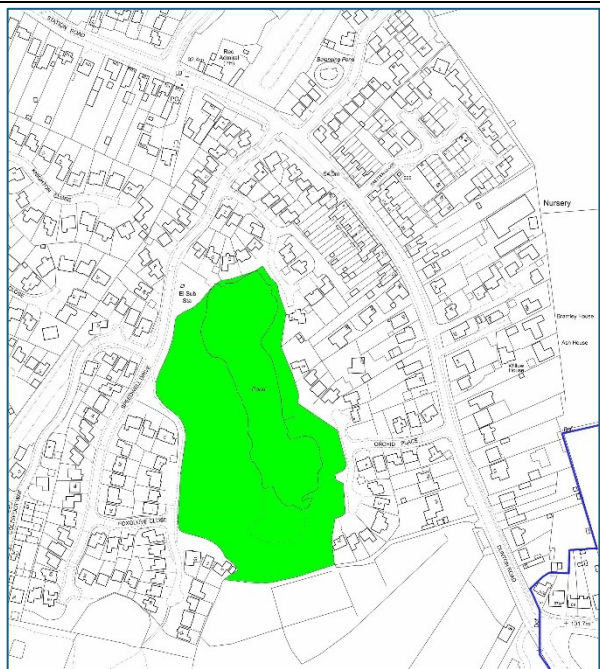

<p><u>Address/location</u> Broughton Way, Broughton Astley LE9 6AZ</p>	
<p><u>Description</u> Facilities and open spaces owned and developed by Broughton Astley Parish Council, opened in December 2019. The Leisure Centre includes a four-court sports hall, 70 station gym, dance and exercise studios and an onsite café and its own parking. The buildings are surrounded by an extensive area of open space, a well-planned mix of formal sport/recreation (pitches etc.) and habitat creation (see below). Site area: 4.3 ha.</p>	 
<p><u>Public access:</u> Yes</p>	
<p><u>Is it in close proximity to the community?</u> Yes. It is in close proximity of Broughton Astley Village Centre and easily accessible from all directions. An improved footpath/cycle way links to the main footpath through the centre of the village. A new pedestrian crossing has been installed on Cosby Road ensuring a safe crossing option from the end of the new cycleway to the village centre side of Cosby Road.</p>	
<p><u>Does the site have local significance?</u> Yes. In the public consultations for the original Neighbourhood Plan, the provision of a Leisure Centre was a major factor for residents agreeing to the level of additional housing which has now been delivered. Residents were also very clear about wanting to retain as much open space on the site as possible.</p>	

<p><u>Is it beautiful?</u></p> <p>Yes. As a purpose-built Leisure Centre the main building has a functional appearance. The rest of the site is still developing (trees maturing, etc.) but is now an attractive semi-natural green space within the built-up area. This consists of a large open grassed area which is planted with native grasses, wildflowers and has benefitted from additional tree planting. Once matured, this area will serve as a public amenity/recreational space with picnic benches and seating.</p> <p>Additional tree planting along the new cycle /footpath through the site to create a tree lined avenue to provide shade and interest.</p>	
<p><u>Does it have historic significance?</u></p> <p>None known</p>	
<p><u>Does it have recreational value (including playing fields, formal/informal)?</u></p> <p>Yes. It is a recreational facility where villagers meet, exercise and relax. Although the primary function is for formal sport/recreation, the intent was also for the land around the centre to be suitably planted to allow informal recreation; this is now developing with community support, and is well-used for walking, relaxing and exercising of dogs.</p>	
<p><u>Is it tranquil – a place away from noise and bustle?</u></p> <p>Moderate; areas close to the centre are often busy, but peripheral areas have a degree of tranquillity. Tree plantings act as sound buffers between the site and surrounding streets.</p>	
<p><u>Does the site have wildlife value – biodiversity?</u></p> <p>Yes. The land was formerly a cultivated field. Since the construction of the Leisure Centre and the new cycleway foot path the remainder of the land is being planted with grasses and trees to create a natural habitat for small mammals and birds. There is a small pond in the southern-most edge of the site which is largely undisturbed.</p> <p>Species records include small mammals, open farmland birds.</p>	




<p><u>Is the site local in character (i.e. serves local community; not extensive)</u></p> <p>Yes</p>	
<p><u>Does the site contribute to LP strategic requirements for provision of homes, employment or services?</u></p> <p>Yes. The site provides employment for approximately 15 people and services for the Parishioners and other local villagers.</p>	
<p><u>Other</u></p> <p>No.</p>	

### Broughton Lake open space (Old Brickworks)

Inventory reference 050

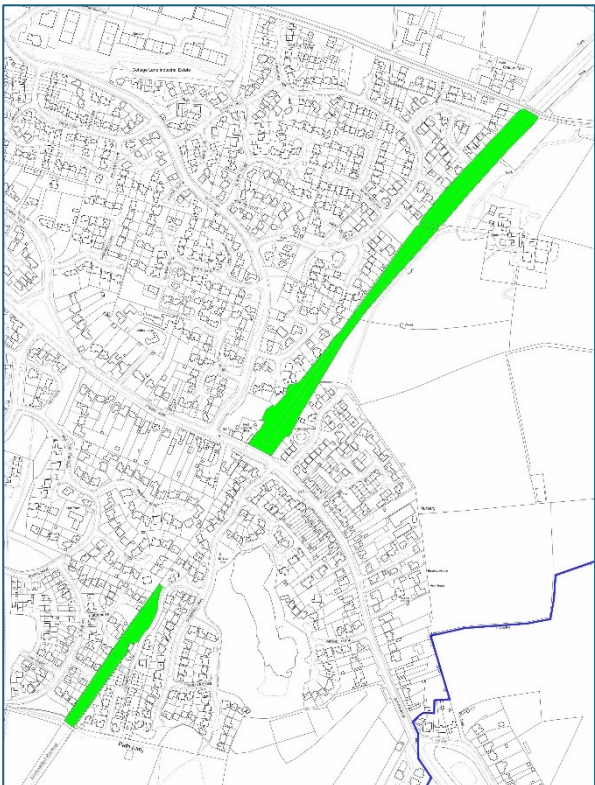

<p><u>Address/location</u></p> <p>Speedwell Road, Broughton Astley</p>	
<p><u>Description</u></p> <p>A disused Brick Quarry which closed in the mid 1950's and has been left to its own devices. Comprises of sizeable lake surrounded by marshy areas of scrubland, quality grassland and developing woodland.</p>	
<p><u>Public access:</u></p> <p>As a natural and semi-natural green space (OSSR typology), access is not encouraged; Naturespot have permission to regularly visit and survey the site.</p>	
<p><u>Is it in close proximity to the community?</u></p> <p>Yes</p>	



<p><u>Does the site have local significance?</u>  Yes. It was a working brickworks and quarry until c. 1974, providing employment for local people; it is still known locally as the 'old brickworks'.</p>	
<p><u>Is it beautiful?</u>  Yes, this is a large area left to its own devices and comprises of a sizeable lake surrounded by marshy areas of scrubland, quality grassland and developing woodland.</p>	
<p><u>Does it have historic significance?</u>  Yes.</p>	
<p><u>Does it have recreational value (including playing fields, formal/informal)?</u>  No</p>	
<p><u>Does the site have wildlife value – biodiversity?</u>  Yes. The area has become a natural wildlife area. The trees and hedges are a natural habitat to animals. Fauna and flora are abundant which encourages birds and insects. Due to the quality of the habitat it supports, at the last count, 15 species of Odonata (dragonflies and damselflies) as well as rare Orchids and other locally endangered species.</p>	
<p><u>Is the site local in character (i.e. serves local community; not extensive)</u>  Yes</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>	

## Disused railway line open spaces

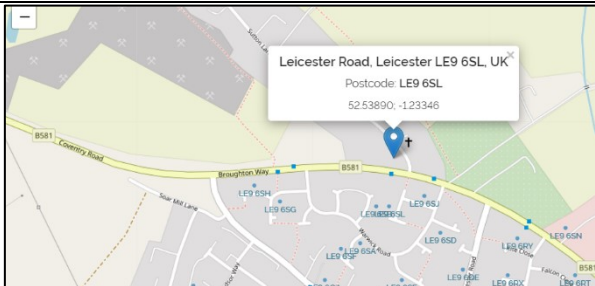

Inventory reference 081. 082, 085

<p><u>Address/location</u> Broughton Astley LE9 6PU</p>	
<p><u>Description</u> Two sections of the track-bed and earthworks (cuttings, bridges) of disused railway. Semi-natural green space, primarily now deciduous woodland and grassland habitats.</p>	
<p><u>Public access:</u> No formal access (it is in separate sections and too overgrown for walking along) but has value for young people for adventurous recreation.</p>	
<p><u>Is it in close proximity to the community?</u> Yes. It is within the Limits to Development of Broughton Astley</p>	
<p><u>Does the site have local significance?</u> Despite access difficulty, the site is a local landmark, and part of the layout of the settlement (as an open space of historical significance within it).</p>	
<p><u>Is it beautiful?</u> Yes, this is a large area now in the process of natural 'rewilding' and comprises of a sizeable area of scrubland, grassland and developing woodland.</p>	


<p><u>Does it have historic significance?</u>  Yes. It was part of the Midlands County Railway (an early railway development, 1840, Nottingham and Leicester to Rugby). This section closed January 1962.</p>	
<p><u>Does it have recreational value (including playing fields, formal/informal)?</u>  Currently no, it is too overgrown and disjointed for walking along. The Parish Council would like to see it made accessible to families for informal recreation including nature walks</p>	
<p><u>Is it tranquil – a place away from noise and bustle?</u>  Yes</p>	
<p><u>Does the site have wildlife value – biodiversity?</u>  Yes. The area has become a natural wildlife area. The scrubland, grassland and developing woodland are a natural wildlife habitat for animals, fauna and flora, which encourages birds and insects.  Priority Habitat <i>Deciduous woodland</i>, Natural England designation</p>	
<p><u>Is the site local in character (i.e. serves local community; not extensive)</u>  High potential, for which protection is key. Aspiration is to create a linear open space and walking/cycling route where it runs through the village itself and to link Cottage Lane with Dunton Road. On the south side of Dunton Road it would offer a route into open countryside to the edge of the Parish in the direction of Leire.</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>  The Railway has potential to create a traffic-free route for informal recreation</p>	

## Finns Field

Inventory reference 057

<p><u>Address/location</u></p> <p>Sutton Lane, Sutton-In-The-Elms, Broughton Astley. LE92SL</p>	 A map showing the location of Finns Field. A blue pin marks the site on a road labeled 'Broughton Way'. A text box above the pin reads 'Leicester Road, Leicester LE9 6SL, UK', 'Postcode: LE9 6SL', and '52.53890, -1.23346'. The map shows surrounding roads like 'Country Road' and 'Sutton Lane', and various house numbers in the LE9 6SL area.
<p><u>Description</u></p> <p>Finns Field, a privately owned area of green land which forms part of the area of separation between Broughton Astley and Sutton-In-The Elms. It has a central mown path across the rolling grassland to allow visitors to walk across the site and enjoy the wildflowers which have been allowed to flourish.</p>	 A photograph of Finns Field. It shows a wide, grassy area with a central mown path. The field is filled with wildflowers and tall grass. In the background, there are trees and a red brick house under a blue sky with white clouds.
<p><u>Public access</u></p> <p>Yes, it can be accessed by a footpath from Broughton Way and through a gate from Sutton Lane.</p>	
<p><u>Is it in close proximity to the community?</u></p> <p>It is a short walk from the village centre but provide a critical break between Broughton Astley and the hamlet of Sutton-In-The-Elms</p>	
<p><u>Does the site have local significance?</u></p> <p>Yes, It retains an area of separation intended to maintain the character of Sutton in the Elms. The space seen on the right has been used by the residents to hold small events to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles the third.</p> <p>It is very popular with young families due to the abundance of wildflowers.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to preserve the character of Sutton-In-The Ems as a low traffic, quiet hamlet by protecting this space from development.</p>	



<p><u>Is it beautiful?</u></p> <p>Yes, the combination of the mown paths with the wildflowers is an excellent example of managed wildlife offering some peace and calm. The view down towards the northeast looks past the Baptist church onto open countryside.</p>	
<p><u>Does it have historic significance?</u></p> <p>Yes. In the fact the entrance is opposite the Baptist Church and runs behind the Quaker Cottage both of which are important historical buildings. These would have been open fields when the first gathering of Quakers happened in the 1647. A recorded meeting occurred on 22<sup>nd</sup> of June 1649 when Edward Erberry held a meeting in the near by Quaker Cottage for which he was imprisoned. The Baptist Chapel was founded in 1650 and there is record of large outdoor gatherings of Baptists “under the elms of Sutton” at a time of religious opposition and persecution so it is credible to believe these could have occurred on Finns field as well as other places in Sutton-In-The-Elms.</p>	
<p><u>Does it have recreational value (including playing fields, formal/informal)?</u></p> <p>Yes, this area is used for informal recreation for families, particularly with young children.</p>	
<p><u>Is it tranquil – a place away from noise and bustle?</u></p> <p>Yes.</p>	
<p><u>Does the site have wildlife value – biodiversity?</u></p> <p>Yes, the owner has specifically encouraged wildflowers to grown supporting pollinators such a butterflies and bees</p>	
<p><u>Is the site local in character (i.e. serves local community; not extensive)</u></p> <p>Yes, it is specifically described in the Neighbourhood Plan as part of the “area of separation”</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>Residents feel very strongly that this space must not be built on as it is buffer to avoid Broughton</p>	

Astley sprawling out to the northwest. There was sufficient sentiment that one resident purchased the land and created Finns Field as it is seen today.