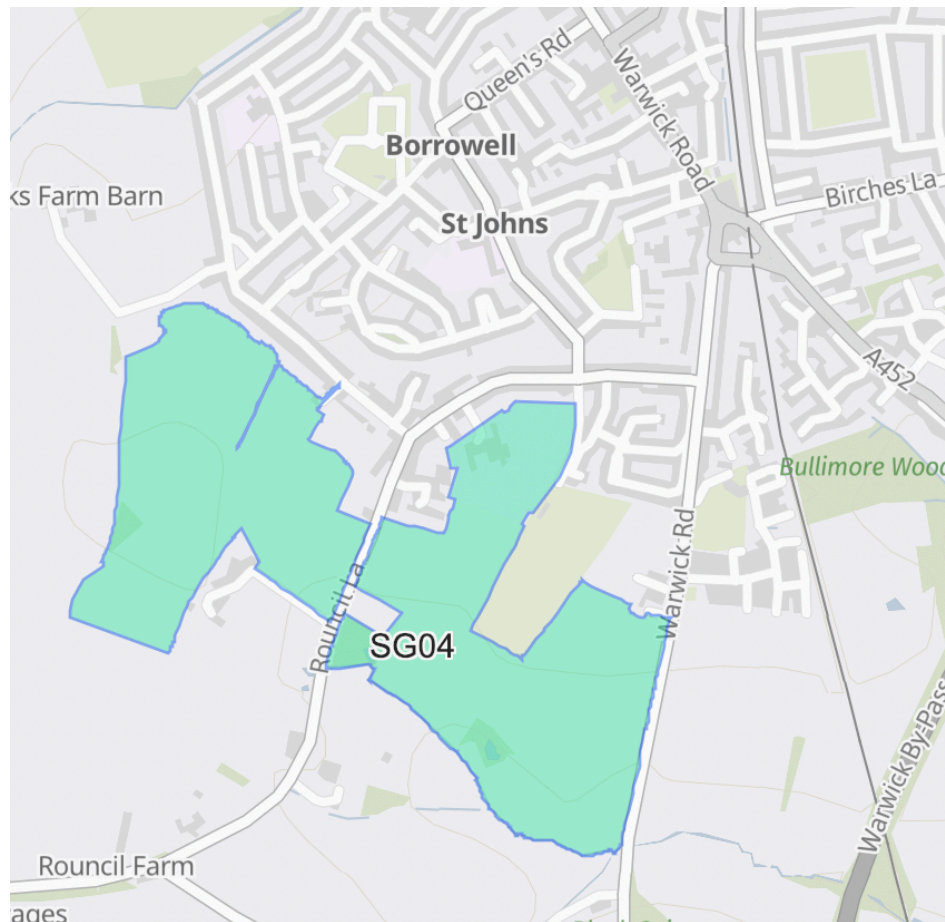


**Local plan submission for SG04 land south of Kenilworth- Kenilworth St John's LibDem group**



SG04 is an area to the south west of Kenilworth on Greenbelt in view of the important, historic, grade one listed Kenilworth Castle. There is no distinct infrastructure to provide a boundary to this area.

Following consideration, we wish to object to the use of this strategic site for housing development, for the following reasons.

1) Impact on the Greenbelt

Removing this land from the greenbelt would reduce the gap between Kenilworth and Leek Wootton, Beausale and Warwick providing urban sprawl and undermining a purpose of green belt to stop the coalescence of villages. It would extend the Kenilworth boundary into the countryside with no physical boundary for redesignation of green belt.

## 2) Sustainability Report

SG04 is the area with the 2nd lowest housing capacity yield of all spatial growth areas and wouldn't be likely to provide the desired housing mix. It would also involve the loss of productive farmland.

## 3) Cultural heritage and landscape character

SG04 should be rated red in the SA in respect of Cultural Heritage, because of the significant impact on the setting of Kenilworth Castle. It is part of the Arden Special Landscape Area with historical significance as part of Kenilworth's Castle "Olde Parke." It enjoys important views and openness across to and from Kenilworth castle.

## 4) Spatial design (20 Minute neighbourhood)

This new development would not constitute a 20-minute neighbourhood, there is no GP, bus/train or secondary school within the required radius and existing schools are already oversubscribed. Pupils currently living in streets bordering this site are already experiencing difficulties in reaching the catchment secondary school due to the distances involved.

## 5) Infrastructure

The position of this site is such that, to reach most necessary services, residents would all need to use Rouncil Lane which will be used by developments already planned at the old school 6<sup>th</sup> form site and Leek Wooton Police HQ site. This country lane is unlikely to provide sufficient infrastructure to cope with this proposed increase in use. Rouncil Lane also experiences significant foul drainage issues, potentially due to the impact of local industry and the capacity of drainage infrastructure.

## 6) Wellbeing

This area of Kenilworth is popular as a leisure destination for walkers and cyclists from within and outside the district. As such it is an important asset for the town in promoting physical and mental wellbeing. As a border to Kenilworth, it adds to the sense of place for the town. Rouncil Lane and Rounds Hill are part of NCN52 and we are concerned that the inevitable increase of traffic from new housing, channelled to these roads, would have a detrimental impact to safety and participation. The footpaths across SG04 are well used by walkers, and runners.

## 7) Biodiversity

Developing this area would inevitably mean a significant loss of valuable biodiversity assets including ancient trees, hedgerows and the impact on wildlife including many important bird and animal species.