

# HALL OM WONG PUBLIC OPEN SPACE KIMBERLEY

## Management Plan for Wildlife Areas

2008 - 2013

Prepared by Broxtowe Borough Council  
January 2008



Broxtowe  
Borough  
COUNCIL

Positive People - Positive Leadership - Positive Partnerships



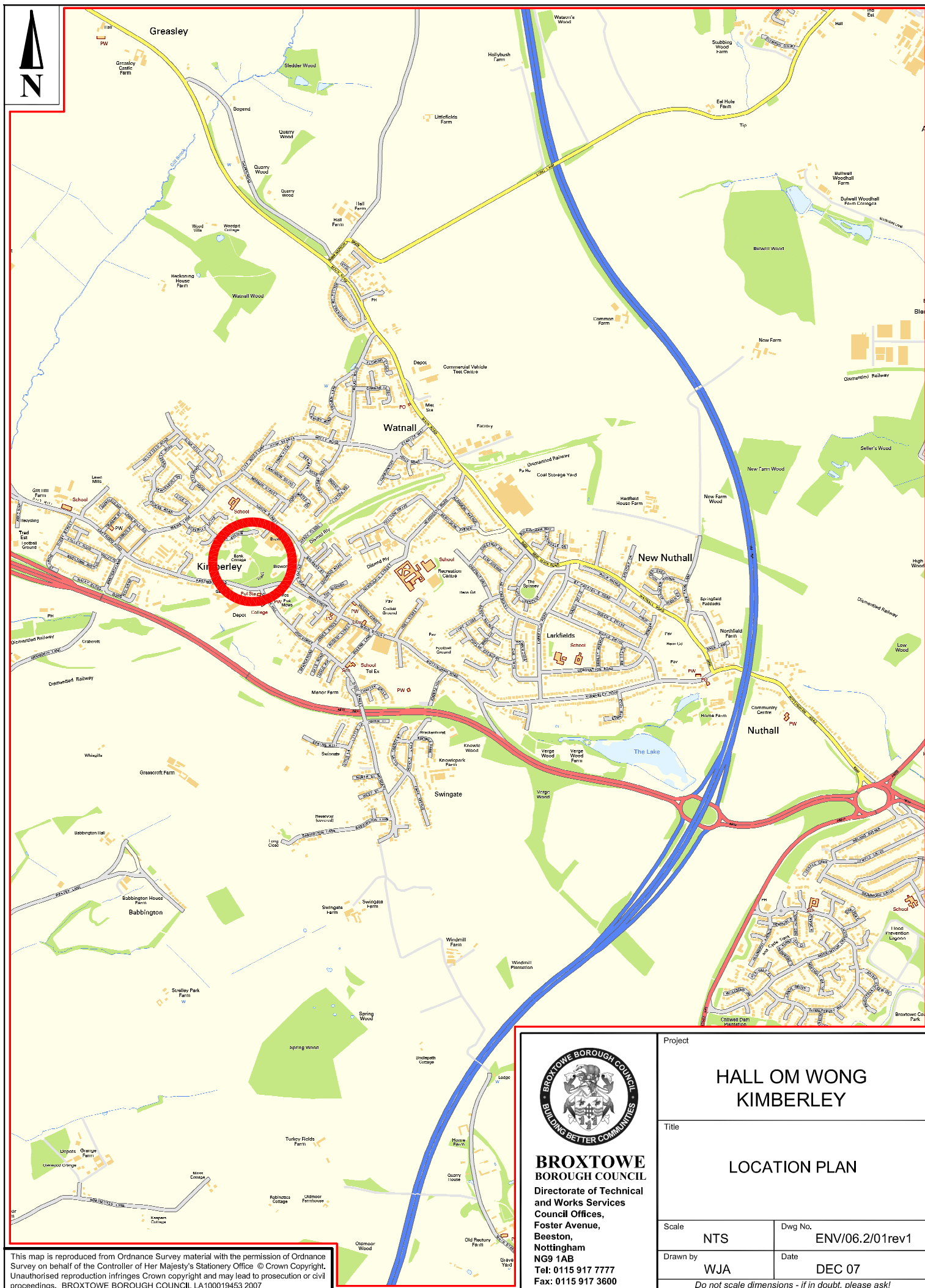
## **CONTENTS**

	<b>Page No.</b>
Site Maps:	
1 - Location Plan	1
2 - Wildlife Management Compartments	2
3 - Existing Site Features	3
4 - Definitive Rights of Way	4
5 - Extract from 1916 OS Map	5
Introduction	6
Vision Statement	7
Policy Statement	8
General Description	9
Land Use History	10
Site Description	11
Evaluation of Features	13
Detailed Management Objectives	16
Funding, Monitoring and Delivery of Objectives	21
Summary of Factors Particularly Significant for LNR Designation	22

## **APPENDICES**

1. Draft Advice on Ivy Management	23
2. Summary of BTCV works	25



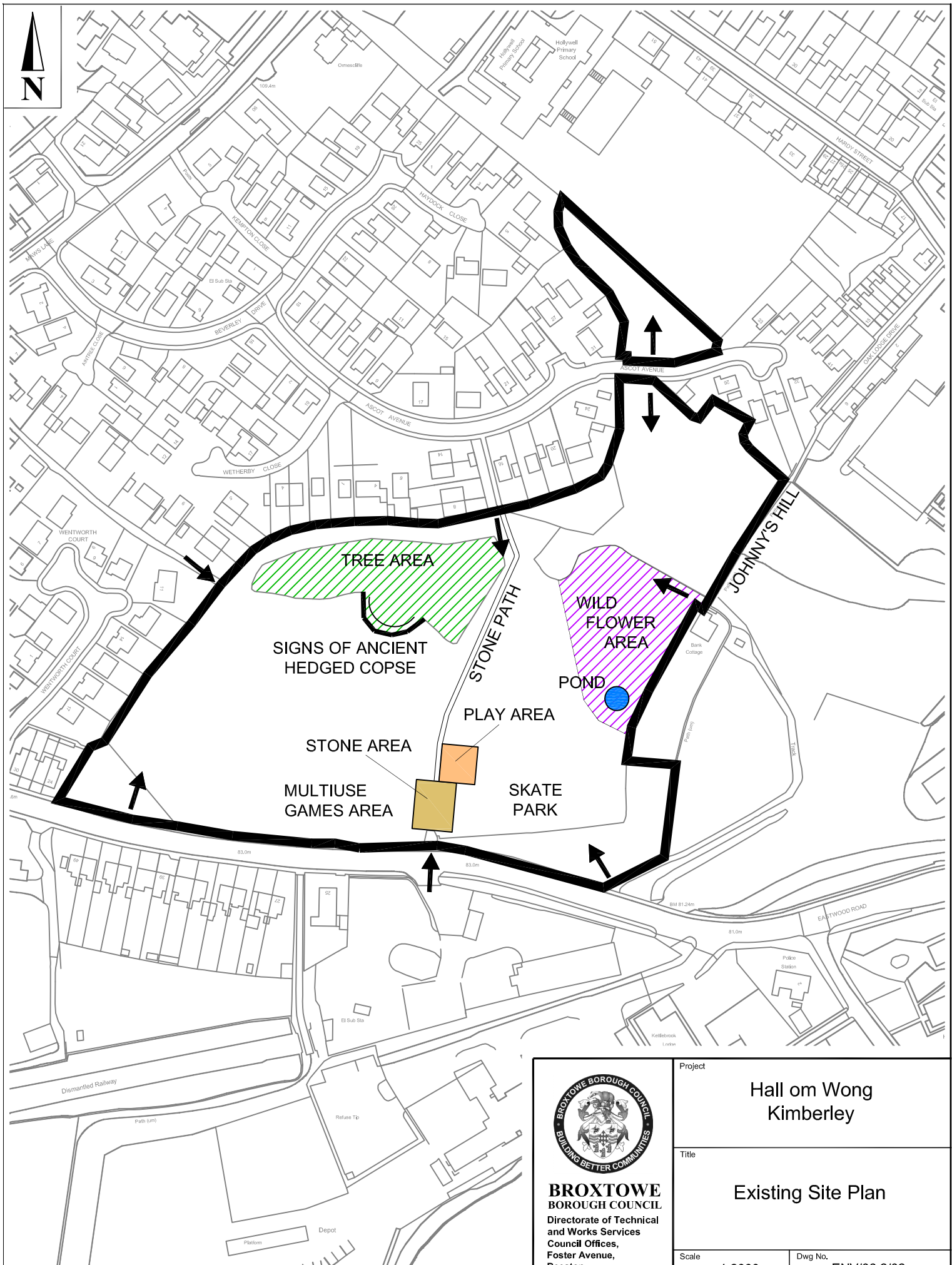


This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. BROXTOWE BOROUGH COUNCIL LA100019453 2007



**BROXTOWE BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
 Directorate of Technical and Works Services  
 Council Offices,  
 Foster Avenue,  
 Beeston,  
 Nottingham  
 NG9 1AB  
 Tel: 0115 917 7777  
 Fax: 0115 917 3600

Project		<b>HALL OM WONG KIMBERLEY</b>	
Title		<b>LOCATION PLAN</b>	
Scale	NTS	Dwg No.	ENV/06.2/01rev1
Drawn by	WJA	Date	DEC 07
Do not scale dimensions - if in doubt, please ask!			

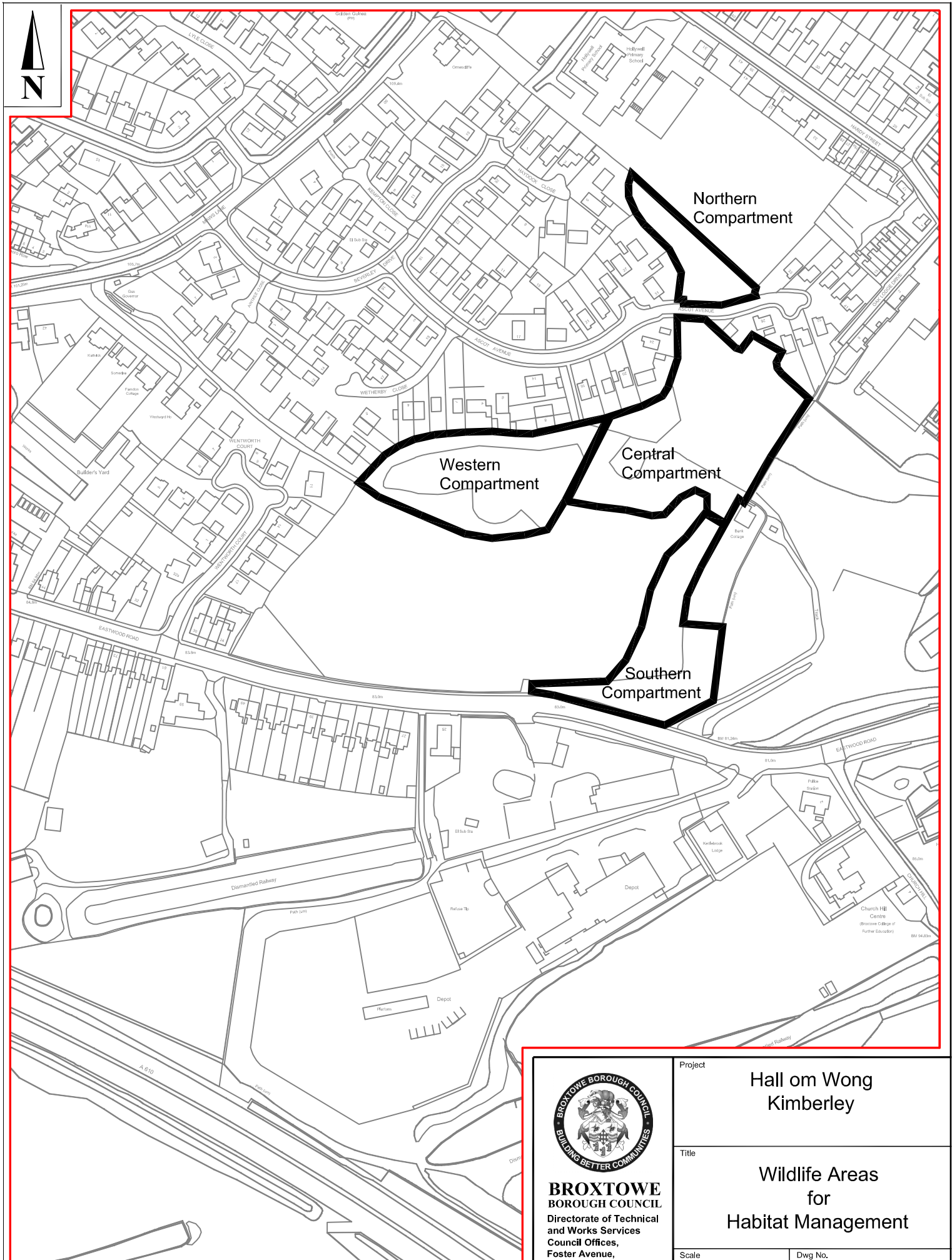


This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. BROXTOWE BOROUGH COUNCIL LA100019453 2007



**BROXTOWE BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
Directorate of Technical and Works Services  
Council Offices,  
Foster Avenue,  
Beeston,  
Nottingham  
NG9 1AB  
Tel: 0115 917 7777  
Fax: 0115 917 3600

Project		Hall om Wong Kimberley	
Title		Existing Site Plan	
Scale	1:2000	Dwg No.	ENV/06.2/02
Drawn by	WJA	Date	Dec 07
Do not scale dimensions - if in doubt, please ask!			



This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. BROXTOWE BOROUGH COUNCIL LA100019453 2007

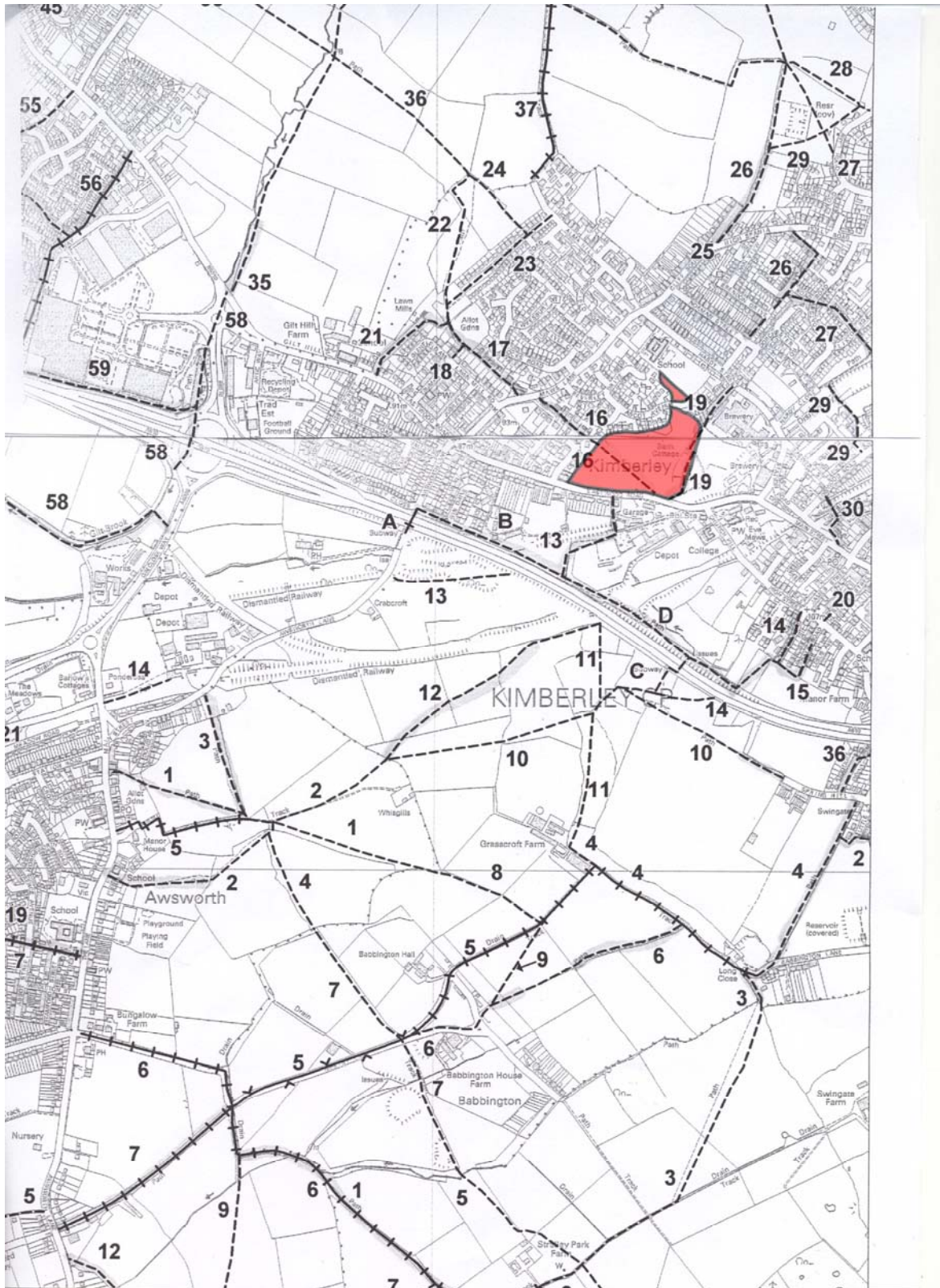


**BROXTOWE  
BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
Directorate of Technical  
and Works Services  
Council Offices,  
Foster Avenue,  
Beeston,  
Nottingham  
NG9 1AB  
Tel: 0115 917 7777  
Fax: 0115 917 3600

Project		Hall om Wong Kimberley	
Title		Wildlife Areas for Habitat Management	
Scale	1:2500	Dwg No.	ENV/06.2/03
Drawn by	WJA	Date	Dec 07
Do not scale dimensions - if in doubt, please ask!			

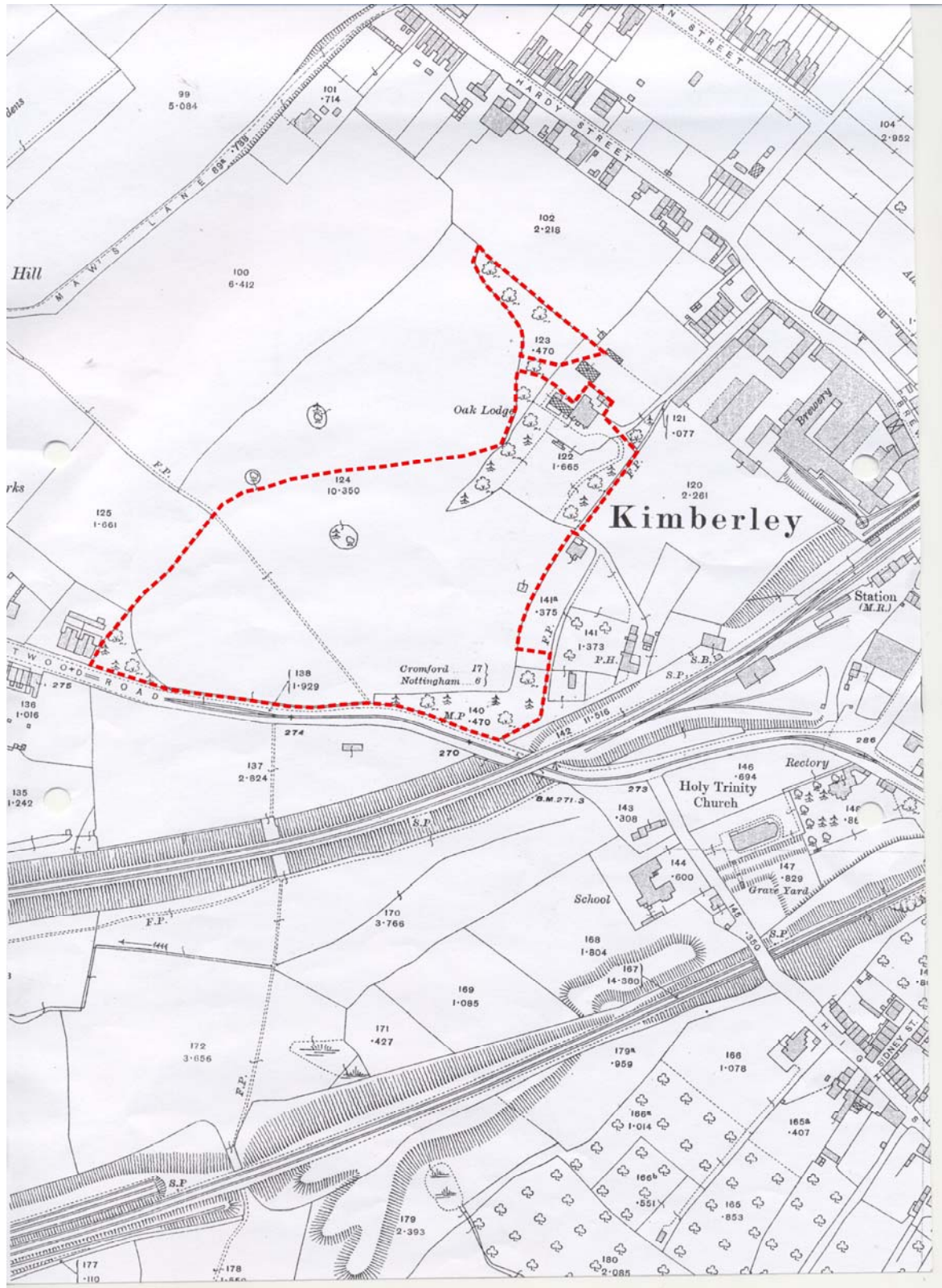


**Map 4 – Extract from the Definitive Rights of Way Map**





**Map 5 – Extract from 1916 Ordnance Survey Map**



## **INTRODUCTION**

Hall om Wong Open Space is a Council owned site used for a range of sports, play and quiet activities, which lies close to the urban fringe of Kimberley.

This plan looks at the woodland which takes up over half of the site and consists of mainly a mixed and deciduous woodland of varying age which is very attractive but in need of positive management to maximise biodiversity. This quiet area contrasts with the play area, skateboard area and multi use games area at the lower end of the site.

Although this plan is primarily concerned with the woodland area, it offers an opportunity to look at the site holistically and to provide a balanced way forward to make the most of the many features which make this site a very interesting local amenity.

It is hoped that production of this plan will lead to enhancement of the area by encouraging local ownership through the formation of a “friends of” group and recognition of the wildlife value of the site by designation of the woodland as a Local Nature Reserve.



## **VISION STATEMENT**

The vision is “to maximise the value of the woodland for people and wildlife”.

Clearly local engagement is an essential factor in developing ownership and managing the conflict, which can occur between the wildlife interests and amenity usage.

The aim will be to significantly enhance the biodiversity throughout the whole Hall om Wong site while also encouraging the development of a vibrant, well used park facility.

## **POLICY STATEMENT**

The Council's corporate plan for 2008-2012 has 5 key priorities with a series of corresponding objectives and targeted outcomes. Those most relevant to this plan are:-

### **Priority**

- Green issues. We take responsibility to protect the environment for future generations.

### **Objective**

- Protect valued environment and create new habitats.

### **Targeted outcomes**

- Maximise the nature conservation value of parks and open spaces
- Review and roll forward our approach to local biodiversity
- Develop a woodland strategy
- Develop 'Pocket Parks' within communities



## **GENERAL DESCRIPTION**

The site is situated less than 1 mile from the centre of Kimberley in Nottinghamshire (Grid reference SK4495 3449) Ordnance Survey Explorer 260 Map shows the area.

Hall om Wong Open Space is about 3 hectares of park and woodland. This plan relates primarily to the woodland which is approximately 1.8 hectares. However, the park and woodland are inextricably linked providing a very interesting local amenity. Facilities on the park include play equipment, skate park and multi use games area so this with the potential for quiet enjoyment of the woodland provides a very diverse amenity.

Broxtowe Borough Council own the freehold to the site which is bounded to the north by a housing estate, to the south by Eastwood Road and to the east by a private garden and woodland which once formed part of the Hardy and Hansons Brewery site. Significantly a small section of the northern boundary also borders a school playing field.

There are seven access points to the site which is also severed at the northern edge by Ascot Avenue. Quality of access varies from very good to poor.

The woodland consists of a range of species, which provides attractive but unmanaged areas with no special identity. The site is difficult to define in NBAP (Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Plan) habitat terms but would have once been a lowland wood- pasture and remnants if this remain. The old trees alone make this a valuable wildlife site but often, woodland areas on the urban fringe are treated as “waste land” and one important aim of this plan will be to recognise the value of these areas by making the woodland a Local Nature Reserve. The site currently has no protected status.

The site is primarily an area for local people; however, it has some strategic importance as forms part of a link between Kimberley's railway cutting sites and the A610 corridor as well as the countryside towards the Erewash Valley. The site also serves to draw wildlife into the urban areas of Kimberley.

The future of the brewery site on the eastern side of the site is uncertain but scope exists to retain the value of this area as a green link to Kimberley Cutting SSSI, which is less than 200m from Hall om Wong.

## **LAND USE HISTORY**

The name “Hall om Wong” is derived from the old English, and can be summarised as “Mr Hall’s home piece of land”. References date back to the 1700’s (Mr R Plumb Kimberley, 2007).

The 1916 Ordnance Survey (Map 5) shows the site as being the grounds of Oak Lodge which was accessed from Brewery Street. Much of the present woodland is shown on this plan demonstrates the considerable age of many of the trees. A large portion of the site was grassland pasture with small coppices and a trace of one of these is still evident in the western compartment.



## **SITE DESCRIPTION**

The site has been split into 4 compartments. See Map 3.

### **The Northern Compartment**

This Compartment is bounded by school grounds' gardens and the frontage to Ascot Avenue. This fragment of mixed woodland has understory plants and shows signs of local interest in that a nest-box has been erected there is evidence of young yew planting. Access from Ascot Avenue is poor.

### **The Central Compartment**

This is bounded by the park area, private gardens and the woodland owned by Greene King Brewery and formerly Hardy and Hansons Brewery. At the time of writing this plan the land is up for sale. This area contains impressive mature, oak, ash, sycamore, field maple, scots pine, lime, cedar, wych elm and hawthorn. Several specimens need work to reduce the health and safety risk and there are a large number of self-set sycamores particularly on the boundary with the park area. Ivy dominates the woodland floor and has completely covered many trees.

Care is needed to identify trees with excessive ivy growth within the tree canopy which can threaten the stability of the tree through weight and windage.

This area is steep and access is generally poor with the exception of the path on the eastern edge (known as Johnny's Hill) which is reasonably even. There are several informal paths which run through the undulating landscape which was once the site of Oak Lodge and its gardens. Part of the woodland is fenced and subject to vandalism. The whole issue of fencing or use of log/brush barriers to protect parts of the site needs review, with consideration made for the exclusion of dogs in some areas.

Fallen trees have been used in the past to restrict motorcycle access.

### **The Western Compartment**

This compartment is bounded by the park and private gardens. This area is generally young woodland plantation comprising of ash, field maple, norway maple with very open understory. The exception to this is a small area of mature beech, horse-chestnut, and sycamore bounded by old hawthorn. This area was once a small copse shown on the 1912 O.S. map and as such is worthy of special attention.

Care is needed to monitor spring growth on the woodland floor to establish what is on the site and may have spread from the old copse area.

### **The Southern Compartment**

This compartment is bounded by the park, Eastwood Road and Bank Cottage garden.

This area is mature woodland (shown on 1912 O.S. map) comprising of ash, oak, beech, sycamore, lime, horse-chestnut with willow around the pond area. This woodland is more open in character with some understory plants which suggests it has had some management in recent years. This is in common with the tree planting in the park and may be due to the need to reduce risk near the public highway.

Although some understory exists it is largely bramble and this will need some control. Further planting with yew and holly and some woodland wildflowers would help to develop different layers in the low level woodland planting.

This area has the added interest of a dew pond near to Bank Cottage. This has been dry for some years but in 2007 was cleaned out. The area needs to be monitored so that further action can be taken to develop wetland if this is possible.

Access is not a major issue for this compartment although a stile exists in the corner of the site, which would be an obstacle to those with limited mobility.



## **EVALUATION OF FEATURES**

### **The Northern Compartment**

This Compartment has an interesting mix of trees and plants already and needs little work. Access is poor and as there is no through route there may be a case for fencing off the area altogether. However, no major changes are needed and the strongest influence on this compartment may be that of the adjacent landowners especially the school.

There is a strong need to engage with the local school who may wish to “adopt” the section next to their site and there is evidence that local residents have an interest in the area and this needs to be developed. Signage to identify the area as valuable for wildlife may reduce the temptation for residents to use the area as a tip. Direct contact to all site owners with boundaries to the site could help to identify potential members of the friends of group as well as raising the profile of the site.

This area particularly lends itself to use of bird and bat boxes another element which the school could become involved with.

### **The Central Compartment**

This section has interesting old woodland which has had very little management for many years. There is a need to remove dangerous trees with due regard for potential bat roosts and timed to avoid disturbance in the nesting season. Timber arisings can be left on site. Young sycamore needs thinning or removal and larger specimens ring barked to provide standing deadwood.

The control of ivy needs careful consideration to balance the value of this unique habitat with the need to develop a diverse woodland. The first step needs to be to assess any threat to trees caused by large quantities of ivy in the canopy. Again, appropriate action would take place following a bat survey.

Recent advice from the County Biodiversity Action Group (see Appendix 1) will guide the way and, following discussion with Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, it may be worth treating a test area with glyphosate or undertaking manual removal of the ivy if this is possible, and then monitoring what regenerates naturally. This can be supplemented with holly, yew or woodland wildflower planting as appropriate.

Access is a big issue for this area and works are certainly needed near Ascot Avenue. Similarly, control of access to some areas by use of fencing and log/brush barriers may be appropriate here to stop wildlife disturbance by dogs.

Dog walkers heavily use the area and measures to encourage responsible use of the site would be worth consideration.

As with all compartments there is a need to consider the interface with the park area and if possible develop buffer zones e.g. wildflower meadow, which will enhance both areas.

The southern edge of this compartment is grassland which with an appropriate mowing regime could be developed as a wildflower meadow.

### **The Western Compartment**

This area has now reached the stage where some thinning of the plantation is needed, but the real jewel in this area is the former copse which needs careful management to establish existing flora and conserve and enhance this historical feature.

A spring survey of the ground flora will help to guide the way forward and the expertise of the BTCV could be used to decide on the best treatment for the very old hawthorns bounding the copse. Supplementary fencing perhaps using the estate hurdle style may also help to identify this area of the wood as a historic feature which once formed part of a parkland landscape.

Access in this area is generally good but some form of seating in this location overlooking the park but away from properties could be worthwhile.

Again, there is a need to contact owners of gardens adjacent to this area to ensure they are aware of the wildlife value of the site on their doorstep.

### **The Southern Compartment**

This area needs work to manage and develop the understorey by bramble management and planting. The potential to coppice some trees to increase insect interest needs consideration.

A dew pond needs to be monitored and if the wet area develops there may be a need to look at puddling of the pond, removal of willows and limiting access to the area to reduce disturbance.

Access via the existing stile needs consideration and changes made to meet the Disability Discrimination Act if this is possible. Much of this section and the Northern section are complimented by similar aged woodland on the former brewery site. There is a need to try to ensure that management of the adjacent woodland is appropriate to prevent the Hall om Wong site becoming an island without connections.

### **The Wider Park Area**

This area outside the woodland is primarily for amenity usage, however, there is a need to soften the woodland fringes and make the most of opportunities to enhance grassland where this is possible. Similarly the prescriptions associated with the Southern compartment may be appropriate to extend to the strip of woodland alongside Eastwood Road should the opportunity arise.



## **DETAILED MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES**

- Legal obligations: Work likely to cause disturbance to breeding birds i.e. felling and scrub clearance cannot be undertaken during the bird breeding season (March to September). Therefore, all felling and scrub clearance must be undertaken during the autumn and winter as it is an offence to disturb any wild bird (with the exception of pest species) while it is tending a nest containing eggs or chicks, until the chicks have *successfully* fledged. To do so would be a criminal offence under The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.
- Protected species: Mature trees identified for felling, likely to provide roosting opportunities for bats should be surveyed by a licensed bat worker prior to felling. All species of British bat plus their roosting sites are protected by The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, the CROW Act 2000 and the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) Regulations 1994.

### **General**

Task/Operation	Partners	Year					Estimated Cost	Resourced From	Comments
		08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13			
Undertake bat survey	BBC/NWT	√	√		√		-	Local bat group	
Health and safety assessment of trees and associated works	BBC	√	√	√	√	√	-	BBC revenue	
Site interpretation and signage	BBC		√				£3,000	BBC/Ground-work sustainable Council's fund	
Assess need and provide dog bins and seek to educate local dog owners	BBC	√					-	BBC revenue	
Erect bat and bird boxes	BBC/Ground-work/ BTCV/NWT/ School	√	√		√	√	£100 pa 4 task days	BBC revenue BTCV budget	
Undertake access survey and develop proposals	BBC/NCC	√					-	BBC/NCC Officer times	
Deliver access improvements	BBC/BTCV/ NCC	√	√	√	√	√	2 task days pa	BTCV budget	

## **General**

Task/Operation	Partners	Year					Estimated Cost	Resourced From	Comments
		08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13			
Declare Local Nature Reserve	BBC	√					-	BBC officer times	
Contact all residents bordering the site	BBC	√					-	BBC officer times	
Work to develop local 'Friends of ' Group	BBC/NWT	√	√	√			-	BBC officer times	
Annual monitoring of woodland development including production & updating of species list	BBC/BTCV/ NWT/Friends Of Group	√	√	√	√	√	£200 pa	BBC revenue NWT service level agreement	

## **Northern Compartment** (most actions for this area are covered in 'General' Section)

Task/Operation	Partners	Year					Estimated Cost	Resourced From	Comments
		08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13			
Contact school to investigate possibilities	BBC/Groundwork	√					-	BBC officer time	

## Central Compartment

Task/Operation	Partners	Year					Estimated Cost	Resourced From	Comments
		08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13			
Thin out sycamore saplings and ring bark large sycamore to provide standing deadwood.	BBC/BTCV	√	√		√		1 task day/year	BTCV budget	
Identify and remove or treat ivy test area	BBC/NWT	√	√		√		£100	Revenue budget	
Continue ivy control if appropriate and associated planting	BBC/BTCV		√	√		√	Spraying £50/year BTCV 1 task day/year	Revenue budget BTCV budget	
Identify restricted access areas and fence or install log/brash barriers to reduce dog disturbance	BBC/BTCV		√	√			100m total funding 4 task days	BTCV budget	

## Western Compartment

Task/Operation	Partners	Year					Estimated Cost	Resourced From	Comments
		08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13			
Thin out young saplings, coppice where appropriate	BBC/BTCV	√		√		√	1 task day	BTCV budget	
Planting to form understorey, holly, yew, woodland wildflowers	BTCV		√		√	√	1 task day/year	BTCV budget	
Restore copse by appropriate treatment of hawthorn, fencing and planting	BBC/BTCV		√	√			Fence £2,000 planting hedge 2 task days	BBC budget BTCV budget	
Identify restricted access areas and fence or install log/brash barriers to reduce dog disturbance	BBC				√	√	100m 4 task days	BTCV budget	



### Southern Compartment

Task/Operation	Partners	Year					Estimated Cost	Resourced From	Comments
		08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13			
Coppice smaller trees to enhance insect populations	BBC/BTCV	√		√			2 task days	BTCV budget	
Control bramble as appropriate	BBC	√		√		√	-	BBC revenue	
Plant holly, yew and woodland wildflowers	BBC/BTCV		√		√		2 task days	BTCV budget	
Restore pond area	BBC/BCTV		√	√			Not yet known 2 task days allowed for planting/access control	BBC revenue BTCV budget	

### Wider Park Area

Task/Operation	Partners	Year					Estimated Cost	Resourced From	Comments
		08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13			
Review grassland management and adjust cutting regimes	BBC	√					-	BBC revenue	
Develop 3 m grass buffer zone where possible	BBC	√	√				-	BBC revenue	
Plant woodland wildflowers to tree area alongside Eastwood Road				√		√	£100	BBC revenue BTCV budget Friends of Group	

## **FUNDING, MONITORING AND DELIVERY OF OBJECTIVES**

### **Funding**

The majority of objectives can be achieved through existing arrangements with BTCV or through Broxtowe Borough Council revenue. The impact of a Friends of Group may also have a significant impact in meeting all targets so at this stage there is no intention to seek additional funding.

Appendix 2 gives a summary of BTCV works.

### **Monitoring**

This is an essential element of the plan and again the Friends of Group may be able to assist with this. In any event Broxtowe Borough Council officers assisted by Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust will complete a short report each year identifying how the biodiversity has developed, and showing which objectives have been delivered. Consideration will be given to how best to circulate this information to the local community if a Friends of Group is not established quickly.

## **SUMMARY OF FACTORS PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT FOR LOCAL NATURE RESERVE DESIGNATION**

- The site contains mature deciduous woodland which has potential to be managed to enhance the already interesting biodiversity.
- The site is strategically significant helping to link an urban area of Kimberley to the wider countryside.
- There is a strong local site identity associated with Kimberley and interest has been shown by several individuals in establishing a “friends of” group.
- The close proximity of Hollywell Primary school as well as the play area, skate park and multi use games area provide opportunities to engage young people in developing an interest in their local wildlife.
- The site is heavily used by local people and is valued by them as an area which enhances their quality of life.

## **APPENDIX 1**

Draft advice on Ivy Management (supplied by Nottinghamshire biodiversity Action Group).

### **IVY – *Hedera helix***

Ivy is our only native evergreen climbing shrub and it will trail or climb over large areas and to considerable heights. It has been identified as one of Britain's most important wildlife plants.

Ivy is a woody plant which favours woodland where it can tolerate low light levels. It will grow in all but the most acidic of soils and will cover the ground and climb over and up rock faces and trees. Contrary to popular belief it is not parasitic and draws moisture from its main root system not the myriad of tiny roots which it uses to attach itself to tree bark, cliffs, walls or other structures.

The leaves alternate and are 4 – 8cm long and are of two types, with palmately five-lobed juvenile leaves on creeping and climbing stems, and unlobed adult leaves on fertile flowering stems exposed to full sun, usually high in the crowns of trees or the top of rock faces. The flowers are produced from late summer until late autumn, individually small, in 3 – 5cm diameter umbels, greenish-yellow, and very rich in nectar. The fruits are small black berries ripening in late winter, and are an important food for many birds, though poisonous to humans. The seeds are dispersed by birds eating the fruit.

There is only one true ivy native to this country and that is *Hedera helix*. However, various non-native and cultivar species are available from garden centres and nurseries. These have the ornamental benefit of different and attractive foliage both in variegation and leaf size and shape and whilst aimed at the gardener they do still provide nesting and roosting sites. However, only *Hedera Helix* has the real wildlife value as it bears flowers and berries which many of the cultivars do not.

Ivy can provide good ground cover, which in winter can be of benefit to insects and small mammals and provide a foraging area for ground feeding birds such as thrushes and dunnocks.

The dense cover provides an ideal roost site for birds and bats such as the pipistrelle which will tuck themselves away amongst the woody stems. Many species of bird including wren, dunnock, blackbird and spotted flycatcher nest in ivy covered walls or trees.

The holly blue butterfly is dependent on ivy as a food plant for its second generation caterpillars and other species of butterfly and moth are attracted to the flowers as a late summer/autumn food source. Several moth species depend on ivy as a larval foodplant and caterpillars of species such as the swallow-tailed



moth, the old lady and the willow beauty can often be found feeding on the leaves.

The flowers provide a late nectar source for all manner of insects in the autumn when other nectar sources are scarce and by day they will be alive with butterflies and bees fuelling up for hibernation. By night they will be visited by a wide range of moth species.

The berries are an important food source for various species of bird as well as small mammals such as wood mice.

### Problems with Ivy

Whilst not a real problem, ivy growing in a non woodland situation can sometimes be considered visually unattractive or inappropriate.

Whilst ivy growing over rocks and buildings can provide a measure of protection from the elements there is always a danger that ivy shoots will grow into any crack or crevice and as they grow in diameter can exert a wedging action on the structure.

Ivy will only climb relatively mature trees and it does not cause many problems with perhaps the main one being the spread of the plant in the crown of the tree. The ivy can deprive the leaves in the tree canopy of sunlight although it is usually only the case if the tree is already in a state of decline. In the case of a dead or dying tree it is possible that the weight of the ivy could cause it to topple.

Ivy covering can interfere with the carrying out of safety checks by limiting a visual inspection of the trunk or any limbs.

### Removing Ivy

The best way of removing ivy is to cut through all the stems at ground level and then let the foliage die back over a period. When it is dead it becomes brittle and can be more easily removed. Care should be taken to ensure that bats or birds are not present as it is an offence to disturb nesting birds and bats have even more protection so it may be necessary to have a bat survey undertaken.

## **APPENDIX 2**

### **Summary of BTCV Works**

Activity	Year /Task Days				
	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13
<b><u>General</u></b>					
Erect bat and bird boxes	1	1			
Delivery access improvements	2	2	2	2	2
<b><u>Central Compartment</u></b>					
Thin out sycamore saplings and ring bark large sycamore	1	1		1	
Mixed planting to ivy areas		1	1		1
Fence off areas		2	2		
<b><u>Western Compartment</u></b>					
Thin out/coppice saplings	1		1		1
Planting understory		1		1	1
Restore copse		1	1		
Fence off areas				2	2
<b><u>Southern Compartment</u></b>					
Coppice smaller trees	1		1		
Planting		1		1	
Works to pond			1		1
<b><u>Wider Park Areas</u></b>					
Plant woodland flowers			1		1
<b>Total Task Days</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>