

# Hall Om Wong Open Space Local Nature Reserve, Kimberley

## Management Plan

2020 – 2025





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This management plan was produced by Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust in partnership with  
Broxtowe Borough Council.

October 2019

## **INTRODUCTION**

Hall om Wong Open Space, located in Kimberley, is a Broxtowe Borough Council owned site used for a range of sports, play and general quiet recreation. A play area, skateboard area and multi-use games facilities are located at the lower (southern) end of the site.

This plan concentrates on the habitats within the park, which cover over half of the site and consists of mainly mixed and deciduous woodland of varying age.

Although this plan is primarily concerned with the woodland area to maximise its value through ongoing appropriate sensitive management, 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 implantation of this plan will raise the biodiversity value of this designated Local Nature Reserve and encourage increased local ownership through the formation of a 'Friends of' group.



## **PART 1: ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **1.1 Broxtowe Borough Council**

The site is owned by Broxtowe Borough Council <https://www.broxtowe.gov.uk/>. The Council's corporate plan for 2016-2020 has 5 key priorities with a series of corresponding objectives and targeted outcomes. Those most relevant to this plan are:-

#### Priority

- Environment. The environment in Broxtowe will be protected and enhanced for future generations

#### Objective

- Maintain and improve the Green Infrastructure of Broxtowe.

### **1.2 Natural England**

Natural England is an executive non-departmental public body, sponsored by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra). It is the Government's adviser for the natural environment in England, helping to protect England's nature and landscapes for people to enjoy and for the services they provide. Natural England provides advice on the declaration of LNRs in England and maintains a database of these sites.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/natural-england>  
[http://www.lnr.naturalengland.org.uk/Special/lnr/lnr\\_search.asp](http://www.lnr.naturalengland.org.uk/Special/lnr/lnr_search.asp)

### **1.3 Environmental organisations**

The Council works in partnership with many organisations to deliver improvements on open spaces for wildlife. For instance, the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group, Nottinghamshire Biological and Geological Record Centre (NBGRC) and Practical Conservation Volunteers CIC.

## **PART 2: DESCRIPTION**

### **2.1 Location and Map Coverage**

The site is situated less than 1 mile from the centre of Kimberley in Nottinghamshire (Grid reference SK4495 3449). The site can be found on Ordnance Survey Landranger map no.129 (1:50,000 scale) & Ordnance Survey Explorer map no. 260 (1:25,000 scale). A location map is provided at Appendix 1.

### **2.2 General Description**

Hall om Wong Open Space is about 3 hectares of open grassland and woodland with a dew pond. This plan relates to the habitats (excluding amenity grasslands), which is 1.7 hectares in size. It comprises woodland and trees, scrub, wildflower areas and the pond. The open

space 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 and this with the potential for quiet enjoyment of the wilder areas provides a very diverse amenity experience.

In 2019, a survey of 118 local people revealed that park users favored maintaining the balance between recreation and natural areas, and improvements to benefit wildlife were popular. In particular, people listed the following as their top 5 improvements: better access points to make the site more welcoming, upgrading of the path network around the site (especially in muddy areas), more seating and picnic tables, creation of more areas with native wildflowers for bees and pollinators, managing woodlands and hedgerows to benefit wildlife and upgrading of fencing and gates to keep dogs and children safe in the park.

Broxtowe Borough Council own the freehold to the site, which is bounded to the north and west by housing, to the south by Eastwood Road and to the east by a private garden and woodland, which once formed part of the Hardy and Hanson's Brewery site. A small section of the northern boundary 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. A detailed map, showing access points is provided at Appendix 2.

The woodland consists of a range of species, attracting woodland and garden birds, whilst the pond supports amphibians and invertebrate (especially butterfly) interest is developing in the meadow areas. In Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Plan habitat terms, the site would have once been a lowland wood pasture and remnants of this remain. The old trees alone make this a valuable wildlife site but often, woodland areas on the urban fringe suffer from issues linked with anti-social behavior. This plan highlights the value of the woodlands to biodiversity and sets out how it can be best managed to benefit people and wildlife. The site is a designated Local Nature Reserve and also dedicated as a Queen Elizabeth II Field by Fields in Trust.

The site is primarily an area for local people; however, it has strategic importance as a wildlife corridor/ stepping stone, it 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. It is noted in the Broxtowe Borough Council Green Infrastructure Strategy as a site of strategic importance.

The former brewery site on the eastern side is currently being redeveloped and scope exists to retain the value of this area as a green link to Kimberley Cutting Site of Special Scientific Interest, which is less than 200m from Hall om Wong.

### **2.3 Geology and Soils**

The 1:50 000 scale bedrock geology map shows the site situated on the edge of three bedrock geology types: (1.) Pennine Middle Coal Measures Formation - Mudstone, Siltstone And Sandstone, (2.) Cadeby Formation – Mudstone and, (3) Cadeby Formation - Dolostone.

In terms of Soilscape map descriptions <http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscales/about.cfm>, the site is within Soilscape 17: lowly permeable seasonally wet acid loamy and clayey soils. It is associated with seasonally wet pasture and woodland habitats. Land cover is associated with grassland, with forestry and some arable.



## **2.4 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 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.

## **2.5 Designations**

The site was declared as Hall Om Wong Open Space Local Nature Reserve in 2008. The declaration applies to 1.71ha of habitat and a map showing the LNR boundary is provided at Appendix 3.

There are several Local Wildlife Sites nearby, including several sections of the disused Kimberley Railway and one Site of Special Scientific Interest, Kimberley Railway Cutting SSSI, which is declared for its geological features.

## **2.6 Management Compartment Descriptions**

The site has been split into 4 compartments (see map at Appendix 4).

### **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 local people have installed nest boxes. There is evidence of young yew planting.

### **The Central Compartment**

This is bounded by the park area, private gardens and the woodland formerly owned by Hardy and Hanson’s Brewery. This area contains impressive mature, oak, ash, sycamore, field maple, scots pine, lime, cedar, wych elm and hawthorn. There are a large number of self-set sycamores particularly on the boundary with the park area. Ivy dominates the woodland floor.

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 therefore is often subject to vandalism.

### **The Western Compartment**

This compartment is bounded by the park and private gardens. This area is a maturing woodland plantation (circa 30-35 years old), comprising ash, field maple and Norway maple.

An interesting habitat and landscape feature is the small area of mature beech, horse-chestnut, and sycamore partly 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. A fence enclosure around it would provide a wildlife refuge and safeguard a feature of the former parkland.

### 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 and horse-chestnut. This woodland is more open in character with some understory plants which suggests it has had some management in recent years.

This area has the added interest of a historic dew pond near to Bank Cottage. This has been frequently seasonally dry during the last decade but in 2018 it was re-lined with clay and it retains water more reliably. It is hoped that wetland habitats around the pond will be able to develop.

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

### Eastwood Road and Western Boundary

Although outside of the LNR Boundary (so not highlighted on the compartment map), this area has been subject to enhancement in recent years. This comprises laying the roadside hedge. Sowing of native woodland edge mix along the hedgerow base has been very successful. A 2-3m unmown buffer is in place to allow flora to flower and set seed.

A small native woodland copse, approximately 280m<sup>2</sup> and located towards the south west access point, was planted in 2015/16. An annual wildflower meadow plot has been established along part of the southern boundary of the Western Compartment.

The result has been to improve habitat connectivity along the roadside hedge and, with the establishment of the new copse, a strengthened western boundary has been created.

## **PART 3: EVALUATION OF FEATURES**

### **3.1. The Northern Compartment**

This Compartment has an interesting mix of trees and plants already and needs minimal intervention. Access is poor and as there is no through route. The area has been recently fenced and a (locked) gate installed. 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 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 owners with boundaries, not just to this compartment but to the entire site, could help to identify potential members of a friends of group, as well as raising the profile of the site and reducing potentially damaging activities, such as well-intentioned planting of unsuitable and potentially invasive non-native species.

If under local authority control and space allows, a native hedgerow could be planted along the woodland boundary (either inside or outside the fence) along Ascot Road. Additionally, native spring woodland bulbs / flowers could be planted on the road verge. This would require mowing to cease until early summer.

The woodland itself particularly lends itself to installation of bird and bat boxes, which is a project the school could adopt in both this compartment and across the site.

### **3.2 The Central Compartment**

This is an interesting old woodland which has received minimal management for many years. The focus of work should be on thinning a proportion of small to medium specimens that are becoming dominant, such as any especially dense stands of sycamore, which will cast shade. Any mature trees selected for thinning need to be checked for potential bat roosts and any habitat enhancement works need to be timed to avoid disturbance in the nesting season. However, avoid selection of mature trees wherever possible, especially if they support features likely to be of value to wildlife, such as cracks, hollows, dead wood and loose bark.

Logs and brash can be left on site and secured as dead hedges/ stacks. Where possible, standing dead wood should be provided. This can be achieved by ring barking. Short stumps (circa 2m tall) can be retained near paths but larger standing dead wood needs to be positioned away from paths and boundaries. Any non-native shrubs present, such as snowberry, cherry laurel or garden escapes should be removed, to encourage native flora. This should be done within this compartment, where it has been a problem, and across the site as required.

The control of ivy needs careful consideration to balance its immense wildlife value with the need to develop a diverse woodland. The first step required is to identify any trees that have large quantities of ivy in the canopy and may be weakened by ivy or other underlying factors. Prior to any management of ivy in the canopy, any impacts on nesting birds and bats would need to be considered.

Any gaps created by the above management work could be replanted with canopy species (e.g. oak) or native shrubs, such as hawthorn, privet, field maple, holly and hazel.

Access is an issue for this area and some improvements are required east to west across the compartment, but a surfaced path has been recently installed north to south, from Ascot Avenue. To control access to people, bikes and dogs, no access areas may be established away from paths, using fencing and log/brash barriers.

As with all compartments there is a need to consider the interface with the open grassland area and, if possible, develop buffer zones to enhance both areas. For instance, the remnant hedgerow along the central path (south of the compartment to the play area) could be enhanced through shrub and wildflower planting. Also, the southern interface with the compartment and amenity grassland could be softened and enhanced, either through further shrub planting, allowing a rough grassland strip to establish, or by sowing wildflower meadow mix and adoption of an annual mowing regime.

### **3.3 The Western Compartment**

The plantation has reached a closed canopy stage and further thinning could be considered, if carried out sympathetically, to maintain the health of the woodland by diversifying age structure. This should concentrate on poorer specimens and non-native species. Subsequent planting of suitable trees, shrubs and ground flora, would be beneficial. Shrub species should include hazel, elder, field maple and holly. Once again, retention of standing and fallen dead wood is desirable and dead hedging could be used to create some undisturbed habitat/ wildlife refuges.

Of significance is the historic circular copse, which needs careful management to conserve and enhance this remnant landscape feature, which once formed part of a parkland landscape. The expertise of the council and partners need to be used to decide on the best treatment for the very old hawthorns bounding the copse. Thinning of adjacent trees might help reinstate this feature, to reduce competition. Supplementary fencing, perhaps using the estate hurdle style may also help to identify this area of the wood as a historic feature.

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.

### **3.4 The Southern Compartment**

This area needs work to manage and develop the understorey through bramble management and shrub planting. Although some understory exists, further planting with hazel, field maple and holly and woodland wildflowers would diversify woodland structure.

The potential to coppice some trees to increase insect interest needs consideration and shrub planting could be considered for the section adjacent to Eastwood Road. Where possible, any dead wood should be left in-situ as habitat piles and creation of standing deadwood (<2m) could be appropriate in safe locations. Cutting of bays within the brambles encroaching along the eastern edge of the grassland could be considered. However, not all bramble scrub should be removed as this provides a valuable wildlife resource itself, especially where dense stands establish. If this action is carried out, it should be done every 3-4 years on rotation and will help establish sheltered bays which will encourage invertebrates.

Whilst holding water well during 2019, which has proved much wetter than recent summers, water levels in the dew pond needs to be monitored. If establishment of aquatic /wetland vegetation is slow, this could be encouraged through planting of plug plants (e.g. purple loosestrife, native water-lily etc) and/ or by sowing an appropriate wetland mix on damp ground within the fenced enclosure. Creation of a log pile hibernacula near the pond would benefit amphibian populations.

Access via the existing stile needs consideration and changes made to improve accessibility. 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 isolated. Habitat and access issues should be discussed with the adjacent landowners.

### **3.5 Eastwood Road and Western Boundary**

The laying of the roadside hedge is scheduled for completion in early 2020. The successful wild flower sowing (hedgerow/ woodland edge mix) could be extended along the entire hedgerow. The wildflower strip needs to continue being maintained on an appropriate regime, which is a single cut in September.

Cutting of bays within the brambles encroaching along the western edge of the amenity grassland (boundary with Wentworth Court properties) could be considered. However, not all bramble scrub should be removed as this provides a valuable wildlife resource itself. If carried out, this should be scheduled every 3-4 years on rotation. The aim is to create sheltered bays, which will encourage invertebrates and wild flowers.

The annual wild flower area (cornfield mix) should continue to be scarified each year and re-sown, when required, early in the growing season if resources allow.

## **PART 4: DETAILED MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES**

### **4.1 Management Constraints**

- 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 of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

### **4.2 General management tasks**

Task/Operation	Partners	Year					Estimated Total Cost	Resource From
		20/ 21	21/ 22	22/ 23	23/ 24	24/ 25		
Health and safety assessment of trees and associated works	BBC	√	√	√	√	√	-	BBC Revenue ongoing
Develop and deliver access proposals, based on findings of access survey	BBC External funding	√	√				£5,000	BBC Officer time External funder
Deliver path/surfacing improvements	BBC	√	√				£15,000	External funder
Deliver seating improvements	BBC	√					£1,000	BBC Revenue
Improved interpretation and signage for habitat areas	BBC PCV				√	√	£3,000	BBC Revenue
Assess need and provide dog bins and seek to educate local dog owners	BBC	√		√		√	-	BBC Revenue

Undertake habitat and fauna (bat, bird and invertebrate) survey and monitoring	BBC NWT	√		√		√	-	BBC NWT Friends Of Group Notts Bat Group
Work to develop 'Friends of ' Group, consulting with nearby residents and town council	BBC	√	√	√			-	BBC officer time
Consultation with neighbours regarding woodland conservation/enhancement	BBC	√	√	√	√	√		BBC officer time
Erect bat and bird boxes	BBC PCV NWT Schools	√		√		√	£500 2 task days (to erect nest boxes)	BBC Revenue PCV Budget

#### **4.3.1 Northern Compartment**

Additional actions for this area are covered in 'General' Section

Task/Operation	Partners	Year					Estimated Total Cost	Resourced From
		20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25		
Contact school to investigate projects, including management and nest box scheme	BBC	√					-	BBC officer time
Investigate enhancing boundary with Ascot Road	BBC				√	√	£500 2 task days	BBC officer time BBC Revenue PCV Budget Friends Of Group

### **4.3.2 Central Compartment**

Additional actions for this area are covered in 'General' Section

Task/Operation	Partners	Year					Estimated Total Cost	Resourced From
		20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25		
Thin any dense stands of young trees, especially sycamore and ring bark large sycamore to provide standing deadwood	BBC PCV		√		√		1 task day/year	PCV Budget
Identify and remove test area. Continue ivy control in subsequent year, if appropriate	BBC PCT		√		√		1 task day/year	BBC Revenue PCV Budget
Identify restricted access areas and fence or install log/brush barriers to reduce disturbance	BBC PCV		√		√		200m total funding 6 task days	PCV Budget
Removal of any non-native trees and shrubs	BBC PCV Friends Of Group		√		√		1 task day/year	BBC Revenue PCV Budget Friends Of Group
Carry out replanting of canopy/ understory species, as required in any gaps created by management work	BBC PCV Friends Of Group		√		√		£100 1 task day/year	BBC Revenue PCV Budget Friends Of Group



Improve compartment boundary and strengthen the habitat corridor along the central path with shrub planting or ground flora establishment	BBC PCV Friends Of Group			√			£100 1 task day/ year	BBC Revenue PCV Budget Friends Of Group
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### **4.3.3 Western Compartment**

Additional actions for this area are covered in 'General' Section

Task/Operation	Partners	Year					Estimated Total Cost	Resourced From
		20/ 21	21/ 22	22/ 23	23/ 24	24/ 25		
Thin young saplings, coppice where appropriate	BBC PCV Friends Of Group	√		√			1 task day	PCV Budget BBC Revenue
Planting to improve structure (holly, hazel, hawthorn, privet and crab apple). Introduce woodland wildflowers	PCV Friends Of Group School			√		√	1 task day	PCV Budget
Restore copse by appropriate management of hawthorn, fencing and planting	BBC PCV Friends Of Group	√	√	√			Fence £5,000 planting hedge 2 task days	BBC PCV Budget External Funding
Identify restricted access areas and fence or install log/brush barriers to reduce disturbance	BBC PCV Friends Of Group	√		√			100m 4 task days	PCV Budget

**4.3.4 Southern Compartment**

Additional actions for this area are covered in 'General' Section

Task/Operation	Partners	Year					Estimated Total Cost	Resourced From
		20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25		
Coppice smaller trees to enhance insect populations and retain dead wood	BBC PCV			√		√	2 task days	PCV Budget
Control bramble as appropriate	BBC	√		√		√	-	BBC Revenue
Plant understory and woodland wildflowers	BBC Friends Of Group School			√		√	4 task days	BBC Revenue
Monitor puddle clay liner Consider wetland seeding, introducing aquatic plants Create log pile/hibernacula near pond	BBC PCV Friends Of Group School	√	√				£100	BBC Revenue PCV Budget
Cut bays into bramble along eastern edge to create sheltered bays for insects and wild flowers	BBC PCV	√				√	0.5 task day	BBC Revenue PCV Budget

**4.3.5 Eastwood Road and Western Boundary**

Additional actions for this area are covered in 'General' Section

Task/Operation	Partners	Year					Estimated Total Cost	Resourced From
		20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25		
Lay final section of Eastwood road hedge	BBC PCV	√					£5,000	BBC Revenue External funds

## Hall Om Wong Open Space LNR Management Plan

Sow hedgerow base with native hedgerow/ woodland edge mix	BBC PCV School Friends of Group	√	√				£100	BBC Revenue
Continue to maintain 3m cutting buffer zone along hedgerow. Review potential for further adjustment of cutting regimes. Maintain thereafter.	BBC	√	√	√	√	√	-	BBC Revenue
Cut bays into bramble along western edge to create sheltered bays for insects and wild flowers	BBC PCV	√				√	0.5 task day	BBC Revenue PCV Budget
If resources allow, continue maintaining the annual meadow plot	BBC	√	√	√	√	√		BBC Revenue
Consider extending LNR boundary to incorporate Eastwood Road hedgerow buffer and other habitats in the western part of the site.	BBC					√		BBC Officer time

## **SECTION 5. FUNDING, MONITORING AND DELIVERY OF OBJECTIVES**

### **5.1 Funding**

Not all the objectives can be achieved through existing arrangements with PCV or through Broxtowe Borough Council revenue. A 'Friends of' group may help with general management and maintenance, but any further access or path improvements, fencing and pond restoration work are significant capital items and additional funding should be sought.

### **5.2 Monitoring**

This is an essential element of the plan and again a '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, ideally by a Friends of Group.

The following elements are recommended for monitoring:

- Fixed-point photographic monitoring, which would be particularly valuable for assessing improvements to woodland structure (same date each winter).
- Vegetation survey every 2-3 years. Use Dafor scale.
- Birds, walked transect, using slimed down Common Bird Census methodology (3 visits March to June). Annual (winter) nest box checks.
- Butterfly, fixed transect route (monthly April to September).
- Bats, fixed transect with 'listening posts' (3 visits, April/ May, June/ July, August/ September).
- Amphibian pond survey in the spring. Visual (daytime visit) and torchlight survey between March and May. 4 visits.
- Record ad-hoc sightings throughout the year.

## **APPENDICES**

### Appendix 1

Location Plan

### Appendix 2

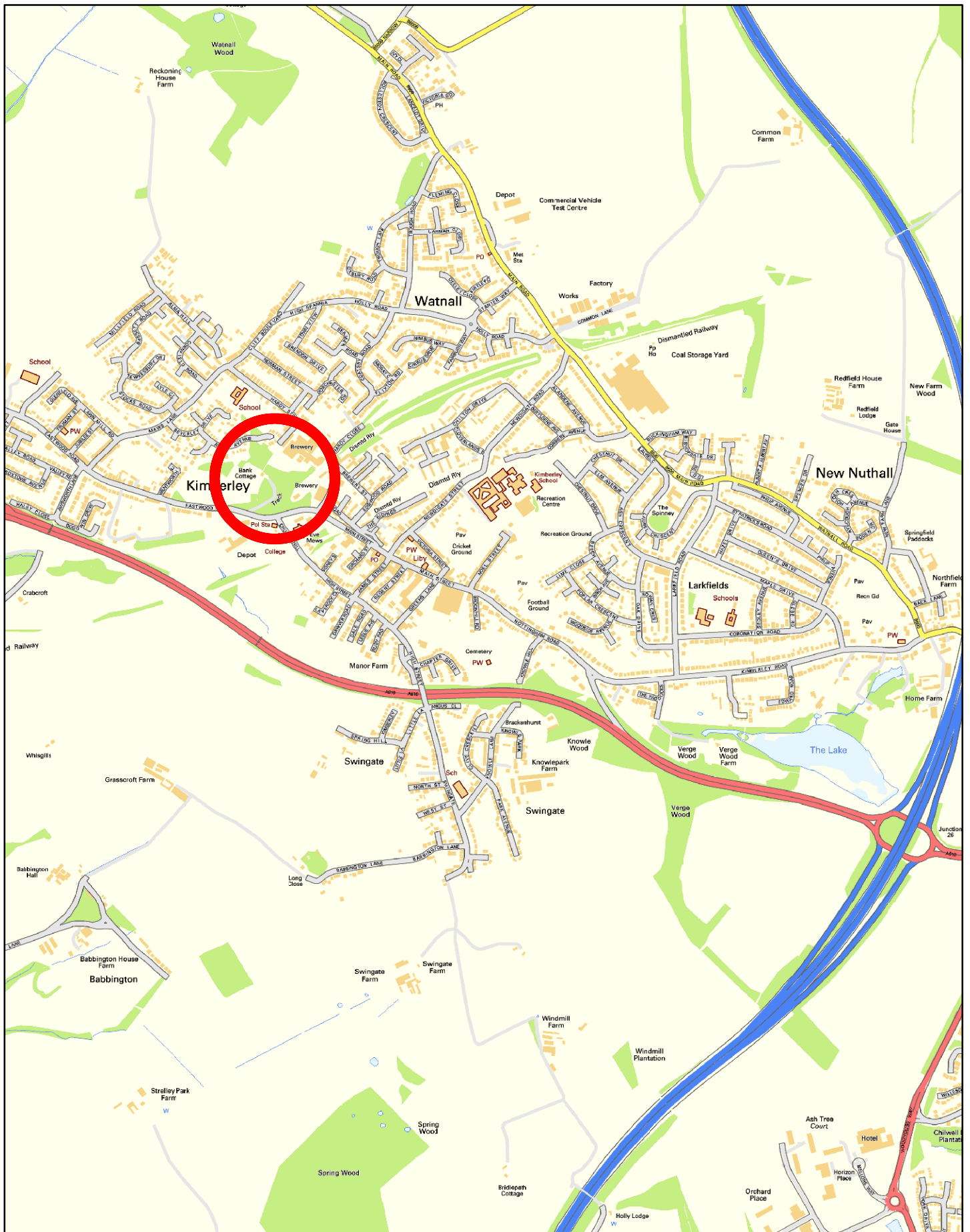
Access and Habitat Map

### Appendix 3

LNR Boundary

### Appendix 4

Wildlife Compartments



**Broxtowe  
Borough  
COUNCIL**

Deputy Chief Executives Department  
Kimberley Depot, Eastwood Road  
Kimberley, Nottingham NG16 2HX  
Tel:- 0115 9177777

**HALL OM WONG  
KIMBERLEY**

**LOCATION PLAN**

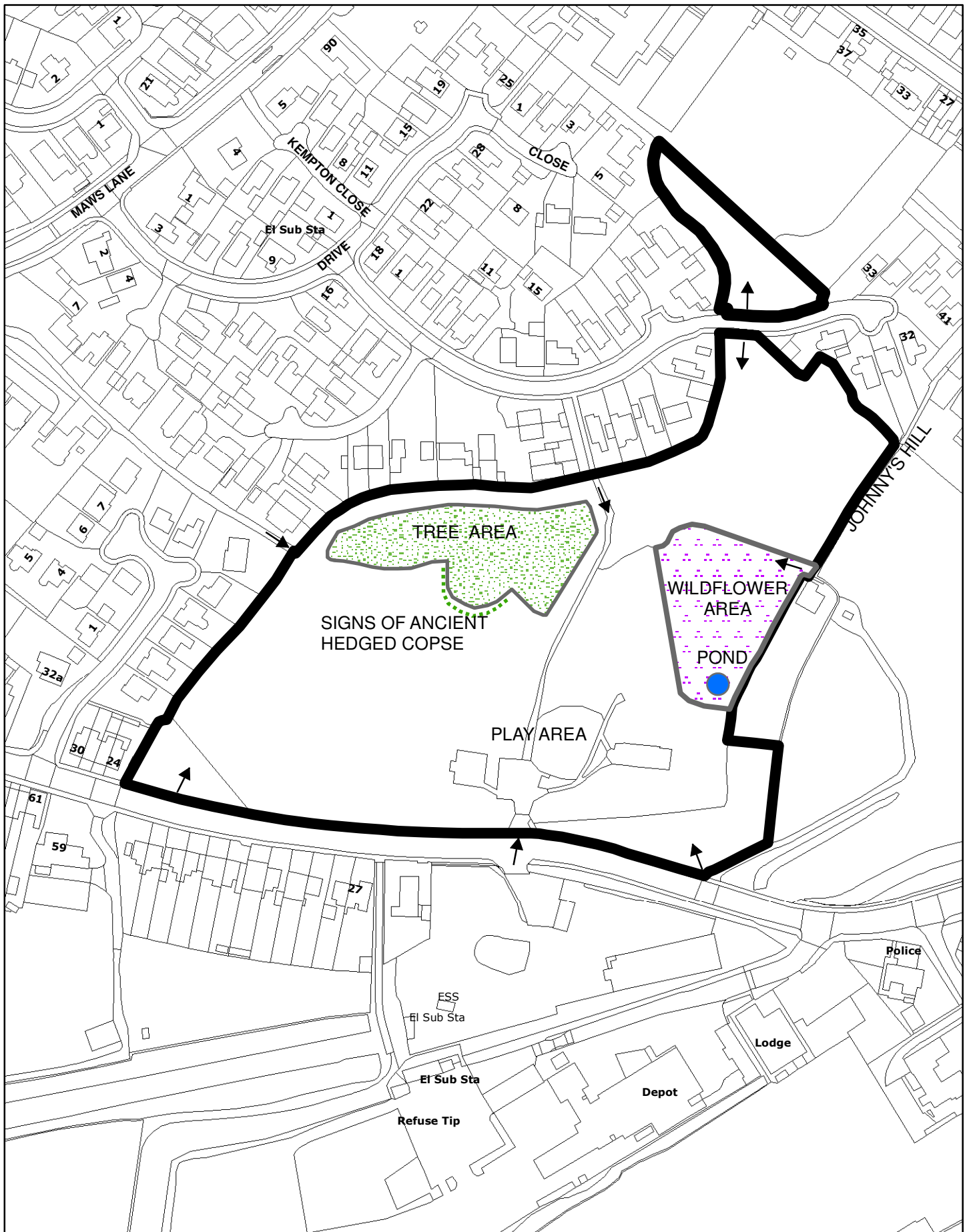


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**Broxtowe  
Borough  
COUNCIL**

Deputy Chief Executives Department  
Kimberley Depot, Eastwood Road  
Kimberley, Nottingham NG16 2HX  
Tel:- 0115 9177777

**HALL OM WONG  
KIMBERLEY**  
**EXISTING SITE PLAN**



ENVb-p/WJA/02

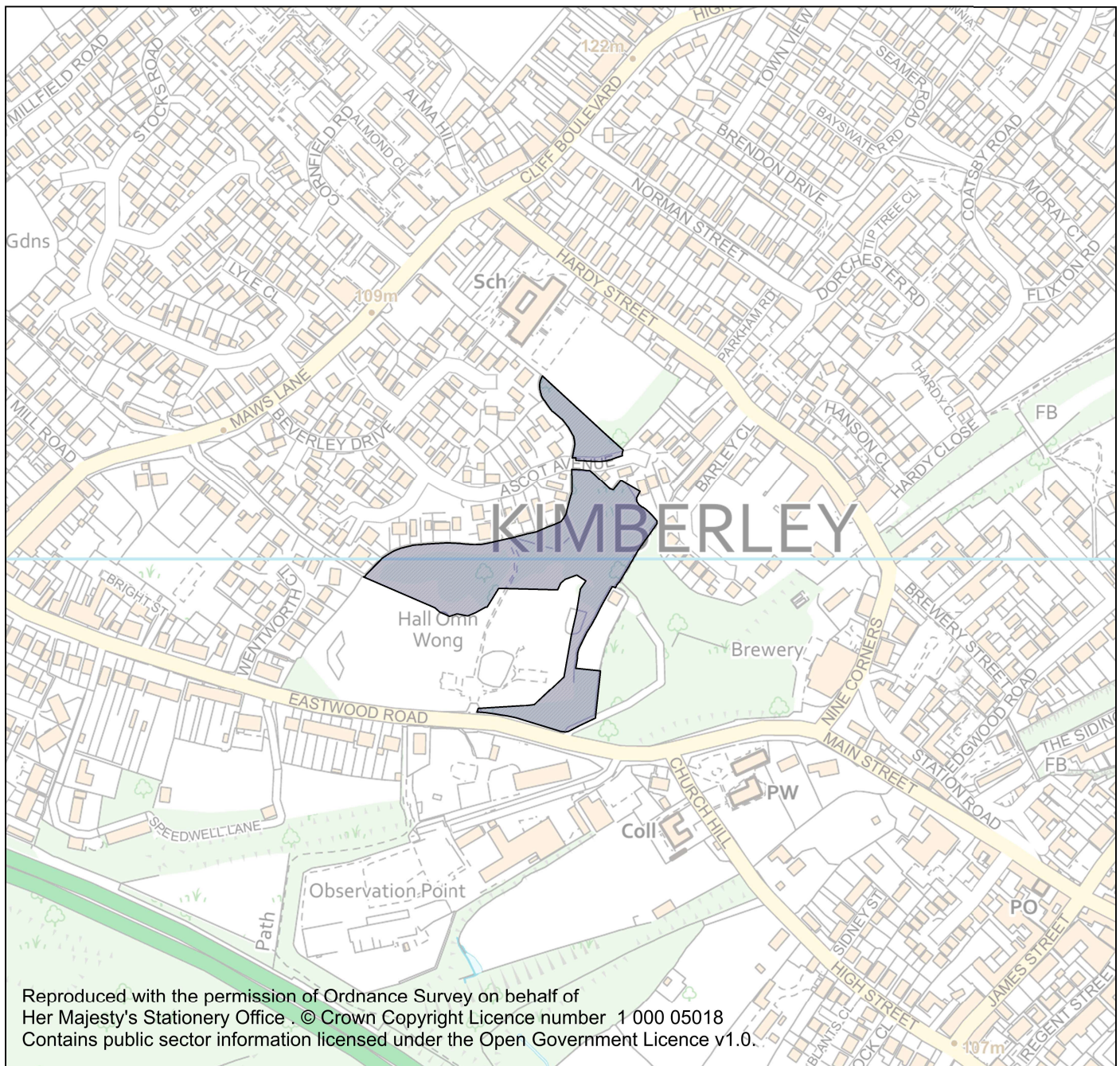
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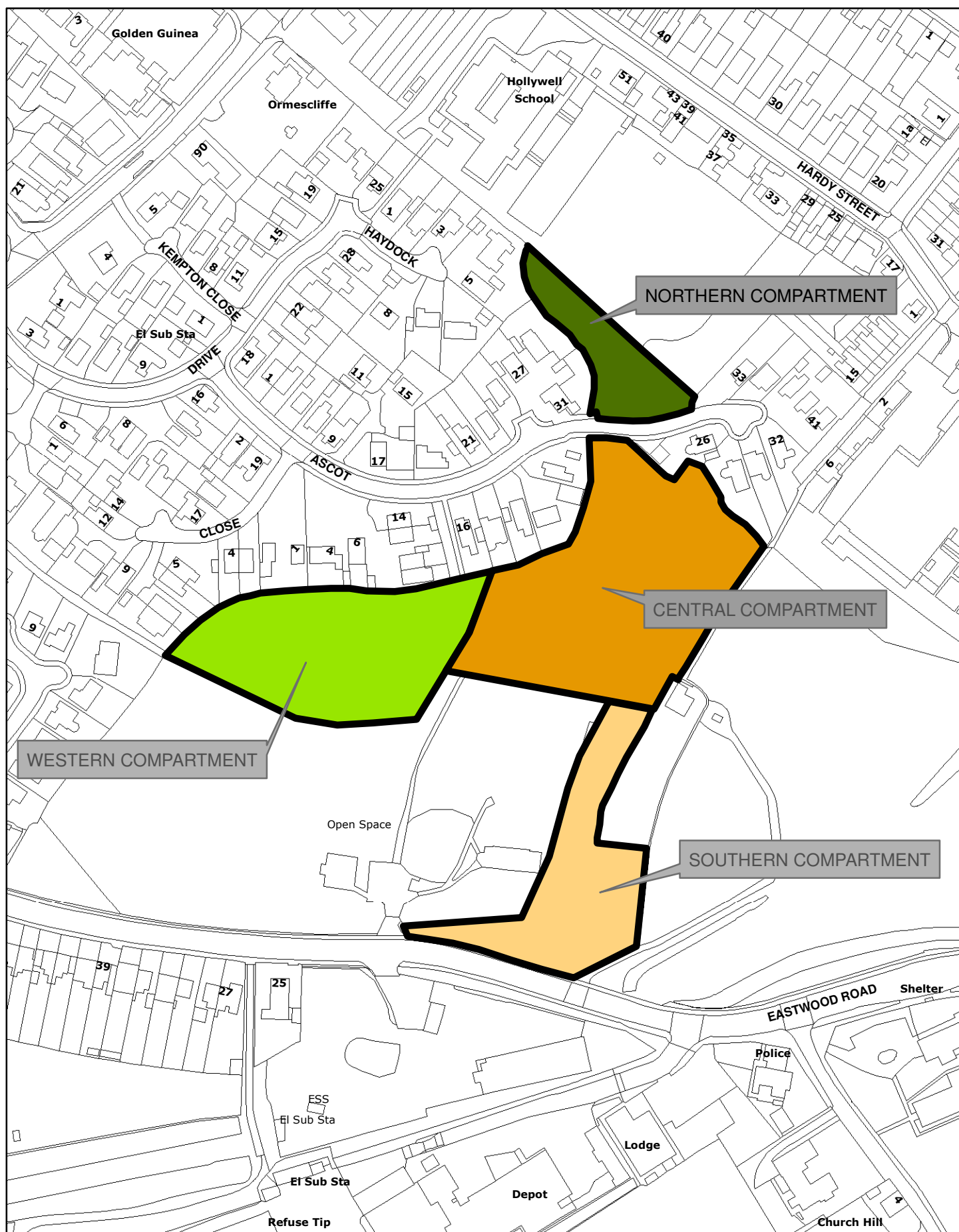
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# Appendix 3: Map Showing Hall Om Wong Park LNR Boundary







**Broxtowe  
Borough  
COUNCIL**

Deputy Chief Executives Department  
Kimberley Depot, Eastwood Road  
Kimberley, Nottingham NG16 2HX  
Tel:- 0115 9177777

**HALL OM WONG  
KIMBERLEY**

**WILDLIFE COMPARTMENTS**

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15/03/2017

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