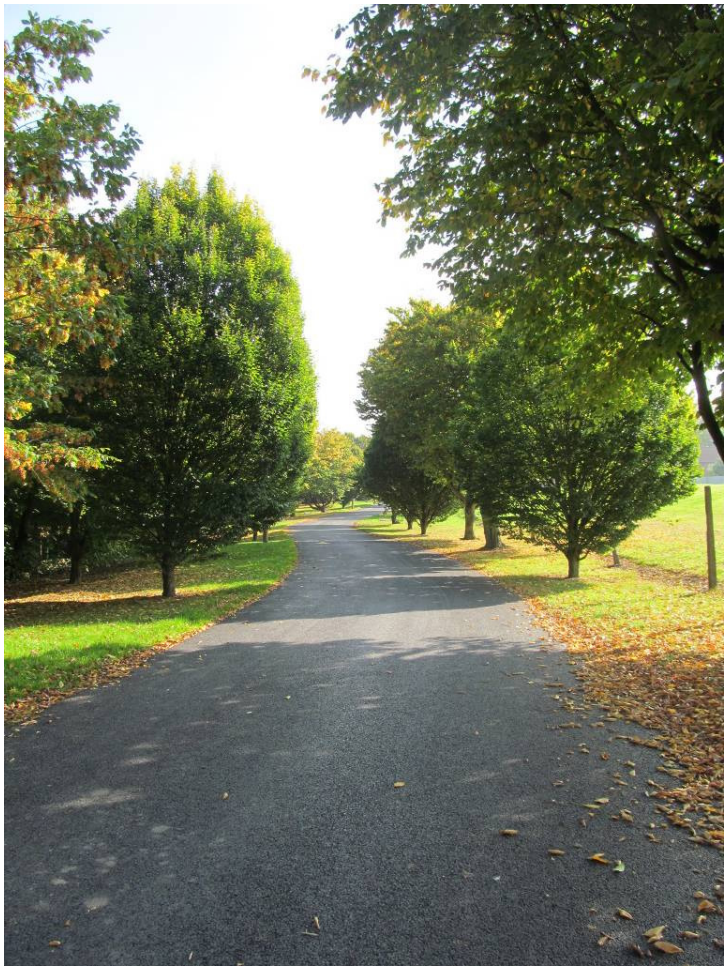

Hall Park, Eastwood
Management Plan
2015 – 2020

Prepared by Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust for Broxtowe Borough Council

Broxtowe Borough COUNCIL

THE wildlife TRUSTS
Nottinghamshire

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INTRODUCTION

Broxtowe Borough Council own approximately 10.4 ha of land at Hall Park. This comprises football pitches, grassland, woodland and riparian habitats. This plan relates to land owned by the Borough Council as shown in Appendix 1.

This management plan was produced by Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust on behalf of, and in partnership with Broxtowe Borough Council. The management proposals contained within this plan have been agreed in consultation with the Officers of Broxtowe Borough Council and members of the local community.

Local Nature Reserve (LNR) status will be sought for the area during the period of this plan. LNR status will protect the area's habitats and wildlife and increase people's awareness of their environment, issues relating to the site and its long term management. Our vision is for the park to be a place where students can learn about nature and local history and the local community can become involved in the management of their natural environment.

The implementation of this management plan will encourage greater species and habitat diversity and will provide opportunities to inform both local communities and schools about their natural heritage.

As part of the LNR designation process conservation management plans are prepared for potential LNRs. The purpose of the management plan is to outline the current status of the site, its value and how it will be improved through the implementation of the plan. The management plan aims to achieve the following:

- Maintain and enhance the habitat types and species present
- Combine habitat enhancement and management with education, recreation and access provision
- Encourage public understanding and awareness of issues relating to the site
- Conserve and interpret any archaeological and historical elements on the site
- Monitor effects of management on the wildlife of the site.

Public consultation and support for the designation of LNRs is an important element of the designation process. With this in mind we have tried to keep this management plan as engaging and easily understandable as possible as the involvement and support of the local community, through a Friends Group, offers a valuable resource in terms of future management of the site. Where local volunteering, enthusiasm and ideas for improving the site are developed, the management plan will be adjusted accordingly.

PART 1: SITE INFORMATION / DESCRIPTION

1. Conservation Status

1.1 Location

Hall Park is located immediately to the north of Eastwood in the Borough of Broxtowe, Nottinghamshire (Vice County 56). Mushroom Farm (also known as Meadowbank Way) Industrial Estate lies to the west, the Nether Green Brook forms the northern boundary of the park, the A608 (Mansfield Road) lies to the East and Eastwood Comprehensive School lies to the south.

The park can be accessed from two locations: Mansfield Road (Grid Reference SK 464 474) and off Coppice Drive (Grid Reference SK 459 471). A location map is provided at Appendix 1.

Natural Area and National Character Area (NCA) boundaries follow natural lines rather than administrative boundaries. Natural areas are based on characteristic wildlife and natural features whereas NCAs take into account landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity, cultural and economic activity. The park is within Natural Area 24, 'Coal Measures' and NCA 38, 'Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Yorkshire Coalfield'. Further details of these landscape types are available from Natural England. In terms of the Nottinghamshire County Council Countryside Appraisal, the site lies within the Coalfield Farmlands landscape type.

1.2 Map Coverage

Ordnance Survey Landranger map no.129 (1:50 000 scale) & Ordnance Survey Explorer map no. 260 (1:25 000 scale).

1.3 Owner

Hall Park is owned by Broxtowe Borough Council. A map showing the extent of the Borough Council owned land is provided at Appendix 1.

1.4 Size

The Broxtowe Borough Council owned land at Hall Park is approximately 10.4ha.

1.5 Soil and Geology

Soil – Soilscapes is a 1:250,000 scale, simplified soils dataset covering England and Wales. It was created from the more detailed National Soil Map (source Canfield University). The site lies within Soilscape 24 'Restored soils mostly from quarry and opencast spoil'. The main surface texture class is loamy, natural drainage type is variable, natural fertility is low to moderate. Characteristic semi-natural habitats associated with this Soilscape is grassland, arable and woodland.

Geology – The 1:50 000 scale bedrock geology description from the British Geological Survey is as follows:

> 'Pennine Middle Coal Measures Formation - Mudstone, Siltstone And Sandstone. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 309 to 312 million years ago in the Carboniferous Period. Local environment previously dominated by swamps, estuaries and deltas'.

The setting is described as 'Swamps, estuaries and deltas. These rocks were formed in marginal coastal plains with lakes and swamps periodically inundated by the sea; or estuaries and deltas, and shallow seas'.

1.6 Aspect, topography and altitude

The site lies approximately 70 metres above sea level at its lowest point by the Nether Green Brook (northern site boundary) with land rising to the south towards Eastwood, to approximately 80 metres above sea level.

There are three east to west orientated wooded banks. The first lies along the southern site boundary, forming a visual barrier between the playing fields and Eastwood Comprehensive School/ Coppice Drive. The second wooded bank lies to the west of the pavilion and the final wooded bank is along Nether Green Brook, forming the northern boundary of the site. The south western corner of the site, which supports a mini soccer pitch, is on higher ground than the adjacent sports field.

1.7 Surrounding land use

The town of Eastwood is located to the south and east. Eastwood Hall and associated parkland located to the north east. To the north west is an area of mainly open grassland, which was a former slurry lagoon for coal extraction. The area was capped between 1983-1991 by British Coal (source planning application submitted by Eden Park Developments and BGL Landfill Ltd for employment development). This land received outline planning approval for business use on 23ha in 2008.

The Nether Green Brook, which runs along the northern boundary of the site in a westerly direction, is an important wildlife corridor. To the east of Mansfield road the water course is called Beauvale Brook. The source of Beauvale Brook is within Felley Dumble and Park Forest, Annesley. From here it flows in a westerly direction through Moorgreen Reservoir and on through Hall Park and into the Erewash Canal.

1.8 Statutory Designations

There are no statutory designations on site. It is proposed to seek designation for Hall Park as a LNR in the near future. It is listed as a potential LNR in Table 30 of Broxtowe's Greenspaces Audit (2008).

LNR status applies to land of at least local wildlife or geological interest, the designation allows the local authority to protect the area and the people who are using the site responsibly through the creation and implementation of bye-laws which can include the ban on fires, unauthorised vehicles, air-gun use etc. LNR's are usually close to or within urban areas and provide considerable opportunities for introducing large numbers of people to sustainable enjoyment of natural open green spaces.

1.9 Non-statutory Designations

The Nether Green Brook is a Local Wildlife Site (Nottinghamshire Biological and Geological Record Centre reference 5/1108). It is described as 'a notable wetland community developed along a brook of zoological importance'.

Immediately to the north of the Brook and outside of the park boundary is another Local Wildlife Site. This is Felley Mill Pond (reference 2/18), 'A drying pool with woodland and damp grassland'.

2. Access

The main vehicular access point is off Mansfield Road, roughly opposite the junction with Greenhills Road. A designated parking area is situated near to the Pavilion. Pedestrian access is available from Mansfield Road and also Coppice Drive. There are no public rights of way through the park but woodland walks have been created. These paths are located along the northern, southern boundaries and through the woodland at the north west corner of the park.

3. Land use history

The entire footprint of Hall Park appears to comprise parkland associated with Eastwood Hall (Sandersons Map, 1835) and the park's name itself also seems to fit with this.

4. Site Description

4.1 Habitats

Hall Park comprises formal and informal open space areas. The formal areas include four senior football pitches, one mini soccer pitch, the pavilion building, a car park and two model car racing tracks with associated viewing and storage areas. In terms of JNCC's phase 1 habitat types (Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey) this part of the site comprises amenity grassland (J1.2) and buildings (J3.6).

Informal habitats (in Phase 1 terms) are as follows:

Woodland and scrub
This includes semi-mature broadleaved plantation (A12) and mixed plantation (A32). There are some local patches of dense/ continuous scrub (A21), e.g. patch of bramble near to the brook at the NW corner of the site.

Open water (G1)
This includes the pond to the west of the pavilion (although this was dry at the time of visit in July 2014).

Running water (G2)
This includes Nether Green Brook.

Semi improved grassland (B22)
A site visit in July 2014 revealed that the grassland area west of the pavilion supports a high proportion of forbs (herbs), which suggests semi-improved neutral grassland. It is however currently close mown (managed as amenity grassland) so many species could have been missed.

A phase 1 habitat map is included at Appendix 2. The site has been divided into compartments, based mainly on habitat type. Habitats within the compartments are described further in Part 2 Evaluation and Objectives. A compartment map is included at Appendix 3.

4.2 Fauna

In terms of fauna, the brook is known to support native white-clawed crayfish. The Crayfish of Nottinghamshire (Holditch and Jackson) describes positive records 'at Nethergreen Brook downstream of Moorgreen Reservoir and in Nethergreen Brook at Eastwood'.

Water vole has been recorded on the Nether Green Brook. Their presence was revealed by ecological consultancy surveys carried out in 2007 for the proposed business park site downstream and immediately to the north west of the park. They were found both on the brook and in water bodies on the capped landfill site. The County mammal database held by Nottinghamshire

Wildlife Trust contains older records (2000-01) of water vole for a location described as Nether Green Brook, Eastwood Hall.

Noctule and common pipistrelle bats have been recorded during a detector survey in the park in 2012 and two noctule bats were recorded flying over the field (pers comms Nottinghamshire Bat Group).

4.3 Factors Influencing Management

- Timescale – the need to do things gradually to ensure that the visual appeal of the site is not lost during management and restoration

- Safety - the entire site should be accessible at all times (where possible). In the interest of public safety, measures should be taken to ensure public safety whilst work is being carried out, including closing paths

- Community involvement – it is envisaged that local community and volunteer groups should be involved in the practical and strategic management of the site at every possible opportunity.

- Practical management – it is envisaged that any practical work required will be carried out by Broxtowe Borough Council, TCV and members of any future 'Friends of' Group.

- 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 & Countryside Act 1981 as amended.

- Legal obligations – Water voles are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) from killing or taking by certain prohibited methods. Their breeding and resting places are fully protected from damage, destruction or obstruction. It is also an offence to disturb them in these places.

- Legal obligations – White-clawed crayfish are protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Under this Act, it is an offence to intentionally take white-clawed crayfish from the wild; sell, or attempt to sell, any part of a white-clawed crayfish, alive or dead, or advertise them for sale.

- Legal obligations – mature trees identified for felling or pollarding that 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 & Countryside Act 1981, the CROW Act 2000 and The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010.

- Control non-native and alien plant species for example Japanese Knotweed, Himalayan Balsam etc.

- The need to accommodate and where possible/appropriate, enhance the amenity/recreational value of the site.

- Officer meetings regarding the management of the site are required to identify work programme and schedule of works. Meetings should involve Broxtowe Borough Council, Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, TCV, contractors and anyone else likely to carry out work on site.

- Ensure that; - all contractors / volunteers are covered by adequate insurance, meet Broxtowe Borough Council's child protection policy (Disclosure and Barring Service, DBS checks) and provide relevant PPE to all workers, all tools are well maintained and that risk assessments and method statements are produced.

- Ongoing funding for the management identified cannot be guaranteed for the full term of the plan. It may therefore be necessary for some tasks to be rolled over into subsequent years, to be completed when funding becomes available.

PART 2: EVALUATION & OBJECTIVES

5. Evaluation of site features (Ratcliffe's criteria)

For the purposes of assessment, only the semi-natural habitats are considered in this site features evaluation.

5.1 Size

In terms of size:

- The stretch of Nether Green Brook forming the northern boundary of the Broxtowe Borough Council owned part of the site is approximately 720 metres in length.
- The woodland/ plantations cover an area of approximately 4.8ha
- The semi-improved grassland and pond to the west of the pavilion cover approximately 0.7ha.

5.2 Diversity

The Nether Green Brook supports very limited in-channel and emergent vegetation. A few plants of wild angelica and marsh figwort were recorded, along with a small patch of fool's water-cress. Riparian vegetation is likely to be limited due to heavy tree shading.

The brook itself is fast flowing; in-channel habitats are varied and water quality appears to be good to fair. This is supported by Environment Agency historic river sampling data, which is available on their website. On a scale of A to E (very good to bad) for the last available year (2009) water chemistry in terms of ammonia is grade A and dissolved oxygen grade C. Biological quality (in terms of macro invertebrate diversity) is grade C.

The existence of a combined sewer/ storm overflow near the entrance and adjacent to the access road may have an effect on water quality in the brook. Further information is needed on the frequency of operation of this overflow. A drawing of this structure is provided at Appendix 4.

In general, the plantation woodlands have a poor level of structural diversity at canopy level. The woodlands support sparse shrub and ground flora layer.

5.3 Naturalness

The Nether Green Brook is a natural feature and appears to have been modified very little. This conclusion is based on the fact that it lies in more or less the same position on the oldest available maps (Sanderson's Map 1835). A dense tree cover has developed along certain stretches of the brook and it would now be desirable to open the tree canopy to improve the brook for fauna, particularly water vole

and white-clawed crayfish, both indicative species of natural and unpolluted water courses.

Due to the presence of some very mature trees, it is suspected that some of the trees within the park could be part of the original parkland cover. Tree planting has been carried out in the past, estimated at 15-20 years ago, with native species such as cherry, hawthorn, field maple, pedunculate oak, hornbeam and wild privet included in the mix.

The grassland west of the pavilion is natural in form. It has either escaped being reseeded or has naturally recolonised following past 'improvement'. Based on species present it is a natural plant community type.

5.4 Rarity

The Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Plan states that many of the county's rivers have been subject to modification for flood defence or land drainage purposes. The Nether Green Brook appears to have escaped this significant modification improvement, so we can class it as an uncommon example of a natural brook in a county context.

The woodland and adjacent plantations are fairly common habitat types in lowland Nottinghamshire but there are few remnants patches of semi-improved grassland left in the area.

5.5 Fragility

Rivers and streams are a Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Plan priority habitat. The BAP recognises that water courses provide important habitat for wildlife, but that the marginal and adjoining habitats, extending to the whole floodplain, are often of value and should be considered together. Therefore, it should be recognised that what happens upstream can have an influence on the stretch of the brook through Hall Park.

Numerous threats are recognised to rivers and stream in the Nottinghamshire habitat action plan. These include:

- Physical modification and management for drainage, flood prevention and navigation
- Abstraction of water leading to low flows, exacerbating pollution, and damaging habitats which need high water levels
- Diffuse or point source pollution (sewage, agricultural runoff and industrial pollutants)
- Use of adjoining land for intensive agriculture, urban or industrial use leading to habitat loss, pollution and reduced siltation rates.

- The spread of non indigenous species, which we have seen to a minor extent at present in the form of Himalayan Balsam at the western end of the brook.

Due to the path network and current relatively low intensity of use, the woodland and plantation are considered fairly robust. The semi-improved grassland, given its isolation and small patch size is considered very fragile.

5.6 Typicalness

The countryside appraisal describes the Nottinghamshire Farmlands area as giving rise to an undulating topography drained by numerous small rivers and streams that drain into the Erewash. In this context, the brook is fairly typical of this part of Nottinghamshire.

The development of woodland along the brook and the adjacent plantation are also typical in a district context but few examples remain of semi-improved grassland.

5.7 Position in an ecological/geographical unit

In relation to its ecological/ geographical position, the park's woodland/ plantations are connected to the Nether Green Brook. The watercourse links the site to the wider countryside to the east and the Erewash Canals and River Erewash to the west. The wildlife corridor to the east provides connectivity to Moorgreen Reservoir and an extensive area of ancient and semi-natural woodland further upstream known as High Park Wood and Park Forest, Annesley.

The park also serves a function in terms of providing an ecological corridor / stepping stone between urban habitats and the wider countryside, aiding floral and faunal migration.

5.8 Potential value

Although providing a resource for recreation, nature conservation and potential educational resource at present, with some slight changes to its management Hall Park could provide a resource of even higher value. It also has great potential for improvement to its adjoining water course, a Local Wildlife Site of importance for its wetland communities and fauna, including water vole and crayfish.

The majority of the brook alongside Hall Park is heavily shaded, which limits the establishment of riparian vegetation communities. This in turn leads to lack of cover for water vole, limiting suitability of the brook for this species. Similarity, lack of herbaceous vegetation could lead to erosion of river banks, making water turbid and resulting in habitat being less suitable for crayfish. Himalayan balsam, where present, will

form a monoculture and displaces native flora. This will also leave river banks susceptible to erosion when this plant dies back in the winter.

Therefore, the main potential gains in relation to increasing the value of the site for biodiversity is tree related work within the plantations and along the brook. Thinning/ selective felling would be useful to break up the age structure, improve structure and allow more light to penetrate, which is likely to benefit river-side vegetation and woodland ground flora.

The lack of structural diversity in the woodland adversely affects the ability of birds to use the woodland as a breeding and foraging site. Most bird species require substantial areas of native shrubs in which to nest and feed. Similarly, a lack of ground flora limits the ability of invertebrates, birds and small mammals to use the wood for feeding and breeding. If structural and floral diversity could be improved this would have a positive impact on the biodiversity value of the woodland.

Recreational and educational value could be enhanced through the provision of interpretation material identifying habitats, species and individual plants and animals of interest to engage the public in the positive management of the site.

The informal habitats on the site also have great potential as an educational resource for schools and local communities through volunteer days, guided walks, open days, and participation in survey training and subsequent surveys and educational events. There are opportunities for bird survey, pond dipping and riparian based activities.

5.9 Intrinsic appeal

The site has great intrinsic appeal as a valuable wildlife resource and also as a recreational facility for local people. People enjoy short walks along rivers and through woodlands, especially families and dog walkers.

The variety of wildlife that inhabits the woods also provides great intrinsic appeal. Most people will be aware of birds, especially dawn chorus in the spring but the park supports plenty of wildlife that is less obvious, such as water vole and crayfish.

6. Site objectives

The Main Objectives Are:

- Maintain and enhance the habitat types and species present
- Combine habitat enhancement and management with education, recreation and access provision
- Encourage public understanding and awareness of issues relating to the site
- Monitor effects of management on the wildlife on the site
- Seek to engage adjacent landowners to manage their sites sympathetically for wildlife with particular reference to Hall Park and the land to the north west.

Enhancing the site for local community and visitors

1. Create a safe environment for users of the site
2. Keep the site clear of litter and fly-tipping
3. Work with Nottinghamshire County Council to develop the footpath routes through the park as definitive rights of way and to create links onto the development land in the north west corner of the site.
4. Install interpretation materials informing of nature conservation interest and management practices
5. Raise external funding
6. Involve local communities in the management, use and care of the site.

Increase diversity of habitat occurring on site

7. Protect and enhance floral diversity of the brook through tree thinning and keeping non native species, such as Himalayan balsam in check
8. Protect and enhance the structural diversity of the woodland by thinning, selective tree removal and shrub layer planting and /or ground flora establishment through seeding or plug and bulb planting
9. Provide additional dead wood habitats within the woodlands, both standing and fallen, if safe to do so
10. Protect and enhance the floral diversity of the semi-improved neutral grassland by securing appropriate management
11. Consider establishment of additional areas of grassland / meadow in selected areas through relaxing of the mowing regime
12. Protect and enhance the pond to the west of the Pavillion.

Increase diversity of species able to use site

13. Erect 25 bird nesting and 25 bat roosting boxes
14. Investigate the potential for project(s) involving in-channel improvements to benefit white-clawed crayfish
15. Monitor effects of management and review management plan accordingly
16. Monitor quality of water entering the Nether Green Brook from the storm overflow and from the surface water sewer near the pavilion.

7. Compartment descriptions and management proposals

The following section describes and puts forward management recommendations each compartment. The compartment location map is included at Appendix 3.

Where relevant, it is identified in bold type next to the management proposal who is likely to action the project:

Broxtowe Borough Council **BBC**
Contractor
Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust **NWT**
The Conservation Volunteers **TCV**
Volunteer work party (possible future 'friends of' group or local school) **VWP**

Compartments 1 & 2

Description
Both compartments (considered together as they have similar prescriptions) comprise a heavily shaded section of the Nether Green Brook, with adjacent woodland and parkland.

The brook has high potential for water vole (which have occurred here in the past) and crayfish (note that records are available for the brook immediately upstream of the park; this survey was carried out in 2011 by Notts Crayfish group). It is considered that the brook along Hall Park is becoming too shaded to be desirable for water vole but an updated survey is required. In relation to crayfish it is felt that the section alongside Hall Park is too silty but that there is potential for improving habitat by encouraging faster flows (pers. comm. Chris Jackson). This could be achieved through introducing boulders or woody debris to narrow the channel. Any such project needs be carried out in consultation with the Environment Agency (EA) and Nottinghamshire County Council as lead local flood authority (LLFA).

Some of the stream side trees are mature so may have bat roost potential. These trees would need to be checked prior to any works being carried out.

A few individual plants of Himalayan balsam were spotted along the brook in both compartments (June and July 2014). It is understood that TCV has been involved in balsam control over the last 3 years and balsam pulling should continue along the brook to keep it under control and with the aim to eradicate from the site and wider catchment.

Trees along stream and in adjacent woodland/ parkland
Alder, Horse Chestnut, Hornbeam, Beech, Pedunculate Oak, Lime, London Plane, Goat/ Grey Willow, Ash, Elder, Elm

Herbaceous plants

Lords-and-Ladies, Cow Parsley, Enchanter's-nightshade, Hedge Woundwort, Wood Avens, Germander Speedwell, Red Campion, Herb-Robert, Cock's-foot, Hart's-tongue fern, Yarrow, Cleavers, Hogweed, Creeping Thistle, False Oat-grass, Garlic Mustard, Great Brome, Broad-leaved Willowherb, Himalayan Balsam

Riparian vegetation

Limited and includes Water Figwort, Yellow Iris, Fool's Water-cress, Wild Angelica

Photos

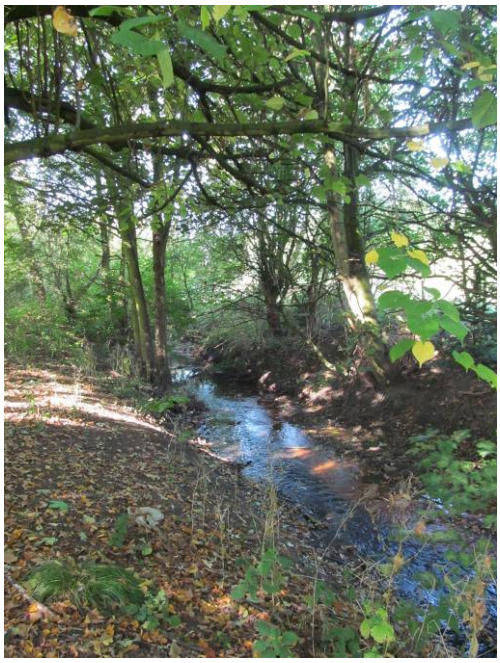

Photo 1:
Nether Green Brook

Photo 2:
Driveway and adjacent parkland

Management proposals

- Selective tree removal on southern bank and in adjacent woodland to reduce shade and encourage riparian vegetation and water vole **Contractor**
- A bat roost potential survey would need to be carried out ahead of any planned tree works **BBC/NWT**
- Identify the adjacent landowner and talk to them regarding a co-ordinated approach to tree works **BBC/NWT**
- Instigate project(s) in conjunction with the Lead Local Flood Authority and Environment Agency to improve channel flow characteristics to benefit target species, especially crayfish **BBC/NWT**
- Clean up any litter and other non natural debris that accumulates in the channel **BBC/TCV/VWP**
- Continue with Himalayan Balsam monitoring and control **TCV/VWP**.

Compartment 3

Description

Semi-improved grassland area with high herb to grass content.

As the grassland is closely mown it is possible that additional species are present but were missed. The high herb content suggests this area could be of some botanical interest.

Species list

Selfheal, Common Cat's-ear, Red Clover, Common Sorrel, White Clover, Ribwort Plantain, Dandelion, Creeping Buttercup, Daisy, Thyme-leaved Speedwell.

Photos

Photo 3: Semi-improved grassland, looking east towards the pavilion

Management proposals

- Investigate the potential for relaxing the mowing regime in selected areas, perhaps cut certain parts of this compartment on an annual basis. The arisings should be removed from site and dispose of sustainably (e.g. at a local composting facility). This needs to balanced with the requirement for use of compartment 3 for overspill car parking and for camping during model car club events **BBC/NWT**
- If it is possible to relaxing mowing, we would recommend a 1m margin along the path is regularly mown to keep the path from becoming overgrown and that interpretation is installed so users are aware this area is being managed for wildlife **BBC/NWT**
- Annual monitoring will be required to see how the meadow responds **NWT/VWP**

Compartment 4

Description

A pond which has been created approximately 15 years ago to accommodate the outfall from the football pitch drainage.

The pond was dry at the time of visit in July 2014 but shows some signs that it is seasonally wet (i.e. presence of rushes). It supported a wide range of common plants and was of some value to invertebrates (dragonflies and butterflies) in its present state.

Species list for dry pond basin

Soft Rush, Jointed Rush, Common Couch, Curled Dock, White Poplar (seedlings), Red Clover, Timothy, Tufted Hair-grass, Spear Thistle, Creeping Buttercup, American Willowherb, Cut-leaved Crane's-bill, Prickly Sow-thistle, Rough Meadow grass

Species list for adjacent bank

Great Willowherb, Creeping Thistle, Common Nettle, Scentless Mayweed, Redshank, Oil-seed Rape, Fat-hen, Mugwort, Knotgrass

Photos

Photo 4:
Seasonally wet pond, which forms part of the drainage system for the adjacent sports pitches

Management proposals

- Although seasonal in nature, it would be a biodiversity benefit if the pond could have some re-profiling work (and perhaps partial lining) to enable at least part of the pond to remain wet throughout the year (importantly through the spring/early summer) so that lifecycles of amphibians, aquatic invertebrates etc can be completed **BBC/Contractor/NWT**
- Installation of nearby seating could enable school groups to use the pond for educational purposes **BBC/Contractor**.
- If the pond could be designed to hold some permanent water it could be desirable to plant native aquatic species such as Water Mint, Water Forget-me-not etc. Any plant that it likely to grow vigorously and cause future management problems, e.g. Common Reed, Reed Canary-grass or Bulrush *Typha latifolia* should not be planted **BBC/NWT/VWP**.

Compartment 5

Description

The main part of this compartment comprises an area of maturing plantation, which has been planted in the last 15-20 years. On the western boundary of the compartment is an area of mature hawthorn on a slope which provides a good screen to the adjacent industrial estate. Generally, the compartment supports grass cover at ground level.

Tree species

Cherry, Hawthorn, Field Maple, Ash, Hornbeam, Oak, Wild Privet, Blackthorn

Photos

Photo 5:
Plantation woodland in Compartment 5

Management proposals

- Enhance the structural diversity of the woodland by thinning but leave the hawthorn at the western boundary to provide a visual barrier to the adjacent industrial estate **Contractor/TCV/VWP**
- Upon completion of thinning, consider if shrub layer and /or ground flora planting would be desirable **TCV/VWP**
- Provide dead wood habitats, both standing and fallen if safe to do so **TCV/VWP**
- Remove the old tree guards from the plantation area **TCV/VWP**
- General maintenance tasks to include removal of rubbish and maintenance of paths **BBC/VWP**.

Compartments 6, 7 & 8

Description

Semi-mature broadleaved and mixed woodland, possibly all of similar age and origin. As prescriptions are similar, they are considered together in this section.

Main tree species in compartment 6

Ash, Beech, Black-poplar, Downy Birch, Field Maple, Goat/ Grey Willow, Hawthorn, Hazel, Holly, Horse Chestnut, Italian Alder, Lime, Pedunculate Oak, Pine sp, Swedish Whitebeam

Main tree species in compartment 7

Ash, Leyland Cypress, Peduculate Oak, Rowan, Sycamore, White Poplar

Main tree species in compartment 8

Alder, Ash, Beech, Field Maple, Hazel, Holly, Hornbeam, Pedunculate Oak, Pine sp, Rowan, Silver Birch, Sycamore

Herbs recorded at northern boundary of compartment 8

Rosebay Willowherb, Common Comfrey, Wood Avens, Cow Parsley, Common Nettle, Bramble, Common Ragwort, Cleavers, Cock's-foot, False Oat-grass, White Dead-nettle

Photos

Photo 6:
Semi-mature mixed woodland at Compartment 6

Photo 7:
Steps at eastern end of Compartment 8

Management proposals

- Minimal management is likely to be required but monitoring of the woodland from a tree safety perspective is required **BBC**
- Selective thinning in compartment 8 to break up the single species lines of trees
- Retain dead logs from any tree works on site but cut in large sections so it does not get removed for fire wood **Contractor**.
- Recommend installation of bat and bird boxes (suggest a scheme is started with 25 of each) **BBC/NWT/VWP**.
- Leaflet drop residents if there is a problem with garden waste being tipped onto the edge of compartment 8 **BBC/VWP**

Compartment 9

Description

Amenity grassland (sports fields) with raised western section.

Management proposals

- Consider feasibility of relaxing mowing of the grass bank east of the mini soccer pitch to provide rank grassland habitat for invertebrates and increased habitat connectivity between woodland blocks (compartments 6 and 8). Install interpretation so users are aware this area is being managed for wildlife **BBC/ NWT**
- Consider relaxing mowing of the periphery of the entire compartment if sufficient space is available and if this does not conflict with the sports use of the compartment. This might become a problem if uncut vegetation becomes dominated by undesirable species, such as nettle or thistle **BBC/ NWT**

8: Five Year Work Programme 2015– 2019

	Years				
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Project:	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**
Maintain a safe environment for users of the site, especially in relation to tree safety in compartments 1,2 & 5–8 **BBC**					
Keep the site clear of litter and fly-tipping **BBC**					
Maintain mown grass path between compartment 2 and 5 **BBC**					
Work with Nottinghamshire County Council to develop the footpath routes through the park as definitive rights of way and to create links onto the development land in the north west corner of the site **BBC**					
Install interpretation materials and site signage **BBC/NWT**					
Raise external funding **BBC/NWT**					
Involve local communities in the management, use and care of the site **BBC/NWT**					
Enhance woodland and river habitat (compartments 1, 2) by implementing a programme of felling and coppicing **BBC/Contractor**					
Investigate potential for relaxing mowing (compartment 3 and periphery of football pitches in compartment 9) **BBC**					
Engage with local schools to discuss potential for using the site for environmental education **BBC/NWT**					
Restore and enhance the pond (compartment 4) **BBC/NWT/Contractor**					
Erect bird nesting and bat roosting boxes **BBC/NWT/VWP**					
Monitor effects of management and review management plan accordingly **NWT/VWP**					

9. Timing of Annual Work Programme

2015 - 2019	MONTH											
Project:	**APR**	**MAY**	**JUN**	**JUL**	**AUG**	**SEP**	**OCT**	**NOV**	**DEC**	**JAN**	**FEB**	**MAR**
Maintain a safe environment for users of the site, especially in relation to tree safety in compartments 1,2 & 5-8 **BBC**												
Keep the site clear of litter and fly-tipping **BBC**												
Maintain mown grass path between compartment 2 and 5 **BBC**												
Work with Nottinghamshire County Council to develop the footpath routes through the park as definitive rights of way and to create links onto the development land in the north west corner of the site **BBC**												
Install interpretation materials and site signage **BBC/NWT**												
Raise external funding **BBC/NWT**												
Involve local communities in the management, use and care of the site **BBC/NWT**												
Enhance woodland and river habitat (compartments 1, 2) by implementing a programme of felling and coppicing **BBC/Contractor**												
Investigate potential for relaxing mowing (compartment 3 and periphery of football pitches in compartment 9) **BBC**												
Engage with local schools to discuss potential for using the site for environmental education **BBC/NWT**												
Restore and enhance the pond (compartment 4) **BBC/NWT/Contractor**												

2015 - 2019	MONTH											
Project:	**APR**	**MAY**	**JUN**	**JUL**	**AUG**	**SEP**	**OCT**	**NOV**	**DEC**	**JAN**	**FEB**	**MAR**
Erect bird nesting and bat roosting boxes **BBC/NWT/VWP**												
Monitor effects of management and review management plan accordingly **NWT/VWP**												

10. References

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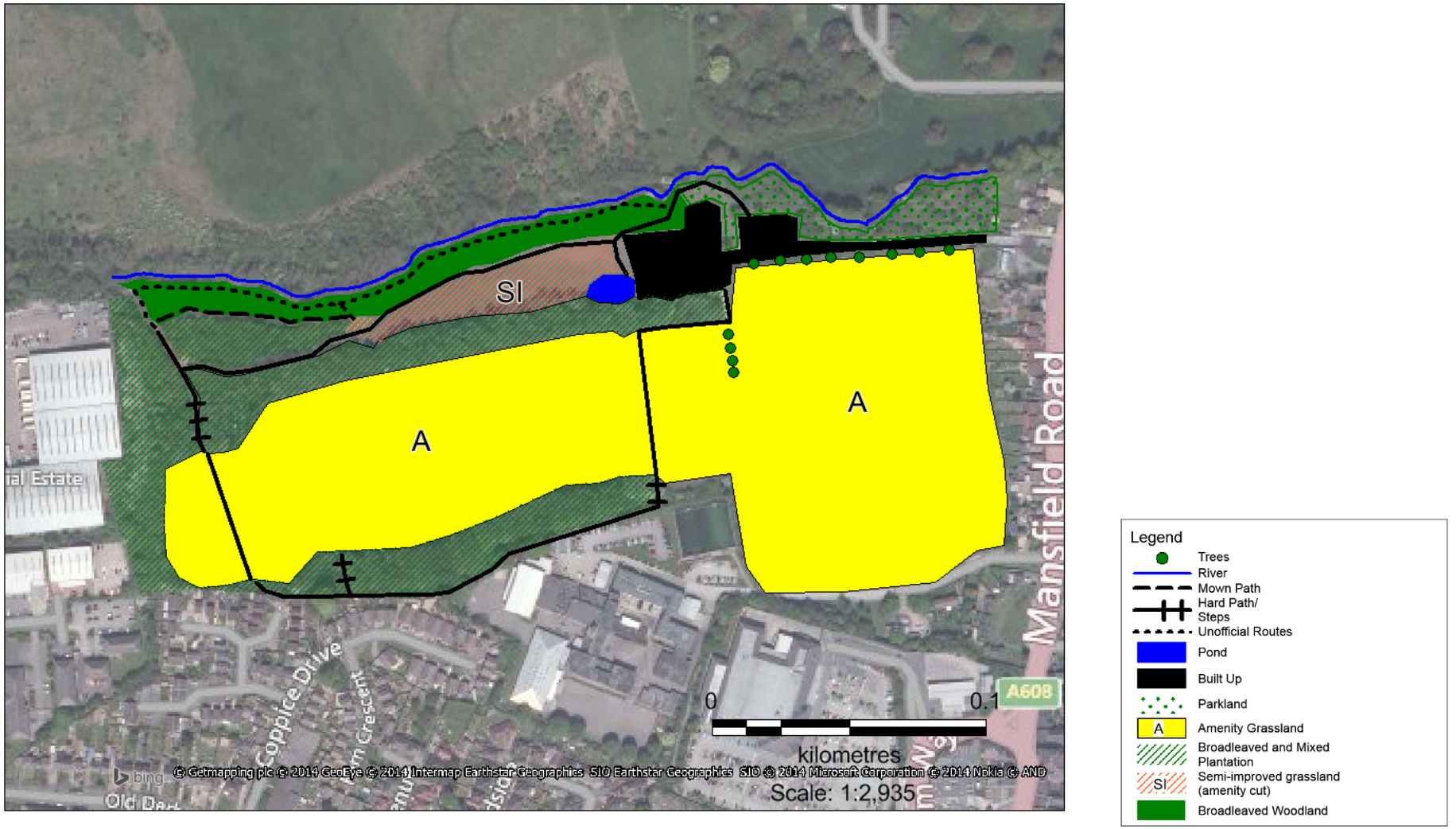
Note: all web links last accessed on 8th August 2014

11. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Location Map

Appendix 2 Habitat Map



Appendix 3 Compartment Map

Appendix 4 Combined Sewers/ Storm Overflow Drawing