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# EAST GOSCOTE WILDLIFE AUDIT

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**BIODIVERSITY FIRST**  
Finding Natural Solutions

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## SUMMARY

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This report provides details of the wildlife audit of East Goscote, Leicestershire by Dr Helen O'Brien (Biodiversity First). A desk study and collation of environmental evidence and data available in the public domain was undertaken to enable a better understanding of areas at risk, constraints, and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement within the parish.

East Goscote Parish Council provided a list of green spaces and other areas they wished to be surveyed. In addition, a desk study of gardens within the parish and land to the west of the railway line, that is, Beedles Lake Golf Course was undertaken to determine the connectivity of garden landcover and the presence of priority habitats and/or species present at the golf course.

A walkover survey and evaluation of habitats present using the standard UK Hab Preliminary Ecological Assessment to determine baseline conditions and potential opportunities for restoration and enhancement was undertaken during summer 2023. These areas have been mapped to help identify and prioritise opportunities present, and to recommend proposals for change that will achieve the overall aims of the project.

The assessment also considered the proximity of Beedles Lake Golf Course and the connectivity of several water courses within the parish to further identify opportunities or constraints to the green network.

Together the report and plans set out specific opportunities to enhance biodiversity largely through changes in management.

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 BACKGROUND

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East Goscote is a modern, medium-sized village (population 2,894 Census 2021) and civil parish in the Borough of Charnwood, Leicestershire.

Planning and groundwork construction of the Royal Ordnance Factory no 10 Queniborough began in Late 1940, and it was completed on September 30<sup>th</sup> 1942. The factory was in production for around three years. Around May 1945 the factory ceased production and a smaller northeastern triangle bounded by Melton Rd, Broome Lane and Broome Ave became Royal Air force Depot no 78 until its closure in the late 1960s.

The main factory complex was left to decay until Jelson Ltd bought the land and secured planning permission for a self-contained village which was largely completed by 1969/70. A lot of concrete structures were demolished and bulldozed into a sand and gravel quarry which is now the site of the Jubilee Playing Field.

The village, therefore, has a lot of difficult areas for planting and tree selection and planting location is complicated by this.

The village has large areas of open space which form the focus of the study. Most notably, the Mound is located within Jubilee Playing Fields (opened in 1977 as part of the Queen's Silver Jubilee celebrations) under which two large shell storage bunkers are hidden, having been earthed over and landscaped. Land to the north of the playing fields and adjacent to the railway line was previously a railway station to transport munitions and local passengers. The railway line was decommissioned after the closure of the factory and is now a popular site to walk dogs (known locally as the Dog Walk).

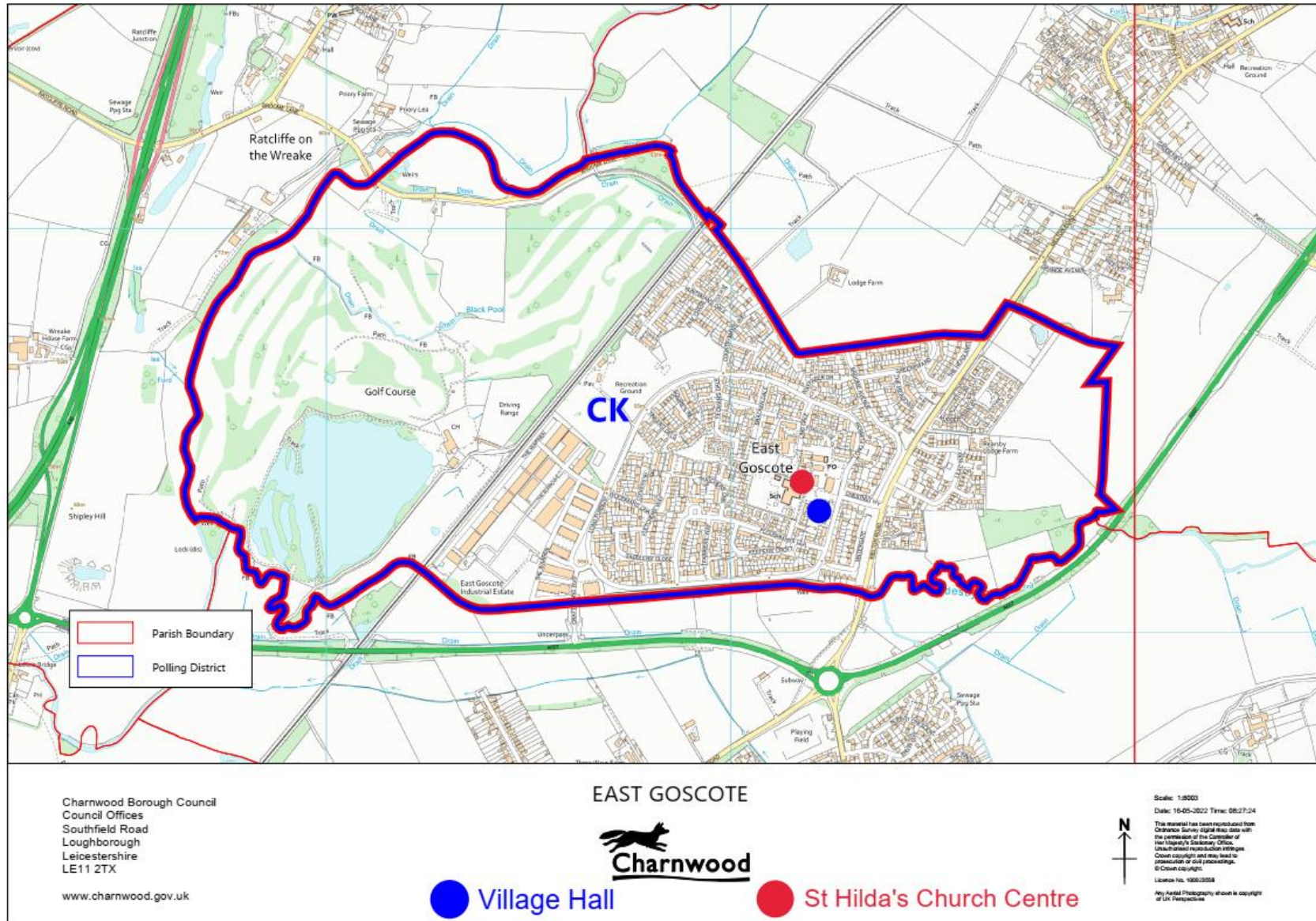
East Goscote is located within the Soar catchment. The River Wreake forms the west boundary adjacent to the Golf Course and the straightened Gaddesby/Queniborough Brook forms the southern boundary of the village.

The plan shows the central part of the village encircled by Long Furrow and a series of open spaces that connects several smaller housing blocks running west to east through this central area. These have collectively been called The Wynd, but include Weaver's Wynd, Tinker's Dell, Minstrel's Walk, Stroller's Way and Mercer's Way. These and other areas are described separately within the report.

Figure 1.1 shows the extent of East Goscote Parish with Beedles Lake Golf Course forming a large area of open space to the west, separated from the main village (housing and industrial units) by the Birmingham to Peterborough railway line. The more recent phases of housing development are to the east of the village, separated by Melton Road. Redrow Homes have received planning permission and a major development of residential properties that will be constructed on land adjacent to the east boundary by Rearsby Lodge Farm in the next five years.

The new housing to the east of Melton Road has several areas of open space and these are also described in section three.

Figure 1.1: Plan of East Goscote Parish Boundary (Charnwood Borough Council)



## 1.2 ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

A desk-based study of Environmental factors for the parish of East Goscote was conducted to inform on local conditions, constraints, and opportunities that may be present within the parish. Table 1.2 shows details of the study.

**Table 1.2: East Goscote Environmental Factors**

	Type	Description
<b>Designated Sites</b>	SSSIs	None
	Local Nature Reserves	None
	Local Wildlife Sites	River Wreake - west boundary adjacent to Beedles Lake GC
<b>Priority Habitats (NE)</b>	Open Mosaic Habitat on previously developed Land	The Dog Walk
	Deciduous Woodland - GS9 and 10 eligibility for CS	Beedles Lake
	Deciduous Woodland - GS9 and 10 eligibility for CS	SE of Village
<b>Historic</b>	Parks and Gardens	None
	Scheduled Monuments	None
	Ancient Woodland	None
<b>National Character Area</b>	Leicestershire & Nottinghamshire Wolds	Central part of parish
	High Leicestershire	East part of parish
	Trent Valley Washlands	West part of parish (Beedles Lake)
<b>Environmental Grants</b>	Countryside Stewardship	None
	Environmental Stewardship	None
<b>Priorities for Grants</b>	Water Quality Areas - medium priority	All
	Phosphate Issues - medium priority	All
	Woodland - Water Quality - lower spatial priority	Beedles Lake GC and woodland to SE of village
	Woodland - Flood risk - high spatial priority	Adjacent to Wreake and Gaddesby Brook
<b>Priority Species Targets</b>	Lapwing	All
	Farm Wildlife Package Areas	All
	Willowtit	All - Woodland
<b>Water</b>	Wreake Catchment	All
	WFD Water Body GB104028047550	Wreake from Langham Brook to Soar
	WFD Water Body GB104028047450	Queniborough Brook Catchment
	Nitrate Vulnerable Zones	NVZ 2017 Source Protected - All
	Flood Zone 3 - high probability of flooding from rivers	South and east of village, Beedles Lake GC
	Groundwater Vulnerability Map	East Goscote village - High
		Beedles Lake GC - Medium-High
<b>Soils</b>	FREELY DRAINING SLIGHTLY ACID LOAMY SOILS	NEUTRAL AND ACID PASTURES AND DECIDUOUS WOODLANDS
	LOAMY AND CLAYEY FLOODPLAIN SOILS WITH NATURALLY HIGH GROUNDWATER	WET FLOOD MEADOWS AND PASTURE WITH WET CARR WOODLANDS
	SLIGHTLY ACID LOAMY AND CLAYEY SOILS WITH IMPEDED DRAINAGE	WIDE RANGE OF PASTURE AND GENERALLY BROADLEAVED AND MIXED WOODLAND TYPES



## 2.0 SURVEY

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### 2.1 SITE SURVEY METHODOLOGY

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Walkover surveys were undertaken by Biodiversity First (Dr Helen O'Brien MCIEEM) during Summer 2023. The survey methodology followed Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) guidelines (JNCC 2010) to determine a baseline of habitats present and their condition based on plant species present. These habitat types have been digitized and mapped.

Aerial/satellite imagery of the surrounding areas were also assessed to determine the extent of major habitat types. These were further checked against base maps to help accurately map and later digitize plans.

Figure 2.1 shows a plan of main habitats and the plan of East Goscote. The village and surrounding land has five UK priority habitats (see Table 2.1). These types of habitats are of principle importance for the purpose of conserving biodiversity under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006. The habitats are listed in both the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) and the local Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland BAP (2016-2026).

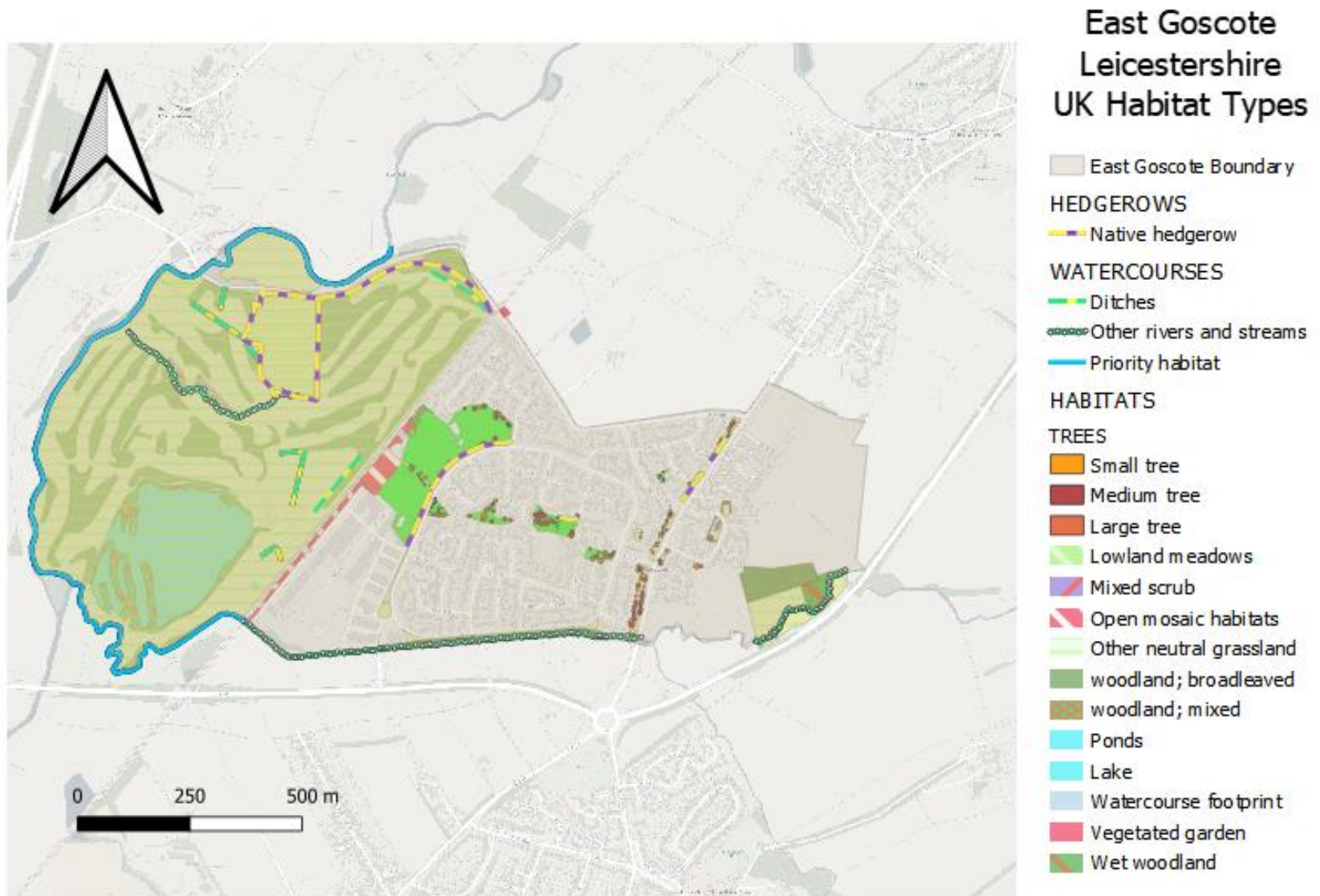
**Table 2.1: UK Hab Priority Habitats**

Number	UK Hab Priority Habitat	Description
1	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	Mixed native broadleaf woodland
2	Hedgerows	Hedgerows of local value
3	Eutrophic standing water	Nutrient-rich neutral ponds and water bodies
4	Neutral grassland	Species-rich grassland
5	Open mosaic habitat	Mosaic of vegetation types on previously developed land

Section 40 of the (NERC) Act 2006 (updated in the Environment Act 2021) places a duty on every **public authority** to consider (have regard to) biodiversity. This duty is designed to encourage effective management to enhance biodiversity in the wider environment and includes sites and species of local importance.

In essence, the duty places an obligation on public authorities, including local authorities and parish councils, to help halt the loss of biodiversity within their jurisdiction, and where possible, enhance it. The duty includes habitats and species outside sites designated for their nature conservation importance.

Figure 2.1: Main habitat types at East Goscote



## 3.0 SITE EVALUATION

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The surveys were completed at the optimum time of year when most plants can be identified and full access around the sites was available. Although a reasonable assessment of habitats present can be made during a single walkover survey, seasonal variations are not observed. The plant species noted are based on a single site visit and all areas were accessible during the survey.

The desk study used available records and historical data from the local area (2km radius of each site) and were considered a useful guide to supplement the site visits. Absence of records, however, does not reflect absence of species.

Appendix 1 lists the main vegetation types and species noted during the surveys for each site. The species lists are not exhaustive but provide a good indicator of the status of each site and their habitats. Careful consideration and typology were allocated where possible, but where this lacked definition (particularly on smaller sites), habitat types were separated out and further detailed in the site description.

Appendix 2 provides a plan of each site referred in Section 3.

### 3.1 JUBILEE PLAYING FIELDS

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Central Grid Reference: SK637135

Date of Survey: 04/07/2023

Current Management: Sports and recreation areas mown 15 times a year.

UK Habitat Type: Grassland – modified.

Description: This is a very popular park for the local community and is well used as a sports and recreation area with general use by the wider community for dog walking and general leisure. The site has been seeded with a sports-mix of grasses to withstand wear and tear. It is marked out for use which include football pitches. It is heavily grazed by Rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) with frequent latrines observed on pitch lines. The current management regime for these areas is likely to continue and there are limited opportunities for biodiversity enhancement.

The playing fields do, however, provide an important area of green space because of its size, location and proximity to other areas of more biodiverse value. The two large sports areas are separated by a tree-lined driveway that provides access from Long Furrow to the two buildings currently used as The Sports Pavilion, and The Scout Hut.

The west boundary is separated from industrial units by a small broad-leaved woodland. This is not within the management of the Parish council but does provide a visual barrier to the units and has several mature trees that support biodiversity. The woodland is mainly inaccessible except for a desire line path that links the units off The Warren to the playing fields. See list of species in Appendix 1. A continuous dense scrub boundary of Hawthorn and Blackthorn links to the brownfield site detailed in Section 3.1.3 and the main railway line. Other areas within Jubilee Playing Fields are described below.

### 3.1.1 THE MOUND

Central Grid Reference: SK638137

Date of Survey: 04/07/2023

Current Management: Top mown once sides mown once or twice – all arisings left in-situ

UK Habitat Type: Grassland – modified.

Description: The Mound is a man-made grassy hill (that conceals a WWII munitions storage facility) of nutrient-rich grassland, which is reflected by the lush, broad-leaved grass species that predominate on its top. It is generally species-poor with rank grasses. The sides of the Mound are banked at a gradient towards the playing fields and Countryman’s Way and, in places support ruderal species such as Creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), Dock species (*Rumex sp*) and Common nettle (*Urtica dioica*) along with Cow parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*) and Creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*) e.g., adjacent to the play area. Horse radish (*Armoracia rusticana*) is present and locally frequent on the west slopes.

Arisings were noted as widespread and formed mulch in places where the mower may have deposited cuttings, swamping vegetation beneath and contributing to further nutrient enrichment.

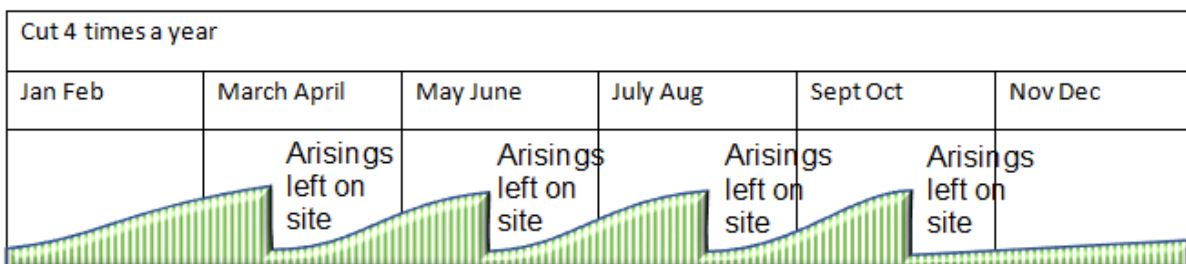
The site has been set up as a Wild Place on Nature Spot to encourage interest in recording wildlife in this easily accessible open space. Plant species have been noted (currently 20 species records) all of which are common and indicators of high nutrient enrichment.

Evaluation: The site is a relatively large area of open space (1.2 ha) and the gradients on the banks of the Mound may cause limitations on the types of machinery used to maintain the site.

However, the current management regime favours the accumulation of nutrients which support rank and invasive species which could cause a build-up of green waste and difficulties in managing the site in the future. Tall, ruderal vegetation may also hide the site topography making it more difficult to manage the slopes as well as impacting on its visual amenity and historic importance in its local setting.

Recommendations:

- **Cut and Lift** on The Mound (top) to reduce grass vigour by cutting twice a year (preferably early spring and autumn) and remove arisings. This will remove dead thatch and allow plants to grow in spring. Cutting again in autumn will remove the summer growth. Cuts should be made when the weather conditions are dry which will reduce the stress on machinery and weight of green waste off site for disposal. Scarify and sow with Yellow rattle to reduce vigour and open-up sward.
- **Flowering lawn** on the banks of The Mound seed with a perennial native wildflower seed mix that will withstand cutting (e.g., rosette species or low-growing species such as Self-heal, Daisy, Clovers or will tolerate more nutrient-rich fertile conditions e.g. Ox-eye daisy). **Increase the number of cuts from two to four-six times** to reduce nutrient levels, increase diversity and avoid build-up of mulch.



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### 3.1.2 JUBILEE PLAYING FIELDS HEDGEROW

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Central Grid Reference: SK637135

Date of Survey: 04/07/2023

Current Management: Cut/flailed annually.

UK Habitat Type: Hedgerow – intact, species poor with standards

Description: A hedgerow with tree standards runs along the east boundary of Jubilee Playing Fields adjacent to Long Furrow. It is largely intact with a gap of approximately 6m at the mid-section to allow vehicle access into the park. Several other entrances provide pedestrian access through gateways into the park from pedestrian crossings on Long Furrow.

The tree standards are spaced at ~5m intervals in the southern section of hedgerow and much less evenly spaced on the north section. The trees are mostly Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) or sub-species with occasional Field maple (*Acer campestre*) and Canadian maple (*Acer saccharum*). They are young mature trees, and most are in good health. Most of the trees have individual metal tags which are not indicative of Tree Preservation Orders (TPO) but are management tags placed by Charnwood Borough Council (*pers comm* East Goscote PC). Trees in the north section have failed and died leaving significant gaps between some trees.

The hedgerow itself is mainly Common hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) with Field maple (*Acer campestre*) locally frequent, Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) occasional and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) infrequent. Ivy (*Hedera helix*) is also intertwined in some parts of the hedgerow. The hedgerow is currently managed as an annual flail to maintain a height of between 1.5 – 1.8m. There are some signs of damage to hedgerow shrubs (scarring and broken limbs) along where the density of shrubs is lower and a more open structure developing.

The grass verge adjacent to Long Furrow is mown frequently and up to the hedgerow bottom. On the west side within the playing fields, there are two areas where mowing has been relaxed and longer grasses allowed to grow. These are located either side of the entrance where small areas have been sown with wildflower seed, and a section to the north adjacent to the Mound recently planted with young trees (described in section 3.1.5). The remainder of the grass is cut to ~0.3m from the hedgerow bottom leaving a small area of grasses and plants to grow.

Evaluation: The hedgerow provides a boundary to the playing fields and barrier for vehicle and pedestrian access directly onto the park. This is an important health and safety feature. It also provides a visual barrier for people within the park by separating the green space from the urban housing area.

The hedgerow has some biodiversity value, providing nesting and roosting sites for birds such as Blackbird (*Turdus merula*), Blue tits (*Cyanistes caeruleus*) and Hedge sparrows (*Passer montanus*) observed during the survey. It is also likely to support small mammals and amphibians such as Common toad (*Bufo bufo*) - also found during the guided walk in September 2023.

Recommendations:

- Continue mowing regime on grass verge and on the side of the hedge facing onto the road in late winter 2023/24 and subsequent years to avoid bird nesting season - Jan/Feb is the best time.
- Change the hedgerow cut from an annual cut to cutting once every two years or **preferably once every three years**.
- Increase the height and the width (on playing field side) by cutting around **10cm higher and wider** than the previous cut. This will allow the hedge to grow up and out incrementally.

- Continue this regime allowing the hedge to bush-up and become denser by slowly increasing the hedgerow height until it reaches **2m maximum and a width of up to 1.5 m wide**. This will maximise its value for biodiversity.
- Retain all tree standards wherever possible, but if in poor health and gaps have occurred - seek to replace at the planted distance of ~5m by allowing good specimens in hedgerow to grow up or to re-place trees in gaps arising from failure. (Note, as cutting regime is relaxed, fewer trees should fail).
- Manage the hedge to create an A-shape (broader and denser at the bottom and cut at an angle towards the top on each side, but not pointed) - this will allow greater light to the hedge bottom and stop snow from damaging branches by making it easier to fall off.
- The base of the hedge should remain un-cut at approximately 0.5m and over time increased to **1.0 to 1.5 m** and grass allowed to grow taller, but not encroach onto playing fields where sports pitches are laid out or spectators likely to stand. This could be cut back to the 0.5m margin in late summer/early autumn in alternate years - to stop scrub encroachment. This management will provide added protection to the hedge, and habitat for invertebrates and other wildlife to use at different life cycles. **Note that care is needed to avoid this becoming an area where dogs are allowed to defaecate - possibly trial an area?**
- The base of the hedge is currently species poor but can be sown with seed collected from Dog Walkers site which is close by and species rich. Suitable seed includes Red campion (*Silene dioica*), Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), and Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*).
- Alternatively lightly scarified with a spring rake when the grass is short and seed with a Hedgerow seed mix which will naturally spread towards the hedgerow bottom (this contains plants for sun and/or shade) e.g. <https://www.naturescape.co.uk/product/n9f-hedgerow-mix-flowers-only/>

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### 3.1.3 THE DOG WALK

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Central Grid Reference: SK636135

Date of Survey: 25/07/2023

Current Management: Low management – cut back scrub from desire line pathways.

UK Habitat Type: Open mosaic habitat on previously developed land

Description: This site is located directly adjacent to the main railway line which separates it from Beedles Lake Golf Course. It forms the west boundary of Jubilee Playing Fields and provides a distinct contrast to the regular management and use of the sports pitches. Since the site was decommissioned as a railway station for the munitions factory in the early 1960s, it has been allowed to re-wild. Largely left un-managed, the site has naturally re-vegetated to create a mosaic of pioneer/early colonising species, succession species and scrub. The site continues to be disturbed by Rabbits that regularly excavate new burrows whilst the dog walkers and other visitors to the site disturb the ground through regular footfall.

This site may have contaminated soils from waste or spoil associated with its past use and proximity to the railway line. Although unlikely to be a threat to visitors, the toxins could impede colonisation of some plants whilst favouring others that require low nutrients and shallow soils. As the platform and path infrastructure breaks down, this will allow other plants to naturally colonise, but currently, the conditions allow for a significantly species-rich site and rare priority habitat to thrive.

Evaluation: The site contains several indicator species associated with frequent disturbance and early colonisation of sites that are associated the Open Mosaic UK habitat such as Weld (*Reseda luteola*), Mullein (*Verbascum sp*) and Toadflax (*Linaria sp*). This is a priority UK habitat which is

vulnerable to loss as sites are re-developed or allowed to naturally succeed to their next stage e.g. scrub and/or woodland.

The site is particularly unique in this area, surrounded by industrial units, railway line, formal playing fields and a golf course. It is, however, extremely popular with the local community as a more natural place to enjoy.

Appendix 1 lists the species recorded in one visit and it is likely that additional species will be present in other seasons. The guided walk in August 2023 show-cased the area as being extremely species-rich. It is identified as a priority habitat in the Natural England inventory (see Section 2) and meets the criteria for designation as a Local Wildlife Site (LWS).

Recommendations:

- The site is allowed to continue to develop naturally as a re-wilding site with no formal management or nutrient enrichment. The site should have minimal maintenance to keep popular routes open and safe through the site and be reviewed occasionally and management re-assessed if necessary.
- The site is designated as a LWS with agreement from the Parish Council, a citation and schedule submitted to the County Council for agreement by the local panel.
- The site is created as a Wild Place on NatureSpot to run alongside the three other sites (The Mound, Nature Garden and Long Furrow verge). This will bring added recognition for this and other sites in East Goscote's green network.

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### 3.1.4 THE WOODLAND

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Central Grid Reference: SK637137

Date of Survey: 25/07/2023

Current Management: Low management when required.

UK Habitat Type: Broadleaf woodland - other

Description: This small woodland is located on the north-east boundary of Jubilee Playing Fields near to the buildings used by the Scout group. The woodland consists of three main species: Field maple, Hawthorn and Elder with no or little ground flora (possibly shaded out as the woodland was quite dark during the visit).

A desire-line natural path runs through the central part of the woodland from north to south and appears well-used by walkers and is likely used as part of an established route around the perimeter of the fields which avoids the sports pitches and takes in the Dog Walkers Site (Section 3.1.3).

Evaluation: The woodland is currently of low wildlife value with poor physical structure and diversity – the trees are of an even-age and there is no or little ground flora present. It does, however, provide different habitat type and connectivity to other more diverse areas along the west boundary of Jubilee Playing Fields.

Recommendations:

Increase the diversity of the woodland and its physical structure through additional planting that will increase food sources for pollinators, birds and small mammals whilst improving the visual amenity of the site. This could be achieved by:

- Plant hedgerow shrub whips along the woodland's east-facing edge to act as a shelterbelt to existing woodland whilst increasing the blossom and fruiting seasons for wildlife. Suitable

species include Guelder rose (*Virburnum opulus*), Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Crab apple (*Malus sylvestris*).

- Thin Hawthorn and Field maple in discreet areas to open canopy and light onto woodland floor. Put larger logs and branches into nearby brownfield site and create dead-hedging and brash piles within woodland with smaller branches and brash.
- Lightly scarify and seed cleared areas with a seed mix collected locally from nearby woodland or scrub sites e.g. Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*), Wood avens (*Geum urbanum*), Wood violet (*Viola odorata*) and Male fern (*Dryopteris filix-mas*).

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### 3.1.5 NEW TREE PLANTED SITES

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Description: Two areas within Jubilee Playing Fields have been planted with trees recently ~2021/22. These are located on the east bank of the Mound adjacent to Long Furrow and to the east boundary of the woodland near to the tennis courts. All trees have been planted with a wooden stake and tree guard to keep the tree upright and to protect from Rabbit and Grey squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*) damage. The trees are a mix of native broad-leaved trees.

Evaluation: Some of the trees have died and others appear in poor health, possibly because of the long drought period in summer 2022 when water table and soil moisture levels were very low. Grasses and ruderal vegetation had not been cut around the trees at the time of survey. Whilst this is likely to benefit invertebrates and small mammals, it may not be conducive to manage the trees as the long grasses may harbour fungal diseases that could attack the root system and stems of young trees and vegetation may outcompete with the trees for moisture and nutrients.

Recommendations:

Young trees will require care and attention in the first few years to help them thrive. The standard practices advocated include:

- Ensure organisations responsible for maintaining the sites know where they are planted so they do not accidentally damage the trees through mowing or other maintenance works.
- Weed around the trees (right from the start, and as soon as possible in other cases). Keep a 1m diameter buffer clear of weeds and grass around the trees for the first 2-3 years.
- Weeds can be suppressed with mulch (bark, chips or straw) at a depth of 0.1m and topped up each year.
- Although pesticide and herbicides can be sprayed around the tree base as an alternative to mulching, this practice is **not recommended** because of the negative ecological impact and unsustainable use of products.

The Woodland Trust and The Tree Council have produced information on the above points:

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/advice/care/>

[https://treecouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/TCHandbook\\_5\\_Care.pdf](https://treecouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/TCHandbook_5_Care.pdf)



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## 3.2 LONG FURROW – SOUTH BOUNDARY

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The south boundary of village comprises of the roadside verge and linear woodland next to the Gaddesby/Queniborough Brook. The combination of different habitat types provides a valuable linear corridor for wildlife and are described separately in the following sections.

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### 3.2.1 LONG FURROW WILDFLOWER VERGE

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Central Grid Reference: SK639131

Date of Survey: 04/07/2023

Current Management: Wildflower section cut between 1-3 times/year, remainder 6 times/year.

UK Habitat Type: Grassland – neutral.

Description: This site is located on the southern boundary of the village directly adjacent to Long Furrow that encircles the central part of East Goscote village. The verge is approximately 30m long on either side of a bus shelter and is defined by a blue plaque to identify it as one of several wildflower verges created across Leicestershire in recent years. The verges are part of a trial by the County and Parish Council to increase awareness and understanding to demonstrate that by managing the grassland as a wildflower meadow, it can support a much greater diversity of wildlife.

A scrub hedgerow and broadleaf woodland form a buffer to the grass verge. These areas are described separately in 3.2.2.

Evaluation: The wildflower verge was surveyed separately and in addition to the verge from the junction of Watergate to junction with Craftman's Way to compare species-richness between areas. The entire verge is nutrient-rich and is dominated by tall, robust plant species such as Hog weed (*Heracleum sphondylium*), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Cow parsley, Cleavers (*Galium aparine*) and Cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*).

The verge outside of the wildflower section does contains a diversity of species (23 in total – see Appendix 1), but these are all associated with high nutrient conditions. There was one garden escapee in this wider section French Crane's-bill (*Geranium endressii*).

The wildflower verge contained additional wildflowers that had been sown when the wildflower verge was created. The species included Yellow rattle (*Rhinanthus minor*) which had established well on either side of the bus shelter and has controlled the more dominant grass species and other resilient plants to allow the sward to open-up. The Yellow rattle is likely to spread naturally and could be helped by seed collection and spreading in autumn.

The verge, however, is still very nutrient-rich with invasive and dominant native species such as Common nettle, False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) and Broad-leaved dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*) creating a dense sward, swamping the more delicate plants and generally out-competing them. Although noted as present, the following plants were considered Occasional or Rare in their distribution and were difficult to see unless searched for: Red clover (*Trifolium pratense*), Common knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Meadow buttercup, Wild carrot (*Daucus carota*) and Lady's bedstraw (*Galium verum*).

Recommendations:

- During growing season, cut stems of Docks with hoe or secateurs and remove to break the flowering cycle and weaken the plants (note areas adjacent are cut more frequently and do not have seedheads).
- Cut seed heads off Common nettles to stop them flowering and remove plants/runners in autumn/winter to control growth.

- Remove Cleavers climbing up hedgerow adjacent to wildflower verge to prevent them swamping other plants.
- Collect Yellow rattle seed from mid-July, dry off and store ready to sow in autumn.
- Mow and cut the grass/hay by the end of August and remove all arisings (use pedestrian baler or rake off by hand).

In addition to the above points the species-richness and visual amenity of the grass verge can be enhanced by:

- Cut grass on wildflower verge back to a short sward in autumn and rake off any arisings. Scarify surface to disturb the thatch and create small areas of bare soil. Sow purchased seed (or collected from donor sites). Tred and rub the seed into the soil surface with feet.
- Recommended seed should be tall plants that will grow above/alongside the more robust grasses and have more ability to compete. These include Common knapweed, Ox-eye daisy, Meadow buttercup, Bulbous buttercup (*Ranunculus bulbosus*), Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), Corncockle (*Agrostemma githago*) and Field scabious (*Knautia arvensis*).

Increasing the species-richness of the wider verge alongside Long Furrow is likely to be longer-term ambition but given that the verge is **cut at 6 times a year**, a viable and recommended option is to sow areas with a wildflower lawn mix and mow between four to six times a year (see Section 3.1.1 recommendations).

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### 3.2.2 LONG FURROW WOODLAND

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Central Grid Reference: SK639131

Date of Survey: 25/07/2023

Current Management: Largely un-managed with occasional thinning

UK Habitat Type: Woodland – broad-leaved other

Description: The woodland has a Group TPO and is in the ownership of Jelson Ltd. Access to the southern bank of the brook enabled an assessment of both banks with the following details noted:

Evaluation: The woodland comprises of a steep, well-structured wooded scrub bank ~ 8 -10m wide on either side of brook. There is good fallen dead wood (Willow) with ground flora. shrub and top canopy layers – See Appendix 1 for full list. Evidence of previous woodland work was noted - coppicing of Willow and Sycamore with wood left on-site and small wood habitat piles created. The Woodland is mainly native species with Cotoneaster infrequent (possible garden escape).

A fence and dense hedgerow boundary onto Long Furrow prevent most informal access into the woodland and no desire line footpaths were evident. There was very occasional garden waste tipped on the edge of the woodland and low evidence of fly-tipping.

Notable species include Roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*) and Greater celandine (*Chelidonium majus*) plus large veteran Crack willow (*Salix fragilis*).

Recommendations:

- Landowner (and as advised by Charnwood BC) to retain responsibility for management of the woodland banks in accordance with any requirements stipulated by the Environment Agency regarding flood management (site is within Flood Zone 3).
- Consideration should be given to the potential presence of priority habitats and species to enable appropriate mitigation measures when works required e.g. Kingfisher, Otter, Bats.
- Discourage fly-tipping and dumping of garden waste through appropriate means.

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### 3.2.3 LONG FURROW BROOK

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Central Grid Reference: SK639131

Date of Survey: 25/07/2023

Current Management: Not known.

UK Habitat Type: River: Other river/stream

Description: This section of the Queniborough/Gaddesby Brook has been straightened to provide a uniform, linear water course ~ 5m wide running parallel to the A607 and Long Furrow roads. It is a reasonably fast flowing channelled watercourse with a shallow earth margin/bank edge and enclosed within wider steep banked woodland/scrub.

The depth of water is fairly uniform with a shallow, shingle/small pebble substrate at less than 30 cm depth with a low riparian edge. Aquatic vegetation is absent from both the channel and riparian margins and although it may have been cleared recently, it is more likely that the uniform channel prevents vegetation from rooting because of the frequency of fast-flowing water following storm events.

Recommendations:

The brook is within Flood Zone 3 and it is recommended that no or low management is continued to benefit wildlife in this otherwise highly disturbed environment subject to requirement by the Environment Agency for flood management works.

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### 3.3 NATURE GARDEN

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Central Grid Reference: SK643133

Date of Survey: 04/07/2023

Current Management: Grassland meadow cut twice/year, pathways 15 times/year.

UK Habitat Type: Neutral grassland.

Description: The site is located off Long Furrow and occupies a small pocket of land (0.5 ha) which is surrounded by housing on all sides. It appears to be a remnant natural space following the first phase of development when housing was first set out in the 1960s-70s. The site is now under the ownership of the Parish Council and a central grassy area is now managed as a wildflower meadow.

Evaluation: The nature garden is species-rich having been seeded with a wildflower mix and the meadow contains typical grasses associated with that habitat. An open sward has allowed other wildflowers to readily colonise to enable the site to become more diverse. The meadow is dissected by a grass pathway which is more frequently mown, and which allows access around the small site to view the plants and pollinating insects.

Several small trees have recently been planted on the meadow which include Oak (*Quercus robur*), Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*) and Wild cherry (*Prunus avium*), one of which is in poor health. These are protected from damage an/or grazing by a tree guard and cane. These trees will be of detriment to the meadow – the Oak and Wild cherry species are parkland or forest/woodland species that are generally not suited to small spaces. The Cherry is likely to sucker as it matures, and this will be exacerbated as the infrequent meadow cuts will allow them to self-set. Oak trees readily produce saplings to regenerate, and these will also colonise the meadow if allowed to do so. The Rowan is in poor condition and may have been damaged during the meadow cuts or by

an act of vandalism. Although this is a medium-sized tree with attractive blossom and berries, it best tolerates nutrient-poor, shallow and/or acidic soils.

The area surrounding the meadow is a combination of tall ruderal and ephemeral vegetation, scrub and non-native plants (in planters) towards the west boundary and a food-growing project with planters near to the entrance. There is also a small scrub area with self-set Sycamore to the east boundary.

The site is surrounded by neighbouring back gardens separated only by panel fencing. The non-native and mature trees within these gardens add to the plant complexity of the site and capacity to support pollinators, birds and small mammals in an otherwise urban environment.

Recommendations:

- The meadow area is now an attractive species-rich grassland. The combination of species and management appears to be working well and should be continued. The seed may be used as a useful source for elsewhere if done in a limited capacity.
- The trees planted on the meadow are likely to have a detrimental impact in the longer-term. Machinery must avoid the trees in what is already a tight space to manoeuvre. It is recommended that the trees are transplanted to a more suitable site.
- Any self-set trees within the nature garden should be removed and/or cut back to ground to avoid spread into the grassland or over-hang onto neighbouring properties.
- Neighbouring properties should be encouraged not to dump green waste onto the nature garden and to contact the Parish council prior to undertaking works on over-hanging trees etc.
- The tall herbs and ephemeral vegetation should be cut back biennially to avoid development of scrub or spread of invasive plants such as Creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) and Rosebay willowherb (*Chamerion angustifolium*) (currently prevalent in SW corner).
- Care is needed to avoid introducing non-native or exotic species into the nature garden from surrounding houses or the food project. If necessary, remove any early colonisers as soon as possible.

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### 3.4 THE WYND

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Central Grid Reference: SK639134

Date of Survey: 31/08/2023

Current Management: Grassland cut between 6 and 15 times/year.

UK Habitat Type: Neutral grassland – modified.

Description: This area is referred to collectively as The Wynd, but includes Weaver's Wynd, Tinker's Dell, Stroller's Way and Mercer's Way. It is a section of Open Space in the heart of East Goscote that runs west to east from Long Furrow (adjacent to Jubilee Playing Fields) up to the open space north of the Parish Council offices at Long Furrow.

The mid-section at Weavers Wynd and the Play Park adjacent to Broomfield Community Primary School is managed by the Parish Council and smaller open spaces to the south and north adjacent to Long Furrow are managed by the County Council. The two areas of grass near to the primary school and through the centre are used regularly in the dry months by the children who play there after school.

The areas are managed with frequent cuts to maintain a short sward. The mature trees are parkland trees and within this setting provide high visual amenity.

Evaluation: The grassland is improved and species-poor probably caused by frequent cuts and lack of ability to set seed. As such this is a barren landscape for pollinators and species such as birds. The frequent cuts favour rosette-forming species such as Dandelion (*Taraxum sp*), Hawkweeds, Common cat's ear (*Hypochaeris radicata*), Daisy (*Bellis perenne*) and Self-heal (*Prunella vulgaris*).

The mature trees appear to be well maintained and in good health apart from the Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) which has succumbed to Ash die-back throughout the open space and a young, coppiced Horse chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*) which has Bleeding canker caused by the leaf-miner and fungus *Guinardia aesculin* located between Tinker's Dell and Weaver's Wynd. A large Atlas cedar (*Cedrus atlantica*) located in front of the village hall has a TPO (designated 2006). It appears that this is now under the management of Leicestershire CC who manage the surrounding Open Space in this area.

The trees collectively provide a useful source of insects, blossom, fruit and nuts for wildlife as well as cracks and crevices in their bark for numerous invertebrates, molluscs etc and nesting or roosting sites for bats and birds.

The hedgerow area next to the play area is less frequently managed with tall grasses, scrub and self-sets starting to colonise this area – making it increasingly valuable for wildlife. The hedgerow forms the boundary and is in the ownership of Ling Dale Care Home.

Adjacent gardens backing onto The Wynd are particularly important. They provide shrub habitat for nesting, supplementary food (bird feeders), and pollinating sites (garden plants). St Hilda's church has a small garden to the front and side of the building where non-native and native species of plants and shrubs readily attract pollinating insects (largely absent during surveys elsewhere on the Wynd). This area is well maintained, attractive and of high biodiversity value in an otherwise relatively species-poor landscape.

#### Recommendations:

The low biodiversity value of the grassland is caused by the regular disturbance from mowing, low species diversity (inability for plants to flower, pollinate or set seed) and uniform grass structure (short sward over large areas). Whilst recognising public perception of management and maintenance, it is recommended that several of these points could be taken forward on a trial basis to increase the biodiversity in the area.

The aim would be to create a blossom or pollinator trail through the central part of the village that will readily link to Jubilee Playing Fields to complement enhancements there.

- Increase the structural diversity of the grassland through the Wynd by:
  - Maintain a regularly mown cut along all hard-surfaced path edges (at standard rate of 1-1.5m width).
  - Relax cutting beneath canopy area of mature trees (to not damage exposed roots, to allow vegetation to re-colonise), review and cut 2-3 times a year at a high cut.
- Balance the needs of informal recreation with increased biodiversity by:
  - Trial wildflower lawn areas in selected areas (see preparation in Section 3.1.1 The Mound) to create a diverse, species-rich sward capable of being cut 4 to 6 times a year.
  - Create and maintain pollen-rich planters at strategic points (with edible choice if possible) to act as stepping stones for pollinating insects.
  - Create discreet areas of low disturbance in corners for hibernating fauna and which are not likely to be needed for access.
  - Encourage landowners and users of public buildings e.g. Library, School, Church, Pub to set up planters, small pollinator patches etc.
- Encourage residents to manage their gardens for wildlife (see Section 3.8).
- Check the health of trees and act as required with appropriate permissions obtained for TPOs.

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## 3.5 SMALL OPEN SPACES

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This section considers several small open spaces that form a green link between established housing and the more recent housing development to the east of Melton Road and road verges managed by the local authorities. These areas are relatively small and discreet with limited wildlife value.

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### 3.5.1 LAND OFF BROOME AVENUE

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Central Grid Reference: SK643135

Date of Survey: 31/08/2023

Current Management: Grassland cut between 6 and 15 times/year.

UK Habitat Type: Neutral grassland – modified.

Description: This small area of open space is located between Broome Avenue and The Meadows. It is accessed through a narrow walkway between the front gardens of properties. The rear gardens of properties on the two roads back onto the open space and there is little or no surveillance.

The open space is divided by a hard-standing tarmac path which separates two grassed areas with mature trees (Wild cherry and Silver birch) and a second area planted with Silver birch. The area is regularly mown with a short uniform sward.

Evaluation: The grassland is species-poor and favours rosette-forming species such as Ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), Dandelion, Fox and Cubs (*Pilosella aurantiaca*) and Yarrow. The area appears to be frequently maintained and some damage to surfaces was noted possibly caused by recent mowers removing the top layer of vegetation to expose the soil beneath.

There were also signs that plants had been recently sprayed and vegetation was dying off against fencing adjoining residents' properties.

The trees appear to be in good health but mowing beneath trees have also damaged exposed tree roots.

Recommendations:

The aim would be to continue the blossom or pollinator trail through this part of the village.

- Increase the structural diversity of the grassland through the site by:
  - Maintain a regularly mown cut along the hard-surfaced path edge that dissects the open space (at standard rate of 1-1.5m width).
  - Relax cutting beneath canopy area of mature trees (to not damage exposed roots, to allow vegetation to re-colonise), review and cut 2-3 times a year at a high cut.
  - Trial wildflower lawn areas in selected areas (see preparation in Section 3.1.1 The Mound) to create a diverse, species-rich sward capable of being cut 4 to 6 times a year.
  - Review above regarding suckering Wild cherry.
- Plant early flowering spring bulbs (Primrose and Snowdrops) and Autumn crocus (*Colchicum autumnale*) or Cyclamen for autumn colour.
- Check the health of trees and act as required.

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### 3.5.2 LAND OFF LILAC WAY - NORTH

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Central Grid Reference: SK645134

Date of Survey: 31/08/2023

Current Management: Grassland cut 15 times/year.

UK Habitat Type: Neutral grassland – modified.

Description: This site is a rectangular-shaped piece of land between residential housing to the west and Rearsby Lodge Farm to the east. Several mature trees and shrubs buffer the site from the farm whilst a mixed ornamental and self-set hedgerow (Sycamore, Ash and Wild cherry suckering) provides a boundary to the west property. Non-native invasive species (INNS) are present such as Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*) and garden escapees such as Wisteria and Privet (*Ligustrum sp.*).

The north boundary is a mix of woodland/shrub which is encroaching onto the grassland with plants self-set or suckering such as Plum sp (*Prunus sp.*), Blackthorn, Ash, Field maple, Oak interspersed between scrub (Bramble, Dogrose, Hawthorn). Several trees have been recently planted with tree guards and stakes in place and are being encroached by grasses and other vegetation.

The grassland area is relatively herb-rich and favours rosette species due to the frequency of cutting. A mulch of grass clippings was noted on the ground during the survey. Appendix 1 provides a full list of species which are representative of nutrient-rich, frequent mowing regimes.

Evaluation: The west and north boundary are a mix of native and non-native species that have self-suckered due to low management regimes and has resulted in a gradual encroachment onto the grassed area and loss of open areas. The frequent mowing and arisings on the ground is also resulting in a build-up of nutrients. This site typically illustrates the difficulties of managing an area with mixed uses – for occasional ad-hoc recreation for which a shorter grass sward is required whilst increasing the biodiversity potential of the site. The relaxed management style appears to be creating more issues with self-set trees and non-native species on the site that require some consideration (see recommendations)

Recommendations:

- The size of this site and proximity to new housing do not lend themselves to having an area of mixed use for recreation and for biodiversity. The self-set species within the hedgerow on the west boundary require management, either through removal or incorporation into the maintenance regime and laid. Avoidance of growth to mature standards is preferable due to the proximity of the adjacent house.
- The scrub/self-sets to the north boundary could be managed by a biennial cut to prevent scrub and woodland encroachment. The new tree planting could also be managed appropriately and in accordance with good practice (see section 3.1.5).
- Relaxation of the mowing regime from 15 cuts to a maximum of 6 cuts is also preferable with opportunities to create a wildflower lawn (see section 3.1.1). However, if there is a demand from residents for ad-hoc recreational facilities, it is recommended that this site is regularly maintained at 10 to 12 cuts to maintain a short sward for those purposes (see also section 3.5.3).

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### 3.5.3 LAND OFF LILAC WAY - SOUTH

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Central Grid Reference: SK645134

Date of Survey: 31/08/2023

Current Management: Grassland cut 15 times/year.

UK Habitat Type: Neutral grassland – modified.

Description: This site is directly adjacent to the site detailed at section 3.5.2. It is a relatively large site on Lilac Way that was created as part of the new housing development as open space. It has a play area which is enclosed by fencing in the central section.

Landscaped shrubs and tree species (including non-native species) line the west boundary adjacent to residential housing, a large Lime tree has a TPO (designated 1999) has been retained as part of the development on the south boundary.

The landscaped area includes several Willow and other shrub species with native species such as Elder having self-set between them.

The grassland is mown frequently, arisings kept in-situ and is of a similar composition as the grassland adjacent (described in section 3.5.2).

Evaluation: The primary function of part of this site is to provide a play area and open space for the residents. Willow trees have been planted and/or retained and incorporated into the landscape scheme and appear to have been coppiced (noted on Google street photo and site visit). Other native annual and perennial plants have seeded and are growing amongst the trees. The area has an appearance of low or insufficient maintenance (possibly during periods of high growth) and views into the play area were obscured from Lilac Way at the time of the site visit.

This area of open space is also used for informal recreation on an ad-hoc basis with a small football net erected occasionally by the residents. It may however, provide an alternative site for biodiversity enhancement with relaxed mowing if one or the other site could be used for recreation and the other for biodiversity.

Recommendations:

- The shrubs and trees within the landscaped areas are maintained in accordance with the Landscape Plan for the development scheme and/or reviewed to manage those areas for amenity, safety and surveillance. These areas will have an intrinsic and limited value for pollinators and other wildlife if maintained appropriately.
- Relaxation of the mowing regime from 15 cuts to a maximum of 6 cuts is preferable with opportunities to create a wildflower lawn (see section 3.1.1). However, if there is a demand from residents for ad-hoc recreational facilities, it is recommended that **either** this site is regularly cut at 10 to 12 cuts to maintain a short sward for those purposes (see also section 3.5.3) **or** Lilac Way North is made into a flowering lawn site.



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### 3.5.4 ROAD VERGES – PARISH COUNCIL – MELTON ROAD

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Central Grid Reference: SK644133

Date of Survey: 31/08/2023

Current Management: Grassland cut 15 times/yr

UK Habitat Type: Neutral grassland – modified.

Description: The road verges are small areas of open space adjacent to Lilac Way and Melton Road that form part of the new development phase and could not be incorporated into people private land.

Land off Lilac Way is near areas described in 3.5.2 and 3.5.3. The land is currently managed on the same mowing regime. It is an area of modified, nutrient-rich grassland and is likely to have been part of an agricultural field prior to development. The south boundary has a series of mature trees that form part of a hedgerow to adjacent agricultural land.

Land on Melton Road to the north and south of junction with Lilac Way is also managed on the same mowing regime. It is an area of modified, nutrient-rich grassland and has been landscaped with trees.

Evaluation: Both sites are frequently cut, and this favours any wildflowers with predominance of rosette species. The sites have a low biodiversity and amenity value. They do not appear to require utility access (drainage covers, valves etc) and this allows for greater flexibility in management.

Recommendations:

- The shrubs and trees within the landscaped areas are maintained in accordance with the Landscape or Tree Plan and/or reviewed to manage them appropriately (this may be under the responsibility of Charnwood BC or Leics CC).
- Relaxation of the mowing regime from 15 cuts to a maximum of 6 cuts is preferable with opportunities to create a wildflower lawn (see section 3.1.1) with additional seeding to increase diversity and visual amenity.
- The verges immediately adjacent to Melton Road should be maintained at 15 cuts for sight-line purposes.

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### 3.5.5 ROAD VERGES – COUNTY COUNCIL – MELTON ROAD

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Central Grid Reference: SK644135

Date of Survey: 31/08/2023

Current Management: Grassland cut 6 times/year.

UK Habitat Type: Neutral grassland – modified.

Description: The verges are between Melton Road and East Goscote village (Watergate to the south and Broome Avenue to the north). The two areas are separated by Chestnut Way. The trees are semi-mature and are a mix of native and non-native species. The grass verges are modified grass and maintained as a short sward which favours rosette-forming species.

The green space provides access points for several utility facilities.

Evaluation: These small areas of open space provide an attractive visual buffer between the main Melton Road and village with a series of mature trees adding to the screening and visual amenity. They are likely to have an important function in absorbing air pollutants and noise reduction from the busy Melton Road. Importantly, they clearly define a boundary between the busy A607/ Melton Road and the quieter streets and homes within the village.

The grassland on the verges is surprisingly herb-rich with several species not noted on other verges. It is likely that these are remnant species from an original seed mix or have been transferred on mowing blades between sites. If allowed to grow during the flowering season, these are likely to provide a richer source of food for pollinators and the area remain visually attractive.

Recommendations:

- Several trial areas are tested during the growing season when the frequency of cuts could be reduced e.g. as part of the national “No Mow May”. A further assessment of plants could be undertaken to determine floristic diversity and evaluate community response.
- If successful the flowering lawn management could be introduced to maintain a regular cut, but to avoid cuts during the peak flowering season.
- A regular cut along the verge edges such be maintained for sight-line purposes and for visual amenity.

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### 3.5.6 RAILWAY KEEPER’S COTTAGE GARDEN

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Central Grid Reference: SK639140

Date of Survey: 31/08/2023

Current Management: Un-managed

UK Habitat Type: Urban - garden

Description: This site is located directly adjacent to railway line and was the railway keeper’s cottage garden (the property has since been demolished, but a signal box for the line is still in place).

It has no public access and access could not be gained for survey purposes, but it is viewable from the road (Broome Lane). It has not been managed for a long time and is densely vegetated with scrub, self-set trees and relic garden plants.

Evaluation: The site is interesting from an historic perspective and is likely to be of some wildlife value compared to the road, rail network, and intensively farmed fields that surround it. It is located close to Beedles Lake Golf Course but separated directly by the railway and road network.

It is densely vegetated and has completely scrubbed over.

With careful mitigation it may be possible to return the site to its original state as a typical cottage garden with species such as Holly hocks, Roses and shrubs that require low maintenance and could be maintained by the local Railway Society and/or residents along Broome Lane. A small interpretation board could be placed on view within the site to inform visitors of its historic use.

In the future there may be potential for the adjacent landowner/farmer to apply for stewardship to facilitate a buffer around the site and incorporate public access to a larger naturalised area (currently arable land). Alternatively, this area may come forward for development and an Open Space layout and landscaping could include this site to ensure its historical significance is considered.

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## 3.6 PRIVATE LAND

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The wildlife audit encompassed some sites on private land to help inform on their biodiversity value, connectivity and contribution to wildlife within East Goscote village.

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### 3.6.1 PRIVATE LAND OFF MEADOW VIEW

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Central Grid Reference: SK647132

Date of Survey: 04/07/2023

Current Management: Hay-cut and grazing, Low-management

UK Habitat Type: Grassland – neural, Broad-leaved woodland (other), River/Streams (other)

Description: This site is on the east boundary of the village and forms a buffer between the new housing development on Lilac Way and Meadow View and the existing agricultural land. The site is a combination of grassland, woodland and water course which collectively provide a natural landscape compared to the urbanisation of the village. The main habitats are described separately:

#### Woodland

The woodland forms two blocks. The north-west block (W1) is a rectangular-shaped broad-leaved woodland of mainly Ash with an under-storey of Hawthorn and Elder and ground flora dominated by Cow parsley and Bramble (see Appendix 1 for full list). More recent planting on the north-west section includes a mix of recently planted trees such as Copper beech (*Fagus purpurea*), Downy birch (*Betula pubescens*), Scots Pine (*Pinus nigra*) and Hazel which are protected by deer-fencing.

This is likely to have been planted as an Ash plantation woodland – the Ash is an even-age and specimens are in poor condition with tall and narrow stems reaching for the light. The trees are susceptible to windthrow and many have signs of Ash dieback and have started to deteriorate. Frequent standing and fallen dead wood and log piles were noted from recent work.

The woodland has no public access but can be easily traversed across several desire-line paths around the perimeter of the woodland block. The woodland is also reasonably open and could be readily accessed during the survey.

The second block of woodland (W2) lies mainly adjacent to the Gaddesby/Queniborough Brook. It is a wet woodland with magnificent veteran Crack willow and mature Ash which are separated by grass mown paths. The Crack willows on the edges of the paths are particularly visually and biologically interesting and of high value to wildlife. The under-storey is mainly Common nettle which may reflect regular disturbance and inundation of nutrient-rich flood water when it over-tops into the woodland.

#### The Brook

A small section of the Gaddesby/Queniborough Brook flows naturally through the land (between woodland and meadow to the east) and fields towards the west. Access over the brook is via a small ford and bridge to facilitate vehicle access from the A607 and track onto the fields.

The east part of the brook is shaded by the Crack willow and Ash wet woodland and several large mature/veteran Crack willow are also located near to the banks by the ford. The remaining sections of brook alongside the fields have a riparian margin of tall grasses, ruderal vegetation and wetland species such as Marsh thistle (*Cirsium palustre*), Hemlock (*Conium maculatum*) and Rosebay willowherb (*Chamerion angustifolium*).

A large open-water basin forms the east boundary of the site adjacent to Redrow Homes development site and is fed by the Gaddesby Brook which flows under the A607 before entering the site.

The brook has retained natural earth banks with exception of the area near to the ford. It may have been engineered at some time in the past and does not have the naturalised meanders noted in fields to the west.

#### Grassland

The grassland areas are managed as meadows with a hay crop taken off in June-July and after-grazed with sheep until September. The current owner has not applied fertiliser and has reinstated traditional management.

The floristic diversity of the meadows is however quite low with species indicating improved grassland. The central section of meadow to the north of the brook (M4) is more species-rich than other parts. A small paddock to the south-east corner (M1) has stands of tall ruderal vegetation and wet grassland indicator species such as Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*) which attract insects. Meadows (M2 and M3) to the south of the brook are species poor.

#### Hedgerow

A hedgerow (H1) forms the south boundary adjacent to the A607. It is unclear whose ownership this is under, but the hedgerow is recent, and some trees still have tree guards. It is approximately 4m high with no gaps, dominated by Hawthorn with Ash, Hazel, Dogwood and Crack willow also noted.

Evaluation: It is likely that this land will become increasingly important in the longer-term as a natural and biodiverse site when the new development (Redrow Homes) commences on land to the north.

W1 woodland is noted in the NE inventory as a priority habitat. It is of intrinsic value for wildlife value and the amount of standing and fallen dead wood is likely to be of high value for invertebrates. The woodland has a limited shrub layer beneath the Ash canopy, although a reasonable amount of light reaches the woodland floor to have enabled ground flora to develop. This is often a feature of Ash woodlands which are one of the last trees to leaf-up in spring and lose their leaves relatively early in autumn.

W2 woodland is also in the NE inventory but is a particularly important type of habitat which is nationally and locally rare due to the loss from felling and/or drainage. The veteran trees are likely to meet the LWS criteria for designation and support bat roosts and saprophytic invertebrates.

The brook and fields adjacent are within flood zone 3 and at risk of flooding. They provide an important function for flood storage and water quality by slowing the flow of water through this part of the catchment and filtering water through vegetation before reaching the more engineered sections to the south of East Goscote and Syston.

The basin has steep, earth banks on top of which are several mature Ash and Crack willow trees with exposed roots. This area appears to be of high wildlife value and could be frequented by Otters and other riparian animals passing through the area. A fresh Otter spraint was found by the ford during the survey.

The grassland is relatively species poor and is likely to have resulted from soils having been improved in the past and input of fertilisers. An early cut of hay will also restrict flowers able to set seed and regenerate. The grassland could be enhanced in several ways to increase its diversity and value for wildlife. In particular, the proximity of Skylarks nesting at the Redrow site could be off-set by creation of suitable conditions on the fields.

## Recommendations:

The agricultural land, woodland and brook form an important component for the wildlife audit and assessment of biodiversity opportunities within the boundaries East Goscote village.

It is likely that the landowner could be eligible for several grants or funded works that could enhance the biodiversity value of the site. The links below provide more information:

- Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) introduced in September 2023 to replace the Stewardship payments. Schemes to manage grassland and water courses more effectively.  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sfi-handbook-for-the-sfi-2023-offer>
- Woodland grant schemes for improvement works, woodland management plans, Ash dieback surveys and re-planting schemes are available from Leicestershire CC  
<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/tree-for-every-person/apply-for-trees/trees-and-hedges-for-new-planting>  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/how-to-manage-your-woodland>
- Natural flood management and works to enhance the brook. Advice and guidance on grants available from the Environment Agency and Trent Rivers Trust.  
<https://www.trentriverstrust.org/what-we-do/working-with-nature/natural-flood-management/>

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### 3.6.2 THE WARREN

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Central Grid Reference: SK634134

Date of Survey: 31/08/2023

Current Management: Un-managed

UK Habitat Type: Open mosaic habitat on previously developed land

Description: This site is a narrow, linear strip of land that runs parallel to the main railway line and The Warren (road) and industrial units. The site is also adjacent to part of the south boundary of Beedles Lake Golf Course.

The verge forms a continuation of the Dog Walk site (see 3.1.3) and north boundary of the village.

Evaluation: A mix of planted trees, self-sets, shrubs and scrub have colonised which are interspersed with grasses and pioneer plants. This is a continuation of the open mosaic site to the north of Jubilee Playing Fields and provides an important corridor for wildlife. It is floristically diverse – see list of plants Appendix 1.

The site is un-managed and has been allowed to develop naturally over several years. It also provides a visual buffer between the industrial units and the golf course.

Areas of verge are being used as temporary or longer-term storage associated with business-use on the nearby (adjacent) industrial units. Structures noted were wide-ranging and included skips, metal girders, wooden pallets, cables, old machinery, engines and plastic waste.

Whilst unlikely to significantly impact on this open mosaic habitat, if allowed to continue, the biodiversity value will decline, and any future use or management of this areas will be restricted until the structures are removed.

### 3.7 BEEDLES LAKE GOLF COURSE

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This site has been assessed using data gathered and available in the public domain (section 1.2) together with aerial photographs and satellite imagery. It provides an overview and evidence base to evaluate the proximity of priority habitats and species present within East Goscote administrative boundary.

Central Grid Reference: SK632137

Date of Survey: Not surveyed.

Current Management: Green keepers to facilitate use for recreation, amenity and biodiversity.

UK Habitat Type: Woodland, Grassland, Watercourses, Scrub

Description: The site is a large golf course that was designed in the late 1980s on land owned by the housing developers Jelson Homes Ltd who constructed the early phases of East Goscote village. The site is built partly on land used for sand and gravel extraction, followed by landfill.

It is also located on a major floodplain – the River Wreake forms the west boundary of the golf course and administrative boundary of East Goscote whilst the Queniborough brook flows along the southern boundary of East Goscote, under the railway line and into the golf course before reaching the Wreake.

Historic maps show no areas of woodland within the golf course except for small areas to the south and adjacent to the Wreake. Hundreds of trees were planted during the design of the golf course and all priority woodland habitat present was created since the late 1980s and digitised on the NE priority habitat inventory.

Beedles Lake (open water) is approximately 15.5 ha and was created from the former gravel pits. It forms a series of lakes and open waterbodies along the Soar-Wreake catchment. It is stocked with fish (Carp, Perch, Pike, Bream, Tench, and Roach) and leased to a fishing club.

The greens and fairways are managed to facilitate golf play, but the course contains areas of woodland, scrub, tall ruderal and wildflower grassland.

Evaluation: The golf course is a large area of open space and of a similar size to the built environment of East Goscote village.

The site provides an important area of green space within the Wreake catchment. It helps to protect East Goscote and the surrounding infrastructure from flooding and to absorb carbon and air pollutants from the road, rail and industrial land uses nearby.

Although separated directly from the village by the main railway line, it readily connects with green space on the village side via the railway line verges, Dog Walk site and wider Jubilee Playing Fields. More mobile species of fauna such as Birds, Mammals and Insects will readily colonise East Goscote from this area. Examples include Badgers, Rabbits, Foxes, Birds and Amphibians. The inter-connecting area of these sites is particularly important in helping facilitate species dispersal and management of priority habitat sites and their contribution to nature recovery.

### 3.8 PRIVATE GARDENS

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No access to gardens was undertaken during the wildlife audit, but a study of aerial and satellite imagery together with general observations noted during site visits has enabled some assessment and evaluation to be made.

Description: The private gardens around East Goscote are of great importance to biodiversity as they contain a range of habitats from mature trees to areas of short or rough grassland, ponds, shrubs and bedding plants. They also provide connectivity between larger areas of green space and, in themselves create large areas when several gardens back onto each other. This facilitates species dispersal and a means to overcome physical barriers within the village such as water courses, road and rail infrastructure.

The gardens provide opportunities for water storage and habitats for wildlife, dispersal routes and buffers to larger areas of green space.

Recommendations:

The following points made are examples of how wildlife can be encouraged across the whole of East Goscote to make it a biodiverse and friendly village.

- Promote wildlife-friendly gardening practices across East Goscote, particularly adjacent to areas of green space – provide leaflets, advice, workshops, mentors etc.
- Encourage Bird feeding/Bee-Friendly gardening with infrastructure e.g. nest boxes, bug hotels.
- Create blossom trails across the village by, for example, obtaining sponsorship/free trees to plant in gardens (small fruit or nut trees) to facilitate a long blossom season and food source of fruit and nuts.
- Increase the overall area of wildflower-rich grassland across the village by seeking sponsorship or donors to provide seed of local provenance for residents to create their own small pollinator patch e.g. 1m x 1m within their own gardens.

## APPENDIX 1: SPECIES RECORDS

Site Name	Common Name	Scientific Name
Jubilee Playing Fields - The Mound	Black medick	<i>Medicago lupulina</i>
	Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i>
	Canadian maple	<i>Acer saccharum</i>
	Cat's-ear	<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>
	Common chickweed	<i>Stellaria media</i>
	Common nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>
	Common ragwort	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>
	Cow parsley	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>
	Creeping Cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla reptans</i>
	Daisy	<i>Bellis perennis</i>
	Damson	<i>Prunus sp</i>
	Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum</i>
	Dove's-foot Crane's-bill	<i>Geranium molle</i>
	False oat-grass	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>
	Field bindweed	<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>
	Goat's-beard	<i>Tragopogon pratensis</i>
	Greater plantain	<i>Plantago major</i>
	Hogweed	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>
	Horse-radish	<i>Armoracia rusticana</i>
	Mare's-tail	<i>Hippuris vulgaris</i>
	Perennial rye-grass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>
	Prickly Sow-thistle	<i>Sonchus asper</i>
	Ribwort plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>
	White clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>
	Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>
	Yorkshire-fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>

Site Name	Common Name	Scientific Name
Jubilee Playing Fields - entrance	Common Mouse-ear	<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>
	dandelion	<i>Taraxacum</i>
	Dove's-foot Crane's-bill	<i>Geranium molle</i>
	oxeye daisy	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>
	Red fescue	<i>Festuca rubra</i>
	ribwort plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>
	scentless mayweed	<i>Tripleurospermum inodorum</i>
	white clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>
	wild carrot	<i>Daucus carota</i>
	wood avens	<i>Geum urbanum</i>
	yellow-rattle	<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>



Site Name	Common Name	Scientific Name
Jubilee Playing Fields - Dog Walk	Apple	<i>Malus pumila</i>
	Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>
	Bristly Oxtongue	<i>Picris echioides</i>
	Cock's-foot	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>
	Common Figwort	<i>Scrophularia nodosa</i>
	Common mallow	<i>Malva sylvestris</i>
	common nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>
	Common ragwort	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>
	Creeping Thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>
	Dog-rose	<i>Rosa canina</i>
	Dove's-foot Crane's-bill	<i>Geranium molle</i>
	elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>
	False oat-grass	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>
	Forget-me-not	<i>Myotis sp</i>
	gorse	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>
	Greater celandine	<i>Chelidonium majus</i>
	Greater periwinkle	<i>Vinca major</i>
	Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>
	Hogweed	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>
	Mugwort	<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>
	Mullein	<i>Cucullia verbasci</i>
	Nipplewort	<i>Lapsana communis</i>
	Oxeye Daisy	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>
	Oxford ragwort	<i>Senecio squalidus</i>
	Perennial rye-grass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>
	Prickly sow-thistle	<i>Sonchus asper</i>
	red campion	<i>Silene dioica</i>
	Rosebay willowherb	<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>
	Scarlet pimpernel	<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>
	Spear thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>
	Sun Spurge	<i>Euphorbia helioscopia</i>
	Viper's-bugloss	<i>Echium vulgare</i>
	weld	<i>Reseda luteola</i>
	welted thistle	<i>Carduus crispus</i>
	white campion	<i>Silene latifolia</i>
	white dead-nettle	<i>Lamium album</i>
	White stonecrop	<i>Sedum album</i>
	yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>

Site Name	Common Name	Scientific Name
Jubilee Playing Fields - Hedgerow	Autumn hawkbit	<i>Scorzoneroides autumnalis</i>
	Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>
	Bluebell	<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>
	Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i>
	Canadian maple	<i>Acer saccharum</i>
	Cherry	<i>Prunus sp</i>
	Cleavers	<i>Galium aparine</i>
	Cock's-foot	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>
	Common nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>
	Common ragwort	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>
	Cow parsley	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>
	Creeping buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>
	Dogwood	<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>
	Elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>
	False oat-grass	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>
	Field bindweed	<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>
	Field maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>
	Garden privet	<i>Ligustrum ovalifolium</i>
	Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>
	Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>
	Meadow foxtail	<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>
	Perennial rye-grass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>
	Red dead-nettle	<i>Lamium purpureum</i>
	Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>
	Wood avens	<i>Geum urbanum</i>
	Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>

Site Name	Common Name	Scientific Name
Jubilee Playing Fields - Woodland	Elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>
	Field maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>
	Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>

Site Name	Common Name	Scientific Name
The Warren	Alder	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>
	Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>
	Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>
	Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i>
	Broom	<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>
	Cock's-foot	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>
	Common ragwort	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>
	Crack willow	<i>Salix fragilis</i>
	Creeping cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla reptans</i>
	Daisy	<i>Bellis perennis</i>
	Dog-rose	<i>Rosa canina</i>
	Dogwood	<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>
	Elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>
	False oat-grass	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>
	Fat-hen	<i>Chenopodium album</i>
	Field maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>
	Gorse	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>
	gorse	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>
	Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>
	Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>
	Ribwort plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>
	Silver birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>
	Weld	<i>Reseda luteola</i>
	White campion	<i>Silene latifolia</i>
	Wild Teasel	<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>
	Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>

Site Name	Common Name	Scientific Name
Wynds Way	Canadian maple	<i>Acer saccharum</i>
	Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>
	Cow parsley	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>
	Daisy	<i>Bellis perennis</i>
	Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>
	Dove's-foot Crane's-bill	<i>Geranium molle</i>
	Pineappleweed	<i>Matricaria discoidea</i>
	greater plantain	<i>Plantago major</i>
	Knotgrass	<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>
	Creeping cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla reptans</i>
	Bird cherry	<i>Prunus padus</i>
	Cherry	<i>Prunus sp</i>
	Autumn hawkbit	<i>Scorzoneroides autumnalis</i>
	Rowan	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>
	Common Chickweed	<i>Stellaria media</i>
	Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum</i>
	Small-leaved Lime	<i>Tilia cordata</i>
	White clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>

<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>
Wildflower Verge	Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i>
	Broad-leaved Dock	<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>
	Cleavers	<i>Galium aparine</i>
	Common bent	<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>
	Common knapweed	<i>Centaurea nigra</i>
	common nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>
	Common poppy	<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>
	Common sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>
	Cow parsley	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>
	dandelion	<i>Taraxacum</i>
	False oat-grass	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>
	Groundsel	<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>
	Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>
	Lady's bedstraw	<i>Galium verum</i>
	Meadow buttercup	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>
	Oxeye daisy	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>
	Red clover	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>
	ribwort plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>
	White bryony	<i>Bryonia dioica</i>
	white clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>
	Wild carrot	<i>Daucus carota</i>
	Yellow-rattle	<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>
	Yorkshire-fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>

Site Name	Common Name	Scientific Name
Long Furrow Verge - wider	Annual Meadow-grass	<i>Poa annua</i>
	Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>
	Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i>
	Broad-leaved Dock	<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>
	Cleavers	<i>Galium aparine</i>
	Common bent	<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>
	common nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>
	Common ragwort	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>
	Cow parsley	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>
	Creeping buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>
	Creeping cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla reptans</i>
	Curled dock	<i>Rumex crispus</i>
	Daisy	<i>Bellis perennis</i>
	dandelion	<i>Taraxacum</i>
	Dove's-foot Crane's-bill	<i>Geranium molle</i>
	False oat-grass	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>
	French crane's-bill	<i>Geranium endressii</i>
	Green alkanet	<i>Pentaglottis sempervirens</i>
	Hedge bindweed	<i>Calystegia sepium</i>
	Herb-robert	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>
	Hogweed	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>
	Perennial rye-grass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>
	Red dead-nettle	<i>Lamium purpureum</i>
	ribwort plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>
	Rough Hawk's-beard	<i>Crepis biennis</i>
	Wall barley	<i>Hordeum murinum</i>
	white clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>
	Yorkshire-fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>

Site Name	Common Name	Scientific Name
Broome Avenue	Autumn hawkbit	<i>Scorzoneroides autumnalis</i>
	Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i>
	Common Dog-violet	<i>Viola riviniana</i>
	Cow parsley	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>
	Daisy	<i>Bellis perennis</i>
	dandelion	<i>Taraxacum</i>
	Fox-and-Cubs	<i>Pilosella aurantiaca</i>
	Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>
	ribwort plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>
	Silver birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>
	Sun spurge	<i>Euphorbia helioscopia</i>
	Wild cherry	<i>Prunus avium</i>
	wood avens	<i>Geum urbanum</i>
	Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>

Site Name	Common Name	Scientific Name
Nature Garden	Autumn hawkbit	<i>Scorzoneroides autumnalis</i>
	black medick	<i>Medicago lupulina</i>
	Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i>
	Broad-leaved Dock	<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>
	Cleavers	<i>Galium aparine</i>
	Cock's-foot	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>
	Common bent	<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>
	Common knapweed	<i>Centaurea nigra</i>
	Common mallow	<i>Malva sylvestris</i>
	Common Mouse-ear	<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>
	Common poppy	<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>
	Common ragwort	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>
	creeping Thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>
	dandelion	<i>Taraxacum</i>
	Dove's-foot Crane's-bill	<i>Geranium molle</i>
	False oat-grass	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>
	Garlic mustard	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>
	Hedge bedstraw	<i>Galium mollugo</i>
	Herb-robert	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>
	Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>
	Meadow foxtail	<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>
	Mullein	<i>Cucullia verbasci</i>
	Nipplewort	<i>Lapsana communis</i>
	Oxeye daisy	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>
	Perennial rye-grass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>
	Prickly sow-thistle	<i>Sonchus asper</i>
	Red campion	<i>Silene dioica</i>
	Red fescue	<i>Festuca rubra</i>
	ribwort plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>
	Rough Hawk's-beard	<i>Crepis biennis</i>
	scentless mayweed	<i>Tripleurospermum inodorum</i>
	Snowberry	<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>
	Spear thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>
	Sweet vernal-grass	<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>
	Timothy	<i>Phleum pratense</i>
	Tufted hair-grass	<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>
	Wall barley	<i>Hordeum murinum</i>
	white campion	<i>Silene latifolia</i>
	white clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>
	Wild carrot	<i>Daucus carota</i>
	wood avens	<i>Geum urbanum</i>
	Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>
	yellow-rattle	<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>
	Yorkshire-fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>

Site Name	Common Name	Scientific Name
Melton Rd verge	Alder	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>
	Black medick	<i>Medicago lupulina</i>
	Canadian maple	<i>Acer sacharrum</i>
	Cat's-ear	<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>
	Common mallow	<i>Malva sylvestris</i>
	Common sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>
	Creeping cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla reptans</i>
	Cut-leaved Crane's-bill	<i>Geranium dissectum</i>
	Daisy	<i>Bellis perennis</i>
	Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum</i>
	Dove's-foot Crane's-bill	<i>Geranium molle</i>
	Perennial rye-grass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>
	ribwort plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>
	Rowan	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>
	Silver birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>
	Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>
	White clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>
	Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>
	Yorkshire-fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>

Site Name	Common Name	Scientific Name
Lilac Way Open Spaces	Autumn hawkbit	<i>Scorzoneroides autumnalis</i>
	Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>
	Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i>
	Cherry	<i>Prunus</i>
	Cleavers	<i>Galium aparine</i>
	common nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>
	Creeping cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla reptans</i>
	Daisy	<i>Bellis perennis</i>
	Dog-rose	<i>Rosa canina</i>
	Dove's-foot Crane's-bill	<i>Geranium molle</i>
	Elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>
	False oat-grass	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>
	Field maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>
	Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>
	Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>
	Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>
	Osier	<i>Salix viminalis</i>
	Pedunculate oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>
	ribwort plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>
	Snowberry	<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>
	Spear thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>
	Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>
	White bryony	<i>Bryonia dioica</i>
	White clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>
	Wild privet	<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>
	Wisteria	<i>Wisteria</i>
	wood avens	<i>Geum urbanum</i>

Site Name	Common Name	Scientific Name
Private land - farmland - Hedgerow	Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>
	Crack willow	<i>Salix fragilis</i>
	Dogwood	<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>
	Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>

Site Name	Common Name	Scientific Name
Private land - farmland - Paddock	Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i>
	common nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>
	False oat-grass	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>
	Meadowsweet	<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>
	Rosebay willowherb	<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>

Site Name	Common Name	Scientific Name
Private land - farmland - M1	Annual Meadow-grass	<i>Poa annua</i>
	Broad-leaved Dock	<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>
	Common bent	<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>
	Common Mouse-ear	<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>
	common nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>
	Cow parsley	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>
	Curled dock	<i>Rumex crispus</i>
	Cut-leaved Crane's-bill	<i>Geranium dissectum</i>
	dandelion	<i>Taraxacum</i>
	False oat-grass	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>
	Hogweed	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>
	Perennial rye-grass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>
	Prickly sow-thistle	<i>Sonchus asper</i>
	Yorkshire-fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>

Site Name	Common Name	Scientific Name
Private land - farmland - M2	Annual Meadow-grass	<i>Poa annua</i>
	black medick	<i>Medicago lupulina</i>
	Common bent	<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>
	Common Mouse-ear	<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>
	Common ragwort	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>
	Creeping buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>
	Cut-leaved Crane's-bill	<i>Geranium dissectum</i>
	dandelion	<i>Taraxacum</i>
	Greater burdock	<i>Arctium lappa</i>
	Groundsel	<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>
	Perennial rye-grass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>
	ribwort plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>
	Sweet vernal-grass	<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>
	white clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>



Site Name	Common Name	Scientific Name
Private land - farmland - M3	Creeping buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>
	False oat-grass	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>
	Yorkshire-fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>

Site Name	Common Name	Scientific Name
Private land - farmland - M4	Annual Meadow-grass	<i>Poa annua</i>
	Broad-leaved Dock	<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>
	Common bent	<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>
	Common Mouse-ear	<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>
	common nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>
	Common ragwort	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>
	Creeping buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>
	Curled dock	<i>Rumex crispus</i>
	Cut-leaved Crane's-bill	<i>Geranium dissectum</i>
	dandelion	<i>Taraxacum</i>
	False oat-grass	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>
	Goat's-beard	<i>Tragopogon pratensis</i>
	Hogweed	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>
	Meadow brome	<i>Bromus commutatus</i>
	Meadow buttercup	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>
	Meadow vetchling	<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>
	Perennial rye-grass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>
	Sweet vernal-grass	<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>
	Yorkshire-fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>

Site Name	Common Name	Scientific Name
Private land - Brook	Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>
	Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i>
	Branched bur-reed	<i>Sparganium erectum</i>
	common nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>
	Cow parsley	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>
	Crack willow	<i>Salix fragilis</i>
	False oat-grass	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>
	Garlic mustard	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>
	Great willowherb	<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>
	Greater burdock	<i>Arctium lappa</i>
	Hedge bedstraw	<i>Galium mollugo</i>
	Hemlock	<i>Conium maculatum</i>
	Hogweed	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>
	Marsh thistle	<i>Cirsium palustre</i>
	Osier	<i>Salix viminalis</i>
	Reed canary-grass	<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>
	Rosebay willowherb	<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>
	Tufted hair-grass	<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>

Site Name	Common Name	Scientific Name
Private land - Woodland W1	Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>
	Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i>
	Cleavers	<i>Galium aparine</i>
	common nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>
	Copper beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica 'Purpurea'</i>
	Cow parsley	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>
	dandelion	<i>Taraxacum</i>
	Elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>
	Elm	<i>Ulmus</i>
	Foxglove	<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>
	Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>
	Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>
	Hedge woundwort	<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>
	Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>
	Lords-and-Ladies	<i>Arum maculatum</i>
	Nipplewort	<i>Lapsana communis</i>
	Red campion	<i>Silene dioica</i>
	Scots pine	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>
	wood avens	<i>Geum urbanum</i>
	Wood dock	<i>Rumex sanguineus</i>
	Wood millet	<i>Milium effusum</i>

Site Name	Common Name	Scientific Name
Private land - Woodland (wet) W2	Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>
	common nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>
	Crack willow	<i>Salix fragilis</i>
	Elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>
	Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>
	Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>

## APPENDIX 1: SPECIES RECORDS - FAUNA

Site Name	Common Name	Scientific Name
Jubilee Playing Fields - Hedgerow	Carrion crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>
	Common toad	<i>Bufo bufo</i>
	Gatekeeper	<i>Pyronia tithonus</i>
	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>
	Large white	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>
	Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>
	Marmalade hoverfly	<i>Episyrphus balteatus</i>
	Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>
	Red admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>
	Tree sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>
	Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>

Site Name	Common Name	Scientific Name
Jubilee Playing Fields - Dog Walk	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>
	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>
	Black-headed gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>
	Blue tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>
	Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>
	Buff tailed bumblebee	<i>Bombus terrestris</i>
	Comma	<i>Polygonia c-album</i>
	Common blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>
	Common carder bee	<i>Bombus pascuorum</i>
	Common toad	<i>Bufo bufo</i>
	Gatekeeper	<i>Pyronia tithonus</i>
	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>
	Great tit	<i>Parus major</i>
	Green bottle fly	<i>Lucilia sericata</i>
	Green woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>
	House martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>
	Large white	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>
	Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>
	Marmalade hoverfly	<i>Episyrphus balteatus</i>
	Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>
	Red tailed bumblebee	<i>Bombus lapidarius</i>
	Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>
	Seven spot ladybird	<i>Coccinella septempunctata</i>
	White lipped snail	<i>Cepaea hortensis</i>

Site Name	Common Name	Scientific Name
Jubilee Playing Fields - Hedgerow	Carrion crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>
	Common toad	<i>Bufo bufo</i>
	Gatekeeper	<i>Pyronia tithonus</i>
	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>
	Large white	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>
	Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>
	Marmalade hoverfly	<i>Episyrphus balteatus</i>
	Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>
	Red admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>
	Tree sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>
	Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>

Site Name	Common Name	Scientific Name
Nature Garden	Common carder bee	<i>Bombus pascuorum</i>
	Common wasp	<i>Vespula vulgaris</i>
	Green bottle fly	<i>Lucilia sericata</i>
	Marmalade hoverfly	<i>Episyrphus balteatus</i>
	Meadow brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>
	Red-tailed bumblebee	<i>Bombus lapidarius</i>
	robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>
	Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
	Thick legged flower bee	<i>Oedemera nobilis</i>
	Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>
	Yellow meadow ant	<i>Lasius flavus</i>

Site Name	Common Name	Scientific Name
Long Furrow Woodland	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>
	Carrion crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>
	Grey squirrel	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>
	Large white	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>
	Mole	<i>Talpa europaea</i>
	Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>
	Roe deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>
	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>

<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>
Private land - SE of Village	Badger	<i>Meles meles</i>
	Banded Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx splendens</i>
	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>
	Blue tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>
	Buff tailed bumblebee	<i>Bombus terrestris</i>
	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>
	Common blue damselfly	<i>Enallagma cyathigerum</i>
	Harlequin ladybird	<i>Harmonia axyridis</i>
	Large white	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>
	Marmalade hoverfly	<i>Episyrphus balteatus</i>
	Meadow brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>
	Mole	<i>Talpa europaea</i>
	Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>
	Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>
	Red soldier beetle	<i>Rhagonycha fulva</i>
	Ringlet	<i>Aphantopus hyperantus</i>
	Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>
	Small tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>
	Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>
	Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>

## APPENDIX 2 SITE PLANS





The Wynd and  
Other Sites  
East Goscote

HABITATS

East Goscote Trees

Small tree

Medium tree

Large tree

THE WYND HABITATS

Modified grassland



Long Furrow  
South Boundary  
East Goscote

**WATERCOURSES**

- Gaddesby Brook
- Other rivers and streams

**HABITATS**

- East Goscote Trees
  - Small tree
  - Medium tree
  - Large tree
- EastGoscote Baseline
  - Wildflower verge
  - Other neutral grassland
  - Woodland - broadleaved





North-West Sites, East  
 Goscote  
 Broome Avenue  
 Nature Garden  
 Melton Road Verges  
 (North)  
 Lilac Way (North)  
 Lilac Way (South)

**HEDGEROWS**

Hedgerow Baseline EDIT ME

Native hedgerow

**HABITATS**

East Goscote Trees

Small tree

Medium tree

Large tree

EastGosce Habitat Types

Introduced shrub

Mixed scrub

Modified grassland

Other neutral grassland

Other woodland; broadleaved

Other woodland; mixed



South-East Sites, East Goscote  
 Nature Garden  
 Melton Road Verges (South)  
 Lilac Way (South)  
 Lilac Way Verges

**HEDGEROWS**

East Goscote Hedgerows  
 Native hedgerow

**WATERCOURSES**

Gaddesby Brook  
 Other rivers and streams

**HABITATS**

East Goscote Trees  
 Small tree  
 Medium tree  
 Large tree

East Goscote Baseline  
 Introduced shrub  
 Mixed scrub  
 Modified grassland  
 Other neutral grassland  
 Other woodland; broadleaved  
 Other woodland; mixed  
 Tall herb communities





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