

Bassetlaw District Local Development Framework

ENVIRONMENTAL SITES ASSESSMENT



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BASSETLAW
DISTRICT COUNCIL
NORTH NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

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Bassetlaw Environmental Sites Assessment



Contents

<i>Chapter</i>		<i>Page</i>
1	Background	3
2	Policy and Legislative Context	4
3	Sensitive Environmental Sites in Bassetlaw	10
4	Strategic Constraints	18
5	Urban Area Constraints	24
6	Recommendations	28
7	Conclusions	31

Appendices

1	Sites of Special Scientific Interest in Bassetlaw
2	Local Wildlife Sites/Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Bassetlaw
3	Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust managed sites
4	BAP Habitats found in Bassetlaw
5	Environmental Site Designations in Bassetlaw
6	Urban Area Constraints Assessment

1. BACKGROUND

Introduction

This is a background study to support the development of the Bassetlaw District Local Development Framework (LDF). Government guidance, in Planning Policy Statement 12: *Local Spatial Planning*, states that core strategies should be supported by evidence of what physical, social and green infrastructure is needed in the local area. In the light of future growth pressure for housing and employment land needs in Bassetlaw, it is essential, therefore, to identify and to map those sites that must be considered for protection and enhancement.

This study contributes to the LDF evidence base by identifying areas in Bassetlaw that have recognised environmental value and are, therefore, sensitive to development. This network of sites comprising landscape areas, areas with priority habitats and species can be seen as contributing to the District's 'green infrastructure'. While landscape is touched upon in this study, Bassetlaw's Landscape Character Assessment should be referred to as the definitive guide to sensitive landscapes in the District. In addition, the forthcoming Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and Open Space study will further help identify green infrastructure needs.

Approach

Given the significance of designated environmental sites, and their sensitivity to new forms of development, conservation issues will serve, in some cases, to constrain new development. While all environmental assets should be afforded appropriate protection in the planning process, it is those sites that are closest to urban areas that tend to face the greatest and most immediate development pressure. This study, therefore, assesses the requirements of relevant legislation and planning policy, then identifies and maps Bassetlaw's environmental assets.

The process of identifying sites involved a desktop review of recognised biodiversity assets and their proximity to existing built-up areas. It highlighted where there are distinct groupings and linkages between designated sites, which invariably provide recreational routes, wildlife migration paths and landscape features that the District simply cannot afford to lose. Using GIS a 1km 'fringe' or 'Accessible Countryside' zone was identified around the settlement envelopes¹ of Worksop, Retford and Harworth/Bircotes. As the largest urban areas in Bassetlaw, Worksop and Retford are identified, in the RSS, as a sub-regional centre and medium-sized market town respectively. They are perceived as being more likely to face a greater level of future development pressures. Similarly, Harworth/Bircotes is likely to benefit from RSS aspirations to regenerate areas adversely affected by the decline of coal mining. The designated environmental sites that fall within these areas were then assessed in terms of the potential constraint or opportunity each represents to the future development of the area.

Designated environmental sites outside these 1km fringe zones are also mapped. Where clear linkages occur these are regarded as wider strategic environmental constraint areas and potentially offer opportunity for green infrastructure development.

¹ Settlement envelopes – as defined in the Bassetlaw Local Plan (2001).

2. POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

The achievement of environmental protection and enhancement, while facilitating appropriate levels of development, is a key underlying principle of the sustainable development agenda at national, regional and local level. Key policy drivers are set out below.

National planning policy

Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development identifies sustainability as the Government's core principle for the planning system. Planning will play a role by facilitating development and promoting sustainable patterns of urban and rural development; making suitable land available for development in line with economic, social and environmental objectives to improve people's quality of life and; protecting and enhancing the natural and historic environment, the quality and character of the countryside, and existing communities.

PPS1 encourages consideration of environmental issues such as the protection of the wider countryside and the impact of development on landscape quality; the conservation and enhancement of wildlife species and habitats and the promotion of biodiversity; the need to improve the built and natural environment in and around urban areas and rural settlements. This includes the provision of good quality open space; the conservation of soil quality; and the preservation and enhancement of built and archaeological heritage.

Further emphasis is placed on the need for Local Authorities to provide improved access to leisure, community facilities, open space, sport and recreation (please see the Council's Open Space Study (2008) for further details).

Planning Policy Statement 7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas encourages Local Authorities to promote more sustainable patterns of development including discouraging the development of greenfield land and, where such land must be used, ensuring it is not used wastefully. Also, of particular relevance to protecting the natural environment is the aspiration to promote a range of uses to maximise the potential benefits of the countryside fringing urban areas.

Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation sets out planning policies on protection of these resources and assets through the planning system. The Government's objectives for planning are to sustain, and where possible improve, the quality and extent of natural habitat and geological and geomorphological sites. Furthermore, it is considered that enhancement of biodiversity in green spaces can contribute to rural renewal and urban renaissance.

PPS9 encourages Local Planning Authorities to take an integrated approach to planning for biodiversity and geodiversity when preparing LDF development plan documents (DPDs). Particular emphasis is placed on identifying sites for creation or enhancement.

Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Spatial Planning, states that core strategies should be supported by evidence of what physical, social and green infrastructure is needed in the local area. This is the first explicit reference to green infrastructure in national planning policy

Planning Policy Guidance Note 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation sets out the Government's main objectives in this area. A strong case for developing

green infrastructure is rooted in the desire to promote social inclusion and community cohesion, health and well being, and sustainable development.

A requirement of PPG17 is to undertake a local assessment of existing open space provision. From this assessment local authorities should identify opportunities for protection of existing open spaces and set standards for future provision (please see the Council's Open Space Study (2008) for further details).

Planning Policy Statement 25: Development and Flood Risk sets out how planning should facilitate and promote sustainable patterns of development, avoiding flood risk and accommodating the impacts of climate change.

Environmental Legislation

Biodiversity is the variety of life on earth and includes all species of plants and animals and the natural systems that support them. Biodiversity is a core component of sustainable development and has an important role to play in developing locally distinctive and sustainable communities.

Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981)

The Wildlife and Countryside Act provides for the protection of birds and a number of other animal and plant species; the prevention of the introduction of non-native species; notification of Sites of Special Scientific Interest by Natural England; contains measures for the management and protection of Sites of Special Scientific Interest; and provides for the designation of Marine Nature Reserves.

It should be noted that many of the provisions in the Countryside and Rights of Way Act and the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act replace provisions set out in the Wildlife and Countryside Act.

The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act makes eight amendments to part 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, which aim to improve protection of wildlife.

Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000) (CRoW Act)

The CRoW Act changes the Wildlife and Countryside Act by amending Site of Special Scientific Interest notification procedures; providing enhanced powers for the management and protection of these sites; and extending powers for entering management agreements. The Act places a duty on public bodies to conserve and manage Sites of Special Scientific Interest further. The CRoW Act also amends the Wildlife and Countryside Act by increasing the legal protection for species which are threatened.

In terms of wildlife protection and nature conservation, the CRoW Act places a Duty on Government Departments to have regard to biodiversity conservation, in addition to maintaining lists of species and habitats for which conservation steps should be taken, in accordance with the Convention of Biological Diversity (1992). Section 74 of the CRoW Act contains a list of all species and habitats of principle importance for biological conservation.

Additionally, the CRoW Act provides for public pedestrian access to land (of certain types), makes amendments to the law of public rights of way, and improves management for Areas of Natural Beauty.

Environmental Information Regulations (2004)

The Environmental Information Regulations enable the public to access information that is held by public authorities. The Regulations require that public authorities make environmental information that they hold available to members of the public, and this should be done progressively by electronic means. Such information should be organised to ensure it is disseminated to the public in an active and systematic way. The regulations also give the general public rights of access to environmental information from public authorities.

Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004)

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act aims to give effect to the Government's policy on the reform of the planning system. Although the majority of the Act does not relate to biodiversity conservation, Part 8 states that local authorities, joint planning boards and National Park authorities:

'will be able to acquire land by compulsory purchase if they think that it will facilitate the carrying out of development, redevelopment or improvement on or in relation to the land, on condition that such acquisition will be of economic, social or environmental benefit to their area' (Planning and Compulsory Act Guidance Notes).

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006)

The primary purpose of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) is to implement key aspects of the Government's Rural Strategy (2004).

The Act establishes both Natural England, an independent body responsible for conserving, managing and enhancing England's Natural Environment, and the Commission for Rural Communities, an independent advocate, watchdog and expert adviser for rural England. It also reconstitutes the Joint Nature Conservation Committee and renames and reconstitutes the Inland Waterways Amenity Advisory Council.

Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act requires that *'Every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity.'* It should be noted that the NERC Act supersedes and replaces Section 74 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act.

Other standards

Natural England's *Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards (ANGSt)* model sets a mandate for establishing green infrastructure by identifying the following targets for greenspace provision:

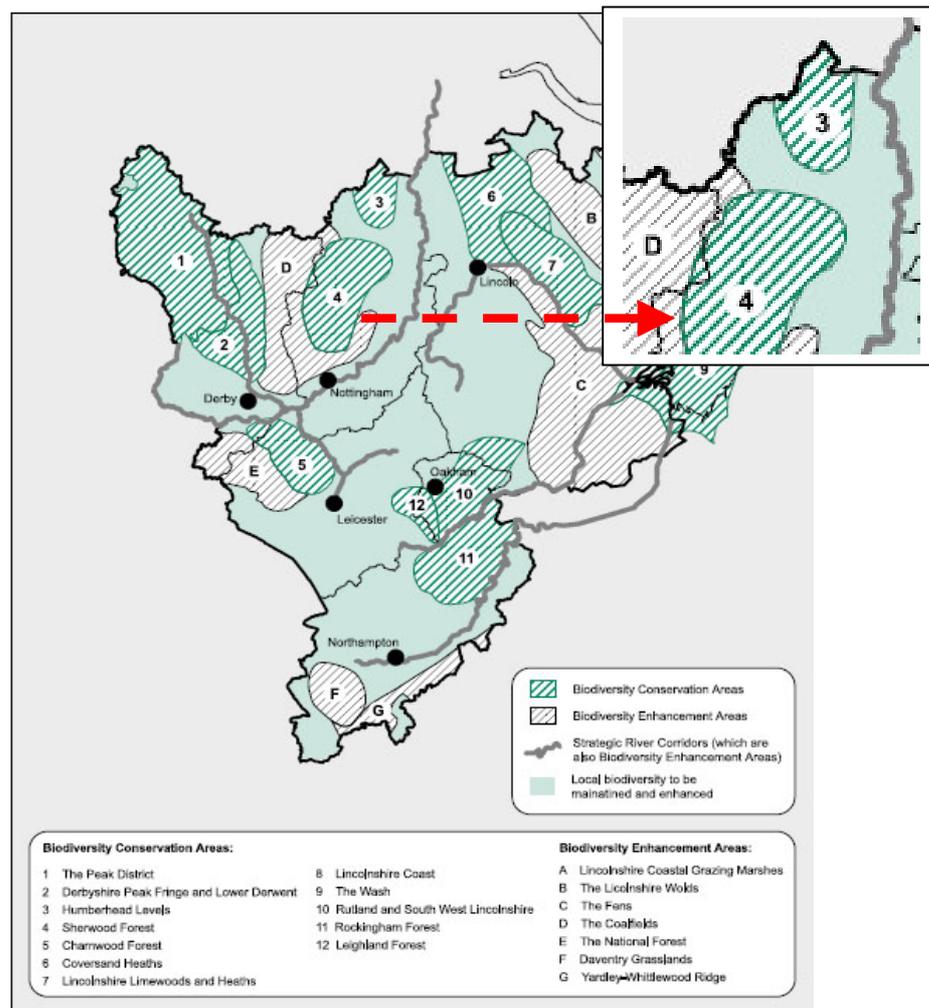
- No person should live more than 300m from their nearest area of natural greenspace, at least 2ha in size;
- Provision of at least 2ha Local Nature Reserve per 1000 population;
- One accessible 20ha site within 2km;
- One accessible 100ha site within 5km;
- One accessible 500ha site within 10km.

Regional planning policy

The draft Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the East Midlands, together with the Regional Biodiversity Strategy, emphasises that the capacity of natural resources to provide services should not be exceeded. In order to deliver sustainable development, these resources must be managed accordingly.

RSS Policy 27 sets out Regional Priorities for Environmental and Green Infrastructure, stating that assessment should be made of the capacity of existing environmental infrastructure to accommodate new development and of the potential to develop existing natural, cultural and landscape assets. The RSS also highlights the need to increase access to green space that can be used for formal and informal recreation, education and promoting healthy lifestyles.

Keeping wildlife on the map and putting wildlife back on the map are two of the key challenges identified in the Regional Biodiversity Strategy (see below). These ambitions are also articulated through the RSS, which, for Bassetlaw, identifies the Humberhead Levels (3) and Sherwood Forest (4) as Biodiversity Conservation Areas (BCAs); the Coalfields (D) to the west as a Biodiversity Enhancement Area (BEAs); the River Trent as a Strategic River Corridor (also BEAs); and asserts the aspiration for the remainder of the District to maintain and enhance the local biodiversity. The map, below, taken from the RSS, highlights Bassetlaw's place in the regional context.



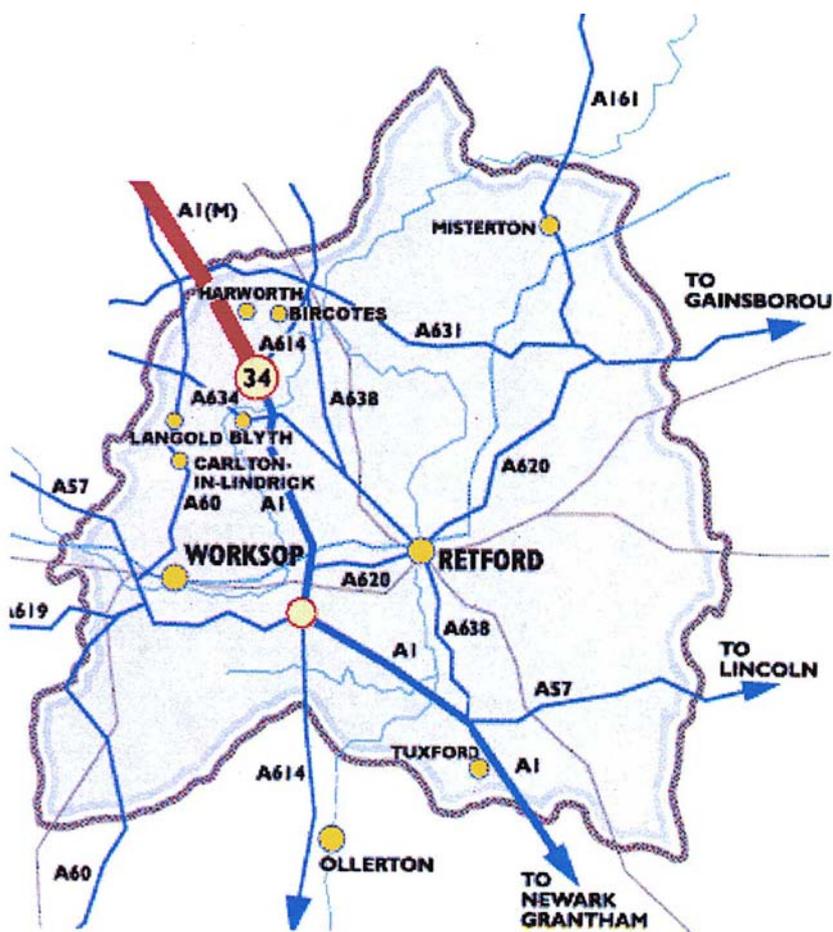
MAP 1: REGIONAL BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AREAS IN BASSETLAW

Although the RSS sets biodiversity targets, and identifies broad areas for conservation and enhancement, it emphasises that preserving and enhancing the environment of each sub-region is considered entirely as a matter for local planning.

Another relevant requirement of the RSS is Policy 29 which targets managing and increasing woodland cover, particularly where woodland is unavoidably lost to new development. The policy states that opportunities should be taken to secure sustainable management of all woodland, to increase public access to high quality multi-functional woodland close to communities as part of the development of Green Infrastructure.

Regional Biodiversity Strategy

The *Regional Biodiversity Strategy* states that BCAs represent areas with some of the best wildlife resources in the region, which could, if well managed, be ‘reservoirs’ of wildlife that would help the East Midlands’ biodiversity to recover to sustainable levels. BEAs are identified as areas in which biodiversity may be at greatest risk or already severely degraded.



MAP 2: BASSETLAW IN ITS WIDER CONTEXT

Bassetlaw Nature Conservation Strategy

In a rural authority, the natural environment is one of its most prominent assets. Bassetlaw has, arguably, not harnessed this to its fullest potential. As such, the Bassetlaw Nature Conservation Strategy (NCS) was published in September 2006 with the intention of helping achieve the aims of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan and identifying mechanisms for delivery of these aims. Under the NCS the amount of land in Bassetlaw covered by Local Nature Reserves has increased from 16 hectares to around 88 hectares, however this still equates to less than one hectare per 1000 population (significantly less than the aspirational standard of Natural England's ANGSt model).

The Bassetlaw NCS identifies planning policy as a key mechanism for delivering its aims and objectives. While working with other departments in the Council and engaging with key stakeholders is a defining feature of the LDF process, there are aspects of the NCS's aims and objectives (outlined below) that must be specifically delivered through planning.

AIM	SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	PLANNING RESPONSE
To protect, maintain and enhance the biological and geological diversity of the District	Use planning policy and development control to ensure a net gain of biodiversity Support large-scale habitat creation projects	Identify opportunity sites in the LDF Keep up-to-date records of existing green infrastructure, identifying areas of need Support planning applications in appropriate locations
To seek to ensure that all citizens of the District have ready access to nature conservation sites	Increase the number of LNRs by approximately one per year over the next five years Link nature conservation sites with other access initiatives	Identify potential sites in the LDF Identify potential linkages and linear routes between existing greenspace. Use money from Section 106 agreements to make nature conservation sites accessible to the public
To promote better understanding of the natural environment and encourage greater involvement by local people in nature conservation activity	Help to publicise wildlife sites and the Biodiversity Action Plan	Emphasise the importance and benefits of biodiversity in LDF policies, supporting the protection of priority habitats and species
To continue to collect information for and maintain a detailed database of the natural environment of the District	Support biological recording groups in the District Maintain a service level agreement with the Nottinghamshire Biological and Geological Records Centre	Keeping up to date records of existing biodiversity and geodiversity assets, identifying areas of need and habitats and species of conservations concern
To establish an ongoing implementation and monitoring programme	Establish a steering group to oversee and monitor the Nature Conservation Strategy	Participate in the steering group to ensure involvement in development of new projects. Under the NERC Act from 2009 Local Authorities will be required to monitor progress on delivery of their biodiversity duty in terms of number of protected sites and species.

TABLE 1: AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF BASSETLAW NATURE CONSERVATION STRATEGY

3. SENSITIVE ENVIRONMENTAL SITES IN BASSETLAW

There is a range of different environmental designations in Bassetlaw, many of which are enforced through statute or local policy, with varying degrees of sensitivity to development pressure. These are outlined below.

Natural environment site designations

Natural England estimates that the national average for the percentage of surface area covered by statutory designated sites for biological and geological conservation is 7%. The East Midlands is recognised as the region with the lowest biodiversity value in the country and Nottinghamshire performs poorly on the national scale, with only 2% of its land covered by statutory biological or geological designations. In Bassetlaw, statutorily protected environmental sites and other areas of recognised importance, considered sensitive to development, include the following:

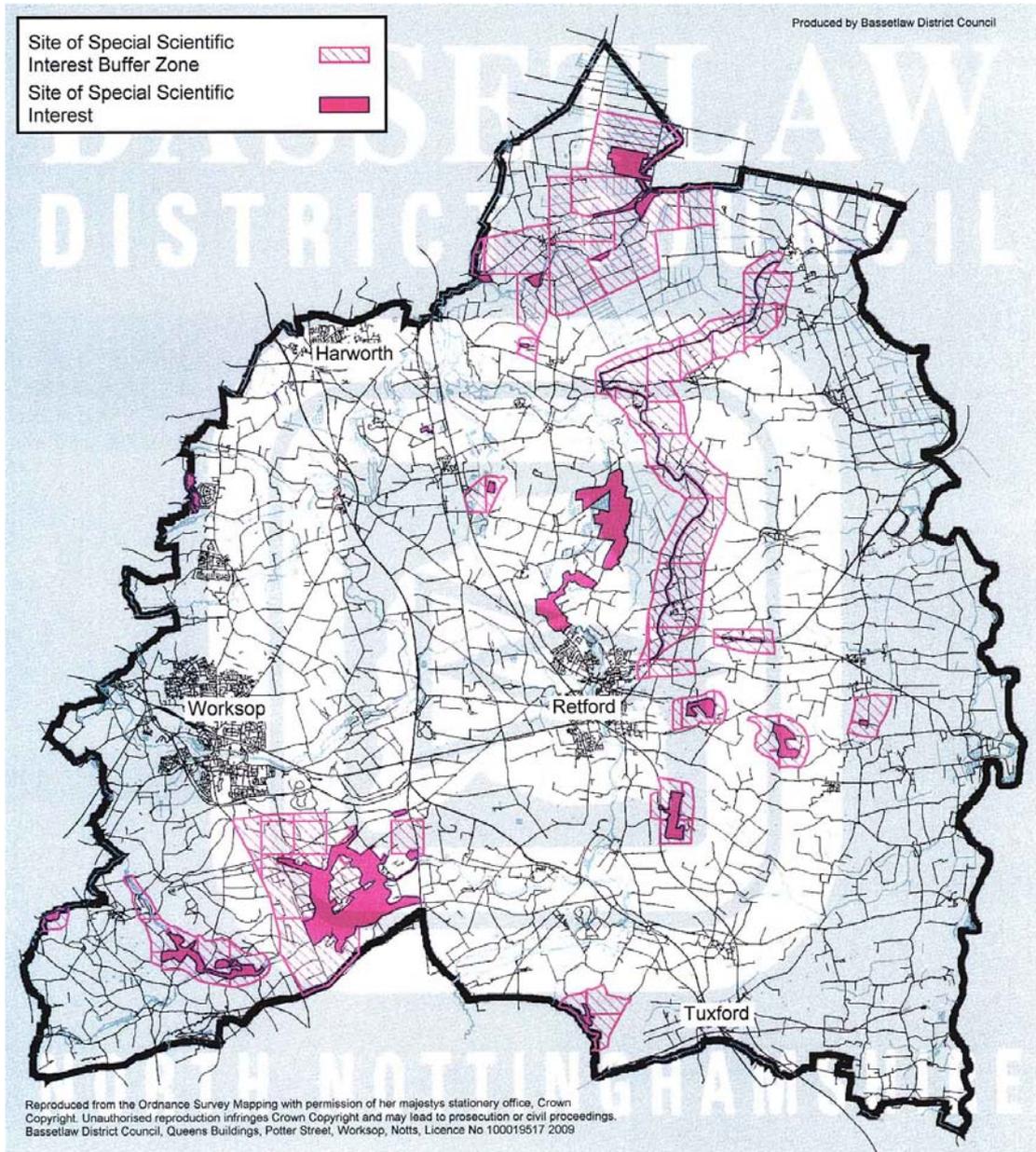
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI);
- Ancient Woodland;
- Local Wildlife Sites/Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation;
- Local Nature Reserves (LNR).

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

SSSIs are the country's very best wildlife and geological sites, including some of our most spectacular and beautiful habitats. The unique and varied habitats of SSSIs have developed over hundreds of years and often need active management to maintain their conservation interest.

There are 19 sites in Bassetlaw (Appendix 1) that have been scheduled by Natural England as SSSIs (including stretches of the Chesterfield Canal) covering broadleaved woodland, wetlands and grasslands. These comprise a total area of 1361 hectares, with only four sites currently identified as being in a 'favourable' condition. The majority of SSSIs in Bassetlaw are identified as being in an 'unfavourable' condition, although these vary in status ranging from '*recovering*', to '*no change*' and '*declining*', depending on the management of the site or impact of other activities in the immediate area.

Wildlife and geological features are under pressure from development, pollution, climate change and unsustainable land management. Given the fact that many plant and animal species that find it more difficult to survive in the wider countryside can be found in SSSIs, it is essential to preserve our remaining natural heritage for future generations.

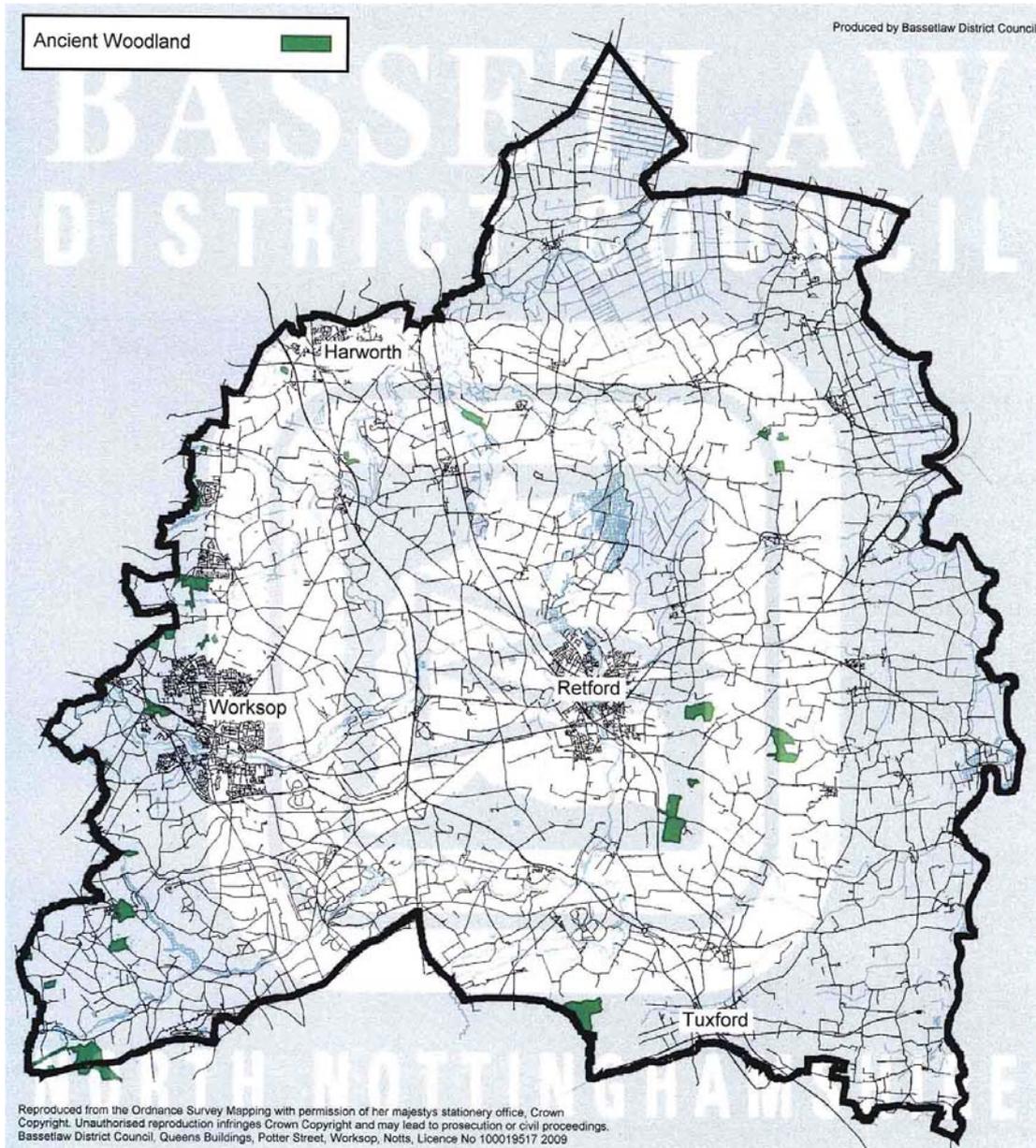


MAP 3: SSSI SITES IN BASSETLAW

Ancient Woodland

Ancient woodlands are those where there is believed to have been continuous woodland cover since at least 1600 AD. Before this time, planting was uncommon, so a wood present in 1600 AD is likely to have developed naturally. As the terrestrial habitat most representative of original, natural, stable conditions, ancient woodland is home to more threatened species than any other habitat in the UK. This assessment is supported by the UK Biodiversity Action Plan, which identifies that broadleaved woodland supports almost twice as many species of conservation concern as any other habitat. Ancient woodlands are also important from an amenity point of view.

There are currently 30 known areas of Ancient Woodland of two hectares or more in Bassetlaw, although many of these sites are also covered by SSSI or Local Wildlife Site designations.



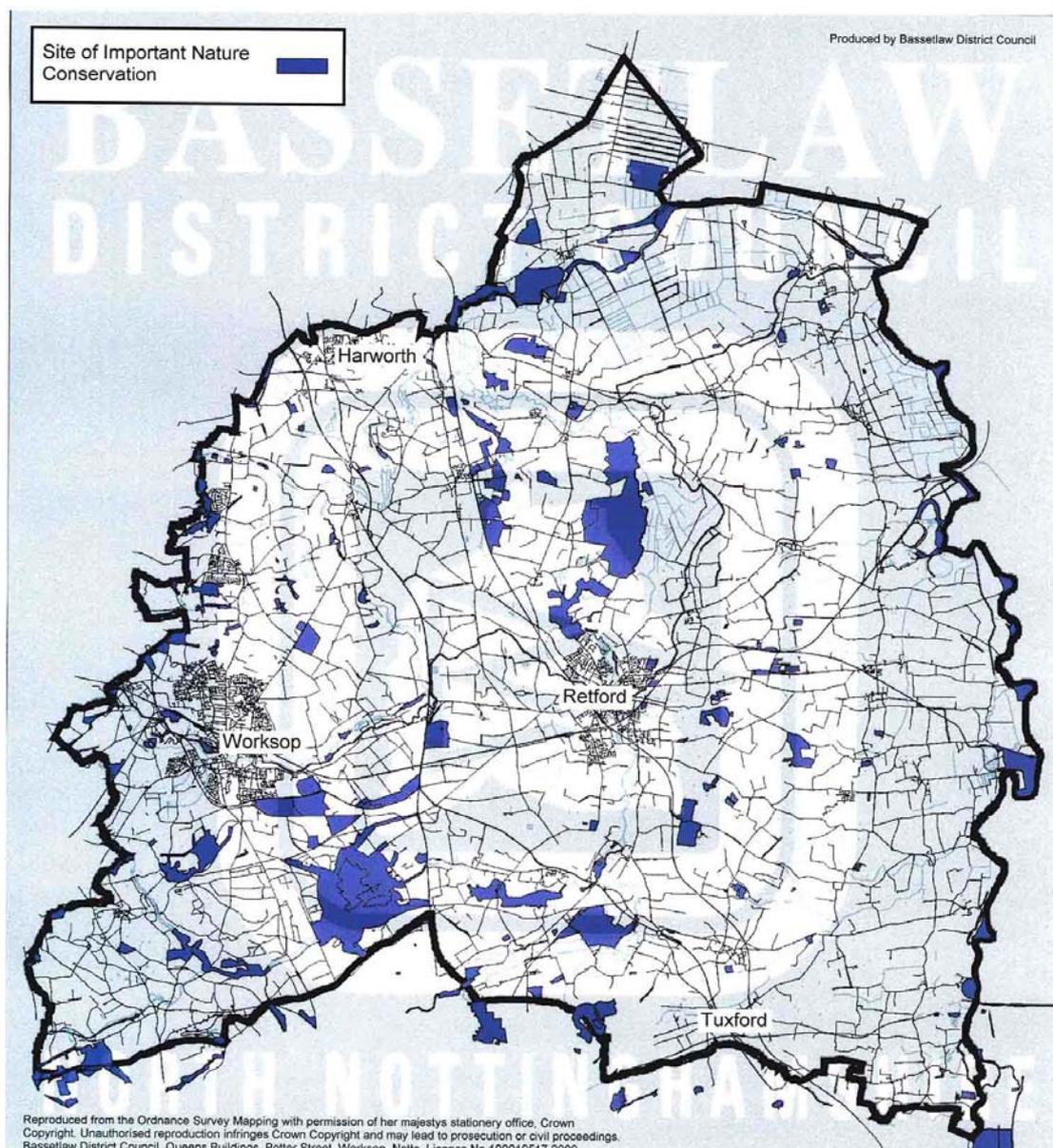
MAP 4: ANCIENT WOODLAND SITES IN BASSETLAW

Local Wildlife Sites

Local Wildlife Sites (also known as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs)) are locally designated sites that are considered to have county-level biological or geological significance. Local Wildlife Sites have been determined by Natural England to stand between SSSIs and the myriad of other sites of varying wildlife interest sites that make up the wider countryside. Local Wildlife Sites in some parts of the District include SSSIs but generally comprise the 'best' of the sites not recognised as part of the SSSI designations.

Local Wildlife Sites have been identified and protected across the county since 1991 as a result of hard work by many partners, including the Nottinghamshire Biological and Geological Records Centre (NBGRC), Nottinghamshire County Council, the District Councils, Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust and Natural England (formerly English Nature).

Local Wildlife Sites are recognised for their species content, based both on species rarity or whether a community of species is present that reflects good examples of once-typical Nottinghamshire habitats. Rarity can be measured by local information, where it exists, or by reference to national criteria through the 'notable' species system devised by the Government's statutory advisor on issues of nature conservation, the Joint Nature Conservation Committee. What constitutes 'rarity' or being 'once-typical' varies from taxonomic group to taxonomic group. The NBGRC have tried to find common ground between groups but the information that is known about them varies a great deal, largely because of the varying levels of interest, expertise or difficulty of observation, so it has not always been possible. The habitats for which criteria have been set are those set out in the Nottinghamshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan.



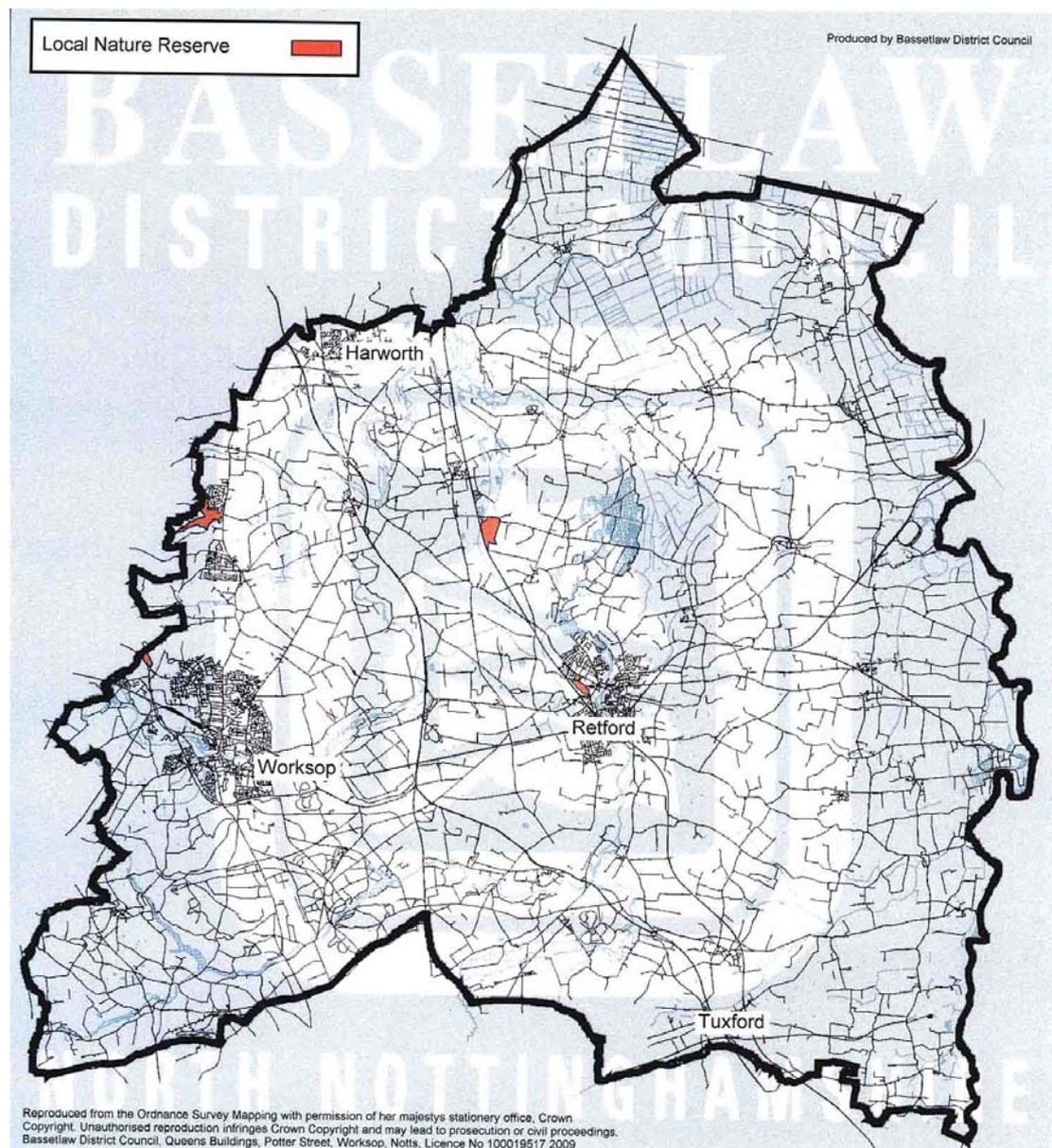
MAP 5: LOCAL WILDLIFE SITES/SINCS IN BASSETLAW

Site boundaries and the reasons for site designations are provided to local authorities so that these important wildlife sites can be taken into account in the planning

system, as required by PPS9. Although these sites do not carry statutory protection, they are important for the protection of biodiversity and help to meet national biodiversity targets. There are 326 biological and geological Local Wildlife Sites in Bassetlaw (listed in Appendix 2), covering a total area of 4473 hectares. These can be linked with other statutory sites to create a network of biodiversity 'corridors' and in accordance with PPS7 (paragraph 24) designated Local Wildlife Sites may enable the development of criteria-based policies in development plan documents.

Local Nature Reserves (LNR)

There are now four LNRs in Bassetlaw, covering an area of approximately 88 hectares. These are regarded as places with wildlife and or geological features that are of special interest locally. LNRs are also important as a means of connecting people with nature. Action taken, building on the aspirations of the *Bassetlaw Nature Conservation Strategy (2006)*, has seen proposals approved for the designation of three new LNRs in the District, in addition to the existing LNR at Daneshill. The new LNRs include Langold Country Park, Retford Cemetery and Woodsetts Pond.



MAP 6: LOCAL NATURE RESERVES IN BASSETLAW

Also of note, although not all formally identified as LNRs, the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust manage a number of sites (including SSSIs and Local Wildlife Sites) as nature reserves, making them accessible to the public. A list of these sites can be found in Appendix 3.

Habitats and Species of Importance for Biodiversity

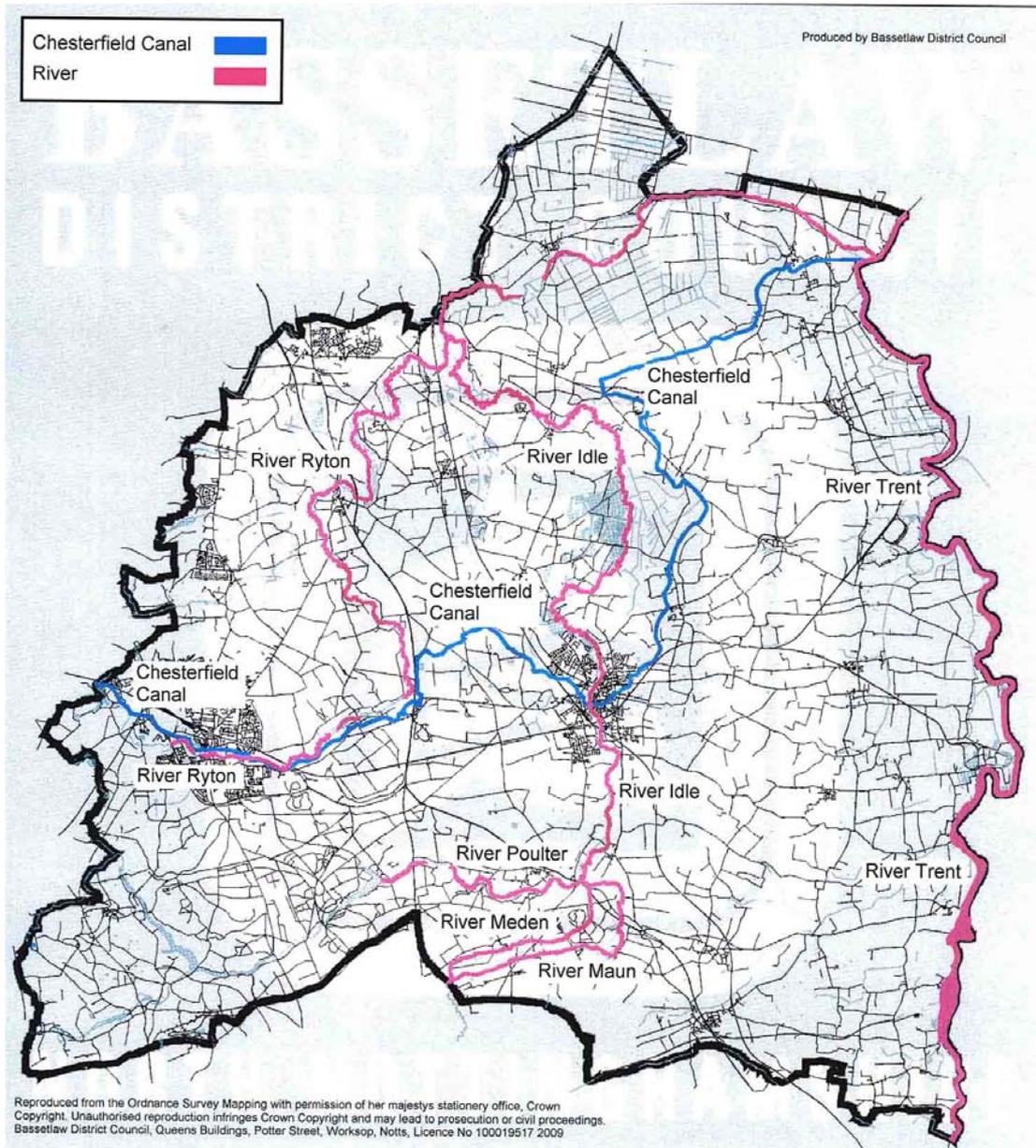
Biodiversity Action Plans (BAP) provide the framework for prioritising actions towards protecting and enhancing the UK's biodiversity. Together, the UKBAP and the Nottinghamshire Local BAP (LBAP) identify key priority habitats and species. PPS9 also places a strong emphasis on the conservation of UKBAP and LBAP habitats and species through the planning system. In 1998 the Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group, a partnership of many organisations throughout Nottinghamshire, launched their LBAP, identifying important, rare or threatened habitats and species in Nottinghamshire and providing action plans for their conservation. Several of these habitats and species occur in Bassetlaw.

Although GIS layers for BAP sites are not available, most key BAP sites are protected by environmental designations such as SSSIs and Local Wildlife Sites. While these designations may be regarded as reservoirs or concentrations of species, there are habitat 'stepping-stones' or 'corridors' that exist as linkages between them. As such, the importance of preserving these linkages should be recognised, thus emphasising that designated sites cannot be viewed in isolation but as part of the District's wider green infrastructure. BAP habitats of concern in Bassetlaw are identified in Appendix 4.

Watercourses

Watercourses are also environmental assets that may constrain built development. The rivers Ryton and Idle and the Chesterfield Canal are the principal watercourses flowing through Bassetlaw, with the river Trent acting as the eastern-most boundary to the District. Small sections of the rivers Meden, Maun and Poulter also flow across the south of the District. These watercourses are valuable biodiversity sources in themselves, providing many habitats for endangered species such as water voles and they are also important for dragonflies and kingfishers. Watercourses connect a large number of other sites of recognised importance in Bassetlaw as well as providing links with recreational access routes and opportunities for walking, cycling, bird watching, and fishing.

The Idle runs through Retford to Bawtry Bridge and on to West Stockwith, where it connects with the river Trent. Most of the land surrounding the river is a broad flood plain which is now partly occupied by a number of sand and gravel pits. Its main tributaries are the River Poulter and the River Ryton. In the carrs and levels of the Ryton valley, to the north and east of Worksop, a greener landscape is found and, in places, scrubby woodland and small plantations are the dominant landscape features.

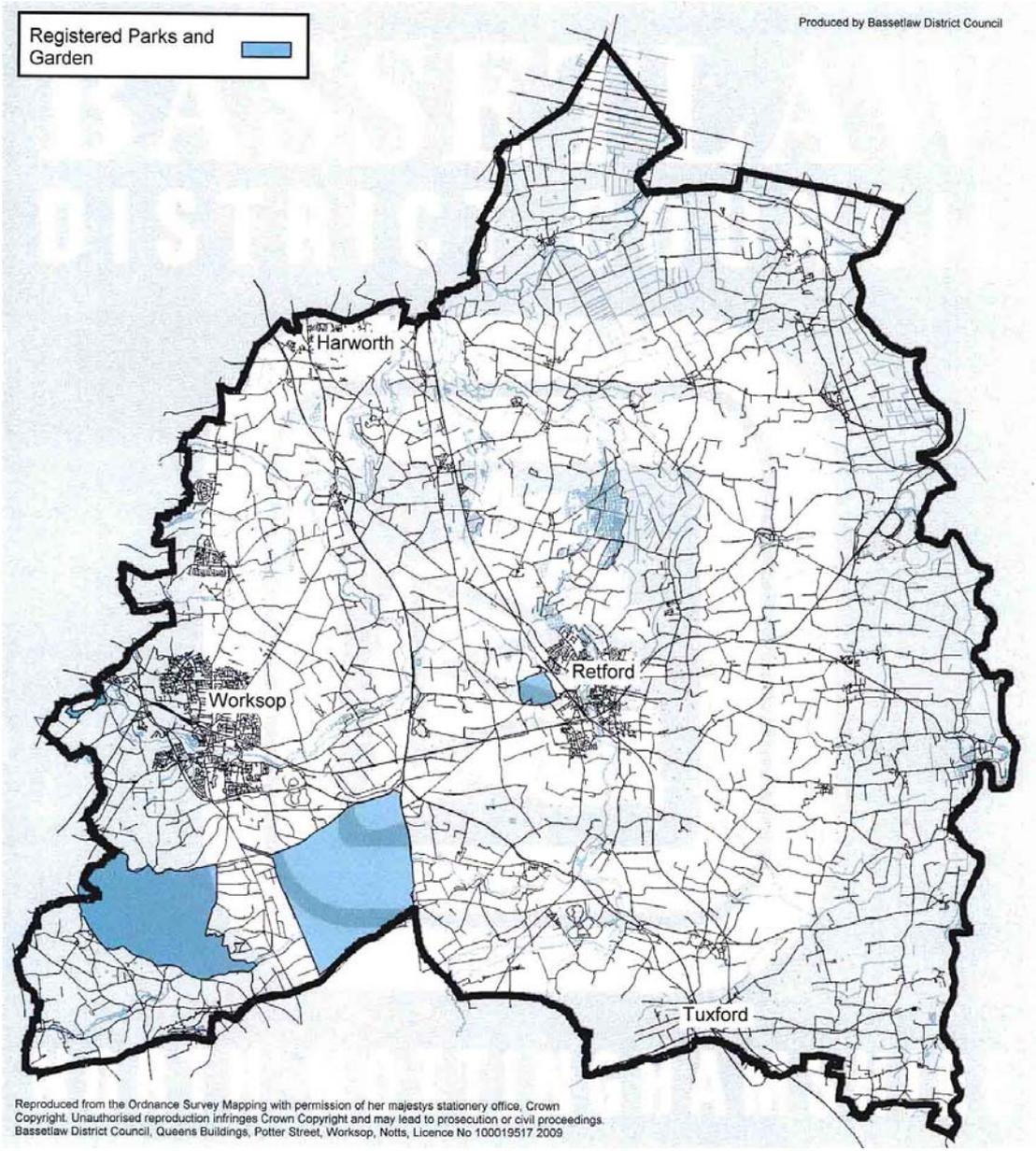


MAP 7: MAJOR WATERCOURSES IN BASSETLAW

Historic Environment

Registered Parks and Gardens

Registered parks and gardens make a rich and varied contribution to our landscape, with many containing rare and unusual plants and wildlife. In the *Register of Parks and Gardens of special historic interest in England* there are nearly 1450 sites, maintained by English Heritage. In Bassetlaw there are four parks including Babworth, Clumber, Shireoaks and Welbeck. It should be noted, however, that the Welbeck estate is not accessible by the public.



MAP 8: REGISTERED PARKS AND GARDENS IN BASSETLAW

4. STRATEGIC CONSTRAINTS

The district-wide environmental constraints map in Appendix 5 shows the extent of designated environmental sites in Bassetlaw. These, together, comprise a network of sites that are sensitive to development and which will be important for consideration when developing a spatial strategy for the future development of Bassetlaw. The environmental constraints map identifies areas of strategic importance, indicating where there are concentrations of environmental sensitivity and where existing wildlife and habitat linkages occur.

There are several areas in Bassetlaw where significant individual environmental assets occur or where there are concentrations of sensitive sites grouped together in close proximity. These are regarded as being of strategic importance and include the following:

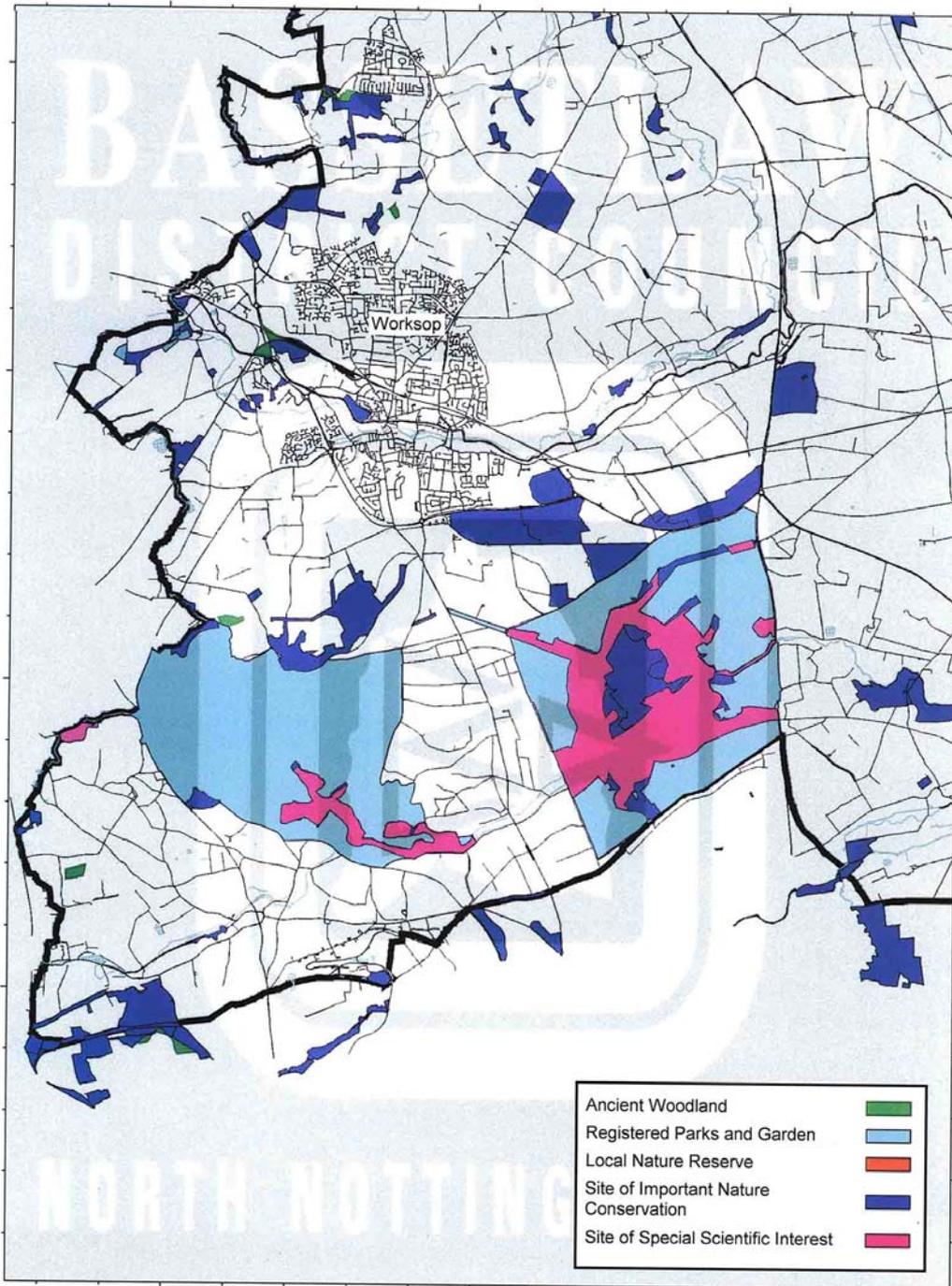
1. *Worksop (south)*

Features of conservation interest	
Clumber Park SSSI	Coach Road Plantation SINC
Welbeck Lake SSSI	Top Wood/Great Whin Covert SINC
Haddon Pasture Ancient Woodland	Forest Plantation Track SINC
Tile Kiln Wood Ancient Woodland	Kidney Clump Acid Grassland SINC
Hagg Hill Ancient Woodland	Manor Hills SINC
Sloswicks Springs Ancient Woodland	Broad Lane Grassland SINC
Wallingbrook Wood Ancient Woodland	Bismarck Plantation SINC
Worksop Golf Club SINC	Pheasant Wood Grassland SINC
Manton Colliery SINC	

This area falls within the Sherwood region and is one of significant value to Bassetlaw and North Nottinghamshire as a whole. The parkland estates of Clumber and Welbeck dominate the overall character of the area and, in addition to the environmental and landscape assets they exhibit, are of significant cultural and historic value to the wider area. This area contains a wide variety of flora and fauna, characteristic of the Sherwood area, containing many examples of rare and important habitats including lakes, deciduous and coniferous woodland, heathland and farmland. Much of the surrounding area is designated in the Bassetlaw Local Plan as a Special Landscape Area, although there is little evidence available to justify such a designation and it is contrary to PPS7 recommendations. In view of this and the forthcoming Landscape Character Assessment criteria-based policies will be developed for protection of areas regarded as of significant landscape value.

This area is one of the District's main attractions, drawing visitors from a wide catchment, with features of historical and cultural interest. It is also a great recreational resource with national cycleways running through the woodland.

Worksop South



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MAP 9: WORKSOP (SOUTH) ENVIRONMENTAL SITES

2. *The Chesterfield Canal corridor*

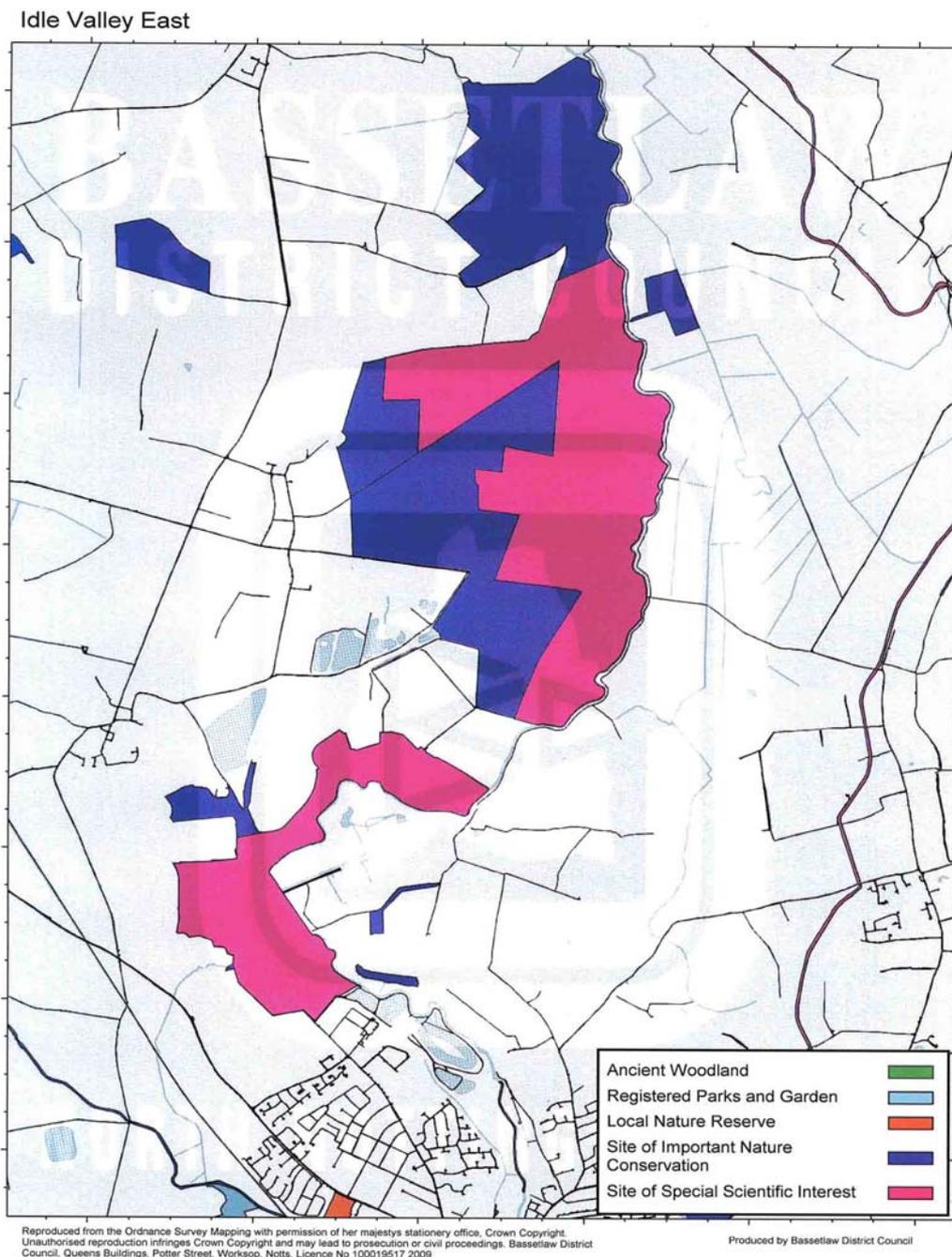
Features of conservation interest

Chesterfield Canal SSSI

Chesterfield Canal SINC

The Chesterfield Canal spans the width of Bassetlaw (see Map 7) with the section of the Canal to the northeast of Retford, between Welham and Misterton, being regarded as the most important for biodiversity and is designated as a SSSI. This part of the Canal supports a rare aquatic plant community characteristic of the brackish, eutrophic (nutrient-rich) water. The flora includes a number of nationally scarce species. The presence of this brackish water community, over 50 km inland, is of particular interest. The whole of the remainder of the Canal is a Local Wildlife Site of aquatic and emergent botanical interest and zoological value, providing a linear route across the whole District.

3. *The Idle Valley (east)*



MAP 10: IDLE VALLEY (EAST) ENVIRONMENTAL SITES

Features of conservation interest

Sutton and Lound Gravel Pits SSSI
Linghurst SINC

New Ea Drain Scrub SINC
Tiln Wood Grassland SINC

This area contains the Sutton and Lound Gravel Pits, a SSSI covering 316 ha, and is something of a flagship environmental site in Bassetlaw. The SSSI is of enormous significance for over-wintering and breeding wildfowl and occupies a key location in the Idle Valley, which has long been degraded by intensive agriculture, flood defence works, mineral extraction and drainage schemes.

After half a century of aggregates extraction the central Idle Valley has developed into a unique wetland landscape and is home to an exceptionally rich assemblage of birds. Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust is committed to securing the future of the Valley and its wildlife as a living landscape through the Idle Valley Project. The project area is recognised as being of regional significance for wildlife and Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust aims to demonstrate that the enhancement of its wildlife habitats can be central to local economic and social regeneration.

4. *The Idle Valley (west)*

Features of conservation interest

Scrooby Top Quarry SSSI
Mattersey Hill Marsh SSSI
Daneshill Lakes and Woodland LNR

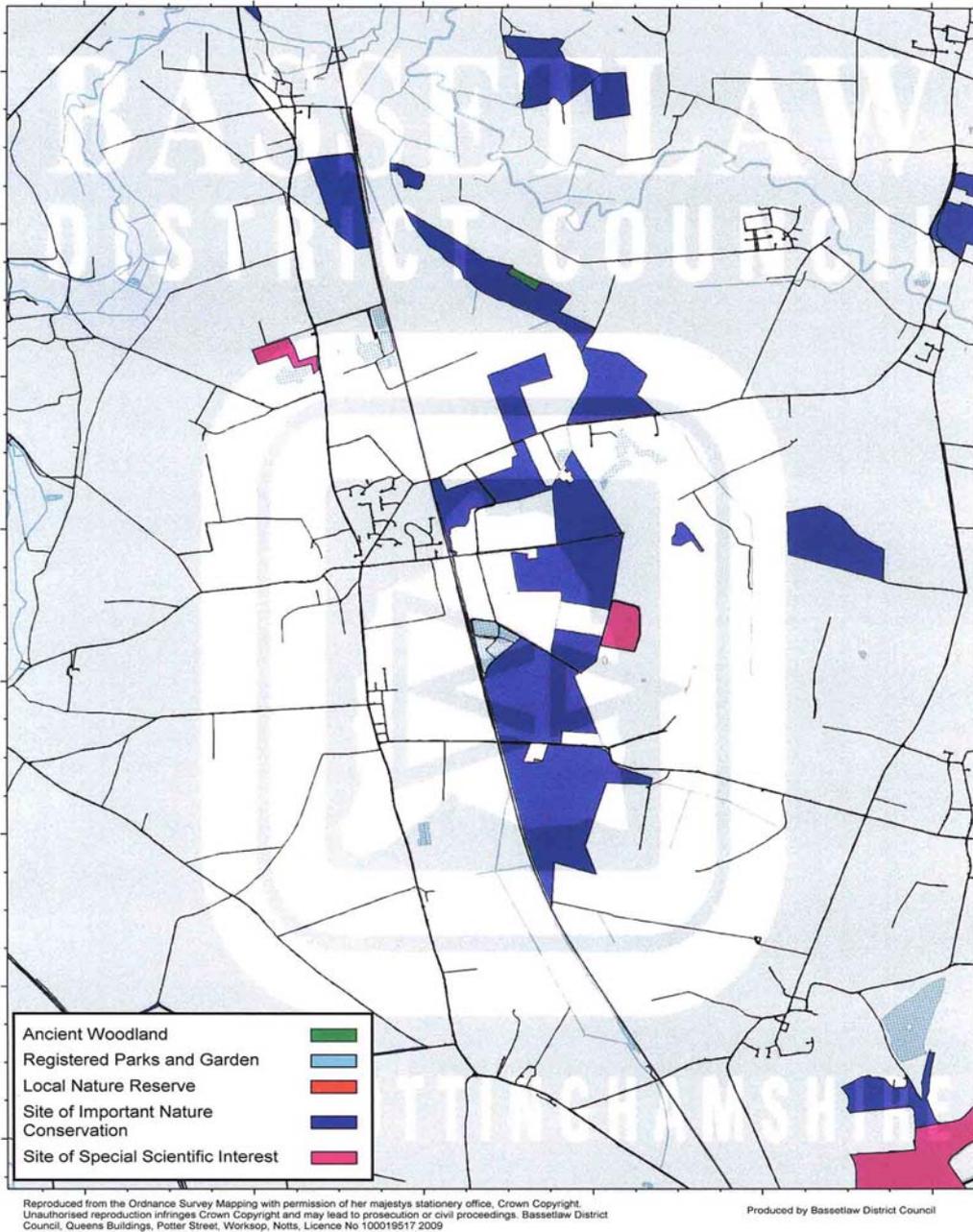
Ranskill Gravel Pits SINC
Ranskill Sandpit Spoil SINC
Ranskill Wetlands SINC

With the exception of Scrooby Top Quarry which, even though still operational, is designated a SSSI due to geological features of interest (exposures of the Triassic Nottingham Castle formation), this whole area is influenced by the low-lying topography and exhibits similar environmental characteristics as the Sutton and Lound Gravel pits to the east. Daneshill Gravel Pits (north) is an area of disused and flooded gravel pits covering 16 hectares. The land is leased from Nottinghamshire County Council and is part of a Local Nature Reserve, which was established in 1985. The site includes important areas of marginal vegetation and willow woodland habitat.

The footpaths around the reserve have been recently upgraded, improving access to the reserve. A tree-planting scheme was undertaken as part of a County Council restoration project. The site has a range of habitats, including open water, damp willow woodland, drier woodland and scrub and rabbit-grazed dry grassland. There is a wide variety of flowering plants, including wetland species such as bog stitchwort, rigid hornwort, water figwort, reed canary-grass, water plantain and the non-native New Zealand pigmyweed. Dry grassland species include sheep's sorrel, bird's-foot-trefoil, changing forget-me-not, common bent, fern-grass and agrimony. Dry woodland and scrub occurs around the periphery of the site and includes oak, birch, blackthorn, hawthorn, rowan and gorse, with wood sage and foxglove on sunny edges. Bramble and gorse attract interesting invertebrates including good numbers of butterflies such as brimstone, common blue, meadow brown, gatekeeper and ringlet. The acid nature of the soil supports an interesting moss and liverwort community.

Good numbers of willow warbler, whitethroat and blackcap are present in summer, and in winter siskin, water rail and goldcrest may be seen. A range of wildfowl occurs outside the breeding season. This is also a good site for damselflies and dragonflies. Grass snakes are present but rarely seen.

Idle Valley West



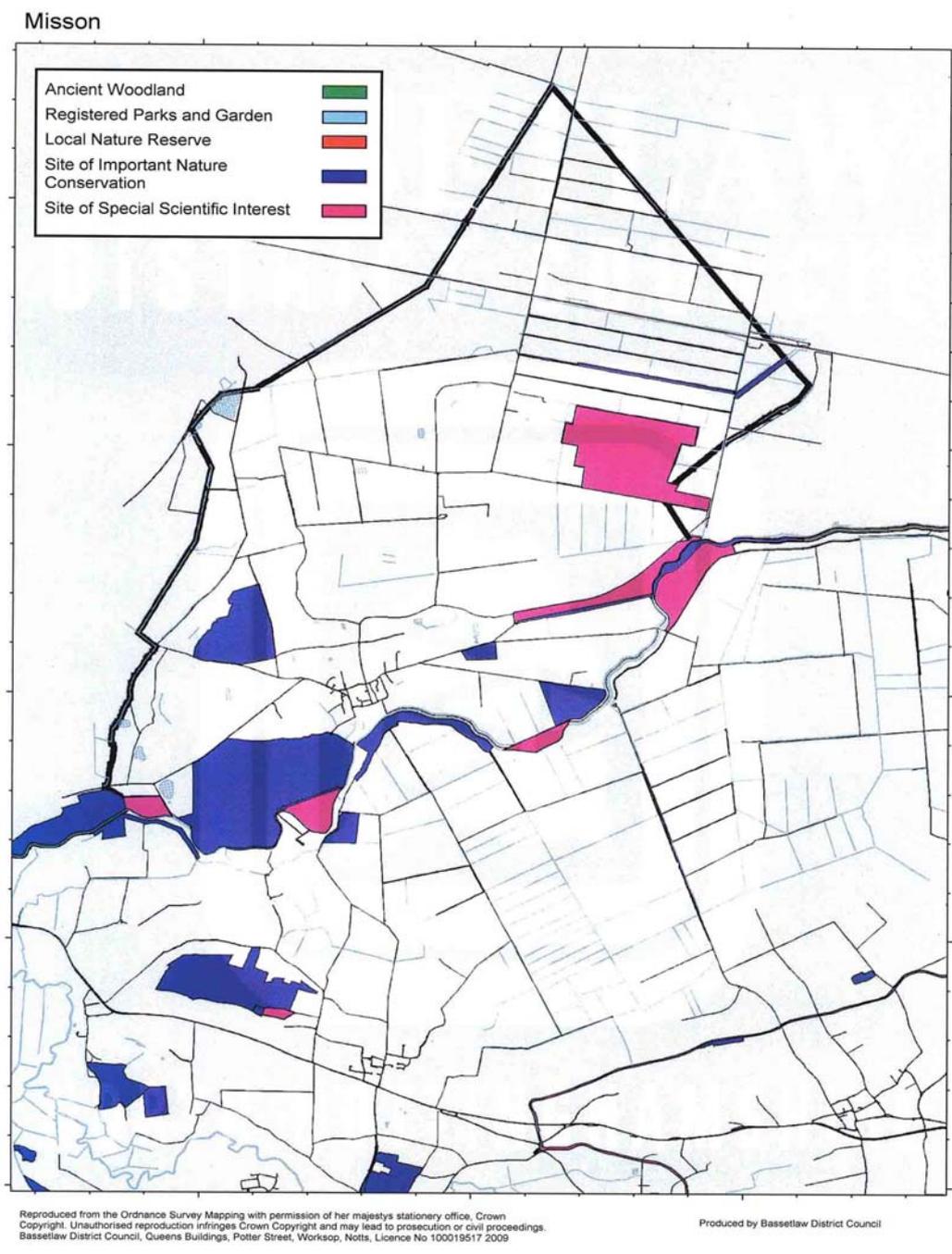
MAP 11: IDLE VALLEY (WEST) ENVIRONMENTAL SITES

5. *Misson (Idle Washlands)*

Features of conservation interest

Idle Washlands SSSI	Barrier Bank SINC
Misson Line Bank SSSI	Slaynes Lane SINC
Misson Training Area SSSI	Everton Carr Woodland SINC
Snow Sewer SINC	Delve Drain SINC
Chapel Balk SINC	Misson Pumphouse Flash SINC
Levels Farm Drain SINC	Mother Drain, Gringley SINC
Rugged Butts SINC	Fox Covert Drain SINC

This is a flat, low-lying landscape with rich, high-quality land that is intensively farmed. The landscape features that characterise this area, and give rise to areas of significant conservation interest, include the river washlands, ditches, dykes and large open fields and isolated woodland plantations. The washlands are important as feeding and roosting sites for populations of wintering and passage waterfowl, a variety of other wildfowl and wading birds. Additional interest is provided by the breeding bird community which includes snipe and redshank.

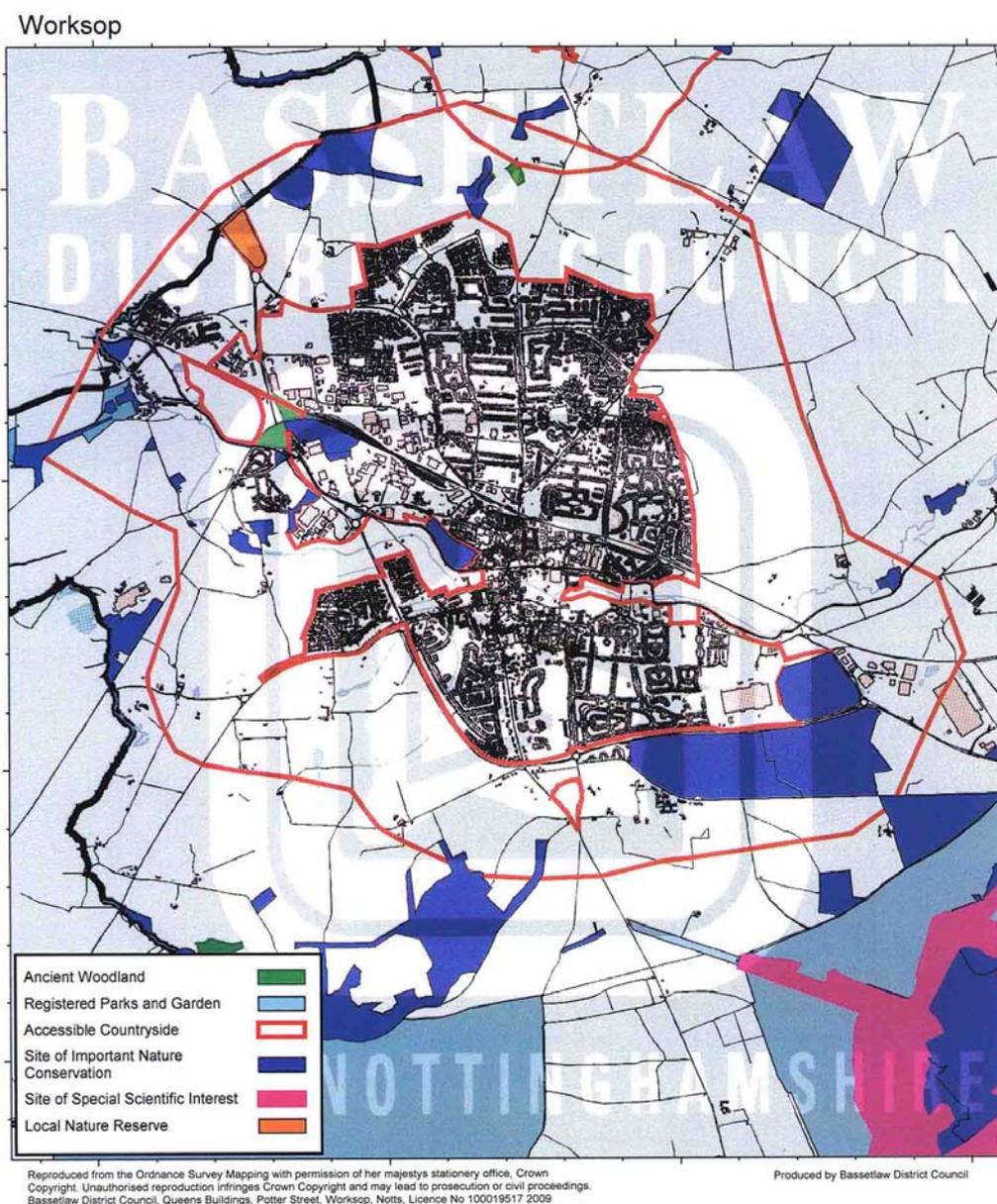


MAP 12: MISSON ENVIRONMENTAL SITES

5. URBAN AREA CONSTRAINTS

A detailed assessment (found in Appendix 6) of the potential constraints and opportunities posed by individual environmental sites both within and in close proximity to the primary built-up areas in Bassetlaw is summarised below.

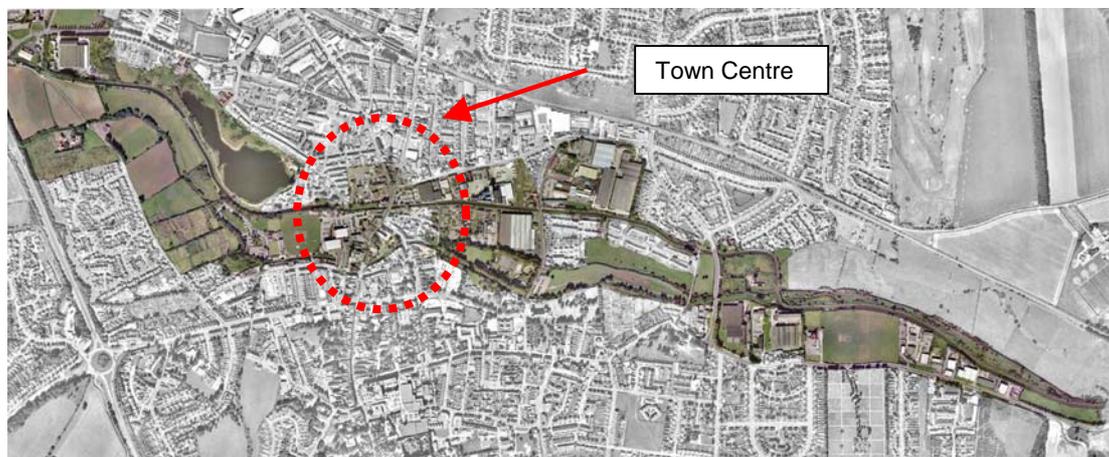
Worksop



MAP 13: ENVIRONMENTAL SITES ON THE FRINGE OF WORKSOP

Worksop is the principal urban area in Bassetlaw. Most of the environmental sites within Worksop's urban fringe are accessible by public rights of way and where there is no formal access there are many informally established footpaths.

Immediately to the south lies part of the strategic constraint site identified above. In the centre of Worksop the River Ryton flows, for the most part, adjacent to the Chesterfield Canal (Local Wildlife Site) (pictured) and passes by Sandhill Lake, also a Local Wildlife Site. Much of the land adjacent to the river is, therefore, operational floodplain.



MAP 14: CHESTERFIELD CANAL CORRIDOR (WORKSOP)

The industrial land to the west of the town centre is constrained by a notable area of Ancient Woodland and there are several Local Wildlife Sites spread out beyond here, between Worksop and Shireoaks. These sites demarcate the edge of the urban areas and act as barriers to the coalescence of settlements. Similarly, to the north, between Worksop and Carlton-in-Lindrick, an area of Ancient Woodland and Local Wildlife Sites create a linear divide. There is little, in terms of designated environmental sites, within the 1km fringe area to the east of Worksop.

While the watercourses around Worksop are physical constraints in themselves, access to the Canal towpath (Cuckoo Way), Sandhill Lake and other surrounding areas of open space, mean that this river corridor is of recreational value and provides an off-road link between one end of the town and the other. Given that this area is largely floodplain, the watercourses are flanked by expanses of vegetation, providing valuable natural green space near to the heart of the urban area. This is an important biodiversity linkage, vital for the movement of wildlife.

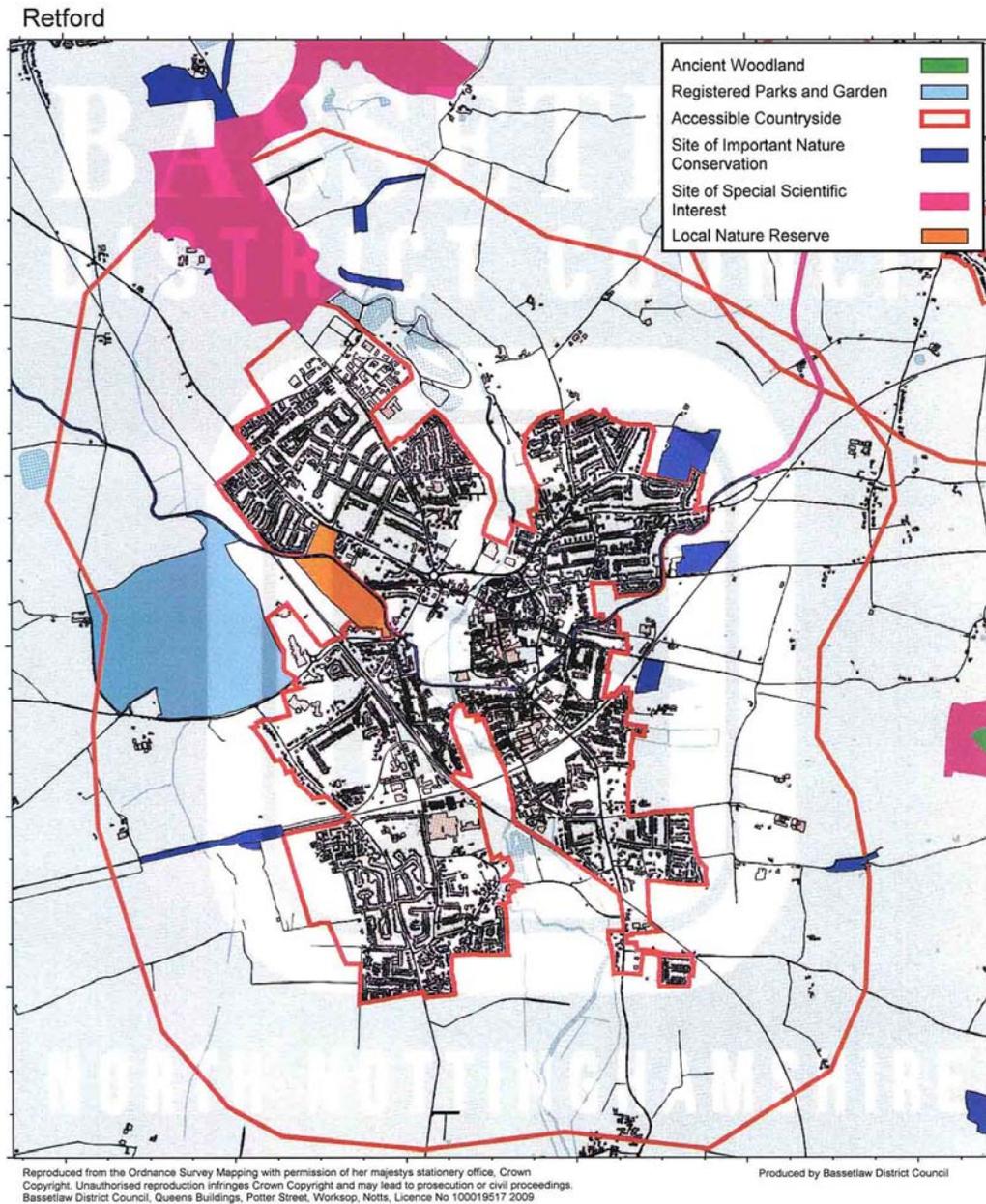
Retford

Retford is the second largest urban area in Bassetlaw. The town is significantly constrained by the sensitive environmental assets in the surrounding area, although, as in Worksop, a network of public rights of way make many of these areas accessible to the public for recreational use.

The Chesterfield Canal and towpath cross the town from east to west and the river Idle flows through the heart of the town (south to north), with the functional flood plain largely defining, and subsequently limiting, the pattern and direction of new development in central areas.

The basins of the river Idle, and its tributary the Ryton, form the Idle Lowlands (wetland habitat) of north Bassetlaw, which include the Sutton and Lound Gravel Pits

SSSI that is at the heart of the Idle Valley Project². Given the overall sensitivity of habitats in this area and the influence of the river Idle, development opportunities to the north of Retford are severely limited.



MAP 15: ENVIRONMENTAL SITES ON THE FRINGE OF RETFORD

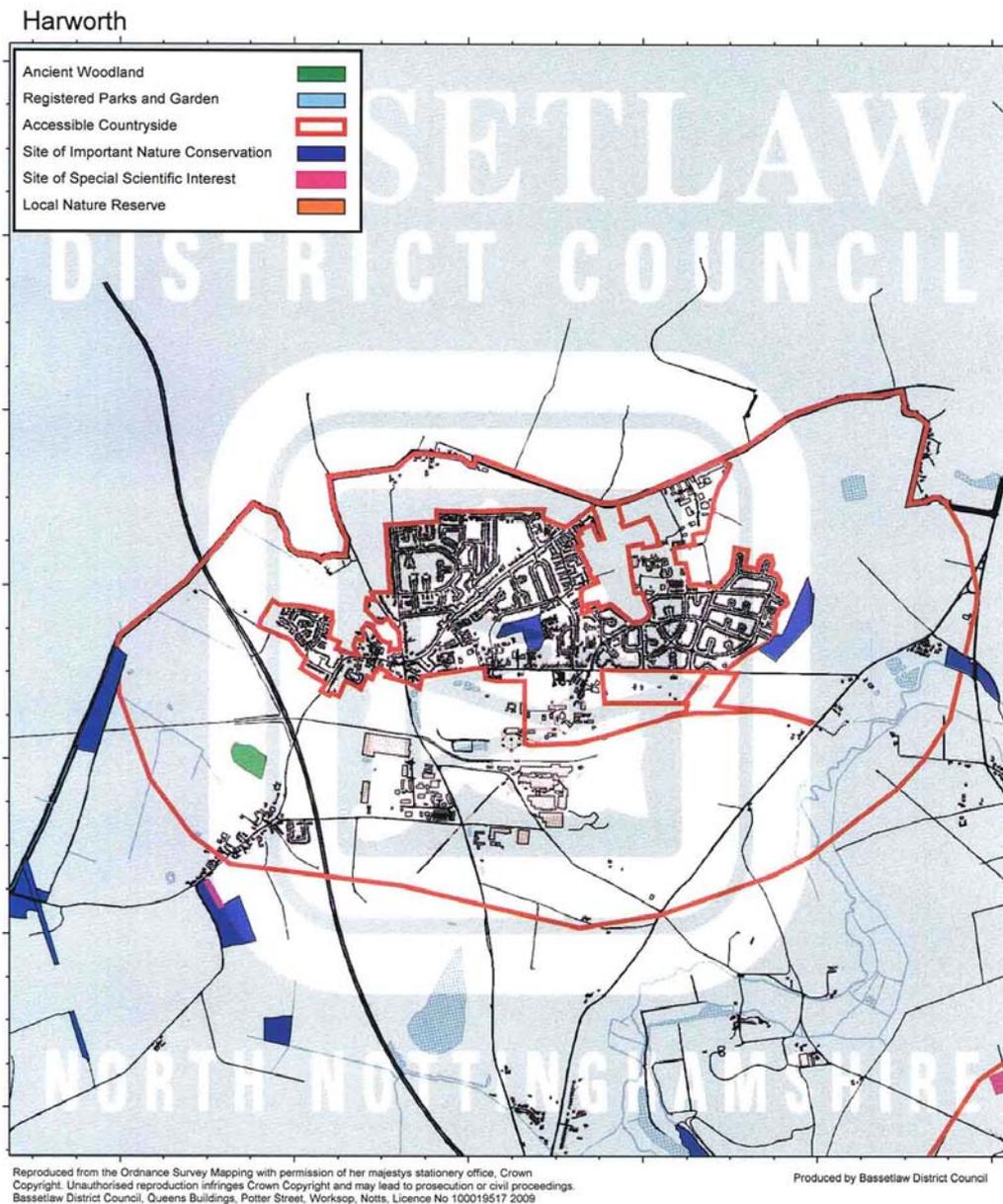
While the estate of Babworth Hall (a Registered Park) constrains expansion of Retford to the west, the East Retford Pastures are susceptible to flooding from the Retford Beck, which drains this area.

2

http://www.visionbassetlaw.net/environment/documents/publications/casestudies_dec04/Idle%20Valley%20Wide%20Area%20Project.doc

As the second largest settlement in Bassetlaw, it might be assumed that Retford has the potential to accommodate significant levels of new development over the lifetime of the LDF. In view of the extent of the environmental constraints that exist in and around the urban fringe, however, this assumption may need to be reconsidered as large-scale peripheral expansion cannot take place to the north, east or west, without impacting on areas of environmental importance.

Harworth/Bircotes



MAP 16: ENVIRONMENTAL SITES ON THE FRINGE OF HARWORTH

Harworth/Bircotes is the third largest settlement in Bassetlaw and is regarded as having significant future development potential for both employment and housing. There are only a small number of protected environmental sites around Harworth. Most notably, one Local Wildlife Site lies in the heart of the built-up area with another on the eastern edge of the settlement. To the south, the natural environment on the

edge of the built-up area has been heavily affected by activities associated with the colliery and has significant potential for environmental regeneration.

Although Harworth is relatively isolated from other built-up areas in Bassetlaw it does not have the same level of natural assets found around Worksop and Retford. This may be due, in part, to the huge environmental impact coal mining has had on the area. Even so, given time there may be opportunities for environmental assets to develop i.e. with spoil tips naturally regenerating. This has certainly been the case for the former colliery site at Bevercotes, which is now regarded as a Local Wildlife Site, while natural regeneration is also evident at the former Shireoaks colliery just outside Worksop.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

While further constraints and the specific and detailed green infrastructure needs of the District will become more apparent in the light of findings of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, Landscape Character Assessment, Open Space Study and through consultation with key stakeholders and the community, on the basis of this study alone some pertinent issues have emerged.

The implications of the above findings are potentially quite significant insofar as those areas identified as being sensitive to new development pose potential constraints to future growth of settlements in Bassetlaw. In view of these findings, and legislative and policy requirements, the Council should, through LDF policies, seek to prevent future loss of sites of recognised importance and, where feasible, seek to maximise opportunities for enhancing existing sites and expanding the range and quality of the green infrastructure resource.

Opportunities for environmental sites development

- New-build Development

Landscaping schemes should be integral parts of any new development projects on the fringes of settlements. These should seek opportunities for new habitats and features of value for wildlife. Where new development requires provision of open space, consideration should be given to opportunities to link recreation with nature conservation, improving access to both existing sites of recognised importance and to expand and enhance habitats identified in the LBAP as being of conservation concern (such as ponds for great crested newts or hedgerows for nesting birds). Likewise, such sites should then be managed in such a way as to maximise opportunities for a wide variety of biodiversity, for instance as LNRs.

Where development occurs on previously developed sites, developers should take account of the degree of natural regeneration, allowing for the arrival of wildlife in the area and, therefore, should not automatically dismiss the biodiversity value that may exist there. Indeed, given the great range of physical and chemical characteristics that can exist within a single site and with the relative absence of intensive human activity new habitats can develop.

Provided that it complements the overall character and streetscape, increasing tree coverage in urban areas can contribute to a more pleasant urban environment with more wildlife present, better air quality and provision of shade in summer months.

The Bassetlaw Open Space Study (2008) identifies all areas of protected open space, amenity space, play areas, allotments and recreation grounds within the District. Where open spaces are required as part of new development careful consideration must be given to their design in order to avoid them simply being spaces left-over after planning.

- Linear Linkages

Linked and linear open spaces are considerably more valuable than isolated sites, as they provide wildlife with access to the open countryside and with other areas of habitat. Fragmented areas of habitat and isolated populations of species are far less likely to thrive and expand. Linear open spaces also provide access to greater numbers of people and can have a dual role as routes for walking, cycling and horse

riding. They also have the advantage of having a long edge, that may be readily accessible to many people and which may permeate large areas.

In many cases, river corridors can be seen to act as linkages between other sites of recognised importance. Enhancing the multifunctionality of river corridors through urban areas can, therefore, significantly contribute to a higher level of access to natural greenspace. Indeed, amenity open space, nature conservation and biodiversity, outdoor sports and recreation facilities are generally regarded as water-compatible development and, therefore, can be used to support other forms of development near high-risk flood areas, as part of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS).

Given that there is an extensive network of public access routes/rights of way around Bassetlaw, including footpaths, bridleways, cycle paths and byways, new developments should seek opportunity to connect with these.

- Sustainable Transport

Although biodiversity conservation and enhancement is the key driver behind this study, as part of a wider multifunctional green infrastructure, sustainable, 'off-road' transport routes allow wildlife and human activity to run side by side more freely. Set against the claim that around one quarter of all car journeys are for trips of less than two miles, the organisation Sustrans suggests that provision of off-road routes through urban areas can make for an improved urban area. Reducing car use and encouraging sustainable means of transport has obvious health benefits, as well as potentially creating more direct links to places of employment, schools and healthcare facilities. While there are clear opportunities along existing canal and river corridors in Bassetlaw, viability of former railways should be explored in greater depth.

- Cross-border linkages

Green infrastructure does not stop at administrative boundaries, which, given that Bassetlaw adjoins seven other administrative areas, gives a good indication of the extent of the wider network of which much of our green infrastructure is a part. Where opportunities arise, the authority should, therefore, assess the feasibility of cross-border working with other authorities, such as those that also fall within the Sherwood area.

- Recreation and tourism

Growing medical evidence shows that access to the natural environment improves health and well-being, prevents disease and helps people recover from illness. Experiencing nature in the outdoors can help tackle childhood obesity, coronary heart disease, stress and mental health problems. As such it is, therefore, desirable to encourage greater access to the countryside, particularly on the fringes of urban areas. While necessary to ensure that any recreation route development does not detract from the quality of the landscape or incur any detrimental impacts on sites of recognised importance, these assets should be utilised to ensure that as wide a range of people as possible can enjoy them.

- Economic Development

While growth and development can clearly be a threat to environmental assets, EMDA's evaluation of the environmental economy³ of the East Midlands strongly demonstrates the role of green infrastructure in contributing to economic development. It shows that there are clear economic benefits derived from the environmental sector, which has generated 71,000 jobs and 3% of the region's GDP, across three 'sub sectors':

- The 'environmental industry' (i.e. environmental technologies and services, and improvements in business efficiencies);
- Land-based industries (e.g. agriculture and forestry, and local produce);
- Capitalising on a high quality environment (tourism and leisure, and high quality of life and inward investment).

The report puts forward several recommendations for capitalising on the environmental economy, including three areas where green infrastructure can have a particular impact:

- Conservation and enhancement of the natural and historic built environment;
- Expanding environmental improvement activities in land based sectors such as agriculture and forestry;
- Increasing the contribution of the region's environment to economic activities such as tourism and inward investment.

³ The Environmental Economy of the East Midlands: The Catalyst for Change (2002) EMDA

7. CONCLUSIONS

On the basis that approximately 5492 hectares (8.6%) of Bassetlaw's total area is designated for nature conservation, it is clear that extensive capacity remains for new development within the District. From this study we can conclude that there is significant opportunity for housing and employment growth within the District along with potential to enhance and expand the quality and accessibility of the green infrastructure.

As a rural area, the natural environment (or green infrastructure) is among Bassetlaw's most prominent assets but, in view of the fact that the District covers over a quarter of the total area of Nottinghamshire, it may be considered as being somewhat taken for granted. As such, in the LDF and under the NERC biodiversity duty, the Council should strive to uphold a positive approach to conserving and managing the existing quality of the natural environment alongside development in the built environment and seek to enhance its vitality. While much of this can be achieved through spatial planning that has regard for the natural environment it may be prudent to seek a long-term vision in wider Council policy that establishes green infrastructure principles that can maximise potential for access, recreation and tourism.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Sites of Special Scientific Interest in Bassetlaw

The list below contains the sites within Bassetlaw that have been scheduled by Natural England as Sites of Special Scientific Interest. Natural England must be notified prior to the commencement of any specified activities or operations within these areas. Natural England may designate additional sites from time to time.

Interactive map can be viewed at: <http://www.nomadplus.org.uk/maps.asp>

	SSSI name	Area (ha)	SSSI ID	Grid reference
1	Ashton's Meadow	3.58	1000300	SK786799
2	Barrow Hills Sandpit	1.87	1003432	SK682917
3	Bevercotes Park	8.52	1003450	SK700709
4	Castle Hill Wood	30.4	1003532	SK737804
5	Chesterfield Canal	29.81	1005589	SK733863
6	Clarborough Tunnel	8.53	1000656	SK750826
7	Clumber Park	525.66	1000664	SK627739
8	Dyscarr Wood	21.6	1000682	SK579876
9	Gamston & Eaton Woods & Roadside Verges	57.15	1000737	SK726771
10	Mattersey Hill Marsh	6.01	1000999	SK671873
11	Misson Line Bank	20.72	1001020	SK715961
12	Misson Training Area	85.18	2000124	SK714974
13	Mother Drain, Misterton	3.63	1006392	SK777951
14	River Idle Washlands	88.48	1001749	SK663937
15	Scrooby Top Quarry	3.56	1006486	SK650891
16	Styrrup Quarry	0.27	2000260	SK605902
17	Sutton And Lound Gravel Pits	316.77	2000458	SK708863
18	Treswell Wood	47.99	1001921	SK761794
19	Welbeck Lake	101.67	1001932	SK572728

Appendix 2: Local Wildlife Sites/Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Bassetlaw

Interactive map can be viewed at: <http://www.nomadplus.org.uk/maps.asp>

SINC ID	SITE_NAME	DESCRIPTION	Area (ha)
28491	Treswell Wood	One of the best remaining examples of ancient semi-natural broad-leaved woodland on clay soils in the county - of botanical and zoological interest	48.388
1/101	Cottam Wetlands	'An excellent wetland mosaic comprising lagoons, marshy grasslands, swamp and a representative length of the River Trent	82.583
1/112	Boon Hills Wood	'A valuable limestone scarp woodland'	8.221
1/119	Mattersey Hill Marsh	A fine example of neutral marsh communities developed on old gravel workings	5.96
1/120	Askham Pasture	'A species-rich pasture with an especially notable damp community'	6.172
1/121	Ashton's Meadow	A hay meadow with a most valuable flora	3.566
1/122	West Burton Meadow	'An unimproved ridge and furrow grassland with an excellent species content'	0.892
1/126	Langold Park Lake	'A recreational lake of zoological interest and with remnants of a rich aquatic flora'	11.105
1/129	Welbeck Lake	A site comprising a complex of habitats of considerable zoological interest - of particular importance are its breeding and wintering bird communities	106.491
1/39	Lord Stubbins Wood	A species-rich ancient deciduous woodland	24.912
1/44	Cuckney Hay Railway	'A length of species-rich disused railway with peripheral scrub and grassland'	11.084
1/45	Lady Lee Quarry	'A diverse array of species-rich habitats developed on an old limestone quarry and adjacent track - of botanical and zoological interest'	2.655
1/46	Dyscarr Wood	'One of the best examples of calcareous woodland in Nottinghamshire - of faunal and floral significance'	22.268
1/47	Shireoaks Park Water Garden	'A species-rich series of channels and pools edged by valuable woodland - of botanical and zoological interest'	11.254
1/60	Walesby Forest	'A large area of importance for its characteristic acid grassland and heath communities - of botanical and zoological interest'	80.116

1/61	Clumber Park	A diverse area of mixed habitats of considerable botanical and zoological importance	561.9
1/62	Bevercotes Park	An excellent area of ancient woodland flanking a dumble - of botanical and invertebrate zoological interest	8.796
1/63	Sutton and Lound Gravel Pits	An extensive area of open water, marsh, grassland, scrub and wet woodland which support a rich assemblage of plants, invertebrates and birds	575.091
1/65	Delve Drain (and associated channel)	'An excellent association of aquatic plant species in several drains'	0.675
1/66	Carr Road Drains Complex	'A valuable sequence of drains of botanical and Water Beetle interest'	1.413
1/67	Barrow Hills Sandpit	'An excellent area of grassland and scrub on glacial sands - of both invertebrate zoological and botanical importance'	2.878
1/73	Kirton Wood	A mature deciduous woodland with a notable flora	18.3
1/77	Gamston and Eaton Verges	Species-rich roadside verges	1.405
1/79	Eaton Wood	An excellent deciduous woodland of botanical and invertebrate zoological interest	24.051
1/80	Gamston Wood	An excellent ancient woodland site of botanical and zoological importance	41.472
1/81	Clarborough Tunnel	A fine example of species-rich calcareous grassland and scrub developed around the tunnel top and cuttings on an active railway line - a site of botanical interest.	7.902
1/82	Chesterfield Canal (Welham to Misterton)	'A representative stretch of canal supporting a nationally notable aquatic plant community characteristic of brackish waters, and a rich invertebrate	20.482
1/83	Caddow Wood (Northern Assart)	'A neglected coppice wood of considerable floristic interest'	4.066
1/84	Castle Hill Wood, Horse Close Plantation and Swindell Spring	A unit of fine deciduous woodlands with a characteristic structure and species composition - of botanical and zoological interest	33.122

	Wood		
1/85	Misson Line Bank	An excellent mosaic of open water, marsh, grassland and scrub communities developed around several old borrow pits	20.713
1/87	Old Trent Oxbow, Spalford	'An excellent aquatic and bank-side flora developed along an abandoned river channel'	4.063
1/96	Mother Drain, Misterton	Ditch and banks of considerable zoological interest and of some botanical importance	4.15
1/97	Misterton Soss Ponds	'Old borrow pits of substantial faunal and floral interest'	1.559
1/99	Ranskill Wetlands	'A valuable mosaic of open-water, grassland and scrub habitats developed on old gravel workings - of zoological importance'	42.651
2/100	Parsons Wood	'A woodland with a noteworthy flora'	5.713
2/102	New Plantation Meadow	A grassland with a noteworthy flora	2.162
2/103	Lady Lee Pasture	'A pasture containing an interesting old limestone quarry'	2.9
2/104	Wallingbrook Wood	'A deciduous wood with a valuable ground flora'	1.795
2/105	Bismarck Plantation	'A mixed plantation with a noteworthy flora, and a valuable faunal habitat'	9.206
2/106	Cresswell Crag	'A site with good habitat diversity and a valuable flora and fauna'	8.624
2/107	Scratta Wood	'A very species-rich remnant of old woodland'	1.847
2/108	Monastery Garden Quarry and Wood	'A species-rich woodland, also of historical botanical interest'	3.208
2/109	Wallingwells and Carlton Woods	Woodland with a diverse flora and faunal interest	32.223
2/112	Fishpond Plantation	'A notable deciduous woodland'	2.033
2/113	Owday Wood	'A well-established woodland'	17.337
2/114	Owday Plantation	'A mature plantation with a noteworthy flora'	2.264
2/115	Rough Piece	'A valuable woodland with a noteworthy shrub content'	8.795
2/116	Nab's Ashes Wood	'An interesting deciduous woodland'	3.34

2/117	Fox Covert, Shireoaks	'An interesting habitat mosaic'	8.461
2/118	Burntout Copse	'A noteworthy deciduous copse'	1.686
2/119	Hodsock Plantation	'A deciduous plantation with a noteworthy ground flora'	1.015
2/120	Holme Carr Wood	'Deciduous woodland with a notable ground flora'	1.044
2/121	Tranker Wood	'A deciduous wood with a rich ground flora'	10.308
2/122	Langold Dry Lake and Costhorpe Plantation	'Species-rich woodland with a notable flora and fauna'	13.097
2/123	Oak Wood, Shireoaks	'A noteworthy deciduous woodland'	0.643
2/124	Langold Cutting	'A valuable, steep-sided, waterlogged cutting'	1.679
2/125	Oldcotes Disused Railway	'A disused railway with an interesting diversity of habitats'	2.461
2/126	Ash Holt, Styrrup	'An interesting deciduous woodland'	1.216
2/127	Clatticar Wood	'A deciduous woodland with an especially notable ground flora'	3.692
2/157	Steetley Wood Spoil Tip	'Calcareous spoil colonised by an interesting range of opportunistic calcicole plant species'	12.832
2/299	Soss Lane Grassland, Misterton	'A notable horse-grazed paddock with a particularly rich bank running through'	1.584
2/340	Collier Spring	'Mature and scrubby deciduous woodland with a noteworthy ground flora'	11.615
2/346	Budby Drive	'A sandy track with a good acidic community'	2.136
2/347	Kingston Drive Plantation	'Deciduous woodland with a valuable acidic ground flora'	14.312
2/388	Broad Lane Grassland, Worksop	'An interesting pasture with a marshy strip'	2.121
2/389	Manor Hills	'A representative section of Manor Hills woodland'	106.33
2/390	Sandhill Lake	'A recreational lake with a restricted, but notable, emergent community'	7.72
2/391	Rhodesia Pool	'A small flooded quarry with a notable aquatic community'	0.723

2/392	High Grounds Wood	'A mature deciduous woodland with a noteworthy ground flora, bounded by a valuable flowing drain'	2.343
2/393	Scratta Hedge	'A long length of hedgerow with a most valuable shrub content'	0.519
2/394	Shireoaks Fishing Pond	'A pool and a diverse mixture of adjacent habitats'	3.019
2/397	Hardwick Ashes	'A deciduous woodland with a noteworthy ground flora'	4.695
2/398	Forest Plantation Track	'Sandy forest trackside banks and verges supporting a notable flora'	0.203
2/399	Kidney Clump Acid Grassland	'A sizeable area of partly wooded acid grassland of high floral and faunal interest'	10.086
2/401	Worksop Golf Course	'An interesting mosaic of habitats with a number of noteworthy species'	63.02
2/403	Coach Road Plantation	'An interesting and varied area of deciduous woodland'	36.246
2/404	Top Wood	'A deciduous area of woodland with a noteworthy species content'	10.541
2/405	Bothamsall Lane Verges	'Roadside verges with a valuable and diverse flora'	0.935
2/406	Bothamsall Scrub	'Old clay workings, now developed into a valuable area of scrub with ponds and grassland'	2.229
2/407	Retford Golf Course Grassland	'A valuable acidic grassland'	0.504
2/408	Eaton Breck Farm Track	'A herb-rich trackside verge'	0.436
2/409	Styrrup with Oldcotes Hedge	'A shrub-rich hedge'	0.289
2/411	Chequer Bottoms	'A notable length of riparian deciduous woodland'	8.139
2/412	Roadside Bank, Babworth	'A valuable dry and sandy roadside verge'	1.232
2/413	Serlby Park Wetlands	'A valuable linear wetland system'	4.648
2/414	Tinker Lane, Barnby Moor	'Trackside verges with a notable community'	2.126

2/416	Coates Wetland	'A group of pools with rough grazing land and a section of the River Trent, providing an area of zoological and botanical interest'	19.56
2/419	Mattersey Sand Quarry	'An old quarry with a good variety of habitats and species'	16.889
2/420	Barrier Bank, Newington	'A valuable habitat mosaic of damp grassland, drains, ruderal vegetation and woodland'	7.26
2/421	Warren Plantation	'A woodland with grassy clearings of zoological interest'	5.852
2/424	Fox Covert Drain, Misterton	'A drainage channel with a valuable aquatic community'	0.173
2/429	Muttonshire Hill Wet Grassland	'A valuable wet grassland with areas of swamp vegetation'	1.268
2/430	West Markham Cutting	'An interesting range of species in a wooded cutting and field verge'	0.313
2/433	Cliff Gate Grassland	'A herb-rich paddock with a calcareous bias'	1.081
2/435	Top Lodge Plantation	'A mature deciduous woodland with a characteristic ground flora'	1.516
2/437	East Markham Marshy Grassland	'A grassland with an excellent marsh'	3.647
2/439	Askham Grassland	'A notable community in a little-improved grassland'	4.397
2/441	Beast Wood Grassland	'A damp, neglected grassland with a valuable herb content'	0.489
2/442	Brigg Lane	'A grass track, notable for a good selection of herbs'	1.046
2/445	Woodcoates Road and Green Lane	'Notable grass verges in a predominantly arable area, backed by valuable ditches and hedges'	0.84
2/447	Retford Road Wood, Rampton	'A mature deciduous woodland with a valuable ground flora'	1.179
2/448	Bushstocks Lane Meadow	'A little-improved meadow with a noteworthy flora'	3.651
2/449	Greengate Road Grasslands, East Drayton	Old-grazed grasslands with a number of notable species	2.645
2/452	Linghurst	Deciduous woodland with several notable species and areas of open water	26.741

2/453	Retford Road Verges, Mattersey	'Broad, species-rich roadside verges'	0.706
2/458	New Ea Drain Scrub	'Unmanaged scrub with large areas of ruderal vegetation and grassland'	8.316
2/459	Cordall Lane Hedge	'An old hedgerow, sympathetically managed'	0.84
2/461	Mill Lane, Clayworth	'Verges with an interesting selection of herbs'	0.849
2/462	Hangingside and Hollinhill Lanes	'Trackside verges that are rich in herbs'	0.896
2/464	Lovers Lane, Clayworth	'A footpath winding through dense scrub and meadow habitats'	0.797
2/465	Lancaster Lane Hedge, Gringley	'An old hedgerow with a good shrub mixture'	0.093
2/466	Muspitt Lane	'A narrow strip of roadside verge and ditch bank with several notable species'	0.892
2/467	Whinley's House Farm Grassland	A ridge and furrow field with a number of notable species	1.883
2/470	Cow Pasture Lane Drains	'Drains with notable aquatic and bank-side vegetation'	0.448
2/471	Mother Drain, Gringley	'A section of Mother Drain that is of botanical and zoological value'	0.292
2/472	Levels Lane Drain	'A drain with an excellent aquatic flora'	0.259
2/473	Chapel Baulk	'A narrow V-shaped length of interrupted drain with a noteworthy flora'	0.6
2/475	Shaw Ponds	'An old extraction pit, now a series of interlinked ponds with notable marginal and emergent vegetation'	1.593
2/478	Wooden Beck Hill Verges	'A herb-rich section of roadside verges'	0.416
2/479	Misterton Pasture	'A valuable pasture including dry and marshy grassland communities'	6.339
2/481	River Trent, West Stockwith	'A representative length of the tidal River Trent, including bank-side and associated rough vegetation'	17.182
2/482	Meadow Lane Grasslands, Normanton on Trent	'A collection of species-rich grasslands'	8.207

2/483	Low Marnham Grassland	'A reasonable grassland with a particularly interesting area of banking'	0.835
2/484	High Marnham Power Station Lagoon	'A lagoon that displays an excellent variety of wetland habitats'	3.037
2/486	Dunham Dubs	'A notable association of open water and grassland along the River Trent'	19.252
2/487	Dunham Drain	'A drain with a lush growth of emergent and bank-side vegetation'	0.298
2/491	Bole Ings Drains	Drains with a notable aquatic flora and of interest for Water Beetles	0.958
2/492	Bole Ings Flood Pasture	'An inundated pasture of botanical and ornithological interest'	10.296
2/498	River Idle and Banks, West Stockwith	'A length of the River Idle and its flood banks, primarily of botanical importance'	11.875
2/551	Haughton Decoy	'Mature deciduous woodland around an old decoy lake'	10.233
2/553	Carburton Roadside Verge	'A roadside verges with a diverse flora'	0.382
2/554	The Knob	The Knob	8.421
2/555	Bevercotes Park (Remainder)	'A largely replanted ancient woodland site retaining locally a notable range of characteristic species'	82.684
2/556	Great Oak Square Wetland	'A notable acid marsh community'	0.099
2/558	Blyth Corner Wetland	'A notable acid marsh community'	0.136
2/560	Kegham End Plantation	'A valuable habitat of damp overgrown woodland'	3.213
2/561	Woodland, Carlton in Lindrick	'A small but noteworthy area of deciduous woodland'	0.386
2/562	Hodsock Priory Estate		7.311
2/563	Wellbrooks Plantation	'A remnant of interesting coppice woodland'	0.599
2/564	Asholt and Hodsock Red Bridge	'A deciduous riparian woodland with damp areas producing a notable ground flora'	3.199

2/565	Daneshill Lakes and Woodland	'A very rich mosaic of woodland, marsh and aquatic habitats on old sand and gravel workings - of note for both its plant and animal communities'	70.905
2/566	Ranskill Gravel Pits	'Disused gravel workings now a fishing pond with notable aquatic and bank-side communities'	10.272
2/568	Everton Carr Drains	'Species-rich drainage channels'	0.402
2/569	Barrier Bank, Misson	'A site of scrubby woodland and ruderal riverside vegetation incorporating a representative stretch of the River Idle'	14.435
2/570	Whitehouse Plantation	'A good open sandy woodland habitat, well-used as a local amenity'	4.658
2/571	Well Hill, Bircotes	'A noteworthy area of scrub and wet grassland in an urban setting'	2.721
2/573	Slaynes Lane Washland	'One of five washlands along the River Idle representing fragments of a once extensive site of importance for both its plant and bird communities'	11.921
2/574	Newington Washland	'One of five washlands along the River Idle representing the last fragments of a once extensive site of importance for both plants and birds'	50.986
2/575	Idle Stop Washland	'One of five washlands along the River Idle representing fragments of a once extensive site of importance for both its plant and bird communities'	22.627
2/576	North Carr Drain Washland	'One of five washlands along the River Idle representing fragments of a once extensive site of importance for both its plant and bird communities'	5.8
2/577	Scrooby Common and Gibbet Hill	'An area of scrubby acidic grassland'	2.656
2/578	Barrow Hills Plantation	'A mixed plantation and secondary woodland of botanical and invertebrate zoological interest'	48.889
2/613	Lady Wood	'A woodland with botanically diverse communities'	4.945
2/617	Markham Moor Grasslands	'Rough species-rich grasslands along the River Maun'	1.945

2/618	Darlton Wood	'A semi-natural deciduous woodland with a characteristic ground flora'	2.259
2/619	Beverley Spring	'A characteristic tall coppice on Mercia Mudstone'	4.07
2/620	Chesterfield Canal (Misterton to West Stockwith)	'A length of canal with a characteristic aquatic plant community'	2.724
2/621	Chesterfield Canal (Shireoaks to Welham)	'A long stretch of canal varying in character and quality but always of aquatic and emergent botanical interest and zoological value'	24.689
2/622	Maumhill Wood	'A broadleaved woodland on Mercia Mudstone clays with a notable ground flora'	3.873
2/624	Tongs and Dogholes Woods	Woodlands supporting a characteristic flora	2.854
2/625	Saundby Park Wood	'A large and mostly undisturbed dry woodland site'	7.236
2/626	Beckingham Wood	'A well-structured mature coppice wood'	6.043
2/627	Wheatley Wood	'A rather disturbed woodland with a good range of characteristic species'	5.909
2/628	Plaster Hill Plantation	'A mature plantation with a well-developed woodland flora'	1.455
2/629	Hutchinsons Holt	'A belt of unmanaged woodland with a dense understorey'	6.215
2/630	Caddow Wood (Southern Assarts)	'A discontinuous and rather open old woodland of some botanical interest'	11.378
2/631	Clarborough Gypsum Pits	'An area of calcicolous scrub and grassland developed on the site of a disused gypsum quarry'	0.639
2/633	Longholme Pasture, East Retford	Damp ridge and furrow pasures with a high species diversity	7.369
2/634	Misson Carr	'An important and extensive area of damp scrub and woodland of zoological as well as botanical interest'	79.521
2/635	Snow Sewer [West], Misson	'A deep drainage channel with a good aquatic flora'	4.657
2/636	Levels Farm Drain. Misson	'A length of species-rich drain'	1.069

2/644	The Fleet, Girton	'A large aquatic site with a species-rich emergent and aquatic plant community'	11.874
2/651	Gainsborough Road Verges, Spalford	'Dry sandy roadside verges with a plant community of very restricted distribution in the county'	1.214
2/655	Dunham Oxbow	'A valuable aquatic community developed on an abandoned channel of the River Trent - of botanical and vertebrate zoological interest'	4.42
2/656	Fledborough Holme	'Lightly grazed common land, a small oxbow and a length of the River Trent, each with its characteristic flora'	22.494
2/657	Bole Ings	'An old Trent oxbow with a good diversity of semi-natural habitat types - of botanical and zoological interest'	16.775
2/745	Long Plantation Bridleway	A bridleway with a notable association of plant species	2.836
2/789	Moat Farm Pasture	'A rough pasture whose interest centres on the marsh around the ancient finger pool'	3.437
2/799	Grassthorpe Corner	'A Disturbed but species-rich pocket of grassland'	0.212
2/800	Willoughby Hill Roadside Verge	'A base-rich grassland community on the verge of a main road'	0.204
2/825	Girton Gravel Pits	'A large mosaic of semi-natural and successional communities on disused gravel pits'	63.927
2/90	The Bottoms, Church Warsop	'A length of good riparian habitats along the River Meden'	19.956
2/969	Rugged Butts	'An extensive area of acid grassland with associated woodland habitats'	38.039
2/977	East Retford Marshy Grasslands	'Species-rich marshy grasslands adjacent to the Chesterfield Canal'	3.957
2/979	Out Ings	'A diverse mosaic of grassland, open water and carr communities adjacent to the River Trent'	12.477
5/00	New Plantation Arable Field	An arable field supporting several notable and threatened species	3.775
5/09	River Ryton	A stretch of river of zoological note	0.887

5/100	Banks Carr Wood	An open deciduous woodland with a rich and varied flora bounded by open drains and one of the last areas of fen meadow remaining in Nottinghamshire	5.858
5/101	Bank's Carr Drain	A slow-flowing drain with species-rich aquatic and emergent flora	0.515
5/102	Lings Wood, Scaftworth	A block of deciduous woodland in a conifer plantation with a notable wet acidic community	14.399
5/103	Mattersey North Sand Pit	Scrubby disused sand quarry with important wetland and sand-land communities	1.745
5/104	Mattersey Wood	Mixed damp woodland with a notable flora	19.276
5/105	Pusto Hill	A semi-natural sandy grassland with characteristic and notable species	16.143
5/106	Everton Carr Woodland	A semi-natural deciduous woodland on a damp peaty/sandy substrate of botanical interest	6.388
5/107	Everton Road Verges	A wide grassy verge with a notable sand-land plant community	1.001
5/1077	Tiln Wood Grassland	A relic patch of dry acid grassland with notable species in and around a conifer plantation	2.041
5/108	Top Road Sand Pit	A diverse mosaic of wet and damp depressions, vegetated spoil, scrub and open sandy habitats in a disused sand pit	4.039
5/1081	Morton Park	Area of unimproved acid grassland in the grounds of a Park	53.183
5/1084	Pheasant Wood Grassland	A notable dry grassland community left along a fire break	1.659
5/109	Snow Sewer (East), Misson	A deep drain with a notable aquatic flora	2.866
5/11	Ranskill Birch Woodland	Successional habitat with notable plant species and communities	7.198
5/1102	Beacon Hill	A notable calcicole grassland community on a bank	1.077
5/112	Walkeringham Claypits	An old clay pit with a developed base-rich grassland, scrub and pond communities	6.653
5/114	Mattersey Flooded Sandpits	Vegetated flooded sand pits with noteworthy emergent and aquatic flora	15.663
5/115	Mattersey Sandpit	Shallow water-filled sandpits with scrub of wildlife value	1.449

5/116	Scrooby Sand Pits	Mosaic of swamp, marsh, grassland, scrub and developing fen communities of considerable botanical and zoological interest	12.997
5/117	Ranskill Sandpit Spoil	A mosaic of marsh, open water and characteristic sand-land communities which have developed on an old sand pit	5.641
5/118	Ash Holt Hodsock	A mixed riparian woodland	8.091
5/119	Toad Holes Wood, Hodsock	A wet deciduous woodland with a notable ground flora	5.553
5/12	Common Lane, Ranskill	Notable sand plant communities along trackside verges	0.353
5/12	Langold Lake Swamp and Woodland	A diverse linear habitat of wet woodland, swamp and open water	3.999
5/120	Low Wood, Hodsock	A fine riverside deciduous woodland	3.374
5/121	Lower Flash, Hodsock	An area of relict grass heath	2.46
5/123	Hundred Acre Wood	A mixed plantation woodland with a characteristic acidic flora	40.853
5/1234	Marsh Road Pond, Walkeringham	An noteworthy pond	0.628
5/1236	Clayworth Woodhouse Pond	Pond with a notable flora	0.264
5/1239	Brick Yard Road Ponds	Ponds with a noteworthy flora	0.421
5/124	Carlton Sand Quarry	A disused sand quarry with areas of scrub and open sandy habitat	4.948
5/125	Carlton in Lindrick Marsh	A noteworthy wet grassland	3.191
5/128	High House Road Verges, Sturton Le Steeple	A notable neutral grassland, ditch bank communities and species-rich hedgerow along a track	1.437
5/129	Blue Stocking Lane, Clarborough	A Green lane with species-rich grassland and hedgerows	1.167
5/13	Langold Lake Grassland	A notable grassland with a diverse flora	0.939

5/132	Littleborough Lagoons	A shallow lagoon with flood bank and drain of botanical and ornithological importance	5.821
5/133	Marnham to Harby Dismantled Railway	A long length of dismantled railway line with a rich diversity of characteristic and notable herbs	16.312
5/134	Old Trent, Marnham	A range of wetland habitats along the old course of the River Trent	2.304
5/136	South Clifton Road Verges	Broad grassy roadside verges with a notable blown-sand flora	1.017
5/1417	Morris Dancers Lodge Pond	A large pond with a noteworthy flora	0.301
5/145	A1 Central Reservation, Markham Moor	Calcareous spoil with a notable flora in the central reservation of the A1	2.043
5/146	Headon Wood / School House Plantation	Semi-natural deciduous plantation woodlands separated by a unimproved neutral grassland ride	7.367
5/147	Headon Wood Grassland	A noteworthy neutral grassland	0.787
5/149	Gosling Carr	A noteworthy wet woodland	4.856
5/150	Conjure Alders, Bothamsall	A wet deciduous woodland at the confluence of the Rivers Maun and Meden	12.01
5/151	Bothamsall Grassland Plantation	A wide belt of neutral to acidic grassland between plantation blocks	2.761
5/153	Poulter Valley Plantation (East)	Conifer plantation with relict areas of semi-natural deciduous woodland	64.749
5/154	Poulter Valley Plantation (West)	Conifer plantation with relict areas of semi-natural deciduous woodland	33.337
5/155	West Drayton Woodland	A wet riparian woodland	1.618
5/157	Babworth / Ordsall Railway	An active railway line with acidic grassland communities of particular note	3.682
5/158	Osberton Woodland (i)	A wet woodland with a notable plant community	2.482

5/159	Osberton Woodland (ii)	A mixed woodland on wet ground with notable species	4.294
5/16	Blue Barn Lane	A lane with notable plant species	0.281
5/160	Top Wood / Great Whin Covert	A conifer plantation with characteristic acidic grassland along rides and a pond with notable species	46.928
5/163	Fanny's Grove	Mature deciduous woodland with valuable scrub and acid heath grassland	9.626
5/164	Sutton and Lound Gravel Pits	A wet deciduous woodland with a noteworthy flora	9.523
5/17	West Burton Power Station	An area of mature gravel pits within the power station of zoological interest	18.073
5/18	Clumber Park and Boat House Plantation	An area with Moth interest	113.528
5/200	A1133 Verge, Girton (East Side)	Dry sandy roadside verges with a notable plant community	0.562
5/201	Green Lane Verges, Girton	Green lane verges supporting a relict grassland characteristic of the blown sand	0.218
5/22	Saundby Ponds	Fishing ponds notable for Water Beetles	2.471
5/23	Toft Hill Lane Drain and Pond	Ditches and a pond of interest for Water Beetles	0.154
5/24	Thornhill Lane Drain, Littleborough	A drain of interest for Water Beetles	0.135
5/26	Cow Wood	A deciduous calcareous woodland with a notable ground flora	3.066
5/27	Goosemoor Dyke	A stream of interest for Water beetles	2.124
5/27	Nab's Ashes Marsh	A notable fen community adjacent to an woodland	2.808
5/28	Gainsborough Road Gravel Pit, Girton	A former gravel pit of interest for Water Beetles	41.312
5/292	Wallingwells Track Verge Hedge (i)	A track with a notable neutral grassland and species-rich hedgerow	0.81

5/293	Wallingwells Track Verge Hedge (ii)	A species-rich track-side verge	0.182
5/294	The Bottoms, Wallingwells	A belt of deciduous woodland with a notable ground flora	2.963
5/296	Railway Drain, Srooby	A short stretch of drain with a noteworthy flora	0.072
5/297	Scotts Wood	Scotts Wood	1.611
5/299	Mill Road Verge	A noteworthy roadside grassland verge	0.221
5/30	Mother Drain, East.Gringley	A drain with a notable aquatic and bank-side flora	1.033
5/300	Lower Ponds, Haughton	Seasonally wet deciduous woodland with a notable flora	4.132
5/304	Bevercotes Colliery Site and Lawn Covert	A former mine site supporting a mosaic of acid grassland, open water, woodland and bare ground communities of botanical and zoological note.	15.455
5/305	Dover Holt Wetland	A developing complex of swamp, grassland and open water habitats of botanical interest	12.848
5/306	Dover Holt	A semi-natural deciduous woodland bounded by valuable wetland communities	1.311
5/307	Leys Lane Verge	A lane with a notable neutral grassland	0.662
5/31	River Idle	A section of the River Idle and associated swamp of interest for Water beetles	7.12
5/34	Marsh Drain, Walkeringham	A drain of interest for Water Beetles	1.072
5/35	Misson Bank and Sanderson's Bank Drains	Drains of interest for Water Beetles	0.825
5/358	Gamston Airport Scrub and Grassland	A species-rich mosaic of relict acidic grassland and scrub	5.649
5/36	Cornley Farm Drain, Misterton Carr	A drain of interest for Water Beetles	0.727
5/369	Egmanton Meadow	A hay meadow with an unusual species diversity	1.184

5/377	Durham Hill Pasture	A notable species-rich calcareous grassland	5.937
5/379	Walkeringham Pasture	A noteworthy damp grassland	5.996
5/38	Mother Drain, Upper Ings	A drain of interest for Water Beetles	2.119
5/382	Ash Holt, Styrudd	An ancient woodland supporting a characteristic flora	2.174
5/39	Owl Drain, Misson	A drain of interest for Water Beetles	1.664
5/391	Kingshaugh Farm Earthwork	Noteworthy grassland on an ancient site	3.229
5/393	Retford Gate Green Lane	Unimproved neutral grassland with noteworthy herbs and communities along a Green lane	1.545
5/394	Parsons Wood Railway Sidings	Characteristic railway line flora, with relict damp grassland and tall herb communities	4.586
5/396	Weston Road Verge	Species-rich roadside verges in a predominately arable area	0.497
5/41	River Idle - Everton Carr	A section of the River Idle of interest for Water beetles	2.041
5/42	River Idle - Bolham	A section of the River Idle of interest for Water beetles	0.753
5/44	River Maun - Haughton	A section of the River Maun of interest for Water bugs	0.874
5/45	River Meden - Bothamsall	A section of the River Meden of interest for Water bugs	0.846
5/46	River Meden - Thoresby	A section of the River Meden of interest for Water bugs	0.969
5/47	Minster Wood	Remnant area of ancient woodland with a characteristic acid flora	7.371
5/47	River Meden - West Drayton	A section of the River Meden of interest for Water bugs	0.11
5/48	River Poulter - Elkesley	A section of the River Poulter of interest for Dragonflies, Water bugs and Water Beetles	0.319
5/49	River Idle - Gamston	A section of the River Idle of interest for Water beetles and Water Bugs	0.78
5/50	River Poulter - Langwith Mill	A section of the River Poulter of interest for Water Beetles	0.689

5/59	Tindale Bank Drain	A drain of interest for Water Beetles	0.304
5/59	West Burton Reedbed	An extensive reedbed and associated carr woodland of botanical and zoological note	4.297
5/60	Torksey Ferry Road Ditch - Cottam	A drain of interest for Water Beetles	0.138
5/61	Burton Round Ditch	A drain of interest for Water Beetles	0.194
5/62	Misson Pumphouse Flash	A seasonal flash and associated river valley farmland of ornithological note	16.046
5/63	Styrudd Sand Quarry	A sand quarry	5.946
5/64	Slaynes Lane	Carr, farmland and gravel pits prone to winter/spring flooding supporting rich assemblage of breeding birds	121.524
5/648	Blyth Wood	A remnant fragment of ancient woodland	3.634
5/65	Bevercotes Colliery Site	Regenerated colliery site, including coal yard, former tips and ponds supporting a rich assemblage of breeding birds	141.556
5/65	Rob's Meadow, Retford	A characteristic alluvial meadow plant community	2.275
5/653	Kirton Wood Assart Hedge	A rich diversity of trees, shrubs and associated ancient woodland flora along a stream	0.478
5/655	Appleyhead Roadside Verge	A dry grassland community with a notable and diverse flora	1.029
5/66	Manton Colliery	A former colliery site supporting a mosaic of habitats and a rich assemblage of breeding birds	86.215
5/674	Upton Notified Roadside Verge	Dry grassland with a note-worthy flora	0.238
5/69	Collinridge Wood	An ancient woodland on a West facing slope	1.539
5/70	South Clifton Grassland	A neutral Trent-side pasture	2.788
5/71	North Clifton Church	A notable blown-sand grassland in a churchyard	0.659
5/78	New Plantation, Langwith	An open deciduous woodland with semi-permanent wet areas	6.512

5/83	Warsop Wood Colliery Spoil	A partly vegetated spoil heap grading into ancient deciduous woodland with permanently flooded pools, wet and dry acidic grassland	5.396
5/86	Cuckney Hay Wood	A notable semi-natural woodland	52.476
5/87	Lady's Grove, Nether Langwith	A semi-natural ancient deciduous woodland with a characteristic field layer	5.483
5/90	Cuckney Dam	A large shallow pond with noteworthy reed swamp and open marginal aquatic communities	3.542
5/91	Broad Lane Grassland, North Leverton	A neutral grassland	0.831
5/92	Askham Churchyard	A churchyard with a neutral grassland	0.363
5/92	Elkesley Hill Colliery Village, Welbeck	A small hill with a noteworthy mosaic of scrub and acidic grassland communities	5.628
5/93	St Helen's Church Grassland	A notable churchyard grassland	0.599
5/93	Tile Kiln Wood, Welbeck	A deciduous woodland with a notable flora and species-rich road side verge	10.247
5/94	Bolham Wood	A characteristic acid ancient woodland on a river bluff	1.906
5/94	The Old Hag, Holbeck	Deciduous woodland with a noteworthy flora	5.406
5/96	Tranker Wood Grassland	A species-rich damp grassland	1.167
5/97	The Ashes	A deciduous woodland with a notable flora	0.812
5/98	Carlton Lake and Marsh	A mosaic of open water, reed swamp, tall herb fen and rich floating fen communities	4.923
5/99	Dyscarr Wood Marsh	A notable wet grassland and base-rich marsh community on a school playing field	0.975
	Oldcotes Mill Grassland	Horse grazed pasture with species-rich calcaerous banks	2.23

Appendix 3: Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust managed sites

Ashton's Meadow SSSI

Chainbridge Reserve

Clarborough Tunnel SSSI

Daneshill Gravel Pits LNR

Dyscarr Wood SSSI

Eaton Wood SSSI

Gamston Wood SSSI

Lady Lee Quarry SINC

Misson Carr SSSI

Treswell Wood SSSI

West Burton Meadow SINC

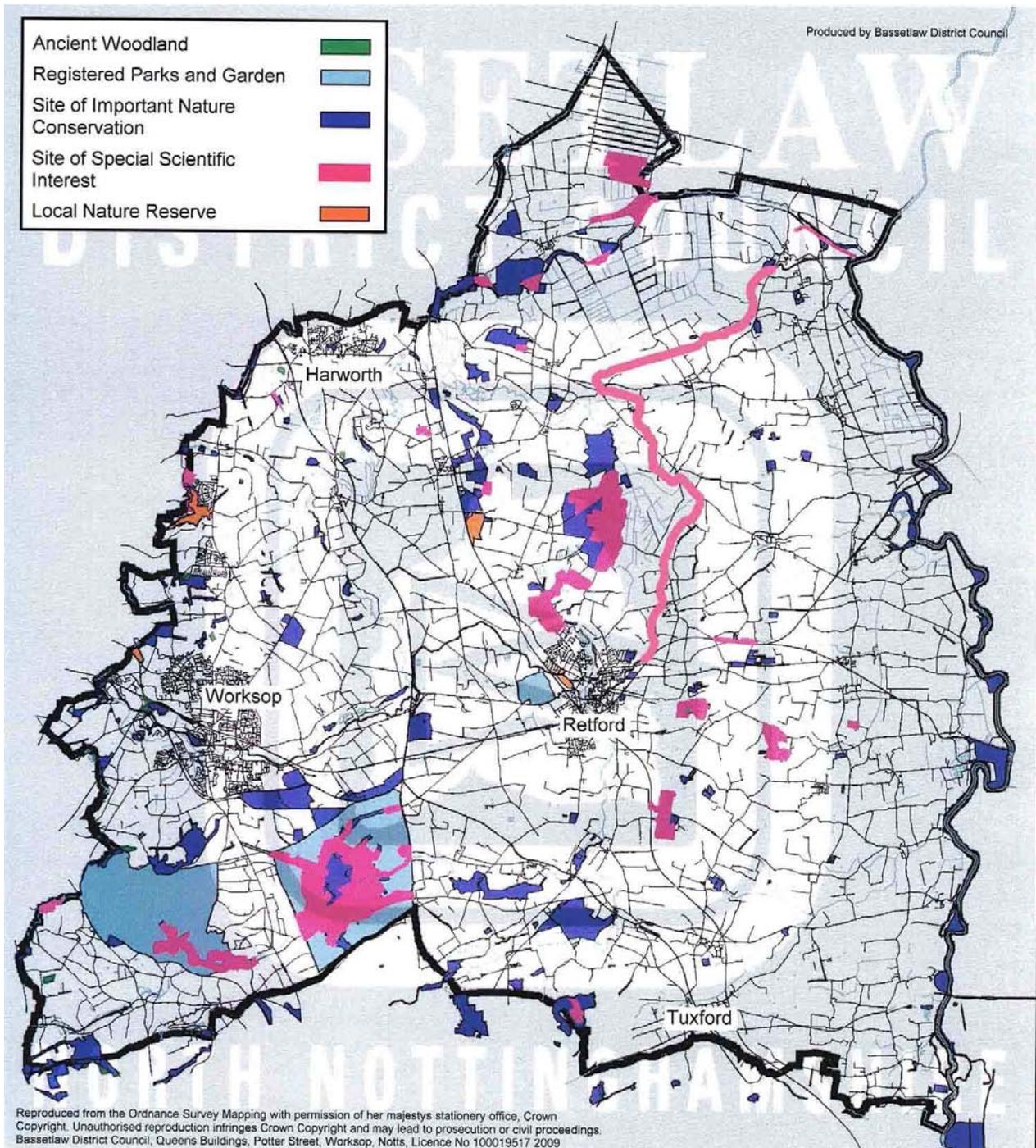
Appendix 4: Nottinghamshire LBAP – Habitats of Conservation Concern in Bassetlaw

- 1 Arable and horticulture
- 2 Coniferous woodland
- 3 Improved grassland
- 4 River and streams
- 5 Standing open water and canals
- 6 Ditches
- 7 Lowland wet grassland
- 8 Marsh
- 9 Mixed ash dominated woodland
- 10 Oak-birch woodland
- 11 Post-industrial land
- 12 Semi-marine environment of the upper tidal reaches of the River Trent
- 13 Shingle banks in the River Trent
- 14 Unimproved neutral grassland
- 15 Urban land
- 16 Ancient and/or species-rich hedgerows*
- 17 Cereal field margins*
- 18 Eutrophic standing waters*
- 19 Fens*
- 20 Lowland calcareous grassland*
- 21 Lowland dry acid grassland*
- 22 Lowland heathland*
- 23 Lowland wood-pasture and parkland*
- 24 Mesotrophic lakes*
- 25 Reed-beds*
- 26 Saline lagoons*
- 27 Wet Woodlands*

* COUNTRYSIDE AND RIGHTS OF WAY ACT 2000, Habitats of principle importance

Source: Nottingham Biological and Geological Records Office

Appendix 5: Environmental Site Designations in Bassetlaw



Appendix 6: Urban Area Constraints Assessment

Settlement	Designation	Site	Description	Notable Constraints	Potential/Opportunities
Worksop	LNR/SINC	Woodsetts Pond	Disused sandstone quarry that has developed semi-natural habitats around the perimeter.	Containing broad-leaved woodland, wetland, scrub and feature of geological interest.	LNR/SINC designation seeks to conserve the diversity of habitats on the site and the wildlife interest of those habitats, whilst encouraging public understanding and appreciation of the site. Encourage positive public use of the site.
	Ancient Woodland /SINC	Rough Piece	A valuable woodland with a noteworthy shrub content'	A prominent area of woodland between Worksop and Carlton-in-Lindrick.	An area of accessible woodland between Worksop and Carlton-in-Lindrick. These woods are joined by a footpath offering an off-road link between the two settlements.
	Ancient Woodland /SINC	Owday Plantation	'A mature plantation with a noteworthy flora'		
	Ancient Woodland /SINC	Nabs Ashes Wood	An interesting deciduous woodland'	An area of accessible woodland immediately adjacent the Gateford estate. It would be desirable to protect this woodland against further expansion from the north of Worksop, preserving it as an area of accessible natural greenspace on the urban fringe. Woodland also provides visual screening of the urban area when looking south, from Carlton-in-Lindrick. Marshy land is generally a constraint to development and requires active management if it is to retain its conservation interest.	Of value for recreation and encouraging biodiversity into the urban area.
	SINC	Nabs Ashes Marsh	A notable fen community adjacent to a woodland'		
	SINC	Hardwick Ashes	'A deciduous woodland with a noteworthy ground flora'	Prominent and distinctive area of woodland on the undulating landscape between Worksop and Carlton-in-Lindrick. Of visual merit as a distinctive landscape boundary.	A public bridleway passes through the woods.

	Ancient Woodland	Little Broom Wood	No details available.	Part of the mosaic of woodland that fills the landscape between Worksop and Carlton-in-Lindrick.	A public bridleway skirts the edge of the wood, making it accessible for recreation.
	SINC	Osberton Woodland (I)	A wet woodland with a notable plant community	An area of significant local nature conservation value.	
	SINC	Manton Colliery	A former colliery site supporting a mosaic of habitats and a rich assemblage of breeding birds	This site, to the south of the A57 provides a degree of vegetative screening for the industrial development around the former colliery site. However, this area is being used illegally by dirt-bikers. This is likely to have a detrimental impact on the biodiversity content of the area.	Whilst recreational use may be viable on the site the current use is somewhat incompatible and active management should be sought to harness the site potential.
	SINC	Worksop Golf Course	'An interesting mosaic of habitats with a number of noteworthy species'	Whilst the golf course SINC is of value in its own right and should be protected against any development that would adversely effect it, it also provides something of a buffer between Worksop and the sensitive Welbeck and Clumber estates.	A public footpath passes through the area linking it to Clumber, to the south.

	SINC	Manor Hills	'A representative section of Manor Hills woodland	This area of woodland falls within the wider area of Welbeck and Clumber.	Clumber Park is a major recreational resource and tourist attraction for the District and wider area, recognised for its cultural and historic significance. Strong iconography as part of 'Robin Hood Country' and the Sherwood region gives potential for further tourism-based development. Further enhancement of biodiversity in the area can add value to the overall environmental quality (such as restoring areas of heathland). This whole area to the south of Worksop provides an attractive backdrop against which businesses can establish themselves. There may be scope for improved sustainable transport links to and from Worksop.
	SINC	Lady Lee Pasture	'A pasture containing an interesting old limestone quarry'	A biodiversity reservoir on the edge of the urban area.	The site is currently being managed as a Wildlife Trust nature reserve, educating visitors about biodiversity. A public bridleway runs through the site, north to south, with a footpath running east to west.
	SINC	Lady Lee Quarry	'A diverse array of species-rich habitats developed on an old limestone quarry and adjacent track - of botanical and zoological interest'		
	SINC	High Grounds Wood	'A mature deciduous woodland with a noteworthy ground flora, bounded by a valuable flowing drain'	This area of woodland demarcates and constrains the edge of the built-up area of Worksop and given the site's designation and subsequent sensitivity to development should remain as such. Development of the High Grounds industrial estate/retail area would eventually result in coalescence with the neighbouring village of Rhodesia. It is not accessible by the public.	Making the area accessible to the public and connecting with both Lady Lee Quarry and Rhodesia could form an off-road route through to retail and employment facilities at High Grounds industrial estate.

	SINC	Sandhill Lake	'A recreational lake with a restricted, but notable, emergent community'	These sites lie to adjacent one another and along with the River Ryton, form a green corridor through the heart of Worksop. Retention as greenspace aids flood mitigation, providing drainage for the surrounding hard surfaced urban area.	There is potential for enhancement for recreation, particularly of the Canal towpath, offering a 'quiet' route through town, linking the residential area in the east to employment areas in the west. It also provides accessible natural greenspace in close proximity to town centre. Increasing tree cover can contribute to urban cooling and better air quality in the town centre. The Canal towpath (Cuckoo Way) offers access to other recreational areas including Sandhill Lake and Shireoaks Marina. Appropriate forms of waterside (water-compatible) development can act as a regeneration driver.
	SINC	Chesterfield Canal	'A long stretch of canal varying in character and quality but always of aquatic and emergent botanical interest and zoological value'		
	SINC	Rhodesia Pool	'A small flooded quarry with a notable aquatic community'	A small pool adjacent the Chesterfield Canal, although not accessible by the public. A physical constraint on the edge of Rhodesia.	May be viable for fishing if made accessible to the public.
	SINC	Tranker Wood Grassland	A species-rich damp grassland	This area forms a constraint on the western-most boundary of Worksop's main industrial area. It therefore faces potential pressure from this area expanding. Given that expansion of sites, to the north, is constrained by the Lincoln to Sheffield railway line, western expansion is the most viable option. As such this site should be protected as far as possible and/or mitigation measures should be identified where loss may occur. This area is not accessible by the public.	Although no formal rights of way exist on this site rough tracks have developed in and around the woods where people walk and cycle. Appropriate management could harness the recreation potential of this site.
	Ancient Woodland /SINC	Tranker Wood	'A deciduous wood with a rich ground flora'		
	Ancient Woodland	Jack Riding	No details available.	An area of woodland enclosed by the railway and road, not accessible by the public.	

Harworth /Bircotes	Ancient Woodland	Crow Wood	No details available.		
	SINC	Well Hill	'A noteworthy area of scrub and wet grassland in an urban setting'	Right in the heart of the built-up area of Harworth, this site faces significant development pressure.	
	SINC	Whitehouse Plantation	'A good open sandy woodland habitat, well-used as a local amenity'	This woodland on the edge of the urban area offers valuable amenity space to the local community and should be protected as such. If Harworth is to accommodate significant new levels of growth, sites such as this are vital for the health and wellbeing of the local population.	Management of the wood could enhance its amenity value.
Retford	Registered Park	Babworth Hall	A late 18th Century park, surrounding house of the same era. A distinctively wooded ridgeline landscape, forming a natural physical boundary to the town	An area of linear accessible woodland constraining the western edge of Retford.	
	SINC	Babworth/Ordsall Railway	An active railway line with acidic grassland communities of particular note	Maintaining vegetation alongside the railway line provides a linear route for wildlife.	
	SINC	Retford Golf Course Grassland	'A valuable acidic grassland'	An area of constraint to the west of Retford. This site should be protected for both its recreational value and conservation interest.	

	SINC	Chesterfield Canal	'A long stretch of canal varying in character and quality but always of aquatic and emergent botanical interest and zoological value'	There is potential for enhancement for recreation, particularly of the Canal towpath, offering a 'quiet' route through town, linking the residential area in the east to employment areas in the west. It also provides accessible natural greenspace in close proximity to town centre. Increasing tree cover can contribute to urban cooling and better air quality in the town centre. The Canal towpath (Cuckoo Way) is a recreational route across much of Bassetlaw.	As in Worksop, potential for canal-side regeneration should be explored in Retford to utilise the waterway to its fullest potential.
	SSSI/SINC	Sutton and Lound Gravel Pits	Sutton and Lound Gravel Pits contains extensive areas of open water and margins which support an exceptionally rich assemblage of breeding wetland birds and a nationally important population of wintering gadwall. The site supports an exceptional diversity of breeding, wintering and passage birds.	This area forms a significant environmental constraint to the north of Retford but with the Idle Valley Rural Learning Centre standing as a fine example of how to develop a sensitive environmental site for the benefit general public. Phase 1 provided all the landscaping work, including putting down the base for the road, car park and building platforms. Further proposals include exhibition facilities.	A network of paths for visitors to view wildlife and for leisure walks, routes for horse riders and a weekend visitor's centre.
	SINC	Tiln Wood Grassland	A relic patch of dry acid grassland with notable species in and around a conifer plantation	Located away from the built-up area, this does not pose any immediate constraint.	Opportunity might be sought to connect with other trails up the Idle Valley.
	SINC	Longholme Pasture	Damp ridge and furrow pasures with a high species diversity	Part of the network of agricultural pasture land to the north of Retford. Immediately adjacent the urban area this site is a significant constraint to development to the northeast of the town.	

	SINC	East Retford Marshy Grasslands	'Species-rich marshy grasslands adjacent to the Chesterfield Canal'	Marsh and wetlands are constraints to development. Marshy grassland requires active management if it is to retain its conservation interest.	
	SINC	Top Lodge Plantation	'A mature deciduous woodland with a characteristic ground flora'	An area of woodland on the edge of Retford's urban fringe. Accessible by public footpath that leads into the built-up area (Retford South Conservation Area).	May be possible to encourage use as a LNR.

