

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member and Advisers for Regeneration and Development
2.	Date:	Monday 2nd December 2013
3.	Title:	Rotherham Local Site System – annual series update 2013
4.	Directorate :	Environment and Development Services

5. Summary

This report seeks approval of the 2103 update of the list of Local Wildlife Sites in Rotherham. The information forms part of the evidence base for the Local Plan and is used in the determination of relevant planning applications.

6. Recommendations

- That the Rotherham Local Wildlife Site 2013 boundaries (as shown in Appendix 1 of this report) be endorsed;

Proposal and Details

Rotherham's Local Wildlife Site series identifies sites of substantive nature conservation value in accordance with Defra best practice. RMBC Cabinet approved the adoption of the Rotherham Local Wildlife Site system and the initial series of site boundaries in 2008 (17 December 2008, minute 139).

Sites of wildlife interest can change over time due to management practices and natural processes; the Rotherham Local Wildlife Site system accommodates this by enabling new sites to be added and for site boundaries to be changed or removed as and when new areas of interest are identified or if sites no longer meet the standards set by the system. The process for this involves the Local Wildlife Site Panel assessing and agreeing site based data and for the results of this analysis to then be submitted to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration & Development for endorsement (submissions previously made to Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Environment).

During 2013 one site was proposed as a new candidate Local Wildlife Sites. Site base data was collected on behalf of the landowner and existing data held by the Rotherham Biological Records Centre was extracted. The combined data for the site was then assessed against the Rotherham Local Wildlife Site selection criteria. The assessment confirmed that the site demonstrated substantive nature conservation value by meeting at least one of the selection criteria and it is now proposed that the site is added to the existing Local Wildlife Site series.

Information about the site proposed for addition is given below. Appendix 1 of this report shows the full series with the new site highlighted and Appendix 2 shows the detailed LWS boundary.

LWS126 – Foers Wood, Aston:

The site is privately owned mature wet woodland with running and standing water features, managed for wildlife. There is no public access to the site and the isolation and lack of disturbance, combined with the positive management by the landowners has developed a diverse, complex woodland site.

Foers Wood qualifies as a Local Wildlife Site under the following criteria:

- G2 Plant species for semi-natural neutral grassland
- W1 Botanical indicators of ancient woodlands in South Yorkshire
- W3 Vascular indicator plants of wet woodland
- M1 Any site that supports roosts of two or more species of bat
- M2 Any site that is regularly used for foraging by at least four species of bat
- M3 Any site that regularly supports a population of a native mammal species listed in Annex 2 of the Habitats Directive or any mammal listed in Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)
- AR1 Any site that supports four or more species of native amphibian and/or reptiles
- AR2 Any site that supports a good population of great crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*)

RMBC Asset Management, Planning Policy and Development Management have been consulted. The response from Asset Management confirmed that the land is in private ownership, there is no adjoining Council owned land surrounding the site which would be capable of land amalgamation and there are no concerns in relation to the proposal. The Development Management and Planning Policy teams have confirmed that there are no issues arising from the proposed addition.

8. Finance

The cost of the Local Wildlife Site update work has been met by the EDS Planning Policy budget.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

The operation of a Local Site System enables RMBC to demonstrate compliance with current legislation and planning policy including the need to have a robust evidence base. Designation is based on scientific reasoning and, in accordance with national best practice (Defra, Local Sites: Guidance on their Identification, Selection and Management, 2006), the system includes all sites that qualify.

The Local Wildlife Site System, as approved, includes a responsibility for any additions and amendments to the site list to be reported annually to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Development (previously with Cabinet Member for Town Centres, Economic Growth and Prosperity). The approval for the amendments proposed for 2013 is sought now to enable the updated series of sites to be reflected in the preparation of the Local Plan and in the determination of relevant planning applications.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

National Planning Policy Framework states that to minimise impacts on biodiversity and geodiversity, planning policies should:

- plan for biodiversity at a landscape-scale across local authority boundaries;
- identify and map components of the local ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity, wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them and areas identified by local partnerships for habitat restoration or creation;
- promote the preservation, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species populations, linked to national and local targets, and identify suitable indicators for monitoring biodiversity in the plan;
- aim to prevent harm to geological conservation interests; and
- where Nature Improvement Areas are identified in Local Plans, consider specifying the types of development that may be appropriate in these Areas.

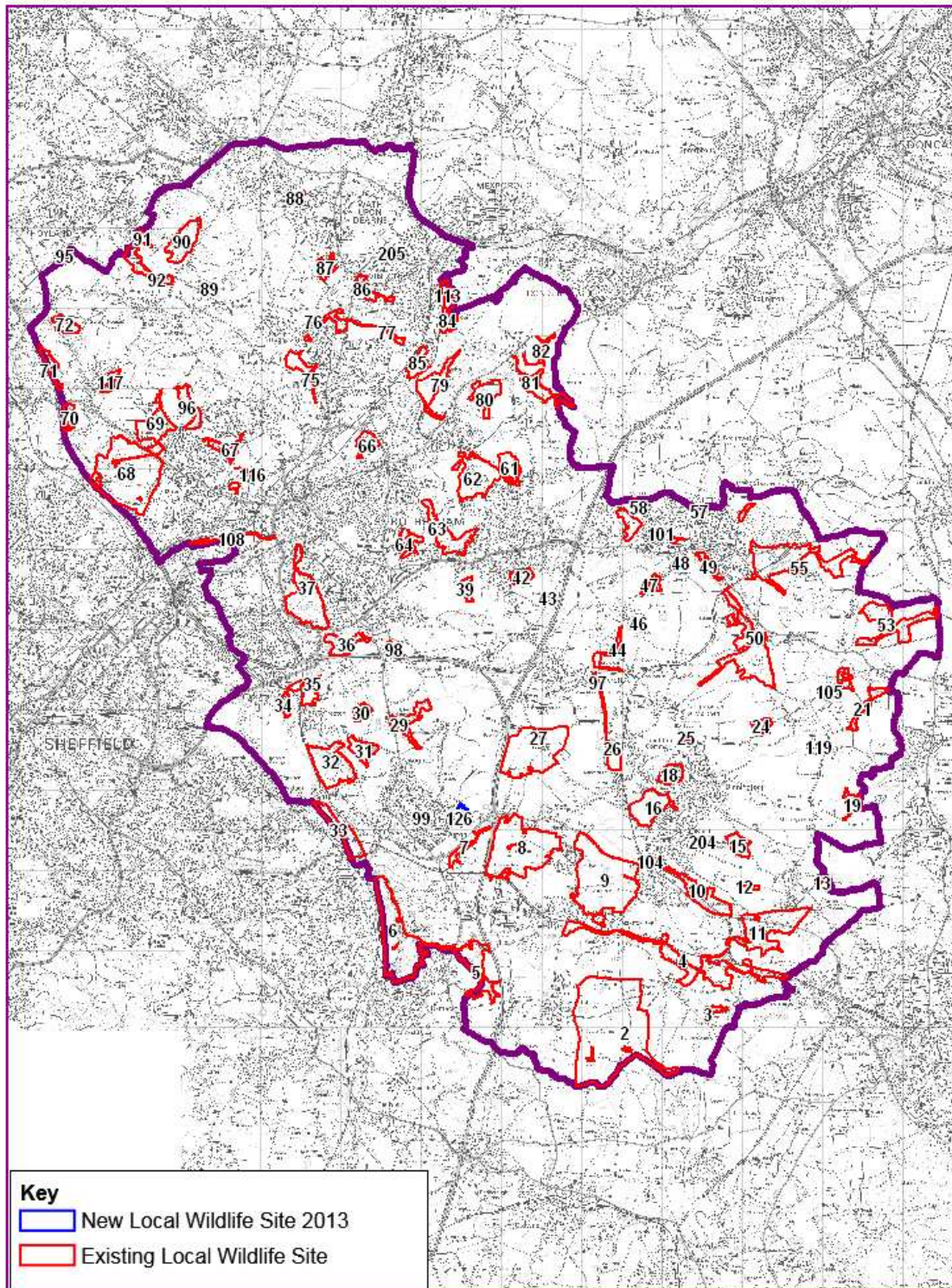
The maintenance of a Local Site system and positive site management are essential elements of Single Data List Indicator 160-01 – ‘Positive management of local sites’.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

- Baker Shepherd Gillespie - Ecological Consultants (April 2007)
Rotherham Local Wildlife Site System:
 - Part 1: The Framework for Rotherham's Local Wildlife Site System,
 - Part 2: Site Selection Guidelines for Rotherham.
- Defra Local Sites – Guidance on their Identification, Selection and Management (February 2006)
- Former Cabinet Member for Economic and Regeneration and Development Services (5.4.2006) RMBC <http://moderngov.rotherham.gov.uk>
- Former Cabinet Member for Economic and Regeneration and Development Services (24.11.2008) RMBC <http://moderngov.rotherham.gov.uk>
- RMBC Cabinet (17.12.08) <http://moderngov.rotherham.gov.uk>
- The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006

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Appendix One



Rotherham Local Wildlife Site Boundaries - 2013

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Key to Rotherham Local Wildlife Sites

Site	Site Name	Site	Site Name
2	Loscar Common	64	Gibbing Greave & Herringthorpe Wood
3	Lob Wells Wood	66	Aldwarke Sewage Works
4	Chesterfield Canal	67	Bassingthorpe Spring & Hudson's Rough
5	Nor Wood and Locks	68	Grange Park
6	Rother Valley Country Park	69	Keppel's Field LNR
7	Nickerwoods & Ponds	70	Lady Clough & Smithy Wood
8	Todwick Common	71	Hesley Wood
9	Axle Lane	72	Barley Hole Springs
10	Anston Stones Wood	75	New Stubbin Colliery & Stubbin Incline
11	Lindrick Common	76	Warren Vale Local Nature Reserve
12	Dewidales Wood	77	Collier Brook and Marsh
13	Cross Lane Meadow	79	Thrybergh Tip
15	Swinston Hill Woods	80	Thrybergh Country Park
16	Dinnington Colliery Tip	81	Ravenfield Park & Firsby Reservoirs
18	Dinnington Open Public Space	82	Hooton Cliff
19	Langold Holt	83	Back Lane
21	Ivy Lodge Plantation & Rough Wood	84	Kilnhurst Ings
22	Firbeck Hall Woodlands	85	Kilnhurst Agricultural Letting
24	Long and Little Thwaite Woods	86	Creighton & Piccadilly Woods
25	Little Moor	87	Wath Wood & Boyd Royd Wood
26	Dinnington Marsh	88	Flatts Valley
27	Brampton Common	89	Hooper Plantation
29	Ulley Country Park	90	Rainborough Park
30	Burnt Wood	91	Simon Wood
31	Treeton Wood	92	Lee Wood
32	Treeton Dyke	93	King's wood
33	Woodhouse Washlands	95	Skiers Spring Wood
34	Catcliffe Flash LNR	96	Rockingham Wood & Shepherd's plantation
35	Old Flatts Farm Marsh	97	Thurcroft Mineral Trail
36	Whiston Meadows	98	Revel Wood
37	Canklow Wood	99	Austen Park
39	Wickersley Gorse	101	Hazel Road Wood
42	Wickersley Wood	103	Monk Wood
43	King's Pond Plantation	104	Anston Brook Walk
44	Thurcroft Hall	105	St Martin's Church, Firbeck
46	Carr Quarry	108	Sheffield & South Yorkshire Navigation
47	Hooton Levitt (SW) woodlands	113	Kilnhurst Riverside
48	Hooton Levitt (N) woodland	116	Clough Streamside
49	Wood Lee Common	117	Thorpe Mine
50	Roche Abbey	119	St Peters Church Letwell
53	Sandbeck Park	121	Bradgate Brickworks
55	Maltby Commons & Woodlands	122	Treeton Colliery
57	Greenland Plantation	123	Larch Plantation
58	Lilly Hall	126	Foers Wood
59	Hellaby Bridge Brickworks	204	Tropical Butterfly House
61	Gulling Wood and Silver Wood	205	St Margarets Church, Swinton
62	Silverwood Tip & Odd Hill		
63	Listerdale Wood		

Appendix 2 – LWS126 Foers Wood Boundary

