



Burngreave Green
Environment Programme

Burngreave Green Audit

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Contact

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Introduction

Burngreave's parks and green spaces have suffered greatly through years of neglect, under-use and vandalism. Nevertheless, the area's environment retains huge potential to contribute positively to people's lives.

The Burngreave Green Environment Programme is undertaking a wide range of projects and capital improvements in Burngreave's parks and green spaces to benefit both people and wildlife. The Programme is being delivered through an action plan based on a Green Audit of Burngreave's parks and open spaces. This document is that Green Audit.

The Green Audit gathers and assesses information on the natural resource in Burngreave. This includes information on the social, ecological and historical status of all green, open spaces and waste ground. In other words, the Green Audit is a survey of what green space there is in Burngreave and how it affects the local community, what its wildlife value is, what its historical importance is and what is its potential for improvement.

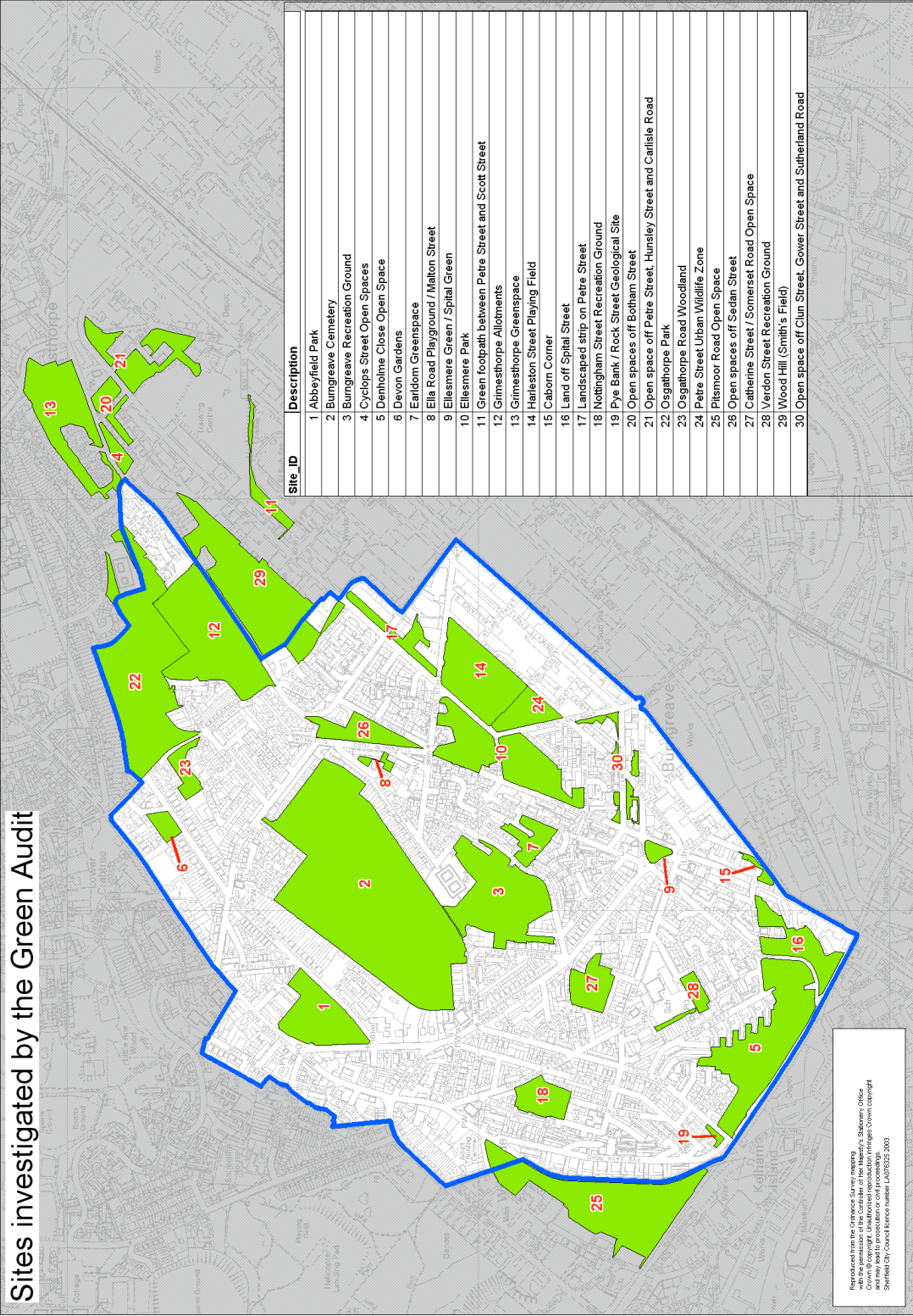
Sites investigated

The Green Audit covers all the major pieces of green space in Burngreave. However, it concentrates on sites inside the Burngreave New Deal for Communities area. The full list of sites is:

- 1 Abbeyfield Park
- 2 Burngreave Cemetery
- 3 Burngreave Recreation Ground
- 4 Cyclops Street Open Space
- 5 Denholme Close Open Space
- 6 Devon Gardens
- 7 Earldom Street Greenspace
- 8 Ella Road Playground & Malton Street Open Space
- 9 Ellesmere Green/Spital Green
- 10 Ellesmere Park
- 11 Green Footpath between Petre Street and Scott Street
- 12 Grimesthorpe Allotments
- 13 Grimesthorpe Green Space
- 14 Harleston Street Playing Field

- 15 Caborn Corner/Spital Hill and Carlisle Street Corner
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- 28 Verdon Street Recreation Ground
- 29 Wood Hill/Smith's Field & Carwood Close
- 30 Open Spaces off Clun Street, Gower Street and Sutherland Road
- 31 Crabtree Bank
- 32 Bagley Dyke
- 33 Great Roe Wood
- 34 Little Roe Wood
- 35 Christchurch Churchyard
- 36 Crabtree Pond and Wood

Of these, sites 1–30 are the focus of the Green Audit. Information on the other sites has been included in this Green Audit document, but these other sites will not be the focus of work in the action plan. A map showing sites 1–30 is shown overleaf.



Methodology

A whole host of questions were identified in order to provide the relevant information to make up the action plan. The research into these questions was carried out last year in the first phase of the programme, in a series of community, ecological and historical surveys.

The questions were:

- Where are all of the green spaces, open spaces and waste ground?
- What species and habitats do they contain?
- How important are they for wildlife?
- How can they be improved for wildlife?
- How much are they used by the community?
- How are they used?
- How and why are they perceived by the local community?
- What would local people want to see here?
- Is there any historical interest or heritage value?

Community survey

Two locally recruited community researchers were employed to carry out the community consultation, with the benefit of local knowledge to assist them in carrying out work.

Not all the sites in the area were surveyed. Instead, resources were focused on sites considered likely to yield useful information. Sites were selected according to whether they had public access and if so what extent (for example some of the sites are outcrops of land between housing with considerable wildlife value, but no community access or value; meanwhile Grimesthorpe Allotments has a fixed and controlled use so a community survey was considered inapplicable). Similarly, sites within the Burngreave New Deal for Communities area were considered priorities for community survey.

The sites where some community survey took place were:

- Abbyfield Park
- Osgathorpe Park
- Burngreave Cemetery
- Devon Gardens
- Burngreave Recreation Ground
- Denholme Close Open Space
- Ellesmere Park
- Nottingham Street Recreation Ground
- Catherine Street/Somerset Road Open Space
- Verdon Street Recreation Ground
- Ella Road playground

Survey methods

A number of survey methods were used, from footfall surveys recording visitor numbers to on- and off-site interviews that gave much more detailed information. Not all the methods were used on each site.

Footfall survey

Footfall surveys were used to measure use of the parks and open spaces. The researchers attended the sites on four days each, Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday during April – August, three times a day. This was designed to capture weekdays and weekends as well as term time and holidays. The researchers gathered information on the age range of users, the weather conditions and the activity of the users (e.g. walking, playing football).

On-site questionnaire

An on-site questionnaire was designed to capture the views of those who use the spaces most frequently and was filled out at the time of interview in the open spaces. Unfortunately, not many users were willing to carry out the interview, or lack of users at some sites has resulted in few results from this survey.

Off-site questionnaire

The off-site questionnaire was given the same format as the on-site questionnaire, allowing the results to be combined. It was intended to survey a broader range of Burngreave's community. The people consulted were in a number of different places other than the parks and open spaces, such as: in the street, at the library, Pitsmoor surgery, and various cafés. In total, 263 people responded to the questionnaires, roughly 5 per cent of the adult population of the Burngreave New Deal for Communities area.

Burngreave Green Roadshow

A travelling display was used at events over the summer, asking residents for ideas on improving their favourite sites by using an aerial map to pin suggestions to.

Results

The results of the community surveys are listed on a site-by-site basis throughout the Green Audit. In addition, they have been collated to provide a general picture of Burngreave's environment's community value. This overall vision is given below.

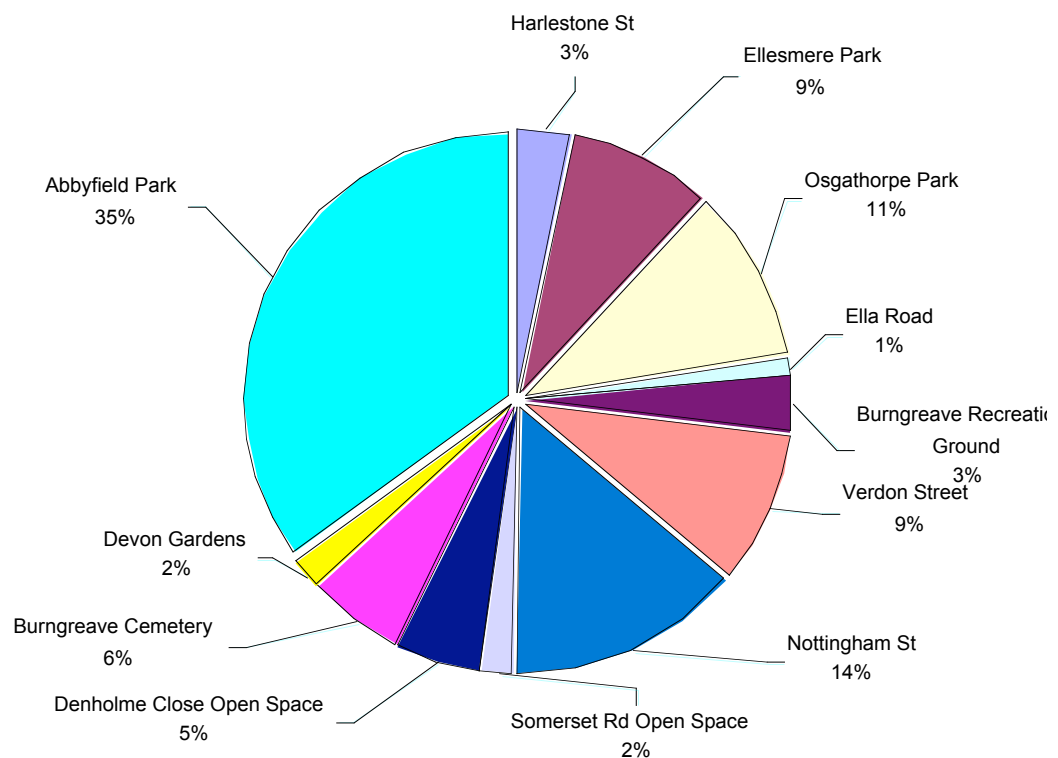
Footfall results

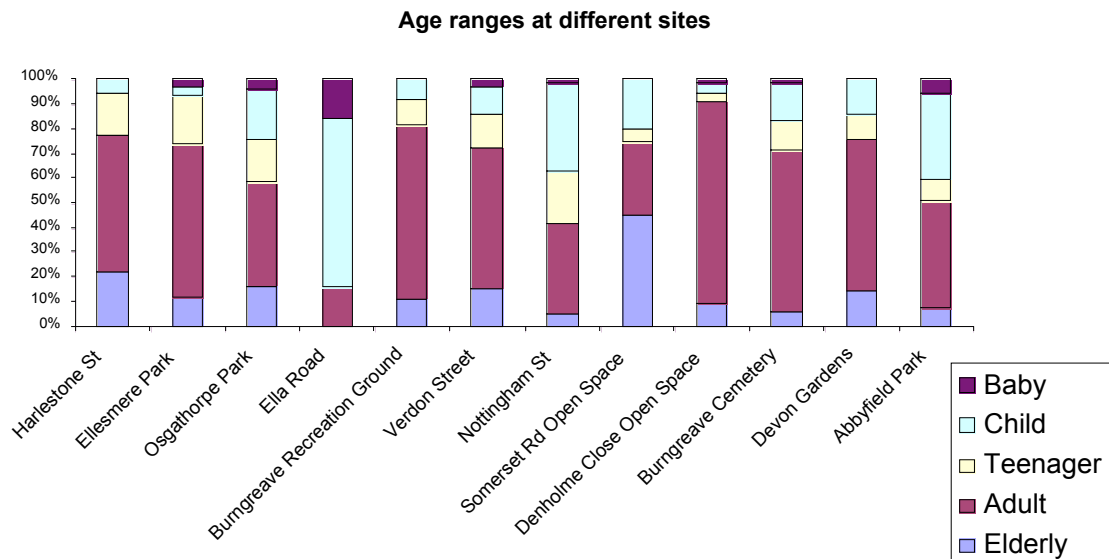
A total of 1106 people were monitored using the 11 open spaces in the footfall surveys. 76% of these people were found in the top five, therefore the other 6 were not populated very heavily at any of the monitoring times or days throughout the spring and summer.

Most used sites:

- Abbyfield Park 384
- Nottingham St 157
- Osgathorpe Park 116
- Verdon St Rec 100
- Ellesmere Park 94

Number of users at parks and greenspaces during footfall survey (Total surveyed 1106)





This table shows the age range of those people using the spaces. When looking at these results we have to remember that some of the study samples are quite small (e.g. 13 people on Ella Rd). However, they do give us more of an indication as to what these sites are used for-and provide us with good base data with which to monitor the sites for improvements over the next phase of the green environment programme.

Some of the results shown here do give an indication of use, for example Ella Rd is the only site where children are the most regular visitors. At this site, a cobbled hump with no remaining play equipment, groups of children were witnessed running and sitting and playing here – even without any facilities – imagine how busy it might be if it did have some equipment!

Denholme Close, Burngreave Recreation ground and Verdon Street are primarily used by adults, as a short cut or for dog walking. The evidence of few children using these sites might suggest that the site feel unsafe due to the number of adults using it as a shortcut and indeed in the results taken off site-many of these sites are felt to be unsafe by the local community.

On- and off-site questionnaire results

The questionnaire was designed to give an overview of community feelings about local sites and asked the following key questions:

- What spaces are important to you?
- What do you do in your local park or greenspace?
- What do you like about it?
- What do you dislike about it?
- What would you change? (unguided and guided questions with suggested responses)
- What is your ideal vision for parks and green spaces in Burngreave?

The questionnaire also gathered information on sex and age of the participants and recorded quotes which are very useful on a site-specific basis. All of the results for the sites have contributed to the site specific work in the development plan, reflecting what local people have told us they want to see in their parks.

When work starts on individual sites earmarked for improvement, further consultation with local residents, specific user groups such as youth clubs and parent and toddler groups will have to take place, but this study does help inform on the work that we need to be concentrating our efforts on in the future.

There follows a summary of all the findings from this questionnaire, combining the results with those of the roadshow where possible in order to provide an effective snapshot of local views.

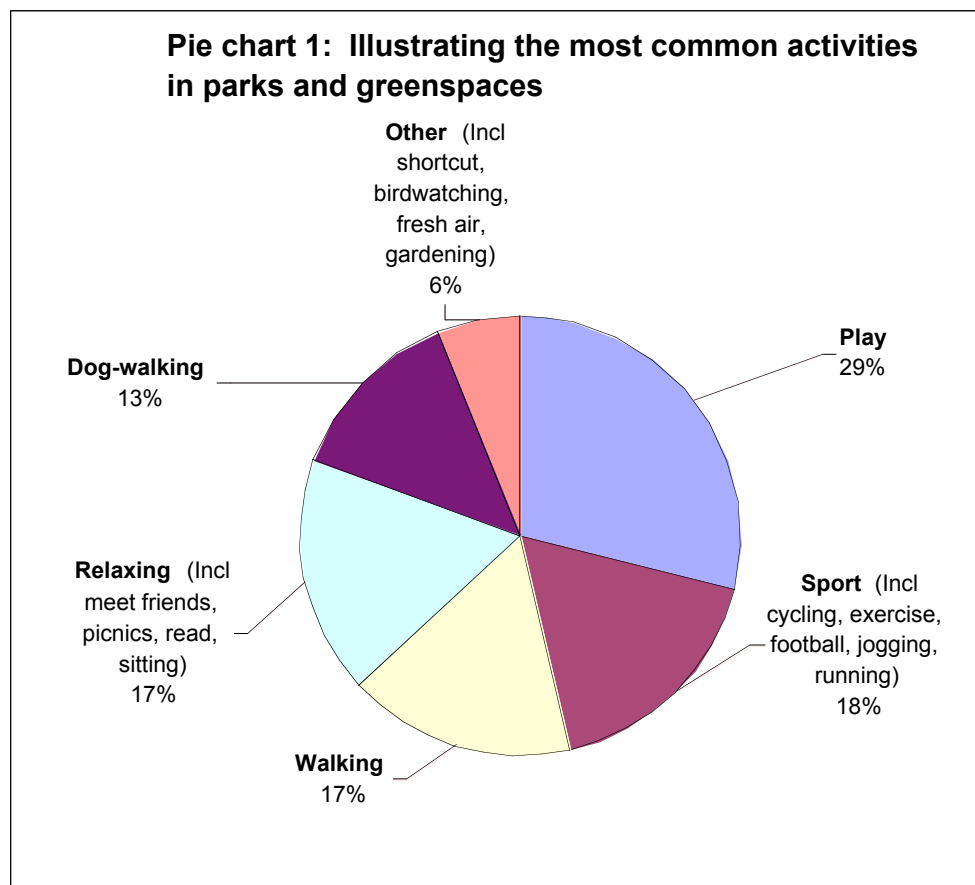
What sites did people care about?

The sites with the greatest interest from the public were Abbeyfield Park, Osgathorpe Park and Burngreave Cemetery.

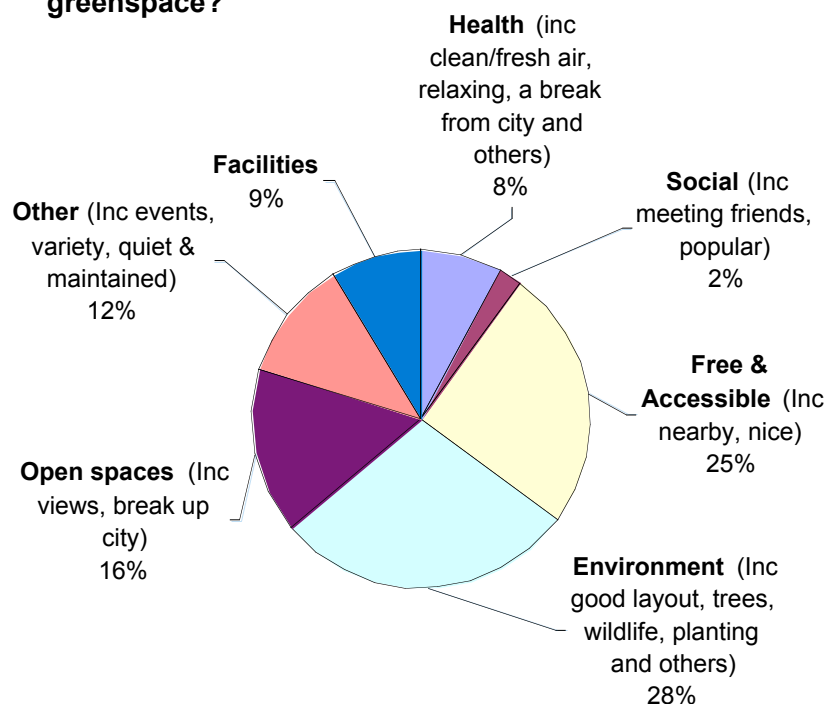
What do people currently do in their local parks and green spaces?

The most common activities that people currently do in Burngreave's parks are:

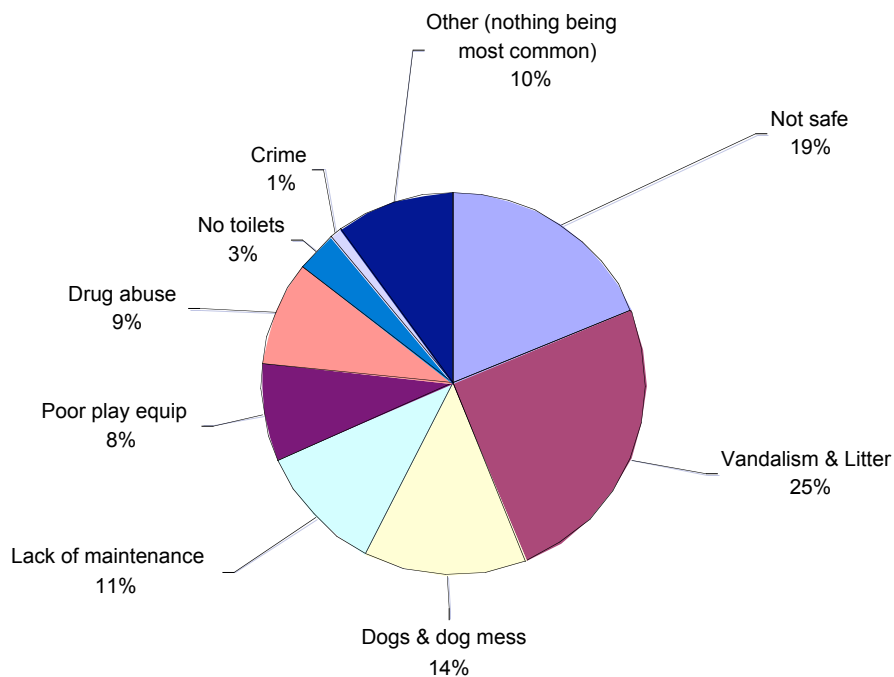
- Play
- Do some sport
- Walk or relax
- Dog walk
- Other (including shortcuts, birdwatching, taking in the fresh air)



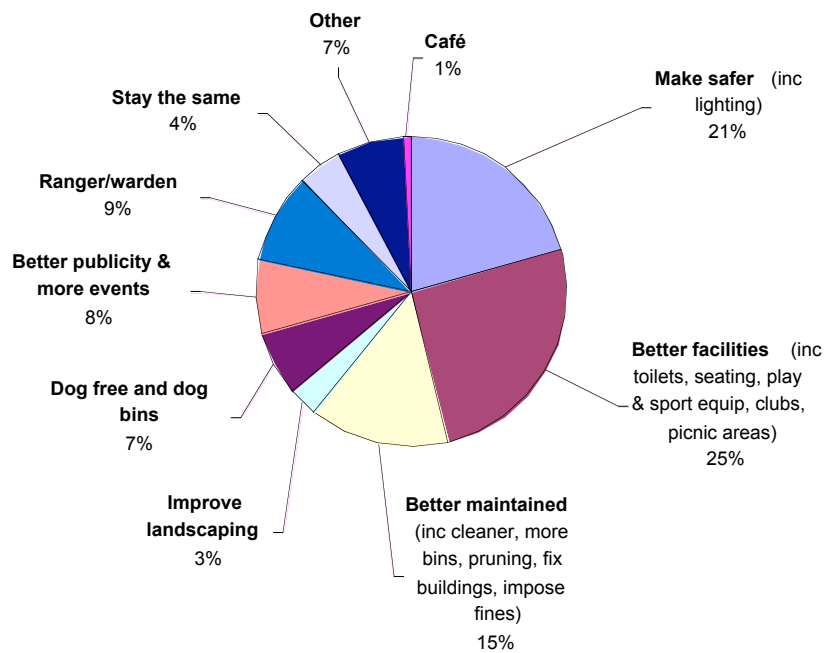
Pie chart 2: What do you like about your local park or greenspace?



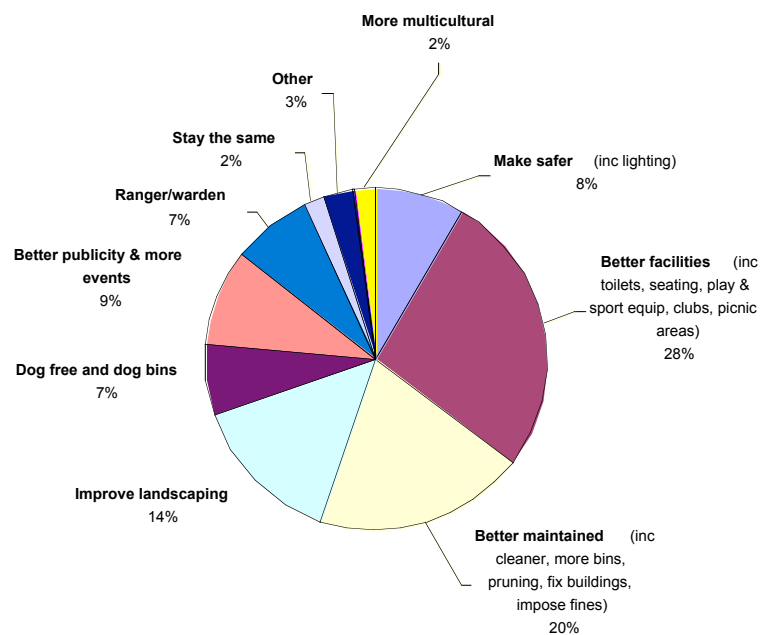
Pie chart 3: What do you dislike about your parks and greenspaces



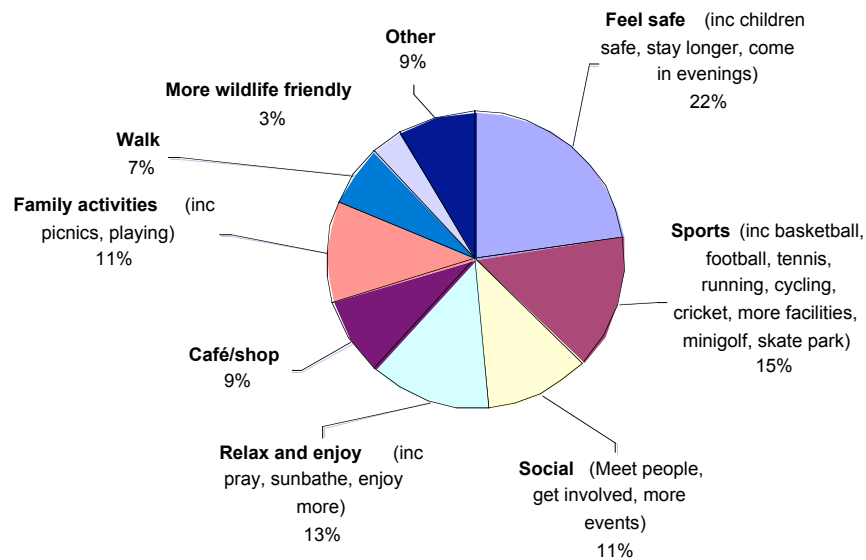
Pie chart 4: What would you change to your local parks and green spaces?



Pie chart 5: What would you change in your local green space and what suggestions do you support?



Pie chart 6: What would you ideally like to do in Burngreave's green spaces?



Conclusions

- People in Burngreave are passionate about their local parks and green spaces
- Most people interviewed said they use green spaces daily.
- People are dissatisfied with the maintenance and facilities found in their local parks and green spaces
- Local opinion on what should be available in local parks varies tremendously
- People want to feel safe in order to play, take some exercise and relax in their local parks and green spaces

Ecological survey

Ecologists from Sheffield Wildlife Trust and Sheffield City Council Ecology Unit carried out ecological surveys of the Green Audit sites. The field work was carried out in 2003. Several visits were made to the sites during this period.

The habitat surveys were undertaken using the Phase I technique, as described in the Joint Nature Conservation Committee publication “Handbook for Phase I habitat survey – a technique for environmental audit”.

The bird surveys were undertaken using a simplified version of the British Trust Ornithology’s Common Bird Census methodology. The breeding status categories are based on criteria used by Sheffield Bird Study Group in its Atlas of Breeding Birds Project. Details of the UK Red List were obtained from the joint publication “Birds of Conservation Concern:2002-2007”.

Basic survey techniques were used to note invertebrates and vertebrates (mammals) seen during visits. Where appropriate a specialist butterfly survey was carried out. Species and the habitats in which they were found were recorded on forms supplied by Butterfly Conservation. The list of indicator species for acid and neutral grassland was taken from “British Plant Communities” edited by J.S. Rodwell.

Results

The results of the ecological surveys are given on a site-by-site basis.

Historical survey

ASE Ltd was contracted to carry out a specialist historical survey of the area. It covered all the Green Audit sites and a number of others. I was based on consultation of the following sources:

- South Yorkshire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)
- English Heritage National Monuments Record (NMR)
- Sheffield City Archives
- Sheffield City Library (Local Studies)
- Site Visits

Results

Summary results of the historical survey are given on a site-by-site basis. In each case the information given is taken from ASE Ltd’s report, with additional information sometimes added by the ecology team. A general overview of the history of Burngreave’s open spaces is given below:

Survey of the 36 sites within the study area has highlighted the rich environmental history of Burngreave’s allotments, parks, woodlands, open spaces and green places. The land on Spital Street

lies close to the site of St. Leonard's Hospital and the place name element 'spital' is derived from this mediaeval institution. During the seventeenth century much of the study area was agricultural land. The Petre Street Urban Wildlife Zone, Ellesmere Park, the landscaped strip on Petre Street and Harlestone Street Playing Field were formerly part of *Hall Carre Wood*, and Burngreave Cemetery and Burngreave Recreation Ground were part of *Burn Greaves Wood* at this time. However, Great Roe Wood and Little Roe Wood are the only sites recognised as areas of historic woodland. Only three of the sites included in the historical survey, Grimesthorpe Green Space, the open space and wooded bank on Crabtree Road and Wood Hill, have remained largely undeveloped.

During the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, a series of large houses were built in the area and Burngreave became the residence for many of Sheffield's industrialists and professional classes. Abbeyfield Park, Crabtree Pond and Wood and the Woodland off Osgathorpe Road were associated with the grounds of these houses. These residences and their associated gardens were later subsumed into the swathes of terraced housing that engulfed Burngreave during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Many of the sites within the study area were created on former areas of terraced housing, including the open spaces on Petre Street and Sedan Street and Ellesmere Park. Others, such as Earl Marshal Recreation Ground/Osgathorpe Park and the open spaces off Pye Bank Drive, were created on the site of allotments that were also built at this time.

A series of recreation grounds, namely Burngreave Street Recreation Ground, Nottingham Street Recreation Ground and Carlisle Street Recreation Ground, were established in the area during the late nineteenth century. These sites were acquired in 1887 for the purposes of creating much needed recreational facilities and were donated to the City of Sheffield by the Duke of Norfolk to commemorate the opening of the Town Hall by Queen Victoria. Abbeyfield House and Devon Gardens were subsequently donated to the City of Sheffield in 1909 and 1913 respectively. Carlisle Street Recreation Ground was sold for industrial purposes in 1968/1969 and is now the site of the electricity substation off Garter Street. Monies from the sale of the site were used to build Earl Marshal Recreation Ground.

Four churches and chapels, three of which were associated with schools, were also identified within the limits of the green audit sites. Only one of these churches, Christchurch, is still standing. Christchurch was built by public subscription on land donated by the Duke of Norfolk, following the introduction of the New Parishes Act in 1845. Wicker Congregational Church was also built by public subscription on Ellesmere Green in 1854. A chapel and church were also identified on historic Ordnance Survey maps on the site of Ellesmere Park and Verdon Street Recreation Ground. However, no records of these sites were identified during the course of the historical survey. Burngreave Cemetery was also built during the late nineteenth century to serve the local community.

A total of 74 archaeological or historical features were identified within the limits of the 'green audit' sites. A further 129 archaeological or historical features were identified within the immediate vicinity (i.e. 500m) of the sites. Ninety-one of these additional sites correspond to entries in the NBR Index.

These sites, together with those identified from historic maps, have been excluded from the period based summaries below.

Neolithic and Bronze Age

Little evidence for Neolithic and Bronze Age activity was recorded within the study area. Only four find spots of worked flint were identified during the course of the historical survey. None of these features lay within the limits of the green audit sites.

Iron Age and Romano-British

Twelve features dating to the Iron Age or Romano-British Period were identified within the study area. The most significant of these features are an oval enclosure, tentatively interpreted as an Iron Age hillfort, and evidence of Romano-British iron working. Ten Iron Age and Romano-British find spots were also identified during the course of the historical survey, including an Iron Age quernstone and two Roman coin hoards. Three of these features lay within the limits of green audit sites: one of the Roman coin hoards (SMR 888) was found in Burngreave cemetery, and; the Iron Age quernstone (SMR 882) and evidence for Romano-British metalworking (SMR 894) were found within Burngreave Recreation Ground.

Anglo-Saxon and Mediaeval

Nine features dating to the Anglo-Saxon and mediaeval periods were identified within the study area. The most significant of these features were the sites of Sheffield Castle, St. Leonard's Hospital and Shirecliffe Hall. Three Anglo-Saxon and Mediaeval find spots were also identified during the course of the historical survey, including Anglo Saxon pottery found on the site of Sheffield Castle. Two of these features lay within the limits of green audit sites: the site of St. Leonard's Hospital (SMR 247) is thought to be located in the area of the Land off Spital Street, and; the mediaeval coin (SMR 3196) was found in Great Roe Wood.

Post-Mediaeval and Industrial

The majority of the sites identified within the study area were seventeenth century or later in date. Fifteen Post-Mediaeval and Industrial sites were identified during the course of the historical survey, including extensive evidence for water powered industry along the Don Valley. The most significant of these features were the Bower Street Cementation Furnace, designated as a Scheduled Monument, and Burngreave Cemetery. All of the sites listed in the NBR Index and identified on historic Ordnance Survey maps are Post-Mediaeval or Industrial in date. Only two of these features lay within the limits of green audit sites: Burngreave Cemetery itself, and; the site of Royd Works recorded within the Land on Spital Street.

Undated

The remaining features identified within the study area were undated. Further evidence of water powered industry was identified along the Don Valley, the majority of which is likely to be Post-Mediaeval or Industrial in date. Only one of these features lay within the limits of one of the green audit sites: the Roman Ridge, an undated linear earthwork, identified in Compartment C of Earl Marshal Recreation Ground/Osgathorpe Park.

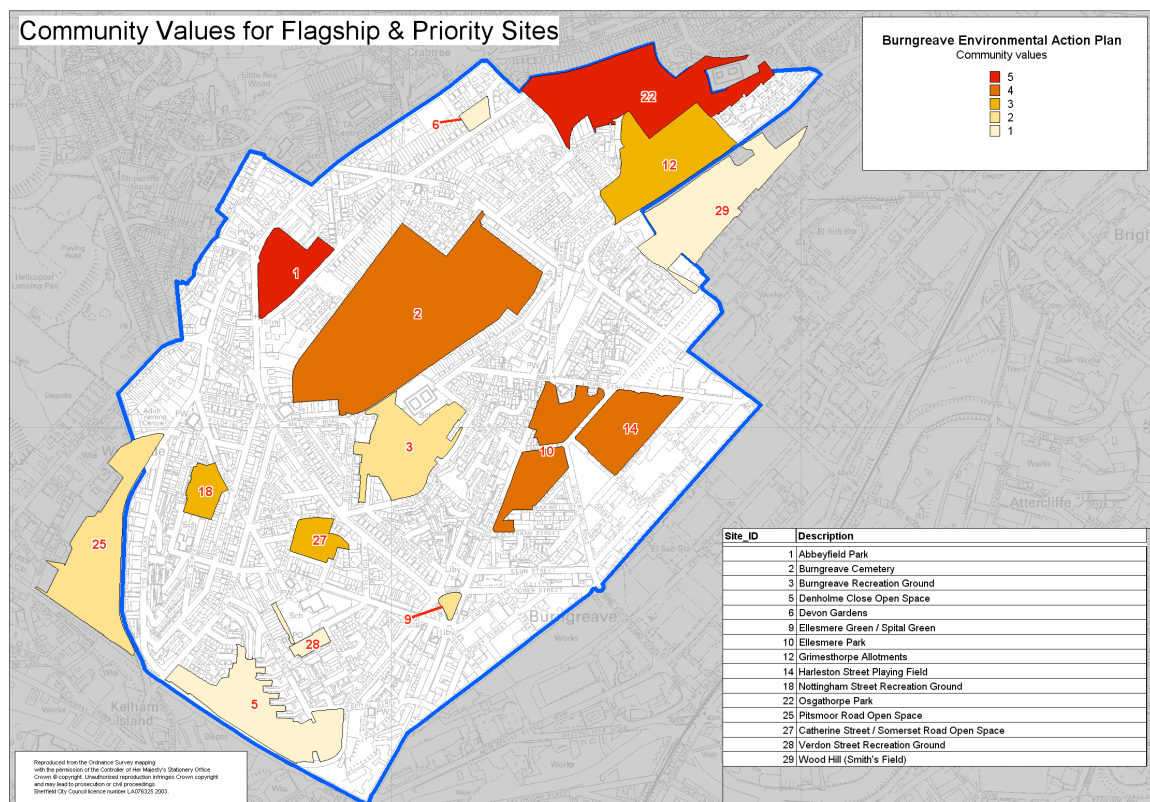
Prioritising sites

Because resources are limited and capital improvements take a relatively long time to complete, it is vital that the action plan delivers maximum benefit to the right sites. The information gathered in the course of the Green Audit has been evaluated to enable the improvement of Burngreave's parks and open spaces to be prioritised.

Each site was evaluated given a 'score' for each of its community, ecology and historical values according to the following criteria:

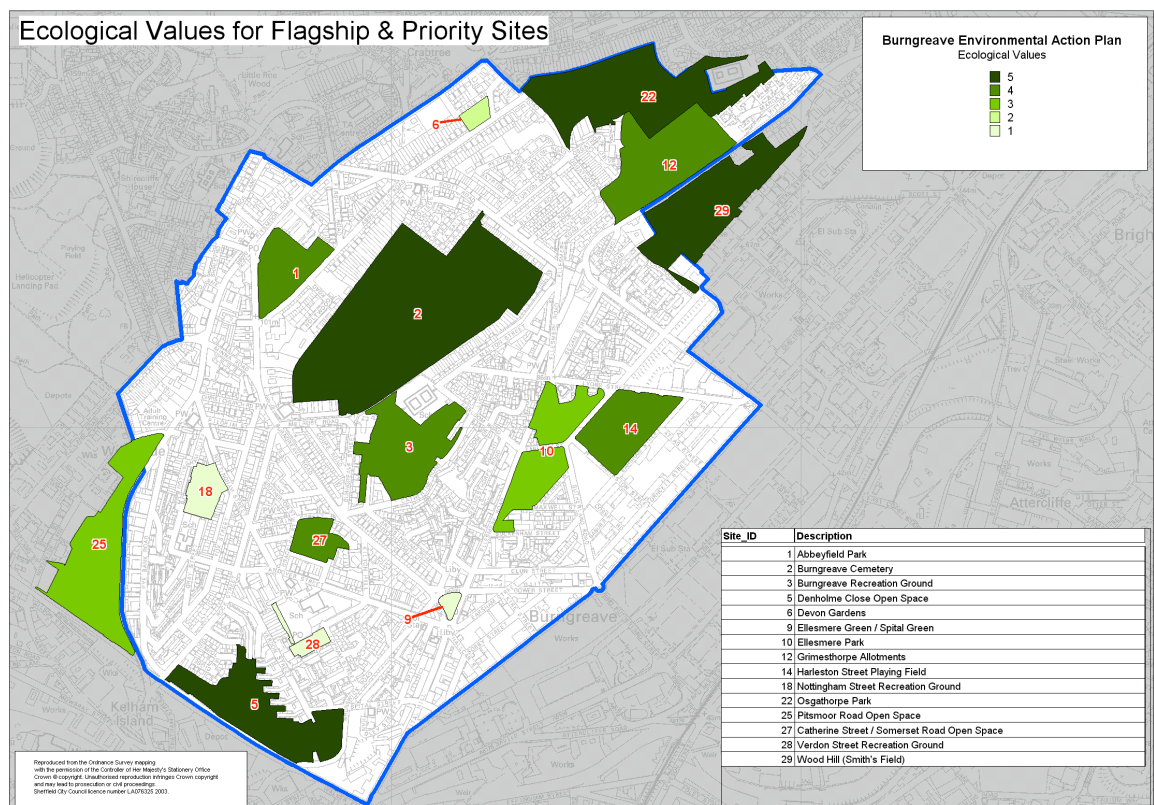
Community

- Level of use
- Level of response to surveys
- Current facilities
- Potential facilities
- Proximity to communities
- Accessibility



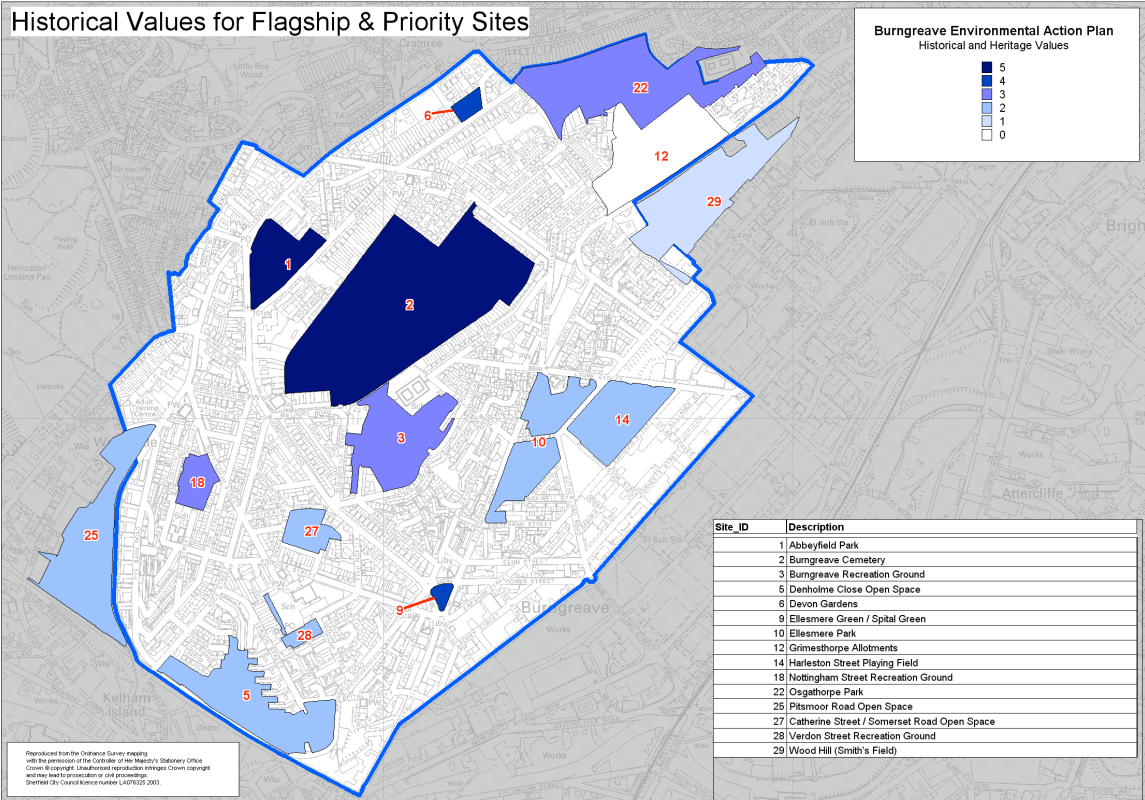
Ecology

- Range of habitats and species
- Local and national significance of habitats and species
- Proximity to other green spaces
- Potential for improvement to habitats
- Capacity for wildlife to benefit people

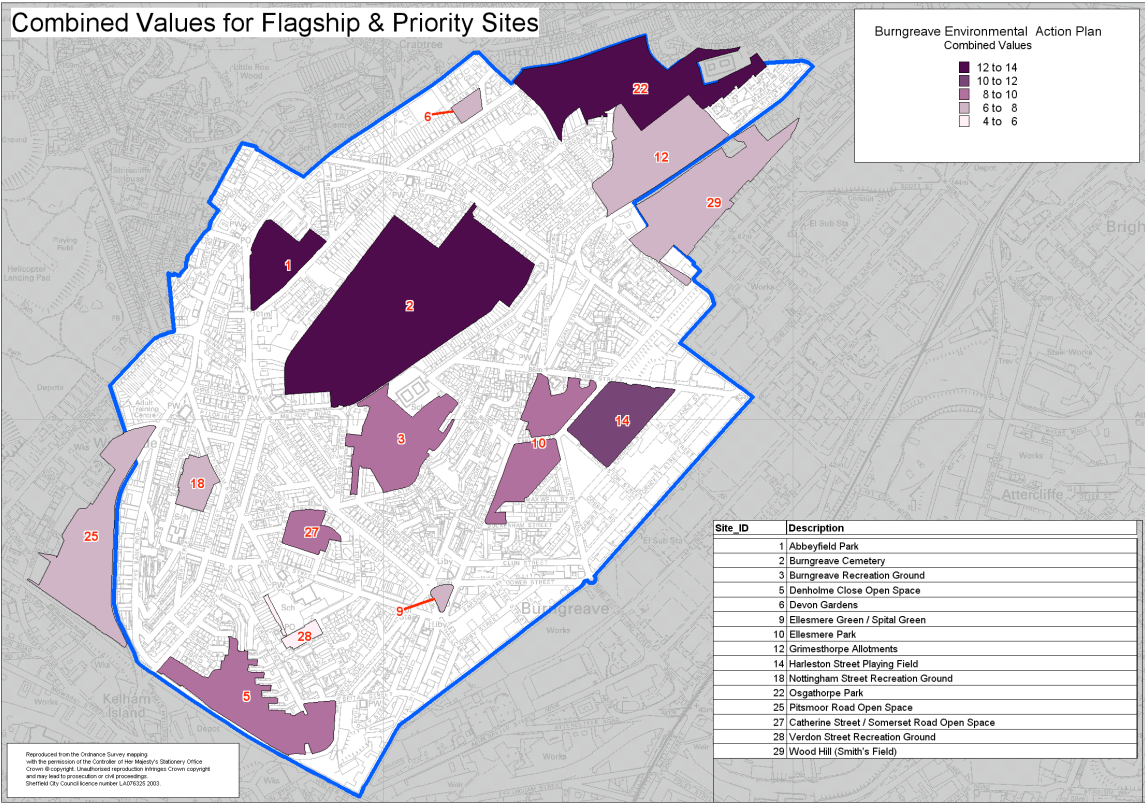


History

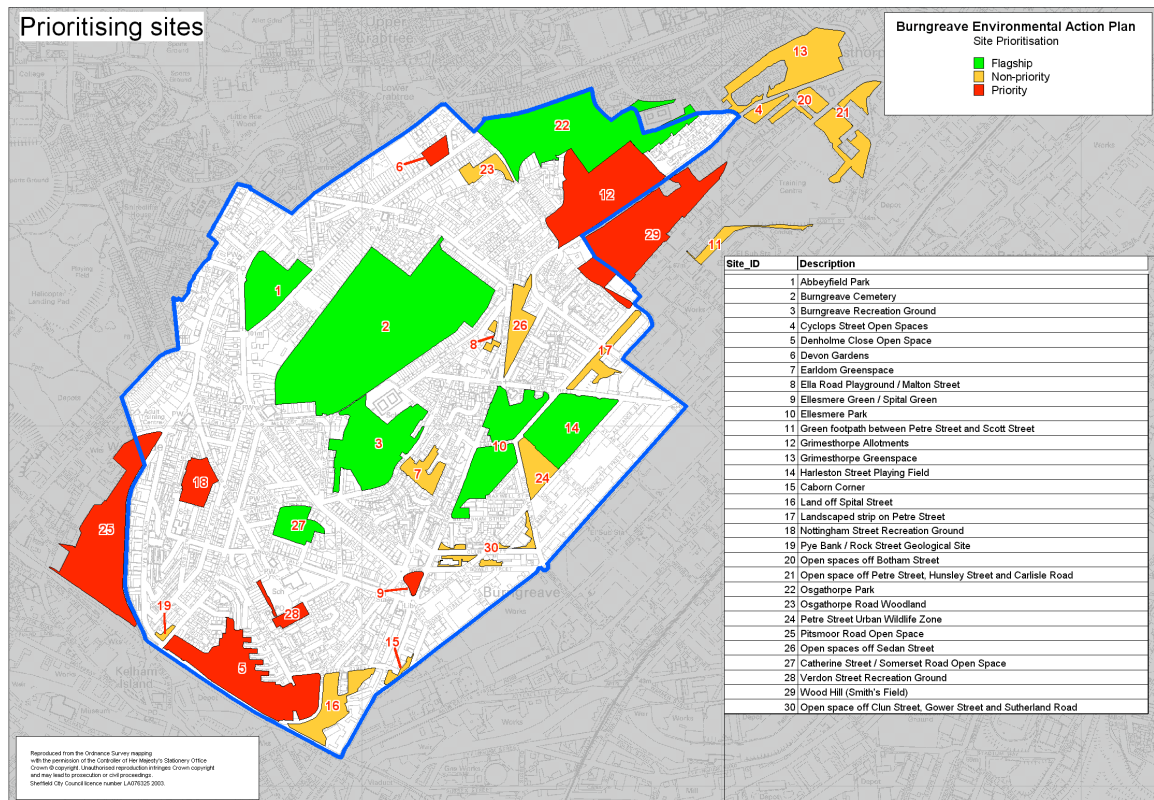
- Historical interest, including local and national significance
- Extent to which historical features survive
- Accessibility of historical features



The scores were then combined to provide a single value for each site.



On the basis of the combined scores, the sites have been prioritised into three categories:



Flagship

Sites of higher priority will be used as the focus for larger-scale capital work and improvement projects, and will act as the flagship sites for the programme.

These sites are the most valuable sites in Burngreave in terms of their historical, community and ecological value.

The flagship sites are:

- 1 Abbeyfield Park
- 2 Burngreave Cemetery
- 3 Burngreave Recreation Ground
- 10 Ellesmere Park
- 14 Harleston Street Playing Field
- 22 Osgathorpe Road/Earl Marshall
- 27 Somerset Road/Catherine Street Open Space

Priority

A number of priority sites will be the focus of significant improvements, though at a lower level of activity than the flagship sites.

The priority sites are:

- 5 Denholme Close Open Space
- 6 Devon Gardens
- 9 Ellesmere Green/Spital Green
- 12 Grimesthorpe Allotments
- 18 Nottingham Street Recreation Ground
- 25 Woodside/Pitsmoor Road Open Space
- 28 Verdon Street Recreation Ground
- 29 Wood Hill/Smith's Field & Carwood Close

Non-priority

Smaller-scale improvement programmes will take place in the non-priority sites.

Although the level of activity at these sites will be lower, this does not mean that they are not important for their community, historical or ecological value. It also doesn't mean they will be forgotten about – even small-scale improvements can make a big difference to the way open spaces are used and perceived.

The non-priority sites are:

- 4 Cyclops Street Open Space
- 7 Earldom Street Greenspace
- 8 Ella Road Playground & Malton Street Open Space
- 11 Green Footpath between Petre Street and Scott Street
- 30 Open Spaces off Clun Street, Gower Street and Sutherland Road
- 13 Grimesthorpe Green Space
- 15 Caborn Corner/Spital Hill and Carlisle Street Corner
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21 Open Spaces off Petre Street, Hunsley Street and Carlisle Road

23 Osgathorpe Road Woodland

24 Petre Street Urban Wildlife Zone

26 Open Spaces off Sedan Street