

## 5 Denholme Close Open Space



## Introduction

This site is divided into two compartments – northwest and southeast . The northwest compartment is primarily landscaped whereas the southeast is wild. However within the landscaped northwest compartment there is a natural progression from the managed to the unmanaged.

This site, with its several habitats – scattered broad-leaved trees, woodland, scrub, introduced shrub and different types of grasslands - is not only visually attractive but is excellent for wildlife. Birds, mammals and invertebrates are all well represented here.

Unfortunately this wonderful site suffers from abuse.

Arson is one problem that will have to be addressed. Both the landscaped and wild compartments have suffered damage to vegetation this year due to fires that were probably deliberately set.

There are other examples of damage to vegetation. In the woodland (Northwest compartment) there are trees which have had their bark stripped off.

Fly tipping is a major problem. It is particularly bad near the railway line where there is vehicular access from Brunswick Road. Dangerous substances such as asbestos are typically dumped here along with unwanted electrical goods. Near the viaduct used needles are often discarded.

In January 2004 the route onto the site was practically entirely blocked by fly tipping.

## Site details

### Site name

Denholme Close Open Space

### Location

Ordnance Survey Grid Reference SK 356 882

### Land owner

Sheffield City Council

### Nearest road/street

Denholme Close off Rock Street is the residential road that gives the site its current name. Brunswick Road is along the eastern boundary of both the landscaped and wild compartments. The junction of Spital Street and Brunswick Road forms the north eastern boundary of the landscaped compartment. Verdon Street is the main road servicing the adjacent housing estates.

### Adjacent land use

Residential areas are along Spital Street, Verdon Street and Rock Street.

Immediately across Rock Street is a geological local nature site. Flats above it as well as the entire housing estate on Pye Bank Road were being demolished in 2003.

Pitsmoor Open Space (Woodside) is located northwest of the site over the railway line off Pitsmoor Road.

Directly to the west most of the land is invisible, hidden behind high stone walls.

To the east over Brunswick Road are brownfield sites, some managed green spaces, a medical centre and a church.

A railway line to the south is used occasionally for carrying goods. South of it is a dump and industrial units. The route for the planned Inner Relief Road lies south of this area.

### Size

4.59 hectares

## Present management

### Northwest (Landscaped)

The amenity grassland is mowed approximately once a month beginning the end of March until autumn. Grass cuttings are left where they fall.

In the parkland habitat off Brunswick Road, grass growing under mature trees is not cut. Buffer zones of neutral grassland between managed and unmanaged areas of site are also left uncut providing excellent habitat for invertebrates.

Along the path that connects the two landscaped sections, the grass below housing estate above wooden retaining fence is mowed as is occasionally one meter (width of mower) of grass on the other side of path.

A wide strip of Yorkshire fog and ruderals at woodland edge are not mowed and allowed to flourish. Grass along Rock Street boundary fence is also not cut; perhaps in order to let the foliage of the daffodils to die down naturally.

The woodland appears to be unmanaged. The shrubbery is also not managed with the exception that people involved in planting fruit trees there sometimes clear ground around the base of these trees to limit competition for nutrients so that the trees can thrive.

On January 16<sup>th</sup> 2004 the Sheffield Rangers pruned back some of the shrubbery growing near the playground to improve the sight line from housing to playground.

### Southeast (Wild)

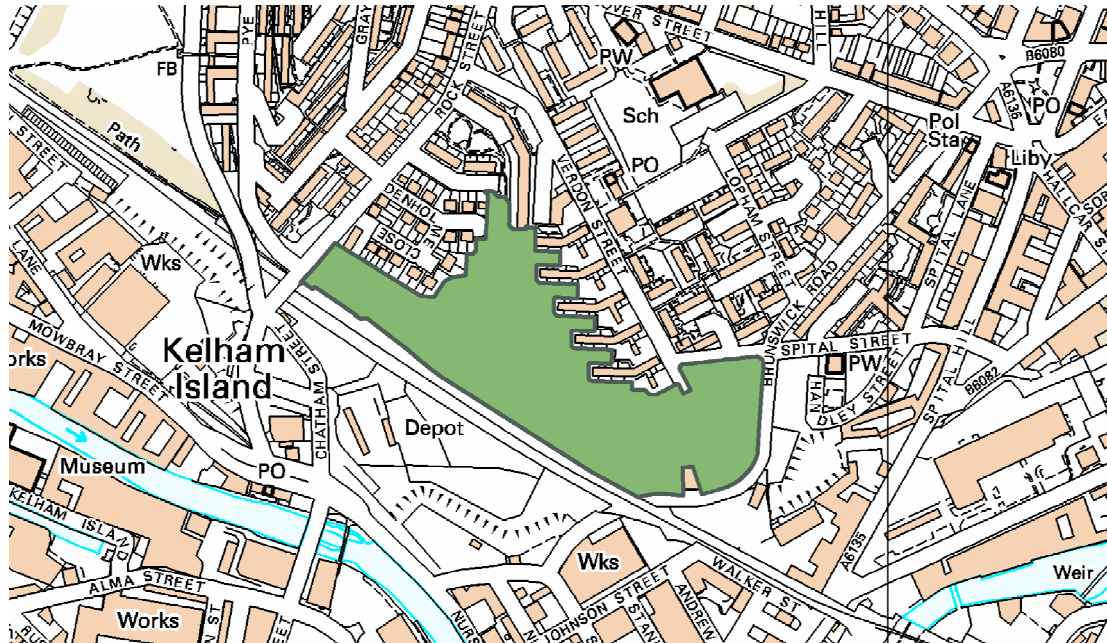
A wide strip of ruderals near the railway line was cut down when new metal fencing was installed, otherwise the site is unmanaged.

## UDP designations

Open Space Area, (Leisure and Recreation)



## Location map



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# Ecology

## Phase I ecological survey

### Site description

#### Northwest (Landscaped)

This is a multi-faceted site stretching north westwards from Brunswick Road to Rock Street. This is landscaping well done. There is a natural progression from managed to unmanaged which allows the selected planting areas to blend easily with the wilder aspects of the site nearer the railway line. Within this area there are several habitats – woodland, scrub, introduced shrub and grassland that create a visually attractive site as well as providing important wildlife habitat. Wildlife abound and move easily between the different compartments.

The Brunswick Road – Spital Street section is similar to parkland (improved grassland and scattered broad-leaved trees) except that the trees instead of being scattered are grouped along interior and perimeter footpaths. With the exception of one single leaf Ash, all the broad-leaved trees are common species (common lime, common ash, common whitebeam, Swedish whitebeam, beech, sycamores and hawthorn). The amenity grassland is mowed, but there is a strip of rank neutral grassland along the southern perimeter of this site that insures that invertebrates are not excluded from this half of the site. Although the route is steep, there is pedestrian access from here down to the southeastern (wild) compartment.

A footpath below the housing estate links the two sections of the landscaped site. Bird song is commonly heard along here in spring as wrens, robins, blackbirds and blue tits defend their territories. Invertebrates are found on both sides of the path – on the mown grass on the bank above the wooden retaining wall and in the taller grasses and ruderals on the lower bank above the wood.

The second section - the landscaped area off Rock Street - has proven to be the most attractive to wildlife. Amenity grassland is sandwiched between the wide belt of shrubbery screening off the housing estate and a strip of woodland along the railway line. Both the shrubbery and the woodland provide protective cover for birds and small mammals. Blackbirds and magpies are commonly seen foraging in the grass. The mowed grass ends well before the woodland begins. Along the woodland edge there is a wide area of rushes and tall grasses. Having short mowed grass adjacent to tall grass is excellent for invertebrates and they thrive here.

Both the woodland and the shrubbery are quite diverse in their composition.

Trees in the woodland include: ash, poplar, sycamore, Norway maple, horse chestnut, wild cherry, large leaf lime, common lime, downy birch.

The shrubbery contains cultivar roses as well as dog roses, *Buddlejas*, different species of firethorns and dogwoods, hedgerow species such as holly, field maple, hawthorn, blackthorn and elder and a variety of trees including apple, bastard service tree, Swedish whitebeam, Norway maple, downy birch, pin oak, sessile oak and lime.

### South-east (Wild)

This is the hillside which slopes steeply down from the eastern half of the Denholme Close (Northwest) site to railway line. Some rock face is exposed along the eastern perimeter but the south face is covered by woodland and scrub. There is a stone retaining wall along Brunswick Road. The trunk of a sessile oak protrudes through one section of this wall where the coping stones are missing. Some flowering herbs and grasses do grow out of joins in wall, but species (Michaelmas daisies, nipplewort and sowthistle) are not of high conservation value.

The south facing wooded hillside provides ample protective cover for birds. In 2003, there was confirmed breeding of blackbirds, wrens, and long-tailed tits. Scrub includes goat willow that flowers in early spring offering sustenance to Lepidoptera that have hibernated over winter and hymenoptera which are on the wing. Bramble and *Buddleja* provide nectar later in the season.

There is pedestrian access to this site on a footpath that runs the full length of the site along the base of the hillside. If approaching from the west side, the entry point is quite enclosed by vegetation in summer which might prove daunting for the uninitiated. The route soon opens up revealing large expanses of flowering plants of which goats rue is the most obvious in summer months. Thistles tend to blend in at first, hidden amongst the goats rue, until both have finished flowering, then the fluffy seedheads of creeping thistle stand out indicating just how abundant it actually is. Moving eastwards, bracken carpets some of the hillside, then the tree line extends further down the slope and the strip of flowering herbs becomes much narrower. There is no sense of claustrophobia here as the track soon widens allowing vehicular access to this point from Brunswick Road. This is the part of the site prone to degradation as there is fly tipping and deliberate fires set that destroy vegetation.

This area remains relatively wild in nature despite ill-advised attempts to tame it. Cowslips that have been planted on the hillside are hidden by taller vegetation by the time they flower.

Near the Brunswick Road entrance four concrete sewer pipe sections used as planters have not been maintained; some have been damaged. Bullrush grows in one and lady's bedstraw in another. Unfortunately none of the pipe sections held any water during 2003 which was a rather warm and dry year, so they do not provide the miniature aquatic habitat for invertebrates that the Ecology Unit envisioned back in 1993.

### Habitats of interest

The woodland is diverse in composition. There is a good variety of species and ages represented.

The shrubbery with its large number of hedgerow species, cultivars and trees makes a species rich boundary whose worth will increase in time.

There is an area of wetland along the woodland edge in the Northwestern compartment. Situated as it is at the base of a slope below a housing estate it is a prime site to be considered for a sustainable urban drainage scheme.

There are different types of grasslands present. There are large expanses of amenity grassland adjacent to wide belts of neutral grassland. Dry acid grassland, a UK BAP priority habitat, exists on the eastern slopes of the Southeast compartment.

Scrub is plentiful in both the landscaped Northwestern compartment and the Southeast unmanaged compartment. Scrub provides essential cover and food for birds and small mammals. It is also excellent habitat for butterflies. Adults require nectar or other sugary liquids from spring through autumn. This is readily available here from goat willow and blackthorn that flower in spring, bramble that flowers in summer and from the juices of the blackberries in autumn.

According to Derek Whiteley the southeastern compartment proved to be especially rich in invertebrates due to its south facing open flower rich areas with bordering scrub.

Another habitat of interest noted in the specialist invertebrate study of the southeastern compartment is the areas of bare ground that support colonies of solitary bees and wasps.

Of geological interest is the exposed rock faces in the Southeastern compartment.

## Species of interest

Species of high nature conservation importance are listed in the Appendix.

The composition of the woodland and shrubberies is particularly interesting. Although there are many common native and cultivar species present, there is a number of species of note. For example, in addition to common lime, small-leaf lime and large-leaf lime are also present. A single leaf ash grows almost unobserved amongst common ashes. Sessile oak is common, particularly in the southeast, but there's one Pin Oak in the shrubbery of the landscaped compartment. Poplars include western balsam poplar as well as black poplar. Western balsam poplar, which one might expect to be rare, is actually quite common in Burngreave.

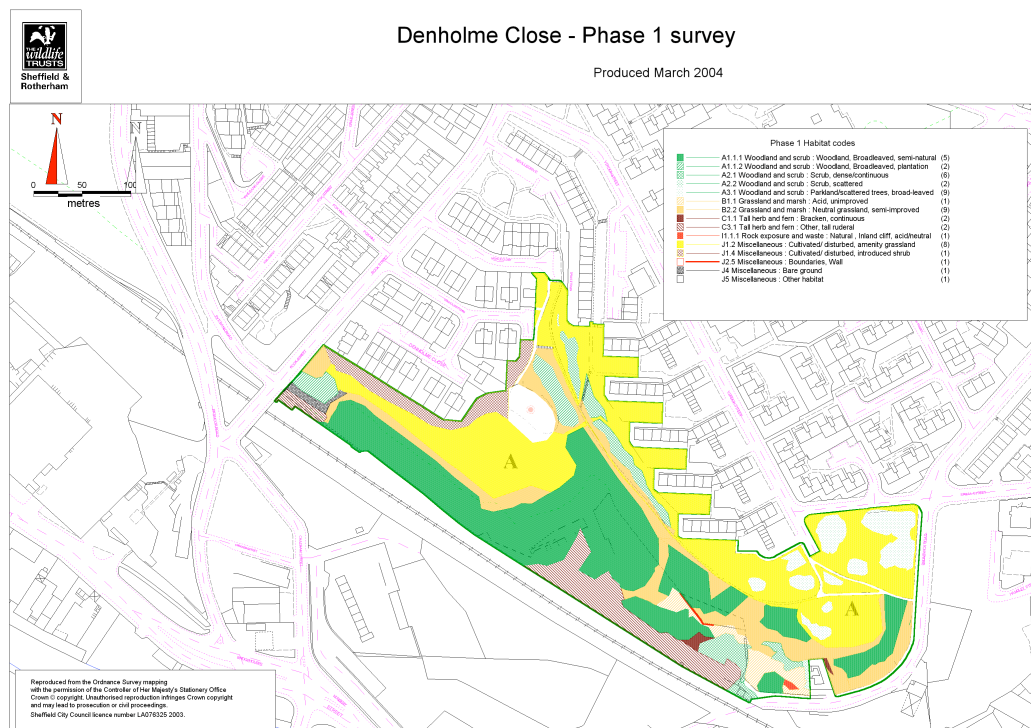
Fruit trees have been planted in both compartments. There are different varieties of apples. There is a yellow plum in the southeastern compartment. The fruit disappeared from it well before its foliage turned colour in autumn.

The wild cherries provide a bounty of berries. By observing the number of blackbird families gorging on the berries in different parts of the site within a short timespan, it was possible to determine how successfully blackbirds were breeding on the site.

Soft rush *Juncus effusus* and hard rush *Juncus inflexus* grow along the woodland edge. Bulrushes were growing in one of the concrete sewer sections

Woodland flora includes Lords and Ladies, *Arum maculatum* (unusual for Burngreave), garlic mustard, (the food plant for the orange tip butterfly), and red campion. A single bugle plant was found at the edge of the woodland. Fungi was also a feature of the woodland.

## Phase 1 habitat map



## Invertebrates

Galls noted:



Species noted in 13a Northwest (landscaped):

<i>Coleoptera</i>	5-spot ladybird
<i>Diptera</i>	unidentified flies, hoverfly species
<i>Hemiptera</i>	cuckoo spit of green leafhopper
<i>Hymenoptera</i>	bumblebee, queen buff tailed bumblebee
<i>Lepidoptera</i>	no caterpillars or pupae were located
<i>Odonata</i>	dragonfly: brown hawker

Species noted in 13b Southeast (wild):

<i>Arachnid</i>	small black spider
<i>Diptera</i>	unidentified flies, hoverfly species
<i>Hymenoptera</i>	<i>Bombus pascuorum</i> , queen buff-tailed bumblebee, queen red-tailed bumblebee
<i>Lepidoptera</i>	no caterpillars or pupae were located
<i>Odonata</i>	dragonfly: brown hawker

## Specialist Lepidoptera Survey

Species Recorded

Small skipper  
Large skipper  
Large white  
Small white  
Green-veined white  
Small copper  
Common blue  
Holly blue

Surveyed on 23 July 2003 in the morning in good weather, by sweep net. 13b is an interesting site with a good range of common species and some local rarities. A Soldier Fly, *Pachygaster atra* and a Picture-wing Gall Fly *Rhagoletis alternata* are new to Sheffield. Two other species represent Sheffield's 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> records respectively. Total of 4 Sheffield Red Data Book species. It is likely that other scarce species may be present at other times of year and further visits are recommended.

Area 13a was briefly examined but nothing of note was found. It may be more interesting earlier in the year.

Scientific Name	Common Name	National Grade	Comment
<i>Helix aspersa</i>	a snail	Common	
<i>Aeshna grandis</i>	Brown Hawker	Common	
<i>Chorthippus brunneus</i>	Common Field Grasshopper	Common	

<i>Forficula auricularia</i>	Common Earwig	Common	
<i>Adalia bipunctata</i>	Two-spot Ladybird	Common	
<i>Adalia decempunctata</i>	Ten-spot Ladybird	Common	
<i>Coccinella septempunctata</i>	Seven-spot Ladybird	Common	
<i>Calvia quattuordecimguttata</i>	Cream-spot Ladybird	Common	
<i>Rhinosimus planirostris</i>	a false weevil	Common	
<i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>	Small Skipper	Common	
<i>Pieris rapae</i>	Small White	Common	
<i>Cynthia cardui</i>	Painted Lady	Migrant	
<i>Pyronia tithonus</i>	Gatekeeper	Common	
<i>Maniola jurtina</i>	Meadow Brown	Common	
<i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>	Cinnabar	Common	
<i>Chorisops tibialis</i>	a soldier fly	Common	Localised in Sheffield
<i>Pachygaster atra</i>	a soldier fly	Common	New to Sheffield LRDB
<i>Praomyia leachii</i>	a soldier fly	Local	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sheffield record LRDB
<i>Micrichrysa polita</i>	a soldier fly	Common	
<i>Chrysotoxum bicinctum</i>	a hoverfly	Local	
<i>Episyrphus balteatus</i>	a hoverfly	Common	
<i>Sphaerophoria scripta</i>	a hoverfly	Common	
<i>Cheilosia proxima</i>	a hoverfly	Common	
<i>Eristalis arbustorum</i>	a hoverfly	Common	
<i>Eristalis tenax</i>	a hoverfly	Common	
<i>Helophillus pendulus</i>	a hoverfly	Common	
<i>Myctropha florea</i>	a hoverfly	Common	
<i>Volucella pellucens</i>	a hoverfly	Common	
<i>Syrphoctonus pipiens</i>	a hoverfly	Common	
<i>Xylota segnis</i>	a hoverfly	Common	
<i>Rhagoletis alternata</i>	a gall fly	Common	New to Sheffield LRDB
<i>Chaetostomella cylindrica</i>	a gall fly	Common	
<i>Tephritis formosa</i>	a gall fly	Local	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sheffield record LRDB
<i>Eriothis rufomaculata</i>	a tachinid fly	Common	
<i>Lasius niger</i>	Small Black Ant	Common	
<i>Bombus lapidarius</i>	Large Red Tailed Bumblebee	Common	
<i>Bombus pascuorum</i>	Common Carder Bee	Common	
<i>Apis mellifera</i>	Honey Bee	Common	
<i>Porcellio scaber</i>	a woodlouse	Common	

Specimens of unfamiliar invertebrates were taken to be identified later.



## Vertebrates

## Bird survey

## Northwest

SPECIES RECORDED ON AT LEAST ONE OCCASION DURING THE BREEDING SEASON	<u>POSSIBLE</u> BREEDING SPECIES1	<u>PROBABLE</u> BREEDING SPECIES2	<u>CONFIRMED</u> BREEDING SPECIES3	NUMBER OF TERRITORIES HELD BY SELECTED SPECIES
Blackbird Chiffchaff Crow, Carrion Goldfinch Magpie Pigeon, Feral Pigeon, Wood Robin Starling Swift Thrush, Mistle Tit, Blue Tit, Great Tit, Long-tailed Warbler, Willow Woodpecker, Great Spotted Wren	Crow, Carrion Pigeon, Feral Pigeon, Wood Robin	Blackbird Thrush, Mistle Tit, Blue Tit, Great Wren		

**Southeast**

SPECIES RECORDED ON AT LEAST ONE OCCASION DURING THE BREEDING SEASON	<u>POSSIBLE</u> <u>BREEDING</u> SPECIES1	<u>PROBABLE</u> <u>BREEDING</u> SPECIES2	<u>CONFIRMED</u> <u>BREEDING</u> SPECIES3	NUMBER OF TERRITORIES HELD BY SELECTED SPECIES
Blackbird Crow, Carrion Dunnock Goldfinch Magpie Robin Tit, Blue Tit, Great Tit, Long-tailed Warbler, Garden Warbler, Willow Whitethroat, Common Wren	Goldfinch Tit, Blue Warbler, Willow	Magpie Robin	Blackbird Tit, Long-tailed Wren	Wren - 2

1 Evidence: present on more than one occasion in suitable breeding habitat.

2 Evidence: singing/displaying male in suitable breeding habitat on more than one occasion ; pair in suitable habitat showing courtship or territorial behaviour; bird visiting probable nest site; nest building; anxiety calls; recently used nest.

3 Evidence: Adult carrying food or faecal sac; adult sitting on nest; nest with eggs/young; egg shells found away from nest; recently fledged young.

## Mammals

Evidence of rabbits is regularly seen on the amenity grassland in both sections of the northwest compartment.

Squirrels have also been seen in landscaped compartment.

One morning a fox was seen running across the amenity grass then crossing Brunswick Road into the unmanaged area off Spital Street.

## Evaluation

Both the landscaped and wild compartments of the site have habitats that are attractive to wildlife and wildlife thrives here despite the abuses noted. For invertebrates there are grass swards of different heights. Grassland butterflies can breed in the buffer areas of rank grassland and bask on the mowed amenity grassland. Other butterfly species can also breed as their foodplants - garlic mustard, stinging nettle, thistles - are well represented on the site. Butterflies that overwinter in the woodland find ample sources of nectar from goat willow and blackthorn that bloom in the spring when they emerge from hibernation.

Birds are commonly seen foraging for food in the amenity grassland that stretches eastwards from Rock Street. When disturbed, they disappear into the shrubbery or woodland or simply fly further along, as they have the space to do so.

It is not just the wildlife habitats that make this site special, it is the size of these habitats.

Fragmentation of habitat is one of the problems that cause wildlife numbers to dwindle. But the habitats at Denholme Close Open Space are big enough to sustain small mammals, large numbers of breeding birds, and common and rare insects. Shrubberies are extensive. The woodland curves around the amenity grassland before extending eastwards along the upper slopes of the south-eastern compartment. Both amenity grassland and rank grassland are plentiful. Ruderals thrive. There are open flower rich areas in sunny aspects.

It is this spaciousness that must be protected from development. Right now the balance is right. Any attempts to extend housing or to build recreational facilities on this site should be vigorously discouraged.

The site's key ecological features should be retained and protected. Already the heathland described in 1993 is merely acid grassland. *Calluna vulgaris* described as being present but rare is no longer there. The large population of sulphur cinquefoil *Potentilla recta* shown on the map as growing near the railroad tracks is also gone. Perhaps it was lost when the flowering herbs growing in that area were cut down in order to install a security fence along railway or perhaps it disappeared earlier, unable to compete with tall ruderals and scrub.

In the 1993 report by the Ecology Unit, the writers recommended the retention of the sewer pipe 'ponds' which at that time contained shallow water and created a mini aquatic habitat for invertebrates.

The sewer pipes remain but unfortunately contain no water. Some are damaged, but they still could be used for that purpose.

The creation of other small wetland areas to increase the habitat diversity of the site was also suggested. One possible area where this could be done is along the Rock Street woodland edge. This area is located at the base of the slope. Two species of rushes grow there amongst the coarse grasses indicating that it is not well-drained soil. More wetland plants could be introduced along this woodland edge as part of a sustainable urban drainage scheme.

The wild area would benefit from being left undisturbed. It needs protection, though. The fly tipping is appalling and the fires even more so.

#### Protective actions:

- Do not allow habitats that already exist to be fragmented or lost
- Refrain from planting cultivars near or in wild area
- Maintain shrubbery and protect from over-zealous pruning
- Actively discourage fly tipping and arson

#### Potential improvements:

- Introduction of more wetland plants to create sustainable urban drainage scheme

## Species found

### Northwest

#### A (tree or shrub)

<i>Acer campestre</i>	field maple
<i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway maple
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	sycamore
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus 'Atropurpureum'</i>	purple leaved sycamore
<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	horse-chestnut
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	alder
<i>Betula pubescens</i>	downy birch
<i>Buddleja davidii</i>	butterfly-bush
<i>Cornus alba</i>	dogwood (white berries)
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	dogwood
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	hazel
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	hawthorn
<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	broom
<i>Cytisus scoparius 'andreaus'</i>	
<i>Fallopia japonica</i>	Japanese knotweed

<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	ash
<i>Fraxinus excelsior diversifolia</i>	single-leaved Ash
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	holly
<i>Malus domestica</i>	apple
<i>Populus nigra</i>	black poplar
<i>Populus trichocarpa</i>	western balsam poplar
<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>	shrubby cinquefoil
<i>Prunus avium</i>	wild cherry
<i>Prunus cerasifera</i>	cherry plum
<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i> 'Otto Luyken'	
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	blackthorn
<i>Pyracantha coccinea</i>	firethorn
<i>Pyracantha rogersiana</i>	firethorn (red berries)
<i>Pyracantha rogersiana</i> 'Flava'	firethorn (yellow berries)
<i>Quercus palustris</i>	pin oak
<i>Quercus petraea</i>	sessile oak
<i>Quercus robur</i>	pedunculate oak
<i>Rosa canina</i> agg.	dog rose
<i>Rosa rugosa</i>	Japanese rose
<i>Rosa</i> sp.	rose
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	bramble
<i>Salix capraea</i>	goat willow
<i>Salix</i> 'Chrysocoma'	weeping willow
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	elder
<i>Sorbus aria</i> agg.	common whitebeam
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	rowan
<i>Sorbus intermedia</i> agg	Swedish whitebeam
<i>Sorbus x thuringiaca</i>	bastard service tree
<i>Tilia cordata</i>	small-leaved lime
<i>Tilia platyphyllos</i>	large-leaved lime
<i>Tiliia x vulgaris</i>	lime
<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	gorse

## B (herb)

<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	yarrow
<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	bugle
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	garlic mustard
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	cow parsley
<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	mugwort
<i>Arum maculatum</i>	lords-and-ladies
<i>Aster novi-belgii</i>	michaelmas daisy
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	daisy
<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>	cuckooflower
<i>Centaurea montana</i>	perennial cornflower
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	common mouse-ear
<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>	rosebay willowherb
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	creeping thistle
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	spear thistle
<i>Conium maculatum</i>	hemlock
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	field bindweed

<i>Daucus carota</i>	wild carrot
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	great willowherb
<i>Epilobium montanum</i>	broad-leaved willowherb
<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	meadowsweet
<i>Galega officinalis</i>	goat's-rue
<i>Galium aparine</i>	cleavers
<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	cut-leaved cranesbill
<i>Geranium pusillum</i>	small flowered cranesbill
<i>Geranium pyrenaicum</i>	hedgerow crane's-bill
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	herb-robert
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	wood avens
<i>Hedera helix</i>	ivy
<i>Hyacinthoides hispanica</i>	Spanish bluebell
<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	cat's-ear
<i>Lapsana communis</i>	nipplewort
<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	honeysuckle
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	common bird'sfoot trefoil
<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	black medick
<i>Narcissus</i> Division 2	daffodil cultivars
<i>Narcissus</i> Division 4	double daffodils
<i>Oenothera erythrosepala</i>	evening primrose
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	ribwort plantain
<i>Plantago major</i>	greater plantain
<i>Polygonum bistorta</i>	sommon bistort
<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	creeping cinquefoil
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	meadow buttercup
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	creeping buttercup
<i>Reseda luteola</i>	weld
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	curled dock
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	broad-leaved dock
<i>Sedum reflexum</i>	reflexed stonecrop
<i>Sedum</i> sp.	stonecrop
<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	common ragwort
<i>Senecio squalidus</i>	Oxford ragwort
<i>Silene alba</i>	white campion
<i>Silene dioica</i>	red campion
<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i>	hedge mustard
<i>Sonchus asper</i>	prickly sow-thistle
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	smooth sow-thistle
<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	hedge woundwort
<i>Tanacetum parthenium</i>	feverfew
<i>Taraxacum officianale</i> agg.	dandelion
<i>Tragopogon pratensis</i> agg.	goatsbeard
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	red clover
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	white clover
<i>Tripleurospermum inodorum</i>	scentless mayweed
<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	colt's-foot
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	common nettle
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	germander speedwell
<i>Veronicastrum serpyllifolia</i>	thyme-leaved speedwell

	<i>Vicia cracca</i>	tufted vetch
	<i>Vicia sativa</i>	common vetch
	<i>Vicia sepium</i>	bush vetch
C (grass)		
	<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>	meadow foxtail
	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	false oat-grass
	<i>Bromus hordeaceus</i>	soft-brome
	<i>Bromus sterilis</i>	barren brome
	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	cock's-foot
	<i>Elytrigia repens</i>	common couch
	<i>Festuca rubra</i>	red fescue
	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire fog
	<i>Hordeum murinum</i>	wall barley
	<i>Lolium perenne</i>	perennial rye-grass
	<i>Phleum pratense</i>	timothy
	<i>Poa annua</i>	annual meadow-grass
	<i>Poa pratensis</i>	smooth meadow-grass
	<i>Poa trivialis</i>	rough meadow-grass
D		
	<i>Juncus effusus</i>	soft-rush
	<i>Juncus inflexus</i>	hard rush
E (Pteridophyte)		
	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	bracken
F (Bryophyte)		
	<i>Brachythecium rutabulum</i>	rough-stalked feather moss
Southeast		
A (tree or shrub)		
	<i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway maple
	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	sycamore
	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	alder
	<i>Betula pubescens</i>	downy birch
	<i>Buddleja davidii</i>	butterfly-bush
	<i>Corylus avellana</i>	hazel
	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	hawthorn
	<i>Fallopia japonica</i>	Japanese knotweed
	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	ash
	<i>Malus domestica</i>	apple
	<i>Prunus avium</i>	wild cherry
	<i>Prunus domestica</i>	plum
	<i>Quercus petraea</i>	sessile oak
	<i>Quercus robur</i>	pedunculate oak
	<i>Rosa canina</i> agg.	dog rose
	<i>Rosa</i> sp.	rose
	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	bramble

	<i>Salix capraea</i>	goat willow
	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	elder
	<i>Sambucus nigra 'Aurea'</i>	golden leaved elder
	<i>Sorbus aria</i> agg.	common whitebeam
	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	rowan
	<i>Sorbus intermedia</i> agg	Swedish whitebeam
	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	gorse
B (herb)		
	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	yarrow
	<i>Agrimonia eupatoria</i>	agrimony
	<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	mugwort
	<i>Aster novi-belgii</i>	michaelmas daisy
	<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	hedge bindweed
	<i>Cardamine hirsuta</i>	hairy bitter-cress
	<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	common knapweed
	<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	common mouse-ear
	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	creeping thistle
	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	spear thistle
	<i>Cymbalaria muralis</i>	ivy-leaved toadflax
	<i>Daucus carota</i>	wild carrot
	<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	great willowherb
	<i>Fallopia japonica</i>	Japanese knotweed
	<i>Fragaria</i> sp	strawberry
	<i>Galega officinalis</i>	goat's-rue
	<i>Galium aparine</i>	cleavers
	<i>Galium verum</i>	lady's bedstraw
	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	herb-robert
	<i>Hieracium pilosella</i>	mouse-ear hawkweed
	<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	cat's-ear
	<i>Knautia arvensis</i>	field scabious
	<i>Lapsana communis</i>	nipplewort
	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	ox-eye daisy
	<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>	common toadflax
	<i>Lupinus polyphyllus</i>	garden lupin
	<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	black medick
	<i>Melilotus altissima</i>	tall melilot
	<i>Origanum vulgare</i>	wild marjoram
	<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	common poppy
	<i>Papaver somniferum</i>	opium poppy
	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	ribwort plantain
	<i>Potentilla neumanniana</i>	spring cinquefoil
	<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	creeping cinquefoil
	<i>Primula veris</i>	cowslip
	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	selfheal
	<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>	bulbous buttercup
	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	creeping buttercup
	<i>Reseda luteola</i>	weld
	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	common sorrel
	<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	broad-leaved dock



	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	common ragwort
	<i>Senecio squalidus</i>	Oxford ragwort
	<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	bladder campion
	<i>Sonchus asper</i>	prickly sow-thistle
	<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>	tansy
	<i>Taraxacum officianale</i> agg.	dandelion
	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	red clover
	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	white clover
	<i>Tripleurospermum inodorum</i>	scentless mayweed
	<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	colt's-foot
	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	common nettle
	<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	germander speedwell
	<i>Veronica filiformis</i>	slender speedwell
	<i>Vicia cracca</i>	tufted vetch
	<i>Vicia hirsuta</i>	hairy tare
	<i>Vicia sativa</i>	common vetch
	<i>Vicia sepium</i>	bush vetch
C (grass)		
	<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	common bent
	<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>	meadow foxtail
	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	false oat-grass
	<i>Bromus hordeaceus</i>	soft-brome
	<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	crested dog's-tail
	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	cock's-foot
	<i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i>	wavy hair-grass
	<i>Festuca rubra</i>	red fescue
	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire fog
	<i>Lolium perenne</i>	perennial rye-grass
	<i>Poa annua</i>	annual meadow-grass
	<i>Poa pratensis</i>	smooth meadow-grass
	<i>Poa trivialis</i>	rough meadow-grass
	<i>Trisetum flavescens</i>	yellow oat-grass
D		
	<i>Typha latifolia</i>	common reedmace
E (Pteridophyte)		
	<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>	male-fern
	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	bracken

## Habitats/species of conservation concern

### UK BAP Priority Habitats

Dry acid grassland

## Sheffield LBAP Priority Habitats

Grassland

## UK BAP Priority Species

Mistle thrush

## Sheffield LBAP Priority Species

Starling

## UK BAP Species of Conservation Concern

Blue tit

Chiffchaff

Dunnock

Goldfinch

Great tit

Willow warbler

Wren

## UK Red List Birds

None

## UK Amber List Birds

Dunnock

Mistle thrush

Willow warbler

## Local Red Data Book Species

Lepidoptera Grade A

Comma

Holly blue

Speckled Wood

Other invertebrates

*Pachygaster atra* (a soldier fly)

*Praomyia leachii* (a soldier fly)

*Rhagoletis alternata* (a gall fly)

*Tephritis formosa* (a gall fly)

## Previous surveys

AUTHOR/RECORDER	DATE	COVERAGE	LOCATION
J. Glasscock & C Milego	11/07/88	Ecological report	Site No. 12B17 SK357 883 Marcus Street Reclamation Site
J. Westfold	14/09/97	Sheffield Habitat Survey Inner City Phase 1	Marcus Drive playground

## History and Geology

### Geological survey

The solid geology of the site lies within the Lower Coal Measures of the Upper Carboniferous period and is characterised by alternating mudstone and flaggy sandstones.

### Notes from ecologists

To the west of the site close to the junction of Rock Street and Pye Bank Road is the site listed on City Council files as G329. Nr Pitsmoor Road Railway Bridge SK 354 884 at the roadside of Pye Bank Road. The locality is an outcrop, which is 18m long and 2m high. The outcrop consists of gently dipping sandstone beds; it protrudes from a grassy bank but is not obscured by vegetation. Cracks and joints (horizontal and vertical) are present. (*Stratigraphy*: Westphalian and Silkstone Rock. *Petrology*: Medium sandstone *Mineralogy*: Quartz. *Structure*: Bedding joints.) Sections in the vicinity of Pitsmoor Road Railway Bridge and Brunswick Road show the same sandstones on the north side of the narrowed Don Valley where they strike north east to Burngreave and Wincobank. Site G67 is on the eastern section of the site near Brunswick Road. It is an exposure in a railway cutting. (*Stratigraphy*: Lower (middle) Coal measures. Parkgate Rock. *Petrology*: Sandstone.) Some exposures are partly obscured by vegetation. Width; discontinuous for 50m. Height; 5m at highest exposure. The outcrop is midway up a grassy bank visible from Brunswick Road.

### Archaeological survey

A series of railway sidings and associated buildings (OS 21) were identified towards the southern extent of Denholme Close Open Space on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey 6" map (1855). These features were presumable associated with the site of Bridgehouses Goods Station, immediately to the south. Close to these sidings the Sheffield and Rotherham Railway branched off the Great Central Railway, passing through a tunnel at the eastern extent of the open space. A chimney (OS 2) was recorded close to the railway sidings on the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey 25" map (1903). The purpose of this chimney is not known.

A further forty-six features were identified from archive records within the immediate vicinity (i.e. 500m) of the site. These included the site of Sheffield Castle (SMR 242 to SMR 246), the site of a mediaeval cruck building (SMR 1401), the Bower Spring cementation furnace (SMR 2813) and a large number of buildings associated with industry along the River Don.

### Historical survey

Denholme Close Open Space was created on the site of former terraced housing adjacent to the Great Central Railway. The site of the open space is previously shown as agricultural land on Harrison's

survey of Southall Soake (1637) and is labelled as *Spittle Fields*. Subsequently, residential development would appear to have encroached upon the site. Housing is shown along a road at the eastern extent of the site on Fairbank's map of the Parish of Sheffield (1795). This road, possibly corresponding to Osborne Street, leads away from the former village of Bridgehouses. Additional housing is shown along Brunswick Street (formerly Tom Crosse Lane), Fitzalan Street, Denholme Street, Marcus Street and Rock Street on Tayler's map of the Town and Environs of Sheffield (1832). Urban development continued during the late nineteenth century and further housing is shown on Bernard Terrace, Brunswick Road, Marcus Street, Neville Steet and Spital Street on the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey 25" map (1903).

## Recommendations

Denholme Close Open Space is of limited archaeological or historical significance. It would appear to have been used for housing during the late nineteenth and early to mid twentieth centuries. Following the demolition of the housing, the site remained undeveloped and has since become one of the many open or green spaces in the Burngreave NDFC area. Consultation of census records will help identify former residents of Bernard Terrace, Brunswick Road, Denholme Street, Fitzalan Street, Marcus Street, Neville Street, Osborne Street, Railway Street, Rock Street Spital Street and Verdon Street. This information may help improve understanding of local social history.

## Notes by ecologists

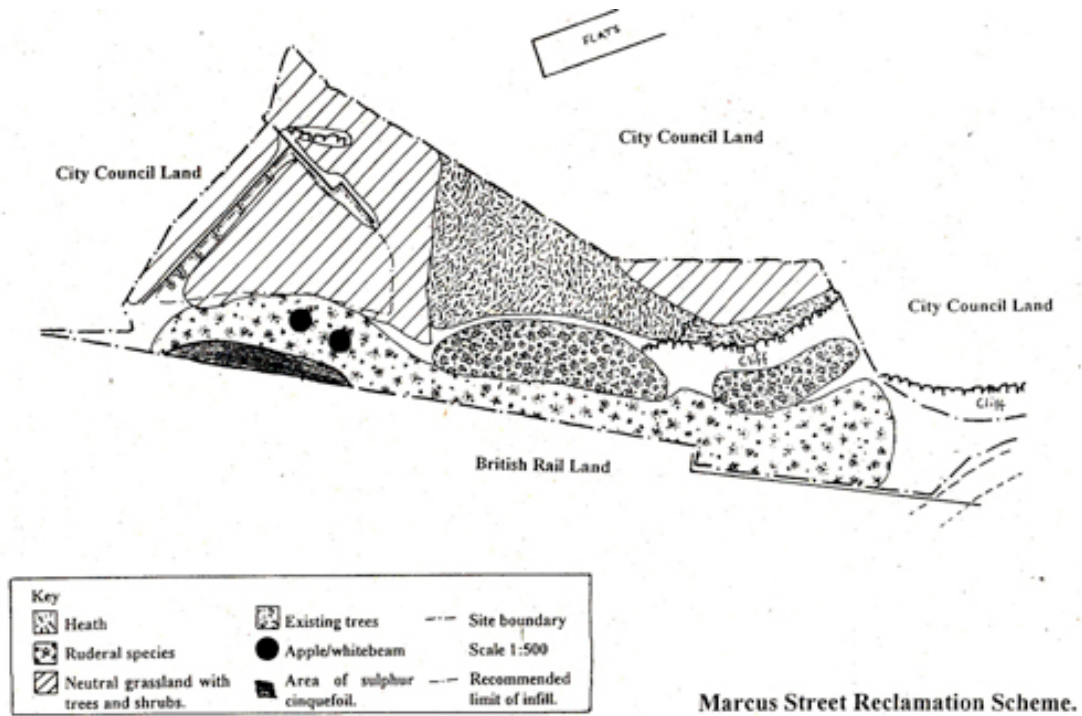
Jim Bruce notes "Bridgehouse Railway station used to be situated here. On the southern side of the tracks there were lots of railway sidings. The railway opened as a passenger station in 1845. On the 1850 map the western half of the site is built over but the rest is open. On the 1880 map the western section of the site contains railway workers houses. Most of the site is built over but there are open areas around the depot. In 1965 the depot went into private hands and the buildings were demolished. The entrance to the depot was rented to Mobil Oil who stored drums and cans of oil.

Denholme Close Southeast (Wild) was known as the Marcus Street Reclamation Site in surveys undertaken by the Ecology Unit in 1993. They also listed the following alternative names that the site was known as:

- BR Cattle Dock Site
- Proposed Woodside Ecological Park
- Caledonian Siding
- Brunswick Quarry

They refer to it as "derelict land formerly owned by British Rail that was used as a railway sidings and cattle docks".

According to the map provided in the survey report, a section of the hillside is infill. The map reproduced below indicates the extent of the infill.



## Community

Denholme close is a large grassy green space and badly neglected playground. Located along the boundary of a number of housing areas it is mostly used as a through fare and so response to the community questionnaire was very limited. Very few people visit the site apart those who use it as short cut and to walk their dogs. The survey revealed a number of problems facing the area, which could be the reasons behind the low turnover of visitors

## User Survey Results

The user survey showed that the most popular activity on the site was walking through, as the site is a short-cut route into town. Other activities included dog walking, cycling and bird feeding. The most popular day was Monday with only adult visitor throughout the daily AM and PM surveys. During the MD surveys the majority visited were again adults and elderly.

## Site problems

### Safety

The site feels unsafe around the entrance and exists to the playground where dense shrubs conceal the area.

It is also unsafe at night as the site has very little lighting.

### Drug and solvent abuse

There is a problem of drug abuse in Denholme close open space with the people openly using the playground during the day as well as the night.

The playground is very secluded by overgrown trees and shrubs, which provides shelter and privacy.

### Litter and vermin

There is a lot of litter in blown into the area from the road with some fly tipping on the embankment facing the Wicker.

Used needles and broken glass are found in and around the play area.

### Dogs

There is a lot of dog mess on Denholme close open space and no dog mess bins.

### Facilities

The playground on Denholme close is dirty, littered and in a bad state of repair.



The playground is no longer used by families and children and so provides privacy for drug abuse.

Areas of the playground surface are thick with moss indicating little or no use.

There is no seating on the site apart from in the playground.

## Landscape and Access

The footpaths are overgrown making access quite difficult and intimidating.

Shrubs and trees are very dense and overgrown surrounding the entrance to the playground again restricting visibility, which feels intimidating

## Site solutions

- Cut back and maintain all overgrown areas.
- Open up the footpaths and playground by clearing scrub and felling trees that obscure visibility.
- Provide some street lighting along the footpath networks.
- Install new and desirable play equipment in the playground to encourage more visitors.
- Alternatively remove the playground and replace with grass.
- Clear litter and fly tipping regularly.
- Provide and maintain dog and litter bins
- Install well spaced sustainable seating around the site and the playground.

## Community Suggestions

From the options provided within the questionnaire the most popular suggestions to improve Denholme close were;

- More wildlife
- Toddlers play equipment
- More places to sit down
- Stopping dog mess

Community suggestions for changes to improve the site had no particular focus on any one theme due to the low number of responses. The most popular responses for changes were to;

- Provide dog bins
- Change nothing
- Provide more seating

- (have) A drinking fountain
- Get rid of the playground

Question 7 provided an insight as to what people would ideally like to be able to do on Denhome Close Open Space. The following suggestions were made;

#### See it kept tidy

More regular maintenance on the site to improve its appearance.

#### Less drug abuse

Make the site more popular so that there are fewer places for people who are involved with drugs to use.

#### See more people enjoying it

See more people using the site to exercise and visiting the playground

#### Build a better playground

Make the playground more attractive to young children and families. New equipment, a safe, bright and colourful environment.

#### Try and make it better

Anything on the site would be an improvement, people should get involved and try and improve the site.

#### Just what I do now

#### Not let it get any worse

The site is pretty bad; if it doesn't see any improvements then it should at least not get any worse

### Footfall survey results

Summary of the total number of visitors in the week

	<b>Elderly.</b>	<b>Adult.</b>	<b>Teenager</b>	<b>Child</b>	<b>Baby.</b>	<b>Total.</b>
<b>Day1</b>	0	8	0	0	0	8
<b>Day2</b>	3	12	0	0	0	15
<b>Day3</b>	0	5	0	0	0	5
<b>Day4</b>	2	10	2	2	1	17
<b>Total.</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>55</b>

## Conclusion.

- The majority of the visitors were adults followed by the elderly
- Despite the play ground only a total of 2 children and 1 baby visited the open space in the week
- The majority of the visitors were actually walking through the green space.

## Observed uses

- 1 Walking through
- 2 Dog walking
- 3 Cycling
- 4 Bird feeding