

## 8 Ella Road Playground & Malton Street Green Space



## Introduction

Ella Road playground is a very small site with extremely limited ecological interest, the site holds little community value as it is earmarked for development and the play equipment was removed from the site some years ago.

The small site around the corner on Malton Street does hold ecological interest as it contains a range of dense shrubs and flowering herbs that will provide food and cover for birds and invertebrates

## Site details

### Site name

Ella Road Playground & Malton Street Green Space

### Location

Ella Road is situated at Grid Reference SK: 364 892.

### Land owner

Sheffield City Council Housing Department

### Nearest road/street

Ella Road

### Adjacent land use

To the north of the site is housing and to the south of it the area is currently under development. To the west of the site is a small open area containing brambles and amenity grassland that has been used for dumping rubbish.

Surrounding Malton Street site are housing, gardens and Malton Street.

### Size

Ella Road playground covers an area of 0.0792454.

### Present management

#### Ella Road

There is no obvious management but as the site is mainly concrete there is nothing really to maintain.

## Malton Street

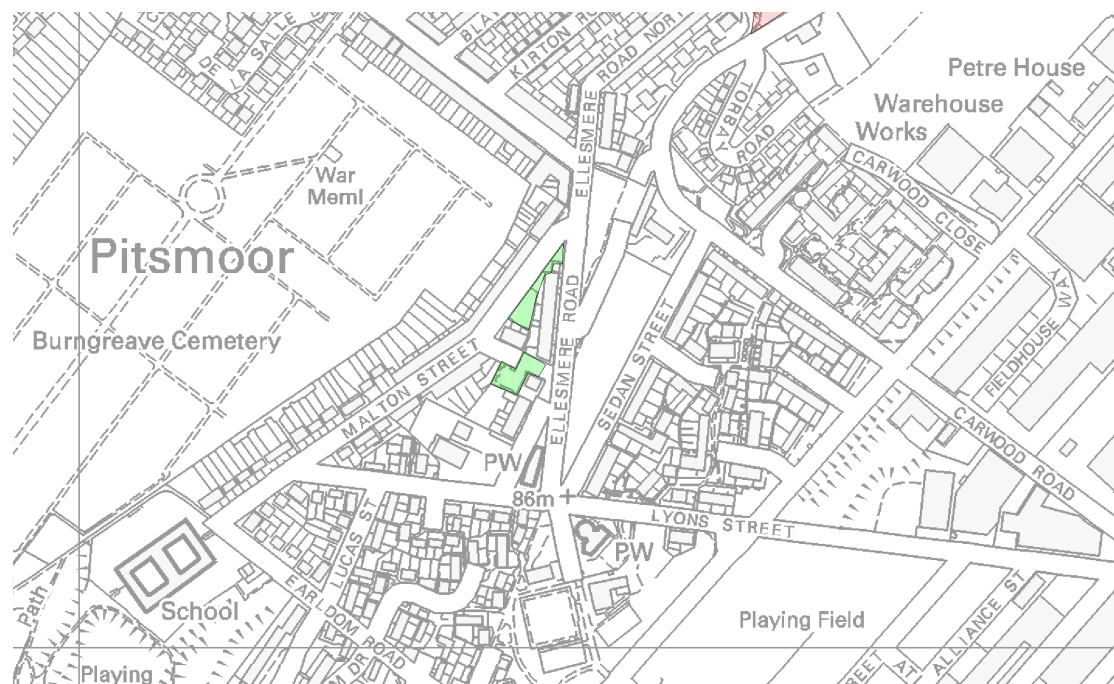
There appears to be no obvious management on Malton Street.

This would be a good site for tree planting by the Community Forestry team. Close to the site on Malton Street are cherry, elder, berberis, cotoneaster, hawthorn and whitebeam trees; these offer food and shelter for nesting birds.

## UDP designations

Housing

## Location map



## Ecology

### Phase I ecological survey

#### Site description

Ella Road playground is a square that is fenced and walled apart from one entrance. In the centre of the site is a large concrete 'hump'; this is half covered with concrete tiles as the rest have been removed. This 'hump' used to have a slide on it but this was removed years ago after a child fell and hurt itself on it. Cotoneaster is growing over part of the fences around the site but the actual playground area contains very little vegetation. There is a rowan tree that has recently been ring barked. There was concrete seating here but this is in a state of neglect.

Directly outside the playground there are some Swedish whitebeam trees that have been planted close to some introduced shrubs such as berberis darwinii.

Behind the site is a small overgrown area of brambles and ash, this is very close to the area currently being developed.

The housing department have plans for the site.

The Malton Street site is an area of former housing that is very overgrown but full of brambles, roses, thistles and clover. Japanese knotweed on the site needs to be removed. The small site around the corner on Malton Street is ecologically far more interesting. Although overgrown with dock, bramble, cocksfoot, thistles and ragwort it contains several interesting species such as stag's horn sumach, white dead nettle and honesty.

### Habitats of interest

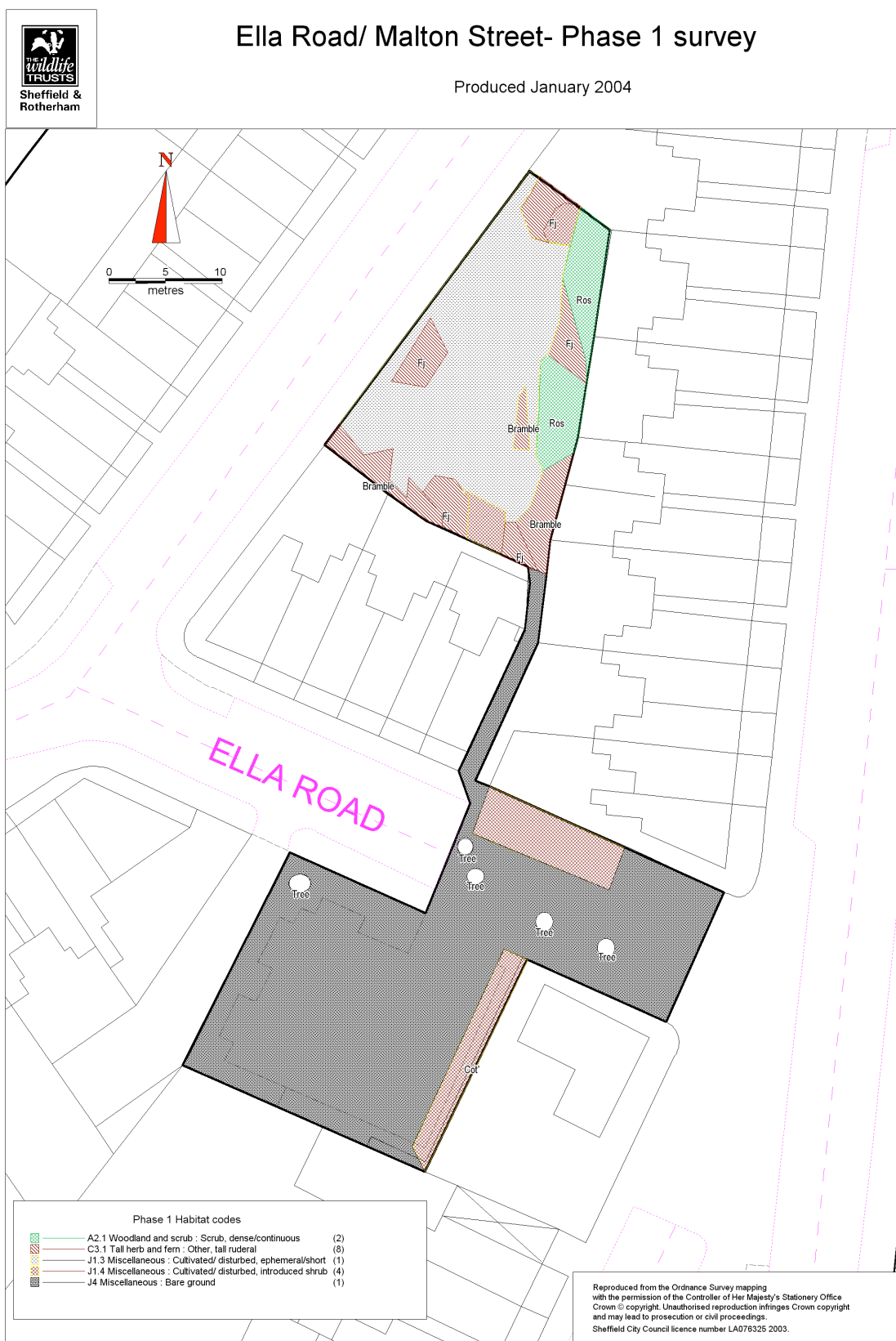
Ecologically the site does not really contain anything of significant value, except for the cotoneaster that will provide berries for birds.

However, around the corner on Malton Street is an area of former housing; this has become very overgrown but is far more ecologically interesting with a range of shrubs among the bramble and dog rose.

### Species of interest

No species of interest have been found on the Ella Road site. On the Malton Street site is stag's horn sumach, an attractive tree with 'velvety' twigs and unusual flowers.

## Phase 1 map



## Invertebrate survey

No invertebrates were found on the site.

The Malton Street site could benefit from an invertebrate survey to build up a picture of the potential of this small easily missed area.

## Vertebrate Survey

There were no mammals seen on site; a full mammal survey was not undertaken.

## Bird survey

No birds were noticed on the site.

The Malton Street site needs to have a bird survey as this street contains numerous berry bearing shrubs that could provide food and shelter. There is an open area that contains many snail shells that have been smashed on the stones.

## Evaluation

Although there is potential for improving Ella Road, it is in fact earmarked for housing.

The area on Malton Street around the corner should be saved if possible as it will provide a quiet area where birds and mammals can find food and shelter. Bird boxes and shelters could be installed on the site to improve biodiversity. The range of flora with winter food and cover such as ivy, bramble and cotoneaster needs to be preserved whatever tree planting and small scale scrub clearance takes place in the future.

Japanese knotweed needs to be removed from the site.

Malton Street is earmarked for housing / development, the site does not suffer from fly-tipping as some of the other sites in Burngreave have and the site should be saved from development if possible.

## Species found at Ella Road

<i>Cotoneaster sp.</i>	Cotoneaster
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Rowan
<i>Senecio jacobaeae</i>	Ragwort

## Species found at Malton Street

<i>Fallopia japonica</i>	Japanese knotweed
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	spear thistle
<i>Rosa rugosa</i>	Japanese rose

<i>Trifolium arvense</i>	white clover
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	daisy
<i>Lamium album</i>	white dead-nettle
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	nettle
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	dandelion
<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	ragwort
<i>Rhus typhina</i>	stag's horn sumach
<i>Rosa sp.</i>	rose sp.
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	broad leaved dock
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	cocksfoot
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	bramble
<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	mugwort
<i>Lunaria annua</i>	honesty
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	creeping thistle
<i>Sisymbrium</i>	hedge mustard
<i>Galium aparine</i>	cleavers
<i>Ranunculus arvensis</i>	meadow buttercup

There is also a range of mosses but these have not been identified yet.

At the end of Malton Street where it joins Ellesmere Road are planted trees and shrubs including:

<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Wild cherry
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder
<i>Berberis sp.</i>	Berberis
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn
<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>	Rosebay willowherb
<i>Sorbus aria</i>	Whitebeam
<i>Cotoneaster sp.</i>	Cotoneaster sp.
<i>Convolvulus sp.</i>	Bindweed

## Habitats/species of nature conservation importance

### UK BAP Priority Habitats

Urban common (Malton Street)

### Sheffield LBAP Priority Habitats

Urban Common (Malton Street)

### UK BAP Priority Species

None

### Sheffield LBAP Priority Species

None

### UK BAP Species of Conservation Concern

None

### UK Red List Birds

None

### UK Amber List Birds

None

### Local Red Data Book Species

Lepidoptera Grade A Species

None

## Previous Surveys

None were found



## 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 flaggy sandstone

### Archaeological survey

No archaeological features were identified within Ella Road Playground in the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service SMR or English Heritage NMR. However, one feature was shown within the limits of the site on historic maps

A further six features were identified from archive records within the immediate vicinity (i.e. 500m) of the site. These included two Roman coin hoards (SMR 888 and SMR 889), evidence for Romano-British metalworking (SMR 894) and a findspot of an Iron Age quernstone (SMR 882).

### Historical survey

Ella Road Playground is not shown on any of the Ordnance Survey maps consulted as part of the historical survey. The site of the playground is formerly shown as agricultural land on Harrison's survey of Southall Soake (1637) and lies on the boundary of two plots of land labelled as *Broomhill Dales*. It remained largely unchanged until the construction of a series of houses on Grimesthorpe Road, first shown on the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition 25" Ordnance Survey map (1905). The western extent of the site is partially covered by outbuildings associated with these houses. The eastern extent of the site, now pedestrianised, is shown as part of Ella Road on the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey 6" map (1923).

### Recommendations

Ella Road Playground has little archaeological or historical significance. The site was formerly agricultural land and was ultimately subsumed into the complex of residential property that proliferated in Burngreave during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. No significant archaeological or historical features were identified at the site and it is considered to have little or no interpretative potential.

## Community

### Footfall survey

Summary of the total number of visitors in week

Day	Elderly	Adult	Teenager	Child	Baby	Total
1	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	0	2	0	0	2	4
4	0	0	0	9	0	9
Total	0	2	0	9	2	13

### Conclusions

- Ella Road is not well used by the surrounding community
- At the weekend it is used by local children

### Main observed uses

- Sitting and running
- Walking