

9 Ellesmere Green/Spital Green



Introduction

Ellesmere Green is a small site that has limited ecological interest but is important due to its geography within the community. The site consists of a rough triangle of amenity grassland with mature trees, paths, benches and bins. There are public toilets on the edge of the site and it is surrounded by the post office, shopping area, churches, mosques, doctors, dentists, cafes and bus stops. The site is at the junction of Spital Hill and Burngreave Road and is therefore accessible by two of the main roads in the area.

As the site is a focal point and meeting place in the community there is potential for improvements to make the site more attractive.

Site details

Site name

Ellesmere Green/Spital Green

Location

SK 362 885

Land owner

The site is owned by Sheffield City Council.

Nearest road/street

Ellesmere Road is to the east of the site, Burngreave Road is to the west of the site and Gower Street is to the north of the site.

Adjacent land use

The site is totally surrounded by roads that border a central community shopping area.

Size

The site covers an area measuring 0.225269 hectares.

Present management

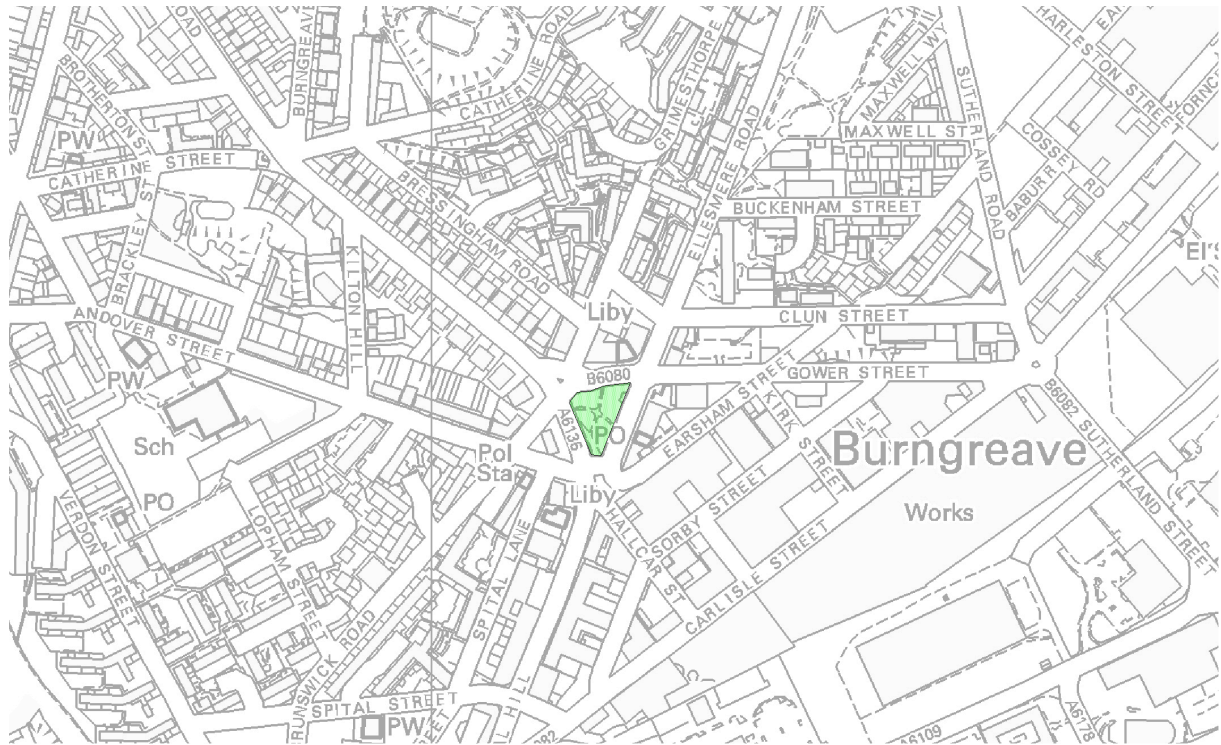
The grass is mown every four to six weeks and the litter is cleared regularly.

UDP designations

The site is designated as a District Shopping Area under the City Council's Unitary Development Plan.

Location map

The site is in the centre of the map in between the post office, libraries and police station.



Ecology

Phase I ecological survey

Site description

Ellesmere Green is a small, flat triangular mown area with mature cherry and rowan trees. Benches are well used, as this is a very popular meeting place for locals. Pigeons are extremely common here as there is plenty of food put out for them. An important central focal point for the community as it is between bus stops, a chip shop, sandwich shops, the post office, a church and a mosque, it is also the closest green space to the library. The site has open unrestricted access. Although it is a very small site there are numerous paths, benches and bins.

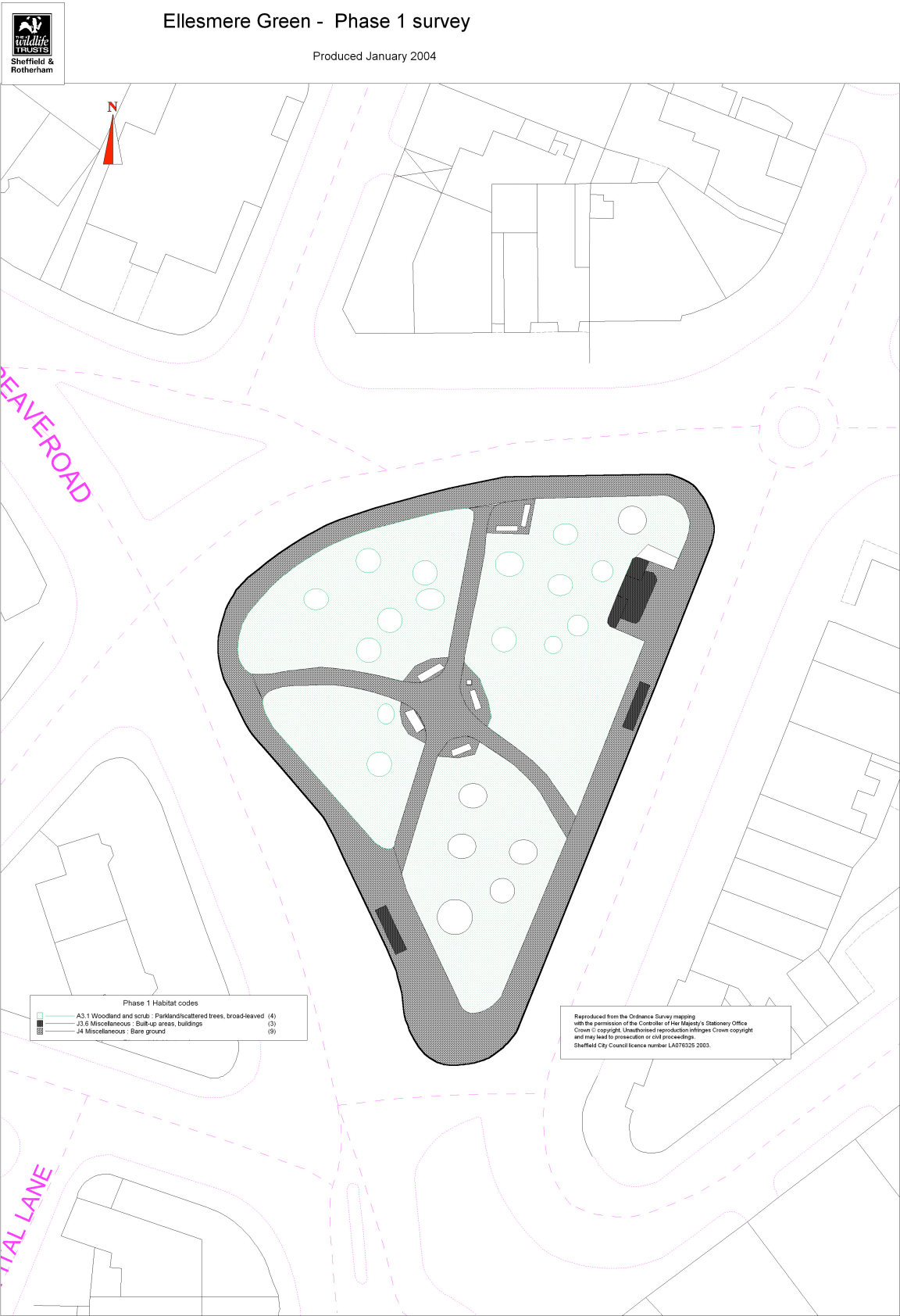
Habitats of interest

There are no special habitats of interest on this site.

Species of interest

There are no species of interest on this site.

Phase 1 map



Invertebrate survey

A full invertebrate survey was not carried out on this site as, due to limited funding, only a few sites could be chosen. The sites that were surveyed are believed to hold greater invertebrate interest.

A large white butterfly, an orange tip butterfly and a hoverfly and buff tailed bumble bee have been seen on this site throughout the summer but the area is not ideal for invertebrates.

Bird survey

The Green has a lot of feral pigeons. Magpies and blackbirds feed occasionally but there is no shelter on this site to encourage nests. Bird tables and feeders to encourage other birds besides pigeons would add to the biodiversity and make the site more attractive.

Evaluation

Ellesmere Green has a very low ecological value due to the dominance of amenity grassland. The trees are important for attracting birds and for brightening up a busy urban area. The 'green' is an important central community meeting point, its position in the area means that it is a focal point for local people.

The benches on the site are well used and have not suffered from vandalism as others in the area have in the past. Encouraging features on the site such as willow sculptures, art murals or a maze could build on this

There is plenty of scope for improvement on the 'green'; flowerbeds would be attractive to butterflies, birds and people and a maze, as mentioned above, could bring children to the site without affecting its use as a meeting point for adults.

A bird table or a range of bird feeders around the site would improve the ecological value of the site and also would make the site more attractive to people. Planting of hardy berry bearing shrubs around the edges of the site such as cotoneaster, berberis and mahonia would provide food and cover for a range of birds.

The grass is in poor condition in places due to pigeons feeding, this needs to be addressed as dumping of restaurant and take-away waste in the area's green spaces is becoming a major problem.

The grass needs to be reseeded; a wildflower mix such as scented mayweed, cranesbills, campion, snapdragons and a range of grasses would improve the ecology and the community value of the site.

Ellesmere Green would be an ideal place for a notice board outlining the history, ecology, archaeology and geology, maybe including a map with local highlights and the Burngreave Round walk.

Species found

A (tree or shrub)

Prunus avium

wild cherry

	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	elder
	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	rowan
B (herb)		
	<i>Narcissus pseudonarcissus</i>	cultivated daffodil
C (grass)		
	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	cock's-foot
	<i>Elymus repens</i>	common couch
	<i>Hordeum murinum</i>	wall barley
	<i>Lolium perenne</i>	perennial rye-grass
	<i>Poa annua</i>	annual meadow grass
	<i>Phleum pratense</i>	timothy

Habitats/species of nature conservation importance

UK BAP Priority Habitats

None

Sheffield LBAP Priority Habitats

None

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

None

Previous surveys

There were none 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 mudstone.

Archaeological survey

No archaeological or historical features were identified on Ellesmere Green in the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service SMR or English Heritage NMR. However, two features were identified within the limits of the site on historic Ordnance Survey maps.

Wicker Congregational Church and an adjoining Sunday school (OS 39 and OS 40 respectively) are shown on Ellesmere Green on the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map. The church was built at a cost of £4,500, raised by public subscription, and was opened on 12th July 1855. It took its name from the Sunday school and church on Andrew Street, off the Wicker. Although a church was founded on Andrew Street in 1853, a new church was required due to a dramatic increase in the congregation. Ellesmere Green was chosen as a good location and the foundation of the new church was laid on 18th April 1854. The church was Gothic in style and had a nave, flanked by two aisles, with galleries all around. A Sunday school was later added, at a further cost of £3,500. In 1910, the church had 270 members, with between 400 and 500 children attending the Sunday school. The church and Sunday school were demolished in 1965.

Historical survey

Ellesmere Green is first shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey 6" map (1855). The site of the green is previously shown as agricultural land on Harrison's map of Southall Soake (1637). It remained largely unchanged until the middle of the nineteenth century when residential developments began to encroach upon the site. Wicker Congregational Church and an accompanying Sunday school were subsequently built on the site and can be seen on the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey 25" map (1905).

Recommendations

Although relatively small in size, Ellesmere Green is worthy of historical note. A church and Sunday school were formerly built on the site of the green. The site is used regularly by the local community and is a prime candidate for the placement of an interpretative notice board outlining the historic environment of Burngreave.

Community

No community survey was carried out.