

13 Grimesthorpe Green Space



Introduction

Grimesthorpe Green Space consists of a range of habitats from heathland to woodland, amenity grassland, scrub, introduced and native shrubs, tall neutral grassland and bare ground.

Site details

Site name

Grimesthorpe Green Space

Location

The site is situated at Grid Reference: SK 372 900. It is on the edge of Burngreave opposite Cyclops Street and the open spaces off Botham Street. The site provides a link between Burngreave and Wincobank hill.

Land owner

The land is owned by Sheffield City Council.

Nearest road/street

Grimesthorpe Road runs along the southern edge of the site and Wood Spring Court borders the southwestern edge.

Adjacent land use

To the south of the site around Grimesthorpe Road are grassy verges with factory units behind them. To the north and west are houses and gardens that back onto Whiteways Road. Whiteways School and the recreation ground (Site #3) are behind these houses. To the northeast of the site are two main roads with grassy verges, houses and a few factory units; just behind these is Wincobank Hill. This site is important in linking the large green open space of Wincobank to Burngreave

Size

The area measures 2.94871 hectares.

Present management

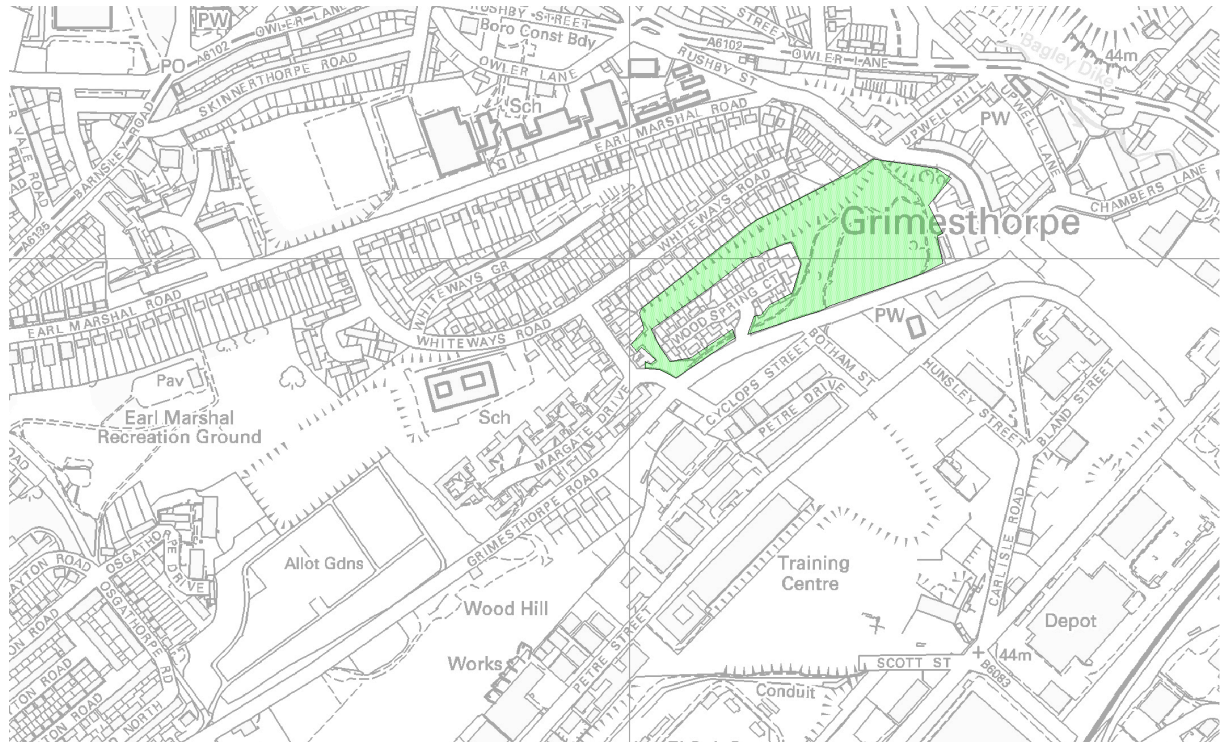
The grass is mown regularly. Burngreave Community Forestry Group are planning to replace benches, clear paths and fell some of the trees that are encroaching upon the heather.

The green watch ranger team are undertaking litter clearance, pruning of trees and shrubs to provide clearance to footpaths, sight lines and lighting.

UDP designations

Open Space Area,(Leisure and Recreation). The western half of the site is denoted as an Area of Natural History Interest, (Green Environment).

Location map



Ecology

Phase I ecological survey

Site description

An interesting site on the edge of Burngreave that is very diverse.

This large site contains a diverse mix of birch/ oak scrub, heath, dense belts of native planting with areas of amenity grassland and tall grasses. There are some pigeon lofts surrounded by a grassy area.

This site is opposite Wincobank Hill linking a 'green corridor' between Burngreave and Grimesthorpe.

Birds on the site include bullfinch, goldfinch, chiffchaff and there are hawthorn and cotoneaster with berries that may help support a bird population. Behind Wood Spring Court is dense scrub with holly alongside a narrow muddy track. This site is council owned with unrestricted access.

There is a large patch of lowland heather approximately 80 x 15 metres, this is in stark

contrast to the lilacs and garden plants close by. There are many interesting native tree species around the site including hornbeam, blackthorn, field maple and dog rose.

Habitats of interest

UK BAP Priority Habitats

heathland

The site contains an area dominated by heather; this is unusual for the low altitude of the site.

Species of interest

Grade A Local Red Data Book Species

Speckled wood

UK BAP Priority Species

Bullfinch

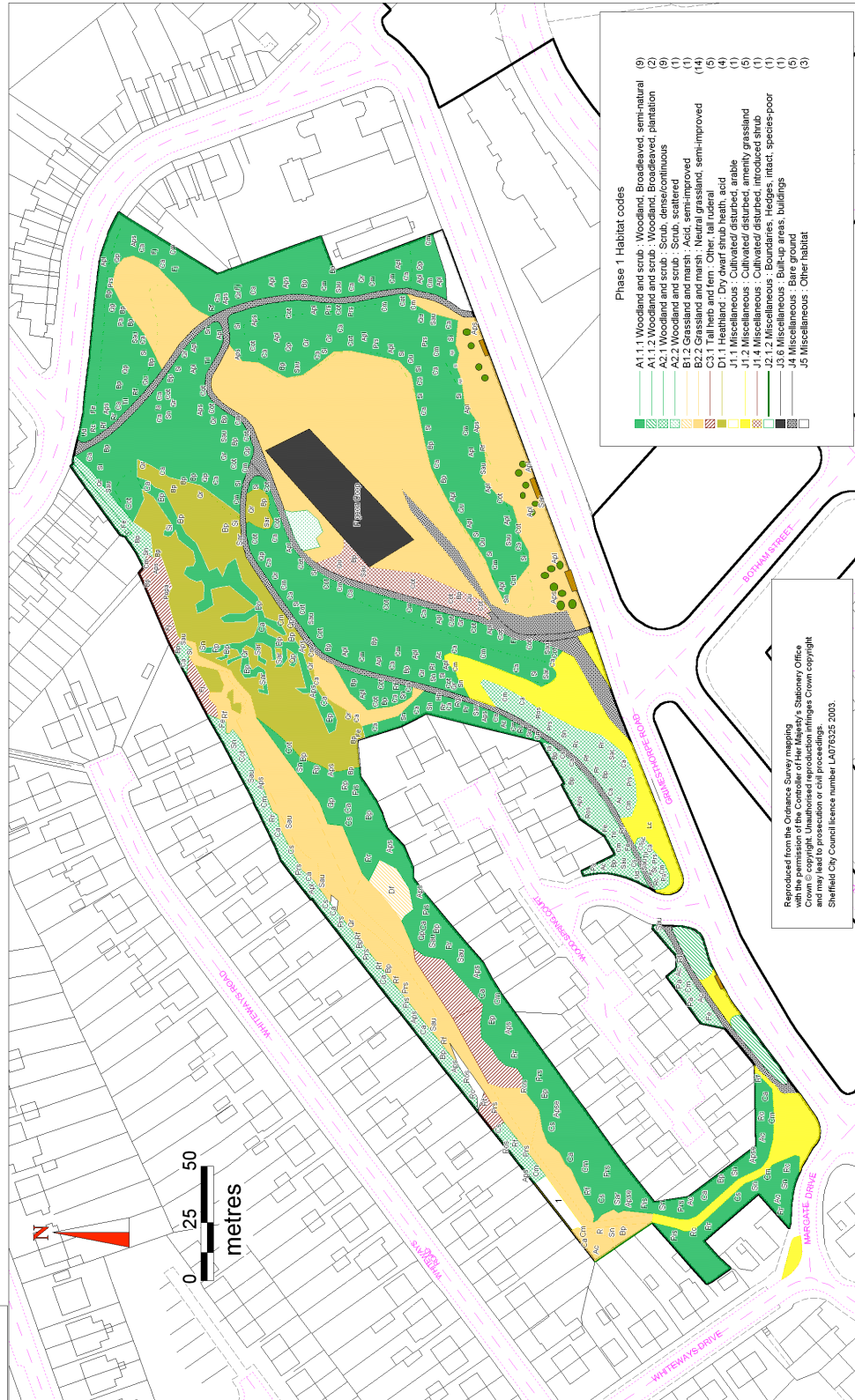
Species of Conservation Concern in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan

Wren, dunnock, blue tit, goldfinch, chiffchaff, great tit, coal tit.

Phase 1 Habitat map

Grimesthorpe Green Space - Phase 1 survey

Produced December 2003



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 full invertebrate survey is recommended in the future. Species were noticed during site visits.

Ladybirds: 10 spot. 2 spot.

Butterflies: Speckled wood. Meadow brown. Large skipper, Large white, Small white, Green veined white, Orange tip, Small tortoiseshell, Peacock.

Silver Y moth.

Click beetle. Hoverfly. Dragonfly. Wasps. Housefly. Bee.



Speckled Wood (Photo by Cheryl Gibson)

Vertebrate Survey

Mammals

Fox

Grey Squirrel

A full mammal survey was not undertaken but is recommended for the future.

Bird survey

Species recorded at least once between May and August 2003	Possible Breeding Species ¹	Probable Breeding Species ²	Confirmed Breeding Species ³	Number of Territories held by Selected Species
Long tailed tit	Robin	Long tailed tit	Blackbird	
Wren ⁵		Dunnock ⁵	Blue tit ⁵	
Dunnock ⁵		Chiffchaff ⁵	Sparrow	
Blackbird			Starling	
Blue tit ⁵			Magpie	
Goldfinch ⁵				
Sparrow				
Starling				
Magpie				
Robin				
Chiffchaff ⁵				
Coal tit ⁵				
Great tit ⁵				
Bullfinch ⁴				

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; eggshells found away from nest; recently fledged young.

⁴ Priority species in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan

⁵ Species of Conservation Concern in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan

Evaluation

Grimesthorpe Open Space is an important site for a number of reasons. The small pocket heath is a habitat worth preserving, as it is uncommon in the area, vastly increases the diversity of the site and is of high conservation concern in the UK and Sheffield Biodiversity Action Plan.

The many trees on the site are important for wildlife in terms of providing food and shelter. Many of the trees on site are native species and these need to be protected for the important birds on the site.

Grassland habitats range from amenity grassland to neutral tall grasslands with small areas of acid grassland with wavy-hair grass. This is amongst the belt of woodland behind Wood Spring Court. There are a lot of seedlings of birch and Swedish whitebeam among the heather, these need to be removed.

The many trees on the site are good for wildlife in terms of food and shelter. These should remain as they are, except for seedlings and trees encroaching onto the heather.

Wild flowers from local provenance could be planted on the area around the pigeon coops; this would attract butterflies, increasing the biodiversity of the site. A wild flower seed mix with campions, cranesbills and black knapweed would be ideal and/ or crocus and snowdrop bulbs could be planted . Areas of ivy, bramble and nettle should be left to grow as these are ideal for invertebrates.

Grassland habitats range from amenity grassland to neutral tall grasslands with wavy-hair grass. This diversity should be maintained, as it is good for invertebrates and small mammals.

Part of the area of woodland and heath behind Wood Spring Court is being lost to gardens and Japanese knotweed. This needs to be addressed before more of the site is lost. The Japanese knotweed needs to be removed to protect this valuable lowland heath.

Dead birds and a dead cat have been found on the site near the pigeon coop; this warrants further attention to find out who is killing them as there are priority species under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and Species of Conservation Concern around the site. It is unclear how these animals died but they were not killed by raptors or foxes. It is likely that they were shot or poisoned.

Species found

A (tree or shrub)

<i>Acer campestre</i>	field maple
<i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway maple
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	sycamore
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	alder
<i>Betula pendula</i>	silver birch
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	heather
<i>Castanea sativa</i>	sweet chestnut
<i>Chamaecyparis lawsoniana</i>	Lawson's cypress
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	dogwood
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	hazel
<i>Cotoneaster sp.</i>	cotoneaster
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	hawthorn
<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	broom
<i>Fallopia japonica</i>	Japanese knotweed
<i>Forsythia x intermedia</i>	forsythia
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	ash
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	holly
<i>Ilex sp.</i>	holly
<i>Laburnum anagyroides</i>	laburnum
<i>Ligustrum ovalifolium</i>	garden privet
<i>Malus domestica</i>	apple
<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Scots pine
<i>Prunus avium</i>	wild cherry
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	blackthorn
<i>Pyracantha coccinea</i>	firethorn
<i>Quercus robur</i>	pedunculate oak
<i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>	rhododendron
<i>Ribes sanguineum</i>	flowering currant
<i>Rosa rugosa</i>	Japanese rose
<i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i>	bramble
<i>Salix capraea</i>	goat willow
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	elder
<i>Sorbus aria agg.</i>	common whitebeam
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	rowan
<i>Syringa vulgaris</i>	lilac
<i>Tilia x europaea</i>	lime
<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	gorse
<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	guelder-rose
<i>Sorbus intermedia</i>	Swedish whitebeam

B (herb)

<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	yarrow
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	garlic mustard
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	cow parsley
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	daisy
<i>Cardamine hirsuta</i>	hairy bitter-cress
<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>	rosebay willowherb
<i>Convolvulus sp.</i>	bindweed
<i>Galium aparine</i>	cleavers
<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	cut-leaved cranesbill
<i>Geranium molle</i>	dove's-foot crane's-bill
<i>Geranium pusillum</i>	small flowered cranesbill
<i>Hedera helix</i>	ivy
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	hogweed
<i>Hieracium sp.</i>	hawkweed
<i>Hyacinthoides hispanica</i>	Spanish bluebell
<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	honeysuckle

	<i>Lunaria annua</i>	honesty
	<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	black medick
	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	ribwort plantain
	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	meadow buttercup
	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	creeping buttercup
	<i>Ribes uva-crispa</i>	gooseberry
	<i>rosa sp.</i>	rose
	<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	broad-leaved dock
	<i>Saxifraga sp.</i>	
	<i>Senecio sp.</i>	ragwort
	<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	groundsel
	<i>Sonchus arvensis</i>	perennial sow-thistle
	<i>Stachys byzantina</i>	lambs ear
	<i>Taraxacum officianale agg.</i>	dandelion
	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	red clover
	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	white clover
	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	common nettle
	<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	germander speedwell
	<i>Veronica persica</i>	common field-speedwell
	<i>Vicia sepium</i>	bush vetch
	<i>Vicia sp.</i>	vetch
	<i>Vinca minor</i>	lesser periwinkle
C (grass)		
	<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	common bent
	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	false oat grass
	<i>Bromus sterilis</i>	sterile brome
	<i>Cynosaurus cristatus</i>	Crested dogs tail
	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	cock's-foot
	<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>	tufted hair grass
	<i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i>	wavy hair-grass
	<i>Elymus repens</i>	common couch
	<i>Festuca sp.</i>	fescue
	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire fog
	<i>Holcus mollis</i>	creeping soft-grass
	<i>Hordeum murinum</i>	wall barley
	<i>Poa annua</i>	annual meadow grass
	<i>Poa trivialis</i>	rough meadow grass
E		
	<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>	male-fern
	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	bracken
F (fungi)		
	<i>Amanita fulva</i>	tawny grisette
	<i>Amanita muscaria</i>	fly agaric
	<i>Lycoperdon perlatum</i>	common puffball
G (Bryophytes)		
	<i>Rhytidiadelphus loreus</i>	
	<i>Polytrichum juniperinum</i>	

Habitats/species of nature conservation importance

UK BAP Priority Habitats

Heathland

Sheffield LBAP Priority Habitats

Heathland

Grassland

UK BAP Priority Species

Bullfinch

Sheffield LBAP Priority Species

House sparrow

Starling

UK BAP Species of Conservation Concern

Greenfinch

Blue tit

Great tit

Chiffchaff

Dunnock

Bullfinch

Wren

UK Red List Birds

Starling

House sparrow

Bullfinch

UK Amber List Birds

Dunnock

Local Red Data Book Species

Lepidoptera Grade A Species

Speckled wood

Previous Surveys

Author/ Recorder	Date	Coverage	Location
J. Fox	5/8/87	Sheffield Inner City Habitat Survey Phase1	Sheffield Wildlife Trust &Sheffield City Council Ecology Unit File # 130

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 and flaggy sandstone {Eden, 1957 #278}. The Parkgate coal seam outcrops within the site.

Archaeological survey

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

A linear earthwork (OS 28) was identified towards the south-western extent of Grimesthorpe Green Space on the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey 25" map (1905). This earthwork is labelled as the *Roman Ridge* on the revised edition Ordnance Survey 25" map (1935). The Roman Ridge is an extensive linear earthwork, defined by a bank and ditch, that runs from Pitsmoor to Mexborough [82]. Sections of the earthwork have been designated as a Scheduled Monument. Despite a series of archaeological investigations the Roman Ridge remains undated.

A series of quarries (OS 29) are shown at the eastern extent of Grimesthorpe Green Space on the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey 25" map (1905). These quarries are referred to as *Old Quarries*, suggesting that they were no longer in use. An oval mound is shown immediately to the west and is perhaps associated with former quarrying.

Historical survey

Grimesthorpe Green Space is shown as agricultural land on Harrison's map of Southall Soake (1637). The site of the green space corresponds to part of three plots of land, one of which is labelled as *Cockshutt Field*. Part of the site would appear to have been colonised by woodland during the mid nineteenth century and is labelled as *Wilkinson's Spring Wood* on the 1st edition 6" Ordnance Survey map (1855). Subsequently, this area would appear to have reverted to open grassland and a series of houses were constructed along Grimesthorpe Road (formerly *Cockshutt Lane* and *Carlisle Road*). These houses appear to have been constructed on the site of Spring Wood House. They were subsequently cleared to make way for the modern housing on Wood Spring Court. The place name elements 'spring' and 'wood' would suggest that the area of woodland shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey 6" map (1855) was coppiced.

Recommendations

Grimesthorpe Green Space is of limited archaeological or historical significance. Although two features were identified within the limits of the site, both are considered to have little interpretative potential.

Community

No community survey was carried out.