

17 Landscaped Strip on Petre Street



Introduction

What a difference a century can make. At the beginning of the last century, Petre Street only came as far as what is now Fieldhouse Way. Terraced houses along Petre Street were the norm and to the east lay fields. Now the terraced houses are gone and there are green spaces in their place, while Petre Street from Fieldhouse Way eastwards has become industrial.

Fieldhouse Way is the point where the character of Petre Street changes. Even in winter, at dusk or on a bright sunny day, the difference is remarkable.

The landscaping of Petre Street from Fieldhouse Way has created a green corridor into the city.

Site details

Site name

Landscaped strip off Petre Street

Location

Ordnance Survey Grid Reference		SK366 891
Section 1	Lyons Street to Carwood Road	SK366 891
Section 2	Carwood Road to Fieldhouse Way	SK367 891

Land owner

Sheffield City Council

Nearest road/street

Petre Street

Lyons Street

Carwood Road

Fieldhouse Way

Adjacent land use

Land use south and east of the site is industrial.

Directly across Petre Street land use is residential, however, the housing estate is set back from the main road. Between Lyons Street, Kingston Street, Canada Street and Carwood Road, there are open spaces of grassy banks and scattered trees. Between Carwood Road and Carwood Close, the open spaces are predominately shrubbery.

West of the site is the recreational ground Harlestone Playing Field with its broad-leaved woodland along Petre Street.

Size

0.525748 hectares	Lyons Street to Carwood Road
0.245967 hectares	Carwood Road to Fieldhouse Way

Present management

The grass verges along Petre Street are mowed. The amenity grassland plateau behind the belt of trees on Petre Street between Carwood Road and Fieldhouse Way is also mowed. As is usual with Sheffield City Council, grass cuttings are left on site to rot and add to the nutrients of the improved grassland.

The broad-leaved plantation of this site appears to be unmanaged (branches arch well towards pavement), as are the trees surrounding the secluded field.

The south-facing slope behind the first section of plantation woodland with its secluded field of rank grassland and scattered scrub is basically left undisturbed.

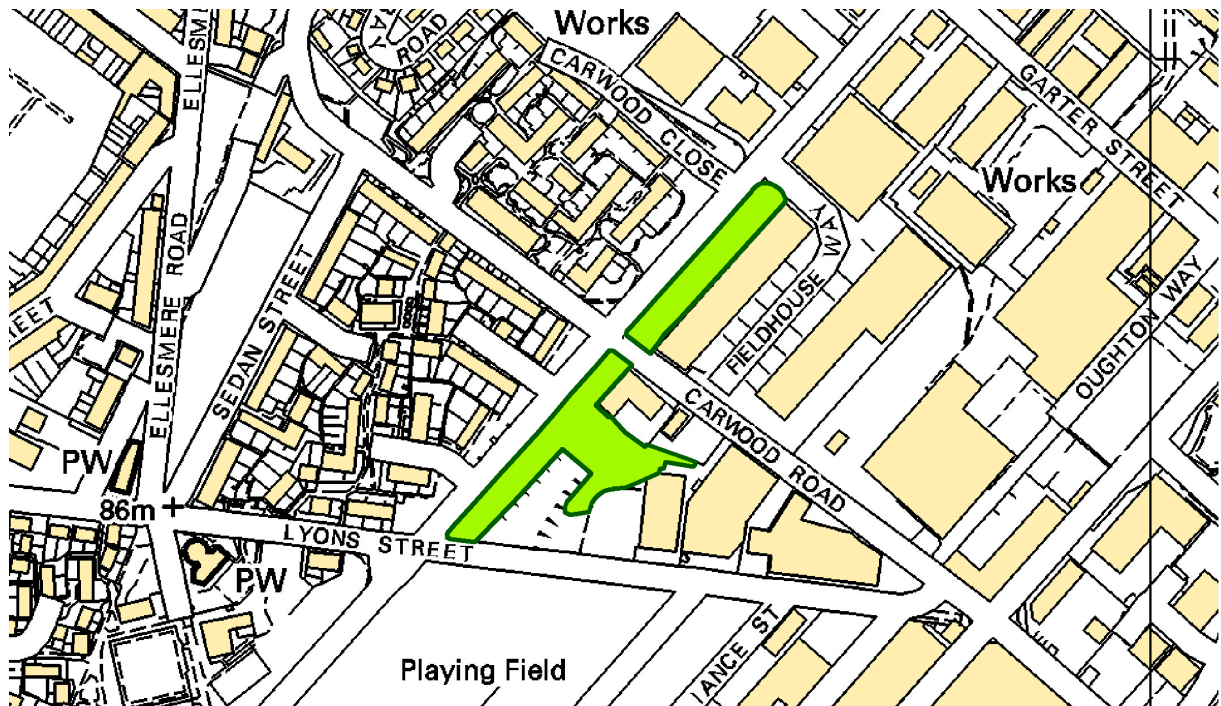
Some of the hawthorn hedgerow in the Lyons Street–Carwood Road section was pruned in early 2004. The work appeared to be confined to the beginning of the hedgerow and may have been necessary due to fire damage.

UDP designations

Fringe Industry and Business Area.

The grassy banks are listed as Open Space Areas.

Location map



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Ecology

Phase I ecological survey

Site description

On the southeast side of Petre Street between Lyons Street and Fieldhouse Way, the land slopes upward from Petre Street then levels off before sloping downwards again toward industrial properties. This strip of land has been landscaped. There is a grass verge along the pavement followed by a dense belt of broad-leaved trees planted along the embankment. Tree species include: cotoneaster, goat willow, white willow, hybrid hornbeam, hybrid black poplar, ash, silver birch and Norway maple.

In the section between Lyons Street and Carwood Road the grass verge along the pavement is narrow and of poor quality.

There is also just a narrow stretch of rank neutral grassland between the belt of trees along Petre Street and the hawthorn hedgerow which runs along the boundary fence of the industrial property. It is however possible to walk here. The route over uneven ground closes-in in places but eventually leads into a large open area of rank grassland, scattered hawthorn scrub, bramble, buddleja and tall ruderals (horseradish).

The access route via Carwood Road is much shorter and easier to negotiate than the route from Lyons Street.

Trees (ash, cherry laurel, sycamore, silver birch and sea buckthorn) and shrubs (barberry) grow along the perimeters of the field.

The ground is uneven with factory refuse scattered about and the site may have been used by one of the factories before a high security fence was installed. Fly tipping remains a problem here with most of the dumping possibly coming over the fences of adjacent businesses.

Despite its seclusion, this suntrap does not appear to be particularly attractive to wildlife other than invertebrates (*Lepidoptera*, *Hymenoptera* and *Odonata*). Birds can often be heard calling from adjacent properties and sometimes they can be seen flying between trees along the edge of the field, but they don't seem to fly into or across the field at all. A fox was seen here once during a daytime visit by the surveyor to the site to photograph fire damage.

In the section between Carwood Road and Fieldhouse Way the grass verge is quite wide. The quality of the grass sward is much higher and blackbirds often forage here. In summer, large white butterflies patrol back and forth along the grassy bank. In addition there is a level plateau approximately two metres wide of mowed amenity grassland behind the trees. Access to this area is best from Carwood Road where the slope is gentle. Access from Fieldhouse Way is difficult because the slope is quite steep. Elder, privet, Norway maples and coarse rank grasses grow on the slope leading down to the

industrial warehouse and a mature sycamore grows at the bottom of the slope. Near Carwood Road there is a small hedge of *Cotoneaster franchetii* next to the warehouse fence.

Habitats of interest

The broad-leaved plantation woodland forms part of the green corridor that exists on both sides of Petre Street. It is an excellent link between the woodlands and grasslands of Wood Hill /Smith's Field and the Harleston Street sites.

The woodland is composed of native and non-native broad-leaved trees. Native trees include ash, silver birch, and three scrub species – goat willow, elder and hawthorn. Non-native trees include white willow, Norway maple, the hornbeam cultivar 'Fastigata' - grown because of its conical shape when mature, two black poplar hybrids, and Cotoneasters.

The Cotoneasters, are one of the large shrubby species commonly planted by urban landscapers, but are difficult to name accurately without having access to the purchase invoice.

These may be *Cotoneaster bullatus*, rather than one of the evergreen species.

Some of the bushes seemed to retain more leaves than others over winter.

The secluded field with its perimeter of trees offers a good combination of habitats – semi-natural broad-leaved woodland, introduced shrubs, scattered scrub, and semi-improved neutral grassland with tall ruderals.

Sycamores growing along the southern boundary of the field are fairly mature – they predate the plantation woodland along Petre Street by several years. The goat willow along western boundary is also well established. The ashes growing along eastern perimeter, on the other hand, vary in age; some are quite young.

The cherry laurels are already massive. They are thriving. Hidden away in the southwestern corner of the field, there are several sea buckthorns clustered together. There is one *Buddleja davidii* growing near a bramble bank, which makes an attractive combination for *Lepidoptera*.

The scattered scrub is predominantly hawthorn. There is just one rose bush.

There is a small *Berberis* hedge along the southern boundary. A small *Cotoneaster horizontalis* is concealed in the tall grass of the field.

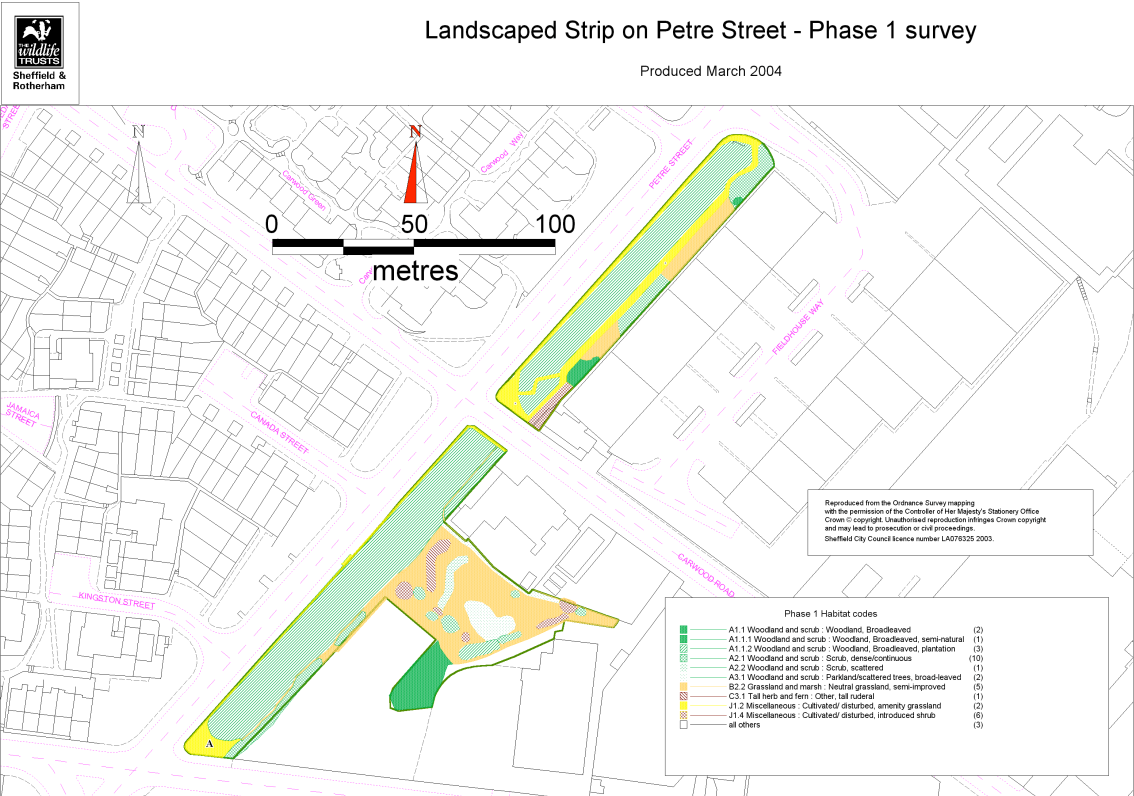
Grasslands are considered to be of high conservation value, but the semi-improved neutral grassland here is species-poor. Cocksfoot is the dominant grass species, although false oatgrass is abundant. The percentage of diseased false oatgrass found on this site was greater than that found on other Burngreave sites. Ragwort was plentiful, but surprisingly no cinnabar moth caterpillars were found on the plants. Most of the ground flora in the field was tall ruderals – creeping thistles, stinging nettles, willowherbs (rosebay and great), and five large clumps of horseradish. Pennycress was the only crucifer growing in the field.

The Lyons Street – Carwood Road section has a hawthorn hedgerow running almost the full length of its boundary with an industrial unit. In contrast, at the beginning of the Carwood Road – Fieldhouse Way section there is a short hedge composed of *Rosa rugosa* and several *Cotoneaster franchetii*.

Species of interest

There are no botanical species of high conservation value. Even the zoological species present are not considered to be of really high conservation value. Blue tits and great tits, frequently recorded visitors to the site, are not threatened species although they are listed as being Species of Conservation Concern. The distribution of speckled wood butterflies has become quite widespread in Sheffield since the early 1990s when the the Local Red Data Book was compiled. Comma butterflies in general are also doing quite well in Sheffield and Yorkshire.

Phase 1 habitat map



Invertebrates

Noted on site:

	gall on white willow
<i>Arachnid:</i>	tiny black spider
<i>Diptera:</i>	flesh fly, fly, midge, hoverfly
<i>Gastropod:</i>	snail
<i>Hemiptera</i>	green aphid, cuckoo spit of leafhopper
<i>Hymenoptera:</i>	queen buff-tailed bumblebee

Specialist Lepidoptera survey

Small skipper
Large skipper
Large white
Small white
Common blue
Painted lady
Small tortoiseshell
Comma
Speckled wood
Gatekeeper
Meadow brown
Cinnabar moth
Silver Y

Vertebrates

Bird survey

(Recorded outside of the breeding season: long-tailed tit)

SPECIES RECORDED ON AT LEAST ONE OCCASION DURING THE BREEDING SEASON	<u>POSSIBLE</u> BREEDING SPECIES ¹	<u>PROBABLE</u> BREEDING SPECIES ²	<u>CONFIRMED</u> BREEDING SPECIES ³	NUMBER OF TERRITORIES HELD BY SELECTED SPECIES
Blackbird Chiffchaff Dunnock Goldfinch Pigeon, Wood Tit, Blue Tit, Great Wren			Blackbird Tit, Blue Tit, Great	

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

Jim Bruce found a dead mouse in the field early one morning when the surveying team came looking for evidence of foxes. No foxes were seen at that time, but later in the season, a fox was seen in the field around midday.

Evaluation

The landscaped strip of plantation woodland is aesthetically attractive even if most people may walk or drive past it without giving it a second glance.

The site, as it currently is, forms part of a green corridor, linking woodlands and grasslands of Burngreave with those of Grimesthorpe.

Jim Bruce has suggested that the site could be enriched by enticing more breeding birds to nest in the trees around the open grassland area by putting up bird boxes there. However, the reason that the grassland attracts few vertebrates may be because it lacks at least one of the key elements required to be good for wildlife – water.

According to historical maps, there was a pond in the field in the past. Having a pond there again would make a tremendous difference to the wildlife potential of the site. Already the field is relatively rich in invertebrate species, especially butterflies. Having a pond would further increase the diversity of the invertebrates attracted to the area. Invertebrates form part of the food chain. Increasing invertebrate diversity may lead to an overall diversification of species on the site. For example, a pond would soon attract amphibians. A pond would provide drinking and bathing water for birds, making it more likely that they would use any bird boxes and more importantly, that their young would survive.

Protective actions:

- Regular woodland management
 - Crown lifting, prune clearing and cut back from street furniture and clear sight lines
- Grassland management plan for secluded field
 - Reduction of fertility and dominance of coarse grasses
 - Removal of some of the clumps of horseradish
 - Control scrub
- Reduce abuse (fire damage to vegetation and dumping)

Potential improvements:

- A wildlife pond
- Bird and bat boxes

Species found

A (tree or shrub)

<i>Acer campestre</i>	field maple
<i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway maple
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	sycamore
<i>Berberis x stenophylla</i>	barberry
<i>Betula pendula</i>	silver birch
<i>Buddleja davidii</i>	butterfly-bush
<i>Carpinus betulus</i> 'Fastigiata'	hornbeam hybrid
<i>Cotoneaster bullatus</i>	hollyberry cotoneaster
<i>Cotoneaster franchetii</i>	
<i>Cotoneaster horizontalis</i>	wall spray
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	hawthorn
<i>Fallopia japonica</i>	Japanese knotweed
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	ash
<i>Hedera helix</i>	ivy
<i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i>	sea buckthorn
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	wild privet
<i>Populus nigra</i> hybrid	hybrid black poplar
<i>Prunus avium</i>	wild cherry
<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>	cherry laurel
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	false acacia
<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 alba</i>	white willow
<i>Salix capraea</i>	goat 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>Ulmus glabra</i>	wych elm

B (herb)

<i>Alchemilla vulgaris</i>	lady's-mantle
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	garlic mustard
<i>Armoracia rusticana</i>	horse-radish
<i>Aster novi-belgii</i>	michaelmas daisy
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	daisy
<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	hedge bindweed
<i>Calystegia silvatica</i>	large bindweed
<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>	rosebay willowherb
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	creeping thistle
<i>Crepis capillaris</i>	smooth hawk's-beard
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	great willowherb
<i>Epilobium montanum</i>	broad-leaved willowherb
<i>Galium aparine</i>	cleavers
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	herb-robert

<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	hogweed
<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	cat's-ear
<i>Lactuca serriola</i>	prickly Lettuce
<i>Lapsana communis</i>	nipplewort
<i>Lonicera sp</i>	honeysuckle
<i>Lysimachia nummularia</i>	creeping-Jenny
<i>Narcissus</i> Division 2	daffodil cultivars
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	ribwort plantain
<i>Plantago major</i>	greater plantain
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	knotgrass
<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 sp.</i>	stonecrop
<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	common ragwort
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	smooth sow-thistle
<i>Tanacetum parthenium</i>	feverfew
<i>Taraxacum officianale</i> agg.	dandelion
<i>Thlaspi arvense</i>	field penny-cress
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	white clover
<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 sepium</i>	bush vetch

C (grass)

<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	false oat-grass
<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>Holcus mollis</i>	creeping soft-grass
<i>Hordeum murinum</i>	wall barley
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	perennial rye-grass
<i>Poa pratensis</i>	smooth meadow-grass
<i>Poa trivialis</i>	rough meadow-grass

F (Bryophyte)

<i>Brachythecium rutabulum</i>	rough-stalked feather moss
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Habitats/species of nature conservation importance

UK BAP Priority Habitats

None

Sheffield LBAP Priority Habitats

Grassland

UK BAP Priority Species

None

Sheffield LBAP Priority Species

None

UK BAP Species of Conservation Concern

Blue tit

Great tit

UK Red List Birds

None

UK Amber List Birds

None

Local Red Data Book Species

Lepidoptera Grade A Species

Comma

Speckled wood

Previous surveys

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 and flaggy sandstone.

Archaeological survey

[The brief for AES Ltd only stipulated that they research the strip between Lyons Street and Carwood Road. They did not investigate or report on the section between Carwood Road and Fieldhouse Way.]

No archaeological or historical features were identified within the Landscaped strip on Petre Street in the South Yorkshire Archaeological Service SMR, English Heritage National Monuments Record.

However, one feature was identified within the limits of the site on historic Ordnance Survey maps.

A pond (OS 43) is shown at the south-western extent of the Landscaped strip on Petre Street on the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey 25" map (1905). This pond is presumably associated with the former Brick and Tile Works that lay at the junction of Carwood Road and Lyons Street.

A further thirteen 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), a section of the Roman Ridge (SMR 4039), the Atlas and Northern Steel Works (NMR SK 38 NE 280) and a number of buildings associated with industry along the River Don.

Historical survey

The Landscaped strip on Petre Street is not shown on any of the Ordnance Survey maps consulted as part of the historical survey. The site of the strip is formerly shown as part of Booth Wood and Hall Carre Wood on Harrison's survey of Southall Soake (1637), the boundary between which is marked by Boothwood Lane (now Carwood Road). It remained largely unchanged until the construction of houses along Petre Street, first shown on the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey 25" map (1905).

Recommendations

The Landscaped strip on Petre Street is of limited archaeological or historical significance. It would appear to have been used for housing during the early to mid twentieth century. 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 Petre Street. This information may help improve understanding of local social history.

Notes by ecologists

The 1905 Ordnance Survey Map shows terraced housing on Petre Street from Lyons Street to Carwood Road to approximately the current location of Fieldhouse Way. At that time Petre Street only came as far as that. Further eastwards there were still fields.

Industry in the form of the Brick & Tile Works occupied the central portion of the Petre Street – Lyons Street – Carwood Road triangle of land. At that time there was no industrial works on the site east of Carwood Road.

The map clearly shows the embankments that exist today with the field being lower than its surroundings. The field contained a pond.

Community

No community survey was carried out.