

## 22 Osgathorpe Park/Earl Marshall



## Introduction

Osgathorpe Park is on a north facing slope, mainly consisting of amenity grassland with areas of tall grasses and dense scrub scattered throughout the site. The site is bordered by a dense belt of mature trees along the edges of the gardens to the north of the site.

Children use the playground regularly and many dog walkers use the park. The flat area at the bottom of the park is popular for football. The steep slopes of the park are unsuitable for ball games.

Houses and gardens border most of the site. To the east of the park is Osgathorpe Wood, Site # 23, a small broadleaved woodland.

A range of birds visit the site. Twelve species have territories in the park but most of the birds that forage and visit in the park are nesting in either the gardens or the woodland adjoining it. The greater spotted woodpecker is a prime example of the importance of the close proximity of the sites in Burngreave to each other as it nests in Osgathorpe Park Wood but is seen and heard in the park.

## Site details

### Site name

Osgathorpe Park, also known as Earl Marshall

### Location

The site is situated at Grid Reference SK 367 898. Whiteways School grounds are adjacent to the park, and it is hoped that there will be a lockable gate providing access to the good-quality cricket grounds to arranged groups. The park is close to Crabtree Ponds and Osgathorpe Park Wood and to the south lies Grimesthorpe Allotments

### Land owner

Sheffield City Council owns the site.

### Nearest road/street

Osgathorpe Road runs along the west side of the park. Osgathorpe Drive and Whiteways Road are nearest the school grounds.

### Adjacent land use

Houses and gardens border most of the site, except for Whiteways School and Grimesthorpe Allotments to the south. To the east of the park is Osgathorpe Wood, a small broadleaved woodland.

## Size

Osgathorpe Park has an area of 4.29401 hectares

## Present management

Sheffield City Council manages the park. The grass is mown regularly, every 4-6 weeks.

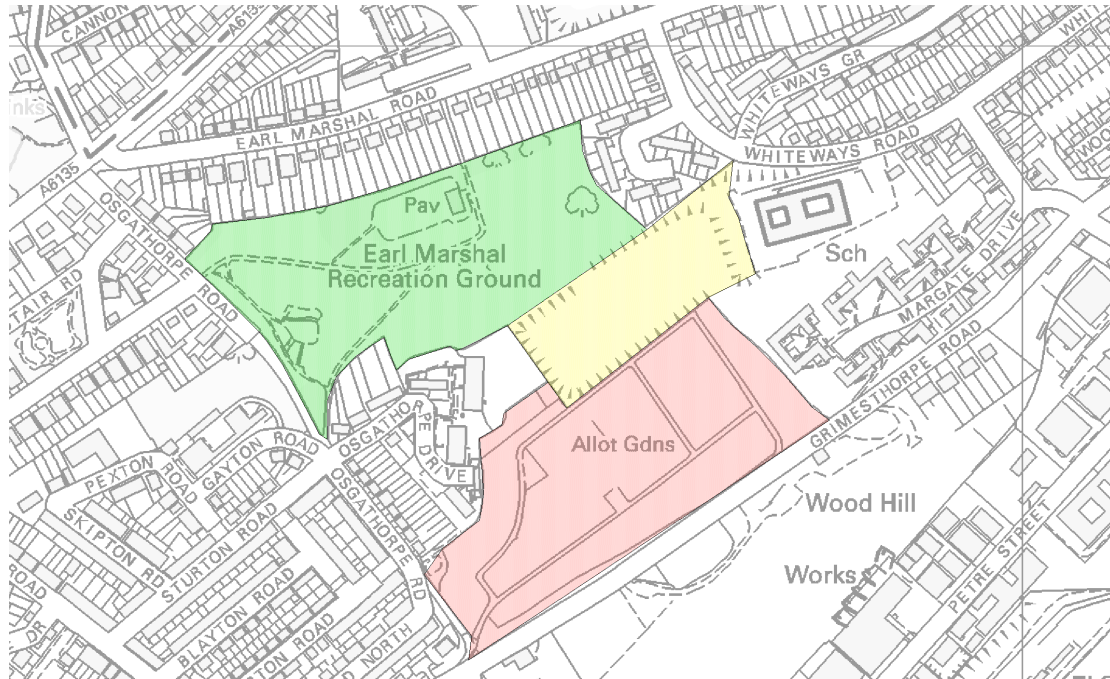
Burngreave Rangers are carrying out a litter pick and clearing broken glass and discarded food from the site. Plans are apparently being made for the site.

Burngreave Community Forestry Programme, Burngreave Rangers and Tinsley Tree Project have been working together to plant a woodland area around Whiteways School playing field.

## UDP designations

The site was designated as an Open Space Area (leisure and recreation) in the 1998 edition of the Unitary Development Plan.

## Location map



Osgathorpe Park is shaded green. Whiteways school grounds are shaded yellow and the allotments are shaded red.

# Ecology

## Phase I ecological survey

### Site description

The site is accessed through Osgathorpe Road. Most of the park is amenity grass on a steep slope. On the southeast side of the park are numerous small, flat landscaped areas' that appear to be the remnants of a 'pitch and putt golf course'. There are old established hedge/tree lines bordering the gardens at the highest point of the park. There are mature trees and shrubs planted throughout the park in small groups. There are at least 6 bird nests visible around the site; many of the trees are covered in ivy, this is good for invertebrates.

The park has unrestricted access. There are 3 paved entrances:

- Southern entrance with a vehicle barrier
- Northwest entrance-with a vehicle barrier and a refuse bin just inside the park
- The Northern entrance is pedestrian

On the high southeast corner of the site is a desire line/ right of way that goes between two fences out to the school. Children use the playground and a lot of dog walkers use the park. The flat area at the bottom of the park is popular for football. The steep slopes of the park are unsuitable for ball games. The western and northern edges of the park are bordered with dense trees and shrubs.

On the western edge many of the trees are cultivars, i.e. Rosa rugosa, Oregon grape, berberis and senecio; these are alongside cotoneaster mixed with oak, elder, raspberry, dogwood, cherry and oak, crab apple, feverfew, buttercups and a recently planted fruit tree.

The northern edge is a mixture of planted shrubs, mature garden escapes and self sown trees: from west to east there are bay laurels, cherries, birch, leylandii, berberis, whitebeam and rowan. These give way to self-sown oak, ivy, ash and poplar. There is an area of poor drainage here at the bottom of the slope where the ground is very damp but there are no wetland indicators. At the edge of the surfaced play area there are black poplar hybrids, honesty and daffodils. Behind the surfaced recreation area are holly, lime, docks, bindweed, alder, poplar, leylandii, feverfew, willow, oaks and elder, Rosa rugosa and docks. There is a problem with old tyres and dog faeces here although there are no dog mess bins on the site. On the other side of the path from the community centre is a large patch of planted daffodils, around these are white poplars, a weeping willow and raspberries, and there are brambles in the corner.

Along the eastern edge of the site are scattered trees among rough grassland with tussocks of cocksfoot. There are numerous standing dead rowan's around the site, here they have signs of woodworm; these will provide an excellent habitat for invertebrates.

The southern edge of the site borders Whiteways School playing fields with a tall metal fence in between. Along this edge young trees have been planted. Beyond the western end of the fence are sycamore, sorbus, ash, sorrel, flowering ivy, elder, bramble, cow parsley, hawthorn, herb Robert, creeping buttercup, cleavers, plantain and cocksfoot. Here the site borders gardens and there is an area of tall, rank grassland with brambles on a flat 'putting area'.

Near the border with private gardens are the path and a bench; the path starts at the southwest corner and splits in two, the path that passes the bench goes to the east of the community centre and exits the site.

The other path from the southwest corner, (south to north), goes past the shrubs, past the playground and joins another path coming in from near the northwest corner. The path from the northwest entrance goes west to east and branches off towards the surfaced recreation area, the main path joins the first path, southwest to northeast.

From the tall grassland area to the south entrance is a border of mature trees and a remnant of an old hawthorn hedge.

In the southwest corner of the site, west of the path, is an area of low fertility soil with planted Spanish bluebells, below this is a lot of cow parsley with flowering currant and nettles on the western edge.

On the eastern side of the path, (south entrance to northwest), there is the playground- this is very popular, but small, and is surrounded by steep banks of amenity grassland.

Bordering the path that enters from the northwest is an avenue of newly planted trees; these are sweet gum a variety of plane.

On the eastern side of the park there are numerous copse's of mature trees, two of these contain dead standing rowan species with woodworm and a variety of fungi thinly spread over the trunk.

There is an area that has been planted with saplings, (Feb/March '03); this stretches from south of the path near the gardens edge to the high southeast corner.

Below the tree planting is an area of acid grassland.

## Habitats of interest

There is a small area of acid grassland that contains sheep sorrel and cat's ear; these are typical indicator species for this habitat. This needs to be protected from tree encroachment, tree planting has taken place at the edge of the acid grassland care must be taken if any future planting is taking place it is steered away from this sensitive area.

There are areas of tall neutral grasses along some of the northern borders of the park and in the southern edge under the white poplars. These provide a welcome change to the dominant mown amenity grassland in the park.

The dense areas of trees and shrubs that border the park are important for providing food and shelter for birds and invertebrates. The small stands of rowan, broom etc. in the park also break up the large site, making it more attractive to people and wildlife. The gardens around the park are important as they provide cover for birds who forage in the park.

The school playing field has recently had some trees planted on it; this will provide an interesting habitat as it grows.

### Species of interest

Grade A Local Red Data Book Species: Butterfly; speckled Wood, holly blue.

UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority species: Birds; linnet, song thrush.

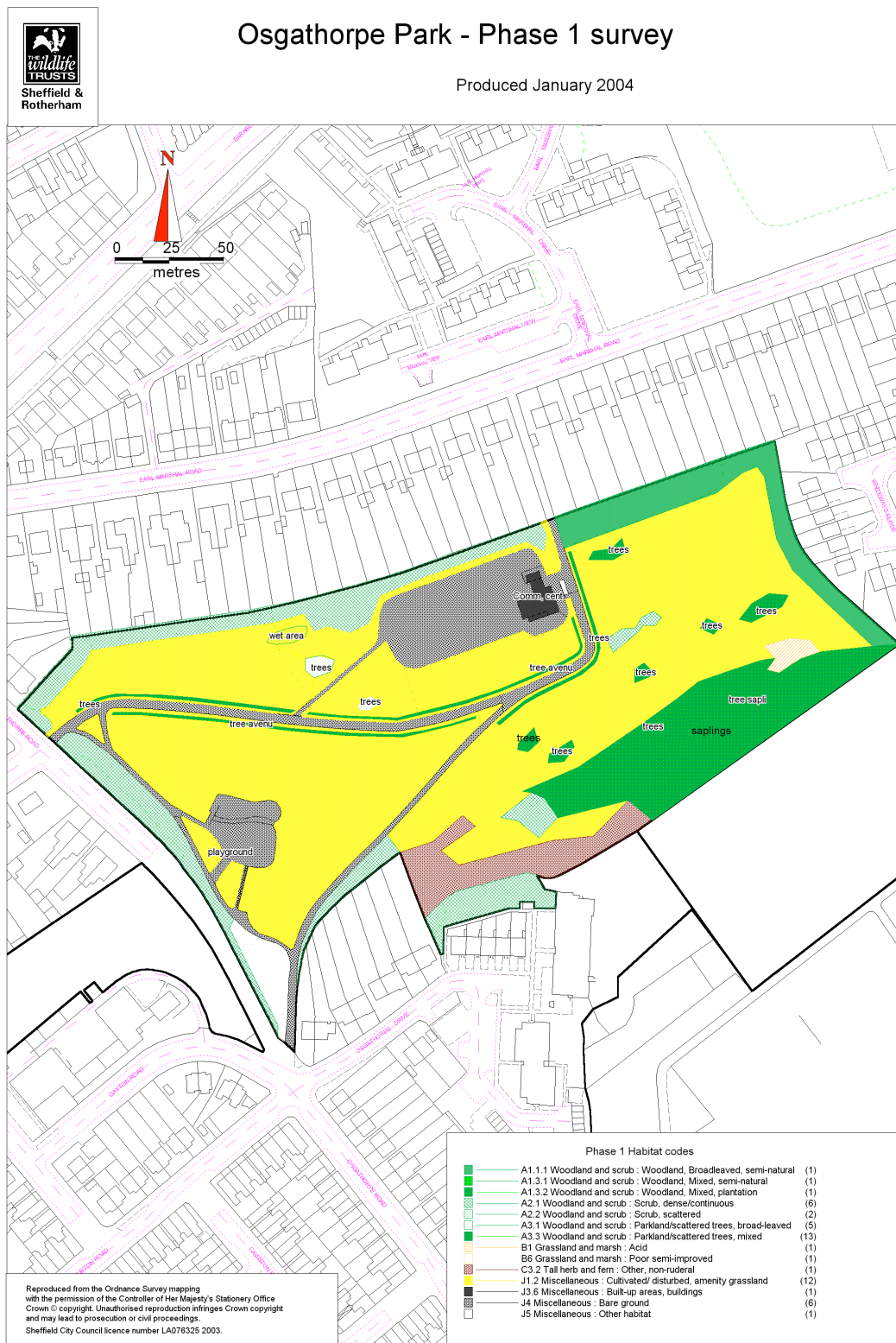
Local Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Species: Birds; linnet, house sparrow, starling and song thrush.

UK Species of Conservation Concern: Birds; goldfinch, greenfinch, great spotted woodpecker, blue tit, great tit, chiffchaff, dunnock, blackcap, whitethroat, wren

UK Red List: house sparrow



## Phase 1 Habitat map (Osgathorpe Park)





## 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 found include:

Butterflies: Small tortoiseshell, Orange-tip, Holly blue, Speckled wood, Small white, Red admiral, Comma.

Moths: Adelpha

## Vertebrate Survey

Rats are a major problem in the park due to food being left out; there has been a campaign to educate and inform local people about the dangers of rats and disease but what appears to be restaurant waste is still being dumped regularly on the site. There were no other mammals recorded on site although a vertebrate survey is recommended.

## Bird Survey

SPECIES RECORDED ON AT LEAST ONE OCCASION DURING THE BREEDING SEASON	<u>POSSIBLE BREEDING SPECIES</u> <sup>1</sup>	<u>PROBABLE BREEDING SPECIES</u> <sup>2</sup>	<u>CONFIRMED BREEDING SPECIES</u> <sup>3</sup>	NUMBER OF TERRITORIES HELD BY SELECTED SPECIES
Blackbird			Blackbird	Blackbird <b>4-5</b>
Blackcap <sup>5</sup>		Blackcap <sup>5</sup>		
Chiffchaff <sup>5</sup>			Chiffchaff <sup>5</sup>	Chiffchaff <sup>5</sup> <b>1</b>
Carrion Crow				
Collared Dove			Collared Dove	Collared Dove <b>4</b>
Dunnock <sup>5</sup>			Dunnock <sup>5</sup>	Dunnock <sup>5</sup> <b>3+</b>
Goldfinch <sup>5</sup>				
Greenfinch <sup>5</sup>		Greenfinch <sup>5</sup>		
Linnet <sup>4</sup>			Linnet <sup>4</sup>	Linnet <sup>4</sup> <b>2</b>
Magpie			Magpie	Magpie <b>6</b>
Pigeon, Wood		Pigeon, Wood		
Robin		Robin		

Sparrow, House	Sparrow, House			
Starling	Starling			
Thrush, Mistle			Thrush, Mistle	Thrush, Mistle <b>2 or 3</b>
Thrush, Song <sup>4</sup>			Thrush, Song <sup>4</sup>	Thrush, Song <sup>4</sup> <b>1</b>
Tit, Blue <sup>5</sup>			Tit, Blue <sup>5</sup>	Tit, Blue <sup>5</sup> <b>1</b>
Tit, Great <sup>5</sup>			Tit, Great <sup>5</sup>	Tit, Great <sup>5</sup> <b>2</b>
Tit, long-tailed			Tit, long-tailed	Tit, long-tailed <b>1</b>
Whitethroat <sup>5</sup>				
Woodpecker, GS <sup>5</sup>		Woodpecker, GS <sup>5</sup>		
Wren <sup>5</sup>			Wren <sup>5</sup>	Wren <sup>5</sup> <b>4</b>

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.

4 Priority species in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.

5 Species of Conservation Concern in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.

As is evident from the above table there is a range of birds visiting the site, twelve of these have territories in the park but most of the birds that forage and visit in the park are nesting in either the gardens or the woodland adjoining it. The greater spotted woodpecker is a prime example of the importance of the close proximity of the sites in Burngreave to each other as it nests in Osgathorpe Park Wood but is seen and heard in the park.

## Evaluation

Although mainly amenity grassland the park contains a range of habitats including a small area of acid grassland, tall ruderal grasses, scrub and mature trees.

The area of acid grassland should be protected if possible; it is now inside the area of saplings.

There is a range of birds that use the park and it is clear that there are a number of local people who appreciate this. Apart from nesting there are a variety of plants that provide food and shelter for birdlife.

The area of recently planted trees will add to the wildlife value of the park as they mature to provide more food and cover for the bird population.

The park is well used by a range of local people for a range of different activities. More benches, bins and dog bins would encourage more people and better care of the park. There are flat rectangular areas in the park that would be ideal for benches or some form of seating.

There is an issue with litter being dumped into the scrub behind the playground; this needs to be cleared up.

The main problem in the park at present is the dumping of food waste; this is done regularly in the park and is encouraging rats, many local people are annoyed about this but the individual(s) dumping it have been doing it for months. The problem of dumping food waste on open spaces is a Burngreave area issue as it is common on several sites.

Food waste needs to be cleared immediately, which would prove costly, or the person(s) responsible need to be stopped.

Standing or fallen deadwood should be left, if possible, to increase the biodiversity of the site and provide a food source for invertebrates and woodpeckers.

Apart from nesting there are a variety of plants that provide food and shelter for birdlife.

The areas of un-mown grasses along the southern edges should be maintained as they are.

Bird and bat boxes should be installed on all 3 parts of the site to increase biodiversity.

A monitoring programme should be set up to monitor the area of acid grassland using fixed point photography and a Global Positioning System, if available.

## Species found

(List covers both 12 Grimesthorpe Allotments and 22 Osgathorpe Park/Earl Marshall)

### A (tree or shrub)

<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	sycamore
<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	horse-chestnut
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	alder
<i>Alnus incana</i>	grey alder
<i>Berberis sp</i>	barberry
<i>Berberis thunbergii</i>	
<i>Betula pendula</i>	silver birch
<i>Betula sp.</i>	birch
<i>Castanea sativa</i>	sweet chestnut
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	dogwood
<i>Cotoneaster sp.</i>	cotoneaster
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	hawthorn
<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	broom
<i>Fagus sylvatica var. purpurea</i>	copper beech
<i>Forsythia x intermedia</i>	forsythia
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	ash
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	holly
<i>Ilex cultivar</i>	variegated holly
<i>Laburnum anagyroides</i>	laburnum
<i>Ligustrum ovalifolium</i>	garden privet
<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	sweet gum
<i>Malus sp</i>	apple
<i>Malus sylvestris</i>	crab apple
<i>Malus x purpurea</i>	purple crab
<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Scots pine
<i>Platanus x hispanica</i>	London plane
<i>Populus alba</i>	white poplar
<i>Populus nigra</i>	lombardy poplar
<i>Populus trichocarpa</i>	western balsam poplar
<i>Prunus 'Kanzan'</i>	
<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>	cherry laural
<i>Prunus padus</i>	bird cherry
<i>Prunus sp.</i>	cherry
<i>Quercus sp.</i>	oak
<i>Ribes sanguineum</i>	flowering currant
<i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i>	bramble
<i>Rubus idaeus</i>	raspberry
<i>Salix x sepulcralis</i>	weeping willow
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	elder
<i>Sorbus aria agg.</i>	common whitebeam
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	rowan
<i>Sorbus intermedia agg</i>	Swedish whitebeam
<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	snowberry
<i>Tilia sp.</i>	lime sp.
<i>Tilia x vulgaris</i>	lime
<i>Ulmus glabra</i>	wych elm

### B (herb)

<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	cow parsley
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	daisy

<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	shepherd's-purse
<i>Cardamine flexuosa</i>	wavy bitter-cress
<i>Cardamine hirsuta</i>	hairy bitter-cress
<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>	rosebay willowherb
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	creeping thistle
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	field bindweed
<i>Crocus</i> sp.	cultivated crocus
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	great willowherb
<i>Fragaria ananassa</i>	strawberry
<i>Galium aparine</i>	cleavers
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	herb-robert
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	wood avens
<i>Hedera helix</i>	ivy
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	hogweed
<i>Hyacinthoides hispanica</i>	Spanish bluebell
<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	cat's-ear
<i>Lamium purpureum</i>	red dead-nettle
<i>Linaria purpurea</i>	purple toadflax
<i>Lunaria annua</i>	honesty
<i>Mahonia aquifolium</i>	oregon-grape
<i>Matricaria matricarioides</i>	pinappleweed
<i>Myosotis sylvatica</i>	wood forget-me-not
<i>Myostis</i> sp.	forget-me-not
<i>Narcissus pseudonarcissus</i>	cultivated daffodil
<i>Plantago major</i>	greater plantain
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	creeping buttercup
<i>Ribes uva-crispa</i>	gooseberry
<i>rosa</i> sp.	rose
<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	sheeps sorrel
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	broad-leaved dock
<i>Rumex</i> sp.	dock
<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	common ragwort
<i>Sisymbrium officianale</i>	hedge mustard
<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	bittersweet
<i>Sonchus arvensis</i>	perennial sow-thistle
<i>Stellaria media</i>	common chickweed
<i>Tanacetum parthenium</i>	feverfew
<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>Urtica dioica</i>	common nettle
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	germander speedwell
<i>Veronica persica</i>	common field-speedwell
<i>Viola</i> sp.	violet
C (grass)	
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	common bent
<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>	meadow foxtail
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	sweet vernal-grass
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	false oat-grass
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	cock's-foot
<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>Phleum pratense</i>	timothy
<i>Poa annua</i>	annual meadow-grass
<i>Poa trivialis</i>	rough meadow-grass

*Poa pratensis*

smooth meadow grass

## Habitats/species of nature conservation importance

### UK BAP Priority Habitats

None

### Sheffield LBAP Priority Habitats

None

### UK BAP Priority Species

Linnet                      At least 2 territories held

Song thrush              At least 1 territory held

### Sheffield LBAP Priority Species

None

### UK BAP Species of Conservation Concern

Goldfinch

Greenfinch

Great spotted woodpecker

Blue tit-At least 1 territory held

Great tit-At least 2 territories held

Chiffchaff-At least 1 territory held

Dunnock-At least 3 territories held

Blackcap

Common whitethroat

Wren-At least 4 territories held

### UK Red List Birds

House sparrow

## UK Amber List Birds

Dunnoch

Mistle thrush

## Local Red Data Book Species

Lepidoptera Grade A Species

Comma

Holly blue

Speckled wood

## Previous Surveys

Author/Recorder	Date	Coverage	Location
J.Fox	5/8/87	Sheffield Inner City Phase 1 Habitat Survey –Brief Assessmant	Sheffield Wildlife Trust & Sheffield City Council Ecology Unit- File 137



## History and Geology

### Geological survey

The site is underlain by sedimentary rocks from the Lower Coal Measures series, this was deposited during the Upper Carboniferous period. The park is situated on a band of shale that separates Grenoside sandstone from Penistone Flags. There are no outcrops on the site.

### Archaeological survey

One archaeological feature was identified within Earl Marshal Recreation Ground/Osgathorpe Park in the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service SMR and the English Heritage NMR. Four additional features were identified within the limits of the site on historic Ordnance Survey maps. A further two features were identified from archive records within the immediate vicinity (i.e. 500m) of the site. These included a Roman coin hoard (SMR 888).

Part of the Roman Ridge (SMR 4039) was identified towards the southern extent of Compartment C. A 230 yard section of this earthwork was unearthed during the widening of Grimesthorpe Road in 1948 [21, 22]. The Roman Ridge is an extensive linear earthwork defined by a bank and ditch that runs from Pitsmoor to Mexborough. The line of the earthwork runs to the south of Wincobank Hillfort where it can still be seen today. Sections of the earthwork have been designated as a Scheduled Monument. Despite a series of archaeological investigations the Roman Ridge remains undated.

A large pond (OS 3) is shown on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey 6" map (1855) towards the northern extent of Compartment A. This pond lay on a former field boundary and was presumably used as a source of water for cattle. It was later incorporated into the allotments on Earl Marshal Road (OS 4) before being back filled during the creation of Osgathorpe Park. The Earl Marshal Road allotments were first shown on the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey 6" map (1905). Nearly two-thirds of these allotments were discontinued in the late 1960s when Earl Marshal Recreation Ground and Osgathorpe Park were created. The remaining plots still survive in Compartment C.

Two former buildings (OS 5 and OS 6) thought to be associated with Osgathorpe House or Osgathorpe Cottage were identified on historic Ordnance Survey maps. An outbuilding (OS 5) was identified to the east of Osgathorpe Cottage in Compartment C. This building was first shown on the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map (1905) and would appear to have been destroyed prior to the creation of the allotments on Earl Marshal Road. A second building labelled as a Lodge was identified at the western extent of Compartment C on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey 6" map (1855). This building is no longer visible but was presumably associated with Osgathorpe House, immediately to the west.

## Historical survey

Earl Marshal Recreation Ground and Osgathorpe Park were created between 1968 and 1969 with monies derived from the sale of Carlisle Street Recreation Ground (Site 25) for industrial use [19]. Recreational facilities, including a 9-hole golf course, were created on part of the site of the allotments on Earl Marshal Road. Fifty one out of the ninety nine allotments on Earl Marshal Road were discontinued by the Parks Committee due to a fall in demand [20], the remainder still survive today. The allotments were first shown on the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey 6" map (1923). The site of allotments is previously shown as agricultural land and corresponds to a series of plots, two of which are labelled *Marle* and *Heeley Fields*, on Harrison's map of Southall Soake (1637). It seems to have remained largely unchanged until the time of the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey 6" map, after which a series of features associated with Osgathorpe House and Cottage appear.

## Recommendations

One feature of archaeological or historical significance was identified within Earl Marshal Recreation Ground/Osgathorpe Park. This site, a section of the Roman Ridge, has been largely destroyed by the widening of Grimesthorpe Road and thus has limited interpretative potential. Although reinstatement of the pond may be considered (as recommended for Abbeyfield Park), it predates both the park/recreation ground and the earlier allotments and is therefore not contemporary with the remainder of the site.

## Community

Osgathorpe park is both spacious and well used and received a good level of response to the community questionnaire. Visitors are attracted to its open views, trees, playground and grassy spaces. Its location and close distance to many homes makes it a popular and heavily utilised park. Respondents of the interviews gave descriptive details of their likes but also their worries and concerns that centre around the general safety of the playground and the whole park.

## User Survey Results

The user survey showed that the most popular activities taking place on the site were walking, dog walking and visiting the playground. Other activities included playing, sitting, running, kite flying, skating, playing basketball, playing on scooters and riding quad bikes. Monday was the most popular day with the daily AM surveys showing the majority of visitors being adults and children. The MD surveys show adults again with an increase of teenage visitors. The PM survey shows greatest numbers again of adults and children. There were low numbers of elderly, teenage and infant visitors

## Site Problems

### Safety

There is a general feeling of being unsafe in the park.

The area is dark and unlit at night and intimidating due to the groups of people that use the park.

During the day parent's worry for the general safety of children in the playground having accidents or getting hurt.

### Drug and solvent abuse

The sports wall and pavilion at the centre of the park is discreet has no lighting and is a prime location used by both drug users and dealers.

### Dogs

There are concerns over the number of stray dogs and dogs off their leads roaming around the park.

There is also a problem with dog mess as there are no dog bins on sight and owners are not clearing up after their dogs.

### Litter and vermin

People leave food and food wrappings in the park and it is attracting rats.

People who are feeding wild birds are essentially feeding the rats.

The bins are small and few and are constantly overflowing.

There is concern over the amount of broken glass that gets left in the playground

## Facilities

People are unhappy with the quality and quantity of the play equipment.

It is old and dirty without enough soft surfaces and very little provision for toddlers and small children.

The playground is unfenced and open for dogs to wander in and out of.

There is not enough satisfactory seating in the park, particularly in the playground.

The sports wall is badly affected by vandalism, graffiti and broken glass and it is dangerous to play on.

The floodlights surrounding the sports wall are all broken.

There is little shelter from the sun or rain on the site.

## Landscape and access

The gates at the Abbeyfield Road entrance have gaps big enough to allow motorbikes and quad bikes on site and yet parents with pushchairs struggle.

The surrounding bushes are overgrown and are prone to rubbish dumping and litter.

## Site Solutions

- Cut back and maintain all areas prone to overgrowth.
- Clear shrub areas of litter regularly.
- Clear broken glass from the site regularly.
- Remove the sports wall and replace with an open sports court.
- Install lighting either floodlights or street lights along the footpath
- Update and extend the existing play equipment including more toddler play equipment and soft surfaces.
- Install a fence with gates around the perimeter of the playground to keep dogs out.
- Install and maintain litter and dog bins around the site
- Install and maintain sustainable well-spaced seating around the park.
- Change the design of the gate entrance to stop motorbike and quad access but still allow for pushchairs.
- Ask people not to feed the birds; explain the problems it causes.

## Community Suggestions

From the options provided within the questionnaire the most popular suggestions to improve Osgathorpe park were;

- Toddlers play equipment
- More events and activities
- More places to sit down
- More city council rangers
- Litter control

Community suggestions for changes to improve the site focused on improving the play facilities, the safety of the site and its appearance. The most popular responses were to;

- Improve the baskets ball court
- Improve the play equipment
- Cut back overgrown areas
- More dog bins
- Create a dog free area
- Fence off the playground
- More litter bins
- More events
- More space
- More play equipment
- New play equipment
- Install lighting
- Stop motorbikes and quad access
- Stop food being left around
- A site warden
- More youth clubs

Question 7 provided an insight as to what people would ideally like to be able to do at Osgathorpe park. The response mostly featured the creation of new and improved facilities. The following suggestions were made.

### Sit under a sun / rain shelter

Osgathorpe park playground is very exposed with no sheltered offered from trees or buildings. A seating area that would provide shade from the sun on hot days and rain.

### Visit a café

A place to buy dinks from in the summer months, it could be part of the youth club.

### Attend more events and activities

More smaller festivals and day-long activities on the site.

### Picnic area

It should be near the playground for the children, offer some shade and have litter bins nearby to leave rubbish.

### Install a drinking fountain

A simple water pipe was suggested by both parents and dog walkers to offer somewhere to wash grazed knees and give dogs a drink.

### Stay longer

People want the basic facilities and to feel comfortable to stay longer in the park.

### Toilets on site

The number of parents visiting the park greatly feel there is a demand for toilet and baby change facilities.

### Play on a marked football pitch

A football pitch or court with full markings and goal posts.

### Sit and play on clean grass

A lot of people expressed their desire to sit and play on the grassy areas of Osgathorpe park without sitting, standing or falling in dog mess.

### Cricket pitch

Create and maintain a 'wicket' on a grassy space of the park.

### Boxing lessons at the youth club

Training and coaching lessons held at the youth club.

## A graffiti wall & workshops

Create an area just to have graffiti workshops to display work.

## Circus training school

Circus skills as an event on the open grassy spaces of Osgathorpe Park.

## A paddling pool

A small shallow paddling pool, maintained by a warden and used only in the summer holidays.

## Mini golf course

Create small putting greens and other small golf course features on the site.

## Skate park

Create a skate park with jumps and ramps in place of the sports wall.

## Footfall survey

### Summary of the total number of visitors per week

	Elderly	Adult	Teenager	Child	Baby	Total
Day 1	5	16	6	1	1	33
Day 2	8	6	0	0	0	18
Day 3	4	20	3	2	2	38
Day 4	2	7	14	0	0	25
Total	19	49	23	3	3	114

## Conclusions

- The highest percentage of visitors were adults
- Despite having a playground the number of child and baby visitors was very low
- Being a spacious park a higher number of visitors might be expected, however in this study period, the park was not used intensively.
- The highest number of teenage visitors was at the weekend.
- A wide range of activities take place in the park, perhaps due to the space.



## Observed uses

The most popular use of the park was dog walking followed by play ground and walking. However other observed uses included the following;

- Skating
- Basketball
- Scooter
- Sitting
- Kite flying
- Quad biking
- Running
- Reading
- Playing
- Walking through.

## Suggestions from the BGEP Roadshow

Comments/ Suggestions	Number
6-12 adventure playground	2
Access only	1
Basketball area	1
Basketball hoop	1
Bike locks	1
Car dumping/ burning	1
Clean up	3
Community café	3
Community composting	2
Community events area	1
Community garden	3
Community Notice Board	1
Cricket	1

Cycle lanes	1
Disabled access	1
Do it up	2
Dog bins	1
Dog free zone	2
Dog walking area	1
Driving lessons for kids	1
English classes	1
Flowering shrubs	2
Football pitch	1
Goal posts	1
Improve pavements	1
Information board	1
Keep fit class	3
Kids roundabout	1
Landscaped park area	1
Litter bins	1
Metal posts	1
More activities	1
Muck about area	2
Multicultural dancing classes	1
Multicultural parties	1
Nest boxes	1
Netball pitch	1
No dogs	1
Nurseries	1
Paved area with seats and shrubs	1
Picnic area	5

Plant hawthorn hedge	1
Play park	1
Problem: drug dealing	1
Problem: Car dumping/ burning	1
Railings	1
Recycling facility	2
Remove shrubs	1
Remove trees	1
Seaside trips	2
Sensory garden	1
Slimming classes	1
Small pond	1
Sports complex	2
Street lighting	2
Swimming classes	1
Swimming pool	2
Tennis courts	1
Thin trees	1
Traffic calming	1
Trim back shrubs	2
Youth Club	2

## Suggestions from the aerial map

