

## 25 Woodside/Pitsmoor Road Open Space



## Introduction

Pitsmoor Road Open Space, (Woodside), is a large site consisting of a variety of habitats including woodland, scrub, amenity grassland, parkland with scattered trees, introduced shrubs and neutral grassland. The site also contains dead wood and standing dead trees that are ideal for invertebrates and mosses.

The site contains a large amount of amenity grassland that is used for playing football and informal play; this holds potential for community use although the site is on the edge of Burngreave and does not attract a large number of visitors. The site is popular with dog walkers and there are dog bins on site.

## Site details

### Site name

The site is known as Woodside on the maps, although it is also known as Pitsmoor Road Open Space; this alternative is more appropriate as there is an area of Parkwood Springs and a nearby estate known as Woodside.

### Location

The site is located at Grid Reference: SK 353 886. The site is close to Parkwood Springs, one of the largest open sites in the district.

### Land owner

Sheffield City Council

### Nearest road/street

Pitsmoor Road runs along the eastern edge of the site.

### Adjacent land use

To the east of the site on the other side of Pitsmoor Road are disused, abandoned flats. These are in the process of being demolished. To the south of the site is a seldom-used path that is very overgrown, behind this is the railway line. To the west of the site are factory units and a busy main road. To the north of the site is a small road, Wood Fold, this has houses, gardens and factory units along it.

## Size

The site covers an area of 5.50906 hectares.

## Present management

The grass is mown regularly, apart from the area of un-mown grassland next to the road.

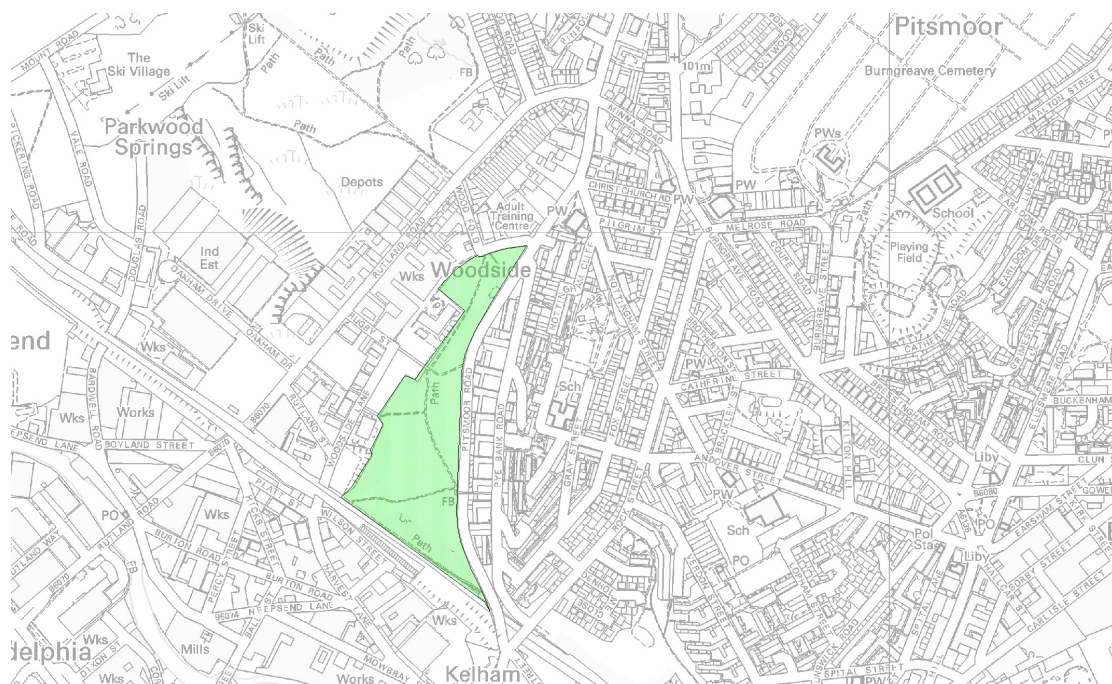
Burngreave Community Forestry Programme have cut back the trees to open up the path from the railway bridge.

The Community Forestry team are also currently exploring the possibility of expanding the woodland areas as well as possibly setting up a community orchard

## UDP designations

Open Space Area, (Leisure and Recreation). A Proposed Strategic Cycle/ Footpath, (Transport), is planned for the southern edge of Woodside alongside the railway line.

## 2.9 Location map



# Ecology

## Phase I ecological survey

### Site description

Woodside, (Pitsmoor Road Open Space), is a large site with a variety of habitats. The site is bordered by a dense woodland strip of mainly native trees alongside the railway line. There are belts of mature trees through the site, mainly along its edges. There are avenues of trees along part of the main path. Most of the site is close mown amenity grassland although there is an area bordering Pitsmoor Road that consists of tall grasses and herbs. The stands of shrubs and trees that border Pitsmoor Road contain a lot of cultivars such as Rhus, cotoneaster and roses mixed with native species.

There are paths and dog bins throughout the site, there are no benches or bins.

### Habitats of interest

There are a few places on the site where dead trees have been left standing; this is a very important habitat for species that feed upon them e.g. woodpeckers and invertebrates.

The area of tall neutral grassland provides a good food sources for invertebrates, particularly butterflies and shelter for small mammals.

The strip of woodland is an interesting mix of native and introduced trees and shrubs – there is a lot of western balsam poplar. Foxes and rabbits use the railway bridge at the end of this path to cross to Parkwood Springs, both are common on this site.

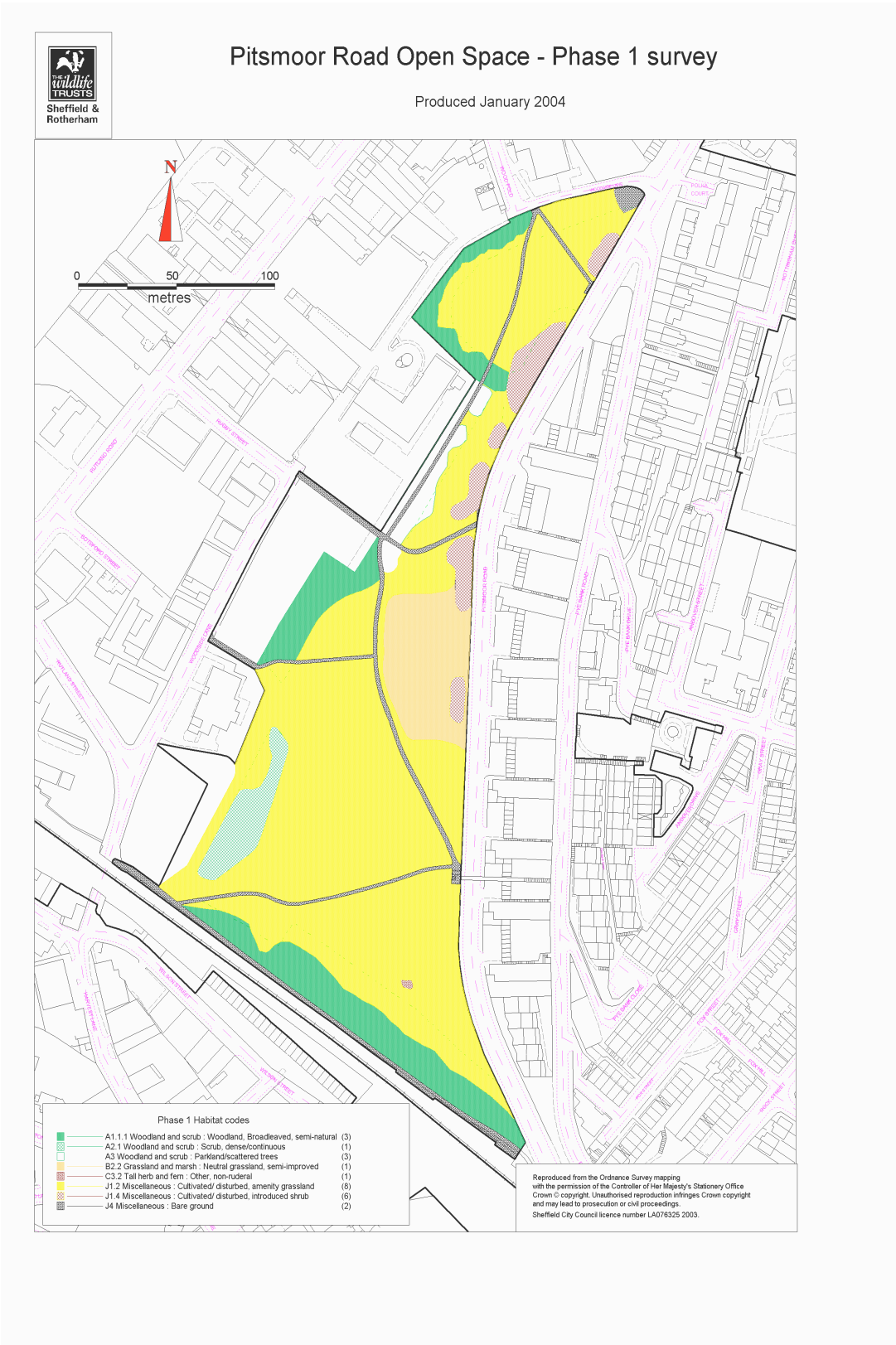
The dense, small stands of trees and shrubs that are planted near the edge of the road are good for birds; apart from providing shelter a lot of the shrubs such as cotoneaster and barberry provide berries for birds.

### Species of interest

Amongst the newly hatched young birds on site is mistle thrush- this is listed under the UK Amber List of Bird Species; these birds are listed as having an “unfavourable conservation status in Europe”.



Phase 1 habitat 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 full invertebrate survey is recommended in the future.

Butterflies observed on site include skippers, large white, small white, orange tip and painted ladies.

Other invertebrates observed were orange-tailed bumblebee.

## Vertebrate Survey

### Mammals

Fox

Rabbit

Rat

Hedgehog

Squirrel

There are many foxes and rabbits that use the site; this is significant as the railway bridge from Woodside provides a safe green link over Rutland Road to Parkwood Springs, Site15. There were no other mammals noticed whilst surveying. A full mammal survey of the site is recommended for the future.

### Bird Survey

Species recorded on at least one occasion between March and August 2003	Possible Breeding Species <sup>1</sup>	Probable Breeding Species <sup>2</sup>	Confirmed Breeding Species <sup>3</sup>	Number of Territories Held by Selected Species
Blue tit <sup>5</sup> Mistle thrush Blackbird Duncock <sup>5</sup> G S Woodpecker <sup>5</sup>			Blue tit <sup>5</sup> Mistle thrush	

<sup>1</sup> Evidence: present on more than one occasion in suitable breeding habitat.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> Evidence: Adult carrying food or faecal sac; adult sitting on nest; nest with eggs/young; egg shells found away from nest; recently fledged young.

<sup>4</sup> Priority species in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.

<sup>5</sup> Species of Conservation Concern in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.

## Evaluation

Pitsmoor Road Open Space, (Woodside), is a large site of mainly amenity grassland. There is an area of tall grasses and most of the site is fringed with belts of trees.

The amenity grassland is of low ecological interest but, due to its size, holds great potential for tree planting, a wild flower area and/or play and sports facilities.

A barrier around the edge of the site would deter joyriders, thus improving the general environment for people and wildlife.

Foxes and rabbits use the site and it is an important link for mammals between Parkwood Springs and the rest of Burngreave.

The area of tall grasses is important for butterflies and visually creates a nice change of habitat. However, this could look a lot better and also be improved for wildlife by creating a wild flower meadow by seeding with native wild flowers such as hardheads, cranesbill, campion and harebells.

The dense belts of trees and shrubs contain a diverse range of species from weeping willows, oak, cherry and small leaved lime to cotoneaster, bayberry and *Rhus*. The woodland needs to be protected, as it is extremely important due to the biodiversity it adds to the site and the cover for mammals and birds. The woodland edge where bramble and nettle dominate is especially important for invertebrates and birds; this should be retained as it also prevents people riding into the woodland and damaging it. Apart from nettles and brambles at the edge of a wood being ideal for invertebrates and birds, they are also attractive to people for food.

There are plans for a family tree scheme on the site, this will improve the biodiversity by increasing tree cover on the site and encouraging community interest.

## Species found

A (tree or shrub

<i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway maple
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	sycamore
<i>Aster novi-belgii x lanceol.</i>	Aster daisy
<i>Berberis darwinii</i>	barberry sp.
<i>Berberis thunbergii 'Atropurpurea Nana'</i>	barberry sp.
<i>Berberis stenophylla</i>	barberry sp.
<i>Buddleja davidii</i>	butterfly-bush
<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	hornbeam
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	dogwood
<i>Cotoneaster sp.</i>	cotoneaster



<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	hawthorn
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	ash
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	holly
<i>Ligustrum ovalifolium</i>	garden privet
<i>Linaria purpurea</i> purple toadflax	
<i>Mahonia aquifolium</i>	Oregon grape
<i>Platanus x hispanica</i>	London plane
<i>Populus trichocarpa</i>	western balsam poplar
<i>Prunus avium</i>	wild cherry
<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>	cherry laurel
<i>Prunus sp.</i>	cherry
<i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>	rhododendron
<i>Rosa canina</i> agg.	dog rose
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	bramble
<i>Salix alba</i>	white willow
<i>Salix caprea</i>	goat willow
<i>Salix 'Chrysocoma'</i>	weeping willow
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	elder
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	rowan
<i>Sorbus intermedia</i> agg	Swedish whitebeam
<i>Taxus baccata</i>	yew
<i>Tilia cordata</i>	small-leaved lime
<i>Tilia platyphyllos</i>	large-leaved lime
<i>Tilia x europaea</i>	lime
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>Centaurea nigra</i>	common knapweed
<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>	rosebay willowherb
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	creeping thistle
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	spear thistle
<i>Cotoneaster frigidus</i>	tree cotoneaster
<i>Deutzia scabra</i> 'Candidissima'	Deutzia
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	great willowherb
<i>Escallonia</i>	Escallonia
<i>Galega officinalis</i>	goat's-rue
<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>Hypericum calycinum</i>	Rose of Sharon
<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	meadow vetchling
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	common bird's-foot trefoil
<i>Lotus pedunculatus</i>	greater bird's-foot-trefoil
<i>Matricaria matricarioides</i>	pinappleweed
<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	black medick
<i>Narcissus pseudonarcissus</i>	cultivated daffodil
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	ribwort plantain
<i>Plantago major</i>	greater plantain
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	creeping buttercup
<i>rosa sp.</i>	rose
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	common sorrel
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	broad-leaved dock
<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	common ragwort
<i>Senecio squalidus</i>	Oxford ragwort
<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i>	hedge mustard
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	smooth sow-thistle
<i>Tanacetum parthenium</i>	feverfew
<i>Taraxacum officinale agg.</i>	dandelion
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	red clover
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	white clover
<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	colt's-foot
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	common nettle
<i>Veronica filiformis</i>	slender speedwell
<i>Veronica persica</i>	common field-speedwell
<i>Vicia cracca</i>	tufted vetch
<i>Vicia hirsuta</i>	hairy tare
<i>Vicia sativa</i>	common vetch
<i>Vicia sp.</i>	vetch
<i>Weigela 'Eva rathke'</i>	weigela
C (grass)	
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	common bent
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	false oat-grass
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	cock's-foot
<i>Elymus repens</i>	common couch
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	red fescue

	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire fog
	<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
E		
	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	bracken
	<i>Dryopteris filis-mas</i>	male fern

## 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

Greater spotted woodpecker

Blue tit

Dunnock

### UK Red List Birds

None

### UK Amber List Birds

Dunnock

Mistle thrush

## Local Red Data Book Species

None

## Previous Surveys

Author/ Recorder	Date	Coverage	Location
J. Fox	23/9/87	Sheffield Inner City Phase 1 Habitat Survey	Sheffield Wildlife Trust offices and Sheffield City Council Ecology Unit File # 237

## History and Geology

### Geological survey

Sedimentary rocks from the Lower Coal Measures series deposited during the Upper Carboniferous Period underlie the site.

### Archaeological survey

No archaeological or historical features were identified within Pitsmoor Road Open Space in the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service SMR, English Heritage National Monuments Record. However, one feature was identified within the limits of the site on historic Ordnance Survey maps. A series of allotments are shown along the western edge of Pitsmoor Road Open Space on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey 6" map (1855). These allotments were later cleared to make way for the terraced housing on Birley Street, Fowler Place, Fowler Street, Grove Street and Haywood Road, Maoro Street, Marshal Street, Reginald Street, Sales Street and Woodside Lane..

### Historical survey

Pitsmoor Road Open Space was created on the site of former terraced housing between Pitsmoor Road and Woodside Lane. The site of the open space is previously shown as agricultural land on Harrison's survey of Southall Soake (1637) and corresponds to a series of plots of land labelled as *Birkin Fields*. It would appear to have remained largely unchanged until the late nineteenth century when a series of allotments were created along *Harvest Lane* (now Woodside Lane). These allotments were shown on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey 62 map (1855) and were later cleared to make way for residential development. Terraced housing is shown on Birley Street, Fowler Place, Fowler Street, Grove Street and Haywood Road, Maoro Street, Marshal Street, Reginald Street, Sales Street and Woodside Lane on the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey 25" map (1903 and 1905).

### Recommendations

Pitsmoor Road Open Space is of limited archaeological or historical significance. It would appear to have been used for housing during the late nineteenth and early to mid twentieth centuries. 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 Birley Street, Fowler Place, Fowler Street, Grove Street and Haywood Road, Maoro Street, Marshal Street, Reginald Street, Sales Street and Woodside Lane. This information may help improve understanding of local social history.

## Community

### Suggestions from the BGEP Roadshow

Comments/ Suggestions	Number
Basketball pitch	1
Football pitch	1
Golf	1
I don't feel safe here	1
Mountain bike trail	1
Skateboard Park	1
Skateboarding	1
Tennis courts	1
Wildflower meadows	1