

31 Crabtree Bank



Introduction

Crabtree Bank is a small site consisting of a steep bank leading from the edge of gardens to the path below. This bank is mainly wooded with a variety of mature trees.

The other section of the site consists of amenity grassland with mature trees and rose beds around the edge of the flats and bungalows.

Site details

Site name

Crabtree Bank

Location

The site is situated at Grid reference: SK 360 901.

Land owner

Sheffield City Council owns the land.

Nearest road/street

Crabtree Road is to the north of the site.

Adjacent land use

Houses and gardens border the southern edge of the site.

Size

The site covers an area measuring 0.907166 hectares.

Present management

Some of the steep woody scrub areas have been partly overtaken by the adjoining gardens; therefore the management is mixed. The council cut back the trees that are hanging over the path and remove any dead or dying branches for safety. A small section of the supporting wall is currently being replaced.

The amenity grassland is mown regularly, every 4-6 weeks.

UDP designations

The site is designated a Housing Area under Sheffield City Council Unitary Development Plan

Location map



Ecology

Phase I ecological survey

Site description

The site consists of a large semi circle of scrub that is on a bank bordering Crabtree Road. The area of scrub adjoins the gardens behind on Crabtree Crescent. On the other side of the road next to the care home for the elderly there are small open green spaces that are planted with rose bushes and cherry trees.

Habitats of interest

The small dense area of woodland/scrub appears to be mainly free from human interference; because of this the site should be an excellent habitat for birds and invertebrates.

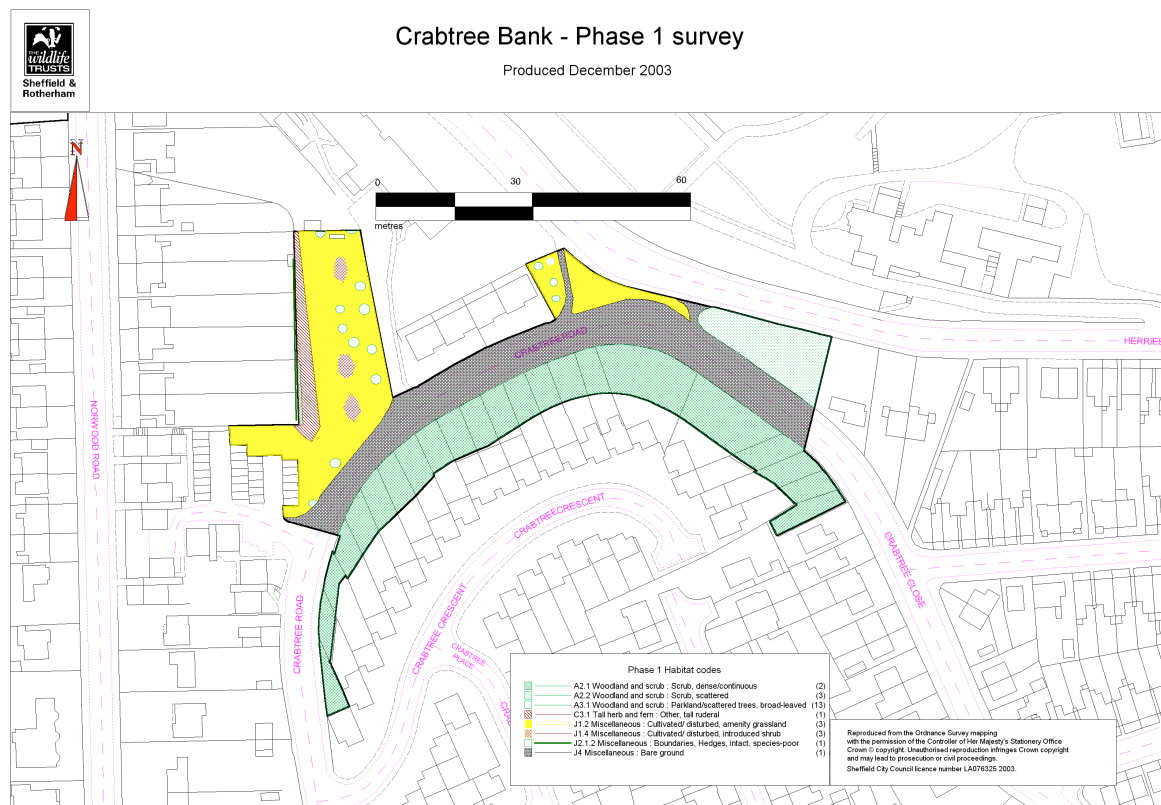
Species of interest

Crabtree Road-there is Common Polypody growing on a wall at Grid Reference SK 3593 8997, very close to Crabtree Bank.



Photo by Roger Butterfield

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.

Vertebrate Survey

Mammals

There were no mammals seen whilst surveying. A full mammal survey was not carried out.

Bird survey

Species recorded at least once between May & August 2003	Possible Breeding Species 1	Probable Breeding Species 2	Confirmed Breeding Species 3	Number of territories held by selected species
Coal tit 5 Greenfinch 5 Collared dove Wren	Collared dove			

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.

A jay feather was found on the site but this may have been from a passing bird. Further bird surveys are recommended on this site.

Evaluation

The area of scrub should be maintained as it is. The dense stands of native scrub are important for wildlife; they will provide food and shelter for nesting birds. There seems to be some confusion around the issue of land ownership where the area of scrub joins directly into people's gardens.

The open area opposite the bungalows could be made more interesting for wildlife and the local residents with some planting of bulbs and hardy shrubs such as berberis and fragrant roses, the roses that are on the site need to be maintained.

More seats would enhance the site and make it more attractive to local residents.

Species found

A (tree or shrub)

<i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway maple
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	sycamore
<i>Berberis sp</i>	barberry
<i>Betula pendula</i>	silver birch
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	hawthorn
<i>Cupressocyparis leylandii</i>	Leyland cypress
<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	broom
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	beech
<i>Forsythia x intermedia</i>	forsythia
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	ash
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	holly
<i>Ligustrum ovalifolium</i>	garden privet
<i>Populus trichocarpa</i>	western balsam poplar
<i>Prunus avium</i>	wild cherry
<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>	cherry laurel
<i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>	rhododendron
<i>Ribes sanguineum</i>	flowering currant
<i>Rosa sp.</i>	rose
<i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i>	bramble
<i>Salix capraea</i>	goat willow
<i>Salix 'Chrysocoma'</i>	weeping willow
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	elder
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	rowan
<i>Taxus baccata</i>	yew

B (herb)

<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	yarrow
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	cow parsley
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	daisy
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	creeping thistle
<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	foxglove
<i>Fallopia japonica</i>	Japanese knotweed
<i>Galium aparine</i>	cleavers
<i>Hedera helix</i>	ivy
<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	bluebell
<i>Narcissus pseudonarcissus</i>	cultivated daffodil
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	creeping buttercup
<i>Ribes uva-crispa</i>	gooseberry
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	broad-leaved dock
<i>Sedum acre</i>	biting stonecrop
<i>Taraxacum officinale agg.</i>	dandelion
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	common nettle

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

Coal tit

Greenfinch

UK Red List Birds

None

UK Amber List Birds

None

Local Red Data Book Species

Lepidoptera Grade A Species

None

Previous Surveys

Author/ Recorder	Date	Coverage	Location
J. Westfold	9/11/87	Sheffield Inner City Phase 1 Habitat Survey	Sheffield Wildlife Trust & Sheffield City Council Ecology Unit File # 152

History and Geology

Geological survey

Sedimentary rocks from the Lower Coal Measures Series, deposited during the Upper Carboniferous Period, underlie the site. There are no outcrops on this site.

Archaeological survey

There was nothing listed in the City Council Archaeology Unit about this site.

Historical survey

At the turn of the century there was a boy's school in the grounds of the hospital opposite, NGH, the corner of this site was used as a vegetable growing area.

Community

No community survey was carried out.