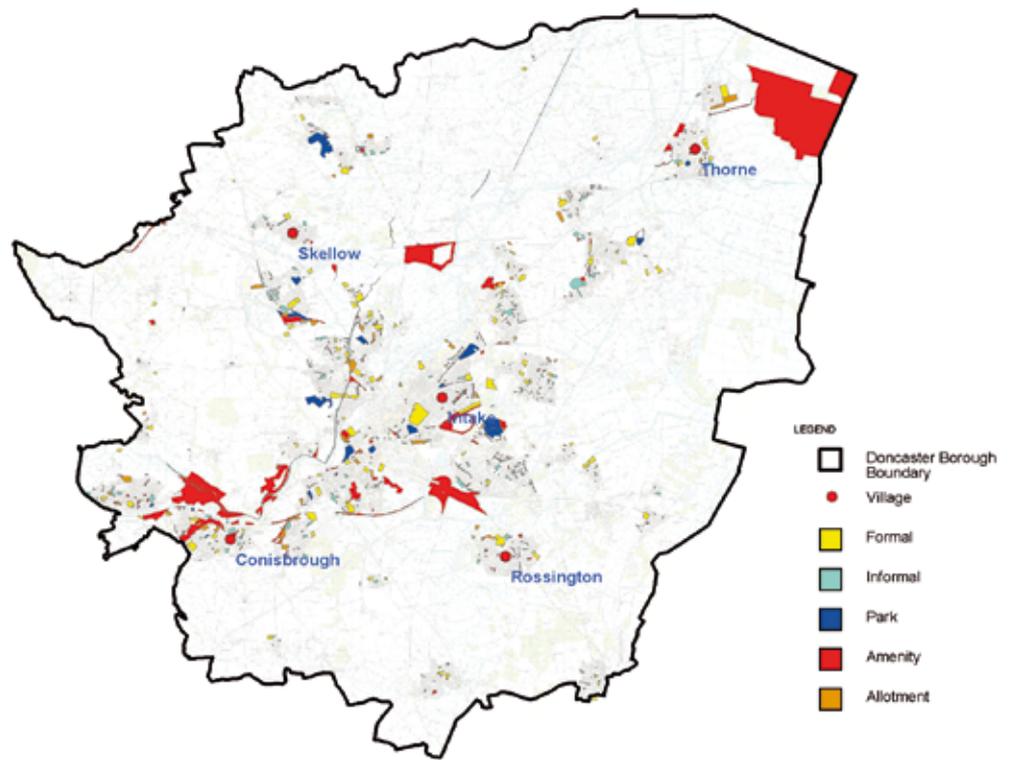


# Urban Greenspace

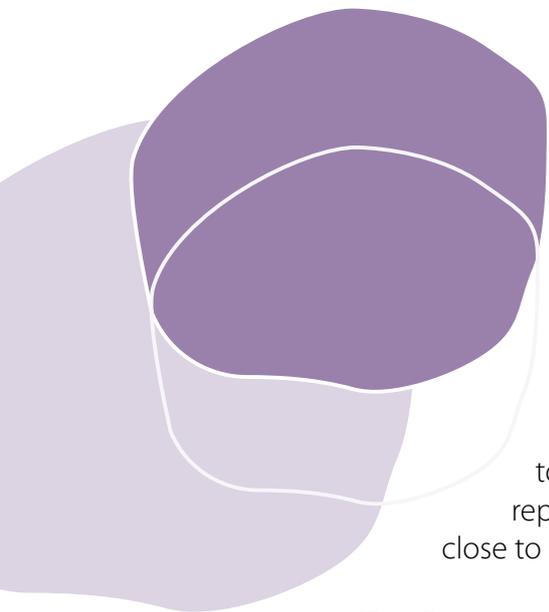
## Summary Habitat Action Plan

Doncaster Local Biodiversity Action Plan  
January 2007



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## 1 Habitat description

Urban greenspaces are publicly accessible open spaces in the Borough's towns and villages, and include land owned by DMBC, Town and Parish Councils as well as publicly accessible privately owned sites. Good quality, well-designed parks and green spaces contribute to our neighbourhoods, towns and cities, playing an important role in people's quality of life and in creating a sense of place. Greenspaces include both remnants of former countryside that have escaped urban development, and also purpose made open spaces designed for local people to enjoy. They are valuable biodiversity reserves and for some represent the closest place to people's homes, where they can be close to nature and enjoy being surrounded by colour and birdsong.

The Greenspace Strategy for Doncaster identifies how to sustain, enhance, improve, protect and market Doncaster's green spaces. In line with the Greenspace Strategy for the Borough the Urban Greenspace Habitat Action Plan relates to all managed green spaces and covers: Allotments, Amenity Areas, Formal Open Spaces, Informal Open Spaces, and Public Parks. In addition to the range of publicly accessible greenspaces described, private gardens are also included.

## 2 Characteristic species

Rabbit	Common frog	Golden plover
Wood mouse	Common toad	Green woodpecker
Bank vole	Robin	Tawny owl
Brown rat	Wren	Pied wagtail

## 3 Current factors causing loss or decline

- Differing needs between the management of sites for biodiversity and public amenity can cause conflict.
- Use of urban greenspace for housing development, or open space sites being labelled as 'brownfield' and then becoming a preferential site for development.
- Infill development is significantly reducing the area of gardens in the borough.
- Increased isolation of green spaces from other habitats.
- The inappropriate use of non-native species in new planting schemes and the failure to prevent the spread of invasive non-native species.
- Lack of understanding of wildlife habitats.
- Recreational pressure and litter problems.
- Removal of scrub because of anti-social behaviour issues.
- Pond infilling because of safety fears.

## 4 Objectives, targets & proposed actions

Objective	Target	Ref	Action	Lead & Partners
1) To ensure the protection and maintenance of existing urban greenspace.	Continuous.	1.8	Carry out a green space resurvey every 5 years to assess status and protection of priority species.	DMBC
2) To restore degraded sites and ensure the appropriate management of urban greenspace.	By 2008.	2.2	Produce/review strategy for allotment management to take account of allotments and nature conservation issues and LBAP priorities.	DMBC
	5 new sites identified and managed appropriately by 2010.	2.4	Identify existing green spaces suitable for management as wildlife / biodiversity sites and implement appropriate management.	DMBC, Doncaster Naturalists' Society (DNS), Yorkshire Wildlife Trust (YWT)
3) To create at least 150 ha of new urban greenspace by 2010.	Continuous.	3.3	Use the greenspace audit to identify locations for creating new urban greenspace that provides linkages between existing sites.	DMBC
	6 'linkage' sites by 2010.	3.4	Create new urban greenspace sites in locations identified, without loss of existing urban biodiversity.	DMBC
4) Raise public awareness of the importance and special characteristics of urban greenspace.	5 sites by 2009.	4.1	Encourage the creation of wildflower, beetle and bug banks on appropriate amenity areas.	DMBC, YWT



## 5 This habitat in Doncaster

The following describes where in the Doncaster Borough good examples of this habitat can be found. For further information about this habitat and where it can be found in Doncaster see the 'Urban Greenspace Habitat Action Plan'.

Urban greenspaces are provided and managed by the local authority, and are spread right across the Borough. The Doncaster Borough has three 'district parks' that are larger than 20 ha in size; Cusworth Hall, Cantley Hall Park and Campsall Country Park, each of these sites is also of significant importance for wildlife. Within the Doncaster Borough, 62 of the nearly 400 designated Sites of Scientific Interest are publicly accessible, including St Catherine's Railway Embankments, Delves and Cuttings, Roman Ridge, North and South, Nursery Lane Quarry and St Catherine's Lily Pond.

A distinctive feature of the Doncaster area is its considerable number of parks that have been developed in former quarries. These locally characteristic sites include Hexthorpe, Warmsworth, Sandall Park, Dunsville Park and Scawthorpe's park within the old Long Edge Quarry. Such parks are generally of high biodiversity value because they are sheltered and have the added habitat benefit of the quarry sides, which can become thickly vegetated.

## 6 How to take part 'Backyard Biodiversity – Nature in your Neighbourhood'

This is a new initiative launched by Doncaster Council to enable local people to learn about, protect and enjoy nature where they live. Community Groups and Organisations can loan activity packs and equipment to enable them to take part in activities such as bird watching, pond-dipping, building bird and bat boxes and bug hunting. The service is available FREE of charge from selected Customer Service Centres in Doncaster. A pack of Wildlife Gardening fact sheets has also been produced, which provides advice and information on how you can help the wildlife in your own garden.



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