

Broomhill, Broomfield, Endcliffe,  
Summerfield and Tapton (BBEST)  
Neighbourhood Planning Forum  
c/o Anne Daw  
128 Harcourt Road  
Sheffield  
S10 1DJ

**ECUS Ltd**

Brook Holt  
3 Blackburn Road  
Sheffield  
S61 2DW  
United Kingdom

 +44 (0)114 266 9292  
 [contactus@ecusltd.co.uk](mailto:contactus@ecusltd.co.uk)  
 [www.ecusltd.co.uk](http://www.ecusltd.co.uk)

Our ref: 5309/ER

14<sup>th</sup> January 2015

Dear Anne,

**Re. BBEST Green Space Plan**

**Background**

The purpose of this work has been to identify areas of green space within the Broomhill, Broomfield, Endcliffe, Summerfield and Tapton (BBEST) area, to support the Local Plan for this area and to identify how these spaces contribute to local Green Infrastructure. Green Infrastructure has been defined as ‘a network of multi-functional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities’ in the Department for Communities and Local Government (2012) National Planning Policy Framework.

**Methodology**

A number of site visits were undertaken by an ecologist in December 2014 to obtain ecological information on green spaces within the BBEST area. The visits comprised a walkover undertaken from publically accessible land. Broad information on habitats and species interests was obtained, however no detailed ecological appraisal was undertaken at this time. Whilst the walkover was undertaken outside the optimal botanical survey season, given the broad nature of information required, this did not negatively effect the information gathered.

A broad assessment of the potential of trees to support roosting bats was undertaken during the walkover, however detailed tree inspection was not undertaken. Bat roost potential is abbreviated to BRP in the text and the level of potential is in accordance with standard guidelines (Hundt, 2012). All information is presented in Figures 1 – 1G.

**Summary and Conclusions**

Multiple areas of green space have been identified within the BBEST area including public parks and church yards, privately owned green areas, such as University of Sheffield land, and residential gardens. These areas typically include mature trees, ornamental planting, amenity grassland, waterbodies of varying size and also some brownfield areas i.e. areas of previous demolition and wasteground.

The green space considered as a whole within the BBEST area is generally more valuable than the sum of its parts, although this is not to say that individual areas are without value. Whilst some areas are of relatively high ecological value, such as the larger parks including Weston Park and Crookes Valley Park, many of the green spaces comprise small areas of grassland and ornamental planting associated with building complexes, such as university accommodation and hospitals, and street seating areas/car



parks. Whilst individually, areas may not hold any notable botanical value, they can act as important stepping stones for urban wildlife and also contribute to the aesthetics of the local area, breaking up surrounding development and providing recreational and well being benefits.

The green spaces contribute to the local green infrastructure, providing important habitat areas for wildlife, including badgers, foxes, amphibians, bats and birds and collectively form important green corridors. These provide an important function in an urban environment, allowing wildlife to move throughout the local area in response to foraging, shelter and breeding requirements.

The two largest corridors within the survey area are considered to comprise green spaces in the west, which provide a north-south linkage, and green spaces providing a north-east – south-west linkage. Habitats in the western corridor include the University of Sheffield Student Village, the gardens of large properties and also the combined areas of smaller gardens associated with blocks of terraces. This corridor links to Endcliffe Park, Endcliffe Woods and the Porter Valley in the south and further student halls to the north and the Rivelin Valley beyond.

The second key corridor comprises Crookes Valley Park, the area surrounding the university's Arthur Willis Centre, the Harcourt Hole and the edges of the university sports pitches. This corridor connects to Ruskin Park to the north-east and into residential gardens to the south-west and eventually to the corridor previously detailed.

A third smaller green corridor is present including the Sheffield Botanical Gardens just outside the BBEST boundary through large residential gardens to the Student Village.

The individual spaces and their contribution to local Green Infrastructure should be taken into account when considering future development in the area. Future sustainable development should aim to protect and enhance Green Infrastructure and avoid reducing areas of green space, where practicable, in accordance with the NPPF (2012).

For queries about this work, please contact me on [libby.richell@ecusltd.co.uk](mailto:libby.richell@ecusltd.co.uk).

Yours sincerely,



Elizabeth Richell MBiolSci MCIEEM

Senior Ecologist