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

Our ref: 5309/ER

14th 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.

Yours sincerely,

Elizabeth Richell MBiolSci MCIEEM

Senior Ecologist

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FAO: Anne Daw

Our ref: 5362_01/VM

19th December 2014

Dear Anne,

BBEST Green Space Plan – Outline Strategic Tree Study

We are pleased to enclose our Outline Strategic Tree Study of the Broomhill, Broomfield, Endclife, Summerfield and Tapton area in Sheffield.

The study included a desk top assessment of the tree cover of the study area, using aerial photography, and a verification of the findings on site. As discussed, the study takes into account trees along public highways, within public open spaces and within private open spaces where they were clearly visible from public viewpoints.

The study assesses the quality and density of trees within those spaces, giving information about the amenity value of green corridors and green spaces.

The tree quality of trees was assessed using three categories- high, medium and low, which are defined as follows:

- Predominantly high quality: Mature trees in good condition and with an expected safe and useful remaining life expectancy of at least 40 years

- Predominantly medium quality: Mature and early mature trees in fair to good condition and/or with an expected safe and useful remaining life expectancy of at least 20 years

- Predominantly low quality: Semi-mature and young trees or trees in fair to poor condition and with an expected safe and useful remaining life expectancy of less than 20 years.

The tree density of trees was also assessed in three categories- high, medium and low, defined as follows:

- High density: Trees forming a closed canopy, e.g. woodland and densely planted avenues

- Medium density: Trees forming an open canopy

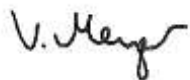- Low density: Trees are scattered along the road and within open spaces

The quality and density of the trees, as shown on the attached drawings, determine the overall green corridor and green space value of a road, section of a road or area of open space and can be measured as follows:

		Tree Quality: High	Tree Quality: Medium	Tree Quality: Low
	Tree Density: High	Value: High	Value: High	Value: Medium
	Tree Density: Medium	Value: High	Value: Medium	Value: Low
	Tree Density: Low	Value: Medium	Value: Low	Value: Low

The attached drawings show the survey findings in four sheets, and we hope the information is clear and a useful addition to the BBEST Green Space Plan.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

V. Meyer

Verena Meyer, TechArborA, CMLI
Consultant Arboriculturist/ Landscape Architect
Ecus Ltd

Appendices: BBEST Outline Strategic Tree Survey- Figures 1A- 1D- Survey Findings (four drawings)