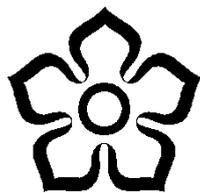


# Green Wedge Review July 2017



Leicester  
City Council



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# 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 Leicester is a major urban centre located in the heart of the country. It is located close to major transport networks, and is a centre for growth. The greater Leicester area now extends beyond the administrative boundary of the City Council into surrounding areas such as Braunstone Town, Oadby, Wigston, Birstall and Glenfield. Some 650,000 people live in this greater Leicester area making the city the 9<sup>th</sup> biggest in the country. It also supports the main concentration of people across the city and county area which has a combined population of around 1 million people.
- 1.2 The population of Leicester and Leicestershire is growing fast. Recent government projections show that the population of the administrative area of Leicester will increase by almost 12% between 2016 and 2031 - to around 388,000 people. The population of Leicester and Leicestershire as a whole is projected to increase to over 1,141,000 in the same period (an 11% increase).
- 1.3 When allocated as a Green wedge, an area of land becomes protected by planning policy and aims to serve four functions:
  - To prevent the merging of settlements.
  - To guide development form
  - To provide a green lung into urban areas
  - To act as a recreational resource.
- 1.4 This review has been carried out to determine the strength of the Green wedges within Leicester City Council's administrative area, and provides evidence for Leicester's New Local Plan.
- 1.5 The wedges have been assessed and information has been recorded regarding:
  - Location and Size
  - Topography and Flooding
  - Land Uses
  - Development Pressures
  - Access
  - Ecology and Heritage
  - Air Quality Management Areas
  - Existing Boundaries.
- 1.6 Throughout the analysis, the wedges have been divided into smaller areas defined by natural boundaries such as rivers, highways and hedgerows in order to identify any weaker areas within the wedges. Each area of each wedge has been assessed and given a strength rating of strong, moderate, weak or does not meet purpose, against the methodology highlighted below.
- 1.7 In order to "rank" the green wedges by strength, a numerical value has been applied to each of the four strength ratings (as shown below) and an average strength rating of each sub area. The average of these figures was then

calculated to give an average for the whole green wedge. Whilst this is a simple and easy way of comparing each green wedge, it should be noted that the figures are not intended to replace the qualitative assessment of each wedge. The criteria and explanations for each sub area should always be considered as the primary method of assessing the strength of each green wedge.

- 1.8 Strength & Rating:  
 Strong - 4  
 Moderate - 3  
 Weak - 2  
 Does Not Meet Purpose -1

1.9 Alongside is the full list of Green wedges and the average strength of the wedge as a whole. After the values were applied to each area, Watermead Park (3.79) and Aylestone Meadows (3.78) are the strongest wedges whereas Kirby Frith (3.00) and Hamilton (3.17) are weakest. Hamilton also has the weakest sub area. Sub area F does not meet the purpose of any of the criteria highlighted in the methodology and averages at (1.00) as it has been developed for housing. Anstey Lane had the next weakest sub area with area F resulting in an average of (2.00). The Joint Methodology states that sub areas in a Green Wedge may not meet all four criteria, however the whole Green Wedge should meet them, or be able to.

Name	Average Strength
Watermead	3.79
Aylestone Meadows	3.78
Knighton	3.58
Anstey Lane	3.25
Evington	3.25
Thurcaston Road	3.25
Castle Hill	3.2
Hamilton	3.17
Kirby Frith	3

- 1.10 Following Emerging Options Consultation the green wedges will be assessed at draft plan stage, to determine the impact of allocations. The criteria used for assessing sites for development is shown in the Sites Methodology Document here (LINK)

## 2. Introduction

2.1 Green wedges are a local planning policy designation that has been used in Leicestershire since the 1980s. Their extent and purpose have been defined in various planning policy documents since then e.g. the Leicester and Leicestershire Structure Plan, Local Plans, East Midlands Regional Plan and Local Development Framework documents such as the Core Strategy.

2.2 There is a commitment for local authorities to review the extent of green wedges. This was set out in the East Midlands Regional Plan 2009 and recognised in Local Plan documents and Core Strategies. The nature of green wedges means that they often cross one or more district boundaries. Local Authorities in the Leicester and Leicestershire Housing Market Area have prepared a joint methodology for green wedge reviews so that the reviews are done in a consistent way.

2.3 Strategic planning is also dealt with by the [Strategic Growth Plan](#) which will set out the aspirations for delivering growth (housing, economic, infrastructure) in Leicester and Leicestershire until 2050.

### 2.4 Purpose of Green wedges:

2.5 Green wedges are areas of land designated through the plan making process. They are intended to serve four main strategic planning functions. These are:

#### 2.6 Preventing the merging of settlements

Green wedges will safeguard the identity of communities within and around urban areas that face growth pressures. The coalescence of settlements should be considered in terms of both physical separation and the perception of distance between the settlements.

#### 2.7 Guiding Development Form

Green wedges will guide the form of new developments as urban areas extend. Consideration will be given to designating new green wedges or amending existing ones where it would help shape the development of new communities such as potential sustainable urban extensions.

#### 2.8 Providing a Green Lung into urban areas

Green wedges will provide communities with access to green infrastructure and the countryside beyond. They are distinct from other types of open space in that they provide a continuous link between the open countryside and land which penetrates into urban areas. Green wedges also provide a range of uses such as:

- Open space, sport and recreation facilities;
- Flood alleviation measures;
- Improving air quality;
- Protection/improvement of wildlife sites and the links between them;

- Protection/improvement of historic/cultural assets and the links between them;
- Links to green infrastructure at both a strategic and local level;
- Transport corridors.

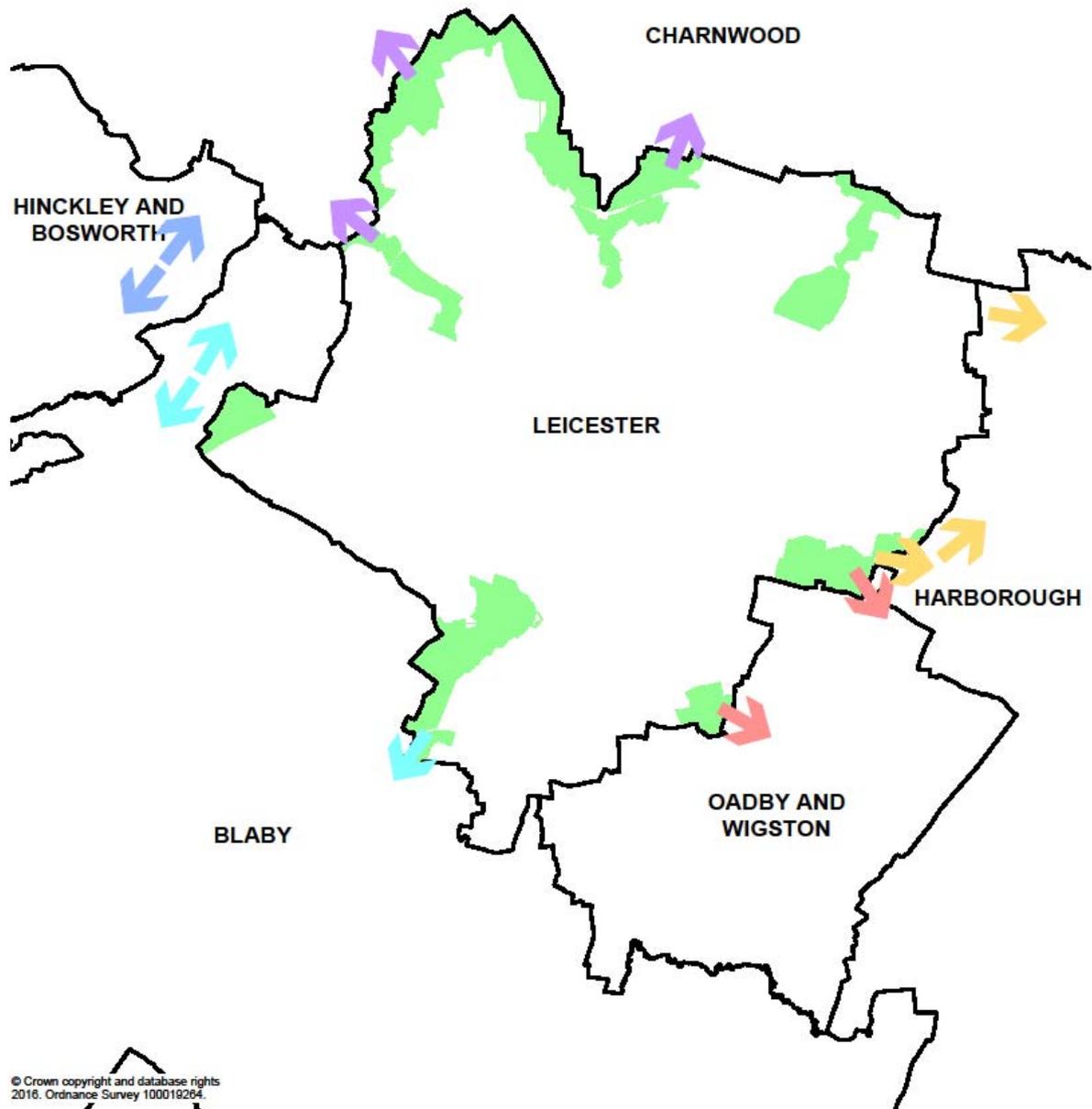
**2.9 Acting as a recreational resource**

Green wedges will provide a recreational resource. This could include informal and formal facilities now and in the future. Public access will be maximised.

2.10 The extent of green wedges in Leicester and the surrounding area in the County are shown on map 1a (Page 6).

**2.11 Next Steps – Consultation and Local Plan**

2.12 This review examines the extent and function of Leicester's green wedges. It forms part of the evidence base for the preparation of the New Local Plan. This review will be used to inform the production of a proposals map, which will be available to view at draft plan stage.



**Map 1a**  
**Green Wedges in Leicester**  
**and the Surrounding Districts**

- City and District Boundaries
- City Green Wedges
- Charnwood Green Wedges
- Harborough Green Wedges
- Oadby and Wigston Green Wedges
- Blaby Green Wedges
- Hinckley and Bosworth Green Wedges

### 3. District and Borough GreenWedge Reviews

- 3.1 Each District and Borough council is at different stage with producing its Local Plans and Green wedge reviews. Links to their websites are below.

[Charnwood Borough Council](#)

[Harborough District Council](#)

[Oadby and Wigston Borough Council](#)

[Blaby District Council](#)

[Hinckley and Bosworth](#)

# 4. Methodology

- 4.1 The Leicester and Leicestershire “Green wedge Review: Joint Methodology” was produced in July 2011. It was prepared in partnership with seven Leicestershire Local Authorities, which included Charnwood, Blaby, Harborough, Hinckley and Bosworth, Leicester City, North West Leicestershire and Oadby and Wigston. These authorities form the Leicester and Leicestershire Housing Market Area (HMA). Melton Borough Council is also part of the HMA but did not participate in the joint methodology as there are no green wedges in their administrative area. The methodology has also been agreed by key stakeholders.
- 4.2 Officers at Leicester City Council have carried out a review of each green wedge in Leicester in accordance with the Joint Methodology. The review involved a desk based analysis of each green wedge, before site visits were undertaken to assess the extent to which a green wedge continued to carry out the four functions. Each wedge was divided up into local areas taking into account field boundaries, roads or rivers etc. This allowed each wedge to be reviewed as a series of sections. Results and photographs of the site visits can be viewed in Appendix 1.
- 4.3 The green wedge review has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the new Local Plan. Officers have reviewed each part of the green wedge against a strength based criteria shown below.

Purpose	Criterion	Strength
<b>(1) To prevent the merging of settlements</b>	Prevents development that would result in merging of or significant erosion of gap between neighbouring settlements, taking into consideration: landscape scale/pattern, topography, development patterns and views.	<p><b>STRONG:</b> Area provides an essential gap between two or more settlements, restricting development which, as a result of the area’s landscape scale/pattern, topography, intervisibility or development patterns, would lead to the merging of these settlements.</p> <p><b>MODERATE:</b> Provides a gap between two or more settlements, restricting further development which, as a result of the area’s landscape scale/pattern topography, intervisibility or development patterns, may lead to the merging of these settlements.</p> <p><b>WEAK:</b> Provides a less critical gap between two or more settlements which, as a result of the area’s scale, character, landscape scale/pattern, topography, intervisibility or development patterns is unlikely to restrict coalescence or prevent further coalescence between settlements.</p>

**DOES NOT MEET PURPOSE:** Gap is of sufficient scale or character that the area plays no role in preventing coalescence, or settlements have already coalesced.

Purpose	Criterion	Strength
<b>(2) To guide development form</b>	Logical, defensible and readily recognisable external and intermediate boundaries guide, rather than restrict the form of future development.	<p><b>STRONG:</b> Area is bounded by defensible and readily recognisable linear boundary features which guide rather than overly restrict the form of future surrounding developments, whilst ensuring that the integrity of the designation is maintained.</p> <p><b>MODERATE:</b> Area is largely bounded by defensible and readily recognisable linear boundary features which guide rather than overly restrict the form of future surrounding developments, whilst ensuring that the integrity of the designation is maintained. Some areas with weaker or less logical boundaries restrict development but do not provide clarity on what form development should take.</p> <p><b>WEAK:</b> While some boundaries are logical, much of the area is bounded by features which are weakly defined or difficult to recognise. Thus, it restricts rather than guides future development form.</p> <p><b>DOES NOT MEET PURPOSE:</b> The area is bounded by features which are weakly defined or difficult to recognise. The designation restricts rather than guides future development form.</p>

Purpose	Criterion	Strength
<b>(3) To provide a 'green lung' into urban areas</b>	Forms a strongly connected corridor or network of green infrastructure which penetrates into existing or planned areas of built form.	<p><b>STRONG:</b> Forms a strongly connected corridor or network of green infrastructure which penetrates into existing or planned areas of built form.</p> <p><b>MODERATE:</b> A fragmented corridor or network of green infrastructure exists with several clearly defined connections remaining.</p> <p><b>WEAK:</b> A collection of disparate</p>

green spaces weakly linked by fragmented corridors, with little penetration into existing or planned areas of built form.

**DOES NOT MEET PURPOSE:**  
Overall lack of green infrastructure with small areas that remain isolated by intervening built form.

Purpose	Criterion	Strength
<b>(4) To provide a recreational resource</b>	Provides a range of publicly accessible, formal and informal opportunities for recreation.	<p><b>STRONG:</b> The area is wholly publicly accessible and provides an exemplary range of formal and informal opportunities for recreation.</p> <p><b>MODERATE:</b> The area is wholly or partially publicly accessible and provides an adequate range of formal and/or informal opportunities for recreation.</p> <p><b>WEAK:</b> The area is partially publicly accessible and provides a limited range of formal or informal opportunities for recreation.</p> <p><b>DOES NOT MEET PURPOSE:</b> The area is not publicly accessible or fails to provide a range of formal or informal opportunities for recreation.</p>

4.4 However, it should be recognised that it will be necessary to balance a site’s role within the green wedge with wider planning considerations such as the strategic need for employment or housing land in the City. The acceptability of development in a green wedge location will ultimately be decided through the Local Plan process at the Examination in Public.

#### 4.5 Consultation

4.6 This green wedge review is in draft form as the neighbouring District, Borough and County Council have been consulted for their comments. Amendments may be made to this document before the Emerging Options Local Plan Consultation.

## **5. Analysis and Evaluation**

- 5.1 The analysis of the green wedges includes comments on location and size of the green wedge, topography and the risk of flooding to areas of the green wedge; current land uses; development pressures and any significant planning applications which would impact the green wedge, air quality and the strength of the existing boundaries of the green wedge.
- 5.2 The wedges are the divided into smaller areas based on natural boundaries such as rivers and footpaths and assessed against the four functions of a green wedge highlighted in the joint methodology.
- 5.3 The planning applications identified within the analysis were determined between January 2006 and June 2017.

### 5.3 Watermead Park

### 5.4 Location and Size

5.5 Watermead Park green wedge is located in the north of the city; the area of the green wedge is currently 108.1ha. The green wedge continues over the boundary of the city into Charnwood Borough Council's administrative area, the designation continues across the boundary.

### 5.6 Topography and Flooding

A large amount of Watermead Park green wedge is located on flat or undulating ground, with many areas at risk of flooding from both rivers and surface water.

### 5.7 Land Uses

5.8 There is a variety of land uses within the Watermead Park green wedge. These include the following: Watermead Country Park, Ellis Meadows Park, McDonald's, private angling ponds, natural green space, river/canal, an outdoor pursuits centre, St Margaret's Co-operative Bowls Club, showman's guild site and sports fields with associated pavilions and clubhouses.

### 5.9 Development Pressures

Application	Location	Proposal	Decision
20052308	Birstall Rd Sports Ground	Golf driving range and pavilion (Refused due to impact on wedge)	Refused
20060440	237 Birstall Road	4 bedroom dwelling. (Refused due to being contrary to green wedge policy).	Refused
20060692	510 Melton Road	90 bed nursing home and 30 bed care home (reserved matters).	Approved
20061817	Birstall Rd Sports Ground	Three 6m high floodlights to tennis courts.	Approved
20070384	Birstall Rd Sports Ground	Single storey pavilion and 1.5 metre high fencing.	Approved
20071168	Loughborough Rd Outdoor Centre	16m high climbing wall, abseiling tower and ropes course.	Approved
20071480	241 Loughborough Road	161 Residential units. (Approved as green wedge within application site to be retained as open space)	Approved
20072353	237 Birstall Road	5 bedroom house (Approved due to the site's location within curtilage of existing residential property).	Approved
20080505	Melton Road Sports Ground	Eight five-a-side pitches, clubhouse, café and gym (Approved due to the association with the provision of sporting facilities).	Approved

<b>20090333</b>	Loughborough Rd Outdoor Centre		Car park alterations, new path ways and timber shelters	Approved
<b>20100197</b>	Belgrave Church Road	House,	Change of use from coach house/stables to 4 dwellings. (Approved as the application would bring historic buildings back into use).	Approved
<b>20100952</b>	241 Loughborough Road		Extension of time limit for application 20071480.	Approved
<b>20110397</b>	Land off Corporation Road.		Landscaping works to create a wetland.	Approved
<b>20110796</b>	Belgrave Church Road	House,	Change of use from office to an 8 bedroom dwelling.	Approved
<b>20131484</b>	241 Loughborough Road		Extension of time limit for application 20071480.	Approved
<b>20140582</b>	78 Bath Street (Land adjacent to)		2 bedroom house. (Refused due to location in a flood zone and impact on the green wedge).	Refused
<b>20142186</b>	Watermead Park	Country	Single storey detached toilet block. (Approved as it would enhance the recreational use of the wedge).	Approved
<b>20142290</b>	McDonald's, Lane	Abbey	Alterations to car park, canopies and boundary fence (Approved as the restaurant was already in use and any impact would be minimal).	Approved
<b>20150625</b>	78 Bath Street (Land adjacent to)		Gypsy and Traveller site. (Refused due to its location in a flood zone and within a green wedge).	Refused
<b>20150694</b>	Melton Road Sports Ground		Football ground, clubhouse and gym.	Approved.
<b>20151547</b>	Belgrave Station	Pumping	Proposed poultry unit. (Refused as it would be harmful to the green wedge).	Refused
<b>20152015</b>	Belgrave Station	Pumping	Change of use to open air pallet storage and repair yard. (Refused due to negative impact on green wedge).	Refused
<b>20162352</b>	Loughborough Bridge, Adjacent	Road Land	Flood alleviation works, new cycle path and improvements to existing cycle path.	Approved

## 5.10 Access

5.11 There are footpaths which cross the green wedge and large areas are accessible to the public. A towpath (The Grand Union Canal/River Soar) runs across part of the wedge.

## **5.12 Ecology and Heritage**

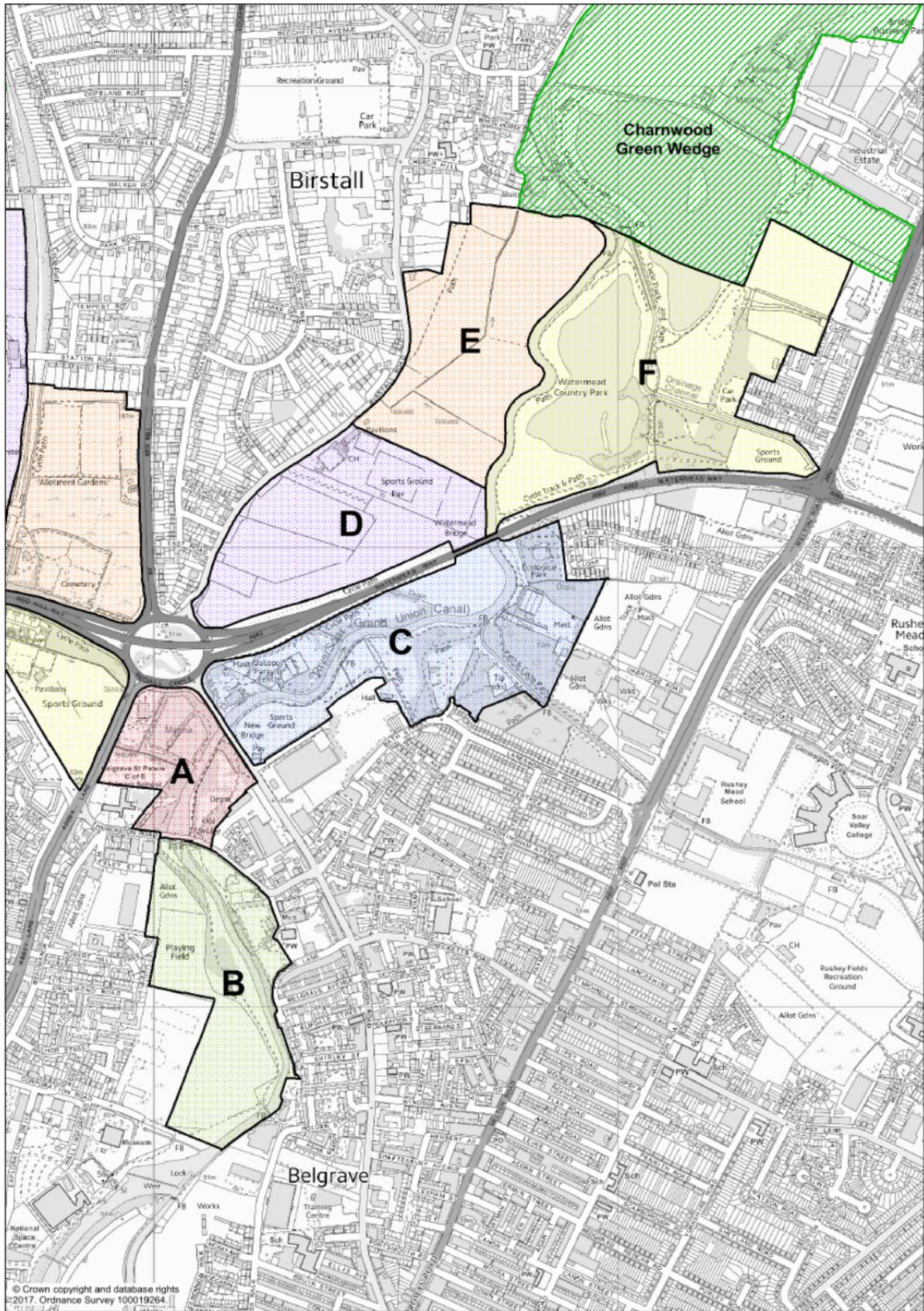
5.13 The green wedge forms part of a regionally important wildlife corridor and contains three Local Wildlife Sites, Watermead Country Park Local Nature Reserve and areas of Belgrave Hall Conservation Area. The green wedge contains Belgrave Bridge (scheduled ancient monument), Belgrave House (Grade II\* Listed) and Belgrave Gardens (Historic park and Garden) as areas of historical interest.

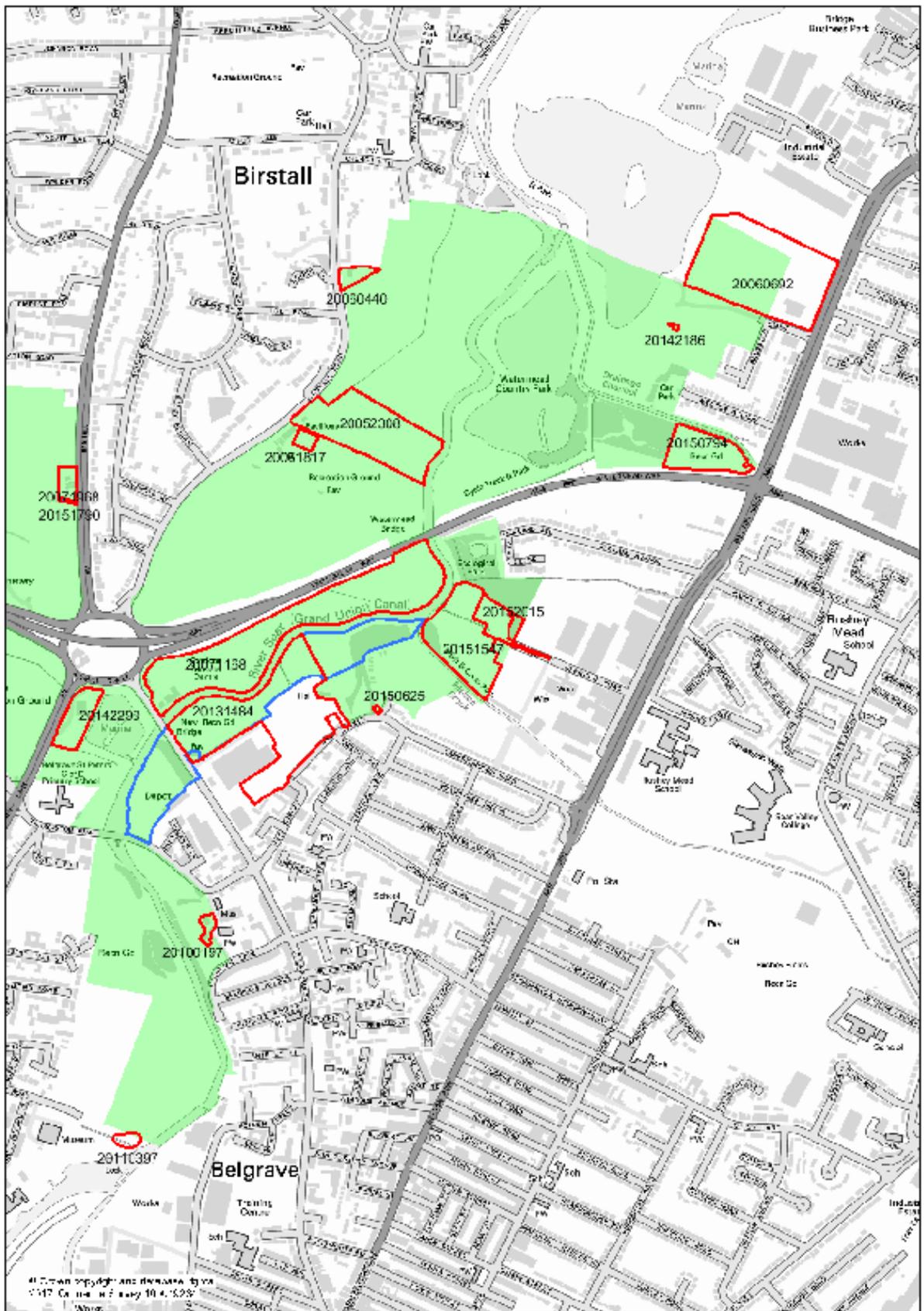
## **5.14 Air Quality Management Areas**

5.15 There are Air Quality Management Areas on Red Hill Circle, Abbey Lane and Loughborough Road.

## **5.16 Existing Boundaries**

5.17 The Green wedge is bounded by mainly residential development areas to the south east and west. To the north lies a green wedge in Charnwood Borough Council's administrative area.





Area A	
Criteria	Justification
<b>To prevent the merging of settlements. STRONG</b>	Area A prevents the merging of 3 settlements (Birstall, in Charnwood's area of control, Belgrave to the south east and development of Beaumanor Road).
<b>To guide development form. STRONG</b>	There are clear defined boundaries including Loughborough Road, Abbey Lane, Thurcaston Road and Red Hill Circle. The area is also bounded by the rear of St Peters Primary School and development off Palmers Street.
<b>To provide a green lung into urban areas. STRONG</b>	Area A is strongly connected to other areas of green wedge including area B to the south, Area C to the west, and Thurcaston Green wedge to the west.
<b>To provide a recreational resource. STRONG</b>	The area provides a large range of recreational opportunities including: fishing, school playing fields, cycling, walking, dog walking, and water based activities.

Area B	
Criteria	Justification
<b>To prevent the merging of settlements. STRONG</b>	Area B prevents the merging of two settlements, Belgrave and development off Beaumanor Road.
<b>To guide development form. STRONG</b>	This part of the green wedge is bounded by the River Soar and development off Loughborough Road to the east. It is also bounded by the rear of development off Beaumanor Road to the west and Thurcaston Road to the north.
<b>To provide a green lung into urban areas. STRONG</b>	This area is the start of Watermead green wedge. It is well connected to other green infrastructure including area of green wedge A to the north.
<b>To provide a recreational resource. STRONG</b>	The area provides a variety of recreational opportunities including Children's Play, walking and water based sports.

Area C	
Criteria	Justification
<b>To prevent the merging of settlements. STRONG</b>	Area C (along with area D) prevents the merging of two settlements, Belgrave to the south and Birstall to the north.
<b>To guide development form. MODERATE</b>	The northern boundary is defined by Watermead Way, and the western boundary is defined by Loughborough Road. The southern and eastern boundaries are defined by the edge of developments or fence lines.
<b>To provide a green lung into urban areas. STRONG</b>	Area C is well connected to other areas of green wedge, including areas A and D.
<b>To provide a recreational resource. STRONG</b>	The majority of the area is publically accessible and offers a good range of recreational provision. However, part of the area accommodates the outdoor pursuits centre which has restricted access.

Area D	
Criteria	Justification
<b>To prevent the merging of settlements. STRONG</b>	Area D (along with area C) prevents merging of 2 settlements. Belgrave to the south and Birstall to the north.
<b>To guide development form. STRONG</b>	The extent of area D is defined by Watermead Way to the South, Birstall Road to the NE, the river to the east and a hedgerow to the North East.
<b>To provide a green lung into urban areas. STRONG</b>	Area D is well connected to other areas of the green wedge, area C to the south and area E to the North East.
<b>To provide a recreational resource. MODERATE</b>	The area does provide recreational opportunities although these are largely through private recreation opportunities.

Area E	
Criteria	Justification
<b>To prevent the merging of settlements. STRONG</b>	Area E (along with Area F) prevents the merging of two settlements. These are Birstall and development off Troon Way.
<b>To guide development form. STRONG</b>	Area E is bounded by the River Soar in the east, Birstall Road in the west, a hedgerow in the south and the city boundary in the north.
<b>To provide a green lung into urban areas. STRONG</b>	Area E is connected to other areas of green wedge (areas D and F).
<b>To provide a recreational resource. MODERATE</b>	Area E has a Bowls club.

Area F	
Criteria	Justification
<b>To prevent the merging of settlements. STRONG</b>	Area F (along with area E) prevents merging of 2 settlements. These are Birstall and development off Troon Way.
<b>To guide development form. MODERATE</b>	The western boundary is made up of the River Soar, and the southern boundary is made up of Watermead Way. The eastern boundary is made up of the rear of development off Melton Road. The boundary to the NE is somewhat arbitrary where it faces Melton Road. The Northern boundary adjoins Charnwood's administrative area.
<b>To provide a green lung into urban areas. STRONG</b>	Area F is well connected to other areas of green wedge, both in Charnwood's administrative area and areas E, D and C within the city.
<b>To provide a recreational resource. MODERATE</b>	This area of the green wedge contains Watermead Country Park, which is accessible to the public and provides a variety of recreational opportunities such as walking, children's play etc. There are also less accessible areas. The area is also currently used for grazing.

## 5.18 Hamilton

### 5.19 Location and Size

5.20 Hamilton green wedge is located on the north eastern edge of the City. The wedge, which has an area of 109.2ha, runs from Humberstone Heights Golf Course to the boundary of the City. The green wedge does not continue over the boundary of the City into Charnwood Borough Council's administrative area. Charnwood BC has approved a sustainable urban extension to the north east of Leicester. There is potential to extend Hamilton green wedge into this area to provide a recreation resource for City residents and residents of the new extension.

### 5.21 Topography and Flooding

5.22 The green wedge is largely flat or undulating with a small area at risk from river flooding.

### 5.23 Land Uses

5.24 There is a range of existing land uses within the Hamilton green wedge. These include recreational uses such as the Humberstone Heights golf course, Leicester Nirvana Football Club sports ground/community centre with large outdoor playing fields, Hamilton Park, a children's play area, and natural green space.

Other uses include:

Residential development on Barkbythorpe Road;

Humberstone Farm;

The Emerald Centre;

A children's day care centre;

Parking associated with the various recreational uses;

Drainage ponds;

Grassland;

An electricity substation;

An office building - built prior to the introduction of green wedge policy.

(Application No. 19740857) - now D.W Hicks Building Company.

### 5.25 Development Pressures

Application	Location	Proposal	Decision
20061359	Sports Ground (Off Gypsy Lane)	Sports pavilion and community centre.	Approved
20080008	Sandhills Avenue	Single storey clubhouse and associated parking.	Approved
20110386	40 Thurmaston Lane	Construction of two storey office, demolition of existing offices (Approved as the principle of the building had been accepted and the new building would be an architectural improvement).	Approved

20111431	(Land off) Barkbythorpe Road	150 residential dwellings. Decision made following public inquiry. (Approved as the inspector stated the site was “an open field that in itself makes no significant contribution to the green wedge at Hamilton, and to keep it unbuilt would not be crucial to policy”, and the development would relieve pressure on less sustainable locations).	Approved
20120395	The Emerald Centre	Eight 15m high columns with flood lights.	Approved
20121191	Leicester Nirvana Football Club	8 metre high columns with floodlights.	Approved
20132317	Sandhills Avenue	Southern link road from Sandhills Avenue to the SUE in Charnwood. (Approved as the impacts on wedge were not considered significantly harmful, and was necessary for delivery of SUE and the need to accommodate housing and employment land).	Approved
20140871	40 Thurmaston Lane	Construction of two storey office, demolition of existing offices (Approved as the principle of the building had been accepted and the new building would be an architectural improvement).	Approved

## 5.26 Access

5.27 Thurmaston Lane North Bridleway, footpaths and cycle paths all run through the green wedge. They are in reasonable condition and seem to be well used, although signage could be improved.

## 5.28 Ecology and Heritage

5.29 Part of the Old Humberstone Conservation Area is located within the green wedge.

## 5.30 Air Quality Management Areas

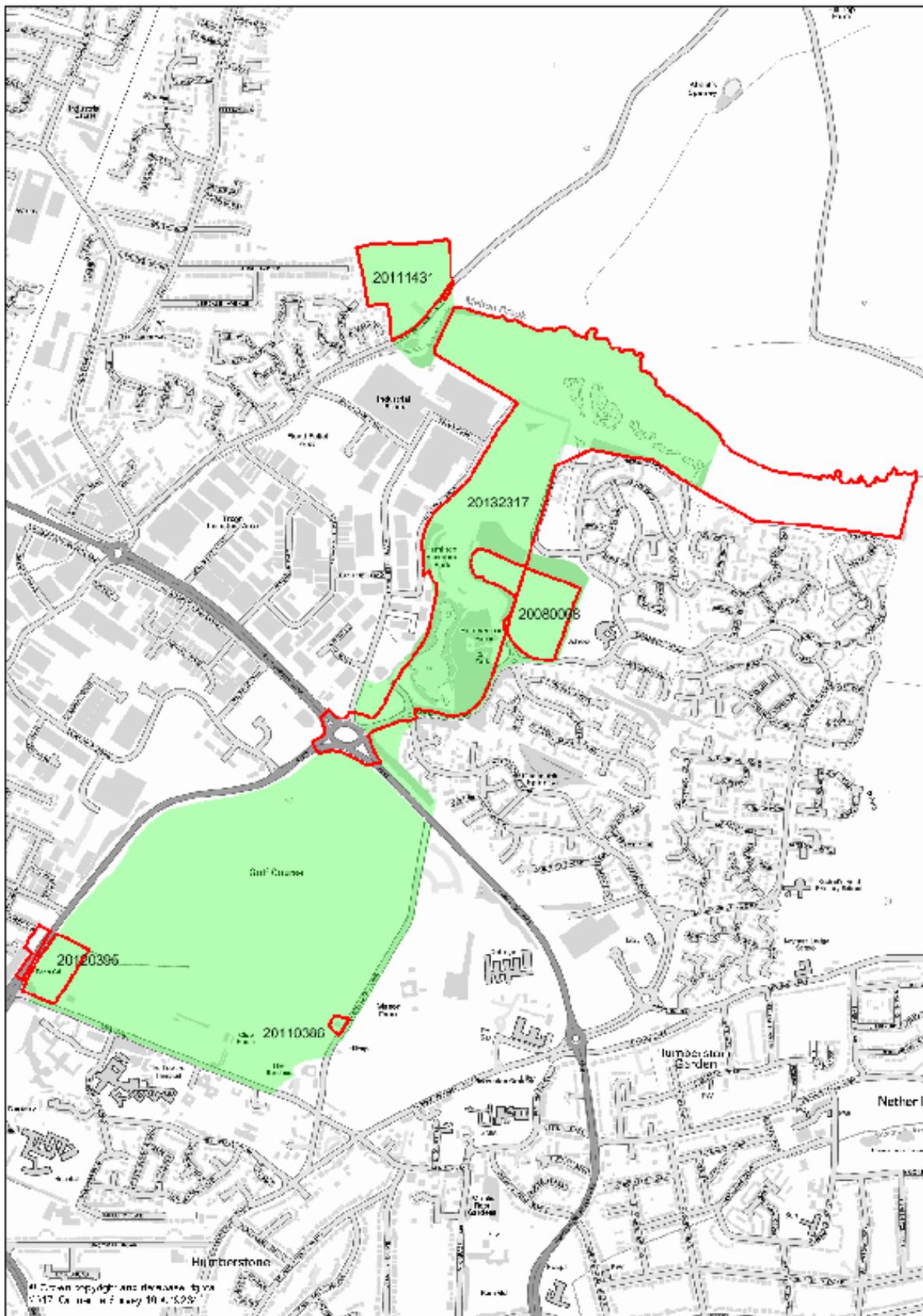
5.31 There are no Air Quality Management Areas within or adjacent to the green wedge.

## 5.32 Existing Boundaries

5.33 There is built development on the western (industrial), southern (residential and offices) and eastern (residential and farm land) boundaries of the green wedge. The northern boundary of the green wedge is adjacent to Charnwood Borough Council’s administrative boundary. Although the adjacent land in

Charnwood is not designated as a green wedge and it is currently used for agriculture and is open countryside. The North East Leicester Sustainable Urban Extension is proposed within the Charnwood area, with a green wedge being part of the proposal. Therefore this wedge will gain in importance, as the development is completed.





Area A	
Criteria	Justification
<b>To prevent the merging of settlements. STRONG</b>	The green wedge prevents 2 settlements merging which are residential and industrial areas within the City of Leicester.
<b>To guide development form. STRONG</b>	Victoria Road East and Thurmaston Lane provide the boundary to this part of the green wedge. There is a strong tree line that helps to emphasise the boundary along Thurmaston Lane and again along Victoria Road although there are more breaks in the trees along this edge. There is also a change in levels on Victoria Road East.
<b>To provide a green lung into urban areas. STRONG</b>	This area is connected to the rest of the green wedge and green spaces, which provide a green corridor. The green wedge starts within the built up area of Leicester and continues out to the edge of the City. There is scope to extend the green wedge as part of Charnwood's planned SUE on the NE of Leicester.
<b>To provide a recreational resource. MODERATE</b>	This area provides a good recreational resource with the Golf course, Humberstone Heights Golf Course, Driving Range, Emerald Irish Sports Centre, Play Barn and Playing Pitches. However, the golf course has limited public access.

Area B	
Criteria	Justification
<b>To prevent the merging of settlements. STRONG</b>	Area B prevents two settlements from merging i.e. the residential area of Hamilton with the industrial estate.
<b>To guide development form. STRONG</b>	The boundaries of this area of green wedge are defined by roads e.g. Sandhills Avenue and Hilltop Road.
<b>To provide a green lung into urban areas. STRONG</b>	This area provides connectivity to other green wedge areas to the north and south.
<b>To provide a recreational resource. STRONG</b>	The majority of this area has been laid out as Hamilton Park. This offers a variety of both formal and informal recreational opportunities.

Area C	
Criteria	Justification
<b>To prevent the merging of settlements. STRONG</b>	Area C prevents the merging of settlements, Hamilton and the industrial area. The area also has strong topography.
<b>To guide development form. STRONG</b>	The boundaries of this area of green wedge are defined by Moulton Road and Hilltop Road.
<b>To provide a green lung into urban areas. STRONG</b>	The area is strongly connected to a corridor of other areas of the green wedge to the north and south that penetrate into the urban area of Leicester.

<b>To provide a recreational resource. STRONG</b>	This area offers a variety of recreational opportunities including Hill Top Road Open Space.
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**Area D**

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Justification</b>
<b>To prevent the merging of settlements. MODERATE</b>	Low lying marshy ground stops a settlement to the south merging with the planned SUE to the north. This area will increase in importance as the SUE to the north is completed.
<b>To guide development form. MODERATE</b>	The boundaries are defined by Thornborough Way and the Melton Brook.
<b>To provide a green lung into urban areas. STRONG</b>	The area is strongly connected to a corridor of other areas of the green wedge to the south and west.
<b>To provide a recreational resource. STRONG</b>	This area offers a variety of recreational opportunities including an amenity green space.

**Area E**

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Justification</b>
<b>To prevent the merging of settlements. MODERATE</b>	The area is a low lying arable field. It provides distance between settlements to the North West and an industrial area to the South. This area will increase in importance as the SUE to the north is completed.
<b>To guide development form. MODERATE</b>	The boundaries of area E are defined by Barkbythorpe Road, hedgerows and Melton Brook.
<b>To provide a green lung into urban areas. MODERATE</b>	Due to the arable use of the land this area does not feel as well connected to the rest of Hamilton Green wedge which provides a green corridor of well connected green spaces that penetrate into the urban area of Leicester.
<b>To provide a recreational resource. WEAK</b>	This is an arable field with public footpaths to the edges. It therefore offers only limited opportunities for recreation.

**Area F**

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Justification</b>
<b>To prevent the merging of settlements. DOES NOT MEET PURPOSE</b>	This area has been developed for residential development. It does not prevent the merging of settlements.
<b>To guide development form. DOES NOT MEET PURPOSE</b>	This area of the green wedge has been developed. The development itself helps to redefine the boundary of the remaining Green wedge and guide development form.
<b>To provide a green lung into urban areas. DOES NOT MEET PURPOSE</b>	This area has been developed.

**To provide a recreational resource. DOES NOT MEET PURPOSE** This area has been developed.

### 5.34 Evington

### 5.35 Location and Size

5.36 Evington green wedge is located on the eastern side of the city. It continues beyond the City's administrative boundary into the administrative areas of Oadby and Wigston Borough Council and Harborough District Council (See map 1a). The size of the green wedge within the city boundary totals 101.4ha.

### 5.37 Topography and Flooding

5.38 Areas of the green wedge are largely undulating or flat. Some areas are at high risk of river flooding.

### 5.39 Land Uses

5.40 There are a variety of land uses within Evington green wedge including Leicestershire Golf Course with maintenance buildings and club house, parkland, an arboretum, a church and graveyard, wooded areas and agricultural grazing land. An area of the green wedge is also currently in use as school playing fields.

### 5.41 Development Pressures

Application	Location	Proposal	Decision
20061011	The Leicestershire Golf Club	Relocation of teaching bays and a practice area.	Approved
20061639	Judgemeadow Community College	Replacement College buildings, alterations to access and car park. (Approved as the majority of development was outside the green wedge).	Approved
20121339	St Deny's Church	Single storey extension to side of church.	Approved.
20142171	The Leicestershire Golf Club	Alterations to golf club entrance, replacement of clubhouse windows (Approved as the development served the functionality of the green wedge as a golf club).	Approved

### 5.42 Access

5.43 A series of footpaths and permissive paths cross parts of the green wedge and they seem to be well used. Evington Golf Course Footpath crosses the privately owned golf course. They are in reasonable condition and signage is present explaining that they are being improved.

**5.44 Ecology and Heritage**

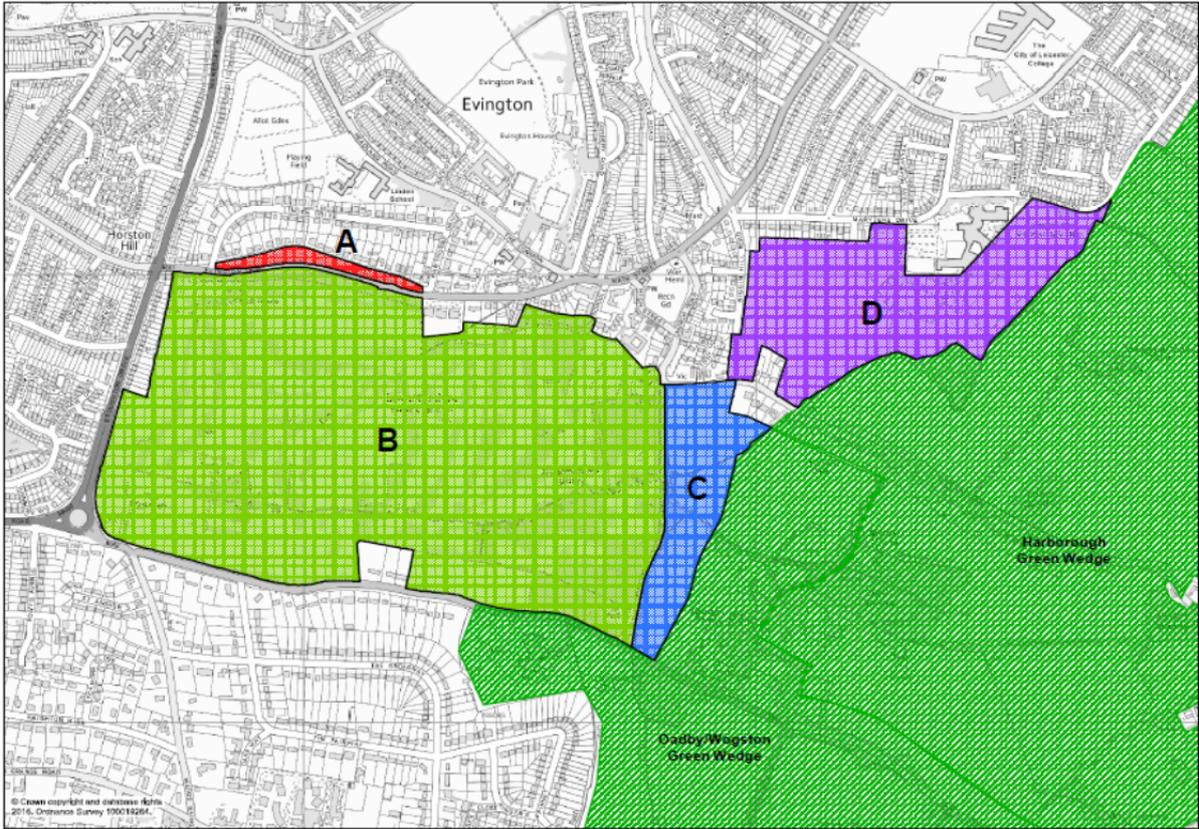
5.45 Part of the green wedge contains a designated Local Wildlife Site. There are some heritage assets within the green wedge including a Scheduled Historic Monument, historic monuments, conservation areas and a grade II\* listed buildings. Evington Village Conservation Area contains a number of these assets.

**5.46 Air Quality Management Areas**

5.47 There are no Air Quality Management Areas within or adjacent to the green wedge.

**5.48 Existing Boundaries**

5.49 The green wedge is surrounded on the north, west and south sides by residential development. The eastern and south eastern boundary of the green wedge extends into Oadby and Wigston Borough Council and Harborough District Council areas of control.



Area A	
Criteria	Justification
<b>To prevent the merging of settlements. MODERATE</b>	In association with area B to the south, this area provides a gap between the properties on Evington lane and development in Oadby to the south.
<b>To guide development form. STRONG</b>	The area is bounded by Evington Lane on the North and the South side of the area which provide defensible and readily recognisable linear boundaries.
<b>To provide a green lung into urban areas. STRONG</b>	Area A is strongly connected to area B, separated only by a road. It penetrates into areas of the city (Evington) and provides a green lung.
<b>To provide a recreational resource. WEAK</b>	The area is informally accessible to the public and provides opportunities for dog walking.

Area B	
Criteria	Justification
<b>To prevent the merging of settlements. STRONG</b>	The area, Along with area A provides an essential gap between Evington to the north and Oadby in the south.
<b>To guide development form. STRONG</b>	The area is bounded by Evington Lane and the rear of development to the north, Stoughton Drive and the rear of development to the west, Gartree Road and development to the south and Shady Lane to the East.
<b>To provide a green lung into urban areas. STRONG</b>	This area is connected to two areas of green wedge, area A to the North, area C to the East and to green wedge in Oadby and Wigston's Administrative area to the south. Together with these areas it forms part of a strongly connected corridor of green space which penetrates into the city.
<b>To provide a recreational resource. STRONG</b>	The area of the golf course is crossed by footpaths, making it partially accessible. Other parts of the area (Shady Lane Arboretum, St Denys Church yard and Piggy's Hollow) are publicly accessible. Therefore the area provides a range of formal and informal recreation opportunities.

Area C	
Criteria	Justification
<b>To prevent the merging of settlements. WEAK</b>	The area abuts the properties on Rectory Gardens and Stoughton Lane to the north. There are no settlements that directly about the area to the south or east.
<b>To guide development form. MODERATE</b>	There are strong boundaries to the north (Stoughton Lane and the rear of development). There is a strong boundary to the west and south (Shady Lane and Gartree Road). There is not a strong defensible boundary to the east as it runs through the middle of an agricultural field, but it follows the boundary between the City and Oadby and Wigston Administrative Area.

<b>To provide a green lung into urban areas. STRONG</b>	The area is linked to area B of the green wedge to the West, and to Green wedge within Oadby and Wigston Administrative Area to the south and west. It therefore forms a strongly connected corridor of green spaces.
<b>To provide a recreational resource. DOES NOT MEET PURPOSE</b>	The area is not publically accessible, as it is agricultural land.

Area D	
Criteria	Justification
<b>To prevent the merging of settlements. WEAK</b>	Whist there is development of the North and West, there is no significant development to the East or South.
<b>To guide development form. STRONG</b>	The area is bounded by Biggin Hill Road to the west, the rear of development on Marydene Drive, Judgemeadow Community College and Newhaven Road to the North and Stoughton Lane to the south. The boundary to the east is formed by Evington Brook, which also forms the city/Harborough boundary. These features form defensible linear boundaries.
<b>To provide a green lung into urban areas. MODERATE</b>	The area adjoins the boundary with Harborough's administrative area, which is also designated as a green wedge. It therefore forms a corridor with other areas of green space. It is, however not well connected to the rest of the green wedge within the city of Leicester, only connecting for a short distance across Stoughton lane. This means that it forms part of a fragmented corridor.
<b>To provide a recreational resource. MODERATE</b>	The area is partially available for community access as the Artificial Turf Pitch on Judgemeadow Community College can be booked by the community. Other areas of the school playing fields may be inaccessible to the public.

## 5.50 Knighton

### 5.51 Location and Size

5.52 Knighton green wedge is located close to the south east edge of the city and extends into Oadby and Wigston Borough Council's administrative area. The total area of the green wedge located within the city boundary is 40.5ha in size.

### 5.53 Topography and Flooding

5.54 The topography of the green wedge is mainly flat. Many areas of the green wedge are at risk of river flooding however the area does benefit from flood defences.

### 5.55 Land Uses

5.56 Currently the green wedge is used as Knighton Park, playing fields, a children's play area, a car park, a wooded spinney and a University Athletic Ground.

### 5.57 Development Pressures

Application	Location	Proposal	Decision
20060988	62 Ring Road (Land adjacent to)	Single dwelling house. (Refused due to insufficient evidence to show that the development would not have a detrimental impact on the wedge).	Refused.
20070295	Knighton Park	3.5m high sculpture with plinth.	Approved
20080002	Knighton Park	Single storey changing room facility.	Approved
20112020	Knighton Park	Single storey cabin to replace existing cabin which was in a poor state of repair.	Approved
20121027	62 Ring Road	Outline application for one residential dwelling in rear garden. (Approved as it was considered an acceptable form of infill development which maintained character of the area).	Approved
20142303	Knighton Park	Single storey detached storage building (Class B8) (Approved as it was considered to have no adverse effect on the function or character of the green wedge).	Approved
20151775	62 Ring Road	Details of access, appearance and landscaping for app 20121027.	Approved
20161854	60A Ring Road	One detached, five bedroom dwelling	Approved

### **5.58 Access**

5.59 A series of footpaths cross the green wedge, and they appear to be well used. They could be improved with better signage.

### **5.60 Ecology and Heritage**

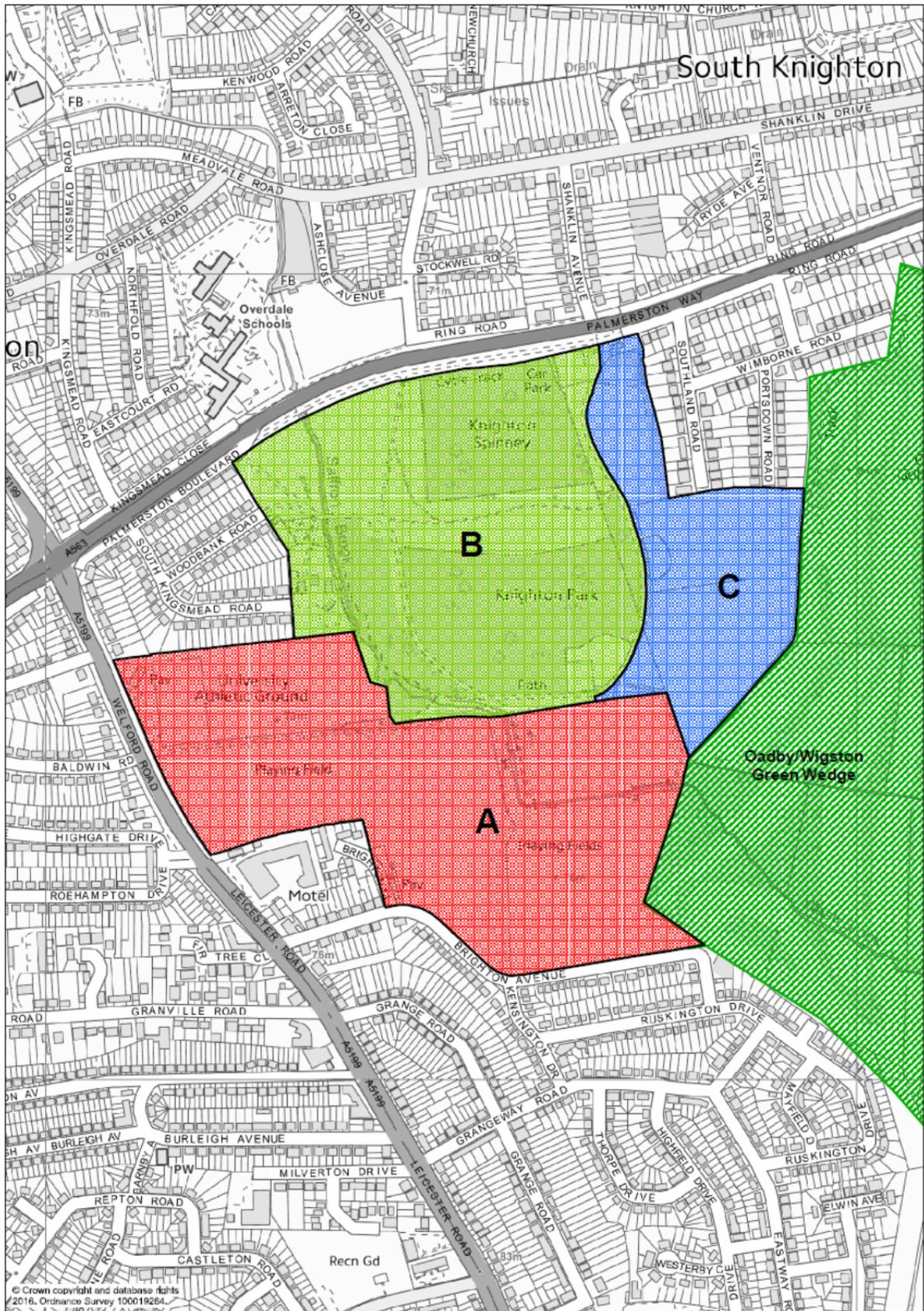
5.61 Part of the Green wedge is designated as a Local Nature Reserve and Local Wildlife Site. Knighton Spinney Local Nature Reserve and Knighton Park, which is locally listed, are also located within the wedge.

### **5.62 Air Quality Management Areas**

5.63 The A563 which runs along the northern boundary of the green wedge is an Air Quality Management Area.

### **5.64 Existing Boundaries**

5.65 The Green wedge is surrounded on the north, west and south sides by residential development. The eastern boundary of the green wedge adjoins a green wedge which extends into Oadby and Wigston Borough Council's area.





Area A	
Criteria	Justification
<b>To prevent the merging of settlements. MODERATE</b>	Part of area A along Welford Road provides a gap between the residential area of South Kingsmead Road and the area of Oadby. However the rest of area A, when combined with area B, provides a much greater area of separation between residential areas in Leicester and Oadby.
<b>To guide development form. STRONG</b>	Welford Road, Brighton Avenue and development off it forms the southern and western boundaries. The northern boundary is formed by development off South Kingsmead Road. The eastern boundary is formed by a hedgerow and adjoins Oadby and Wigston's area of influence.
<b>To provide a green lung into urban areas. MODERATE</b>	The area is a large green space that extends from an urban area and is adjoining other areas of green wedge (areas B and C and green wedge within Oadby and Wigston's Administrative Area).
<b>To provide a recreational resource. MODERATE</b>	The majority of the area has value as a recreational resource. This includes use as a park and sports fields. The majority of the area is publicly accessible.

Area B	
Criteria	Justification
<b>To prevent the merging of settlements. STRONG</b>	Area B forms a separation between development of Palmerston Way in the north and development off Brighton Avenue in the south. The development in the south is within Oadby and Wigston's Administrative Area.
<b>To guide development form. STRONG</b>	The north of the area is bounded by Palmerston Way and the rear of development to the west. The east and south boundaries are formed by hedgerows and footpaths.
<b>To provide a green lung into urban areas. STRONG</b>	The area links to adjoining school playing fields and Saffron Brook to the north. Area B is the beginning of the green wedge and it adjoins areas A and C, which adjoin a green wedge in Oadby and Wigston's administrative area.
<b>To provide a recreational resource. STRONG</b>	Area B is part of Knighton Park and is a publicly accessible and valued recreational resource. It provides people with access to a good variety of recreational opportunities.

Area C	
Criteria	Justification
<b>To prevent the merging of settlements. MODERATE</b>	Area C in itself does not separate more than one settlement due to its size. However, when considered in conjunction with areas A, B and Oadby and Wigston's green wedge it does contribute to preventing the merging of settlements.
<b>To guide development form. STRONG</b>	The Northern boundary is formed by Palmerston Way and development off Southland and Portsdown roads. The eastern

	boundaries are formed by the rear of development off Southland Road and a hedgerow that forms the boundary with Oadby and Wigston. The Western Boundary is formed by a footpath.
<b>To provide a green lung into urban areas. MODERATE</b>	This is a relatively small area of green space, which is physically well connected with the rest of the green wedge (areas, A, B and C) in Leicester and the green wedge that continues into the Borough of Oadby and Wigston. When considered together the area contributes to providing a “green lung” that starts in the urban area and extends out into the Countryside beyond the City.
<b>To provide a recreational resource. STRONG</b>	Area is publicly accessible, is part of Knighton Park and has a range of recreational opportunities available.

## 5.66 Aylestone Meadows

### 5.67 Location and Size

5.68 The Aylestone Meadows green wedge is located in the south western corner of the city. The green wedge continues over the city boundary and adjoins green wedges located within Blaby District Council's administrative area. The area of the green wedge within the city boundary is 178.2ha.

### 5.69 Topography and Flooding

5.70 Areas of the green wedge are largely flat and form part of the flood plain of the river soar. Some areas of the green wedge lie within areas at high risk of river flooding.

### 5.71 Land Uses

5.72 There is a variety of land uses within the Aylestone Meadows green wedge. These include park land, youth and adult play areas, natural green space, Meredith Road Allotment Gardens, the Great Central Way, agricultural land, the Grand Union Canal and the River Soar, sports playing fields/associated facilities, nature reserves and school playing fields. There is also a small area of industrial development with a telephone exchange.

### 5.73 Development Pressures

Application	Location	Proposal	Decision
20060155	Great Central Way	Fourteen columns with CCTV cameras.	Approved
20061388	Aylestone Meadows - St Mary's Lock	Construction of two ponds and associated landscaping. (Approved as it was considered there would be no significant harm to visual amenity).	Approved
20080001	Aylestone Fields	Playing Two changing room blocks, artificial sports pitch flood lights & car park.	Approved
20080218	Meredith Allotments	Road 8m high wind turbine and associated equipment.	Approved
20080739	Braunstone Lane East – petrol station	Two storey care home with car parking and landscaping. (Refused due to impact on the wedge and flooding issues).	Refused
20081417	St Andrews Club	Football Retention of six floodlights on existing columns.	Approved
20090772	Aylestone Fields	Playing Single storey clubhouse, sports pitch, flood lights and car park. (Refused as there was insufficient justification that the proposal outweighed the loss of part of a Local Wildlife Site and Local	Refused

			Nature Reserve).	
20100263	Gilmorton Ball Court	Avenue	Four 8m high columns to provide floodlights to new ball court (Approved as it improved sporting facilities within the green wedge).	Approved
20111654	Riverside Fields	Playing	Clubhouse with 6 changing rooms, artificial sports pitch, floodlights.	Approved
20111655	Aylestone Fields	Playing	Clubhouse with 6 changing rooms, associated parking and footbridge.	Approved
20130248	Braunstone East – petrol station	Lane	Change of use from petrol filling station to light industrial (Approved as it relates to a brownfield site within the wedge).	Approved
20142135	Aylestone Fields	Playing	Demolition of single storey derelict pavilion (Approved as it was not considered to impact the functionality or character of the wedge).	Approved
20142427	Braunstone East – Biam Yard	Lane	Single storey detached storage unit (Class B8) (Approved as it formed part of an established storage depot within the wedge).	Approved
20151442	St Andrews Club	Football	Single storey detached toilet block (Approved as it helped improve the football club facilities).	Approved
20151515	Aylestone Former Gas Works	Road	Demolition of two gas holders.	Approved

#### 5.74 Access

5.75 Permissive paths and footpaths cross and run through the green wedge. They appeared to be well maintained with a high level of usage. The Great Central Way Bridleway runs from Evesham Road to the City boundary. A tow path (Grand Union Canal and River Soar) runs across part of the wedge.

#### 5.76 Ecology and Heritage

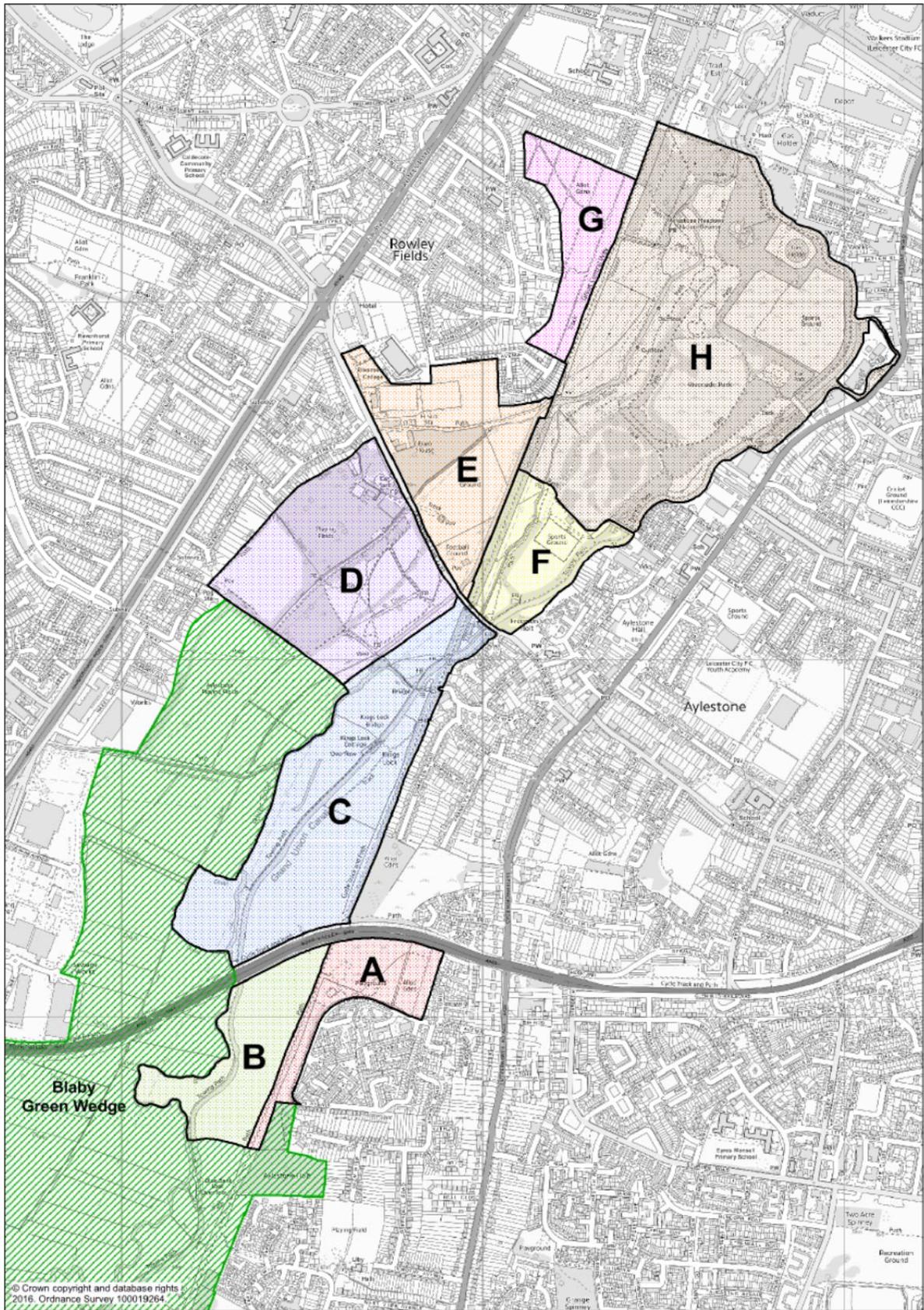
5.77 Aylestone Meadows Local Nature Reserve is located within the green wedge along with four Local Wildlife Sites. Aylestone Medieval Packhorse Bridge is a Grade II\* Listed Building and a scheduled monument. A small area of Aylestone Conservation Area is also located within the green wedge.

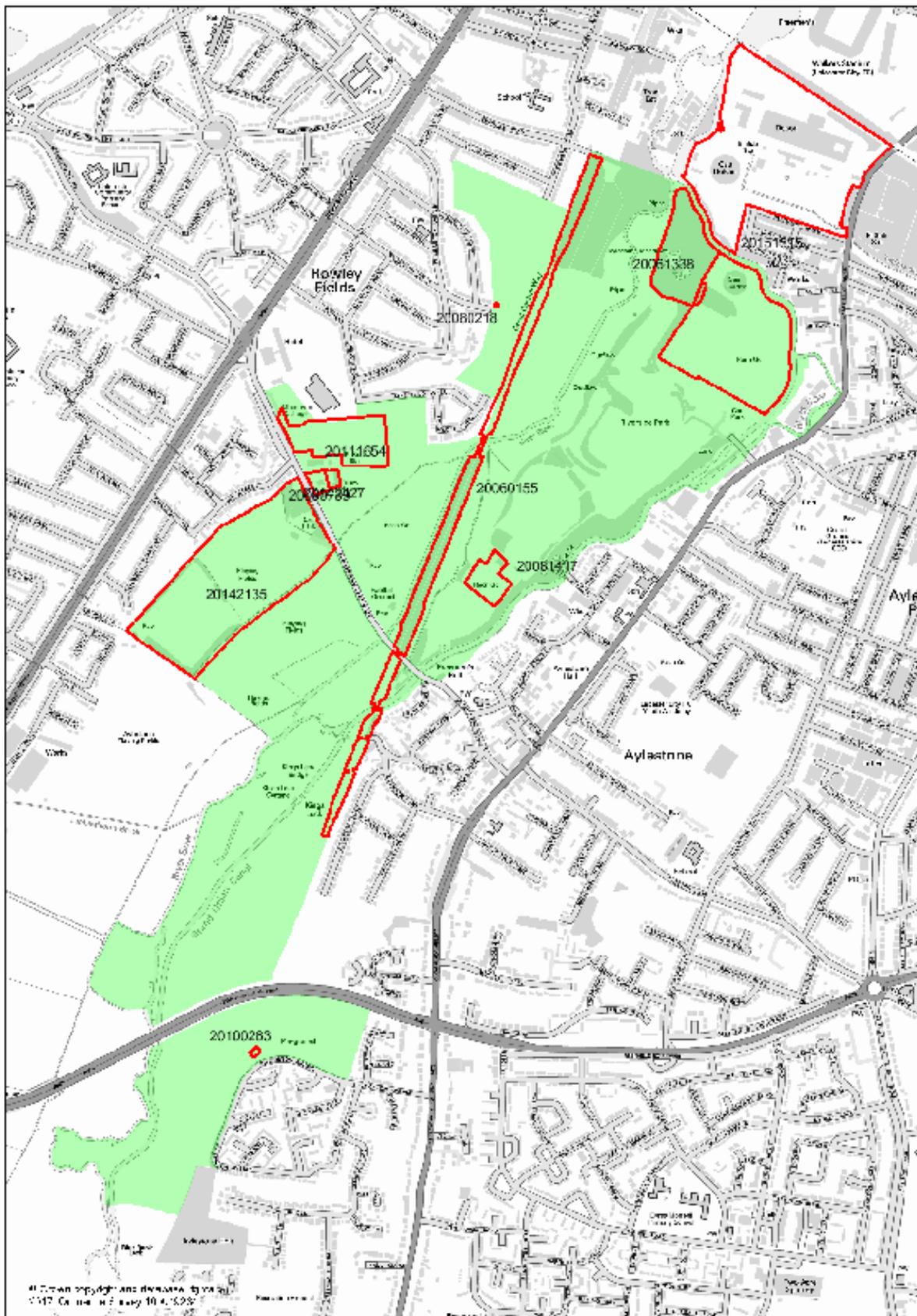
#### 5.78 Air Quality Management Areas

5.79 The northern end of Braunstone Lane East, Aylestone Road and part of the Soar Valley Way are in an Air Quality Management Area which is adjacent to the boundary of the green wedge.

## **5.80 Existing Boundaries**

- 5.81 The green wedge is bounded by residential areas to the north west. To the south west and south, the green wedge adjoins the boundary with Blaby District Council's administrative area. A green wedge within Blaby District adjoins the Riverside green wedge. The eastern and northern boundaries of the green wedge lie adjacent to residential and industrial areas.





Area A	
Criteria	Justification
<b>To prevent the merging of settlements. MODERATE</b>	Area A acts as a gap between built up areas of Leicester, which in itself is less critical. However, when considered in association with the wider green wedge in Leicester (Area B) and the adjacent Green wedge in Blaby, this area contributes towards preventing the merging of settlements. If housing is constructed on Franklyn Fields to the north, this area will provide a separation.
<b>To guide development form. STRONG</b>	Area A is bounded by Soar Valley Way to the north and the rear of development off Fontwell Drive to the east. Gilmorten Avenue provides a boundary to the south and east and the Great Central Way provides a boundary to the west.
<b>To provide a green lung into urban areas. STRONG</b>	Area A is a strongly connected corridor of green infrastructure which penetrates into the urban area of Leicester. It is next to Green wedge area B in the city and connects to green wedge in Blaby's area to the south.
<b>To provide a recreational resource. STRONG</b>	Area A is publicly accessible and offers a wide range of recreational opportunities including a play area and allotments and amenity space.

Area B	
Criteria	Justification
<b>To prevent the merging of settlements. STRONG</b>	Area B provides a gap between two settlements (Leicester and development in Blaby) This is aided by the River Soar. This function is increased further when considered in conjunction with area B in the city and the green wedge in Blaby.
<b>To guide development form. STRONG</b>	Area B has defensible boundaries in the form of the River Soar to the west and Great Central Way to the east. Soar Valley Way is to the north and the city boundary to the south.
<b>To provide a green lung into urban areas. MODERATE</b>	Area B is part of a network of green infrastructure that is reasonably adjacent to green wedge area A to the east, and area C to the north and to Blaby green wedge.
<b>To provide a recreational resource. MODERATE</b>	Area B is partially publicly accessible through footpaths and therefore offers a limited range of recreational opportunities.

Area C	
Criteria	Justification
<b>To prevent the merging of settlements. STRONG</b>	Area C provides a gap between two settlements (Aylestone in Leicester and development to the east of Narborough Road South in Blaby). This is aided by the River Soar.
<b>To guide development form. STRONG</b>	This area has strong defensible boundaries in the form of the Great Central Way to the east and Soar Valley Way to the south. The boundary to the west is formed by the city boundary, which is partly made up of hedgerows. The northern boundary is made up of Braunstone Lane East.

<b>To provide a green lung into urban areas. STRONG</b>	This area is adjacent to green wedge areas B and D within the city, and green wedge in Blaby's area.
<b>To provide a recreational resource. MODERATE</b>	Area C is easy to access at certain points from surrounding areas through footpaths but there are areas of grazing land where recreational use is more limited.

Area D	
Criteria	Justification
<b>To prevent the merging of settlements. STRONG</b>	Area D forms a gap, along with area C, between Aylestone in Leicester and development within Blaby.
<b>To guide development form. STRONG</b>	Area D has strong defensible boundaries being made up of Braunstone Lane East to the north east and development in Blaby to the west. The southern boundary is made up of a hedgerow and the city boundary.
<b>To provide a green lung into urban areas. STRONG</b>	Area D is adjacent to green wedges areas C, E and F within the city and green wedge within Blaby's area.
<b>To provide a recreational resource. STRONG</b>	Area D is made up of Outdoor Sports Space, Natural Green Space and Children's and Young Peoples Space and is publically accessible.

Area E	
Criteria	Justification
<b>To prevent the merging of settlements. STRONG</b>	Area E, along with area F, provides a gap between the Rowley Fields and Aylestone areas of Leicester.
<b>To guide development form. STRONG</b>	Area E is bounded by Braunstone Lane East to the South east, the Great Central Way to the East, and development off Harefield Avenue and Foxcroft Close in the north.
<b>To provide a green lung into urban areas. STRONG</b>	Area E is directly next to green wedge areas D, C, F and H within the city.
<b>To provide a recreational resource. MODERATE</b>	Area E provides sports use for football and cricket, as well as school playing fields although these are not publically accessible. A footpath runs through the area.

Area F	
Criteria	Justification
<b>To prevent the merging of settlements. STRONG</b>	Area F, along with area E, provides a gap between the Rowley Fields and Aylestone areas of Leicester.
<b>To guide development form. STRONG</b>	Area F is bounded by the River Soar in the East, the Great Central Way in the west and Braunstone Lane East in the south. The northern boundary follows a hedgerow and Canal Street.
<b>To provide a green lung into urban areas. STRONG</b>	Area F is next to green wedge areas C, E and H within the city.

<b>To provide a recreational resource. MODERATE</b>	The area is mainly publically accessible Natural Green Space, apart from the football ground which is open to members.
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Area G	
Criteria	Justification
<b>To prevent the merging of settlements. STRONG</b>	Area G, along with area H, forms a gap between the Rowley Fields and Aylestone areas of Leicester.
<b>To guide development form. STRONG</b>	Area G is bounded in the east by the Great Central Railway, and the rear of development for the other three boundaries.
<b>To provide a green lung into urban areas. STRONG</b>	Area G is next to green wedge area H.
<b>To provide a recreational resource. MODERATE</b>	Area G provides a recreational publically accessible area, used as allotments.

Area H	
Criteria	Justification
<b>To prevent the merging of settlements. STRONG</b>	Area H, along with area G, provides a gap between the Rowley Fields and Aylestone areas of Leicester.
<b>To guide development form. STRONG</b>	The River Soar forms the eastern boundary, and the Great Central Way forms the western boundary. The southern boundary is formed by Canal Street and a hedgerow. The Northern boundary is mainly formed by a hedgerow.
<b>To provide a green lung into urban areas. STRONG</b>	Area H adjoins green wedge areas G, F and E.
<b>To provide a recreational resource. STRONG</b>	The majority of area H is publically accessible as natural green space and Children's and Young Peoples Space.

**5.82 Kirby Frith**

**5.83 Location and Size**

5.84 The Kirby Frith green wedge is located on the western edge of the City and it continues over the city boundary into Blaby District Council’s administrative area. It also extends into Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council’s and Charnwood Borough Council’s administrative areas (see map1a). The total area of this green wedge within the city’s administrative area is currently 52.7ha.

**5.85 Topography and Flooding**

5.86 Areas of the green wedge are largely flat or undulating. There are no identified areas currently at risk from river flooding or surface water flooding.

**5.87 Land Uses**

5.88 Land uses within the Kirby Frith green wedge include an area formally used as Western Park Golf Course. Hillcrest Farm and associated outbuildings and grazing land also form part of the wedge.

**5.89 Development Pressures**

Application	Location	Proposal	Decision
N/A	Blaby DC	<p>65ha development site within the green wedge which extended out from Western Park Golf Course and Hillcrest Farm in the City.</p> <p>The proposal included up to 30ha of mixed B1, B2 and B8 employment, a maximum of 250 residential units, a local centre, an energy centre and associated open space.</p> <p>Although Blaby District Council refused the application it has since been allowed by the Secretary of State following an appeal due to the clear need for housing in Blaby (inc. affordable housing), and because the proposal would also help to meet an identified need for employment land, without precluding other planned employment development elsewhere. He was satisfied that the appeal site did not fulfil a critical role in green wedge terms and the development could be accommodated without significant harm to the immediate locality or to the wider green wedge.</p>	Approved

## **5.90 Access**

5.91 There are a number of footpaths within and around the green wedge. However, the footpath that runs along the edge of the green wedge behind the industrial buildings on Scudamore Road is overgrown and signposting is in need of improvement.

## **5.92 Ecology and Heritage**

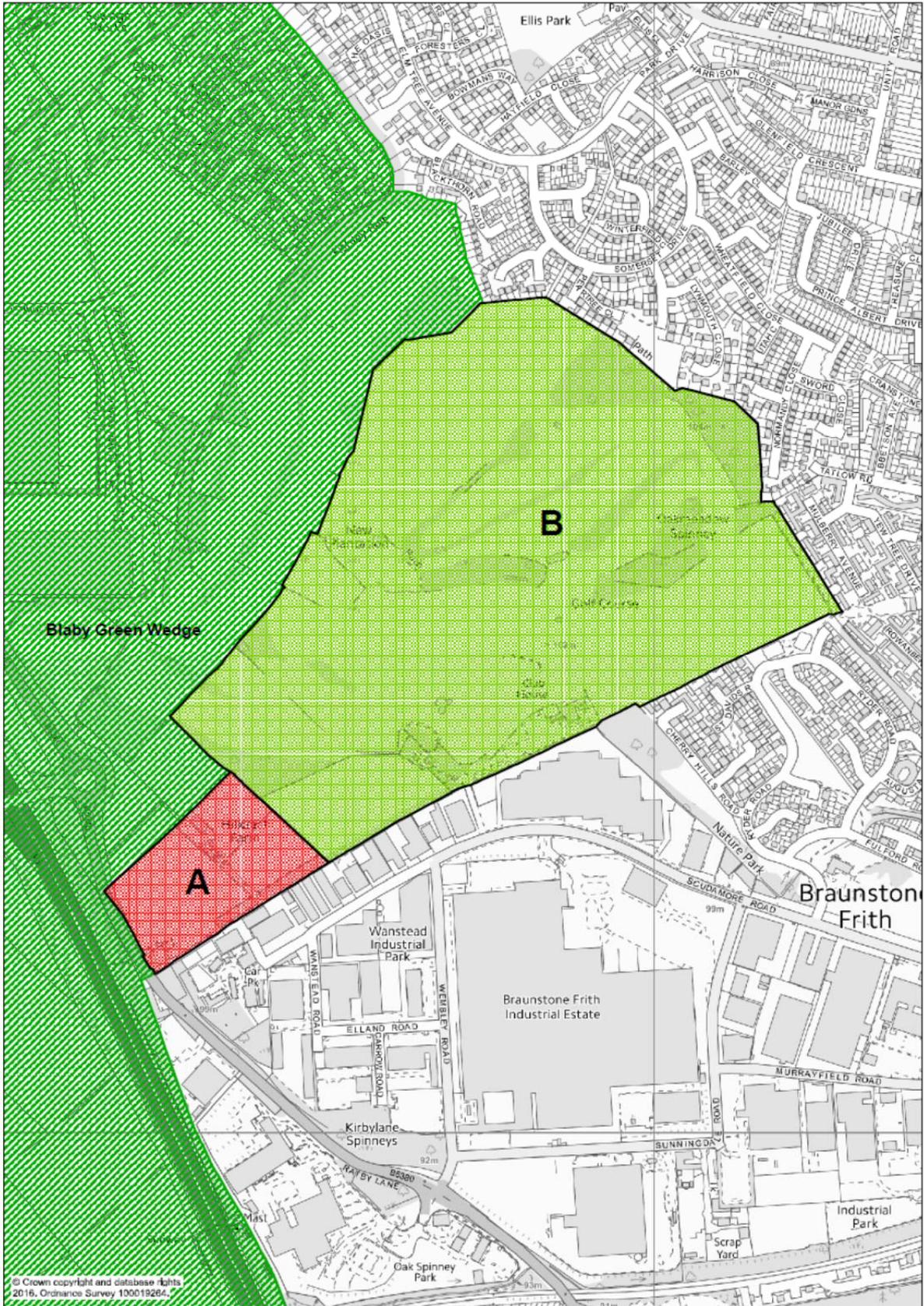
5.93 Parts of the green wedge are designated as a Local Wildlife Site.

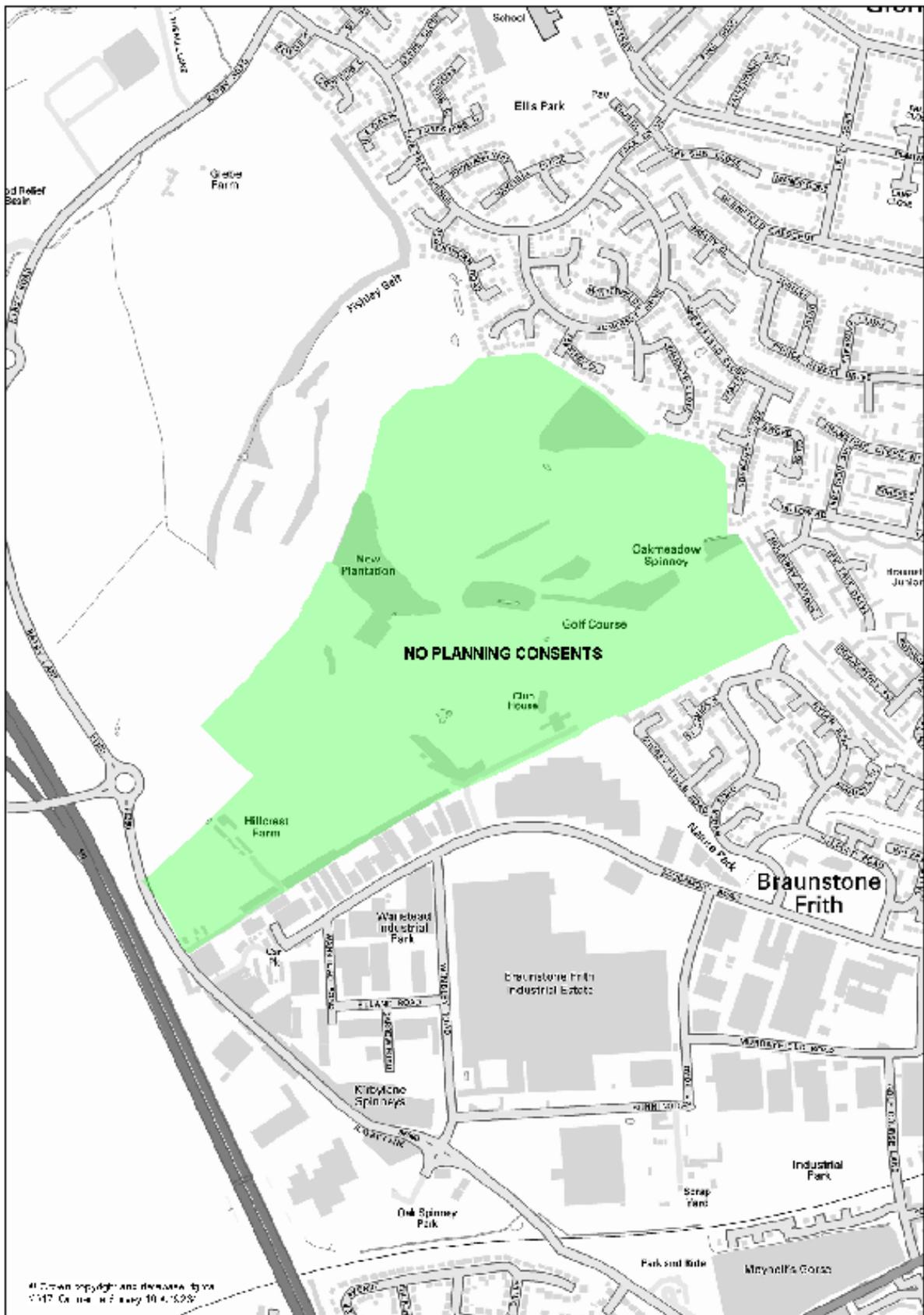
## **5.94 Air Quality Management Areas**

5.95 There is an Air Quality Management Areas to the West of the Green Wedge along the M1 Motorway.

## **5.96 Existing Boundaries**

5.97 The green wedge is bounded by residential areas to the east. To the south there are residential and industrial areas. To the west and north lies the boundary with Blaby District Councils administrative area into which the green wedge extends. The B5380 and M1 lie to the west of the City Council's area of the green wedge in Blaby's area.





Area A	
Criteria	Justification
<b>To prevent the merging of settlements. MODERATE</b>	Area A, along with the adjoining green wedge in Blaby, prevents the merging of Braunstone Frith Industrial Estate in Leicester and Kirby Muxloe in Blaby.
<b>To guide development form. STRONG</b>	This area has strong boundaries in the form of hedgerow patterns and roads (Ratby Lane) that help to guide the development form. The boundary to the North West of area A adjoins the boundary with Blaby.
<b>To provide a green lung into urban areas. WEAK</b>	The area is connected to Area B of green wedge to the west (in the City's administrative area) and to Green wedge in Blaby's area to the North and West. However the green wedges within Blaby's area have Ratby Lane and the M1 Motorway running through them.
<b>To provide a recreational resource. WEAK</b>	This area consists of farm land. There are footpaths through the area and recreational opportunities are therefore limited.

Area B	
Criteria	Justification
<b>To prevent the merging of settlements. MODERATE</b>	Area B prevents the merging of settlements from east and west. However, when considering the continued function of this into Blaby's green wedge to the north of the area, this function has been significantly reduced because of development that has taken place beyond Leicester's administrative boundary. However, the development is supposed to include green corridors within it that maintain physical connection to the wider green wedge.
<b>To guide development form. STRONG</b>	Area B is strongly bounded by development to the rear of Scudamore Road to the south, and development to the east (New Parks). The boundary to the North West follows the boundary with Blaby and is shown by a line of trees.
<b>To provide a green lung into urban areas. MODERATE</b>	Area B does provide a green lung for the surrounding residential and employment areas. However, it is fragmented, by the development in Blaby to the north.
<b>To provide a recreational resource. MODERATE</b>	The area is accessible to the Public through footpaths providing recreational access for dog walkers, walkers and runners. The Golf Course has been closed since October 2015.

## 5.98 Anstey Lane

### 5.99 Location and Size

5.100 Anstey Lane green wedge is located on the North West edge of the city. The area of the green wedge is currently 63.5ha. The green wedge continues over the boundary of the city into Charnwood Borough Council's administrative area which also connects to Blaby's green wedge and Hinckley and Bosworth's green wedge.

### 5.101 Topography and Flooding

5.102 Areas of the green wedge are largely undulating. There is no river flooding risk in this green wedge, although there are some areas at risk of surface water flooding.

### 5.103 Land Uses

5.104 There are a variety of land uses within the Anstey Road green wedge. These include nature reserves, a petrol filling station, Gorse Hill City Farm, Allotment Gardens, school playing fields, grazing land, a cemetery, electricity substation and the Severn Trent Water headquarters.

### 5.105 Development Pressures

Application	Location	Proposal	Decision
20061638	Great Meadow Road/Anstey Lane	Replacement school buildings, new access points, associated parking, landscaping and a sports pitch.	Approved
20080170	Water Centre	2 metre high boundary fence to water centre (Refused due to impact on the open and undeveloped character of the green wedge).	Refused
20080680	Anstey Lane	Demolition of building (Approved as the building was unsafe and a risk to trespassers).	Approved
20080936	Water Centre	Amended from application 20080170 (Approved due to the fence being mesh and the removal of the barbed wire on top).	Approved
20091649	Gilroes Cemetery	Extension to the cemetery (Approved as it would have minimal effect on the green wedge).	Approved
20120650	Glenfrith Farm/Lady Hay Road	Residential development comprising of a change of used of existing farm building to three new single, two and three storey buildings at Glenfrith Farm (Approved as the proposal brought disused buildings of local interest back into use and would not significantly affect the undeveloped character of the green wedge).	Approved

<b>20121310</b>	Anstey Lane (English Martyrs RC School)	Two and three storey teaching blocks and demolition of an existing building at the school.	Approved
<b>20130825</b>	Anstey Lane	Change of use from an education and training centre to offices.	Approved
<b>20142330</b>	Glenfrith Farm/Lady Hay Road	Amendments to application 20120650 (Approved as the amendments would not increase any negative impacts on the character or appearance of the area).	Approved
<b>20160562</b>	Sangha Close, Off Lady Hay Road	46 bedroom residential care home, on same site as 20120650.	Approved

### **5.106 Access**

5.107 Footpaths cross the green wedge and large areas are accessible to the public.

### **5.108 Ecology and Heritage**

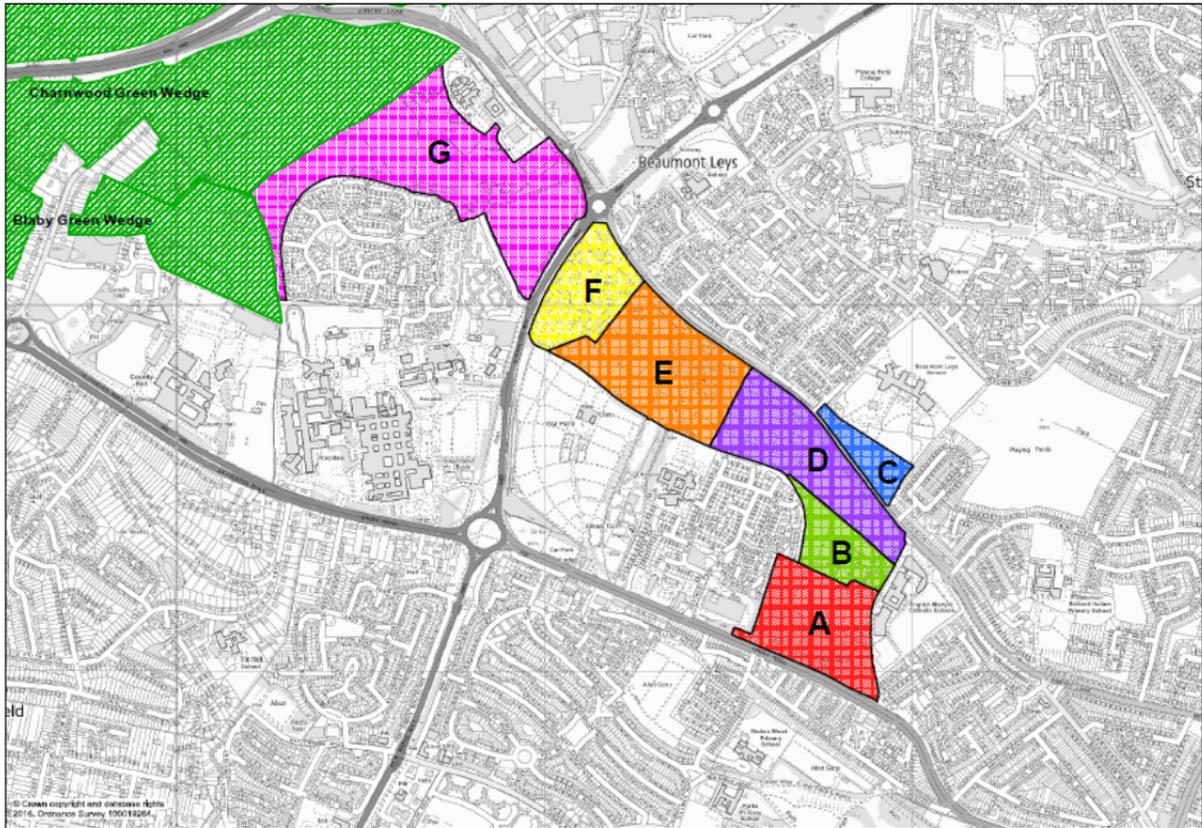
5.109 There are three Local Wildlife Sites and two Local Nature Reserves within the green wedge. Leicester Water Centre and Leicester Frith Farm are heritage assets which are locally listed.

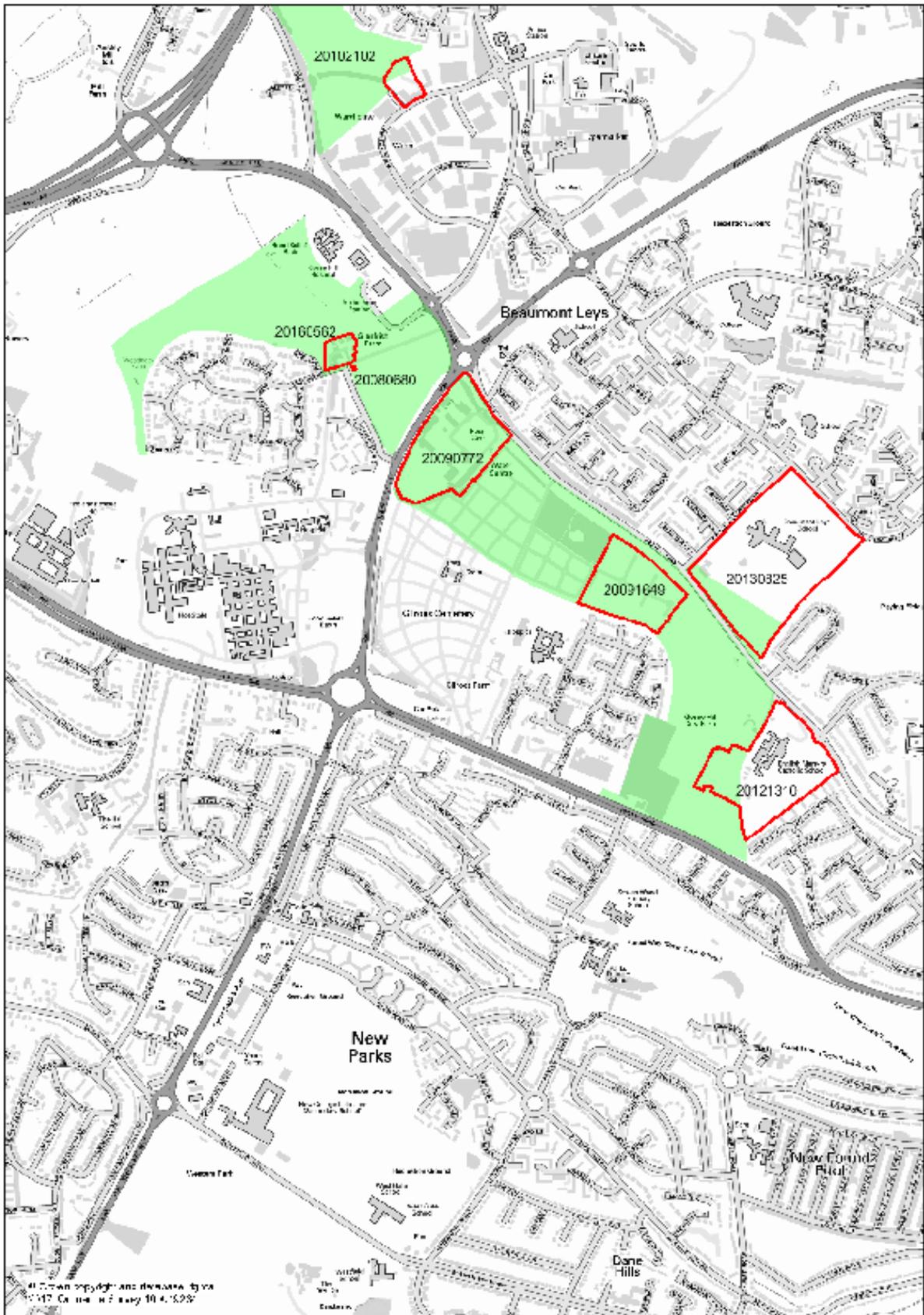
### **5.110 Air Quality Management Areas**

5.111 There are no Air Quality Management Areas adjacent or within the green wedge.

### **5.112 Existing Boundaries**

5.113 The Green wedge is bounded by residential areas to the north, south and east. The western boundary adjoins the boundary with Charnwood, which is also designated as green wedge.





Area A	
Criteria	Justification
<b>To prevent the merging of settlements. MODERATE</b>	Area A on its own does provide a gap between two or more settlements (at Whitley Close and Bramham Close), which prevents the merging of settlements. However, this role strengthens and is more strategic when considered in conjunction with adjoining areas of green wedge.
<b>To guide development form. STRONG</b>	The area is bounded by defensible and boundary features. These are Groby Road to the South, development off Heathley Park Drive to the west, and fence lines to the north and east.
<b>To provide a green lung into urban areas. STRONG</b>	Area A is strongly connected to other areas of the green wedge particularly to the north east, providing a strongly connected green corridor into and out of the built up area.
<b>To provide a recreational resource. MODERATE</b>	There is a footpath through the area although as it is a nature reserve it is quite overgrown. There is a ball court in the area providing recreational facilities at English Martyrs Catholic School, although it is not clear whether it is publically accessible.

Area B	
Criteria	Justification
<b>To prevent the merging of settlements. MODERATE</b>	Area B on its own does provide a gap between two or more settlements, which prevent the merging of settlements. However, this role strengthens and is more strategic when considered in conjunction with adjoining areas of green wedge.
<b>To guide development form. STRONG</b>	Area B is bounded by defensible and readily recognisable linear boundary feature which guide development form. These are hedgerows to the north and south, and footpaths to the north and west.
<b>To provide a green lung into urban areas. STRONG</b>	Area B is well connected to area A to the south and area D to the north, which penetrate into and out of the built up area.
<b>To provide a recreational resource. MODERATE</b>	Area B largely consists of the City Farm. This is an area that is accessible to the public. The area is also accessible through footpaths.

Area C	
Criteria	Justification
<b>To prevent the merging of settlements. MODERATE</b>	Area C of the green wedge provides a gap between settlements of Beaumont Leys to the north and houses off Roydene Crescent to the south.
<b>To guide development form. MODERATE</b>	Three sides of Area C have logical boundaries being made up of Anstey Lane, the houses to the rear of Roydene Crescent and Great Meadow Road. However, the North east boundary is fairly arbitrary and reflects an old boundary based on previous development in the school grounds.

<b>To provide a green lung into urban areas. MODERATE</b>	Area C is part of Beaumont Leys School grounds. It is adjacent to area D, although separated by Anstey Lane.
<b>To provide a recreational resource. MODERATE</b>	Access to this area is controlled to school children as it is part of school grounds. The area is also available for community use, at a cost.

Area D	
Criteria	Justification
<b>To prevent the merging of settlements. STRONG</b>	Area D on its own does provide a gap between two or more settlements, which prevent the merging of settlements. Including Beaumont Leys to the north, English Martyrs School to the East and development to the west at Heathley Park Drive.
<b>To guide development form. STRONG</b>	Area D has strong defensible boundary features made up of Anstey Lane to the north, and a hedgerow to the south, east and north.
<b>To provide a green lung into urban areas. STRONG</b>	Area D is well connected to green wedge areas B, C and E which are adjacent.
<b>To provide a recreational resource. STRONG</b>	The area consists of cemetery land and grazing associated with the city farm and a nature reserve. It is publicly accessible and offers a good range of formal and informal recreational opportunities.

Area E	
Criteria	Justification
<b>To prevent the merging of settlements. STRONG</b>	Area E provides a gap between Beaumont Leys to the north and development off Allerton Drive and the LOROS hospice to the south. Gilroes cemetery, to the south of area E, currently allocated as Green Space, also provides a gap.
<b>To guide development form. MODERATE</b>	This area of the green wedge has strong defensible boundaries along Anstey Lane. However, the edge of the green wedge that adjoins part of Gilroes cemetery, which is allocated as green space, has less defined boundaries.
<b>To provide a green lung into urban areas. STRONG</b>	This area of the green wedge is part of a strongly connected corridor of green infrastructure, which penetrates into the built form. It is directly adjacent to area D to the East, and to Gilroes cemetery to the south.
<b>To provide a recreational resource. MODERATE</b>	The area mainly consists of cemetery land and a nature reserve. The area is publicly accessible but use of the land naturally limits the range of recreational opportunities.

Area F	
Criteria	Justification
<b>To prevent the merging of settlements. WEAK</b>	This part of the green wedge consists of the Severn Trent Headquarters. Area F contains built development in the form of low level buildings as well as car parking and storage areas. This

	development was here before the green wedge was allocated. The low level nature of the built form and strong boundary features mean that the development is largely not visible from most areas of the green wedge. This helps with the perception of the continuity of green wedge.
<b>To guide development form. STRONG</b>	Area F has a strong boundary to the north (Anstey Lane) and west (Glenfrith Way). The boundaries to the east and south are made up of hedgerows.
<b>To provide a green lung into urban areas. DOES NOT MEET PURPOSE</b>	A large part of this area contains built development and therefore lacks the green infrastructure needed to meet this function.
<b>To provide a recreational resource. DOES NOT MEET PURPOSE</b>	The site is not publicly accessible and does not provide any recreational opportunities.

Area G	
Criteria	Justification
<b>To prevent the merging of settlements. MODERATE</b>	Area G on its own does provide a gap between two or more settlements in Leicester, which prevent the merging of settlements. However, area G also contributes to the gap between Leicester and Anstey when considered in conjunction with Charnwood's adjoining area of green wedge.
<b>To guide development form. STRONG</b>	The area is bounded by defensible boundaries with Anstey Lane and the rear of the ambulance station and hospital to the north east, Glenfrith Way to the east. The area is also bounded by development off Lady Hay Road to the south. The north eastern boundary adjoins Charnwood's area and is marked by a hedgerow. The boundary to the west is also marked by a hedgerow and adjoins Blaby's Green wedge.
<b>To provide a green lung into urban areas. MODERATE</b>	The area benefits from connections to the wider green wedge that penetrates into Leicester as it is connected to green wedges in Blaby and Charnwood. It is however connected to area F which contains built development.
<b>To provide a recreational resource. MODERATE</b>	The area is accessible with limited choices for recreational opportunities. However, the range of choices improves around the residential development with play areas being present.

## 5.114 Castle Hill

### 5.115 Location and Size

5.116 The Castle Hill green wedge is located to the north west of the City. It continues over the city boundary and adjoins a green wedge located within Charnwood Borough Council's administrative area. The green wedge in Charnwood Borough Council then adjoins green wedges within Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council and Blaby District Council's administrative areas (map 1a). The area of the green wedge currently within the city boundary is 149.5ha.

### 5.117 Topography and Flooding

5.118 Areas of the green wedge are largely undulating. Some areas are at high risk of river flooding.

### 5.119 Land Uses

5.120 There is a variety of land uses within the Castle Hill green wedge. These include Castle Hill Country Park, Boston Road Allotments, Park View Riding Centre with associated buildings and hay meadows/ agricultural land.

### 5.121 Development Pressures

Application	Location	Proposal	Decision
20070247	22 Rectory Lane	Agricultural barn to store produce and machinery. (Approved due to limited impact on green wedge).	Approved
20090916	100 Anstey Lane – Park View Riding School	One 4 bedroom dwelling (Approved due to limited impact on the green wedge).	Approved
20100969	Ashton Green	Mixed use development with residential, employment, retail and open space elements. (Approved as the area of the proposal within the green wedge was to be used for school playing fields and would be open for community use, therefore being an acceptable use within the green wedge).	Approved
20102102	70 Boston Road	Change of use from open space to car park associated with industrial unit (Approved as the proposal would not significantly impact on the overall function of the green wedge).	Approved
20110801	Castle Hill Country Park	Wetland improvements to the Country Park.	Approved

20140845	70 Boston Road	Change of use of part of the green wedge to a car park (Approved as the proposal would not significantly impact on the overall function of the green wedge).	Approved
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### **5.122 Access**

5.123 Footpaths, bridle paths and permissive paths cross and run through the green wedge. They appeared to be well maintained although signage could be improved.

### **5.124 Ecology and Heritage**

5.125 Parts of the green wedge are designated as the Castle Hill Country Park Local Wildlife Sites and Castle Hill Country Park Oak Local Wildlife Site. There is also a scheduled ancient monuments located within the green wedge.

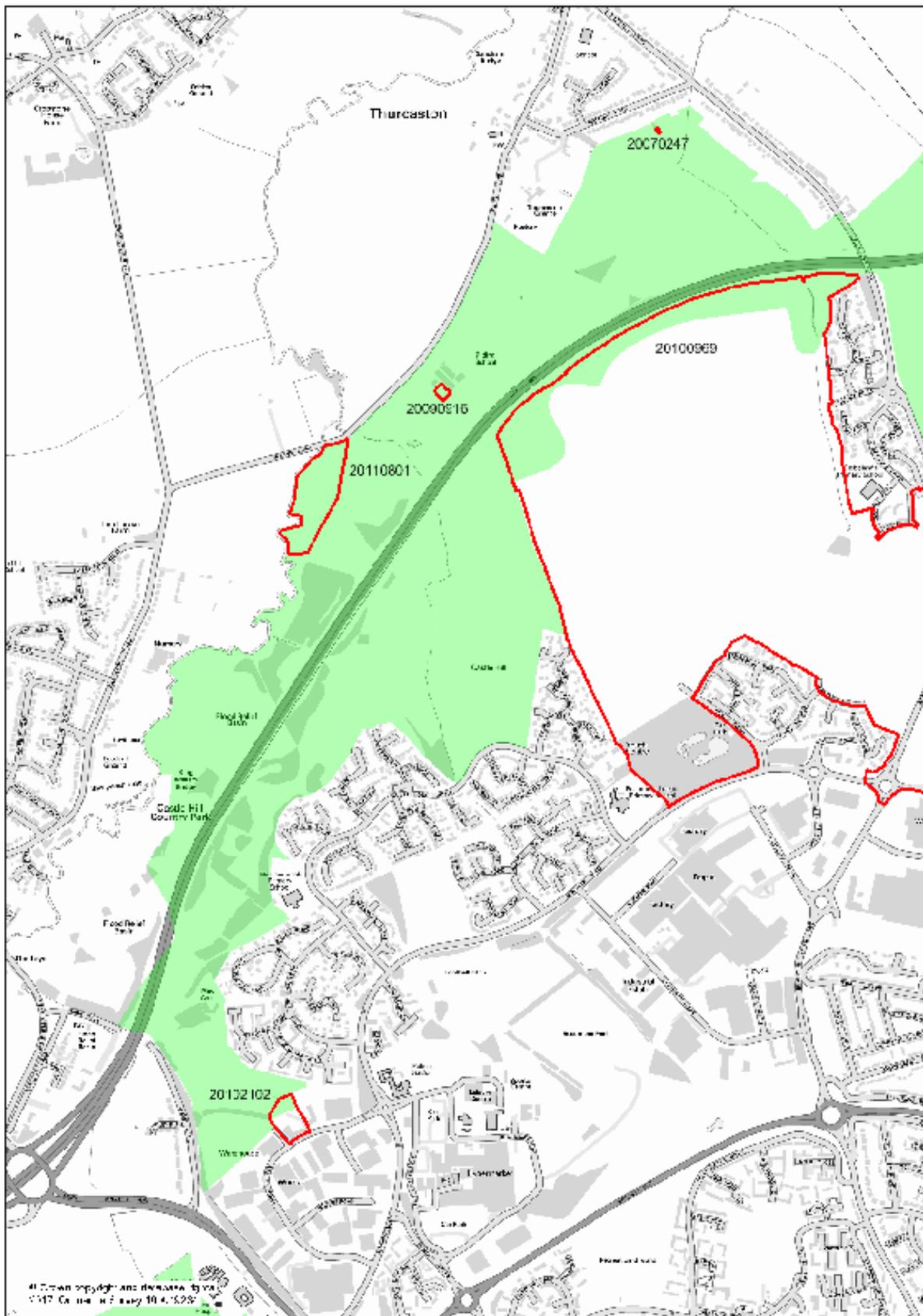
### **5.126 Air Quality Management Areas**

5.127 There are no Air Quality Management Areas in the vicinity of the green wedge.

### **5.128 Existing Boundaries**

5.129 The green wedge is bounded by residential and industrial areas to the south. It is also bounded by a housing allocation (Ashton Green) to the south east and by further residential areas to the east and north east. It adjoins green wedge allocations to the west in Charnwood Borough Council's administrative area.





Area A	
Criteria	Justification
<b>To prevent the merging of settlements. MODERATE</b>	Area A is a relatively small area of green wedge. It is the start of Leicester's Castle Hill green wedge but is also connected to green wedge in Charnwood. On its own it does not prevent the merging of settlements but in connection with the wider green wedge that adjoins its boundary it does prevent the merging of settlements. (Leicester and Anstey).
<b>To guide development form STRONG</b>	Area A has strong defensible boundaries such as Gorse Hill Road, and the boundaries of allotments, that help to guide development form.
<b>To provide a green lung into urban areas. MODERATE</b>	Area A is well connected to other areas of the green wedge to the north, within the city.
<b>To provide a recreational resource. MODERATE</b>	The area provides an adequate range of recreational resources. Part of the area is publically accessible as part of Castle Hill Country Park. There are also allotments within the area.

Area B	
Criteria	Justification
<b>To prevent the merging of settlements. MODERATE</b>	In connection with the adjoining area of green wedge in Charnwood, area B contributes to preventing the merging of Beaumont Leys in Leicester and Anstey in Charnwood.
<b>To guide development form. MODERATE</b>	The western side of area B is based on administrative boundaries and is consequently quite weak. However, the eastern edge has a strong boundary in the form of residential development, which guides development form.
<b>To provide a green lung into urban areas. STRONG</b>	Area B is part of a strongly connected green corridor as it adjoins areas of green wedge to the north, south and west.
<b>To provide a recreational resource. STRONG</b>	The area is wholly publically accessible and provides a good range of recreational opportunities as it forms part of Castle Hill Country Park.

Area C	
Criteria	Justification
<b>To prevent the merging of settlements. MODERATE</b>	Parts of area C do prevent the merging of the settlements of Beaumont Leys in Leicester and Anstey in Charnwood, along with the Charnwood Green wedge.
<b>To guide development form. STRONG</b>	Area C is bounded partly by Rothley Brook and by the edge of development in Beaumont Leys, which provide strong defensible boundaries. It also shares a boundary with the Charnwood Green wedge.
<b>To provide a green lung into urban areas. STRONG</b>	Area C adjoins areas of green wedge to the north west and south west and is part of a strongly connected corridor of green infrastructure which surrounds built development

<b>To provide a recreational resource. STRONG</b>	Area C provides a wide range of recreational opportunities and the majority is accessible to the public as it forms part of Castle Hill.
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Area D	
Criteria	Justification
<b>To prevent the merging of settlements. MODERATE</b>	Area D prevents the merging of settlements (Leicester, Anstey and Cropston). The role is stronger when considered in connection with the adjacent green wedge in Charnwood. This function of the green wedge will become more important when Ashton Green is developed.
<b>To guide development form. MODERATE</b>	The western boundary of area D has a logical defined boundary (Anstey Lane). The south eastern boundary does not follow a manmade or natural feature. In effect it is an arbitrary line on a plan.
<b>To provide a green lung into urban areas. WEAK</b>	Area D consists of agricultural land and a riding school. Whilst there is public access to and through the area it is not well connected to urban areas. This function would improve as the Ashton Green development gets built out.
<b>To provide a recreational resource. WEAK</b>	The area is publicly accessible through footpaths in the area but the ranges of recreational opportunities are limited.

Area E	
Criteria	Justification
<b>To prevent the merging of settlements. MODERATE</b>	Area E prevents the merging of Thurcaston to the north in Charnwood's administrative area, and Glebelands to the south. It will become more important when Ashton Green is developed.
<b>To guide development form. MODERATE</b>	The North and North West boundaries are formed by development to the rear of Rectory Lane, Leicester Road and Anstey Lane. These boundaries are also the boundary with Charnwood's area of influence.
<b>To provide a green lung into urban areas. MODERATE</b>	The area of the green wedge is linked to other areas of green wedge to the east and west.
<b>To provide a recreational resource. MODERATE</b>	There area is accessible by footpaths, and there are stables for horse riding.

## 5.130 Thurcaston Road

### 5.131 Location and Size

5.132 Thurcaston Road green wedge is located in the north west area of the city. The area of the green wedge is 140.1ha. The green wedge continues over the boundary of the city into Charnwood Borough Council's administrative area as shown on map 1a.

### 5.133 Topography and Flooding

5.134 Areas of the green wedge are largely undulating. There are no areas at risk of river flooding although small areas are at risk from surface water flooding.

### 5.135 Land Uses

5.136 There are a variety of land uses within the Thurcaston Road green wedge. These include Birstall Golf Course, the Great Central Railway, Red Hill Allotments, Belgrave Cemetery, a community centre, rugby pitches, a bowls ground, semi-natural areas, agricultural land and Greengate Lane Gypsy and Traveller Site.

### 5.137 Development Pressures

Application	Location	Proposal	Decision
20071968	400 Loughborough Road	Replacement canopy to petrol station (Approved to reduce pollution and the proposal had minimal effect on the wedge)	Approved
20080347	7-9 The Sidings	15 metre high wind turbine (Approved as it is unlikely to impact on the function of the green wedge)	Approved
20131493	Thurcaston Road	Change of use from former sports ground to gypsy and traveller site with 10 pitches & amenity buildings. (The impact of the development on the Green wedge was outweighed by the need to provide accommodation for Gypsy and Traveller families).	Approved
20131494	Greengate Lane	Change of use from houses/gardens to gypsy and traveller site with six pitches & amenity buildings. (The impact of the development on the Green wedge was outweighed by the need to provide accommodation for Gypsy and Traveller families).	Approved
20151790	Loughborough Road	Access road to allotments off Loughborough Road (Approved as it would provide better access to existing allotments)	Approved

### **5.138 Access**

5.139 Footpaths do cross the green wedge although some areas of the green wedge are not very accessible to the public. A cycle path runs along Greengate Lane.

### **5.140 Ecology and Heritage**

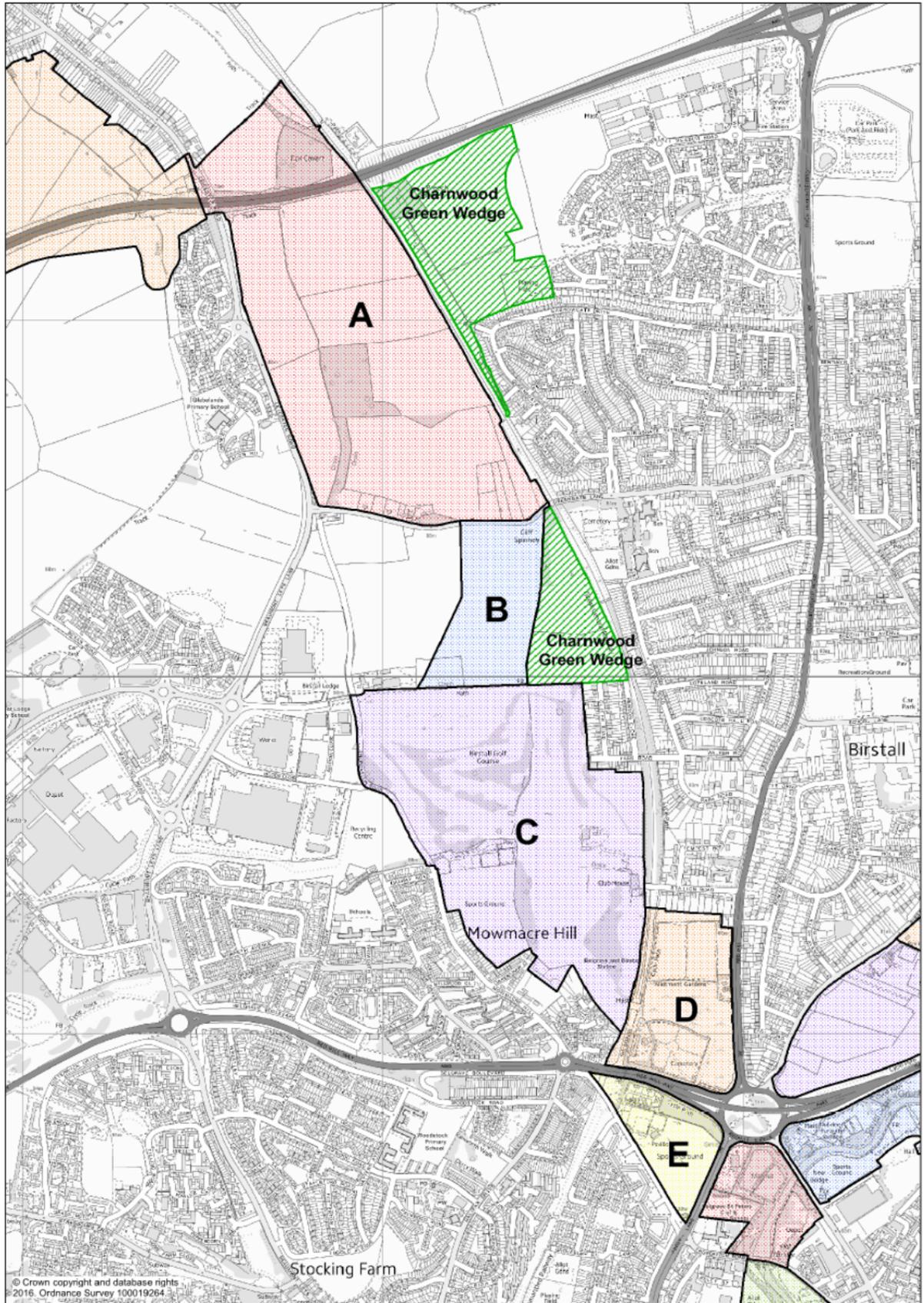
5.141 Red Hill Local Wildlife Site is located within the green wedge. Red Hill Service Station is a Grade II Listed building and Belgrave Cemetery is a locally listed heritage asset located within the green wedge.

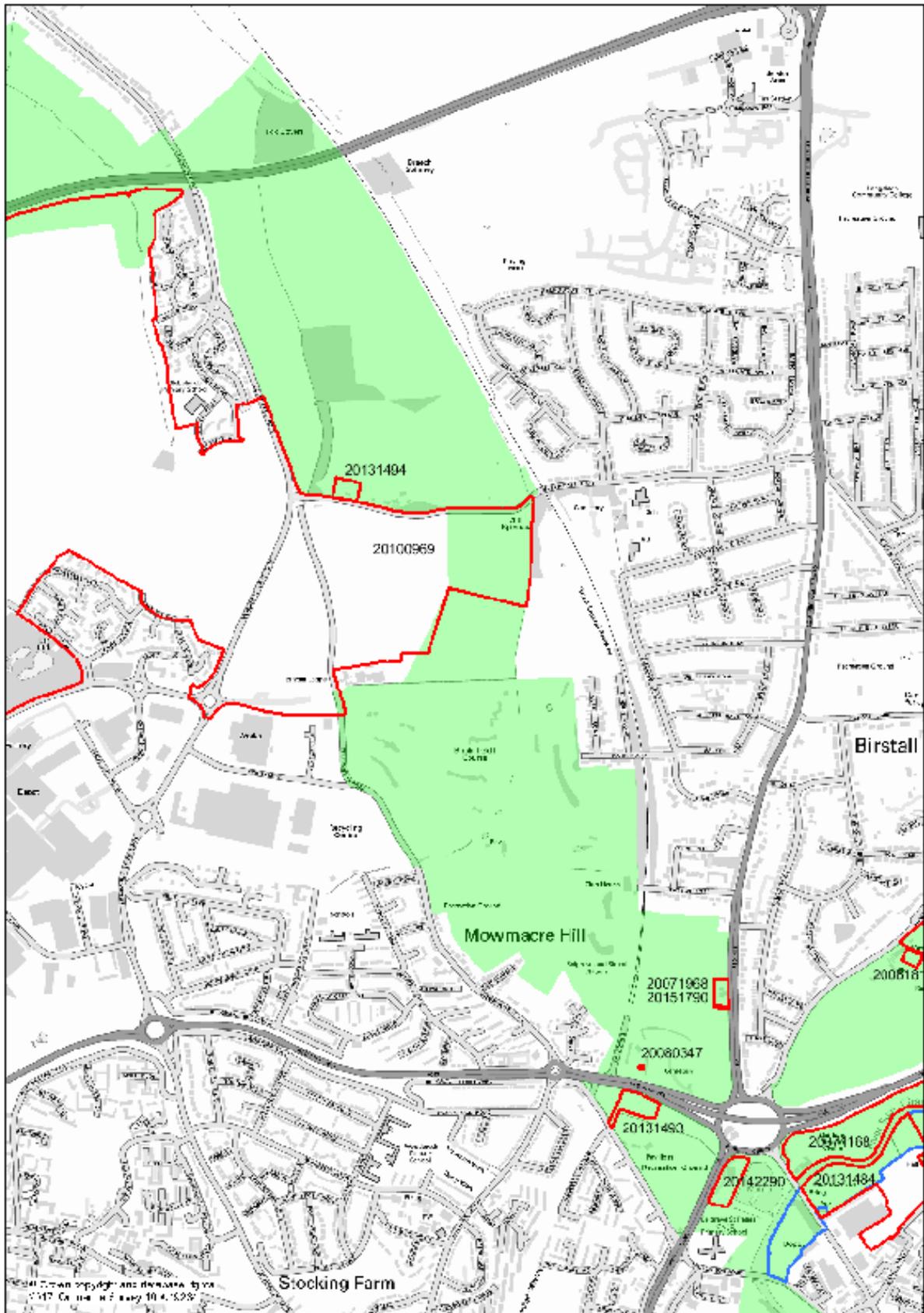
### **5.142 Air Quality Management Areas**

5.143 Abbey Lane and Red Hill roundabout, adjacent to the green wedge, are Air Quality Management Areas.

### **5.144 Existing Boundaries**

5.145 The green wedge is bounded by the Ashton Green housing allocation and a small residential area to the west, and residential areas to the south. Beyond the City boundary to the east of the green wedge is Birstall and two small sections of this green wedge in Charnwood Borough Council's administrative area. Thurstaston green wedge connects to adjacent green wedges at its north west and south east boundaries.





Area A	
Criteria	Justification
<b>To prevent the merging of settlements. STRONG</b>	Area A does prevent the merging of settlements (Leicester and Birstall). This area of separation will become more important when Hallam Fields and Ashton Green are built. It also prevents the merging of Thurcaston to the north with development at Ashton Green.
<b>To guide development form. MODERATE</b>	Area A has strong defensible boundaries on three sides (the A46, the Great Central Railway line and Greengate Lane). The boundary between A and B is weaker.
<b>To provide a green lung into urban areas. WEAK</b>	Although the green wedge does extend into the urban area it is difficult for people to move through it at area A. This is because the majority of the area is not publically accessible. However, the area to the north of the A46 is publically accessible.
<b>To provide a recreational resource. WEAK</b>	The area to the north of the A46 is publically accessible however the recreational opportunities are limited to walking. The majority of area A is in agricultural use.

Area B	
Criteria	Justification
<b>To prevent the merging of settlements. MODERATE</b>	Area B does assist in preventing the merging of settlements (Leicester and Birstall). However, area B is adjacent to an area of green wedge in Charnwood, which assists in this function. It is also adjacent to land that is designated for Ashton Green development. This is yet to be developed and is currently in agricultural use. Therefore this role will become more important when Ashton Green is developed.
<b>To guide development form. MODERATE</b>	The north boundary is formed by Greengate Lane. The south and east boundaries are formed by a hedgerow. There is also a footpath along the South boundary. The western boundary is weaker.
<b>To provide a green lung into urban areas. MODERATE</b>	This area is connected to green wedge areas to the north and south.
<b>To provide a recreational resource. WEAK</b>	Area B is in agricultural use. However, limited forms of recreation are possible (mainly walking) as the area is accessible by public rights of way.

Area C	
Criteria	Justification
<b>To prevent the merging of settlements. STRONG</b>	Area C prevents the merging of settlements (Leicester and Birstall)

<b>To guide development form. STRONG</b>	The Great Central Railway provides a strong boundary to the East. A strong boundary is provided to the west by Thurcaston Road and development adjacent to it. A strong boundary is provided to the north by a hedgerow and footpath.
<b>To provide a green lung into urban areas. STRONG</b>	Area C is strongly connected to the green infrastructure which penetrates into the green wedge.
<b>To provide a recreational resource. MODERATE</b>	Area C does provide a recreational resource through the golf course and sports ground. It is accessible to club members.

Area D	
Criteria	Justification
<b>To prevent the merging of settlements. STRONG</b>	Area D does prevent the merging of settlements (Birstall and Leicester).
<b>To guide development form. STRONG</b>	Area D has strong defensible boundaries with the Great Central Railway to the west, development to the rear of Station road to the north, Red Hill Road to the east and Red Hill Way to the south.
<b>To provide a green lung into urban areas. STRONG</b>	This area is strongly connected to a corridor of green infrastructure which penetrates into the urban area of Leicester. It is connected to green wedge area C to the north west and to the south.
<b>To provide a recreational resource. MODERATE</b>	Area D provides a good range of recreational opportunities. However not all these resources are accessible to the public without cost (e.g. allotments and the Great Central Railway).

Area E	
Criteria	Justification
<b>To prevent the merging of settlements. MODERATE</b>	Area E, in connection with Area D, prevents the merging of (Birstall and Leicester).
<b>To guide development form. STRONG</b>	Area E has strong boundaries which help to guide development form. These are Abbey Lane on the East, Red Hill Way to the North and Thurcaston Lane to the North West.
<b>To provide a green lung into urban areas. MODERATE</b>	A stronger connection to the rest of the green wedge is prevented by the physical barrier of the ring road. However, the foot bridge over the of the ring road helps with connectivity. Area A is adjacent to area D of the green wedge to the north, and also to Watermead Green wedge to the East.
<b>To provide a recreational resource. MODERATE</b>	Area E is largely in sporting use although this is not freely accessible to the public.

# 6. Conclusion

- 6.1 Leicester City Council is currently preparing the new Local Plan, scheduled for adoption in 2019. The Local Plan will contain new planning policies, setting out the Council’s approach to protecting and enhancing the natural environment and will include specific reference to green wedges.
- 6.2 This review has examined the extent and functions of Leicester’s green wedges and will form part of the evidence base for the preparation of the Local Plan. The public will be given the opportunity to make representations on any designations through Local Plan process.
- 6.3 The study has assessed a total of nine areas that currently form green wedges or strategic gaps around Leicester, as listed below:

Watermead;  
 Hamilton;  
 Evington;  
 Knighton;  
 Aylestone Meadows;  
 Kirby Frith;  
 Anstey Lane;  
 Castle Hill; and  
 Thurcaston Road.

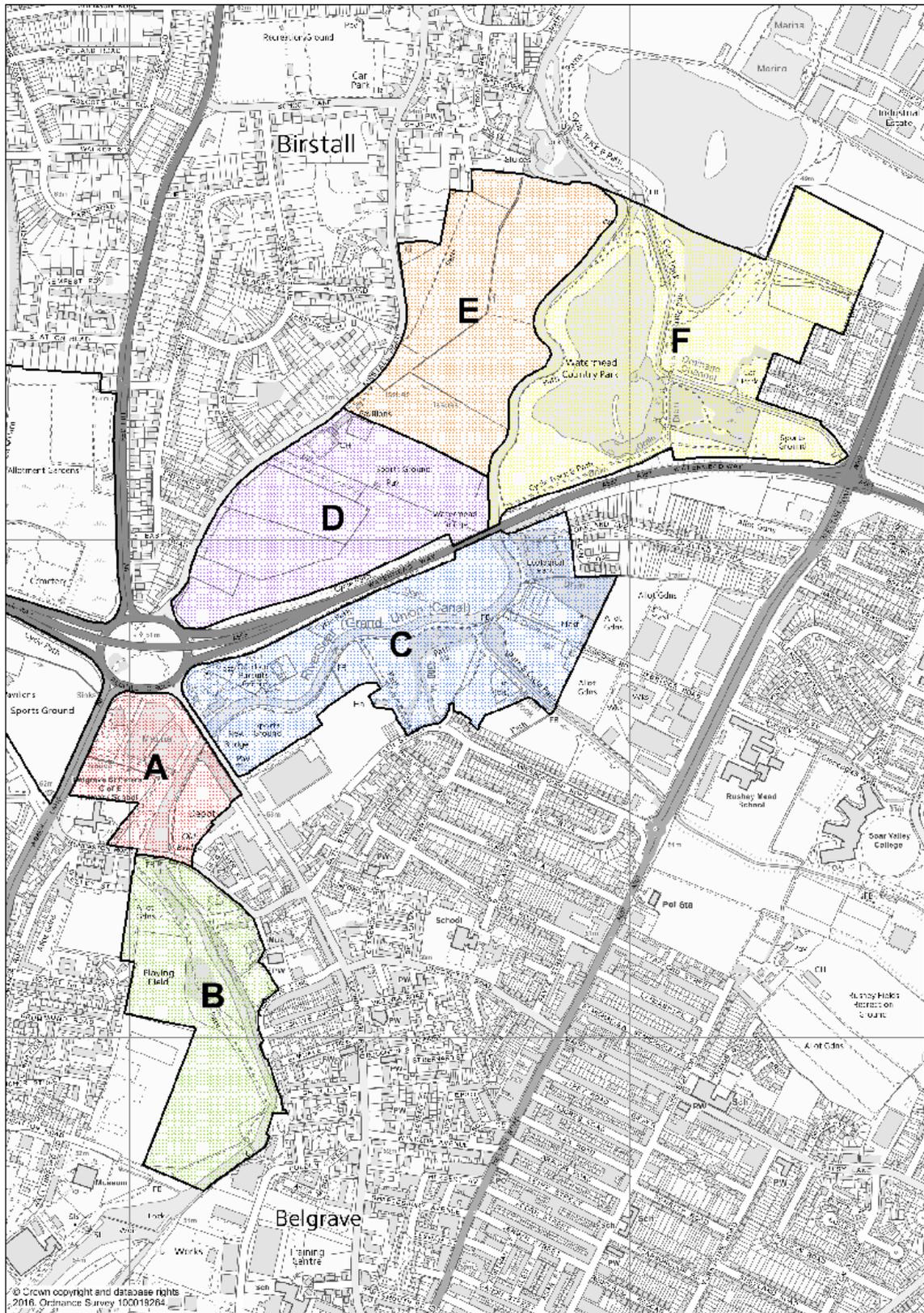
The strength of the green wedges is shown in the table below.

Name	Average Strength
Watermead	3.79
Aylestone Meadows	3.78
Knighton	3.58
Anstey Lane	3.25
Evington	3.25
Thurcaston Road	3.25
Castle Hill	3.2
Hamilton	3.17
Kirby Frith	3

6.4 At draft plan stage, the green wedge review will assess the impact of allocations for development on the green wedges. There will be an opportunity for further public consultation at the draft plan stage. The new Local Plan will then be submitted for examination to the Planning Inspectorate.

# Appendix 1.

# Watermead





Area A. Path alongside River.



Area D. Agricultural land.



Area F, Wildlife.

**Location: A**

Date of site visit: 20/11/14

Land use description	Playing Fields, McDonalds Restaurant, Vacant Unit formerly Blockbuster Video, Car Park, Private fishing ponds, Natural Green Space, River.	
Adjacent land uses	Industrial units, School, Sports Ground, Red hill Circle, Outdoor Pursuits Centre. Open Green Space.	
Landscape features (high hedgerows etc)	Semi-Mature trees and Shrubland.	
Topography	Flat	
Can more than one settlement be seen from current position?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details	Vegetation screens settlements.	
Perception of distance to neighbouring settlements	Built development is not visible but noise from traffic can be heard.	
Does the current green wedge have a strong defensible boundary?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Watermead Way and Red Hill Circle.	
Does an alternative strong defensible boundary exist?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details		
Extent of built development within the Green wedge	McDonald's and vacant store. Car Park.	
What effects would built development in the green wedge in this location have?	Would disrupt continuity of Wedge. Lose recreational opportunities at fishing ponds.	
Does this green wedge provide green open space in a predominantly urban environment?	<b>Yes</b>	No

Details	Green wedge extends into Charnwood Green wedge. Outskirts of Leicester-mainly residential.	
Does this green wedge provide recreational opportunities? (including footpaths / cycle ways / bridle paths)	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Fishing, school playing fields, cycling, walking, dog walking, boating.	
Can this green wedge be accessed by the public?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Footpath from East- Loughborough Road. Public access extends from one part of the wedge to the next.	
Are the footpaths and bridleways of a good quality? (signposted, stiles / gates, surface condition etc.)	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Well maintained.	
Is there any evidence of the level of use on the footpaths / bridleways?	Walkers and dog walkers witnessed.	
What visible informal uses are there?	None.	
Could the integrity and quality of the recreational opportunity be maintained if the green wedge boundaries were moved?	No	

**Location: B**

Date of site visit: 20/11/14

Land use description	Playing fields, natural green open spaces, river, Children's Playground	
Adjacent land uses	School to South West, Housing to the East, museum to the South West, industrial units. Green open space to North	
Landscape features (high hedgerows etc)	Mature trees, open green space, river.	
Topography	Flat mainly. Raised towards housing to East.	
Can more than one settlement be seen from current position?	Yes	No
Details	Screened by tree line to West. Housing visible further south on Wedge.	
Perception of distance to neighbouring settlements	Moderately far.	
Does the current green wedge have a strong defensible boundary?	Yes	No
Details	Surrounded by industrial and residential uses.	
Does an alternative strong defensible boundary exist?	Yes	No
Details		
Extent of built development within the Green wedge	None.	
What effects would built development in the green wedge in this location have?	Disrupt natural flow of green open space. Lose recreational opportunities- children's playground.	
Does this green wedge provide green open space in a predominantly urban environment?	Yes	No
Details	Surrounded by industrial and residential uses.	

Does this green wedge provide recreational opportunities? (including footpaths / cycle ways / bridle paths)	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Walking, cycling etc. Footpaths run from North to South of Wedge.	
Can this green wedge be accessed by the public?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	The footpaths link to residential neighbourhoods providing easy access for public.	
Are the footpaths and bridleways of a good quality? (signposted, stiles / gates, surface condition etc.)	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Generally well maintained.	
Is there any evidence of the level of use on the footpaths / bridleways?	Walkers witnessed.	
What visible informal uses are there?		
Could the integrity and quality of the recreational opportunity be maintained if the green wedge boundaries were moved?	No	

**Location: Area C**

Date of site visit: 20/11/14

Land use description	Outdoor Pursuits Centre, Natural Green Space, River, Ecological Park, Sports Ground and pavilion.	
Adjacent land uses	Industrial, residential uses. Watermead Way runs along northern boundary.	
Landscape features (high hedgerows etc)	Natural Green Space, Mature Trees. Woodland. Shrubland.	
Topography	Mainly flat	
Can more than one settlement be seen from current position?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details	Housing to south screened by vegetation.	
Perception of distance to neighbouring settlements	Far. Traffic can be heard from Watermead Way though.	
Does the current green wedge have a strong defensible boundary?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Centre of Wedge.	
Does an alternative strong defensible boundary exist?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details		
Extent of built development within the Green wedge	Outdoor pursuits centre and sports pavilion.	
What effects would built development in the green wedge in this location have?	Would disrupt natural flow of green open space. Lose recreational opportunities- Outdoors pursuits centre.	
Does this green wedge provide green open space in a predominantly urban environment?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	On city boundary extending into Charnwood Green wedge.	

Does this green wedge provide recreational opportunities? (including footpaths / cycle ways / bridle paths)	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Can be accessed by public footpaths to North, West and South East.	
Can this green wedge be accessed by the public?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Accessible by footpaths.	
Are the footpaths and bridleways of a good quality? (signposted, stiles / gates, surface condition etc.)	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Footpaths in poor condition in places. Overgrown vegetation.	
Is there any evidence of the level of use on the footpaths / bridleways?	Walkers/dog walkers visible.	
What visible informal uses are there?		
Could the integrity and quality of the recreational opportunity be maintained if the green wedge boundaries were moved?	No	

**Location: D**

Date of site visit: 20/11/14

Land use description	Agricultural Land. Flood Plain (flooding), Sports and Social Club with Car Park. Tennis Courts. Playing Fields.	
Adjacent land uses	Residential Neighbourhood to West, Green Open Space to East.	
Landscape features (high hedgerows etc)	Flooded fields, mature hedges,	
Topography	Sloping South to Watermead Way.	
Can more than one settlement be seen from current position?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details	Only Housing seen from Wedge to West.	
Perception of distance to neighbouring settlements	Houses on Birstall Road are close to the boundary and visible. But generally far.	
Does the current green wedge have a strong defensible boundary?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details		
Does an alternative strong defensible boundary exist?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details		
Extent of built development within the Green wedge	Sports and Social Club with Car Park. Tennis Courts.	
What effects would built development in the green wedge in this location have?	Would have a significant impact on recreational opportunities, particularly social club.	
Does this green wedge provide green open space in a predominantly urban environment?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Extends to Boundary of Charnwood Green Wedge	

Does this green wedge provide recreational opportunities? (including footpaths / cycle ways / bridle paths)	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Details	Walking, tennis, football, dog walking	
Can this green wedge be accessed by the public?	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Details	Private social club. Fields fenced and gated off.	
Are the footpaths and bridleways of a good quality? (signposted, stiles / gates, surface condition etc.)	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Details		
Is there any evidence of the level of use on the footpaths / bridleways?	None	
What visible informal uses are there?	None	
Could the integrity and quality of the recreational opportunity be maintained if the green wedge boundaries were moved?	No	

**Location: Area E**

Date of site visit: 20/11/14

Land use description	Agricultural Land. Flood Plain (Flooding)	
Adjacent land uses	Housing to West. Watermead Country Park to East.	
Landscape features (high hedgerows etc)	Flooding. Grassland. Open Fields.	
Topography	Sloping to South. Undulating.	
Can more than one settlement be seen from current position?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details	Housing on Birstall Road is visible.	
Perception of distance to neighbouring settlements	Far.	
Does the current green wedge have a strong defensible boundary?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details		
Does an alternative strong defensible boundary exist?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details		
Extent of built development within the Green wedge	None.	
What effects would built development in the green wedge in this location have?	Would have an impact on residential Neighbourhood to West. Built development on flood plain?	
Does this green wedge provide green open space in a predominantly urban environment?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Extends onto Charnwood Green wedge.	

Does this green wedge provide recreational opportunities? (including footpaths / cycle ways / bridle paths)	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Public footpath to north.	
Can this green wedge be accessed by the public?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details		
Are the footpaths and bridleways of a good quality? (signposted, stiles / gates, surface condition etc.)	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details	Poorly signposted.	
Is there any evidence of the level of use on the footpaths / bridleways?	No	
What visible informal uses are there?	None	
Could the integrity and quality of the recreational opportunity be maintained if the green wedge boundaries were moved?	No	

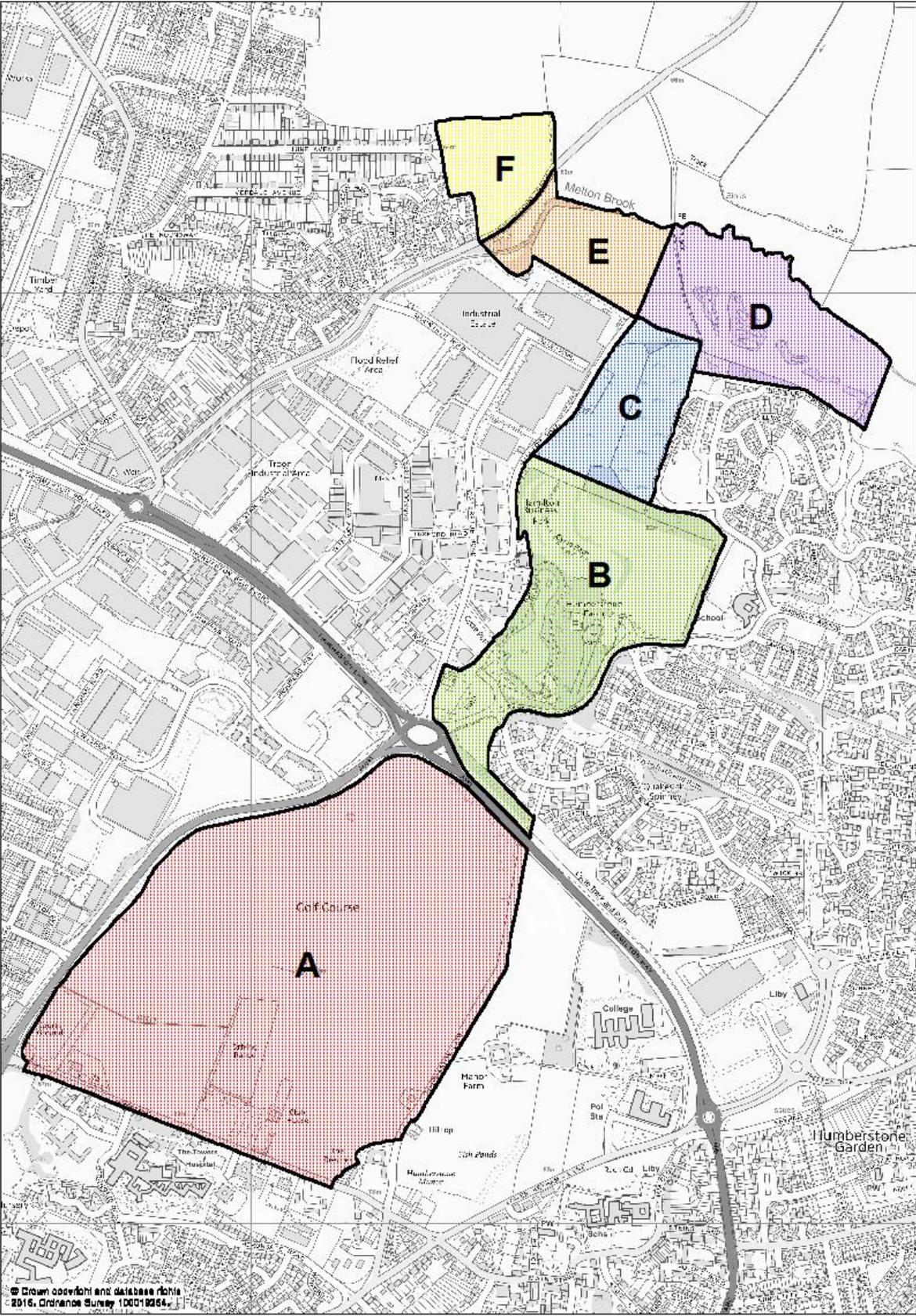
**Location: F**

Date of site visit: 20/11/14

Land use description	Watermead country park. River, lock, car park, golf range. Sports ground. Woodland. Obstacle Course. Woolly Mammoth sculpture.	
Adjacent land uses	Retail and residential to East. Green wedge in Charnwood to North. Watermead Way runs along South boundary.	
Landscape features (high hedgerows etc)	Country park, dense woodland to south east corner.	
Topography	Undulating. Sloping in parts. Wetland.	
Can more than one settlement be seen from current position?	Yes	No
Details	Vegetation screens adjacent settlements.	
Perception of distance to neighbouring settlements	Far. Rural setting.	
Does the current green wedge have a strong defensible boundary?	Yes	No
Details		
Does an alternative strong defensible boundary exist?	Yes	No
Details		
Extent of built development within the Green wedge	Car park, Woolly Mammoth.	
What effects would built development in the green wedge in this location have?	Significantly impact upon character of wedge and disrupt flow of open green space.	
Does this green wedge provide green open space in a predominantly urban environment?	Yes	No

Details	Extends into Charnwood Green wedge.	
Does this green wedge provide recreational opportunities? (including footpaths / cycle ways / bridle paths)	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Many recreational opportunities.	
Can this green wedge be accessed by the public?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	From various directions.	
Are the footpaths and bridleways of a good quality? (signposted, stiles / gates, surface condition etc.)	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Useful Map. Well maintained footpaths.	
Is there any evidence of the level of use on the footpaths / bridleways?	Very busy with walkers and dog walkers. Fishing visible too.	
What visible informal uses are there?	None	
Could the integrity and quality of the recreational opportunity be maintained if the green wedge boundaries were moved?	No	

Hamilton





Area A. Humberstone Heights Golf Course looking North.



Area C, Public footpath to housing through park.



Area D, Agricultural land looking west.

**Location: Area A**

Date of site visit: 13/11/14

Land use description	Humberstone Heights Golf Course, Driving Range, Club House and Car Park, DW Hicks Building (Solicitors), Emerald Centre, Play Barn, Playing Pitches.	
Adjacent land uses	Farm land and open green space to East. Residential housing to South, Towers Hospital to South, Park to the North, Industrial Units to the West. Thurmaston Lane to the North.	
Landscape features (high hedgerows etc)	Golf Course. Bunkers. Mature Trees on Eastern boundary. High Hedgerows.	
Topography	Mainly Flat, undulating. Rolling hills.	
Can more than one settlement be seen from current position?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details	Dense trees screen settlements.	
Perception of distance to neighbouring settlements	Housing being built in several locations adjacent to Wedge. Close.	
Does the current green wedge have a strong defensible boundary?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	High hedgerow and trees create strong boundary of golf course.	
Does an alternative strong defensible boundary exist?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details	Land to the East is being developed for housing. Private Farm.	
Extent of built development within the Green wedge	Recreational facilities and car park to serve the function. Solicitors.	
What effects would built development in the green wedge in this location have?	Would have an impact on the main recreational function.	

Does this green wedge provide green open space in a predominantly urban environment?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	This part of the green wedge provides green open space within a predominantly urban environment, with industrial and residential development surrounding the Wedge.	
Does this green wedge provide recreational opportunities? (including footpaths / cycle ways / bridle paths)	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Golf, Football, Children's Play Area. No Public Footpaths cross the golf course.	
Can this green wedge be accessed by the public?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	On the Golf Course. Access to the Course from Thurmaston Lane, narrow unkept paths.	
Are the footpaths and bridleways of a good quality? (signposted, stiles / gates, surface condition etc.)	Yes	No
Details	No public footpaths	
Is there any evidence of the level of use on the footpaths / bridleways?	Evidence of access via Thurmaston Lane	
What visible informal uses are there?	None	
Could the integrity and quality of the recreational opportunity be maintained if the green wedge boundaries were moved?	No	

**Location: Area B**

Date of site visit: 13/11/14

Land use description	Parkland, Humberstone Farm, Car Park, Children's Play Ground, Football Pitches and Pavilion	
Adjacent land uses	Industrial Estate to the West, School to West, Residential houses to the East. Open green space to the North. Golf Course to the South.	
Landscape features (high hedgerows etc)	Lake. Shrubland. Mature Trees surround lake.	
Topography	Mixed. Flat sports field. Rolling hills. High ground drops to the Lake.	
Can more than one settlement be seen from current position?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details	Mature Trees screen most of surroundings. Industrial Estate is visible to the West. Residential units can't be seen.	
Perception of distance to neighbouring settlements	Far. Apart from Industrial Units.	
Does the current green wedge have a strong defensible boundary?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Surrounded by Industrial Units to West and Housing to East.	
Does an alternative strong defensible boundary exist?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details		
Extent of built development within the Green wedge	Farm, football pavilion. Car Park. Play Ground.	
What effects would built development in the green wedge in this location have?	Lose access to park including lake.	
Does this green wedge provide green open space in a predominantly urban environment?	<b>Yes</b>	No

Details	Green space separating residential from industrial.	
Does this green wedge provide recreational opportunities? (including footpaths / cycle ways / bridle paths)	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Cycle ways, footpaths, football pitches, fishing.	
Can this green wedge be accessed by the public?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Car park to East. Public footpaths to enter park to South and East. And access to west from Industrial estate.	
Are the footpaths and bridleways of a good quality? (signposted, stiles / gates, surface condition etc.)	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Mixed. Path around Lake well maintained. Public footpaths on grassland. Poor signposting.	
Is there any evidence of the level of use on the footpaths / bridleways?	Play Ground Area- evidence of anti-social behaviour.	
What visible informal uses are there?	Walking. Dog Walking. Cycling.	
Could the integrity and quality of the recreational opportunity be maintained if the green wedge boundaries were moved?	No	

**Location: Area C**

Date of site visit: 13/11/14

Land use description	Green open land. Scrubland. Public footpath to access Housing to East.	
Adjacent land uses	Industrial Estate to West. Housing to the East. Green open space to the North.	
Landscape features (high hedgerows etc)	Field with path. Planted trees.	
Topography	High ground. Undulating.	
Can more than one settlement be seen from current position?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Housing directly adjacent to the East. Because on high ground can see for a long distance to North and West.	
Perception of distance to neighbouring settlements		
Does the current green wedge have a strong defensible boundary?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Industrial Estate to West. Housing to East.	
Does an alternative strong defensible boundary exist?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details		
Extent of built development within the Green wedge	None.	
What effects would built development in the green wedge in this location have?	Would break up the continuity of the green wedge.	
Does this green wedge provide green open space in a predominantly urban environment?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Separates industry from residential development.	

Does this green wedge provide recreational opportunities? (including footpaths / cycle ways / bridle paths)	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Cycle ways and public footpaths.	
Can this green wedge be accessed by the public?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details		
Are the footpaths and bridleways of a good quality? (signposted, stiles / gates, surface condition etc.)	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Well signposted. Smooth and well maintained surface.	
Is there any evidence of the level of use on the footpaths / bridleways?		
What visible informal uses are there?	None	
Could the integrity and quality of the recreational opportunity be maintained if the green wedge boundaries were moved?	No	

**Location: Area D**

Date of site visit: 13/11/14

Land use description	Shrubland, Open green space. Agricultural Land.	
Adjacent land uses	Industrial Estate to West, Open Green Space to the North, Residential to South East.	
Landscape features (high hedgerows etc)	Shrubland, dense Trees, High Hedgerows, ponds	
Topography	Flat mainly.	
Can more than one settlement be seen from current position?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details	Housing visible to South East	
Perception of distance to neighbouring settlements	Far	
Does the current green wedge have a strong defensible boundary?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details	Land north extends into Green wedge in adjoining district.	
Does an alternative strong defensible boundary exist?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details	Charnwood Green wedge adjacent.	
Extent of built development within the Green wedge	No built development	
What effects would built development in the green wedge in this location have?	Would shorten the boundary of the wedge.	
Does this green wedge provide green open space in a predominantly urban environment?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details	Large area of open green space to the north. Has a rural feeling.	

Does this green wedge provide recreational opportunities? (including footpaths / cycle ways / bridle paths)	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Walking, dog walking	
Can this green wedge be accessed by the public?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	From public footpaths from north, south and east which lead to housing estate.	
Are the footpaths and bridleways of a good quality? (signposted, stiles / gates, surface condition etc.)	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details	Shrubland makes it unclear where footpath is. Signage could be improved.	
Is there any evidence of the level of use on the footpaths / bridleways?	No	
What visible informal uses are there?	None witnessed.	
Could the integrity and quality of the recreational opportunity be maintained if the green wedge boundaries were moved?	Not many recreational opportunities on the wedge currently. More ecological value.	

**Location: Area E**

Date of site visit: 13/11/14

Land use description	Agricultural	
Adjacent land uses	Open Green Space to North. Housing to South East, Industrial Estate to South, Housing to West.	
Landscape features (high hedgerows etc)	Hedgerows, trees	
Topography	Flat	
Can more than one settlement be seen from current position?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details	New Housing in zone F of the Wedge can be seen. Industrial Units to south Visible.	
Perception of distance to neighbouring settlements	Close. Size of Industrial estate is quite imposing	
Does the current green wedge have a strong defensible boundary?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details	Housing to the West. Wedge decreasing in size.	
Does an alternative strong defensible boundary exist?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details	Charnwood Green wedge adjoins this Wedge.	
Extent of built development within the Green wedge	None.	
What effects would built development in the green wedge in this location have?	No recreational opportunities currently.	
Does this green wedge provide green open space in a predominantly urban environment?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details	Rural feeling with green open space to North.	

Does this green wedge provide recreational opportunities? (including footpaths / cycle ways / bridle paths)	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details	No public footpaths. Agricultural Land.	
Can this green wedge be accessed by the public?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details	Private agricultural land	
Are the footpaths and bridleways of a good quality? (signposted, stiles / gates, surface condition etc.)	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details	N/A	
Is there any evidence of the level of use on the footpaths / bridleways?	N/A	
What visible informal uses are there?	N/A	
Could the integrity and quality of the recreational opportunity be maintained if the green wedge boundaries were moved?	Green wedge adjoins Charnwood Green wedge. Would break up continuity.	

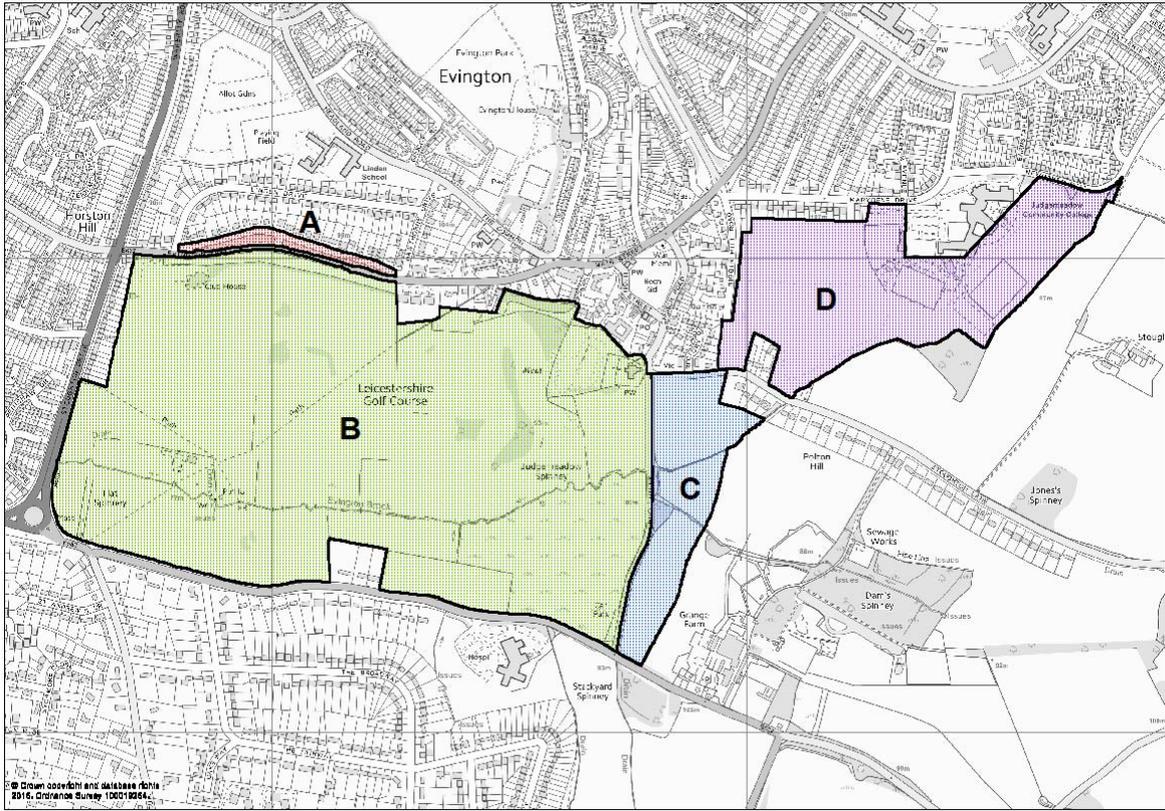
**Location: Area F**

Date of site visit: 13/11/14

Land use description	Housing development.	
Adjacent land uses	Residential properties to South West. Industrial Estate to South East. Open Green space to North.	
Landscape features (high hedgerows etc)	Trees, hedgerows.	
Topography	Flat.	
Can more than one settlement be seen from current position?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details	Adjacent housing is visible.	
Perception of distance to neighbouring settlements	Close to adjoin residential properties	
Does the current green wedge have a strong defensible boundary?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details	This part of green wedge has been developed.	
Does an alternative strong defensible boundary exist?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details	Housing proposed to the North in Charnwood.	
Extent of built development within the Green wedge	Housing estate developed with access roads.	
What effects would built development in the green wedge in this location have?	No significant. New housing directly adjoins exiting dwellings.	
Does this green wedge provide green open space in a predominantly urban environment?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details	Rural feeling as there are open fields to the north.	

Does this green wedge provide recreational opportunities? (including footpaths / cycle ways / bridle paths)	Yes	No
Details	Housing development.	
Can this green wedge be accessed by the public?	Yes	No
Details	Via access road to houses.	
Are the footpaths and bridleways of a good quality? (signposted, stiles / gates, surface condition etc.)	Yes	No
Details	N/A	
Is there any evidence of the level of use on the footpaths / bridleways?	N/A	
What visible informal uses are there?	Walking, dog walking	
Could the integrity and quality of the recreational opportunity be maintained if the green wedge boundaries were moved?	Yes. Not significant in size. Directly adjacent to existing residential development.	

# Evington





Area A, View from east to west.



Area B Entrance to Arboretum



Area C. Agricultural Land.

**Location: Area A**

Date of site visit: 6/11/14

Land use description	Narrow strip of Wedge. Dense Trees.	
Adjacent land uses	Residential Dwellings to the North. Golf Course to the South. Evington Lane Splits this part of Wedge with Golf Course.	
Landscape features (high hedgerows etc)	Mature Trees, Hedgerow and Shrub Land.	
Topography	Flat.	
Can more than one settlement be seen from current position?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Housing to the North.	
Perception of distance to neighbouring settlements	Close. Houses are directly adjacent.	
Does the current green wedge have a strong defensible boundary?	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Details	Evington Lane splits this part of Wedge with Golf Course. Residential dwellings to the North.	
Does an alternative strong defensible boundary exist?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Boundary of Golf Course.	
Extent of built development within the Green wedge	No built development within this part of Green wedge.	
What effects would built development in the green wedge in this location have?	Little room for development, due to the size of the land.	
Does this green wedge provide green open space in a predominantly urban environment?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Green space located on edge of residential properties.	

Does this green wedge provide recreational opportunities? (including footpaths / cycle ways / bridle paths)	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Walkers and Dog Walkers can pass through wedge to access golf course.	
Can this green wedge be accessed by the public?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	The land can be accessed by the public, not fenced off. This part of Wedge is split by access road to Evington Lane.	
Are the footpaths and bridleways of a good quality? (signposted, stiles / gates, surface condition etc.)	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Details	No footpaths on Wedge itself. Though road does split wedge to access Evington Lane.	
Is there any evidence of the level of use on the footpaths / bridleways?	No.	
What visible informal uses are there?		
Could the integrity and quality of the recreational opportunity be maintained if the green wedge boundaries were moved?	This part of Green wedge screens houses from Evington Lane. Does not provide important recreational use.	

**Location: Area B**

Date of site visit: 6/11/14

Land use description	Golf Course. Club House. Outbuildings. Church and Cemetery. Agricultural Land. Arboretum and Car Park. Green Space.	
Adjacent land uses	Residential development to North, South and West. Open Green Space to East.	
Landscape features (high hedgerows etc)	Dense Tree Land. Bunkers. Stream running through North East of Wedge. Moat. High Hedgerows screening Golf Course.	
Topography	Rolling Hills. Largely Flat.	
Can more than one settlement be seen from current position?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Residential development surrounds this part of Wedge.	
Perception of distance to neighbouring settlements	Close on Edge of Wedge. Centre of Golf Course-Far.	
Does the current green wedge have a strong defensible boundary?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Yes.	
Does an alternative strong defensible boundary exist?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details		
Extent of built development within the Green wedge	Golf Course. Club House. Outbuildings. Church and Cemetery. Arboretum and Car Park.	
What effects would built development in the green wedge in this location have?	Area is used for recreational uses. Would have a significant impact on green open space within area.	
Does this green wedge provide green open space in a predominantly urban environment?	<b>Yes</b>	No

Details		
Does this green wedge provide recreational opportunities? (including footpaths / cycle ways / bridle paths)	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Golf. Walking. Dog Walking.	
Can this green wedge be accessed by the public?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	One main public footpath crosses golf course. Access to Golf Course also from South West of Wedge. Public footpaths access Arboretum. Car park to South East of Wedge.	
Are the footpaths and bridleways of a good quality? (signposted, stiles / gates, surface condition etc.)	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Golf course footpath well maintained and used.	
Is there any evidence of the level of use on the footpaths / bridleways?	Dog walkers- Arboretum. Walkers across golf course.	
What visible informal uses are there?	Dog walkers- Arboretum. Walkers across golf course.	
Could the integrity and quality of the recreational opportunity be maintained if the green wedge boundaries were moved?	Large part of Wedge. Would alter character and function of entire Wedge.	

**Location: Area C**

Date of site visit: 6/11/14

Land use description	Grazing Land. Open Green Space.	
Adjacent land uses	Agricultural grazing land, Residential Properties, Church, Shady Lane Arboretum, School Playing Fields.	
Landscape features (high hedgerows etc)	Hedgerows, Trees.	
Topography	Undulating fields	
Can more than one settlement be seen from current position?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details	Residential development to North.	
Perception of distance to neighbouring settlements	Far.	
Does the current green wedge have a strong defensible boundary?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details	The land at Grange Farm is adjacent to Wedge. Green Open fields to the East.	
Does an alternative strong defensible boundary exist?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details	Edge of City boundary. Open Green space East of Wedge.	
Extent of built development within the Green wedge	No built development.	
What effects would built development in the green wedge in this location have?	Would change the character of the area.	
Does this green wedge provide green open space in a predominantly urban environment?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Farm land next to housing. Golf Course to West.	

Does this green wedge provide recreational opportunities? (including footpaths / cycle ways / bridle paths)	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details	Private land.	
Can this green wedge be accessed by the public?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details	Hedgerow/fence prevents public access from West.	
Are the footpaths and bridleways of a good quality? (signposted, stiles / gates, surface condition etc.)	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details	No public access.	
Is there any evidence of the level of use on the footpaths / bridleways?	No	
What visible informal uses are there?	Agricultural land for Farm.	
Could the integrity and quality of the recreational opportunity be maintained if the green wedge boundaries were moved?	Relatively small part of Wedge. No recreational functions.	

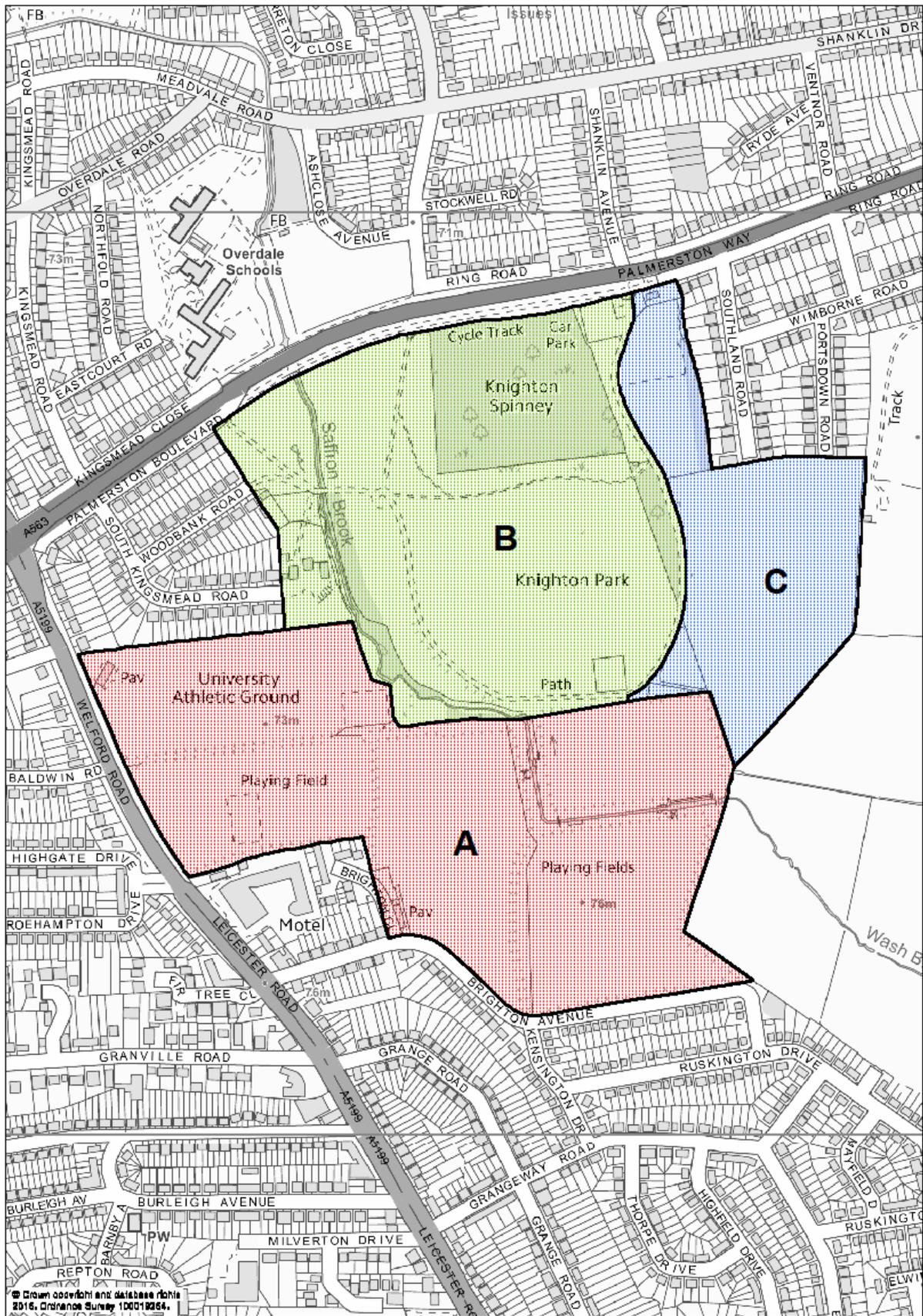
**Location: Area D**

Date of site visit: 26/08/2016

Land use description	College Playing Fields, Sports Pitches, Pond, Trees, mobile classroom, football changing rooms.	
Adjacent land uses	Arable Land, residential.	
Landscape features (high hedgerows etc)	Hedgerows, earth embankments.	
Topography	Slightly sloping.	
Can more than one settlement be seen from current position?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Houses off Marydene Drive and houses off the north part of Stoughton Lane.	
Perception of distance to neighbouring settlements	Moderate.	
Does the current green wedge have a strong defensible boundary?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	High Hedgerows and College fences.	
Does an alternative strong defensible boundary exist?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details		
Extent of built development within the Green wedge	Football changing facilities, Car parking, Floodlights, Ball Courts.	
What effects would built development in the green wedge in this location have?	Reduce the amount of green wedge available for sports use.	
Does this green wedge provide green open space in a predominantly urban environment?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Provides a gap between development on Marydene Drive and Stoughton Lane.	

Does this green wedge provide recreational opportunities? (including footpaths / cycle ways / bridle paths)	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Details	Large areas of area D can be used for sports use.	
Can this green wedge be accessed by the public?	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Details	Only through booking to use the sports facilities.	
Are the footpaths and bridleways of a good quality? (signposted, stiles / gates, surface condition etc.)	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Details	N/A	
Is there any evidence of the level of use on the footpaths / bridleways?	N/A	
What visible informal uses are there?	Football on a ball court.	
Could the integrity and quality of the recreational opportunity be maintained if the green wedge boundaries were moved?	<b>No</b>	

# Knighton





Area A, Public access to playing fields.



Area B, Spinney in Knighton Park.



Area C, Children's Play Area

**Location: Area A**

Date of site visit: 11/11/2014

Land use description	University Athletic Ground and Pavilion, Sports Fields, Football Pitches, Pavilion and car park. Open Green Space.	
Adjacent land uses	Residential housing to the South and West. Knighton Park to the North. Golf Course to the East.	
Landscape features (high hedgerows etc)	High hedgerow divides private Athletic ground and playing fields. Brook crosses Wedge. Sand pit for Long Jump.	
Topography	Mainly Flat. Undulating.	
Can more than one settlement be seen from current position?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Residential to South and West can be seen from the majority of Wedge.	
Perception of distance to neighbouring settlements	Close proximity. Hedgerow does screen houses generally.	
Does the current green wedge have a strong defensible boundary?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Residential dwellings to South and West. Golf Course to the East.	
Does an alternative strong defensible boundary exist?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details		
Extent of built development within the Green wedge	Very little built development. A few outbuildings which support recreational activities.	
What effects would built development in the green wedge in this location have?	Would lose a significant part of wedge, currently used for recreation and sports.	
Does this green wedge provide green open space in a predominantly urban environment?	<b>Yes</b>	No

Details	Wedge located within a predominantly residential area. Lack of green open space within Knighton.	
Does this green wedge provide recreational opportunities? (including footpaths / cycle ways / bridle paths)	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Football pitches. Sand Pit. Cycle ways. Walk ways. Private Athletic Ground.	
Can this green wedge be accessed by the public?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Majority of site can be accessed by public. Access from Welford Road, Brighton Avenue and through Knighton Park to the North. University Athletic Ground is fenced off and private.	
Are the footpaths and bridleways of a good quality? (signposted, stiles / gates, surface condition etc.)	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Well maintained. Cycle path narrow in places. Better sign posts to cross this part of wedge to the other.	
Is there any evidence of the level of use on the footpaths / bridleways?		
What visible informal uses are there?	Many dog walkers, walkers and cyclists seen. School sports class on playing fields.	
Could the integrity and quality of the recreational opportunity be maintained if the green wedge boundaries were moved?	No. Loss of this part of the wedge would have a significant effect on the character of the wedge, particularly on the function of providing recreational opportunities.	

**Location: Area B**

Date of site visit: 11/11/2014

Land use description	Knighton Spinney, Knighton Park, Car Park, Tennis Courts, Children's playground, Green open space, Sensory Garden and pond. Council Outbuildings.	
Adjacent land uses	Residential dwellings to the North, West, East. Playing Fields to the South. Roads.	
Landscape features (high hedgerows etc)	Dense woodland- Knighton Spinney. Shrubland. Parkland.	
Topography	Undulating. Flat open green space.	
Can more than one settlement be seen from current position?	Yes	No
Details	Housing seen to the North.	
Perception of distance to neighbouring settlements	Far. Well screened by mature trees.	
Does the current green wedge have a strong defensible boundary?	Yes	No
Details	Knighton Park forms this part of Wedge. Strong boundary.	
Does an alternative strong defensible boundary exist?	Yes	No
Details		
Extent of built development within the Green wedge	Very little. Depot buildings associated with maintenance of park. Sports facilities. Free Car Park.	
What effects would built development in the green wedge in this location have?	Significant loss of green space. Reducing quality and damaging the character.	
Does this green wedge provide green open space in a predominantly urban environment?	Yes	No
Details	Residential area.	

Does this green wedge provide recreational opportunities? (including footpaths / cycle ways / bridle paths)	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Several recreational uses publically accessible. Tennis, children's playground.	
Can this green wedge be accessed by the public?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Car parking on north part of wedge. Public footpaths from Palmerston Way and Palmerston Boulevard.	
Are the footpaths and bridleways of a good quality? (signposted, stiles / gates, surface condition etc.)	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Several footpaths cross wedge. Well maintained generally. Overgrown bushes on footpath adjacent to brook.	
Is there any evidence of the level of use on the footpaths / bridleways?		
What visible informal uses are there?	Dog walking, cyclists, walkers. Tennis.	
Could the integrity and quality of the recreational opportunity be maintained if the green wedge boundaries were moved?	No. Knighton park provides opportunities for many recreational uses. Evidence of high use for walking/dog walking and cycling.	

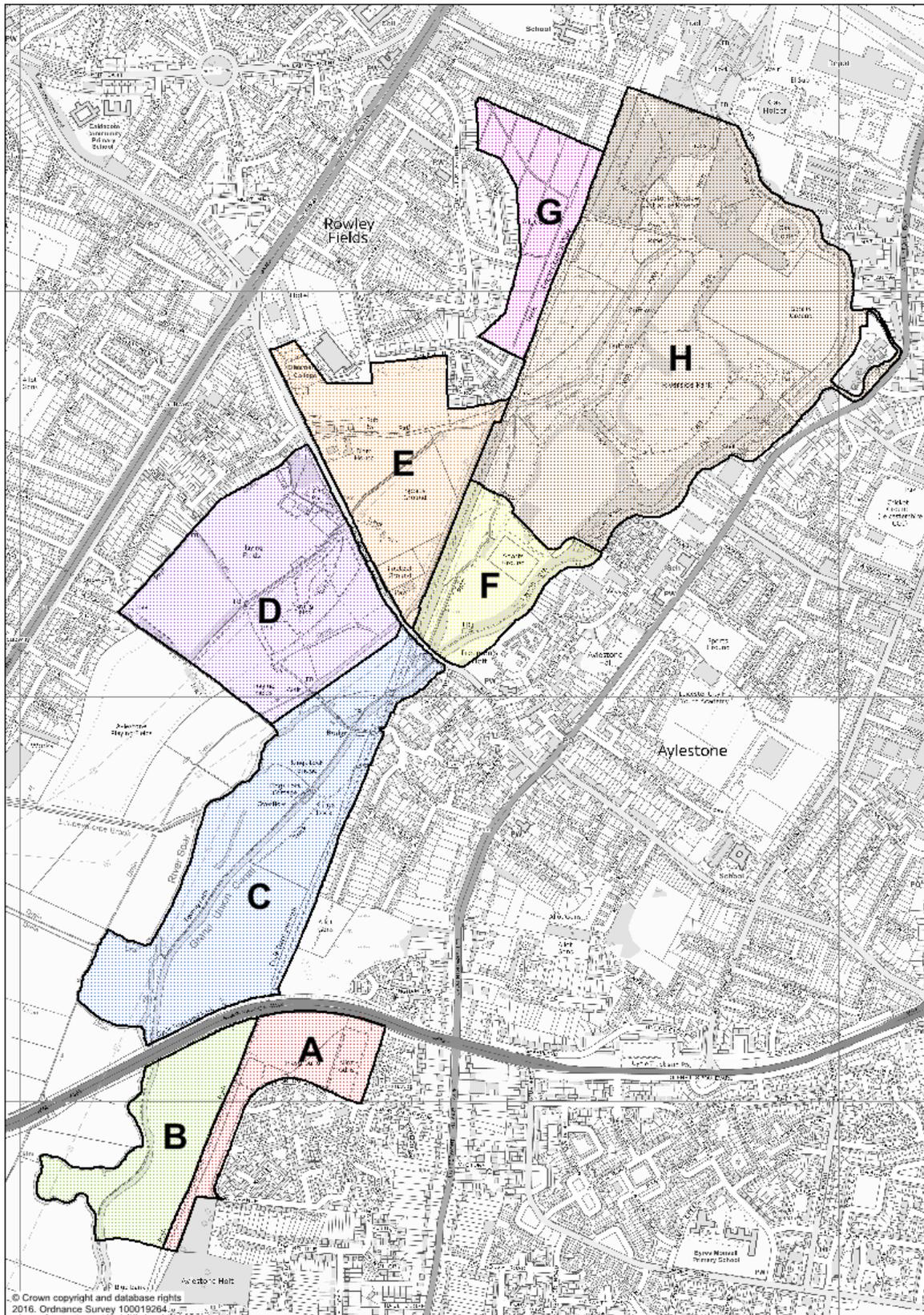
**Location: Area C**

Date of site visit: 11/11/2014

Land use description	Pitch and Putt Golf, Outdoors Gym, Children's Playground, open green space, Toilets.	
Adjacent land uses	Knighton Park. Residential to North and East. Golf Course to East.	
Landscape features (high hedgerows etc)	High hedges screening houses on Southland Road and Golf Course to East.	
Topography	Flat.	
Can more than one settlement be seen from current position?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details	Only visible through the hedges to North.	
Perception of distance to neighbouring settlements		
Does the current green wedge have a strong defensible boundary?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Mature Trees.	
Does an alternative strong defensible boundary exist?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details		
Extent of built development within the Green wedge	Recreational facilities. Toilets.	
What effects would built development in the green wedge in this location have?	Reduce area for informal recreation and sports uses including, table tennis and the outdoor gym.	
Does this green wedge provide green open space in a predominantly urban environment?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Mainly residential area.	

Does this green wedge provide recreational opportunities? (including footpaths / cycle ways / bridle paths)	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Footpaths cross wedge. Outdoor Gym. Table Tennis. Children's Playground, Golf, walking, dog walking.	
Can this green wedge be accessed by the public?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Public footpath from free car park.	
Are the footpaths and bridleways of a good quality? (signposted, stiles / gates, surface condition etc.)	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Well maintained. Signposts efficient.	
Is there any evidence of the level of use on the footpaths / bridleways?		
What visible informal uses are there?	Walking. Dog Walking.	
Could the integrity and quality of the recreational opportunity be maintained if the green wedge boundaries were moved?	No. Many recreational uses contributing to the overall function of the green wedge.	

# Aylestone Meadows





Area A, Strip of Green wedge adjacent to houses



Area B, Land south of Soar Valley Way



Area D, Sports Pavilion.



Area E, Sports playing fields



Area H, Access to Aylestone Meadows from Car Park on Evesham Road.

**Location: Area A**

Date of site visit: 19/11/14

Land use description	Great Central Way, Children's Playground, Playing fields, Shrubland, Allotments.	
Adjacent land uses	Agricultural Land. Housing. Soar Valley Way Road. Adjoining district Green wedge (Blaby).	
Landscape features (high hedgerows etc)	High Hedgerow along Great Central Way. Shrubland to East	
Topography	Flat	
Can more than one settlement be seen from current position?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details	High dense Tree line	
Perception of distance to neighbouring settlements	Rural setting.	
Does the current green wedge have a strong defensible boundary?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Wedge extends into Blaby districts Green wedge.	
Does an alternative strong defensible boundary exist?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details		
Extent of built development within the Green wedge	Very little. Children's Playground. Allotments.	
What effects would built development in the green wedge in this location have?	Would break up continuity of Green wedge into adjacent district.	
Does this green wedge provide green open space in a predominantly urban environment?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details		

Does this green wedge provide recreational opportunities? (including footpaths / cycle ways / bridle paths)	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Great Central Way- footpath/cycle way. Children's playground for recreation.	
Can this green wedge be accessed by the public?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Access via the Great Central Way. Public footpath from housing estate.	
Are the footpaths and bridleways of a good quality? (signposted, stiles / gates, surface condition etc.)	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Great Central Way clear signposting. Access to other parts of Wedge less so.	
Is there any evidence of the level of use on the footpaths / bridleways?	Well used. Many walkers and dog walkers seen.	
What visible informal uses are there?	No	
Could the integrity and quality of the recreational opportunity be maintained if the green wedge boundaries were moved?	No	

**Location: Area B**

Date of site visit: 18/11/14

Land use description	Open Green Space. Grand Union Canal.	
Adjacent land uses	Soar Valley Way Road. Agricultural Land. Green Open Space.	
Landscape features (high hedgerows etc)	Dense tree line bordering wedge boundary. Grassland.	
Topography	Flat.	
Can more than one settlement be seen from current position?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details	Rural setting.	
Perception of distance to neighbouring settlements	Noise from Soar Valley Way Road	
Does the current green wedge have a strong defensible boundary?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Wedge extends into Blaby District Green wedge.	
Does an alternative strong defensible boundary exist?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details		
Extent of built development within the Green wedge	None.	
What effects would built development in the green wedge in this location have?	Would stop continuity of Green wedge.	
Does this green wedge provide green open space in a predominantly urban environment?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	On edge of Leicester City boundary.	

Does this green wedge provide recreational opportunities? (including footpaths / cycle ways / bridle paths)	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Walking and cycling along Canal.	
Can this green wedge be accessed by the public?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Along canal.	
Are the footpaths and bridleways of a good quality? (signposted, stiles / gates, surface condition etc.)	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Follow path adjacent to canal from zone C into B.	
Is there any evidence of the level of use on the footpaths / bridleways?	Walkers, and Dog Walkers, seen.	
What visible informal uses are there?	None.	
Could the integrity and quality of the recreational opportunity be maintained if the green wedge boundaries were moved?	No	

**Location: Area C**

Date of site visit: 18/11/2014

Land use description	Grand Central Way. Car Park. Kings Lock Cottage. Grazing Land.	
Adjacent land uses	Residential housing. Open Green Space. Playing Fields. Soar Valley Way Road. Riverside Boarding Kennels	
Landscape features (high hedgerows etc)	Canal. River Soar. Surface water flooding. Agricultural Land.	
Topography	Flat	
Can more than one settlement be seen from current position?	Yes	No
Details	Rural Setting.	
Perception of distance to neighbouring settlements	Dense tree line bordering canal screens settlements.	
Does the current green wedge have a strong defensible boundary?	Yes	No
Details	On City boundary.	
Does an alternative strong defensible boundary exist?	Yes	No
Details	Blaby districts Green wedge adjoins the Wedge.	
Extent of built development within the Green wedge	Kings Lock Cottage. Car Park. Kennels.	
What effects would built development in the green wedge in this location have?	Would significantly impact upon the character and recreational opportunities of green wedge.	
Does this green wedge provide green open space in a predominantly urban environment?	Yes	No
Details	On city boundary.	

Does this green wedge provide recreational opportunities? (including footpaths / cycle ways / bridle paths)	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Car park to access public footpaths. Grand Central Way- footpath and cycle way.	
Can this green wedge be accessed by the public?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	From North and South.	
Are the footpaths and bridleways of a good quality? (signposted, stiles / gates, surface condition etc.)	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Grand Central Way well signposted and in good condition. Other public footpath not well signposted. Flooding issues.	
Is there any evidence of the level of use on the footpaths / bridleways?	No walkers seen on canal path.	
What visible informal uses are there?	None	
Could the integrity and quality of the recreational opportunity be maintained if the green wedge boundaries were moved?	Loss of agricultural land.	

**Location: Area D**

Date of site visit: 18/11/14

Land use description	Aylestone Playing Fields. Children's Playground. Car Park. Agricultural Land. Open Fields. Tennis Courts.	
Adjacent land uses	Residential houses to North West. Green open agricultural land to South. Great Central Way to East. Braunstone Lane East runs on northern boundary.	
Landscape features (high hedgerows etc)	Floodplain to south- River Soar.	
Topography	Flat.	
Can more than one settlement be seen from current position?	Yes	No
Details	Screened by trees and hedges.	
Perception of distance to neighbouring settlements	Far.	
Does the current green wedge have a strong defensible boundary?	Yes	No
Details	Borders adjoin district.	
Does an alternative strong defensible boundary exist?	Yes	No
Details		
Extent of built development within the Green wedge	Pavilion for playing fields and car park. Tennis Courts. Children's Playground.	
What effects would built development in the green wedge in this location have?	Would lose many recreational facilities.	
Does this green wedge provide green open space in a predominantly urban environment?	Yes	No

Details	Close to residential neighbourhoods.	
Does this green wedge provide recreational opportunities? (including footpaths / cycle ways / bridle paths)	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Football, Children's playground. Walking Cycling. Informal use of park. Tennis.	
Can this green wedge be accessed by the public?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Car parking off Braunstone Lane East. Map for public to view. Many public footpaths cross this area of wedge.	
Are the footpaths and bridleways of a good quality? (signposted, stiles / gates, surface condition etc.)	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Public Map.	
Is there any evidence of the level of use on the footpaths / bridleways?	No one using facilities when visited.	
What visible informal uses are there?	None	
Could the integrity and quality of the recreational opportunity be maintained if the green wedge boundaries were moved?	No	

**Location: Area E**

Date of site visit: 18/11/14

Land use description	Sports Ground. Agricultural land. School fields. Electricity Sub Station. Storage Facility/ industrial facility. Sports Pavilion.	
Adjacent land uses	School. Residential housing. Great Central Way. Braunstone Lane East borders southern part of site.	
Landscape features (high hedgerows etc)	Shrubland. River Soar. Canal.	
Topography	Flat.	
Can more than one settlement be seen from current position?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details	Housing to West.	
Perception of distance to neighbouring settlements	Far. Settlements screened by trees/woodland.	
Does the current green wedge have a strong defensible boundary?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details		
Does an alternative strong defensible boundary exist?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details		
Extent of built development within the Green wedge	Electricity Sub Station. Storage Facility/ industrial facility. Sports Pavilion.	
What effects would built development in the green wedge in this location have?	Depends what built development. Already existing buildings on Wedge.	
Does this green wedge provide green open space in a predominantly urban environment?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Adjacent to residential Neighbourhood.	

Does this green wedge provide recreational opportunities? (including footpaths / cycle ways / bridle paths)	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Walking, cycling. School playing field.	
Can this green wedge be accessed by the public?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Great Central Way.	
Are the footpaths and bridleways of a good quality? (signposted, stiles / gates, surface condition etc.)	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Follow path along to Braunstone Lane East.	
Is there any evidence of the level of use on the footpaths / bridleways?	Well used. Walkers seen.	
What visible informal uses are there?	None	
Could the integrity and quality of the recreational opportunity be maintained if the green wedge boundaries were moved?	No	

**Location: Area F**

Date of site visit: 19/11/14

Land use description	Agricultural land, Great Central Way, Sports Ground, canal and path.	
Adjacent land uses	Residential housing to the East, Riverside Park to the North, Green Open Space to West.	
Landscape features (high hedgerows etc)	Shrubland. Electricity Pylons.	
Topography	Flat	
Can more than one settlement be seen from current position?	Yes	No
Details		
Perception of distance to neighbouring settlements	Settlements screened by natural environment. Dense trees and Shrubland.	
Does the current green wedge have a strong defensible boundary?	Yes	No
Details		
Does an alternative strong defensible boundary exist?	Yes	No
Details		
Extent of built development within the Green wedge	Recreational facilities have been built.	
What effects would built development in the green wedge in this location have?	Would split the wedge.	
Does this green wedge provide green open space in a predominantly urban environment?	Yes	No
Details		

Does this green wedge provide recreational opportunities? (including footpaths / cycle ways / bridle paths)	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details		
Can this green wedge be accessed by the public?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Access to wedge for public from Braunstone Lane East.	
Are the footpaths and bridleways of a good quality? (signposted, stiles / gates, surface condition etc.)	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Map for public.	
Is there any evidence of the level of use on the footpaths / bridleways?	Walkers and dog walkers seen on visit.	
What visible informal uses are there?	Fishing, walking, cycling, dog walking	
Could the integrity and quality of the recreational opportunity be maintained if the green wedge boundaries were moved?	No	

**Location: Area G**

Date of site visit: 18/11/14

Land use description	Allotments.	
Adjacent land uses	Residential housing to the West. Riverside Park to the East.	
Landscape features (high hedgerows etc)	Mature trees block view towards allotments from the Great Central Way.	
Topography	Flat	
Can more than one settlement be seen from current position?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details	Housing is visible on west boundary of allotment.	
Perception of distance to neighbouring settlements	Close. Residential development directly on boundary.	
Does the current green wedge have a strong defensible boundary?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details		
Does an alternative strong defensible boundary exist?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details		
Extent of built development within the Green wedge	Allotments.	
What effects would built development in the green wedge in this location have?	Would lose allotments space which contributes to recreational opportunities.	
Does this green wedge provide green open space in a predominantly urban environment?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details		

Does this green wedge provide recreational opportunities? (including footpaths / cycle ways / bridle paths)	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Details	Allows local residents the opportunity to grow food.	
Can this green wedge be accessed by the public?	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Details	Can access via the Great Central Way. Private access to allotment owners from West.	
Are the footpaths and bridleways of a good quality? (signposted, stiles / gates, surface condition etc.)	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Details		
Is there any evidence of the level of use on the footpaths / bridleways?	Allotments seem to be used- growing vegetables etc.	
What visible informal uses are there?	None	
Could the integrity and quality of the recreational opportunity be maintained if the green wedge boundaries were moved?	<b>No</b>	

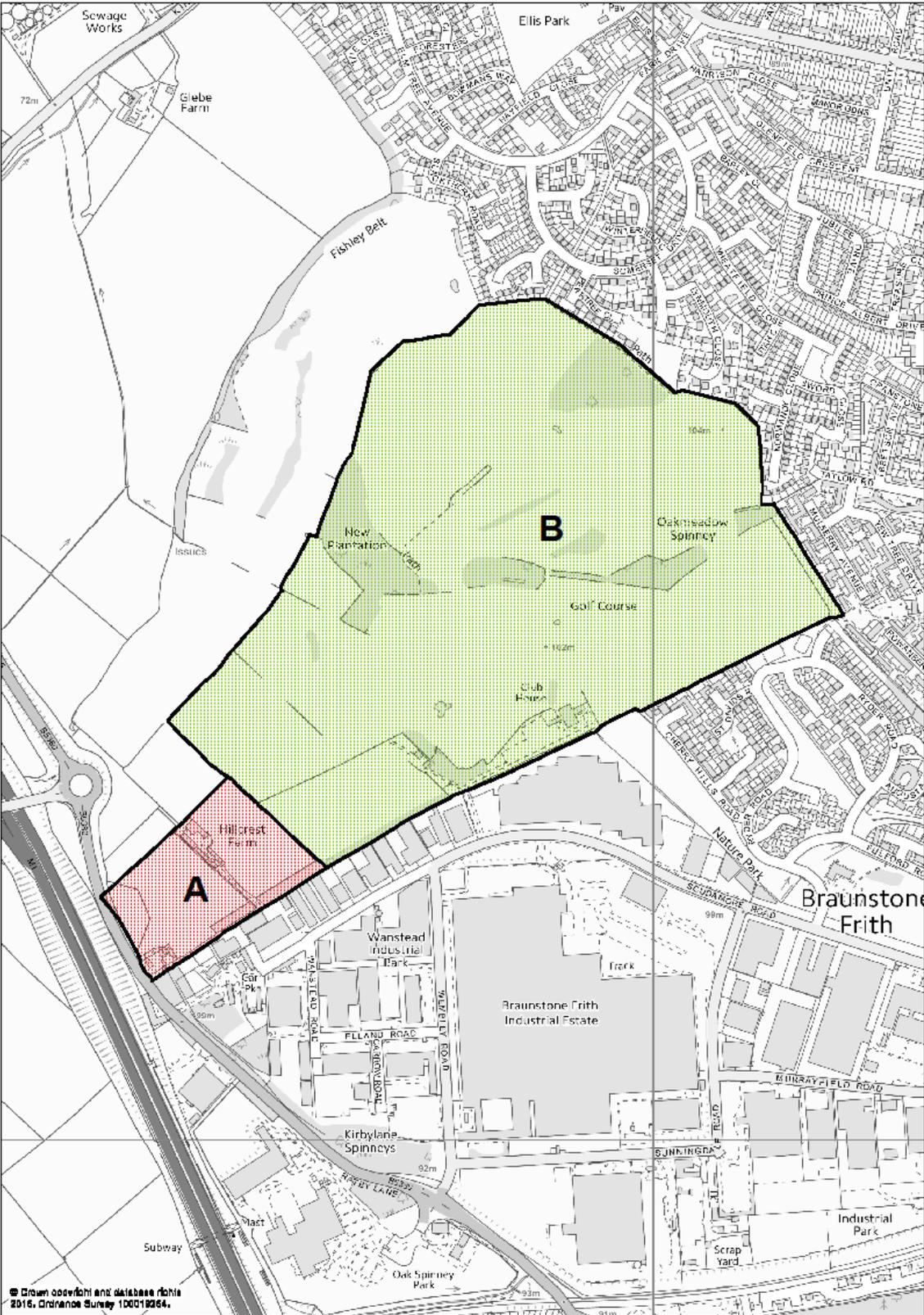
**Location: Area H**

Date of site visit: 19/11/14

Land use description	Nature Reserve, Great Central Way, Riverside Park, Grazing Land, Car Park, River Biam, Gas Holder, Pond	
Adjacent land uses	Industrial, residential housing, Green wedge extends to the South. Allotments.	
Landscape features (high hedgerows etc)	River and flooding. Mature Trees. Shrubland	
Topography	Slight incline from river	
Can more than one settlement be seen from current position?	Yes	No
Details	Dense Shrubland and tree line block views towards residential housing.	
Perception of distance to neighbouring settlements	Rural setting. Quiet.	
Does the current green wedge have a strong defensible boundary?	Yes	No
Details		
Does an alternative strong defensible boundary exist?	Yes	No
Details		
Extent of built development within the Green wedge	Gas holder, Car Park. Great Central Way.	
What effects would built development in the green wedge in this location have?	Would lose Riverside Park a popular recreational provision.	
Does this green wedge provide green open space in a predominantly urban environment?	Yes	No
Details	Start of green wedge. Adjacent to housing.	

Does this green wedge provide recreational opportunities? (including footpaths / cycle ways / bridle paths)	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Walking, Dog Walking, Cycling, horse riding, informal park use. Fishing.	
Can this green wedge be accessed by the public?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Access from car park to North of Wedge. The Great Central Way spans across the entirety of Wedge.	
Are the footpaths and bridleways of a good quality? (signposted, stiles / gates, surface condition etc.)	Yes	No
Details	Great Central Way easy to navigate. However many of the footpaths are not signposted. Shrubland on paths. Not all well maintained.	
Is there any evidence of the level of use on the footpaths / bridleways?	Very busy park. Many walkers and Dog Walkers.	
What visible informal uses are there?	None	
Could the integrity and quality of the recreational opportunity be maintained if the green wedge boundaries were moved?	No. Would be a significant loss to recreational opportunities.	

# Kirby Frith





Area A, Land west of Hillcrest Farm



Area B, Eastern part of closed Golf Course.

**Location: Area A**

Date of site visit: 4/11/2014

Land use description	Hillcrest Farm. Grazing Land. Outbuildings. Private Lane to access Farm from Ratby Lane.	
Adjacent land uses	Western Park Golf Course. Wanstead Industrial Park. Ratby Lane. Agricultural Land.	
Landscape features (high hedgerows etc)	High Hedgerows. Farmland.	
Topography	Flat.	
Can more than one settlement be seen from current position?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details	High Hedgerow and trees block view to Industrial Estate.	
Perception of distance to neighbouring settlements	Within close proximity to Industrial estate.	
Does the current green wedge have a strong defensible boundary?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	High Hedgerow to south. Road to the West. Golf Course to the East.	
Does an alternative strong defensible boundary exist?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details		
Extent of built development within the Green wedge	Hillcrest Farm and associated outbuildings.	
What effects would built development in the green wedge in this location have?	Would extend built environment to city boundary.	
Does this green wedge provide green open space in a predominantly urban environment?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Industrial Estate to south. Edge of City boundary.	

Does this green wedge provide recreational opportunities? (including footpaths / cycle ways / bridle paths)	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Footpaths	
Can this green wedge be accessed by the public?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Via Footpath and lane to access Farm.	
Are the footpaths and bridleways of a good quality? (signposted, stiles / gates, surface condition etc.)	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Details	Foot path was not well signposted and was overgrown in places.	
Is there any evidence of the level of use on the footpaths / bridleways?	Footpath overgrown suggesting it's unused.	
What visible informal uses are there?	Dog walking.	
Could the integrity and quality of the recreational opportunity be maintained if the green wedge boundaries were moved?	Yes only a small area of green open space. Connected to larger part of Wedge which provides main recreational opportunities.	

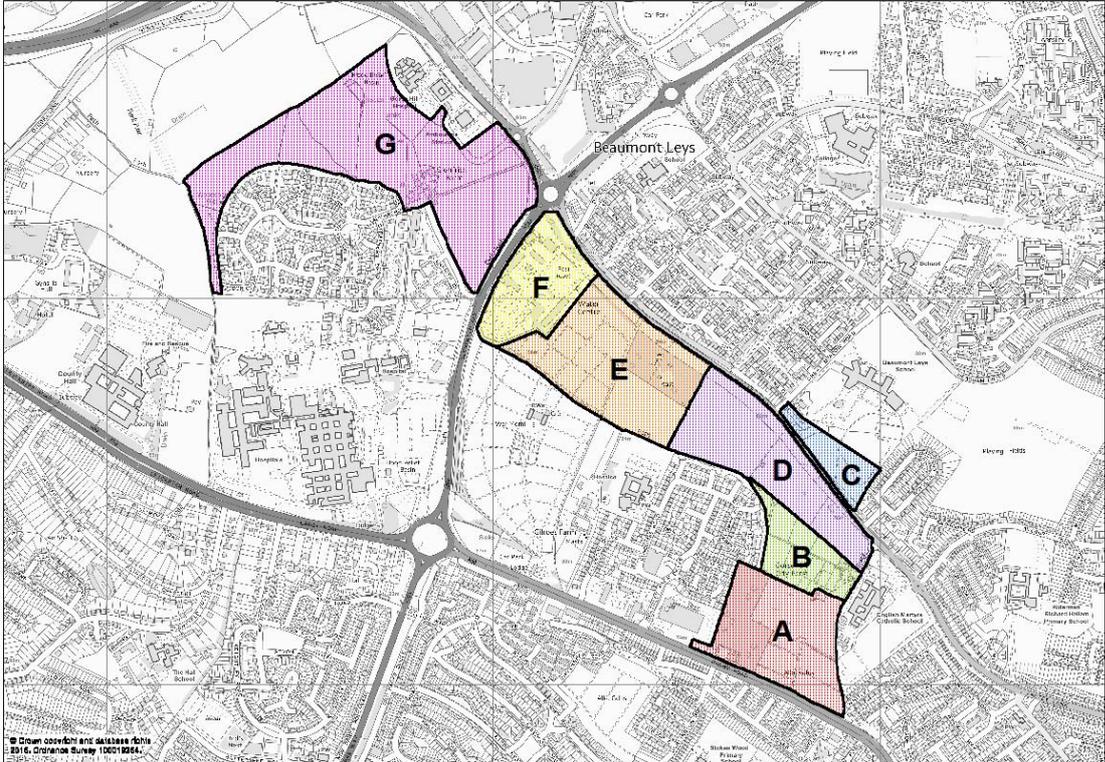
**Location: Area B**

Date of site visit: 4/11/14

Land use description	Western Park Golf Course with Club House. Outbuildings.	
Adjacent land uses	Hillcrest Farm, Residential, Agricultural Land. Braunstone Frith Industrial Estate.	
Landscape features (high hedgerows etc)	Dense Trees. High Hedgerow. Sand Bunkers.	
Topography	Flat. Rolling Hills.	
Can more than one settlement be seen from current position?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Residential development to the East. Industrial units to the South.	
Perception of distance to neighbouring settlements	Adjacent to Wedge.	
Does the current green wedge have a strong defensible boundary?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details	Golf Course extends beyond the City boundary. Development to South and East.	
Does an alternative strong defensible boundary exist?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details		
Extent of built development within the Green wedge	Clubhouse. Outbuildings.	
What effects would built development in the green wedge in this location have?	Loss of large area of open green space- loss of recreational use.	
Does this green wedge provide green open space in a predominantly urban environment?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details		

Does this green wedge provide recreational opportunities? (including footpaths / cycle ways / bridle paths)	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Public Footpaths.	
Can this green wedge be accessed by the public?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Public Footpaths.	
Are the footpaths and bridleways of a good quality? (signposted, stiles / gates, surface condition etc.)	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details	Poor quality Footpaths- signage and overgrown.	
Is there any evidence of the level of use on the footpaths / bridleways?	Dog walkers seen.	
What visible informal uses are there?	Dog Walking. Walking.	
Could the integrity and quality of the recreational opportunity be maintained if the green wedge boundaries were moved?		

Anstey Lane





Area A, Southern Boundary



Area B, Land North of Gorse Hill City Farm



Area D, Extension to Cemetery



Area F, Entrance to Water Centre.



Area G, Glenfrith Farm

**Location: A**

Date of site visit: 17/11/14

Land use description	Allotment Gardens. Petrol Station. Nature Reserve.	
Adjacent land uses	School to East. Residential dwellings to West. Gorse Hill City Farm to North. Groby Road to South.	
Landscape features (high hedgerows etc)	Dense Trees. High Hedgerow.	
Topography	Steep incline from Groby Road.	
Can more than one settlement be seen from current position?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details	Dense trees and shrubs provide screening to settlements.	
Perception of distance to neighbouring settlements	n/a	
Does the current green wedge have a strong defensible boundary?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	South part of Wedge. Residential housing to South.	
Does an alternative strong defensible boundary exist?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Detail	Southern part of Wedge. Surrounded by built environment.	
Extent of built development within the Green wedge	Petrol Station.	
What effects would built development in the green wedge in this location have?	Loss of nature reserve. Ecological issues.	
Does this green wedge provide green open space in a predominantly urban environment?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Residential Neighbourhood.	

Does this green wedge provide recreational opportunities? (including footpaths / cycle ways / bridle paths)	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Walking.	
Can this green wedge be accessed by the public?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Public footpath.	
Are the footpaths and bridleways of a good quality? (signposted, stiles / gates, surface condition etc.)	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details	Poorly signposted. Overgrown access to reserve.	
Is there any evidence of the level of use on the footpaths / bridleways?	None.	
What visible informal uses are there?	No	
Could the integrity and quality of the recreational opportunity be maintained if the green wedge boundaries were moved?	No. Loss of nature reserve and Allotments would be significant.	

**Location: Area B**

Date of site visit: 17/11/14

Land use description	Gorse Hill City Farm. Agricultural Land. Green Open Space.	
Adjacent land uses	School to East. Residential dwellings to West. Open green space to North. Nature Reserve to South.	
Landscape features (high hedgerows etc)	High Ground. Farm land.	
Topography	Sloping.	
Can more than one settlement be seen from current position?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details	Housing to North East can be seen.	
Perception of distance to neighbouring settlements	Close. High ground so settlements are visible. Hedgerow screens housing to South West.	
Does the current green wedge have a strong defensible boundary?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Green wedge extends both North and South of this part of Wedge.	
Does an alternative strong defensible boundary exist?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details		
Extent of built development within the Green wedge	Gorse Hill City Farm.	
What effects would built development in the green wedge in this location have?	Loss of agricultural land.	
Does this green wedge provide green open space in a predominantly urban environment?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details		

Does this green wedge provide recreational opportunities? (including footpaths / cycle ways / bridle paths)	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Visitor centre at Farm.	
Can this green wedge be accessed by the public?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Public access from Anstey Lane.	
Are the footpaths and bridleways of a good quality? (signposted, stiles / gates, surface condition etc.)	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Good condition.	
Is there any evidence of the level of use on the footpaths / bridleways?	No	
What visible informal uses are there?	None.	
Could the integrity and quality of the recreational opportunity be maintained if the green wedge boundaries were moved?	No	

**Location: Area C**

Date of site visit: 17/11/14

Land use description	School Playing Fields. Car Parking.	
Adjacent land uses	Housing. Agricultural land to South. School to North.	
Landscape features (high hedgerows etc)	High hedgerow on southern boundary fronting Anstey Lane.	
Topography	Flat.	
Can more than one settlement be seen from current position?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details	Hedgerow screens view to multiple settlements.	
Perception of distance to neighbouring settlements	Close. Anstey Lane directly adjacent to wedge.	
Does the current green wedge have a strong defensible boundary?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details	Anstey Lane splits wedge.	
Does an alternative strong defensible boundary exist?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Section D, South of School Playing fields.	
Extent of built development within the Green wedge	Car Parking.	
What effects would built development in the green wedge in this location have?	Playing fields would be lost.	
Does this green wedge provide green open space in a predominantly urban environment?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details	Land is only part of playing fields available to school.	

Does this green wedge provide recreational opportunities? (including footpaths / cycle ways / bridle paths)	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	School playing fields.	
Can this green wedge be accessed by the public?	Yes	No
Details	Not accessible to general public. School property.	
Are the footpaths and bridleways of a good quality? (signposted, stiles / gates, surface condition etc.)	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details	Not accessible.	
Is there any evidence of the level of use on the footpaths / bridleways?	No	
What visible informal uses are there?	No	
Could the integrity and quality of the recreational opportunity be maintained if the green wedge boundaries were moved?	Yes. Small part of Wedge. Not publically accessible.	

**Location: Area D**

Date of site visit: 17/11/14

Land use description	Cemetery Extension. Agricultural Land. Green open space.	
Adjacent land uses	Housing. Green Open Space. Farmland. Cemetery.	
Landscape features (high hedgerows etc)	Shrubland. High Hedgerow on boundaries.	
Topography	Sloping to the South.	
Can more than one settlement be seen from current position?	Yes	No
Details	High Hedgerow screens settlements.	
Perception of distance to neighbouring settlements	Close. Traffic could be heard.	
Does the current green wedge have a strong defensible boundary?	Yes	No
Details	High Hedgerow provides strong boarder.	
Does an alternative strong defensible boundary exist?	Yes	No
Details	Remove Section C.	
Extent of built development within the Green wedge	None.	
What effects would built development in the green wedge in this location have?	Loss of Cemetery land.	
Does this green wedge provide green open space in a predominantly urban environment?	Yes	No
Details	Directly adjacent to residential dwellings. Extension of Cemetery.	

Does this green wedge provide recreational opportunities? (including footpaths / cycle ways / bridle paths)	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Footpath for Cemetery. Public football accessing housing to South West.	
Can this green wedge be accessed by the public?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Can be accessed from Housing to South West and from Anstey Lane.	
Are the footpaths and bridleways of a good quality? (signposted, stiles / gates, surface condition etc.)	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details	Poor signposting to access residential Neighbourhood to South West.	
Is there any evidence of the level of use on the footpaths / bridleways?	Well used.	
What visible informal uses are there?	Waste/rubbish.	
Could the integrity and quality of the recreational opportunity be maintained if the green wedge boundaries were moved?	No	

**Location: Area E**

Date of site visit: 17/11/14

Land use description	Cemetery. Electricity Sub Station. Green Open Land.	
Adjacent land uses	Green Open Space. Housing. Water Centre.	
Landscape features (high hedgerows etc)	Cemetery. Gravestones. Road. Paths.	
Topography	Flat.	
Can more than one settlement be seen from current position?	Yes	No
Details	Screened by Hedges.	
Perception of distance to neighbouring settlements	Close. Noise from Anstey Lane.	
Does the current green wedge have a strong defensible boundary?	Yes	No
Details	Anstey Lane to North. Could extend to South to include rest of Gilroes Cemetery?	
Does an alternative strong defensible boundary exist?	Yes	No
Details	Gilroes Cemetery?	
Extent of built development within the Green wedge	Cemetery. Electricity Sub Station.	
What effects would built development in the green wedge in this location have?	Loss of Cemetery Space.	
Does this green wedge provide green open space in a predominantly urban environment?	Yes	No
Details		

Does this green wedge provide recreational opportunities? (including footpaths / cycle ways / bridle paths)	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Public can visit cemetery. Walking.	
Can this green wedge be accessed by the public?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Via Anstey Lane	
Are the footpaths and bridleways of a good quality? (signposted, stiles / gates, surface condition etc.)	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Access to Cemetery is signposted.	
Is there any evidence of the level of use on the footpaths / bridleways?	None.	
What visible informal uses are there?	No	
Could the integrity and quality of the recreational opportunity be maintained if the green wedge boundaries were moved?	No	

**Location: Area F**

Date of site visit: 17/11/14

Land use description	Water Centre and associated buildings.	
Adjacent land uses	Housing to North East. Ring Road to North. Cemetery to South. Green open space to South East.	
Landscape features (high hedgerows etc)	Built development.	
Topography	Flat.	
Can more than one settlement be seen from current position?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details	Dense trees and buildings screen settlements.	
Perception of distance to neighbouring settlements	Far.	
Does the current green wedge have a strong defensible boundary?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details	Ring Road splits northern part of Wedge.	
Does an alternative strong defensible boundary exist?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details		
Extent of built development within the Green wedge	Majority of site is covered with built development.	
What effects would built development in the green wedge in this location have?		
Does this green wedge provide green open space in a predominantly urban environment?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details	Not much green space on this part of the Wedge.	

Does this green wedge provide recreational opportunities? (including footpaths / cycle ways / bridle paths)	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details	Private land, not accessible to the public.	
Can this green wedge be accessed by the public?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details	Private land, not accessible to the public.	
Are the footpaths and bridleways of a good quality? (signposted, stiles / gates, surface condition etc.)	Yes	No
Details	N/A	
Is there any evidence of the level of use on the footpaths / bridleways?	N/A	
What visible informal uses are there?	N/A	
Could the integrity and quality of the recreational opportunity be maintained if the green wedge boundaries were moved?	No recreational opportunities. Yes?	

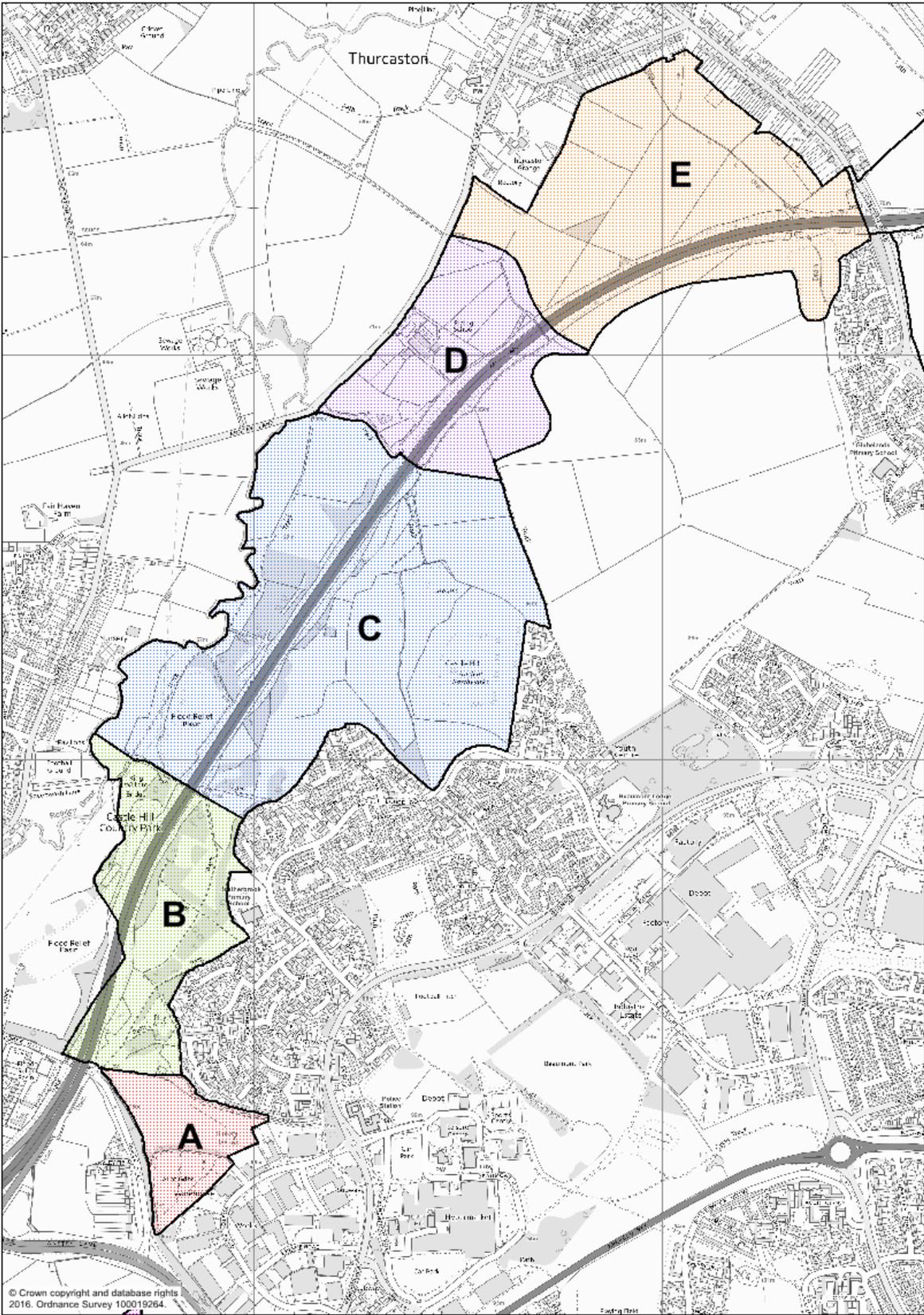
**Location: Area G**

Date of site visit: 17/11/14

Land use description	Natural green space, ponds, small children's play area, grazing land, Farm, Housing.	
Adjacent land uses	Housing to South West. Green Open Space to North. Ring road to south.	
Landscape features (high hedgerows etc)	Hedgerows.	
Topography	Undulating.	
Can more than one settlement be seen from current position?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details	Views to open countryside to North.	
Perception of distance to neighbouring settlements	Hedgerow screens housing.	
Does the current green wedge have a strong defensible boundary?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details	District green wedge extends beyond boundary.	
Does an alternative strong defensible boundary exist?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details		
Extent of built development within the Green wedge	Farm and associated buildings. Housing.	
What effects would built development in the green wedge in this location have?	Loss of agricultural land and recreational space for adjacent housing estate.	
Does this green wedge provide green open space in a predominantly urban environment?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details	Green open space to North of Wedge.	

Does this green wedge provide recreational opportunities? (including footpaths / cycle ways / bridle paths)	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Walking, Cycling. Children's play area.	
Can this green wedge be accessed by the public?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Access to Farm from Anstey Lane. Access to northern part of Wedge from Housing estate.	
Are the footpaths and bridleways of a good quality? (signposted, stiles / gates, surface condition etc.)	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Clearly signposted. Well maintained.	
Is there any evidence of the level of use on the footpaths / bridleways?	Walkers seen.	
What visible informal uses are there?	None.	
Could the integrity and quality of the recreational opportunity be maintained if the green wedge boundaries were moved?	No	

# Castle Hill





Area A, Playing Fields



Area B, Housing directly adjacent to East boundary.



Area C, Entrance to Castle Hill Country Park from Anstey Lane



Area D, Land to rear of Riding School



Area E, Anstey Lane Western Boundary.

**Location: Area A**

Date of site visit: 25/11/14

Land use description	Allotments. Green Open Space. Sports Field.	
Adjacent land uses	Residential neighbourhood to the East. Industrial Units to the South. A46 to North West.	
Landscape features (high hedgerows etc)	Mature Trees on Eastern boundary. Shrubland. High Hedges.	
Topography	Sloping Landscape. Flat Sports Field.	
Can more than one settlement be seen from current position?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details	Vegetation screens settlements.	
Perception of distance to neighbouring settlements	Moderately far. Traffic from A46 can be heard.	
Does the current green wedge have a strong defensible boundary?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Bordered by industrial units and housing.	
Does an alternative strong defensible boundary exist?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details		
Extent of built development within the Green wedge	Allotments.	
What effects would built development in the green wedge in this location have?	It would reduce amount of green open space directly adjacent to residential Neighbourhood.	
Does this green wedge provide green open space in a predominantly urban environment?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Bordered by industrial units and housing.	

Does this green wedge provide recreational opportunities? (including footpaths / cycle ways / bridle paths)	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Footpath from South. Football pitch.	
Can this green wedge be accessed by the public?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Footpaths cross this area of the Wedge.	
Are the footpaths and bridleways of a good quality? (signposted, stiles / gates, surface condition etc.)	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Didn't see any signage.	
Is there any evidence of the level of use on the footpaths / bridleways?	Appeared well used by walkers.	
What visible informal uses are there?	Walking/ dog walking	
Could the integrity and quality of the recreational opportunity be maintained if the green wedge boundaries were moved?	No	

**Location: Area B**

Date of site visit: 24/11/14

Land use description	Castle Hill Country Park. Green Open Space. King William Bridge. Play Area. Stream. Woodland. A46 dual carriageway.	
Adjacent land uses	Housing to East. Green Open Space To North and South. School to East.	
Landscape features (high hedgerows etc)	Mature Trees. Woodland. High Hedgerow.	
Topography	Sloping Landscape.	
Can more than one settlement be seen from current position?	Yes	No
Details	Woodland and hedgerow screens settlements and A46.	
Perception of distance to neighbouring settlements	Rural Setting. Traffic can be heard though from A46.	
Does the current green wedge have a strong defensible boundary?	Yes	No
Details		
Does an alternative strong defensible boundary exist?	Yes	No
Details		
Extent of built development within the Green wedge	King William Bridge. A46 Dual Carriageway.	
What effects would built development in the green wedge in this location have?	Loss of recreational opportunities in Castle Hill Country Park. Would disrupt flow of green open space.	
Does this green wedge provide green open space in a predominantly urban environment?	Yes	No
Details	Outskirts of City.	

Does this green wedge provide recreational opportunities? (including footpaths / cycle ways / bridle paths)	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Country Park. Footpaths. Play Area.	
Can this green wedge be accessed by the public?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Footpaths cross this part of the Wedge.	
Are the footpaths and bridleways of a good quality? (signposted, stiles / gates, surface condition etc.)	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Well maintained.	
Is there any evidence of the level of use on the footpaths / bridleways?	Relatively high.	
What visible informal uses are there?	Walking, dog walking seen.	
Could the integrity and quality of the recreational opportunity be maintained if the green wedge boundaries were moved?	No	

**Location: Area C**

Date of site visit: 5 July 2011

Land use description	Castle Hill Country Park. Green Open Space. Castle Hill Ancient Earthworks. A46 Dual Carriageway. Flood Relief Basin.	
Adjacent land uses	Residential Neighbourhood to South East. Agricultural Land to North East. Riding Centre to North in area D. Sewage Works to North West, in Charnwood.	
Landscape features (high hedgerows etc)	Mounds. Stream. Woodland.	
Topography	Sloping Landscape. Undulating.	
Can more than one settlement be seen from current position?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details	Natural landscape screens settlements with trees, hedges and sloping hills.	
Perception of distance to neighbouring settlements	Rural Setting. Seems far.	
Does the current green wedge have a strong defensible boundary?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Centre of Wedge surrounded by green open space. Ashton Green development to East.	
Does an alternative strong defensible boundary exist?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details		
Extent of built development within the Green wedge	Electricity Pylons.	
What effects would built development in the green wedge in this location have?	Significant loss of green open space, reducing opportunities for walking/dog walking in particular.	
Does this green wedge provide green open space in a predominantly urban environment?	<b>Yes</b>	No

Details	Ashton Green development to East will impact upon character of surrounding area.	
Does this green wedge provide recreational opportunities? (including footpaths / cycle ways / bridle paths)	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Footpaths.	
Can this green wedge be accessed by the public?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Footpaths cross the Wedge. Access from the South East and West, and North.	
Are the footpaths and bridleways of a good quality? (signposted, stiles / gates, surface condition etc.)	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Well maintained.	
Is there any evidence of the level of use on the footpaths / bridleways?	Used often.	
What visible informal uses are there?	Many dog walkers.	
Could the integrity and quality of the recreational opportunity be maintained if the green wedge boundaries were moved?	No	

**Location: Area D**

Date of site visit: 25/11/14

Land use description	Green Open Space. Riding School. Agricultural Land. A46 Dual Carriageway.	
Adjacent land uses	Residential to North West. Agricultural Land to North and East. Sewage Works to West.	
Landscape features (high hedgerows etc)	High Hedgerows. Mature Trees. Grazing Land.	
Topography	Rolling Hills. Sloping Landscape.	
Can more than one settlement be seen from current position?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details	Natural vegetation screens settlements.	
Perception of distance to neighbouring settlements	Rural Setting. Although can hear traffic from A46.	
Does the current green wedge have a strong defensible boundary?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Anstey Lane to West	
Does an alternative strong defensible boundary exist?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details		
Extent of built development within the Green wedge	Riding School.	
What effects would built development in the green wedge in this location have?	Would lose recreational opportunities particularly at riding school.	
Does this green wedge provide green open space in a predominantly urban environment?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Currently rural environment. But Ashton Green will change character of area.	

Does this green wedge provide recreational opportunities? (including footpaths / cycle ways / bridle paths)	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Bridle paths for Horse Riding. Footpaths for Walking/ Dog Walking.	
Can this green wedge be accessed by the public?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Link from part C to part E of the Wedge.	
Are the footpaths and bridleways of a good quality? (signposted, stiles / gates, surface condition etc.)	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Details	Public footpaths/bridleways near riding Centre not in good condition. Overgrown vegetation. Impact of horse riding on quality of walkways.	
Is there any evidence of the level of use on the footpaths / bridleways?	Quality of tracks suggest well used.	
What visible informal uses are there?	Walkers/dog walkers. Horse riding at centre.	
Could the integrity and quality of the recreational opportunity be maintained if the green wedge boundaries were moved?	No	

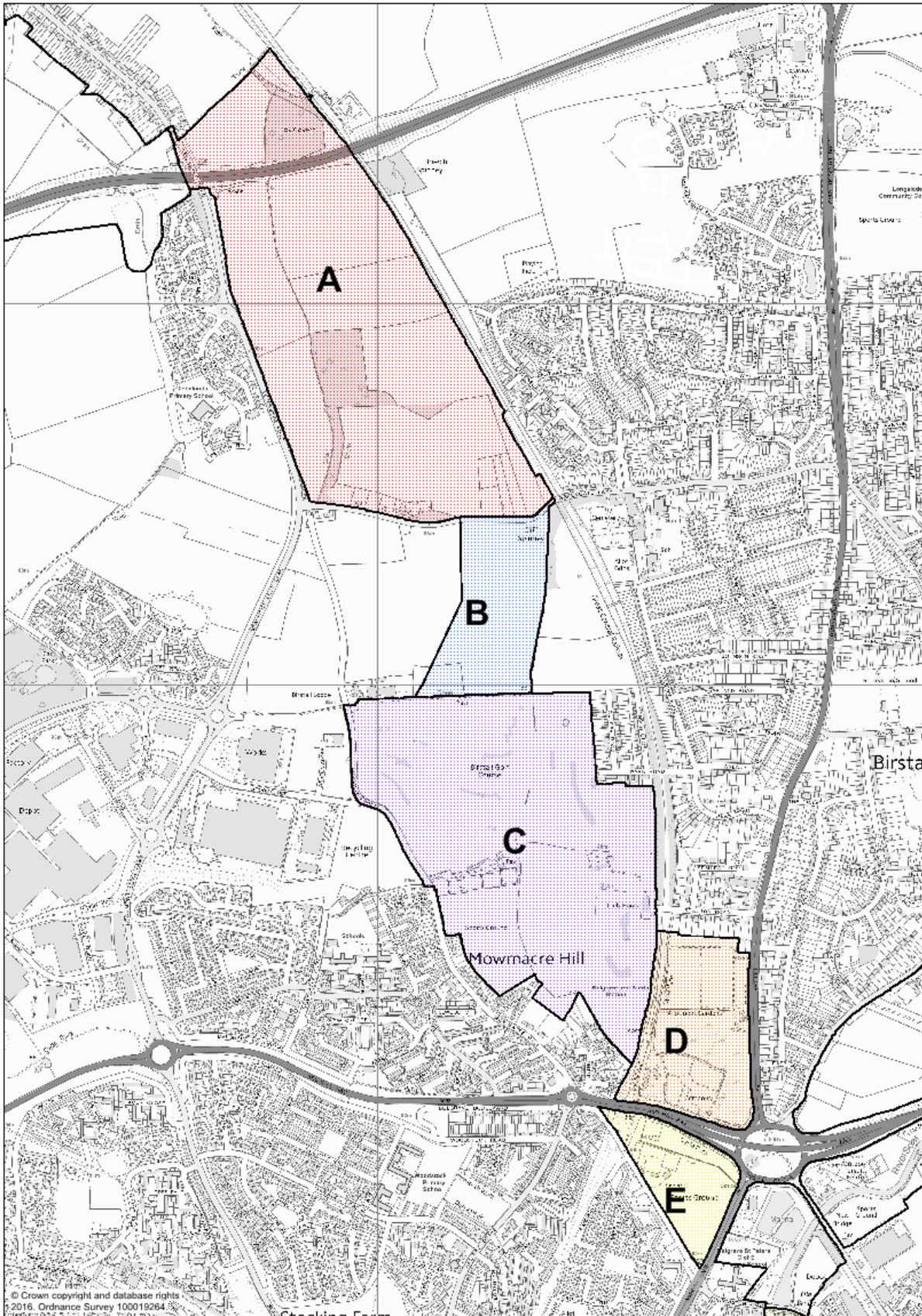
**Location: Area E**

Date of site visit: 25/11/14

Land use description	Agricultural Land. A46 Dual Carriageway. Woodland.	
Adjacent land uses	Residential- Thurcaston Village on Northern boundary. Rectory. Agricultural Land to South.	
Landscape features (high hedgerows etc)	Mature Trees. Grazing Land. Agricultural Land. High Hedgerows separate fields.	
Topography	Sloping landscape.	
Can more than one settlement be seen from current position?	Yes	No
Details	Thurcaston is visible.	
Perception of distance to neighbouring settlements	Rural Setting.	
Does the current green wedge have a strong defensible boundary?	Yes	No
Details	Built environment borders northern boundary.	
Does an alternative strong defensible boundary exist?	Yes	No
Details	Ashton Green development may affect boundary of Wedge in upcoming years.	
Extent of built development within the Green wedge	Agricultural buildings off Leicester Road.	
What effects would built development in the green wedge in this location have?	Provides buffer to A46 and Thurcaston Village.	
Does this green wedge provide green open space in a predominantly urban environment?	Yes	No
Details	Adjacent to residential community. Development of Ashton Green will have impact upon character of area.	

Does this green wedge provide recreational opportunities? (including footpaths / cycle ways / bridle paths)	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Footpaths. walking, dog walking	
Can this green wedge be accessed by the public?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Access on Anstey Lane and Rectory Lane.	
Are the footpaths and bridleways of a good quality? (signposted, stiles / gates, surface condition etc.)	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details	Very boggy. Poor signposting. Overgrown vegetation stopped me walking along footpath to exit the Wedge via Leicester Road.	
Is there any evidence of the level of use on the footpaths / bridleways?	Very boggy.	
What visible informal uses are there?	None.	
Could the integrity and quality of the recreational opportunity be maintained if the green wedge boundaries were moved?	No	

# Thurcaston Road



**Location: Area A**

Date of site visit: 21/11/14

Land use description	Agricultural Land, A46 passes through North of Wedge. Housing Development on South Boarder.	
Adjacent land uses	Housing in Birstall to South East. Agricultural land to the East and South, A46 to North, Housing to west.	
Landscape features (high hedgerows etc)	Agricultural Land, Fox Covert, Woodland, Hedgerows.	
Topography	Sloping.	
Can more than one settlement be seen from current position?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Birstall to South East. Housing to North West.	
Perception of distance to neighbouring settlements	Moderately Close. Rural Setting.	
Does the current green wedge have a strong defensible boundary?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Great Central Way borders East boundary. Leicester Road to west.	
Does an alternative strong defensible boundary exist?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details	Wedge extends into adjoining district's Wedge	
Extent of built development within the Green wedge	Small developments on South boundary.	
What effects would built development in the green wedge in this location have?	Would disrupt the continuity of Green Open Space on the outskirts of the City.	
Does this green wedge provide green open space in a predominantly urban environment?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Rural setting.	

Does this green wedge provide recreational opportunities? (including footpaths / cycle ways / bridle paths)	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Footpath in area A to the North of the A46.	
Can this green wedge be accessed by the public?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Much of the land is private. North part can be accessed by public footpath.	
Are the footpaths and bridleways of a good quality? (signposted, stiles / gates, surface condition etc.)	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details		
Is there any evidence of the level of use on the footpaths / bridleways?	None	
What visible informal uses are there?	None	
Could the integrity and quality of the recreational opportunity be maintained if the green wedge boundaries were moved?	No	

**Location: Area B**

Date of site visit: 21/11/14

Land use description	Agricultural Land.	
Adjacent land uses	Birstall Golf Course to south, Agricultural land to the East, West and North.	
Landscape features (high hedgerows etc.)	Mature hedgerows.	
Topography	Rolling countryside	
Can more than one settlement be seen from current position?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details	Occasionally catch a glimpse of the roof tops of housing in Birstall.	
Perception of distance to neighbouring settlements	Far.	
Does the current green wedge have a strong defensible boundary?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Central part of Wedge. Would disrupt continuity of Green wedge.	
Does an alternative strong defensible boundary exist?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Green open space to the West- extension?	
Extent of built development within the Green wedge	None	
What effects would built development in the green wedge in this location have?	Ashton Green Development to East.	
Does this green wedge provide green open space in a predominantly urban environment?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Rural Setting.	

Does this green wedge provide recreational opportunities? (including footpaths / cycle ways / bridle paths)	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Footpaths	
Can this green wedge be accessed by the public?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Through the footpaths to South.	
Are the footpaths and bridleways of a good quality? (signposted, stiles / gates, surface condition etc.)	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Details	Over grown vegetation. Poor signposting.	
Is there any evidence of the level of use on the footpaths / bridleways?	None.	
What visible informal uses are there?	None.	
Could the integrity and quality of the recreational opportunity be maintained if the green wedge boundaries were moved?	No. Central part of Wedge.	

**Location: Area C**

Date of site visit: 21/11/14

Land use description	Birstall Golf Course, club house and car park. Sports Ground.	
Adjacent land uses	Residential to East and West, Great Central Way and Redhill allotments to South, Agricultural Land to the North.	
Landscape features (high hedgerows etc)	Tall trees, fairways and greens, heavy screening provided by mature trees around boundary.	
Topography	Undulating.	
Can more than one settlement be seen from current position?	Yes	No
Details		
Perception of distance to neighbouring settlements	Seems Far. Trees and Hedgerow block views towards settlements.	
Does the current green wedge have a strong defensible boundary?	Yes	No
Details	Central part to Wedge. Industrial units and housing provide strong boundary.	
Does an alternative strong defensible boundary exist?	Yes	No
Details		
Extent of built development within the Green wedge	Golf club and associated facilities.	
What effects would built development in the green wedge in this location have?	Would disrupt the continuity of the green wedge.	
Does this green wedge provide green open space in a predominantly urban environment?	Yes	No
Details	Provides opportunities for recreation.- especially golf.	

Does this green wedge provide recreational opportunities? (including footpaths / cycle ways / bridle paths)	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Details	Private golf course. Sports field- football etc	
Can this green wedge be accessed by the public?	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Details	This is a private golf course although a public footpaths runs along the northern edge of the golf course.	
Are the footpaths and bridleways of a good quality? (signposted, stiles / gates, surface condition etc.)	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Details	Overgrown Vegetation. Poor signposting.	
Is there any evidence of the level of use on the footpaths / bridleways?	<b>No</b>	
What visible informal uses are there?	None	
Could the integrity and quality of the recreational opportunity be maintained if the green wedge boundaries were moved?	<b>No</b>	

**Location: Area D**

Date of site visit: 21/11/14

Land use description	Great Central Railway, Allotments, Belgrave Cemetery, Community Centre.	
Adjacent land uses	Birstall Golf Course to West, Residential to North and East, Sports Ground to south, Red Hill Way on South boundary.	
Landscape features (high hedgerows etc)	Railway Line and embankments, hedges and Mature trees around boundaries. Gravestones.	
Topography	Sloping.	
Can more than one settlement be seen from current position?	Yes	No
Details	Dense trees block view of settlements.	
Perception of distance to neighbouring settlements	Close. Traffic can be heard.	
Does the current green wedge have a strong defensible boundary?	Yes	No
Details		
Does an alternative strong defensible boundary exist?	Yes	No
Details		
Extent of built development within the Green wedge	Cemetery, Green Acre Community Centre, Allotments	
What effects would built development in the green wedge in this location have?	Lose burial ground.	
Does this green wedge provide green open space in a predominantly urban environment?	Yes	No
Details	Separation of green open space and urban area.	

Does this green wedge provide recreational opportunities? (including footpaths / cycle ways / bridle paths)	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Walking, cycling, growing food	
Can this green wedge be accessed by the public?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Green wedge is privately accessible to allotment users, Cemetery visitors, Cycle path and footpath along the Great Central Way.	
Are the footpaths and bridleways of a good quality? (signposted, stiles / gates, surface condition etc.)	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Details	Poor signpost	
Is there any evidence of the level of use on the footpaths / bridleways?	N/A	
What visible informal uses are there?	Walking	
Could the integrity and quality of the recreational opportunity be maintained if the green wedge boundaries were moved?	No	

**Location: Area E**

Date of site visit: 21/11/14

Land use description	Belgrave Rugby Club, Belgrave Bowling Club, Sports Pitches. Small Housing Development- gypsy and traveller site?	
Adjacent land uses	Residential Housing to South West. Red Hill Way to North. McDonalds to East. Playing fields to East.	
Landscape features (high hedgerows etc)	Hedgerows, Shrubland. Sports field.	
Topography	Flat.	
Can more than one settlement be seen from current position?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details	Housing to south West visible.	
Perception of distance to neighbouring settlements	Close because of residential Neighbourhood to South.	
Does the current green wedge have a strong defensible boundary?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Connects green open space around area.	
Does an alternative strong defensible boundary exist?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Details		
Extent of built development within the Green wedge	Rugby and Bowls club facilities. Small housing development- gypsy and traveller site?	
What effects would built development in the green wedge in this location have?	Loss of recreational opportunities.	
Does this green wedge provide green open space in a predominantly urban environment?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Close to large residential neighborhoods.	

Does this green wedge provide recreational opportunities? (including footpaths / cycle ways / bridle paths)	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Sports facilities are provided in the wedge, and there is a footpath/cycle path-	
Can this green wedge be accessed by the public?	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	The Great Central Way	
Are the footpaths and bridleways of a good quality? (signposted, stiles / gates, surface condition etc.)	<b>Yes</b>	No
Details	Clear signposting.	
Is there any evidence of the level of use on the footpaths / bridleways?	None.	
What visible informal uses are there?	Walking, dog walking on sports pitches.	
Could the integrity and quality of the recreational opportunity be maintained if the green wedge boundaries were moved?	No	