BIODIVERSITY ASSESSMENT AND ENHANCEMENT PLAN

SAXILBY PARISH GREEN SPACES, SAXILBY, LINCOLNSHIRE

SEPTEMBER 2025

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1 INTRODUCTION

CGC Ecology Ltd has been commissioned by Lydia Hopton from Saxilby with Ingleby Parish Council to undertake a biodiversity assessment of a number of sites within the parish of Saxilby in Lincolnshire. The surveys are required in connection with plans to improve the biodiversity of these areas through appropriate management and enhancements.

The sites were assessed on 16th and 19th June 2025 in dry and hot conditions by Helen Scarborough (certified FISC Level 4 in botany).

During the biodiversity assessment of the sites, all species present were identified, and the potential for protected or priority species to occur was also assessed.

This report details the methods used, describes the habitats and species found on the sites, discusses the results and makes recommendations for future management. A plant list of the species found across all of the sites is provided in Appendix 1.

2 METHODS

2.1 Biodiversity assessment

During the assessment, a walkover of each site was completed and all flora and fauna noted were recorded. Any plant species listed on Schedule 8 or Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981, reviewed in 2010) were recorded, and the sites were assessed against the Local Wildlife Site (LWS) criteria for Lincolnshire.

2.2 Survey constraints and limitations

There are no known constraints related to the survey methodology or the timing.

3 SITE ASSESSMENT

The survey sites comprise mainly small areas of public open space within the parish of Saxilby,

Lincolnshire.

The habitats on each site are described below and representative photographs are included in the text.

3.1 Ashfield Grange Recreation Area

This is a small area of grassland and trees, located off Ashfield Grange at grid reference SK 88550 75825. A location plan of the site is provided as Figure 1 below.

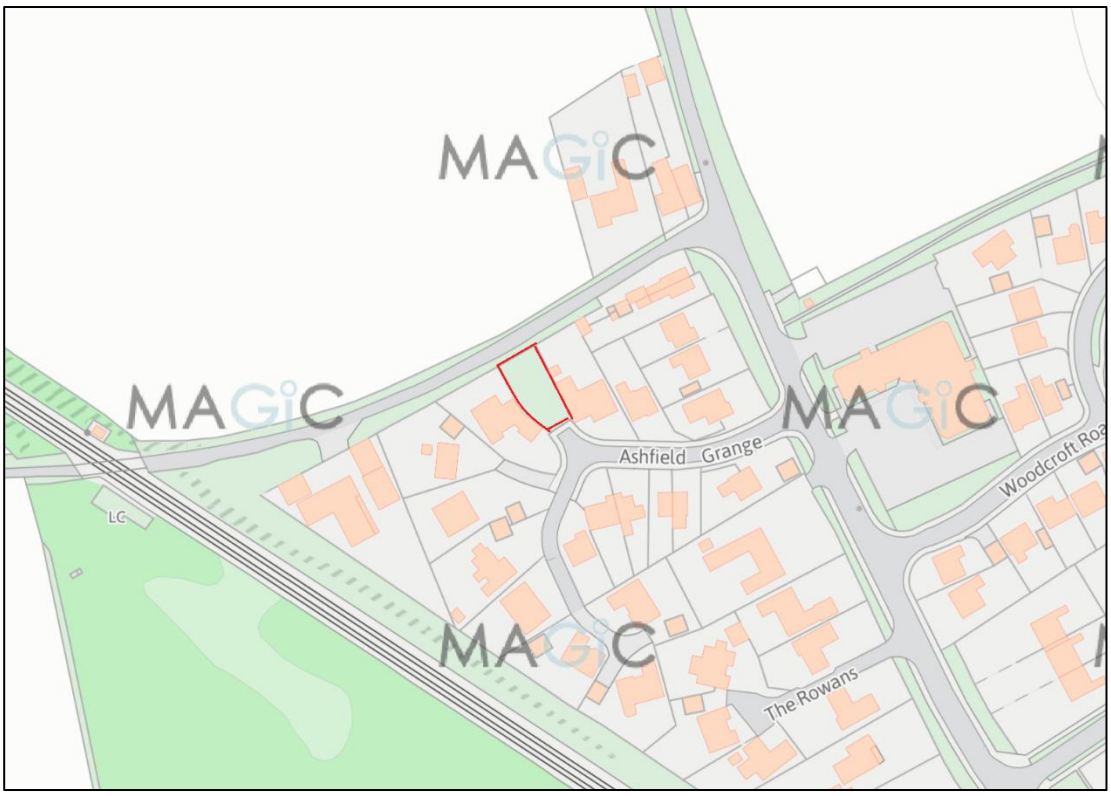

Figure 1: Location plan of the site (MAGIC Maps, 2025)

The majority of the site comprises mown, fairly species-rich grassland dominated by perennial rye-grass, with ribwort plantain, common bird's-foot trefoil, rough meadow-grass, dandelion, cat's-ear, selfheal, creeping buttercup, red fescue, white clover, daisy, Germander speedwell, dove's-foot crane's-bill, Yorkshire-fog, lesser trefoil, smooth hawksbeard, lady's bedstraw, false oat-grass, thyme-leaved speedwell, knotted hedge-parsley, hoary willowherb, wall speedwell and scarlet pimpernel recorded.

At the northern end of the site is a mature hazel tree, with a line of ash trees along the northern boundary, with hawthorn, bramble, blackthorn and dog-rose over a ground flora of lord's-and-ladies, wood avens, cow parsley, ivy and cleavers.

Photograph 1: View of the grassland on site

Photograph 2: Trees along the northern boundary

3.2 Land at Field Avenue

This is a narrow strip of grassland with some saplings, located off Field Avenue at grid reference SK 89248 76152. A location plan of the site is provided as Figure 2 below.

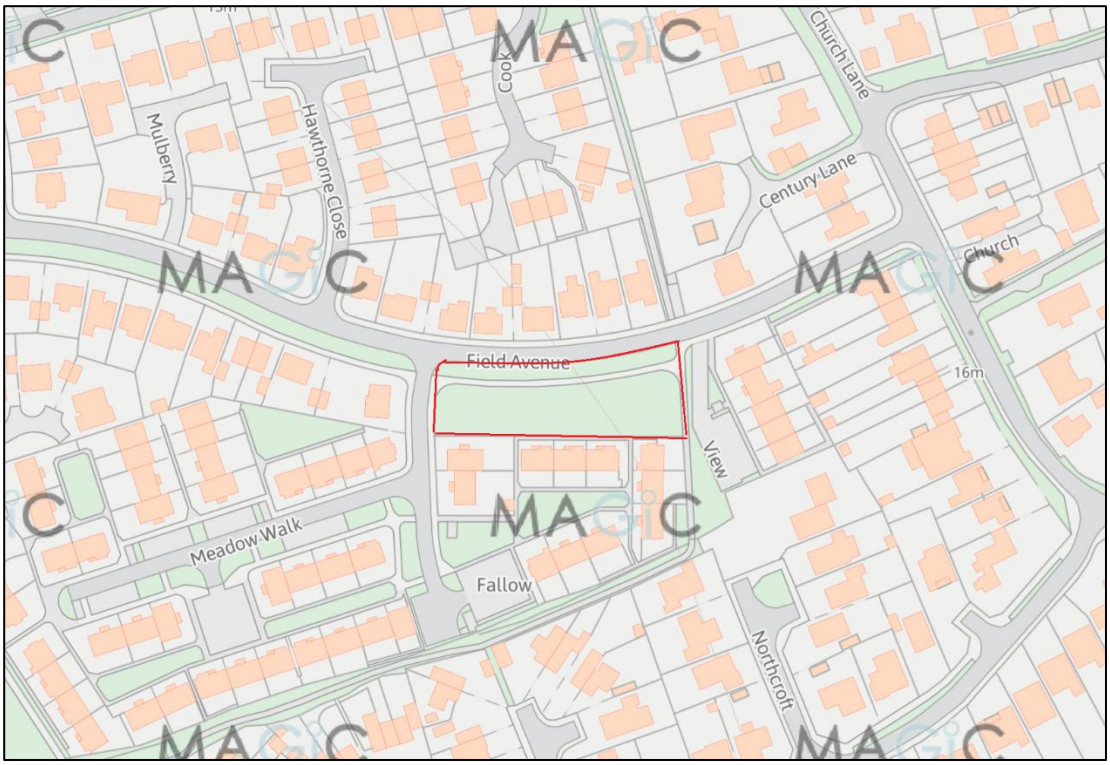

Figure 2: Location plan of the site (MAGIC Maps, 2025)

The majority of the area comprises species-poor, mown amenity grassland dominated by perennial rye-grass, with some creeping buttercup, cock's-foot, red fescue, Yorkshire-fog, broad-leaved dock, rough meadow-grass, ribwort plantain, white clover, daisy, dove's-foot crane's-bill, common ragwort, dandelion, lesser trefoil, soft brome, bristly oxtongue, black

medick, weld, shepherd's-purse and stork's-bill also noted.

There are several non-native saplings on the site, with lime species, alder species and ornamental birch species recorded.

Photograph 3: General view of the amenity grassland

Photograph 4: The saplings on site

3.3 MacPhail Crescent Green

This is a circular area of amenity grassland with some trees and scrub, located off MacPhail Crescent at grid reference SK 90101 75397. A location plan of the site is provided as Figure 3 below.

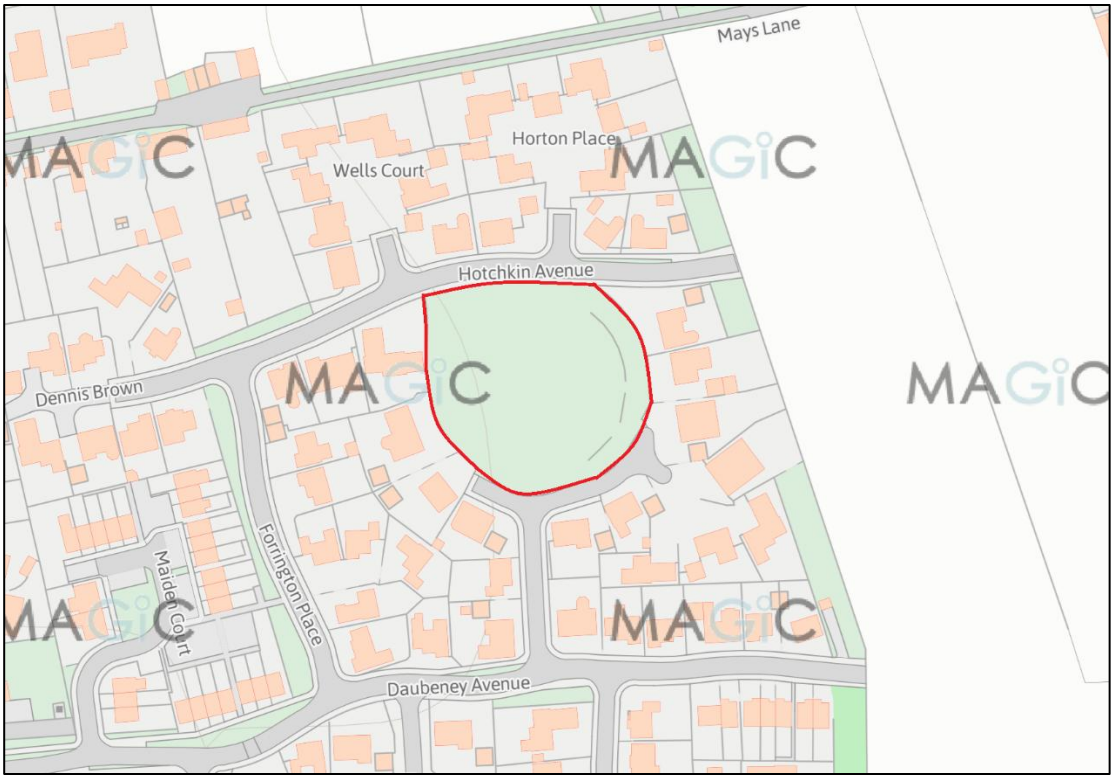

Figure 3: Location plan of the site (MAGIC Maps, 2025)

The majority of the area comprises mown amenity grassland dominated by perennial rye-grass, with white clover, ribwort plantain, dandelion, hawkbit species, Yorkshire-fog, creeping bent, rough meadow-grass, red fescue, cat's-ear, creeping buttercup, common knapweed, common ragwort, barren brome, nipplewort, bristly oxtongue, and greater plantain recorded.

The trees and scrub form a rough circle around the edge of the grassland and comprise hawthorn, cherry, silver birch, guelder rose, hazel, field maple and apple over a ground flora of common hogweed, cow parsley, bramble, cleavers, ivy, common nettle, wood avens and herb-Robert. There are some non-native species such as cherry laurel and garden privet also present.

Photograph 5: General view of the amenity grassland

Photograph 6: Some of the trees on site

Photograph 7: Further view of the site

3.4 Nature Corridor between May's Lane and Ingamells Drive

This is a narrow strip of scrub and trees, with some sections within gardens, located between May's Lane to the north and Ingamells Drive to the south-west at approximate grid reference SK 90200 75335. A location plan of the site is provided as Figure 4 below.

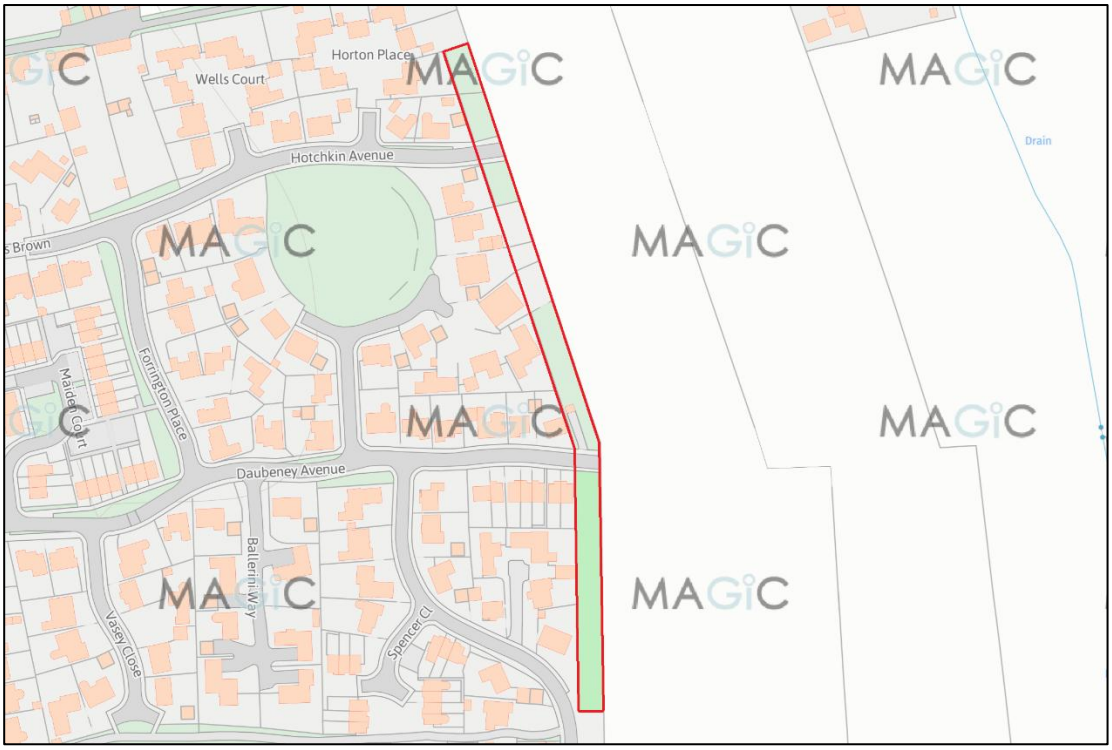

Figure 4: Location plan of the site (MAGIC Maps, 2025)

The area comprises a mixture of trees and scrub, with blackthorn, holly, field maple, horse-chestnut, dogwood, ash, hawthorn and hazel over a ground flora of false oat-grass, common nettle, bramble, cow parsley, wood avens, cleavers and herb-Robert. Much of the area was inaccessible due to gardens and the dense nature of the scrub.

Photograph 8: View of the nature corridor

Photograph 9: Further view of the nature corridor

Photograph 10: Dense scrub within the nature corridor

3.5 Northfield Rise Green Space

This is a small area of grassland with some trees and shrubs, located off Northfield Rise at grid reference SK 88798 75884. A location plan of the site is provided as Figure 5 below.

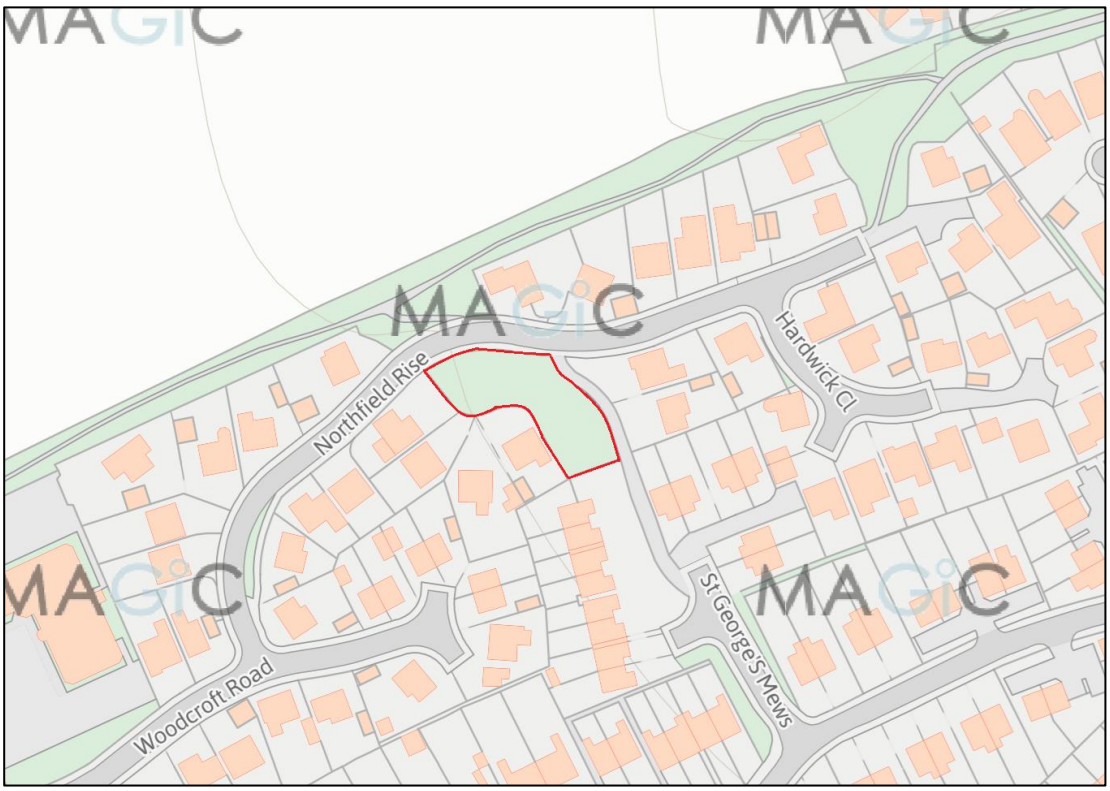

Figure 5: Location plan of the site (MAGIC Maps, 2025)

The majority of the site comprises mown amenity grassland, with some areas of longer grass, dominated by perennial rye-grass, with some creeping buttercup, cock's-foot, yarrow,

Yorkshire-fog, common bird's-foot trefoil, creeping cinquefoil, rough meadow-grass, ribwort plantain, white clover, daisy, dove's-foot crane's-bill, dandelion, cat's-ear, barren brome, Germander speedwell, wall barley, greater plantain, false oat-grass, common nettle and wood avens recorded.

There are also two ash trees and a small patch of exotic shrubs at the north.

Photograph 11: General view of the amenity grassland

Photograph 12: Further view of the grassland

3.6 Westcroft Drive Recreation Area

This is an area of amenity grassland with woodland and scrub, located off Westcroft Drive at grid reference SK 89062 75993. A location plan of the site is provided as Figure 6 below.

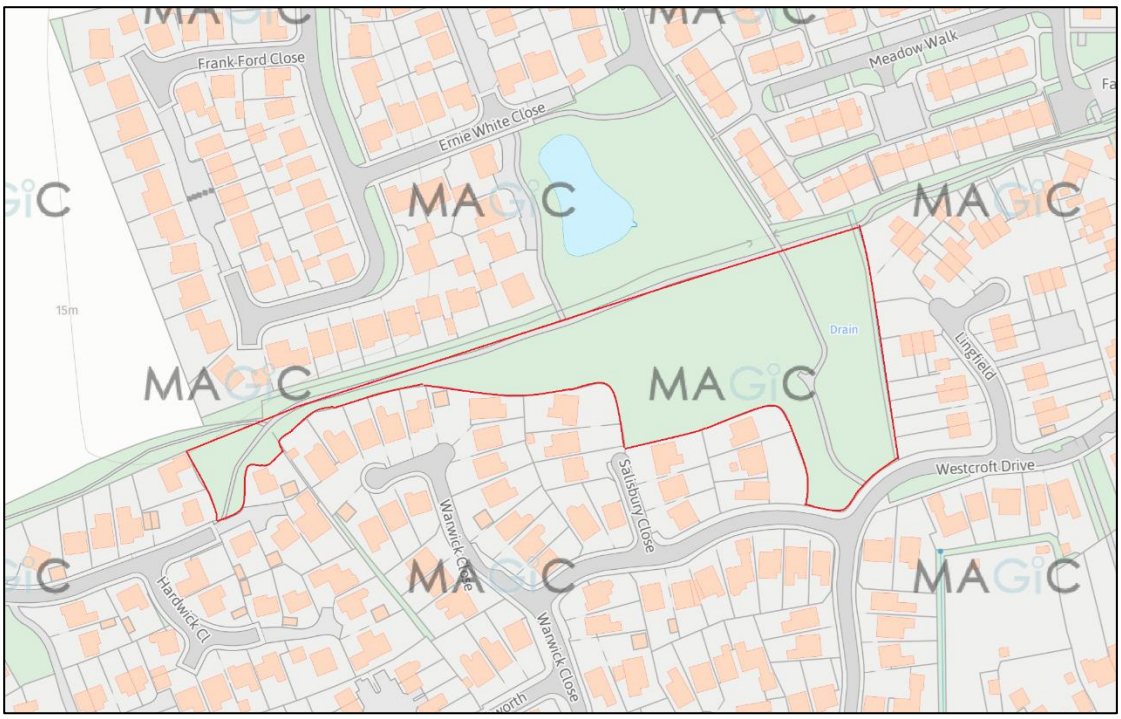

Figure 6: Location plan of the site (MAGIC Maps, 2025)

The majority of the area comprises close-mown amenity grassland dominated by perennial rye-grass, with lesser amounts of Yorkshire-fog, creeping buttercup, cock's-foot, ribwort plantain, rough meadow-grass, common knapweed, yarrow, soft brome, common ragwort, white clover, broad-leaved dock, daisy, common mouse-ear, dandelion, prickly sow-thistle, dove's-foot crane's-bill, wall barley and cat's-ear. An area to the west (to the north of Northfield Rise) has been left unmown and has potentially been seeded as it is more diverse, with common knapweed, cat's-ear, oxeye daisy and Germander speedwell noted. Areas that have been disturbed adjacent to pathways include species such as fat-hen, nipplewort, creeping bent, annual meadow-grass, poppy, teasel, common hogweed and greater plantain.

There are areas of mixed woodland and scrub on site, comprising ash, field maple, hawthorn, elder, hornbeam, holly, dogwood, whitebeam, cherry, silver birch, sycamore, hazel, apple, aspen, willow species, beech, buckthorn and honeysuckle over a ground flora of garlic mustard, cleavers, cow parsley, ground-ivy, common nettle, creeping thistle, false oat-grass, hemlock, bramble, hedge mustard, wood avens, ivy and common mallow. Some non-native species including cherry laurel were also recorded, and there are avenues of planted maple trees and newly planted saplings.

Photograph 13: Mixed woodland and amenity grassland on site

Photograph 14: Scrub and woodland on site

Photograph 15: Amenity grassland and saplings

Photograph 16: The area to the west with longer grass

3.7 St. Botolph's Church Yard

This site comprises the grounds around St. Botolph's Church and includes areas of mown grassland with mature trees, shrubs and hedgerows, located off Church Lane at grid reference SK 89511 76162. A location plan of the site is provided as Figure 7 below.

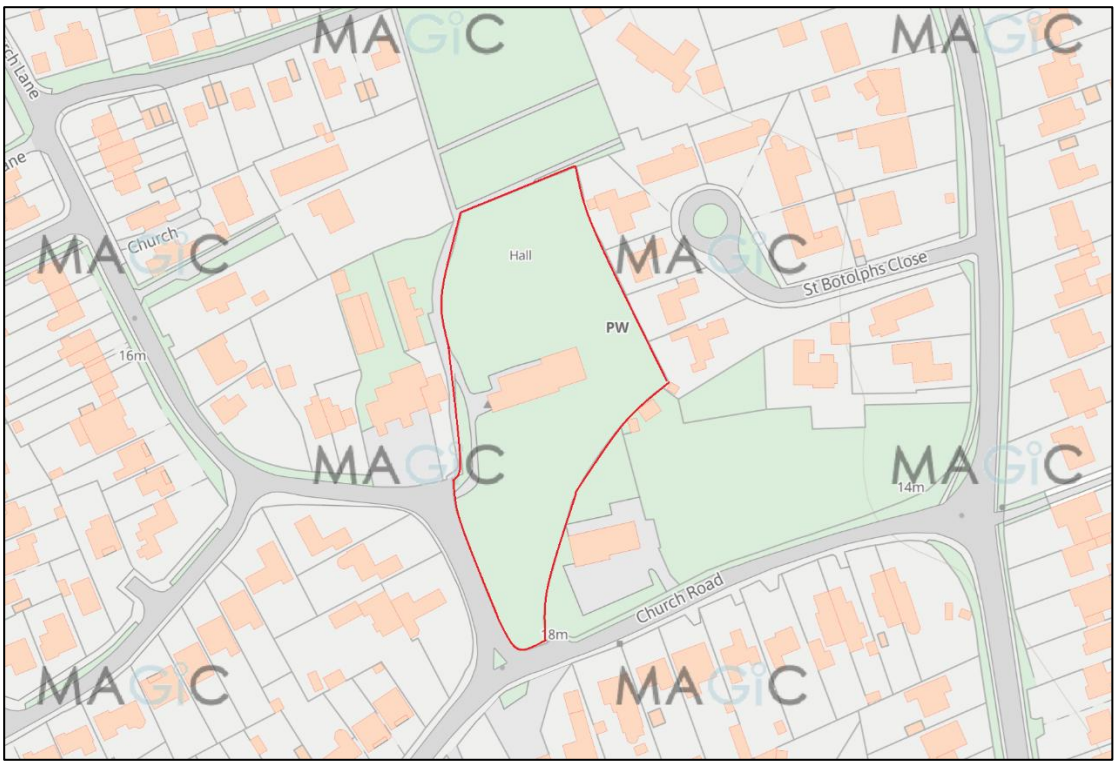

Figure 7: Location plan of the site (MAGIC Maps, 2025)

The majority of the area comprises close-mown grassland, dominated by perennial rye-grass, with species such as annual meadow-grass, cock's-foot, dandelion, broad-leaved dock, ribwort plantain, cat's-ear, white clover, daisy, rough meadow-grass, tare species, selfheal, hairy

sedge, red fescue, Germander speedwell, creeping buttercup, common sorrel, yellow oat-grass, ground-ivy, common knapweed, common couch, wood avens and ivy also recorded. Although the grassland is close-mown, some indicator species of nicer permanent grassland are present (common sorrel, yellow oat-grass), indicating it would be straightforward to increase biodiversity by changing the management.

The hedgerows comprise garden privet and hawthorn and the tree species noted include sycamore, cherry, yew, holly, poplar species and elder. Non-native tree species present included pine species, Leyland cypress and cotoneaster.

Photograph 17: Mown grassland on the site

Photograph 18: Trees and a hedgerow on site

3.8 Ingleby View Cemetery Extension

This is an area of grassland with newly planted hedgerows and trees, located off Brackenbury Road at grid reference SK 89534 76338. A location plan of the site is provided as Figure 8 below.

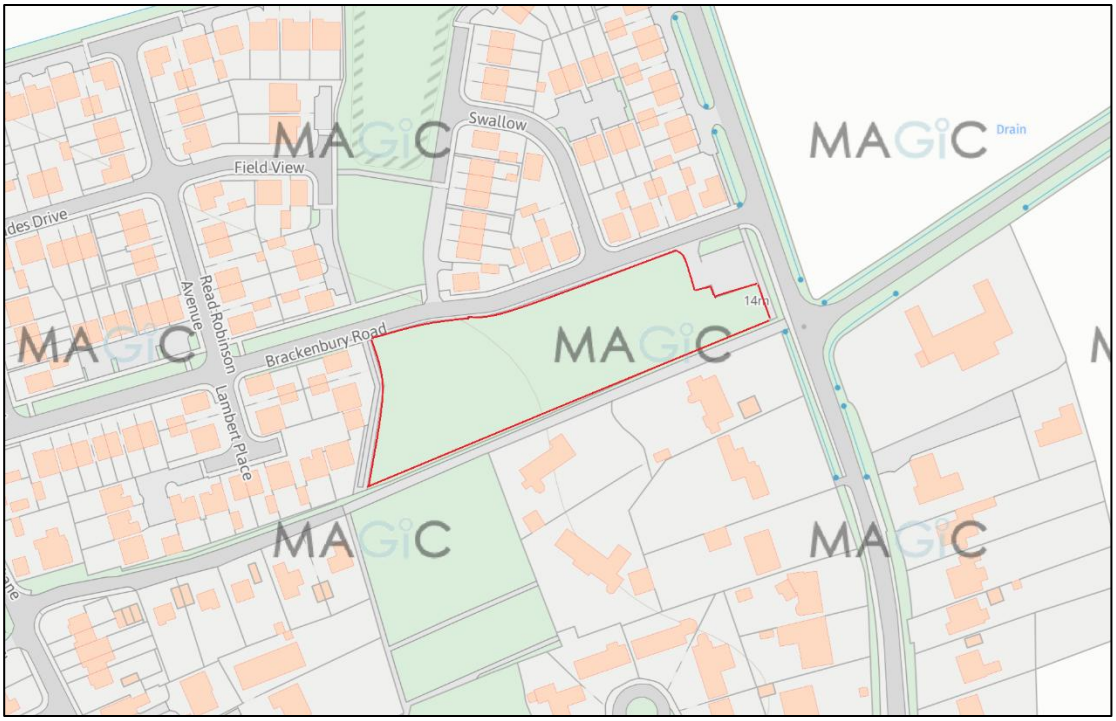

Figure 8: Location plan of the site (MAGIC Maps, 2025)

The majority of the area comprises tall-sward grassland that appears to have been been seeded as there are some non-native species present, with a mown pathway around it. Species recorded include perennial rye-grass, lesser trefoil, white clover, chamomile, lucerne, red clover, creeping buttercup, wild mignonette, common bird's-foot trefoil, broad-leaved dock, dandelion, common vetch, creeping bent, hop trefoil, red fescue, common bent, soft brome, rough meadow-grass, oxeye daisy, bristly oxtongue, tansy, creeping thistle, willowherb species, spear thistle, great lettuce, false oat-grass and common hogweed.

Around the adjacent car park is some amenity shrub planting, and there are recently planted trees and hedgerows on site, with hornbeam, lime species, hawthorn, blackthorn, holly, guelder rose and silver birch noted.

Photograph 19: View of the grassland on site

Photograph 20: Further view of the grassland

Photograph 21: Newly-planted hedgerow on site

Photograph 22: Planted trees and the mown pathway

3.9 St. Botolph's Gate Green

This is a small area of grassland with trees, located off St. Botolph's Gate at grid reference SK 89118 76397. A location plan of the site is provided as Figure 9 below.

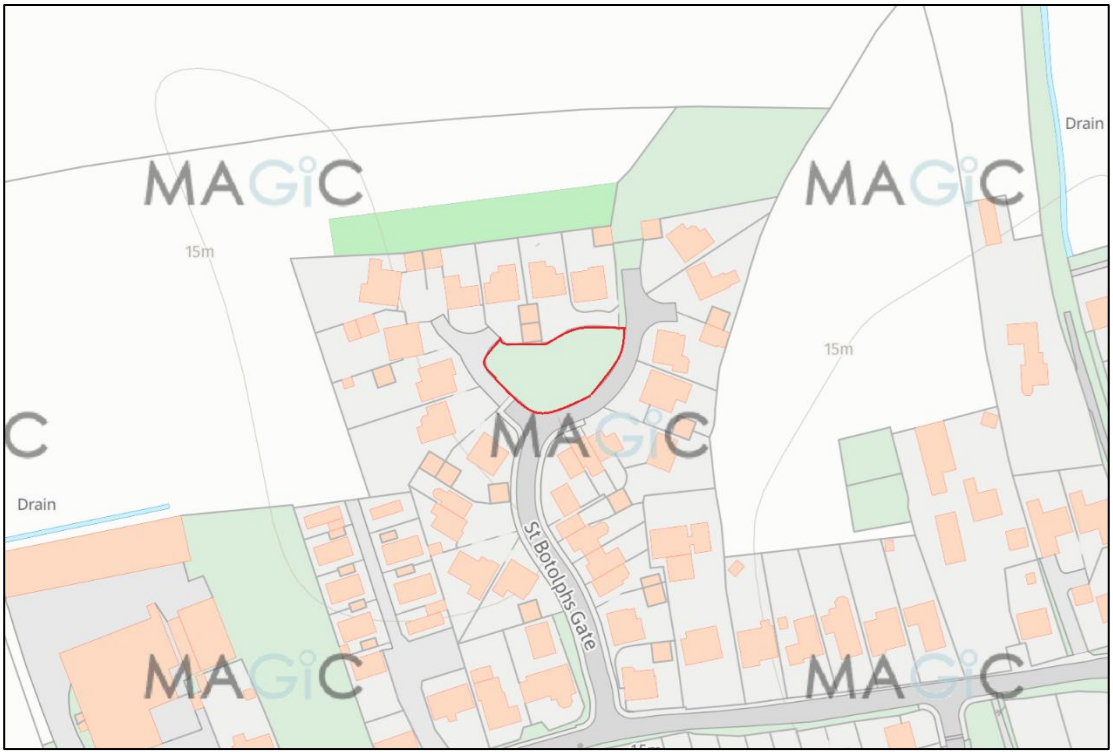

Figure 9: Location plan of the site (MAGIC Maps, 2025)

The majority of the area comprises species-poor, mown amenity grassland dominated by perennial rye-grass, with some yarrow, ribwort plantain, lesser trefoil, dove's-foot crane's-bill, white clover, daisy, common mouse-ear, red fescue, soft brome, false oat-grass, cat's-ear, creeping buttercup, wall barley, wall speedwell, fern-grass, barren brome and redshank also noted.

There are several trees on site, with Norway maple, cherry, horse-chestnut, and whitebeam recorded.

Photograph 23: General view of the site

Photograph 24: Further view of the site

3.10 St. Botolph's Gate Rear

This is an area of grassland with shrubs and trees mainly around the edges, located off St. Botolph's Gate at grid reference SK 89161 76459. A location plan of the site is provided as Figure 10 below.

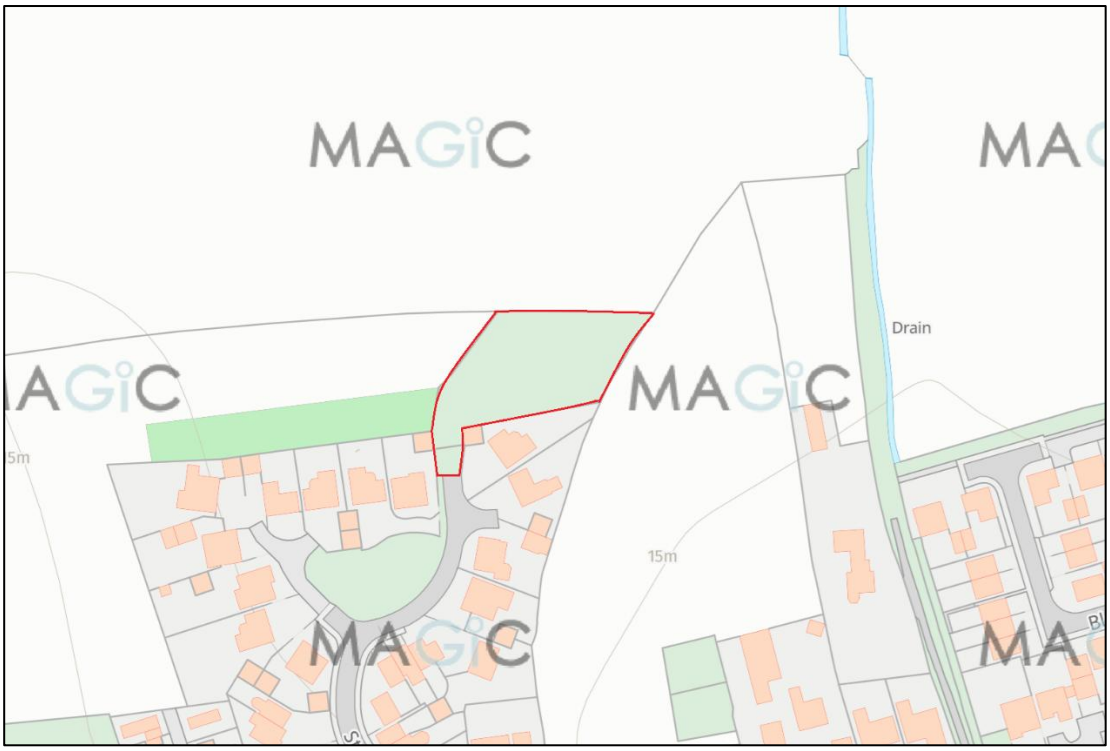

Figure 10: Location plan of the site (MAGIC Maps, 2025)

The majority of the area comprises tall-sward grassland with mown pathways and appears to have been seeded at one time. Species recorded include perennial rye-grass, ribwort plantain, yarrow, white clover, oxeye daisy, Yorkshire-fog, dove's-foot crane's-bill, cock's-foot, creeping buttercup, selfheal, common ragwort, rough meadow-grass, red fescue, meadow buttercup, creeping cinquefoil, common mouse-ear, barren brome, weld, meadow barley, common hogweed and small-flowered crane's-bill.

The trees and shrubs on site are mainly around the edges and comprise walnut, ash, rowan, alder, hawthorn, blackthorn, beech and elder, over a ground flora of bramble, cleavers, cow parsley, wood avens, white bryony, common nettle and black horehound.

Photograph 25: Mown pathway through the grass

Photograph 26: View of the longer grass and trees

3.11 Sykes Lane Green

This is a narrow strip of grassland with trees and scrub, located off Sykes Lane at grid reference SK 88899 75512. A location plan of the site is provided as Figure 11 below.

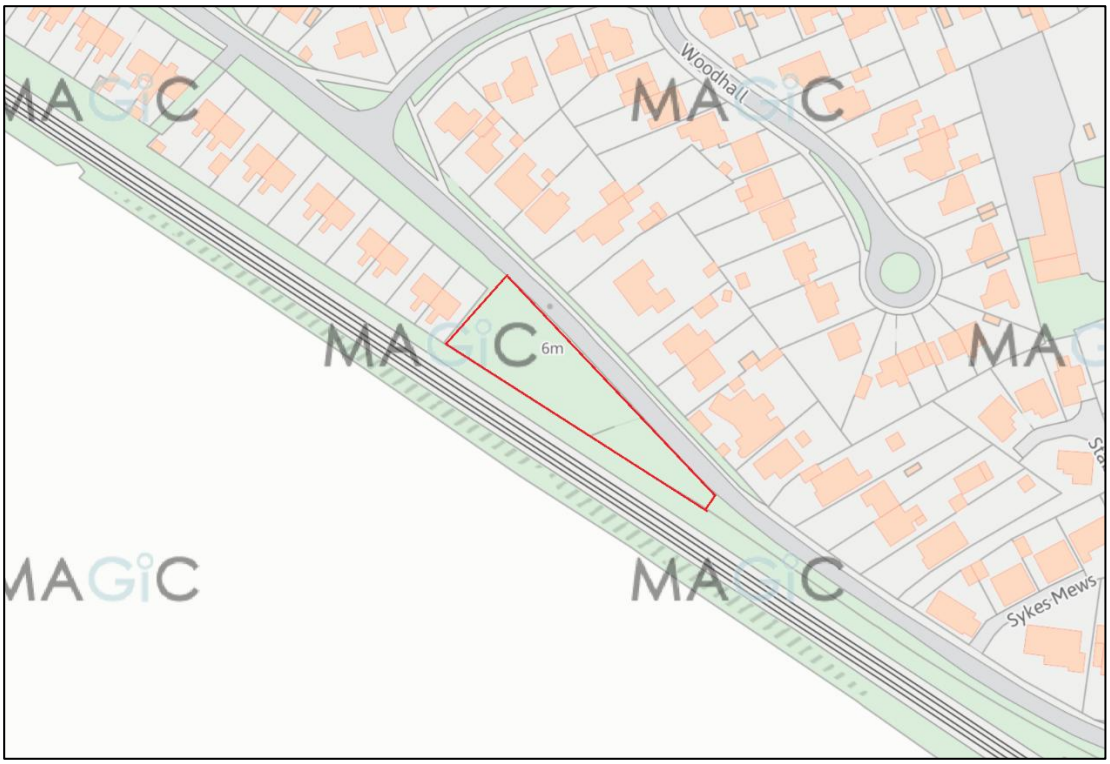

Figure 11: Location plan of the site (MAGIC Maps, 2025)

The majority of the area comprises species-poor, mown amenity grassland dominated by perennial rye-grass, with some creeping buttercup, greater plantain, red fescue, Yorkshire-fog, field bindweed, annual meadow-grass, ribwort plantain, wall barley, daisy, dove's-foot crane's-bill, cat's-ear, dandelion, lesser trefoil, selfheal, Germander speedwell, slender speedwell,

hawkbit species and creeping cinquefoil also noted.

There are scattered semi-mature and mature trees on the site, with cherry, whitebeam, field maple and hawthorn noted, along with a patch of scrub comprising hawthorn, elder, sycamore and holly over common nettle, wood avens, cow parsley and broad-leaved dock.

Photograph 27: General view of the amenity grassland

Photograph 28: Some of the trees on site

3.12 Saxilby Road Scrub

This is a strip of broad-leaved woodland located adjacent to Skellingthorpe Road at grid reference SK 89979 75027. A location plan of the site is provided as Figure 12 below.

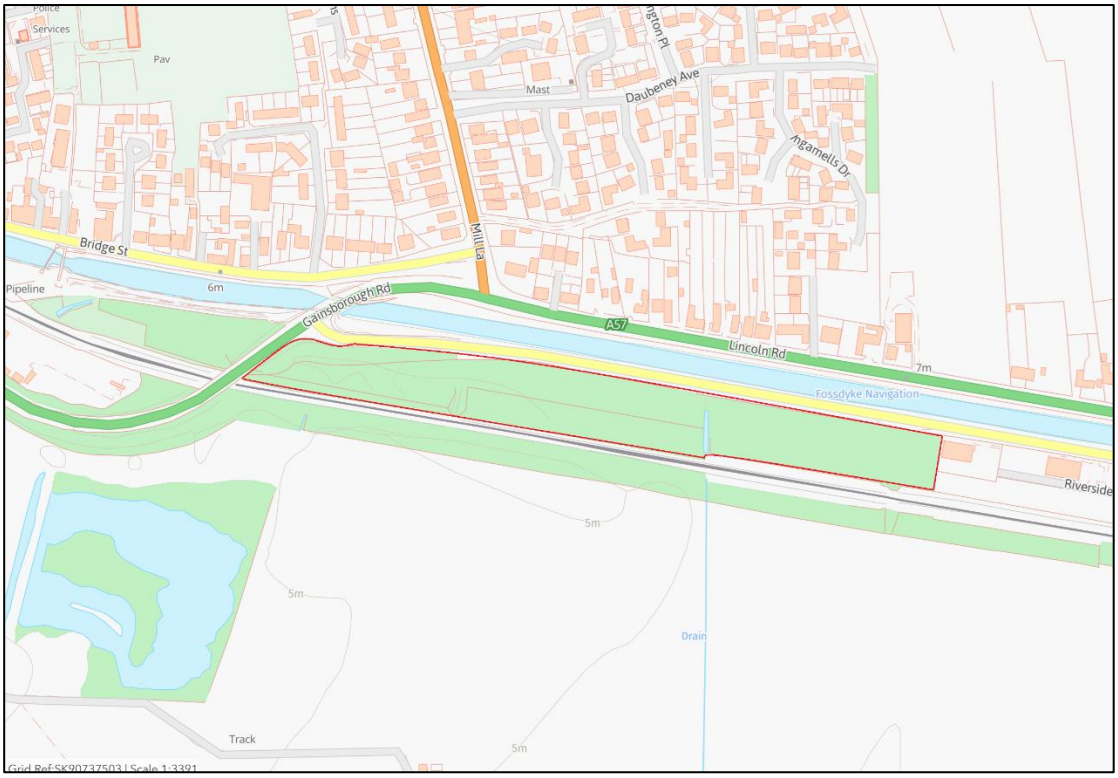

Figure 12: Location plan of the site (MAGIC Maps, 2025)

The site comprises an area of unmanaged broad-leaved woodland which lies between a busy road and the railway line. Species noted include hawthorn, willow species, elder, dog-rose, blackthorn, sycamore, ash and some butterfly-bush over a ground flora of common nettle, false oat-grass, cleavers, common hogweed, cock's-foot, garlic mustard, common couch, creeping buttercup, common mugwort, ivy, greater willowherb, bramble and ground-ivy. There are some areas of rubbish and evidence of fly-tipping alongside Skellingthorpe Road.

Photograph 29: General view of the woodland

Photograph 30: some of the rubbish on site

Photograph 31: Further view of the woodland

Photograph 32: Area of woodland with a sparse ground flora

3.13 Wildlife Breeding Ponds

This is a sizeable area of habitat mosaic, with ponds, wet woodland, broad-leaved woodland, reedbed, orchard and neutral grassland present, located off Gainsborough Road at grid reference SK 89578 74884. A location plan of the site is provided as Figure 13 below.

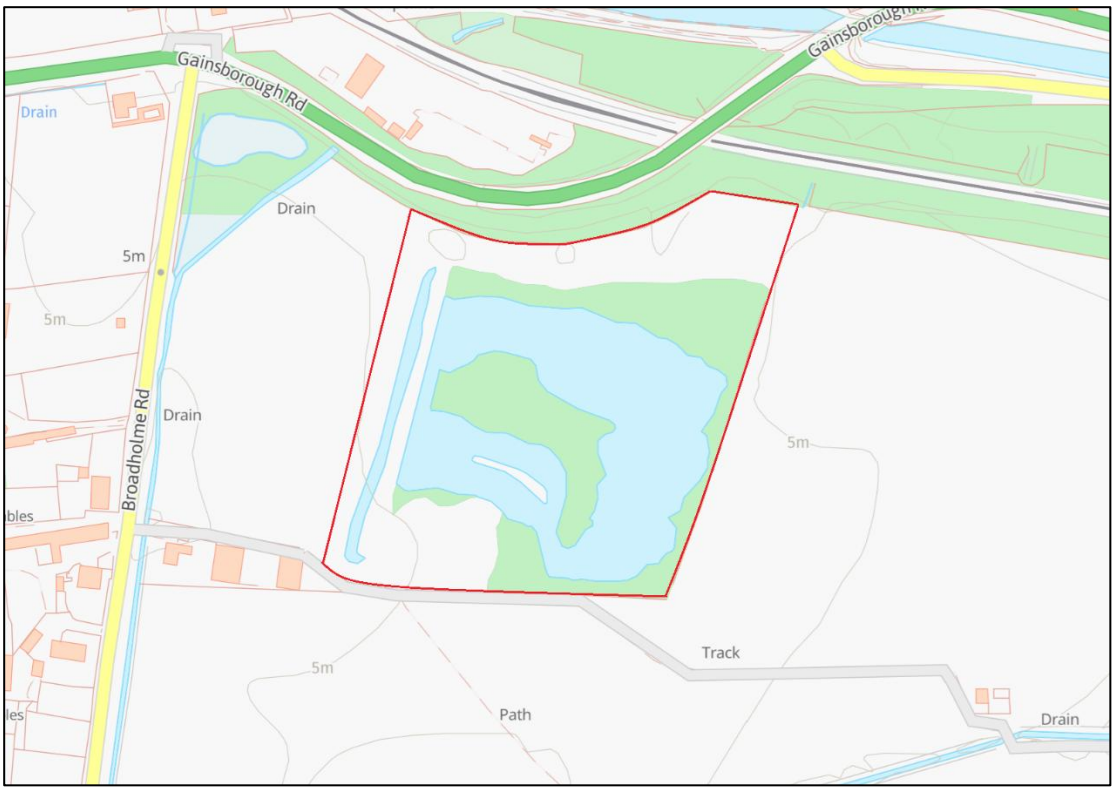

Figure 13: Location plan of the site (MAGIC Maps, 2025)

The central pond has reed beds and marshy areas around it, with species including yellow iris, amphibious bistort, common reed, false fox-sedge, water mint, water-starwort species, marsh bedstraw, lesser bulrush, common bulrush, soft-rush, common spike-rush, hard rush,

gypsywort, water forget-me-not, common club-rush, cyperus sedge, greater willowherb, water plantain, reed canary-grass and floating sweet-grass recorded.

The areas of broad-leaved woodland and wet woodland are dominated by willow species and alder, with dogwood, silver birch, ash, pedunculate oak, field maple, hawthorn and blackthorn also present. There is a newly planted orchard area towards the south of the site, comprising mainly apple trees.

The neutral grassland areas comprise species such as false oat-grass, common nettle, common hogweed, timothy, common vetch, oxeye daisy, soft brome, creeping buttercup, common knapweed, wild carrot, cock's-foot, meadow buttercup, sedge species, rough meadow-grass, bittersweet, cleavers, hedge bindweed, wood avens, spear thistle, common ragwort, yarrow, common bird's-foot trefoil, red fescue, Yorkshire-fog, common sorrel, white clover and selfheal.

Photograph 33: View of the central pond and wet woodland

Photograph 34: The newly planted orchard

Photograph 35: Marshy area around the central pond

Photograph 36: Neutral grassland on site

Photograph 37: Broad-leaved woodland on site

Photograph 38: Further view of the central pond

4 RESULTS

4.1 Faunal species

A number of common birds were seen or heard across all of the sites during the surveys. These are listed below along with their current status as species of principle importance, or SPI, (NERC Act, 2006) or Birds of Conservation Concern 5 (Stanbury A. *et al*, 2021).

Table 1: Bird species recorded on or flying over the sites

English name	Scientific name	SPI	BoCC5
grey heron	*Ardea cinerea*		Green
wood pigeon	*Columba palumbus*		Amber
collared dove	*Streptopelia decaocto*		Green
kingfisher	*Alcedo atthis*		Green
jay	*Garrulus glandarius*		Green
jackdaw	*Corvus monedula*		Green
blue tit	*Cyanistes caeruleus*		Green
great tit	*Parus major*		Green
sedge warbler	*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*		Amber
wren	*Troglodytes troglodytes*		Amber
starling	*Sturnus vulgaris*	Y	Red
blackbird	*Turdus merula*		Green
song thrush	*Turdus philomelos*	Y	Amber
robin	*Erithacus rubecula*		Green
house sparrow	*Passer domesticus*	Y	Red
chaffinch	*Fringilla coelebs*		Green

English name	Scientific name	SPI	BoCC5
greenfinch	*Chloris chloris*		Red

The trees, shrubs and hedgerows on the sites are considered to offer good nesting potential for common bird species, as well as the reedbeds in the Wildlife Breeding Ponds site. A number of bird boxes were noted at Sykes Lane Green and in St. Botolph's Church Yard, although many of these are timber boxes with a short lifespan and many appear to be rotten.

Photograph 39: Defunct bird box at Sykes Lane Green

The sites with shrubs, trees and longer grass are considered to offer good foraging habitat for hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus* and all of the sites will likely provide foraging opportunities for common bat species such as common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* and soprano pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*, all of which are species of principle importance (NERC Act, 2006). A number of the mature trees within St. Botolph's Church Yard and the Wildlife Breeding Ponds site are considered to offer roosting potential for bats.

A number of butterflies were noted across the sites (particularly speckled wood *Pararge aegeria* and meadow brown *Maniola jurtina*), with the greatest abundance associated with sites where the grass has been allowed to grow long and/or containing woodland, such as the Wildlife Breeding Ponds, Botolph's Gate Rear, Westcroft Drive Recreation Area and Ingleby View cemetery extension.

The ponds within the Wildlife Breeding Ponds site will provide foraging and shelter opportunities for amphibians such as toad *Bufo bufo* and common frog *Rana temporaria*, of which the toad is a species of principle importance. Grass snake *Natrix helvetica* may also be present within this site, as this species feeds on amphibians.

4.2 Habitats and plant species

The habitats and plant species recorded on the site are common and widespread in the local area and in the country and the plant species recorded on the site are not listed on Schedule 8 or Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

The vast majority of the sites would not qualify as a Local Wildlife Site (LWS), although most do contain a couple of scoring species for neutral grassland (with common bird's-foot trefoil, common knapweed and/or cat's-ear being the most frequent scoring species recorded).

The central pond area within the Wildlife Breeding Site would qualify as a Local Wildlife Site for freshwater habitats due to its botanical diversity, with a total of thirteen scoring species recorded out of a required ten. The scoring species in and around the pond for freshwater habitats are as follows;

- Common bulrush
- Common club-rush
- Common reed
- Common spike-rush
- Floating sweet-grass
- Gypsywort
- Lesser bulrush
- Reed canary-grass
- Water forget-me-not
- Water mint
- Water plantain
- Water starwort
- Yellow iris

4.3 Summary

The biodiversity of the majority of the sites is considered to be low, mainly due to the mowing regimes restricting botanical diversity. The exception is the Wildlife Breeding Ponds, which would qualify as a Local Wildlife Site due to its freshwater plant assemblage, but it is also biodiverse due to the habitat mosaic present. Some of the sites have areas of longer grass, so generally have a higher diversity of plant species and invertebrates.

The implementation of measures aiming to improve the habitat structure and diversity of plants on the sites and to enhance the habitats present for the benefit of invertebrates would lead to an increase in overall biodiversity.

5 ENHANCEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations would lead to biodiversity gains across the sites;

- Within sites where all the grass is currently cut, it is recommended that some of it is left unmown, or mown less frequently, to allow the plants to flourish. It would be ideal if there were no cutting between March and September, but if some cutting has to occur, then it would be beneficial for pollinators to leave the grass uncut between May and late June/early July. St Botolph's Church Yard and Ashfield Grange Recreation Area could potentially be quite diverse botanically if some areas were left uncut. Leaving mown pathways through the sites (as already done on some sites) will reassure locals that these areas are still being maintained. It should be noted that longer grass is more drought-tolerant.

- All of the arisings from grass cutting must be removed, to avoid adding nutrients to the soil. On sites where there is room, the grass clippings should be piled up out of the way to provide potential grass snake egg laying sites and habitat for slow worm *Anguis fragilis*, amphibians and invertebrates.

- New areas of wildflowers could be created within species-poor sites to increase the diversity of plant species. To achieve this, the areas must be re-seeded with a wildflower mixture. The ground must be scarified thoroughly immediately beforehand, to reveal at least 60% bare soil. The areas should then be seeded by hand, with the ground then rolled to ensure good contact between the seeds and the soil. The recommended seed mixture is Emorsgate Seeds EM5 meadow mixture for loamy soils (available at https://wildseed.co.uk/mixtures/view/6) at a rate of 40kg/ha, or Boston Seeds BS4M mixture for loam and alluvial soils, available at https://www.bostonseeds.com/products/wildflowers-seed/wildflower-seed-mixtures-20/bs4m-loam-alluvial-soils-wildflower-seeds.html. Wildflower seed should be sown in autumn or early spring.

- Any new wildflower areas should be cut once in spring (if required) and once in early autumn with the arisings removed after 7 days to allow the seed to drop. The application of herbicides should be avoided, with 'weeds' removed by pulling or topping. In order to inform and educate the public about the management of these areas, signage is recommended, such as those used by the Blue Campaign (https://bluecampaignhub.com/).

- An alternative way of increasing biodiversity without re-seeding an area is to add plug

plants. A selection of native plug plants can be purchased from Boston Seeds (https://www.bostonseeds.com/products/wildflower-plants/wildflower-plant-collections/) and can be planted directly into the ground. They will be more successful if the immediate area is cleared of any grasses first and they are added in early spring.

- The areas of woodland could be enhanced by seeding with a suitable wildflower mixture, such as the EW1 Woodland Mixture from Emorsgate Seeds (https://wildseed.co.uk/product/mixtures/complete-mixtures/special-habitat-mixtures/woodland-mixture/) or by using plug plants.

- Some of the trees within the Saxilby Road Scrub site could be thinned out to allow more light to penetrate the woodland floor. The wood from this operation should be trimmed and stacked in the corners of the site to create habitat piles for invertebrates. The creation of rides or paths in this woodland is not advised, due to the risk of increased fly-tipping and anti-social activity.

- The smaller willow stands within the Wildlife Breeding Ponds site could be coppiced, to provide a variation in age and structure.

- Consideration should be given to planting new trees on sites where there is space. Orchards could be created, with a good mixture of apple, pear, plum, walnut and cherry trees planted to provide fruit for the community. Other native tree species that should be considered are; hawthorn, field maple, crab apple *Malus sylvestris* and rowan for more restricted spaces, and bird cherry *Prunus padus*, wild cherry *Prunus avium*, pedunculate oak *Quercus robur* and small leaved lime *Tilia cordata* where space is not an issue. Biodegradable guards and ties should be used to avoid plastic pollution, although these won't be necessary in areas where deer and rabbits are not present.

- Many of the woodland areas could be enhanced by adding native scrub along the boundaries, or even creating areas of native scrub as distinct features on sites with limited habitat structure at present. Scrub will provide excellent nesting sites for birds and hedgehogs (especially within prickly shrubs, which serve as protection from cats), as well as foraging opportunities for invertebrates, bats and birds. Species to be considered include hawthorn, guelder rose, hazel, dog-rose, elder, spindle *Euonymus europaeus*, wayfaring tree, dogwood, buckthorn and holly. Blackthorn is not recommended close to dwellings due to its tendency to sucker. Native scrub does not need significant maintenance, and can be allowed to grow freely and trimmed when necessary. Biodegradable guards and ties should be used to avoid plastic pollution, although these won't be necessary in areas where deer and rabbits are not present.

- Consideration should be given to planting new hedgerows on some of the more open/barren sites, to provide additional connectivity and cover for birds and small mammals. These hedgerows should be species-rich, comprising only native species that provide pollen, nectar and fruit in order to provide forage opportunities for birds and invertebrates. The species mixture of the new hedgerows should comprise at least six of the following; hazel *Corylus avellana*, holly *Ilex aquifolium*, hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, dog rose *Rosa canina*, wayfaring tree *Viburnum lantana,* dogwood *Cornus sanguinea*, elder *Sambucus nigra*, wild cherry *Prunus avium*, bird cherry *Prunus padus* and guelder rose *Viburnum opulus*. The hedgerows ideally should comprise double lines of plants in staggered rows to ensure a dense hedgerow, and biodegradable guards and ties should be used to avoid plastic pollution, although these won't be necessary in areas where deer and rabbits are not present.

- The ongoing management of native hedgerows on all sites should comprise trimming on a rotational basis (half or a third of the hedgerow each year), so that not all of the hedgerow is cut at once. This ensures that there is always something in flower or fruit for birds and invertebrates. Hedgerows should only be cut outside of the bird nesting season, which runs from late March to early September. Hedgerow clippings should be placed beneath mature hedgerows or in the woodland areas, to provide additional habitat piles.

- The Woodland Trust provide free trees and hedgerow plants for community groups, so it may be worth applying (https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/schools-and-communities).

- Some of the larger sites such as St. Botolph's Gate Rear and Ingleby View Cemetery Extension may be suitable locations for creating small wildlife ponds. This could be done as part of a community project and would benefit wildlife in the area. More information is available at https://www.lincstrust.org.uk/wildlife/wildlife-gardening/wildlife-pond.

- Many of the sites are adjacent to gardens and have non-native and exotic species present. It would be beneficial to ensure that non-native species are removed and replaced where possible with the native species listed above.

- The addition of hedgehog nest boxes beneath hedgerows or shrubs or within woodland on quieter sites would be a benefit to this declining species. No hedgehog boxes should be added to the Saxilby Road Scrub site due to the proximity of the busy road. These can be purchased from www.nhbs.co.uk or www.wildcareshop.co.uk or can be made

as part of a community project (https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-build-hedgehog-home). Note: due to recent concerns with some hedgehog nest box designs, those constructed from timber, recycled plastic or woodcrete are recommended, as there is no risk of entanglement.

- Another way to encourage hedgehogs in the area generally, is to organise hedgehog highways through neighbourhoods, so that they can access gardens to commute and forage. More information is available at https://www.hedgehogstreet.org/help-hedgehogs/link-your-garden/.

- Bat boxes could be installed on any larger trees on the sites, in order to maximise opportunities for bat species in the local area. The bat boxes should be positioned at least 3 metres above ground level on the eastern or southern elevations of the trees. A suitable style of bat box would be the woodcrete 2F Schwegler bat box, available at www.nhbs.co.uk. Alternatively, they can be hand-made using instructions found at https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-build-bat-box. Please note however, that timber boxes will not last as long as woodcrete.

- Nesting features could be installed on suitable trees, facing east or north at a minimum height of 3 metres. Details of nest boxes suitable for use by a range of common bird species can be obtained from www.nhbs.co.uk or www.wildcareshop.co.uk.

- Insect houses and bee hotels would encourage invertebrates - these are available to buy from www.nhbs.co.uk or www.wildcareshop.co.uk, or can be hand-made using recycled and natural materials, with more information available at https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-build-bug-mansion.

- Wildflower planters could be installed on some of the sites. These could be seeded with cornfield annual wildflower mixes, which will provide a source of nectar and pollen for bees and butterflies, and will provide an attractive floral display. A suitable annual mixture can be sourced from https://www.bostonseeds.com/products/wildflowers-seed/wildflower-seed-mixtures-100/bs9p-100-cornfield-annuals-wildflower-seeds.html. Please note that annual mixtures need to be re-sown every year, so are not suitable for creating wildflower meadows/areas. Perennial mixtures are required for this, as previously recommended.

6 SUMMARY

A number of sites within the parish of Saxilby were surveyed in connection with plans to improve the biodiversity of each site through appropriate enhancements.

There is scope to achieve an increase in biodiversity on all of the sites if some or all of the recommendations can be implemented.

7 REFERENCES

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BIODIVERSITY ASSESSMENT AND ENHANCEMENT PLAN
SAXILBY PARISH GREEN SPACES, SAXILBY, LINCOLNSHIRE

APPENDIX 1
Plant list

ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
*alder species	*Alnus sp.*
amphibious bistort	*Persicaria amphibia*
annual meadow-grass	*Poa annua*
apple	*Malus pumila*
ash	*Fraxinus excelsior*
aspen	*Populus tremula*
barren brome	*Bromus sterilis*
beech	*Fagus sylvatica*
*birch species	*Betula sp.*
bittersweet	*Solanum dulcamara*
blackthorn	*Prunus spinosa*
black horehound	*Ballota nigra*
black medick	*Medicago lupulina*
bramble	*Rubus fruticosus*
bristly oxtongue	*Helminthotheca echioides*
broad-leaved dock	*Rumex obtusifolius*
buckthorn	*Rhamnus cathartica*
*butterfly-bush	*Buddleia davidii*
cat’s-ear	*Hypochaeris radicata*
*chamomile species	*Chamaemelum sp.*
cherry species	*Prunus sp.*
*cherry laurel	*Prunus laurocerasus*
cleavers	*Galium aparine*
cock’s-foot	*Dactylis glomerata*
common bent	*Agrostis capillaris*
common bird’s-foot trefoil	*Lotus corniculatus*
common bulrush	*Typha latifolia*
common club-rush	*Schoenoplectus lacustris*
common couch	*Elytrigia repens*
common hogweed	*Heracleum sphondylium*
common knapweed	*Centaurea nigra*
common mallow	*Malva sylvestris*
common mouse-ear	*Cerastium fontanum*
common mugwort	*Artemisia vulgaris*
common nettle	*Urtica dioica*
common poppy	*Papaver rhoeas*
common ragwort	*Jacobaea vulgaris*
common reed	*Phragmites australis*

ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
common sorrel	*Rumex acetosa*
common spike-rush	*Eleocharis palustris*
common vetch	*Vicia sativa*
*cotoneaster species	*Cotoneaster sp.*
cow parsley	*Anthriscus sylvestris*
creeping bent	*Agrostis stolonifera*
creeping buttercup	*Ranunculus repens*
creeping cinquefoil	*Potentilla reptans*
creeping thistle	*Cirsium arvense*
cyperus sedge	*Carex pseudocyperus*
daisy	*Bellis perennis*
dandelion	*Taraxacum agg.*
dog-rose	*Rosa canina*
dogwood	*Cornus sanguinea*
dove's-foot crane's-bill	*Geranium molle*
elder	*Sambucus nigra*
false fox-sedge	*Carex otrubae*
false oat-grass	*Arrhenatherum elatius*
fat-hen	*Chenopodium album*
fern-grass	*Catapodium rigidum*
field maple	*Acer campestre*
floating sweet-grass	*Glyceria fluitans*
garlic mustard	*Alliaria petiolata*
*garden privet	*Ligustrum ovalifolium*
Germander speedwell	*Veronica chamaedrys*
great lettuce	*Lactuca virosa*
greater plantain	*Plantago major*
greater willowherb	*Epilobium hirsutum*
ground-ivy	*Glechoma hederacea*
guelder rose	*Viburnum opulus*
gypsywort	*Lycopus europaeus*
hard rush	*Juncus inflexus*
hawkbit species	*Leontodon sp.*
hawthorn	*Crataegus monogyna*
hazel	*Corylus avellana*
hedge bindweed	*Calystegia sepium*
hedge mustard	*Sisymbrium officinale*
hemlock	*Conium maculatum*

ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
herb-Robert	*Geranium robertianum*
hoary willowherb	*Epilobium parviflorum*
holly	*Ilex aquifolium*
honeysuckle	*Lonicera periclymenum*
hop trefoil	*Trifolium campestre*
hornbeam	*Carpinus betulus*
horse-chestnut	*Aesculus hippocastanum*
ivy	*Hedera helix*
knotted hedge-parsley	*Torilis nodosa*
lady's bedstraw	*Galium verum*
lesser bulrush	*Typha angustifolia*
lesser trefoil	*Trifolium dubium*
*Leyland cypress	*Cupressus x leylandii*
*lime species	*Tilia sp.*
lord's-and-ladies	*Arum maculatum*
*lucerne	*Medicago sativa*
*maple species	*Acer sp.*
marsh bedstraw	*Galium palustre*
meadow barley	*Hordeum secalinum*
meadow buttercup	*Ranunculus acris*
nipplewort	*Lapsana communis*
oxeye daisy	*Leucanthemum vulgare*
pedunculate oak	*Quercus robur*
perennial rye-grass	*Lolium perenne*
*pine species	*Pinus sp.*
prickly sow-thistle	*Sonchus asper*
red clover	*Trifolium pratense*
red fescue	*Festuca rubra*
redshank	*Persicaria maculosa*
reed canary-grass	*Phalaris arundinacea*
ribwort plantain	*Plantago lanceolata*
rough meadow-grass	*Poa trivialis*
rowan	*Sorbus aucuparia*
scarlet pimpernel	*Anagallis arvensis*
selfheal	*Prunella vulgaris*
shepherd's-purse	*Capsella bursa-pastoris*
silver birch	*Betula pendula*
small-flowered crane's-bill	*Geranium pusillum*

ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
smooth hawksbeard	*Crepis capillaris*
soft brome	*Bromus hordeaceus*
soft-rush	*Juncus effusus*
spear thistle	*Cirsium vulgare*
stork's-bill	*Erodium cicutarium*
sycamore	*Acer pseudoplatanus*
tansy	*Tanacetum vulgare*
tare species	*Vicia sp.*
thyme-leaved speedwell	*Veronica serpyllifolia*
timothy	*Phleum pratense*
wall barley	*Hordeum murinum*
wall speedwell	*Veronica arvensis*
*walnut	*Juglans sp.*
water forget-me-not	*Myosotis scorpiodes*
water mint	*Mentha aquatica*
water plantain	*Alisma plantago-aquatica*
water starwort species	*Callitriche sp.*
weld	*Reseda luteola*
white bryony	*Bryonia dioica*
white clover	*Trifolium repens*
whitebeam	*Sorbus aria*
wild carrot	*Daucus carota*
wild mignonette	*Reseda lutea*
wild teasel	*Dipsacus fullonum*
willow species	*Salix sp.*
willowherb species	*Epilobium sp.*
wood avens	*Geum urbanum*
yarrow	*Achillea millefolium*
yellow iris	*Iris pseudacorus*
yellow oat-grass	*Trisetum flavescens*
yew	*Taxus baccata*
Yorkshire-fog	*Holcus lanatus*

* Denotes non-native species