



**THE GREEN WEDGE - NORTH**  
(For description refer to Part Three)

Detailed Management Strategy Objective: ONE
Explore the potential for habitat and access improvements to the Oadby golf course.
<b>Rationale:</b>
<b>Landscape:</b> The golf course is an important landscape within this local landscape character area accounting for a significant portion of the land area, mature trees and water corridors.
<b>Biodiversity:</b> The golf course currently has little connectivity other than the Wash Brook corridor. Mowing regimes are strict, hedgerows are fragmented and tree planting is in isolated specimens or small groups. There is significant potential to improve a range of habitats through out this area.
<b>Access, recreation, involvement:</b> Currently there is no access to this area other than via the club entrance. Due to this areas landuse recreation activities are restricted which in turn contributes to the compartmentalised character of the Green Wedge.
<b>Recommendations for action:</b>
1. Draw up a landscape/wildlife management plan for the golf course.

Detailed Management Strategy Objective: TWO
Maintain and enhance the ecological quality and connectivity of existing hedges within the character area, especially those in the golf course, taking care to maintain this local landscape character areas spatial scale.
<b>Rationale:</b>
<b>Landscape:</b> Hedgerows are an important feature of the character area where they give boundary definition. Internal hedgerow planting particularly within the golf course and Racecourse is currently quite poor.
<b>Biodiversity:</b> Hedges are a priority habitat in the O&W BAP (Oadby and Wigston Biodiversity Action Plan). Within the local character area they provide important ecological corridors, feeding and breeding habitat.
<b>Access, recreation, involvement:</b> Positive management as landscape features can provide definition to access points, and pathways and could increase the recreation potential of the golf course.
<b>Recommendations for action:</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reduce number and length of gaps in existing hedgerows.</li> <li>2. Encourage sympathetic hedgerow management.</li> <li>3. Encourage landowners to lay and gap up hedgerows where possible.</li> <li>4. Engage with landowners and surrounding residents in order to investigate the opportunity of augmenting long stretches of fenced boundary with hedgerow planting, (e.g. between Knighton Park and the golf course).</li> </ol>

## MANAGEMENT

### Detailed Management Strategy Objective: THREE

Increase the amount of tree planting in the local landscape character area.

#### Rationale:

##### **Landscape:**

Small and targeted groups of tree planting can be used to compliment existing boundaries and entrance points. They can control views, screen visual detractors and provide a link between character areas by cross boundary planting (visual continuity).

##### **Biodiversity:**

Woodlands provide valuable wildlife habitat.

##### **Access, recreation, involvement:**

Tree planting can be used to define routes and access points. Community involvement in the area through engagement in tree planting programmes such as the Save the Saplings Scheme should be encouraged.

#### Recommendations for action:

1. Encourage native tree and shrub planting on a small scale.
2. Discourage large scale interventions that would impede characteristic views.
3. Increase planting along the Wash Brook of suitable native species.
4. Encourage planting of small tree groups of a single species such as Ash, in carefully selected locations that reinforce boundaries and provide visual ties across boundaries, i.e. between Knighton Park and the golf course and across Oadby Road etc.
5. Engage with landowners to encourage a phased programme of pollarding of willows to conserve existing trees.

### Detailed Management Strategy Objective: FOUR

Encourage less intensive management of amenity grassland and semi improved grassland in order to increase the amount of species rich grassland (as defined in the O&W BAP).

#### Rationale:

##### **Landscape:**

The area of amenity grassland accounts for a considerable portion of this local landscape character area. Increasing the proportion of grassland, which is not intensively managed, where this would not conflict with recreational usage, would safeguard and improve the positive aspects of the areas landscape character.

##### **Biodiversity:**

Species rich grassland is a priority wildlife habitat in the O&W BAP.

##### **Access, recreation, involvement:**

Grassland management practices can be arranged to involve local conservation groups, however, this may only be possible on council owned land.

#### Recommendations for action:

1. Encourage regular maintenance of grasslands through phased and selective cutting practices i.e. Landowners should be encouraged to undertake less intensive land practices.
2. Retain and wherever possible enhance floristic diversity.



<b>Detailed Management Strategy Objective: FIVE</b>
<b>'Reveal the Wash Brook' Improve the Wash Brook corridor.</b>
<b>Rationale:</b>
<b>Landscape:</b> The Wash Brook corridor is restricted and neglected in this character area. Intensive management practices in both the golf course and Racecourse restrict and adversely impact on this water corridor. By enhancing this corridor the area would have more ecological value, spatial definition and visual interest.
<b>Biodiversity:</b> Streams are identified as priority habitats in the O&W BAP. Widening of the corridor and riparian edge would help encourage the return of water vole for which there is a species action plan.
<b>Access, recreation, involvement:</b> Headlands along the Wash Brook within the golf course can be used as both formal and informal pathways, however, conflicts between access and wildlife would have to be managed and monitored.
<b>Recommendations for action:</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop a management plan for the Wash Brook corridor. This should include provision for regular monitoring of water quality and flood risk/levels.</li> <li>2. Encourage the creation of 'riparian edge' margins to the Wash Brook.</li> <li>3. Where possible draw boundaries away from the watercourse in order to provide additional habitat.</li> <li>4. Investigate treatment to sewage discharge evident in Wash Brook.</li> </ol>

<b>Detailed Management Strategy Objective: SIX</b>
<b>Increase accessibility of the character area to the public, on foot and by bicycle.</b>
<b>Rationale:</b>
<b>Access, recreation, involvement:</b> Improving both public access and recreational opportunities is one of the key objectives of the Stepping Stones Project. This character area currently has an extremely limited network of pathways and cycleways. The robust and extensive nature of this local landscape character area means that it ought to be able to accommodate a greater level of access. By developing routes through this space some pressure on the surrounding area created by school traffic may be eased. These routes could provide an alternative, safe route to school.
<b>Recommendations for action:</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Establish where routes can be developed without significant adverse effects on ecological value and landscape amenity.</li> <li>2. Improve signage to existing paths and seek to adequately sign new routes.</li> <li>3. Investigate the potential to introduce new routes along the character area, specifically to connect Knighton Park with Oadby Road.</li> <li>4. If implemented new access, pathway and cycleway improvements etc, to be designed to avoid disturbance to habitat or loss of visual/recreational amenity.</li> <li>5. Engage with landowners to permit access along permissive routes etc.</li> </ol>

## MANAGEMENT

### Detailed Management Strategy Objective: SEVEN

Improve and enhance the Triangle.

#### Rationale:

##### **Landscape:**

Noted under policy R10, para 9.19, in the Oadby and Wigston Local Plan, a triangle of land north of Palmerston Way called the Triangle or Racecourse Meadow has been identified as proposed Public Open Space. Physically removed from the rest of this local landscape character area this plot of land would appear to have a conflicting landuse between productive uses i.e. birch used by the Racecourse, recreation and ecology.

##### **Biodiversity:**

This area has already been recognized for its important wildlife habitat. With active management of this site the ecological value could be conserved and enhanced.

##### **Access, recreation, involvement:**

This area has the potential to be used more extensively for managed informal recreational pursuits/activities including significant access improvements. Access and recreational use would have to be carefully considered so as not to damage the ecological value of the site.

#### Recommendations for action:

1. Engage with the landowner to establish long term management objectives/intentions.
2. Investigate the potential for drawing up a landscape and wildlife management plan to protect and enhance this environment.

### Detailed Management Strategy Objective: EIGHT

Review traffic calming in relationship to the Green Wedge and access for local schools.

#### Rationale:

##### **Landscape:**

Oadby Road is a very busy highway which causes a good deal of severance, both physically i.e. for pedestrians crossing but also psychologically separating the wedge into two halves. The wedge would benefit from active traffic calming and crossing improvements in order to connect the two halves of the wedge more effectively.

##### **Access, recreation, involvement:**

Traffic calming and crossing improvements would help facilitate movement along the wedge for both pedestrians and cyclists and would help to establish safer routes to schools.

#### Recommendations for action:

1. Explore opportunities to improve access and movement along and across Oadby Road.
2. Investigate the opportunity of introducing traffic calming measures along Oadby Road as it crosses the Green Wedge.
3. Explore opportunities of raising motorists and pedestrian/cyclist awareness of the Green Wedge through new signage as Oadby Road crosses the Green Wedge.



**THE GREEN WEDGE - CENTRAL**  
(For description refer to Part Three)

<b>Detailed Management Strategy Objective: ONE</b>
<b>Review current management practices in Brocks Hill Country Park</b>
<b>Rationale:</b>
<i>Landscape:</i> Brocks Hill Country Park is an important landscape within the Green Wedge, which accounts for a significant portion of the overall land area. Although currently under active management the current management plan needs to be reviewed especially as this relatively new landscape begins to mature.
<i>Biodiversity:</i> There is potential through on going monitoring and review to improve and possibly extend the range of habitats throughout Brocks Hill.
<b>Recommendations for action:</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Review the current landscape/wildlife management plan for Brocks Hill Country Park.</li> <li>2. Investigate opportunities of using the sites network of drain trenches to create small scale damp or permanent water storage features.</li> <li>3. Investigate opportunities of establishing small areas of wildlife refuge fenced off from the public and managed to maximize their wildlife potential.</li> </ol>

<b>Detailed Management Strategy Objective: TWO</b>
<b>Increase accessibility of the character area to the public, on foot and by bicycle.</b>
<b>Rationale:</b>
<i>Access, recreation, involvement:</i> Improving both public access and recreational opportunities is one of the key objectives of the Stepping Stones Project. Although access throughout the Country Park is extensive access to and from the Country Park to the surrounding housing, countryside, schools etc is limited. The robust and extensive nature of this local landscape character area means that it ought to be able to accommodate a greater level of access. By developing routes through this space some pressure on the surrounding area created by traffic to the Country Park may be eased. These routes could provide an alternative, safe route to school.
<b>Recommendations for action:</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Establish where routes can be developed without significant adverse effects on ecological value and landscape amenity.</li> <li>2. Investigate the introduction of new routes between this character area and the Green Wedge – South character area.</li> <li>3. If implemented new access, pathway and cycleway improvements etc, to be designed to avoid disturbance to habitat or loss of visual/recreational amenity.</li> <li>4. Investigate the opportunity of establishing a gated access and footpath link to Glenmere Community Primary school.</li> <li>5. Investigate the opportunity of formalising an additional pedestrian access point from Oadby Road into the Country Park.</li> </ol>

## MANAGEMENT

<b>Detailed Management Strategy Objective: THREE</b>
<b>Maintain and enhance the ecological quality and connectivity of existing hedges within the character area, taking care to maintain this local landscape character areas spatial scale.</b>
<b>Rationale:</b>
<b>Landscape:</b> Hedgerows are an important feature of this character area where they give boundary definition around the periphery and internally.
<b>Biodiversity:</b> Hedges are a priority habitat in the O&W BAP. Within the local character area they provide important ecological corridors, feeding and breeding habitat.
<b>Access, recreation, involvement:</b> Positive management as landscape features can provide definition to access points and pathways.
<b>Recommendations for action:</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reduce number and length of gaps in existing hedgerows.</li> <li>2. Ensure continued hedgerow management.</li> <li>3. Engage with land owners and surrounding residents in order to investigate the opportunity of augmenting long stretches of fenced boundary with hedgerow planting.</li> </ol>

<b>Detailed Management Strategy Objective: FOUR</b>
<b>Protect and manage existing mature trees in the local landscape character area.</b>
<b>Rationale:</b>
<b>Landscape:</b> Brocks Hill Country Park has a number of important mature trees which due to their prominent position and significance as remnant hedgerow trees need to be conserved and protected to ensure that the parks habitat and spatial structure are not compromised. Due to the sites elevated topography these trees are also visually important for the surrounding area.
<b>Biodiversity:</b> Mature trees provide valuable wildlife habitat.
<b>Recommendations for action:</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Engage with landowners to encourage a phased programme of arboricultural works (as necessary) in order to conserve existing trees and increase their longevity.</li> <li>2. Encourage additional native tree planting along hedgerows.</li> </ol>



<b>Detailed Management Strategy Objective: FIVE</b>
<b>'Reveal the Wash Brook' Improve the Wash Brook corridor.</b>
<b>Rationale:</b>
<p><b>Landscape:</b>  The Wash Brook corridor is restricted and neglected in this character area. An arm of the Wash Brook demarcates the eastern boundary, however, along this stretch the watercourse is heavily overgrown and totally overlooked, terminating in a culvert as it crosses out of the Green Wedge. By enhancing this corridor the boundary would be reinforced both ecologically and visually.</p> <p><b>Biodiversity:</b>  Streams are identified as priority habitats in the O&amp;W BAP. Widening of the corridor and riparian edge would help encourage the return of water vole for which there is a species action plan.</p>
<b>Recommendations for action:</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop a management plan for the Wash Brook corridor. This should include provision for regular monitoring of water quality and flood risk/levels.</li> <li>2. Where possible explore opportunities of widening the watercourse to extend the range of habitats along its course.</li> <li>3. Where possible draw boundaries away from the watercourse in order to provide additional habitat.</li> </ol>

## MANAGEMENT

### **THE GREEN WEDGE - SOUTH** (For description refer to Part Three)

<b>Detailed Management Strategy Objective: ONE</b>
<b>Increase the amount of tree planting in the local landscape character area.</b>
<b>Rationale:</b>
<b>Landscape:</b> Small and targeted groups of tree planting can be used to compliment existing boundaries. They can control views, screen visual detractors and provide a link between character areas by cross boundary planting (visual continuity).
<b>Biodiversity:</b> Woodlands provide valuable wildlife habitat.
<b>Access, recreation, involvement:</b> Tree planting can be used to define routes and access points. Community involvement in the area could be encouraged through engagement in tree planting programmes such as the Save the Saplings Scheme.
<b>Recommendations for action:</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Encourage native tree and shrub planting on a small scale.</li> <li>2. Discourage large scale interventions that would impede characteristic views.</li> <li>3. Increase planting along field boundaries of suitable native species.</li> <li>4. Encourage planting of small tree groups of a single species such as Ash, in carefully selected locations that reinforce boundaries and provide visual ties across boundaries i.e. between Brocks Hill and neighbouring fields.</li> <li>5. Engage with landowners to encourage a phased programme of arboricultural works to conserve existing trees.</li> <li>6. Investigate the possibility of additional native tree planting to existing hedgerows.</li> <li>7. Investigate possibilities of additional native tree planting along school boundaries.</li> </ol>

<b>Detailed Management Strategy Objective: TWO</b>
<b>Maintain and enhance the ecological quality and connectivity of existing hedges within the character area.</b>
<b>Rationale:</b>
<b>Landscape:</b> Hedgerows are a characteristic feature of this area where they give boundary definition and spatial scale.
<b>Biodiversity:</b> Hedges are a priority habitat in the O&W BAP. Within the local character area they provide important ecological corridors, feeding and breeding habitat.
<b>Access, recreation, involvement:</b> Positive management as landscape features can provide definition to access points and pathways and could increase the recreation potential of the area.
<b>Recommendations for action:</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reduce number and length of gaps in existing hedgerows.</li> <li>2. Encourage sympathetic hedgerow management.</li> <li>3. Encourage landowners to lay and gap up hedgerows where possible.</li> </ol>



Detailed Management Strategy Objective: THREE
Reduce the scale of Intensive arable landuse around field margins in order to increase the level of species rich grassland (as defined in the O&W BAP)
Rationale:
<b>Landscape:</b> Increasing the proportion of grassland that is not Intensively managed would improve the positive aspects of the areas landscape character.
<b>Biodiversity:</b> Species rich grassland is a priority wildlife habitat in the O&W BAP.
<b>Access, recreation, involvement:</b> Headlands around arable fields can be used as both formal and Informal pathways i.e. extend the footpath network in the area.
Recommendations for action:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Encourage landowners to register with the Countryside Stewardship Grant Scheme or Higher Level Scheme (HLS) post 2005.</li> <li>2. Encourage landowners to set aside along field margins.</li> <li>3. Encourage landowners to create or extend headlands along field boundaries.</li> <li>4. Wherever possible enhance floristic diversity.</li> </ol>

Detailed Management Strategy Objective: FOUR
Increase accessibility of the character area to the public, on foot and by bicycle, with particular attention to create access and safe routes for schools.
Rationale:
<b>Access, recreation, involvement:</b> Improving both public access and recreational opportunities is one of the key objectives of the Stepping Stones Project. This character area currently has a limited network of through routes, no circular routes, and poor formal access. The robust and extensive nature of this local landscape character area means that it ought to be able to accommodate a greater level of access. By developing routes through this space some pressure on the surrounding area created by traffic to the Country Park may be eased. These routes could provide an alternative, safe route to school.
Recommendations for action:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Establish where routes can be developed without significant adverse effects on farming. These are to be designed to avoid disturbance to habitat or loss of visual/recreational amenity.</li> <li>2. Create new routes between this character area and the Green Wedge – Central character area.</li> <li>3. Investigate the possibility of establishing routes along headlands and field margins.</li> <li>4. Investigate opportunities of formalising well established desire lines into circular pathways which in turn connect into existing long distance routes.</li> <li>5. Explore opportunities of establishing a secure access to this area from Beauchamp College and Gartree High School.</li> <li>6. Explore opportunities of establishing a secure access/pathway between Beauchamp College and Gartree High School to Coombe Park Recreational Ground and discuss possible reuse of this area for school activities.</li> </ol>

## MANAGEMENT

### Detailed Management Strategy Objective: FIVE

Improve ecological value and visual amenity of Black Well Syke along Southern Boundary.

#### Rationale:

##### **Landscape:**

This watercourse is restricted and neglected in this character area. Intensive farming practices restrict and adversely impact on this brook, which has been reduced to a field ditch in places. By enhancing this corridor the area would have more spatial definition, visual containment and interest.

##### **Biodiversity:**

Streams are identified as priority habitats in the O&W BAP. Widening of the corridor and riparian edge would help encourage the return of water vole for which there is a species action plan. This corridor does not currently meet its potential.

##### **Access, recreation, involvement:**

Headlands along river/stream corridors can be used as both formal and informal pathways however conflicts between access and wildlife would have to be managed and monitored.

#### Recommendations for action:

1. Encourage the creation of 'riparian edge' margins to Black Well Syke.
2. Draw field boundaries away from Black Well Syke to provide additional habitat.
3. Investigate the possibility of drawing up a landscape/wildlife management plan for the Black Well Syke corridor.

### Detailed Management Strategy Objective: SIX

Improve and extend the ecological value and visual amenity of field ponds.

#### Rationale:

##### **Landscape:**

Field ponds are identified in the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Landscape and Woodland Strategy as characteristic of this area. A number of field ponds are evident, however, they are currently small, inaccessible and easily overlooked.

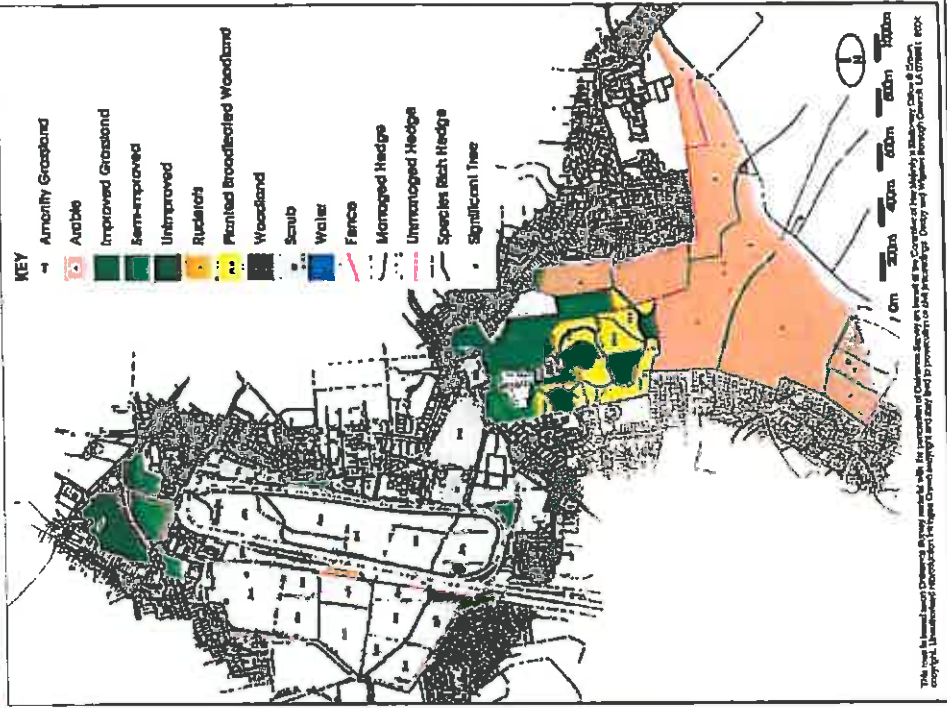
##### **Biodiversity:**

Field ponds are identified in the O&W BAP as a priority habitat.

#### Recommendations for action:

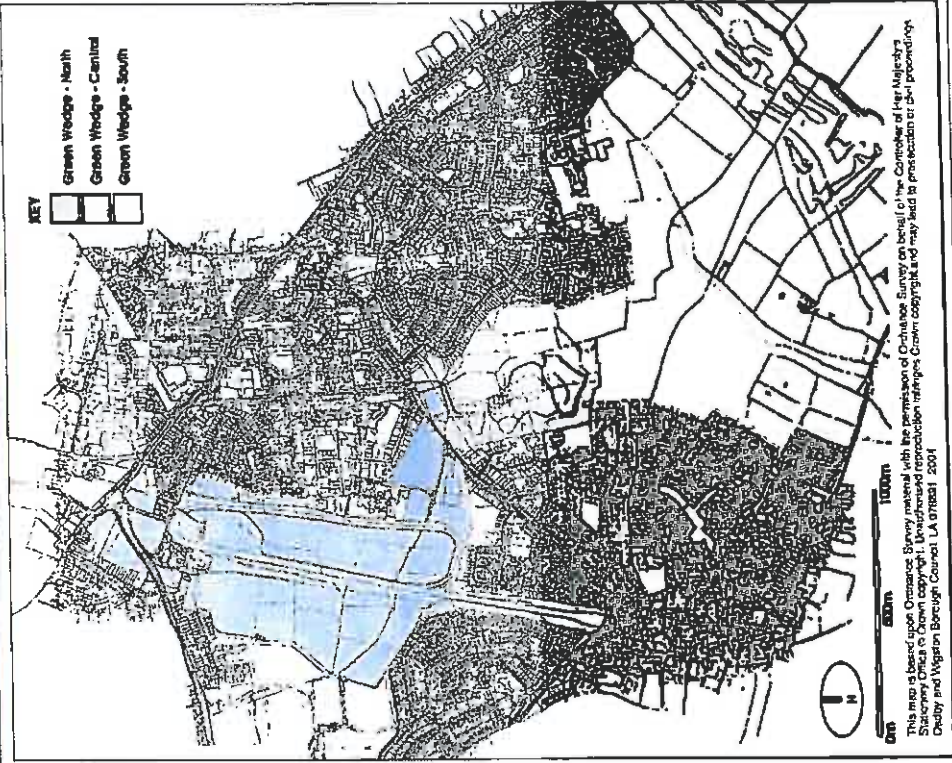
1. Explore with landowners opportunities to increase the size of existing field ponds.
2. Explore with landowners opportunities to increase the number of field ponds in this area.

# LANDUSE AND LANDSCAPE FEATURES



PULL  
OUT

# LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS





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The Stepping Stones Countryside Management **Project** represents a partnership that aims to **improve** access for all, enhance the environment, improve people's **awareness** and encourage community participation in the **countryside around Leicester.**