

BRIERLEY FOREST PARK

MANAGEMENT PLAN



January 2016- December 2020

Ashfield District Council

Urban Road, Kirkby-in-Ashfield. Nottinghamshire. NG17 8DA

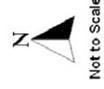
Tel: 01623 450000 Fax: 01623 457585 Website: www.ashfield-dc.gov.uk

Brierley Forest Park

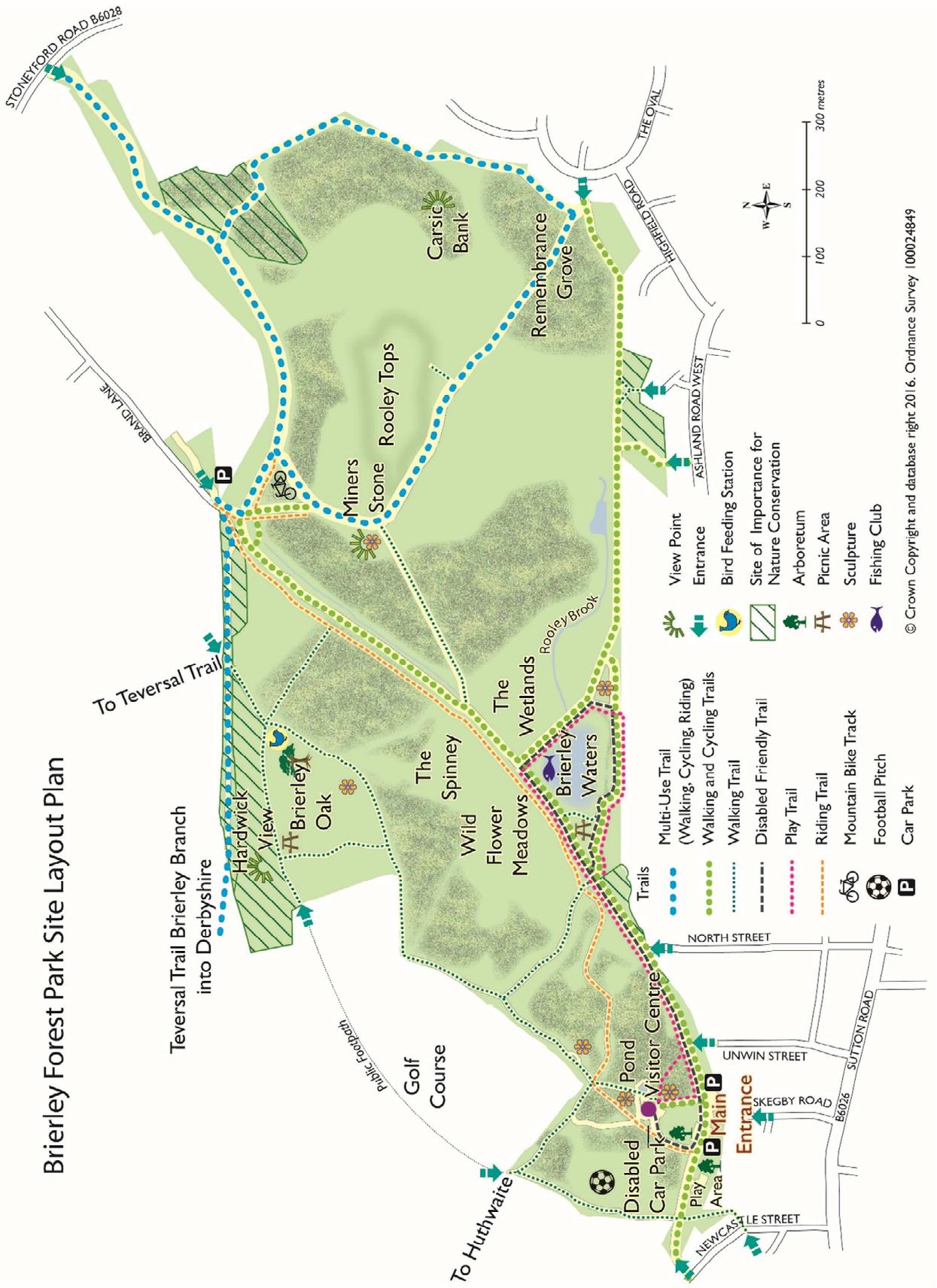
Appendix 2



This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Ashfield District Council 100018975 (2005)



Brierley Forest Park Site Layout Plan



CONTENTS		Page
1	OVERVIEW	
1.1	Introduction	5
1.2	Park facilities	6
1.3	Investment	6
1.4	Heritage	7
1.5	Community Involvement	8
1.6	Landscape and Ecology	9
1.7	Green Flag criteria	13
2	DELIVERY/ IMPLEMENTATION	
2.1	Action Plan	17
3	MONITORING/ REVIEW	
3.1	Monitoring and Review	23
3.2	Contacts	23
3.3	Location Plan	24

OVERVIEW

1.1 Introduction

This management plan has been developed by Ashfield District Council in partnership with the Brierley Forest Park Trust and the Brierley Pond Fishing Club. It is intended that the plan will help to improve general maintenance of the site, plan for the future and as part of this process retain the Green Flag Award, which the park has held since 2003. Details of the Council's policies and procedures for green space management are contained within the document: 'Management Plan Overview and Supporting Information.'

Brierley Forest Park was developed as a Country Park between 1992 and 2000, to provide footpath, cycling and horse riding networks through a series of plantation woodlands, hay meadows, water bodies, streams and wetland areas. Originally a former colliery site, the park has been transformed into a wildlife haven with walks covering over two miles. The Park also provides recreation facilities including a football pitch, children's play area and play trail, sculpture features and a visitor centre.

Many events including fun days and fayres take place on the park organised by the Brierley Forest Park Trust, the Brierley Forest Park Centre Volunteers, Brierley Pond Fishing Club and local community groups. The park is well used by local residents, groups and organisations for informal recreation and to visit the Visitor Centre.

The park is 78.8 hectares in size and is mainly comprised of grassed areas with plantation woodland, meadows, wetland areas and a large water body known as Brierley Waters. The land is owned and managed by Ashfield District Council. The management plan refers to land in the ownership of the district council. Brierley Forest Park is designated as a Greenwood site, part of the community forest covering the Nottinghamshire area. It is a flagship site with Greenwood and one of the largest.

The park is located within the Southern Magnesian Limestone and Coal Measures Natural Areas. In terms of the Nottinghamshire Regional Character Areas, it is within the Limestone Farmlands landscape type of the Magnesian Limestone Ridge, and the Coalfield Farmlands landscape type of the Nottinghamshire Coalfield (Nottinghamshire County Council, 2009).



1.2 Park facilities

Users

Visitor Centre and disabled car parking	The Visitor Centre is operated by Brierley Forest Park Trust under a partnership agreement with Ashfield District Council. The building is owned by Ashfield District Council. The café is run by the Brierley Forest Park Centre Volunteers. The toilets are a joint responsibility between the council and the Trust for maintenance and cleaning. The visitor centre and meeting room are available for public hire.
Visitor centre pond	Open access via board walk
Brierley Waters, fishing club steel container, fishing platforms x 20 (including 2 disabled pegs)	Brierley Waters is an open water area of 0.83ha. The fishing activities at Brierley Waters are managed by Brierley Pond Fishing Club.
Football pitch and changing rooms	The pitch is for public use during the day. At weekends the pitch and changing rooms are used by community football organisations.
Play area	Open access
Children's play trail	Open access
Mountain bike track	Open access
Car park (x3)	Open access
Picnic area (x2)	Open access
Sculpture trail	Open access
Horse route / cycling trails	Marked routes
Arboretum	Open access
Remembrance Grove	Open access
Bird feeding station (x2)	Open access

1.3 Investment

The park was developed from 1992 as a gateway site within the Greenwood Community Forest and was partly funded by the Millennium Commission's Changing Places Project.

The Brierley Forest Park Visitor Centre was constructed at a cost of £150,000 and opened in 1994. It is owned by Ashfield District Council. The café within the Visitor Centre is managed by the Brierley Forest Park Visitor Centre Volunteers and is popular with visitors. Surplus funds raised from the operating of the café and Trust events are periodically used to part fund environmental improvements and support grant applications for external works on the park.

Brierley Waters, a large pond within the park was created in 1998 by diversion and damming of the stream which runs through the site. The pond was planted with a range of floating, emergent, marginal and submerged plants and a picnic area was created adjacent to the pond. The Brierley Pond Community Project and Fishing Club was established in 2012 and provides fishing opportunities for all ages and abilities. The club also periodically restocks the Waters, investing around £2000 in new fish.

The Brierley Sculpture Trail was created in 1999 and was funded through the National Lottery Millennium Commission with additional funding from the Council and Nottinghamshire County Council.

The recreation area at the western edge of the site provides a small play area and a football pitch. The football facility is hired out by Ashfield District Council to local teams. New changing rooms were provided adjacent to the football pitch in 2004, funded through the Football Foundation and Section 106 contributions from developers.

Phases of footpath improvements have been undertaken since the park was established, and have incorporated entrance access and over flow car park improvements. The works have been funded by developer contributions from S106 agreements.

A mountain bike track was added to the Brand Lane area of the park in 2014. It is located directly adjacent the Brierley Branch of the Teversal Trail and was funded by a grant of £31,000 from Nottinghamshire County Council.

Management works to the woodland, wetland and meadow areas are supported by a ten year funding agreement with Natural England through their Environmental Stewardship scheme.

An arboretum area was established in conjunction with The Brierley Forest Park Trust and is located around the visitor centre. Contributions are received from the public for the planting of memorial trees and the installation of timber memorial seats around the park. A 'Family Tree' area was opened in 1999, part of the Family Tree Scheme coordinated by the Tree Council, provides an opportunity for people to make a personal contribution to new tree planting at Brierley Forest Park. A Remembrance planting area was completed in 2011 at the Oval park entrance, working in partnership with Dignity Funeral Directors and The International Tree Foundation.

Interpretation boards were installed at the main entrances during the initial phase of works and information/ notice boards were installed in 2005. Additional information / notice boards and fencing to create a conservation area next to Brierley Waters were provided in 2010 and funded by a grant from Nottinghamshire County Council.

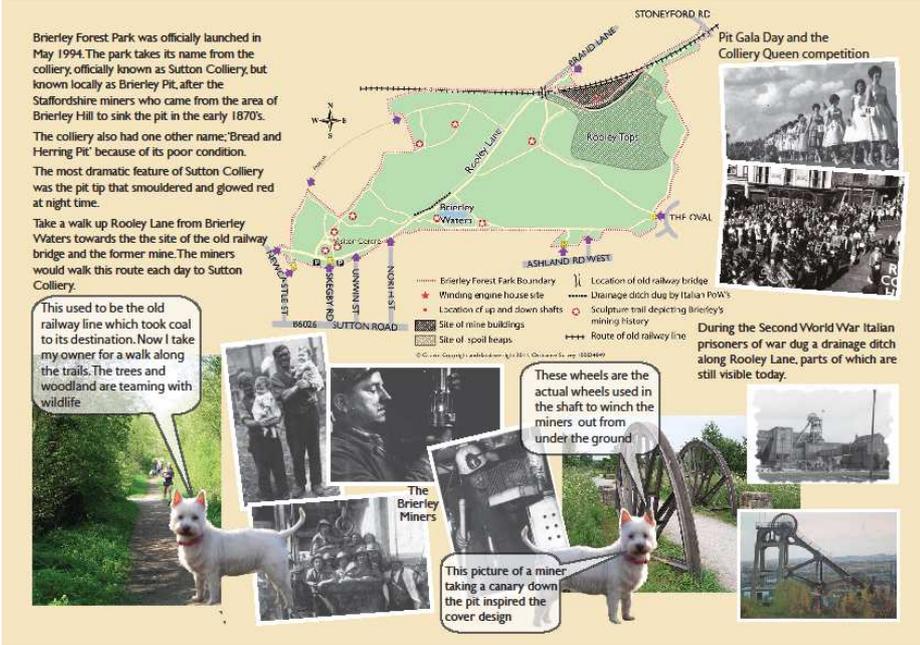
1.4 Site Heritage/ History

Brierley Forest Park is located on former farmland and the site of Sutton Colliery. The industrial and social history of the colliery provide an important focus for Brierley. However, the site and surroundings have a past that predates this more recent phase in local history. The Park retains field patterns that may be identified on maps of Sutton in Ashfield dating back to 1610. Roughley (Rooley) Wood once occupied part of the site, but is now virtually untraceable on the ground. Physically, the Park is contiguous with Strawberry Bank in Huthwaite, a hill that is reputed to hold the remains of an extensive Iron Age hill fort.



The Sutton Colliery was originally called 'The New Skegby Colliery'. The pit shafts were sunk in 1873. Locally, it was known as Brierley Hill as the shafts were sunk by miners from Brierley Hill in Staffordshire, who had relocated to the local area seeking employment. It was nicknamed a 'bread and herring' pit because of the poor working conditions at that time.

In the late 1970s, the old colliery spoil tips were regraded, partly re-soiled and grassed, although Sutton Colliery itself did not close until 1989. Demolition of buildings and capping of shafts was completed later, together with final land re-profiling and soiling. The bulk of the tips were grassed over and the lower slopes planted with a variety of predominantly native broadleaved trees and shrubs, but also including a non-native element.



Ashfield District Council purchased the spoil heap and surrounding farmland to create the park. Development began in 1992 with the aim creating Brierley Forest Park as a gateway site within the Greenwood Community Forest.

There are permanent reminders of the site's industrial past, through the timber sculptures outside the visitor centre, the commemorative stone on Rooley Tops, and the pit wheels along the main path to Brierley Waters and within the visitor centre there are permanent displays illustrating the site's history.

1.5 Community Involvement

Brierley Forest Park Trust

The park is supported by the Brierley Forest Park Trust which works with the council in the development and management of the park. The Trust attends the council's quarterly park partnership meetings where progress against the park's Action Plan and the Trust's aspirations for the park are discussed.

A Friends of Brierley Forest Park group was set up in 1995. Following the success of the café and visitor centre, the Brierley Forest Park Trust was formed in 2011 as a registered charity. In 2013, the Trust signed a partnership agreement with

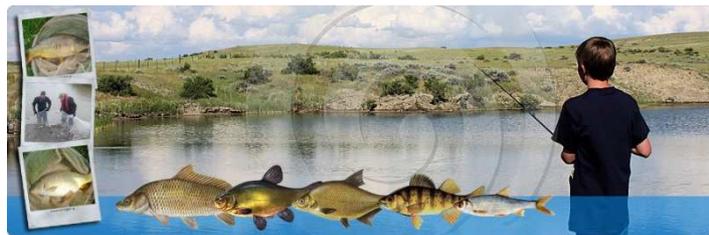


Ashfield District Council for the running of the visitor centre and café. The Trust works with the Brierley Forest Park Visitor Centre volunteers who work in the café to provide refreshments to visitors. The café is open seven days a week. The Trust and the volunteers has been successful in previous years being nominated or winning awards for their involvement in the park.

The Trust is active within the park, getting involved in maintenance work, providing information to visitors and organising events. Funds raised by the Friends of Brierley Forest Park, The Brierley Forest Park Trust and the Brierley Forest Park Visitor Centre volunteers are invested into the park and visitor centre.

Brierley Pond Community Project and Fishing Club

The Brierley Pond Community Project and Fishing Club was formed in 2011 with the aspiration of forming a community project with qualified coaches to encourage children, young people and the disabled to participate in fishing.



The club leases Brierley Waters from the Council and provides a bailiff service to manage the fishing activity. The club takes a keen interest in the park and has been involved in many of the joint events run with the Trust on the park. They provide fishing taster sessions for local community groups, including the less able, competition matches and coaching. The fishing club attends the council's quarterly park partnership meetings where progress against the park's Action Plan.

1.6 Landscape and Ecology

One of the most important aspects of Brierley Forest Park is its ecological and educational value. The major habitat types present at the site are: species-rich calcareous grassland, neutral grassland, spring line flushes, marsh, old species-rich hedgerows with standard trees, tall herb communities, mixed and broadleaved plantation woodlands, standing water and running water.

Local Nature Reserve Status (LNR)

Brierley Forest Park was designated as a Local Nature Reserve in 2006. LNR status applies to land of at least local wildlife interest, and allows the local authority to protect that interest through creation of special bye-laws. LNRs are usually close to or within urban areas and provide considerable opportunities for introducing large numbers of people to sustainable enjoyment of the countryside.

SINC sites

Five areas have been designated as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) within the park:

- Stubbington Farm Meadow (No. 2/153), which occupies a north-facing slope on the north-western edge of the Park. Former botanical richness has declined in recent years due to inadequate management.
- Sutton in Ashfield Grassland (No. 2/190), which is on the southern edge of the Park, east of Brierley Waters. Also inadequately managed, the vegetation includes some interesting species of damp ground.

- Huthwaite Park Marshy Grassland (No. 2/191) is a small remnant corner of marshy grassland to the south-west of Brierley Waters with a good variety of wetland plants.
- Stanton Hill Colliery Spoil (No. 5/360), which is diverse flushed grassland on the eastern slope of Rooley Tops, with notable and rare species.
- Stanton Hill Colliery Dismantled Railway Line (No. 5/61), which is a diverse flushed grassland on the eastern slope of Rooley Tops, with notable and rare species.

Semi- natural neutral grassland, spring line flushes and marshy grassland

These three habitat types grade into one another on the ground and share many characteristic plant species. Marshy land has perhaps the greatest diversity, and some of the plants known to be present are great burnet, water mint, creeping-jenny, brooklime, southern marsh-orchid and greater bird's-foot-trefoil. Drier land is favoured by tor-grass, cowslip and the small grassland fern adder's-tongue.

Some of the important marshy areas have been planted with trees, including spring line flushes within Huthwaite Park Marshy Grassland and Stanton Hill Colliery Spoil SINC's. This issue is addressed through the Action Plan, Section 4. Notable plants recently recorded (Wood, 2003) include: water avens, brown sedge, ragged-robin and sneezewort.

Hydrological engineering work associated with the construction of Brierley Waters included an attempt to create conditions that would encourage development of wet grassland on land to the east. A new management plan for the wet grassland area has been put in place with proposals for increasing the water levels as and when weather conditions allow.

Calcareous Grassland

The only area of recognisable calcareous grassland at Brierley is a flat finger of land at the north-eastern tip of the site, on either side of a permissive path. The vegetation is botanically-rich and maintained by occasional mowing.

Sown grassland

A three hectare area covering two formerly farmed fields adjacent to Brierley Waters was sown with a wildflower seed mixture in 1995-6. Species seen in the sward include yellow rattle, hoary ragwort, yellow-wort, wild carrot and lesser trefoil. Other areas have been sown with a general amenity mix, for instance at the western end of the site and around Brierley Waters. The Council secured Natural England Higher Level Stewardship funding for 10 years from 2012 towards the management of the meadows.



Wetlands

Apart from the spring line flushes and marshy grassland areas already referred to, there are four main wetland features: Brierley Waters; a reed mace swamp to the east; Rooley Brook connecting the two; and the visitor centre pond.

Brierley Waters. At Brierley Waters, curled pondweed is prominent in the water, while branched bur-reed, arrowhead and hard rush have colonised the fringe. Additional wetland planting has taken place on several occasions at Brierley Waters since 1999. Brierley Waters was netted by the Environment Agency in 2012. High numbers of the following fish species were caught including Roach, Rudd, Tench, Carp, Chub, Perch and Pike.

Reedmace swamp.



The reed mace swamp supports such a density of Reedmace that open water cannot be seen. There is also some fringing great willow herb and a dense stand of the non-native variegated form of reed sweet-grass.

Rooley Brook. A series of flushes are located on a spring line to the north-east of the visitor centre, from where water drains downslope to some marshy ground and Rooley Brook. The steeply-banked overflow channel supports a dense growth of fool's water-cress. Other plants in the channel or on the banks include great willow herb, water figwort, angelica and soft rush. East of Brierley Waters, Rooley Brook continues eastwards through the Reedmace swamp before becoming culverted under Rooley Tops and taken towards the River Meden.

Visitor Centre Pond The much smaller visitor centre pond was created in 1999 and planted up with many of the species used at Brierley Waters. The pond is fed by rainwater off the visitor centre roof and can be topped up by a local spring system.



Species- rich Hedgerows



Hedgerows are an important element of the site, crossing much of the central and western part of the park and providing areas of long established, species-rich, semi-natural vegetation which act as wildlife corridors. Penduculate oak and ash are prominent as mature trees, and other species include hazel, elm and holly. Hedge bottoms support species such as bluebell, violets and sweet woodruff.

A detailed management programme was drawn up for the 28 lengths of hedgerow in the park in 2001 and re surveyed in 2010). Work continues and several hedges have now been worked on in line with the management recommendations.

Plantations

Large areas of the park were planted with trees during the period 1993 to 1996, including both Rooley Tops and land to the west. Much of the planting used natives such as Guelder rose, silver birch, alder, goat willow, crack willow and oak, as well as the non-native European larch. The



scarce black poplar was planted in an area north of the visitor centre. An older plantation at the north-eastern end of the site includes a range of non-native species, such as Swedish whitebeam, Scot's pine and Norway spruce. Other non-natives have been planted in various locations, for example white poplar, stag's-horn sumac, Norway maple and horse chestnut.

The plantations have been resurveyed in summer 2009 and a woodland management plan drawn up with proposals for a work programme covering the period 2009 -2014. Work has taken place on a number of plots and continues to follow the main prescriptions of the plan.

Remembrance planting

A remembrance tree planting area was completed in 2015 at The Oval area of the park. Much of the planting used natives such as Guelder rose, silver birch, alder, goat willow, crack willow and oak. There is a small grove near the Unwin Street park access to commemorate the establishment of the Greenwood organisation, the 20th anniversary of the park and oak tree to remember those who died in the Holocaust.

Fauna

Visitors' record fauna as seen in the park on the notice board win the visitor centre. Muntjac and Roe deer have been seen in the park in 2015 /16. Water voles have been recorded in the local area, Fraser (2004). However no conclusive evidence of water vole activity was found in a survey of the wet grassland area and the Huthwaite Park Marshy Grassland Sinc on the park in 2013.

Birds

At present, Rooley Tops supports good numbers of birds which flourish in the natural-looking sparse grassland and areas planted with young trees, particularly skylark, and grasshopper warbler. As the woodland develops, species such as willow warbler and common whitethroat are likely to become more common while a number of woodland specialists will also increase throughout the park.

A survey in 2000 revealed at least 4 singing grasshopper warblers in areas of rough grassland among the young trees to the west of Rooley Lane. Other interesting records included 2 singing reed buntings in the 'wet meadow' north-east of Brierley Waters, and good numbers of willow warbler and common whitethroat in scrubby or wooded areas. A total of 69 species were recorded from 1996 to 2000, including the occasional short-eared owl feeding over rough grassland in winter. The hedgerows and their surrounds are good for birds associated with woodland edge and farmland.

Invertebrates

The variety of habitat within the park probably supports a good range of invertebrates. Frogs, toads and bats are known to be present from local knowledge.

Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP)

The Local Biodiversity Action Plan for Nottinghamshire (Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group, 1998) lists species and habitats of conservation concern in the county, based on national and local criteria. Twenty eight habitats are listed, and these have targeted action plans for maintenance and restoration. In addition, action plans for 8 flagship species or species groups have been produced, such as those for barn owl and water vole.

The following habitat action plans are relevant to the park,: Ancient and/or Species-rich Hedgerows, Lowland Calcareous Grassland, Improved Grassland, Fen and Marsh, Eutrophic and Mesotrophic Waters, Post-industrial land and Rivers and Streams. The species action plans for Water Vole, Bats and Barn Owl possibly apply but further survey work is required to determine the presence of these species.

1.7 Green Flag criteria

The Green Flag Award is the benchmark national standard for parks and green spaces in the UK. In order to achieve the award green spaces need to meet eight key criteria. The table below shows how the park meets the criteria.



1. A welcoming place	
Good and safe access	There are 13 formal accesses into Brierley Forest Park. There is a designated route for horse riders, who are allowed access at three points within the park.
Good signage to and in the park/green space	There are brown signs at the main entrance off Huthwaite Road and off Stoneyford Road. Main entrance signs are located at Brand Lane, Stoneyford Road, The Oval, Unwin Street, Skegby Road and Newcastle Street. There is directional signage within the park.
Equal access for all members of the community	<p>There are a number of level accesses into the park and access around the park is generally good on Toptrec surfaced paths, although access on a number of paths needs to be improved due to drainage issues. The small car park off Skegby Road has some bays marked specifically for disabled users. The visitor centre is fully accessible.</p> <p>Wide timber chicanes are provided at the main site entrances to enable access for wheelchair/ electric scooter users. A well surfaced route which allows wheelchair/ scooter access is provided between the visitor centre and Brierley Waters.</p>
2. Healthy, safe and secure	
Equipment and facilities must be safe to use	Comprehensive inspection regime- detailed in the Management Overview.
It must be a secure place for all members of the community to use or traverse	As Brierley is a country park, lighting is provided at main park entrances only via street lighting. The park has a full time park ranger. The park is patrolled by the Council's Community Protection Officers as necessary. During the summer, the visitor centre is open until 4pm on weekdays and until 1.30pm at weekends. Vegetation is trimmed back for visibility where appropriate at key entrance points and on main footpaths. Local surveillance of the Brierley Waters area of the park is supported by Fishing Club members. Park notice boards contain updates of current works on site.
Dog fouling must be adequately addressed	Policy information is within the Management Overview.

Health and safety policies should be in place, in practice and regularly reviewed	The Council has up to date policies which are regularly reviewed, further information is within the Management Overview.
Toilets, drinking water, first aid, public telephones and emergency equipment where relevant (e.g. life belts by water) should be available in or near the park/green space, and be clearly signposted	Toilets are provided within the visitor centre. The visitor centre has a phone in the café for emergency use. Signage with location details and emergency contact numbers is located at the each of the main park entrances. Notice boards with park maps are located at key entrance points into the park.
3. Clean and well maintained	
Litter and other waste management	Green waste is composted on the site, further policy information is within the Management Plan Overview
The maintenance of grounds, buildings, equipment and other features	Policy information on asset management is provided within the Management Plan Overview.
A policy on litter, vandalism and maintenance should be in place, in practice and regularly reviewed	Policy information on asset management is provided within the Management Plan Overview.
4. Sustainability	
An environmental policy or charter and management strategy in place, which is in practice and regularly reviewed	The Council has a policy in place (within the Management Plan Overview).
Minimise and justify pesticide use	Pesticides are used infrequently.
Eliminate horticultural peat use	Horticultural peat is not used on the park.
Recycle waste plant material	There is a green waste facility in the works compound within the park.
Demonstrate high horticultural and arboricultural standards	The park is maintained to the Council's standards, details are provided within the Management Plan Overview.
Have energy conservation, pollution reduction, waste recycling, and resource conservation measures	The Visitor Centre has a number of energy conservation features, for example it is well insulated and roof rainwater is used to fill an adjacent pond. A waste water filtration system has been installed allowing water from the toilets to percolate through an adjacent woodland area, leaving solids to collect the centre's septic tank. Further details are within the Management Plan Overview

5. Conservation and heritage	
<p>Particular attention should be paid to the conservation and appropriate management of: Natural features, wildlife and fauna</p>	<p>Bird boxes have been provided around the park. A conservation area around the Brierley Waters is fenced off as to protect breeding birds from disturbance from fishing activities. The woodland, hedgerows, wetlands and meadows are managed in line with individual management plans and / or Natural England prescriptions. All the trees on the park have been surveyed and a tree report guides management works. Brierley Waters is managed in conjunction with the Brierley Pond Community Project and Fishing Club with advice from ecologists and the Environment Agency as required. There are ecologist reports for the management of the pond next to the visitor centre and the reed bed pond next to Ashland Road West footpath.</p>
<p>Landscapes</p>	<p>The main heritage feature of the park in landscape terms is the colliery spoil heap of Rooley Top. Scrub encroachment is regularly cleared to retain views of this feature. Rooley Lane, the Spinney and Brierley Oak have a number of mature oak trees which are part of the existing woodland/ farm land hedgerow structure.</p>
<p>Buildings and structural features</p>	<p>The buildings on the park are the Brierley Visitor Centre, the council's compound area with shipping containers for mess room and storage and football changing rooms.</p> <p>The structural features on the park are the play area, play trail, visitor centre access bridge, seating, and signage along with a fishing club storage container.</p> <p>External repairs to the visitor centre building and the football changing rooms are managed by the Council's Asset management team.</p> <p>The shipping containers for mess room and storage, play area, play trail, access bridge, seating and signage are the responsibility of the Council's Waste and Environment Team, who carry out regular inspections. The fishing club storage container is the responsibility of the Brierley Pond Community Project and Fishing Club.</p> <p>The park has a number of art features installed in 1999 as part of the Brierley Sculpture Trail. A couple of the timber pieces have been removed over the years due to vandalism. Regular inspections are carried out by Council's Waste and</p>

	Environment Team. The only historical structural feature within the park itself is the pit wheels from Sutton Colliery, which are located on the main path route down to Brierley Waters.
6. Community involvement	
The park/green space management should actively pursue the involvement of members of the community who represent as many park/green space user groups as possible. The following should be demonstrated:	Brierley Forest Trust and the Brierley Pond Community Project and Fishing Club are active on the park. Many local groups and organisations use the park. The Trust has engaged with Greenwood to develop an ongoing programme of environmental education for primary schools in Sutton. The Visitor Centre and cafe supports community use of the site
Knowledge of user community and levels and patterns of use	A user survey is carried out every two years which informs the action plan for the park. Questionnaires for visitor feedback are available in the café and the results are fed back at the quarterly partnership meetings.
Evidence of community involvement in management and/or developments and results achieved	Brierley Forest Trust and the Brierley Pond Community Project and Fishing Club are involved in the review of the management plan which takes place every two years
Appropriate levels of provision of recreational facilities for all sectors of the community	There are a wide range of facilities within the park - the visitor centre, football, bird watching, mountain biking, walking/cycling/horse riding routes, angling, play, picnicking and bird feeding.
7. Marketing	
A marketing strategy should be in place, which is in practice and regularly reviewed	The Council has a parks and green spaces marketing strategy (Management Plan Overview)
There should be good provision of information to users, e.g. about management strategies, activities, features, ways to get involved	Information is available on the Council's website
The park/green space should be promoted as a community resource	Information is available on the Council's website
8. Management	
A management plan or strategy should be in place	The management plan is reviewed every two years
The plan must be actively implemented and regularly reviewed	The management plan is reviewed every two years
A financially sound management of the park/green space must also be demonstrated	The park is managed as part of the Council's green space assets and does not have separate budgets

2.1 Brierley Forest Park Action Plan

KEY:

LCE: Locality and Community Empowerment Team

ET: Environment Team

BFPT: Brierley Forest Park Trust

AM: Asset Management

S106: Developer contributions

TR6: Transport funding Developer contributions

☑ Completed ● To be completed ○ Ongoing

Objectives	Action	Delivery					Resources	Lead
		16	17	18	19	20		
Create a Welcoming Park								
Paths and park entrances	Carry out phases of path improvements. Surfacing works to improve inclusive access.	●		●			S106 / TR6	LT
Encourage access for all where feasible	Review recommendations of Greenwood disabled access audit report and implement as required.	●	●				S106/grant funding opportunities	LT
Car parking	Review car parking provision for the park and provide additional parking to meet demand where appropriate.		●					LT
Play provision	Identify funding for refurbishment of existing play area next to Skegby Road car park. Undertake consultation exercise and implement refurbishment of existing formal play area.	●	●	●			S106/grant funding opportunities	LT
Update noticeboards and signage	Fit timber “Welcome to Brierley Forest Park” header board to 4 main signboards. Install poster case sign board at entrance to park from Teversal Trail. Provide signage for picnic area at Hardwick View		●	●			S106/grant funding opportunities	LT
Secure Natural England Country Park Accredited status.	Complete application submission.		●					LT

Objectives	Action	Delivery					Resources	Lead
Conservation and Heritage		16	17	18	19	20		
Maintain and if desirable enhance established semi-natural habitats								
Meadow areas	Liaise with local farmer to take hay crop from the calcareous grassland, (weather permitting) by the end of July each year to achieve sward height of 2-10 cm by Oct/ Nov. ADC to cut smaller meadow areas within NE stewardship agreement areas.	•	•	•	•	•	Revenue budget/ Natural England	ET
	Fell and remove woody vegetation from meadow areas. Remove scrub – 1/5 a year and never remove all scrub. Promptly treat cut-stumps to minimise regrowth and spray regrowth each year until no more appears	•	•	•	•	•	Revenue budget	ET
	Hand pull ragwort throughout summer from identified areas (Meadow area opposite North Street) so cover is no more than 5%	•	•	•	•	•	Revenue budget	ET
	Treat thistle growth between woodland plot 9 and top path so cover is no more than 5%	•	•	•	•	•	Revenue budget	ET
Stubbington Farm Meadow SINC (next to Hardwick View picnic area)	Liaise with local farmer to take hay crop from the grassland on safe working areas , (weather permitting) by the end of July each year to achieve sward height of 2-10 cm by Oct/ Nov.	•	•	•	•	•	Revenue budget/ Natural England	ET
	Fell and remove woody vegetation from meadow areas Remove scrub – 1/5 a year and never remove all scrub. Promptly treat cut-stumps to minimise regrowth and spray regrowth each year until no more appears.	•	•	•	•	•	Revenue budget	ET
Huthwaite Park Marshy Grassland SINC (between North Street and stone bridge)	Promptly treat cut-stumps to minimise regrowth and spray regrowth each year until no more appears.	•	•	•	•	•	Revenue budget/ Natural England	ET

Sutton -in-Ashfield Grassland SINC (off Ashland Road West)	Fell and remove marked woody vegetation from grassland areas Remove scrub – 1/5 a year and never remove all scrub. Promptly treat cut-stumps to minimise regrowth and spray regrowth each year until no more appears.	•	•	•	•	•	Revenue budget	ET
	Cut grassland, (weather permitting) by the end of July each year to achieve sward height of 2-10 cm by Oct/ Nov.	•	•	•	•	•	Revenue budget	ET
Stanton Hill Colliery Spoil SINC (eastern slope of Rooley Tops)	Fell and remove marked woody vegetation from grassland areas. Promptly treat cut-stumps to minimise regrowth and spray regrowth each year until no more appears.	•	•	•	•	•	Revenue budget	ET
Hedgerows	Carry out works to hedgerows as per Hedgerow management plan. Liaise with adjacent landowners prior to carrying out works.	•	•	•	•	•	Revenue budget	ET
Woodland Areas	Carry out works from the woodland management plan, preferentially removing non-native and otherwise inappropriate species from areas managed for wildlife interest. Plant up new areas as required.	•	•	•	•	•	Revenue budget/ Natural England	ET
Maintain, and if desirable, enhance new habitats								ET
Rough Grassland Area (Rooley Top down to Rooley Brook)	Fell and remove marked woody vegetation from rough grassland areas. Aim to remove 1/3 scrub encroachment by 2013. Assess wildflower enhancement. Remove scrub – 1/5 a year and never remove all scrub. Promptly treat cut-stumps to minimise regrowth and spray regrowth each year until no more appears.	•	•	•	•	•	Revenue budget	ET
	Strim existing level grass area either side of path adjacent seat / small footbridge in mid-July –mid August and rake arisings into heaps as grass snake habitat.	•	•	•	•	•	Revenue budget	ET
Friends Arboretum (near Visitor Centre)	Tag all trees within arboretum and replace any damaged specimens.	•	•	•	•	•	S106/ donations	ET / BFPT

Wetland area near visitor centre decking	Remove willow herb before flowering each year to reduce spread across park.	•	•	•	•	•	Revenue budget	ET
Lake/ wetland areas adjacent Brierley Waters	Let water from Brierley Waters onto the wetland area, when water levels within the lake are sufficient, to mimic natural water flooding. Operation to be carried out Feb/May/July/Sept per year if appropriate dependant on weather conditions , mean water depth 100mm-150mm. Duration of inundation to be 3-8 days. Flooding dates to be recorded and fishing club to be advised prior to works. If the brooks runs very low or dry during the warmer months of the year, the Fisheries Technical Officer at the East Midlands office of the Environment Agency is to be contacted for advice before releasing any water to ensure enough water is sustained within lake and wetland area.	•	•	•	•	•	Revenue budget	ET
	Carry out regular inspections and maintenance of silt trap and V plate at Brierley Waters. Review replacement of sand bag construction with permanent structure for raising water level at outlet.	•	•	•	•	•	Revenue budget	ET
	Fell and remove woody vegetation from marshy areas Remove scrub – 1/5 a year and never remove all scrub. Promptly treat cut-stumps to minimise regrowth and spray regrowth each year until no more appears.	•	•	•	•	•	Revenue budget/ Natural England	ET
	Treat thistle /ragwort/ dock so cover is no more than 5%.	•	•	•	•	•	Revenue budget	ET
	Mow uneven topography grassland between mid-July to mid-August , hand rake and stack cuttings	•	•	•	•	•	Revenue budget	ET
	Mow grassland between mid-July to mid-August, cut and bale arisings.	•	•	•	•	•	Revenue budget	ET
Visitor Centre Pond	Visitor Centre Pond Remove all reeds from the visitor centre pond to		•	•			Revenue budget	ET

	retain 100% clear water.							
Reed mace pond at end of Rooley Brook (adjacent Ashlands Road footpath)	Manual removal of emergent species such as yellow flag and bulrush by hand pulling to retain some areas of open water.			•			Revenue budget	ET
Rooley Brook	Prevent trees from over-shading Rooley Brook and overflow channel by coppicing or pollarding. Remove willows and scrub from the channel when necessary.	•	•	•	•	•	Revenue budget	ET
	Cut Rooley Brook/overflow channel bank sides on 3-year rotation at the end of the growing season. Individual stretches of bank cutting no longer than 30m.No stretches of watercourse to be cut on both banks in the same year.	•	•	•	•	•	Revenue budget	ET
Encourage sympathetic use of the site for quiet recreation and education	Accommodate the installation of approved memorial seats in appropriate locations in the park, subject to maintenance constraints.	•	•	•	•	•	Donations	ET / LT
Monitor use of the site and its wildlife resource	Commission and carry out a detailed botanical survey of the 4 SINC areas within the park to produce updated management recommendations.		•				Revenue budget	LT
	Investigate survey work and assessment for butterflies and fungi within park and produce management recommendations.			•			Revenue budget	LT
	Map existing bird boxes for monitoring and future maintenance.		•				Revenue budget	ET /BFPT
	Investigate mapping for barn owls and bats to comply with LBAP species action plans.			•				LT
Maintain and develop sculpture trail	Survey artworks and prepare maintenance programme. Refurbish art work and sculpture pieces		•	•			Revenue budget	ET
Maintain and develop horse route	Carry out phases of drainage improvements on horse route surface from visitor centre to stone bridge and up to Brand Lane			•	•		Revenue budget	LT
Maintain views	Remove selected trees to open up identified vistas across the park	•	•	•	•	•	Revenue budget	ET

Objectives	Action	Delivery					Resources	Lead
Community Involvement		16	17	18	19	20		
Support the Brierley Forest Park Trust and volunteers of the park	Organise Park Partnership meetings for exchange of information and park development	•	•	•	•	•	Revenue budget	LT
	Encourage visitors to record flora and fauna. Agree on recording and information analysis format.	•	•	•	•	•		BFPT

3 MONITORING/ REVIEW

3.1 Monitoring and Review

The management plan will be reviewed every two years with a review of the action plan carried out annually to monitor progress. This process will be carried out in September to feed into the Council's business plan cycle. The results of the process will give the opportunity to assess the overall success of the management plan and whether additional funding and resources are required. A site inspection will be carried out during August/ September to check whether any additional works are required, which will then be added to the work programme/ Action plan, as appropriate.

3.2 Contacts

Brierley Forest Park

Off Skegby Road
Huthwaite
Nottinghamshire
NG17 2PH

Email: environment@ashfield-dc.gov.uk
0800 183 8484 / 01623 457 857

www.ashfield-dc.gov.uk

The Brierley Forest Park Trust

For information about the Friends of Brierley Forest Park, The Brierley Forest Park Trust, and the Brierley Forest Park Visitor Centre volunteers, please contact the Brierley Forest Park Visitor Centre

Brierley Forest Visitor Centre

Off Skegby Road
Huthwaite
Nottinghamshire
NG17 2PH

01623 550172

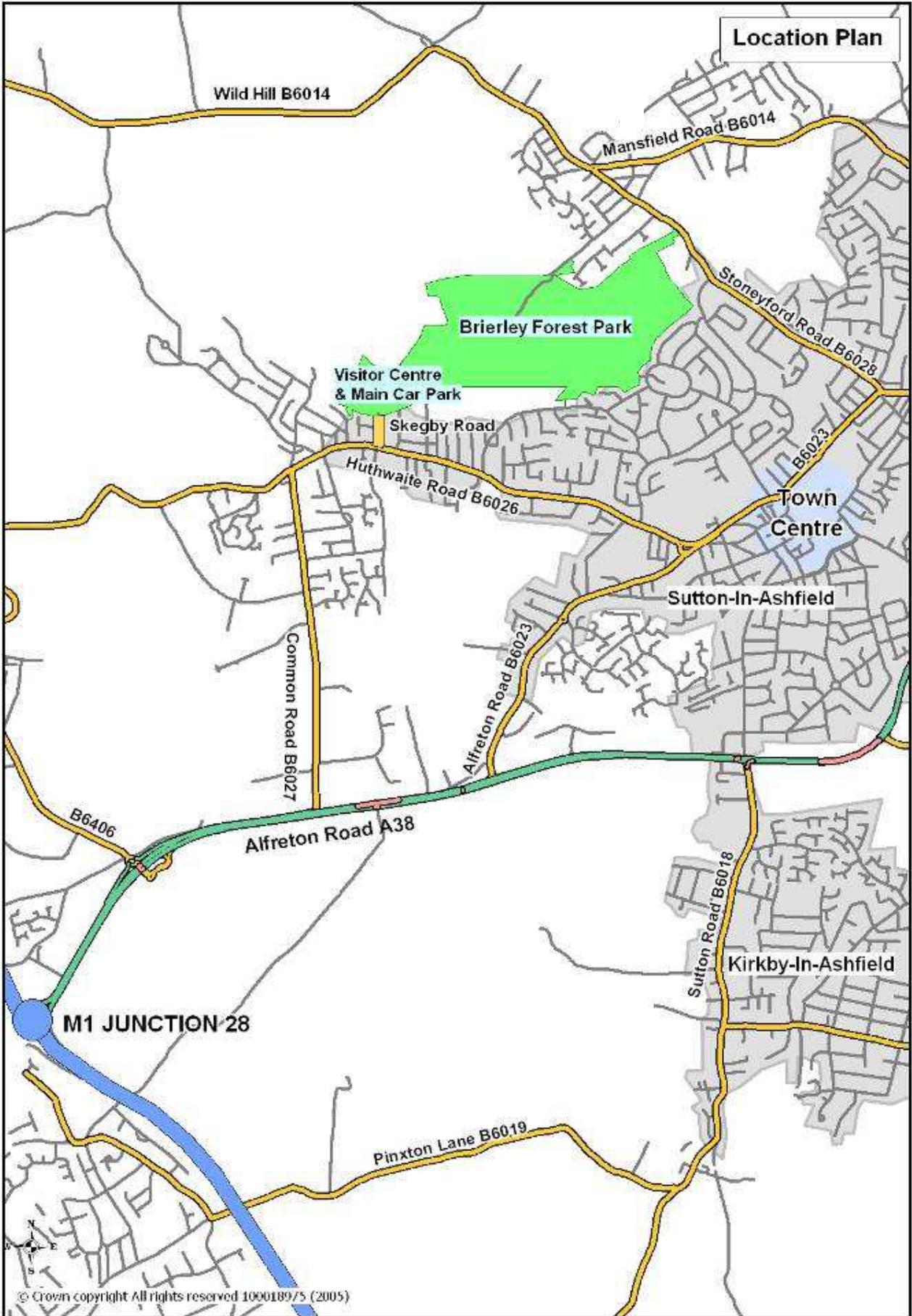
www.brierleyforest.com

Clubs

Brierley Pond Community Project and Fishing Club

Pat Shirley, Chairman

www.brierley-pond-community-project-and-fishing-club.co.uk



Ashfield

Ashfield District Council

Urban Road, Kirkby-in-Ashfield. Nottinghamshire. NG17 8DA

Tel: 01623 450000 Fax: 01623 457585 Website: www.ashfield-dc.gov.uk