

## Thurcaston and Cropston Neighbourhood Plan

### Inventory of sites of high environmental significance

The 148 open, undeveloped parcels of land in the Plan Area were surveyed between June and November 2015. This inventory lists and scores, using NPPF LGS criteria, the 26 sites identified in the survey as having high environmental (natural and historical) *and* community significance. Eight sites scoring 30/36 or more are proposed as **candidate Local Green Spaces (cLGS)**.

Site No.	Summary Description	Access	Proxim	Bounded	Special	Rec/Edu	Beauty (inc views)	Tranq.	History	Biodiv.	Total Score/36
1-01	<p>Horse pasture / Caravan Site</p> <p>Site of a 15<sup>th</sup> century farmhouse. Adjacent to Causeway Lane (historically the medieval, or older, 'Broadgate'), a popular footpath (bridleway and 'other route with public access') to Bradgate Park.</p> <p>Rich biodiversity. Mosaic of pasture, hedgerows, mature trees and water supports several rare species of marginal aquatic plants, 9 BAP bird species and 5 BAP bat species. Ancient species-rich hedgerows.</p> <p>Adjoins Cropston Reservoir SSSI.</p> <p>Beautiful, tranquil views across Cropston Reservoir to open country and Bradgate Park.</p>	2	4	4	2	0	4	2	4	4	26
1-09	<p>Arable field on sloping ground from Cropston Village to Rothley Brook, bordered to the west by Cropston Road and to the east by Rothley Brook. Species-rich hedges.</p> <p>Access via two public footpaths (and bridleways) of historical significance, being ancient tracks between the two settlements, one the traditional route taken by funeral processions from Cropston across Rothley Brook to the parish church in Thurcaston.</p> <p>District-level biodiversity significance (Rothley Brook; Local Wildlife Site <b>LWS</b>) which here has records of otter and white-clawed crayfish (Red Data Book species), four BAP species birds and 3 BAP species mammals (bats).</p>	4	4	4	2	2	4	4	2	4	32 <b>cLGS</b>

Site No.	Summary Description	Access	Proxim	Bounded	Special	Rec/Edu	Beauty (inc views)	Tranq.	History	Biodiv.	Total Score/36
2-10	<p>Small strip of land including footpath J61 leading from Bradgate Road to the Rough. Bordered by a wide swathe of scrub, nettle and bramble beds and mature hedgerows to the south-west, unimproved pasture to the north-east and the River Lynn (Cropston Reservoir outflow stream) to the north-west.</p> <p>The mosaic of habitats, concentrated into a very small area, is a haven for butterflies and wild flowers. Important vertebrate species include five bird BAP species and three bat BAP species.</p> <p>The area is highly valued by the community.</p>	4	2	2	4	2	2	4	0	4	24
2-15	<p>Small ribbon of unimproved pasture, bordered by River Lynn outflow stream to the south. The margins of this area comprise many fine specimens of mature Oak, Ash and Willow, and the stream banks host significant swathes of Marsh Marigold, Dog Violet, Cuckoo Flower and Brooklime. This strip of land is very picturesque, tranquil and highly valued by the community.</p> <p>Accessed via by the well-used public footpath J61 leading from Station Road Cropston to Bradgate Road.</p> <p>Supports a variety of birds including Starling (BAP), Song Thrush (BAP), Long-tailed Tit, Greenfinch and Kestrel, and three BAP species of bat.</p> <p>This is an integral part of the wildlife corridor along the outflow stream.</p>	4	2	4	4	2	4	2	0	4	26
2-16	<p>Large pasture field bisected by the popular footpath J61 from Station Road, Cropston to Bradgate Road. Bordered by outflow stream / mature hedgerows / Bradgate Road to the north, mature hedgerows to the northeast and southwest.</p> <p>Integral part of wildlife corridor with high biodiversity significance, including insects, birds</p>	4	4	4	4	2	4	2	0	2	26

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	(one BAP species) and mammals (badger, 3 bat BAP species. Beautiful rural views across field to the stream margins and beyond to the water treatment works and Swithland Woods. Highly valued by the community.										
<b>6-04</b>	Arable field bordered to the north-west by the outflow stream, to the north-east and south-west by mature hedgerows and to the south east by houses. A popular public footpath follows the north-eastern edge of the field (Station Road to The Rough). Contains a large species-rich field pond, concealed by mature crack willows, bramble and nettle beds. Breeding Mallard, Coot, Moorhen and Little Grebe have been recorded on this pond. Area highly valued by the community. Beautiful views towards the valley of the outflow stream and beyond to The Rough and into the Swithland Hall Estate. Part of R. Lynn wildlife corridor.	4	4	4	4	2	4	2	0	4	<b>24</b>
<b>6-06 6-10</b>	Large arable field bordered by mature hedgerows. Access via two public footpaths J62 and J66. A double line of mature hedgerows extends into the centre of this field, adding to the diversity of habitat. Highly valued by the community for the scenic views and network of paths between the two settlements. The lowest part of the field forms part of the flood plain while the entire field serves as an important separation zone between the two villages, and preserves their individual identities. The hedgerows support many species of birds,	4	4	2	4	2	2	2	0	4	<b>26</b>

Site No.	Summary Description	Access	Proxim	Bounded	Special	Rec/Edu	Beauty (inc views)	Tranq.	History	Biodiv.	Total Score/36
	including Linnet (BAP), House Sparrow (BAP), Starling (BAP), Whitethroat and Dunnock. Skylark (BAP) territories have also been recorded in this field.										
<b>6-08</b>	<p>Arable field with mature hedgerow / woodland to the north and east and bisected by Rothley Brook.</p> <p>Access via public footpath J57. Part of flood plain, with mature Crack Willow margins to Rothley Brook. The northeast edge of the field rises sharply with the embankment of the Great Central Railway line.</p> <p>Rothley Brook is a designated Local Wildlife Site (<b>LWS</b>). The railway embankment is a candidate Local Wildlife Site (<b>cLWS</b>).</p> <p>Valued by the community for its rural views and informal recreation.</p> <p>The woodland, hedgerows and field support a variety of birds including substantial flocks of House Sparrows (BAP) and Starling (BAP), Yellowhammer (BAP) and Linnet (BAP).</p> <p>Three BAP species of bat, Common and Soprano Pipistrelles and Noctule, are regularly recorded hunting over this field.</p>	4	2	2	4	2	2	2	1	4	<b>23</b>
<b>6-14</b>	<p>Lanesborough Wood</p> <p>Informal public open space. Bisected by Rothley Brook, bordered by wet, species-rich grassland and mature hedgerows.</p> <p>Woodland of historical and ecological significance, planted with ornamental and native tree species</p> <p>Highly valued by community for its beauty and tranquillity</p> <p>Supports many species of birds (including Grey Heron, Kingfisher, Collared Dove, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Buzzard and Long-tailed Tit), invertebrates (butterflies; Banded Demoiselle)</p>	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	2	4	<b>34 cLGS</b>

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	and mammals (Muntjac Deer and Mink). Three BAP species of bat (Common and Soprano Pipistrelle and Noctule) hunt in the area,. The remains of Thurcaston watermill and an associated cobbled bridge can still be seen. One of only four areas of woodland in the Parish, and the only one with public access, albeit currently 'permissive'.										
6-19	Arable field bordered by houses to the southwest, Rothley Brook to the northeast and mature hedgerows to the northeast and southeast. Accessed via two popular footpaths (J54 and bridleway Jxx), which link to a wider informal recreational area, highly valued by the community. An important area of open countryside to rear of houses on Leicester Road. Wide variety of birds, including Yellowhammer (BAP), House Sparrow (BAP), Starling (BAP), Bullfinch (BAP) and Skylark (BAP) Area directly behind houses hosts a variety of plant species, insects and butterflies.	4	4	4	4	2	2	2	0	4	26
7-01	Arable field, bordered by Great Central Railway embankment and unofficial footpath to the north-east, Rothley Brook to the north-west, mature hedgerow to the south-west and bridleway Jxx. Rothley Brook is a designated Local Wildlife Site (LWS). The railway embankment is a Candidate Local Wildlife Site (cLWS). Area supports many species of plants birds and bats. Particular stronghold of the Yellowhammer (BAP), Bullfinch (BAP), Starling (BAP), Greenfinch and hirundines. Highly valued by the community for informal recreation around network of footpaths and for	2	2	4	4	2	4	2	2	4	26

Site No.	Summary Description	Access	Proxim	Bounded	Special	Rec/Edu	Beauty (inc views)	Tranq.	History	Biodiv.	Total Score/36
	beautiful views along valley and from the embankment path across to Thurcaston and Cropston / Charnwood hills beyond.										
<b>7-03</b>	<p>Arable field bordered by railway to the north-east, bridle track leading from Thurcaston to Rothley to the north-west, public footpath J54 to Fox Covert / A46 to south-west. Bisected by a small stream with.</p> <p>The railway embankment is a Candidate Local Wildlife Site.</p> <p>Highly valued by the Community for informal recreation around network of footpaths and for beautiful views along valley and from the embankment path across to Thurcaston and Cropston / Charnwood hills beyond.</p> <p>Forms integral part of the wider Green Wildlife Corridor and recreation area defined by the railway embankment and Thurcaston village.</p>	2	2	4	4	2	4	2	2	4	<b>26</b>
<b>8-01</b>	<p>Ridge and Furrow pasture field, grazed by horses, bordered by mature hedgerows on three sides.</p> <p>Accessed via bridleway <b>Jxx</b> and public footpath J54.</p> <p>Species-rich pasture, swathed in buttercups and daisies in springtime.</p> <p>Hedgerows support many birds, including Bullfinch (BAP), Greenfinch, Yellowhammer (BAP) and House Sparrow (BAP).</p> <p>Hunting ground for three BAP species of bat, Common and Soprano Pipistrelle and Noctule.</p> <p>Highly valued by the community for informal recreation.</p>	4	4	4	2	4	2	2	4	4	<b>30 cLGS</b>
<b>8-02</b>	Arable field bordered by mature hedgerows and railway embankment to the northeast, mature hedgerow to the north-west and houses to the south-east. Accessed via bridleway <b>Jxx</b> . The railway embankment is a Candidate Local	2	4	4	4	2	4	2	2	4	<b>28</b>

Site No.	Summary Description	Access	Proxim	Bounded	Special	Rec/Edu	Beauty (inc views)	Tranq.	History	Biodiv.	Total Score/36
	<p>Wildlife Site (<b>cLWS</b>), supporting a wide variety of species.</p> <p>The mature hedgerows are a particularly significant feature of this site, supporting many birds, including Bullfinch (BAP), Greenfinch, Yellowhammer (BAP) and House Sparrow (BAP).</p> <p>Hunting ground for three BAP species of bat, Common and Soprano Pipistrelle and Noctule.</p> <p>Highly valued by the community for informal recreation and the beautiful rural views along and across the valley.</p>										
<b>9-01</b> <b>9-02</b> <b>9-03</b>	<p>Linear group of Ridge and Furrow fields, bordered by houses to the northwest, mature hedgerows to the southwest, southeast, mature hedgerow and public footpath J60 from Latimer Road to Sandham Bridge to the northeast and Rothley Brook to the south.</p> <p>Grazed by cattle, the land slopes south-eastwards to Rothley Brook and includes a large field pond, puddled by livestock and providing food and mud for nesting hirundines, and breeding habitat for wild mallard.</p> <p>One of most popular footpaths in the Parish traverses the area. Highly valued by the Community for its beauty, tranquillity and historical significance of ancient lane.</p> <p>Fine views are afforded across to each settlement and field gives rural and historical identity to both villages.</p> <p>Supports many species of plants, insects and birds including Linnet (BAP), Yellowhammer (BAP), Starling (BAP), Bullfinch (BAP), Skylark (BAP), Grey Heron, Little Egret and Kingfisher and three BAP species of bat, Common and Soprano Pipistrelle and Noctule.</p> <p>Swathed with buttercups and daisies in springtime.</p>	4	4	4	4	2	4	2	4	4	<b>32</b> <b>cLGS</b>

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	Rothley Brook is a designated Local Wildlife Site (LWS) and both Otter (BAP) and White-Clawed Crayfish (BAP) have been recorded here.										
9-04	<p>Sandham Bridge area</p> <p>Group of small pasture fields, bordered by mature hedgerows and bisected by Rothley Brook.</p> <p>Crossed by public footpath J60 ('Brooky Lane'), a medieval, or older, ancient track. The bridge is a 16-17 century packhorse bridge, <b>Listed Grade II</b>.</p> <p>Flood plain, wild flower-rich wet meadow, supporting many insects and birds. Mature specimens of Crack Willow and Oak along the Brook.</p> <p>Part of a locally-significant wildlife corridor supporting many species of plants, insects and birds including Linnet (BAP), Yellowhammer (BAP), Starling (BAP), Bullfinch (BAP), Skylark (BAP), Grey Heron, Little Egret and Kingfisher and three BAP bat species (Common and Soprano Pipistrelle, Noctule).</p> <p>Rothley Brook is a designated Local Wildlife Site (LWS) and both Otter (BAP) and White-Clawed Crayfish (BAP) have been recorded in this area.</p> <p>Highly valued by the community for spring wild flowers, historical significance, beauty and informal recreation.</p>	4	4	4	4	2	4	2	4	4	32 cLGS
9-07	<p>Small pasture field including Thurcaston end of public footpath J60. Bordered by mature hedgerows on two sides, houses to the east.</p> <p>Historic significance: the deeply sunken lane provides evidence of over 1000 years of use of 'Brooky Lane', the ancient way from Thurcaston to the northeast.</p> <p>Highly valued by the community. Beautiful views toward Cropston from Thurcaston. A tranquil area immediately adjacent to the historic centre</p>	4	4	4	4	2	4	2	4	2	30 cLGS



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	of Thurcaston village.										
<b>9-10</b> <b>9-11</b>	Two adjacent Ridge and Furrow pasture fields with hedgerow and fence boundaries. Accessed via public footpath J56. Good range of farmland birds, including three BAP bird species and bats.	4	2	2	4	2	2	2	4	2	<b>24</b>
<b>9-12</b>	Small pasture field bordered by church grounds and mature hedgerow to the north, mature hedgerow to the south-west and Anstey Lane to the east. Public footpath J56 from Cropston Road to Anstey Lane crosses this site, which is swathed in buttercups in springtime. Historically significant site with earthworks (medieval house platforms and sunken lane). Beautiful views over the Rothley Brook valley to Cropston and beyond to the Charnwood Hills, setting Thurcaston in the wider rural context.	4	4	4	4	4	4	2	4	2	<b>32</b> <b>cLGS</b>
<b>9-14</b>	Wet pasture bordered by Rothley Brook (Local Wildlife site, <b>LWS</b> ) to the west. Access via public footpath/bridleway J56, which crosses 'Coffin Bridge', a medieval or older packhorse bridge, <b>Listed Grade II</b> . Ridge and Furrow. Semi-improved grassland/pasture with species-rich hedgerows to the east south. Part of Rothley Brook wildlife corridor (see 9-04) Supports many birds including hirundines, Grey Heron, Little Egret, Kestrel, Buzzard, Linnet (BAP), Starling (BAP) and three BAP bat species (Common and Soprano Pipistrelle and Noctule). Highly valued by the community for its historical and ecological significance and for its rural beauty.	4	2	4	4	2	3	2	4	4	<b>29</b>
<b>9-19</b>	Large, arable field, bordered by Rothley Brook	4	2	4	2	2	4	2	2	4	<b>26</b>

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	<p>and mature streamside woodland to the south-west, low hedgerow to the west, Anstey lane to the south-east and the bridle track from Anstey lane to Cropston Road to the north-east.</p> <p>Beautiful, panoramic views across to Cropston and the Charnwood Hills.</p> <p>Rothley Brook is a designated Local Wildlife Site (LWS).</p> <p>Area support birds including hirundines, Kestrel, Buzzard, Linnet (BAP), Starling (BAP) and three BAP species of bat, Common and Soprano Pipistrelle and Noctule.</p> <p>Highly valued by the community for its historical and ecological significance and for its rural beauty.</p>										
<b>T2</b>	<p><u>All Saints Churchyard</u> Mature trees, including large hollies, mown and rough grass. Good range of birds and mammals (bats), including BAP species, invertebrates, lichens. Swithland Slate headstones. The churchyard is almost certainly the site of an early medieval (9<sup>th</sup> century AD?) religious and settlement centre.</p> <p><b>OSSR</b></p>	4	4	4	4	2	2	4	4	2	<b>30 cLGS</b>