

# APPENDIX 1: SURVEY PLANS AND NOTES

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






















## Phase 1 habitat mapping (adapted from JNCC)

A fundamental principle of managing sites for biodiversity is to make the most of what is already there, and to make sure of what that might be before making changes e.g. by reducing mowing to allow suppressed species to appear, and by observing wildlife throughout the year. The surveys below are only a start.

Habitat classification follows JNCC (Joint Nature Conservation Committee) guidance as far as possible but as the green spaces are in urban situations and at a relatively small scale, some modifications were made. Sometimes habitats could not be easily categorised and if any mapping is unclear that is probably the reason. The survey was not carried out by a professional ecologist, and was done quickly so should be seen as a starting point for further work. See Cheshire Wildlife Trust (2017) *Protecting and Enhancing Congleton's Natural Environment* for the wider biodiversity context.

Habitats were identified in April 2022, and some plant species noted under site description, but other species will also be present through the year. A full list of plant species with Latin names may be provided in future, subject to further survey work. No specialist bird, bat, amphibian, reptile, invertebrate, fungi, bryophyte or other surveys were carried out but any information would be very welcome.

### Key

	Woodland and scrub		Miscellaneous
	Semi-natural broadleaved woodland		Amenity grassland
	Plantation broadleaved woodland		Ephemeral/short perennial
	Semi-natural scrub, including bramble		Introduced/amenity shrub
	Scattered broadleaved trees		<b>Boundaries</b>
	Fruit trees (not a JNCC habitat)		Intact hedge, native species rich
	<b>Grassland and marsh</b>		Intact hedge, species poor
	Neutral grassland, unimproved or semi-improved (to be assessed further)		Defunct hedge
	Marshy grassland		Fence, close-boarded
	<b>Tall herb and fern</b>		Wall, usually brick
	Tall ruderal/tall herb vegetation		Steel palisade (security) fence
	<b>Swamp, marginal, inundation, open water</b>		Dry ditch
	Inundation vegetation		Buildings
	Standing water		Bare ground
	Running water with arrow to show direction of flow		Target note

## 1 Longdown Road green space - existing habitats



General observations - attractive well-used green space with parkland character and some variety of habitats, contrasting with relatively sterile expanse of Back Lane playing fields to the north. Gardens back on to park, but close-boarded fences may be barriers to small mammals, amphibians or other wildlife.

### Target notes April 2022

- 1 Open boundary to Back Lane playing fields. Mown grass here and elsewhere with scattered individual coniferous and deciduous trees, native and non-native, including cypress, white poplar, Norway maple, ash, weeping willow, common alder, wild cherry, flowering cherry, bird cherry, rowan, sycamore, Japanese maple, horse chestnut.
- 2 Site of former pond present on old maps up to 1970s (no visible sign now).
- 3 Avenues of mostly non-native trees, particularly Norway maple, planted closely and giving heavy shade and sparser grass cover beneath.
- 4 Copses of largely native tree and understorey shrub species including wild cherry, sycamore, hazel, hawthorn, blackthorn, elder, goat willow, privet, bramble, dog rose, wild raspberry. Ground flora includes common species such as nettle, dandelion, creeping buttercup, meadow buttercup, dock, wood avens, ivy, herb Robert, red campion, also many unwanted Norway maple seedlings.
- 5 Route of old farm track (no visible sign but soils may vary).
- 6 Open boundary with knee rail next to Longdown Road, with Blackfirs School and green space on the other side of the road.

## 1 Longdown Road green space further information

Stakeholders	Cheshire East Council (landowner), Congleton Town Council (manager), adjoining landowners, local residents, other Congleton residents, Blackfirs Primary School, Cadent (underground gas pipe), United Utilities (water, foul water and surface water sewers)
Local plan policy (adopted and draft)	Protected open space (RC2, draft REC1), Ecological network core area (draft ENV1) – site is within the River Dane valley core area
Landscape character context	Congleton LCA - Type 3 Suburban landscapes, Area 3a West Heath. Surrounding residential areas date from the 1970s. Areas to north and west are undergoing significant change with loss of countryside and new housing which could result in an increased use of the park.
Topography	The area is at 93-94 m AOD, almost flat
Land use history	The area was farmland until the early 1970s. The tithe map of 1845 shows that parts of 4 fields are within the current boundary. A central pond gives its name to one field - Small Lake. The pond is still present on the 1910 OS map and a track is shown running from east to west. The 1971 aerial photo shows disturbance during construction of nearby housing estates. It is likely that most of the current trees post-date the housing development with no historic features present in the landscape.
Green infrastructure	The green space is not close to any priority habitats or designated wildlife sites but it is connected to other areas of open space including the new community nature park at Rhead's Meadow to the west. Private gardens lie to east and west of the site.
Soils and hydrology	The Soilscape map shows the whole area as type 14: Freely draining very acid sandy and loamy soils with very low fertility. However, the more detailed geology map for the area shows a large area of till (boulder clay) across the site, within which the former pond was situated, so further investigation would be needed before making changes. No known water bodies within 50 m.
Public access	Longdown Road and the cul-de-sacs of Chestnut Drive and Maple Close provide road access, and are connected by tarmac-surfaced footways with lighting. The site is continuous with the Back Lane playing fields and an informal footpath connects with PROW Somerford FP1, and Rhead's Meadow community nature reserve.
Underground services	Information on gas, water and sewer locations is available and should be referred to before any changes are made.
Invasive species	None identified other than Norway maple seedlings which could be a problem in future



## 2 Thirlmere Court green space - existing habitats



### Target notes April 2022

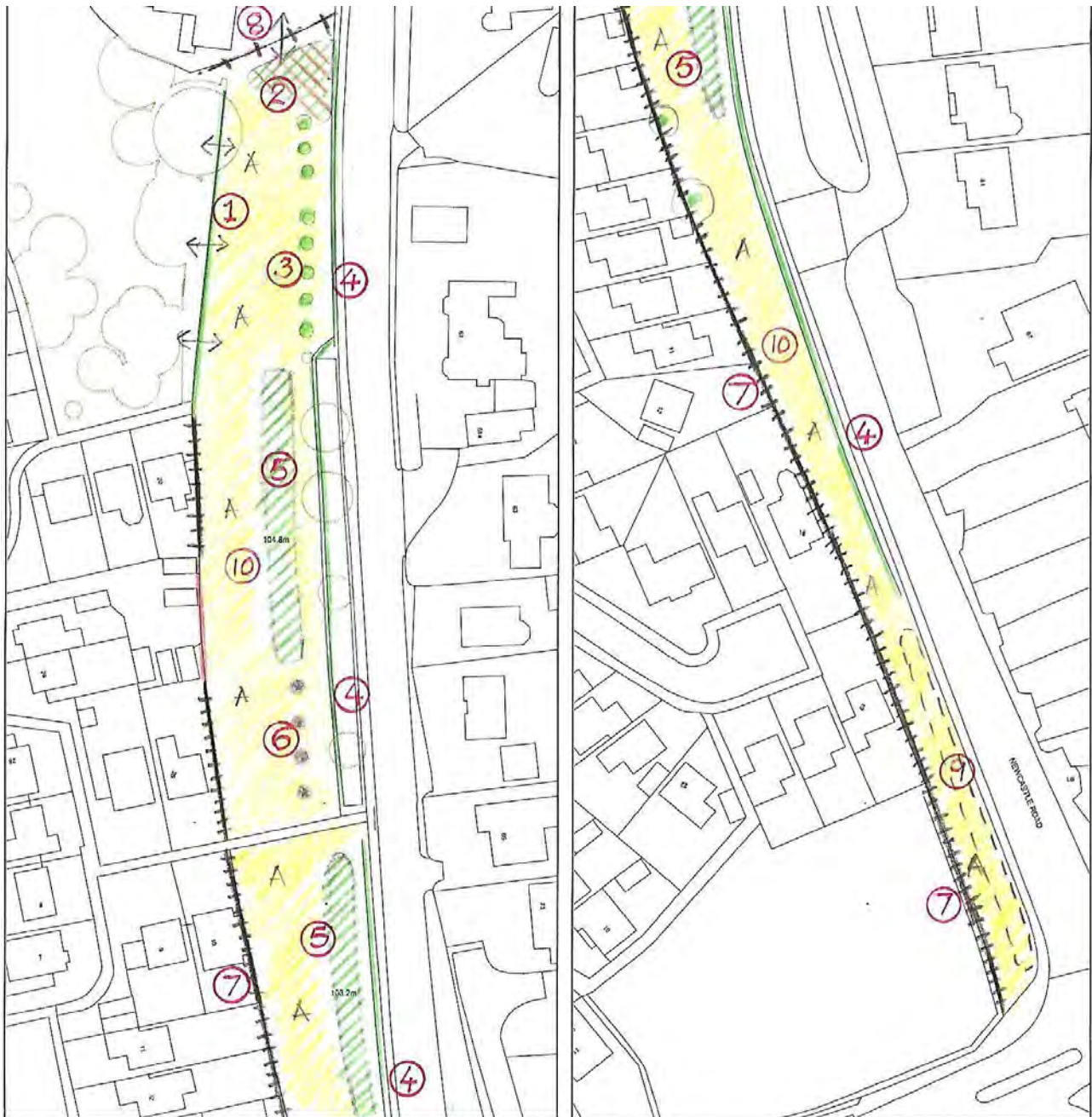
- 1 Remnant section of former field boundary hedge with hedgerow oak and some ground flora
- 2 New native hedge planting next to steel palisade fence (permeable to wildlife)
- 3 Scattered trees, native and non-native including Norway maple, horse chestnut, common alder, hornbeam, rowan, flowering cherry, sycamore, silver birch, Himalayan birch, Swedish whitebeam.
- 4 Groups of willow, possibly overgrown *Salix alba* originally planted as an amenity shrub. Ground flora is more species-rich, including wild violet, cow parsley, common spurge, bittercress, dock, dandelion, daisy, creeping buttercup, goose grass, ivy, hogweed, garlic mustard (Jack-by-the-hedge).
- 5 Largely non-native scrub, mainly snowberry, but including wild cherry, privet, laurel. Good cover for birds and other wildlife.
- 6 New fruit trees planted early 2022.

General observations – primarily a large area of frequently mown amenity grassland with some trees, mainly dating from the time the housing estates were built. More species diversity on the eastern and southern margins which could be expanded, and there is now a connected hedgerow.

## 2 Thirlmere Court green space further information

Stakeholders	Cheshire East Council (owner), Congleton Town Council (manager), Congleton residents, adjoining landowners, Western Power Distribution (underground electricity cables)
Local plan policy (adopted and draft)	Protected open space (RC2, draft REC1), Ecological network restoration areas (draft ENV1)
Landscape character context	Congleton LCA Type 3 Suburban landscapes; Area 3 West Heath - see guidance. Set within residential area - 1960s/70s houses on Thirlmere Close face it, and 1930s houses on Heath Road back onto it, as does housing on Buttermere Court and Heathview Care Home, enlarged in the past 15 years and very prominent.
Topography	The northern and western parts of the site are sloping, with the south eastern parts flatter but with some drainage problems. The land rises from its lowest point at 100 m AOD on the northern boundary, to its southern boundary at just over 106 m AOD. There is also a high point of 106 m immediately to the west of the Heathview Care Home boundary which provides a central viewpoint.
Land use history	<p>Shown on the 1845 tithe map as part of 2 fields in arable use. The northern field was named Monny Pits (still present on the 1971-3 aerial photo), and the southern field was named Windy Bank (a name which later maps applied to the nearby section of Newcastle Road). The 1<sup>st</sup> OS map of around 1875 shows field boundaries with hedgerow trees. There is a remnant of one old hedgerow to the north of Heathview Care Home (the section next to Heathview was removed when the Care Home was enlarged in the C21st to include part of the green space). The green space is still referred to as 'the field' by local residents.</p> <p>The land is likely to have been disturbed during construction of the surrounding housing, and the laying of underground electricity cables, but there is no evidence of former built development. Arable or pastoral farming may have continued until the 1960s.</p>
Green infrastructure	Thirlmere Court green space adjoins gardens and the linear green space next to Newcastle Road. Via Heathview Care Home gardens it is also linked to the green space to the north between Newcastle Road and Solly Crescent.
Soils and hydrology	The soil is generally sandy, or sandy loam, but there may be layers of clay which impede drainage locally. The soil may be compacted in areas of high use. No water on site. Astbury Mere is the closest water body, about 180 m away.
Public access	Connected to Thirlmere Court along the western boundary, and to Buttermere Court, Blythe Avenue, Newcastle Road and Kendal Court via footpaths. There is a 'missing link' to Heath Road and the Newcastle Road/Solly Crescent green space in that a public right of way has been closed off by the Heathview Care Home enlargement and an electricity sub station.
Underground services	Electricity cables – see Western Power Distribution plans.
Invasive species	None noted

### 3 Newcastle Road green space - existing habitats



#### Target notes April 2022

- 1 Mature native and non-native trees including ash. No understorey
- 2 New native hedge planted early 2022
- 3 Large flowering cherry trees
- 4 Tree stumps
- 5 Garden hedges, some permeable to wildlife
- 6 New orchard trees planted early 2022
- 7 Unmown areas with scrub and tall ruderal plants
- 8 Scattered trees, native and non-native



## Congleton green spaces site-specific biodiversity plans

General observations – hedge on eastern boundary provides a north-south link, which new planting will expand, but there is little scope for east-west movement because of Newcastle Road, and boundary with housing to the west which is a barrier to wildlife due to the ubiquitous close-boarded fencing.

### 3 Newcastle Road green space further information

Stakeholders	Cheshire East Council (landowners), Congleton Town Council (managers), adjacent landowners, local residents, Cadent (IP gas main), Western Power Distribution (underground electricity cable)
Local plan policy (adopted and draft)	Protected open space (RC2, draft REC1), Ecological network restoration areas (draft ENV1)
Landscape character context	Congleton LCA: Type 3 Suburban Landscapes Area 3a West Heath (1960s-70s residential). Housing was built backing on to the green space rather than facing it, and access is limited. The green space does provide some separation from Newcastle Road traffic and air pollution but is poorly integrated into the suburban landscape.
Topography	The land slopes from 107 m at its highest point near the Thirlmere Court green space to 98 m at the southern end (this part of West Heath slopes generally towards the Loach Brook). There are good views to the south, towards Astbury Church.
Land use history	<p>The land was farmed until the 1960s/70s when the housing estates were built. The northern section was part of the same field that forms the southern section of the Thirlmere Court green space. Presumably the land was not developed up to Newcastle Road because of the gas main easement. It is possible that some of the existing highway boundary hedge is the former field/highway boundary hedge.</p> <p>The land has not been previously built on, but would have been disturbed during housing construction and laying of underground services, and possibly also during road construction.</p>
Green infrastructure	The area is connected to Thirlmere Court green space but has no direct connection with the adjoining Bowness Court green space. The hedgerow next to Newcastle Road provides an internal green corridor. Astbury Mere country park is close by, separated by road and gardens.
Soils and hydrology	The soil is well-drained sandy loam. No water present – the nearest water body is Astbury Mere, 120 m away at the nearest point.
Public access	From Newcastle Road (north, middle, south), Padgbury Lane, Thirlmere Court via open space, and from Kendal Court and Kirkstone Court via footpaths.
Underground services	An intermediate pressure gas pipeline runs the whole length of the green space. Electricity cables and sewers cross it east-west.
Invasive species	None noted.



## 4 Quinta Park play area - existing habitats



### Target notes April 2022

- 1 Mature hedgerow oaks present on 1873 OS map
- 2 Remnants of hedge (in places overgrown and including some garden hedging) which remained as a field boundary up to the 1970s. Likelihood of ground flora seed bank.
- 3 New tree planting with birch dominant, some oak, Scots Pine and rowan, planted early 2020.
- 4 Double fence, reason unknown, with nettles, brambles, self-seeded trees including oak, wild cherry and sycamore. The corridor behind could provide a refuge for wildlife, although sections are sometimes cleared by householders.
- 5 New orchard, planted early 2020
- 6 Tarmac path and play area with artificial rubber surfacing.
- 7 Kickabout area with some compacted soil (damage to new planting behind goal noted).

General observations - well-drained sandy soil and sheltered, so can be used all year round as a play area and for dog walking - which means that wildlife would be frequently disturbed. At the centre of an 'island' of housing, but fencing to back gardens is only occasionally permeable to small mammals etc. Without linkage to wider areas, potential for some forms of wildlife is probably limited. Plants noted - cow parsley, ash, hawthorn, beech (hedge), ivy, holly, goose grass, privet, wild cherry, Scots Pine, pedunculate oak, rowan, bramble, elder, nettle, lilac, cypress, flowering cherry, garden escapes. This list is not comprehensive.

## 4 Quinta Park play area - further information

Stakeholders	Cheshire East Council (landowners), Congleton Town Council (managers), adjacent landowners, local residents, Quinta Primary School
Local plan policy (adopted and draft)	Protected open space (RC2, draft REC1), Ecological network restoration area (draft ENV1)
Landscape character context	Congleton LCA: Type 3 Suburban Landscapes Area 3a West Heath (1960s-70s residential). Housing surrounds the green space, but backs on to it rather than facing it.
Topography	The site is flat, at 94 m AOD.
Land use history	Farmland up to the 1960s/70s when the surrounding housing estates were built, with the southern boundary being the former field boundary. The 3 remaining hedgerow trees are shown on the tithe map of 1845.  Whilst some disturbance may have occurred during construction of the surrounding houses, it is likely that Quinta Park is a relatively unaffected remnant of the agricultural landscape, prior to intensive farming practices, and therefore there may be some potential for wild flora from the existing soil seedbank.
Green infrastructure	Isolated from other areas of green space. Surrounded by a matrix of gardens, but separated from them by close-boarded fencing.
Soils and hydrology	The soil is sandy loam, well drained. No water present. Before housing construction there were several ponds nearby, but there are now no known water bodies within 50 m.
Public access	Access is by footpath from Brooklands Road or Ullswater Road, but the green space itself is almost hidden from site.
Underground services	None known.
Invasive species	None identified.

## 5 Sycamore Avenue green space - existing habitats



### Target notes April 2022

- 1 Old hedgerow ash on line of former field boundary - line of hedge present on 1845 tithe map is shown with a dashed line. At risk of ash dieback.
- 2 Group of tall hybrid black poplars
- 3 Typical trimmed hawthorn hedge with wire mesh fence on concrete posts, presumably provided when houses were built, and still retained on about 50% of the boundary. Permeable to small mammals but lacking gaps large enough for hedgehogs.
- 4 Large clump of ivy that has been cut down
- 5 Pile of branches - good for wildlife, but probably temporary
- 6 Location of former pond, probably a marlpit, shown on old maps up to the 1970s.
- 7 Overgrown amenity planting - unclear whether it is part of the park or not. Group of 3 weeping willows overlaps with this area.

General observations – high proportion of boundary to green space. Some large trees dominate the centre of the green space and other trees and shrubs include common alder, field maple, horse chestnuts, Norway maple, silver birch, birch species, hornbeam, hawthorn, ash, beech (hedge), ivy, holly, flowering cherry, hybrid black poplar, laurel, rowan, lime species, cypress, weeping willow, bramble. Herbaceous plants were not recorded. There is a lack of understorey and ground flora.

First draft April 2022

## 5 Sycamore Avenue green space - further information

Stakeholders	Cheshire East Council (owner), Congleton Town Council (manager), Congleton residents, adjoining landowners, United Utilities (underground sewers to north of site)
Local plan policy (adopted and draft)	Protected open space (RC2, draft REC1), Ecological network core area (draft ENV1) – site is within the River Dane valley core area.
Landscape character context	Congleton LCA: Type 3 Suburban Landscapes Area 3a West Heath (1970s-1990s residential). Housing surrounds the green space, but backs on to it rather than facing it.
Topography	The area is flat, at around 94 m AOD.
Land use history	<p>This site was farmland until the early 1970s, used for arable production and grazing. The 1845 tithe map shows that a large part of the current public open space was in a field named Cote Meadow, with some land to the east in Cock-Pit field, and the northern entrance area in Jackson's Croft. All the land was owned by Sir Charles Peter Shakerley, and farmed by tenants. The 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map shows fields enlarged and modernised, but one north-south field boundary, with its hedgerow trees, remains. The OS maps show a sizeable pond, located towards the current northern entrance to the park which was still there in 1970.</p> <p>When the surrounding housing estates were built, hedgerows were removed, the pond infilled, and the ground generally disturbed by construction activities, as shown on the 1971-3 aerial photo. The large ash tree is almost certainly one of the original hedgerow trees.</p>
Green infrastructure	This green space is isolated from other green spaces.
Soils and hydrology	The Soilscape may shows the area mostly within Soilscape 14 – freely draining acid sandy and loamy soils with low fertility, and freely draining. However the Geology map shows till – mixed material that includes boulder clay. Soils would need to be checked before making any changes. There is no longer a water body, and there are no others known within 50 m.
Public access	The site is accessible from all surrounding roads – Sycamore Avenue, Chestnut Drive, Laburnum Close, Beech Close and Poplar Close, and has surfaced paths connecting all of them.
Underground services	A sewer crosses the northern arm of the site but no other underground services are known to be present.
Invasive species	None noted



## 6 Padgbury Lane green space - existing habitats



### Target notes April 2022

- 1 New native hedge and hedgerow trees planted early 2020 – hawthorn, holly, blackthorn, dog rose, broad-leaved lime.
- 2 New native tree and shrub copses planted early 2020 - silver birch, hazel, goat willow, oak, holly.
- 3 New orchard of 18 trees planted early 2020
- 4 Large silver birch tree planted 1970s/80s, flowering cherry also present near path.
- 5 Brick walls largely covered with ivy or wall shrubs. Garden hedges - hawthorn, beech, cypress, privet
- 6 Decaying tree stumps scattered across grass (note that several remaining rowans are in poor condition).

General observations - reduced mowing regime started in 2021 but is still to achieve semi-formal layout that avoids damage to existing and new trees and provides network of paths. Species present in grass include lady's smock (previously unseen) – full survey needed.

Some areas are damp and will require 2-3 cuts/year to keep thistles, nettles and docks to acceptable levels. New planting needs to be kept clear of competing vegetation until well established.

## 6 Padgbury Lane green space further information

Stakeholders	Cheshire East Council (landowners), Congleton Town Council (managers), adjacent landowners including Bilton Land, local residents, other Congleton residents, United Utilities (sewer), Openreach (telegraph pole and overhead wires).
Local plan policy (adopted and draft)	Protected open space (RC2, draft REC1), within ecological network restoration area (draft ENV1) which follows Loachbrook valley
Landscape character context	Congleton LCA Type 3 Suburban landscapes, Area 3a West Heath. The nearby housing was built in the 1970s. The south west boundary adjoins Padgbury Lane. Beyond the former Padsbridge Farm group of properties, including Porters Garage, former open countryside is being replaced by new housing.
Topography	The land slopes gently from north east to south west, with views towards Padgbury Lane and Porters garage.
Land use history	<p>Up till the 1960s the land was part of a field, either arable or pastoral farmland, bounded by a roadside hedge. Trees were planted in the late 1970s or early 1980s when the land became public open space but a number have now gone - some recently as stumps are clearly visible.</p> <p>Some disturbance occurred when the houses were being constructed, as builders' waste has been found when tree planting.</p>
Green infrastructure	Isolated from other green space other than the road verge along Padgbury Lane (in private ownership).
Soils and hydrology	The soil is a sandy loam. However earlier field drains may have been disrupted as localised wet areas occur. There are no water bodies on the site – the nearest water is the Loach Brook to the south west.
Public access	Public access is possible from Padgbury Lane, Langdale Court and Rydal Court. The main users appear to be people using the green space as a shortcut to the road crossing to the shop in Porter's garage, and dog walkers.
Invasive species	None noted

## 7 Bowness Court green space - existing habitats



### Target notes April 2022

- 1 Mature sycamore trees
- 2 New mixed native trees and shrubs planted early 2021. Unmowed amenity grassland between whips has produced an attractive mixture of grasses and wildflowers - soil is sandy and well-drained, and grasses appear to be not too competitive.
- 3 New orchard trees planted early 2021
- 4 New individual native trees planted early 2021, vandalised
- 5 Close boarded timber fence with very limited permeability. Hedges within are over 2 m high and in the corner with the memorial seat where trimming has been minimal, the hedge was covered with blossom.

General observations – very quiet site which would respond well to changes in management to encourage wild flora restoration. The hedge behind the seat where hedge trimming had been missed was covered with blossom with none elsewhere. Species noted - sycamore, hawthorn, ribwort plantain, daisy, common sorrel, wood rush, creeping buttercup, dandelions, mosses, cypress, bramble, nettle, groundsel (survey was not comprehensive)

## 7 Bowness Court green space - further information

Stakeholders	Cheshire East Council (owner), Congleton Town Council (manager), local residents, adjoining landowners, Western Power Distribution
Local plan status	Protected open space (RC2, draft REC1), Ecological network restoration area (draft ENV1) – the area is within the Loachbrook corridor.
Landscape character context	Congleton LCA Type 3: Suburban landscapes, Area 3a West Heath (1970s-80s residential). The tranquillity of the green space is affected by traffic noise, although traffic is largely screened by the hedge and fencing.
Topography	The land slopes evenly from north east at around 99 m AOD to south west at around 95 m AOD.
Land use history	<p>The land was farmed until the late 1960s/early 1970s. The current green space is part of a former large field, unchanged since the 1845 tithe map, which shows it as 'Wheat Field' belonging to the Lord of Congleton. With its sandy soil it is likely it continued in arable use.</p> <p>During construction of adjacent housing the 1971-3 aerial photo shows that it was at least superficially disturbed, but as it was fenced off before the current section of Padgbury Lane was constructed it was not affected by highway works.</p>
Green infrastructure	Isolated from CWT priority habitats or designated wildlife sites, but next to (though fenced off from) a large area of open space to the west of Newcastle Road, which connects with Thirlmere Close green space. Rear gardens, separated by fencing, lie to the north and west. Hedging lies within the western, eastern and southern fences.
Soils and hydrology	Well-drained sandy loam soil. No water present but Astbury Mere lies about 200 m to the east, and the Loach Brook approximately 110 m to the west.
Public access	Full public access via surfaced path connecting Bowness Court with Newby Court. Access via narrow stile from Padgbury Lane. However, area feels enclosed and private.
Underground services	An electricity cable crosses the site from north to south.
Invasive species	None noted



## 8 Solly Crescent-Newcastle Road green space - existing habitats



### Target notes April 2022

- 1 Old field boundary hedge line with old sycamore trees. Section to south is on a raised bank
- 2 Area of more species-rich grassland including native (?) bluebell
- 3 Impermeable close-boarded fencing next to Heathview Care Home
- 4 Group of non-native mature trees including Lombardy poplars and Swedish whitebeam
- 5 Trimmed hawthorn hedge on highway boundary, set on top of unmown embankment
- 6 Section of old hedge line where ground flora was treated with herbicide
- 7 Mown amenity grass, with underground gas and electricity constraining new planting
- 8 Garden hedges - mainly privet, with some laurel

General observations – an area with several different parts – linear space next to Newcastle Road left unbuilt because of gas pipeline, area connecting with remnant public rights of way, and area associated with sheltered housing on Solly Crescent. Plants noted along old hedge line - sycamore, beech, hawthorn, elder, oak, bramble, hedge parsley, honesty, nettle, dandelion, bluebells (native/hybrid?), goose-grass, dandelion, red dead-nettle, ivy. Plants noted along highway hedge and embankment below - hawthorn, sycamore, garlic mustard, dandelion, ivy, dead-nettle, goose-grass. Other trees and shrubs - privet, laurel, cypress (garden hedges), Lombardy poplar, Swedish whitebeam, whitebeam, laburnum, silver birch, weeping willow. Plants noted in grass - daisies, dandelions, buttercup, lady's smock.

## 8 Solly Crescent-Newcastle Rd green space further information

Stakeholders	Cheshire East Council (landowners), Congleton Town Council (managers), adjacent landowners including Plus Dane housing, local residents, Cadent (major gas main), Western Power Distribution
Local planning policy (adopted and draft)	Protected open space (RC2, draft REC 1) Ecological network restoration areas (draft ENV1)
Landscape character context	Congleton LCA Type 3: Suburban landscapes, Area 3: West Heath (1930s and 1960s residential).
Topography	The land slopes from around 105 m in the south of the site to 98 m in the north, with the northern half of the site being flatter than the south. Newcastle Road is around 2-3 m higher than the adjoining green space so there is a small embankment below.
Land use history	Former farmland, with remnants of a field boundary hedge running through the site. The hedge along Newcastle Road may be a former field/highway boundary too.
Green infrastructure	The area is almost continuous, via the garden of Heathview, with Thirlmere Court green space, and there is permeability with many gardens via the rights of way to the north. Astbury Mere Country Park forms a significant area of green infrastructure to the south east, around 120 m away at its nearest point.
Soils and hydrology	Soil includes sandy loam with good organic content but may vary. No water present. Astbury Mere is around 260 m away.
Public access	Access from Heath Road, from Newcastle Road, from Westville Drive via PROW Congleton FP 17, and from Solly Crescent.
Underground services	Intermediate pressure gas main with north-south easement through site. Western Power Distribution electricity cables present.
Invasive species	None noted

## 9 Back Lane-Hawthorne Close green spaces - existing habitats



General observations – most of these small areas have little or no recreational function and some have low visual or biodiversity interest. They form small corridors, stepping stones or groups. Trees noted – whitebeam, lime, alder, oak, weeping silver birch, Himalayan birch, ash, silver birch, Norway maple, rowan, Swedish whitebeam. Other species – hawthorn, beech (hedging), hornbeam (hedging), holly, yew, bramble, hazel, laurel and some garden species e.g. cotoneaster, forsythia. Ground flora not surveyed but limited.



## 9 Back Lane-Hawthorne Close green spaces further information

Stakeholders	Cheshire East Council (landowners), Congleton Town Council (managers), adjoining landowners, local residents, United Utilities (water pipes and sewers, Western Power Distribution (electricity cables
Local plan policy (adopted or draft)	Protected open space (RC2, draft REC1), within Ecological network core area (draft ENV1) which follows the buffered River Dane valley
Landscape character context	Congleton LCA - Type 3 Suburban landscapes, Area 3a West Heath (1960s/70s residential)
Topography	Flat area at 95-96 m AOD
Land use history	Former arable and pastoral farmland, which may have been part of The Lakes area. Nothing appears to remain of the former landscape. Disturbed by housing and highway construction in the 1970s - hardcore and builders' waste found in some areas.
Green infrastructure	Isolated from CWT designated wildlife sites or priority habitats. Green space forms a corridor along Back Lane, linking with areas within the housing estate. Other green space areas form stepping stones amongst housing. Potential connectivity with gardens, but fencing and roads often form barriers.
Soils and hydrology	Permeable sandy loam. No known drainage issues. No water bodies present, or known within 50 m.
Public access	Full public access from roads and footways.
Underground services	Potentially affected by underground sewers and water pipes, electricity cables, gas pipes, Openreach cables etc – check before making changes.
Invasive species	None noted, other than unwanted sycamore and maple seedlings



## 10 Hankinson's Field - existing habitats



### Target notes April 2022

- 1 Large hybrid black poplar with species-rich ground flora, including wild garlic, meadow buttercup, wood avens, nettle, cow parsley, comfrey, pendulous sedge, goose grass, dock, ground elder, town hall clock, nettle, lesser celandine, toothwort, dandelion, hogweed
- 2 Area with wildflower seeding and wildflower plugs planted in Spring 2022
- 3 New native hedge with flowering cherry trees, planted early 2022
- 4 Eroding river bank
- 5 New native black poplar planting
- 6 Mixed native and non-native trees including tall Lombardy poplar trees, planting along edge of river. The eastern half has a wider, less steeply sloping bank with woodland understorey. Other species present include ivy, elder, bramble, sycamore, alder, oak, ash, beech, sycamore, yew, holly, horse chestnut and wild cherry.
- 7 Stone retaining wall around 3 m high with climbing plants
- 8 Large beech tree
- 9 Planting bed for amenity plants including bedding and herbaceous
- 10 Extension of woodland on embankment (edge of floodplain) below Willow Street
- 11 Rugby pitch – frequently mown grass
- 12 Embankment with mixture of shrubs, small trees and grassland.

General observations – this is not a very natural area despite its riverside location. There is limited space for nature due to alignment of rugby pitch, potential used of field for events, extension of Leisure Centre development, people's desire to see and reach river, walking routes between access points.

## 10 Hankinson's Field - further information

Stakeholders	Cheshire East Council (landowners), Congleton Town Council (managers), adjacent landowners, Congleton residents, Congleton Leisure Centre managers and users, Environment Agency, Congleton Rugby Club, Congleton Park visitors, local organisations who use it as a venue
Local plan policy (adopted and draft)	Protected open space (RC2, draft REC1), Ecological network core areas, and restoration areas (draft ENV1), Flood zone 2, flood risk and water management (SE 13/ENV 16)
Landscape character context	Congleton LCA - Type 2 Urban valley landscapes; Area 2a Dane Valley - town centre.
Topography	Mostly flat, at around 81 m AOD, with an embankment below Willow Street which rises to 88 m AOD. This is part of the River Dane floodplain, levelled to create a playing field, and the embankment marks the edge of the floodplain. However, the natural course of the river was altered a long time ago, with the River Dane now flowing in a straightened and widened channel.
Land use history	The 1845 tithe map shows farmland. The fields would have been low-lying water meadows, probably in use as pasture. The outline of a small building near the river can be seen on aerial photos. Apart from levelling the ground, the laying of underground drainage and services which cross the site would have caused disturbance. The footprint of the Leisure Centre is currently expanding into the green space.
Green infrastructure	Within the major green infrastructure corridor of the River Dane valley
Soils and hydrology	Sandy silt soils. Much of the site is within the floodplain but is normally well drained (presumably including land drains under the rugby pitch. Natural drainage has been much altered.
Public access	Accessed from Park Road, Worrall Street, Buxton Road, and from Riverdane Road via Congleton Park
Underground services	Sewers and an intermediate pressure gas pipeline are present – the gas main runs parallel to the river.
Invasive species	Himalayan balsam present along the riverside

## 11 Banky Fields green space - existing habitats



### Target notes April 2022

- 1 Old hedgerow with some mature hedgerow trees marking former field boundary shown on 1845 tithe map - mainly hawthorn with holly, elder, privet near housing. Retains some hedgerow ground flora - cow parsley, lesser celandine, goose grass, wood avens, herb robert, ivy, native bluebell (?), hogweed, bramble, elder, speedwell sp, nettle, also some garden escapes. Tree species within green space - pedunculate oak, rowan, flowering cherry, sycamore, ash, birch (silver birch and Himalayan birch?)
- 2 New orchard planted early 2022.
- 3 Areas where turf has been removed for wildflower seeding (and potential germination from existing seedbank).
- 4 Location of former pond, now infilled, with garage.
- 5 Open boundary with Astbury Mere Country Park and PROW footpath network.
- 6 Open boundary with large area of semi-natural vegetation to north east, former farmland between country park, Marlfields Primary School grounds, and housing on Waggs Road.

General observations - attractive green space enclosed by woodland and housing which is a remnant of the former rural hilltop landscape, otherwise lost to mid C20th housing and later C20th sand quarrying. Most is now currently closely mown. Access tracks to properties are unsealed. Gardens back on to park, but close-boarded fences shown on plan present barriers to small mammals, amphibians or other wildlife. west.

## 11 Banky Fields green space - further information

Stakeholders	Cheshire East Council (landowners, public rights of way), Congleton Town Council (managers), adjacent landowners including Astbury Mere Trust and residents.
Local plan policy (adopted or draft)	Protected open space (RC2, draft REC1), Ecological network restoration area (draft ENV1)
Landscape character context	Congleton LCA - within Type 3 Suburban landscapes, Area 3d Waggs Road & Howey Hill (pre-and post-WW2 residential). The hilltop location contrasts with the adjacent deeply sunken landscape of Astbury Mere country park - a sand quarry restored for recreation.
Topography	Flat hilltop area at between 121 and 122 m AOD. To the west the land within the formerly quarried land at Astbury Mere Country Park drops steeply to around 98 m. To the north it drops steeply but more naturally towards the town centre.
Land use history	This area of open space was formerly agricultural land in arable or pastoral use. Its western and northern boundaries are marked by the remains of the original hedgerows and hedgerow trees, exactly as shown on the tithe map of 1845 and the 1 <sup>st</sup> edition OS map of 1873, and these boundaries are followed by rights of way. The present CEC land ownership boundary follows the line of the old hedgerow to the north marked by mature trees. A small marlpit pond lay next to the western hedgerow but is no longer present (now the site of a garage).
Development effects	The land may have been disturbed by construction of the Banky Fields housing in the 1930s-50s and vehicles current use tracks to reach homes and garages.
Green infrastructure	Banky Fields lies on the edge of a very large area of green infrastructure, with connections to Astbury Mere Country Park, the wider countryside to the south and south west of Congleton, and to the town centre.
Soils and hydrology	The soil is sandy and free-draining. There is no water on site but nearby access to the large water body of Astbury Mere
Public access	Good public access from Astbury Street and Fol Hollow via Congleton PROW BR84, from Waggs Road and the town centre via PROW BR85 and from the network of paths in the country park.
Underground services	None known
Invasive species	None noted



## 12 Thames Close-Townsend Rd green space - existing habitats



### Target notes April 2022

- 1 Dry bed of former brook (which once powered Shop Lane Mill and Wallbank Mill).
- 2 Former hedgerow/field boundary next to former brook, now overgrown and enlarged including stand of aspen trees
- 3 Stand of crack willows on boundary, within an area shown as woodland on the 1873 map
- 4 Crack willow and ash tree amongst scrub and tall herb vegetation
- 5 Areas planted in late 1970s/80s with mixture of trees and shrubs including some conifers (European larch, Scots pine). Now largely inaccessible due to understorey growth.
- 6 Old hedgerow oak tree, inaccessible but probably pedunculate oak. Former hedgeline is shown with a dashed line
- 7 Areas planted in late 1970s/80s with dense edge planting and understorey including spindle, guelder rose and hazel.
- 8 Areas of more species-rich grassland under tree canopies containing pignut, wild violet, creeping buttercup, wood avens, herb Robert, germander speedwell, forget-me-not, meadow buttercup, rattail plantain.
- 9 Sessile oak tree, probably planted in the late 1970s/80s but well grown
- 10 Path towards Bollin Drive and Shop Lane, with stumps of recently felled crack willows, within former area of woodland shown on 1873 map
- 11 Plantation within Daven School grounds on site of former mill, demolished around the early 1970s
- 12 Embankment with scrub and tall herb vegetation and some young trees
- 13 End of dry brook formerly marked by a stand of crack willows
- 14 Laurel hedge (hedgeline doesn't appear to coincide with CEC ownership boundary).

## 12 Thames Close-Townsend Rd green space further information

Stakeholders	Cheshire East Council (landowners), Congleton Town Council (managers), adjacent landowners, local residents, Daven Primary School, United Utilities (sewers).
Local plan status	Protected open space (RC2, draft REC1), Ecological network core area, Ecological network corridors and stepping stones, Ecological network restoration areas (draft ENV1)
Landscape character context	Congleton LCA Type 3 Suburban landscapes, Area 3e Park Lane-Canal Street. Mature trees are often present. The site lies between the grounds of Daven School to the south, late C19th and infill housing with large gardens on Park Lane, and 1980s housing on Thames Close
Topography	The landscape character area above is characterised by minor valleys and ridges oriented towards the town centre, with main roads, with older housing, following this alignment. The green space itself is typical, with its valley, and slope up towards Park Lane. The highest point is 121 m AOD and the lowest is 100 m AOD, a considerable difference.
Land use history	<p>The green space was farmland until built on in the 1980s – the 1971-3 aerial photo shows it as pasture with a hedgeline and small copse in the valley bottom, and the mill beyond recently demolished.</p> <p>The landform has been changed a little by the creation of a path, platforms for play equipment, and the oversteepening of the slope at the end of Thames Close, while sewer construction must have been disturbing, but some of the area may have remained intact.</p>
Green infrastructure	Together with Daven School grounds this is part of a core area of woodland and trees, mostly dating from the late C20th, close to the town centre. There is some permeability between the green space and the large gardens on Park Lane. Otherwise it is isolated from other areas of green infrastructure.
Soils and hydrology	The soils appear to be well-drained, sandy loam or loamy and clayey higher up (they may vary so need to be checked before making changes). The original watercourse must have been piped at the time the housing estates were built. There could be scope for pond creation (there was a pond to the north of the green space, now built on).
Public access	Access is from Townsend Road and Thames Close, and there is also an access into Daven School.
Underground services	There are major sewers within the park.
Invasive species	Non noted other than sycamore seedlings

## 13 Quayside-Goldfinch Close green space - existing habitats



### Target notes April 2022

- 1 Former field boundaries with one or two possible former hedgerow trees (sycamore). Possible dry ditch on one section
- 2 Amenity tree and shrub planting, overgrown, mixed with overgrown hedge plants.
- 3 New fruit trees
- 4 Electricity sub station – nearby lime trees and trees at Quayside/St Peter's Road junction are planted over electricity cables so may have limited lifespan.

General observations – these two back-to-back sites appear to be land left unbuilt because of underground services, rather than having a positive function. The old hedgeline needs further assessment.

## 13 Quayside-Goldfinch Close - further information

Stakeholders	Cheshire East Council (landowners), Congleton Town Council (managers), adjacent landowners, local residents, United Utilities (sewers), Western Power Distribution (substation and underground cables).
Local plan policy (adopted and draft)	Protected open space (RC2, draft REC1), Ecological network restoration area (draft ENV1)
Landscape character context	Congleton Landscape Character Assessment Type 3: Suburban Landscapes, Area 3e Park Lane-Canal Street. The local context is a 1990s housing estate in a wider area that is characterised by several minor north west to south east ridges and late C20th housing expansion into farmland.
Topography	There is a minor ridge to the west of the green space, and the land within the boundary slopes gently from 115 m in the west/south west to 111 m in the north east. The former field boundary which separates the two sides of the green space follows a dip, and it appears that a ditch may also have been present.
Land use history	The green space includes parts of two fields which were farmed until the 1990s. The 1973 aerial photo shows fields in pastoral use, with hedgerows and hedgerow trees (one or two of which may remain).
Development	The site contains a network of underground sewers, water distribution pipes, a substation and underground cables therefore the ground must have been much disturbed, including before inclusion in a housing estate, as it is crossed by a major distribution pipe from the tower on Lamberts Lane. It would also have been disturbed during housing construction.
Green infrastructure	The site is isolated from other green spaces but forms a stepping stone for wildlife as one of a number of small green spaces throughout the housing estate. There is limited permeability between the green space and adjoining gardens.
Soils and hydrology	Soils – not assessed. Hydrology – possible dry ditch. No known drainage issues.
Public access	From Quayside, St Peter's Road and Goldfinch Close. A through route is possible between Quayside/St Peter's Road and Goldfinch Close but it is hidden from view.
Underground services	Underground services should be checked before making any changes as they are a significant constraint.
Invasive species	None noted



## 14 West Road (Danesford) green spaces - existing habitats



### Target notes April 2022

- 1 Large mature beech and oak trees with Tree Preservation Orders
- 2 Bare worn ground under oak and beech trees near play area - an additional habitat, but compaction is likely to be damaging to trees
- 3 Native shrub mix, growing naturally, of value to wildlife but may need some management
- 4 Native shrub mix, pruned as amenity shrubs, of less value for wildlife.
- 5 Dense mixed native and ornamental trees and shrubs, including evergreens, some probably dating from Victorian/Edwardian country house era, providing good cover for wildlife, and good screening for open space. Includes suckered English elm, perhaps from an earlier hedge.
- 6 Area dominated by wild raspberry
- 7 Sycamore trees and ash tree at risk of ash dieback.

General observations - very mixed area but with much bird life and cover for other forms of wildlife despite proximity to busy polluting road and disturbance from informal recreational use. Relatively high level of maintenance compared with other green spaces.

## 14 West Road (Danesford) green spaces - further information

Stakeholders	Cheshire East Council (landowners), Congleton Town Council (managers), adjacent landowners, local residents. Cadent (gas), Western Power Distribution (electricity), United Utilities (sewer)
Local plan policy (adopted and draft)	Protected open space (RC2, draft REC1), Ecological network core and restoration area (draft ENV1)
Landscape character context	Congleton LCA Type 1 Mixed urban landscapes, Area 1b West Road. Whilst the former West House and Mortlake House buildings and remnants of their grounds are still present, the context to the north is late C20th/early C21st housing estate. To the south, the busy West Road separates the site from an area of densely-built C19th and mixed development
Topography	The area between West Road and Obelisk Way is relatively flat, at around 94-95 m AOD, but as part of the country house landscape, mounds and rockeries were constructed along the southern boundary and at right angles to the road along the boundary with Mortlake House which account for some of the changes in level. To the north there is a gently slope towards the River Dane valley.
Land use history	The current green spaces occupy part of the former country house gardens/pleasure grounds of West House and Mortlake House. West House has been researched by the Cheshire Gardens Trust, and it should be possible to identify some of the previous landscape, but there have clearly been many changes over the years, particularly the last 20 years since the redevelopment of the former Danesford School, . The dense, often evergreen vegetation along the West Road boundary dates from the country house days, as do the large mature trees, now TPO'd. There are a few reminders of the mounding and rockery that once provided screening. The two green spaces off Valley View were once part of a linear boundary woodland, although only a couple of trees now survive.
Green infrastructure	Now relatively isolated from the major Dane Valley green infrastructure corridor by new housing.
Soils and hydrology	Soils – freely draining slightly acid sandy soils. No water present or within vicinity.
Public access	Public access from West Road and Obelisk Way
Underground services	Gas, electricity and sewers present but not likely to be a significant constraint.
Invasive species	None noted

## 15 Stirling Close green space - existing habitats



**Plant species noted** (not comprehensive, some areas inaccessible anyway)

River embankment - beech, alder, oak, crack willow, hawthorn, ash

Trees on woodland edge to west - oak, ash, sycamore

Introduced trees within greenspace - silver birch, lime, bird cherry, field maple

Woodland ground flora - lesser celandine, native bluebell, wild garlic, greater stitchwort, wood anemone, hogweed, wood avens

Hedges - hawthorn, blackthorn, hazel, elder

Scrub and tall herbs, including introduced species - blackthorn, bramble, goat willow, field maple, spindle, dog rose.

### **Other species**

The notice board mentions Pipistrelle Bats.

### **Target notes April 2022**

- 1 Old hedgerow oak trees
- 2 Steep-sided bank with semi-natural ancient woodland (on boundary and outside site, with canopy overhanging green space). Includes ash trees susceptible to ash dieback.
- 3 Steep embankment next to river with areas of semi-natural ancient woodland flora, also riparian and marginal habitats, areas of gravel and sand at times of lower flow.
- 4 Large old beech tree at viewpoint overlooking river. Tree may have been planted as part of former country house landscape
- 5 Former meadow overgrown with mainly blackthorn scrub and tall herbs, making footpath almost inaccessible. Evidence of earlier planting, including species which are not typical of the area, some still with spiral guards which are breaking up. Reason for planting not know, as information board says the area was to be managed as meadow.
- 6 Overgrown hedge, hazel dominant to south. On historic field boundary. Includes a non-local tree species - bird cherry, so some new planting has been added.
- 7 Former pasture prior to construction of housing estate in early 2000s. The 2003 aerial photo shows significant disturbance so old grassland (which possibly, as part of Danesford estate, was not much improved) will have been later re-sown when green space created. The notice board mentions *Agrostis capillaris* (common bent or *A. tenuis*), *Festuca rubra* (red fescue) and *Leucanthemum vulgare* (dog daisy). These show that the meadow was re-sown with a common grass mix, but further assessment is needed to see if other species are present.

## 15 Stirling Close green space further information

Stakeholders	Cheshire East Council (owners), Congleton Town Council (managers), local residents, adjacent landowners and managers, including Danesford management company), Environment Agency (river and areas subject to flooding), United Utilities (sewer), fishermen/women - body with fishing rights on this stretch not known).
Local plan policy (adopted and draft)	Protected open space (RC2, draft REC 1), Ecological network core/restoration area/corridors and stepping stones (ENV 1), part in Flood Zone 2 and 3 (SE 13/ ENV 16)
Landscape character context	Congleton LCA Type 2 Urban Valley, Area 2b Dane Valley - Congleton Business Park (which includes semi-rural areas to the south of the River Dane). The site appears rural as it is enclosed by trees and has farmland on both sides, but it is close to Congleton sewage works, the business park, and areas of new housing.
Topography	The area is on a minor north-south ridge between areas of floodplain. The linear areas of meadow and scrub are flat, at around 82 m AOD, but the land drops steeply on the east to 77 m, and on the west to 75 m, with the River Dane at 73 m AOD.
Land use history	Cheshire Gardens Trust has a report on the former Danesford site, which included ownership of this area. The narrow field was in pastoral use until the late 1990s but provided a viewpoint over the river and access to it which may have been valued by the owners.
Development	Affected by housing and sewer development.
Green infrastructure context	Within the River Dane Valley, a major GI corridor, but the housing estate to the south is densely built, most gardens with relatively impermeable fencing.
Soils and hydrology	Soilscape 10: freely draining slightly acid sandy soils with low fertility and potential for lowland heath. In this situation, the land will be very well drained and could be affected by drought. Erosion of the northern tip by the river could occur during storm and flood conditions.
Public access	From Stirling Close only.
Underground services	Surface water sewer. Full services search not undertaken.
Invasive species	Blackthorn scrub only, no listed invasive alien species noted.



## 16 Hillfields Close green space - existing habitats



### Target notes April 2022

- 1 Town Wood, ancient semi-natural woodland which is a Local Wildlife Site
- 2 Understorey/scrub/bramble on sloping land under canopy of woodland trees, extending into green space
- 3 Ruderal vegetation on edges of scrub
- 4 New orchard trees planted early 2021
- 5 Oak tree and small area of woodland ground flora separated from area of damp woodland flora by a strip of mown grass
- 6 New trees and shrubs planted early 2021
- 7 New standard oak and beech trees planted early 2021. Amenity grass between which has been left unmown, is developing into tall ruderal vegetation
- 8 Old field boundary with trimmed (where accessible) hawthorn hedge
- 9 Garden hedges, partly permeable to wildlife

### Plants noted:

Hedges (boundaries with Town Wood and Hillfields Steps footpath) - hawthorn, occasional sycamore

Hedges (planted boundaries with gardens) - mainly hawthorn, privet, occasional holly, cypress, field maple

Scrub - goat willow, sycamore, bramble, wild raspberry, ivy, wych elm, elder, honeysuckle

Ruderal vegetation - nettle, dock, hogweed, rose-bay willow herb, creeping buttercup, goose grass, hedge parsley, wood avens, herb robert, dandelion, bluebell (native and hybrid), lady's smock, ribwort plantain

Damp areas under tree canopy - butterbur, lesser celandine, wild garlic

Existing self-sown trees - sycamore, goat willow, oak

New planting - oak, goat willow, holly, elder, hazel, silver birch, hawthorn, beech, honeysuckle, crab apple, wild cherry, blackthorn, dog rose.

## 16 Hillfields Close green space - further information

Stakeholders	Cheshire East Council (landowners), Congleton Town Council (managers), adjacent landowners, residents, Historic England and Cheshire Gardens Trust (adjacent Park is on Register of Historic Parks and Gardens), Cheshire Wildlife Trust (adjacent LWS).
Local plan policy (adopted and draft)	Protected open space (RC2, draft REC1), Ecological network restoration/core area (draft ENV1)
Landscape character context	Congleton LCA Type 3 Suburban landscapes (pre and post WW2 residential), Area 3g Lower Heath
Topography	Land above the edge of the Dane Valley escarpment, a promontory sloping first gently then more steeply towards the south and south east. The highest point is around 113 m AOD and the lowest point 104 m AOD
Land use history	Farmland up to the mid C20th. Farming is likely to have ceased before intensive methods and therefore there may be potential for wildflowers in the seedbank. There has been no previous built development. The hedge on part of the southern boundary was the field boundary.
Green infrastructure	Part of a major green infrastructure corridor - the Dane Valley.
Soils and hydrology	Sand/clay loam with a high organic content. Some wet flushes, but no water features.
Public access	Main access from Hillfields Close, footpath access from Eardley Crescent, Congleton Park, and Hertford Close.
Underground services	None known
Invasive species	None noted

## 17 Lower Heath Play Area - existing habitats



### Target notes April 2022

- 1 Small semi-natural area with oaks, scrub and tall herbs
- 2 New native hedge and hedgerow trees planted early 2021
- 3 New orchard trees planted early 2021
- 4 Areas where new native trees and shrubs were planted early 2021 but have subsequently been vandalised and have disappeared
- 5 Scattered trees, some already present, others planted early 2021
- 6 Play area, including some bare ground, rocks and rubber surfacing
- 7 Beech hedge, planted early 2021
- 8 Kickabout area, including some compacted soil and bare ground
- 9 Infertile area with disturbed soils, hardcore and rubble

## 17 Lower Heath Play Area - further information

Stakeholders	Cheshire East Council (owner), Congleton Town Council (manager), Congleton residents, adjoining landowners, United Utilities (underground sewer)
Local plan policy (adopted and draft)	Protected open space (RC2, draft REC1), Ecological network restoration area (draft ENV1)
Landscape character context	Congleton LCA Type 3 Suburban landscapes; Area 3g Lower Heath - see guidance. Set within mixed age residential area, with gardens backing on to green space.
Topography	Site slopes gently from north west to south east. Situated on higher land falling to the south, south and south west to the Dane valley.
Land use history	<p>Previously agricultural land crossed by field boundaries, typically hedgerows with trees but the 1873 OS map only shows few trees. Tithe map of 1845 shows it was part of 3 fields, 2 pasture, 1 arable, belonging to the Trustees of Congleton's Poor.</p> <p>The land has been disturbed by previous laying of an underground sewer, the development of surfaced paths, play equipment, surfacing, seating, with minor levelling to create a small football pitch and land drains to pitch and to deal with surface water runoff to residential properties.</p>
Green infrastructure	Isolated from major GI networks but within a matrix of back gardens, some with hedges, therefore permeable to movement of hedgehogs, foxes and other forms of wildlife.
Soils and hydrology	Sandy loam, neutral to slightly acid, underlain by clay with slow drainage and excess surface water runoff after high rainfall. Some areas affected by builders' rubble or hardcore.
Public access	Two access points for pedestrians and cyclists. Vehicular access for maintenance only.
Underground services	Sewers
Invasive species	None noted



## 18 Hertford Close - River Dane green space - existing habitats



### Target notes April 2022

- 1 Native black poplar tree (the only known occurrence of a mature specimen in Congleton)
- 2 Steep bank down to river with ancient semi-natural woodland flora, including native bluebells, wild garlic, wood anemones, cuckoo pint, common sorrel, wood avens, lesser celandine, creeping buttercup, harts tongue fern, hogweed, goose grass, red campion, herb Robert, dock, other ferns, hazel, hawthorn, oak, holly, elder, wild cherry, ash, wych elm, sycamore, yew
- 3 Japanese knotwood
- 4 Areas of bare soil at passing places on path and next to industrial steel palisade fence (also route of underground sewers)
- 5 Former hedge line before woodland regeneration (not surveyed as wood is difficult to access)
- 6 Former field boundary, unmarked but followed by stepped path at edge of Town Wood ancient semi-natural woodland
- 7 Informal track between Hertford Close and Town Wood/Congleton Park
- 8 Minor valley with watercourse and boggy area with crack willow and alder
- 9 Steep slope, area shown on old maps as mostly continuously wooded
- 10 Former field boundary. To south the steep slope was pasture with a few scattered trees, which may still be present as older specimens with the current regenerated woodland.
- 11 Old boundary forming edge of current ownership parcel, although wood continues to the edge of the industrial development (further survey needed – wood is on steep land and difficult to access)
- 12 Old boundary following minor valley with watercourse (beyond current ownership but needs clearing of waste materials)
- 13 Mown grass, the remaining unbuilt part of a former field above the steep embankment

General observations – regenerated sycamore is a dominant species. Spanish/hybrid bluebells also present

First draft April 2022

## 18 Hertford Close-River Dane green space - further information

Stakeholders	Cheshire East Council (landowners), Congleton Town Council (managers), adjacent landowners, local residents, United Utilities (sewers), Environment Agency (main river), Historic England (adjoining park is on UK Register of Parks and Gardens), Cheshire Wildlife Trust (adjacent to Local Wildlife Site, within wildlife corridor)
Local plan status	Protected open space (RC2, draft REC1), Ecological network core area (draft ENV1)
Landscape character context	Congleton Landscape Character Assessment, Type 2 Urban valley, spanning Area 2a Dane Valley – Town Centre and area 2b Dane Valley – Buglawton/Lower Heath. The river moves away from the wooded escarpment and the Eaton Bank industrial estate intervenes, enclosed on both sides by woodland or trees.
Topography	The land slopes, often steeply, from 113 m AOD at Hertford Close to the River Dane at around 80 m AOD. The river bank is particularly steep as it is on the outside of a meander, and the site is mostly above the floodplain. The small grassed area next to Hertford Close is flat.
Land use history	<p>Although it is likely that at one time all the steep slopes were wooded, the tithe map of 1845 shows most of the land divided into small fields with patches of woodland. Only the river bank and a small copse have had continuous woodland cover since then. The 1873 map shows a similar distribution of woodland, but some fields have been amalgamated. Hedgerow trees are shown on the boundaries. The 1971-3 aerial photo shows that some regeneration is occurring but the field boundary to the east is clearly visible, as are individual trees, so the current woodland has mainly developed over the past 50 years.</p> <p>Some direct disturbance to the upper slopes may have occurred when housing estates were built at Norfolk Road and Hertford Close, also when the sewers were laid through the wood. The construction of the industrial estate in the 1970s and 80s must have involved large scale excavation, cutting into the slope, which would have altered ground water levels.</p>
Green infrastructure	The woodland is within the major Dane Valley green infrastructure corridor, linked to woodlands to north and south. However, there is little integration with housing estates or industrial areas to east and west.
Soils and hydrology	The underlying geology varies. A small stream is cut into the slope below the grassed area at Hertford Close, but its natural course is truncated by excavation into the hillside to form a level platform for industrial development.
Public access	There is no provision for access, but there is informal access from Hertford Close, from Town Wood and from the footpath between Congleton Park and Riverdane Road.
Underground services	There are sewers from Hertford Close which follow the small valley to the footpath below, then follow the footpath to Riverdane Road.
Invasive species	Japanese Knotwood on the bank to the east of the footpath between the Park and Riverdane Road. Himalayan balsam is also present along the river bank. Hybrid/Spanish bluebells occasionally present. Sycamore seedlings.

## 19 Lady Warburton's walk - existing habitats

### Target notes April 2022

- 1 Sunken lane. To the north the lane lies within woodland, and to the south its western boundary is with the industrial area, with palisade and close-boarded fencing.
- 2 Area of scrub and tall herbs where site narrows and trees have been removed or lopped (area affected by overhead and underground services)
- 3 Unsealed track which on the southern section follows the route of the former carriage road to Daisy Bank, shown as an avenue with trees each side on the 1873 OS map. Two current beech trees coincide with the locations of these avenue trees - see note 9.
- 4 Woodland shown as 'plantation' on the 1845 tithe map, separate from other woodland and associated on the 1873 and subsequent maps with the Daisy Bank parkland. Ground flora includes some ancient woodland indicator species - native bluebells (but hybrids also present), wild garlic, lesser celandine, cuckoo pint, wood avens, red campion, goose grass. Remaining trees and understorey - ash, wych elm, sycamore, oak, hawthorn, holly, dog rose, ivy
- 5 Adjacent area of woodland in private ownership that was unwooded on old maps between 1845 and 1909 (pasture on tithe map)
- 6 Part of former Daisy Bank parkland. Further survey information needed to assess value.
- 7 Areas of scrub (particularly bramble) and tall herbs under or near beech trees on edge of grassland
- 8 New orchard planted 2020/21
- 9 Area around electricity substation and garages with non-native plants such as laurel and *Kerria japonica*.
- 10 Very steep slope with ancient semi-natural woodland, present on 1845 tithe map and subsequent maps. In separate private ownership.





## 19 Lady Warburton's Walk - further information

Stakeholders	Cheshire East Council (landowners, unverified), Congleton Town Council (managers), adjacent landowners, local residents, Cheshire Wildlife Trust (Local Wildlife Site)
Local plan policy (adopted and draft)	Protected open space (RC2, draft REC1), Ecological network core and restoration areas, Ecological corridors and stepping stones (draft ENV 1). Next to Local Wildlife Site (SE 3)
Landscape character context	Congleton LCA - the green space is on the edge of Type 2 Urban valley Area 2b Congleton Business Park, and Type 3 Suburban landscapes Area 3g Lower Heath, and has elements of both. The footpath and amenity grassland area are on the edge of the 1970s/80s housing estate but the land steepens to the west, and is wooded, so associated with the many areas of woodland on Dane valley escarpments, including Town Wood.
Topography	The land slopes from 103 m AOD at the northern entrance from Somerset Close, down to 87 m at the point where the site starts to become narrower.
Land use history	<p>Entrance to Daisy Bank house via carriage road with avenue trees through parkland, with plantation and sunken lane to the west.</p> <p>The western edge of the sunken lane forms the land ownership boundary. It is the original Lady Warburton's Walk as shown on the 1873 and 1909 OS maps (and predating Lady Warburton as it is present on the tithe map) leading from Rood Hill to the former Daisy Bank house which was demolished in the 1970s but is still present on the 1971-73 aerial photo.</p> <p>The extent of disturbance during construction of the Daisybank housing estate in the late 1970s/1980s is not known.</p>
Green infrastructure	The site lies within a major green infrastructure corridor, the River Dane valley. It is also linked with the large Westlow Mere sunken landscape, a restored sand quarry surrounded by woodland planted at the time of restoration (mid 1980s?). To the north there is some remaining farmland. Although cut off from the wider countryside by Congleton Link Road, new planting along the road corridor, and new areas of urban green space associated with new development provide a further green network.
Soils and hydrology	There was a small pool at the lowest point on the 1897 OS map, which was within plantation woodland, and there was probably a small watercourse draining the minor valley to the east which once held a string of small ornamental pools, so the pool may also have been a designed landscape feature.
Underground services	A surface water sewer now follows the course of the above brook so it was probably culverted when the housing estate was built. Foul and surface water sewers from Somerset Close follow the line of the former carriage road, as do electricity cables leading to/from the substation.
Public access	From the PROW from the Hulme Walfield area to the north, from Somerset Close, from Berkshire Close and from Rood Hill
Invasive species	Unwanted sycamore seedlings, hybrid or Spanish bluebells



## 20 Mardale Close green space - existing habitats



### Target notes

- 1 Scattered trees dating from the late 1970s/early 1980s, native and non-native
- 2 Ash tree at risk of ash dieback
- 3 New beech hedge planted 2021/2
- 4 New orchard trees planted early 2022
- 5 Oak stump, regrowing
- 6 New native trees and shrubs planted early 2022
- 7 Close-boarded timber boundary fences with gravel boards surrounding green space

## 20 Mardale Close green space further information

Stakeholders	Cheshire East Council (landowners), Congleton Town Council (managers), adjacent landowners, local residents
Local plan policy (adopted and draft)	Protected open space (RC2, draft REC1), Ecological network core and restoration areas (draft ENV 1)
Landscape character context	Congleton LCA Type 3 Suburban landscapes Area 3h Buglawton. 1960s housing along Buxton Road lies to the south, and 1970s/80s housing to the west, north and east.
Topography	The land has a good south-facing aspect - it slopes from 121 m AOD in the north east to 117 m AOD in the south west.
Land use history	<p>Formerly farmland, including parts of 3 small fields which at the time of the 1845 tithe map were in arable or pastoral use. There is no trace of the former north-south oriented field boundaries. This green space was developed at the same time as the surrounding housing estate (in the late 1970s or early 1980s), and the trees are all of a similar age. Some trees have been relatively recently lost as tree stumps are still visible.</p> <p>This green space appears to be relatively undisturbed by development apart from a strip next to the road, where levels have been raised, and the construction of a catch drain along part of the southern boundary.</p>
Green infrastructure	There is poor connectivity. The green space is isolated from any other green infrastructure other than gardens, which are usually separated from it by close-boarded fencing with concrete gravel boards. There are no CWT designated wildlife sites or areas of Priority Habitat nearby.
Soils and hydrology	The soil is a permeable sandy loam. There have been past problems with surface run-off into gardens to the south (hence the drain), probably due to the steepness of the slope.
Public access	There is public access from Mardale Close, but no footpaths within the green space.
Underground services	None known
Invasive species	None noted

## 21 Havannah Lane green space - existing habitats



### Target notes

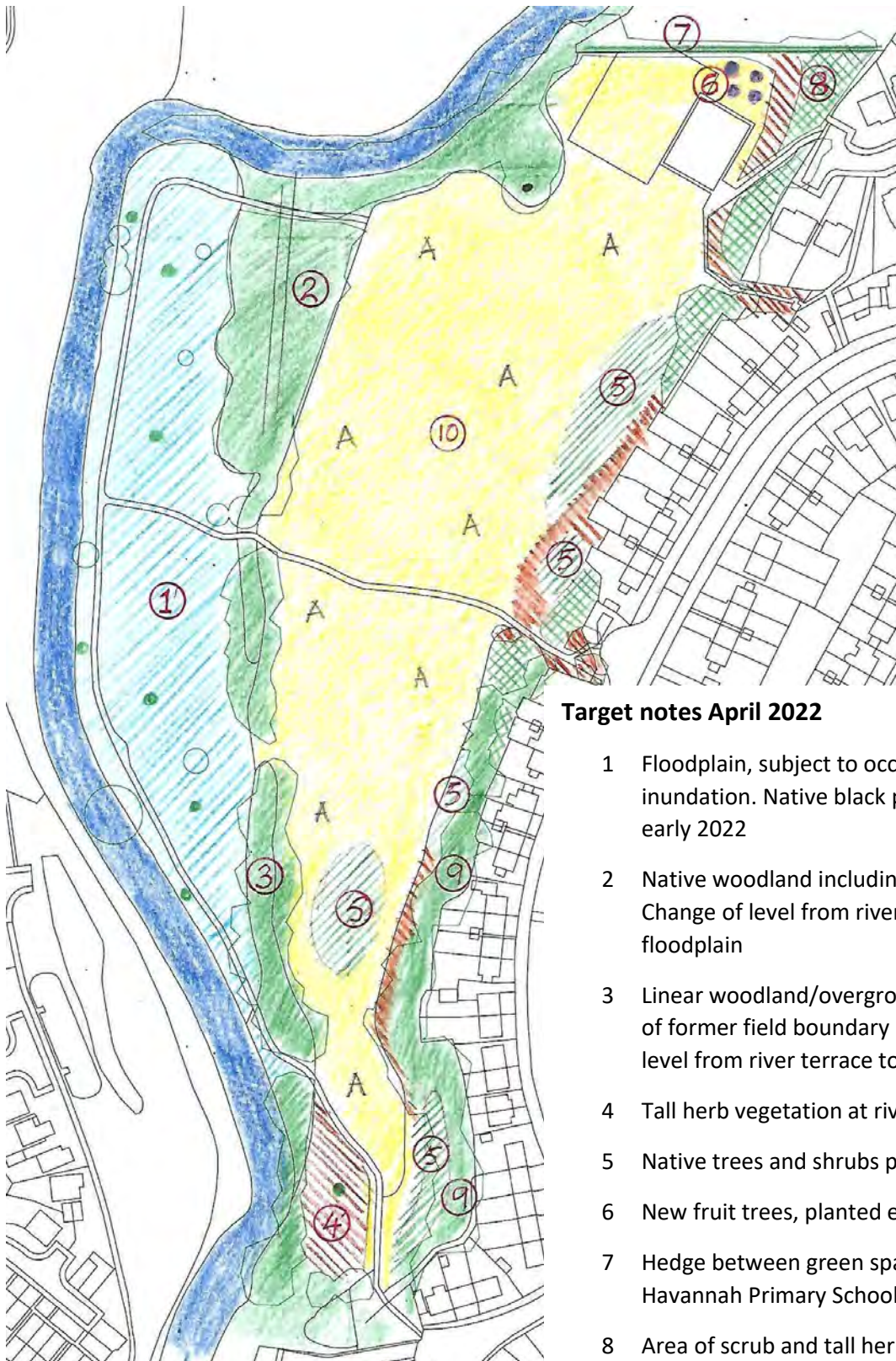
- 1 Mature lime trees - 13 in the green space to the east
- 2 Line of lime trees in the verge to the west, together with some suppressed whitebeams. The gardens to the south are at a higher level, with increasingly high retaining walls to the east, and they shade the verge below.
- 3 New orchard planted early 2021
- 4 New native hedge planted early 2022
- 5 New amenity trees planted early 2021
- 6 Mixed understory and ground cover – mostly native plants with some non-native garden plants.

## 21 Havannah Lane green space - further information

Stakeholders	Cheshire East Council (owners), Congleton Town Council (managers), local residents, Buglawton in Bloom (planting bed on 'island')
Local plan policy (adopted and draft)	Protected open space (RC2, draft REC 1), Ecological network core area (draft ENV1)
Landscape character context	Congleton Landscape Character Assessment Type 3 Suburban landscapes, Area 3h Buglawton (locally 1960s-late C20th residential)
Topography	114 m AOD at the highest point on Havannah Lane (south west corner) sloping to 101 m AOD at the junction of St John's Road with Bankhouse Drive.
Land use history	<p>The 1845 tithe map shows that Havannah Lane once continued directly down the hill, turning to the west before continuing towards Havannah village. The junction with a lane that follows the first part of the current Wharfedale Road is halfway up the slope. The remainder of the open space was farmland, in pastoral use and this was still the case in the late 1950s, as shown by the 1959 map. The current open space was formed when St John's Road, a diverted section of Havannah Lane and adjoining housing estates were built in the 1960s. Old roads underlie the western part of the site, while levels were built up next to Havannah Lane to allow for the correct gradients on the new road. It was not found to be possible to plant trees or hedging in the south west part of the green space. Elsewhere, there may be areas that have been little disturbed, but conditions are unknown.</p>
Green infrastructure	The site is isolated from other areas of green space so would form a stepping stone for nature. It is bordered to the west by gardens but elsewhere boundaries are with roads.
Soils and hydrology	Soils are permeable sandy loam which could quickly dry out. There is no potential for water on the site, and none in the vicinity.
Public access	There is full public access from adjoining roads, but no footpaths either around or across the green space, which is likely to limit its use.
Underground services	None known
Invasive species	None noted



## 22 St John's recreation ground & riverside - existing habitats



### Target notes April 2022

- 1 Floodplain, subject to occasional inundation. Native black poplars planted early 2022
- 2 Native woodland including sunken track. Change of level from river terrace to floodplain
- 3 Linear woodland/overgrown hedge on line of former field boundary hedge. Change of level from river terrace to floodplain
- 4 Tall herb vegetation at river terrace level
- 5 Native trees and shrubs planted early 2022
- 6 New fruit trees, planted early 2022
- 7 Hedge between green space and Havannah Primary School
- 8 Area of scrub and tall herb vegetation which continues along bank marking edge of river terrace
- 9 Native trees and shrubs on embankment, on line of historic hedge line, with scrub and tall herb vegetation beneath canopy
- 10 Closely mown amenity grassland, much of it used for football

## 22 St John's recreation ground & riverside - further information

Stakeholders	Cheshire East Council (landowners), Congleton Town Council (managers), adjacent landowners, local residents, Congleton United Football Club, Western Power Distribution and United Utilities (underground services), Environment Agency (main river, floodplain)
Local plan status (adopted and draft)	Protected open space (RC2, draft REC1), Ecological network core and restoration area (draft ENV1), SE 3 Local Wildlife Site, PG6 Open countryside, SE13/ENV6 Flood risk and water management
Landscape character context	Congleton Landscape Character Assessment Type 2 Urban valley, Area 2c Dane Valley – Buglawton/Lower Heath. Very enclosed by topography and the linear escarpment woodlands bounding the floodplain and river.
Topography	The land is stepped from east to west with two linear flat areas, the playing field and the main floodplain. The edge of the housing on St John's Road is set on an embankment which is several metres high, typically about 89/90 m AOD down to 86/85 m on the flat playing field which is itself a few metres above the area that is liable to flood at around 83 m AOD. The levelness of the playing fields is likely to be artificial – it may be that the slope was originally more continuous and gradual. There is a section of sunken lane on the northern section of the belt of trees/woodland between the playing field and the floodplain – it's origin is unknown.
Land use history	The playing field area is shown as a large linear field on the 1871 map, with trees indicating earlier subdivisions.
Green infrastructure	The whole area is within the major green corridor of the Dane Valley and has good links to north and south, and to the wider countryside to the north of Buglawton and Havannah.
Soils and hydrology	Soils are sandy loam or sandy silt, with good drainage. The playing fields are likely to be underlain by land drains.
Public access	Access is from St John's Road and Havannah Street, and also via a public right of way from Havannah that follows the river.
Underground services	An 11 kV electric cable follows the base of the eastern embankment. A surface water sewer crosses the playing field to the south of the play area.
Invasive species	Himalayan balsam

## 23 Redfern Avenue green space - existing habitats



### Target notes

- 1 Buxton Road embankment with mixed native/non-native trees and shrubs. Some cut logs from recent tree work left to decay. At base is large manhole probably leading to culverted watercourse, and low brick retaining wall.
- 2 Sides of wooded clough with patchy remnants of ancient woodland flora. Dominant trees mainly sycamore, oak and ash (at risk of ash dieback).
- 3 Flat marshy valley bottom, presumably infill over culvert, with some dumped rubbish and materials used as stepping stone through wet areas.
- 4 Bank with brambles, nettles, some scrub vegetation.
- 5 New fruit trees planted early 2022
- 6 New native hedge planted early 2022 (but with sections uprooted due to United Utilities' repairs to underground water and surface water drainage pipes).
- 7 Untreated car park surface
- 8 Area of former woodland within Land Registry boundary that appears to have been taken into a private garden.

Plants noted on the site as a whole (further survey needed) – Cuckoo pint, sycamore, silver birch, hazel, hawthorn, herb 47obert, ash, ivy, honeysuckle, crab apple, white poplar, wild cherry, pedunculate oak, bramble, goat willow, elder, nettle, dandelion, cypress, whitebeam, hogweed, lesser celandine, creeping



## Congleton green spaces site-specific biodiversity plans

buttercup, bluebell (possibly native), Norway spruce, flowering cherry, wood avens, vetch species, Lombardy poplar, cypress species, goose grass, holly, dog rose, blackthorn.

## 23 Redfern Avenue green space – further information

Stakeholders	Cheshire East Council (landowners), Congleton Town Council (managers), adjacent landowners, local residents, United Utilities (water pipe and surface water sewers)
Local plan policy (adopted and draft)	Protected open space (REC1), Ecological network core and restoration area (draft ENV1)
Landscape character context	Congleton Landscape Character Assessment Type 3 Suburban landscapes, Area 3h Buglawton. The immediate context is residential development on land sloping towards river. The green space links the 'heritage' area of Buglawton around St John's Church with the 1930s/50s planned estates and industries of Buglawton on lower ground near the river Dane.
Topography	Buxton Road is at 103 m AOD, Redfern Avenue is at 89 m AOD. The land drops steeply from Buxton Road to the valley bottom approximately 10 m below.
Land use history	On the 1845 tithe map the land is shown as fields in pastoral use, bordering on a stream. On the 1875 – 1910 OS maps trees are shown along the line of the valley. This steep-sided valley formerly continued up to Old Buxton Road by St John's Church but when the new section of Buxton Road was built in the 1960s it crossed the valley on an embankment and the section to the east was infilled and became part of the school grounds. The stream would have been culverted at this time (it was already culverted downstream where industrial and housing development was occurring).
Development	Whilst the valley bottom is likely to have been partly infilled, and the southern slopes are an artificial embankment, the other slopes may have been relatively undisturbed. The valley probably contains a lot of dumped materials (in the past, as in the present day). The grassed area to the north of the site is likely to be largely made up ground.
GI context	Whilst this small wooded clough is now cut off from the River Dane which it formerly drained to, it is still linked to a wooded escarpment to its west which would once have been on the edge of the floodplain. This woodland continues to the Throstle's Nest, and although the Buxton Road is a barrier, it almost links with semi-natural areas in the Dane in Shaw valley. Similarly, to the north east, a linear area of woodland continues through the housing, parallel to Campbell Close. To the south of Buxton Road the graveyard of St John's Church, wide grass verges and Buglawton Primary School grounds form a large area of green space with a range of habitats.
Soils and hydrology	Soils are mixed. There is no surface water but conditions in the shaded valley bottom are damp.
Public access	There is access from Buxton Road and Redfern Avenue via an informal footpath, unsurfaced on its steeper section along the side of the valley but well used.
Underground services	Underground sewers and water pipes. Repairs to leaks have recently been carried out.
Invasive species	None noted but further survey needed.



## 24 Bromley Farm Woods - existing habitats



### Target notes April 2022

Species lists not included because of size of wood but ancient woodland indicator species are present, with the most species rich areas along valley bottoms

- 1 Straightened brook
- 2 End of culvert under railway, natural watercourse to north
- 3 Woodland continually present since 1845, but some replanting likely as large beeches are present
- 4 Part of viaduct embankment
- 5 Small area of floodplain/river bed (former meander) with alders and willows around
- 6 Woodland shown in 1845, felled in mid C20th, now regenerated
- 7 Area of former pasture, cut off by the railway, now becoming young oak woodland with some open space. Botanical survey needed, but the 2007 Bromley Farm Woodlands Management Plan assesses it as neutral unimproved grassland.
- 8 Silted up pond (probably a former marlpit) on former field boundary.

- 9 Woodland present since 1845. It is likely that all steep slopes were once wooded, and all regenerated woodland areas include bluebells.
- 10 Area of former pasture, now woodland, also affected by former electricity transmission line which crossed it. Contains some larger trees which may have been on former field boundaries
- 11 Young, more open woodland with glades. Edge of woodland near housing includes some garden escapes and rubbish
- 12 Disturbed area, formerly field with sand pit.
- 13 Woodland which has been at least partly present since C19th, including some ancient woodland indicator species on steeper slopes, but subject to recreational and play pressure with areas of eroded soil present
- 14 Species-rich area along edge of floodplain

## Congleton green spaces site-specific biodiversity plans

15 Recently-developed woodland, heavily used for play

16 Pool of stagnant water, heavily shaded (former river bed, cut off by railway embankment)

## 24 Bromley Farm Woods - further information

Stakeholders	Cheshire East Council (landowners), Congleton Town Council (managers), Bromley Farm Community Trust, adjacent landowners including Network Rail, local residents, Environment Agency
Local plan status (adopted & draft)	Protected open space (draft REC 1), Local Wildlife Sites (SE 3), Local Landscape Designations (SE 4), Peak District National Park Fringe (Open countryside (PG 6), Ecological network core areas, restoration areas, corridors and stepping stones (draft ENV 1), Green Belt and safeguarded land boundaries (draft PG 12). This area is very well protected!
Landscape character context	Congleton Landscape Character Assessment Type 4 Rural lowlands, Area 4b Dane in Shaw and Timbers Brook. The green space is generally east or north east facing, and the outlook, where trees don't obscure the view, is largely rural. To the west lies the 1930s/50s Bromley Farm Estate and to the south west and south is late C20th housing of Jersey/Ayrshire Close. The green space is bounded to the south east by the main line railway and its spectacular railway viaduct
Topography	The land slopes from its highest point at 129 m AOC next to the railway line to 93 m AOD at the point where the Dane in Shaw Brook enters the culvert under the disused railway line, a difference of 36 m.
Land use history	<p>At one time it is likely that all of the valley slopes were wooded, but the tithe map of 1845 and subsequent OS maps up to the 1970s show that much of the woodland had been cleared, and there is now more woodland present than at any time in the last 170+ years. A core area has remained as woodland throughout. It is likely that the land was grazed as most is too steep for cultivation, but field boundaries are shown on old maps. A power line crossed the wood in the mid-late C20th but is no longer present.</p> <p>The Dane in Shaw Brook was culverted under a high railway embankment in around 1841, and the northern part of the wood is very enclosed by the steep slopes of the natural landform and the embankment. There is a pond where the brook originally continued. The brook formerly meandered to the south, and meanders are shown as still present on the 1971-3 aerial photo but have been removed by the mid-1980. The reasons are not known but most of the floodplain is now outside CEC ownership.</p>
Green infrastructure	The green space itself is a very substantial area of green infrastructure, and it connects with the wider countryside with its network of clough woodlands and hedgerows as well as railway lines, disused and in use, and with the Macclesfield Canal and natural watercourses.
Soils and hydrology	Slopes mainly have sandy soils (there was a small sand quarry at one point), the valley bottom has silty sand soil, and the higher areas have soils based on glacial till – variable but with clay content.
Public access	There is access from the Biddulph Valley Way, from Burns Road and from Hilary Avenue. Access from Ayrshire Way and from the Bromley Farm Play Area is blocked off, but would be difficult anyway due to slope. The former field to the south east is difficult to access but there is a steep and sometimes slippery path which is regularly used.



## Congleton green spaces site-specific biodiversity plans

### Underground services

None known, but this would need to be checked if any changes were to be made.

### Invasive species

Himalayan balsam. There are many sycamore seedlings, also ash which could indicate a future problem.

## 25 Bromley Farm Play Area - existing habitats



### Target notes April 2022

- 1 Head of small wooded valley, part of Bromley Farm Woods
- 2 Old field boundary hedgerow with hawthorn, holly, blackthorn, elder, ash oak, sycamore, occasional non-native planting. Untrimmed, overgrown, leggy at base on southern boundary.
- 3 Small copse including native and non-native plants, including oak, hawthorn, goat willow, Himalayan birch, wild raspberry, some ground flora. Possible black poplar?
- 4 Old tarmac surface, gradually revegetating. Young lime trees planted into it...
- 5 Amenity/hedging shrubs, including laurel and Portugal laurel
- 6 Shaded area with tall herb vegetation including willowherb, buttercup, dock, nettle, goosegrass, ribwort plantain, common sorrel, some bramble, spreading from under hedge canopy into grassland. Seedbank from edges of former pasture?
- 7 Amenity grass with wild flowers (not mowed at time of visit), transitioning to tall herb
- 8 Hedge in poor condition, damaged by rear fencing construction (Ayrshire Way gardens)
- 9 Substantial hawthorn and holly garden hedge
- 10 Old hedgerow ash trees

First draft April 2022

11 Stump of former hedgerow oak (one the trees formerly monitored under a CCC/CLT initiative).

## 25 Bromley Road play area further information

Stakeholders	Cheshire East Council (landowners), Congleton Town Council (managers), adjacent landowners, local residents particularly children, local community groups, United Utilities (sewer), Western Power Distribution, Openreach.
Local plan policy (adopted and draft)	Protected open space (REC1), Ecological network core/restoration area (ENV1)
Landscape character context	Congleton LCA Type 3 Suburban landscapes, Area 3f Bromley Farm (1940s-60s residential planned estate). Late C20th infill housing estates at Jersey Close and the Parklands back on to this recreation area.
Topography	The green space is flat, at around 127 m AOD.
Land use history	The current green space is made up of two former fields, whose external boundaries largely coincide with current boundaries. The 1845 tithe map shows that the northern one, Middle Wood Field, was in arable use, and the southern one, Near Wood Field in pastoral use. By 1875 they are combined into one field. The 1971-3 aerial photo shows a park, and this probably took place in the 1960s as the Bromley Farm housing expanded. New development continued around it in the 1980s and 1990s. Much hard or play area surfacing, plus past disturbance from building and underground services.
Green infrastructure	The site is surrounded on most sides by gardens (some cut off by close-boarded fencing but others with hedging), but the north east corner connects with the head of a small but steep-sided wooded clough which is part of Bromley Farm Community Woods. The old field boundary hedge links with this.
Soils and hydrology	Soilscape 18: Slowly permeable seasonally wet slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils (to be verified). No water present but the site lies at the head of a minor tributary valley draining to the Dane in Shaw Brook.
Public access	There is public access by car or on foot from Cloud View, and via a footpath from Jersey Close to the east.
Invasive species	None identified





## 26 Windsor Place green space - existing habitats



### Target notes April 2022

- 1 New native tree and shrub areas, planted 2021
- 2 Overgrown garden boundaries with mainly native trees and shrubs
- 3 Short section of dry ditch, origin unknown, and hybrid black poplar tree
- 4 New native hedge planted late 2021
- 5 New orchard, planted late 2021
- 6 Embankment formed of fill material with soil cover (possibly imported or stripped before construction of adjoining housing scheme).
- 7 Shade-loving ground flora and understorey beneath tree canopy, with bramble and tall herbs alongside path.
- 8 Area of wild raspberry scrub
- 9 Mown grass paths through long grass. Grass species not surveyed, but often strong-growing and tussocky.

## 26 Windsor Place green space further information

Stakeholders	Cheshire East Council (landowners), Congleton Town Council (managers), adjacent landowners, local residents, Western Power Distribution.
Local plan policy (adopted and draft)	Protected open space (REC1), Ecological network restoration area (ENV1)?
Landscape character context	Congleton LCA Type 3 Suburban landscapes, Area 3f Bromley Farm (mid C20th planned estates).
Topography	The land falls to the north from 118 m AOD at the edge of Windsor Place, to 110 m where the footpath enters from S Bank Grove. The green space is located close to the minor ridge that houses to the north of Park Lane are sited on, and from the higher parts there are views across the Bromley Farm housing, with the Cloud visible to the east.
Land use history	Formerly part of a small croft sited between the bottom of Park Lane and Nursery Lanewhich used land for grazing until the 1990s (?).
Development	The lower land has not been built on, but the embankment below Windsor Place is made up land, created to provide access and parking for new housing (it is not clear how this alteration to the public open space was permitted).
Green infrastructure context	Isolated from other green spaces, but adjacent to gardens, including large gardens belonging to Park Lane properties, with permeable boundaries.
Soils and hydrology	Varied soils - generally sandy loam, shallow over granular fill at top of embankment. Lower areas are probably in-situ soils but disturbed, and are damper with higher organic content.
Public access	Mainly from Windsor Place, with footpaths to South Bank Grove and to Windsor Place further east. Also, unused narrow footpath to Edinburgh Road
Underground services	Electricity cables present (refer to WPD plans)
Invasive species	None of wider importance, but sycamore seedlings are unwanted

## 27 Derwent Drive green space - existing habitats



### Target notes April 2022

- 1 Macclesfield Canal corridor with towpath and trimmed boundary hawthorn hedge
- 2 Tall herbs, including willow herb, nettles and goose grass, and bramble scrub with young native black poplar planting (early 2021)
- 3 Damp area - collection point for underground sewers, including piped former watercourse which was followed by a field boundary with hedgerow trees (shown on 1971-3 aerial photo). There may have been some infilling. The dry bed of this watercourse is present in the Thames Close-Townsend Road green space.
- 4 Native tree and shrub planting, planted early 2021
- 5 Fruit trees planted early 2021
- 6 Native hedgerow planted late 2021, with hedgerow trees planted early 2021.





## 27 Derwent Drive green space - further information

Stakeholders	Cheshire East Council (landowners), Congleton Town Council (managers), adjacent landowners, local residents, Canal and River Trust (shared boundary), United Utilities (sewers).
Local plan policy (adopted and draft)	Protected open space (REC1), Ecological network core and restoration area (draft ENV1). The canal is a Conservation Area (HER 1/3).
Landscape character context	Congleton Landscape Character Assessment Type 3 Suburban landscapes, Area 3e Park Lane-Canal Street. The context is late C20th housing estates, characterised by cul-de-sac layouts, with small separate areas of green space and houses facing onto roads rather than green spaces.
Topography	Relatively flat, from about 125-127 m AOD
Land use history	Shown on 1845 tithe map and historic OS maps as part of two fields separated by a small watercourse or ditch (culverted to the north under the canal) and hedgerow. The land is likely to have formerly been in pastoral use. Houses were built in the 1980s/1990s, when trees and hedge removal and infilling of the minor valley may have occurred.
Green infrastructure	This green space is continuous with the Macclesfield canal corridor
Soils and hydrology	Soils are clay, with poor permeability, leading to waterlogging of the surface. Builders' waste materials have been found when digging holes for tree planting.
Public access	Full public access from Derwent Drive and canal towpath
Underground services	The site is underlain by a number of sewers which constrain planting.
Invasive species	None noted

## 28 Isis Close-Tamar Close green spaces - existing habitats



### Target notes April 2022

- 1 Area of tree planting probably dating from around the 1990s
- 2 Tall shrubs including laurel which shade the remainder of the open space
- 3 Amenity grass with beech tree, some bulb planting, with field wood rush, meadow buttercup (further assessment needed)
- 4 Beech hedge planted early 2021 and early 2022, and native trees and shrubs planted early 2021.
- 5 Mounded area, with scrub and tall herbs on slope facing railway. A few amenity trees are present on the slope (wild cherry, bird cherry) Planting constrained by underground sewers. A steel palisade fence separates the green space from the railway embankment.

General observation added June 2022 – the soils are very varied, and the sward appears to be species-rich as Adam Linnet from CWT has reported (late May) that pignut, cats ear, knapweed, lesser trefoil, cuckooflower (lady's smock), daisy, ox-eye daisy, bulbous buttercup, meadow buttercup, creeping buttercup, speedwell, field woodrush, Yorkshire fog, crested dogs tail, sweet vernal grass and rye grass are present.

## 28 Isis Close-Tamar Close green spaces – further information

Stakeholders	Cheshire East Council (landowners), Congleton Town Council (managers), adjacent landowners, local residents, Network Rail (shared boundary), United Utilities (sewers).
Local plan policy (adopted and draft)	Protected open space (REC1), Ecological network core and restoration area (draft ENV1).
Landscape character context	Congleton Landscape Character Assessment Type 3 Suburban landscapes, Area 3e Park Lane-Canal Street. The context is 1980/90s housing estate, characterised by cul-de-sac layouts, with small separate areas of green space and houses facing onto roads rather than green spaces.
Topography	The topography is varied, but mostly flat or gently sloping, with the height about 130-132 m AOD
Land use history	These small areas of open space are remnants of one or two former fields and are close to the former Grange Farm. The land is likely to have formerly been in pastoral use. Houses to the north were built in the 1980/90s.
Green infrastructure	The green spaces form small stepping stones which link to the main line railway corridor
Soils and hydrology	Soils are varied, affected by building works or former farm uses, and with small areas subject to waterlogging. Builders' waste materials have been found when digging holes for hedge and tree planting.
Public access	Public access from Tamar Close and Isis Close
Underground services	Sewers run from east to west across the sites off Tamar Close
Invasive species	None noted



## 29 Bridgewater Close green space - existing habitats



### Target notes:

- 1 Dense thickets of trees and shrubs on 2-4 m high artificial bunds, probably planted in 1980s. Species include field maple (native but not a local species), sycamore, silver birch, dogwood (native but not a local species), hazel, ash, holly, laurel (naturalised in UK but not a local species), horse chestnut (naturalised in UK but not a local species), wild cherry, bird cherry (native but not a local species), blackthorn, oak, goat willow, hawthorn, elder, rowan, dog rose, bramble, wild raspberry, gorse, ivy, alder buckthorn, honeysuckle. Ground flora includes wood avens, herb Robert, creeping buttercup, dock, nettles and others.

- 2 New orchard of 10 fruit trees planted early 2022
- 3 Small damp area with some common rushes, also marsh valerian.
- 4 Area of bare soil prepared for wildflower seeding April 2022
- 5 Individual ash trees at risk of ash dieback
- 6 Steel palisade fence on boundary with main line railway, permeable to wildlife
- 7 Brick wall approx. 3 m high on boundary with Morleys industrial site
- 8 Open boundary to end of Worsley Drive cul-de-sac, continuous with Macclesfield Canal corridor.

### 30 Blackshaw Close green space - existing habitats



#### Target notes

- 1 Uneven ground with hollow, with mixture of overgrown amenity shrubs and native trees and shrubs, some possible self-seeded. Unwanted seedlings - Norway maple, sycamore, ash.
- 2 Amenity grassland with scattered native and non-native trees including a young cedar. Beneath tree canopies are some areas of bulb planting, and some areas with bare ground and sparse herbaceous vegetation.
- 3 Occasional ash trees at risk of ash dieback.
- 4 Edge of infilled area sloping to the east down to the bottom of the wooded clough. Sloped area has mixture of self-sown or planted native and non-native trees and shrubs. This is private land separated from the public green space by post and Rylock netting fencing which would not be a barrier to small mammals.

General observations – This green space has characteristics of both the natural and suburban areas that it lies next to but is mostly managed as an urban green space. It doesn't at present merit its inclusion in the Local Wildlife Site but under different management its naturalness could be increased over time.

#### Plants noted:

Common alder, grey alder, horse chestnut, Norway maple, sycamore, common daisy, silver birch, Himalayan birch, cedar species, ash, hazel, hawthorn, goose-grass, wood avens, speedwell species, ivy, holly, forget-me-not, ribwort plantain, pedunculate oak, creeping buttercup, meadow buttercup, goat willow, dock, bramble, elder, whitebeam species, dandelion, lime species, nettle, lesser celandine, herb robert, ground elder, bindweed. (Amenity shrubs not included).

## 30 Blackshaw Close green space - further information

Stakeholders	Cheshire East Council (landowners), Congleton Town Council (managers), adjacent landowners, local residents, United Utilities (sewers).
Local plan policy (adopted and draft)	Local Wildlife Site (SE 3), Protected open space (draft REC1), Ecological network core area/corridors and stepping stones (draft ENV1). Whilst continuous with areas that are covered by the Local Landscape Designation and Peak District National Park Fringe and Green Belt policies, the site itself is within the settlement limit (PG 9)
Landscape character context	Congleton Landscape Character Assessment Type 4 Rural lowlands, Area 4b: Dane in Shaw and Timbers Brook. It is enclosed on 3 sides by residential development which is part of Type3 Suburban landscapes Area 3i: Hightown/Mossley/Astbury Lane Ends. This green space would naturally fall into Area 4b, but the original wooded clough is highly modified and suburbanised, so functionally it would fall into Area 3i.
Topography	Most of the area is relatively flat at around 127 m AOD but it starts to fall to the east towards a wooded clough which drains to the Dane in Shaw Brook less than 200 m to the east.
Land use history	There is evidence from historic maps that this area was part of an incised wooded clough which extended further west, towards the former Henshall Hall, but it was infilled at some point between the 1970s and the 1980s, presumably by the developers of the Henshall Hall housing estate the first phase of which was built in the 1980s. The 1845 tithe map shows it as woodland belonging to the owner of Mossley Hall, earlier than Henshall Hall). Sewers were laid across the site during construction of the housing estate.
Green infrastructure	The site is part of a major green infrastructure corridor along the valley of the Dane in Shaw Brook which contains large areas of ancient woodland and the Dane in Shaw Meadow SSSI.
Blue infrastructure	No water present, but the adjacent clough will have a small stream draining to the Dane-in-Shaw Brook
Soils and hydrology	It is likely that there was a small intermittent stream in the small clough which may have been culverted before the levels were raised. The fill material is unknown but may have been derived from demolition of Henshall Hall, or from excavation carried out during the construction of the housing estate.
Public access	There is public access from all sides except the east, as the adjacent woodland is in private ownership.
Invasive species	None noted