

Note for actions 155 and 172 – Local Wildlife Sites

The 'Guidelines for the selection of Local Wildlife Sites in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (revised 2011)' published by Leicestershire County Council outlines the definition of Local Wildlife Sites, why they are of ecological importance and the designation process. This process can be viewed using the following link: https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/field/pdf/2016/8/22/Guidelines_LWS_0.pdf

Action 155: Site 1041 - Land off Hazeldene Road adjacent to Kestrel's Field Primary School



Figure 1 Boundary outline of 'site 1041 - Land off Hazeldene Road adjacent to Kestrel's Field Primary School'

A potential Local Wildlife Site has been identified on the hedge boundary to the west of Site 1041 - Land off Hazeldene Road adjacent to Kestrel's Field Primary School. This hedge boundary was retained to contribute to local ecological networks as an element of previous development. The Potential Local Wildlife Site that adjoins the site allocation has been identified as a site that *might* meet Local Wildlife Site criteria. The guidance states the following about Potential Local Wildlife Sites:

'Local Wildlife Sites (Potential): These are sites where LRERC has recent evidence that they are likely to meet the LWS criteria, but further survey is needed to confirm

this. Some sites are also Local Nature Reserves or Planted Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS).'

However, further details are required to formally present to the Local Wildlife Site panel to consider formal adoption. No formal process to designate this site has been carried out at this stage.

The council considers that a development design that retains and protects this feature would present limited constraints and also provides opportunities for enhancement to offset other ecological impacts onsite.

The Council would consider a Main Modification to address the above in policy Ho01 as part of the non-strategic site policy modifications.

Action 172: Site 1040 Mountain Road



Figure 2 Melton Brook Flood Meadow Local Wildlife site in green with site allocation outlined in purple

Melton Brook Flood Meadow (as shown above highlighted in green) was formally notified as a Local Wildlife Site (LWS) in 2000 for meeting species-rich 'mixed' grassland criteria. Site allocation 1040 is on a portion of this Local Wildlife site (outlined in purple).

Observations of the site suggest that scrub has since developed in some areas and the wet 'flood relief' basin has developed into 'wet woodland' which is also notable as a priority habitat within the Leicester Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP). The site is also

connected to wider ecological networks by the adjacent Melton Brook which increases the ecological value as a component of local green infrastructure.

It is therefore expected that compensation to meet BNG obligations will be needed and unlikely that this could be provided onsite.