

Post Industrial and Brownfield Land

Summary Habitat Action Plan

Doncaster Local Biodiversity Action Plan
January 2007

1 Habitat description

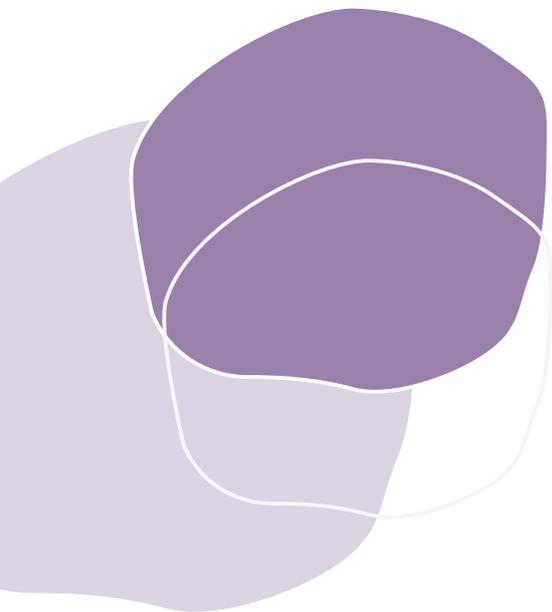
Waste land, derelict land, post industrial, disused or brownfield land are terms given to urban sites that have, in the recent past, been used for some development purpose, but are now existing without any formal use. The vast majority of such sites are within urban areas, although they are also frequently located on the fringe. However defined, post industrial and brownfield land is of considerable importance to biodiversity, particularly in its typical urban setting.

A great range of physical and chemical characteristics can exist within a single site, and also between different sites in close proximity. Varying characteristics include soil pH, soil contaminants, topography, fertility, drainage and sunlight and shade. Sites typically have sparse vegetation cover and low fertility enables plant species with a poor competitive ability to colonise.

Large areas of hard standing or rubble are often found next to standing water, vegetated soil piles or rough grassland. A range in structure enables animals to feed, breed, bask and shelter all in the same site.

Postindustrial and brownfield sites are highly attractive to children and teenagers. They are wild spaces where adventure is sought, but disturbance is only beneficial at a low intensity.





2 Characteristic species

Common centaury	Ringlet
Viper's-bugloss	Peacock butterfly
Foxglove	Small skipper
Blue fleabane	Dingy skipper
Herb robert	Skylark
Soapwort	Black redstart
Common cudweed	Lapwing
Teasel	Little ringed plover
Lupin	Starling
Canadian fleabane	Jackdaw
Bladder senna	Pied wagtail
Everlasting pea	Willow warbler
Lesser snap-dragon	Blackcap
Bee orchid	Lesser whitethroat
Spear leaved orache	Linnet
Blotched monkey flower	Blackbird
Spring sandwort	Wren
Sand tailed digger	Song thrush
Blue mason bee	Kestrel
Bed mason bee	Sparrowhawk
Toadflax brocade	Common lizard
Striped lychnis	Slow worm
Brighton wainscot	Great-crested newt
Four-spotted moth	
Meadow brown butterfly	

3 Current factors causing loss or decline

- Pressure to redevelop brownfield land threatens urban wildlife. Biodiversity must be considered at each individual site and also in a strategic spatial planning context to ensure that a coherent network of urban brownfield sites remains.
- Some local residents will value the presence of a 'wild place' next to their homes, whilst others will see them as an eyesore. Consequently brownfield sites can often be transformed into formal green spaces and the biodiversity value is then lost.
- Brownfield sites often support a number of non-native species, some of which can be particularly invasive and vigorous.
- The typical lack of brownfield land management means that woodland cover can occur unnoticed. In many cases the greatest biodiversity value of a site is during the early stages when vegetation cover is still sparse.
- Post industrial and brownfield sites very often have abandoned buildings that provide nesting sites, walls for plants and invertebrates to colonise and roosting sites for a number of the more-urban bat species. After time these abandoned buildings are demolished because they have not been maintained and consequently become unsafe.
- Postindustrial and brownfield sites that adjoin residential gardens are often seen as 'no mans land' and consequently claimed and incorporated into gardens.

4 Objectives, targets & proposed actions

Objective	Target	Ref	Action	Lead & Partners
1) To ensure the protection and maintenance of existing post industrial and brownfield sites of importance to biodiversity.	Continuous.	1.1	<p>1) Have regard to the protection and enhancement of habitats when considering the allocation of sites, in line with the approach set out in PPS9 and the priorities set out in the LBAP.</p> <p>2) Have regard to the assessment, retention and enhancement of habitat types when formulating and making Development Control Policies and decisions, in line with the approach set out in PPS9 and the priorities set out in the LBAP.</p> <p>3) Provide advice to Development Control and Developers on appropriate types of survey i.e. ecological and/or hydrological, the interpretation of survey results and methods of incorporating habitat retention and enhancement into development proposals (for both designated sites and non-designated features of biodiversity value, as identified in the LBAP.</p>	DMBC, Natural England (NE)
2) To restore degraded sites and ensure appropriate management of post industrial and brownfield sites.	2 survey days on brownfield sites by 2008.	2.2	Organise survey days on post industrial and brownfield sites to increase knowledge of local wildlife interest on such sites.	Doncaster Naturalists's Society (DNS), NE, DMBC
	Green bin scheme in place by end of 2007.	2.3	Initiate a green bin scheme throughout the Doncaster Borough, in line with national schemes currently in place, to reduce the amount of unauthorised dumping of garden waste and contribute to the Mayor's Zero Waste targets.	DMBC
3) To create new sites with brownfield features and create complementary habitat linked to existing post industrial and brownfield sites.	1 new brown roof and 1 new green roof by 2010.	3.1	Creation of new brown and green roofs in new development. Promote the south Yorkshire green roof initiative with developers.	DMBC
4) Raise public awareness of the importance and special characteristics of post industrial and brownfield sites.	By 2008.	4.4	Investigate and produce a reference list for all sources of funding for community and local wildlife groups to apply for funding to manage local brownfield sites for biodiversity and promote to all relevant groups.	DMBC

5 This habitat in Doncaster

The following describes where in the Doncaster Borough good examples of this habitat can be found, however, named sites may be privately owned and therefore are not publicly accessible. For further information about this habitat and where it can be found in Doncaster see the 'Post Industrial and Brownfield Land Habitat Action Plan'.

There are many local brownfield sites, some of the more interesting include Hexthorpe Plant Works and Railway Sidings (the former British Rail Plant Works), this includes concrete trenches that are water filled, rough grassland and scrub, providing an ideal amphibian habitat. Balby Little Moor has an interesting mix of garden escapes and disturbed ground species, as well as some rarer metal tolerant plants growing where spoil heaps were once created beside the railway line.

Cementation Pond and Willow Garth Fish Ponds are water bodies created on former brownfield sites, and Pilkington's Burgy Banks is a site of amazing diversity that includes the settling lagoons. The Old Oil Well Site is a former oil extraction site on the edge of Hatfield Moors, it has recolonised with scrub woodland and rabbit grazed grassland that has developed a diverse plant assemblage. The old Don Oxbows around the Wheatley Park area have interesting assemblages of sand dune plants growing on the large amount of moulding sand dumped there by industry. Both Thorne and Hatfield Collieries have areas of natural colonization on the spoil.

6 How to take part

'Backyard Biodiversity – Nature in your Neighbourhood'

This is a new initiative launched by Doncaster Council to enable local people to learn about, protect and enjoy nature where they live. Community Groups and Organisations can loan activity packs and equipment to enable them to take part in activities such as bird watching, pond-dipping, building bird and bat boxes and bug hunting. The service is available FREE of charge from selected Customer Service Centres in Doncaster. A pack of Wildlife Gardening fact sheets has also been produced, which provides advice and information on how you can help the wildlife in your own garden.



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