

East Leake Neighbourhood Plan 2013-2028

Assessment of Areas Identified as Local Green Space

This document supplements section 5.3, policy E4 in the East Leake Neighbourhood Plan.

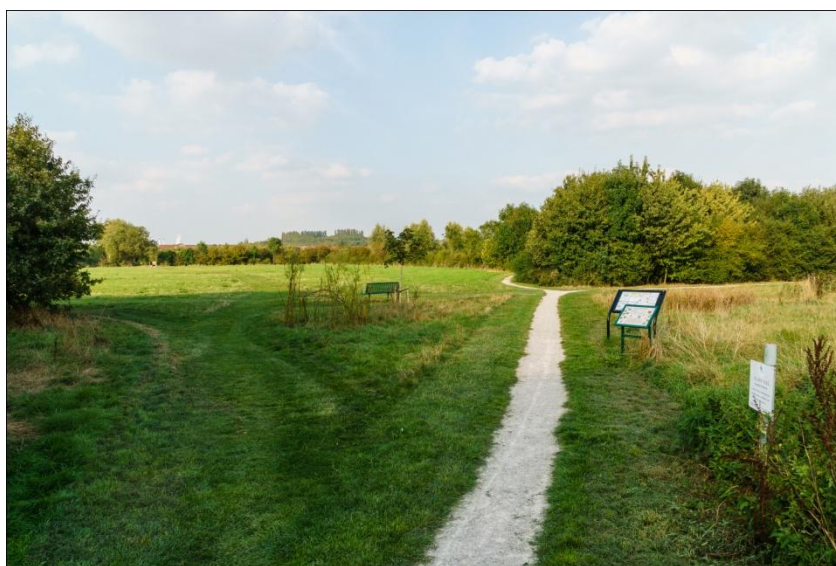
(a) Meadow Park

Meadow Park consists of almost eighteen hectares of open countryside, formerly farmland, in the centre of the village along the brook. In 1995, the land was given to the village to be a permanent leisure facility for local residents and it is now owned by Rushcliffe Borough Council. The Borough Council retains responsibility for maintaining the park boundaries and for any major work which may become necessary, but since 2009 the day to day management of the park has



been in the hands of East Leake Parish Council. An active group of around 100 volunteers (Friends of Meadow Park¹) undertakes various work activities to help develop the wildlife and recreational potential of the area.

The area is criss-crossed by footpaths and bridges and is used extensively by walkers and dog owners. Areas are set aside and managed for free play. The major footpath and cycle path through the park provides a safe green route for young people to access schools and the play area of Gotham Road.



Please note from Fig2.6/2 of the Neighbourhood Plan that the entire area lies within the 100 year flood zone, which limits its potential for development.

¹ <http://www.east-leake.co.uk/friendsofmeadowpark.html>

(b) Village Green and memorial gardens



This is a small area at the heart of the conservation area of the village, including the restored pinfold (formerly used to temporarily hold stray animals until claimed by their owners) and the war monument and memorial gates. The Gotham and East Leake British Legion Remembrance Sunday service takes place here every other year.

It is owned and maintained by the Parish Council, and occasionally used for fetes and other community events. The brook runs through the area, frequented by paddling children with fishing nets, with a footpath running along the brook and several benches. The site of an old ford across the brook was the location for the historic Tug-of-War held for many years where the losers would be pulled into the brook.



This area is a pivotal part of character area 1 in the East Leake Conservation Area Management Plan², described thus: “The character of this historic core is created by a linear village green that is formed by the Sheepwash Brook and its tree-lined grassy banks as they wind past a pinfold, St Mary’s Church, a war memorial, St Mary’s village hall and a series of listed cottages.”

² http://www.east-leake.gov.uk/docs/files%20-%20other/East_Leake_Appraisal_and_Management_Plan.pdf

(c) Townlands Trust ridge and furrow field from railway to Gotham road



These fields are recorded as belonging to East Leake Town Lands Trust in the 1798 Enclosure Act. It appears that they have little changed since then, having been regularly grazed but never ploughed. They are classified as semi-improved grassland, and are relatively species-rich (especially the most northern field). The ancient ridge and furrow pattern is visible in all of the fields, a feature becoming increasingly rare.

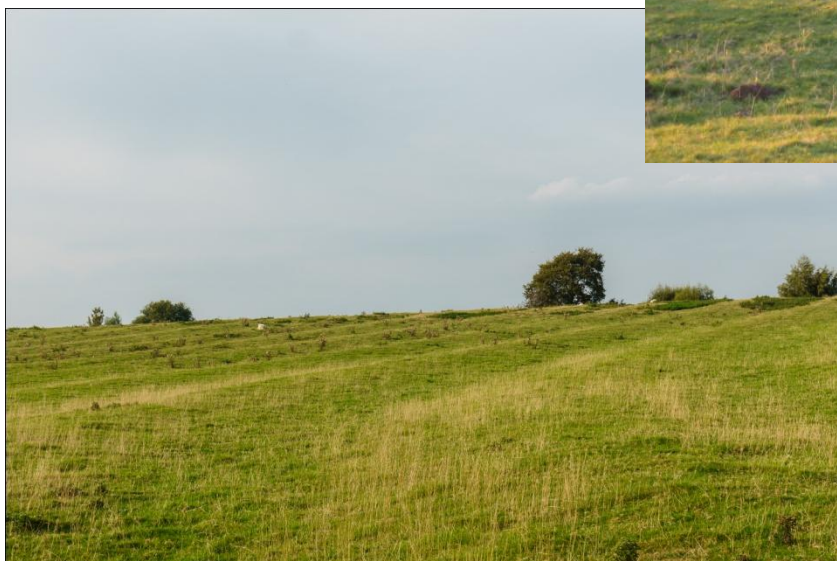


(d) Ridge and furrow fields at the back of Potters lane



These fields, on the ridge to the west of Castle Hill, occupy the area between Sheepwash Brook and the built environment of Potters Lane.

A public footpath runs across them linking Mill Lane with Burton Walk, with a further southern footpath crossing the brook and reaching Rempstone Road. These fields are also semi-improved grassland. Whilst not species-rich, they are a valuable asset to local walkers. The most easterly field (adjacent to Castle Hill) may have archaeological significance, because of its very pronounced ridge and furrow pattern.



There is also a view that this may have been the site of a castle some centuries ago.

The following statement on the importance of ridge and furrow was made by the Nottinghamshire County Council Archaeological Officer:

----- Original Message -----
Subject: RE: East Leake Neighbourhood Plan
From: "Chris Robinson" <chris.robinson@nottscc.gov.uk>
Date: Mon, September 15, 2014 8:36 am
To: "Conrad@eastleake.net" <Conrad@eastleake.net>

Dear Conrad

The 7 fields identified on your supplied map** all contain upstanding ridge and furrow earthworks identified by the National Mapping Programme (NMP). These archaeological remains are medieval in date and are the result of centuries of ploughing, which creates the distinctive 'corrugated' earthworks that are visible from the ground and wavy pattern visible from aerial photographs.

While upstanding ridge and furrow earthworks have no formal protection they are an important visual reminder of our agrarian heritage and therefore of historic significance. Surviving ridge and furrow earthworks are under increasing pressure from modern farming practises and building development. Consequently ridge and furrow is a diminishing resource within Rushcliffe's historic environment. I feel that the retention and protection of such earthworks should be considered as important within the East Leake Neighbourhood plan.

Dr Chris Robinson
Archaeological Officer
Nottinghamshire County Council
Tel (0115) 9696524

**Four fields at area (c) corresponding to the area designated as local green space, three at area (d). i.e. the field designated as local green space plus the two adjoining fields long the back of Potters Lane.

(e) Rest Garden

This is a small garden in the shopping centre of the village, containing seating, and currently (Sept 2014) being restored by the Parish Council. It provides a welcome, tranquil, shady outdoor space for shoppers to rest and those employed in



the village to take outdoor breaks. The garden was sold to the Parish Council (for a nominal £1) by the electricity company when it became surplus to their requirements. It retains an electrical installation in one corner and there are believed to be underground cables etc also that would need to be considered if developing the area.

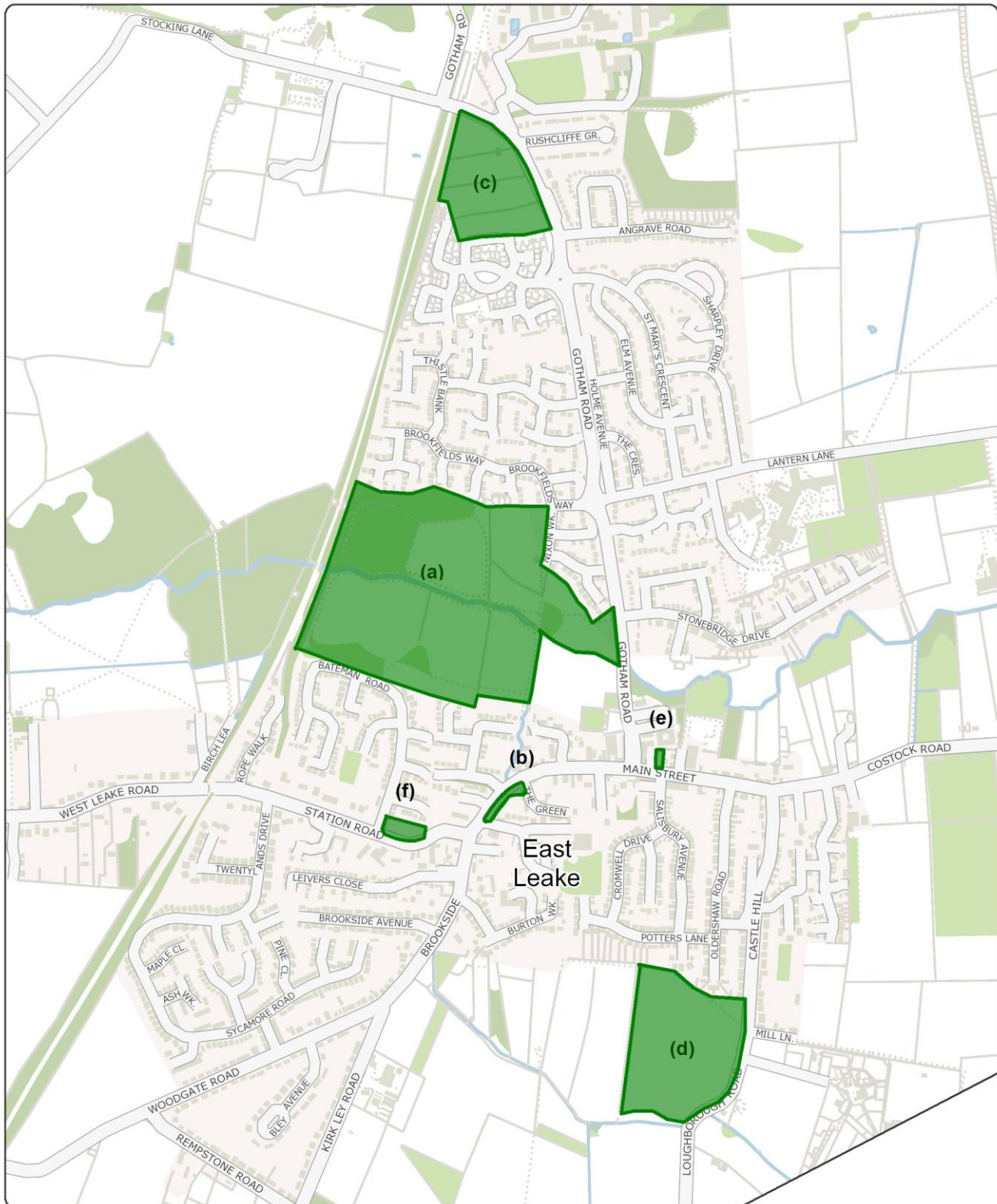
(f) The Glebe



This is a quiet green space adjacent to the churchyard in the conservation area. It contains mature trees, planting and seating. The Millennium Stone at the centre of the Glebe is a large piece of gypsum, donated by British Gypsum, marking

the spot of the buried village time capsule, buried in 2000 and due to be opened in 2045. The East Leake Conservation Area Management Plan includes the Glebe in character area 2, characterised by the abundance of mature trees lining Station Road.

Fig 5.3/1 Local Green Space



Key

Insight web map printed by an Insight Mapping user at 11:48, 04/09/2014



Districts

Description

Description
No map description



This document is for personal use only. Mapping should not be supplied or used in external publications without written approval by the Nottingham City Council GIS Team [gi@nottinghamcity.gov.uk].