

## **Environment Section - Study Methodology**

### **Local Green Spaces (LGS) - Important Green Spaces (IGS)**

#### **Existing Information**

Using various surveys including but not limited to Leicester and Rutland Environmental Records Centre (LRERC) Habitat survey of Burbage (2013) ([www.Plan4Burbage.co.uk](http://www.Plan4Burbage.co.uk)), Burbage Extended Phase1 Habitat-Survey-(2014) and Hinckley and Bosworth Extended Phase1 Habitat Survey (2014). Additional information was also obtained from [www.naturesport.org.uk](http://www.naturesport.org.uk).

Consultation with Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council (HBBC) and Leicestershire County Council (LCC) has been ongoing throughout the study.

#### **Records Search**

Information was gathered from LRERC regarding the presence of nature conservation designations and protected and notable species within Burbage.

In addition, a search for designations was made of Natural England's interactive, web-based MAGIC (Multi Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside) database, and species records were obtained from the National Biodiversity Network website (NBN Gateway).

Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) have already been identified in the HBBC Local Plan (2006-2026) and so have not been included. The study concentrated on other local though still important areas and sites. Taking into account any Potential or Candidate LWS, Protected species, such as badgers, great crested newts and bats; plus Notable species, such as those listed in the local Biodiversity Action Plan.

Where possible we concentrated on the most current data. Accuracy of species records is usually to within 100 metres. Protected species are being considered as CONFIDENTIAL and not for dissemination to the public and the information it contains relates to potentially persecuted species.

#### **Desk-based Geographical Information Systems (GIS) Study & Field surveys**

A number of assessment sites were identified ([www.Plan4Burbage.co.uk](http://www.Plan4Burbage.co.uk) Burbage Environment Map - 'Environment Proposals' map) as being previously identified as important local sites. These sites were accessed wherever possible from publically accessible footpaths and roads to re-enforce historical data. Where good views were not possible into a site, or where a site was not accessed, information was used to provide habitat maps for the site. Some have been considered as Potential LWS (this study) from our assessment and if required are worthy of a more accredited survey. Additionally in such cases a GIS analysis of the assessment sites was completed, uses various aerial photographs.

## **Pre-Submission consultations**

Although initially 7 LGS sites had been selected. Following further consultation with HBBC and reviewing recent Neighbourhood Plan inspections. It was decided to reduce this to 4 LGS sites. Taking into account sites being potentially considered an extensive tract of land, especially when there was a close by LGS and so could be considered as connected. Some LGS land was already designated as open green space and so the site was reduced. Then following further detailed review of the Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA), when a site was considered as developable then we tried to ensure the LGS should only form a part of the designated land where possible.