

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**MEETING OF CABINET MEMBER – HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORT AND
INFRASTRUCTURE**

28 February 2019

Report of the Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment

**PROPOSED DEDICATION OF A LOCAL NATURE RESERVE AT ASTON
BRICKYARD PLANTATION, ASTON ON TRENT**

(1) **Purpose of Report** To seek approval for the declaration of a Local Nature Reserve at Aston Brickyard Plantation, Aston on Trent.

(2) **Information and Analysis** Aston Brickyard Plantation is a 3.5 hectares (ha) site located just south-east of Derby and north of the village of Aston on Trent (see Appendix 1). It consists of mixed woodland planting and wildflower meadow, with a number of concessionary paths providing public access.

The plantation was created in the late 1970s, following landfill reclamation, prior to which it was a clay pit and brickworks. Owned by Derbyshire County Council, the site is part of the Countryside Service portfolio. From the mid 1990s, the site was largely neglected, however, since early 2013, the site has been managed for wildlife and quiet public enjoyment by the Friends of Aston Brickyard (FAB), with support from a Countryside Service Officer. As a consequence, the site is now regularly used by local people, including schools and the Scouts, and the site's wildlife value has improved significantly. Site management is now guided by a newly-written 10-year management plan. There is an opportunity with support from Natural England (see Appendix 2) to declare Aston Brickyards as a Local Nature Reserve (LNR).

The County Council, as landowner, is able to declare the site as a LNR under provisions of the National Parks and Access to Countryside Act 1949, as long as consultation on the on-going management of the sites has been undertaken with Natural England and local user groups. A formal letter has been received from Natural England welcoming the proposal. On declaration of the intent to create a LNR, there is a further process to inform and seek comment from the community and stakeholders.

Subject to acceptance of the proposal by the Cabinet Member, there would be a period of formal consultation with parish and borough/district councils, other stakeholders and the public. Following that, Natural England would be informed of the change and the new LNR included in mapping. The District

Council would also be advised to ensure inclusion in the determination of planning applications when appropriate.

The proposed declaration will support commitments made in the Working for Derbyshire Council Plan 2017-2021, including working creatively with local people and groups to establish new ways of supporting community activity and contributing to the strategy for the Trent Valley area.

The declaration of this LNR will enhance and improve the Council's existing LNR network and help to implement the Council's duty to promote biodiversity under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006. If approved, it is proposed the site is progressed for declaration by the summer of 2019. The Cabinet Member will be informed of the outcome of the consultation and final declaration of LNR in due course.

(3) **Financial Considerations** The management costs for this site are met from the Countryside Service Revenue budget. Higher Level Stewardship grant from Natural England is received towards management of the grassland. Declaration as LNR may open up potential for future grant aid. No additional financial requirements are anticipated.

(4) **Legal Considerations** Section 21 (1) of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 gives local authorities the power to acquire, declare and manage LNRs.

Other Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, human resources, environmental, health, property, social value and transport considerations.

(5) **Key Decision** No.

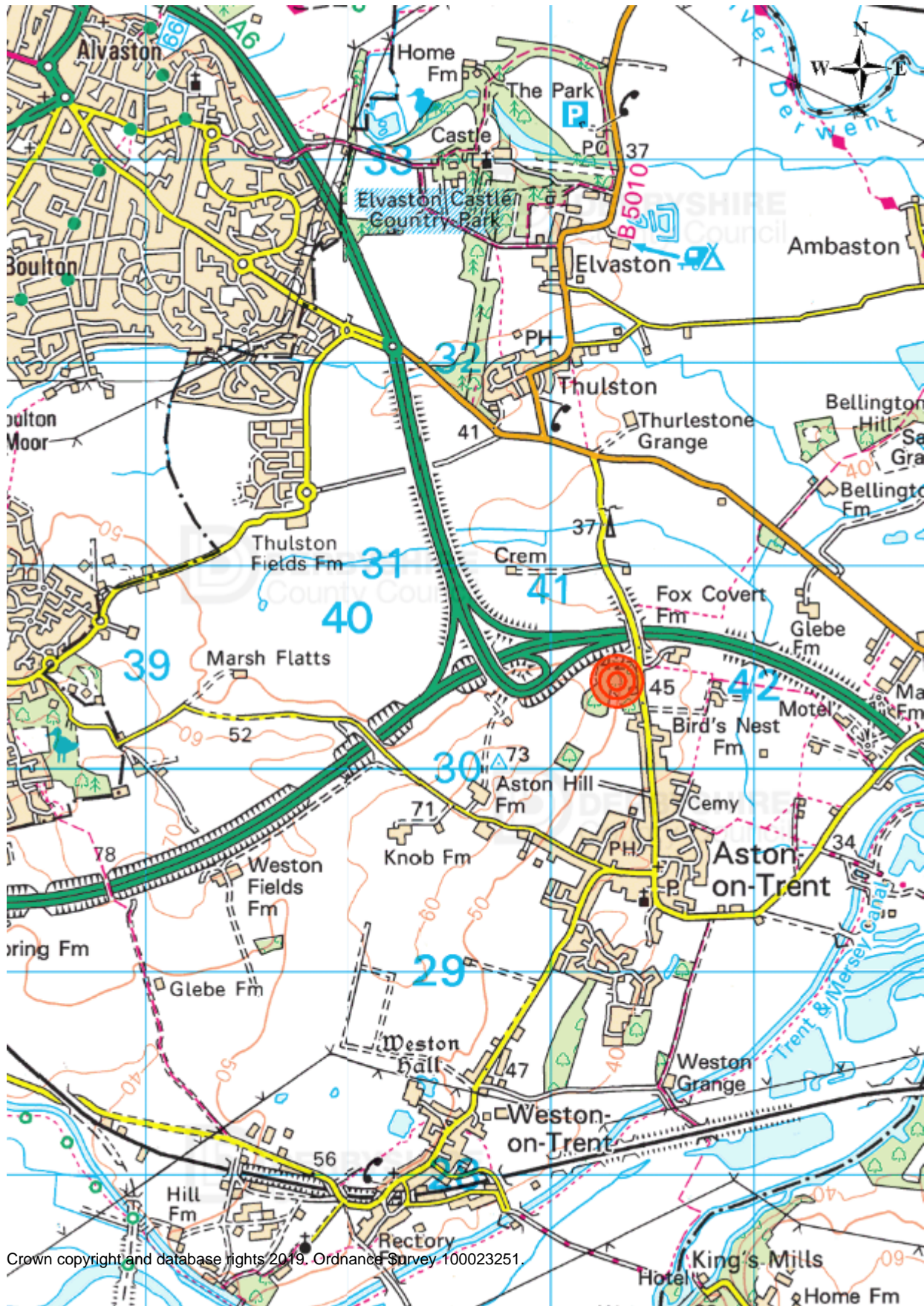
(6) **Call-In** Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? No.

(7) **Background Papers** Held on file within the Economy, Transport and Environment Department. Officer contact details – Susan White, extension 39001.

(8) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION** That the Cabinet Member approves the dedication of Aston Brickyard Plantation as a Local Nature Reserve.

Mike Ashworth
Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment

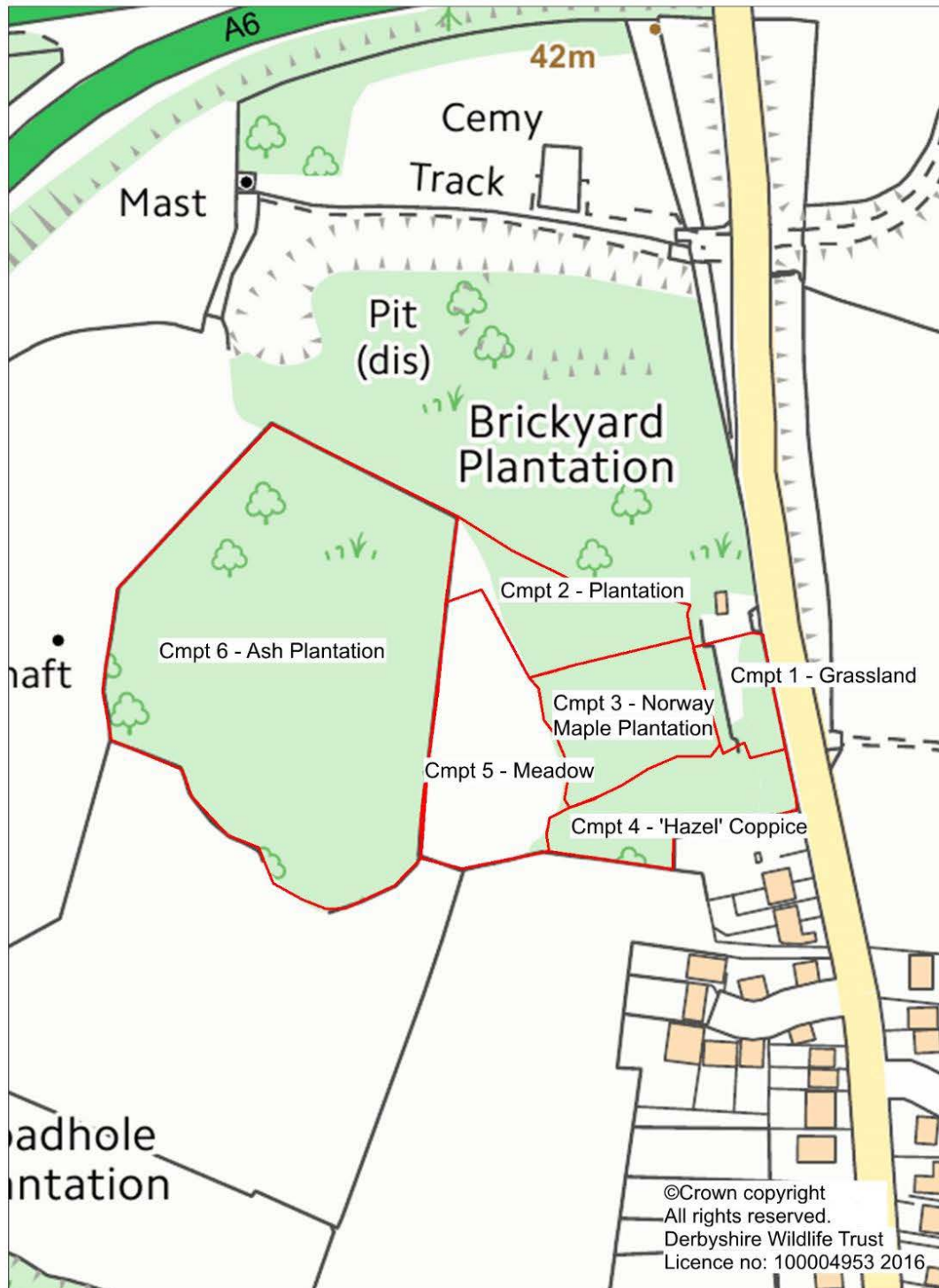
Location of the proposed LNR at Aston on Trent



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500 m
Scale = 1 : 27696.060

31-January-2019



Date 16/01/2019

Our ref:

Your ref:



By E Mail

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F

Susan White
Derbyshire County Council
Shand House
Matlock
DE4 3RY

Dear Susan,

PROPOSAL TO DECLARE Aston Brickyard Plantation AS A LOCAL NATURE RESERVE

I am writing regarding the proposal to declare Aston Brickyard Plantation a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 (as amended).

Natural England's purpose is to conserve and enhance the natural environment for its intrinsic value, the wellbeing and enjoyment of people and the economic prosperity that it brings. Aston Brickyard Plantation, managed according to the management plan is of value to both local wildlife and the local community. As such, Natural England is delighted to support the declaration of the site as a LNR. Protecting this site and its habitats will allow it to continue to be used and valued by local people for recreation and enjoyment of the natural environment.

Natural England confirms that it has been consulted on your proposal to declare Aston Brickyard Plantation a nature reserve under the provisions of Sections 19 and 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 (as amended). The requirements for consultation contained in Section 21(6) of that Act have therefore been met. As a member of the Area 5 Local Delivery Team, I would like to formally welcome these proposals on behalf of Natural England.

The next step is for Derbyshire County Council to make the necessary arrangements for the formal declaration of the reserve. This can be limited to the issuing of public notices or can be extended to include an event to celebrate the declaration.

Once the declaration is complete, we will need confirmation of the declaration date, and a copy of the declaration papers and a map showing the exact boundaries of the declared area. The site will also be promoted through Natural England's internet site finder. To ensure our records are up to date, I would be grateful if you could also complete and return to me the attached Local Nature Reserve Fact Sheet once the site has been declared.

If you are unsure about any part of the declaration process, please refer to the guidance booklet from our website [create and manage local nature reserves](#) .

Yours sincerely

Phil Chesters
Area 5 Local Delivery Team
eastmidlands@naturalengland.org.uk