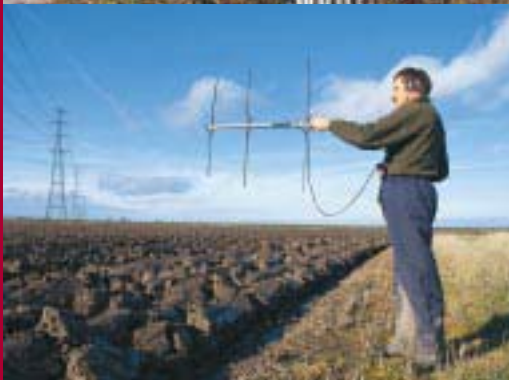




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A provisional inventory of
parkland and wood-pasture
in the East Midlands
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Number 595

A provisional Inventory of parkland and wood-pasture in the East Midlands

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ISSN 0967-876X
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Executive summary

This report is a review of current information on the nature conservation importance of parklands and wood-pastures in the East Midland counties of Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Northamptonshire, Lincolnshire, Leicestershire and Rutland. A desktop study has been undertaken during which an inventory of parklands and wood-pasture for each of the six counties of the East Midlands has been compiled. The aim was to collate baseline parkland information where available, including such characteristics as site location and ecological interest, with a view to identifying those sites likely to be of significance for nature conservation.

Wood-pastures and parklands are frequently of national historic, cultural and landscape significance. A large number are also nationally and internationally important for their wildlife. These sites, typically characterised by a population of widely-spaced, old trees amongst agriculturally unimproved vegetation, are largely derived from royal forests, emparkments, wooded commons and uncultivated pasture dating back at least to the 12th and 13th Centuries.

Parklands in the East Midlands are an overlooked nature conservation resource. Very little survey work for wildlife purposes has been undertaken within parklands as many have been modified or improved. This is despite the rich cultural history of old forest landscapes and the well known occurrence of parkland in the region. In addition, a number of parklands and wood-pastures are already known to be nationally important for nature conservation and have been notified as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs).

Exactly 314 parkland and wood-pasture sites, covering a large, combined area of 32,294 hectares, have been identified within the East Midlands Region. Although this covers only 2% of the land area of the East Midlands, this represents a significantly large resource of potential interest for nature conservation in a region where the vast majority of wildlife-rich sites are now small in area. The Inventory shows that parklands remain widespread in the region, occurring in all counties. Examples of active and derelict wood-pastures are particularly rare, being restricted to a few sites in Sherwood Forest in Nottinghamshire and Yardley Chase in Northamptonshire. Some 13 sites are at least in part SSSI. Only 32 sites, limited to Derbyshire and Leicestershire, contain non-statutory County Wildlife Sites, in particular the woodlands and water-bodies within the Parklands. Some 30% of the total number of parklands is listed on the English Heritage Parks and Gardens Register. Many of the parklands are characterised by a range of features of conservation interest. For instance those with veteran trees recorded support important assemblages of invertebrates, fungi and bark lichens. 47 parklands/wood-pasture sites (15% of the regional resource) are currently known to support ancient, or veteran, trees. The Inventory has identified how little information there is on the wildlife of parkland and wood-pasture in the region, with 84% of sites requiring survey work or additional data collation.

The study shows that there are many parklands for which there is only limited information available. Many of the parklands are privately owned and gaining future access to assess these sites is likely to be expensive and time consuming.

There is a clear need to carry out more detailed survey and evaluation to confirm the current state of the parkland or wood-pasture resource, including the presence or absence of veteran trees. From a conservation point of view, it may also be desirable to grade the sites according

to a set of pre-determined criteria: many of the parklands on the Inventory receive no statutory or non-statutory protection. Application of appropriate criteria would allow for the identification of potential parkland and wood-pasture Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC- a non-statutory nature conservation designation) within each county. It is recommended that further work to validate and improve the information within this Inventory is now developed through county-based partnerships.

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1. Introduction

1.1 Background

A useful context is provided in the *Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in North Yorkshire Guidelines for site selection*:

“Parklands and wood-pasture habitats develop as the result of historic land management systems and in many cases more active or deliberate landscape design. Such sites may once have been royal hunting forests, wooded pastures or commons or semi-formal parkland associated with large country houses. These sites often comprise a combination of large old and veteran standard trees as scattered specimens and high forest woodland blocks with a mixture of grazed grassland or heathland. In some circumstances, the parkland or wood-pasture may also include ornamental or natural standing water bodies and flowing water habitats. In parkland the combination of habitats and the presence of old and veteran trees provide a variety of habitat mosaics and a diversity of structure that support a wide range of species. The close geographical proximity of a range of habitats, including hard structures such as buildings and walls, provide habitat corridors, links, mosaics and stepping stones for species activity, movements, food and shelter”.

Changes in land use, such as the loss of grazing, dereliction and succession to secondary woodland, agricultural intensification, improved recreational access leading to removal or modification of ancient trees, are factors responsible for the decline in parklands and wood-pasture (UK Biodiversity Group 1998).

The significance of old parklands as a habitat for wildlife has been recognised by the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP). A national Habitat Action Plan for lowland wood-pasture and parkland was published in 1998 (UK Biodiversity Action Group 1998), with English Nature as the lead partner organisation. This set a number of objectives and targets covering the conservation, restoration and expansion of the remaining resource of wood-pasture and parklands and their characteristic plant and animal communities.

Relevant targets within the Habitat Action Plan include:

- € Protect and maintain the current extent (10,000 – 20,000 ha) and distribution of lowland wood-pasture and parkland in a favourable condition.
- € Initiate in areas where examples of derelict wood-pasture and parkland occur a programme to restore 2,500 ha to favourable ecological condition by 2010.
- € By 2002, initiate the expansion of 500ha of wood-pasture or parkland, in appropriate areas, to help reverse fragmentation and reduce the generation gap between veteran trees.
- € Produce a comprehensive list of all parklands and wood-pasture sites with pointers to other data sources and evaluation of both the natural and cultural heritage of each site, by 2002. Make the information available through a data catalogue linked to the National Biodiversity Network.

- € Develop and implement methods to assess the condition of wood-pastures and parkland by 2000 and encourage standardised recording and monitoring of the tree population age structure, survivorship and condition at key sites across the country in order to identify site specific and general trends.
- € Undertake a programme of targeted surveys of the biological information of sites where lack of information is impeding their appropriate management, by 2005.
- € Ensure veteran tree recording is reflected in SSSI and Wildlife Site reporting and is input, as it becomes available, into local record centres as part of the National Biodiversity Network initiatives.
- € Promote the restoration of wood-pasture and parkland where old trees remain in former sites that are now arable fields or forestry plantations.
- € Encourage the development and implementation by 2004 of long-term integrated management plans for conservation and use of parklands and wood-pastures through agreements with site-owners and in partnership with statutory wildlife, landscape and heritage agencies.

In conjunction with this, there has been new interest in the conservation and management of ancient or veteran trees during recent years, stimulated by the work of English Nature's Veteran Tree Initiative and the growth and development of a new voluntary organisation, the Ancient Tree Forum.

There are a number of inventories, datasets and registers of lowland wood-pasture and parkland in England. These include the English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens and various local inventories produced by English Nature and other partners in Norfolk and Bedfordshire (Reid & Wilson 1995), Staffordshire (Webb 2001) and Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire (Alexander & Lister 2004). However, there are no reliable statistics on either the extent of the overall resource or the historical and current loss or degradation of the habitat.

In the East Midlands, a number of Local Biodiversity Action Plans in the region already contain plans and targets relating to parkland and old trees (eg Derbyshire Wildlife Trust 2002; Jeeves and others 1998). To facilitate action, there is a clear need to develop an Inventory of important parkland sites to form a basis for furthering their conservation and contributing towards national biodiversity targets at a regional and local level. This has also been stimulated by;

- € New awareness of the importance of these habitats for wildlife resulting from the inclusion of lowland wood-pastures and parklands in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan as a Priority Habitat for action.
- € The past failure of county-based Phase I habitat surveys dating from the 1980s and 1990s to recognise and identify sites containing remnant populations of old trees. Some East Midland counties remain without field-by-field surveys. Such surveys have traditionally concentrated on sites of high botanical interest. This has led to parkland habitats being poorly represented in the network of non-statutory Local Wildlife Sites (often known as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation or SINCs). With reviews underway in a number of counties, there is an urgent need to identify parklands with nature conservation value and evaluate their interest against

published local criteria. It is possible that a number of such local sites could be of national importance for old trees and their associated wildlife.

- € The exclusion of this type of woodland from the well-known and widely recognised Ancient Woodland Inventories, despite many wood-pasture and parkland habitats being of considerable antiquity.
- € The region is considered to be amongst the most significant in England for this habitat type, with 13 parklands or wood-pastures notified as Sites of Special Scientific Interest, being of national importance for nature conservation. Previous estimates of the parkland resource in the region stand at approximately 5000 hectares or 22% of the estimated habitat resource in England (East Midlands Biodiversity Forum 2004).

1.2 Aims of study

In 2003, Baker Shepherd Gillespie was commissioned by English Nature's Eastern Area Team to produce a regional parkland and lowland wood-pasture inventory for the East Midlands region. The project will identify and gather information on parkland sites with concentrations of old trees in six counties: Derbyshire, Northamptonshire, Leicestershire, Rutland, Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire. The production of the inventory is an initial phase of work that will be used to inform future survey, evaluation and designation of historic parklands by member counties as part of their respective Local Wildlife Site systems.

The project aims are to:

- € Produce an inventory of lowland parkland and wood-pasture sites likely to be of nature conservation interest within the five counties.
- € Map and determine the extent and distribution of the resource within the counties.

1.3 Definition of parkland and lowland wood-pasture

The National Habitat Action Plan for Lowland Wood-pasture and Parkland (UK Biodiversity Action Group 1998) lists the following land use histories as a definition for parkland and wood-pasture:

- € Lowland wood-pasture and parklands are derived from mediaeval forests and emparkments, wooded commons, parks, and pastures with trees in them. Some have had designed landscapes superimposed on them to become landscaped parks in 16-18th century.
- € Parklands with their origins in the 19th century with veteran trees derived from earlier landscapes.
- € Under-managed and unmanaged wood-pastures with veteran trees, in a matrix of secondary woodland or scrub that has developed by regeneration and/or planting.
- € Parkland or lowland wood-pasture that has been converted to other land uses such as arable fields, forestry or amenity land, but where surviving veteran trees or other features of nature conservation interest with species that have survived this conversion.

Characteristic features of parkland sites can therefore include:

- € woodland with old and/or veteran trees;
- € pasture with scattered old or veteran trees;
- € mature tree belts;
- € tree lined avenues;
- € scattered trees;
- € hedgerows;
- € plantations including exotic species;
- € walled gardens;
- € arboretums;
- € topiary;
- € shrubberies;
- € lakes;
- € ponds;
- € streams;
- € estate buildings;
- € brick and/or stone walls.

All these features have potential ecological significance for the habitats and species they can support.

Similarly, historic wood-pasture sites can support a range of habitats with a range of structural diversity. Some sites may still be managed using traditional methods but for many sites such management has now lapsed. Wood pasture supports combinations of currently grazed or un-grazed grassland with characteristic features such as old or veteran trees, pollards and evidence of timber management for young wood. As a result both parkland and wood pasture sites can support distinctive and important assemblages of fungi, epiphytic ferns, bryophytes and lichens, invertebrates associated with deadwood, bats and birds.

This provisional inventory is largely confined to enclosed parkland landscapes and does not include historic parks that have become incorporated into the wider countryside and therefore have few or no features connected to their parkland history.

Wood-pasture is defined as relict or derelict grazed woodland with veteran trees present. Historically the woods would be grazed by a variety of herbivores, originally deer and later domestic stock. This practice creates a varied woodland structure with open glades within the wood.

1.4 Brief historic context

Parkland has been a characteristic element of the English landscape for centuries. During the Medieval period (1086-1500), parkland was a widespread feature of all of the East Midland counties; Cantor (1983) records over 200 medieval parks in the region - 55 parks across Leicestershire & Rutland, a further 50 sites in Derbyshire, 42 in Northamptonshire, 35 in Nottinghamshire and 32 parks across Lincolnshire. Parkland occurred widely across the region but noticeable concentrations of medieval parkland occurred in lowland Derbyshire, north-west Leicestershire and north-east Northamptonshire (Squires & Humphreys 1986; Cantor & Squires 1997; Pettit 1968).

Woodland subject to grazing by both wild and domestic herbivores was certainly abundant across England and the East Midlands region by 1086 (Rackham 1986). These pasture-woodlands were formalised by the Norman Kings, who placed great emphasis on their value for hunting and sport, into Royal **Hunting Forests** and baronial **Chases**. Essentially administrative areas, the Forests and Chases were often extensive in size but not necessarily well wooded. These were the parts of the country where cultivation was physically difficult and agricultural development slow so they often incorporated large areas of unenclosed, uncultivated land associated with poor soils and/or difficult terrain (thus including tracts of heath, moor and open woodland) together with smaller areas of settlement, cultivated farmland and pasture. The Forests were managed under strict Forest Laws to protect the hunting rights of the King and their function as private deer hunting grounds for royalty and nobility.

In the East Midlands, 7 Royal Forests have been recorded namely the Forests of Sherwood in Nottinghamshire, Charnwood in Leicestershire, Leighfield in Rutland, Rockingham, Whittlewood and Salcey in Northamptonshire and the High Peak in the Derbyshire uplands (Grant 1991). Most of these Forests date from around the 12th Century. Some Forests remained under the control of the Crown for centuries, particularly those, such as Sherwood, which were able to provide large quantities of timber for shipbuilding and building construction in addition to their hunting value. In addition to the forests, Yardley Chase in south Northamptonshire was an extensive, well-wooded area held by the Earls of Northampton and a rare example of a baronial chase in the East Midlands (Pettit 1968).

Within the boundaries of the Royal Forests were often a number of hedged enclosures, or 'hays', of varying sizes. Hays formed some of the core royal woods within the Forest and were usually the primary source of royal gifts of timber, venison and firewood. These woods were often very open in character with heath and grassland, forming open pasture-woodland, and usually lacked the characteristic features of more formal, enclosed parkland such as the simple fenced enclosure, boundary earthworks and, in later centuries, ornamental landscaping. Examples from the East Midlands include Birklands and Bilhaugh in Sherwood Forest and Morehay and Sulehay in Rockingham Forest.

As the Crown gradually relinquished control over large areas of Forest land and abandoned Forest law, privately-owned **parks** evolved as the lords of the manor received royal licence to 'impark' former royal land. Outside of the forest areas, parks seemingly required no formal authorisation and the introduction of fallow deer into Britain saw a rapid increase in the number of deer parks. Typically, these parks were small (up to 200 acres in size), securely enclosed areas of land that were usually managed to contain deer for venison and also to provide controlled grazing for other livestock. They were generally well wooded to provide

the necessary cover for animals and often enclosed using a combination of ditches, banks and paling fences.

By the 17th Century, a growing demand for agriculture and a rising population meant that those parks that had not been dis-emparked and converted to food production became increasingly symbolic of social status. By the late 17th Century, many parks had become formalised with large houses and designed gardens built within them. Places such as Stapleford Park in Leicestershire and Exton Park in Rutland were transformed by the fashion of landscaping advocated by Lancelot ‘capability’ Brown and then later by Humphrey Repton during the late 18th Century (for example, Donington Hall and Burley Park in Rutland). Conversely, other parks were destroyed completely during the English Civil War (1642-51), especially those well-wooded sites such as Clipstone Park in Nottinghamshire, which were characterised by many old oak trees.

During the 19th and 20th Centuries, the remaining parks continued to change. Many were converted to arable land, forestry plantation or amenity grassland, signs of their previous history becoming restricted to a handful of ancient parkland trees along their historic boundaries (eg Groby Park and Beaumanor Park in Leicestershire). A number now incorporate golf courses for example, such as Kedleston Park in Derbyshire and Norwood Park in Nottinghamshire, both relict medieval deer parks with good numbers of veteran trees (Lyth 1986). Some lost their continuity with grazing animals, resulting in extensive encroachment of scrub and secondary woodland. Some parks did however survive these trends and retained much of their original medieval character as deer parks, such as Bradgate and Donington Parks in Leicestershire.

1.5 A review of the nature conservation interest of parkland and wood-pasture in the East Midlands

A number of wood-pastures and parklands in the region are outstanding in their value for wildlife (Table 1). Thirteen wood-pasture and parkland sites are considered to be nationally important for nature conservation, having been notified as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) by English Nature, two of these form part of a National Nature Reserve (NNR). One site – Birklands and Bilhaugh SSSI (Sherwood Forest) - is one of only four forest and pasture-woodland sites considered to be of European significance for their saproxylic invertebrate faunas and has been selected as a candidate Special Area of Conservation (cSAC) by the UK Government, as required by the 1992 EEC Directive on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (92/43/EEC), commonly known as the European Habitats Directive.

Table 1: Nationally important wood-pasture and parkland sites in the East Midlands region.

SSSI	County	Feature of special interest			
		Old trees	Invertebrates	Lower plants	Unimproved vegetation
Birklands and Bilhaugh	Nottinghamshire	J	J		J
Birklands West and Ollerton Corner	Nottinghamshire	J	J		J
Bradgate Park	Leicestershire	J	J	J	J
Calke Park	Derbyshire	J	J		
Chatsworth Park	Derbyshire	J	J	J	
Croxton Park	Leicestershire	J		J	J
Clumber Park	Nottinghamshire	J	J		J
Donington Park	Leicestershire	J	J		
Grimsthorpe Park	Lincolnshire	J	J		J
Kedleston Park	Derbyshire	J	J		
Stanford Park	Leicestershire			J	
Whittlewood Forest	Northamptonshire	J	J		
Yardley Chase	Northamptonshire	J	J		J

1.5.1 Old trees

All of these SSSIs contain important populations of large ancient trees, the majority likely to be at least 400-600 years in age, and which range in number from over 1600 standing oaks in Birklands and Bilhaugh SSSI (Clifton 2000) to less than 50 in Donington Park SSSI in Leicestershire. The ancient tree population of these sites largely consists of pendunculate oak *Quercus robur* and sessile oak *Q. petraea*, characterised by their large girth and a noticeable loss of crown which produces a ‘stag-headed’ appearance. Often in association with these are old specimens of ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, hawthorn *Crataegus mongyna*, birch *Betula pendula*, beech *Fagus sylvatica*, lime *Tilia* spp. and sycamore *Acer pseudoplanatus*. Some are standing maiden trees with no indications of past active management, whilst others have been noticeably pollarded in the past, such as the oaks of Donington Park SSSI and Bradgate Park SSSI. The form of many of the large veteran trees that remain suggest they developed in open woodland conditions, their growth shaped by historic management practices of timber harvesting and grazing.

1.5.2 Semi-natural vegetation

In a region where the loss of agriculturally unimproved habitat has been perhaps the most rapid and far-reaching in the UK, wood-pastures and parks are now key places to find good examples of semi-natural vegetation types. On parkland sites, large, open-grown trees often occur within a matrix of unimproved grassland, heathland and/or tall-herb communities. Parks on acid free-draining soils support a characteristic ground flora dominated by bracken, wavy hair-grass and heather with patches of flower-rich acid grassland (eg Calke Park SSSI, Birklands and Bilhaugh SSSI, Clumber Park SSSI). Examples of unimproved herb-rich neutral and calcareous grassland remain within parkland on richer soils on clays and limestones (eg Yardley Chase SSSI, Grimsthorpe Park SSSI), whilst extensive areas of wet heath and pasture are a feature of sites on poorly drained, nutrient-poor soils, such as

Bradgate Park SSSI. This site is also nationally important for its geological features, unique amongst the East Midland parklands.

1.5.3 Fungi and lichens

Parkland can support a rich fungi flora, either on the trees themselves or in close association with them on the woodland floor. Fungi play a fundamental role in woodland ecology, acting as natural decomposers in the latter stages of the life cycle of trees. Amongst the notable species of fungi associated with parklands is the oak polypore *Piptoporus quercinus*, a nationally rare and internationally endangered species which receives special protection under Schedule 8 of the *Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981* (as amended). This bracket fungus is closely associated with heartwood rot in live or decaying oak trees. A national Species Action Plan within the UK Biodiversity Action Plan has been produced for this fungus. Old parks and wood-pastures in the East Midlands – Calke Park SSSI, Bradgate Park SSSI and Birklands and Bilhaugh SSSI - are amongst its few stations in the UK (Roberts 2001).

A number of East Midland parklands are known to be important for their assemblages of lichens, lower plants commonly found on the bark of old trees and exposed stone walls within parklands largely free of atmospheric pollution and agricultural spray-drift. Croxton Park SSSI and Stanford Park SSSI are considered to be two of the richest sites for this flora in the Midlands, supporting nearly 150 species of which a number are rare both nationally and regionally.

1.5.4 Bats

Bats are commonly associated with parkland; the cavities and crevices of many old trees provide a multitude of potential summer and winter roosts for species such as the noctule bat *Nyctalus noctula*. The associated parkland habitats of pasture and wetland can offer important summer feeding grounds for a diverse bat assemblage including the whiskered bat *Myotis mystacinus* and Natterer's bat *M. nattereri*. Buildings within the park, ranging from historic houses and out-buildings to farm buildings and domestic dwellings, are often occupied by bats such as pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* and *P. pygmaeus* and brown long-eared *Plecotus auritus*. Bats with a very restricted distribution in England have also been recorded recently from East Midland parkland such as the barbastelle *Barbastella barbastellus* and the serotine *Eptesicus serotinus*, Calke Park being the only known site for this species in Derbyshire for example.

1.5.5 Invertebrates

Old parklands and wood-pastures are acknowledged to be of great importance for invertebrates, most notably the rich assemblages of saproxylic invertebrates closely associated with the wide range of decaying wood habitat provided by large old trees (Harding & Rose 1986; Kirby & Drake 1994; Harding & Alexander 1994). More than 1700 species of invertebrate in the UK and Ireland are dependent on decaying-wood to complete their life cycle (Alexander, 1999). As their specialised habitats are rare and their powers of dispersal limited, many of these species are considered to be nationally rare. In the East Midlands, a number of well-recorded parkland sites are nationally important for their beetles, flies, bees, wasps, spiders and/or moths (Harding 1978; Alexander 2004). Due to their long continuity of mature and over-mature timber habitat, a high proportion of these sites are amongst the best known sites for such faunas in the UK and Europe (see Table 2).

Nearly all parkland SSSIs in the region are noted for their invertebrate faunas, in particular their rich saproxylic beetle fauna characteristic of a long continuity of the mature timber habitat and an abundance of standing and fallen dead wood. An impressive number of nationally rare and scarce species occur on many sites, including the rare bark beetles *Ernoporus caucasius*, which is strongly associated with lime, and *Prionychus melanarius* and *Microscydmus minimus*, beetles primarily associated with the decaying heartwood of mature oaks. Others include *Prionychus melanarius* a darkling beetle found in old forests and rotten wood of old oak and birch and *Cryptocephalus querceti* a rare species of leaf beetle associated with ancient oaks. The largest false scorpion in Britain, *Dendrochernes cyrneus*, a species found in dry sapwood and bark of dead and over-mature trees, is also found in Sherwood Forest at one of its few stations in the UK. The rove beetle *Velleius dilataus* is extremely rare, inhabiting nests of the hornet *Vespa crabro* in large old trees, and has been recorded at Grimsthorpe Park in Lincolnshire. A number of species are affiliated to fungi on deciduous trees such as the darkling beetle *Eledona agricola* and *Corticium unicolor*, a rare darkling beetle identified with bracket fungi on trees, especially birch, and which is almost confined to Sherwood Forest. Lesser stag beetle *Dorcus parallelipipedus* is characteristic, whilst the greater stag beetle *Lucanus cervus*, a UKBAP priority species of rotting timber and stumps, occurs at the northern edge of its known range in Northamptonshire.

Important species amongst the spider fauna include *Lepthyphantes midas*, a money spider found in hollow oak trees and under bark and *Mastigusa macrophthalama*, a cobweb spider associated with ant nests in dead or decaying oak trees. Both these species occur at a small number of old parks in Leicestershire. Calke Park, Kedleston Park and Birklands, for example, are notable for their rare flies including the hoverflies *Orthonevra brevicornis*, *Xylota florum* and *Brachypalpus laphriformis* and the cranefly *Ctenophora pectinicornis*. The assemblage of moths too can be notable, for example, the small brindled beauty *Apocheima hispidaria*, an uncommon species recently re-discovered in close association with the old oaks in Sherwood Forest.

In addition, the geographical position of many sites in the English Midlands can result in a distinctive and unique collection of species which occur at both their northern and southern extremes of range.

Table 2: Parkland and wood-pastures in order of importance for saproxylic beetles (from Alexander 2004)

Site	County	Status	Importance	GB rating
Birklands and Bilhaugh (Sherwood Forest)	Nottinghamshire	SSSI Part NNR cSAC	International	5
Calke Park	Derbyshire	SSSI pNNR	National	14
Clumber Park	Nottinghamshire	SSSI	National	19
Kedleston Park	Derbyshire	SSSI	National	32
Grimsthorpe Park	Lincolnshire	SSSI	National	36
Donington Park	Leicestershire	SSSI	National	54
Rockingham Castle Park	Northamptonshire	-	National	56
Chatsworth Park	Derbyshire	SSSI	National	60
Hardwick Hall Park	Derbyshire	-	National	61
Bradgate Park	Leicestershire	SSSI	Regional	71

Examples of wildlife-rich parkland and wood-pasture in the East Midlands Region

Ancient trees and decaying-wood in Whittlewood Forest SSSI, Northamptonshire (**below**) and Bradgate Park SSSI, Leicestershire (**bottom**), both active deer parks dating from medieval times.



(Peter Wakely/English Nature)



(Peter Wakely/English Nature)



(Peter Wakely/English Nature)

Veteran trees amongst parkland at Calke Park SSSI, Derbyshire (above) and un-grazed wood-pasture at Birklands and Bilhaugh SSSI, Nottinghamshire (below).



(Peter Wakely/English Nature)

2. Methodology

2.1 Desk study

A desktop study has been undertaken to compile a list of parklands and wood-pasture for each of the six counties of the East Midlands. Potential sites were initially identified from the 1:50,000 Ordnance Survey maps.

Contact was made via telephone or email with key people in each county (see Appendix 2). In addition visits were made to several counties to review documentation and interview key people.

2.2 Sources of information

2.2.1 Ordnance Survey maps

The Ordnance Survey (OS) Landranger 1:50,000 map series was used to search for land classified as parkland (shaded grey). The boundary depicted has been taken as the definitive boundary where no other boundary information on that parkland was available from other sources.

2.2.2 SSSI citations

The SSSI boundary maps were used to inform the mapping of the parkland, but in most cases the SSSI forms only part of the overall parkland. The SSSI citation also provides ecological information on the parkland.

2.2.3 Local Biological Records Centre

County Records Centres were contacted for ecological information on habitats and species recorded for the Parklands within each county. A list of potential parklands was supplied to the Centres.

2.2.4 County Wildlife Site citations

Ecological information on wildlife sites which encompass parkland or wood-pasture was sought from the relevant organisations in each county.

2.2.5 Local Authority data sources

Where appropriate Sites and Monuments Officers, Conservation Officers and local County Ecologists were contacted.

2.2.6 County Wildlife Trusts

Each wildlife trust for the five counties was contacted for information on Parklands within each county: each was provided with a list of parklands to review; and each was asked to provide comments on the level of information recorded.

2.2.7 Local specialists

Local specialists were provided with a list of potential parklands for the relevant county, in order to provide detailed species information.

2.2.8 Local archives

Where appropriate county archives were consulted and visited to obtain historical and boundary information on parklands.

2.2.9 English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens

The English Heritage (EH) maps of parklands gives information on designed and landscaped gardens and parklands, sites graded (Grade I or Grade II) according to the interest of their features, landscape design and/or architecture. The maps provide definitive boundaries for the registered sites that were used in the mapping exercise. The grading was only included on the database if there was parkland present: sites where the only the hall or gardens are listed were not included on the database unless another source of information indicated the presence of parkland.

2.2.10 Internet searches

A search on the Internet was undertaken for several of the private parklands in particular where the associated hall or manor house has been converted for commercial use (such as hotels, golf courses, and restaurants).

2.3 Database creation

An Access 1997 database was designed to collate the desktop information. The structure of the database is explained in Section 3.1.

2.4 Mapping

English Nature provided BSG with black and white Raster maps and a colour MasterMap seamless layer for the six counties. The Parkland and Wood-pasture boundaries were mapped using MapInfo 7, with reference to the 1:50,000 OS Maps for each county, the EH Parkland boundary maps and SSSI boundary maps. No ground truthing or grading of the Parklands and wood-pasture was required as part of this contract.

3. Results

3.1 Presentation of results

All relevant information relating to parklands and wood-pasture within the six counties was collated using Access 97. All parklands identified by the desktop study are included.

Summary tables derived from the database are included in Appendix 1. However the full database has a number of additional fields. The fields presented within the entire database are as follows:

3.1.1 Site name

This was taken from OS maps, the EH register of Parks and Gardens or it was provided by contacts within each of the counties.

3.1.2 Grid reference

A six-figure grid reference is provided for the approximate centre of each site.

3.1.3 County

The county location of each site is provided. Where a site crosses county boundaries (in one case only) the Park was recorded within the county within which it predominately occurs.

3.1.4 Area

The size of the site (in hectares) was generated from the mapped parkland boundary on MapInfo.

3.1.5 Source of information

The source of information on the parkland and its mapped boundaries is provided.

3.1.6 Date of origin

This was generated, where possible, by reference to historical information, in particular the EH Register citations, National Trust site information and internet sites.

3.1.7 English Heritage Register Grade

The Register grades (I or II) for each site where applicable.

3.1.8 Medieval history

This field is included within this Report only. It cross-checks the site against a comprehensive list of medieval deer parks in England produced from a wide range of documentary evidence (Cantor 1983). This is a potentially valuable attribute when assessing likely nature conservation value.

3.1.9 Ownership

Details of the ownership of the parkland or wood-pasture, where known. Where, as a result of this study, the ownership of a site remains undefined, this field has been recorded as “unknown”.

3.1.10 Managing organisation

Details of the managing organisation, where available.

3.1.11 Designations

Any statutory and non-statutory nature conservation designation relating to the site is included.

3.1.12 Current state

The current state of the parkland that is whether the parkland has intact parkland features, or is parkland with modified features or the current state is unknown.

3.1.13 Landuse

Details of the current use of the Park (amenity, private estate, hotel, country park, etc.).

3.1.14 Phase I habitat information

The habitats within the individual sites were recorded by reference to the Phase 1 habitat classification. This information was retrieved from Phase 1 maps for Lincolnshire and a Northamptonshire Habitat Survey. The Wildlife Site Register for Derbyshire provided information on the habitats present within certain parklands.

3.1.15 Veteran tree presence and description

Known presence /absence of veteran trees and a description of the veteran tree resource where available.

3.1.16 Presence of other flora

A general description of the flora of the site is provided where this data was available.

3.1.17 Bark lichens

A record of the presence of significant bark lichen assemblages.

3.1.18 Fauna

A general description of the fauna of the site is provided where this data was available.

3.1.19 Invertebrate fauna

A record of the presence of rare invertebrate species associated with the veteran tree resource and parkland, typically assemblages of beetles, flies and spiders. Information was also taken from the Invertebrate Site Register (ISR) for each county.

3.1.20 Comments

Additional information on the history, wildlife records or modification of the site is included here.

Table 3 presents a list of contacts made and the information held by different individuals and organisations within each county, whilst Section 3.2 presents summary information for each of the six counties.

Table 3: List of contacts

County	Contact Name	Organisation/role	Information held	Information received
National contacts	Steve Clifton	English Nature Grantham	SSSI info, EH info, various papers, English Nature reports.	£
	David Conway	English Heritage	List of registered Parks and Gardens	£
	Rebecca Watson	English Nature BAP lead co-ordinator network	Criteria for Parklands, Previous studies on veteran trees/parklands	x
	Rebecca Watson	English Nature	HAP position- progress report	x
Derbyshire	Annie Cooper	Derbyshire County Council Ecologist	Parkland LNR, SINC sites LBAP info, contacts	£
	Debbie Court	Derbyshire Wildlife Trust- Wildlife Sites Register	1983 Phase 1 surveys, wildlife sites, information on Parks in Derbyshire, inventory info.	£
	Glynnis Foster	Derbyshire County Council	Landscape Character Assessment information.	£
	Dan Abrahams	English Nature local team	SSSI info on Derbyshire Parklands and wood-pasture	£
	Nick Moyes	Derby Biological Records Centre	Habitat information and Parkland records.	x
	Rhodry Thomas	Peak Park ecologist	Parklands in Peak Park	x
	Derek Whiteley	Local naturalist – inverts	Veteran trees/invertebrates	x
Nottinghamshire	Sam Lattaway	Nottinghamshire County Council	Parkland ecological information	x
	Genie Baddley	Nottinghamshire CC, sites and monuments officer	EH registered Parks and other parklands listed by the County Council.	£
Lincolnshire	Jon Watson	Lincolnshire County Council	Phase 1/aerial photos	£

County	Contact Name	Organisation/role	Information held	Information received
	Caroline Steel	Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust	Wildlife Sites	x
	Mr Rowland	Local fungi recorder	Fungi records	x
	Rene Watson	BSBI Recorder	Botanical records	x
	Mr Manning	Lincolnshire Naturalists Union	General parklands information	£
Northamptonshire	Christine Addison	Sites and Monuments Officer	Maps for Parklands on EH register, any other additional maps/info. on other Parklands	£
	Alan Smith	Wildlife Trust/Conservation Officer	Parklands Survey Volume, wildlife sites	£
	Sarah Bridges	Archives/local studies	Old maps and books	£
	Graham Cadman	Conservation Field Officer		x
	Steve Benamore	Local Authority Tree Officer/ County Recorder of Veteran Trees	Detailed local knowledge	x
	Gill Gent	BSBI Recorder	Botanical information on parklands	£
	Jeff Best	Consultant ecologist	Local knowledge	x
Leicestershire & Rutland		Sites and Monuments Officer/Countryside Services	Information on parklands within the county	x
		Leicestershire & Rutland Wildlife Trust	Information on the presence of parklands within the county and wildlife interest	x
		Archives/local studies	Historical information on parklands within the county	x
		Rutland County Council Nature Conservation Officer	Information on the presence of parklands within the county and habitats and species present	x
	Darwyn Sumner	Holly Hayes Environmental Resources Centre	Flora and fauna records for some parklands particularly protected sites	x

3.2 Summary of the Regional Parkland and Wood-pasture Inventory

- € 314 parkland and wood-pasture sites, covering 32,294 hectares, have been identified within the East Midlands Region.
- € 13 sites are at least in part SSSI, two of which are wood-pasture.
- € 4 sites, in Derbyshire, are at least part designated as Local Nature Reserves.
- € 32 sites in Derbyshire and Leicestershire contain non-statutory County Wildlife Sites, in particular the woodlands and waterbodies within the Parklands.
- € 95 sites (30% of the total number of parklands identified) are listed on the English Heritage Parks and Gardens Register.
- € 115 of the parklands (37%) are privately owned, however not all the ownership details are known.
- € 170 sites (54% of the parklands) have undetermined ownership.
- € 9 of the parklands are owned at least in part by the National Trust.
- € 17 of the parklands are owned by the Local Authority or County Councils.
- € 47 of the parklands/wood-pastures (15% of the region's parklands/wood-pastures) are known to support veteran trees.
- € 17 parklands have information relating to vertebrates associated with veteran trees. 4 have lichen assemblages associated with the veteran trees.
- € 10 of the sites support intact parkland and 4 parklands have had a change in use for amenity purposes.

Table 4: summary of the Regional Inventory

County	No. of Inventory sites	Area of Inventory sites (hectares)	% of sites known to contain old trees	% of sites lacking wildlife information
Derbyshire	52	4117	17%	79%
Leicestershire	38	3883	16%	79%
Lincolnshire	55	4634	4%	91%
Northamptonshire	66	5733	10%	82%
Nottinghamshire	97	12969	9%	88%
Rutland	6	958	16%	83%
TOTAL	314	32,294	15%	84%

3.3 Summary of Derbyshire parklands

The Wildlife Sites Officer for Derbyshire Wildlife Trust was able to provide information on the wildlife interest of many of the parklands together with Wildlife Site (SINC) information for most of the parklands in Derbyshire. In many cases the Wildlife Site/s are woodlands or waterbodies and form part of the overall parkland site. In addition, ownership information was available from the Trust. Of particular interest in Derbyshire is research that is being carried out by the Duffield Frith Research Group. Duffield Frith was a Private Forest and later a Royal Forest over 30 miles in circumference. A number of the parks created within Duffield Frith are still visible in the landscape as archaeological remains. However a number are still present and are included on the Inventory.

- € 52 parkland sites, covering 4,117 hectares, have been identified within Derbyshire.
- € 4 sites are at least partly coincident with Kedleston Park SSSI, Calke Park SSSI, Chatsworth Old Park SSSI and Hardwick Park is also under consideration as a proposed SSSI.
- € 4 sites are at least partly coincident with Belper Park proposed LNR, Elvaston Castle LNR, Allestree Park LNR and Chaddesden Wood LNR.
- € 30 sites contain non-statutory County Wildlife Sites, in particular the woodlands and waterbodies within the Parklands.
- € 17 sites (33% of Derbyshire parklands) are identified on the English Heritage Parks and Gardens Register.
- € 27 of the 52 parklands are privately owned; however not all the ownership details are known.
- € 15 of the 52 parklands have undetermined ownership.
- € 4 of the 52 parklands are owned at least in part by the National Trust.
- € 6 of the parklands are owned by the Local Authority.
- € 9 parklands (17% of the Derbyshire resource) are known to support veteran trees.
- € 27 parklands have information relating to vegetation or habitats present.
- € 4 parklands have information relating to vertebrates associated with veteran trees. Chatsworth Park has lichen assemblages associated with the veteran trees.
- € 10 of the sites support intact parkland and 4 parklands have had a change in use for amenity purposes.

3.4 Summary of Nottinghamshire Parklands

A large number of provisional parklands were identified within the county, however the problems with data availability means that little information on the nature conservation of the parklands was collated. However the Biological and Geological Records Centre at Wollaton Hall may hold information relating to the sites identified.

- € 97 parklands, covering 12,969 hectares, have been identified in Nottinghamshire.
- € 1 parkland - Clumber Park - is a SSSI.
- € 1 area of ancient wood-pasture, partly active, part modified, identified (Birklands and Bilhaugh SSSI complex of 922 hectares)

- € 17 of the 97 parklands are on the English Heritage Register.
- € 13 of the parklands are privately owned.
- € 1 parkland is owned by the Forestry Commission.
- € 2 parklands are owned by Nottinghamshire County Council.
- € 1 parkland is owned by the Ministry of Defence.
- € 1 parkland is owned by the Local Authority.
- € 1 parkland is owned by the National Trust.
- € 1 parkland has divided ownership.
- € 80 parklands have undetermined ownership.
- € 9 parklands/wood-pastures (9% of Nottinghamshire parkland) are known to support veteran trees.
- € 5 parklands have information relating to vegetation or habitats.
- € 1 parkland has information relating to invertebrates.
- € No information was available on the general state of parklands for this county

3.5 Summary of Northamptonshire parklands

The Conservation Officer for the Northamptonshire Wildlife Trust was able to provide a variety of contacts for the County, including local recorders and other local individuals. He was also able to inform us that the Phase 1 Habitat information is kept by the County Council. However this was not available. In addition, detailed ecological/Phase 1 habitat information was available for a number of parks from a parkland survey carried out in the 1980s. The information was found to be useful, but it should be noted that it dates from the 1980s and because no ground truthing has been carried out as part of this study, the current validity of this information will need to be checked. The Wildlife Trust also holds SINC information including many of the parks in the County. Due to the cost involved SINC information was not obtained, although the source of this information is known, so can be obtained when necessary.

The BSBI recorder for Northamptonshire was sent a list of parklands and she provided botanical species lists and information on ownership for a number of parks. This information was useful and was the only source of botanical, species and habitat information for Northamptonshire.

The Arboriculture Officer for Wellingborough Council was contacted and provided with a list of parklands, for comment and amendments. At present he is producing a report on veteran trees in the county. At the moment no information has been provided, but this is considered to be a potentially very useful source of information for the local area and should be pursued in any future study on individual parklands.

A local consultant ecologist was recommended as a useful source of information by the county Wildlife Trust and he was approached for information. Unfortunately this research carried with it no budget for the purchase of information, but discussions revealed that he has a lot of knowledge and the possibility of information purchase in the future should be considered.

- € 66 parklands covering 5,733 hectares have been identified in Northamptonshire.
- € 2 parklands/wood-pasture are notified as SSSIs - Whittlebury Park and Yardley Chase. A section of the Yardley Chase SSSI wood-pasture coincides with the Castle Ashby parkland (as depicted on the EH register citation map). This area has been identified as part of the Castle Ashby Parkland for the purpose of this report. The remainder of the SSSI is denoted as Yardley Chase.
- € 23 of the 66 Northamptonshire Parklands are on the English Heritage Register.
- € 44 of the 66 parklands are privately owned, but not all the ownership details are known.
- € 19 of the 66 parklands have undetermined ownership.
- € 2 of the 66 parklands are owned by the National Trust.
- € 1 parkland is owned by the Local Authority.
- € 3 parklands are known to support veteran trees; 4 parklands are known to support other large specimen trees.
- € 7 parklands have information relating to vegetation or habitats.
- € 13 parklands have general information relating to vertebrates.
- € 7 parklands have general information relating to invertebrates.
- € No information was available on the general state of parklands for this county

3.6 Summary of Lincolnshire parklands

The Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust was contacted to provide wildlife site information, but due to the costs of data provision, this avenue was not pursued.

The ecologist of Lincolnshire County Council was contacted and visited. The County Council holds Phase 1 Habitat information and aerial photographs of Lincolnshire, some of which were studied to provide habitat information for the list of parklands. However this was a time consuming process and the information was from 1993/4, and it may now be at least partly out of date. Manning (2002) provides a list of 80 parklands in the county, 55 of which are included within the provisional list of parklands identified by this research project. It was not possible to determine the location of the remaining parklands listed, as there were no maps or grid references. The author of the article is due to publish a book on the deer of Lincolnshire and this may be useful in the future. Survey of parks in Lincolnshire is ongoing and a Parkland LHAP is being considered.

The local fungi and BSBI recorders were also contacted, but no response was received. Further attempts to contact these recorders should be pursued. They may hold valuable information, and should be contacted again if any follow on work is proposed.

- € 55 parklands covering 4634 hectares have been identified in Lincolnshire.
- € 1 parkland forms part of a SSSI (Grimsthorpe Park).
- € 20 of the 55 parklands (36%) are on the English Heritage Register.
- € 1 of the parklands is privately owned.

- € 2 of the parklands are owned by the National Trust.
- € 1 parkland is owned by the local authority.
- € 51 parklands(93%) have undetermined ownership.
- € 2 parklands (4%) are known to support veteran trees.
- € 10 parklands have habitat information.
- € 1 parkland has general information on vertebrates.
- € 1 parkland has information on invertebrates, specifically beetle fauna.
- € No information was available on the general state of parklands for this county.

3.7 Summary of Leicestershire and Rutland parklands

The Wildlife Sites Officer of the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust provided information on one parkland, which is a County Wildlife Site, and which is partly owned and managed by the Wildlife Trust. The Wildlife Sites Officer advised that Holly Hayes Environmental Record Centre holds more information on the extent of the County's parklands as well as information on the Wildlife Sites within Leicestershire and Rutland. The Centre was contacted for information on the parklands in Leicestershire and Rutland. However there was no budget for data retrieval costs. However Holly Hayes ERC is considered to be a useful source of information for future use.

Leicestershire City Council's Greenspaces Officer provided information on two inner-city parklands, which they manage. The information comprised mainly historical accounts and boundary maps but little information on their ecological value was available.

To maximise the end use of the data collated during the study Leicestershire and Rutland summaries have been developed separately as follows:

Summary of Rutland

- € 6 parklands covering 958 hectares have been identified in Rutland.
- € 1 of the parklands is part of a SSSI (Burley and Rushpit Woods SSSI).
- € 2 parklands are on the English Heritage Register.
- € 2 parklands are privately owned.
- € 4 parklands have undetermined ownership.
- € No information was available on the general state of parklands for this county
- € No information was collected on the habitats present within the parklands including the presence of veteran trees and any associated invertebrates or invertebrates

Summary of Leicestershire

- € 38 parklands, covering 3,883 hectares, have been identified in Leicestershire.
- € 4 of the parklands are either SSSIs or part of a SSSI. These include Croxton Park SSSI, Bradgate Park and Cropston Reservoir SSSI, Stanford Park SSSI and Donington Park SSSI.

- € 2 of the parklands are either SINC's or part of a SINC. These are Braunstone Meadows SINC and Knighton Spinney SINC.
- € 16 of the parklands (42%) are listed on the English Heritage Register.
- € 31 of the 38 parklands (82%) are privately owned.
- € 1 parkland ownership is undetermined.
- € 5 of the parklands are owned by Leicestershire City Council.
- € 1 of the parklands is owned by Leicestershire County Council.
- € 6 parklands (16%) are known to support veteran trees or other large specimen trees.
- € 9 parklands have information on habitats or vegetation.
- € 5 parklands have information on vertebrates.
- € 2 parklands have information on invertebrates.
- € No information was available on the general state of parklands for this county.

3.8 Project constraints

A general constraint is the unavailability of data and this should be borne in mind when examining the results for each of the counties. One reason for this is that the majority of the information on parklands is held by the relevant Records Centre and the provision of information to this project by the record centres would have incurred large costs, exceeding the budget available to cover the production of the Inventory. It is suggested that the future development of this Inventory at a local level will help to facilitate the release of relevant information, the quality of which can then be validated and improved.

3.9 Discussion

As the Project is a desktop study only, the nature conservation value of individual parklands has not been confirmed in many cases. The inventory is a provisional inventory of the parkland and wood-pasture resource of the region and represents an important stage in developing greater knowledge of the regional parkland resource. It should not be seen as definitive. More detailed work is required to improve the accuracy of figures and determine the exact extent and distribution of the resource as defined by the UKBAP. Ground-truthing would need to be undertaken and some form of survey and evaluation of each parkland carried out against nature conservation criteria.

This inventory has, however, established the presence of 314 parkland and wood-pasture sites, covering 32,294 hectares within the East Midlands Region. Although this covers only 2% of the land area of the East Midlands, this represents a significantly large resource of potential interest for nature conservation in a region where the vast majority of wildlife-rich sites are now small in area. The Inventory shows that parklands remain widespread in the region, occurring in all counties. Examples of active and derelict wood-pastures are particularly rare, being restricted to a few sites in Sherwood Forest in Nottinghamshire and Yardley Chase in Northamptonshire.

Many of the parklands are characterised by a range of features of conservation interest: for instance those with veteran trees recorded support important assemblages of invertebrates, fungi and bark lichens. In terms of their value for populations of old trees, 15% of these sites

are known to support veteran trees and others have the potential to harbour old trees and associated biodiversity. This is likely to be an under-representation arising from problems with data availability.

The availability of detailed information on the ecological interest and general state of the parkland/wood-pasture varies between the counties. Within this study there are many parklands for which there is no information available. Many of the parklands are private or their ownership is undetermined; thus gaining access in the future to assess these sites is likely to be time consuming but critical to a better knowledge of the regional parkland resource.

3.10 Comparison of results with other counties

It has been previously stated that the East Midlands was considered to be one of the most important regions for parkland and wood-pastures in England. The number of sites provisionally included within this Inventory can be compared with the findings of other local inventories (see below). This compares the number of individual sites only and not the area of the resource. Until much more information on the national resource is available, it is difficult to draw any firm conclusions on the relative significance of specific regions or counties for parkland and wood-pasture habitats. However, this Inventory has confirmed the high number of potential sites important for nature conservation in the East Midlands, especially within the counties of Nottinghamshire and Northamptonshire, both of which compare favourably with provisional results from other counties.

Table 5: comparison by county of the number of parkland sites in England

County	No. Of Sites	Source
Berkshire	160	Alexander & Lister 2003
Gloucestershire	150	cited in Alexander & Lister 2003
Buckinghamshire	134	Alexander & Lister 2003
Oxfordshire	129	Alexander & Lister 2003
Nottinghamshire	97	This study
Staffordshire	94	Webb & Bowler 2001
Bedfordshire	89	Reid & Wilson 1995
Norfolk	79	Norfolk County Council 1988
Northamptonshire	66	This study
Lincolnshire	55	This study
Derbyshire & Peak District	52	This study
Leicestershire & Rutland	44	This study

4. Recommendations

The study has produced a large provisional list of lowland parkland and wood-pasture sites for the East Midlands. Many of the sites require further study before the data on the list is to be treated as definitive, but in particular it is recommended that priority sites are visited to assess their current nature conservation value and the general condition of the parkland or wood-pasture for wildlife.

This study has confirmed that there is a considerable lack of knowledge relating to the region's parklands. Very little wildlife information has been obtained on 84% of Inventory sites, with the generally best known being the series of parkland Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) in the region.

The Inventory has however drawn together much of the information that currently exists and has already highlighted a number of parklands currently with no designation where ancient trees are known to occur. Many of these are associated with the old medieval forest landscapes, which may also be a locus for old trees now isolated within the wider countryside.

The need for clear criteria to assess the nature conservation value of parkland sites is an important part of a future survey and evaluation process and these should be developed by local nature conservation partnerships. Further analysis of historic maps, pinpointing the locations of medieval parkland in particular, would be advantageous as one way of targeting survey work given the association of old trees and biodiversity with sites of great antiquity. Many of the oldest known parks in the region dating from the 13th and 14th centuries, such as Bradgate Park (1241) in Leicestershire, are known to contain large populations of old trees, rich invertebrate faunas and areas of high botanical interest. This suggests that localities with a long parkland history and remnant parkland features dating from this time should be a priority for further work.

However, parks that were established much later may also be of wildlife value and should not be dismissed. For example, a royal licence to empark Clumber Park in Nottinghamshire was issued in the early 18th Century. The landscape of 'forest waste' that included rabbit-grazed heath, ancient woodland and old trees was then extensively re-modelled by replacing many of its more 'natural' features with a new and formal layout of plantations, avenues and lakes. Despite the modifications, the invertebrate faunas closely associated with the old woodland habitat still persist as there continues to be woodland habitat that provides mature timber and decaying wood. The high level of ecological continuity at this site ensures that Clumber Park is now one of the most important sites for saproxylic beetles in England despite being, at first glance, extensively landscaped and of relatively recent origin.

Similarly, examples of parkland and wood-pasture that have been heavily modified, losing some of their historic characteristics, may still be of considerable wildlife interest. For example, areas of parkland and wood-pasture have been subject to extensive commercial coniferous afforestation during the past fifty years. Despite woodland clearance and re-planting with non-native pine, a large number of old trees and a decaying-wood resource had been retained in many places, even within the most modified conifer-dominated plantations. Old trees within these stands may still be able to support a high quality saproxylic beetle fauna, sometimes of national importance (eg Lott 1995; Lott 1999).

Given the high nature conservation interest of wood-pasture and parkland SSSIs and the particular characteristics associated with these sites (long grazing history, presence of old and ancient trees, unimproved non-woodland vegetation), those parks in existence today which share all or some of these attributes are likely to offer the greatest nature conservation interest. It is suggested that these attributes should be used as criteria by which to evaluate parkland sites likely to be of greatest nature conservation importance. The top four categories of parkland – those of greatest value for parkland wildlife – are those likely to meet the definitions outlined by the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. A summary is provided below.

Table 6: Likely nature conservation importance of parklands in the region

Canopy cover	Grazing continuity	Old trees	>30% semi-natural vegetation	Parkland type	Likely importance for parkland wildlife
5-20%	Yes	Yes	Yes	Active working parkland	High
5-20%	No	Yes	Yes	Un-grazed parkland (semi-natural)	
5-20%	Yes	Yes	No	Grazed parkland (improved)	
5-20%	No	Yes	No	Un-grazed parkland (improved)	
5-20%	Yes	No	Yes	Semi-natural vegetation with scattered trees	
5-20%	No	No	Yes	Semi-natural vegetation with scattered trees	
5-20%	No	No	No	Improved vegetation with scattered trees	
5-20%	Yes	No	No	Improved grazing with young trees	Low

5. Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank all those who gave their time and provided information to this project. Particular thanks to the following:

- € Debbie Court, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust
- € Jon Watson, Lincolnshire County Council
- € Steve Benamore, Wellingborough Council
- € Christine Addison, Northamptonshire County Council
- € Gill Gent, BSBI recorder, Northamptonshire
- € Alan Smith, Northamptonshire Wildlife Trust
- € Jeff Best, Consultant Ecologist
- € Staff at English Nature's Geographic Information Unit
- € Dr Keith Kirby, English Nature.

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Appendix 1. List of Parkland & Wood-pasture in the East Midlands

Site name	County	Grid Ref	Area (Ha)	EH Register grade	Medieval history	Ownership	Designations	Current state	Known Veteran Tree presence	Known Bark lichen flora	Known invertebrate fauna
Bretby Park	Derbyshire	SK 302 224	9	II	Yes	DCC or private housing	part Wildlife Site	Changed use	maybe	No	No
Hardwick Park	Derbyshire	SK 460 640	329	I		National Trust	part candidate SSSI	Intact parkland	yes	No	Yes
Chatsworth Park	Derbyshire	SK 258 702	72	I		Private	part SSSI	Intact parkland	yes	Yes	No
Hassop Park	Derbyshire	SK 220715	97			Private		Intact parkland		No	No
Ednaston Manor	Derbyshire	SK 239 420	67	II	Yes	Private		Intact parkland	unknown	No	No
Calke Park	Derbyshire	SK 368 227	219	II		National Trust	SSSI, part Wildlife Site and Candidate Wildlife Site	Intact parkland	yes	No	Yes
Sydhope Hall	Derbyshire	SK 29 64	83	II		Private		Intact parkland	unknown	No	No
Haddon Park	Derbyshire	SK 234 665	65	I		Private		Intact parkland	yes	No	No
Loeko Park	Derbyshire	SK 409 382	144	II		Private	part Wildlife Site	Intact parkland		No	No
Breadsall Priory	Derbyshire	SK 382 413	54			Private	part Wildlife Site	Intact parkland, amenity - golf course use	yes	No	No
Kedleston Park	Derbyshire	SK 310 405	93	I		National Trust	SSSI, Wildlife Site	Intact parkland, golf course	yes	No	Yes
Elvaston Park	Derbyshire	SK 330408	177	II		Derbyshire County Council	LNR, Wildlife Site	Modified by landscaping	some	No	No
Crich Chase	Derbyshire	SK 345 525	68		Yes	Private	Wildlife Site	Unknown	some	No	Yes
Alderwasley Park	Derbyshire	SK 327 533	211		Yes	Unknown	SSSI, part Wildlife Site	Unknown		No	No
Shirley Park	Derbyshire	SK 208 424	109			Private	Wildlife Site	Unknown		No	No
Eckington Park	Derbyshire	SK 420 801	197		Yes	Private	part Wildlife Site	Unknown		No	No
Riddings House	Derbyshire	SK 430 530	29			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Allestree Park	Derbyshire	SK 345 405	128			Derby City Council	Wildlife Site LNR	Unknown		No	No
Swarkestone Hall	Derbyshire	SK 375 285	4	II		Private		Unknown	unknown	No	No

Site name	County	Grid Ref	Area (Ha)	EH Register grade	Medieval history	Ownership	Designations	Current state	Known Veteran Tree presence	Known Bark lichen flora	Known invertebrate fauna
Whitworth Park	Derbyshire	SK 273 629	10	II		Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Stubben Edge Hall	Derbyshire	SK 363 620	22			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Stubbing Court	Derbyshire	SK 359 672	34			Private	part Wildlife Site	Unknown		No	No
Stanton Hall	Derbyshire	SK 240 640	4			Private	candidate Wildlife Site	Unknown		No	No
Sudbury Park	Derbyshire	SK 155 323	271	II	Yes	National Trust/Private		Unknown	unknown	No	No
Ford Hall	Derbyshire	SK 078 825	28			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Brookfield Manor	Derbyshire	SK 228 825	38			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Holbrook Hall	Derbyshire	SK 363 446	15			Private	part Wildlife Site	Unknown		No	No
Barlborough Hall School	Derbyshire	SK 477 782	135	II		Private		Unknown		No	No
Alvaston Park	Derbyshire	SK 378 344	32			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Renishaw Hall	Derbyshire	SK 440 784	134			Private	part Wildlife Site	Unknown		No	No
Melbourne Parks	Derbyshire	SK 390 240	102	I	Yes	Private	part Wildlife Site	Unknown		No	No
Catton Park	Derbyshire	SK 205 149	268			Private	part Wildlife Site	Unknown		No	No
Belper Park	Derbyshire	SK 353 473	9		Yes	Derbyshire County Council	wildlife site, proposed LNR	Unknown		No	No
Wingfield Park	Derbyshire	SK 372 540	8			Private	Wildlife Site	Unknown		No	No
Sharps Bottom	Derbyshire	SK 339 204	16			Private	Wildlife Site	Unknown	yes	No	No
Osmaston Park	Derbyshire	SK 205 432	215			Unknown	Wildlife Site	Unknown		No	No
Snelston Hall	Derbyshire	SK 160 435	87		Yes	Private	part Wildlife Site	Unknown		No	No
Longford Hall	Derbyshire	SK 216 381	24		Yes	Private	Wildlife Site	Unknown		No	No
Radbourne Park	Derbyshire	SK 288 358	67			Private	Candidate wildlife site	Unknown	yes	No	No
Brailsford Hall	Derbyshire	SK 259 405	31			Unknown	Candidate wildlife site	Unknown		No	No
Meynell Langley	Derbyshire	Sk 300 395	68			Unknown	part Wildlife Site	Unknown		No	No
Markeaton Park	Derbyshire	SK 334 375	66			Derby City Council	Wildlife Site	Unknown		No	No

Site name	County	Grid Ref	Area (Ha)	EH Register grade	Medieval history	Ownership	Designations	Current state	Known Veteran Tree presence	Known Bark lichen flora	Known invertebrate fauna
Darley Park	Derbyshire	SK 353 380	31			Derby City Council	Wildlife Site	Unknown		No	No
Chaddesden Park	Derbyshire	SK 382 365	23			Unknown	Wildlife Site , part LNR	Unknown		No	No
Thornbridge Hall	Derbyshire	SK 200 705	42	II		Private		Unknown		No	No
Barton Hall	Derbyshire	SK 210 345	23	I		Unknown		Unknown		No	No
The Hall, King Sterndale	Derbyshire	SK 092 718	17			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Windley Hall	Derbyshire	SK 303 453	21		Yes	Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Lullington Park	Derbyshire	SK 249 128	11			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Ogston Hall	Derbyshire	SK 380 595	20			Private	part SSSI, part Wildlife Site	Unknown		No	No
Alton Manor	Derbyshire	SK 281 507	55			Private		Unknown		No	No
Wigwell Grange	Derbyshire	SK 306 544	35			Private	part Wildlife Site	Unknown		No	No
Garendon Park	Leicestershire	SK 503 195	200	II		Private		changed use	probably	No	No
Stamford Hall	Leicestershire	SK 589 798	239	II		Private	SSSI	intact parkland	yes	Yes	No
Whetton House	Leicestershire	SK 492 241	70	II		Private		Intact parkland		No	No
Prestwold Hall	Leicestershire	SK 580 215	80	II		Private		Intact parkland		No	No
Bradgate Park	Leicestershire	SK 530 100	325	II	Yes	Leicester City & County	part SSSI	Intact parkland	yes	No	Yes
Lowesby Hall	Leicestershire	SK 722 079	50	II		Private		Intact parkland		No	No
Noseley Park	Leicestershire	SK 738 982	350		Yes	Private		Intact parkland		No	No
Coleorton Hall	Leicestershire	SK 391 172	301	II	Yes	Private houses		Intact parkland		No	No
Langton Hall	Leicestershire	SP 715 930	40	II		Private		Intact parkland		No	No
Victoria Park	Leicestershire	SK 598 030	35	II		Leics. City Council		intact parkland		No	No
Quenby Hall	Leicestershire	SK 700 063	100	II		Private		Intact parkland		No	No
Western Park	Leicestershire	SK 558 045	39			Leics. City Council	part Biodiversity Enhancement Site (BES)	Intact parkland	yes	No	No
Braunstone Park	Leicestershire	SK 559 032	69			Leics. City Council	part SINC	Intact parkland	yes	No	No
Belvoir Castle	Leicestershire	SK 828 329	660	II	Yes	Private		Intact parkland		No	No
Croxton Park	Leicestershire	SK 825 275	42		Yes	Private	SSSI	Intact parkland	yes	Yes	No

Site name	County	Grid Ref	Area (Ha)	EH Register grade	Medieval history	Ownership	Designations	Current state	Known Veteran Tree presence	Known Bark lichen flora	Known invertebrate fauna
Knighton Park	Leicestershire	SK 606 005	21			Leics. City Council	part SINCC, Biodiversity Enhancement Site (BES)	Intact parkland	none	No	No
Stapleford Park	Leicestershire	SK 815 175	300	II		Private		Intact parkland		No	No
Staunton Harold Hall	Leicestershire	SK 381 210	90	II	Yes	Ryder-Cheshire Mission, NT, Private		Intact parkland - landscaped, formal gardens		No	No
Wistow Hall	Leicestershire	SK 643 956	25			Private		Unknown		No	No
Gumley	Leicestershire	SK 676 900	100			Private		Unknown		No	No
Rolleston Hall	Leicestershire	SK 730 002	40			Private		Unknown		No	No
Kegworth	Leicestershire	SK 490 263	7			Private		Unknown		No	No
Launde Park	Leicestershire	SK 795 042	49		Yes	Private		Unknown	yes	No	No
Withcote Hall	Leicestershire	SK 795 058	17			Private		Unknown		No	No
Old Dalby	Leicestershire	SK 675 234	17			Private		Unknown		No	No
Lockington Park	Leicestershire	SK 470 281	20			Private		Unknown		No	No
Quorn House	Leicestershire	SK 560 158	35			Private		Unknown		No	No
Donington Park	Leicestershire	SK 415 269	39		Yes	Private	part SSSI	Unknown	yes	No	Yes
Neville Holt School	Leicestershire	SK 819 935	7	II	Yes	Private		Unknown		No	No
Barkby Hall	Leicestershire	SK 637 097	26			Private		Unknown		No	No
Normanton	Leicestershire	SK 493 980	25			Private		Unknown		No	No
The Park	Leicestershire	SK 540 998	32			Private		Unknown		No	No
Abbey Park	Leicestershire	SK 589 058	40	II		Unknown		Unknown		No	No
North Killworth House	Leicestershire	SK 603 835	44			Private		Unknown		No	No
Bosworth Park	Leicestershire	SK 411 030	200			Leics. County Council		Unknown		No	No
Shenton Hall	Leicestershire	SK 391 003	27			Private		Unknown		No	No
Baggrave Hall	Leicestershire	SK 696 087	68	II		Private		Unknown		No	No
Buckminster Park	Leicestershire	SK 875 235	54			Private		Unknown		No	No
Exton Park	Rutland	SK 920 113	575	II	Yes	Private		Intact parkland		No	No
Burley on the Hill	Rutland	SK 885 106	330	II	Yes	Private	part SSSI	Intact parkland	yes	yes	No
Tickencote Park	Rutland	SK 988 098	21			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Hambleton Hall Hotel	Rutland	SK 902 073	2			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Clipsham Park	Rutland	SK 973 165	27			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Ayston Hall	Rutland	SK 859 010	3			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Grimsthorpe Castle	Lincolnshire	TF 045 228	810	I		private	part SSSI	Intact parkland	yes	No	Yes

Site name	County	Grid Ref	Area (Ha)	EH Register grade	Medieval history	Ownership	Designations	Current state	Known Veteran Tree presence	Known Bark lichen flora	Known invertebrate fauna
Belton Park	Lincolnshire	SK 937385	429	I		National Trust		Intact parkland	yes	No	Yes
Holywell Hall	Lincolnshire	TF 001 160	26		Yes	Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Holton le Moor	Lincolnshire	TF 087 978	42			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Norton Place	Lincolnshire	SK 973 908	32			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Culverthorpe Park	Lincolnshire	TF 020 402	53	II		Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Rauceby Hall	Lincolnshire	TF 027 455	49	II		Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Brackenborough Hall	Lincolnshire	TF 332 904	30			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Irham Hall	Lincolnshire	TF 022 265	22			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Stoke Rochford Hall	Lincolnshire	SK 920 282	175	II		Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Boultham Park	Lincolnshire	SK 965 689	20	II		Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Fillingham Castle	Lincolnshire	SK 962 860	36	II		Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Grainsby Grange	Lincolnshire	TF 272 989	32			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
South Elkington Hall	Lincolnshire	TF 295 880	52			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Easton Park	Lincolnshire	SK 928268	67	II	Yes	Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Harmston	Lincolnshire	SK 968 621	36			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Riseholme Hall	Lincolnshire	SK 982 755	68	II		Lincs College		Unknown		No	No
Hubbards Hill	Lincolnshire	TF 318 867	43			Louth Council		Unknown		No	No
Hainton Hall	Lincolnshire	TF 180 840	46	II		Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Burton Hall	Lincolnshire	SK 960 742	69			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Hackthorn Hall	Lincolnshire	SK 990 823	46	II		Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Gate Burton Hall	Lincolnshire	SK 836 832	45		Yes	Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Leadenham House	Lincolnshire	SK 948 518	30			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Moulton Park	Lincolnshire	TF 308 247	11			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Harlaxton Manor	Lincolnshire	SK 892 321	178	II		University of Evansville, USA		Unknown		No	No
Branston Hotel	Lincolnshire	TF 015 674	25			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Longhills Hall	Lincolnshire	TF 033 668	11			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Uffington Park	Lincolnshire	TF 062 074	27			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Bloxholm Hall	Lincolnshire	TF 063 537	12			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Casewick Hall	Lincolnshire	TF 075 090	43			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Hovenden House	Lincolnshire	TF 397 261	18			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Northorpe Hall	Lincolnshire	SK 899 967	25			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Hartsholme Park	Lincolnshire	SK 945 690	55	II		Local Authority		Unknown	No	No	No
Gunby Hall	Lincolnshire	TF 469 669	56	II		National Trust		Unknown	No	No	No
South Kelsey Hall	Lincolnshire	TF 045 976	19			Unknown		Unknown		No	No

Site name	County	Grid Ref	Area (Ha)	EH Register grade	Medieval history	Ownership	Designations	Current state	Known Veteran Tree presence	Known Bark lichen flora	Known invertebrate fauna
Thorngaby Hall	Lincolnshire	TF 210 980	20			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Well Vale Hall	Lincolnshire	TF 445 745	37	II		Private		Unknown	Yes	No	No
Scrivelsby Court	Lincolnshire	TF 270 660	136	II		Private		Unknown	Yes	No	No
Revesby Abbey	Lincolnshire	TF 310 625	213	II		Unknown		Unknown	Yes	No	No
Weelsby Hall	Lincolnshire	TA 280 079	10			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Tumby Lawn	Lincolnshire	TF 241 603	14		Yes	Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Scremby Park	Lincolnshire	TF 440 680	54			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Dalby Hall	Lincolnshire	TF 410 700	18			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Stenigot House	Lincolnshire	TF 258 815	40			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Brocklesby Park	Lincolnshire	TA 132 112	1130	I		Unknown		Unknown	Yes	No	No
Oxcombe Park	Lincolnshire	TF 312 768	21			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Candlesbury Hall	Lincolnshire	TF 455 671	22			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Harrington Hall	Lincolnshire	TF 365 717	18			Unknown		Unknown	Yes	No	No
Coleby Hall	Lincolnshire	SK 973 608	13	II		Unknown		Unknown		No	No
People's Park	Lincolnshire	TA 271 084	9	II		Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Legbourne Abbey	Lincolnshire	TF 360 843	17			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
South Ormsbury Hall	Lincolnshire	TF 365 755	25			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Welton le wold	Lincolnshire	TF 276 878	20			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Riby Park	Lincolnshire	TA 185 072	44			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Doddington Hall	Lincolnshire	SK 898 701	16			Private		Unknown		No	No
Baumber Top	Lincolnshire	TF 212 755	19			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Holdenby House	Northamptonshire	SP 689 678	66	I		Private		Changed use		No	No
Great Harrowden Hall	Northamptonshire	SP 883 712	57	II*		Private		Changed use		No	No
Easton Neston Park	Northamptonshire	SP 701 491	312	II*	Yes	Private		Changed use		No	No
Courteenhall House	Northamptonshire	SP 760 530	131	II		Private		Changed use		No	No
Boughton House and Park	Northamptonshire	SP 895 815	663	I	Yes	Private		Changed use	yes	No	No
Rockingham Castle	Northamptonshire	SP 865 913	197	II*	Yes	Private		Changed use	yes	No	Yes
Barnwell St Andrews Manor	Northamptonshire	TL 050 851	13	II		Private		Changed use		No	No
Yardley Chase	Northamptonshire	SP 841553 + SP 857540	198		Yes	Private, MOD & Forest Enterprise	SSSI	Intact park & wood-pasture	yes	No	No
The Castle, Castle Ashby	Northamptonshire	SP 855 580	556	I		Private		Intact parkland	yes	No	No
Canons Ashby	Northamptonshire	SP 574 507	62	II*		National Trust		Intact parkland		No	No
Boughton Hall	Northamptonshire	SP 753 663	118	II	Yes	Private		Intact parkland	yes	No	No

Site name	County	Grid Ref	Area (Ha)	EH Register grade	Medieval history	Ownership	Designations	Current state	Known Veteran Tree presence	Known Bark lichen flora	Known invertebrate fauna
Whittlebury Park	Northamptonshire	SP 700 434	105			Private	SSSI	Intact parkland	yes	No	Yes
Aynho Park	Northamptonshire	SP 516 326	208	II		Private		Intact parkland		No	No
Brockhall Park	Northamptonshire	SP 633 626	59	II		Private		Intact parkland		No	No
Deene Park	Northamptonshire	SP 950 925	213	II		Private		Intact parkland		No	No
East Carlton Park	Northamptonshire	SP 835 895	31			Corby BC		Intact parkland		No	No
Drayton Park	Northamptonshire	SP 965 803	112	I	Yes	Private		Intact parkland		No	No
Ashby St Ledgers	Northamptonshire	SP 575 683	29	II		Private		Intact parkland		No	No
Fawsley Hall	Northamptonshire	SP 565 571	366	II*		Private		Intact parkland	Yes	No	No
Stoke Park	Northamptonshire	SP 742 488	117	II	Yes	Private		Intact parkland		No	No
Preston Deanery	Northamptonshire	SP 787 557	10		Yes	Private		Neglected	some	No	No
Horton Hall	Northamptonshire	SP 822 543	117	II		Private		some parkland		No	No
Upton Park	Northamptonshire	SP 716 600	16			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Harpole Hall	Northamptonshire	SP 688 604	15	II		Private		Unknown		No	No
Watford Court	Northamptonshire	SP 603 691	83			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Little Houghton	Northamptonshire	SP 808 597	16			Private		Unknown		No	No
Abington Park	Northamptonshire	SP 776 615	49			Private museum		Unknown		No	No
Newnham Hall	Northamptonshire	SP 583 604	16			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
The Arbours	Northamptonshire	SP 781 634	19			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Althorp Park	Northamptonshire	SP 682 652	240	II		Private		Unknown		No	Yes
Everdon Hall	Northamptonshire	SP 583 595	24			Private		Unknown		No	No
Litchborough House	Northamptonshire	SP 630 546	40			Private		Unknown	yes	No	No
Ecton Hall	Northamptonshire	SP 831 634	22			Private		Unknown		No	No
Evenley Park	Northamptonshire	SP 587 359	38			Private		Unknown		No	No
Wakefield Lodge	Northamptonshire	SP 741 428	19			Private		Unknown	yes	No	Yes
Cosgrove Hall	Northamptonshire	SP 792 421	15			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Astrop House	Northamptonshire	SP 508 367	40		Yes	Private		Unknown		No	No
Steane Park	Northamptonshire	SP 555 387	32			Private		Unknown		No	No
Biggin Hall	Northamptonshire	TL 015 893	26		Yes	Private		Unknown		No	No
Kelmarsh Hall	Northamptonshire	SP 735 795	14			Private		Unknown		No	No
Pipewell Hall	Northamptonshire	SP 838 857	17			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Great Oakley Hall	Northamptonshire	SP 870 856	11			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Woodford House	Northamptonshire	SP 943 764	25			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Cranford Hall	Northamptonshire	SP 923 774	16			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Dingley Hall	Northamptonshire	SP 772 882	54			Private		Unknown		No	No
Lilford Park	Northamptonshire	TL 030 840	24		Yes	Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Stoke House	Northamptonshire	SP 807 873	15			Unknown		Unknown		No	No

Site name	County	Grid Ref	Area (Ha)	EH Register grade	Medieval history	Ownership	Designations	Current state	Known Veteran Tree presence	Known Bark lichen flora	Known invertebrate fauna
Fermyn Woods Hall	Northamptonshire	SP 955 868	98			Private		Unknown	yes	No	No
Apethorpe Hall	Northamptonshire	TL 024 950	66	II		Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Bulwick Hall	Northamptonshire	SP 960 940	33			Private		Unknown		No	No
Laxton Hall	Northamptonshire	SP 955 965	54		Yes	Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Potterspury Lodge	Northamptonshire	SP 745 448	7			Private		Unknown		No	No
Elton Park	Northamptonshire	TL 082 927	92			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Thorpe Lubenham Hall	Northamptonshire	SP 702 867	38			Private		Unknown		No	No
Marston Trussell	Northamptonshire	SP 689 854	17			All Souls College Oxford		Unknown		No	No
Rushton Hall	Northamptonshire	SK 835 828	92	II*		Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Hothorpe Hall	Northamptonshire	SP 670 849	30			Private		Unknown		No	No
Flore Park	Northamptonshire	SP 636 598	38			Private		Unknown		No	No
Haselbech Park	Northamptonshire	SP 715 770	113			Private		Unknown		No	No
High Park	Northamptonshire	SP 556 691	51			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Thorpe Malsor Hall	Northamptonshire	SP 834 786	18			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Lyveden New Field	Northamptonshire	SP 983 852	17	II*		National Trust		Unknown		No	No
Lampport Hall	Northamptonshire	SP 762 742	35	II		Private		Unknown		No	No
Wicken Park	Northamptonshire	SP 744 382	7		Yes	Private		Unknown		No	No
East Haddon Hall	Northamptonshire	SP 669 686	24			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Cottesbrooke Hall	Northamptonshire	SP 710 740	265	II		Private		Unknown		No	No
Daventry Monastery	Northamptonshire	SP 562 610	12			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Rufford Abbey	Nottinghamshire	SK 646 648	423	II		Notts CC		Changed use		No	No
Holme Pierrepont Hall	Nottinghamshire	SK 627 393	13	II		Notts CC		Changed use		No	No
Langar Hall	Nottinghamshire	SK 717 347	23			Private		Changed use		No	No
Gateford Hill	Nottinghamshire	SK 572 817	26			Notts C.C.		Changed use - care home		No	No
Newstead Abbey	Nottinghamshire	SK 542 538	135	I		Local Authority and Private		Intact parkland		No	No
Flintham Hall	Nottinghamshire	SK 735 460	102	II		Private		Intact parkland		No	No
Wollaton Park	Nottinghamshire	SK 530 395	220	II		Nottingham City		Intact parkland		No	No
Welbeck Abbey	Nottinghamshire	SK 570 740	1839	II		Private, MOD		Intact parkland	Yes	No	No
Thoresby Park	Nottinghamshire	SK 638 712	882	I		private	Part SSSI, SAC	Intact parkland	Yes	No	Yes
Clumber Park	Nottinghamshire	SK 619 755	1600	I		National Trust	SSSI	Intact parkland	Yes	No	Yes

Site name	County	Grid Ref	Area (Ha)	EH Register grade	Medieval history	Ownership	Designations	Current state	Known Veteran Tree presence	Known Bark lichen flora	Known invertebrate fauna
Sherwood Forest – Birklands & Bilhaugh	Nottinghamshire	SK 616 680	501		Yes	Private, Forest enterprise, Notts CC	SSSI, NNR, SAC	Modified wood-pasture	Yes 1365	No	Yes
The Lings – inc Birklands West	Nottinghamshire	SK 594 676	448			Private, Forest Enterprise	Part SSSI	Modified wood-pasture	Yes 452	No	Yes
Shireoaks Hall	Nottinghamshire	SK 551 807	208	II		Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Annesley Hall	Nottinghamshire	SK 503 523	250	II		Private		Unknown		No	No
Wiseton Hall	Nottinghamshire	SK 715 896	48			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Babworth Hall	Nottinghamshire	SK 687 810	91	II		Divided		Unknown		No	No
Staunton Hall Park	Nottinghamshire	SK 807 433	46	II		Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Kirklington Hall	Nottinghamshire	SK 682 580	82			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Haughton Park	Nottinghamshire	SK 692 738	581			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Ossington Hall	Nottinghamshire	SK 757 654	164			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Beesthorpe Hall	Nottinghamshire	SK 729 605	6			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Kelham Hall	Nottinghamshire	SK 772 553	48		Yes	Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Averham Park	Nottinghamshire	SK 738 565	278			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Upton Hall	Nottinghamshire	SK 735 543	3			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Worksoop Manor	Nottinghamshire	SK 568 778	657	II	Yes	Private		Unknown	Yes	No	No
Norwood Hall Park	Nottinghamshire	SK 689 546	145		Yes	Unknown		Unknown	Yes	No	No
Scofton Hall	Nottinghamshire	SK 633 807	63			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Shelton Manor	Nottinghamshire	SK 780 444	26			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Thoroton Hall	Nottinghamshire	SK 765 423	13			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Elston Hall	Nottinghamshire	SK 757 478	10			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Syerston Hall	Nottinghamshire	SK 739 480	21			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Car Colston	Nottinghamshire	SK 728 432	5			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Woodborough Hall	Nottinghamshire	SK 625 475	9			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Gedling House	Nottinghamshire	SK 628 427	28			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Whetton Manor	Nottinghamshire	SK 742 378	43			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Wiverton Hall	Nottinghamshire	SK 713 364	50		Yes	Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Winkburn Hall	Nottinghamshire	SK 716 578	240		Yes	Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Langford Manor	Nottinghamshire	SK 821 587	26			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Ranby House	Nottinghamshire	SK 656 811	17			Private		Unknown		No	No
Brookhill Hall	Nottinghamshire	SK 463 560	11			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Langton Hall	Nottinghamshire	SK 472 553	7			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Stamford on Soar Park	Nottinghamshire	SK 558 240	163	II		Private		Unknown		No	Yes
Stoke Hall, Stoke	Nottinghamshire	SK 752 499	36	II		Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Thurgarton Priory	Nottinghamshire	SK 689 490	51			Unknown		Unknown		No	No

Site name	County	Grid Ref	Area (Ha)	EH Register grade	Medieval history	Ownership	Designations	Current state	Known Veteran Tree presence	Known Bark lichen flora	Known invertebrate fauna
Strelley Hall	Nottinghamshire	SK 510 424	58		Yes	Private		Unknown		No	No
Nettleworth Hall	Nottinghamshire	SK 550 656	19			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Eaton Hall	Nottinghamshire	SK 712 782	8			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Langford Hall	Nottinghamshire	SK 825 575	77			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Headon Hall	Nottinghamshire	SK 738 780	110			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Marnham Hall	Nottinghamshire	SK 808 700	12			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Thorney Hall	Nottinghamshire	SK 861 728	25			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
The Hall, North Clifton	Nottinghamshire	SK 829 718	13			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Rampton Hall	Nottinghamshire	SK 800 790	27			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Bamby Moor House	Nottinghamshire	SK 665 841	11			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Ranby Hall	Nottinghamshire	SK 656 830	8			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Serby Hall	Nottinghamshire	SK 636 891	176			Unknown		Unknown	Yes ?	No	No
Blyth Hall	Nottinghamshire	SK 620 872	80			Private		Unknown		No	No
Hodsock Priory	Nottinghamshire	SK 611 855	19			Private		Unknown		No	No
Morton Hall	Nottinghamshire	SK 650 798	59			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Bestwood Park	Nottinghamshire	SK 562 472	160	Yes		County Council		Unknown		No	No
Watnall Hall	Nottinghamshire	SK 497 461	29			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Osberton Hall	Nottinghamshire	SK 627 797	178			Private		Unknown		No	No
Ramsdale House	Nottinghamshire	SK 590 489	160			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Park Hall	Nottinghamshire	SK 541 652	108			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Debdale Hall	Nottinghamshire	SK 531 628	11			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Skegby Hall	Nottinghamshire	SK 493 607	4			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Teversal Manor	Nottinghamshire	SK 483 616	4		Yes	Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Sherwood Lodge	Nottinghamshire	SK 578 505	91			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Berry Hill Hall	Nottinghamshire	SK 551 593	35			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Sutton Hall	Nottinghamshire	SK 502 588	21			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Shelford Manor	Nottinghamshire	SK 674 434	22			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Preb.Hse/Bishop's House	Nottinghamshire	SK 702 532	55			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Woodhouse Hall	Nottinghamshire	SK 548 734	3			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Wallingwells Hall	Nottinghamshire	SK 569 841	236			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Hodsock Park	Nottinghamshire	SK 613 857	81		Yes	Private		Unknown		No	No
Papplewick Hall	Nottinghamshire	SK 548 518	35	II		Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Grove Hall	Nottinghamshire	SK 733 796	98		Yes	Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Hexgreave Park	Nottinghamshire	SK 657 583	500		Yes	Private		Unknown	Yes	No	No

Site name	County	Grid Ref	Area (Ha)	EH Register grade	Medieval history	Ownership	Designations	Current state	Known Veteran Tree presence	Known Bark lichen flora	Known invertebrate fauna
Eastwood Hall	Nottinghamshire	SK 463 477	14			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Thrumpton Hall	Nottinghamshire	SK 502 308	149			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Clifton Hall	Nottinghamshire	SK 538 345	13			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Easthorpe House	Nottinghamshire	SK 580 335	19			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Bunny Hall	Nottinghamshire	SK 590 296	125			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Rempstone	Nottinghamshire	SK 570 243	38			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Langwith House	Nottinghamshire	SK 540 705	15			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Trowell Hall	Nottinghamshire	SK 494 398	9			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Oxton Hall	Nottinghamshire	SK 631 515	64			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Bramcote Hall	Nottinghamshire	SK 504 384	62			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Sutton Bonington	Nottinghamshire	SK 505 252	4			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Bulwell Hall	Nottinghamshire	SK 535 466	98			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Colston Hall	Nottinghamshire	SK 696 337	43			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Colwick Hall	Nottinghamshire	SK 604 393	33		Yes	Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Tollerton Hall	Nottinghamshire	SK 618 346	61			Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Widmerpool Hall	Nottinghamshire	SK 628 284	20	II		Private		Unknown		No	No
Carlton Hall	Nottinghamshire	SK 583 839	135		Yes	Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Kingston on Soar	Nottinghamshire	SK 509 276	196		Yes	Unknown		Unknown		No	No
Haywood Oaks	Nottinghamshire	SK 603550	50			Private		Former wood-pasture	Yes	No	No

Appendix 2: List of contacts

Regional Parkland Inventory Contact List				
County	Contact	Organisation/role	Information	Phone no.
National contacts	Steve Clifton	English Nature, Grantham	SSSI info, EH info, various papers, English Nature reports.	
	David Conway	English Heritage	List of registered Parks and Gardens	0207973000
	Rebecca Watson	English Nature	HAP position- progress report	01733 455248
Derbyshire	Annie Cooper	Derbyshire County Council Ecologist	Parkland LNR, SINC sites LBAP info, contacts	01629 580000
	Debbie Court	Derbyshire Wildlife Trust- Wildlife Sites Register	1983 Phase 1 surveys, wildlife sites, info on Parks in Derbyshire, inventory info.	01733 881188
	Glynnis Foster	Derbyshire County Council	Landscape Character Assessment info. Relating to Parklands,.	01629 580000 ext 7170
	Dan Abrahams	English Nature local team	SSSI info on Parks	
	Nick Moyes	Biological Records Centre Derbyshire Museum	Habitat info or Parkland records.	01332 716655
	Rhodry Thomas	Peak Park ecologist	Parks in Peak Park	01629 816200
	Derek Whiteley	Local naturalist – inverts	Veteran trees/inverts	Email sent 21.02.03
Nottinghamshire	Sam Lattaway	Nottinghamshire County Council		0115 9774557
	Genie Baddley	Nottinghamshire CC, sites and monuments officer	EH registered Parks and others are mapped onto Mapinfo.	0115 9772129
Lincolnshire	Christine Addison	Sites and Monuments Officer	Maps for Parklands on EH register, any other additional maps/info on other Parklands	
	Mark Bennett	County Archaeologist		01522 553074
	Jon Watson	Lincs County Council	Phase 1/aerial photos	01522 553069
	Caroline Steel	Wildlife Trust	Wildlife Sites	01507 526667
	Mr Rowland	Local fungi recorder	fungi	

Regional Parkland Inventory Contact List				
County	Contact	Organisation/role	Information	Phone no.
Northamptonshire	Christine Addison	Sites and Monuments Officer	Maps for Parklands on EH register, any other additional maps/info on other Parklands	01604 237246
	Glenn Foard	County Archaeologist		01604 237243
	Alan Smith	Wildlife Trust/Conservation Officer	Parklands Survey Volume, wildlife sites	01604 405285
	Sarah Bridges	Archives/local studies	Old maps etc	01604 762129
	Graham Cadman	L.A Historic Environment Officer	Information on parklands	01604 237245
	Steve Benamore	Local Authority Tree Officer/ County Recorder of Veteran Trees	Detailed local knowledge	07740 401146
Leicestershire & Rutland		Sites and Monuments Officer/Countryside Services	Little information. Directed to Holly Hayes E.R.C. Most parkland in private hands.	0116 265 6792
		Wildlife Trust (Leics/Rut)	Most parkland data handled by Holly Hayes E.R.C.	0116 270 2999
		Archives/local studies (Leics/Rut)	Historical information on parklands	0116 257 1080
		Rutland County Council Nature Conservation Officer	Information on parklands in Rutland	01572 722577
	Darwyn Sumner	Holly Hayes Environmental Resources Centre (Leics/Rut)	Flora and fauna records for some parklands particularly protected sites	0116 267 1950 Fax: 0116 267 7112



English Nature is the Government agency that champions the conservation of wildlife and geology throughout England.

This is one of a range of publications published by:
External Relations Team
English Nature
Northminster House
Peterborough PE1 1UA

www.english-nature.org.uk

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Cover printed on Character Express, post consumer waste paper, ECF.

ISSN 0967-876X

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Front cover photographs:

Top left: Using a home-made moth trap.

Peter Wakely/English Nature 17,396

Middle left: Co₂ experiment at Roudsea Wood and Mosses NNR, Lancashire.

Peter Wakely/English Nature 21,792

Bottom left: Radio tracking a hare on Pawlett Hams, Somerset.

Paul Glendell/English Nature 23,020

Main: Identifying moths caught in a moth trap at Ham Wall NNR, Somerset.

Paul Glendell/English Nature 24,888



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