ANNEXE B: Biodiversity Management Statement (extracts from)

Introduction

This Biodiversity Management Statement has been prepared on behalf of the South Derbyshire Local Strategic Partnership as a pilot study. The objective has been to produce a document which provides recommendations for change in current management practice, the result of which should be a reasonable expectation of an increase in biodiversity.

This pilot study has been conducted on the Swadlincote Woodlands Forest Park site, Swadlincote. This site has recently been formed following a major regeneration project after previous use as a clay extraction site and former landfill site. As a consequence of this regeneration much of the current land use is still relatively newly created and developing wildlife habitat.

Methodology

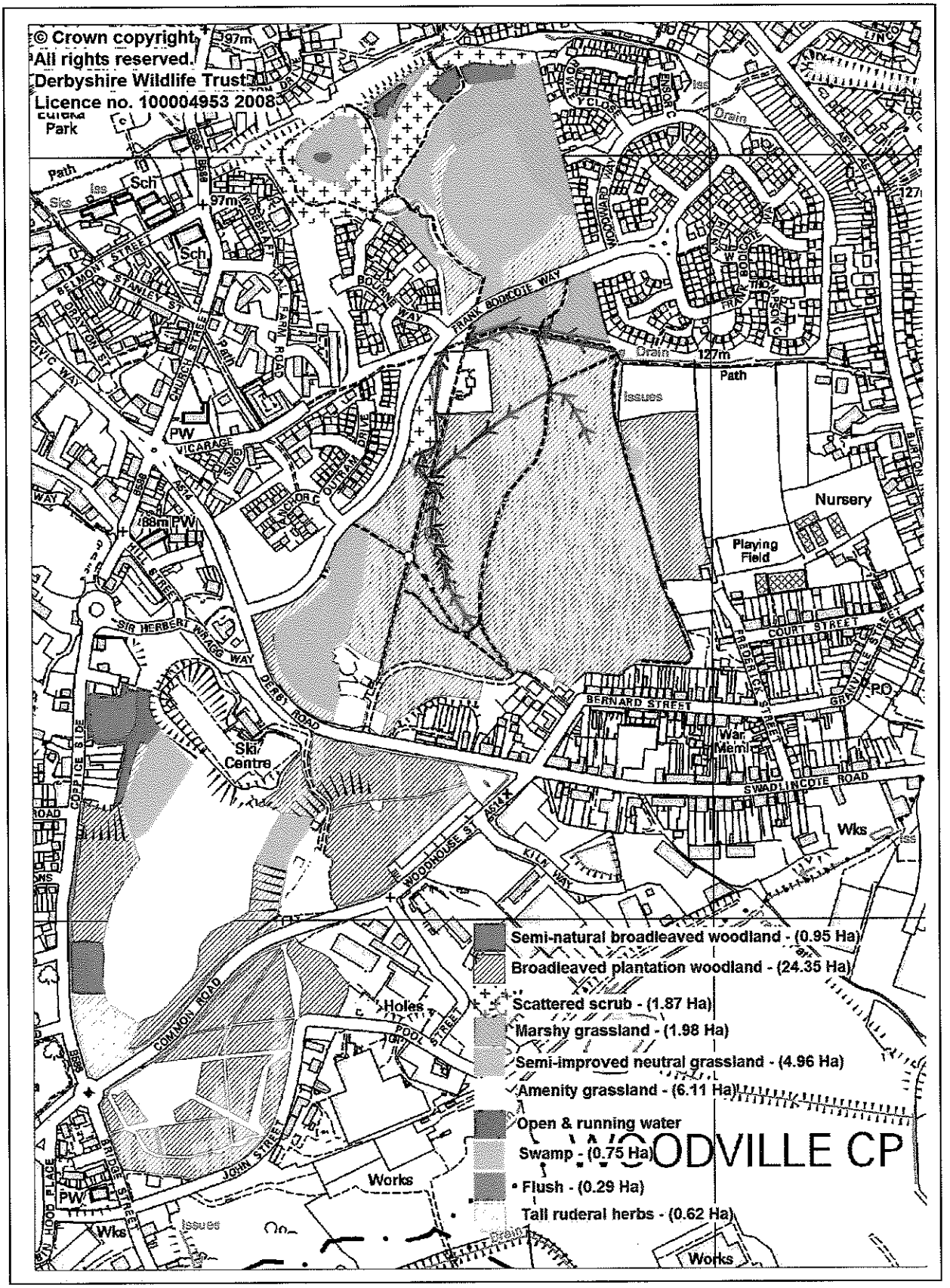
This statement has been developed using the following outline methodology:

- Walkover Phase 1 Habitat Survey to identify and map habitats within the site and consider where current management could be altered to increase biodiversity
- Production of a Phase 1 habitat map showing existing features of the site and an estimate of the areas of each habitat type
- Production of a Key Features map to highlight areas within the site of particular biodiversity importance
- Production of a Desired State Map – this provides an indication as to what management of the site should be aiming to achieve
- Production of a Recommended Management Map with additional supporting information.

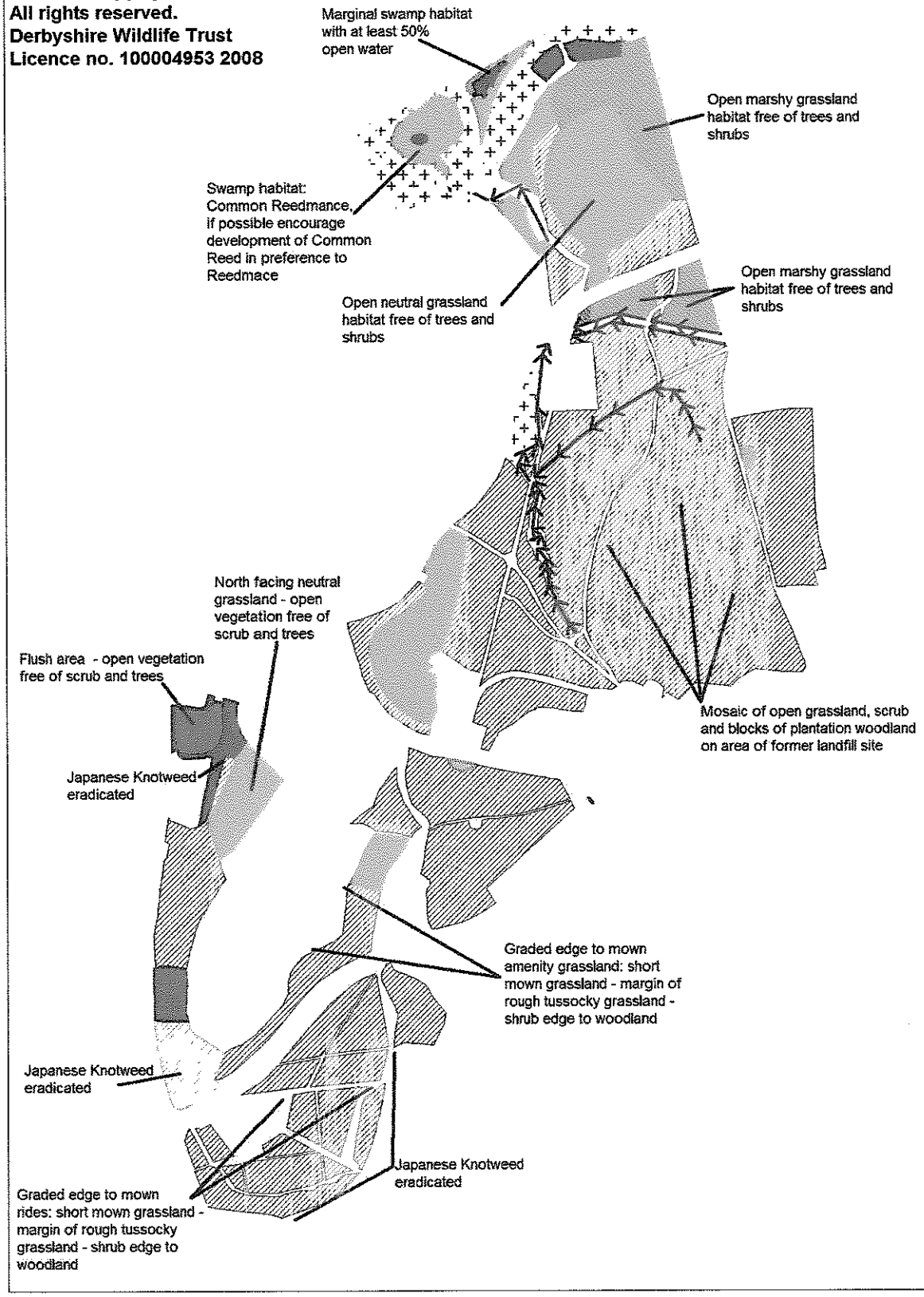
Additional Comments

Swadlincote Woodlands is a large site (in excess of 42 Ha) and contains a range of habitats, some of which are Local Biodiversity Action Plan priority habitats. As such this is a site which requires a detailed long-term management plan - this is currently in preparation. The detailed long-term management of a site like Swadlincote Woodlands is beyond the scope of this Biodiversity Management Statement but the Statement has attempted to highlight some of the key areas where long – term management for biodiversity is of importance. For example, the site is known to be important for Dingy Skipper butterflies, and the management for this particular species is likely to be very localised and at a finer scale than broad management recommendations that this document aims to achieve.

Existing Features (Phase 1 Habitat Survey Map)



Desired State



Additional Comments Regarding Recommended Management

As previously commented, this is a site which requires a full Ecological Management Plan to be able to fully address the complexities of long-term management for biodiversity gain. The site is still very much in the establishment phase. The woodland planting is still at a stage of early development and, importantly, in other areas new habitats are potentially forming as a result of hydrological processes and soil conditions, rather than through any specific landscape design or management. These are important areas for biodiversity and in summary the most important areas can be defined as the following:

Marshy grassland:

- developing on the east and north edges of Salts Meadow. This grassland has good structural diversity and is likely to be of considerable importance for invertebrates. It is important that medium to long-term management should assist development of this habitat by ensuring that it remains as open habitat, free of trees and scrub. Consideration should be given to removal of the young trees which have been planted inappropriately in this area

Scrub & grassland mosaic:

- on the site of the former landfill tree establishment has been uneven, resulting in a mosaic of open rough grassland with scattered trees/scrub of varying size. The result is good structural diversity of the vegetation which creates favourable conditions for many invertebrate species. Whilst this area does not necessarily require or currently involve any routine management it is important to highlight that the current conditions are good for biodiversity and certain actions, like additional tree planting, should be avoided. Medium to long term management should aim to encourage continued development of this mosaic by active scrub management.

Flush:

- a small flush containing an extensive carpet of mosses and scattered Heather, at the base of the slope off Coppice Side. This is an unusual of habitat with one of the moss species being uncommonly abundant. Medium to long-term management should endeavour to keep this as open habitat. This area requires a more detailed survey and assessment.

Swamp:

- This has developed within the basin of large pond at the north of the site. Medium to long-term management of this area, which will be of importance to various bird and invertebrate assemblages, might consider trying to encourage further development of the existing area of Common Reed in preference to the currently dominant Common Reedmace.