

Appendix 2: Inventory of sites of environmental significance

All accessible, open, currently undeveloped parcels of land in the Plan Area were reviewed (fieldwork, maps and existing records) between September 2015 and June 2016. This inventory resulted in a map (appendix 5) and the following gazetteer, which lists all the places (bounded parcels of land or identifiable landscape components) where features of natural and/or historical environment significance are already known or were recorded during the study.

The sites were scored for environmental (wildlife and historical) and community significance using the criteria for Local Green Space designation specified in the National Planning Policy Framework, 2012. The eight eligible sites scoring more than 70% (c.22/32) for environmental and community value are either proposed as **Local Green Spaces (LGS)** (policy NHE1) or recommended for confirmation/designation as OSSR sites under Harborough District Council's typological classification. The remainder are recorded and notified for their local environmental significance (policy NHE2) and their role in the sustainable development of Great Easton.

Map ref.	Summary Description	Access 4	Proxim. 4	Bounded 4	Special (community) 4	Rec/Edu 4	Beauty (inc. views) 2	Tranq. 2	History 4	Wildlife 4	Total Score/32
61	St Andrew's Parish Church – churchyard The church is Listed Grade II*. Churchyard occupies a mound on a natural elevation. Local ironstone boundary walls, managed grass, headstones (including 18 th century in Swithland Slate), native and ornamental trees, including a group of mature horse chestnuts, ash, yew, holly. Good range of birds (three BAP species including spotted flycatcher), bats. Protection is afforded by burial ground status and as HDC OSSR 2595	3	4	4	4	2	2	2	4	3	[N/A]
02	Holt View, start of footpath B66 to Blaston With adjacent rear gardens, provides a green wildlife corridor between the village and open country behind houses on Stockerston Road. Leads to open fields and is part of one of the most popular recreational walks in the Parish. Range of farmland and garden birds, small mammals and invertebrates. Proposed LGS	4	3	4	4	3	2	2	1	3	26
03	Rectory Farm paddock Paddock or small field, part of the medieval settlement layout close to historic centre of the village (parish church, manor house). Was the village end of the presumed ancient footway from Great Easton to Lyddington, now, in part, a well-used Permissive Path to the open countryside and Eyebrook Reservoir. Provides a tranquil context for the parish church and churchyard, and space between it and Lounts Crescent housing. Permanent grass field, regularly grazed to form close-	3	4	4	4	3	2	2	2	2	26

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	cropped wild flower/grass sward. A popular and attractive open space. Proposed LGS										
04	Church Bank The prime example of Great Easton's characteristic streets with wide verges. Includes central 'village green' with village pump and bench; the Jubilee oak, other mature and more recently-planted native and ornamental trees, K6 telephone kiosk (Listed Building), traditional signpost, ornamental shrubberies and borders. The latter are managed by volunteers for the community. Provides valued views toward the parish church and south-east out of the village toward Rockingham Castle. Part of the site is an existing HDC OSSR , but the proposal includes all verges and the unmetalled approach to the church. Includes HDC OSSR 656 Amenity Open Space. Proposed LGS	4	4	3	4	2	2	1	3	1	24
05	Brook Lane Paddock Very highly valued open space on rising ground in the centre of the built-up area, between Brook Lane and the village hall. Grassland, mature trees and hedges. Currently is occasionally used for grazing sheep. The site is contiguous with an important (largely riparian) wildlife corridor through the village: resident and visiting bird species, mammals, amphibians and invertebrates, and aquatic plants. Historically this paddock is the place where livestock were kept, in particular when being driven to market (in part this is also the origin of the broad streets and verges). Also includes L&R HER site MLE 16784, with ditches and cobbled and gravel surfaces; pottery of Saxon, Norman and medieval date demonstrates the antiquity of occupation on this site. Locally of high historical and cultural significance. No public access but visible from village hall, Brook Lane and Moulds Lane. Proposed LGS (this Plan) and as LGS/GRTE/2 by HDC 2015.	2	4	4	4	1	2	2	4	2	25
06	Barnsdale paddock Highly valued open space within the built-up area. Open grassland, native trees and mature, species-rich hedge (SW boundary). Undeveloped (condition of Planning consent), but	2	4	4	4	1	2	2	3	1	23

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	currently no public access. Open space since at least 18 th century (it was associated with the King's Head Inn, see e.g. OS map 1886) and probably since the late medieval. Proposed LGS (this Plan) and as LGS/GRTE/3 by HDC 2015.										
07	Independent Chapel graveyard Small burial ground with surrounding stone walls, associated with the 1830 rebuild of Gt. Easton Independent Chapel (demolished c.1900). Mature ash trees, mown grass and three surviving gravestones (Charles Cave, the Minister, and two relatives) Site was adopted by the Parish Council in 2000 as a small public open space. Proposed LGS.	4	4	4	3	1	1	2	2	1	22
08	Deepdale Green lane in the narrow valley of the village brook. Mature trees, hedges, grass areas, stream and river banks. Start of bridleway B70. Part of an important (largely riparian) wildlife corridor through the village: resident and visiting bird species, mammals, amphibians and invertebrates, aquatic plants, native wild flowers. Voluntary community management for wildlife, with bird nest-boxes etc. Proposed LGS	4	4	4	3	3	2	2	1	3	26
10	Moulds Lane Footway (and vehicle access for property off Brook Lane) connecting High St. with Pitchers Lane/Brook St. Green lane, hedges, stone walls, wide grass verges, mature native and old fruit trees. Public right of way, footpath B68. Well-used and valued by the community as part of the distinctive system of pedestrian ways; a legacy of the medieval to 19 th century layout of the village which are still extensively used by residents. Recommended for designation as OSSR: Green corridors or Greenways	4	4	3	4	2	2	1	2	1	23
11	Vicarage Lane Footway connecting St Andrew's Church/Lounts Cres. with High St. Public right of way, footpath B69. Shaded and secluded green lane with hedged and walled boundaries and grass verges; well-known locally for snowdrops in early spring. Well-used (see 10). Recommended for designation as OSSR: Green corridors or Greenways	4	4	3	4	2	2	1	2	1	23

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12	Hollands Lane Footway connecting High St. with Brook Lane. Wide green lane, suitable for pedestrians and horseriders. Bounded by stone and mud walls, hedges. Ford and bridge over village brook, grass verges at south end. Mature overhanging trees, wildflowers, good range of garden bird species. Well-used and highly valued (see 10); provides vista through the village to the parish church. Recommended for designation as OSSR: Green corridors or Greenways	4	4	3	4	2	2	1	2	1	23
13	Sawpit Lane Footway connecting Lounts Crescent with High St. Provides access to bus stop for residents (including older people). Paved, handrail (DDA compliant accessible) but with grass verges. Recommended for designation as OSSR: Green corridors or Greenways	4	4	3	4	2	2	1	2	1	23
14	Pitchers Lane and Broadgate Steep grassed banks on both sides of the road. Managed as wildflower meadows (spring and summer); mature conifer trees provide habitat for tawny owls and other bird species. Visually, the site is a small valley, highly valued for its rural quality. Recommended for confirmation as HDC OSSR 314: Amenity Open Space	4	4	3	4	2	2	1	2	2	24
[326]	Broadgate / High Street junction grass road island. Recommended for confirmation as HDC OSSR: Amenity Open Space										[n/a]
15	High Street Verges on north side of road, some new tree planting; mature trees (in adjacent property). Valued views from centre of village past village hall. Recommended for confirmation as HDC OSSR [639]: Amenity Open Space	4	4	2	3	2	2	1	2	1	21
[448]	'Village Green 1' Wide grass verges on north side of road between Church Bank and the war memorial. Recommended for confirmation as HDC OSSR 448: Amenity Open Space										[n/a]
[222]	'Village Green 2' Small green forming road island at junction of Caldecote Road and Cross Bank; managed as setting for war memorial. Recommended for confirmation as HDC OSSR 222: Amenity Open Space										[n/a]
16	Lounts Crescent Verges on both sides of road; stone	4	4	2	3	2	2	1	2	1	21

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	wall to south, managed grass of lawn quality and fruit tree. Provides vista toward the church from Sawpit Lane. Recommended for designation as OSSR: Amenity Open Space										
17	Brook Lane Roadside verges and stream banks contiguous with proposed LGS (see site 5). Part of (riparian) wildlife corridor. Wide verge and traffic island at junction with Cross Bank forms a small 'green, with the village sign as its centrepiece. This site contributes to the distinctive rural appearance of the village. Recommended, with indicated extension, for designation as HDC OSSR: Amenity Open Space	4	4	3	3	2	2	1	3	2	24
18	Open space between Great Easton graveyard (19) and St Andrew's Close lockups. Trees planted by local volunteers in 1990s as unofficial open space, now unmanaged 'waste ground'. Crossed by pedestrian access (not PRoW) to north section of graveyard, and still functions as informal open space/play area. Recommended for designation as OSSR: Amenity Open Space (with community or other management)	3	4	3	3	2	1	1	1	1	19
09	Registered Common Land off Barnsdale Part of a field on the edge of the built-up area; possibly part of a pre-Enclosure (1810) croft, or Glebe Land. Access via a narrow track between buildings on Barnsdale; gated at site entrance. The south boundary is on the line of a removed hedge, making the site now open to fields to south. Permanent, semi-improved, generally sheep-grazed, grass.	1	4	4	2	0	2	1	2	1	17
19	Great Easton Cemetery Managed lawns, flower beds, ornamental trees and grave plots with central path; hedge on northeast boundary. Protected as existing OSSR 2790 burial ground	4	4	4	3	1	1	2	0	1	20
01	Course of dismantled railway, Gatehouse Lane Unofficial public footpath, very well used, surfaced. Access by stile from Gatehouse Lane. Adjoins and overlooks extensive area of willow plantations (20) on floodplain of river Welland. Wildlife: on-site or adjacent habitat for birds (c.30 species, including BAP, owls, raptors, etc.), mammals (bats, small mammals, etc.), invertebrates. Industrial historic significance of 1850 LNWR railway,	3	2	3	3	3	2	2	2	3	23

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	platelayers' huts, etc.										
58	Old occupation road, Gatehouse Lane Public right of way from Easton Crossing to Rockingham Road, part of bridleway B48. Overgrown in parts, with mature trees and species-rich hedgerows, coarse vegetation including species of damp woodland and marsh. Good range of birds including 2 BAP species; invertebrates.	4	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	21
20	Willow plantation Three parcels, previously water meadows of the adjacent River Welland and therefore often damp or wet, divided by ditches. Willow <i>Salix</i> spp. of various ages, growing as a rotational crop, with well-maintained grass rides, rough grass and low shrubby understorey in parts. High biodiversity, which is expected to be maintained for as long as the rotation and other management practices are continued. Wildlife records include a number of invertebrates (lepidoptera, odonata, etc.), mammals (bats, etc.), amphibians, grass snake, five BAP species birds plus woodcock, little and tawny owls. Access via Gatehouse Lane and Jurassic Way long-distance path (bridleway B76), which crosses the site; no other public access.	2	1	3	2	1	2	2	1	3	17
21-22	Damp meadows, ditches and banks, part of R. Welland water meadows. Unimproved and semi-improved permanent grass with good range of wild flower species. Birds include yellow wagtail and skylark (BAP species).	0	0	3	1	0	2	2	1	2	11
23	Permanent grass paddocks adjacent to Station Cottages, with mature ornamental and native trees, hedgerow boundaries. Three BAP species birds recorded.	1	1	4	1	0	1	1	0	2	11
24	Eye Brook water meadows, stream and banks Naturally meandering lowland stream, banks and streamside grass and trees (mainly willows). Includes a small area of permanent grazing included in Great Easton parish on the north side of the stream.	0	0	2	1	0	1	2	1	2	9
25	Woodland and scrub, planted native species, part of landscaping of the Eyebrook Reservoir site (1937-40). Mapped by Natural England as <i>Priority Habitat</i> ,	1	1	2	0	0	2	2	1	3	12

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	<i>deciduous woodland</i> and (part) in the <i>National Inventory of Woodland and Trees</i> .										
59	Brick Field, The Cottage, Station Road Site of clay pit and local brickyard, 19 th century. Now a house and garden, with the clay pit represented by a pond and small meadow. L&R HER site MLE21449 for local history – the bricks used in a number of the 19 th century cottages in the village are reputed to have come from here.	0	2	4	2	1	1	1	2	1	14
26	Improved grass field with pond used as a fishing lake. Faint traces of ridge and furrow, as cropmarks only.	0	2	3	0	0	1	1	0	1	8
27	Semi-improved grass field with haycrop (June 2016) containing 'common' but locally scarce grassland wildflower species (meadow buttercup, red campion, etc.)	1	2	4	1	1	1	2	0	2	14
29	Semi-improved grass field with faint (cropmarks) ridge and furrow, and small plantation at west side. Hedge between field and Caldecott Road has mature standard trees.	1	2	4	0	0	1	2	0	2	12
30	Permanent grass/paddock with wide roadside boundary of mature native and ornamental trees.	0	1	4	1	0	1	2	0	2	11
31-32	Permanent grass field, crossed by track to sewage treatment works, with areas of ridge and furrow and other linear earthworks and old sandpits. Western sinuous boundary formed by the village brook, lined with mature streamside trees; also a short section of old hedge and ditch.	1	1	3	1	0	2	1	2	2	13
33	Great Easton Sewage Treatment Works. Filter beds, managed grass, etc., screening belt of ornamental ('Lombardy'-type) poplar trees to east, and a planted copse of native or hybrid poplars to south. The STW attracts birds (hirundines, swifts, wagtails, finches) while the copse has three BAP species.	0	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	3	8
34	Permanent grass field. Good ridge and furrow in central portion; east and north boundary is formed by the village brook, with streamside trees. An area of earthworks in the northern part probably 18 th -19 th century sand and gravel workings (pits are shown here on the 1904 Ordnance Survey map)	1	3	4	3	1	2	2	3	2	21
35	Permanent grass field, good ridge and furrow.	1	3	4	3	1	2	2	2	1	19

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36	Semi-improved grass field, faint ridge and furrow.	0	2	4	2	1	2	2	1	1	15
37	Semi-improved grass field, good ridge and furrow. Valued by the community as edge of open country next to the built-up area, crossed by footpath B74.	3	3	4	3	2	2	2	2	1	22
38	Paddock (horses) as two small grazing fields behind Barnsdale House; faint ridge and furrow, subdivided by post and wire fence.	0	3	4	1	0	1	2	0	1	12
39-40	Single permanent grass field with good ridge and furrow in several lands. The field, and the medieval ploughlands, are in two parts, divided by an old hollow way, part of which is shown on the 1886 Ordnance Survey map as a track. However the earthwork continues into the next field south: it appears to be a medieval sike (unploughed strip) separating the open fields of Great Easton manor from those of Bringhurst manor, and is thus an early medieval boundary which was re-used as the (now superseded) Civil Parish boundary in 1894. Valued by the community as open country next to the built-up area, crossed by footpath B74.	3	3	4	3	3	2	2	3	1	24
41-42	Grazing fields, partly divided by a diagonal hedge which appears to be on an old boundary perhaps separating the medieval manors of Bringhurst and Great Easton. Some mature trees, good ridge and furrow in the southern part. Valued by the community as open country next to the built-up area, crossed by footpath B77.	3	2	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	21
43	Clarke's Piece Play Area and Recreation Ground Improved grass field, regularly mown although there are faint traces of ridge and furrow Recommended for confirmation as two HDC OSSRs (play area and recreation ground)	4	4	4	3	3	1	1	1	1	22
44	Semi-improved grass field with uncultivated strip to north boundary at break of slope into village brook valley (60) Access via bridleway B70	3	2	3	2	1	2	2	1	1	17
45-47	Group of good ridge and furrow fields showing three ploughlands, semi-improved grassland/permanent pasture divided by Enclosure hedges. The northern edge is formed by the break of slope on the valley side of the village brook (60)	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	3	2	22

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	Access via bridleway B70										
60	Village brook valley A largely natural landform where the brook runs in a steep-sided, incised valley cut through Dyrham Formation (Jurassic siltstone) bedrock. The topography is the result of small landslips along the meandering course of the stream. Good riverine and scrubland biodiversity, including otters, kingfishers, grey wagtails (winter), song thrush; wild flowers, butterflies etc. on the nutrient-poor grass on the valley sides Access via bridleway B70 Proposed LGS	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	1	4	24
48-49	Permanent grass fields, faint ridge and furrow, old overgrown hedgerow with mature trees. Includes the modern earthworks (bund, etc.) associated with Environment Agency flood defence measures. Access via bridleway B70	3	3	4	2	2	2	2	1	2	21
50-51	Four semi-improved grass fields, valued by the community as open country next to the built-up area. Northeast corner is crossed by footpath B66 and is the viewpoint for one of the community's most valued un-interrupted rural vistas.	2	4	4	3	2	2	1	0	1	19
52	Permanent grass fields on rising ground on the northeast side of the built-up area. Seen from the start of permissive path toward Eye Brook Reservoir, the view is of valued open country, providing historic and landscape context for the historic core of the village, parish church, etc.	1	3	3	2	1	2	1	1	2	16
53	Planted woodland, native species, on the edge of the major Eye Brook valley and along the course of a small tributary stream/ditch. Mapped by Natural England as <i>Priority Habitat, deciduous woodland</i> and (some original field-boundary hedges) in the <i>National Inventory of Woodland and Trees</i> .	0	1	3	1	0	1	2	0	3	11
54	Great Merrible Wood SSSI (part), LRWT Reserve and Regionally Important Geological Site (RIGS, part) Ash-Oak wood with hazel and field maple. Part is thought to have a medieval origin, perhaps associated with the medieval (?1236 – 1559) deer park. Protection through its SSSI status and ownership and	3	1	4	3	3	2	2	2	4	24

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	existing HDC OSSR (woodland) .										
55	Streamside and valleybottom woodland. Mapped by Natural England as <i>Priority Habitat, deciduous woodland</i> and (southwest part) in the <i>National Inventory of Woodland and Trees</i> . Visible from footpath B66	2	1	3	1	1	1	2	0	3	14
56	Hills and holes topography, shown on Ordnance Survey 1904 map as already 'old'. Now grass and scrub of some biodiversity value. Visible from the public road.	1	2	3	1	1	1	1	2	2	14
57	Permanent grass field with very good quality ridge and furrow and other prominent earthworks including a mound and old pits. Can be viewed from the public road.	1	2	4	1	1	2	2	3	1	17