

57.

Site	<b>Gillow Fold Field</b> <b>(field at the end of Essex Drive / York Close)</b>
Grid Reference / Post Code	53°07'35.0"N 2°10'19.7"W
Brief Description	<p>This site forms an important link between two major wildlife corridors – that of the Biddulph Valley Way running along the eastern side of the town and the river network.</p> <p>Part of the site forms a wildlife corridor and adjoins another. The Habitat Distinctiveness Map and the semi-natural habitats on wildlife corridors/ network plan (contained within the Neighbourhood Plan) shows that a significant proportion of the site is of ‘medium’ value distinctiveness.</p> <p>It also contains a significant population of two different orchids which are known to be rare within the plan area and one of which is rare within Staffordshire.</p>

Criteria.		
Location <i>In reasonably close proximity to the community it serves</i>	√	Field at bottom of Essex Drive Gillow Heath and York Close as a wildlife natural space for nature to thrive and protect the already wildlife etc that lives there and is a natural flood plain so makes this a very important flood defence. Located beside the Biddulph Valley Way and bordered by housing and the Biddulph Brook, this accessible site has been used for generations for dog walking, community activities and children’s play.
Local Significance <i>Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquility or richness of its wildlife.</i>	√	<p><b>Biodiversity:</b> This diverse site forms an important wildlife corridor, linking the river corridor in the east of the site to the Biddulph Valley Way on the western edge. The habitats around Biddulph have become fragmented over time and this site is in an ideal position to bring the two most important wildlife corridors together – the Biddulph Valley Way and the river network.</p> <p>There is a <b>significant population of Southern Marsh and Common Spotted Orchids</b> on this site, with wildflowers and English Bluebells in the spring. According to the Norfolk Wildlife Trust, the Southern Marsh Orchid has disappeared from 20% of its historical range. The reductions (they say) is almost certainly due to changing agricultural practices and the draining of damp meadows. These need to be protected and managed to benefit wildlife. The woodland edge and scrub habitat form an important site for birds and small mammals.</p> <p><b>Local community:</b> Children play on the field and in the woodlands. The site is crossed by numerous footpaths and used by dog walkers and is openly accessible.</p> <p>Footpath number 24 runs the full length of the LGS and provides a link to footpath 25 which makes a circular walk. Helping to provide a walkable neighbourhood for leisure, fitness and well-being.</p>

Criteria.		
Size, Scale <i>Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.</i>	√	5.9 acres in total.
Recommendation		Suitable for Local Green Space Designation

Pictures:





Map:

