

## TW055 West Bridgford Recreational Fringe

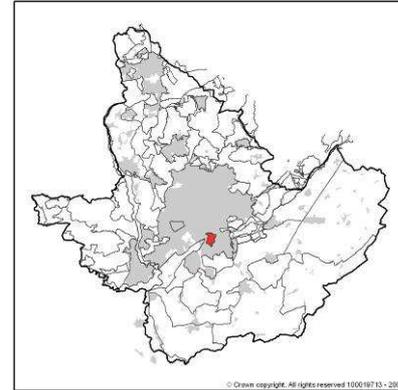


### CONTEXT

Regional Character Area: Trent Washlands

LDU Reference: 399

DPZ Reference: TW055



### CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- Low, flat landform associated with the River Trent
- Concrete stepped bank to the river acts as a flood defence, with railings and open timber bollards to define the top of the river bank
- The area has an urban green space character, with recreation, scrub and underused land, enclosed by surrounding urban development to the north and the south
- The River Trent flows through the central part of the area. The tree lined Victoria Embankment is to the immediate north of the river
- Large expansive recreational area set in a slightly lower bowl to collect flood water to the north of the river
- Victoria Embankment a park and formal recreational open space to the north, with children's play area and large amenity playing fields and a paddling pool
- Victoria Embankment consists of large open areas of amenity grass land, children's play area and an ornamental garden, containing formal shrub beds and an ornate water feature
- Formal avenues of mature plane trees line the road, promenade and central axis through the park, with the addition of pockets of ornamental trees within the park, give a wooded character along the north edge of the river
- Playing fields to the south have wooded boundaries surrounding large grass fields. Woodland belts and establishing scrub on parcels of land adjacent to the river contribute to the wooded enclosure
- Scrub vegetation is beginning to establish along the river bank and in areas of land surrounding The Becket and Nottingham Emmanuel schools, which also contribute to a wooded character
- Large red brick 1930s detached properties, face out over the river along Victoria Embankment, set in large gardens with trees and gated entrances
- Suburban residential, red brick, semi-detached properties form the northern and southern boundaries, with occasional individual distinctive properties
- Commercial buildings and a newly constructed modern secondary school are present on the south of the river bank with two distinctive seven storey, high density, residential buildings which are prominent on the skyline
- Views across the open spaces are enclosed by urban development and woodland. Key buildings in the city centre, including the castle are visible above the housing with glimpses to ridgelines to north and south. Floodlights from the sports grounds are also visible on the horizon
- There are three bridges crossing the River Trent within the area, with the A60 London Road Bridge being a busy route, linking the north and south of the city and Lady Bay Bridge and a pedestrian only suspension bridge
- The grand limestone war memorial which marks the entrance to the formal memorial gardens is a distinctive and elaborate feature along Victoria Promenade



**LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS**

**Condition**

A low lying landform within the floodplain of the River Trent, with designed flood defences. The land is amenity parkland and recreational space associated with a water course. It is characterised by modern modified fields which form a number of urban green spaces. The area is quite open but enclosed by the urban fringes of Nottingham and West Bridgford and by woodland along the fringes of open spaces.

Land use is mainly recreation with pockets of residential and commercial buildings increasing towards the fringes of the city. The recreational parkland north of the river has a large expansive amenity open space, children’s play equipment, and a small paddling pond used in summer. An ornamental memorial garden containing formal shrub beds and an ornate knot style water feature is marked at its entrance by a distinctive limestone war memorial gate structure leading from Victoria Embankment. To the south grassland is bordered by wooded fringes.

A distinctive mature tree line avenue is an important feature within this landscape. There are plane trees along the length of Victoria Embankment to the A60 London Road Bridge. Additional native and ornamental trees within the Victoria Embankment, emerging scrub along the southern edge of the river bank, and woodland around the playing fields to the south, give the area a wooded character.

The landscape condition is **MODERATE** with localised evidence of lack of maintenance across the park. Railings to the boundary need to be re-painted. The war memorial is in need of maintenance and there is no access over the river from one bridge which has been closed for safety reasons. The paddling pool gives the impression of an abandoned feature throughout the winter months although it is likely that this appearance alters through the summer.



**Landscape Strength**

The DPZ is enclosed by the urban fringes of Nottingham, although there are filtered views into the area from the urban edges surrounding the area. From the north the views are filtered through the structure planting surrounding the park. There are open views across individual open spaces and channelled views along the river, which is a distinctive feature. Views are often contained by woodland and built form. Key city buildings, including Nottingham Castle are visible in the skyline to the north.

The strength of character of the area is **MODERATE**. The features although regularly distributed, are not strong enough to be distinctive or to give a highly unique sense of place except close to the river where the war memorial and river are distinctive features. The land use varies from amenity, built development and rough scrub typical of an area of green space within an urban location.

	<b>MODERATE</b> <i>Enhance</i>	<b>MODERATE - GOOD</b> <i>Conserve and Enhance</i>	<b>GOOD</b> <i>Conserve</i>
<b>Good</b>			
<b>Moderate</b>	<b>POOR - MODERATE</b> <i>Enhance and Restore</i>	<b>MODERATE</b> <i>Enhance</i>	<b>MODERATE - GOOD</b> <i>Conserve and Enhance</i>
<b>Poor</b>	<b>POOR</b> <i>Restore/Create</i>	<b>POOR - MODERATE</b> <i>Enhance and Restore</i>	<b>MODERATE</b> <i>Enhance</i>
	<b>Weak</b>	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>Strong</b>
	Landscape strength		

The overall landscape strategy is **ENHANCE**.

## LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

### *Landscape features*

- Conserve the open character of the recreational amenity playing fields
- Conserve the distinctive tree lined avenue along the river embankment
- Enhance the quality and condition of the memorial garden to improve the existing vegetation and appearance of the area
- Enhance the character of the river and Victoria Embankment to provide greater unity and focus within the DPZ on the river
- Enhance the fringes of the open spaces through additional woodland
- Enhance fringes of the river through localised tree planting/natural regeneration to soften built form bordering the area

### *Built form*

- Conserve the detached housing set within mature gardens along Victoria Embankment
- Maintain and enhance views of distinctive and prominent buildings along the River Trent such as County Hall through management of trees and development to retain and frame views
- Enhance the school grounds through planting along the boundaries to help soften them and reduce its prominence in views to the north of the river.

### *Other development/ structures in the landscape*

- Improve and restore the condition of the War Memorial to enable the temporary security fencing to be removed
- Enhance views towards distinctive landmarks with the city, such as the City Council House, the Castle and St Mary's church through careful siting of new development and planting to maintain a connection between the river and the city centre

