



East Keswick Parish Council
East Keswick
Neighbourhood Plan
2020 – 2033

Pre-submission consultation draft

Version 30 ■ March 2020

Foreword

In 2011 a new Act of Parliament came into force, the Localism Act. One of its central tenets was the concept of a Neighbourhood Plan. It was an idea that a local community might want to take ownership of how its environment developed.

It will come as little surprise to those who know this parish that, within a year a number of keen parishioners had put themselves forward, ready to do the work that would create East Keswick's Neighbourhood Plan.

A Neighbourhood Plan has to be created by a properly constituted community body, and the Parish Council fits that remit. The Neighbourhood Plan group was a subcommittee of the Parish Council.

Our first meeting was in September 2012. A year later and we were ready for our first public meeting weekend to gather the views of the community.

Writing a Neighbourhood Plan is a time consuming and challenging enterprise and due to lack of time and other issues affecting steering group members, there have been a couple of occasions where there has been a long pause in moving this document forward. We started with support from professional consultants who helped provide a framework with which to develop the plan, but over time the document has evolved into a document which specifically reflects the individuality of East Keswick parish. In particular the depth of thought and the insight which has been undertaken by members of East Keswick Wildlife Trust has meant that the Environment section is one of the most detailed in England to date.

There have been several consultations, including those with the neighbouring parishes of Bardsey and Collingham, analysis of the feedback and interactions through the website and the parish newsletter have finally resulted in the production of the East Keswick Neighbourhood Plan.

We would like to thank Locality for providing grant funding, Mike Dando from Planning Aid and David Gluck for their help in starting us off. We are indebted to Leeds City Council, Ian Mackay and in particular Abbie Miladinovic for her invaluable support and advice and to Nazia Fazal for her work on the maps. And of course thanks to the EKNP steering group and especially Melanie Smith and Janet Thornton for sticking with it!

Andrew Batty

Chairman, East Keswick Parish Council

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background to the Neighbourhood Plan

The Localism Act of 2011 empowered communities such as the parish of East Keswick with the opportunity to shape its future development by producing a Neighbourhood Plan (NP). The NP is an official planning document incorporated into the Development Plan for Leeds Metropolitan District, with both being valid until 2033. East Keswick Parish has been designated a “neighbourhood area” by Leeds City Council in line with Part 2 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, with East Keswick Parish Council as the qualifying body authorised to develop the Neighbourhood Plan.

East Keswick parish has several borders, including borders with Collingham and Bardsey. A formal memorandum of understanding to work together was agreed between Collingham and East Keswick, but as there are much closer ties with Bardsey, communication and discussion took place on a much more informal basis. East Keswick’s Neighbourhood Plan should not be treated in isolation due to these close borders with surrounding villages. It is important to note that the neighbourhood area of East Keswick includes a small section of the western edge of the village of Collingham within the parish.

East Keswick Parish Council and the Neighbourhood Plan steering group are indebted to Leeds City Council for their help and support in producing this document.

Glossary of terms:

East Keswick: Refers to the parish of East Keswick

Village: East Keswick

Parish: East Keswick, part of Collingham and the area encompassed within the whole parish boundary

Biodiversity: the existence of a wide variety of plant and animal species in their natural environment

Built up area: This relates to the village of East Keswick and the edge of the village of Collingham which has extended into the parish of East Keswick

Community: residents, business owners and farmers and anyone working within the parish boundary

Conservation Area: Local planning authorities are obliged to designate as conservation areas any parts of their own area that are of special architectural or historic interest, the character and appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance

Neighbourhood Area: East Keswick Parish is the geographical area designated by Leeds City Council for the purposes of this Neighbourhood Plan

Neighbourhood plan: A plan prepared by a parish council or neighbourhood forum for a designated neighbourhood area

Resident: someone living within the parish boundary

Settlement: a previously uninhabited area where people have formed a community

Wildlife corridor: Areas of habitat connecting wildlife populations

Abbreviations used in this document:

ACV – Asset of Community Value (enables Community Right to Buy opportunities for buildings of specific value to the community)

APEM – independent environmental consultancy

BVD – prefix in identifier for built environment related planning policies

CA – prefix for identifier for community amenity and facilities policies

CIL – Community Infrastructure Levy (levy on new development set by the local authority)

E – prefix in identifier for environmental policies

ELB – prefix for identifier employment and local business policies

EU - European

GS – prefix in identifier for green space related planning policies

H - prefix in identifier for housing policies

LCC – Leeds City Council (the local authority within which East Keswick parish resides)

LDF – Local Development Framework (local authority spatial planning strategy progressively replacing the UDP)

LGS – Local Green Space (status enabling basic protection from development on green spaces of special value to the community)

NP - Neighbourhood Plan

NPPF – National Planning Policy Framework

UDP – Unitary Development Plan (high level local authority development plan – gradually being replaced by LDF)

SAP – Site Allocations Plan

SHLAA – Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (undertaken by a local authority in identifying suitable development sites)

SuDS – Sustainable drainage systems can be used in all types of development to provide a natural approach to managing drainage. SuDS prevent water pollution and flooding.

VDS – Village Design Statement.

1.2 How the Neighbourhood Plan is organised

The Neighbourhood Plan is set out as follows:

- **Section 1:** how the plan is organised.
- **Section 2:** the vision for the future of the parish and a set of objectives to realise that vision.
- **Section 3:** the policies for delivering the Vision supported by evidence and cross referenced to national and local policy, to which the policies need to broadly conform.
- **Appendices:** the materials referred to in the main body of the NDP.

Appendices 1 (Maps) and 2 (Local Green Spaces) are included in this document, whereas Appendix 3 (East Keswick Character Assessment), Appendix 4 (Village Design Statement), Appendix 5 (Housing Needs Assessment), Appendix 6 (Memorandum of Understanding between Collingham and East Keswick) and Appendix 7 (list of documents used as evidence) form separate documents due to their size. Further information that is too extensive to be included in this document, but nevertheless forms part of the evidence base for the Neighbourhood Plan, is either listed as annexes and/or is accessible on the East Keswick parish website.

1.3 The Neighbourhood Planning process

An invitation by the Parish Council was extended to all residents to join a steering group to help produce the Neighbourhood Plan (NP). The steering group collated a list of topics and issues which formed the basis of the initial public consultation. Consultees were invited to suggest any additional subjects which the steering group might have missed. The key priorities for residents of the parish and other local and wider stakeholders were identified and formed the basis of the sections of the NP. The policies and proposals set out their clear wishes.

The Neighbourhood Plan steering group has been keen to ensure that local community stakeholders (residents, businesses, landowners and other organisations) have had a real influence on all planning matters such as the style and design of new housing, the provision of new facilities, the protection of the historic rural character of the village of East Keswick and a natural environment strategy for the parish to ensure that it remains a vibrant and sustainable neighbourhood area.

The development of the Plan stalled on several occasions for a variety of reasons as it is quite a formidable task for busy volunteers.

Key consultation activity that has taken place, has included public exhibitions and consultations with the community in Autumn 2013, Spring 2015 and Summer 2019. As a consequence, these consultations and the feedback from residents, stakeholders, especially Leeds City Council, mean that the Plan and policies have evolved over time.

The key actions were:

- June 2013 Parish Council agreed to proceed with undertaking a Neighbourhood Plan
- August 2013 Application of Neighbourhood Area submitted to Leeds City Council
- September 2013 Public consultation weekend to identify key topics
- December 2013 Neighbourhood Area designated by Leeds City Council
- April 2015 Presentation on progress at Parish Assembly
- May 2015 Open day & draft Neighbourhood Plan sent to every household & business
- July 2015 Questionnaires completed and returned
- October 2015 Analysis of consultation feedback
- June 2016 Open day consultation
- April 2019 Pre submission NP approved by Parish Council
- Summer 2019 6 week public consultation

The draft programme for activity going forward is:

In 2020:

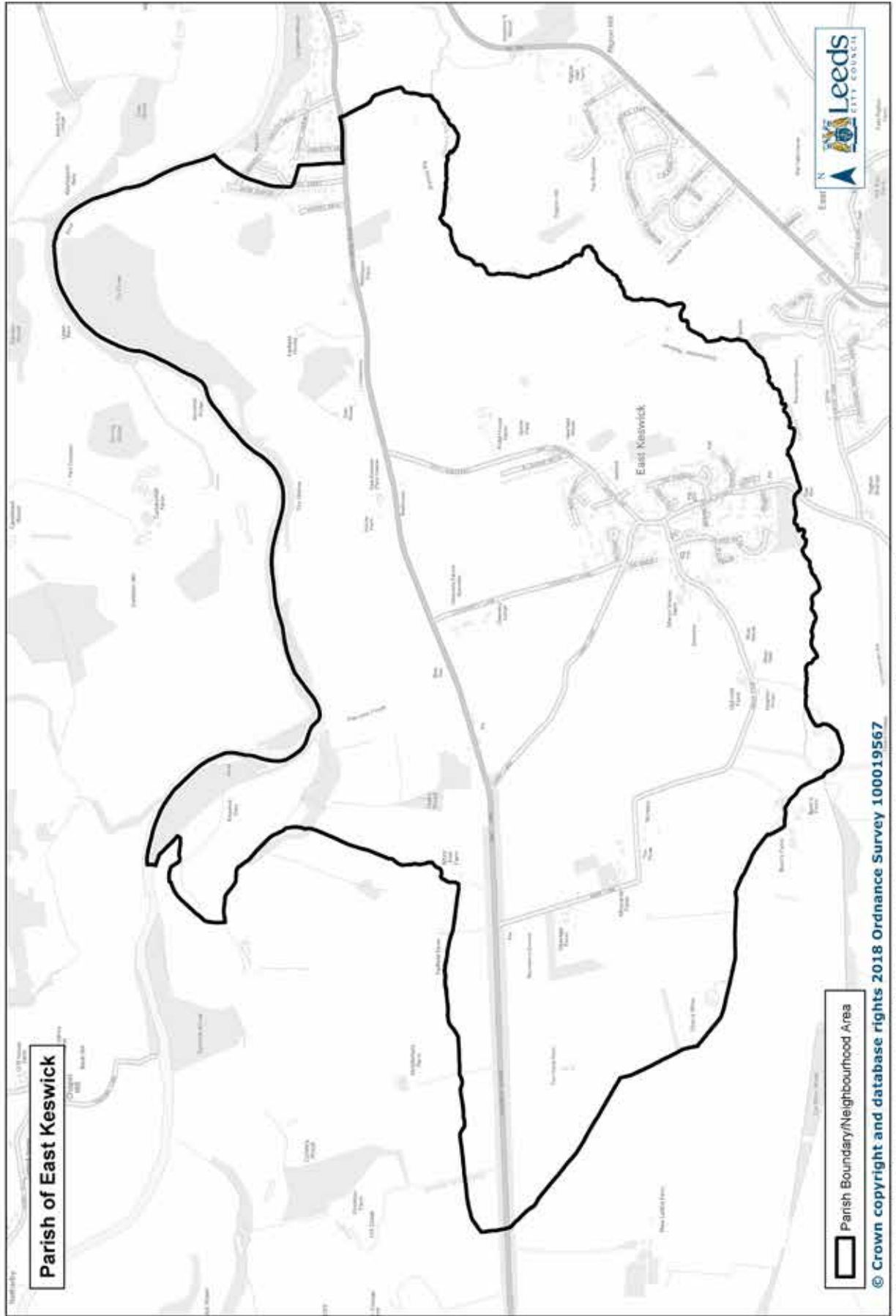
- Amended plan submitted to Leeds City Council for independent examination
- Leeds City Council Publicity finalised and NP sent to the independent examiner
- Referendum of East Keswick Residents



1.3.1 The Neighbourhood Area

Map 1 illustrates the boundary of the parish which is also the designated Neighbourhood Area for this Plan. An application to Leeds City Council for the designation of the Neighbourhood Area was made in August 2013. The Neighbourhood Area was approved by Leeds City Council in 7 October 2013. The Plan and its policies can only apply to this area, not beyond.

Guidance states that where an area is parished, the parish boundary is the most appropriate area for the neighbourhood boundary.



Map 1 Parish Boundary and designated Neighbourhood Area

1.3 About the Parish

1.3.1 A brief history of East Keswick

An early spelling of Keswick, Chesinc, appears in the Domesday Survey suggesting that dairy farming was carried out in the area before the Norman Conquest. By the time of the Survey in 1086 a small agricultural estate was under cultivation.

In the 12th and 13th centuries the Mohaut family were named as holders of the manor of East Keswick but manorial jurisdiction lay with the larger Harewood Manor. The parish church was also in Harewood. Civil administration was based in the wapentake of Skyrack which covered townships around Leeds from Ilkley to Kippax.

The medieval settlement was in the area of what is now Moor Lane, close to the beck. A moated house was built there in the 13th century and stone from the abandoned building is thought to have been used for nearby farmhouses in the 17th century. To the west were the moor and the boundary with Harewood. To the north and east were three open fields, and beyond was grazing and woodland on the banks of Wharfe.

The remnants of the feudal system of farming disappeared with the East Keswick Enclosure Act of 1801. By this time the neighbouring Harewood Estate had acquired more than two thirds of the agricultural land and many residents now found themselves tenants of the neighbouring gentry rather than a succession of non-resident landlords.

It was not only the agricultural scene which changed in the 19th century. A Wesleyan chapel had opened in 1792 and visiting preachers drew large crowds in the first half of the 19th century. In 1856 the Anglican congregation, which had been expected to attend church at Harewood, eventually got its own place of worship. In the 1870s there were both girls' and boys' boarding schools, a National School and Sunday schools. There were several shops and three public houses and residents were engaged in an increasing variety of occupations. Meanwhile local transport was improving and the railway passed nearby. At the end of the 19th century there were a dozen farms and smallholdings and also a number of market gardens whose produce helped supply the growing population of Leeds.

The Edwardian terrace at the bottom of Main Street, advertised as conveniently near the station for commuting to Leeds, was the first of the 20th century residential developments. A number of old stone cottages were demolished and the local authority bought land for housing. In 1950/51, when death duties forced the Harewood Estate Sale, market gardeners and tenant farmers were able to buy their holdings. Some land in the centre of the village was sold for housing while most of the outlying land remained in agricultural use. The amalgamation of smaller farms and intensive farming meant changes to the rural environment including the loss of some hedgerows.

By the end of the 20th century the number of residential properties had increased fourfold in a hundred years. There were fewer shops, no longer a school and no railway nearby. From 1974 East Keswick was part of Leeds City Council rather than Wetherby Rural District. When the ecclesiastical parish of Harewood ceased to exist in 1978 East Keswick became part of Bardsey Parish. In the 21st century the boundaries of the civil parish are the same as those of the medieval township and the village centre, though much enlarged, occupies the same position in the south of the parish.

Collingham is located approximately 2 miles to the north east of the village of East Keswick in the valley of the River Wharfe. The village was centred around Collingham Beck and in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries expanded along Leeds and Harewood Road. Hillcrest, Wharfe Bank and Wharfe Rein are off Harewood Road at the western edge of Collingham and lie within the parish of East Keswick.

1.3.2 East Keswick in 2020

East Keswick village lies on a country lane which meanders between Collingham and Shadwell. **The village** has two pubs, two churches, a twice weekly post office, village hall, three hairdressers, a beauty salon, a butcher and a weekly mobile library. **The parish** extends along Harewood Road (Wharfe Rein, Wharfe Bank and part of Hillcrest) to the parish boundary. This area comprises quiet residential cul-de-sacs extending north from the main road towards the River Wharfe.

The village is a Conservation Area surrounded by rich farmland and numerous attractive walks. Its history has been chronicled in a highly acclaimed Millennium Book and it enjoys its own Wildlife Trust which manages large tracts of local land.

According to the 2011 Census, the parish of East Keswick has a population of 1146 people; 550 male and 596 female. (N.B. More up to date estimates of the population from Nomis in December 2019 suggest a total population of 1168, split 589 male and 579 female).

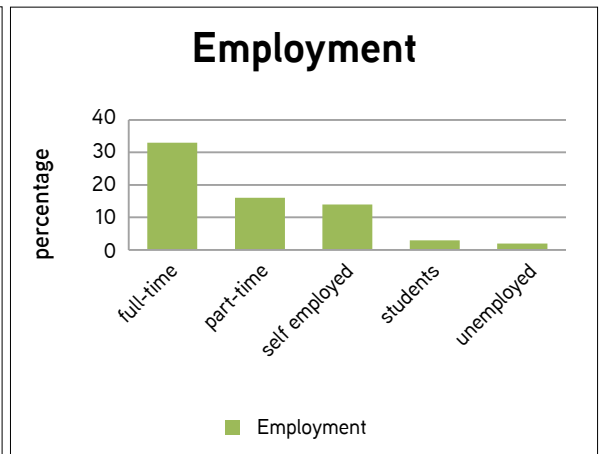
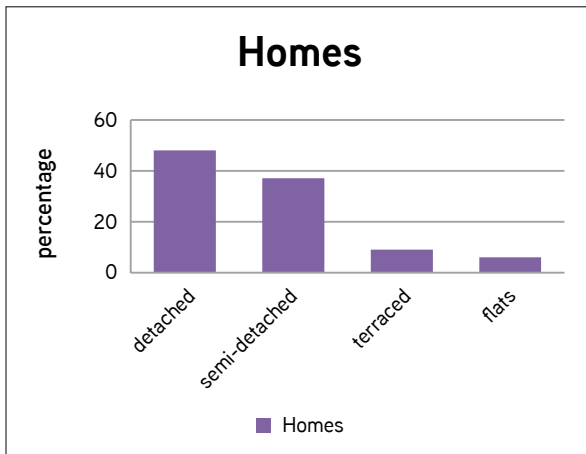
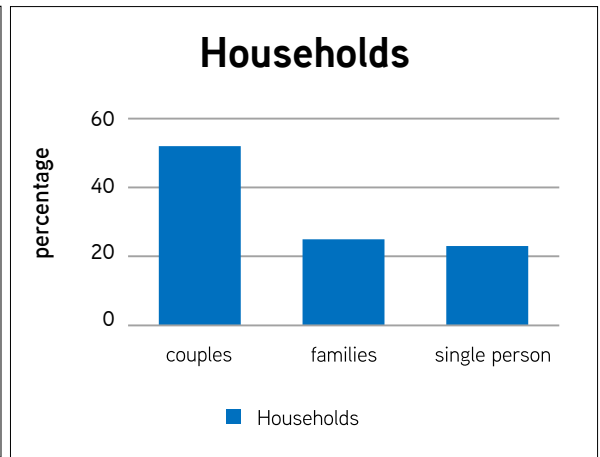
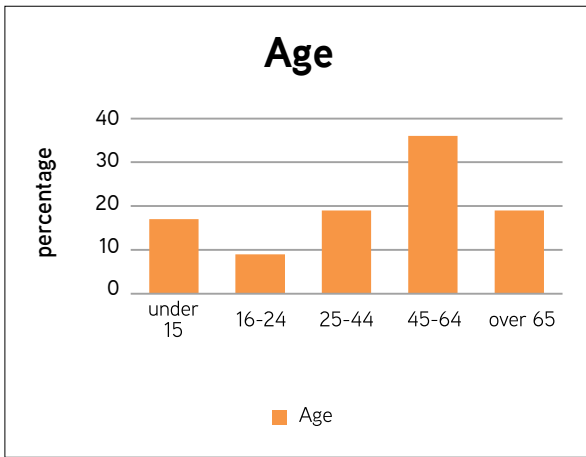
Census 2011 figures showed that 97% are from a white ethnic group. Of the 471 households, 370 households have access to one or two cars or vans and 67 households have access to at least three cars or vans. 34 households do not have access to a car or van.

54% describe their health as very good compared to a national average of 47%.

42% of our adults are educated to degree level, less than 16% have no formal qualifications. With regard to occupations, 18.5% are managers, directors and senior officials (the figure is 9.5% for Leeds and 10.9% for England) and 30.3% are in professional occupations (compared to 18.5% for Leeds and 17.5% for England).

There is low unemployment in the parish. The parish has half the number of people receiving working benefit or jobseekers' allowance compared with the rest of Leeds.

The population profile is as follows:



2.0 Vision

2.1 The vision for the future

The Localism Act of 2011 empowered properly constituted local bodies to consult the community to ascertain how they would like their area to evolve over the next decades.

In East Keswick's case, such a body already existed in the form of the Parish Council. East Keswick has always enjoyed active participation by its residents and there was no shortage of volunteers when the Parish Council suggested forming a sub-committee.

Consulting and involving the community took many forms. Pages on the parish website provided information on progress and allowed people to post comments. The parish newsletter gave updates and the village hall was a focal point for public exhibitions. Colour brochures which summarised the plan were distributed to every house and business whilst full versions were made available on request, placed in public locations and made downloadable from the website.

The Character Assessment drew on previous work by residents for the Village Design Statement.

Engaging the community brought a rich seam of valuable comments which were woven into the final submission to make a document truly reflective of community concerns and opinions.

Following the regular consultations undertaken during the process of preparing this Plan, the following Vision has been developed to guide development and growth in the parish over the coming years to 2033.

“In 2033 East Keswick will still be a clearly defined, distinct community with a historic rural character, a good range of high quality homes and community facilities fulfilling local needs. It will maintain and enhance local services, with a network of safe pedestrian routes, and support for a variety of locally based employment opportunities. It will be a parish which will continue to improve and extend the protection of wildlife habitats and biodiversity and ensure the green space in and around the parish will be conserved.”

2.2 Basic Conditions

A neighbourhood plan must meet certain 'basic conditions' and other legal requirements before it can come into force. A plan must support 'in general conformity' the delivery of strategic policies contained in local plans or spatial development strategies; and should shape and direct development that is *outside* of these strategic policies.

All Neighbourhood Plans must meet the basic conditions as set out in planning legislation. The basic conditions deal with matters such as:

- general conformity with strategic local policy
- regard to national policy and guidance
- contribution to the achievement of sustainable development
- compatibility with EU Obligations (including Human Rights) still applicable at the time of writing
- compatibility with the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017

East Keswick NP meets the basic conditions and works within national guidelines.

2.3 Conforming with national and local policy

According to legislation, although the NP reflects local issues, concerns and priorities, it must also be in general conformity with local planning policy, and have appropriate regard to national planning policy.

The National Planning Policy Framework sets out the Government's definition of sustainable development and how it should be achieved. It states:

The purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. At a very high level, the objective of sustainable development can be summarised as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs

Achieving sustainable development means that the planning system has three overarching objectives, which are interdependent and need to be pursued in mutually supportive ways (so that opportunities can be taken to secure net gains across each of the different objectives):

- a) **an economic objective** – to help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right types is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity; and by identifying and coordinating the provision of infrastructure;
- b) **a social objective** – to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering a well-designed and safe built environment, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities' health, social and cultural well-being; and

c) **an environmental objective** – to contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, helping to improve biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.

In July 2018 the Government published the Revised NPPF. Transitional arrangements are set out in ‘Annex 1: Implementation’ at para 214 and state that policies in the Revised NPPF will apply for the purposes of examining plans submitted after 24th January 2019. The East Keswick Neighbourhood Plan will be submitted after the 24 January 2019 and therefore the Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared with regard to the 2018 NPPF.

In February 2019, the Government published a further revised NPPF. The revisions included minor clarifications that do not affect the content of the neighbourhood plan.

The Development Plan for Leeds is the Local Development Framework, a suite of documents that form the Statutory Development Plan for Leeds. The LDF currently consists of: Adopted Core Strategy, the Site Allocations Plan, the Core Strategy Selective Review, Adopted Natural Resources and Waste Local Plan, the Policies Map for Leeds, the Aire Valley Leeds Area Action Plan, Community Infrastructure Levy and the emerging neighbourhood plans in Leeds.

The Basic Conditions Statement, submitted alongside this plan, sets out in detail how the NP has regard to national planning policy and is in general conformity with the local plan. It also sets out how the plan meets the other Basic Conditions and relevant legal requirements.

2.4 Policies

In order to see the Vision realised, the Neighbourhood Plan has policies with the following objectives:

- To set a preference towards a supply of smaller homes which will meet the demographic requirement of the parish in any future development
- To prioritise on the design of new homes and support initiatives enhancing the 'green credentials' of the parish
- To support the optimum energy efficiency of new and existing buildings
- To protect the countryside and rural environment in order to maintain the visual quality, traditional look and distinctive character of East Keswick being part of a Special Landscape Area
- To work to improve parish amenities and to aim for no further loss or reduction. Wherever practical, to encourage new amenities to become established.
- To encourage the development of new recreational facilities for younger residents.
- To support new business start-ups and to enable home working
- To support the sustainability of the agricultural industry through farm diversification
- To preserve green spaces in the parish, so that both residents and visitors can benefit from opportunities for outdoor recreation and leisure
- To conserve the natural richness and health of the local ecosystem, by protecting wildlife habitats, local green corridors, reducing flood risk and improving the water quality of Keswick Beck
- To maintain, preserve and protect trees hedgerows and verges

The following section sets out the policies which will deliver the Vision over the Plan period.

3.0 Key themes and policies for the Plan

The policies are set out in the following sections:

- a. Housing (H)
- b. Building and village design (BVD)
- c. Community amenities and facilities (CA)
- d. Employment and local businesses (ELB)
- e. The Environment (E)

Within each section there is where appropriate:

- **A summary of policies.**
- **How the Vision will be met** by the policies.
- **Issues:** a description of the issues each policy is seeking to address.
- **Evidence:** an outline of the evidence that supports the policy.
- **Policy:** the neighbourhood plan policy.
- **Community Aspirations:** Activity which could be undertaken or initiated by either parish organisations or other actors.

3.1 Housing (H)

| Policies | |
|--|---|
| Housing | H1: Provision of appropriate new homes H2: Energy efficiency of new and existing homes |
| How the Vision will be delivered | |
| <p>For East Keswick to remain a clearly defined, distinct community with a good range of high quality homes fulfilling local needs the policies aim:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to set a preference of a supply of smaller homes which will meet the demographic requirement of the parish in any future development • to prioritise on the design of new homes and support initiatives enhancing the 'green credentials' of the parish • to support the optimum energy efficiency of new and existing building | |

3.1.1 Provision of appropriate new homes

i. Introduction

The parish has limited opportunities for building new homes due to being surrounded by Green Belt and is not identified in the Development Plan for Leeds as a community required to accept new homes to meet city wide targets as it is a village and therefore falls outside of the settlement hierarchy (as identified by the Leeds Core Strategy). The settlement hierarchy directs development to the main urban area of Leeds City Centre and surrounding suburbs, and the other major settlements within the district such as Garforth, Wetherby and Otley.

The NP steering group did not wish to allocate housing sites in the Neighbourhood Plan due to the fact that little desire had been expressed by the local community for development sites being proposed through the neighbourhood planning process. However, to not seek to shape the development of new housing through the neighbourhood planning process, particularly since local residents had given their views during the consultation and engagement process would be a wasted opportunity. A report was commissioned by the Parish Council to provide housing needs advice and an overview for the scope of housing policies in the neighbourhood plan for East Keswick.

ii. Evidence

The findings from the AECOM housing needs report (Appendix 5) are summarised as follows:

- With a population of 1146, East Keswick could theoretically be expected to reasonably accommodate 24.5 units over the period of the Development Plan for Leeds to meet local housing needs;
- There is no statutory requirement for East Keswick to deliver any specific amount of new housing as a village/rural settlement type;
- There is no evidence of need for East Keswick to seek to raise the minimum affordability threshold (for affordable housing) beyond 35% of the new units to be provided over the Plan period.

After consulting with a focus group of residents, it was decided that the proposal to be consulted upon would limit any individual development to consist of no more than 10 units, in order to minimise the level of visual impact on the main built environment and also allow flexibility should some development take place within the far eastern section of East Keswick parish, i.e. on the edge of Collingham at Wharfe Rein, Hillcrest etc.

Findings from the public consultation (2013) demonstrated that 58% of respondents agreed that the current mix of housing is about right in the parish. Comments that were submitted included requests for lower cost housing for 'starter homes' and for older people looking to downsize; building smaller 1-3 bedroom units rather than large detached houses and a requirement for bungalows, flats or terraces to house the ageing population. This is also reflected in the findings of the AECOM report (see Appendix 4, Table 21). There was an almost equal split, (with 51% in favour), between respondents on the issue that any new development should be reserved for the use of local people.

In May 2015 a consultation was undertaken on the first draft of the Neighbourhood Plan. 89% of respondents agreed with this draft policy. There was a preference given by respondents that any individual development proposal should be appropriate in size and scale relative to the size of the settlement. Also that it meets the type of housing requirement identified in the AECOM report (Appendix 4) and does not seek to achieve the total number of properties assessed as the requirement by AECOM (24.5) for a settlement of this size all in one development, in order to minimise the overall visual impact on the village.

There were no sites for housing proposed in the parish of East Keswick through the call for sites for the Leeds Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) 2014.

The planning application history for the parish has mainly been in respect of individual small-scale development sites, either in respect of extensions to existing property (often altering bungalows into larger homes), the conversion of a former farm into three dwellings but also on at least three occasions, demolishing older houses and using the sites to replace them with larger properties on Whitegate and Moor Lane. The last largest development in the parish was the creation of 11 'executive' homes on Keswick Grange cul-de-sac in 1995.

Therefore it can be reasonably expected that development will not be delivered through specific allocations but on smaller, windfall developments. Small scale development is considered more suitable for East Keswick due to the prevailing character of the parish, tightly drawn Green Belt boundary, and Conservation Area constraints.

Despite East Keswick Village Design Statement having been adopted as a Supplementary Planning Guidance by LCC in 2002, the document is still very relevant as it identifies the character of the village and the significant buildings within it, which have changed little over this period.

iii. Policy

Policy H1: Provision of appropriate new housing

New, small-scale, housing development is supported for approximately 24 new homes in East Keswick over the Plan Period, provided that it is designed in accordance with the East Keswick Village Design Statement and takes account of the East Keswick Character Appraisal.

Development proposals will only be supported where they:

- a.** Are not adjoining or adjacent to one another so as not to overwhelm or cause harm to the existing character of East Keswick;
- b.** Are of an appropriate scale and density to maintain the overall character of the village;
- c.** Demonstrate that local infrastructure has adequate carrying capacity;
- d.** Provide a range of dwellings to meet identified local needs, such as:
 - i.** smaller dwellings of 1-2 bedrooms e.g. for single person households, older people households, couples without dependent children, younger people to buy and/or to rent;
 - ii.** single storey dwellings; which are especially welcome due to the limited supply and high demand; or
 - iii.** the provision of specialist care housing for the elderly where there is an evidenced need.

3.1.2 Enhancing energy efficiency of homes

i. Introduction

In 2015, buildings accounted for 34% of all the UK's carbon emissions and residential buildings accounted for 64% of those emissions, according to the Committee on Climate Change figures. Buildings and other developments can also damage the environment, through poor waste management and/or inefficient use of resources. The Government recognises the need to reduce carbon emissions from buildings and make sure that planning policies help to protect and improve the natural and built environment.

New developments with enhanced energy efficiency will create homes for the future that contribute to the sustainability of the parish and the wider city.

Older stone built properties (of which there is a considerable number within and also some outside the Conservation Area, particularly along Moor Lane) are extremely energy inefficient and challenging to retrofit effectively.

ii. Evidence

The consultation process has indicated that the community is in support of developments that include enhanced energy efficiencies.

The Leeds Core Strategy spatial vision seeks to ensure Leeds is resilient to climate change through the use of innovative techniques and efficient use of natural resources. Furthermore, the objectives supporting this vision make reference to the need to manage environmental resources by *"making efficient use of natural resources, including the implementation of sustainable design and construction techniques"*.

The Health Impacts of Cold Homes and Fuel Poverty report commissioned by Friends of the Earth states in Chapter 4:

'Many rural homes are older buildings. They are more likely to have solid walls (almost all homes built before 1919 are solid walled), which are generally less well-insulated than cavity walls (as can be found in nearly all homes built after 1945). While over 60% of homes in urban areas and rural towns are cavity walled and on mains gas, this is true of only 32% in villages and 21% in hamlets. These factors mean that it is on average more difficult and more expensive to improve the energy efficiency of a rural home...'

'On average properties that were built before the 1920s fall within the F and G categories and average indoor temperatures are lower the older the property. F and G rated homes are characterised by a number of elements which mark them as poor in energy efficiency. The Energy Saving Trust has highlighted that properties falling into these two categories tend to be large or medium sized, semi or detached houses, gas heated and double-glazed, but with an unfilled cavity wall, which are generally rated as F'.

Retrofitting to traditionally built old buildings needs an holistic approach which may require some compromise to achieve a healthy balance between a healthy building and healthy, warm occupants as outlined by the Sustainable Traditional Buildings Alliance in their publication 'Planning responsible retrofit of traditional buildings'.

In March 2019 Leeds City Council declared a Climate Emergency, requiring the Council to work towards making Leeds Carbon Neutral by 2030 (as opposed to the national target of

2050). Whilst the solutions for addressing the Climate Emergency are yet to be decided at a city-level, the EKNP includes measures which support the overall carbon reduction target by including policies supporting energy efficiency and wider green infrastructure objectives.

Policy EN1 of the Leeds Core Strategy (including as amended by the Leeds Core Strategy Selective Review 2019) requires new developments to include carbon saving and mitigation measures through, for example, the use of low carbon energy and onsite energy generation and policy EN2 requires developments to meet a water standard. It is not within the scope of the neighbourhood plan to re-define strategic expectations. Instead Policy H2 of the neighbourhood plan seeks to guide developments in East Keswick to use locally-appropriate solutions (by identifying what those may be) whilst maintaining the prevailing character of the village.

The UK Green Building Council's Report on Regeneration and Retrofit outlines the many environmental, community and financial benefits that wholesale, deep-retrofit can bring. Housing accounts for approximately 27% of Leeds's emissions and the national Committee on Climate Change's "Net Zero" report, published in May 2019, emphasises that an energy efficiency retrofit of the 29 million homes that already exist in the UK should be a "national infrastructure priority" and needs to take place during the next ten years. Consultation within the community has indicated that there is, in general, support for measures that improve the carbon footprint of our area. Given that the housing stock in East Keswick is traditional and the scope for new build development is limited, support is given to programmes which seek to improve the efficiency of the existing housing stock.

iii. Policy

Policy H2: Enhancing energy efficiency of homes

In order for East Keswick to make a positive contribution to wider climate emission reduction objectives, support will be given to:

- a. Proposals for new development that maximise overall energy efficiency of the development in accordance with the up-to-date standard being used by Leeds City Council;
- b. Proposals to improve the energy efficiency of existing buildings through retrofit, subject to visual amenity and minimisation of harm to the character and setting of the Conservation Area and local visual amenity; and
- c. Energy generation proposals that would benefit the wider community subject to them being appropriately-sited and sensitive to wider visual amenity and local policy considerations.

iv. Aspiration

That traditionally built properties are supported to become more energy efficient in a sympathetic manner appropriate to the character of the built environment.

That future development within the built up area will seek to reduce reliance on non-renewable resources and main Utilities.

3.2 Building and village design (BVD)

| Policies | |
|--|---|
| Building and village design | BVD1: Character and design |
| | BVD2: Ensuring a positive relationship with the surrounding landscape |
| | BVD3: Unlit Parish |
| How the Vision will be delivered | |
| <p>For East Keswick to remain a clearly defined, distinct community with a historic rural character and to ensure the green space in and around the parish will be conserved, the policies will seek:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To maintain the visual quality, traditional look and distinctive character of East Keswick parish, including its relationship with the countryside and rural environment• To ensure any development is not detrimental to key views and does not adversely impact the visual quality of the area• In order to conserve its historic rural character, new development in the parish should respect and maintain the unlit nature of the built environment | |

3.2.1 Character and design

i. Introduction

In March 2015 the NP steering group commissioned a Character Assessment (Appendix 3) to help guide the design of new development proposals and to inform decisions taken in relation to development in and around the parish. The Character Assessment adds value to the East Keswick Village Design Statement (2002) (Appendix 4).

Although there have been various additions to the village made in the 19th and 20th centuries that are more typical of the prevailing design and style of these periods, the preferred reference point for any future new development should reflect the 18th century and earlier housing which form the core of the older settlement seen predominantly on Main Street, Whitegate, School Lane, Cleavesty Lane and Moor Lane.

The addition of new roads and cul-de-sacs have emerged through 20th century development such as the built up area at the north eastern border of the parish adjacent to Collingham, i.e. Wharfe Rein, Hillcrest and Wharfe Bank and within East Keswick Village predominantly Allerton Drive, Rosecroft, South Bank, Lumby Garth, The Grove, South Mount, The Close, Argyle Mews, The Paddock, Paddock Green, Church Drive, Meadow Croft, Laurel Close and Keswick Grange.

On street parking, and a lack of adequate parking provision in the centre of the village is a consequence of development which occurred before the invention of the car. This can be seen as a mixed blessing as parked cars both inhibit a clear route but also provide some degree of traffic calming on the main thoroughfares through the village and contribute positively to speed management and road safety.

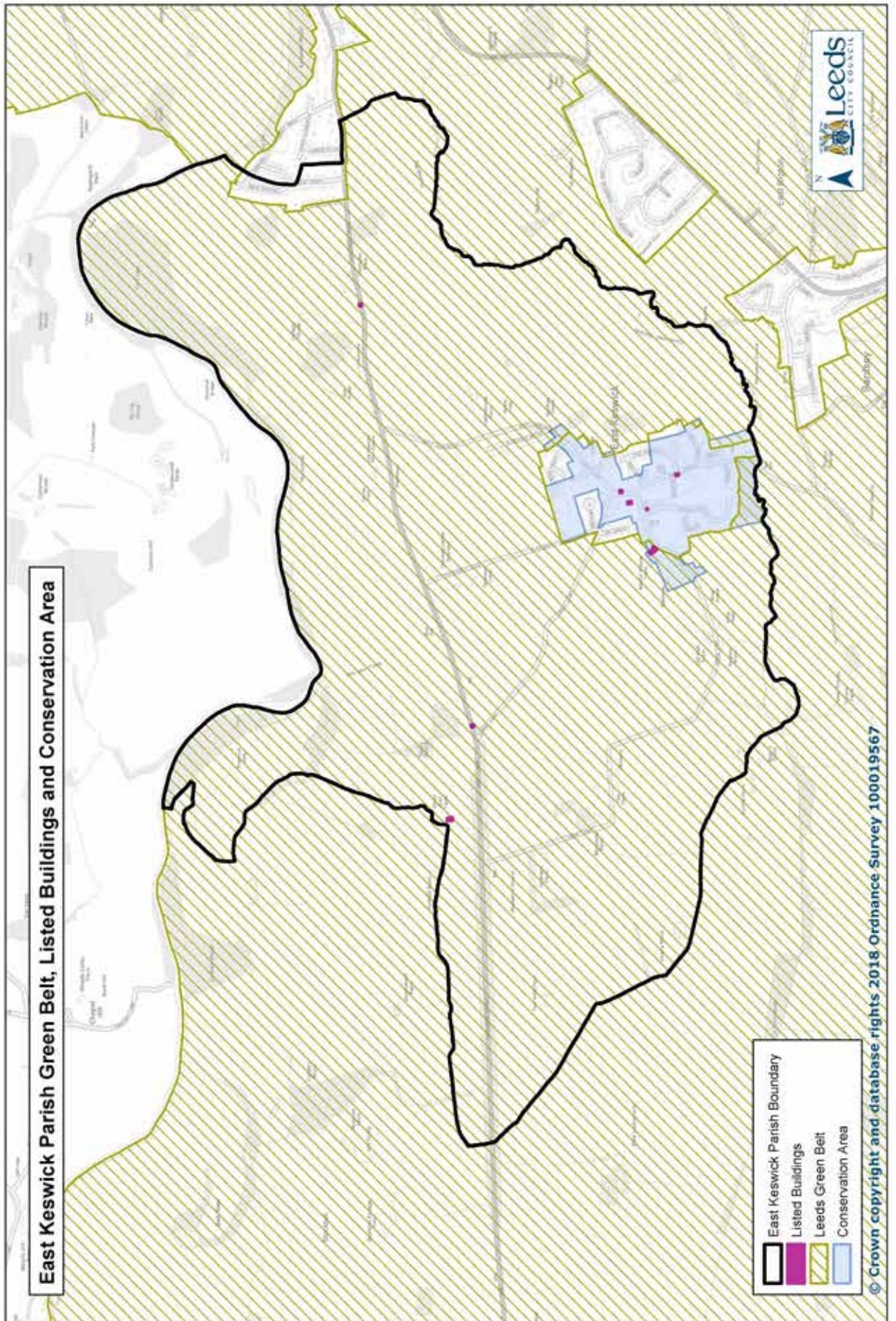
Chapter 12 of the NPPF outlines the government's support for local communities seeking to shape, influence, and ultimately improve the design of the built environment through neighbourhood plans. By setting out clear design expectations, Policy BVD1 achieves this by lending support to proposals where they pay specific attention to the special architectural characteristics in East Keswick.

ii. Evidence

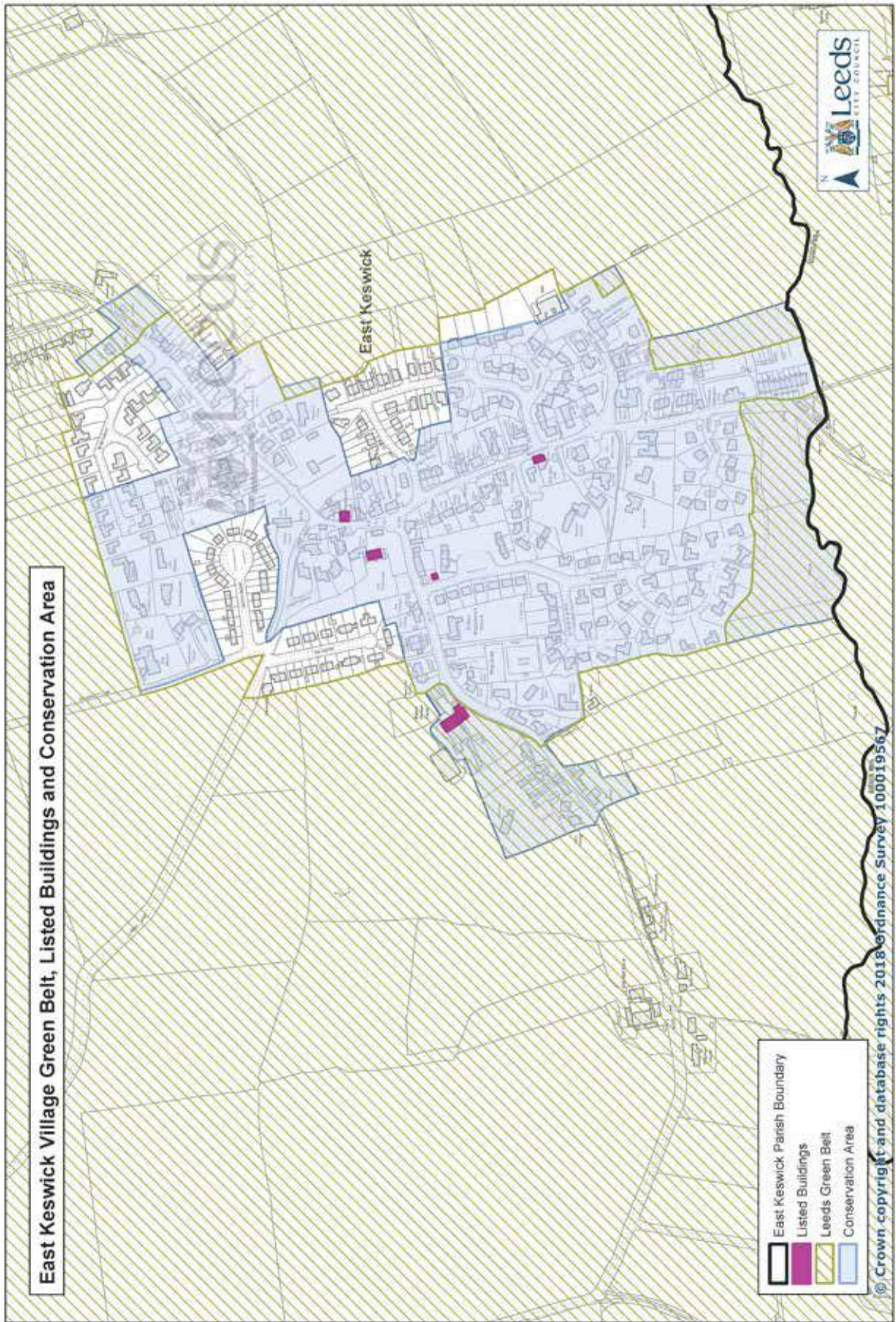
The East Keswick Character Assessment identifies the following key character attributes of the parish which help make East Keswick so special:-

- a large part of the village is designated as a Conservation Area. This is concentrated around the older settlement (see Map 2 showing East Keswick Parish Green Belt and Conservation Area);

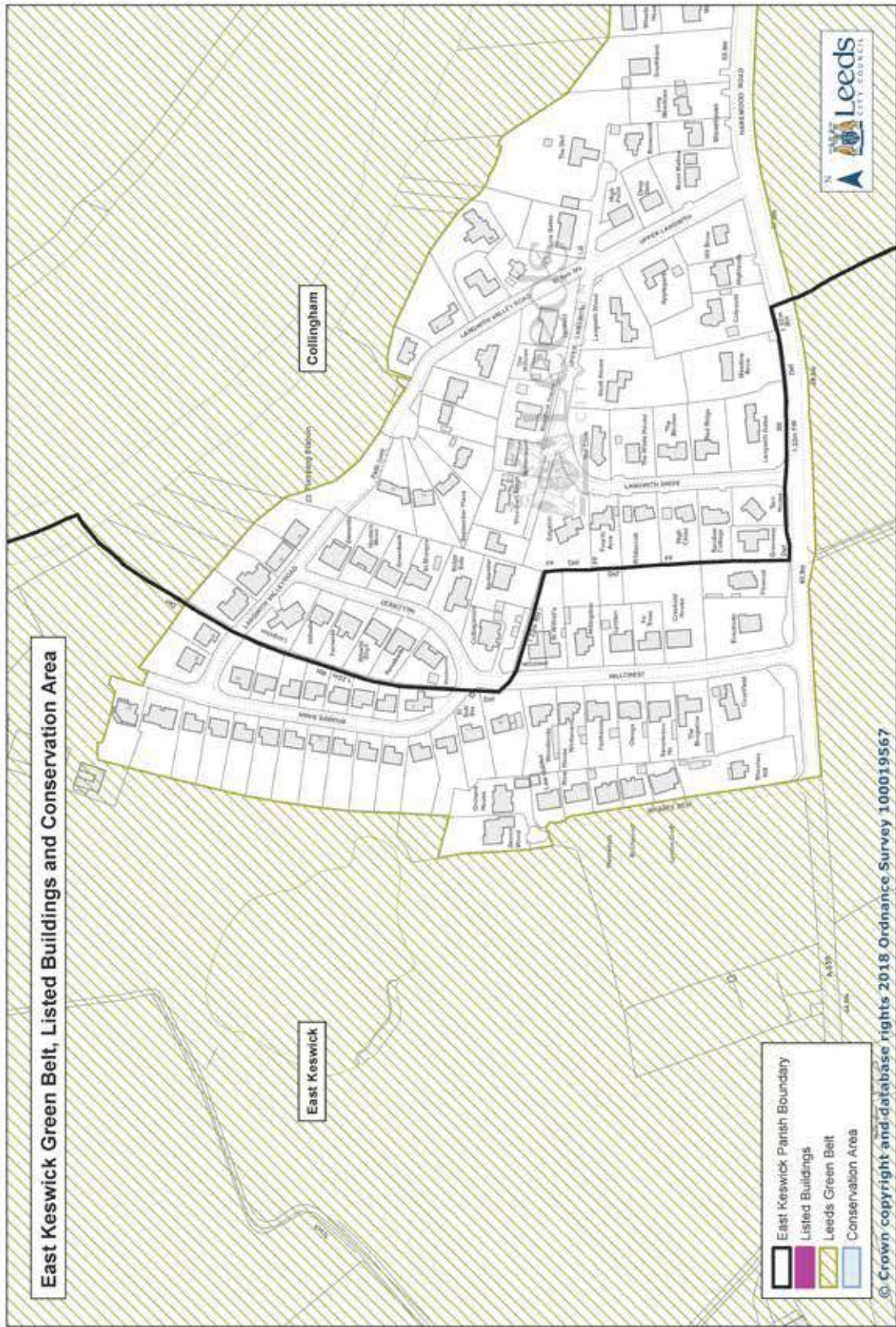
- there are seven listed buildings and two milestones listed within the parish of East Keswick (see Appendix 3 Character Assessment maps CA1, CA2 and CA3 of East Keswick Parish Green Belt, listed buildings and Conservation Area);
- the Green Belt boundary is tightly drawn around the built up areas (see Map 3 East Keswick Village Green Belt and Conservation Area and Map 4 East Keswick Parish Green Belt and Conservation Area);
- the countryside surrounding the built up areas is designated as a Special Landscape Area, the visual character and amenity of which is specially protected in local policy (see Map 8 Regional Green Corridor and Special Landscape Area);
- the Parish of East Keswick includes one Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) (Keswick Fitts) and two Sites of Ecological or Geological Interest (SEGI) (Ox Close Wood and the River Wharfe upstream and downstream); there are designated Local Wildlife Sites at Keswick Marsh and Frank Shires Pasture;
- Ox Close Wood, Frank Shires Pasture and Quarry, Keswick Marsh and the Ellikers are all nature reserves managed by East Keswick Wildlife Trust;
- there is a network of existing public footpaths and other rights of way in and around the parish which form an attraction to visitors as well as local residents. There are opportunities for significant enhancements to that network especially to connect the main village to the houses within the parish boundary on the western edge of Collingham, and also to Harewood and Bardsey.



Map 2 East Keswick Parish Green Belt and Conservation Area



Map 3 East Keswick Village Green Belt and Conservation Area



Map 4 East Keswick Green Belt and Conservation Area (Collingham)

The East Keswick Character Assessment contains an extensive list of detailed design attributes and architectural details which help to define the distinctive character of the village. The Character Assessment should be taken into consideration when preparing and assessing development proposals and the following key points are of particular note:

- areas in and adjacent to the Conservation Area should utilise appropriate materials. This may include high quality modern materials but these should be in keeping with or contribute positively to, the character of the Conservation Area;
- windows and doors should be of a design and appearance which reflects the traditional styles seen elsewhere within the Conservation Area.
- new development should have gardens that are of an appropriate size to serve the dwelling they relate to;
- where the demolition of existing buildings and structures is proposed, a clear rationale should be provided which demonstrates that the benefits associated with the removal of the building or structure outweighs any harm to the Conservation Area;
- new developments should respect the rural nature of the community and its setting by actively encouraging the incorporation of soft landscaping relevant to the local environment.
- the visual impact of recommendations on key important views and vistas should be considered and adverse impacts on these views minimised.
- treatment of boundaries should be sympathetic and the installation of street furniture needs to reflect the distinct local character in relation to materials and design, for example gates are mainly farm style (5 bar) or close-boarded.
- trees are extremely important to the character of the built up area in particular and development should seek to retain existing trees that positively contribute to the character of the area. It should provide new planting to enhance the existing landscape character of the area with preferably local native trees. Development that damages or results in the loss of ancient trees or trees of good arboricultural and/or amenity value will not normally be permitted unless justified by a professional tree survey and arboricultural statement. Where removal of a tree(s) of recognised importance can be justified, a replacement(s) of similar ecological and amenity value should be provided on site. The planting of local native trees will be supported, especially in locations where they can serve to reduce pollution and flood risk.
- enhance and protect / maintain verges, hedges and trees. Their removal and the encroachment of roadside verges will be discouraged. They enhance the existing character of East Keswick and provide permeable surfaces to help with flood prevention and water quality. The preservation of existing hedges, verges and trees and the creation of new green infrastructure in development schemes will be supported.
- inadequate provision for cars has led to roadside parking, particularly on the main arterial routes through the village, largely due to the historic development of the Conservation Area in the pre-car era. This has been an issue for many years, although it's noted that parked vehicles do provide informal traffic calming.

ii. Policy

Any development should seek to preserve and enhance East Keswick.

Policy BVD1: Character and Design

To be supported, development proposals must demonstrate a positive response to its setting in terms of scale, form and materials, and demonstrate regard for the following key guiding design principles:

- a. Proposals should be in keeping with the character of the Conservation Area. Appropriate materials should be used on all buildings, extensions and landscaping which may include high quality modern materials, as appropriate. Natural sandstone should normally be used on external walls and any boundary walls.
- b. Windows and door design should reflect the traditional styles seen elsewhere within the Conservation Area.
- c. Gates and fencing should be made of appropriate materials and design and be sympathetic to the rural vernacular.
- d. Gardens should be of an appropriate size to serve the dwelling they relate to, the prevailing pattern of development in the locality, and the prospective needs of future occupiers, subject to compliance with the most up-to-date standards adopted by Leeds City Council.
- e. Have roofing materials, such as either blue slate, Yorkshire stone or clay pantiles or substitute with sympathetic modern materials.
- f. Adequate off-street parking should be provided, taking into consideration the type of development, the accessibility of the location and the requirements of the most up-to-date standards adopted by Leeds City Council.
- g. Parking provision should be designed into the scheme to minimise visual impact upon the streetscape and where possible include permeable surfaces to improve flood alleviation and water quality.
- h. Boundary treatments and street furniture should reflect the distinct local character in relation to materials and design.
- i. Proposals should have regard to established residential character, including the replication of the variation in layout/streetscape, enabling it to blend sympathetically with the existing built environment. For example:
 - i. differing frontages with the roadside.
 - ii. varying roof heights.
 - iii. the mixture of verge and non-verge with pavements.
 - iv. varying wall heights and/or hedges.
- j. Proposals should respect the unlit nature of the village and this should be observed within any development.
- k. Landscaping schemes should soften the visual impact of a development, include connectivity into green corridors and ensure a smooth transition to the rural landscape. Schemes should seek to include locally native species of trees, shrubs and flowers.
- l. Proposals should retain existing trees that positively contribute to the character of the area and new planting should be undertaken to enhance the existing landscape character of the area.
- m. Proposals for development involving any non-designated heritage asset (including those identified in the East Keswick Character Assessment Appendix 2) should be assessed having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset including their importance to local distinctiveness, character and sense of place.

iv. Aspiration

Should any new curbing be required, this should be visually sympathetic to its location and reflect the character of the immediate vicinity, with a preference for using natural materials.

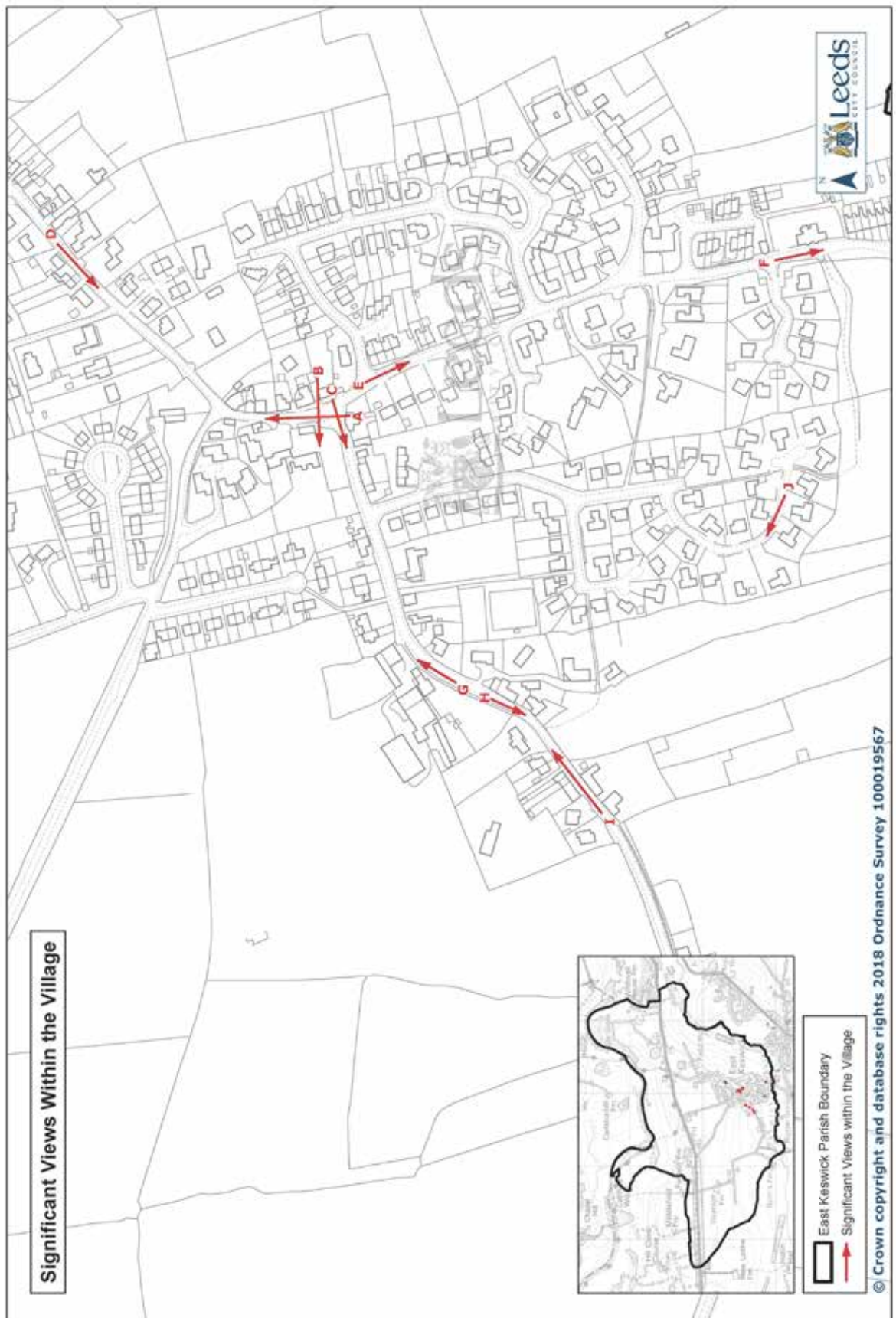
3.2.2 Encouraging a positive relationship with the surrounding landscape

i. Introduction

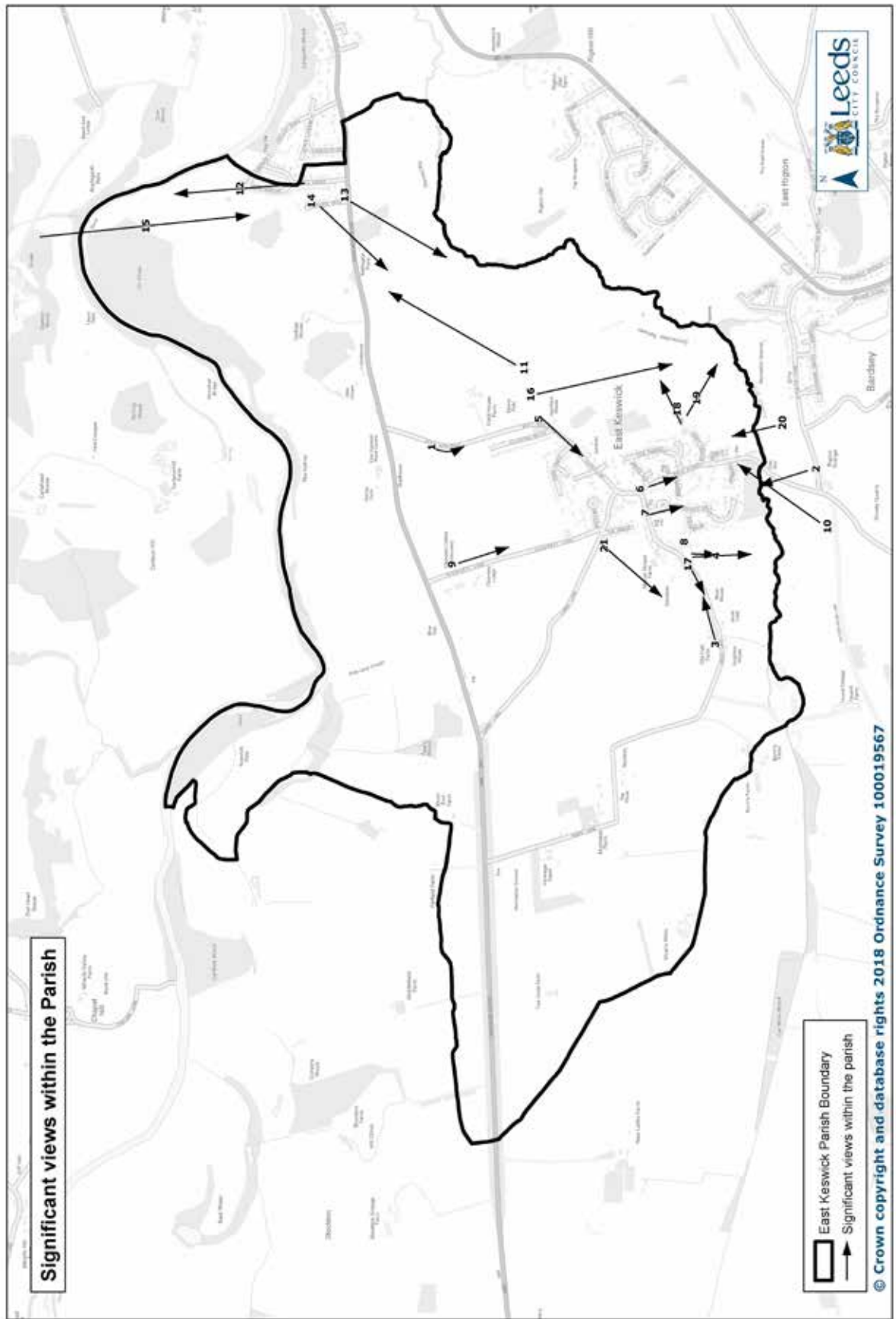
The community of East Keswick highly values the surrounding countryside, the points of access into and out of the built up area and the views afforded to those looking towards the village and across the parish. Through the consultation process it has been made clear that the community want to protect these access points and views.

ii. Issues

To maintain much of the distinctive character of East Keswick, development should also consider the visual impact of key views into and out of the parish. To minimise any adverse impact on these views, careful consideration should be given to the design, siting and layout of proposals (see maps 5 & 6 of significant views).



Map 5 Significant views within the village



Map 6 Significant views within the parish

iii. Evidence

Consultation and engagement with the community, a walkabout around the parish, advice from the East Keswick Tree Warden, members of East Keswick Wildlife Trust and regard to East Keswick Village Design Statement (section 5), have all established that there are many significant views within the parish which incorporate trees and which make a valuable aesthetic and environmental contribution and maintain the local distinctive character of the parish and the built environment. Many of the trees are covered by Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs). Some of these are protected because they are within the East Keswick Conservation Area but many others are situated outside the Conservation Area but within the parish boundary.

The entry to East Keswick village is softened on all approaches by mature trees, hedges, shrubs and verges. This contributes to the rural character and its visual appeal. They also provide soft edges and in many cases screen development. This is especially notable when approaching from the south, where the wooded aspect is most visible with the village nestling against the hillside. To the south and east the wooded aspect is due to land not in agricultural production, providing a green buffer zone around the village, a green corridor that could be described as a green lung, improving air quality and habitats for biodiversity, as shown in the photograph below.

Any future development should incorporate tree and hedge planting to, not only, maintain the character of the village but to soften the visual aspect, provide green corridors and increase biodiversity (Environment section 3.5.5).

A list of long and short range views to be protected, with maps, photos and commentary are set out below. The numbers below correspond to those on Map 6 Significant views within the parish.



Photographs showing the distinctive character of the village and the prominence of mature trees, hedges and shrubs within the significant views

A. Significant views entering the village:



(1) Crabtree lane with its mature trees, hedges, verges and commemorative Lime Trees.



(2) The entry to Main Street looking north with Keswick Marsh screening the Church Drive and Keswick Grange development.



(3) Moor Lane looking east with its mature hedgerow oaks, established hedgerows and the especially wide verges, softening the entry and providing a gentle transition to the built-up environment.

B. Within the village significant tree views once again soften the built- up environment and break up the street scene. Notable views include:



(4) View south from Moor Lane to Wike Ridge. Some of the oldest, richest and mature hedgerows in the village with adjoining land pre-dating the enclosures. This photo also demonstrates how it provides an aesthetically pleasing edge, screening the development to the western side of the village and a green corridor that links in the Keswick beck local green corridor network.



(5) Whitegate with amongst other, the mature Copper Beech, Horse Chestnut and Beech trees.



(6) Main Street looking south, along with the junction of Moor Lane and The Close, the views linking aesthetically into the distant countryside.



(7) Church Drive looking south, again softening development and visually providing a connection to the distant countryside.



(8) Trees can soften a boundary even in winter, such as the Church Drive development at the boundary with green belt to the west, shown here in both winter and summer.





(9) Cleavesty Lane showing beech, limes and poplars.

C. Significant views within the parish:



(10) North East facing towards East Keswick village from the south.



(11) Northeast facing from the top of the village towards Collingham.



(12) North facing from the parish at, Hillcrest, Collingham, towards Woodhall.



(13) South facing towards East Keswick from the A659 showing the green hedgerow corridors that link into the local green network.



(14) South facing towards East Keswick village from Wharfe Rein showing the green hedgerow corridors that link into the local green network.



(15) Facing south from Woodhall to Hillcrest and Wharfe Bank with the River Wharfe green corridor in the foreground and the wooded corridor near the A659.



(16) South facing from the top of the village towards Bardsey demonstrates the importance of the green corridor that divides East Keswick and Bardsey.



(17) West facing out of East Keswick village along Moor Lane with old hedgerows, trees and verges which form part of the local green corridor network.



(18) East facing out of East Keswick village from the village hall showing the green links along Keswick Beck dividing the two parishes of East Keswick and Bardsey.



(19) South east facing out of East Keswick village from the village hall shows the green corridor along the old railway line which softens the view to Bardsey's built environment.



(20) Facing north from Bardsey parish to East Keswick showing the green aspect of the village with its mature trees along Keswick Beck in the foreground and the Elliker and Frank Shires nature reserves on the right, which along with field hedgerows provide connectivity to the local green corridors.



(21) Looking south west from Lumby Lane/The Grove showing mature trees and hedgerows that link into the local green corridors.

Variety is a key factor in the distinctive character of the village as a result of sporadic development over centuries in the streetscape: in the size and sporadic existence of verges, pavements, proximity of buildings, gable ends and garden walls or hedges to the road as well as the prominence of mature trees, hedges and shrubs.

D. Significant views within the village demonstrate this and are shown on Map 5:



a 'City Square' looking north, Main Street.



b 'City Square' looking west across Main Street.



c 'City Square' looking west down Moor Lane.

All these 3 pictures show the backdrop of trees, hedges, shrubs and walls within the built environment streetscape.



d Whitegate looking south west showing variation in wall height, verges hedges and pavements aspects.



e Main Street looking south showing the variation in verges, walls and width of pavements.



f Main Street looking south showing variety of hedges, and views to nearby green typical of many of the aspects.



g Moor Lane looking north east showing variation in verges, walls hedges and pavements.



h Moor Lane looking south west showing the juxtaposition of a gable end to the road and the reduction in density between buildings on the edge of the built up area.



i Moor Lane looking north east showing variation of proximity of buildings to the pavement, variation in verges, wall heights and gardens.



j Old Oak enhancing the streetscape on Church Drive.

iv. Policy

Much of the distinctive character of the built environment comes from the satisfactory visual transition with the natural and green landscape.

Policy BVD2: Encouraging a positive relationship with the surrounding landscape

In order to ensure a positive relationship with the surrounding landscape, development proposals should:

- a. Respect and maintain key views and vistas evidenced above and shown on Maps 5 and 6;
- b. Ensure that any development sits comfortably in its setting and is not of a scale which overwhelms or adversely impact the visual quality of the settlement areas and surrounding landscape; and
- c. Enable satisfactory visual transition between the built environment and the surrounding countryside, for example including trees, verges, walls, hedgerows and ponds.

3.2.3 Unlit Parish

i. Issues

East Keswick parish is unlit by streetlights. This contributes to the rural character of the village, and is well supported by residents. The area of housing at Wharfe Rein/Hill Crest also does not have street lighting and is therefore covered by this policy area. Some newer developments have had low level lighting incorporated but small individual street lighting schemes are not in keeping with the unlit nature of the parish.

ii. Evidence

There have been 2 referenda held by the Parish Council to determine whether the village should remain unlit. The first one was in 1976 when there was a majority of 76% against lighting and the second one held at the request of Meadowcroft residents in 1987, when there was a majority against of 73%. Following this, the village has remained unlit.

iii. Policy

This Policy should be read in conjunction with the Conservation of Wildlife Habitats and Biodiversity (section 3.5.4 Policy E4) particularly in relation to bats.

Policy BVD3: Unlit Parish

In order to conserve its historic rural character, new development should respect and maintain the 'dark' nature of the parish.

- a. Proposals that include new street lighting will not be supported.
- b. New security, decorative or feature lighting and commercial lighting should be carefully designed so that it does not create unnecessary light pollution or cause nuisance to adjacent residents.
- c. All external lighting should be designed to minimise light spill and minimise the harm caused to local wildlife habitats.

iv. Aspiration

For the production of a guidance document by the Parish Council on appropriate lighting for new and existing properties within the parish, which would promote understanding of the impact of the position and timings of lighting and which may encourage residents to keep the parish dark between midnight and 5.30am as a minimum and preferably after dusk, which is an important period for emerging bats and other sensitive nocturnal species.

Ideally domestic external lighting should not come on at all between May and August as identified in the East Keswick Wildlife Trust bat survey.

3.3 Community amenities and services (CA)

| Policies | |
|--|--|
| Community amenities and facilities | CA1: Protecting existing community facilities |
| | CA2: New and improved community amenities and services |
| | CA3: Recreational facilities for younger people |
| How the Vision will be delivered | |
| <p>For East Keswick to retain community facilities that fulfil local needs and maintain and enhance local services, the policies aim:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• to work to improve village amenities and to aim for no further loss or reduction• wherever practical, to encourage new amenities and services to become established• to encourage the development of new recreational facilities for younger residents | |

3.3.1 Community amenities and services

i. Introduction

Rural communities rely on the availability of local services in order to maintain local sustainability. The retention of local facilities is vital to the overall health and wellbeing within a community and can facilitate increased neighbourly interaction and community cohesion. They are also vital to ensuring the continuity of rural economies. The NPPF encourages us to plan positively for the provision and use of shared spaces and facilities in order to promote healthy and safe communities.

ii. Issues

During the consultation process, local residents expressed a desire to retain and enhance the local services offered within East Keswick. There are a number of existing facilities and services in the parish which make a positive contribution to the community. The community facilities are valued by local residents, which is demonstrated by the average number of times they are used in a month:

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|------------------|
| • Village Hall | 400 | visits per month |
| • St Mary Magdalene - Anglican Church | 170 | |
| • Methodist Church | 200 | |
| • Children's playground | 100 | |
| • Sports Club | 80 | |
| • Tennis courts | 100 | |
| • Village Library in Telephone Box | 25 | |

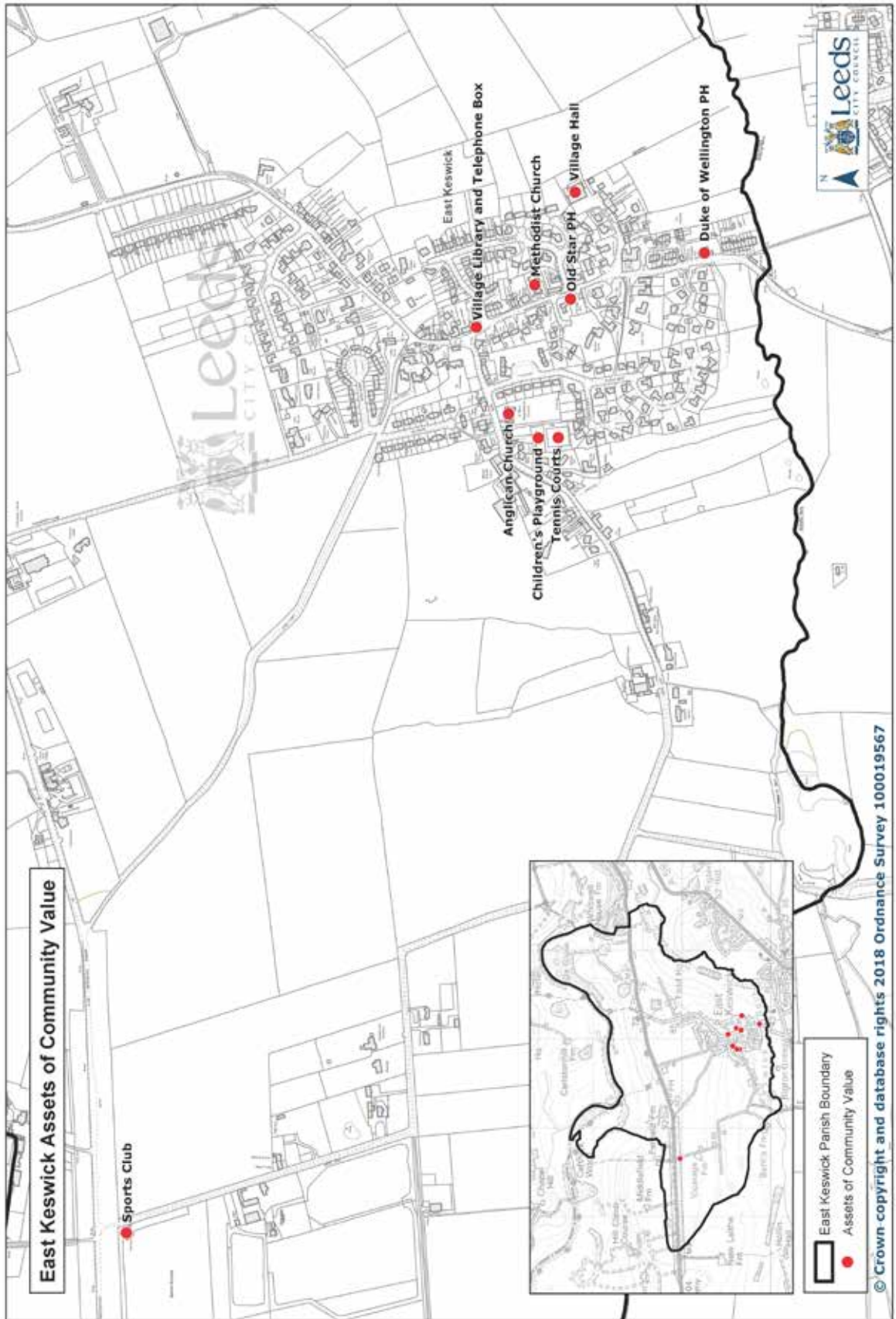
In addition, the following commercial businesses enhance the amenities available:

The Duke of Wellington Public House

- The Old Star Public House
- Post Office located in Village Hall (twice weekly)
- Beauty Salon
- Butcher
- 3 Hairdressing businesses

There is an hourly bus service (X99) which connects the parish with Leeds city centre and Wetherby and the 923 rural bus service which runs between Otley and Wetherby three times a day.

There is also a Mobile Library in Duke of Wellington car park (twice weekly).



Map 7 East Keswick Community Amenities

ii. Evidence

The place-making objectives in the Leeds Core Strategy support the provision of community infrastructure, including community facilities, health, education and training spaces. In addition the Development Plan promotes the concept of local centres providing local services in the community, such as leisure, economic development and community facilities.

In May 2015 in the consultation on the first draft of the Neighbourhood Plan, 100% of respondents agreed with this draft policy. The suggestions for potential community action were identified in consultation with the Parish Council (see below).

iii. Policy

Policy CA1: Protecting existing community amenities

Proposals for the change of use of a community facility listed below must demonstrate that reasonable efforts have been made to secure their continued use for the current purposes and / or alternative provision is made. Evidence should demonstrate that there has been an active marketing campaign for the sale of the facility/site in its existing use for at least 6 months and that there has been discussion with the local community over the options to secure its use through the Parish Council or a local

- Village Hall
- St Mary Magdalene - Anglican Church
- Methodist Church
- Children's playground
- Sports Club
- Tennis courts
- The Duke of Wellington Public House
- The Old Star Public House
- Village Library in Telephone Box

iv. Aspiration

- To re-establish a village shop/general store/post office.
- To establish a community orchard and allotments
- To use the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) to maintain assets of community value if needed and/or if appropriate to establish new amenities and services to meet the needs of the community.

Policy CA2: New and improved community amenities and services

Developments that provide improved or new community recreational facilities will be supported, in particular a village shop/general store/Post Office in a suitable and accessible location in the village centre. New facilities should:

- a. Be of an appropriate scale so as not to overwhelm their surroundings;
- b. Incorporate appropriate access and not undermine highway safety;
- c. Consider the particular needs of older people and other vulnerable groups in the provision of new and improved community facilities such as access to transport, ease of mobility, dropped curbs and wheelchair ramps.

3.3.2 Recreational facilities for younger people

i. Introduction

There is strong community support for the provision of recreational facilities for young people, now and in the future. In 2002 according to the VDS, 13% of the population was under 18 (161 out of a total population of 1200) and according to the 2011 Census, East Keswick had a population of 1146, of which 231 (20%) were under 18. According to recent Nomis ONS data, there were 235 under 18s in 2017, representing 20.1% of the population of 1,172 and 229 under 18s in 2018 out of a population of 1,168 representing 19.6% of the total.

At present, while a very well equipped new play area has been provided for the under 12s, there is little to engage the older age groups, either indoor or outdoor.

ii. Evidence

According to HM Government's Childhood Obesity report in 2016, nearly a third of children aged 2 to 15 are overweight or obese, and younger generations are becoming obese at earlier ages and staying obese for longer. It is widely acknowledged that part of the strategy to combat this is to encourage children to be more physically active.

According to Active Healthy Kids England, 'sports clubs outside of school and in the community can be just as valuable as clubs at school. Thus, more opportunities for physical activity clubs in the neighbourhood should be made available since they may be more accessible to some children'.

The relocation some years ago of the Sports Club sports field from the edge of the village to the edge of the parish – and its possible closure – reinforces the fact that any sports facilities need to be in the right place to encourage participation and contribute to community cohesion amongst the younger population. Proposals for new facilities closer to the village centre may address the under-use of the facility.

iii. Policy

Policy CA3: Recreational facilities for younger people

Proposals for the improvement of leisure, recreation and sport activities for younger people in the parish will be supported. Development proposals for such facilities should focus on provision for the 11-18 years age group and should be in an accessible and suitable location.

iv. **Aspiration**

To move the sports field to a more central village location if the opportunity arises and to use this to provide suitable recreational facilities especially for 11-18 years age group.

3.4 Employment and local businesses (ELB)

| Policies | |
|--|---|
| Employment and local businesses | ELB1: Information and communications technology |
| | ELB2: Small business development |
| | ELB3: Farm diversification |
| How the Vision will be delivered | |
| <p>East Keswick will provide support for a variety of locally based employment opportunities whilst maintaining its historic rural character through policies which aim:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To encourage new business start-ups and to enable home working through improved information and communications technology• To support small scale enterprises compatible with the rural parish• To encourage the sustainability of the agricultural industry through farm diversification | |

3.4.1 Small business development

i. Introduction

The Parish Council is keen to promote new business start-ups in the area and to encourage home working to grow and support the local economy. The parish has few small businesses in evidence, although there are a number of homeworkers and of course the farming community supports a range of business both on and off farms.

More local opportunities for working would be beneficial to all age groups and service sector businesses in particular have the potential of providing wider benefits for the community.

ii. Evidence

At the time of writing, average fibre broadband speeds of approx. 50 Mb are possible, with non-fibre broadband speeds estimated to be around 5Mb.

Rural England contributes 16.4% to the national economy, according to figures from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. 544,000 businesses are registered in rural areas; they employ 3.5 million people (13%); there are more firms per capita in rural areas than in urban areas, and proportionally more Small and Medium sized Enterprises (72% vs 41%). Within Leeds City area the 6,000 SMEs account for more than 50% of all employment. Small and micro businesses are the life blood of rural economies and are not necessarily connected to the agri sector, as nationally only 15% of registered businesses, 7.7% of people employed and approx. 2% of productivity (GVA) is attributable the agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors.

On average 21% of people work from home in rural England, according to data from the Statistical Digest of Rural England in September 2019 and this is set to rise as broadband connectivity improves. This compares with 13% on average in an urban area.

Within Leeds City Region, the digital economy is currently worth £1.3bn to the local economy and this is anticipated to rise to £3bn by 2030. This presents great opportunities to changing the working profile of people living in East Keswick; provided there is good connectivity into Gigabit infrastructure, as the working population could increasingly move away from being primarily commuters which has been largely the case in recent decades, back to a place where more people both live and work. This will have a beneficial effect on community cohesion, local sustainability, local networks and the local economy. In addition, home working cuts travel, carbon emissions and will support the national Clean Growth Grand Challenge developed by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

iii. Policy:

Policy ELB1: Information and Communications Technology

The provision of technology infrastructure that serves to improve communications networks across the parish, including mobile phone technology, will be supported where such infrastructure is designed to be as unobtrusive as is practicable.

Policy ELB 2: Small business development

Proposals and initiatives promoting small scale enterprises that satisfy national and local strategic planning policies and that meet the needs of the rural character of the parish, will be supported provided that they:

- a. Respect the local environment;
- b. Protect the local amenity; and
- c. Do not adversely impact upon road safety.

iv. Aspiration

The Parish Council to lobby for digital infrastructure to become up to date to facilitate home working

The Parish Council will seek to work with new start-ups and small businesses to support their growth.

3.4.2 Farm diversification

i. Introduction

The agricultural industry is a key element of East Keswick's heritage and character. This Plan recognises there may be a need for farmers to look for business diversification in order to ensure the sustainability of their farm. In recent years there has been a change in the way farms in the parish have been managed. Several farms are owned by landowners who live outside the parish and in some cases sub contract the land to others.

ii. Evidence

The village is surrounded by farmland, primarily arable but with some grazing too. Very little of the landscape is woodland or in other uses apart from agriculture. Some farms have already diversified from agriculture, for example the fishponds off Moor Lane.

Leeds City Council's spatial vision recognises the role agriculture plays in providing the city with a "distinctive green environment."

As part of the consultation process, discussions were held with local farmers concerning their long term vision for their farmland and their plans for ensuring the sustainability of their businesses in the future, which informed the supportive nature of policy ELB3.

According to the National Farmers Union, the farming community continues to face formidable challenges and farmers need to look at new ways of developing their businesses so that they can grow and remain competitive. This might include the need for modern agricultural buildings either to meet regulations or to change the use of existing buildings in order to respond to changing market demand.

Key priorities for farms include (not in order of priority):

The ability for the next generation to take on management of farms and to support this through the provision of affordable housing to allow succession

Develop farming enterprises that can meet the challenges of food security through modernising and becoming more efficient

Diversifying farming enterprises to meet new opportunities such as, inter alia, business units or tourism

Developing renewable energy which meets the needs of the farm and are appropriate to the location and renewable resources available

Access to high-speed broadband

iii. Policy

Policy ELB3: Farm diversification

Development proposals which will help to strengthen local farming businesses will be supported where:

- a. there are no significant harmful effects upon the landscape
- b. any significant increases in traffic or noise related to the diversification are managed so as to minimise impact on local residential areas

3.5 The Environment (E)

| Policies | |
|--|--|
| Environment | E1: Special Landscape Area |
| | E2: Green corridors |
| | E3: Local Green Spaces |
| | E4: Conservation of wildlife habitats and biodiversity |
| | E5: Trees hedges and verges |
| | E6: Water quality and flooding |
| | E7: Gardens |
| | E8: Footpath, bridle and cycleways |
| How the Vision will be delivered | |
| <p>East Keswick aims to be a parish which will continue to improve and extend the protection of wildlife habitats and biodiversity, ensure the green space in and around the parish will be conserved and maintain and enhance a network of safe pedestrian routes with policies which shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • help to protect the countryside and rural environment in order to maintain the visual quality, traditional look and distinctive character of East Keswick which is part of the Special Landscape Area • help to protect and enhance the Green corridors which maintain the distinct character and physical separation of the local settlements and essential habitats for wildlife • designate Local Green Spaces in the parish, to provide opportunities for the community to undertake informal recreation and healthy outdoor activity, as well as providing additional green infrastructure functions • help to protect wildlife habitats and the biodiversity in order to conserve its natural richness and the health of the local ecosystem • draw specific attention to the protection of trees, verges and hedgerows, which are a special part of the character of East Keswick to include measures to reduce flood risk and improve the water quality of Keswick Beck • support measures and outline opportunities to enhance the biodiversity of green space corridors provided by private gardens • support the development of additional dedicated bridleways and cycle routes, providing easy and safe access to facilities, countryside and neighbouring parishes, in particular Bardsey, Collingham and Harewood | |

East Keswick has a long history of local interest in the conservation and enhancement of the countryside and its wildlife and biodiversity in the Parish. A local Wildlife Trust was established in 1992 and part of the work of the East Keswick Wildlife Trust has been to purchase and secure Ox Close Wood and The Ellikers land for use as local nature reserves, alongside establishing nature reserves on the Parish Council owned land of Keswick Marsh and Frank Shires Pasture and Quarry. The issue of conserving and enhancing the natural environment in East Keswick is important to local residents and the Wildlife Trust has been instrumental to this end.

The Policies and supporting community actions seek to protect the countryside and our valued rural environment, to maintain the traditional look and distinctive character of East Keswick, conserve the green spaces, protect and extend wildlife habitats and biodiversity and to conserve the natural richness of the Parish and the health of the local ecosystem.

An overall “natural environment strategy” underpins this section of the Plan and seeks to provide a strategic vision for the management, maintenance and enhancement of the natural environment in our Parish. The Policies here serve to create and support a green infrastructure and wildlife network to ensure that the development of the Parish provides benefits to the natural environment in East Keswick through enhancement and improvement to ensure that the special character of East Keswick is enjoyed by future generations.

3.5.1 Special Landscape Area

i. Introduction

The parish of East Keswick lies within high quality countryside, enjoying special protection through its identification as a Special Landscape Area by Leeds City Council in the Development Plan. The preservation and maintenance of the beautiful surrounding countryside is very important to the community, providing as it does the backcloth to the villages of East Keswick and Collingham, as well as serving valuable roles for outdoor recreation, biodiversity, produce from the land and other ecosystem services. The conservation and enhancement of the rural environment is a core objective underpinning this Plan.

ii. Evidence

In the Leeds Core Strategy, the long term spatial vision includes the view that the smaller communities surrounding the main urban area, such as East Keswick, will be “*separated by agricultural land, woodland, valuable green spaces, habitats and amenity areas*” as well as having “*a wide network of multi-functional Green Infrastructure.*” These aspects of the vision for the future of the city are further substantiated by Core Strategy objectives 17 and 21.

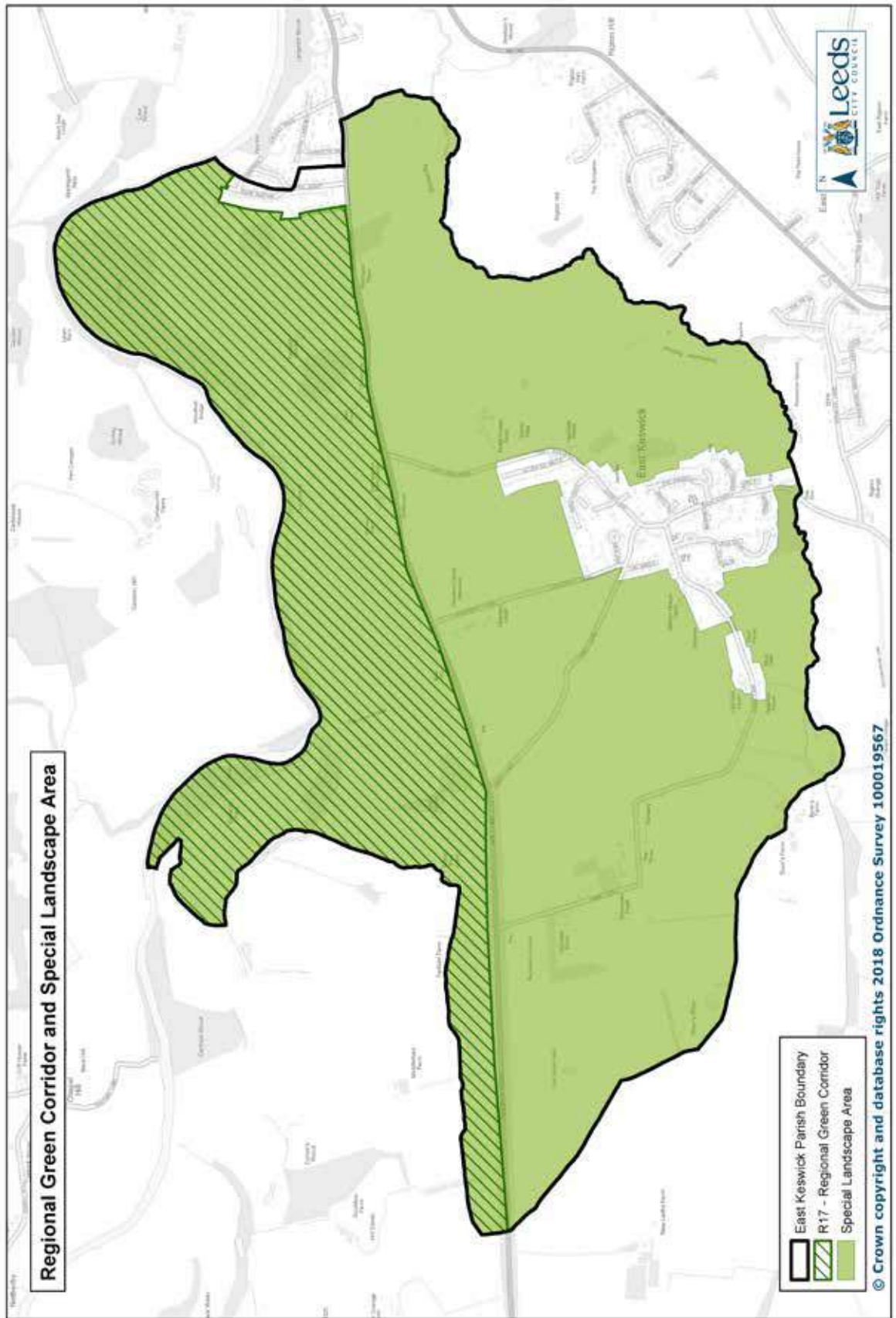
The Leeds Landscape Assessment 1994 indicates that the majority of the parish of East Keswick falls within MGP1 Hollin Hall Plateau. The Assessment contains a detailed analysis of the landscape features in this area. It identifies one of its distinctive characteristics as “the high density of picturesque village settlements such as Bardsey, East Keswick and East Rigton which nestle in the valleys and on the slopes.” Four distinct local landscape types are identified: the river floodplain, East Harewood pastoral escarpment, pastoral plateau farmland; and small scale farmed ridges.

This assessment helps us to understand the visual and ecological diversity and richness in the landscape around the settlements and underlines the need to take these qualities into account in any development decisions that may affect the area so as to protect them from harm. The overall management strategy for this pastoral escarpment area should be one of conservation of the important and characteristic features of:

- the wooded and pastoral slopes
- the farmed countryside, interspersed with small woods and copses
- the listed buildings, traditional farm houses and historic farmed landscapes
- the River Wharfe valley
- the small becks forming green corridors
- the field boundaries formed by hedgerows

The parish has other key landscape features, including important woodland and scrub areas, outlying buildings of traditional rural style and materials, as well as footpaths and important viewpoints within and outside the village from which the village and its setting can be enjoyed. The associated listed buildings, traditional farm houses and historic farmed landscapes are outlined in more detail in the Character Assessment.

The Leeds Landscape Assessment recommends the enhancement through restoration of traditional farmhouses, maintenance of the area through small scale planting around the existing copses and small plantations as screening for farm buildings and that the characteristic open nature should be maintained.



Map 8 Regional Green Corridor and Special Landscape Area

ii. Policy

Policy E1: Special Landscape Area

Development proposals within the Special Landscape Area as shown on Map 8 should:

- a.** Maintain and where feasible, enhance the visual quality and distinctive character of East Keswick and provide opportunities for enhancing the biodiversity through improving, extending and interconnecting high value habitats.
- b.** Maintain and where feasible enhance the appearance of the following landscape features:
 - i. Wooded pastoral slopes.
 - ii. Farmed countryside, interspersed with small woods and copses;
 - iii. Listed buildings, traditional farm houses and historic farmed landscapes;
 - iv. River Wharfe valley;
 - v. Small becks forming green corridors; and
 - vi. Field boundaries formed by hedgerows.

3.5.2 Green corridors

i. Introduction

Although the parishes of East Keswick, Collingham, Harewood and Bardsey are physically next to each other, they are, of course, separate and distinct communities. For example, each parish is producing (or has produced) a separate Neighbourhood Plan. One key method to maintain the distinct character and physical separation of the settlements is to identify and maintain 'green corridors', which not only serve multi-functional roles from a green infrastructure perspective, but also ensure that the separate built up areas do not merge over time. They also provide valuable corridors for wildlife.

ii. Evidence

Green corridors provide a naturalising barrier to the built environment and help to soften the visual impact of built development on surrounding rural areas.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) section 15 states that the planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by 'protecting and enhancing valued landscapes' and 'minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures.'

Enhancement of the corridors may be facilitated through opportunities arising through the planning process (e.g. s106 agreements, biodiversity offsetting) or through the aspirations of the local community.

The Leeds Landscape Assessment document notes that sunken roads or green lanes such as those found in East Keswick leading to the river are important remnants of a former way of life, adding to the local landscape character, as well as being long established wildlife corridors. As such, encouragement should be given for their protection.

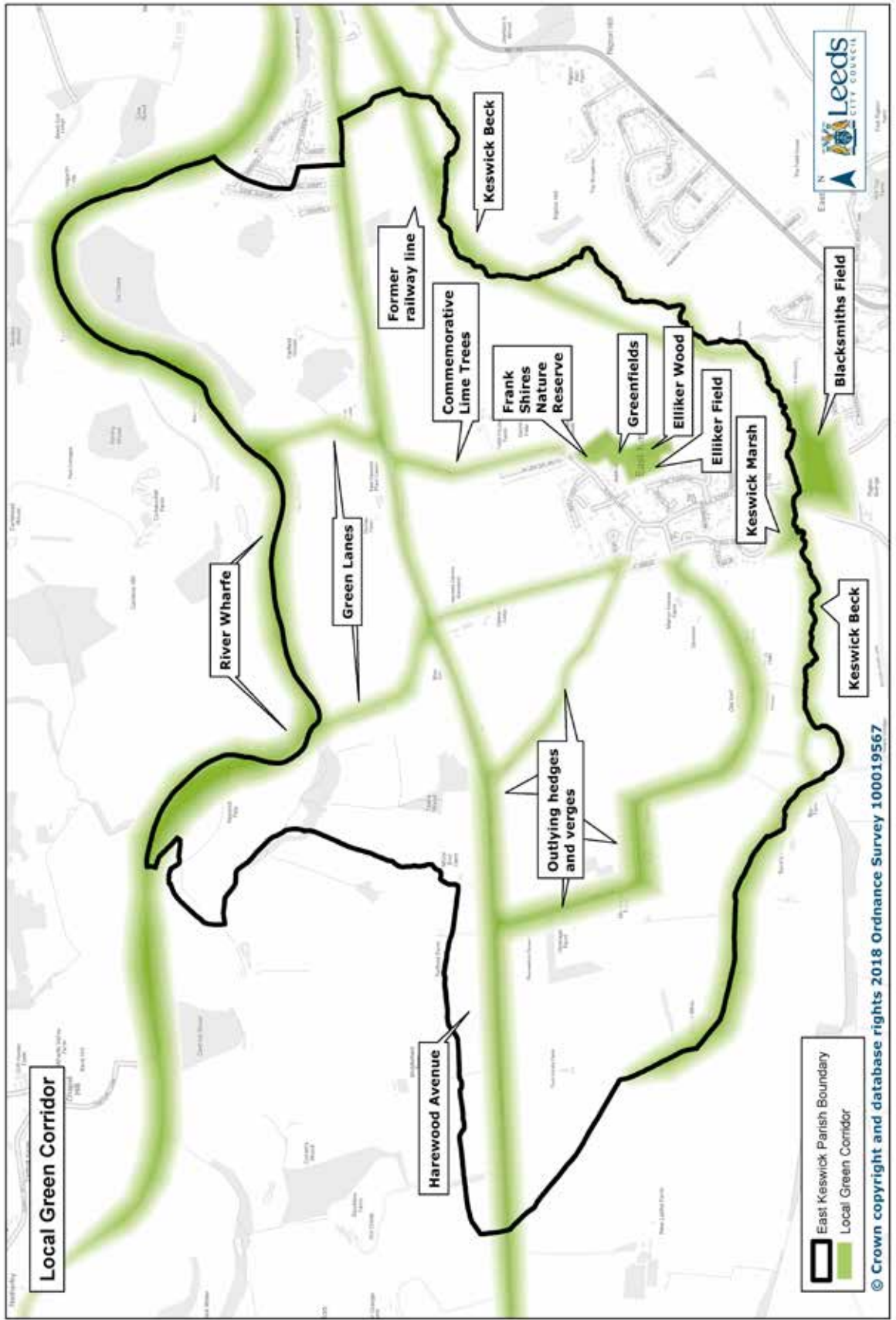
Regional green corridors

The area to the north of the parish has been mapped as a strategic regional green infrastructure corridor. The whole of the corridor is rich in terms of cultural heritage, wildlife and recreational assets. In East Keswick the regional corridor is used mostly for agriculture, ranging from grazing in the north of the corridor to more intensive arable to the south. The Leeds Landscape Assessment encourages the use of wide field margins along watercourses and woodland edges to aid natural flood management and help filter fine particle and nutrient run off from agriculture and improve the biodiversity of the green corridor (see map 8 Regional Green Corridor).

Local green corridors

Multi-functional local green corridors prevent ribbon development between our neighbouring parishes which would affect the rural character of the local area. The following local green corridors are identified and shown on the Local Green Corridor map 9. They serve as multi-functional wildlife habitats and corridors, barriers to the built environment enhancing visual amenity and outdoor recreational resources. They have been identified through a combination of VDS evidence and from work on the emerging Phase 1 Habitat Survey being undertaken by East Keswick Wildlife Trust:

- River Wharfe
- Former railway line
- Keswick Beck
- Harewood Avenue
- Fitts Lane and the sunken Green lane from Crabtree Lane to the River Wharfe
- Land between and including Elliker and Frank Shires Nature Reserve
- Blacksmiths Field
- Commemorative lime trees on Crabtree Lane
- Keswick Marsh
- Outlying hedgerows and verges



Map 9 Local Green Corridors

iii. Policy

Policy E2: Green Corridors

Development proposals within and adjacent the Local Green Corridors as identified on Map 9 should:

- a. Protect, improve and enhance their use as multifunctional green corridors, through extension and connectivity to establish links into the existing local habitat network.
- b. Seek to incorporate wetland and buffer zones to enhance the corridors and provide further opportunity for extension.

Support will be given to the planting of native trees and shrub species to provide screening, soft edges and wide margins to developments, in keeping with the rest of the settlement and the subsequent creation and linking of green corridors.

iv. Aspirations

- Apply to West Yorkshire Ecology Services for these sites to be designated as Local Wildlife Sites, with the inclusion of ancient hedgerows.
- To work towards linking up and extending the local green corridors into the existing habitat network as identified by West Yorkshire Ecology Services (see section 3.5.4 Conservation of Wildlife Habitats and Biodiversity).

3.5.3 Local Green Spaces

i. Introduction

The parish has many green spaces, formal and informal, as well as excellent access to the surrounding countryside. These serve to provide opportunities for residents and visitors to undertake and benefit from informal recreation, leisure and healthy outdoor activity, as well as providing additional green infrastructure functions, as outlined in E2 Green Corridors and E4 Conservation of Wildlife Habitats.

Access to green spaces is an important aspect of local identity, demonstrated through the commitment of the community to preserving the rural and natural environment in East Keswick, through the East Keswick Wildlife Trust.

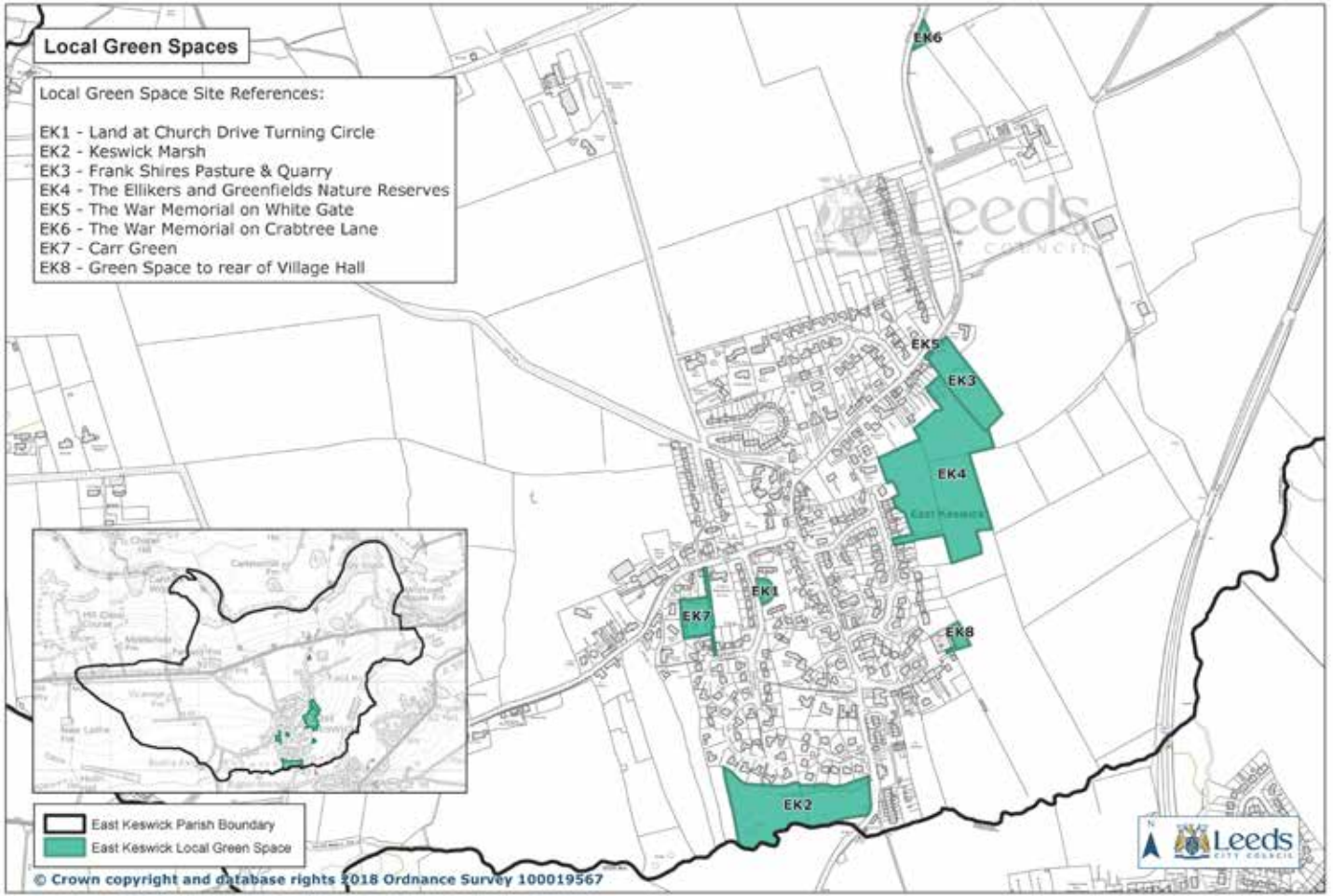
ii. Evidence

The Leeds Core Strategy Objective 21 refers to the need to protect and enhance green space and to find opportunities to improve their functionality.

The Submission Draft Leeds Site Allocations Plan (SAP) Development Plan Document Greenspace Background Paper (May 2017) identifies the Harewood Ward as being deficient in Amenity, Allotments, and Natural Greenspace. Whilst in general the Harewood Ward may be deficient in Natural Green Space, East Keswick, mainly due to the work of East Keswick Wildlife Trust, has 5 Nature Reserves with public access.

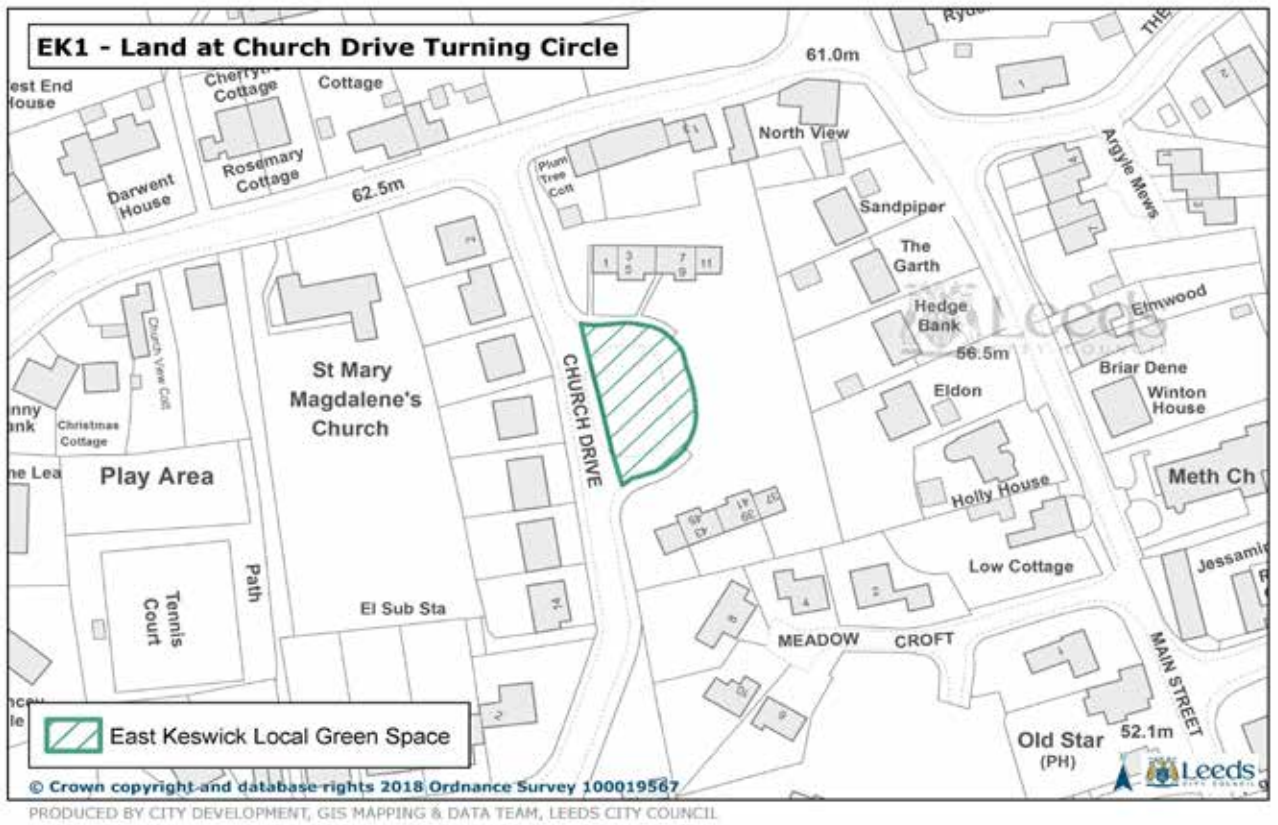
In 2015 the Neighbourhood Plan steering group carried out an assessment of potential local green spaces. The findings are detailed in the chart in the Local Green Spaces Assessment (Appendix 2).

Originally 12 sites were identified by the Neighbourhood Plan group. As a result of assessment and through consultation with landowners and other stakeholders, eight Local Green Spaces have been proposed for designation and are shown on the accompanying maps. Individual site plans are provided to show accurate boundaries.

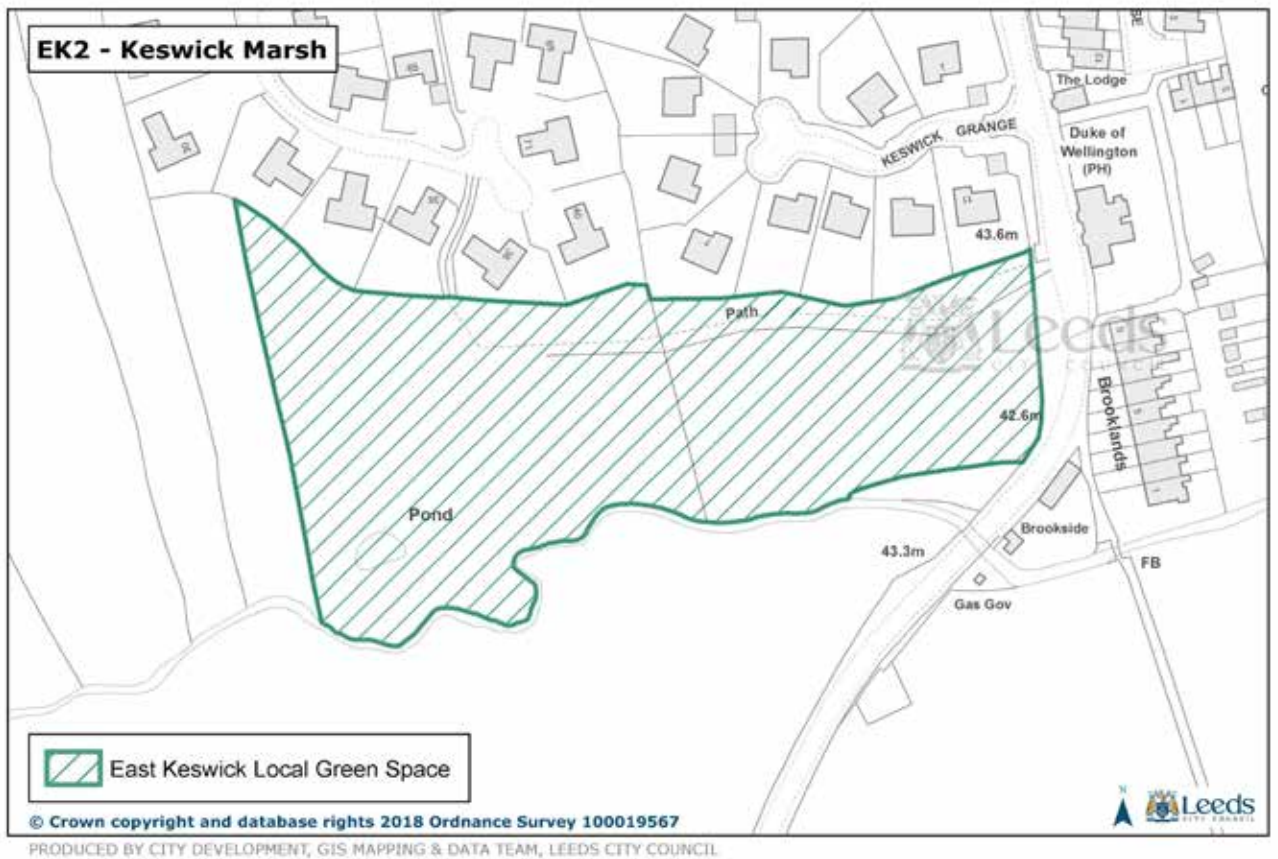


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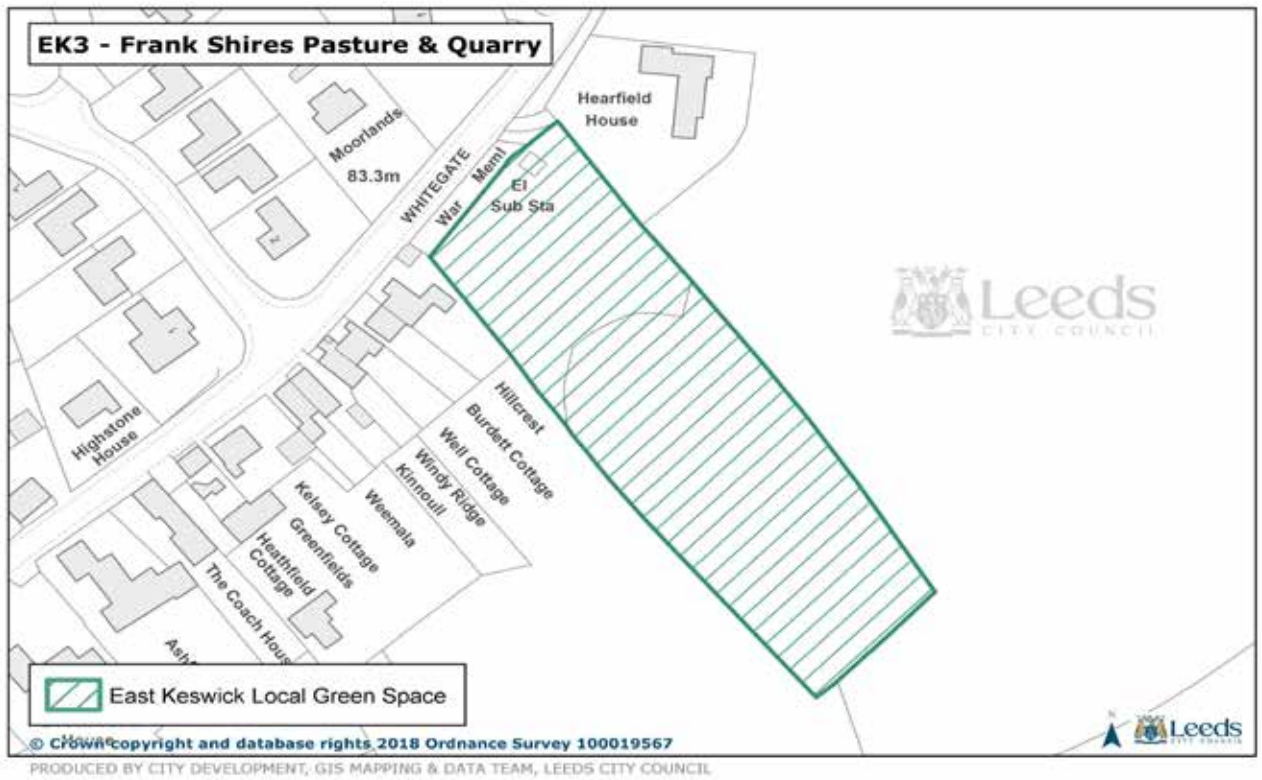
Map 10 Local Green Spaces



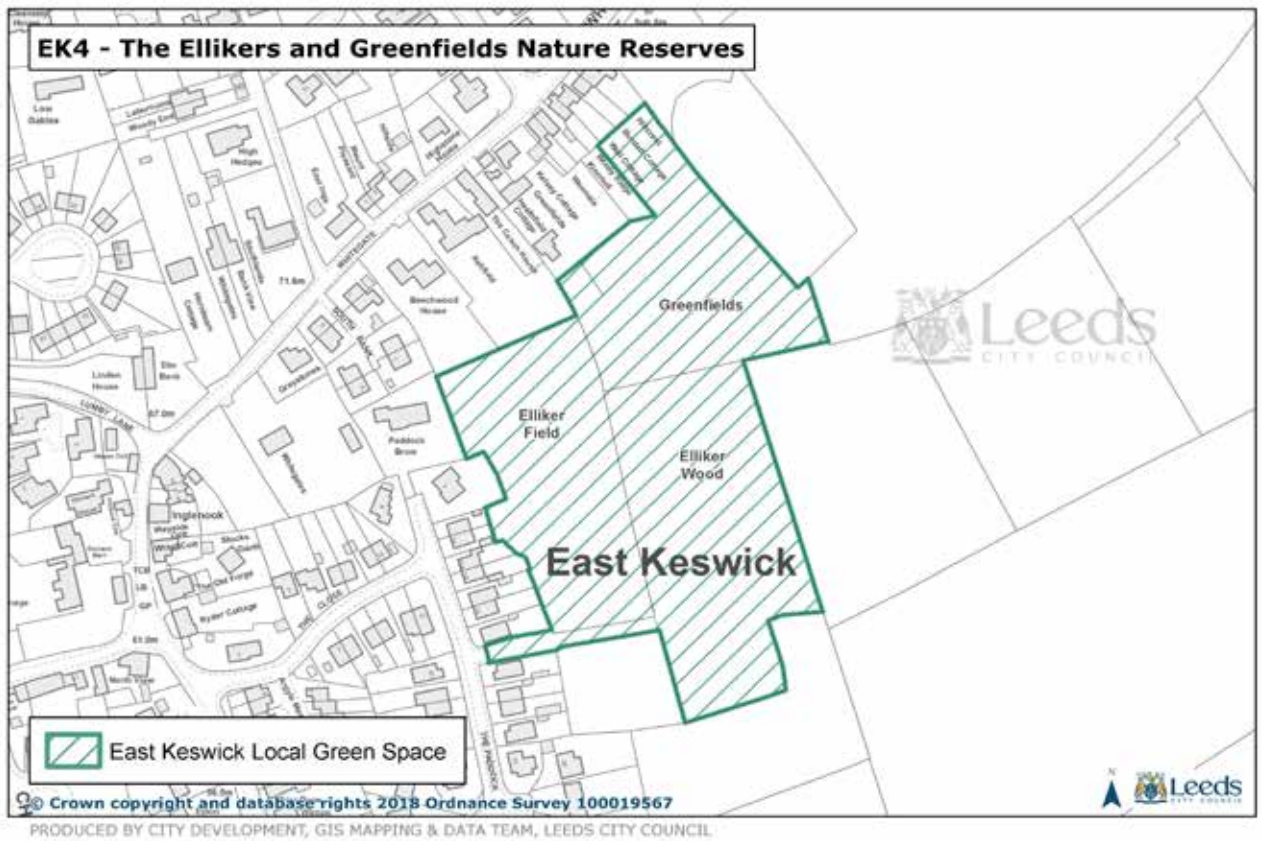
Map EK 1 Land at Church Drive turning circle



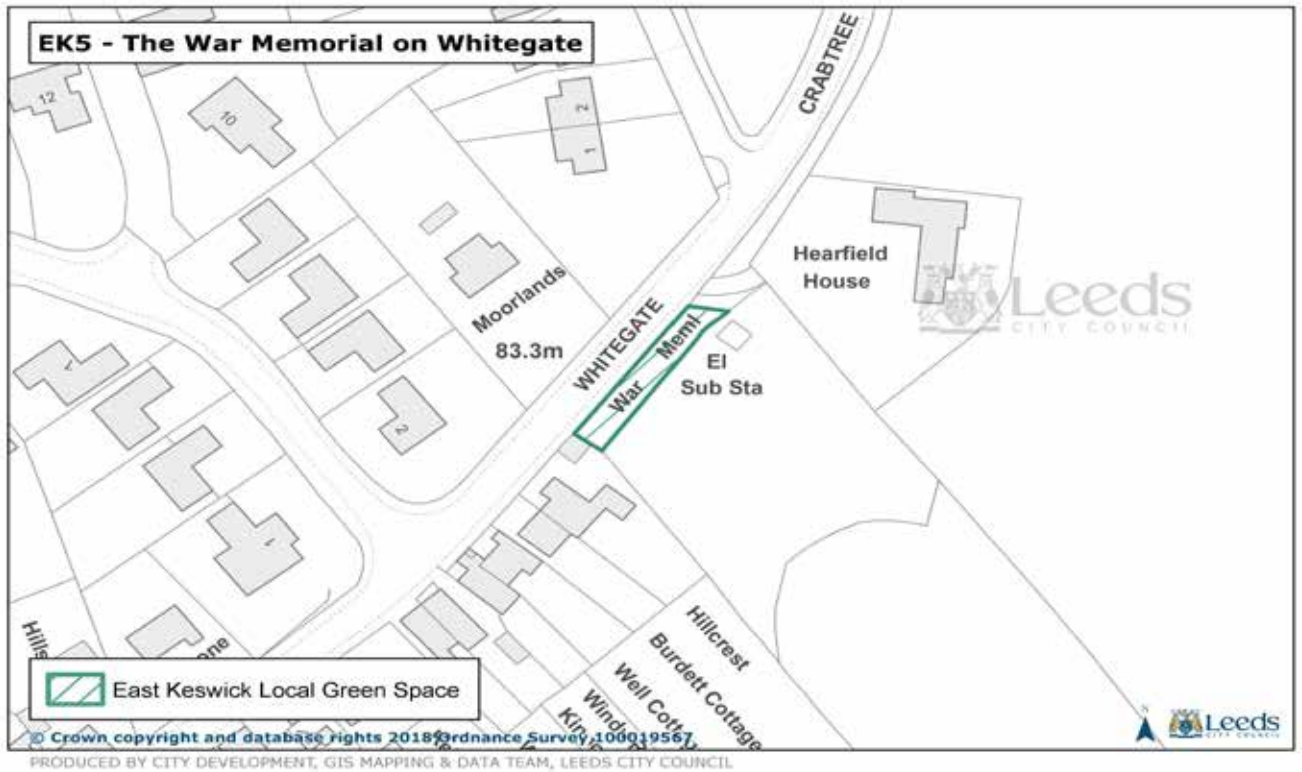
Map EK 2 East Keswick Marsh Nature Reserve



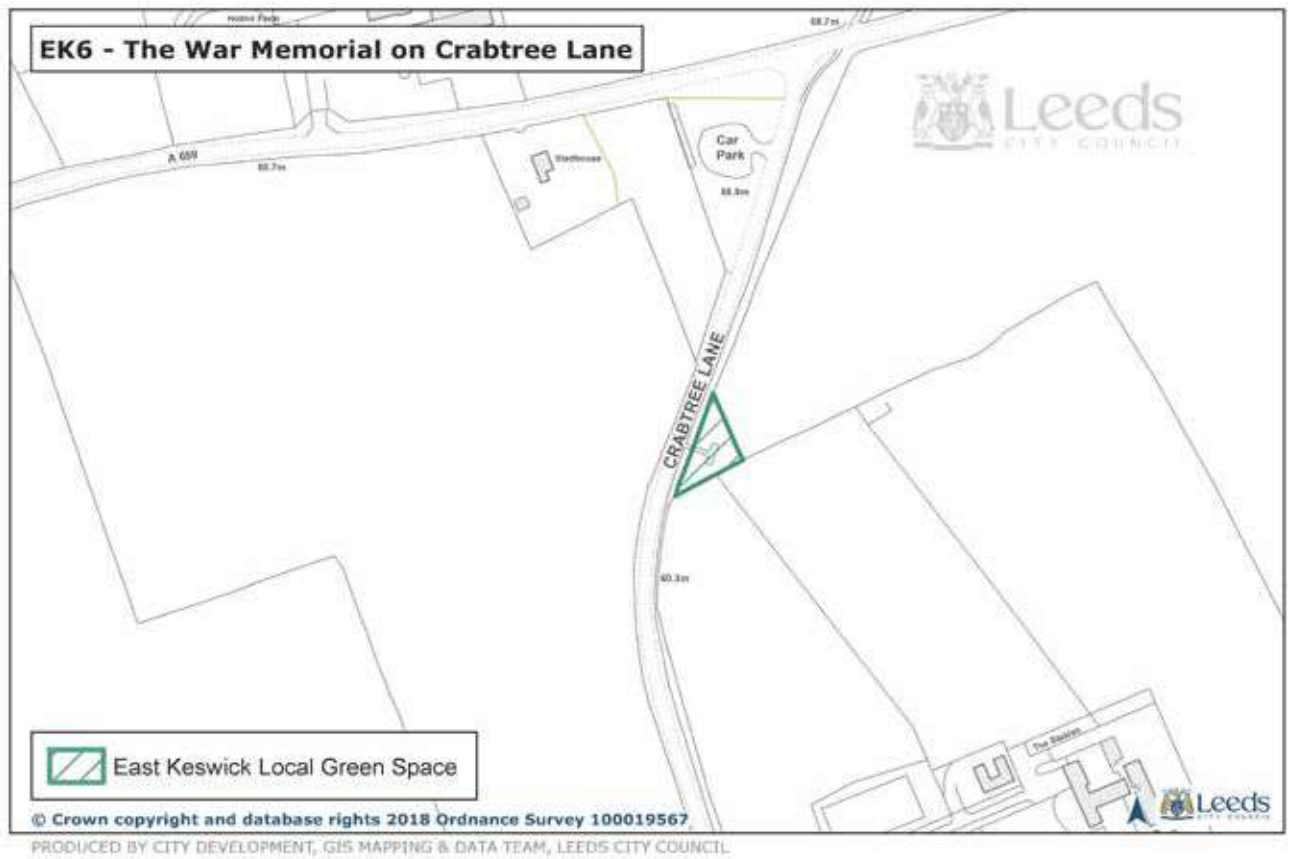
Map EK 3 Frank Shires Pasture & Quarry Nature Reserve



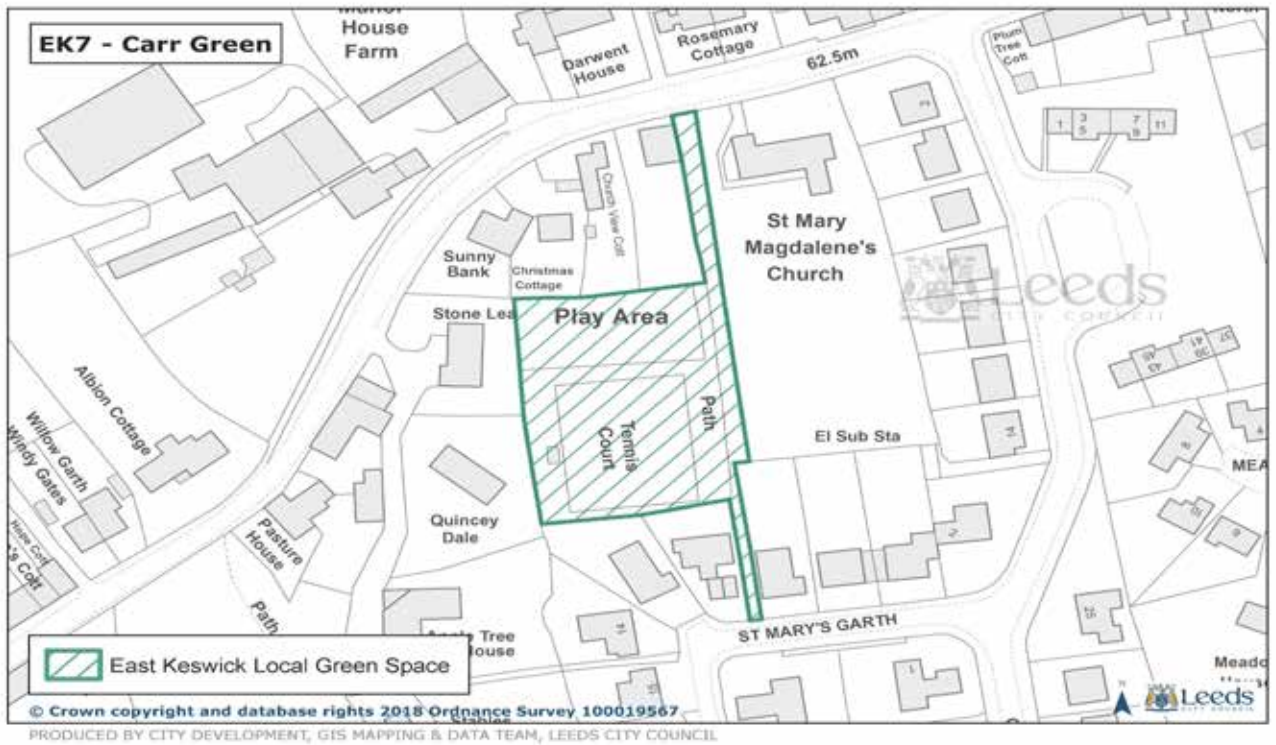
Map EK 4 The Ellikers and Greenfields Nature Reserves



Map EK 5 The War Memorial on Whitegate



Map EK 6 The War Memorial on Crabtree Lane



Map EK 7 Carr Green playground, tennis court, footpath and land bordering these to the fence/hedgerow



Map EK 8 Green Space within the curtilage and to the rear of East Keswick Village Hall

iii. Policy

Policy E3: Local Green Spaces

The following sites as shown on Map 10 and in Appendix 2 are designated as Local Green Spaces:

1. Keswick Marsh Nature Reserve;
2. Frank Shires Pasture and Quarry Nature Reserve;
3. The Ellikers and Greenfields Nature Reserve;
4. The War Memorial on Whitegate;
5. The War Memorial on Crabtree Lane;
6. Carr Green playground, tennis court, footpath and land bordering these to the fence/hedgerow.
7. Green Space within the curtilage and to the rear of East Keswick Village Hall.

Development of these sites will not be permitted unless there are very special circumstances in accordance with national policy on Green Belt.

3.5.4 Conservation of Wildlife Habitats and Biodiversity

i. Introduction

In the high-quality countryside surrounding East Keswick there is an extensive variety of habitats which provide a rich biodiversity throughout the parish and contribute to its special character. The protection of habitats is a high priority to ensure the perpetuation of wildlife that contributes to the special character of the parish and is the focus of the dedicated East Keswick Wildlife Trust.

ii. Evidence

The Leeds Core Strategy recognises that the City's environmental resources are crucial, not just in ensuring quality of life, but also sustaining life itself. Biodiversity in Leeds is not constrained to designated nature conservation sites or with rare or threatened species or habitats, but is equally about ensuring that widespread and common species remain an integral part of a sustainable natural environment.

The document “Building for tomorrow today” produced by Leeds City Council states that the Leeds district supports a rich variety of wildlife and habitats.

The Leeds Biodiversity Action Plan is about action to achieve real physical changes to conserve the natural environment around us, to halt the decline of key habitats and species and make good past losses. Of the four priority habitats identified in the Leeds Plan, three are found in the parish of East Keswick.

These are: Lowland wet grassland, hedgerows and field margins and Magnesian Limestone Grassland. The introduction of the fourth priority habitat, reed beds, is an opportunity for East Keswick to be a truly distinctive community that supports biodiversity and ecology. Of the six targeted priority species three are present in the parish; Thistle Broomrape, Harvest mouse and Pipistrelle bats.

Wildlife and green corridors are a key component of local ecological networks providing connectivity for species to move to and from multiple areas of high wildlife value. For this reason, habitat enhancement along the corridor is likely to achieve significant improvements in the long-term viability of the biodiversity in these areas.

A 10-year Natural History recording survey undertaken by East Keswick Wildlife Trust has revealed that the parish is particularly rich in wildlife and sensitive habitats. The community is keen to see these protected for future generations. The initial consultation showed that 97% (139 out of 143) of respondents were in support of this. Reversing the decline in biodiversity is a government priority and East Keswick policies reiterate this by setting out clearly the community’s commitment to protect and enhance its natural environment.

East Keswick Wildlife Trust has found during the last 10 years of recording, the built-up environment, its gardens and its associated wildlife habitats are very important for wildlife, especially native bird, bat and invertebrate populations. This is in contrast to the intensively-farmed land surrounding the settlement which provides little in the way of suitable habitat food or shelter. As such, development incorporating features that enhance the environment for biodiversity is a benefit and an opportunity. This could be through the introduction of buffer zones of green margins around and within development and the introduction of wetland areas.

Locally where development is built on agricultural land, features to increase biodiversity are not being incorporated. These sites provide an ideal opportunity to incorporate features for biodiversity and halt the national decline.

East Keswick Wildlife Trust has compiled a Phase 1 Habitat Survey a 10 year recording and mapping project of the parish habitats and natural history. This has been used to highlight significant areas of local wildlife habitats and local green corridors of importance for identification and protection through the Neighbourhood Plan. Currently, the only areas protected for their wildlife value are the four designated nature reserves, and there are opportunities for improved connectivity (see Map 11 and Map 11a).

The Leeds Habitat Network (updated 2014) shows where the most important ecological areas and corridors are in relation to each other. An opportunity for enhancement should be given to the land within the Leeds Habitat Network and where possible opportunities made to improve their connectivity and make the local habitat network with surrounding parishes more robust. The Neighbourhood Plan Group has therefore identified local extensions to the Leeds Habitat Network through collaboration with West Yorkshire Ecology Services and nature conservation specialists at Leeds City Council (shown on Map 11 and Map 11a).

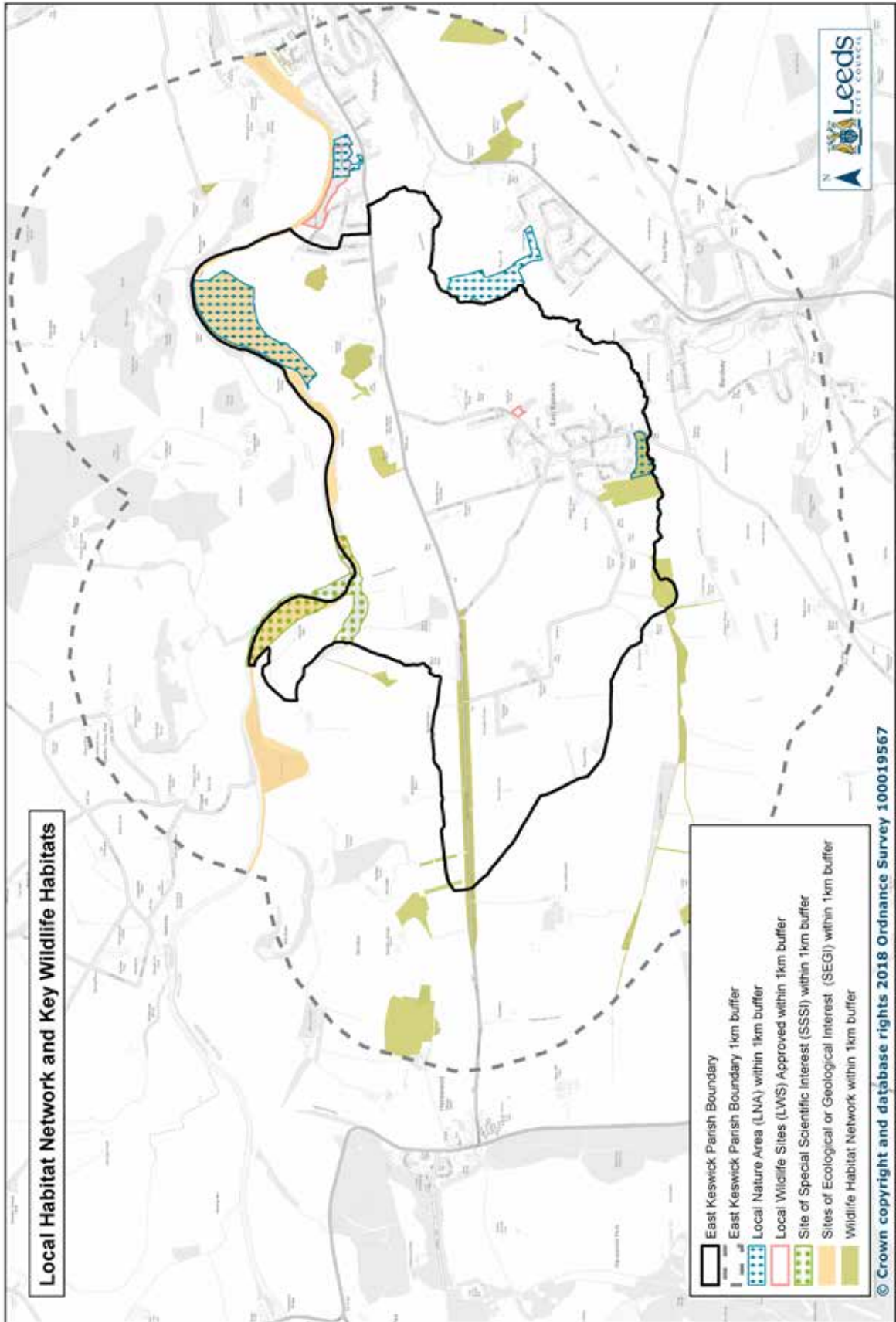
The parish of East Keswick has a number of key wildlife habitats, shown on Map 11, including:

SSSI a Site of Special Scientific Interest at Keswick Fitts.

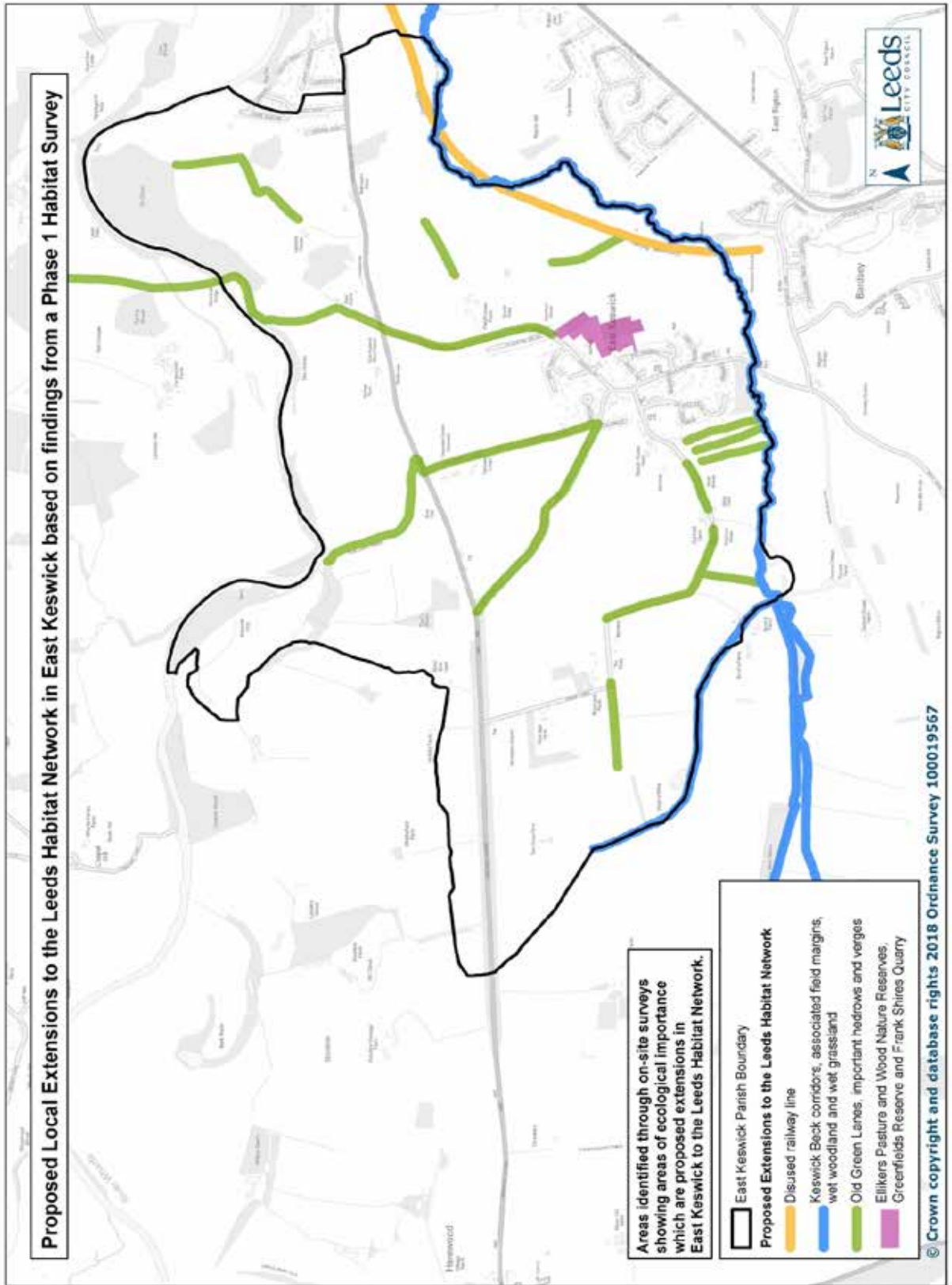
SEGI Sites of Ecological and Geological Interest at Ox Close Wood, and sections of the River Wharfe, up and downstream of Keswick Fitts and Ox Close Wood.

LWS Local Wildlife Sites at Keswick Marsh and Frank Shires Nature Reserve.

As per the advice of West Yorkshire Ecology, in presenting the designated ecological sites information a 1km buffer around the Neighbourhood Development Plan area has been included to ensure that consideration is given to important features which lie just outside of the plan area, but which could be impacted by proposals within it, (as shown on Map 11 Leeds Local Habitat Network, Key Wildlife Habitats and the proposed Local Extensions).



Map 11 Leeds Local Habitat Network, Key Wildlife Habitats and proposed Local Extensions



Map 11a Proposed Local Extensions to the Leeds Habitat Network in East Keswick, based on the findings of East Keswick Wildlife Trust’s 10 years of recording for a Phase 1 Habitat Survey

In addition to the designated sites, identified proposed extensions to the existing habitat network with ecological importance include: The Ellikers Pasture and Wood Nature Reserves, Greenfields Reserve, Frank Shires Quarry, Keswick Beck corridor and associated field margins, wet woodland and wet grassland, old green lanes, the disused railway line and significant hedgerows and verges. These are illustrated on Map 11a, an extract from the Phase 1 Habitat Survey based on the results of 10 years' onsite recording by East Keswick Wildlife Trust.

Local Wildlife Site, Keswick Marsh, is subject to the dumping of garden waste and grass cuttings thrown over the boundary hedges from the adjacent housing development. This smothers out locally uncommon flora species. Where grass cuttings fall and decompose this unnaturally increases the nutrient content of the soil resulting in beds of nettles out-competing local native species. Herbicides in the grass cuttings also contaminate the soil with an adverse effect on native flora. Buffer zones around the edges of development are recommended to counter this. See minutes of Parish Council meeting 22.02.2018.

Gardens play a vital role in improving biodiversity. Through development, there is an opportunity to increase the variety of wildlife species and their associated habitats and encouragement should be given to the incorporation of Swift bricks, Bat boxes, Sparrow boxes, House Martin cups to support our resident population, along with wildlife tunnels, bat hop over points, Bat and Bug boxes, ponds and wildlife friendly habitats (reference section Gardens E3.5.7). This is a matter which is often conditioned by Leeds City Council through the planning application process.

Bats

East Keswick Wildlife Trust undertook a bat survey with Haycock and Jay Ecologists in 2015. This showed evidence of bat activity and feeding in the built up environment and wider countryside. Observations have shown that the village has colonies of bats foraging, breeding and roosting in the area. Development provides an opportunity to enhance the commuting, breeding and foraging habitats, whilst encouraging sensitive lighting regimes to keep habitats dark.

iii. Policy

Policy E4: Conservation of Wildlife Habitats and Biodiversity

To ensure the conservation of wildlife habitats and biodiversity:

- a. Development proposals within or adjacent to the Extended Leeds Habitat Network as identified on the Local Habitat Network and Key Wildlife Habitat map 11 should:
 - i. Demonstrate that there will be an overall net gain in quality and physical area of the habitat network, through making a positive contribution in terms of protection, enhancement and creation of new areas for wildlife through landscaping schemes;
 - ii. Demonstrate that the design of new development includes landscaping schemes that enhance existing wildlife habitats and improve, enhance, protect and extend established habitats for wildlife, where feasible;
 - iii. Create links between different habitats and incorporate areas of natural space; and
 - iv. Ensure there is a suitable ecological buffer between back gardens, the Leeds Habitat Network, Extended Leeds Habitat Network or local green corridor network where informal public access could be incorporated – to avoid long-term encroachment of private gardens and introduction of non-native species.
- b. In all types of new housing developments, 50% of all units should include at least one of the following measures built integrally into the fabric of the building to provide opportunities for wildlife:
 - i. Swift Bricks
 - ii. Bat roosting features
 - iii. Sparrow Boxes
- c. The provision of wildlife tunnels, hedgehog gaps through fencing, bat hop over points, bug boxes, ponds and other wildlife-friendly habitats will be supported.
- d. External lighting should not be directed towards the Leeds Habitat Network, Extended Leeds Habitat Network or local green corridor network in order to minimise the impact on the network which is inhabited by bats and other sensitive nocturnal species, to ensure their habitats are kept dark.
- e. Where new build development is adjacent to the Leeds Habitat Network, Extended Leeds Habitat Network or local green corridor network, new foraging and commuting opportunities such as linear features e.g. tree and hedgerow planting, should be provided wherever possible.

v. Aspirations

To encourage Leeds Planning Authority to apply a system of biodiversity accounting to the impacts of development and generate investment in wildlife conservation via off-site compensation schemes (biodiversity offsetting) with the use of the Government Biodiversity Metric Scheme where landowners, developers, planning authorities and conservationists would work together to better account for environmental impacts, prevent biodiversity loss and encourage development to become more environmentally sustainable. The preference would be for this to take place in the parish, possibly on land owned by East Keswick Parish Council or East Keswick Wildlife Trust or the purchase of land which would increase the size/connectivity of the Leeds Habitat Network. The ultimate aim is to achieve No Net Loss (NNL) of biodiversity whilst working towards net gains.

To work with local landowners towards linking up and providing bridges between the local wildlife habitats and the local habitat network and existing green corridors in and beyond the parish boundary.

To work towards introducing reed beds, a Biodiversity Action Plan priority habitat for Leeds also an aid to filtration and slowing down run off during heavy rainfall

To continue to establish closer links with community organisations, the schools, and other academic institutions to increase awareness and knowledge of the local biodiversity in the Parish.

To apply to West Yorkshire Ecology Services for additional sites to be designated as Local Wildlife Sites, where such sites meet the criteria.

To encourage local residents to provide nesting sites for house martins and swallows.

Whilst East Keswick achieves all but one of the ANGSt criteria (as shown in the Evidence Base, Appendix 7) a priority for net gain off site compensation could be through the delivery of support towards its underlying principles of enhancement and connectivity of the existing ANGSt sites.

That the PC will continue to uphold high standards of natural green space accessibility through continued working with the Wildlife Trust and that new opportunities to enhance / extend existing natural green spaces will be taken.

3.5.5 Trees, Hedgerows and Verges

i. Introduction

Throughout East Keswick and on its approaches (including the approach along Harewood Avenue) the mature trees, hedges and verges make an important contribution to the special character of the village. Some of the trees also enhance the Special Landscape Area which surrounds the village. Many are specifically protected by Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs).

Details of TPO trees can be found on the East Keswick Parish Council website.

Individual and groups of trees, hedgerows and verges soften the visual aspect when entering and passing through East Keswick both in the built-up environment, its approaches, and the wider countryside.

Trees and hedgerows perform a number of important roles in supporting biodiversity, providing food, corridors, shade and shelter and generally improve health and amenity. They also serve to absorb water in heavy rainfall, filter the air pollutants and help in adapting to the effects of Climate Change. Verges along the highway also serve as good absorbents for run off during heavy rain fall and provide valuable corridors and habitats for wildlife.

ii. Evidence

The Leeds Landscape Assessment suggests that the overall management strategy for the pastoral area should be one of conservation of the important and characteristic features of the wooded and pastoral slope. This should be combined with restoration of the traditional farmland features such as hedgerows, where these are in decline. There are also opportunities for enhancing the wooded copses and coverts through small scale planting preferably of native species, with the cooperation of local landowners. There are also recommendations that additional areas of coniferous plantation should be discouraged whilst the diversification of existing areas should be encouraged, including the softening of edges through deciduous planting. It also notes hedgerow incentive schemes should be more actively promoted.

Within the Conservation Area there are additional statutory controls on the treatment of all trees above a certain size. However not all of the built environment lies in the Conservation Area, in these areas notable trees are not afforded this protection (see Map 12 Trees of significance outside the Conservation Area).

East Keswick Wildlife Trust surveyed the TPOs in 2016 and found, despite this protection, over the last four decades 40 out of the 86 mature trees protected under the TPO have been lost. Of the additional 31 groups and areas of TPO trees, approximately half have been lost. They also surveyed veteran/ancient trees in the parish. The Trust noted that some garden trees not itemised on the current TPO map are now sizeable trees. Although some are protected within the Conservation Area, some outside this area are also noteworthy for TPO protection.

This emphasises the importance of ensuring that trees are adequately protected and that careful consideration is given to the need for replacement planting and the inclusion of locally-appropriate tree planting in landscaping schemes with local native trees and shrubs where possible.

The Woodland Trust's Neighbourhood Planning guidance recommends replacement planting for every tree felled by development, adopting 2 for 1 approach or even 3 for 1 replacement policy.

The Leeds Natural Resources and Waste Local Plan Policy LAND2 stipulates that all trees should be replaced on a 3 for 1 basis. Owing to the locally-specific circumstances in East Keswick described above, it is necessary for the Plan Policy to be re-emphasised through our Neighbourhood Plan.

Of the four priority habitats identified in the Leeds Biodiversity Action Plan, one is hedgerows and field boundaries. With regard to hedgerows it notes road construction and building development have played a significant role in the loss of hedgerows. BAP targets include identifying ancient and species-rich hedges and the re-planting and renovation of hedges, and the associated field margins. In development this could translate into also providing a buffer zone or field margin beyond hedges, and shrub or tree planting on the boundaries or within development to allow for increased biodiversity. East Keswick Wildlife Trust is undertaking a hedgerow survey of the parish identifying hedgerows of importance for both historical and ecological purposes.

iii. Policy

E5: Trees, Hedgerows and Verges

Policy E5: Trees, Hedgerows and Verges

In order to protect and enhance the trees, verges and hedgerows as shown on Map 12:

- a.** Development should integrate native trees, hedgerows and verges to provide continuity for the future throughout the Neighbourhood area, to visually soften the edge of the built up environment and provide critical support to wildlife and to thus provide net gains in wildlife friendly habitat.
- b.** Development that damages or results in loss of biodiversity and the loss of ancient trees or ancient hedgerows, or trees or hedgerows with good arboricultural or amenity value, both within and outside the Conservation Area will not be supported.
- c.** Where it has been demonstrated that the loss of a tree is unavoidable within development, all trees should be replaced on a 3 for 1 basis on site with the use of appropriate native species.
- d.** Where on-site replacement is not possible, native trees should be replaced within the Neighbourhood Area where they will make a positive contribution to wildlife habitats.
- e.** The planting of local native trees and hedgerows will be supported, especially in locations where they can serve to reduce pollution and flood risk both in and outside the Conservation Area.
- f.** The provision of buffer zones beyond hedges and tree planting within or on the edge of development will be encouraged.
- g.** Verges should be encouraged in development and extended and linked into the existing green corridors and habitat networks in and around the built environment.
- h.** Development should enhance and protect existing verges.
- i.** To protect the existing character of East Keswick, the removal of and encroachment on to roadside verges will not be supported.

The following trees outside the Conservation Area should be protected:

- a.** Ancient oak on Moor Lane in the hedgerow opposite and at a right angle to Hall Farm (the oldest oak in the parish).
- b.** The line of commemorative Lime Trees between the War Memorials on Whitegate and Crabtree Lane. Each Lime is planted to commemorate a fallen soldier in the Great Wars.

iv. Aspirations

To continue to work towards updating the TPO map to identify newly maturing appropriate trees and groups of trees of significance in and outside the Conservation Area.

Work with local landowners to plant new woodlands and to incorporate small-scale tree planting of native species. To conserve the wooded pastoral slopes, along with traditional farmland features such as hedgerows and small copses where they have been lost or need enhancement.

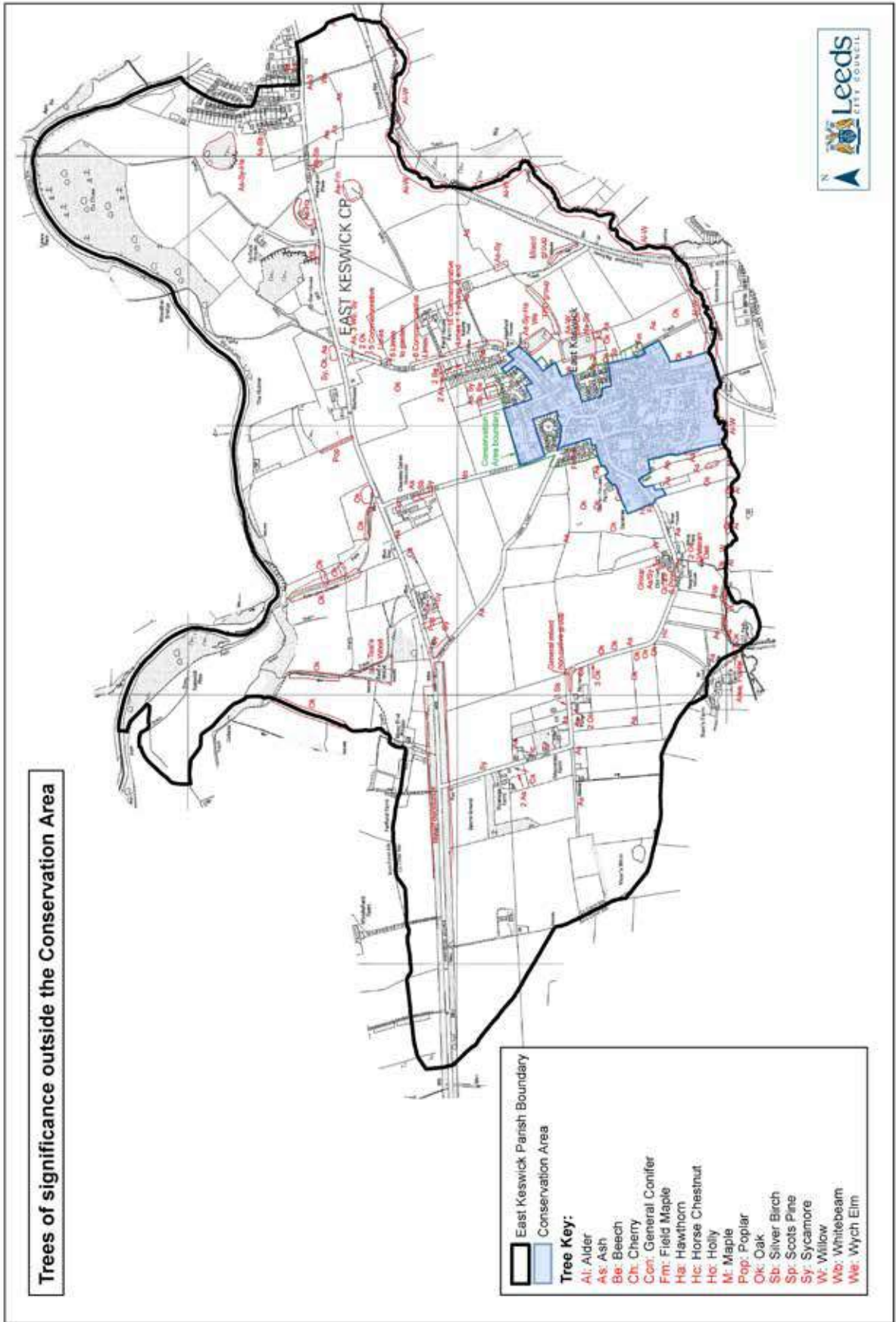
To look for opportunities to plant appropriate young trees, particularly native local varieties to ensure the continuance of mature trees in the future, in and outside the built-up area.

To improve the green corridor network and visual character of the parish.

To support a programme of restoration and extension of the visually important trees along Harewood Avenue.

To register the mature and veteran trees with the Ancient Tree Register.

To encourage residents to use the Licence to Cultivate granted by highways, to plant trees within the highway (subject to safety and convenience).



PRODUCED BY CITY DEVELOPMENT, GIS MAPPING & DATA TEAM, LEEDS CITY COUNCIL Produced by: NF Date: 25/10/2018

Map 12 Trees of significance outside the Conservation Area

3.5.6 Water Quality and Flooding

i. Introduction

In East Keswick a high proportion of the surface water drains are piped directly into Keswick Beck which is to the detriment of water quality and contributes to the incidence of flooding in high rainfall of Keswick Beck and then lower down the catchment in Collingham.

Leeds City Council has been working to encourage the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) since 2004. They are designed to reduce the potential impact of new and existing developments with respect to surface water drainage discharges. There is a significant amount of literature available on the use of SuDS in Leeds, dealing with drainage, building and surface runoff through the planning process.

ii. Evidence

The Water Framework Directive requires that water bodies (both surface and groundwater) achieve a 'good status'. The Directive also requires that no such water bodies experience deterioration in status. Good status is defined by good ecological and good chemical status. The aim of the Directive is to improve the ecological condition of watercourses.

The Collingham Beck catchment takes in the parishes of Collingham, East Keswick, Bardsey, Scarcroft, Wike and Shadwell. It has been classed as poor under the Water Framework Directive, (APEM report 2012) with extensive levels of sediment, phosphates and nitrates being of major concern. The high proportion of pollution appears to come from agricultural sources, including overland runoff from livestock and arable fields, poaching and pipes. Discharges from other conduits are significant. This is harmful to the ecosystem, especially silt covering fish spawning grounds on the bed of the Beck and its invertebrate habitats.

Within this catchment area, Keswick Beck is one of the most polluted. The associated ponds at Keswick Marsh (Local Wildlife Site) are still recorded as polluted, a result of the Beck flooding across the Marsh in high rainfall.

East Keswick Wildlife Trust, local communities and the Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust are monitoring the water quality and working together on an Environment Agency-funded project with local landowners, to reduce the effects of diffuse pollution on the Beck. Ongoing invertebrate sampling has shown poor results.

The Environment Agency has introduced a Yellow Fish Campaign 'ONLY RAIN DOWN THE DRAIN' to raise awareness about sources of water pollution and the quality of water in streams, rivers, lakes and ponds. East Keswick Wildlife Trust, working with Bardsey, Collingham and Harewood primary schools and the local community using the Yellow Fish campaign material, has found that the majority of the community and tradesmen have no concept that solutions put down surface water drains, drain in the majority of cases into Keswick Beck. This demonstrates a need to raise awareness and discourage the continuation of this practice.

Flooding

The Environment Agency has identified the areas at risk from flooding. Flood risk maps are regularly updated on the Government information service website and can be found online for the Collingham Beck catchment which includes Keswick Beck.

East Keswick, Bardsey and Collingham parishes are subject to flooding. East Keswick Village lies in the main on a south facing hill. As such, during exceptional heavy rain, water is directed down the hill from non-permeable drives and other hard surfaces. Acting as tributaries, water builds up at the bottom of the hill in Keswick Beck, causing occasional flooding of properties. Surface water drains are unable to cope. Should there be any new development in Bardsey parish which bounded the Beck opposite Keswick Marsh and Brooklands, this could also have a considerable adverse impact on the flood risk.

In East Keswick over time, verges, soft surfaces and gravel drives that act as permeable surfaces are often being replaced with hard, non-permeable surfaces, causing excessive run off to surface drains, roads and culverts. This contributes to flooding and water quality deterioration of Keswick Beck and then Collingham Beck, for example from car washing on drives running into surface water drains which feed directly into Keswick Beck. Developers should be encouraged to consider the opportunities to incorporate a higher proportion of permeable surfaces on front gardens and drives, with possibly soakaways or grills at the end of drives directing surface water into gardens in the first instance.

An example can be seen on the Royal Horticultural Society website "Greening your grey".

Observations of four sizeable local developments (within a 5 mile radius) that show the only evidence of SuDS as surface water being directed into a large underground balancing tank, which in one instance feeds into a water course and where very few soft surfaces have been incorporated. This suggests that there is a need to reiterate that the planning process should use the guidance provided in Supplementary Planning Guidance No22 – Sustainable Drainage in Leeds (2004) to effectively mitigate these problems in the future by:

the use of permeable surfaces to ease drainage, filter strips and swales where runoff can soak into the ground and allow natural wetlands to develop, improving opportunities for biodiversity and helping to prevent flooding

rainwater collection to reduce runoff from hard surfaces, to be used for toilets and in gardening landscape schemes

the guidance also recommends the use of green roofs

The Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust is working with East Keswick Wildlife Trust and the local communities, using funding from the Environment Agency, on a Natural Flood Management project for the Collingham Becks' catchment. Working with the local land owners bounding Keswick Beck, it is looking at proposals for leaky dams, attenuation ponds, scrub planting and buffer zones which provide a good example of how collaboration can start to address these issues.

iii. Policy

Policy E6: Water Quality and Flooding

In order to address water quality and flooding issues within the parish:

- a.** Proposals for new developments should include measures to minimise the harm caused to water quality as a result of the proposals. This should include filtration infrastructure to prevent poor quality water from entering water courses and incorporate, where possible, Blue/Green SuDS and natural features.
- b.** Buffer zones should be incorporated along water courses, and include planting of appropriate native trees, shrubs and hedges to provide natural filtration and absorption.
- c.** Surface drainage water from development should always be directed away from ecologically sensitive areas due to the risk of pollution and flooding.
- d.** The sympathetic inclusion of the following features will be supported:
 - i.** Water Retention ponds and swales to encourage improvements to biodiversity
 - ii.** Permeable surfaces, such as block paving, gravel and other porous material, slowing runoff rates and breaking down pollutants
 - iii.** Measures to direct runoff into gardens and soakaways
 - iv.** Filtration systems for surface water drains and culverts before entering becks, especially from agricultural yards.
 - v.** Green roofs;
 - vi.** Rainwater collection systems for flushing toilets and garden uses.

iv. Aspirations

To continue to use the Yellow Fish Campaign to educate the community about pollution in Keswick Beck.

To produce an awareness raising leaflet on Water Friendly Homes in association with East Keswick Wildlife Trust and The Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust.

To continue to work towards improving the water quality and natural flood management of the Collingham Becks, with particular reference to East Keswick Beck.

To continue to work with local landowners on the planting of native species along Beck margins, to also include leaky dams, new pond creation and buffer zones.

To continue to raise awareness of local community projects with schools and the community regarding water quality and flooding management issues.

To raise awareness of the implications of using permeable drive hard surface construction where existing drives are replaced and new builds are involved.

3.5.7 Gardens

i. Introduction

Gardens are an important feature in East Keswick, softening the built up area and forming an extensive network of habitats and wildlife corridors. Gardens are vital to supporting wildlife and their importance to the diversity and richness of the built-up environment and its biodiversity is often overlooked. With the serious decline of wildlife on farmland, our built up environments have the opportunity to provide critical shelter and food.

East Keswick Wildlife Trust has found there is evidence of a good diversity of species of wildlife in the built-up area during their 10 year recording scheme, but they are in decline. The RSPB 2016 State of Nature report, states that over 56% of UK species have declined over recent decades.

Using evidence from the last 50 years, the report states that significant and ongoing changes in agricultural practices are having the single biggest impact on nature.

From helping protect us against flooding and extremes of temperature, gardens are vital to supporting wildlife, as well as providing a wide range of benefits and helping residents to be active and healthy.

Developers, Councils and Neighbourhood Planners have the opportunity to set new standards by creating a rich natural environment through development.

ii. Evidence

In the longer-term gardens will be essential to help society adapt to the effects of climate change and, with the loss of wildlife habitats in the wider countryside, provide a home for nature.

The Royal Horticultural Society's research has shown the benefits of greening urban areas including:

Improved air cooling, making it more bearable in towns and cities in hot weather

Insulation of buildings by garden vegetation

Improved air quality

Storm water mitigation, helping to reduce garden flooding

A source of habitats for wildlife

Improved health for plants and people who garden more

Helping us to breathe more easily as plants trap air pollution.

Development often provides little opportunity to enhance biodiversity or its many possible benefits within plots. Observations from visiting 4 newly built local developments show plots are often left grassed over with no support for planting schemes or information on how to create homes for any form of wildlife or how to increase biodiversity. It's important that where development schemes include wildlife opportunities and suitable landscaping schemes, that sufficient maintenance information is provided. For example, wildflower gardens will need effective management.

An example of good practice can be seen at the Kingsbrook development (Aylesbury) where all the show gardens have been planted as wildflower gardens, and new homeowners are given special gardening packs which teach them how to plant their own plots for encourage birds, bugs and animals. The whole development is connected by green wildlife corridors of hedges, strips of wildflower grassland and gaps in fences and walls.

iii. Policy

Policy E7: Gardens

In order to enhance visual amenity, opportunities for wildlife and biodiversity and retain natural flood management:

- a. Development proposals affecting existing residential gardens should ensure that the visual and physical connectivity of private green space provided by gardens is maintained and opportunities are taken to enhance the biodiversity of green space corridors provided by private gardens. The complete loss of residential garden space will not be supported.
- b. New development involving gardens should include measures/opportunities to increase biodiversity by including nesting sites for birds, bats, habitats for frogs, toads and hedgehogs, whilst even the smallest ponds attract dragonflies and other aquatic and semi-aquatic insects.
- c. Where biodiversity enhancement provisions are made within developments, encouragement and guidance for long-term management should be provided.
- d. Natural flood management, through garden design and the raising of awareness of water pollution and flooding issues, will be supported.

iv. Aspirations

For East Keswick Wildlife Trust, the local community and Parish Council to work together to produce an environmental awareness 'Nature Friendly Features' pack for new developments. This would also apply to improvement of existing plots, with relation to raising awareness of water pollution and flood prevention and improving the plot for biodiversity and well-being.

3.5.8 Footpaths, bridle and cycleways

i. Introduction

The Parish Council has identified that movement within the parish should be accessible to all as far as realistically possible, bearing in mind the historically determined constraints with narrow footpaths and pavements. In the main, there are few pavements between the villages and where they exist they are narrow and mainly run along 'A' roads.

The community highly values the protection and maintenance of the existing network of local footpaths, cycle routes and bridleways. From the consultation process, it is clear that the parishioners would support any work to further expand these networks for the benefit of the community.

Harewood Road and Avenue is extremely busy and perceived by many to be too dangerous for use by bicycle which limits the scope of accessibility to more cycle friendly roads and routes within a 5 mile radius. An opportunity for greater connectivity between the villages with improved provision of routes which are accessible to all, encouraging less car usage would be beneficial, as well as creating better connectivity across the parish.

ii. Evidence

Within the Neighbourhood Area, there are a number of approved footpaths, footways, cycle routes and bridleways. These public rights of way are shown on Map 13.

Consultation with the Parish Council and neighbouring parishes indicates there are corresponding aspirations to work together to develop new footpath, bridle and cycle ways. These are shown on Map 14 'Existing and Aspirational Footpath, Bridle and Cycleways' and are numbered in the Aspirations on page 95.

iii. Policy

Policy E8: Footpaths, bridle and cycleways

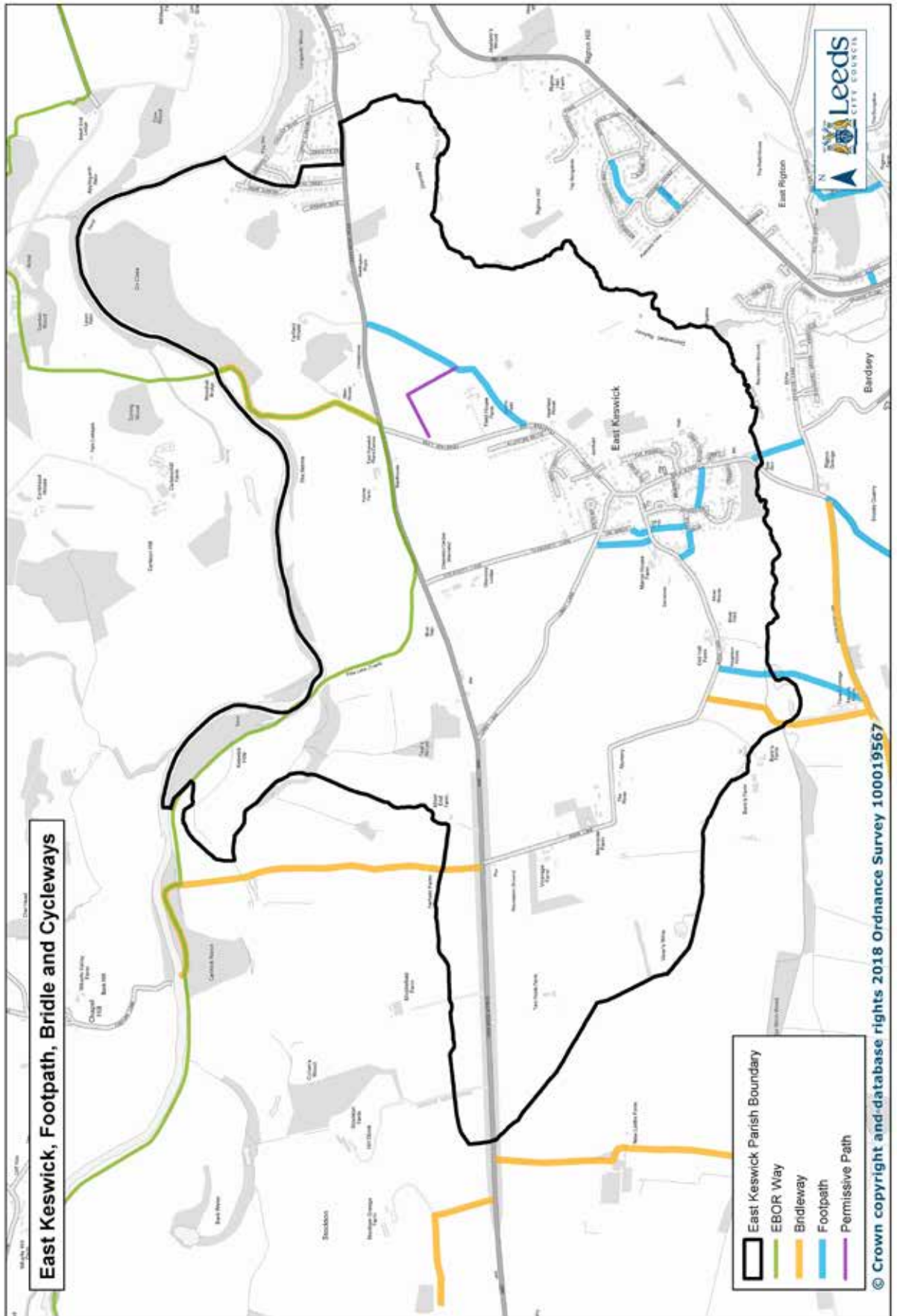
In order to retain and improve the footpath, bridle and cycleway networks proposals for development should seek to retain and, where possible, enhance existing pedestrian, cycling and horse-riding routes and create other routes to link in with other existing or aspirational networks in neighbouring parishes.

Proposals for improvement or the addition to the existing network of local footpaths, cycle routes and bridleways where opportunities arise will be supported. Where feasible, they should be designed to enable access for all.

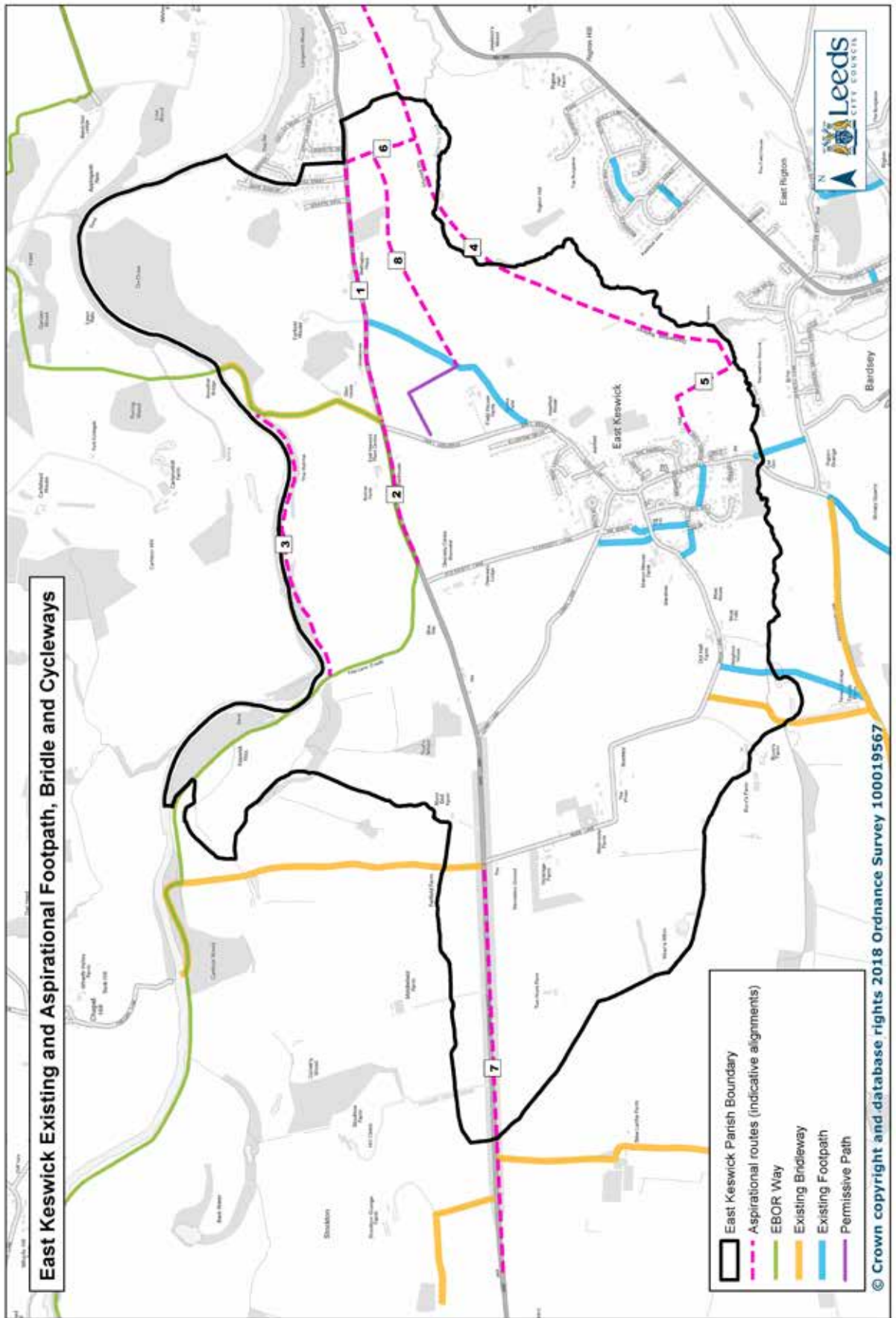
iv. Aspirations

The routes below correspond with the numbers on map 14 and illustrate the aspiration to create:

- 1) A safe accessible route between Collingham and East Keswick along the Leeds City Council owned strip of land that bounds the A659 Harewood Road.
- 2) A much-needed safe link on the Ebor Way from the top of Fitts Lane to Crabtree Lane car park and the bridleway to the River Wharfe on Harewood Road.
- 3) An alternative Ebor Way connection along the river bank.
- 4) A route along the disused railway line between Bardsey, East Keswick and Collingham.
- 5) Access from the back of the East Keswick village hall to Bardsey Sports field which would provide a safe link from the village to Bardsey.
- 6) A link from the A659 opposite Hillcrest in the Collingham area of East Keswick to link southwards into the disused railway link from Bardsey to Collingham.
- 7) A link along the A659 from Moor Lane in East Keswick to Harewood on Harewood Avenue to provide a valuable connection between villages and the opportunity to link into a Dales bus network.
- 8) An alternative route between East Keswick and Collingham along the field boundaries to the east of Crabtree lane to Harewood Road.



Map 13 East Keswick Footpath, Bridle and Cycleways



Map 14 East Keswick Existing and Aspirational Footpath, Bridle and Cycleways

