

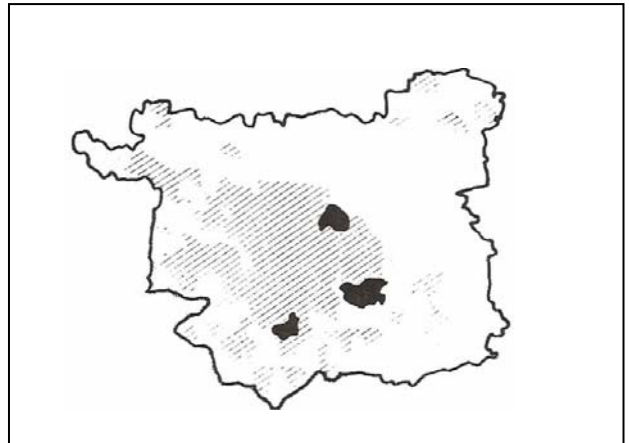
URBAN FRINGE PARKLANDS

Landscape character

Occurring on the north, east and southern fringes of the city, the urban fringe parkland landscape type is found in three landscape units: Roundhay (LCM9); Temple Newsam (LCM10); and Middleton (LCM11). It is characterised by small, but self-contained designed parkland landscapes some of which form the grounds of old halls and manor houses built during the 18th and 19th centuries. These parkland areas were once located outside the urban area, but due to steady urban encroachment, they now lie on the edge of the City. Managed as urban parks and well used by local communities as well as visitors from further afield, these parks provide a valuable urban landscape and recreational resource. Typical characteristics include designed features such as ponds and lakes, tree avenues, woods, copses and plantations, and open areas of amenity grassland. Occurring on the north, east and southern fringes of the city, this landscape type is found in three landscape units: Roundhay, Temple Newsam; and Middleton.

Forces for change

All of the urban fringe parklands were designed and developed when they lay some way outside the urban area of Leeds. Today, the parks and their immediate surrounds are partially enclosed by residential development. Although many features of the parks have remained unchanged since their original design, changes have occurred in later years, such as the addition of golf courses, playing fields and other public amenities. In addition, Temple Newsam has also been affected by past opencast coal mining activities.



The pastoral farmland areas around some of the parks remain largely intact, although in places there appears to have been a gradual decline in the condition of hedgerows. Future change could occur with any proposed development close to the parks, for example the proposed A1-M link road, to the south of Temple Newsam.

Management strategy and guidelines

The overall management strategy for the urban fringe parklands landscape type should be a careful combination of conservation of the historic and characteristic parkland features, combined with restoration of these features where they are in decline or have been lost. There are also opportunities for restoration of farmland features such as hedgerows in the areas adjacent to the parks and where activities such as opencast have had an impact, for example at Middleton and Temple Newsam.

Management guidelines which are applicable for all the landscape units within the urban fringe parklands landscape type are described below. Detailed management strategies and guidelines for the individual landscape units are described in separate documents, using the references above left.

- *Conserve and restore if appropriate, areas of existing parkland.*
Large landscaped public parks, dating from the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries and now lying on the urban fringe are the distinctive feature of this landscape. As well as their historical importance, these parklands and their associated developments such as golf courses and sports pitches, provide diversity and interest in the landscape and have an important role in providing for formal and informal recreational activities. These parks should be managed to conserve their landscape value.

Wherever possible it is important to encourage the replacement of old trees or plantings where areas have become degraded as a result of activities such as opencasting. Planting should respect the original design intentions of individual parks or, where there are several layers of design, it may be necessary to identify a particular stage of development which reflects the most important historical context. Where opportunities arise to help manage existing areas through incentives such as the Countryside Stewardship scheme, these should be investigated.
- *Felling should be carefully designed to retain the effect of wooded enclosure.*
It is important to retain the offset and overlapping nature of woodlands and belts of trees as these create a strong sense of enclosure and provide wooded horizons along the built up urban fringe. Any major breaks in continuity would have the effect of opening up views which would distort the scale of the landscape. Enclosure and landscape scale can be maintained by choosing a regeneration system which minimises visual change to key sections of a woodland.
- *Conserve and strengthen the pattern of small hedged pastoral fields around the edges of the parkland.*
Around the edges of two out of the three urban fringe park lands, there are areas of small hedged pastoral fields, which may have formed part of a wider parkland estate in the past. These intact fields complement the parkland settings and should be conserved. Typically they are bounded by hedgerows, which in places are becoming overgrown and gappy or have been replaced by wire fencing which results in a more open neglected landscape. Management through coppicing, laying and replanting should be encouraged to complement the shape and scale of existing fields.