

NPFSQ1. Does the Plan need to be modified, or do any of the Council's proposed main modifications need to be altered, to take account of the revised National Planning Policy Framework published on 20 July 2021?

YES. NPPF:2021 revisions from Chapters 2,11,14 directly influence the need for:

- (i) Review some Main Modifications
- (ii) Specific site proposals 403

## Chapter 2: Achieving Sustainable Development

**Chapter 2** sets out clearly that the environmental objective is to protect, enhance and improve biodiversity. Wording is strengthened with this requirement to 'protect and enhance' and 'improve biodiversity', not 'contribute to', 'helping to improve' biodiversity.

- **Para 8c** *"An environmental objective– to protect and enhance our natural, built and historic environment; making effective use of land, improving biodiversity, using natural resources prudently... and mitigating and adapting to climate change....."*

The defined social and environmental objectives of sustainable development have been updated. Social objectives have introduced beauty, and emphasis on *open safe spaces*.

- **Para 8b** *"A social objective–..... beautiful and safe places, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities' health, social and cultural well-being."*

Plan-making with a greener focus to include the requirements to "improve the environment and mitigate climate change."

- **Para 11a** *"plans should promote a sustainable pattern of development that seeks to: meet the development needs of their area; align growth and infrastructure; improve the environment; mitigate climate change (including by making effective use of land in urban areas)"*

## Chapter 11: Making effective use of land

- **Para120c** “give substantial weight to the value of using suitable brownfield land within settlements for homes and other identified needs.....support appropriate opportunities to remediate despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated or unstable land”
  
- **Para121.** “Local planning authorities, and other plan-making bodies, should take a proactive role in identifying and helping to bring forward land that may be suitable for meeting development needs, including suitable sites on brownfield registers.”
  
- **Para120b** “Planning policies and decisions should recognise that some undeveloped land can perform many functions, such as for wildlife, recreation, flood risk mitigation, cooling/shading, carbon storage...”

### **Modifications to take account of the revised National Planning Policy Framework July 2021**

- Revisit the criteria for removal of 403 as Local Wildlife Site. (DBC20/DBC21 & DBC 19:1p83)
- Consider **ENV7**: footnotes:48,49,52

<p>DBC:Local Plan 2016-2036 – Proposed Amendments:Policies Maps</p> <p>Action:</p> <p>Omit areas of Local Wildlife Sites covered by Sites 403 and 010 at Blackwell Grange</p>	<p>Reason:</p> <p>Ensure the policies map is correct and effective</p>
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Designation removed: [DBC19.1 Schedule of Proposed Main Modifications](#)  
 403 p83 c. “The site is designated a Local Wildlife site contains biodiversity habitat.....”

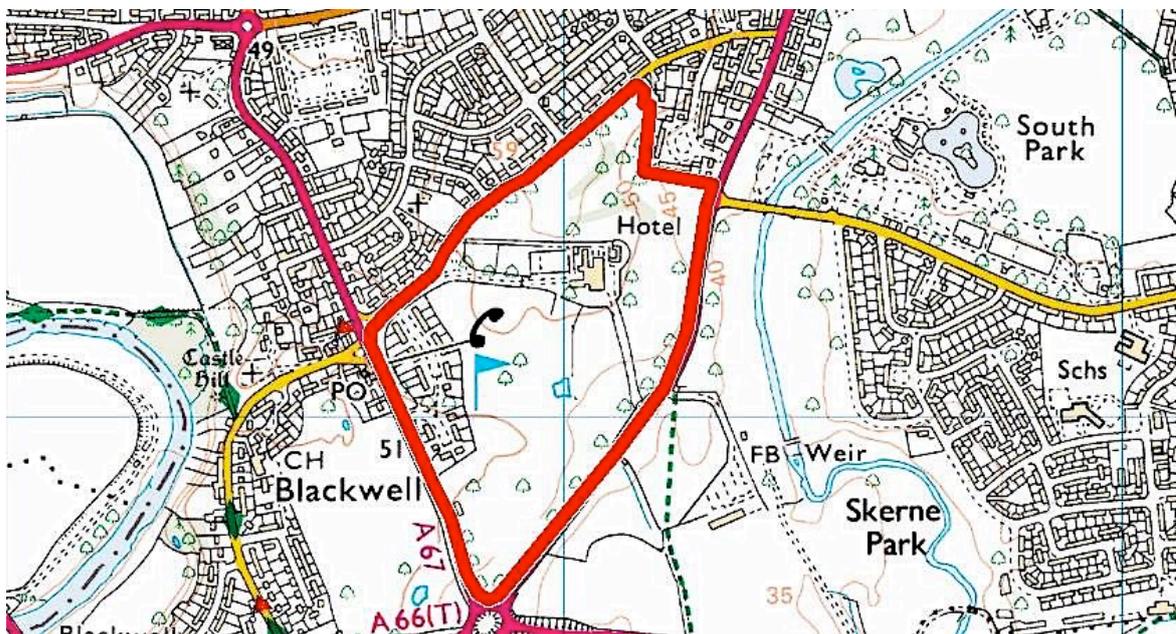
## Parkland and 403 are recorded as Wildlife Sites: Because of their Biodiversity

- [https://drive.google.com/file/d/17sLUoDqx8v9UN93Nx5eY\\_3mb9CE2oR8c/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/17sLUoDqx8v9UN93Nx5eY_3mb9CE2oR8c/view?usp=sharing)

- Recorded as Local Wildlife Site with 34 other Sites in Darlington. (“*Tees Valley Nature Partnership*”) and designated as a site with Great Crested Newt.
- Local Wildlife Site: *“Protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity”* **Site 9:Blackwell Grange East. Site 403:Blackwell Grange East** Appendix G p:512 p:527/8 (points 13) CD03 Darlington Borough Local Plan 2016-2036:Sustainability Appraisal
- Recorded in the Council **Sustainability Appraisal CDO3** as Wildlife Site with *“high interest with regards to Great Crested Newts; Strengthen and expand known meta-populations by carrying out pond creation and management work through the “Tees Valley Pondscape Project”* (Sustainability Appraisal p128 Appendix B)

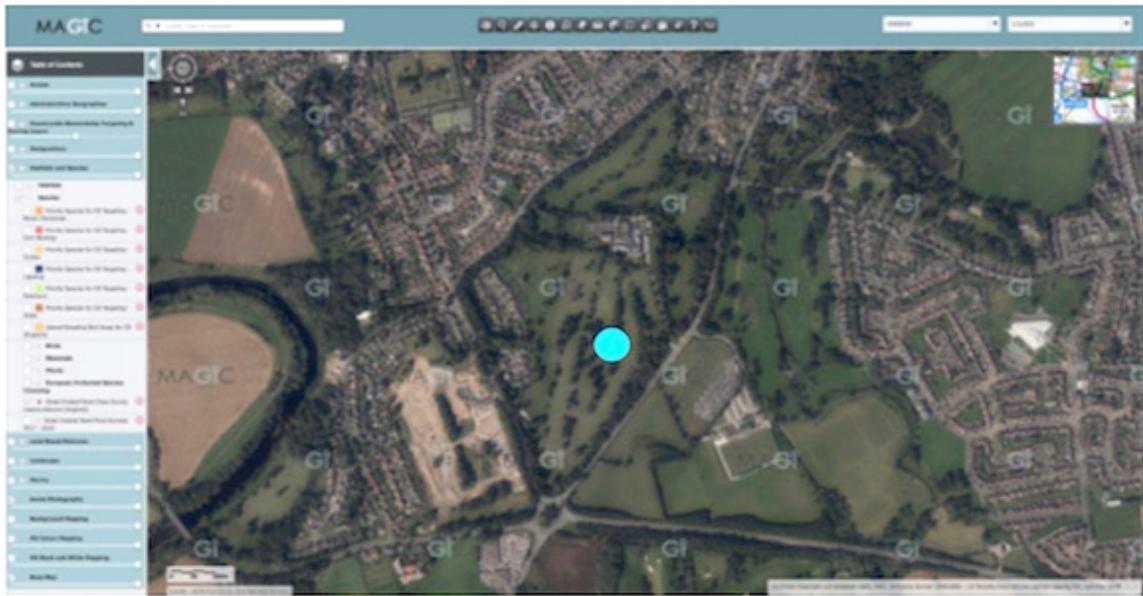
### **Parkland Ponds and Site010**

NZ 277 126:NZ 280 130



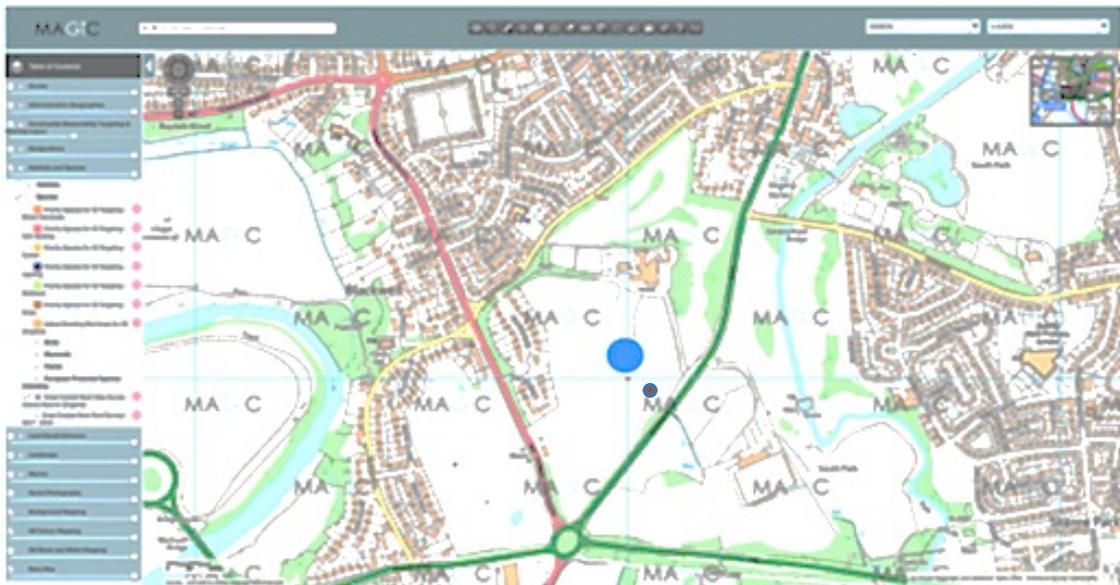
**Map 1**

- Parkland pond, north of site 403 : (“*Heritage Impact Assessment*” SD29. Map:p16 & para:5 p.20. “*Statement of Significance*” SD65 pages 8,11,16,17,19
- Two additional ponds on 010.(GC Newt)



Map 2

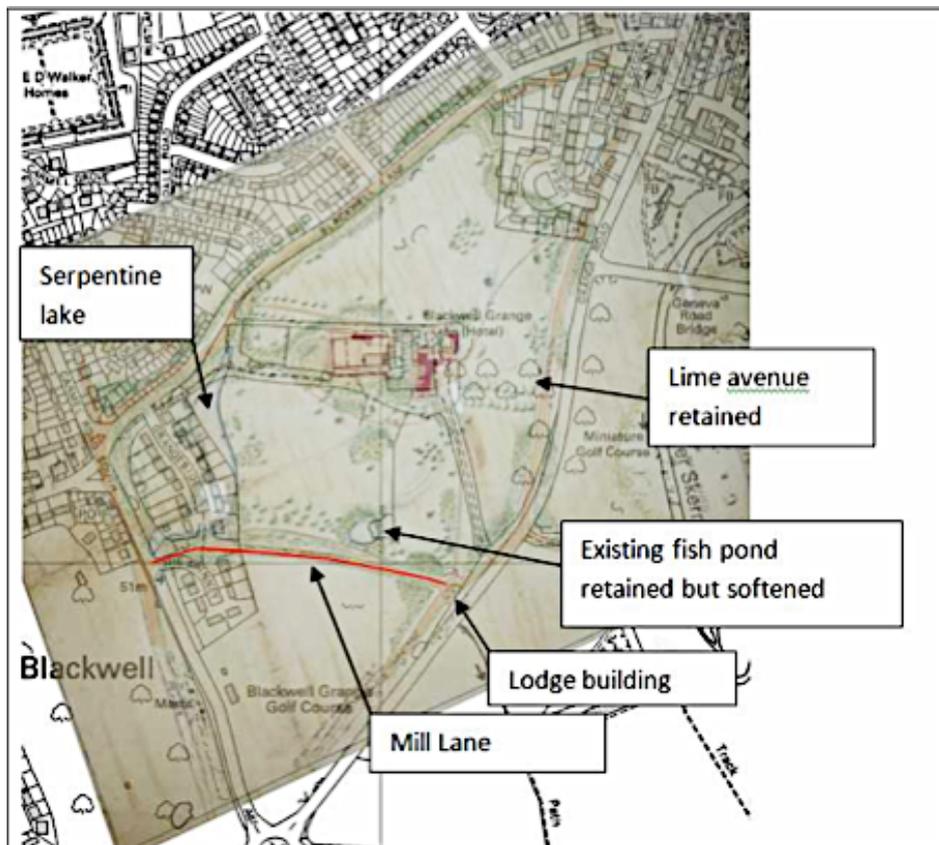
DEFRA's great crested newt site.



Map 3

DEFRA: great crested newt

## Existing pond: Map 4



Map 5

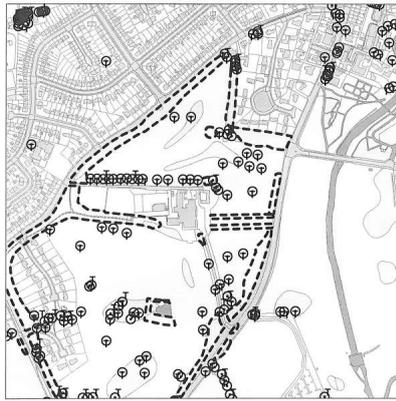
## Botany Surveys:Parkland/403:2019-2021



### (i) 2019 Ecosystems Survey: *(R.Bramfitt)*

672 trees

48 species



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Organisation	Darlington Borough Council
Department	Department
Comments	
Date	31 August 2012
SLA Number	0320023729



### (ii) 2021 Botany Survey: Darlington/Teesdale Naturalist Field Club



Darlington & Teesdale Naturalists' Field Club

47 species of wild flower and grasses

61 species of insect plant galls

32 insect varieties

66 species fungi

Trees previously recorded.



## Chapter 14 The Challenge of Climate Change, Flooding, Coastal Change.

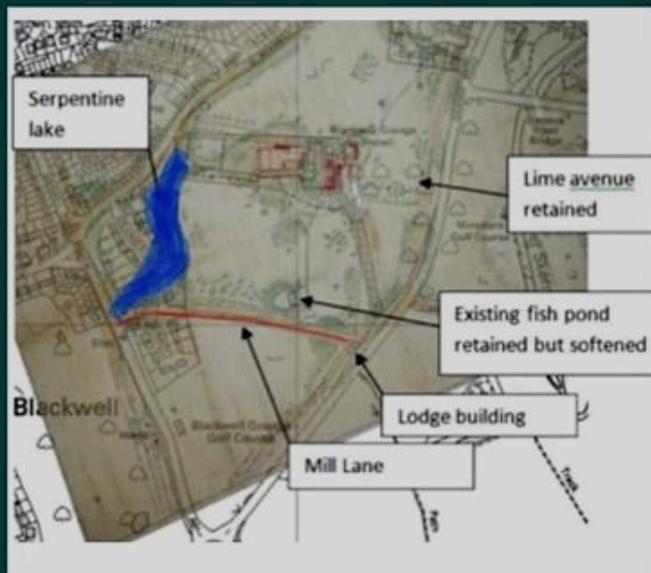
**Chapter 14** Ensures plans take into account *all sources* of flood risk. Encourages using opportunities provided by improvements in green infrastructure, making use of natural flood management techniques.

**159 Planning and flood risk.** *“Inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding should be avoided, directing development away from areas at highest risk (whether existing or future).” (Map6)*

**160. Strategic policies** *“should be informed by strategic flood risk assessment, and should manage flood risk from all sources. They should consider cumulative impacts in local areas susceptible to flooding.”*

**167. When determining** *“any planning applications, local planning authorities should ensure that flood risk is not increased elsewhere.”*

### Information taken from the Archaeo-Environment Report for Darlington Borough Council, August 2012 - 'Statement of Significance'



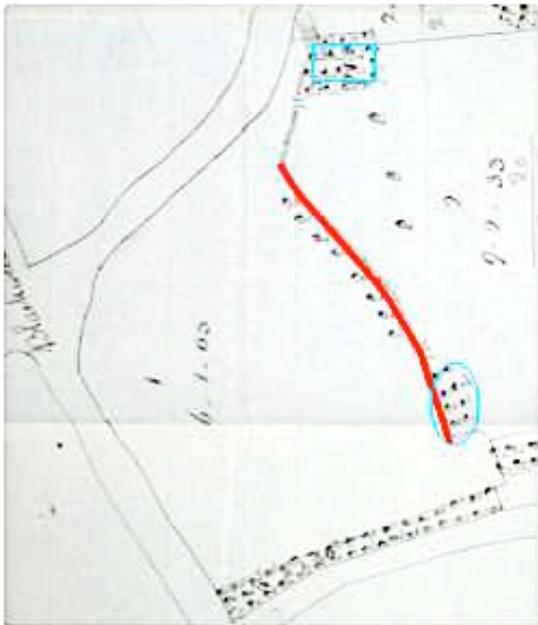
The proposed serpentine lake, crossed at each end by bridges.

The 1802 proposals overlaid onto a modern map above. The small watercourse which ran across the west of the site was to be transformed into a large serpentine lake and the small rectangular fish pond near Mill Lane, was to be retained. The 1802 plan however created a more natural shape for the pond, but the softening of the edges was never implemented. The serpentine lake was never constructed.

**Grangeside: *Serpentine Lake*. Regular appearance \***



## Routes of watercourse \*



**Map 7. 1790:** Garden boundaries of Grangeside (red), the stream ditch to the north (blue) and highlighted stretch of stream. [SD65:p16](#)

**\*** *“Climate change is intensifying the water cycle. This brings more intense rainfall and associated flooding. Climate change is affecting rainfall patterns. In higher latitudes, precipitation is likely to increase.”* ([IPCC Press Office 10.08.21](#))

## Summary

**“Achieving Sustainable Development”**: Pursuing the 17 Global Goals for Sustainable Development **Paragraph 7:NPPF** addresses the balance of social progress, *“economic well-being, environmental protection.”*

Tensions faced by the Council between *economic strategy/wellbeing needs*, and *safeguarding the environment* of the Blackwell Parkland were summarised in earlier representations as:

***“The development/sale of 403 in order to fund the restoration of the Historic Blackwell Parkland.”***

**NPPF 2021 and IPCC 2021** are adding to these tensions and modifications:

- Questioning soundness of development of 403
- Reintroducing this historic attachment/non-attachment of 403 to the Parkland.
- Revisiting reasons for removal of 403 as Green Wedge

## Finally

- (i) IM4 Hearing:16/06/21. It was unclear what criteria were used for removal of designation as Wildlife-Sites for 010/430, the location/influence of ponds or assessment of increasingly regular flooding issues\*
- (ii) Page:83 *Modifications Proposal:DBC19.1* strikes out previous designation ***c."The site is designated a Local Wildlife site contains biodiversity habitat"***
- (iii) The spirit of NPPF (2021) and **ENV7** in conflict with the reduction of biodiverse/wildlife sites.
- (iv) Striking out designation in DBC19.1. Not in harmony with **ENV7**, 'Tees Valley Nature Partnership' or Sustainability Appraisal:**CD03**

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1EYJ4tsY2hp-e4pj9R9vUUQOpzEF5B8ST/view>