

3.8 Trees and Wildlife Value

The Cirencester South Conservation Area supports a wide diversity of aquatic [274-75] and terrestrial habitats. The aquatic habitats are of particular significance and some form part of the River Churn Key Wildlife Site. These habitats are likely to support a number of protected and priority species [i.e. species within the UK Biodiversity Action Plan], for example bats, water voles etc.



274



275

There are a large number of trees within the Conservation Area with the most densely planted areas located along the eastern boundary, shielding nearby housing and recreation areas from the fast-moving traffic along the ring-road, and lining Beeches Road where they help to reduce the impact of the Beeches car park [276-79 & 299].



276



277



278



The same trees provide an attractive green backdrop to Ingleside School [279-80], and neighbouring properties, and play a similar role in respect of residential terraces on Purley Road [278].

Mature trees along the City Bank walk, and the similarly raised former railway line, help to shade and compartmentalise the adjacent allotment gardens and recreation grounds [281]. Other dense areas of planting include the Important Open Space to the south of Querns Lane and incorporating the car park used by Cotswold District Council [281-82] and the intimate graveyard off Watermoor Road [Map O].



The grounds of the Paternoster School and Holy Trinity Church encompass a large array of native and exotic species [284-85]; these otherwise open spaces form an attractive contrast with dense urban development in adjacent areas of the Conservation Area, and help to minimise the negative impact of some of the less attractive buildings nearby.



Banks of large mature trees line the east end of St Michael's Park and other mature groups provide the setting for Watermoor House and the Park. Others are important in screening the children's play area within the park and/or providing areas of seclusion and shade [286-291 & 299].



284



285



286



287



288



289



290



291



292



293



294

Within the more built up areas, specimen trees make a dramatic statement and/or provide vertical focal points within the street scene [291-94]. Smaller, more domestically-scaled trees, sited along the road edge, help to minimise the impact of parked vehicles, whilst others to rear gardens provide colour and interest when glimpsed through gaps in the street scene [283 & 295].



295



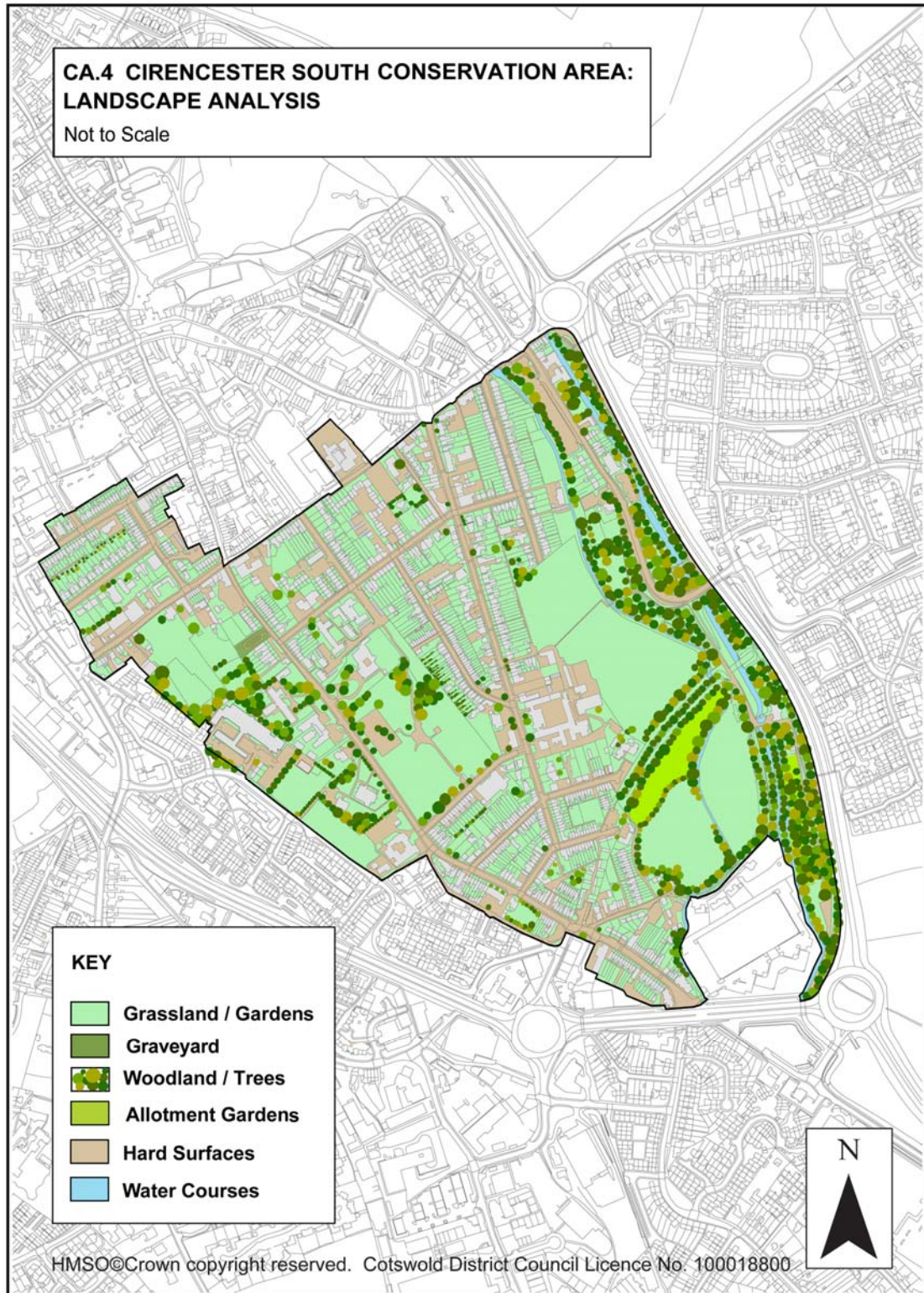
296



297



298



Map Q