

# I Am Greenfield by Chorlton Craftivists

Ryebank Fields is a beautiful, safe, wild space in a busy, built-up suburban area that is under threat of destruction. Manchester Metropolitan University, who were given the land by Manchester Council for student recreation, now want to cash in by selling to housing developers. There is considerable ongoing and planned housebuilding locally and more brownfield space that can be built on too. On the other hand, there is a lack of accessible wild green space.

Chorlton Craftivists, who run creative campaigns to raise awareness of social and environmental issues, wanted to tell the story of Ryebank Fields to help people understand their importance. So 20 local craftivists [craft + activists] worked together to hand stitch features of Ryebank Fields in a collaborative banner that includes its history, cherished flora and fauna, as well as problems likely to arise from building on it.

Visit our website to find out where the panel will be on display, how to join our postcard-writing campaign when MMU put in planning permission to build on the fields, and how you can get involved in other creative campaigns.

[www.chorltoncraftivists.org.uk](http://www.chorltoncraftivists.org.uk) [chorltoncraftivists@gmail.com](mailto:chorltoncraftivists@gmail.com)

Instagram @ecocraftivism @chorltoncraftivists

Find out more about Ryebank Fields and what you can do from the long-time campaigning group:

Friends of Save Ryebank Fields [www.saveryebankfields.co.uk](http://www.saveryebankfields.co.uk)

[ryebankfieldsfriends@gmail.com](mailto:ryebankfieldsfriends@gmail.com)

**Visit:** Enter via the end of Longford Road in Chorlton or in Firwood via the Community Garden on Rye Bank Road.

	<p><b>The Aspen Grove by Alison Jeffers</b> Aspen trees are called populus tremula because the leaves shiver and shimmer in the breeze. Aspen are native British trees, and the grove of Aspen trees is a special part of Ryebank Fields.</p>		<p><b>I Am Greenfield by Jude Jagger</b> Sometimes mislabelled, Ryebank Fields is classified as a greenfield site and should therefore not be built upon when there are hundreds of brownfield sites locally for new homes. @jude_jagger</p>
	<p><b>Save Ryebank Fields by Siobhan Casey</b> Ryebank Fields is a beautiful, natural, magical place in the city. A place for people and animals to explore and enjoy whatever the weather. I hope that future generations will enjoy it as much as I do.</p>		<p><b>Hedgerows are Home by Natasha Mountain</b> We can walk by hedgerows without thought but if you look closely, they are fresh, vibrant and full of life. They create boundaries home to a vast array of species that need protecting.</p>
	<p><b>The Wishing Tree by Pauline Kirton</b> This silver maple has a special 'wishing well' within it produced by converging and broken branches. It's a miniature ecosystem within the tree for flora and fauna. The proposed construction on Ryebank Fields would destroy this unique and magical habitat. @pauline2729fabrikfaeries</p>		<p><b>Black Poplar: The rare Manchester Poplar by Jane Poole</b> Ryebank Fields is home to a row of impressive black poplar hybrids as well as the rare male relative, the <i>Manchester Black Poplar</i>, one of the UK's least common trees. Spot its red catkins in the spring. To lose this would be a tragedy. @janepoole99</p>
	<p><b>Chorlton's house building boom by Danielle Lowy</b> Current multiple house-building programmes are on the sites of the old leisure centre, the Islamic High School for Girls, the Irish Club and Albany Road flats among others. Homes will also be built on the Co-op Funeral Parlour site, and Chorlton Precinct alone is expected to yield 200 new homes. @ecocraftivism</p>		<p><b>Insects by Pauline Kirton</b> Climate change has caused the UK insect population to decline by 60% in the last 20 years. Ryebank Fields is a site of enormous natural biodiversity, providing a plethora of habitats for 100s of species of insects and pollinators. Its destruction would be a travesty to the local natural surroundings. pauline2729fabrikfaeries</p>
	<p><b>Community Orchard by Alison Sheldon</b> Planted by the community. Providing fruit for walkers who visit the fields and food for wildlife who live on the fields. The perfect place to wassail. @taffysheldon</p>		<p><b>Polluting the fields by Karen O'Keefe</b> As well as destroying the homes of existing wildlife, building on Ryebank Fields would create air, water and noise pollution. Householders in such a development are likely to own one or two cars, making the area even more polluted, a concern for all, especially the young and elderly.</p>

	<p><b>You don't need to live by a river to be flooded by Sarah Cobbe</b></p> <p>This area suffers from poor drainage, with surrounding parkland and gardens saturated after heavy rainfall. If Ryebank Fields is built on, flooding is likely to intensify from increased impermeable surfaces and disturbed ground altering the natural water flow, impacting on all properties in the area.</p>		<p><b>Mammals of Ryebank Fields by Frances Campbell</b></p> <p>Ryebank Fields is home to many mammals, some less obvious than others. Bats are valuable members of the natural ecosystem, contributing to the biodiversity of Ryebank Fields, acting as pollinators and controlling the insect population. Living up to 30 years, it is illegal to damage, destroy or disturb their habitat.</p>
	<p><b>Oak trees to climb by Christine Berry, Rory Berry-Taylor (6), Anna Davies, Willa Davies-Vanes (6)</b></p> <p>The Millennium Oaks were planted by a local resident in 1999, following a government initiative encouraging people to plant "millennium woodlands", to enhance the fields and improve drainage. Climbing the oaks is Rory's favourite activity, also providing shady places to sit. @christine.berry87</p>		<p><b>Build on Brownfield first by Sarah Cobbe</b></p> <p>Reusing previously developed land – brownfield – is more sustainable and will stop the need to expand into rewilded greenfield Ryebank Fields - thereby preserving natural habitats and reducing urban sprawl. Keep Ryebank Fields as a precious greenfield area and protect it for all future generations to enjoy.</p>
	<p><b>Wide Open Skies by Kit</b></p> <p>Amongst the rooftops of Chorlton, the skies open out above Ryebank Fields giving us a moment's peace from city life. In an urban area blighted by light pollution, here we can see the stars, and the sun rising and setting.</p>		<p><b>What lies beneath by Danielle Lowy</b></p> <p>There are known hazardous materials underground in Ryebank Fields from its time as a dump, including asbestos, heavy metals and possibly unexploded WW2 bombs. All is safe if the ground is not disturbed by building work. @greenchorltonhub</p>
	<p><b>Chorlton's Claypits by Danielle Lowy</b></p> <p>Clay dug from two pits in Ryebank Fields was used to make bricks for local house building by Jackson's Works, on the site that is now St John's Primary School. The pits later filled with water to become lakes, and became an unregistered dump, later filled in by Manchester Council in the 1970s.</p>		<p><b>Defend the Nico Ditch by Sarah Cobbe</b></p> <p>An important part of the Nico Ditch, a 6-mile-long ancient boundary between the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms of Mercia and Northumbria, runs through Ryebank fields. Elsewhere, the Ditch is protected as a Scheduled Ancient Monument by Historic England. Be like an Anglo-Saxon warrior: defend the Nico Ditch from destruction!</p>
	<p><b>Chorlton's Amazon by Jay Clarke (design) and Jo Hogan (stitching)</b></p> <p>Ryebank Fields, known locally as <i>Chorlton's Amazon</i>, is one of the few wild green spaces left in the City of Manchester. This special place, for flora, fauna and humans, needs protecting. <a href="http://linktr.ee/jay_therapyupnorth">linktr.ee/jay_therapyupnorth</a></p>		<p><b>Not One Blade of Grass by Ayako Matsuo Somers</b></p> <p>Ryebank Fields has rewilded over thirty years, home to many creatures and beyond human control like adjacent Longford Park. Taking any part of it can affect its eco-balance and interconnectedness. We should protect this unique place as it is a safe haven for us all.</p>
	<p><b>Ancient Folklore By Jane Jones</b></p> <p>A single standing Hawthorn tree is steeped in folklore and myth. It is said to be under the protection of the fairies and that misfortune will follow to any who chop it down.</p>		<p><b>There are already homes on Ryebank Fields by Claire Law</b></p> <p>This is dedicated to the many animals - birds, bugs, mammals and more - that have made this precious, wild, natural place their home. Bluesky - @minimastersart</p>
	<p><b>"Where is Ryebank Fields?" by Alison Jeffers</b></p> <p>The birds give the What 3 Words location for the entrances to Ryebank Fields from Longford Road and Ryebank Road. When people explore the fields, they appreciate how unique they are.</p>	<p><b>Join us! Embroidered QR codes by Gemma Parker</b></p> <div>   </div>	