

Birmingham & Black Country Local Sites Assessment Report

EcoRecord Reference	Site Name	Grid Reference	Designation(s)	Survey Date(s)
WV003-6	Wightwick Mill Field	SO 87730 98532	Part SINC	21 st September 2018
Planning Authority	Site Ownership	Area/Length	Reason for Survey	Report Date
Wolverhampton	Private	2.7 ha	Black Country Call for Sites	26 th November 2018

Meets LS Criteria	SLINC / SINC	Type	Wildlife	i.e. Wildlife/Geological

Amendment(s)	Extension & New Site	i.e. None; New Site; Upgrade; Downgrade; Extension; Whole/Part Deletion

Description	
	Currently Smestow Brook corridor and land to the south of the brook are designated as SINC. It is believed the Smestow Brook corridor still achieves the criteria necessary to hold that designation. However, amendments to the SINC boundary should be made to take into account the current shape of the modified brook and a 6m wide corridor along the northern boundary. In addition, the northern intact hedgerow meets the criteria for SLINC status and as such it should be designated as new site 'Hedgerow off Bridgnorth Road'.

Citation (Summary of Value)

Wightwick Mill Field comprises 2.7 hectares of formerly grazed grassland field with the Smestow Brook present in the southern portion of the site. The site has seen little management and as a result shows evidence of successional growth throughout, resulting in tall ruderal vegetation being the dominant habitat onsite. The boundaries are delineated by intact / defunct hedgerows with the northern hedgerow, in particular, providing a range of structural diversity and a key ecological corridor along A454 Bridgnorth Road.

The Smestow Brook has been modified in the late 20th century; however, the banksides are showing some structural variation and naturalisation which has provided areas of varying depth. The habitat corridor along the brook provides a range of habitats which act as key foraging and commuting corridor within the local and surrounding area. European water vole *Arvicola amphibius* records are held adjacent to the site within the Staffs & Worcester Canal and as such are deemed highly likely to be present within Smestow Brook.

Local Site Selection Criteria

Ecological

Criteria	Rating	Description
Habitat Diversity	M	The site supports a limited range of habitats; both natural and created. Due to the ongoing successional growth, from lack of management, this has resulted in the dominance of tall ruderal habitat onsite. However, habitat variation can be seen within individual established habitats.
Species Diversity	L	The overall species diversity of the survey area is low, due to dominance of species limited habitats. However, the highest flora species diversity was found within the long established intact hedgerows, where structural variation has formed. No faunal surveys were undertaken, however, a small number of garden birds were present.
Habitat Rarity	M	The majority of the habitats present on site are common across Birmingham and the Black Country. However, the Smestow Brook and the intact hedgerows on site are listed as Habitats of Principal Importance.
Species Rarity	L	The majority of flora and fauna species recorded on site have been identified as frequent to common within Birmingham and the Black Country.
Size or Extent	L	In the context of Wolverhampton's Local Sites Wightwick Mill Field is of 'small' extent.
Naturalness	M	The site landscape has remained part of the agricultural field system since at least the 1880s. However, during this time some man made modification has occurred such as the modification of the Smestow Brook and the removal of a leat and mill pond along the northern boundary.
Position & Connectivity	H	The site is part of the Smestow Valley SINC with ecological links to the Smestow Valley LNR and holds a supporting position for adjacent habitat along a critical ecological corridor within Wolverhampton. The site lies within a linking ecological area according to the Birmingham and Black Country Nature Improvement Area ecological network mapping.

Geological

Not Assessed

Social

Criteria	Rating	Description
Historical & Cultural	M	There are industrial associations with the adjacent mill buildings with the surveyed area showing historic field patterns previously comprising a leat and pool.
Access	L	The site is of private ownership and is not open to the public.
Aesthetic	M	The northern area adjacent to the site is predominantly dense built up residential area, with Smestow Valley SINC and LNR adjacent to the north.

Recorded History	M	Historical information is well recorded with known mapping records dating back to 1887 showing the presence of an onsite leat and mill pond associated with the mill buildings adjacent.
Value for Learning	M	At the current time value for learning would be assessed as low due to access restriction. However, there is potential for learning through education focused on the Smestow Brook.

Site Description

Wightwick Mill Field is located within the western area of Wolverhampton adjacent to the A454 Bridgnorth road.

The site consists of a formerly grazed species poor semi-improved neutral grassland field, which due to lack of management has become rank, with the grassland becoming tussocky in nature and successional growth occurring with large areas of tall ruderal vegetation now present within the majority of the field. Smestow Brook runs east to west through the southern portion of the site and hedgerows (intact / defunct) delineate the northern, eastern and southern boundary. A small allotment area is present within the north western section of the site. This area appears to have been in use in early 2018 as the associated greenhouses and garden sheds contain this year's vegetables. However, the allotment has been abandoned since allowing for the adjacent ruderal habitat to have encroached fully into the area. Very little of the plot now remains.

Currently the Smestow Brook and the land to the south of the brook are designated as Smestow Valley SINC with the northern portion of the site currently identified as Wightwick Farm Pastures, Smestow Valley PSI.

Black Country Historic Land Classification dataset has suggested that these fields were probably enclosed during post medieval period. With known historical mapping showing that the Wightwick Mill Field has been part of a field system since at least 1880s. At this time the northern edge of the site included a man-made leat 'mill pond', which ran east to west, leading to the adjacent Mill buildings. Mill pond was removed pre 1919 with the Smestow Brook being modified in the latter half of the 20th century, since then the field system has remained much the same.

Habitats

Phase 1 Name	Bramble and Scrub – dense /continuous / individual	Phase 1 Code	A2.1 / A2.1Rf / A2.1i
<p>Individual semi-mature shrubs are present in localised areas along the bankside and access road. Species include semi-mature hawthorn <i>Crataegus monogyna</i>, white willow <i>Salix alba</i>, elder <i>Sambucus nigra</i> and hazel <i>Corylus avellana</i>, due to lack of management along the brook corridor and grassland.</p> <p>Again, due to lack of management within the grassland areas large areas along the Smestow Brook bankside and adjacent to the southern boundary hedgerow have become heavily encroached by dense areas of bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i> scrub. Himalayan Balsam <i>Impatiens glandulifera</i> was noted within the dense bramble scrub to south of the Smestow Brook and in the south eastern corner of the northern field.</p> <p>In addition, a significant area of semi-mature and mature scrub thicket habitat containing hawthorn, holly <i>Ilex aquifolium</i> and sycamore <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> is present within the south-western corner of the site. This has developed due to the overall lack of management across the site. Should the lack of management continue on site this area would in a number of year become an area of semi-natural broadleaved woodland.</p>			
Phase 1 Name	Semi-improved Neutral Grassland - Species poor	Phase 1 Code	B6
<p>Two areas of species poor semi-improved neutral grassland are present on site.</p> <p>The first and largest extent of habitat is located south of the A454 Bridgnorth road and encompasses the onsite field. The grassland has not seen management for a number of years; as such the grassland has become rank, with the grassland becoming tussocky in nature and successional growth occurring with large areas of tall ruderal vegetation now present within the majority of the field. Scrub habitat has begun to encroach to a small extent through self-seeding from the adjacent hedgerows.</p> <p>The sward diversity within the grassland field is low and dominated by grass sp. mainly common couch <i>Elytrigia repens</i> with cock's-foot <i>Dactylis glomerata</i> and false oat-grass <i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>. Forbs species present were low diversity and included common hogweed <i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>, creeping thistle <i>Cirsium arvense</i>, common nettle <i>Urtica dioica</i>, Fat-hen <i>Chenopodium album</i> and common field-speedwell <i>Veronica persica</i>. As such the forb species present indicates that the grassland is showing further evidence of ruderal habitat encroachment. With no management undertaken on site, in a couple of years the ruderal habitat would encompass the site with little grassland habitat remaining.</p> <p>The second smaller area of species poor semi-improved neutral grassland is a remnant area of rank grassland south of the Smestow Brook. The majority of the area has been fully colonised by tall ruderal and scrub habitat. However, a small section still remains in the south eastern section. The grassland species is similar to that contained in the first area, but, forb species such as common nettle and common hogweed are more prominent.</p> <p>A small area of managed grassland is present along the edges of the access road; this has been mown on a regular basis to provide vehicular access across the survey. Species in addition to the species mentioned above include silverweed <i>Potentilla anserina</i> and red clover <i>Trifolium pratense</i>.</p>			
Phase 1 Name	Other tall herb and fern – Ruderal	Phase 1 Code	C3.1
<p>Tall ruderal habitats are present throughout the site, due to lack of management practices, causing the onsite grassland to become rank.</p> <p>The expense of ruderal habitat dominating the northern field is dominated by common nettle with small stands of creeping thistle. The field area south of Smestow Brook has been completely colonised by ruderal vegetation and bordered by scrub encroachment from the southern hedgerow. The habitat is dominated by common nettle with frequent rosebay willowherb <i>Chamerion angustifolium</i> and broad-leaved dock <i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>.</p> <p>Himalayan Balsam is present on site sporadically along the Smestow Brook and in localised stands within the fields north and south of the brook in close proximity to the brook.</p> <p>In addition, tall ruderal vegetation is present within the allotment areas present in the north western section of the site and adjacent to the access road ruderal habitat, due to the range of former management practices and introduced species. The area contains a greater species diversity which includes white dead nettle <i>Lamium album</i>, cow parsley <i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>, large bindweed</p>			

Calystegia silvatica, nettle and creeping thistle and ornamental vegetable planting. A post and wire fence line is still present denoting the boundary of the allotment.

Phase 1 Name	Running Water – Smestow Brook	Phase 1 Code	G2
<p>Smestow Brook (compartment three) runs adjacent to the southern site boundary and flows westward. The was river moderate flowing at the time of the survey and was approximately 4-5m in width and 1m in depth. The substrate comprises pebbles, stones and gravel. An overflow pipe joins the brook in the south-eastern section of the northern field indicating the presence of a culverted over flow pipe underground leading from the A454 Bridgnorth Road.</p> <p>The river shows evidence of having been historically modified to provide further farming space. However, the banksides show evidence of structural variation providing areas of shallow and deep water. This had led to some limited naturalisation along the brook. In the shallow areas aquatic species are present including water starwort <i>Callitriche stagnalis</i> and water crowfoot <i>Ranunculus aquatilis</i>.</p> <p>The banksides are dominated by areas of localised bramble and hawthorn scrub with heavy encroachment of tall ruderal vegetation. However, Himalayan balsam was noted on site, sporadically along the brook.</p>			
Phase 1 Name	Intact / Defunct Hedgerow with trees	Phase 1 Code	J2.2 / J2.3
<p>Along the southern boundary lies a remnant hedgerow with trees, which shows signs of going defunct due to lack of management for a number of years. The species rich hedgerow consists of numerous mature ash <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>, pedunculate oak <i>Quercus robur</i> and sycamore trees with semi-mature white willow, elder and hawthorn. While the field layer is dominated by bramble with raspberry <i>Rubus idaeus</i>, Bittersweet <i>Solanum dulcamara</i> and indian balsam.</p> <p>There is evidence of the hedgerow self-seeding within the adjacent ruderal and grassland habitat due to a border of scrub habitat lining the hedgerow.</p> <p>An intact hawthorn dominated hedgerow with trees is located at the top of an embankment, bordering the northern edge of the site. Currently management of the hedgerow is only being undertaken on the northern side bordering A454 Bridgnorth road by Wolverhampton Highways Department; as such the hedgerow shows evidence of going defunct. Species include rose sp. <i>Rosa</i> sp., plum <i>Prunus domestica</i>, elder, bramble with field-layer dominated by ivy <i>Hedera helix</i> subsp. <i>helix</i> with large bindweed and common nettle. Two gaps have formed within the hedgerow, due to the size of the gap this potentially has been caused by road traffic accidents damaging hedgerow structure. These gaps have been infilled with hawthorn saplings, common nettle and large bindweed. The embankment itself is supported by an old stone wall which is likely remnants of the boundary's historically association with the Mill.</p> <p>The eastern boundary hedgerow has become a tree line comprising mature English elm <i>Ulmus procera</i>, Wych elm <i>Ulmus glabra</i>, hawthorn, alder <i>Alnus glutinosa</i>, and sycamore trees. Due to heavy shading the field layer and understorey has become limited with large areas of bare earth noted. However, common nettle, cow parsley, Creeping buttercup <i>Ranunculus repens</i>, cleavers <i>Galium aparine</i>, hawthorn sapling and wood avens <i>Geum urbanum</i> were noted.</p>			
Phase 1 Name	Building / Surface path	Phase 1 Code	J3.6
<p>The survey area holds four temporary building structures including greenhouses and garden sheds and two abandoned static caravans associated with the allotment in the north-western section of the survey area.</p> <p>An area of hard-core is present along the access road running down the western survey boundary.</p>			
Notes			

Habitats of Note [1]

Phase 1 Name	Phase 1 Code	EHD	BAP	NERC	Rarity	Year Recorded
Hedgerows (intact)	J2.1 / J2.2		UKBAP	NERC Sect 41		2018
Running water (Smestow Brook)	G2	HabReg1	UKBAP	NERC Sect 41		2018
Notes						

Species of Note [1]

Flora

Species	Statutory	BAP	NERC	RL	Rarity	Axiophyte	Year Recorded
<i>Torilis japonica</i>					Uncommon	BBCF_AX	1987
<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	WCA S8	LBAP			Common		1995
Notes							

Fauna

Species	Statutory	BAP	NERC	RL	Concern	Rarity	Year Recorded
Breeding Birds							
<i>Acanthis flammea</i> subsp. <i>flammea</i>					A	Uncommon	1989
<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>					A	Frequent	1988
<i>Alauda arvensis</i>		UKBAP	NERC PI		R	Common	1988

		LBAP					
<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	WCA S1i				A	Frequent	1988
<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>					A	Common	1988
<i>Anthus pratensis</i>					A	Common	1988
<i>Apus apus</i>					A	Common	1988
<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>					A	Common	1989
<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>		UKBA P	NERC PI		R	Very rare	1988
<i>Columba oenas</i>					A	Frequent	1988
<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		UKBA P	NERC PI		R	Frequent	1988
<i>Deliochon urbicum</i>					A	Frequent	1987
<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>		UKBA P	NERC PI		R	Frequent	1988
<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>		UKBA P	NERC PI		R	Common	1988
<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>		UKBA P	NERC PI		A	Common	1988
<i>Falco columbarius</i>	WCA S1i				R	Very rare	1988
<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	WCA S1i					Uncommon	1988
<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	WCA S1i					Very rare	1988
<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		LBAP			A	Common	1988
<i>Larus fuscus</i>					A	Common	1989
<i>Linaria cannabina</i>		UKBA P	NERC PI		R	Common	1988
<i>Locustella naevia</i>		UKBA P	NERC PI		R	Rare	1988
<i>Lullula arborea</i>	WCA S1i	UKBA P	NERC PI			Very rare	1988
<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>					R	Frequent	1988
<i>Passer domesticus</i>		UKBA P	NERC PI		R	Very common	1989
<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>					A	Common	1995
<i>Poecile montana</i>		UKBA P	NERC PI		R	Frequent	1988
<i>Poecile palustris</i>		UKBA P	NERC PI		R	Uncommon	1988
<i>Prunella modularis</i>		UKBA P	NERC PI		A	Very common	1988
<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>		UKBA P	NERC PI		A	Common	1988
<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>					R	Frequent	1988
<i>Strix aluco</i>					A	Frequent	1988
<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		UKBA P	NERC PI		R	Very common	1988
<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	WCA S1i				R	Common	1988
<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		UKBA P, LBAP	NERC PI		R	Common	1988
<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	WCA S1i				R	Frequent	1988
<i>Turdus torquatus</i>		UKBA P	NERC PI		R	Uncommon	1988
<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>					R	Common	1988
<i>Tyto alba</i>	WCA S1i					Frequent	1988
Herptiles							
<i>Lissotriton vulgaris</i>	WCA S5 / S9.5a	LBAP				Frequent	2008
<i>Triturus cristatus</i> (near to site Terrestrial habitat present)	HabRegs 2 WCA S5 / S9.5a / S9.4b	LBAP, UKBA P	NERC PI			Uncommon	2008
Invertebrates							
<i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>		UKBA P	NERC PI			Common	1995
Mammals							

<i>Arvicola amphibius</i> (Noted adjacent to site on canal)	WCA S5/S9.4a / S9.4b	UKBA P	NERC PI	MS-Status Dec	Common	2016
Notes	The fauna list provided shows known species recorded within and in close proximity to the site boundary. All listed species records recorded offsite have been shaded for easy comparison. These records were included due to the close proximity of the record and or the large home range of species and suitable habitat present on site.					

Site/Habitat Suitability for Other Species of Note (not recorded during the survey)

Description/Notes	<p>The habitats on site provide suitable foraging habitat for the European hedgehog <i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>. Due to the tussocky nature of the onsite rank grassland and present scrub habitat the site offers good sheltering and basking habitat for common reptile species.</p> <p>A number of flora species on site are known food plants for an assemblage of invertebrates found within Birmingham and the Black Country.</p>
--------------------------	--

Invasive Species [2]

Species	Location	Abundance (DAFOR)	Year Recorded
<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	SO875985	Frequent	2018
Notes			

Geology

Solid/Drift Formation	The site is covered by Wildmoor Sandstone with superficial deposits of alluvium (clay, silt, sand and gravel).
Description	Wildmoor Sandstone Member - Sandstone. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 247 to 252 million years ago in the Triassic Period. Local environment previously dominated by rivers.
Features of Value	
1	None recorded.

Soils

The species present across the site suggested the soils are predominantly neutral.
--

Public Access & Site Usage

Land Use	Currently the site appears vacant.
Access Level	Restricted.
Access Type(s)	By permission only.

Comparison with Previous Survey(s) Results

In May 2003 Elizabeth McKay Consultant Ecologist produced a short report detailing the ecological walkover survey findings, as assessment of the site's ecological value and recommendations. The findings stated that the area to the north of Smestow Brook was of low ecological importance, while the Smestow Brook and the land to the south of the brook forms an integral part of the wildlife corridor created by the Smestow Brook and canal.
--

Boundary (notes)

Self-contained site bordered by housing/comemrcial, the Smestow Brook and Bridgnorth Road.
--

Summary of Assessment

<p>Wightwick Mill Field forms part of Smestow Valley SINC with links to the Smestow Valley LNR and holds a supporting position for adjacent habitat along a critical ecological corridor within Wolverhampton. The site itself supports a range of habitats; of particular note are the intact hedgerows with trees and Smestow Brook.</p> <p>Though the northern portion of the species poor semi-improved grassland field holds ecological value for protected species when assessed against the Birmingham & Black Country Local Sites Selection Criteria, it fails to meet the criteria of a Local Wildlife site.</p> <p>The northern boundary intact species rich hedgerow with trees was well established and contained structural variation within its length. As a result the hedgerow comprises of a variety of mature and semi-mature trees with an established field layer. As such when assessed against the Birmingham & Black Country Local Sites Selection Criteria the hedgerow ('Hedgerow off Bridgnorth Road') scores medium against most of the ecological criteria. The hedgerow, therefore, meets the threshold for selection as a Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation (SLINC).</p> <p>The Smestow Brook corridor and the land to the south of the brook are currently designated as a SINC. Upon review of the Local Site selection criteria and the habitat quality present we believe that the corridor still achieves the criteria necessary to hold that designation. The corridor is an integral part of the Smestow Valley network corridor within Wolverhampton. However, upon review of the SINC boundary on mapping software it was noted that the SINC boundary follows the course of the brook prior to modification, and as such we recommend the amendment of the boundary to fit the current line of the river.</p>
--

In addition, due to the high likely presence of European water vole along this section of brook we recommend that the northern boundary of the SINC is extended to include a 6m wide corridor, from the toe of the bank, within the survey area. This would allow for the incorporation of water vole burrow within the SINC boundary, as water vole are known to burrow up to 5m into the bankside.

Recommendations (including further survey & site management/enhancement)	
1	The hedgerows onsite should be placed under active management to maintain the hedgerow structure and species diversity. This should involve annual trimming outside bird nesting season.
2	Ongoing removal of Himalayan balsam on site to prevent further spread within the surrounding habitats. Regular monitoring visits to be undertaken to control colonisation of species from the brook.
3	Control of successional growth within the grassland south of Smestow Brook. We would look for the tall ruderal and scrub habitat to be cut back to a specified level by cutting. Once the level has been achieved, it would be placed in check through biannual hay cut. The hay cut would be maintained to allow the semi-improved neutral grassland to take hold and enhance sward diversity. All arisings resulting from the cut would be removed rather than left in situ. Botanical surveys to be undertaken regularly on the semi-improved neutral grassland at the appropriate time of the year to track the development of the meadows.
4	The Smestow Brook should be placed under active management to enhance naturalisation and bankside species diversity. This would involve the control of tall ruderal and bramble scrub habitat along the bankside. Areas of these habitats would be cut back to specified level. To prevent the further spread of these species and allow the colonisation of other marginal flora species along the bankside.
5	Where possible, the work should be undertaken to re-naturalise the river system to its natural state, by either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reinstating the curvature of the brook to meet its former channel path as denoted on Ordnance Survey maps. The digging out of the former channel, which will be supported by tree planting along both bankside to create structural stability and additional habitat. The channel profile will contain varying depths and width to create areas of standing water, riffles and eddies; or Sections of the bankside, where the former channel meets the current modified path, would be removed. These sections will be equal in size to the width of the brook, with the substrate deposited on the opposite side of the channel. This will create new channel areas within the Smestow Brook where erosion and deposition can take place. Both the newly created sections and areas of deposition will be profiled to create varying depths and widths to assist in the creation of pooled water and direct the naturalisation of the brook. In the long term this through erosion and deposition will create a natural curvature within the river with the areas of deposition providing opportunity to create reed bed habitat within the SINC.

Data Sources		
	Source	Date
Species and Habitat Data Source(s)	The Wildlife for Birmingham and the Black Country Ecorecord data search 2018	21.09.2018
Geological Data Source(s)	British Geological Society 1:50,000 bedrock & superficial deposits GIS web map services from BGS website: https://www.bgs.ac.uk/data/services/mash-ups/desktopgis.html	2018
Historic Data Sources(s)	Ordnance Survey Country Series Mapping 1884 - 1992 Quigley, P. 2010 Black Country Historic Landscape Characterisation, electronic dataset, Wolverhampton City Council.	2018
Assessment Author and Organisation	The Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country	2018

[1] HABITATS/SPECIES OF NOTE TABLES – ATTRIBUTE DEFINITIONS

STATUTORY (PROTECTED) -

EHD = EU Habitats Directive (plus where relevant the Annexe II or IV). **PBA** = Protection of Badgers Act 1992.

WCA S1 = Wildlife & Countryside Act Schedule 1 (birds protected at all times). **WCA S5** = Wildlife & Countryside Act Schedule 5 (animals with various levels of protection). **WCA S8** = Wildlife & Countryside Act Schedule 8 (higher and lower plants with various levels of protection).

BAP – Habitats/Species included on latest UK BAP list of Priority Habitats/Species.

NERC P.I. - Habitats/Species included on current list of Principal Importance in England under Section 41 of the NERC Act (2006 or amended).

RL - Species included on Global IUCN & British Red Lists (Red Data Books).

RARITY (HABITATS) - BIRMINGHAM & BLACK COUNTRY - Habitats included on the B&BC list of locally rare habitats (administered by EcoRecord).

RARITY (FLORA SPECIES) - BIRMINGHAM & BLACK COUNTRY - (based on data held and managed by EcoRecord).

VR = Very Rare - a species present in less than 1.0% of 1Km squares, tetrads, or 5Km squares in B&BC.

R = Rare - a species present in 1.0% - 4.3% of 1Km squares, tetrads, or 5Km squares in B&BC.

U = Uncommon - a species present in 4.3% - 12% of 1Km squares, tetrads or 5Km squares in B&BC.

AXIOPHYTE - included on the Birmingham & the Black Country list of axiophytes.

CONCERN (FAUNA SPECIES OF CONSERVATION CONCERN) -

Birds: **R** = Red List - species that are Globally Threatened according to the International Union for Nature Conservation criteria; those whose population or range has declined rapidly in recent years; and those that have declined historically and not shown a substantial recent recovery. **A** = Amber List - species with an unfavourable conservation status in Europe; those whose population or range has declined moderately in recent years; those whose population has declined historically but made a substantial recent recovery; rare breeders; and those with internationally important or localised populations.

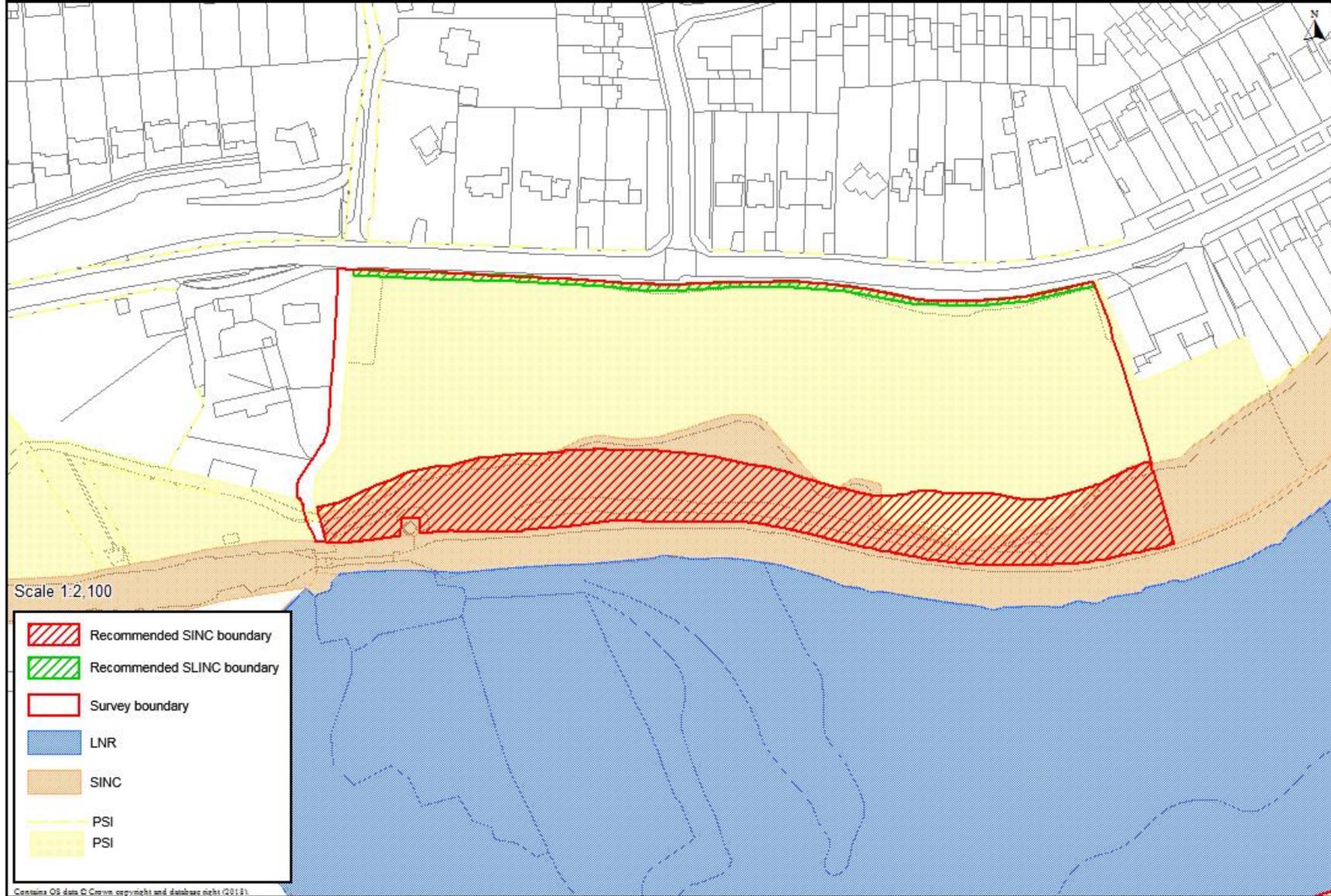
Mammals: **ND** = National Decline and **ED** = England Decline as measured by the Mammal Societies Table of Recent Population Changes in the Native Species of Land Mammals.

Invertebrates: **RD** = Regional Decline identified in Butterfly Conservation West Midlands Regional Action Plan.

YEAR - The most recent year the species has been recorded.

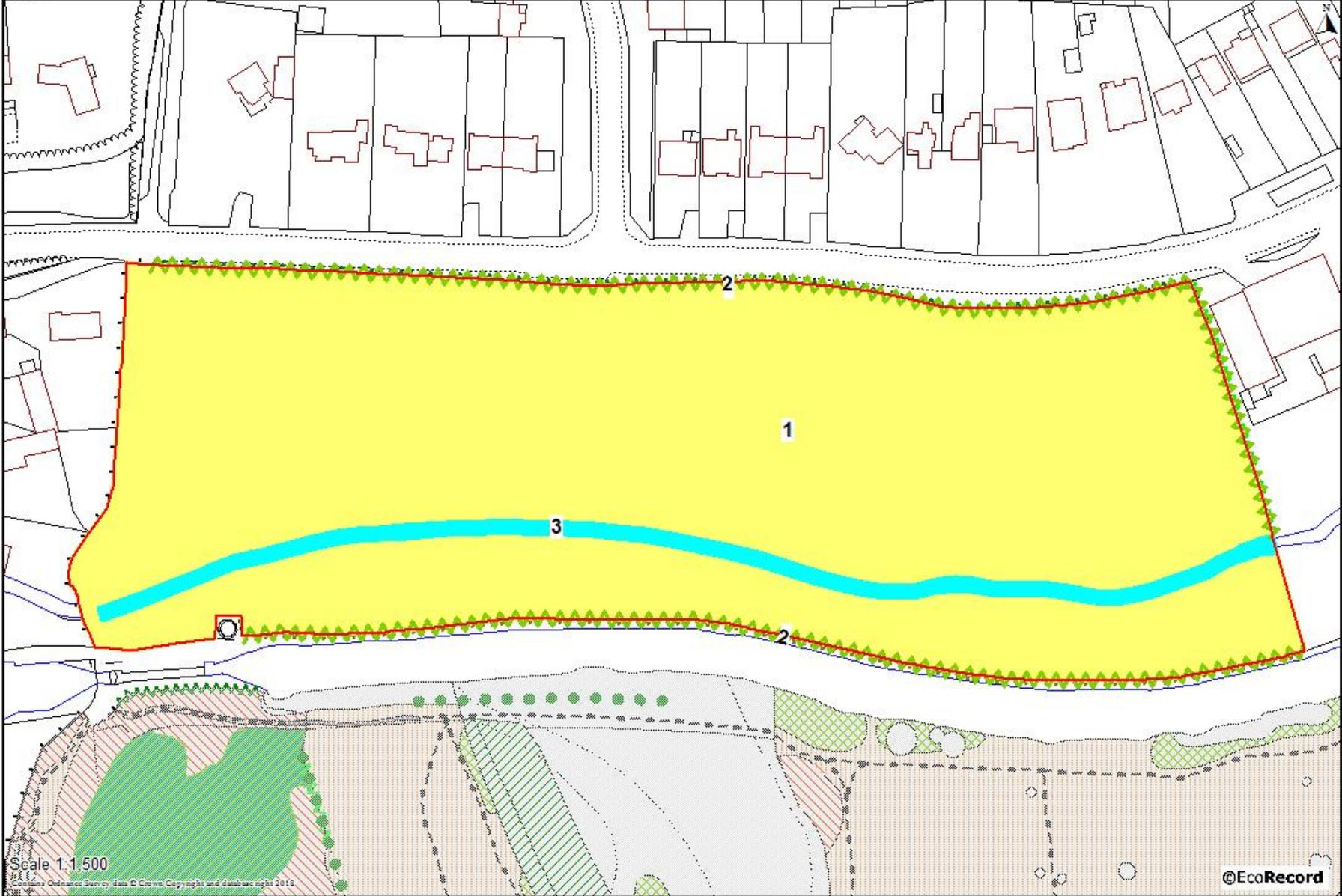
[2] Species listed on Schedule 9 part 1 (animals) and part 2 (plants) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended - this lists animals which may not be released or allowed to escape into the wild and plants which may not be planted or otherwise caused to grow in the wild.

Map 1: Wightwick Mill Field Current & Recommended Designation





Map 2: Wightwick Mill Field Compartment Map - 22.11.2018



Scale 1:1,500

©EcoRecord

Site Photographs



Photograph 1: Species poor semi-improved rank grassland present in the northern section of the survey area.



Photograph 2: Smestow Brook bordered by tall ruderal and bramble scrub habitat



Photograph 3: Land to the south of Smestow Brook which has become heavily encroached by tall ruderal vegetation dominated by common nettle.

Species Records

Flora Species List

Compartment 1			
Scientific Name	Scientific Name	Common Name	Scientific Name
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow Parsley	<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	Indian Balsam
<i>Arctium minus</i>	Lesser Burdock	<i>Lamium album</i>	White Dead-nettle
<i>Armoracia rusticana</i>	Horse-radish	<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial Rye-grass
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	False Oat-grass	<i>Persicaria amphibia</i>	Amphibious Bistort
<i>Calystegia silvatica</i>	Large Bindweed	<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	Knotgrass
<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>	Rosebay Willowherb	<i>Potentilla anserina</i>	Silverweed
<i>Chenopodium album</i>	Fat-hen	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	agg.
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Bramble
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	Broad-leaved Dock
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock's-foot	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	agg.
<i>Elytrigia repens</i>	Common Couch	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Dandelion
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb-Robert	<i>Veronica persica</i>	Red Clover
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed		Common Nettle
			Common Field-speedwell

Compartment 2			
Scientific Name	Common Name	Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore	<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	Indian Balsam
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Alder	<i>Prunus domestica</i>	Wild Plum
<i>Alnus incana</i>	Grey Alder	<i>Quercus robur</i>	Pedunculate Oak
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow Parsley	<i>Rosa</i>	Rose
<i>Calystegia silvatica</i>	Large Bindweed	<i>Rubus idaeus</i>	Raspberry
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	<i>Salix alba</i>	White Willow
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers	<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	Bittersweet
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Wood Avens	<i>Ulmus glabra</i>	Wych Elm
<i>Hedera helix subsp. helix</i>	Common Ivy	<i>Ulmus procera</i>	English Elm
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common Nettle

Compartment 3			
Scientific Name	Common Name	Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	False Oat-grass	<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Wood Avens
<i>Callitriche stagnalis</i>	Water starwort	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed
<i>Calystegia silvatica</i>	Large Bindweed	<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	Indian Balsam
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	<i>Ranunculus aquatilis</i>	Water Crowfoot
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	agg.
			Bramble

Dactylis glomerata
Epilobium hirsutum

Cock's-foot
Great Willowherb

Salix alba
Urtica dioica

White Willow
Common Nettle

Fauna Species List

Fauna - Whole site

Scientific Name

Common Name

Scientific Name

Common Name

Columba palumbus

Woodpigeon

Cyanistes caeruleus

Blue Tit