Birmingham & Black Country Local Sites Assessment Report

EcoRecord Reference	Site Name	Grid Reference	Current Status [1]	Survey Date(s)	
WV021:8-9	Highfields Park	SO949954	SINC (Part)	21/06/2019	
Planning Authority	Site Ownership	Area/Length	Reason for Survey	Report Date	
City of Wolverhampton Council	City of Wolverhampton Council	1.6ha	Local Wildlife Site Assessment	29/07/2019	
Meets LS Criteria	SLINC	Туре	Wildlife	i.e. Wildlife/Geological	
Amendment(s)	New Site	i.e. None; New Site; Upgrade; Downgrade; Extension; Whole/Part Deletion			
Description This assessment considers that the area currently designated as Birmingham Canal, Wednesbury Oak Loop SINC still achieves the criteria necessary to hold that designation. In addition, the area not currently designated as a SINC is considered to meet the threshold for selection as a SLINC. As such this area should be designated as a new site 'Highfields Park'.					

Citation (Summary of Value)

Highfields Park is a 1.6ha public open space, situated 1km south of Bilston town centre. The park comprises of a mosaic of habitats including broadleaved woodland (Semi-natural and plantation), scrub, tall herb and semi-improved neutral grassland habitat. These habitats support a diversity of invertebrate species, as well as mammalian activity including Red Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*). Despite the surrounding land-use being heavily residential and industrial, Birmingham Canal, Wednesbury Oak Loop (SINC) borders the site to the north, and covers the canal embankments present within the site boundary, and Dudley to Priestfield Disused Railway is incorporated within the western part of the site, as such the Highfields Park is considered to be an important ecological component in providing connectivity within the ecological network of Wolverhampton. In addition the site holds cultural value through retained remnants of its post-industrial heritage in the form of the dismantled railway line.

Local Site Selection Crite	eria	
Ecological		
Habitat Diversity	м	The habitat types present include broadleaved plantation woodland, semi-improved neutral grassland, ruderal and hedgerow with the Birmingham Canal, Wednesbury Oak Loop bordering the north. Open glades in the woodland provide some structural diversity, however, due to lack of management these will eventually become woodland.
Species Diversity	М	The species present are fairly ubiquitous for the habitats on site.
Habitat Rarity	L	The habitats present on site are Common within Birmingham and the Black Country.
Species Rarity	L-M	The majority of the flora and fauna species recorded on site are Common to Frequent within Birmingham and the Black Country.
Size or Extent	L	In the context of Wolverhampton's Local Sites, Highfields Park is of 'small' extent.
Naturalness	L-M	The broadleaved woodland is of planted origin with some areas of natural regeneration. The site is relatively unmanaged and therefore natural successional process are occurring, evidence of fly-tipped material was present onsite reducing overall aesthetical value.
Position & Connectivity	М	The wider landscape is predominately comprised of residential housing and industrial units, however, Birmingham Canal, Wednesbury Oak Loop (SINC), Dudley to Priestfield Disused Railway (SLINC) and Ladymoor Pool (SINC) lies in close proximity.
Geological – Not Assess	ed	
Social		
Historical & Cultural	Μ	The site formed part of Highfields Lime Works and therefore has an association with Bilston's industrial heritage. At the present day, remains of a former canal basin is evident as a dry ditch on the eastern side of the site.
Access	Μ	Pedestrians can access the site through an entrance located on Highfields Road. There is a circular path around the site which appears to have been previously surfaced, however as the vegetation on site is unmanaged the access paths are becoming more of a desire line state.
Aesthetic	М	In the context of its location, Highfields Park provides a visually attractive greenspace in an otherwise industrial and residential area.
Recorded History	М	Formerly the site comprised Highfields Lime Works and latterly a refuse tip. The ecological condition of the site was documented in a Ecological Reports undertaken by the Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country in 2017.
Value for Learning	L- M	There is the potential for outdoor educational learning as Ormiston SWB Academy is located to the north and Wilkinson Primary School to the south east of the site. The relative lack of ecological, geological or cultural assets does however limit the site's educational value.

Site Description

Highfields Park is a 1.6ha public open space 1km south of Bilston town centre comprising of broadleaved plantation woodland, hedgerow and semi-improved neutral grassland.

Historically, the site is likely to have played an important function in Bilston's industrial past has the surrounding area was associated with ironworks and furnaces. In 1887, historic maps portray a crane and two canal basins within the site boundary as the site formed part of Highfields Lime Works, a dry ditch on the eastern side of the site appears to delineate the former canal basin at the present day. In 1965, the northern and eastern area of the site was a refuse tip that has more than likely influenced the topography of the site.

The surrounding landscape is 'built up' with residential housing estates bordering the site on the east and west, and Highfields Road with industrial buildings to the south. The Birmingham Canal, Wednesbury Oak Loop, a designated SLINC and SINC wildlife corridor, forms the northern boundary and canal embankments within the site, with additional designated sites in close proximity. These sites include Dudley to Priestfield Disused Railway (SLINC) in the south and Ladymoor Pool (SINC) in the west. Although there appears to be limited management work undertaken on site, the area of open space is utilised by local residents for recreational use including dog walking, therefore the site is an asset in terms of providing a 'stepping stone' to wildlife and an outdoor space for the community in an otherwise built-up area.

Habitats

Phase 1 Name	Broadleaved semi-natural woodland	Phase 1 Code	A1.1.1	

Silver Birch (Betula pendula), Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus) and Willow Salix sp. with ground flora predominately Male Fern (Dryopteris filix-mas) comprises the semi-natural broadleaved plantation woodland on the canal embankment on the northern boundary.

Phase 1 Name	Broadleaved plantation woodland	Phase 1 Code	A1.1.2
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The western area of the site is dominated by broadleaved plantation woodland comprising predominately of Ash (Fraxinus excelsior) and Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus) with Silver Birch (Betula pendula) and Alder (Alnus alutinosa) being locally abundant in the eastern and western area of the woodland respectively, Rowan (Sorbus aucuparia), Penduculate Oak (Quercus robur) and Field Maple (Acer campestre) are also present. The understorey is sparse in certain areas of the woodland and when present comprises of Hazel (Corylus aveilana), Elder (Sambucus nigra) and Holly (Ilex aquifolium). The ground flora consists of shade tolerant species including Ivy (Hedera helix), Common Nettle (Urtica dioica), Cleavers (Galium aparine), Herb Robert (Geranium robertianum) and Wood Avens (Geum urbanum). Bluebell was present within the southern area of the woodland this was considered a non-native garden escapee from nearby residential gardens.

There is a small area of broadleaved plantation woodland present on a raised plateau which comprises of Wild Cherry and Silver Birch, with a large multi-stemmed mature Willow Salix sp., with an understorey consisting of Hawthorn and Blackthorn and a Yew sapling. Cow Parsley (Anthriscus sylvestris) is abundant in the ground flora, Male Fern, Cleavers, Garlic Mustard (Alliaria petiolate), Wood Avens and Herb Robert are also present.

Phase 1 Name	Scrub – Bramble	Phase 1 Code	A21Rf

There are areas of dense Bramble (Rubus fructicosus agg.) scrub on the woodland edge that is beginning to spread into the periphery of the grassland.

Phase 1 Code

B2.2

J2.1

Semi-improved neutral grassland

Phase 1 Name

Semi-improved neutral grassland is present in the centre and the eastern area of the site. The grassland is unmanaged and as a result comprises of species typical of rough grassland including False Oat Grass (Arrhenatherum elatius) which dominates the vegetation in both grassland areas, as well as Cock's Foot (Dactylis glomerata) which is frequent. Other species present within the centre grassland area include Rough Meadow Grass (Poa trivialis), Smooth Meadow Grass (Poa pratensis), Soft Brome (Bromus hordeaceus), Sterile Brome (Bromus sterilis), Red Fescue (Festuca rubra), Yorkshire Fog (Holcus lanatus) and Timothy (Phleum pratense). Sweet Vernal Grass (Anthoxanthum odoratum) and Crested Dogs Tail (Cynosurus cristatus) are frequent to occasionally present. Forb species include Red Clover (Trifolium pratense), White Clover (Trifolium repens) and Creeping Thistle (Cirsium arvense). As well as Ribwort Plantain (Plantago lanceolata) which is abundant, Hairy Tare (Vicia hirsuta) is locally abundant, Lesser stitchwort (Stellaria graminea) is occasional and Hop Trefoil (Trifolium campestre) is frequent.

Phase 1 Name	Tall ruderal	Phase 1 Code	C3.1

Stands of tall herb comprised of Common Nettle, Bindweed sp. and Cow Parsley with Bramble intermixed can be found in glades within the broadleaved plantation woodland.

Phase 1 Name Phase 1 Code Intact Hedgerow There is a mature overgrown hedgerow in the eastern area of the site running south to north of the site which is dominated by

Hawthorn and Blackthorn, as well as comprising of Silver Birch, Rowan, English Elm, Crab Apple and Guelder Rose (Viburnum opulus). The ground flora consists of Large Bindweed (Calystegia silvatica), Male Fern and Bramble. In addition to a hedge on the southern boundary of the site alongside Highfields Road which is dominated with Cherry Laurel (Prunus laurocerasus) with Snowberry (Symphoricarpos albus), Garden Privet, Dogwood, Blackthorn and Bramble are also present.

Notes

Habitats of Note [2]							
Phase 1 Name	Phase 1 Code	EHD	BAP	NERC	Rarity	Year Recorded	
Intact Hedgerow	J21		Y	NERC Sect 41		2019	
Notes							

Species of Note [2]							
Flora							
Species	Statutory	BAP	NERC	RDL	Rarity	Axiophyte	Year Recorded
Lysimachia vulgaris - Yellow Loosestrife					R	Y	2019
Malus sylvestris - Crab Apple					F	Y	2019
Trifolium arvense - Hare's-foot Clover					F	Y	2019
Ribes rubrum - Red Currant					U		2017
Hippophae rhamnoides - Sea-buckthorn					R		2017
Glyceria declinata - Small Sweet-grass					U	Y	2008
Lythrum salicaria - Purple-loosestrife					U		2008
Ranunculus lingua - Greater Spearwort					U		2008
Veronica beccabunga - Brooklime					F	Y	2008
Notes	1	1			1	1	1
Fauna							
Species	Statutory	BAP	NERC	RDL	Concern	Rarity	Year Recorded
<i>Tyria jacobaeae -</i> Cinnabar		Y	Y			С	2019
Pyrrhula pyrrhula - Bullfinch		Y	Y		BAmb	С	2017

BAmb

BAmb

BAmb

С

С

С

2017

2017

2017

Description/Notes

Anas platyrhynchos - Mallard

Gull

Notes

Chroicocephalus ridibundus - Black-headed

Larus fuscus - Lesser Black-backed Gull

Site/Habitat Suitability for Other Species of Note (not recorded during the survey) Due to the site being adjacent to a canal it is likely that the site if suitable for foraging Bat species.

Invasive Species [3]						
Species	Location	Abundance (DAFOR)	Year Recorded			
Crassula helmsii - New Zealand Pigmyweed	-	-	2008			
Notes						

Geology				
Solid/Drif	t Formation	Pennine Middle Coal Measures Formation - Mudstone, Siltstone And Sandstone.		
Description		Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 310 to 318 million years ago in the Carboniferous Period.		
Features	Features of Value			
1	None recorded	d.		

Soils

The former industrial land use of the site would suggest that some of the soil could be artificial in origin. The vegetation within the habitats present would suggest that the soils are neutral.

Public Access & Site Usage

Land Use	Public Open Space.
Access Level	Unrestricted.
Access Type(s)	Public Open Space.

Comparison with Previous Survey(s) Results

A Phase 1 habitat survey and ecological enhancement proposal was undertaken by the Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country on 25th October 2017. The habitat types, condition and extent recorded in the recent survey are similar to those recorded in the former survey. As the previous survey was undertaken at a sub-optimal time of year for botanical surveys, additional grassland species were able to be recorded during the current survey. In addition, the Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country carried out reptile presence / absence and fixed route butterfly transects at Highfields Park in June and July 2019. It was concluded that the park was unlikely to support reptiles due to no reptiles being recorded during the surveys. However, the results of the fixed-route butterfly transects proved that the mosaic habitats including semi-neutral grassland and open glades supports a high diversity of butterfly species and day-flying moths.

Summary of Assessment

1

The area of the site that lies within the Wednesbury Oak Loop SINC designation is seen to be a component part of a significant wildlife corridor providing an area of woodland and successional habitat to the canal network. As such it is deemed to still meet the threshold of SINC when taken into the context as an integral part of a large ecological feature.

The survey area not covered by the SINC designation, when assessed against the Birmingham and Black Country Local Sites Criteria, Highfields Park Scores *Low* to *Medium* against most of the ecological criteria. It is recommended that this area should be designated as a SLINC due to the site being considered a key component in the ecological network running through Wolverhampton, as Highfields Park is adjacent to Birmingham Canal - Wednesbury Oak Loop (SINC) to the north and encompasses part of Dudley to Priestfield Disused Railway in the west of the site, as well as Ladymoor Pool (SINC) being in close proximity to the west. Therefore, it is likely that Highfields Park provides an important function as a 'stepping stone' for a variety of species within an otherwise highly industrial and residential setting.

Recommendations (including further survey & site management/enhancement)

A management brief outlining recommendations for site management and enhancement, as well as a map outlining the location of installed bird and bat boxes is appended to the end of the document.

Data Sources		
	Source	Date
Species and Habitat Data Source(s)	EcoRecord data search, 2019	2019
Geological Data Source(s)	British Geological Society 1:50,000 bedrock & superficial deposits GIS web map services from BGS website: <u>https://www.bgs.ac.uk/data/services/mash-ups/desktopgis.html</u>	2019
Historic Data Sources(s)	Ordnance Survey Country Series Mapping 1884 – 1992.	2019
Assessment Author and Organisation	The Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country.	2019

[1] Definitions of Local Sites in B&BC (SINCs & SLINCs) and Potential Sites of Importance (PSIs)

In Birmingham and the Black Country Local Wildlife and Geological Sites encompass what are termed Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) and Sites of Local Importance for Nature Conservation (SLINCs). This two-tier system aims to ensure that all sites of substantive local nature conservation and geological value are selected by assessing sites in both a sub-regional (i.e. Birmingham and the Black Country) and metropolitan borough or city context (either Birmingham, Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall or Wolverhampton). The two designations are defined as:

- Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) Sites of substantive nature conservation value in the context of Birmingham and the Black Country.
- Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation (SLINC) Sites of substantive nature conservation value in the context of a metropolitan borough.

Potential Sites of Importance (**PSIs**) have not yet been assessed against the Local Wildlife and Geological Sites selection criteria but may potentially support species of note, areas of important semi-natural habitat or valuable geological features. PSIs are identified primarily through the use of aerial photography, but also through reference to old maps, existing records and local knowledge. Commonly these sites will not have been subject to the survey work necessary to undertake a Local Wildlife and Geological Sites assessment.

[2] Habitats/Species of Note Tables - Attribute Definitions

STATUTORY (PROTECTED) - *EHD* = EU Habitats Directive (plus where relevant the Annexe II or IV) | *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 5 (animals with various levels of protection) | *WCA S8* = Wildlife & Countryside Act Schedule 5 (animals with various levels of protection) | *WCA S8* = Wildlife & Countryside Act Schedule 5 (animals with various levels of protection) | *WCA S8* = Wildlife & Countryside Act Schedule 5 (animals with various levels of protection) | *WCA S8* = Wildlife & Countryside Act Schedule 5 (animals with various levels of protection) | *WCA S8* = Wildlife & Countryside Act Schedule 5 (animals with various levels of protection) | *WCA S8* = Wildlife & Countryside Act Schedule 5 (animals with various levels of protection) | *WCA S8* = Wildlife & Countryside Act Schedule 5 (animals with various levels of protection) | *WCA S8* = Wildlife & Countryside Act Schedule 5 (animals with various levels of protection) | *WCA S8* = Wildlife & Countryside Act Schedule 5 (animals with various levels of protection) | *PBA* = Protection of Badgers Act 1992 | *HabRegs2* = The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2010 (Schedule 2) | *HabRegs4* = The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2010 (Schedule 4). BAP – Habitats/Species included on latest UK *UK BAP* or B&BC *LBAP* list of Priority Habitats/Species.

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

RDL - Species included on Global IUCN & British Red Data Lists: BRed = Bird Population Status - red | BAmb = Bird Population Status - amber | RLGB.EN= IUCN (2001) - Endangered | RLGB.VU= IUCN (2001) - Vulnerable | RDBGB.R = IUCN (pre 1994) - Rare | RLGB.Lr(NT) = IUCN (2001) - Lower risk- near threatened | RDBGB.IK = RDB - Insuff known | RLGB.DD = IUCN (2001) - Data Deficient

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 | *NRR* = no recent B&BC records. **AXIOPHYTE** - BBCF_Ax = included on the Birmingham & the Black Country list of axiophytes.

CONCERN (FAUNA SPECIES OF CONSERVATION CONCERN)

Birds: \mathbf{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. \mathbf{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.

[3] 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.

and geological value are selected by assessing sites in both a sub-regional (i.e. Birmingham and the Black Country) and metropolitan borough or city context (either Birmingham, Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall or Wolverhampton). The two designations are defined as:

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





Site Photographs



Semi-improved grassland, June 2019



Patch of Oxeye Daisy in Semi-improved grassland, June 2019.



Unmanaged Hedgerow on eastern side of the site, June 2019.



Small Block of Woodland on raised plateaux, June 2019.



Silver Birch with Hazel understorey in broadleaved plantation woodland, June 2019.



Ash dominant within the canopy and Ivy dominant within the ground-flora in the broadleaved plantation woodland in the south-western area of the site, June 2019.



Common Nettle dominant within the shaded broadleaved plantation woodland, June 2019.



Fly-tipped material behind residential properties and defunct fencing, June 2019

FLORA

Grassland

Scientific Name	Common Name
Achillea millefolium	Yarrow
Agrostis capillaris	Common Bent
Anisantha sterilis	Barren Brome
Anthoxanthum odoratum	Sweet Vernal-grass
Arrhenatherum elatius	False Oat-grass
Bellis perennis	Daisy
Bromus hordeaceus subsp. hordeaceus	Common Soft-brome
Centaurea nigra	Common Knapweed
Cerastium fontanum	Common Mouse-ear
Chamerion angustifolium	Rosebay Willowherb
Cirsium arvense	Creeping Thistle
Crepis capillaris	Smooth Hawk's-beard
Cynosurus cristatus	Crested Dog's-tail
Dactylis glomerata	Cock's-foot
Equisetum arvense	Field Horsetail
Festuca rubra	Red Fescue
Galium aparine	Cleavers
Geranium molle	Dove's-foot Crane's-bill
Geranium robertianum	Herb-Robert
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire-fog
Hypericum perforatum	Perforate St John's-wort
Hypochaeris radicata	Cat's-ear
Lapsana communis	Nipplewort
Leucanthemum vulgare	Oxeye Daisy
Linaria vulgaris	Common Toadflax
Lolium perenne	Perennial Rye-grass
Lotus corniculatus	Common Bird's-foot-trefoil
Lysimachia vulgaris	Yellow Loosestrife
Papaver rhoeas	Common Poppy
Phleum pratense	Timothy
Pilosella aurantiaca	Fox-and-cubs
Plantago lanceolata	Ribwort Plantain
Poa pratensis	Smooth Meadow-grass
Poa trivialis	Rough Meadow-grass
Ranunculus repens	Creeping Buttercup
Rosa arvensis	Field-rose
Rubus fruticosus agg.	Bramble
Rumex acetosa	Common Sorrel
Senecio jacobaea	Common Ragwort
Sonchus asper	Prickly Sow-thistle
Sonchus oleraceus	Smooth Sow-thistle
Stellaria graminea	Lesser Stitchwort

Taraxacum officinale agg.	Dandelion
Tragopogon pratensis	Goat's-beard
Trifolium arvense	Hare's-foot Clover
Trifolium campestre	Hop Trefoil
Trifolium pratense	Red Clover
Trifolium repens	White Clover
Urtica dioica	Common Nettle
Vicia hirsuta	Hairy Tare
Vicia sativa	Common Vetch

Woodland

Scientific Name

Scientific Name	Common Name
Acer campestre	Field Maple
Acer pseudoplatanus	Sycamore
Alliaria petiolata	Garlic Mustard
Alnus glutinosa	Alder
Bellis perennis	Daisy
Betula pendula	Silver Birch
Cornus sanguinea	Dogwood
Crataegus monogyna	Hawthorn
Equisetum arvense	Field Horsetail
Fagus sylvatica	Beech
Galium aparine	Cleavers
Geranium robertianum	Herb-Robert
Geum urbanum	Wood Avens
Hyacinthoides hispanica	Spanish Bluebell
llex aquifolium	Holly
Pentaglottis sempervirens	Green Alkanet
Pilosella aurantiaca	Fox-and-cubs
Populus tremula	Aspen
Potentilla reptans	Creeping Cinquefoil
Prunus avium	Wild Cherry
Prunus laurocerasus	Cherry Laurel
Prunus spinosa	Blackthorn
Quercus robur	Pedunculate Oak
Ranunculus repens	Creeping Buttercup
Sambucus nigra	Elder
Symphoricarpos albus	Snowberry
Taxus baccata	Yew
Ulex europaeus	Gorse
Urtica dioica	Common Nettle

Highfields Road Hedge

Scientific Name	Common Name
Acer pseudoplatanus	Sycamore
Cornus sanguinea	Dogwood
Fraxinus excelsior	Ash

Ligustrum ovalifolium	Garden Privet
Prunus laurocerasus	Cherry Laurel
Prunus spinosa	Blackthorn
Rubus fruticosus agg.	Bramble
Symphoricarpos albus	Snowberry
Ulmus procera	English Elm

Mature Hedgerow

Scientific Name	Common Name
Betula pendula	Silver Birch
Calystegia silvatica	Large Bindweed
Crataegus monogyna	Hawthorn
Dryopteris filix-mas	Male-fern
Equisetum arvense	Field Horsetail
Galium aparine	Cleavers
Malus sylvestris	Crab Apple
Prunus spinosa	Blackthorn
Rubus fruticosus agg.	Bramble
Sorbus aucuparia	Rowan
Stachys sylvatica	Hedge Woundwort
Ulmus procera	English Elm
Viburnum opulus	Guelder-rose

FAUNA

Whole Site

Scientific Name	Common Name
Oedemera (Oedemera) nobilis	Swollen-thighed Beetle
Maniola jurtina insularis	Meadow Brown
Polyommatus icarus icarus	Common Blue
Apis mellifera	Western Honey Bee
Bombus (Bombus) terrestris	Buff-Tailed Bumble Bee
Bombus (Melanobombus) lapidarius	Large Red Tailed Bumble Bee
Bombus (Thoracombus) pascuorum	Common Carder Bee
Camptogramma bilineata	Yellow Shell
Euclidia glyphica	Burnet Companion
Nemophora degeerella	Yellow-barred Long-horn
Tyria jacobaeae	Cinnabar
Orthoptera	Invertebrates (Crickets & Grasshoppers)
Corvus corone	Carrion Crow
Dendrocopos major	Great Spotted Woodpecker
Parus major	Great Tit
Troglodytes troglodytes	Wren
Turdus merula	Blackbird
Vulpes vulpes	Red Fox

Management Brief (including further survey & site management/enhancement)				
	Action	Objective & Rationale	Method	Timings
1	Woodland management (thinning and coppicing	The aim should be to create a woodland comprised of a canopy of mature 'standard' trees with an understorey of shrubs & multi- stemmed trees. Such structural diversity should allow a much greater diversity of flora & fauna species to colonise the woodland.	Divide woodland into separate compartments to coppice on rotation. A typical coppice rotation would be around 5-10 years. Stack brash and arising's created through coppicing in situ creating habitat piles and dead hedges as appropriate. It is essential that woodland management work is not undertaken between March to August as this coincides with the bird nesting season.	October – February
2	Enhancement of plantation woodland	The introduction of native locally soured field- layer plants and tree whips would diversify and enhance the plantation woodlands once sufficient woodland management has been undertaken.	It important that plug-plants, seeds and tree whips planted on site and of local provenance and native. Appropriate ground flora plug plants include those grown through the Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country Growing Local Flora Project. Ground flora species include: • Sweet-Woodruff (<i>Galium odoratum</i>) • Ground-ivy (<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>) • Wood-sorrel (<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>) • Greater Stitchwort (<i>Stellaria holostea</i>) • Common Dog-violet (<i>Viola riviniana</i>) • Primrose (<i>Primula vulgaris</i>) Under-planting tree & shrubs • Hazel (<i>Corylus avellana</i>) • Field Maple (<i>Acer campestre</i>) • Guelder Rose (<i>Viburnum opulus</i>) • Pedunculate Oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>) • Common Buckthorn (Rhamnus cathartica) • Alder Buckthorn (<i>Frangula alnus</i>) • Crab Apple (<i>Malus sylvestris</i>)	March – May
3	Monitor extent of Ivy	Ivy has good ecological value for a variety of wildlife, however, it is becoming abundant within the canopy of the trees in the western area of the plantation and is beginning to become abundant in the field layer and could out-compete introduced ground flora. The aim would be to balance the extent of Ivy growth.	Severe stems of Ivy on 5% of the trees to reduce the extent of Ivy within the canopy and monitor extent of Ivy within the field layer.	October – February

4	Remove defunct fencing & fly-tipped material	Remnant fence posts and fly-tipped material behind properties on the south western boundary of the plantation woodland distract from the natural character of the park. These should therefore be removed.	Dig the fence posts out of the ground and dispose of the waste appropriately off-site. Inform and discourage residents from discarding waste into the park.	When resources are available.
5	Monitor extent of non-native species	There are a several non-native species on site including Spanish Bluebell, Cherry Laurel and sea buckthorn. Cherry laurel is a shade-tolerant species which can become dominant in the woodland, shading out field and ground layer species reducing the diversity within a woodland. The extent of non-native species should be monitored and controlled as these species have the potential to out-compete native species.	Targeted chemical treatment including foliar herbicide spray mixed with adjuvant should be used to control Charry laurel. Spanish bluebell can be treated with targeted 'weed wiping'. Any work using chemical treatment should be undertaken by a qualified individual following manufacture guidelines and best practice.	May – October
6	Implement cut and collect on central area of semi-neutral grassland	The aim the grassland management will be to reduce the level of nutrients within the soil to promote the growth of desirable grassland species and enhance species diversity. As well as supress dominant negative indicator grassland species, including Creeping Thistle.	Cut areas of grassland mechanically and ideally, before mid-August to allow late flowering desirable species to set seed, arising should be removed offsite to prevent nutrient enrichment of the grassland. Care should be taken in areas with ant-hills, therefore a walkover of the grassland prior to cutting is advised and anthills visibly marked so that the machinery does not destroy these habitat features.	Annually, late July to early August
7	Retain open glade habitat	The open glades comprising of tall herb provide structural diversity within the woodland plantation, as well as foraging and nesting opportunities for birds and invertebrates, and therefore should be retained.	Cut approximately 30% of the area annually. It is essential that scrub clearance is not undertaken between March to August as this coincides with the bird nesting season.	October – February
8	Monitoring the use of installed bird and bat boxes	Undertaking bat and breeding bird surveys and monitoring the use of bat and bird boxes will provide and increased understanding of the suitability of the habitats on site and the wider landscape for a variety of species and ascertain the management required to increase species diversity at the park.	Bat box checks should be undertaken by an appropriately trained and licenced (Level 2- WML-CL18) surveyor. Alternatively, bat surveys, with the use if bat detectors can be undertaken which would minimise disturbance. Locations of the installed bat boxes can be found on the map below. The use of bird boxes can be determined through undertaking Breeding Bird Surveys,	Bat surveys / bat box checks: April to October Breeding Bird Surveys: Three morning site visits between April to June.

			following the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) Breeding Bird methodology.	
9	Maintain infrastructure (fencing, pathways, gates)	Maintaining the infrastructure on site will improve the parks aesthetical value, ensure the site is compliant with Health and Safety regulations and will increase and promote responsible use of the site. Therefore increasing the social value of the park for example, by members of the general public including dog walkers.	Regularly cut overhanging branches and vegetation from the edges of paths to maintain access to the general public.	When resources allow.

