

# Birmingham & Black Country Local Sites Assessment Report

EcoRecord Reference	Site Name	Grid Reference	Current Status [1]	Survey Date(s)
WV007	Land West of Stafford Road	SJ91190412	Part SLINC	24.07.2020
Planning Authority	Site Ownership	Area/Length	Reason for Survey	Report Date
City of Wolverhampton Council	Private	3ha	LS assessment	13.08.2020

Meets LS Criteria	SLINC	Type	Wildlife	i.e. Wildlife/Geological
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Amendment(s)	Part Deletion / Extension	i.e. None; New Site; Upgrade; Downgrade; Extension; Whole/Part Deletion
Description	Due to parts of the site being lost to development the designated area should be reduced to reflect the extant semi-natural habitat extent in both compartment 1 and 2, whilst extended to include the full extent of the broadleaved woodland to the west and south.	

## Citation (Summary of Value)

Land West of Stafford Road encompasses two areas, totalling approximately 3ha, bordering the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal. Both areas comprise two distinct parts: one of which is an active commercial operation, which includes hardstanding, buildings and landscaping. Within this area lies a defunct hedgerow which has lost all of its structure but still supports a variety of species in what remains of this linear feature. This links the semi-natural areas of the southern site to an area of scattered broadleaved trees. While the second area is semi-natural habitat which has been previously disturbed with historical and more recent dumping of construction material, with one area currently used to store equipment. These areas support a broad range of unmanaged habitat including semi-natural broadleaved woodland, a small watercourse, ephemeral / short perennial habitat and semi-improved neutral grassland, with evidence of natural succession present in the forming of tall ruderal and scrub habitat. Due to succession, a mosaic of habitat has formed consisting of moderate levels of species and structural diversity, specifically within the grassland which holds a high composition of forb species.

The site is located adjacent to Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal SINC and lies in close proximity to a number of protected sites. Due to its location along the canal, both portions of the site are likely to offer stepping-stone habitats along a key ecological corridor.

## Local Site Selection Criteria

Ecological		
Habitat Diversity	M	A broad range of habitats are present within the two small areas of semi-natural green space with much structural variation as a whole, due to the prevalent natural succession present.
Species Diversity	M	The overall species diversity within the green space is high for a site of this size, due to the broad range of habitats and the structural diversity present. The highest flora diversity was found within the semi-improved neutral grassland.
Habitat Rarity	M	The majority of the habitats present are Common to Uncommon across the Birmingham and the Black Country. However, the semi-improved neutral grassland is a good example of the habitat.
Species Rarity	M	The majority of flora species recorded on site are Frequent to Uncommon within the Birmingham and the Black Country. However, the Rare Eyebright <i>Euphrasia officinalis</i> agg. was recorded. Fauna species recorded on site include multiple species listed within the Birds of Conservation Concern Red and Amber lists.
Size or Extent	L	In the context of Wolverhampton's Local Wildlife Sites, the survey area is of small extent in terms of the total area present.
Naturalness	L-M	A large portion of the site now lies within an industrial estate setting, however, the green space area within both survey areas do provide a semi-natural setting and variation along the canal and built up area.
Position & Connectivity	H	Both areas lie adjacent to the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal which provides a green corridor directly linking the site to Smestow Valley Local Nature Reserve. The site lies in close proximity to a number of designated sites.
Geological – not assessed		
Social		
Historical & Cultural	L	The site has changed much from the field system present in 1845, due to development, however, the western brook and remnants of the grassland likely to be present at that time are still present.
Access	L	The site is privately owned and there are no designated public access routes.
Aesthetic	L-M	The site is aesthetically pleasing in the area of the neutral grassland which contains semi-natural features and a mosaic of habitat containing a broad range of species. However, this is marred by the area also being used to store commercial equipment and evidence of industrial dumping.

<b>Recorded History</b>	<b>M</b>	The Black Country Historic Landscape Characterisation dataset describes the area's industrial history which dates back on to mid to late 20 <sup>th</sup> century, suggesting a lot of changes have occurred here. Historical information is recorded within mapping dating back to 1845.
<b>Value for Learning</b>	<b>L</b>	The value for learning is low, due to access restriction and the evidence of industrial dumping and storage on site.

## Site Description

The survey site Land West of Stafford Road, Wolverhampton comprises of two areas, totalling 3ha of active industry, and its associated hardstanding and buildings, and previously disturbed unmanaged broadleaved woodland and semi-improved neutral grassland, adjacent to A449 Stafford Road to the north of Wolverhampton.

The northern survey area comprises of an unmanaged semi-natural woodland bordering the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal with evidence of rubble along the eastern boundary and a large area of hardstanding used currently to store construction materials, equipment and vehicles.

The southern survey area consists within the western portion of unmanaged broadleaved woodland, that has likely grown up from historic unmanaged hedgerows along the southern boundary, semi-improved neutral grassland, remnants of the old field system present within the landscape in 1845, ephemeral / short perennial, tall ruderal and scrub habitat, which is resultant from natural succession which is prevalent on site. The eastern area consists of an active industrial site with associated buildings, both temporary and permanent, and hard standing. The southern boundary adjacent consists a defunct hedgerow which has lost structure and contains numerous large gaps, due to heavy encroachment. The car park on the eastern boundary is lined by planted young broadleaved trees and amenity grassland for landscaping purposes.

Historical mapping, shows that the site was part of the agricultural field system since at least 1845. The northern woodland area first appears along the canal boundary in 1902. At this time, it is small linear strip and remains as such until the industrial buildings appear around 1965 and the woodland edge comes out of agricultural management. Due to the change in management natural succession and self-seeding likely results in the spread of woodland east until it matches the current designation boundary in 1989. However, in 2012, when the industrial estate extended the parking area, the woodland was reduced to its current extent.

The southern area in 1845 covered a portion of a number of meadow fields and included a pond (Stew Water), in its eastern end with a stream linking it to the waterhead brook running along the southern boundary. At this time, Waterhead brook and south western section of hedgerow matches the current locations.

By 1945 industrial buildings appear to the east side of the site, which results in the pond being removed and the connecting stream being channelised to its current configuration. Aerial photograph appears to show that at this time the stream has not been culverted at this stage. However, by 1965 the adjacent industrial units now cover a similar area to its present state, with the southern section now meeting the current designation extent, with a woodland strip present along the southern boundary grown up from the boundary hedgerow and the stream now appears to be culverted. This remained the same till at least 1989, however, by 1999 the semi-natural habitat including the southern woodland strip has been reduced to its current extent.

The site is located adjacent to Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal SINC, directly linking the site to Smestow Valley Local Nature Reserve, and lies in close proximity to a number of protected site including Abbeyfield Parklands, Land East of Stafford Road and Land at Pendeford Lane SLINC. Due to its location along the canal, both portions of the site are likely to offer stepping stone habitats along a key ecological corridor.

For the purpose of the survey, the site has been divided into two compartments.

## Habitats

Phase 1 Name	Broadleaved Woodland – Semi-natural	Phase 1 Code	A1.11
<p>The semi-natural broadleaved woodland based within <b>Compartment 2</b>, appears to be in majority natural colonisation from the adjacent unmanaged historic hedgerow along the southern boundary. The woodland within the western portion lies along Waterhead Brook on steep graded embankment, resulting from historic industrial dumping on site. To the east, the woodland circles a portion of unmanaged grassland. Within this area natural succession into the grassland from the woodland is prevalent. Areas currently labelled as scrub are likely to become part of the woodland within the next 10 years, should the lack of management continue.</p> <p>The main body of woodland changes in composition throughout:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adjacent to the Waterhead Brook lies abundant Sycamore <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> and Wych Elm <i>Ulmus glabra</i> canopy with an understorey of Elder <i>Sambucus nigra</i>. Here the field layer is limited with the majority being bare earth, however, localised clusters of Ground Elder <i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>, Herb Robert <i>Geranium robertianum</i>, Common knotgrass <i>Polygonum aviculare</i>, Common Nettle <i>Urtica dioica</i>, Bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i>, Hedge Woundwort <i>Stachys sylvatica</i>, Garlic Mustard <i>Alliaria petiolata</i>, Wood Spurge <i>Euphorbia amygdaloides</i>, Red Campion <i>Silene Dioica</i>, Bluebell <i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>, Lords and Ladies <i>Arum maculatum</i>, Dog's Mercury <i>Mercurialis perennis</i> and Male Fern <i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i> were present;</li> <li>• Adjacent to the neutral grassland the woodland is dominated by young Ash <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> with individual Hawthorn <i>Crataegus monogyna</i>, Poplar <i>Populus sp.</i> and Sycamore also present. All tree species present were of similar age as such there was extremely limited age and structure present. Regeneration present was based on only a few saplings except around the individual Poplar, where clusters of poplar saplings were noted. Field layer in majority was leaf litter with occasional Lords and Ladies, Common Nettle, Wood Forget-me-not <i>Myosotis sylvatica</i>, Wood Avens <i>Geum urbanum</i>, Bee Orchid <i>Ophrys apifera</i>, Field Horsetail <i>Equisetum arvense</i> and Cleavers <i>Galium aparine</i> present;</li> <li>• Along the northern section of Waterhead Brook a broad mix of tree species are present including mature Sycamore, Hawthorn, Silver Birch, Horse Chestnut <i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i> with a Hazel and Sycamore understorey. The field layer was dominated by Common Nettle, Bramble, Ivy <i>Hedera helix subsp. Helix</i> and Hedge Bindweed <i>Calystegia sepium</i>; and</li> <li>• Along the northern boundary lies a short extension to the woodland following the survey boundary to the east. Within this area lies young woodland comprising Sycamore, Ash and locally abundant Silver Birch all of similar age with a Sycamore and Hawthorn understorey. The field layer includes Wood Avens, Common Bent <i>Agrostis capillaris</i>, False Oat-grass <i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>, Red Fescue <i>Festuca rubra</i>, Yorkshire Fog <i>Holcus lanatus</i>, Red Campion, Field Horsetail, Common Nettle, Hedge Woundwort and Sycamore regeneration.</li> </ul> <p>A small linear wet flush was seen in the western area of the woodland in close proximity to the brook, likely resultant from impeded drainage onsite due to dumping and the manmade embankment present. At the time of the survey the area was damp, however, during heavy rainfalls this is likely to become a stream. Its location approximately matches with the location of the culverted brook, based on mapping.</p> <p>Areas of the woodland are currently being treated for Japanese knotweed <i>Fallopia japonica</i>. The treatment appears to be being successful although saplings were still noted to be coming through.</p> <p>Within <b>Compartment 1</b> lies a linear patch of broadleaved woodland bordering the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal. This woodland is based on a steep canal embankment and comprises abundant mature Alder <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> with White Willow <i>Salix alba</i>, Sycamore, Ash, Wych Elm and Goat Willow <i>Salix caprea</i>. Variation could be seen throughout the small woodland with Alder dominating the northern section with <i>occasional</i> Sycamore and Wych Elm, while the south appears to show a broader mix of species including White Willow, Osier <i>Salix viminalis</i>, Goat Willow, Alder, Hawthorn and sycamore. One strip was noted, east to west, with the woodland where the canopy was very limited and Bramble dominated the area, however, Alder understorey and</p>			

regeneration was noted. Overall the understorey includes the above canopy species with the addition of Broom *Cytisus scoparius*. Fallen and standing deadwood was present throughout the woodland.

The field layer contains *dominant to abundant* areas of Bramble and Common Nettle with *occasional* Great Willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum*, Field Horsetail, White Deadnettle *Lamium album*, Colt's-foot *Tussilago farfara*, Common Hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium*, Wood Avens *Geum urbanum*, Broad-leaved Willowherb *Epilobium montanum*, Rosebay Willowherb *Chamerion angustifolium*, Dandelion *Taraxacum officinale* agg., Creeping Thistle *Cirsium arvense*, Broad-leaved Dock *Rumex obtusifolius*, False Oat-grass, Cleavers, Scarlet Pimpernel *Anagallis arvensis*, Prickly Sow-thistle *Sonchus asper* and Common Ragwort *Senecio jacobaea*.

Himalayan Balsam *Impatiens glandulifera* was noted *occasionally* on eastern edge of the woodland. Due to health and safety concerns, the broadleaved woodland was assessed primarily from the eastern edge.

Within the southern area along the woodland boundary, large recent rubble and soil mounds were noted pushed into the woodland habitat. There was evidence that this was a regular occurrence along much of the woodland boundary, as rubble was noted along much of its length.

Phase 1 Name	Parkland & Scattered Tree - Broadleaved	Phase 1 Code	A1.11i / A3.1
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The majority of semi-mature trees found on site are located within areas of mature scrub and woodland and as such have been detailed within the relevant phase 1 habitat section below. However, a number of semi-mature broadleaved trees are found individually within Bramble scrub and the neutral grassland. Species include Goat Willow, Sycamore, Alder and Hawthorn.

In addition, within the eastern section of **Compartment 2** lies an area of landscaped planting which includes planted immature Pedunculate Oak *Quercus Robur*, Sycamore, Aspen *Populus tremula* and Silver Birch. The field layer in majority is amenity grassland, however, due to the density of planting, large clusters of ivy are present.

Phase 1 Name	Bramble and Scrub – Dense / Continuous / Scattered	Phase 1 Code	A2.1 / A2.2 / A2.1Rf / A2.2Rf
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Within **Compartment 1**, lies two small areas of scattered scrub self-set from the adjacent woodland, along the northern the area comprises of Butterfly Bush and Bramble and on the southern boundary sycamore.

Areas of dense and scattered Bramble lie along the edges of the grassland within **Compartment 2**. This is a result of lack of management and natural succession prevalent on site. In addition to this on the western section of the grassland lies sporadic patches of scattered immature scrub which has self-seeded from the adjacent woodland. Species include Alder, Ash and Sycamore. Similar successional areas can be found along the eastern section of the grassland, however, this has grown dense creating a mosaic of immature to semi-mature scattered and dense scrub comprising Hawthorn, Ash, Sycamore, Goat Willow, Butterfly Bush *Buddleja davidii*, Bramble, Rosebay Willowherb, Wild Teasel *Dipsacus fullonum*, False Oat-grass, Common Ragwort, Broadleaved dock, Creeping Thistle, Common Centaury *Centaureum erythraea* and Common Nettle. The majority of this scrub habitat is based on old rubble piles.

Along southern boundary lies an area of dense mature scrub which has likely grown up from an unmanaged hedgerow. The habitat includes immature to semi-mature Pedunculate Oak, Elder, Hazel, Ash, Alder, Hawthorn, Aspen, Poplar, Sycamore, and Goat Willow.

Phase 1 Name	Grassland Semi-improved Neutral	Phase 1 Code	B22
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Within the centre of **Compartment 2** lies areas of neglected grassland. This grassland habitat has not been managed for long time as a result the grassland has become rank and succession is evident across much of the habitat with the majority along the peripheries. This is especially evident on the eastern edge where large areas of scrub and tall ruderal habitat are present, with only small areas of remnant grassland habitat remaining.

However, due to the shallow soil and low nutrient level, the central area of grassland only has a few sporadic patches of succession in the forms of Bramble, suggesting that this may be restricting the progression of the natural succession within the grassland. The grassland sward itself varies in height ranging from 5cm up to 50cm.

Ant hills are occasionally present throughout the habitat further indicating the lack of management.

Overall the grassland is species rich with high forb composition and diversity although grass species are still dominant. The sward includes abundant Yorkshire Fog, Meadow Foxtail *Alopecurus pratensis*, Creeping Bent *Agrostis stolonifera*, Common Bent, Marsh Thistle *Cirsium palustre* and Common Centaury with occasional Timothy *Phleum pratense*, False Oat-grass, Creeping Thistle, Sweet Vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, Smooth Meadow-grass *Poa pratensis*, Lesser Stitchwort *Stellaria graminea*, Yarrow *Achillea millefolium*, Common Mouse-ear *Cerastium fontanum*, Meadow Buttercup *Ranunculus acris*, Greater Plantain *Plantago major*, White Clover *Trifolium repens*, Common Sorrel *Rumex acetosella*, Field Forget Me Not *Myosotis arvensis*, Bush Vetch *Vicia sepium*, Zig Zag Clover *Trifolium medium*, Selfheal *Prunella vulgaris*, Curled Dock *Rumex crispus*, Daisy *Bellis perennis*, Meadow Vetchling *Lathyrus pratensis*, Common Vetch *Vicia sativa*, Perforated St John's Wort *Hypericum perforatum*, Fox and Cubs *Pilosella aurantiaca*, Creeping Cinquefoil *Potentilla reptans* and Eyebright *Euphrasia officinalis*. Except within a small area to the south east where a small patch of remnant grassland, due to its location holds very little diversity was found within this area, likely resultant from disturbance and heavy encroachment from Bramble and tall ruderal species. The sward is dominated Yorkshire Fog, Smooth Meadow-grass, Broadleaved Dock with White Clover, Timothy and Bramble also present.

In the north western corner of the grassland lies a damp area in a slight depression likely caused by impeded drainage. In this area False Oat-grass, Hairy Sedge *Carex hirta*, False Fox Sedge *Carex otrubae* and Field Horsetail were abundant. However, no water was present at the time of the survey.

Phase 1 Name	Tall Ruderal	Phase 1 Code	C3.1
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Tall herb is present in patches, within **Compartment 2**, along the peripheries of the neutral grassland, where natural succession from the mature scrub and woodland is prevalent. In these areas it occurs in a dense swathes comprised of Bramble, Common Nettle, Rosebay Willowherb, Great Willowherb, Broadleaved Willowherb *Epilobium montanum*, Hedge Bindweed, False Oat-grass, Common Couch *Elytrigia repens*, Meadow Vetchling, Common Ragwort, Creeping Thistle and Common Hogweed.

Phase 1 Name	Ephemeral / Short Perennial	Phase 1 Code	J1.3
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In the central section of **Compartment 2** is an area used to store equipment by the adjacent commercial business and has been cleared and potentially surfaced by gravel previously for this use. Due to this activity, the area is in majority bare surface, however, early colonisers and perennials have heavily encroached. Species include abundant Broadleaved Willowherb, Selfheal and Scarlet Pimpernel *Anagallis arvensis* and occasional Butterfly Bush, Black Medick *Medicago lupulina*, Prickly Sow Thistle, Greater Plantain, Creeping Thistle, Eye Bright, Yorkshire Fog, Common Cats Ear *Hypochaeris radicata*, Wild Teasel, Common Centaury, Sweet Vernal Grass, Marsh Thistle, Sycamore Sapling, and Rose Bay Willowherb.

Phase 1 Name	Running stream	Phase 1 Code	G2
<p>Running adjacent to the western survey boundary, <b>Compartment 2</b>, lies the Waterhead Brook. The brook itself is approximately 1m in width and is shallow sided, while on site, the brook lies completely within the broadleaved woodland, which heavily shades the channel. The southern section of the channel contains limited bankside vegetation with the majority of the channel edge being bare earth however, Bramble, Sedge species <i>Carex</i> sp, Common Nettle, Lesser Celandine <i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>, Broadleaved Willowherb is occasionally present. The northern section which is based along a narrow section of woodland, achieves higher light levels, this has allowed the field layer to over grow. As such the river is heavily vegetated by Bramble, Common Nettle and Dog's Mercury. The substrate of the channel is shingle and sand and at the time of the survey holds a couple of cm of water. Through the water channel appears to have modified possibly, due to de-silting of the water channel historically, a few naturalised features were present in the form of riffles.</p> <p>At the southern end of the stream lies an outfall. Historically mapping shows a water channel leading east to west across the site. This has likely been culverted on site till it meets with the western stream at this outfall.</p> <p>The outfall shows signs of pollution due to the slight discoloration of the water. Nevertheless, the water within the stream appears to be clear.</p>			
Phase 1 Name	Amenity Grassland	Phase 1 Code	J1.2
<p>Within the eastern area of <b>Compartment 2</b>, lies a small area of amenity grassland bordering a car park. This habitat is regularly managed for amenity, kept to a sward height of 5cm, and is subject to regular disturbance. Due to this management regime, the sward shows very low diversity and forb count, with sward dominated by Yorkshire fog, Annual Meadow Grass and Smooth Meadow Grass.</p>			
Phase 1 Name	Defunct Hedgerow	Phase 1 Code	J2.2
<p>Along the southern boundary of <b>Compartment 2</b> lies a defunct hedgerow which has become compromised for some time, due to encroachment from industry and fence lines. As such the hedgerow has mostly been lost and little of the linear feature remains. What does remain lies in individuals or clusters of immature to mature Cherry sp, Horse chestnut, Aspen, Sycamore, and Silver Birch. The field layer was not visible for much of its length, due to temporary buildings and equipment blocking access, however, it is likely to be limited to a few areas, due to the structure of the hedgerow. Bramble, Great Willowherb, Common Nettle and Ivy were noted in areas possible to access.</p>			
Notes	Compartment 1 and 2 is bordered on its northern, southern and western side by a palisade or chain link fence, respectively.		

Habitats of Note [2]						
Phase 1 Name	Phase 1 Code	EHD	NERC	LBAP	Rarity	Year
Notes	None Recorded					

Species of Note [2]							
Flora							
Species	Statutory	NERC	LBAP	RDL	Rarity	Axiophyte	Year
<i>Asplenium ruta-muraria</i> - Wall-rue					<i>U</i>		1989
<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i> - False-brome					<i>F</i>	<i>BBCF_Ax</i>	1989
<i>Bromopsis ramosa</i> - Hairy-brome					<i>F</i>	<i>BBCF_Ax</i>	1989
<i>Carex acutiformis</i> - Lesser Pond-sedge					<i>F</i>	<i>BBCF_Ax</i>	1989
<i>Centaureum erythraea</i> - Common Centaury					<i>F</i>	<i>BBCF_Ax (secondary)</i>	2020
<i>Cirsium palustre</i> - Marsh Thistle					<i>F</i>	<i>BBCF_Ax</i>	2020
<i>Euphrasia officinalis</i> agg. - Eyebright					<i>R</i>	<i>BBCF_Ax</i>	2020
<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i> - Bluebell	<b>WCA8</b>		<i>Y</i>		<i>C</i>		2020
<i>Lotus pedunculatus</i> - Greater Bird's-foot-trefoil					<i>F</i>	<i>BBCF_Ax</i>	1989
<i>Mercurialis perennis</i> - Dog's Mercury					<i>F</i>	<i>BBCF_Ax</i>	2020
<i>Ophrys apifera</i> - Bee Orchid			<i>Y</i>		<i>U</i>	<i>BBCF_Ax (secondary)</i>	2020
<i>Rorippa microphylla</i> - Narrow-fruited Water-cress					<i>VR</i>		1989
<i>Trifolium medium</i> - Zigzag Clover					<i>F</i>	<i>BBCF_Ax (secondary)</i>	2020
<i>Veronica beccabunga</i> - Brooklime					<i>F</i>	<i>BBCF_Ax</i>	1989
Notes							
Fauna							
Species	Statutory	NERC	LBAP	RDL	Concern	Rarity	Year
<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i> - Small Heath		<i>Y</i>			<i>RLGB.Lr (NT)</i>	<i>U</i>	1989

<i>Lasiommata megera</i> - Wall		Y			<b>RLGB.Lr (NT)</b>	<b>VR</b>	<b>1989</b>
<i>Tyria jacobaeae</i> - Cinnabar		Y				<b>C</b>	<b>2020</b>
<i>Acanthis flammea</i> - Common (Mealy) Redpoll					<b>BAmb</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>1989</b>
<i>Apus apus</i> - Swift					<b>BAmb</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>1989</b>
<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> - Black-headed Gull					<b>BAmb</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>1989</b>
<i>Cuculus canorus</i> - Cuckoo		Y			<b>BRed</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>1989</b>
<i>Delichon urbicum</i> - House Martin					<b>BAmb</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>1989</b>
<i>Falco tinnunculus</i> - Kestrel			Y		<b>BAmb</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>1989</b>
<i>Larus fuscus</i> - Lesser Black-backed Gull					<b>BAmb</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>1989</b>
<i>Linaria cannabina</i> - Linnet		Y			<b>BRed</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>1989</b>
<i>Passer domesticus</i> - House Sparrow		Y			<b>BRed</b>	<b>VC</b>	<b>1989</b>
<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i> - Willow Warbler					<b>BAmb</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>1989</b>
<i>Prunella modularis</i> - Dunnock		Y			<b>BAmb</b>	<b>VC</b>	<b>1989</b>
<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i> - Starling		Y			<b>BRed</b>	<b>VC</b>	<b>1989</b>
<i>Turdus philomelos</i> - Song Thrush		Y	Y		<b>BRed</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>1989</b>
<b>The following Species of Note have been recorded within 500m of the assessment site boundary.</b>							
<i>Bufo bufo</i> – Common Toad	<b>WCA5/9.5 a</b>	Y	Y			<b>F</b>	<b>1988</b>
<i>Gallinago gallinago</i> - Snipe			Y		<b>BAmb</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>1989</b>
<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i> – Pipistrelle sp.	<b>HabRegs, WCA5/9.4 b, WCA5/9.5 a</b>		Y			<b>C</b>	<b>1992</b>
<b>Notes</b>							

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

Description/Notes	
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#### Invasive Species [3]

Species	Location	Abundance (DAFOR)	Year Recorded
<i>Fallopia japonica</i> - Japanese Knotweed	Compartment 2	F	2020
<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i> - Indian Balsam	Compartment 1	O	2020
<b>Notes</b>	Japanese knotweed is currently being treated with herbicide on site in a number of locations. At the time of the survey the treatment appears to be successful, however, new shoots were noted to still be coming through in these areas.		

#### Geology

<b>Solid/Drift Formation</b>	Helsby Sandstone Formation – Sandstone, Pebbly (gravelly).
<b>Description</b>	Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 242 to 247 million years ago in the Triassic Period. Local environment previously dominated by rivers. Two distinctive areas of superficial deposits were present within the site. The eastern section of the site held Till, Devensian – Diamicton. While the western section held Alluvium – Clay, silt, sand and gravel. Both superficial deposits were formed up to 2 million years ago in the quaternary period.
<b>Features of Value</b>	
None recorded	

#### Soils

Slowly permeable seasonally wet slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils.
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#### Public Access & Site Usage

<b>Land Use</b>	Commercial Business.
<b>Access Level</b>	Restricted.
<b>Access Type(s)</b>	Private.

#### Comparison with Previous Survey(s) Results

In 1989 a Local Site survey was undertaken to assess the two compartments and a third area to the south against the Local Site Selection Criteria. At the time all three areas were designated as SLINC. The third area to the south has been lost to development. However, the additional two areas remain and were subject to this recent survey. Both areas have seen a reduction in the size of green space on the eastern boundaries due to extensions of the adjacent industrial properties. This has resulted in the loss mostly of Broadleaved woodland.

Otherwise the site habitat appeared similar to that recorded during the survey, although, through natural succession the woodland has matured and increased in extent.

### Summary of Assessment

When assessed against the Birmingham & Black Country Local Site Criteria Land west of Stafford Road scores Medium against most of the ecological criteria. Therefore, the site should retain its designation as a Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation (SLINC). However, amendments should be made to the designated boundary to reflect the current extent of semi-natural habitat. This should include the designated boundary being reduced in both compartment 1 and 2 along the eastern boundary. While the boundary should be extended for Compartment 2 to include the section of woodland following Waterhead Brook on the western boundary, and Compartment 1 extended to include the additional woodland area in the south.

### Recommendations (including further survey & site management/enhancement)

1	Eradication of Japanese Knotweed. The ongoing measures being used to eradicate Japanese knotweed should be continued.
2	Control the natural succession present across site to retain areas of semi-improved neutral grassland.
3	The broadleaved woodland present on site is heavily dense and contains little structural diversity, and as such the woodland would benefit from active management including thinning.
4	Semi-improved grassland should be put under active meadow management to enhance and maintain species diversity, and to assist in the control of succession.
5	Semi-mature broadleaved trees present should be placed under active management to ensure that the trees remain healthy and retained within the site.

### Data Sources

	Source	Date
Species and Habitat Data Source(s)	The Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country, EcoRecord data search	2020
Geological Data Source(s)	British Geological Society 1:50,000 bedrock & superficial deposits GIS web map services from BGS website: <a href="https://www.bgs.ac.uk/data/services/mash-ups/desktopgis.html">https://www.bgs.ac.uk/data/services/mash-ups/desktopgis.html</a>	04.08.2020
Soil Data Source(s)	UKSO – Soils Map Viewer <a href="http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/ukso/home.html">http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/ukso/home.html</a>	04.08.2020
Historic Data Sources(s)	Ordnance Survey Country Series Mapping 1884 – 1992. Quigley, P. 20210 Black Country Historic Landscape Characteration, electronic dataset, Wolverhampton City Council. Google earth pro historical Imagery January 2020	04.08.2020
Assessment Author and Organisation	The Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country.	04.08.2020

### [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 Annex 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 8 (higher and lower plants 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).

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

**LBAP** – **Y** = Habitats/Species included on the latest B&BC LBAP list of Priority Habitats/Species.

**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 - Insufficient known | **RLGB.DD** = IUCN (2001) - Data Deficient

**RARITY (HABITATS) - BIRMINGHAM & BLACK COUNTRY** - **Y** = 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.

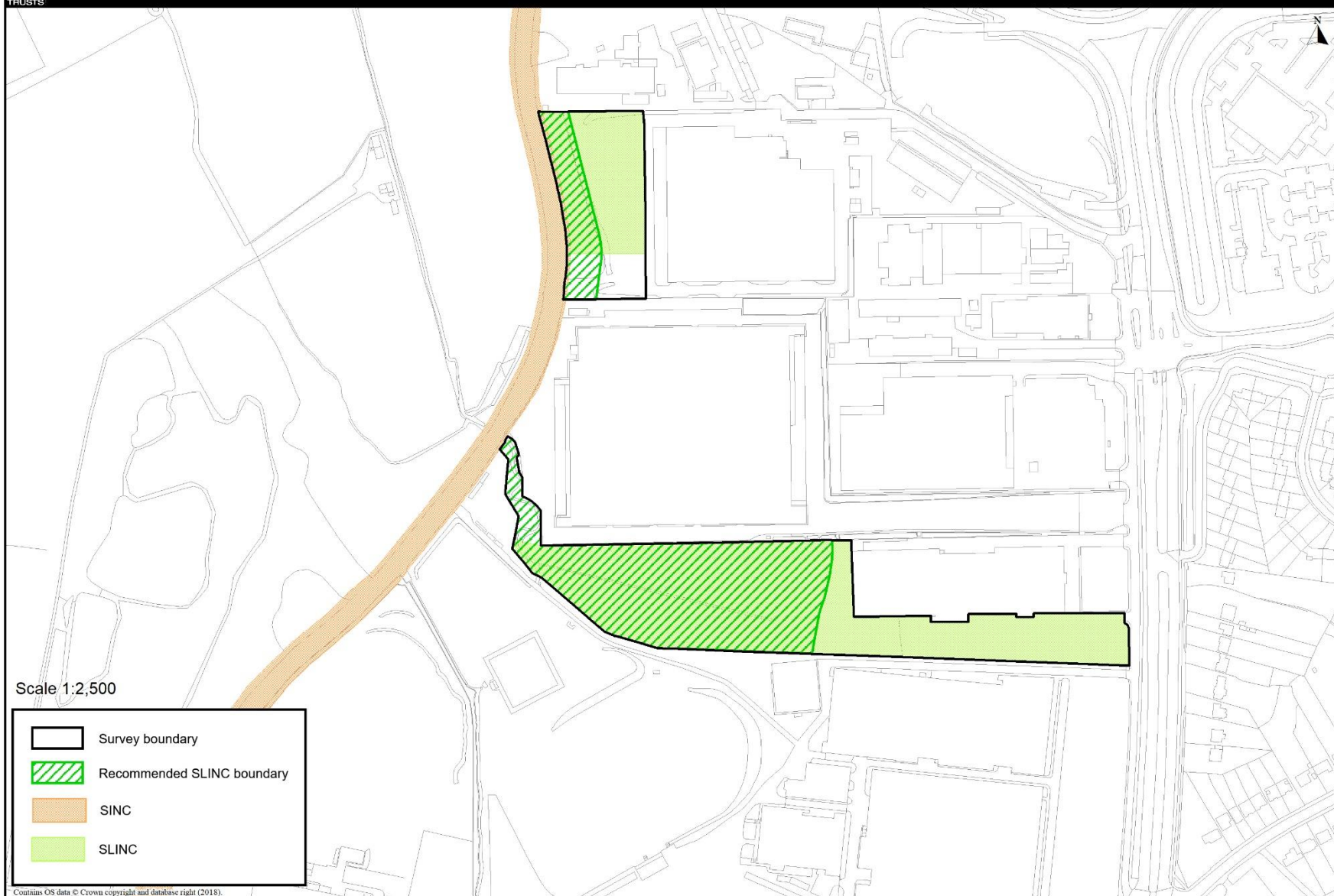
**AXIOPHYTE - BBCF\_Ax** = included on the Birmingham & the Black Country list of axiophytes (administered by EcoRecord).

**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.

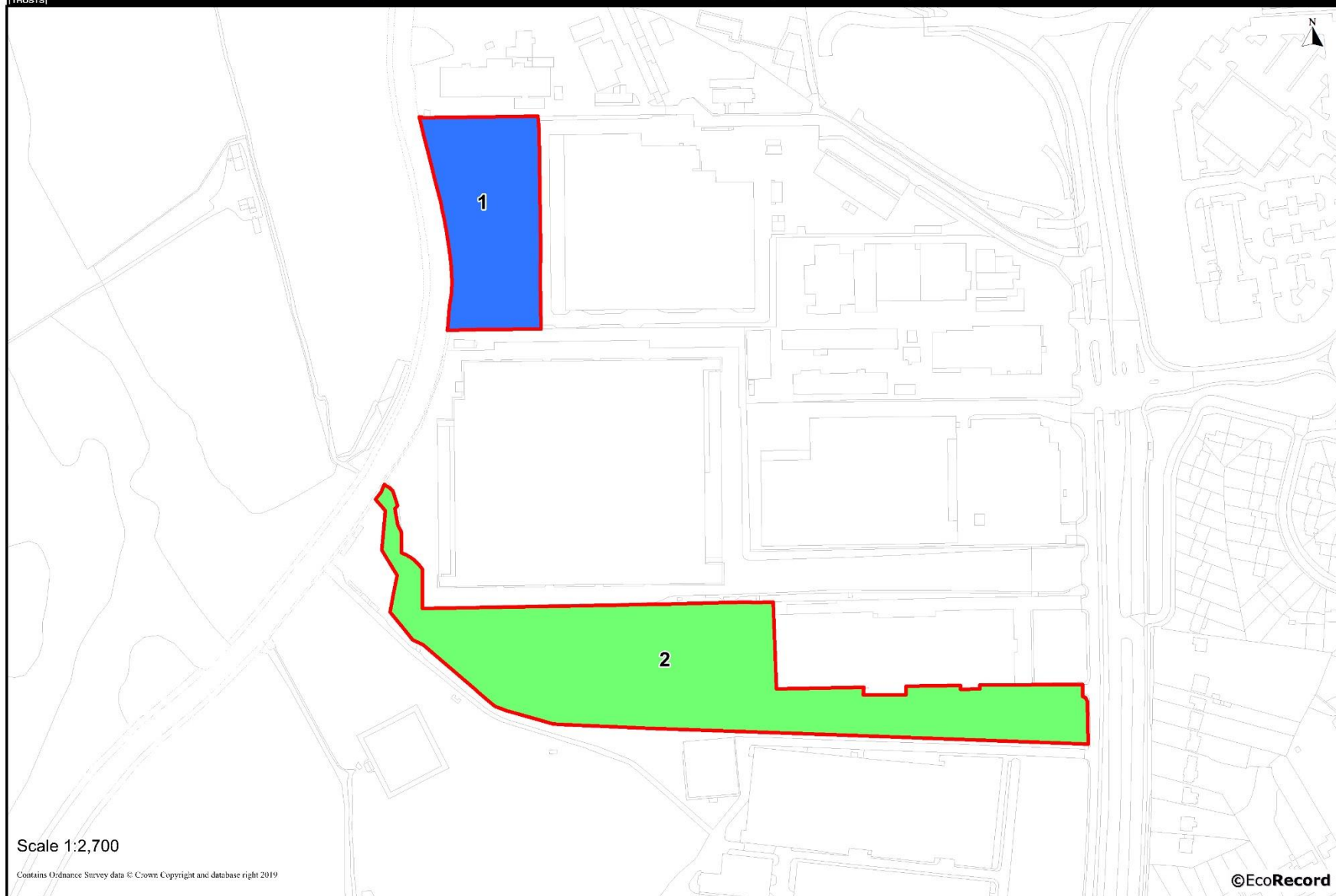


Map 1: Land West of Stafford Road, Wolverhampton Current & Recommended Designation



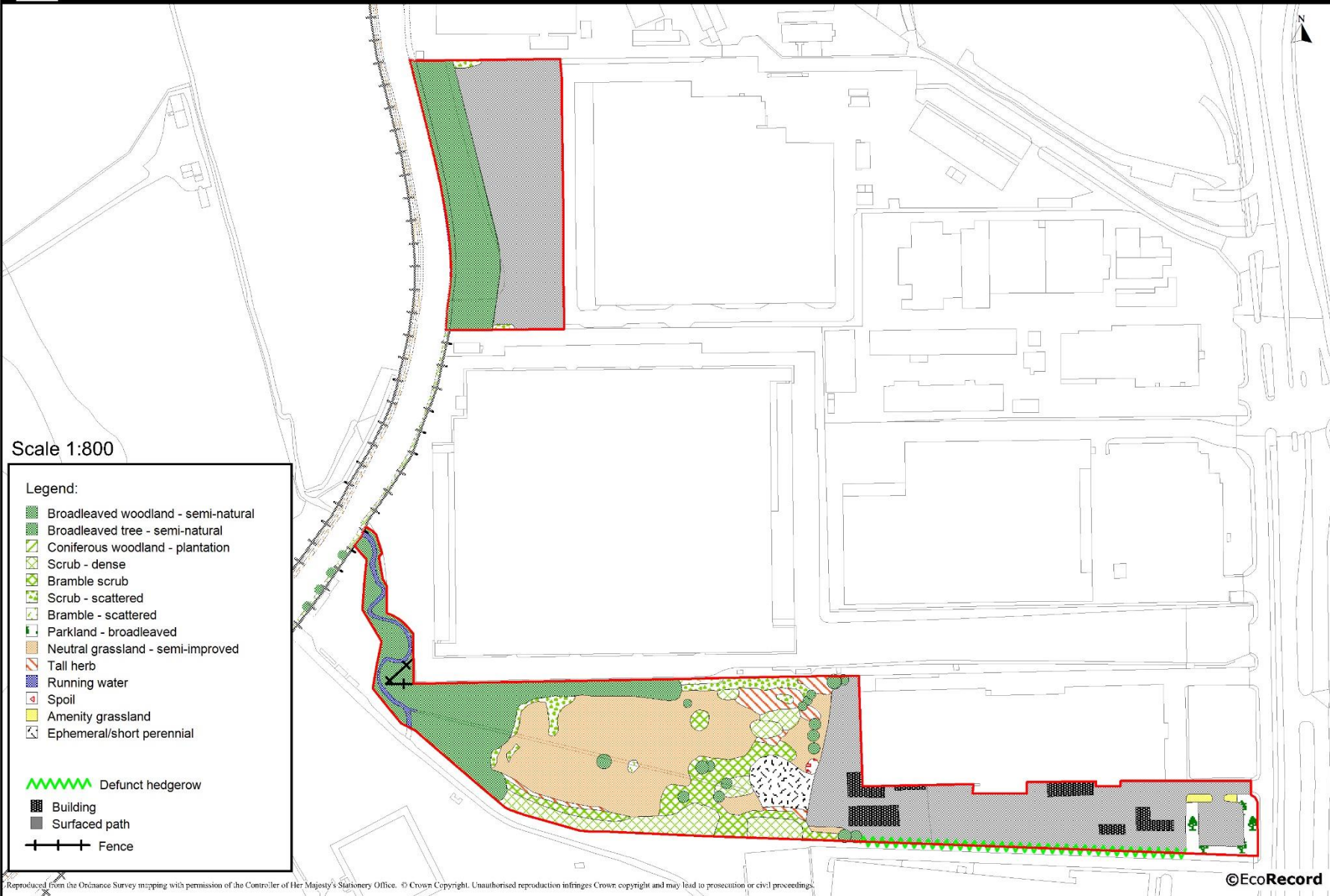


## Map 2: Land West of Stafford Road Compartment Map





### Map 3: Land West of Stafford Road, Wolverhampton Phase 1 Habitat Map



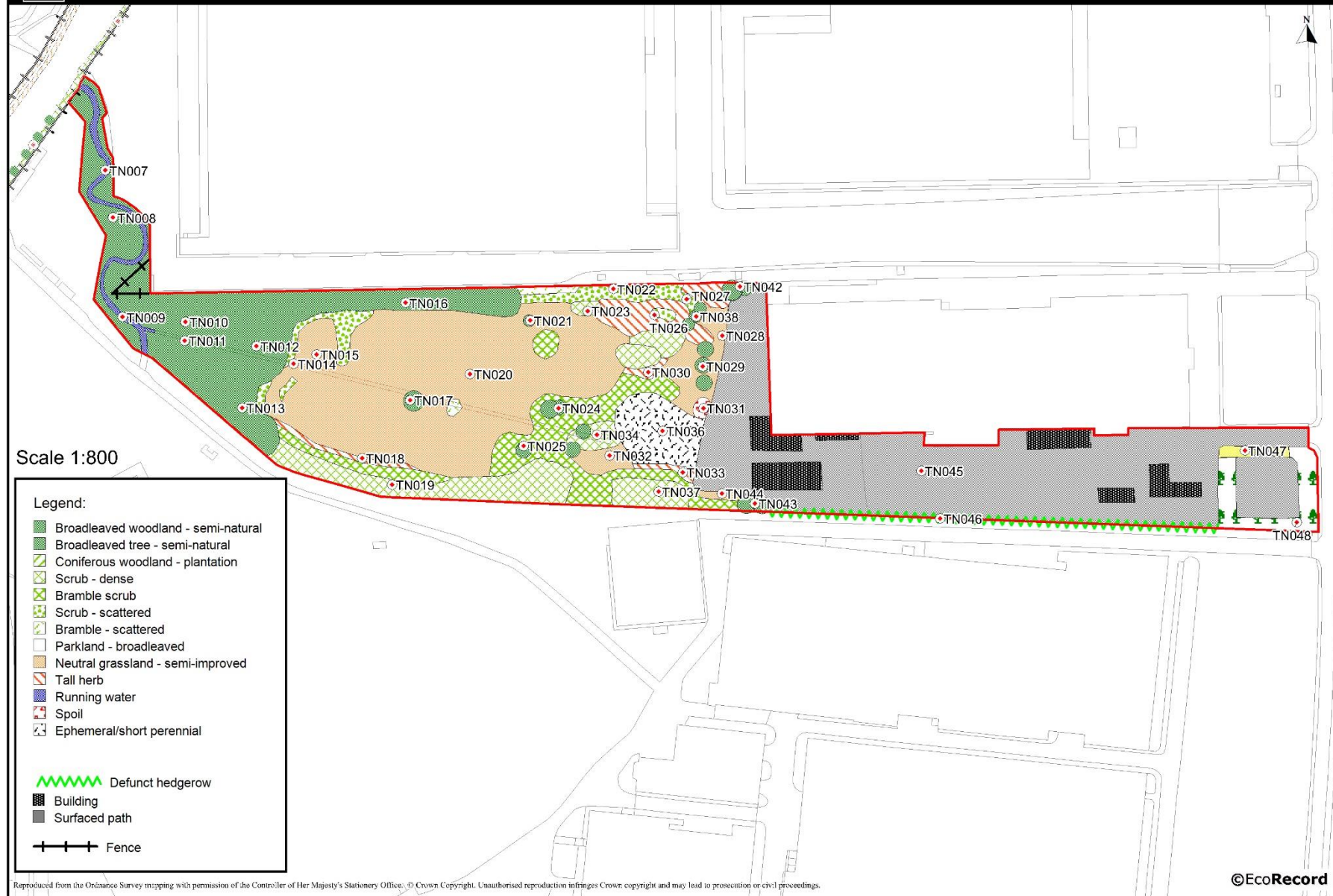


## Map 4: Land West of Stafford Road, Wolverhampton Phase 1 Habitat Map Target Notes: Compartment 1





## Map 5: Land West of Stafford Road, Wolverhampton Phase 1 Habitat Map Target Notes: Compartment 2



## Target Notes

Target Note Ref.	Target Note Description
<b>TN001</b>	A wide strip dominated by Bramble scrub and Alder regeneration within broadleaved woodland
<b>TN002</b>	Himalayan Balsam occasionally present
<b>TN003</b>	Semi-natural broadleaved woodland comprised of abundant Alder with White Willow, Osier, Goat Willow, Alder, Hawthorn and Sycamore.
<b>TN004</b>	Bank of the canal colonised by woodland
<b>TN005</b>	Open woodland edge of Crack Willow, Osier, Alder and Hawthorn, with Yellow Iris, Himalayan Balsam, Common Nettle and Reed Canary-grass
<b>TN006</b>	Soil and rubble has been recently piled along the woodland embankment
<b>TN007</b>	In this section the brook and woodland field layer has become overgrown by Bramble, Common Nettle and Dog's Mercury
<b>TN008</b>	Narrow stretch of woodland following Waterhead Brook comprised of Sycamore, Ash, Silver Birch, Sycamore and Hawthorn.
<b>TN009</b>	Waterhead Brook located within a young broadleaved woodland consisting of limited bankside vegetation consisting of Bramble, Common, Nettle, Lesser Celandine, Dog's Mercury and Broadleaved Willowherb
<b>TN010</b>	Broadleaved Woodland comprised of abundant Sycamore with an understorey Elder and Hazel.
<b>TN011</b>	Linear wet flush likely resultant from impeded drainage.
<b>TN012</b>	Area of woodland dominated by young Ash with Lords and Ladies, Common Nettle, Wood Forget me not, Wood Avens, Bee Orchid, Field Horsetail and Cleavers present within the field layer
<b>TN013</b>	Area being treated for Japanese Knotweed
<b>TN014</b>	Self-seeding immature Alder, Ash and Sycamore scrub
<b>TN015</b>	Depression area abundant with water associated species including False Oat-grass, Hairy Sedge, False Fox Sedge and Field Horsetail, likely caused by impeded drainage.
<b>TN016</b>	Area of broadleaved woodland comprising Sycamore, Ash, Silver Birch and Hawthorn.
<b>TN017</b>	Semi-mature Goat Willow
<b>TN018</b>	Tall herb habitat dominated by Great Willowherb and Common Nettle.
<b>TN019</b>	Dense scrub grown up from an unmanaged hedgerow. Species include Pedunculate Oak, Elder, Sallow, Hazel, Ash, Alder, Hawthorn, Aspen, Poplar, Sycamore, and Goat Willow.
<b>TN020</b>	Semi-improved neutral grassland with high forb composition and diversity. Species including Yorkshire Fog, Common Centaury, Meadow Foxtail, Creeping Bent, Common Bent, Marsh Thistle, Sweet Vernal Grass, Lesser Stitchwort, Field Forget Me Not, Bush Vetch and Zig-zag Clover.
<b>TN021</b>	Silver Birch
<b>TN022</b>	Scattered immature Silver Birch, Goat Willow, Wayfaring tree, Elder, Hawthorn and Bramble
<b>TN023</b>	Hawthorn, Sycamore and Elder scrub
<b>TN024</b>	Semi-mature Goat Willow and Hawthorn
<b>TN025</b>	Goat Willow
<b>TN026</b>	Scattered immature Silver Birch, Hawthorn, Goat Willow and Sycamore.
<b>TN027</b>	Tall herb habitat dominated by Hedge Bindweed, Creeping Thistle, Common Nettle, False Oat-grass, Great Willowherb with sporadic patches of Bramble.
<b>TN028</b>	Remnant areas of grassland surrounded by natural succession.
<b>TN029</b>	Two semi-mature Goat Willow and one Alder
<b>TN030</b>	Area dominated by Common Nettle
<b>TN031</b>	Rubble Pile
<b>TN032</b>	Semi-improved neutral grassland with prevalent areas of Bramble scrub surrounding the grassland.
<b>TN033</b>	Area dominated by Common Nettle
<b>TN034</b>	Goat Willow, Sycamore and Hawthorn scrub
<b>TN036</b>	Area of disturbed bare earth heavily colonised by early colonisers. Species include abundant Broadleaved Willowherb, Self-heal and Scarlet Pimpernel and occasional Buddleia, Black Medick, Prickly Sow Thistle, Greater Plantain, Creeping Thistle and Eye Bright

<b>TN037</b>	Dense Sycamore, Hawthorn, Elder and Bramble scrub
<b>TN038</b>	Group of semi-mature Sycamore
<b>TN039</b>	Scattered patches of self-set Butterfly Bush and Bramble
<b>TN040</b>	Hard standing used to store vehicles, construction material and equipment. There is limited encroachment from the woodland, along the western boundary by perennial species.
<b>TN041</b>	Immature scattered sycamore scrub along the boundary of the hardstanding
<b>TN042</b>	One Mature and one semi-mature sycamore adjacent to the northern boundary line
<b>TN043</b>	Two Semi-mature Sycamore
<b>TN044</b>	Remnant patch of grassland heavily disturbed dominated by grass species and bramble.
<b>TN045</b>	Active commercial yard consisting of hardstanding and buildings, both temporary and permanent. A great deal of equipment is also stored within the western area.
<b>TN046</b>	Old defunct hedgerow, no structure remains and large gaps have formed from the encroachment of industrial use. Of what remains the majority is individual or clusters of Cherry sp, Horse chestnut, Aspen, Sycamore, and Silver Birch
<b>TN047</b>	Small patches of amenity grassland bordering car parking and underneath the scattered trees. These areas are species poor and regularly managed for amenity.
<b>TN048</b>	Scattered of immature Pedunculate Oak , Sycamore, Aspen and Silver Birch planted as part of landscaping. Amenity grassland and areas of Ivy dominate the field layer.

## Site Photographs



Photo1. Waterhead Brook and outfall to culverted brook



Photo2. Alder dominated woodland within compartment 2



Photo3. Semi-improved neutral grassland within compartment 2



Photo4. Ephemeral / short perennial habitat located in the south eastern section of compartment 2, where commercial equipment is currently being stored.



Photo5. Strip of scrub and alder sapling within the woodland compartment 1



Photo6. Areas of spoils that has been pushed up against the woodland habitat These spoil piles have been created over a period of a time with the most recent being present in the south eastern section of the site.

## Species Records

### Northern Section (Compartment 1)

Scientific Name	Common Name	Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed
<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	Ground-elder	<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	Indian Balsam
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Alder	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Yellow Iris
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	Scarlet Pimpernel	<i>Lamium album</i>	White Dead-nettle
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	False Oat-grass	<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	Reed Canary-grass
<i>Buddleja davidii</i>	Butterfly-bush	<i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i>	Bramble
<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>	Rosebay Willowherb	<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Dock
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle	<i>Salix alba</i>	White Willow
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	<i>Salix caprea</i>	Goat Willow
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	<i>Salix viminalis</i>	Osier
<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	Broom	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Common Ragwort
<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	Foxglove	<i>Silene dioica</i>	Red Campion
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Great Willowherb	<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Prickly Sow-thistle
<i>Epilobium montanum</i>	Broad-leaved Willowherb	<i>Taraxacum officinale agg.</i>	Dandelion
<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	Field Horsetail	<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	Colt's-foot
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash	<i>Ulmus glabra</i>	Wych Elm
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common Nettle
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Wood Aven		

Southern Section (Compartment 2)

Scientific Name	Common Name	Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire-fog
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	Bluebell
<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	Ground-elder	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Perforate St John's-wort
<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	Horse-chestnut	<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Cat's-ear
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Common Bent	<i>Lamium album</i>	White Dead-nettle
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	Creeping Bent	<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	Meadow Vetchling
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic Mustard	<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	Black Medick
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Alder	<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>	Dog's Mercury
<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>	Meadow Foxtail	<i>Myosotis arvensis</i>	Field Forget-me-not
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	Scarlet Pimpernel	<i>Myosotis sylvatica</i>	Wood Forget-me-not
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Sweet Vernal-grass	<i>Ophrys apifera</i>	Bee Orchid
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	False Oat-grass	<i>Phleum pratense</i>	Timothy
<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	Mugwort	<i>Phyllitis scolopendrium</i>	Hart's-tongue
<i>Arum maculatum</i>	Lords-and-Ladies	<i>Pilosella aurantiaca</i>	Fox-and-cubs
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy	<i>Plantago major</i>	Greater Plantain
<i>Betula pendula</i>	Silver Birch	<i>Poa pratensis</i>	Smooth Meadow-grass
<i>Buddleja davidii</i>	Butterfly-bush	<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	Knotgrass
<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	Hedge Bindweed	<i>Populus nigra x deltoides = P. x canadensis</i>	Hybrid Black-poplar
<i>Carex hirta</i>	Hairy Sedge	<i>Populus tremula</i>	Aspen
<i>Carex otrubae</i>	False Fox-sedge	<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	Creeping Cinquefoil
<i>Carex pendula</i>	Pendulous Sedge	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Selfheal
<i>Centaureum erythraea</i>	Common Centaury	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow Buttercup
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common Mouse-ear	<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>	Lesser Celandine
<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>	Rosebay Willowherb	<i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i>	Bramble
<i>Circaea lutetiana</i>	Enchanter's-nightshade	<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Common Sorrel
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle	<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Curled Dock
<i>Cirsium palustre</i>	Marsh Thistle	<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Dock
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	<i>Salix alba</i>	White Willow
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	<i>Salix caprea</i>	Goat Willow
<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Wild Teasel	<i>Salix viminalis</i>	Osier
<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>	Male-fern	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder
<i>Elytrigia repens</i>	Common Couch	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Common Ragwort
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Great Willowherb	<i>Silene dioica</i>	Red Campion
<i>Epilobium montanum</i>	Broad-leaved Willowherb	<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Prickly Sow-thistle
<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	Willowherb	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Rowan
<i>Euphorbia peplus</i>	Field Horsetail	<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	Hedge Woundwort
<i>Euphrasia officinalis agg.</i>	Common Spurge	<i>Stellaria graminea</i>	Lesser Stitchwort
<i>Fallopia japonica</i>	Eyebright	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	Dandelion
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	Japanese Knotweed	<i>Trifolium medium</i>	Zigzag Clover
	Red Fescue		

<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers	<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	Colt's-foot
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb-Robert	<i>Ulmus glabra</i>	Wych Elm
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Wood Avens	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common Nettle
<i>Hedera helix subsp. helix</i>	Common Ivy	<i>Vicia sativa</i>	Common Vetch
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed	<i>Vicia sepium</i>	Bush Vetch

## FAUNA

Whole site

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Maniola jurtina insularis</i>	Meadow Brown
<i>Polygonia c-album</i>	Comma
<i>Pyronia tithonus britanniae</i>	Hedge Brown
<i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>	Cinnabar
<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	Blue Tit