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## L48 Land at Blackdown

Area (ha): 66.85



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### **3.41 Map 41 Land at Blackdown**

**Area: 66.85 ha**

#### **Overview**

This large parcel of land is now dominated by a network of intensive arable fields which were all under wheat at the time of survey. Until relatively recently however parts of this area contained significant amounts of parkland and orchard/nursery ground and the wealth of old parkland timber still standing reflects this history. In addition to these, a former green lane and connecting woodland belt cross the area and these now form important wildlife corridors. The parcel also contains a network of moderately species-rich hedgerows, a corridor of broad field margins containing a stream and a small swamp, and a small area of relict semi-improved grassland.

#### **Key features**

Stream corridor

Green lane and woodland belt

Hedgerows

Semi-improved grassland

Scattered mature and veteran trees

Small overgrown quarry

#### **Habitat description**

The great majority of Map 41 consists of intensively farmed arable fields with little wildlife value, although the margins do support some common arable weeds in places (particularly along the north sides of ID#7 and ID#9, and to the west of ID#12 and ID#16). The whole of

this landscape is criss-crossed by a network of hedgerows which form important wildlife corridors connecting existing pockets of ecological interest. Some of these hedgerows are moderately species-rich (ID#5, 6, 13, 15, 18, 19) which are valuable for a range of wildlife including foraging and nesting farmland birds and invertebrates. The road verge of Sandy Lane (ID#6) contains a population of a coastal salt-tolerant plant, Grass-leaved Orache (*Atriplex littoralis*), not previously found in the vice-county away from Birmingham.

The most valuable corridors are the broad strip of semi-improved grassland enclosing a stream which runs from east to west (ID#4, 7, 20, 21), and the green lane and connected woodland belt running from north to south (ID#9, 11, 12, 16). The stream corridor includes patches of more species-rich grassland, tall herb, scrub and mature trees, with a small swamp dominated by Common Reedmace, Soft Rush and Water Figwort at the western end (ID#4). This appears to be an overflow area for an adjoining lake in private grounds immediately to the west of the parcel boundary. The stream corridor is of considerable importance for feeding and breeding farmland birds, including several pairs of Yellowhammers which are nationally red-listed. The swamp holds a pair of Reed Buntings. The semi-improved grassland is also likely to be important for small mammals and invertebrates, as well as Grass Snake. The stream has potential for supporting a population of protected Water Voles.

The other corridor includes a perfectly preserved green lane (ID#11) of considerable importance for breeding birds and a range of invertebrates, as well as two narrow belts of woodland (ID#9, 16). The western belt (ID#9) is of most scenic and wildlife importance, having once formed a park boundary. It contains a few woodland plants including the locally scarce Wood Meadow-grass, which is

usually restricted to ancient woodland. The green lane to the east (ID#12, 16) has been partly destroyed but still contains a public right of way and the relict woodland strip is a valuable haven for birds, mammals and invertebrates. This corridor is likely to support a population of Badgers.

The small paddock of semi-improved grassland (ID#10) is at present partly close-grazed and rather species-poor but is likely to be important for small mammals and invertebrates such as grasshoppers and grass-breeding butterflies. Long-established semi-improved grassland is now rare in the local area and this example would almost certainly improve in biodiversity if more sympathetically managed. The overgrown strip around the stables (ID#10a) has the potential for supporting Slow-worms and other reptiles.

The numerous mature and near veteran deciduous trees, for instance at ID#23 and 24 have the potential of supporting bat colonies and nesting owls.

A small overgrown quarry (ID#14) has the potential for supporting reptiles and badgers, and is likely to be an important site for nesting birds and invertebrates.

### **Recommendations for Further Survey**

It is recommended that any potentially species-rich hedgerows (ID#5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 15, 18, 19) are subjected to a full hedgerow survey following the ancient hedgerow criteria to establish the full extent of their biodiversity value.

Full botanical, invertebrate and ornithological surveys of the semi-improved grasslands (ID#4, 7, 10, 20, 21), green lane (ID#11), quarry

(ID#14) and woodland belts (ID#9, 16) will be required between April and June to establish the full extent of their biodiversity value.

The watercourse should be surveyed for water voles, both desk top survey for existing records and a site survey to establish current status.

The woodland belts and associated green lane (ID#9, 11, 12, 16) is almost certainly a Badger corridor and their presence needs to be determined with necessary mitigation established if found to be present.

A reptile survey will be required by an experienced ecologist in areas ID# 4, 7, 10, 14, 21, 22) to assess the potential presence of this group.

Bats can be found in many buildings and trees, even those that initially appear to be unsuitable. Bats and their roost sites are protected under the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act, the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and the Habitats Regulations 1994, the latter which deems them a group of European Protected Species. Therefore it is recommended that a pre-determinative bat survey of the woodland belts and mature trees is undertaken at an appropriate time of year by a qualified ecologist.

### **Recommendations**

It is recommended that all species-rich hedgerows are retained with a buffer zone, with less diverse hedgerows replaced with new hedgerow habitat through and surrounding any new development, comprising suitable native species as advised by Feldon Character area guidelines.

Both the stream corridor and the “Y” shaped green lane and woodland belt corridors are integral to the wildlife and landscape of

the locality and should be preserved and protected by a suitable buffer, preferably no less than 50m on each side. This should be extended on the water course if Water Voles are found, and a suitable management plan should be produced to ensure future good management and enhancement of these habitats.

The semi-improved grassland contained within the paddock should be preserved from development and preferably enhanced, as this habitat is now rare in the local area.

All mature trees within the parcel should be retained. Each tree should have a buffer zone to protect the roots from the effects of development. It is important that a buffer zone is in place to address health and safety issues of future tree loss impacting on development properties. Please refer to the section on tree preservation and protection within Planning and Legal Context. Where groups of trees are present (ID#23, 24) it is recommended that these areas are incorporated into blocks or corridors of amenity parkland.

### **3.41 Land at Blackdown**

#### **Target Notes**

**1)** A tarmac access road forms the boundary, which is bordered by a straight enclosure hedge of no great age, consisting of Hawthorn and English Elm, with some Blackthorn and Dog Rose. This is overhung by a line of fairly young Sycamore, Ash and Common Lime which help screen a school. The hedge has no real ditch and bank, with the bottom being overgrown with Bramble, Nettle and False Oat-grass.

**2)** A well-manicured low modern hedge of Hawthorn, with a scatter of taller shrubs and young trees left uncut, comprising Pedunculate Oak, Elder and Sycamore.

**3)** A small lake in private grounds just outside the boundary which may be an important breeding site for amphibians. This is screened by a border of tall mature Sycamores and Oaks, with Silver Birch, Lime, Ash and Cherry.

**4)** A broad strip of poor semi-improved grassland on either side of a straightened section of stream, which feeds the adjoining lake. Closest to the lake is a small swamp that has developed in an area which appears to occasional flood. This is dominated by Common Reedmace, but further towards the road there is abundant Great Willowherb, Soft Rush and Water Figwort along the stream, with occasional Pendulous Sedge. This wet area is bordered by tall herb, with abundant Hogweed, Broad-leaved Dock and Cleavers. Away from the stream, the open grassland is almost entirely rank False Oat-grass, but there are a few patches of Bramble with occasional Rosebay Willowherb and Red Campion. There is a large Crack Willow shrub growing by the stream south of the swamp. Both Reed Bunting and Yellowhammers were breeding, the former in the swamp.

**5)** A moderately species rich hedge running the length of Sandy Lane. This is a tall mixed hedge of Hawthorn, Hazel and English Elm, with occasional Field Maple, Blackthorn and Dog Rose. Towards the end of the lane near the junction with the B4113 the Elm has colonised a wider strip of former verge and a row of mature Oaks are present. The hedgerow extension along the B4113 has a similar mix of species. The hedge bottoms have abundant Garlic

Mustard along with other typical shade plants such as Herb Bennet, Cow Parsley and Hedge Woundwort.

**6)** The north side of Sandy Lane is also relatively species rich, comprising a mix of Hawthorn, Hazel, English Elm and Blackthorn, with occasional Ash and Dog Rose. There are a scatter of mature Oak trees along the whole length and a single Hybrid Black Poplar at the northern end in the corner of the adjoining grounds. The verge here is generally wider than the south side and contains areas of semi-improved grassland, with Common Bent, Red Fescue, Yarrow, Cut-leaved Cranesbill, Ground-ivy, Smooth Hawksbeard, Ribwort Plantain, Meadow Buttercup and Red Clover. Towards the southern end there are also patches of Creeping Soft-grass and rare Common Dog-violet. **Note:** A short distance to the north of where the stream passes under the road is a large colony of the county rare halophyte Grass-leaved Orache, a coastal species that has not been recorded in the region away from Birmingham.

**7)** A broad strip of rough poor semi-improved grassland on either side of a narrow deeply incised and canalised stream. This is dominated by False Oat-grass, with locally abundant Cocksfoot, Timothy and Red Fescue, and abundant tall herb including Creeping Thistle, Cleavers, Hogweed, Bramble and Nettle, with Great Willowherb along the stream. At **(7a)** there is an area of more species-rich grassland, with frequent Crested Dogstail, Smooth Tare and Cut-leaved Cranesbill. The stream is often hidden by tall herb but there is some Bittersweet and Soft Rush here. At the southern end near the road is a line of mature Pedunculate Oaks, with single Beech and Turkey Oak, survivors from former parkland. The former boundary hedge of this park still survives in places along the stream as patches of Hawthorn scrub, with occasional young Ash and Oak, Dog Rose and Elder. At the northern end **(7b)** is a more intact section dominated by Blackthorn which shelters a derelict shed surrounded by a large Nettle patch. Also once part of this hedge is a large multi-stemmed (formerly coppiced) Crack Willow situated half way along this section. This strip is very attractive to butterflies (especially Ringlet and Speckled Wood), grasshoppers and other invertebrates, including the nationally declining Cinnabar Moth (*Tyria jacobaeae*). Single pairs of Green Woodpecker and Yellowhammer nest along here, with Blackcap in the hedge at 7b.



**8)** A rather gappy species-poor Hawthorn hedge of no great age bordering a farm drive. There is frequent young Ash and occasional Oak growing up, but the only mature tree is a large Sycamore.

**9)** A narrow strip of deciduous semi-natural woodland occupies a bank and possible former lane which once formed the boundary of a small park. The canopy is dominated by Ash, with rare Horse Chestnut, False Acacia and probably other trees surviving from the parkland. The shrub layer is dense and dominated by Hawthorn and more locally by Holly and Wych Elm, presumably deriving from the original boundary hedge. The field layer, although dominated by Ivy, Cleavers and Nettle, is surprisingly diverse with frequent Red Campion, Nipplewort, Herb Bennet, Ground-ivy and Garlic Mustard. Less common species present include Three-nerved Sandwort and Wood Meadow-grass, the latter usually restricted to areas where ancient woodland is or was present.

**10)** A small meadow of rather species-poor but long-established semi-improved grassland, subdivided by fences and tape into paddocks. The main grasses appear to be Common Bent, Red Fescue, Yorkshire Fog and Smooth Meadow-grass, but the paddocks are rather heavily grazed. Herbs are few and only Ribwort Plantain is at all frequent. There are scattered Nettle clumps. A short stretch of unmanaged hedge containing two mature Ash trees forms the northern boundary. On the west side (**10a**) is a narrow strip of used and derelict stables and outbuildings just outside the boundary of this parcel. This area is partly overgrown with patches of Bramble, Mugwort and Nettle and is backed by a tall irregular and unmanaged hedge of Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Holly, Elder, Wild Privet and Bramble, with a few mature trees of Ash and Sycamore.

**11)** An old green lane running between high hedges of Blackthorn and Hawthorn, with some English Elm, Field and Dog Rose, and Field Maple. There are frequent mature Ash trees with one or two Oaks. The old verges are rank and dominated by tall herb, with the main plants being False Oat-grass, Rosebay Willowherb, Raspberry, Bramble, Hogweed and Nettle. The hedge bottoms are relatively diverse with frequent to abundant Garlic Mustard, Hedge Mustard, Cow Parsley, Cleavers, Nipplewort, Herb Bennet, Red Campion, Hedge Woundwort and Green Alkanet. This is an important local wildlife area with nesting birds including Great Spotted Woodpecker, Blackcap,

Song Thrush, Nuthatch, Greenfinch and Goldfinch. Invertebrates are also numerous along here, including Speckled Wood and Ringlet butterflies.

**12)** A stretch of rather species poor Hawthorn hedge bordering a public footpath. There are several young Ash as well as domestic Apple and Plum shrubs. It is bordered by a rank border of False Oat-grass, with Cow Parsley, Creeping Thistle, Soft Brome, Hogweed, Nettle etc. Nipplewort is frequent, while Wild Oat was recorded from the field margin.

**13)** A good species-rich mixed hedge of Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Elder, Dog Rose and Wild Plum, with occasional young Ash. There is abundant Bramble and Bracken along the hedge bottom.

**14)** A small disused quarry overgrown with Hawthorn and Elder scrub, patches of semi-improved grassland and tall herb, and bordered by several mature Oak trees. This is likely to be of some importance to local wildlife.

**15)** Roadside hedges bordering West Hill and Stoneleigh Roads, and the property known as Copper Beeches. Fairly low and well managed, with Hawthorn dominant and other shrubs such as Sycamore, Elder and Dog Rose only occasional. There are a few mature Ash, Oak and Sycamore trees. Bramble dominates the hedge bottoms, with local areas of Bracken towards West Hill.

**16)** A narrow strip of woodland originating from a double hedge and occupying a wide bank. A sewer outlet is present here. The woodland is dominated by very large mature Oak trees, with a scatter of mature Sycamore, Ash and Beech, and some younger Lombardy Poplar. There is a dense and tall understory of Hawthorn and Blackthorn, with Holly, Elm, Elder and Field Rose. Not much light reaches the ground which is either bare or dominated by Ivy. The mature trees are an important wildlife habitat and supports breeding Blackcap and Chiffchaff. Further north this boundary is replaced by an old wall where it borders West Hill House. This wall is overhung with large Oaks and Sycamores within the grounds. A border of Green Alkanet, Cow Parsley, Cleavers and Nettle is present along the wall. The edge of the adjoining arable field has rather more arable weeds than elsewhere in the parcel, including frequent Heartsease.

**17)** A narrow strip of derelict ornamental plantation woodland bordering West Hill Road, now dominated by Elm scrub from the adjoining hedge but with frequent Cherry Laurel and Sycamore. Towards the house are some surviving mature specimens of Beech, Common Lime and Black Pine.

**18)** A well managed hedge of Hawthorn, Blackthorn and English Elm bordering West Hill Road. Hazel, Dog Rose and Elder are also present. There are two mature Oaks and one Beech. It is bordered by a strip of tall herb, including Lesser Burdock, Rosebay Willowherb and Red Campion. Common Whitethroats breed.

**19)** A long stretch of well managed and well structured hedgerow bordering the A445. It is rather species poor, consisting mainly of Hawthorn but with local patches of English Elm and occasional young Ash. There is just one tree, a solitary mature Oak. On the outside of the hedge is a slight ditch which is wet in places and includes patches of Great Willowherb and Tufted Hair-grass. The grassy verge adjoining the road, although regularly mown, still contains a few interesting herbs including Common Knapweed and Oxeye Daisy. Several Ringlets and other butterflies were patrolling this verge.

**20)** The continuation of the narrow stream between wide field margins, with the stream bordered by tall Crack Willows and occasional Goat Sallow.

**21)** The stream here runs between broad field margins dominated by rank grassland and tall herb, mainly False Oat-grass, Cocksfoot, Cleavers, Hogweed and Cow Parsley. There are also several patches of Blackthorn scrub, some Elder and a couple of planted cherry trees. One pair of Yellowhammers breeds here.

**22)** Farm buildings planted with a planted screen of ornamental shrubs and trees, mainly cypress sp. and spruce sp., along the south and west sides.

**23)** An area of former parkland now planted with wheat. Three very fine old Sweet Chestnuts stand in this corner; with two Pedunculate Oaks, one of veteran status, immediately to the south.

**24)** A large field now under wheat but formerly parkland. There are a scatter of old parkland trees across the area, including Pedunculate and Red Oaks,

Common Lime, Horse Chestnut and Sycamore. These hold breeding Jackdaws and Stock Doves and look suitable for owls and bats.

### VASCULAR PLANTS RECORDING FORM

Site Name:	Blackdown
Grid Ref:	SP323686
File Code:	SP36J
Date:	03/07/2012
Recorders:	J J Bowley

SPECIES		PRESENT	ABUNDANCE
Latin name	Common name	"x" to select	DAFOR
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple	X	O
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore	X	O
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	X	O
<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	Ground Elder	X	LF
<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	Horse Chestnut	X	O
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Common Bent	X	LA
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	Creeping Bent	X	F
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic Mustard	X	F
<i>Anisantha sterilis</i>	Barren Brome	X	F
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow Parsley	X	A
<i>Arctium lappa</i>	Greater Burdock	X	R
<i>Arctium minus</i>	Lesser Burdock	X	LF
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	False Oat-grass	X	A
<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	Mugwort	X	O
<i>Arum maculatum</i>	Cuckoo Pint	X	R
<i>Atriplex prostrata</i>	Spear-leaved Orache	X	R
<i>Avena fatua</i>	Wild Oat	X	O
<i>Betula pendula</i>	Silver Birch	X	R
<i>Bromus hordeaceus</i>	Soft-brome	X	F
<i>Bromus x pseudothominei</i>	Lesser Soft-brome	X	R
<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	Hedge Bindweed	X	O
<i>Calystegia silvatica</i>	Large Bindweed	X	LF
<i>Carex pendula</i>	Pendulous Sedge	X	R
<i>Castanea sativa</i>	Sweet Chestnut	X	O
<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Common Knapweed	X	R
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common Mouse-ear	X	O
<i>Chaerophyllum temulum</i>	Rough Chervil	X	O
<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>	Rosebay Willowherb	X	LA
<i>Chenopodium album</i>	Fat Hen	X	R
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle	X	A
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear Thistle	X	O
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	X	F
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	X	LA
<i>Crepis capillaris</i>	Smooth Hawksbeard	X	LF
<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	Crested Dogstail	X	R
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cocksfoot	X	F
<i>Deschampsia caespitosa</i>	Tufted Hair-grass	X	O
<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	Foxglove	X	R
<i>Elytrigia repens</i>	Common Couch	X	F
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Great Willowherb	X	LA
<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	Field Horsetail	X	LF
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Beech	X	O
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	Red Fescue	X	F
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash	X	LF

<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers	X	A
<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	Cut-leaved Cranesbill	X	LF
<i>Geranium molle</i>	Dovesfoot Cranesbill	X	O
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Herb Bennet	X	LF
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Ground-ivy	X	LF
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy	X	LA
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed	X	A
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire Fog	X	LA
<i>Holcus mollis</i>	Creeping Soft-grass	X	LF
<i>Hordeum murinum</i>	Wall Barley	X	LF
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly	X	LF
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Soft Rush	X	LF
<i>Lactuca serriola</i>	Prickly Lettuce	X	R
<i>Lamium album</i>	White Dead-nettle	X	O
<i>Lapsana communis</i>	Nipplewort	X	LF
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Oxeye Daisy	X	R
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	Wild Privet	X	R
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial Rye-grass	X	A
<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	Honeysuckle	X	R
<i>Malus pumila</i>	Apple	X	R
<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Common Mallow	X	O
<i>Matricaria discoidea</i>	Pineappleweed	X	O
<i>Matricaria recutita</i>	Scented Mayweed	X	LF
<i>Moehringia trinervia</i>	Three-nerved Sandwort	X	R
<i>Myosotis arvensis</i>	Field Forgetmenot	X	O
<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Common Poppy	X	R
<i>Pentaglottis sempervirens</i>	Green Alkanet	X	LF
<i>Persicaria maculosa</i>	Redshank	X	O
<i>Phleum pratense</i>	Timothy	X	LF
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain	X	LF
<i>Plantago major</i>	Greater Plantain	X	O
<i>Poa annua</i>	Annual Meadow-grass	X	O
<i>Poa nemoralis</i>	Wood Meadow-grass	X	R
<i>Poa pratensis</i>	Smooth Meadow-grass	X	LF
<i>Poa trivialis</i>	Rough Meadow-grass	X	F
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	Common Knotgrass	X	O
<i>Populus nigra var. italica</i>	Lombardy Poplar	X	R
<i>Populus x canadensis</i>	Hybrid Black Poplar	X	R
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Selfheal	X	R
<i>Prunus domestica</i>	Wild Plum	X	O
<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>	Cherry Laurel	X	LF
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn	X	F
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken	X	LF
<i>Quercus cerris</i>	Turkey Oak	X	R
<i>Quercus robur</i>	Pedunculate Oak	X	O
<i>Quercus rubra</i>	American Red Oak	X	R
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow Buttercup	X	O
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup	X	LA
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	False Acacia	X	R
<i>Rosa arvensis</i>	Field Rose	X	O
<i>Rosa canina agg.</i>	Dog Rose	X	F
<i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i>	Bramble	X	F
<i>Rubus idaeus</i>	Raspberry	X	LF
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Curled Dock	X	R
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Dock	X	F

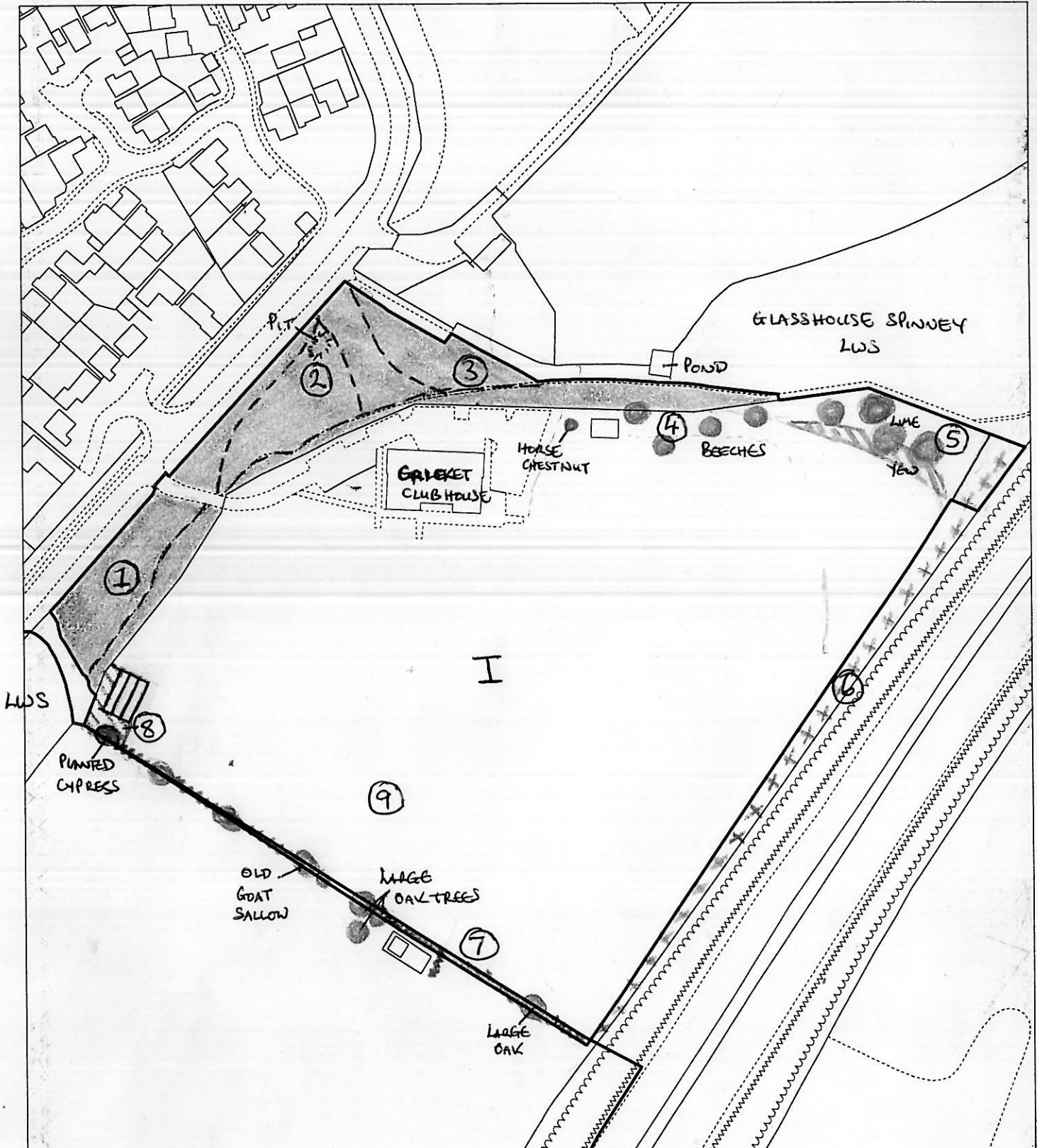
<i>Salix caprea</i>	Goat Sallow	X	R
<i>Salix fragilis</i>	Crack Willow	X	O
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder	X	O
<i>Scrophularia auriculata</i>	Water Figwort	X	LF
<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Common Ragwort	X	R
<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	Common Groundsel	X	R
<i>Silene dioica</i>	Red Campion	X	LF
<i>Silene latifolia</i>	White Campion	X	O
<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i>	Hedge Mustard	X	LF
<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	Bittersweet	X	O
<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Prickly Sowthistle	X	O
<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	Hedge Woundwort	X	O
<i>Stellaria media</i>	Common Chickweed	X	O
<i>Tamus communis</i>	Black Bryony	X	R
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg.	Common Dandelion	X	O
<i>Tilia x vulgaris</i>	Common Lime	X	O
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover	X	R
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	X	F
<i>Tripleurospermum inodorum</i>	Scentless Mayweed	X	O
<i>Typha latifolia</i>	Common Reedmace	X	LF
<i>Ulmus glabra</i>	Wych Elm	X	O
<i>Ulmus procera</i>	English Elm	X	F
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common Nettle	X	F
<i>Veronica persica</i>	Common Field-speedwell	X	O
<i>Veronica serpyllifolia</i>	Thyme-leaved Speedwell	X	O
<i>Vicia hirsuta</i>	Hairy Tare	X	R
<i>Vicia tetrasperma</i>	Smooth Tare	X	LF
<i>Viola arvensis</i>	Field Pansy	X	O
<i>Viola riviniana</i>	Common Dog-violet	X	R
<i>Atriplex littoralis</i>	Grass-leaved Orache	X	LF
<i>Pinus nigra</i> ssp?	Black Pine	X	R



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## K20 Kenilworth Wardens Cricket Club

Area (ha): 4.75



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### **3.40 Map 40 Kenilworth Wardens Cricket Club**

**Area: 4.75 ha**

#### **Overview**

Map 40 is dominated by the Kenilworth Wardens Cricket Club ground which consists largely of close mown improved amenity grassland, but with minor areas of tall ruderal vegetation and scattered trees on the boundaries and one hedgerow. On the northern and north-western perimeter is a section of ancient woodland, an integral part of Glasshouse Spinney LWS.

#### **Key features**

LWS/SINC woodland (Glasshouse Spinney SP37A1)

Hedgerow

Tall ruderal areas

Scattered mature trees

#### **Habitat description**

The majority of the site in Map 40 consists of close mown improved grassland used for sporting facilities by the Kenilworth Wardens Cricket Club (ID#9). The perimeter of the field has a moderately higher species diversity than the interior and would probably improve considerably if it was left uncut during the spring and summer. As it is the grassland is only valuable as a food resource for birds such as Starlings, finches and Pied Wagtails.

The corridor of mature semi-natural deciduous woodland along the northern and north-western boundaries (ID#1-3) is a designated LWS/SINC and part of Glasshouse Spinney LWS, which is also part Warwickshire Wildlife Trust nature reserve. It contains a number of

plants characteristic of ancient woodland within Warwickshire, including Wood Anemone, Wood Melick, Wood Millet, Wood Meadow-grass and Wood Speedwell. Another ancient woodland indicator which is uncommon in the county, Woodruff, is confined within the LWS to one colony within this corridor (ID#2). The woodland is also very valuable for other wildlife including birds and invertebrates. The woodland corridor forms an effective screen to traffic noise emanating from the A46 nearby as well as a scenic feature on the edge of a largely suburbanised area.

The hedgerow (ID#7) although fairly derelict has a good diversity of shrub species and contains a group of four very old Pedunculate Oak trees which have the potential to hold roosting bats.

A line of tall Goat Sallows (ID#6) along the eastern perimeter adjacent to the planted banks of the A46 have limited wildlife value at present as they have become too tall and spindly and need coppicing. The flowers however provide some value for nectaring insects in spring.

### **Recommendations for Further Survey**

The woodland is almost certainly a Badger corridor and their presence needs to be determined with necessary mitigation established if found to be present.

Bats can be found in many buildings and trees, even those that initially appear to be unsuitable. Bats and their roost sites are protected under the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act, the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and the Habitats Regulations 1994, the latter which deems them a group of European Protected Species. Therefore it is recommended that a pre-determinative bat survey of the buildings, woodland and mature

trees is undertaken at an appropriate time of year by a qualified ecologist.

## **Recommendations**

The woodland is part of an existing LWS (Glasshouse Spinney) and has very high biodiversity and landscape value. It should therefore be protected from development and have a designated buffer zone of at least 50metres between it and any property boundaries. This is to prevent damage to the woodland from direct impact of root damage, or from indirect issues including changes to site hydrology, compaction and increased temperature from development. With mature trees in the woodland, it is important that a buffer zone is in place to address health and safety issues of future tree loss impacting on development properties.

The existing hedgerow (ID#7) is fairly species rich and contains some near veteran oak trees. It is therefore recommended that this hedge should be retained and protected from development with a buffer zone. It should be strengthened by planting up gaps with suitable thorny species such as Hawthorn and Blackthorn.

The mature trees on the north side of the parcel (ID#4-5) should be retained and included within the woodland buffer zone which should be extended to 100m in this area to protect the tree's roots from development. It is important that a buffer zone is in place to address health and safety issues of future tree loss impacting on development properties. Please refer to the section on tree preservation and protection within Planning and Legal Context.

Due to the proximity of the species-rich ancient woodland LWS the majority of the site is not favourable for development and so this would have to be small scale. Any such development should focus on

protecting the woodland with a considerable buffer zone, which should then be suitably managed to reduce any negative effects on the biodiversity.

### **3.40 Kenilworth Wardens Cricket Club**

#### **Target Notes**

- 1)** Semi-natural deciduous woodland, dominated by Pedunculate Oak, with several Beech, Sweet Chestnut and Sycamore. There is a tall shrub layer of Hawthorn and Holly, with some young Ash, Sycamore and other trees. The field layer is dominated by Bramble, Cleavers and Ivy, the latter in the darker more shaded areas. Locally abundant woodland grasses, particularly False Brome, Wood Melick and Wood Meadow-grass. Patches of Wood Anemone and Bluebell, with Wood Millet and Broad Buckler-fern also present.
- 2)** Semi-natural deciduous woodland, with a mix of Ash, Beech and Pedunculate Oak, with one or two large Common Lime. The shrub layer again comprises tall Hawthorn and Holly, but with occasional Hazel and Field Rose. The southern half is dominated by a large dense stand of Cherry Laurel. The field layer is basically similar to 1) but with more Bluebell and Wood Anemone and a greater diversity of other species, including Wood Sedge, Bearded Couch, Honeysuckle, Woodruff, Bracken, Greater Stitchwort and Wood Speedwell. A small pit near the road holds a seasonal pool.
- 3)** Frequent Common Lime in canopy where woodland narrows, also a single Wild Plum tree. A narrow belt of Cherry Laurel is present along the northern perimeter, originating from hedge line. Honeysuckle is present all along the cricket club fencing here. The field layer includes locally frequent Three-nerved Sandwort and Common Dog-violet.
- 4)** A few scattered trees, mainly Beech. Small-flowered Cranesbill is present in a sparsely vegetated area within the mown grass below.
- 5)** Depression in corner of cricket field shaded by two each large Yew and Common Lime trees. The ground is mainly bare below but with a fringe of Nettle on the bank adjoining the field.
- 6)** Sparse line of tall leggy Goat Sallow between two fence lines.
- 7)** Tall patchy unmanaged hedge with many gaps and some planted trees. It is mainly Hawthorn, but with patches of Blackthorn and Hazel. A fair diversity of other shrubs and young trees, including Elder, Elm, Ash, Sycamore, Wild Plum,

Dog Rose, Goat Sallow and some planted Cherry, Oak and Lime. Despite the variety of species the hedge is unstructured and semi-derelict, and appears to be of enclosure age (18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century) in origin. There is a limited hedge bottom flora, mainly Bramble and Cleavers. The most valuable part of this hedge are four large very old Pedunculate Oak trees, three of which form a cluster. These are close to veteran in size.

**8)** A green waste dump forming a bank behind the training nets. This area is dominated by Nettle, sowthistles and Creeping Thistle, and also includes numbers of arable weeds including Heartsease, Wild Radish and Redshank.

**9)** The cricket field. This is a large expanse of close mown improved amenity grassland dominated by Annual Meadow-grass, Perennial Ryegrass and White Clover, and is of low wildlife value except for feeding birds such as Starling and Pied Wagtail. The perimeter, particularly the southern side, has slightly more diversity, with patches of Common Bent and abundant Lesser Trefoil. Small herbs including Selfheal, Common Mouse-ear, Black Medick, Cut-leaved Cranesbill and Procumbent Pearlwort are also present.

## VASCULAR PLANTS RECORDING FORM

Site Name:	
Grid Ref:	
File Code:	
Date:	
Recorders:	

SPECIES		PRESENT	ABUNDANCE
Latin name	Common name	"x" to select	DAFOR
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple	X	R
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore	X	F
<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	Horse Chestnut	X	R
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Common Bent	X	LF
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic Mustard	X	F
<i>Anemone nemorosa</i>	Wood Anemone	X	LF
<i>Anisantha sterilis</i>	Barren Brome	X	LO
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow Parsley	X	F
<i>Arctium minus</i>	Lesser Burdock	X	R
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	False Oat-grass	X	O
<i>Arum maculatum</i>	Cuckoo Pint	X	O
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy	X	O
<i>Betula pendula</i>	Silver Birch	X	R
<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>	False Brome	X	F
<i>Bromopsis ramosa</i>	Hairy Brome	X	R
<i>Callitriche stagnalis</i>	Common Water-starwort	X	LF
<i>Cardamine flexuosa</i>	Wavy Bittercress	X	LF
<i>Carex sylvatica</i>	Wood Sedge	X	O
<i>Castanea sativa</i>	Sweet Chestnut	X	R
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common Mouse-ear	X	O
<i>Chaerophyllum temulum</i>	Rough Chervil	X	O
<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>	Rosebay Willowherb	X	VLF
<i>Circaea lutetiana</i>	Enchanter's Nightshade	X	LF
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle	X	VLF
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear Thistle	X	O
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	X	O
<i>Cotoneaster horizontalis</i>	Wall Cotoneaster	X	R
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	X	F
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cocksfoot	X	O
<i>Deschampsia caespitosa</i>	Tufted Hair-grass	X	LF
<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	Foxglove	X	O
<i>Dryopteris affinis</i>	Scaly Male-fern	X	R
<i>Dryopteris dilatata</i>	Broad Buckler-fern	X	LF
<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>	Common Male-fern	X	O
<i>Elymus caninus</i>	Bearded Couch	X	R
<i>Elytrigia repens</i>	Common Couch	X	O
<i>Epilobium ciliatum</i>	American Willowherb	X	O
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Great Willowherb	X	R
<i>Epilobium montanum</i>	Broad-leaved Willowherb	X	LF
<i>Euphorbia peplus</i>	Petty Spurge	X	O
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Beech	X	O
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	Red Fescue	X	O
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash	X	O
<i>Galeopsis tetrahit</i>	Common Hemp-nettle	X	O