

9.6. MAP REF: WE/03/08 AND PDA2 (PART)

Area: 24.28 hectares

Overview

WE/03/08/PDA2 consists of a series of open grass fields separated by intact hedgerows. To the south-east of the site is Lower Farm with a small lake surrounded by open scrubland. The whole site is surrounded by a mix of arable and grass fields.

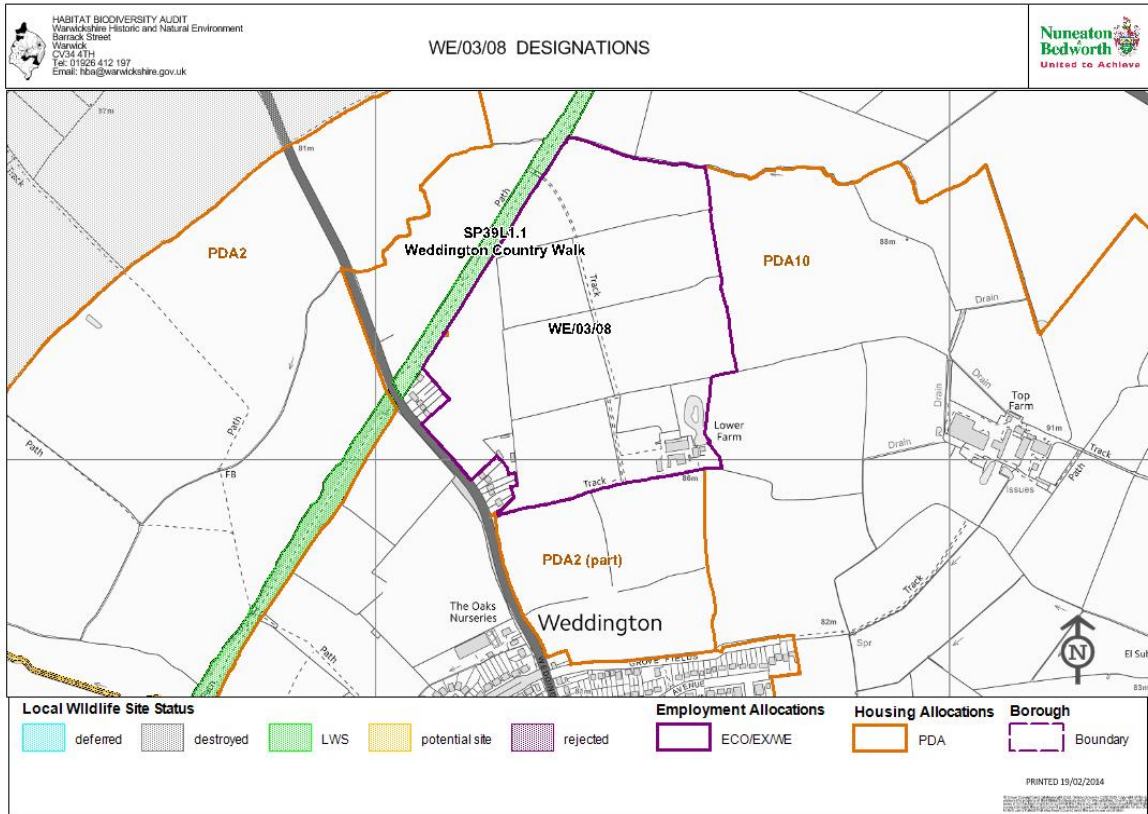
Key Features

- Intact hedgerows
- Water-bodies

Designated Sites

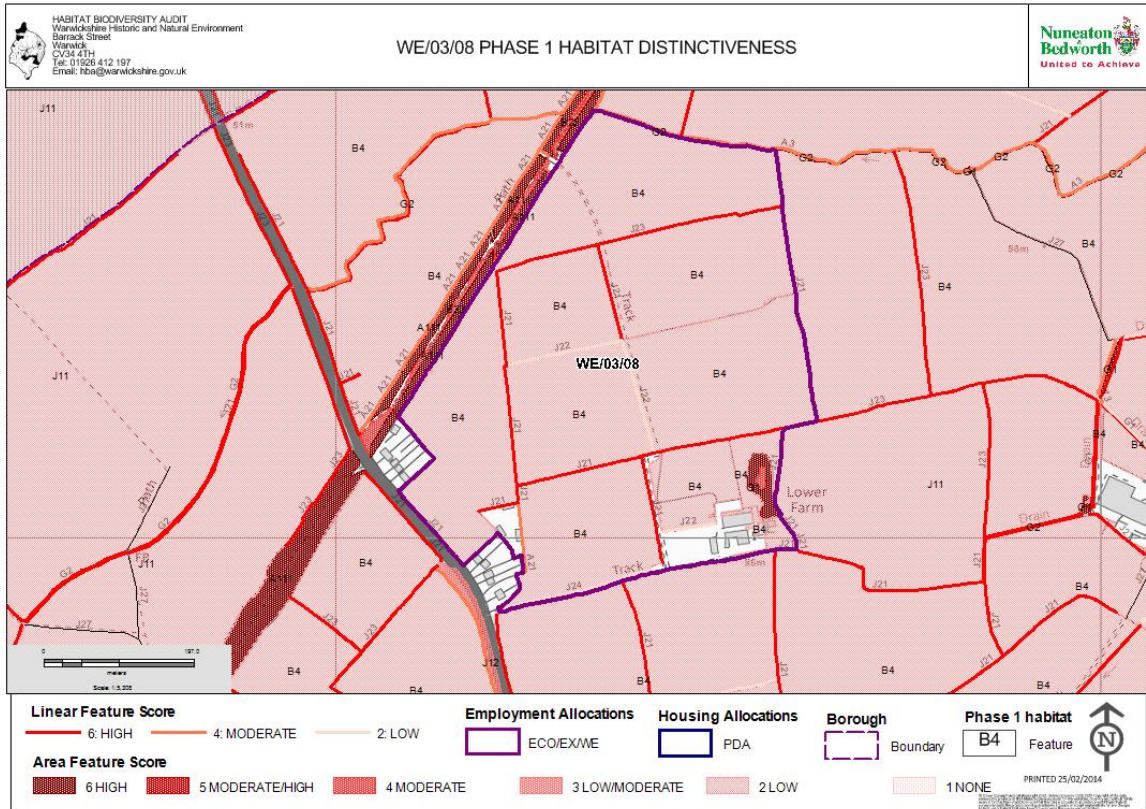
SP39L1.1 Weddington Country Walk LWS runs along the north-western boundary of the site and is the only designated site close to WE/03/08. Weddington Country Walk is a linear strip of semi-improved grassland and scrub running along a disused railway line.

A public footpath runs the length of the site with access at various points. It acts as a locally important wildlife corridor and has a rich flora and fauna. The adjacent land is primarily arable and pasture. The southern end of the LWS terminates at a railway line and the northern end at the A5/Watling Street.



Phase 1 Habitat Distinctiveness

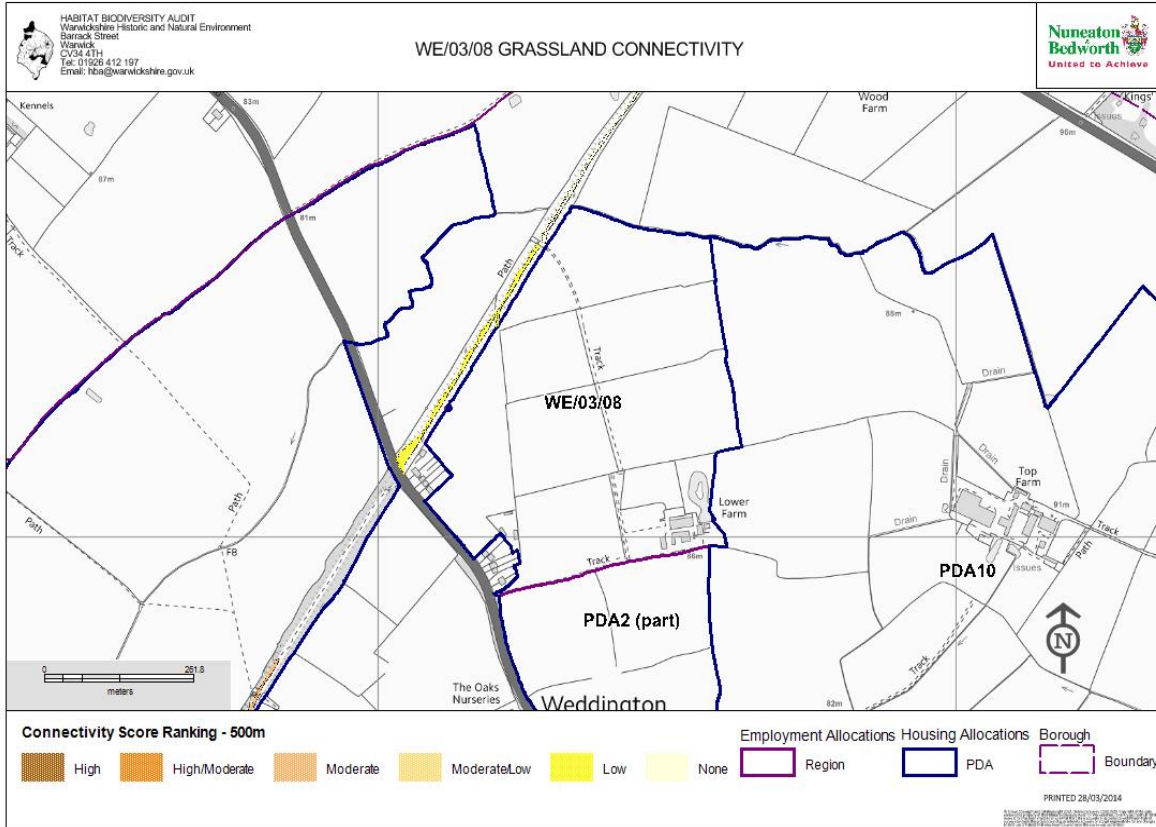
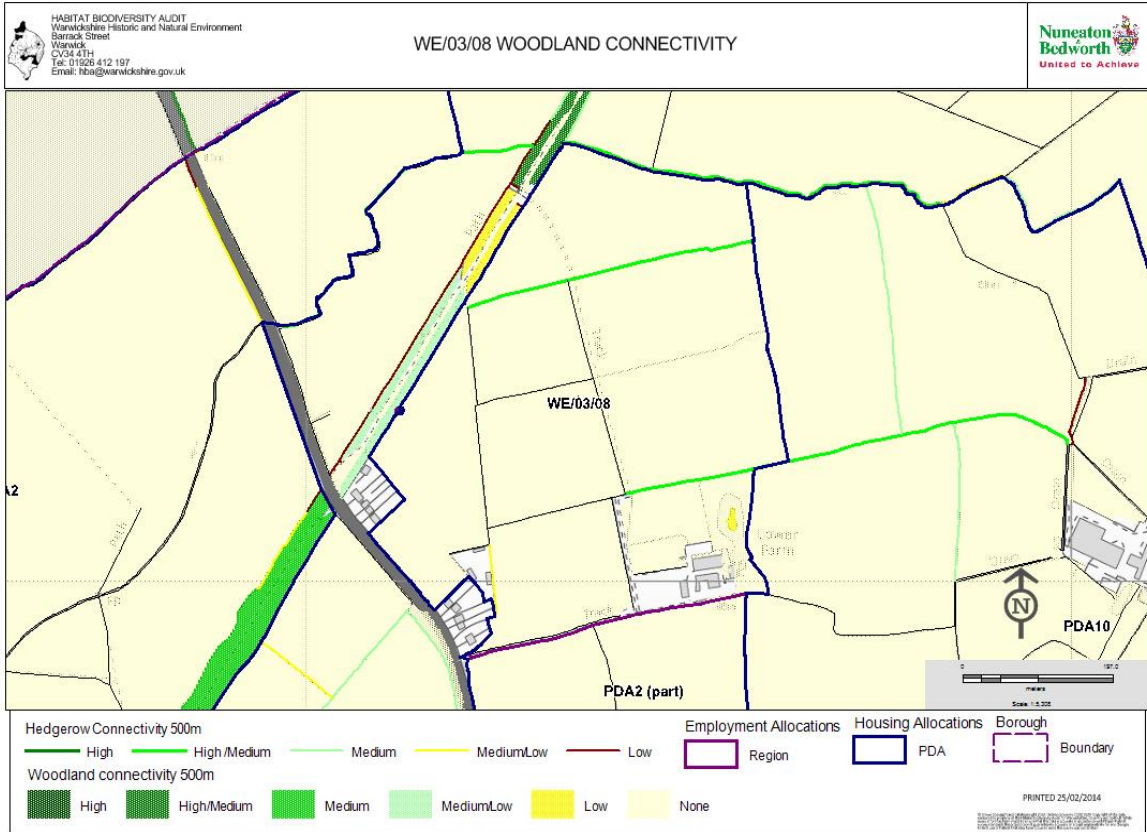
The site consists primarily of agriculturally improved grassland (B4) with low habitat distinctiveness. The intact field hedgerows (J21) and the Lake (G1) to the south-east of the site provide the only habitats with high habitat distinctiveness. The linear LWS Weddington Country Walk retains remnants of semi-natural grassland which have the highest distinctiveness along with linear belts of scrub (A21) running along either side of the track.



Phase 1 Habitat Connectivity

The hedgerow connectivity ranges from High/Moderate to Moderate/Low indicating that there are areas that remain connected to their neighbours but with decline in other sections. The pond site has become isolated from its surroundings.

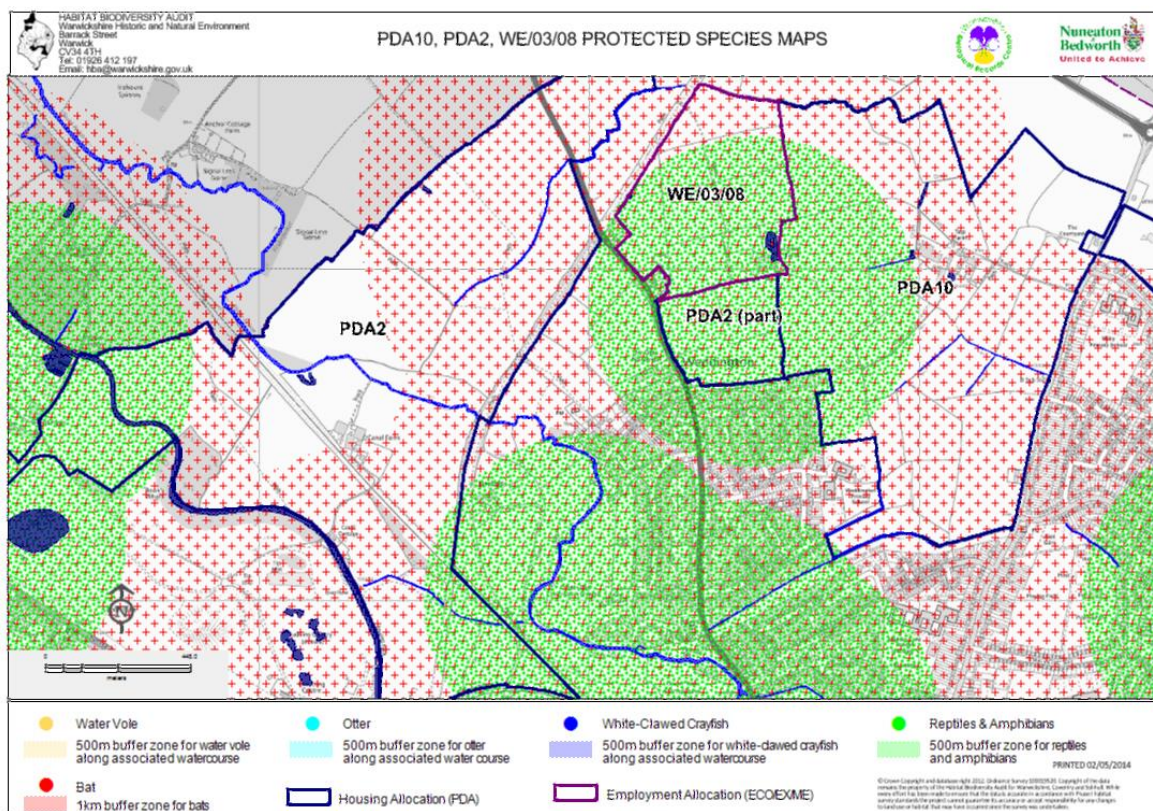
Grassland connectivity is only shown along the Weddington Country Walk as being very low. There are no other mapped areas of grassland connectivity shown in the area.



Protected Species

There is a recent record of great crested newts within PDA2 (part), and there are several records of a range of bat species foraging within the boundary of WE/03/08. There are also several records of wall and small heath butterflies along the disused railway line to the north-west of this site. In addition, there are several records of badgers in the surrounding area.

We do not anticipate that protected or locally rare and endangered species will preclude the proposed development sites from proceeding. However, should the proposal go ahead, we recommend that protected species are taken into consideration through more detailed ecological assessments. Please note that an absence of species records does not mean absence of species.



Recommendations

The existing hedgerows should where ever possible be retained and restored to maintain and improve the wildlife corridor, particularly along the Weddington Country Walk LWS.

Consideration should also be given to conserving and enhancing the Lake and its immediate surroundings to maintain an open area of grassland and open scrub.

9.7. MAP REF: PDA1, PDA2, PDA2 (PART) AND PDA10

Area: PDA1 76.68 hectares, PDA2 99.99 hectares, PDA2 (part) 34.22 hectares and PDA10 93.85 hectares.

Overview

The sites PDA1, PDA2, PDA2 (part) and PDA10 are a continuous section of proposed developments extending across the northern part of Nuneaton almost to the Leicestershire county boundary. A buffer of fields separates the proposed developments from the main A5 Watling Street and the County boundary. To the south the sites are bounded by the existing housing areas of Weddington and Milby

Site PDA1 is a large area consisting mainly of arable fields with some fields sown for grass. The fields are divided by hedgerows. Along the northern boundary of the site are more arable fields and grassland which extend to the A5 Watling Street. The south-eastern edge of the site is bounded by the A47, The Long Shoot, which meets the A5. The western boundary of the site consists of housing developments which continue along the northern section of the site.

Site PDA1 extends to Site PDA10 which is an infill area between Milby housing developments and Weddington, Like PDA1 the site is predominately agricultural with a mix of large fields of arable and grazing land.

PDA2 is the furthest proposed development site running along the North Warwickshire Borough boundary. There is also an additional section of PDA2 between PDA2 and PDA10 north of the housing extent at Weddington. The Coventry Canal passes along the southern edge of the site boundary.

Key Features

- Intact hedgerows
- Semi-improved grassland
- Open scrub
- Coventry Canal
- River Anker

Designated Sites

There are no designated sites in or close to sites PDA1 and PDA10.

Site PDA2 borders the Weddington Country Walk SP39L1.1 Local Wildlife Site which is a linear strip of semi-improved grassland and scrub running along a disused railway line. A public footpath runs along the length of the site with access at various points. The site consists of an embankment with grassland and

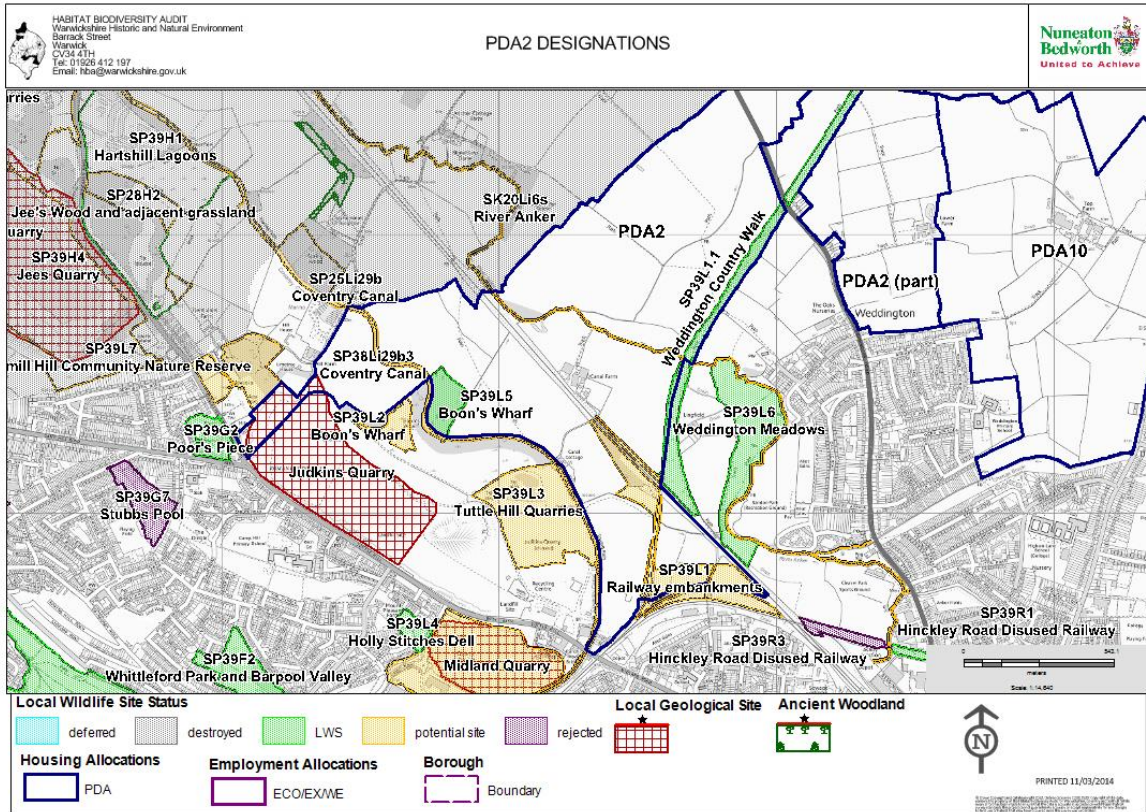
encroaching scrub along the top, and with dense scrub on the steeply sloping sides. The southern section of the site widens out to an area of grassland with scattered scrub. There appears to have been some recent management to the scrub. The site connects to other areas of semi-natural habitat and is itself a valuable wildlife corridor.

The River Anker SK20Li6s pLWS bisects the Weddington Country Walk which continues eastwards to the nearby Weddington Meadows SP39L6 LWS. This site is largely damp semi-improved neutral grassland that is cut for hay but was not grazed at the time of the survey. The site is prone to flooding and like the other sites in the area is well used by the public, with a public footpath passing through the site, as well as several informal paths.

The southern extent of the Weddington Country Walk LWS joins the Railway embankments SP39Li pLWS, which itself then connects to the Hinckley Road Disused Railway linear pLWS.

PDA2 also incorporates Boon's Wharf SP39I5 Local Wildlife Site and the Boon's Wharf SP39L2 potential LWS extension. Boon's Wharf LWS is a 2.2ha semi-improved grassland with encroaching scrub. The site is adjacent to the Coventry Canal which is also a potential LWS. At the time of the site designation there was no formal access to the site, but there was evidence of regular use by members of the public through informal access points and paths.

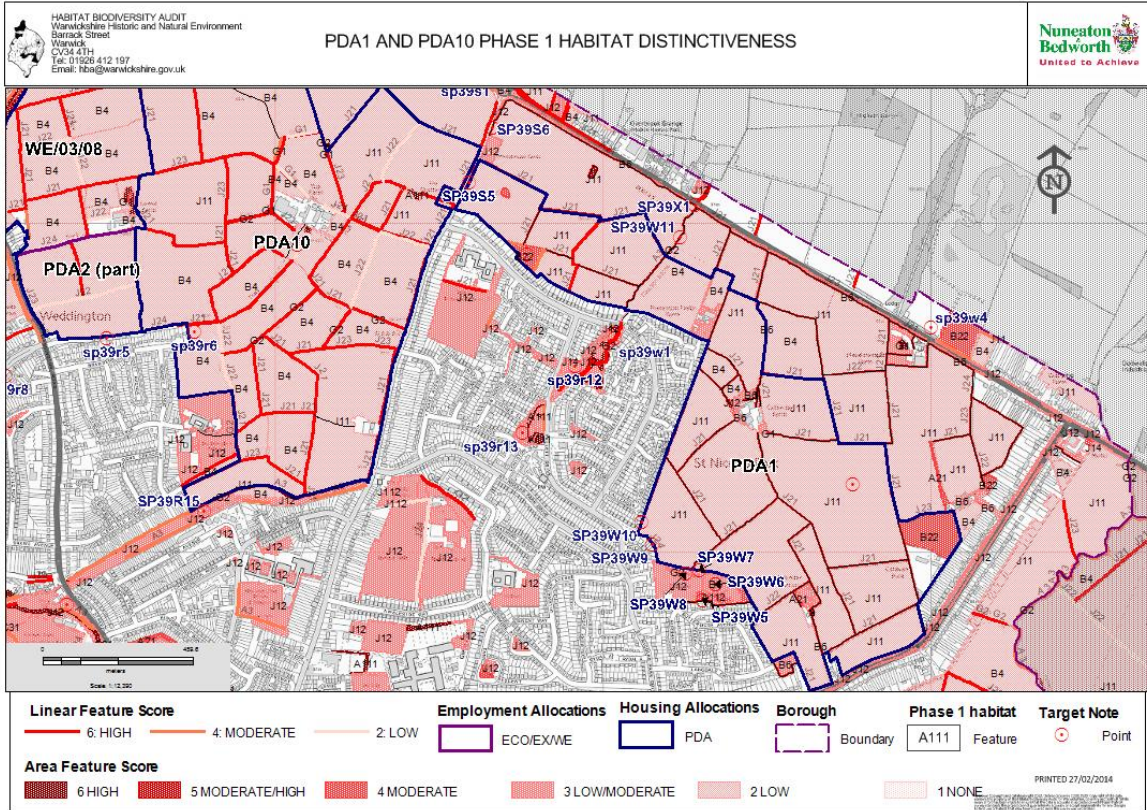
Just beyond the southern boundary of PDA2 is a series of potential local wildlife sites and existing local geological sites associated with the quarry sites along the Tuttle Road, including Tuttle Hill Quarries SP39L3 pLWS, Holly Stitches and Midlands Quarry SP39L8 pLWS and Judkins Quarry Local Geological Site, part of which is in the south-western tip of PDA2. It is also at this section that the site adjoins the Windmill Hill Community Nature Reserve SP39L7 pLWS.



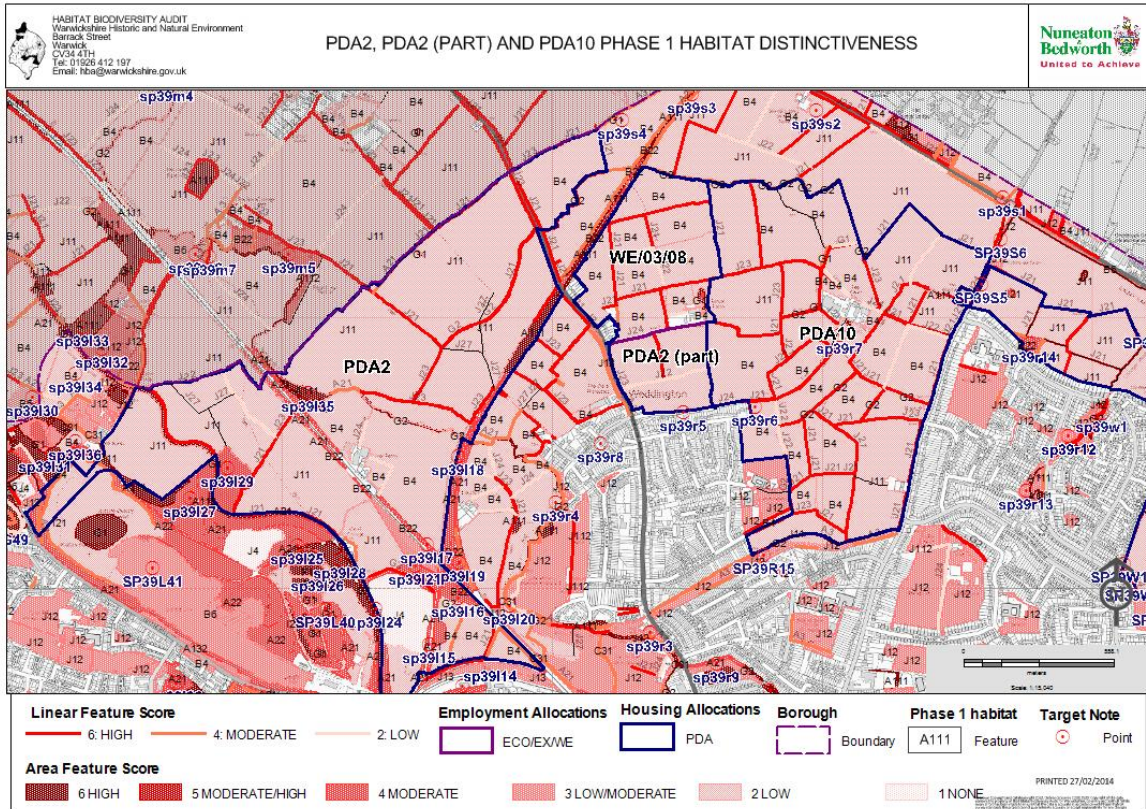
Phase 1 Habitat Distinctiveness

The majority of the land across the four sites is intensively farmed with fields that are predominantly arable (J11) or agriculturally improved grassland (B4) both have low distinctiveness scores. Throughout the area are intact but gappy hedgerows (J21) and occasional intact hedgerows with trees (J23). There also defunct hedgerows (J22) where fields have been made larger.

There remain some areas of moderate to high habitat distinctiveness which includes; semi-improved neutral grassland (B22) and poor semi-improved grassland (B6); dense scrub (A21); small areas of broad-leaved semi-natural woodland (A111), scattered ponds and canals for example the Coventry Canal (G1) and running water (G2) for example the River Anker.



Site PDA2 has the highest concentration of moderate to high distinctiveness habitats most of which have been designated as Local Wildlife Sites or are potential LWS.

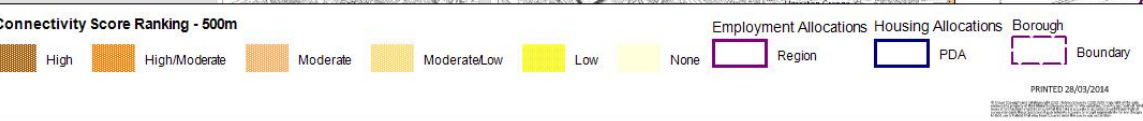
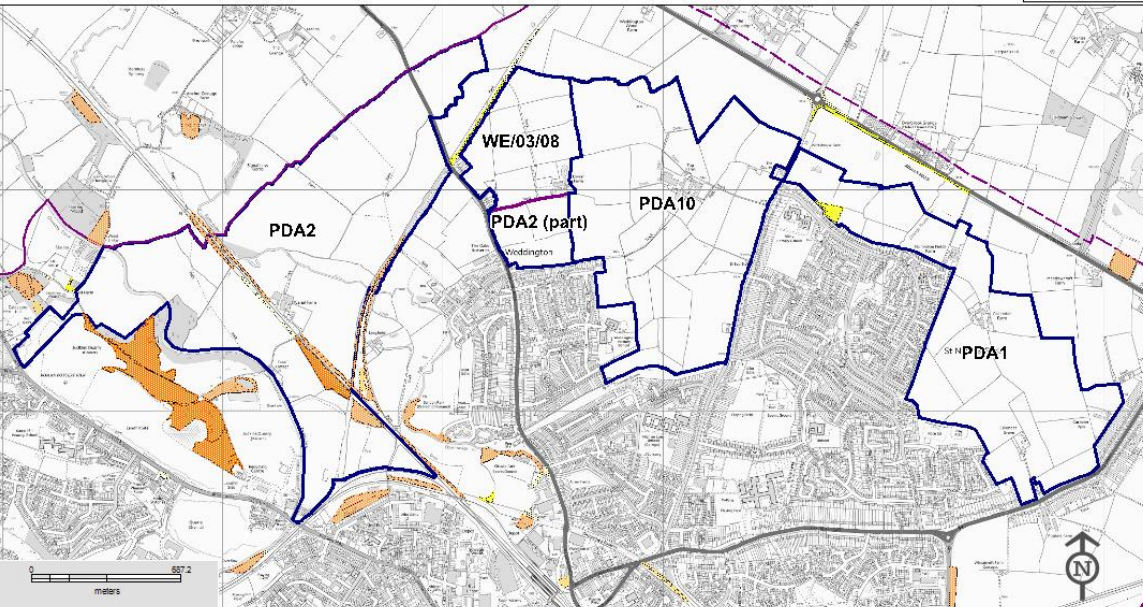
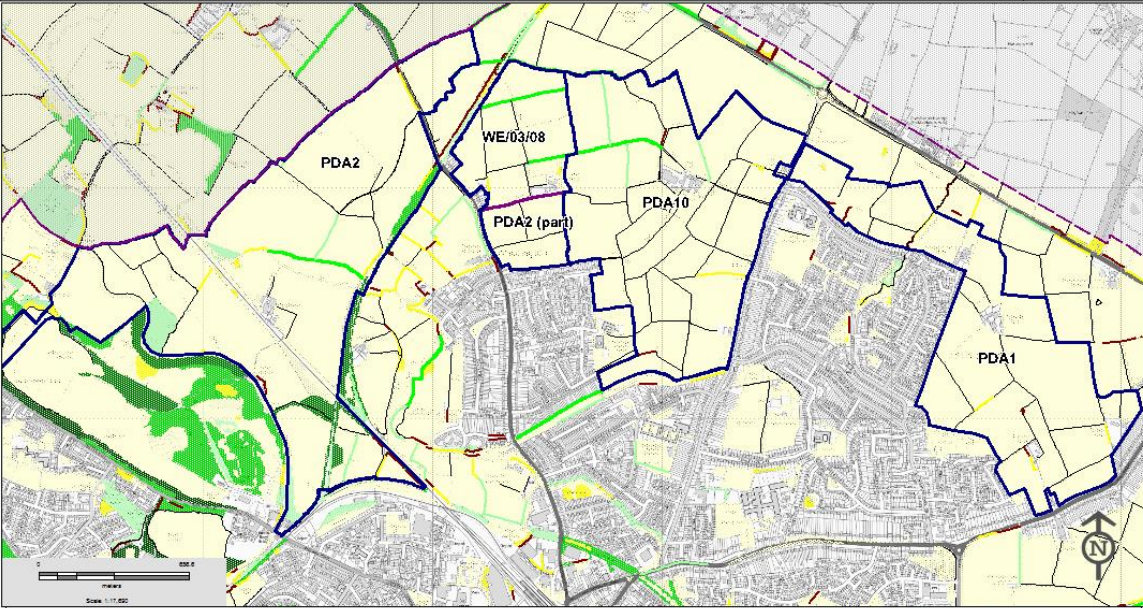


Phase 1 Habitat Connectivity

The hedgerow connectivity throughout the area ranges from occasional high connectivity to low and medium low, indicating where the hedgerows are defunct and are losing connectivity. This is particularly the case in site PDA1 where there is no high/medium connectedness due to increased fragmentation of the hedgerows and the lack of any stands of woodland in or around the site.

PDA10 shows similar poor connectedness but does improve towards PDA2 with the better areas of connectedness along the southern edge and along the Wedding Country Walk LWS. The southern section of PDA2 has the best areas of woodland and hedgerow connectivity due to the mix of scrub land and linear scrub extending along the disused railway tracks.

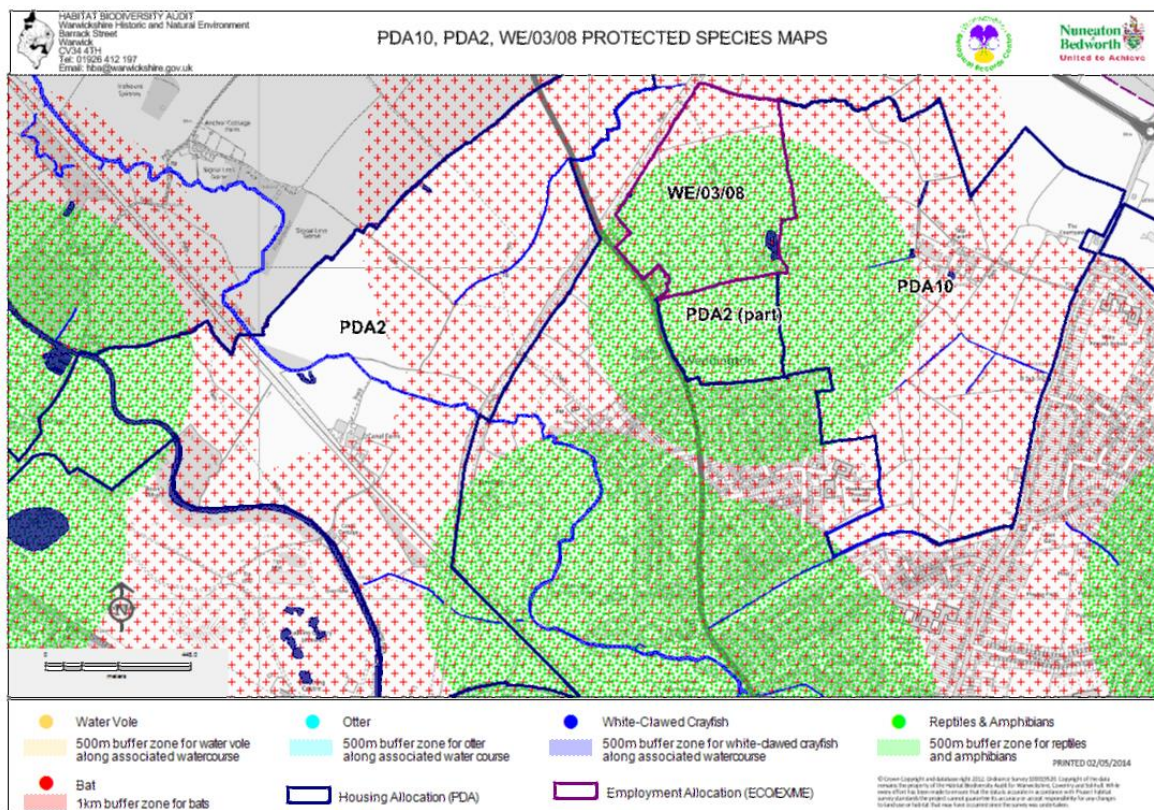
Important areas of grassland connectivity are along the southern boundary of PDA2 where the woodland and hedgerows connectivity is also best. The combination of woodland, hedgerow and grassland connectivity is an important consideration for the area as a potential mosaic habitat.



Protected Species

There are no protected or important fauna records within site PDA10. There is a recent record of great crested newts within PDA2. There are several records of wall, white letter hairstreak, dingy skipper and small heath butterflies along the disused railway line. In addition, there are several records of badgers, bats and great crested newts in the surrounding area.

We do not anticipate that protected or locally rare and endangered species will preclude the proposed development sites from proceeding. However, should the proposal go ahead, we recommend that protected species are taken into consideration through more detailed ecological assessments. Please note that an absence of species records does not mean absence of species.



Recommendations

The area along the southern edge of PDA2 provides the best opportunity to create a corridor of open grassland mosaics associated with the quarried areas and the remaining areas of semi-natural grasslands. The area already has good public access along the disused railway line at Weddington Country Walk and along the Coventry Canal.

- Extend the Weddington Country Walk LWS down to the Railway embankments pLWS and reinstate the rejected Hinckley Road Disused

Railway line with the existing LWS section by surveying the Railway embankment SP39L1 for LWS status.

- Survey Tuttle Hill Quarries SP39L3 for LWS status
- Expand Boon's Wharf LWS to include the area to the south – Boon's Wharf SP39L2 pLWS
- Survey Windmill Hill Community Nature Reserve potential local wildlife for incorporation into existing network of LWS.
- Consider incorporating Judkins Quarry Local Geological Site into a potential local wildlife site.
- To safeguard and where possible enhance the Local Geological Sites of Judkins Quarry within any development and/or as part of a management plan.
- Consider reinstating and maintain the existing hedgerows to the south of PDA2
- Consider the complex area of grassland and former quarry sites extending from the Railway embankments and Tuttle Hill Quarries to Windmill Community Nature Reserve for LNR Status.
- Continue the living landscapes habitat connectivity from the Nuneaton and Bedworth side of the Hartshill Ridge to the North Warwickshire side incorporating the areas around the Hartshill group of quarries and Hartshill Hayes Country Park.

9.8. MAP REF: PDA3

Area: 27.93 hectares

Overview

Site PDA3 is a single arable field at the southern edge of the Hill Top district of Nuneaton. The field is separated from the housing development by the Griff Brook which also has a footpath running alongside. There is a playing field at the far north-eastern section of the field. The Coventry Canal runs along the western boundary of the field. On the opposite side of the canal is a grass field proposed development site AR/13/08k. The fields are connected by Turn Over Bridge which crosses the canal at the mid-point of the boundary between the two fields.

Gipsy Lane forms the southern boundary to the site; across the road are arable fields. Along the eastern edge of the site is an area of open public access consisting grass land and scrub with footpaths throughout. This area forms a green wedge between the site and the housing developments beyond.

Key Features

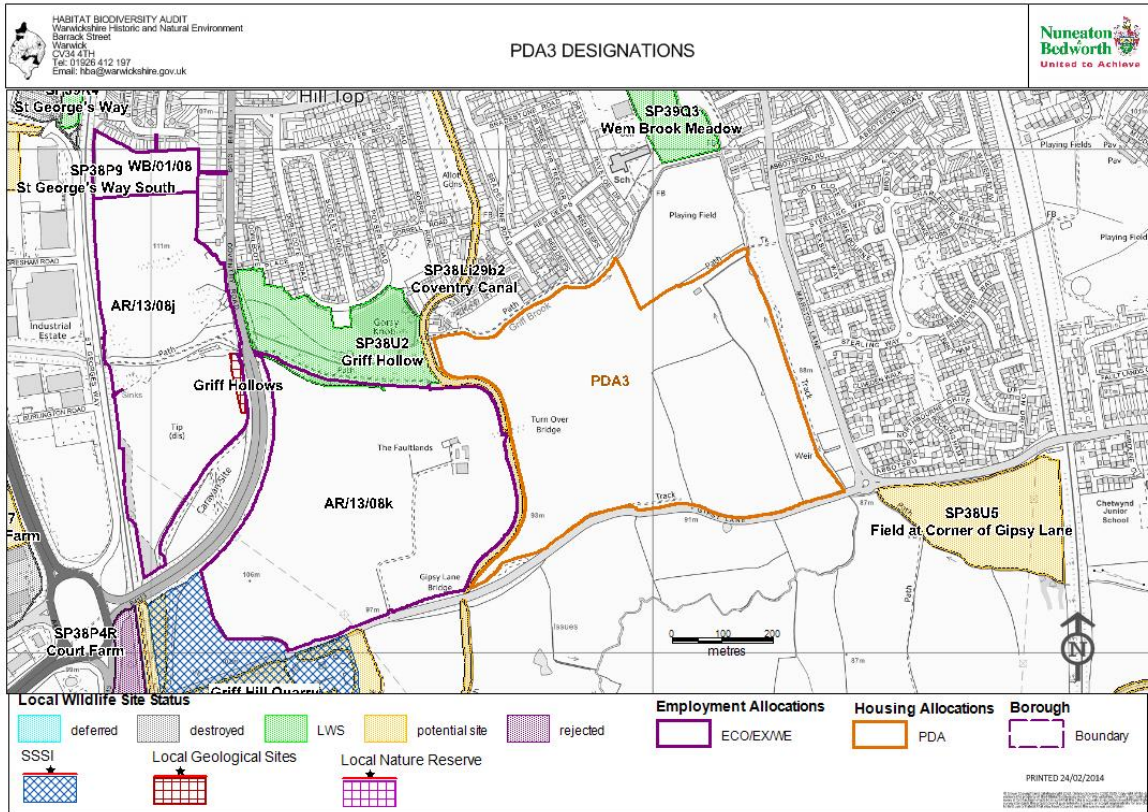
- Coventry Canal
- Water courses
- Scrub and woodland edge

Designated Sites

Griff Hollow SP38U2 Local Wildlife Site is the nearest designated area to PDA3, It is a 5.77 hectare mosaic sit consisting of scrub, tall herb mire rank neutral grassland and acid grassland. The Coventry Canal separates Griff Hollow from the proposed development site. The canal is also a proposed LWS.

To the north of the site beyond the playing field is Wem Brook Meadow SP39Q3 Local Wildlife Site. Wem Brook Meadow is a 1.9 hectare site comprising a mix of semi-improved grassland, tall herb and scrub vegetation. The Wem Brook itself forms the northern and eastern boundaries of the site. The site is open to public access and appears to be very well used by local people. The proximity to residential areas means the site provides an opportunity for local people to have contact with wildlife and is a resource for informal recreation. The LWS supports an attractive display of grassland flowers providing the site with significant aesthetic appeal.

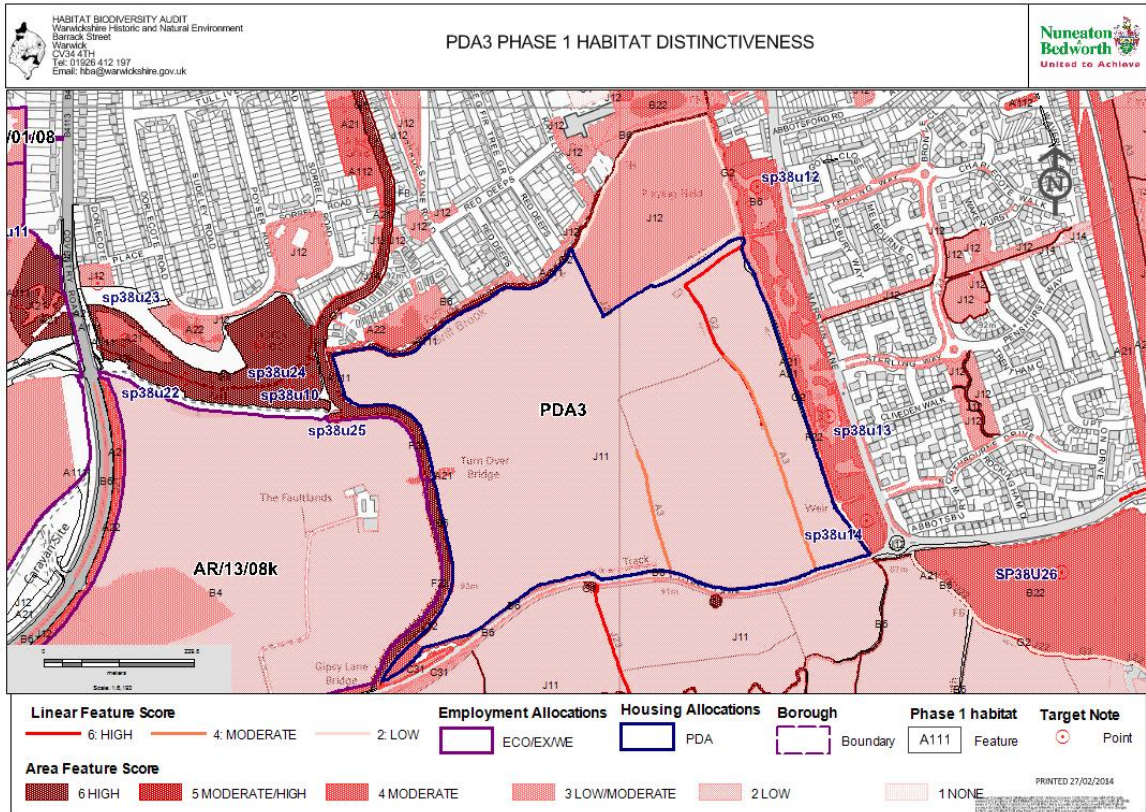
At the corner of Gipsy Lane and the railway line is a triangular field which has been recommended for LWS status, (although not yet surveyed as owner permission has as yet to be granted). This field (SP38U5) contains semi-improved grassland.



Phase 1 Habitat Distinctiveness

Site PDA3 is an arable field (J11) with low habitat distinctiveness. Surrounding the site are habitats with high distinctiveness including the Coventry Canal (G1) and Griff Brook (G2), and moderate distinctiveness including sections of dense (A22) and open scrub (A21) and poor semi-improved grassland (B6).

There are also some linear groups of trees (A3) on the site, remnants of the former field boundaries before the field was made larger. The Gipsy Lane boundary also has a row trees along the length of the field and a continuous intact hedge (J21) along the Coventry Canal.

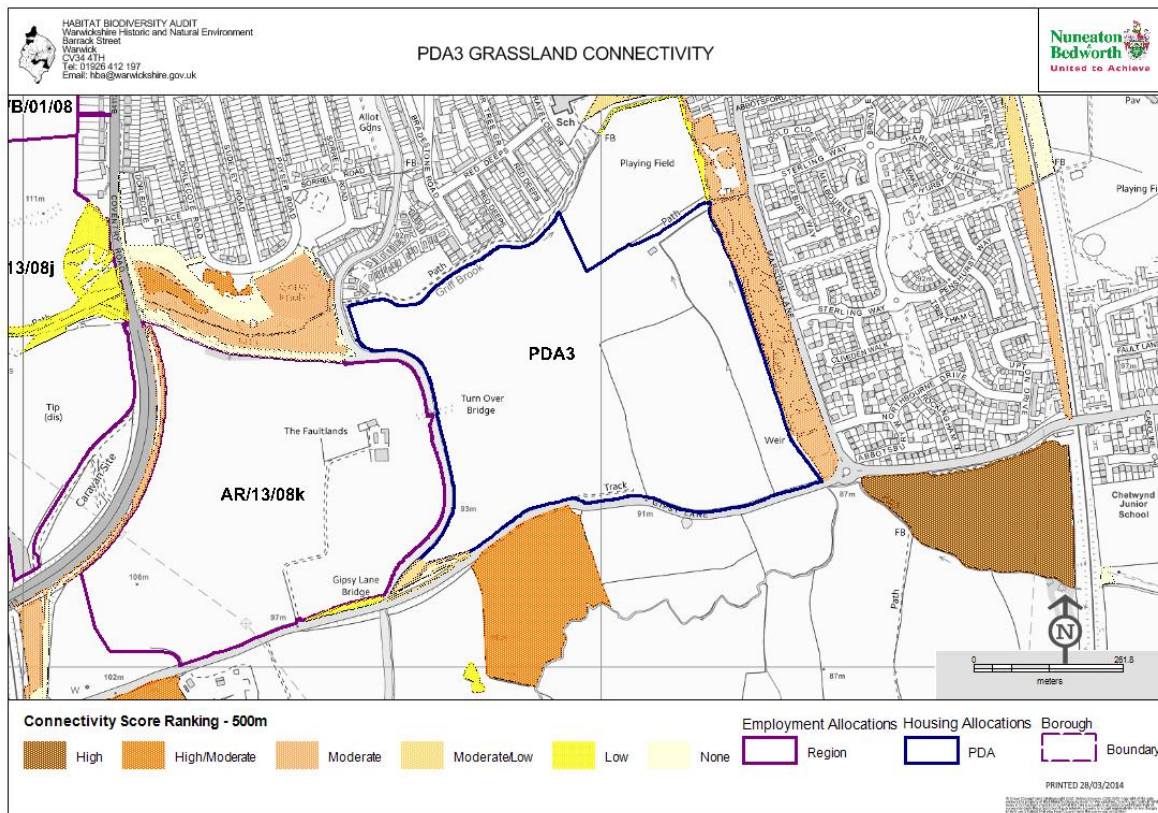
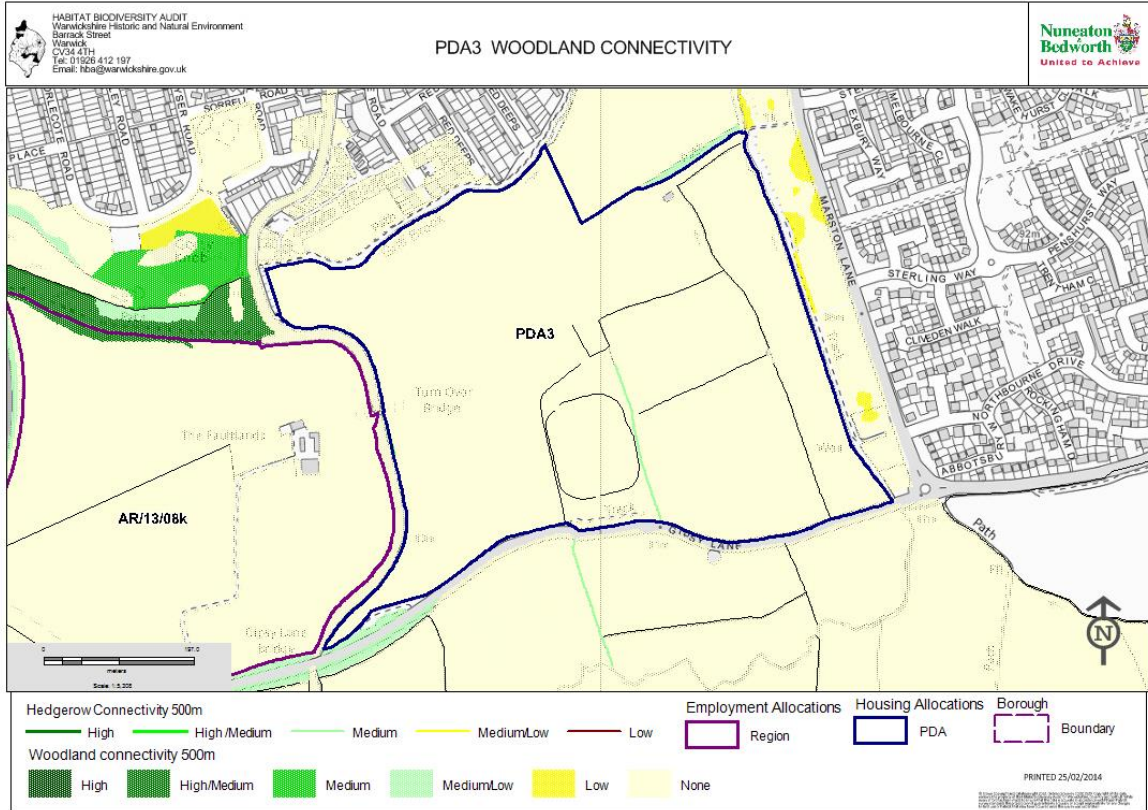


Phase 1 Habitat Connectivity

There is very little woodland and hedgerow connectivity across the site due to the habitat fragmentation and loss of hedgerows in the area. The connectedness map shows the low connectivity along the boundary with the housing developments along Marston Lane and up to Wem Brook Meadow LWS. . The only area close to the site that retains connectivity is on Griff Hollow LWS.

The area of grassland between Marston Lane and site PDA3 is an important grassland corridor between Wem Brook Meadows LWS and The Field at the Corner of Gypsy Lane pLWS.

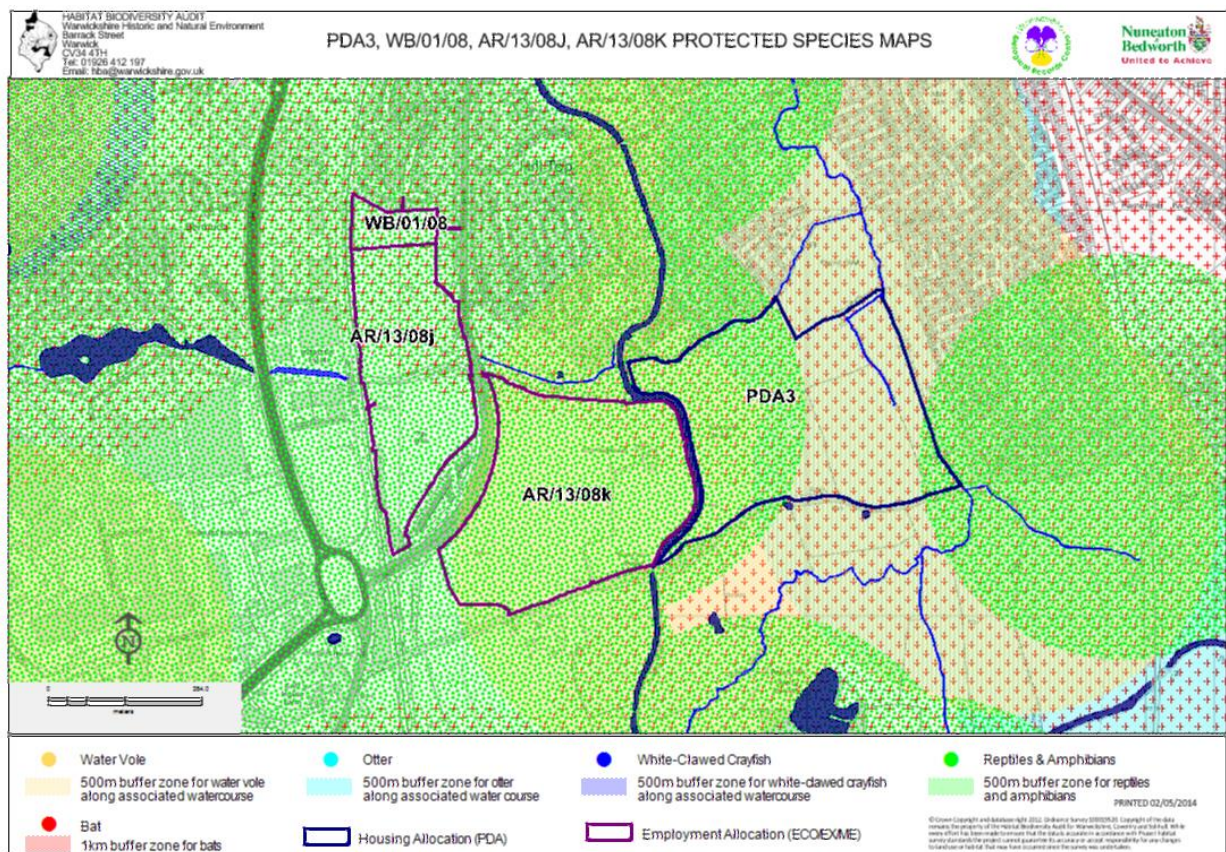
The Wem Brook and Coventry Canal are important linear wildlife corridors that connect the remaining areas of open countryside with the dense housing developments along the southern edge of Hill Top.



Protected Species

There are no protected or important fauna records within site PDA3, however, there are records of watervoles and otters in the canal and brook running either side of this site. There are further records of protected species nearby including bats (indeterminate species), badger, otters, watervoles, grass snakes and common lizards. There are also two county rare plants, climbing corydalis (*Ceratocarpus claviculata*) and white ramping fumitory (*Fumaria caperolata*), in the surrounding area.

We do not anticipate that protected or locally rare and endangered species will preclude the proposed development sites from proceeding. However, should the proposal go ahead, we recommend that protected species are taken into consideration through more detailed ecological assessments. Please note that an absence of species records does not mean absence of species.



Recommendations

Enhance and maintain the existing wildlife corridors along the Wem Brook and the Coventry Canal. Consider a green buffer extending from Wem Brook Meadow LWS along the Wem Brook to Griff Hollow LWS. Also consider extending Wem Brook Meadow LWS along the Marston Lane green open space to the field at the corner of Gypsy Lane, a potential local wildlife site. Consider reinstating the hedgerows along Gypsy Lane.

Survey the field at Corner of Gypsy Lane SP38U5 as a local wildlife site.

9.9. MAP REF: PDA4

Area: 59.03 hectares

Overview

Site PDA4 consists of a series of improved grass fields separated from Stockingford by the Ansley Road to the north. The eastern edge of the site boundary is along Astley Lane as far south as the Seeswood Pool wildlife area. To the west of the site are more open fields of grassland

Key Features

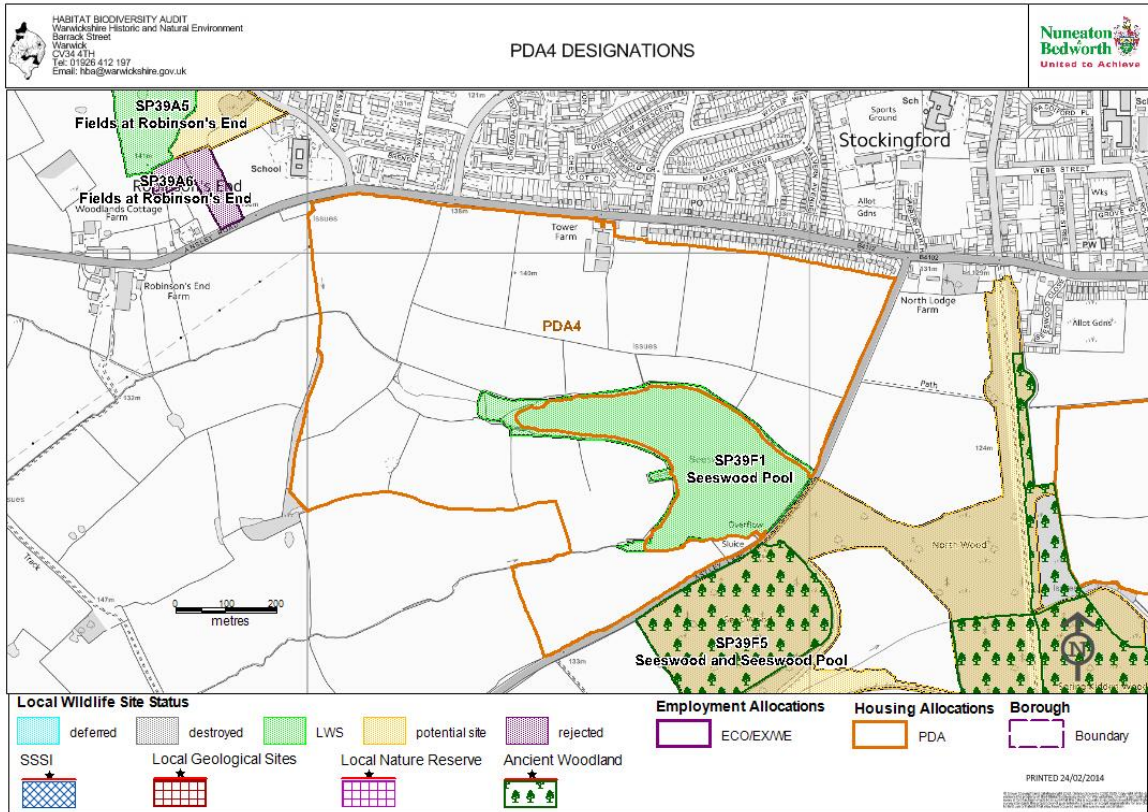
- Intact hedgerows with trees
- Open water
- Marginal vegetation

Designated Sites

SP39F1 Seeswood Pool LWS is the largest area of open water in the borough and the most important wetland habitat for wildlife. The total area of the site is 10 hectares which includes a narrow margin of grassland around the perimeter of the pool. The surrounding land is mostly improved pasture with some arable land. The pool was thought to have formed when mining activity caused the land to subside.

The pool and surrounding habitat attracts an abundance of birdlife including several unusual and notable species. 163 species of birds have been recorded on the site since the late 1950's. The site is an important area for feeding Common Terns during the summer, when breeding wildfowl include several pairs of Great Crested Grebe. It is also an important area for birds on spring and autumn migrations including Wheatear, Yellow Wagtail, hirundines, Swift, waders, terns and gulls. It was formerly an important area for breeding Little Ringed Plover until the water level of the pool was raised in the 1980s, flooding the muddy margins of the pool. The pool is currently used for commercial fishing.

Across the Astley Road from Seeswood Pool LWS are the Sees Wood and Spring Kidden/North Woods, ancient woodland inventory (AWI) with a mix of semi-natural broad-leaved woodland and re-planted plantation on the Arbury Park estate, both woodlands have been identified as potential Local Wildlife Sites (pLWS).

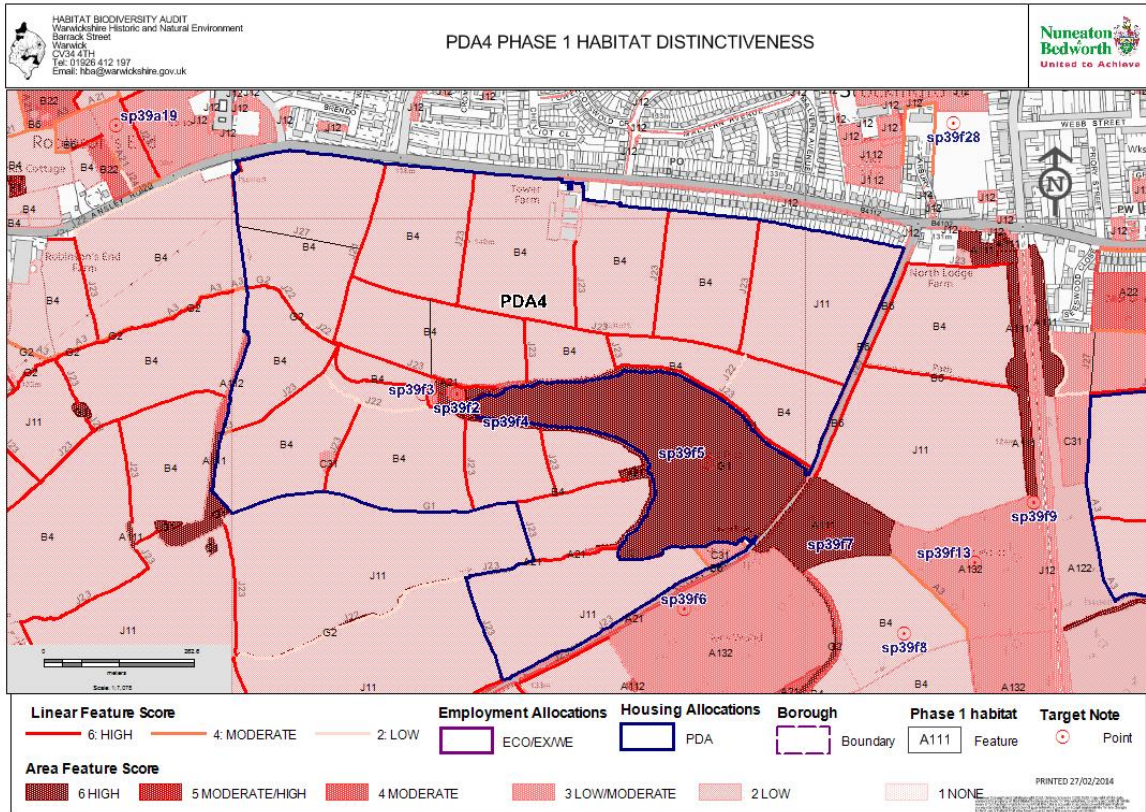


Phase 1 Habitat Distinctiveness

Site PDA 4 consists chiefly of improved grassland (B4) which has low distinctiveness value. Along the southern edge of the site is Seeswood Pool which is an area of high habitat distinctiveness, with standing open water (G1) emergent (F21) and inundation (F22) vegetation and marsh and marshy grassland (B6) along the fringes of the pool. The pool is also fringed by broad-leaved semi-natural woodland along its southern perimeter (A111).

A small brook (G2) feeds into Seeswood Pool from the west. At the south-western edge of the site is a small narrow strip of Broad-leaved semi-natural woodland (A111) and broad-leaved plantation (A132).

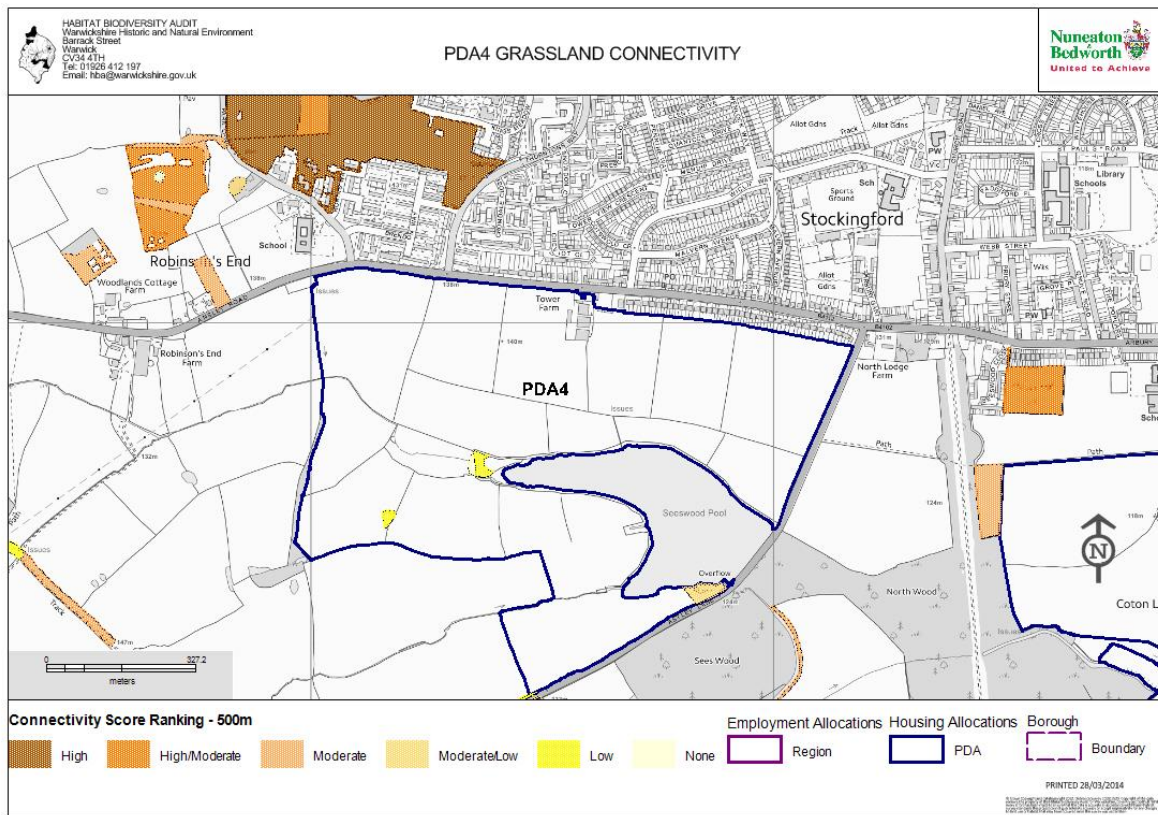
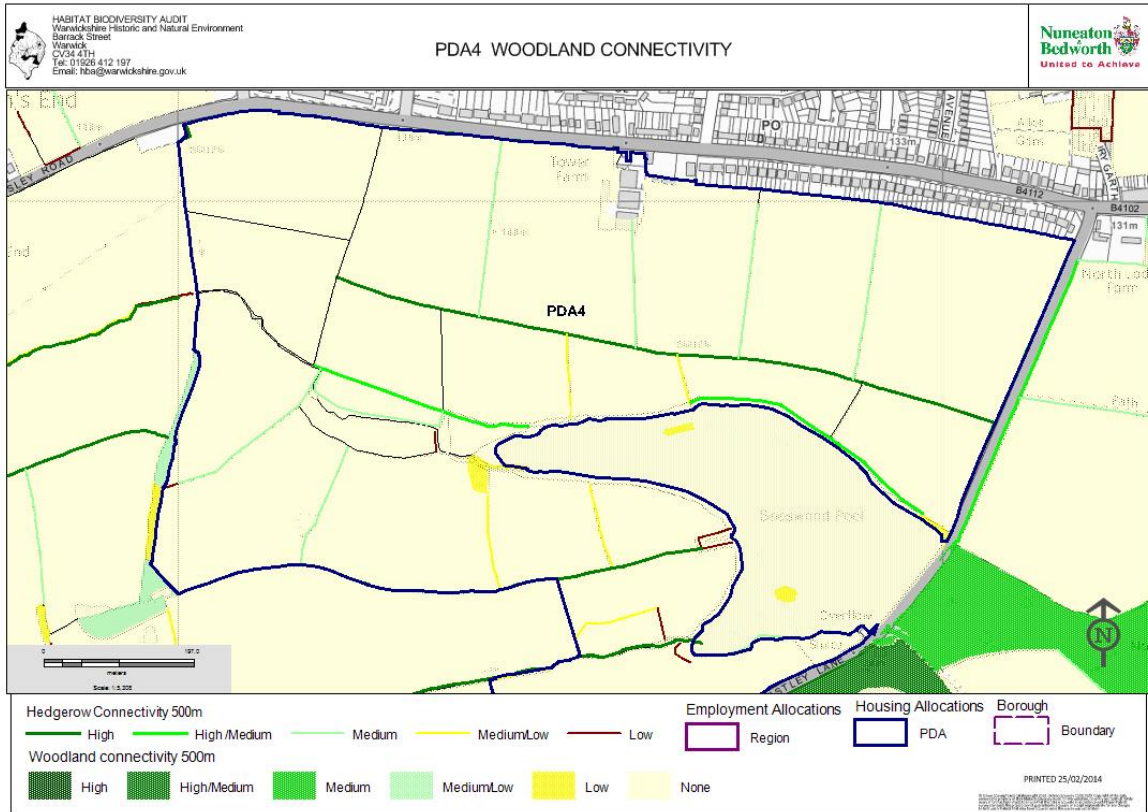
The fields throughout the site are divided by intact hedgerows with trees (J23). In some fields the hedgerow boundary has been removed (J27).



Phase 1 Habitat Connectivity

The woodland and hedgerow connectivity show the important area of connectedness in the south-eastern section of the site where the Sees Wood woodland complex is located. The hedgerow connectedness declines away from the woodlands north towards Stockingford, and the small sections of woodland have become isolated from the surrounding hedgerows.

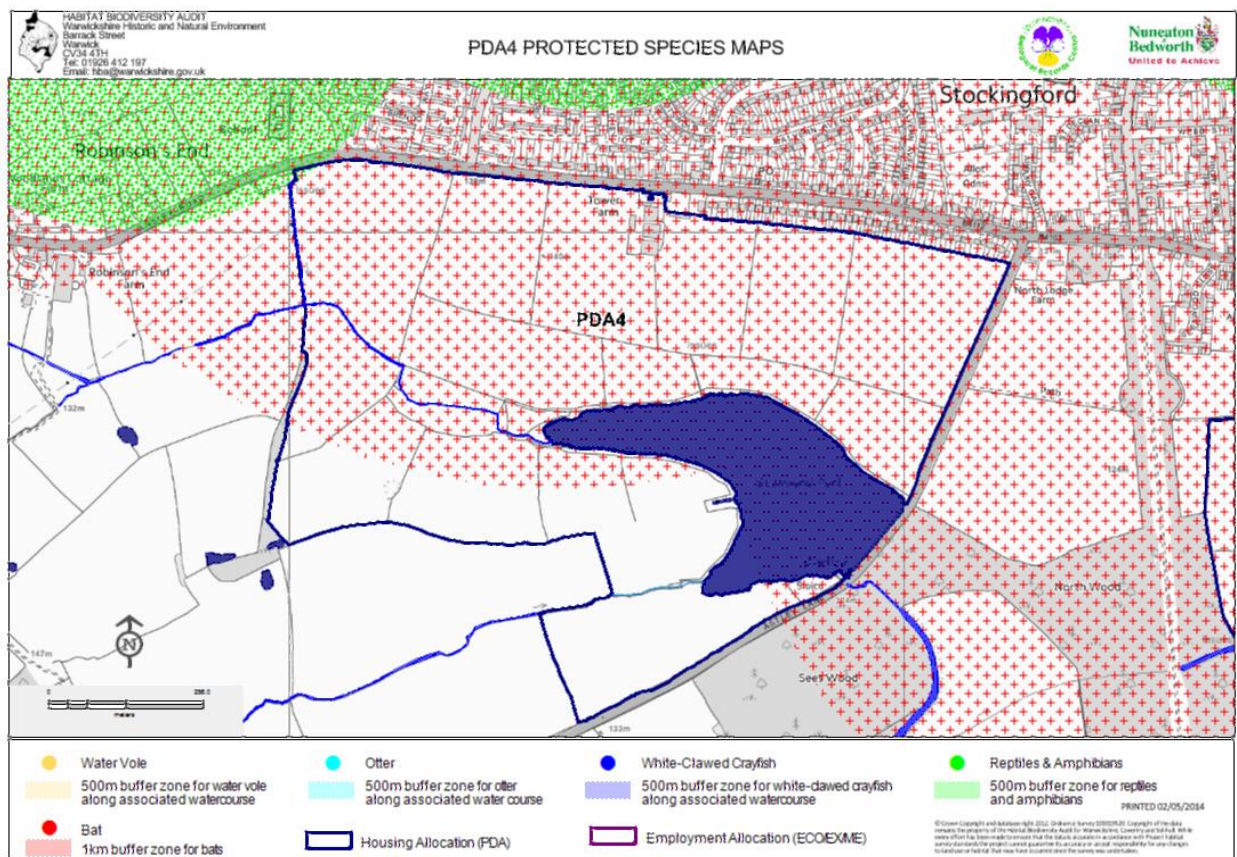
Grassland connectivity is limited to a few patches of grassland that are isolated from any other patches.



Protected Species

There are historic records of county rare plants, lesser marshwort *Apium inundatum* and wild pansy *Viola tricolor* within the site boundary of PDA4. There are also records of common lizard to the north, and common pipistrelle bats and hedgehog in the surrounding area.

We do not anticipate that protected or locally rare and endangered species will preclude the proposed development sites from proceeding. However, should the proposal go ahead, we recommend that protected species are taken into consideration through more detailed ecological assessments. Please note that an absence of species records does not mean absence of species.



Recommendations

The most important habitat feature in the area is Seeswood Pool and its associated bird populations. Any development would have to take account of the disturbance to the birds using the Pool.

There is opportunity to extend the woodland areas and ensure that they connect with the surrounding hedgerows which create linear wildlife corridors throughout the area with the core woodland area being the Sees Wood woodland complex.

Sees Wood Pool is a much loved wildlife and fishing asset for Nuneaton and should be planned for with this in mind. The best solution would be to make it the centre of a new Local Nature Reserve, with a wide buffer of semi-natural habitats surrounding it and including the stream valleys to preserve connectivity with the wider countryside.

The recommendation would be to survey the remaining area east of Seeswood Pool for Local Wildlife status and consider its suitability as an LNR and as an important part of the wildlife corridor for this area of Nuneaton and Bedworth.

9.10. MAP REF: PDA5A, PDA5B AND PDA5C

Area: PDA5a 93.93 hectares, PDA5b 12.93 hectares and PDA5c 22.43 hectares

Overview

Site PDA5a is a large area of mostly arable fields, with occasional fields of improved pasture. The site extends east from Arbury Park to the edge of Heath End, Nuneaton. The northern boundary of the proposed development site is with the existing housing development along the Arbury Road and Heath End Road.

The southern boundary of the site runs through a line of fields beyond Harefield Lane which connects the Bemuda Estate with Dennis Farm, which is also part of the Arbury Park estate.

Site PDA5b is a smaller area of land between the south-western edge of PDA5a and Spring Kidden Wood, Arbury Park. Site PDA5b is separated from PDA5a by a linear section of woodland. Like PDA5a the site is predominantly arable and improved pasture.

Site PDA5c is south of the two above sites separated from them by arable fields. The site forms a triangular shaped area of land which slot into the open fields between Coventry Wood and an area of woodland known as The Rough. The woodlands are part of the Arbury Park estate.

Key Features

- Semi-natural woodlands and ancient woodlands
- Species-rich hedgerows
- Water-bodies
- Semi-improved grassland
- Post-industrial mosaic habitats

Designated Sites

Ensor's Pool SSSI and Special Area of Conservation (SAC), also a designated local nature reserve (LNR) for Nuneaton and Bedworth is located along the eastern boundary of PDA5a. It is a deep flooded clay pit with emergent vegetation around its fringes. Immediately surrounding the pool is dense hawthorn, with frequent dog rose, birch and oak. The pool was designated for its population of the native White-clawed Crayfish. In recognition of this internationally threatened species the pool was also designated as a SAC in 2005.

Ensor's Pool Corridor SP39K2 Local Wildlife Site is a 1km section of the disused Griff Branch Railway. The LWS includes some adjoining post-industrial land that

partly encircles Ensor's Pool SSSI. At the northern end of the LWS, the old cutting is part of the small Lingwood Park which forms part of the LWS due to the recent establishment of semi-improved wildflower grassland. Most of the LWS south of Heath End Road was designated as a Local Nature Reserve in 1997.

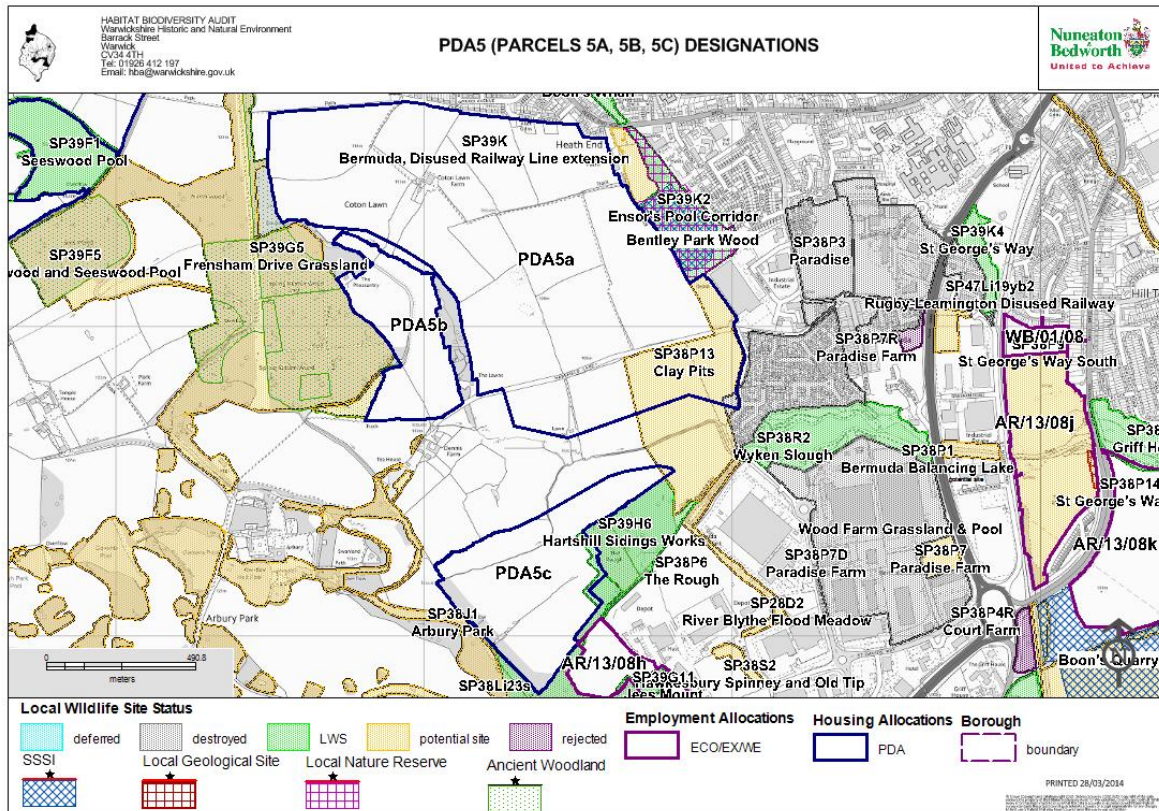
The Griff Branch Railway formerly served several coal mines and brickworks situated in the Griff and Chilvers Coton area, including the Griff Brick and Tile Works which quarried clay around the Bermuda area. Ensor's Pool started life as a clay pit excavated during the 1930's. The branch railway was closed to traffic in 1961 and subsequently dismantled. It is now a well-used cycle-way and footpath and is used for accessing the LNR.

The LWS consists of a mosaic of post-industrial habitats, including mature scrub, tall herb and semi-improved grassland which both buffers the SSSI and forms a connective corridor which helps link it to other sites in the local area, including Bermuda Balancing Pool SP38P1 LWS to the south-east and Red Banks SP39K3 LWS to the north-west beyond Croft Road.

To the west of Ensor's Pool was SP38P3 Paradise a local wildlife site destroyed by the Bermuda Industrial estate development in 2013. The Paradise LWS was a wildlife site with an interesting mosaic of moderately calcareous post-industrial habitats acting as a wildlife buffer and connective wildlife corridor for Ensor's Pool.

Along the western edge of both PDA5a and PDA5b is the Sees Wood potential LWS, a 53 hectare expanse of semi-natural woodland and plantation woodland. The Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI) divides the pLWS woodland block into sub-areas, including: Sees Wood 7.98 ha and Spring Kidden/north Woods 17.26 ha.

Site PDA5c is located in between the woodland sections of SP38P5 Coventry Wood and The Rough (combined into a single LWS in 2013). Coventry Wood is a medium-sized semi-natural deciduous woodland on the eastern side of Arbury Park. Most of the LWS is listed as ancient woodland although small parts of it have been replanted at different times with locally non-native tree species such as Beech and Norway Spruce. The remaining areas of woodland in Arbury Park have been identified as potential LWSs.

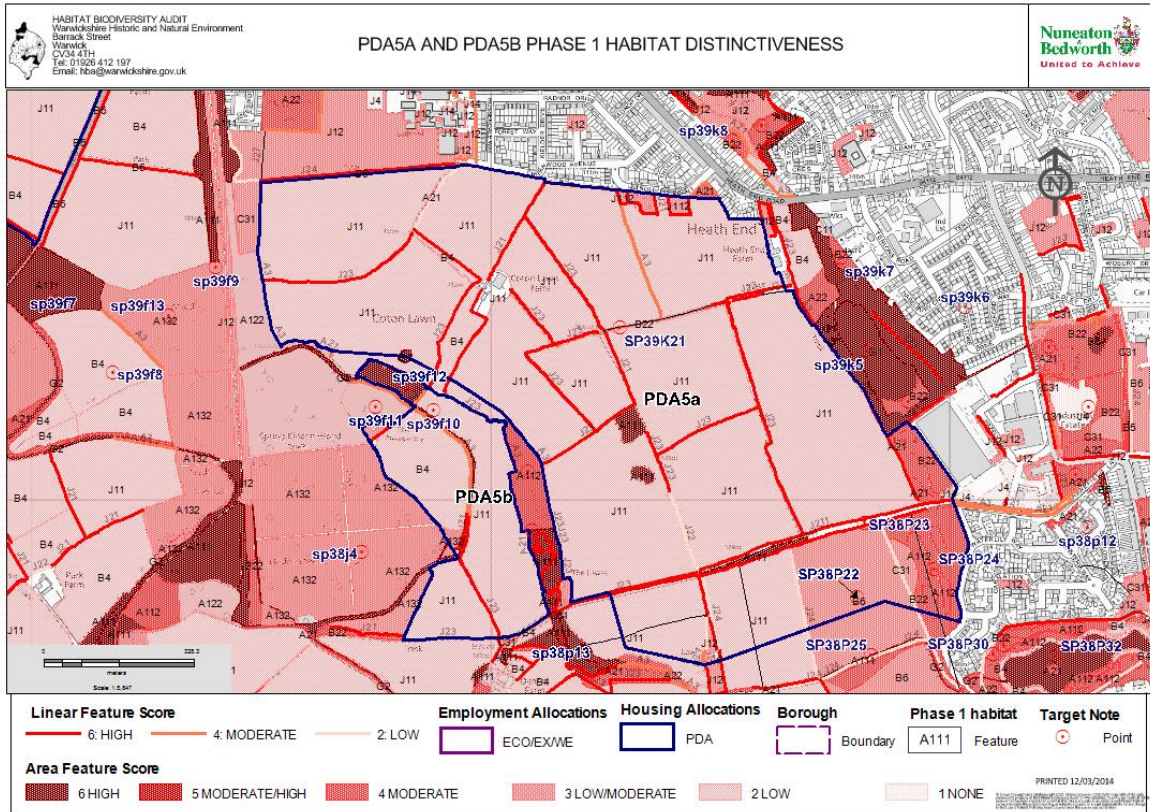


Phase 1 Habitat Distinctiveness

The majority of the fields in the proposed housing development areas for PDA5 are either arable (J11) or improved grasslands (B4) with low distinctiveness scores. The habitats with the highest distinctiveness scores are the areas of remnant semi-natural broad-leaved woodland (A111) and the areas of standing water such as Ensor's Pool and Bermuda Balancing Lake (G1).

To the south-east of PDA5a and south of Ensor's pool is an area of semi-improved grassland (B22), dense scrub (A21) and broad-leaved plantation (A112) and tall ruderal (C31), habitats with high to moderate distinctiveness.

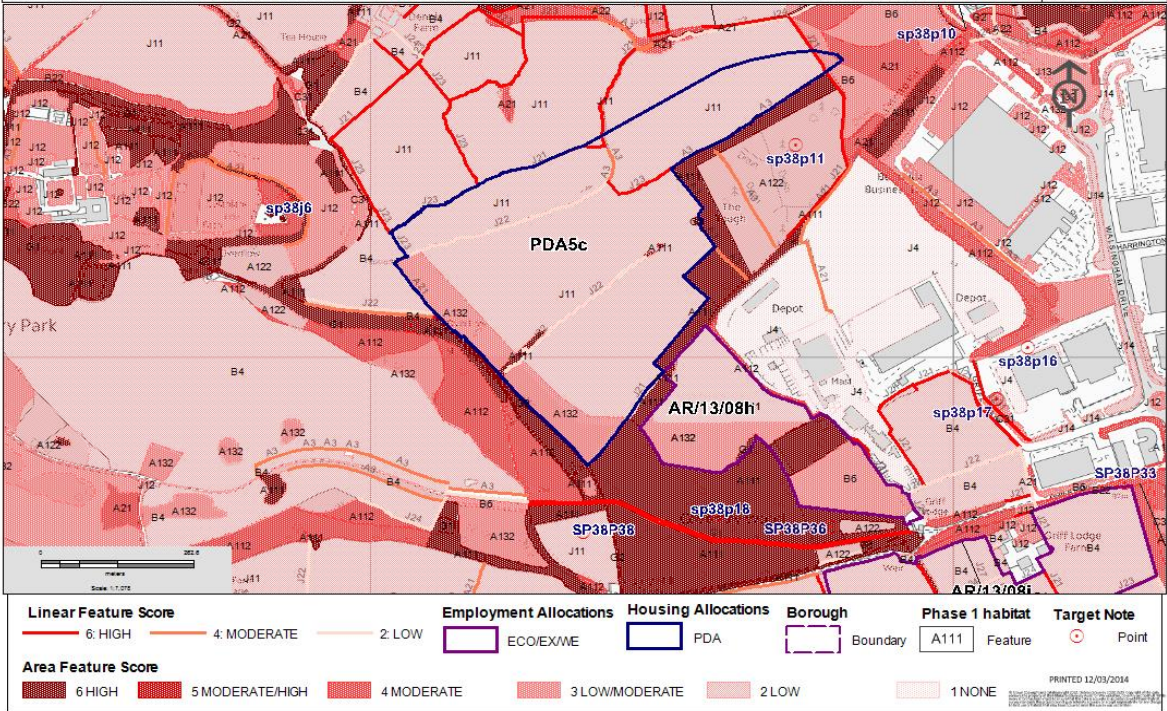
Mixed plantations (A132) have a moderate to low distinctiveness depending on the amount of coniferous woodland present.



The broad-leaved semi-natural woodlands (A111) at Coventry Wood south of PDA5c have the highest distinctiveness scores. There are also hedgerows and linear trees (A3).

The fields south of Field Lane in PDA5 have had many of their field boundaries removed (J27) or have been replaced by fences (J24). Along Field Lane, where the hedgerows have been retained, these have been identified as being native species-rich intact hedges (J211), which have high important distinctiveness. Other hedgerows across the area still need to be surveyed in detail to confirm whether or not they are also species-rich.

PDA5C PHASE 1 HABITAT DISTINCTIVENESS

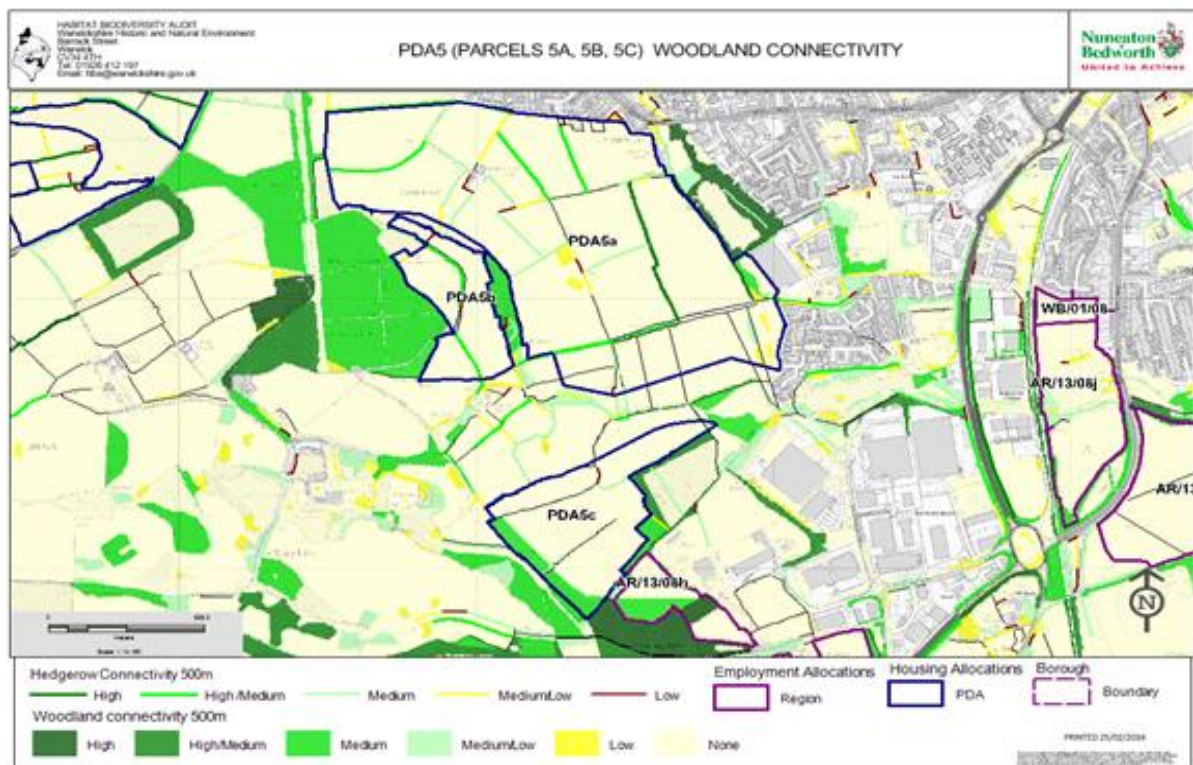


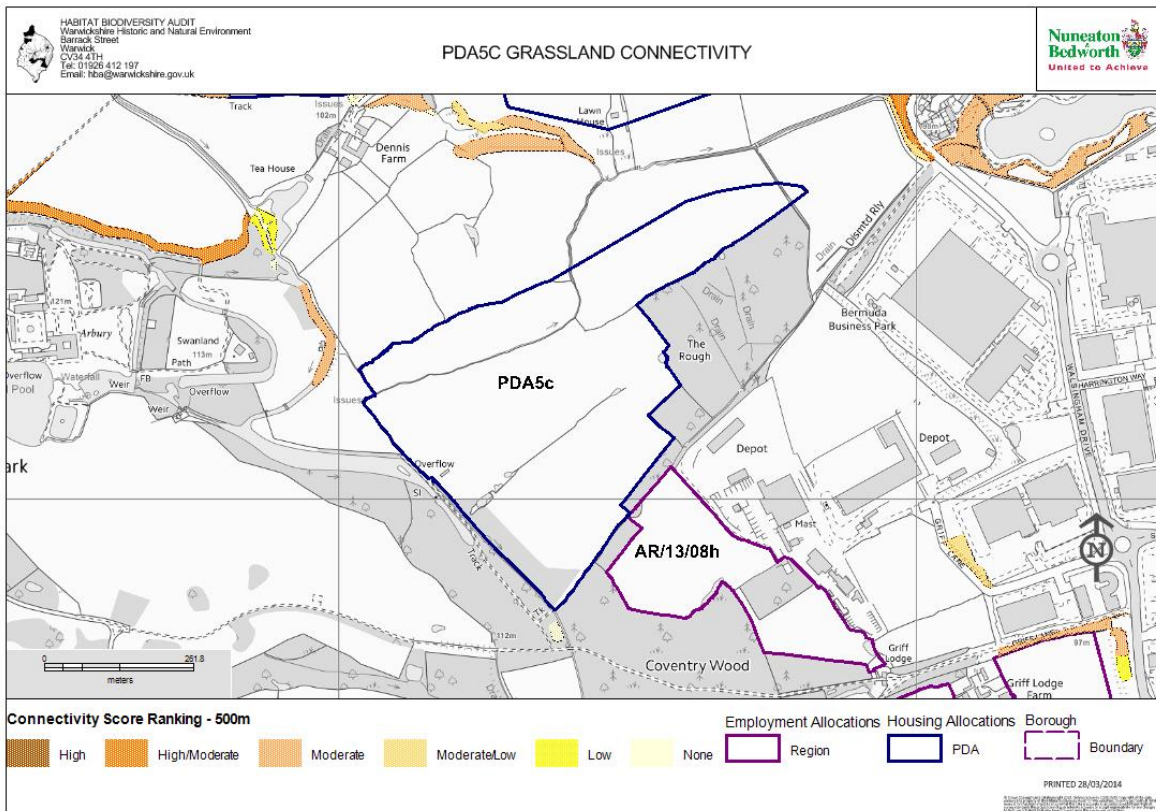
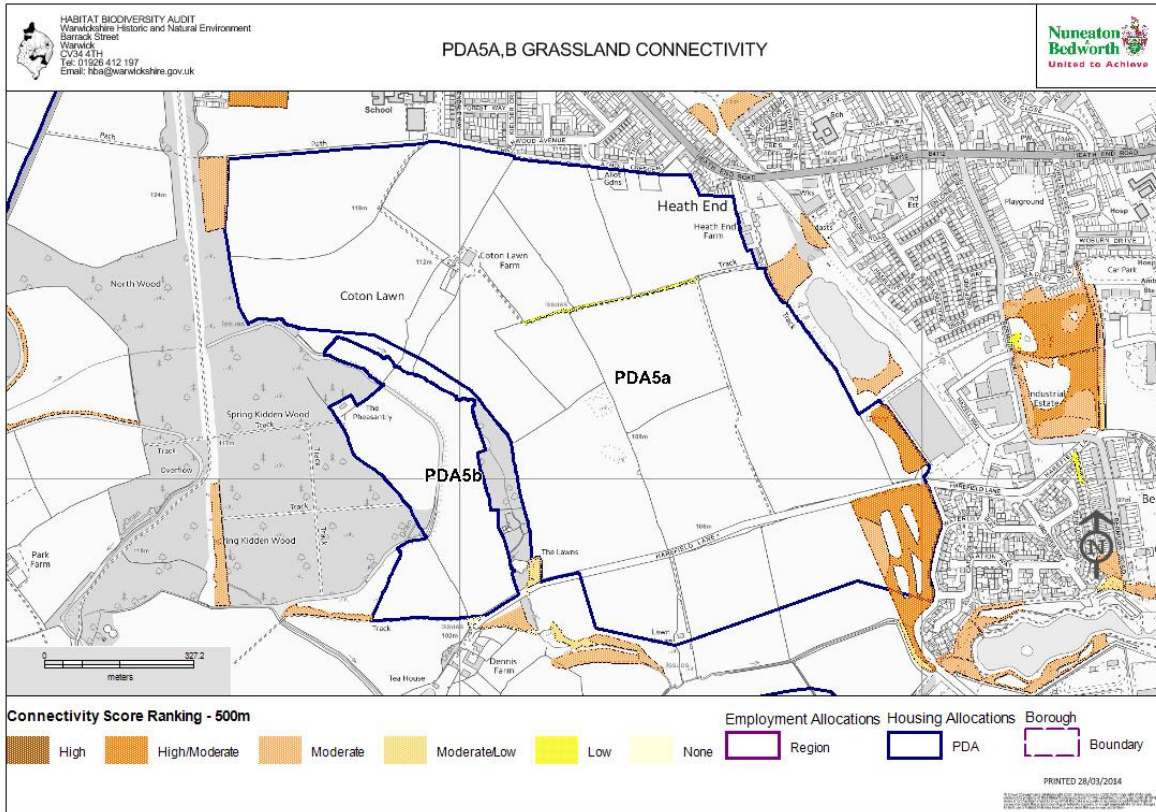
Phase 1 Habitat Connectivity

The woodland and hedgerow connectivity map show the high to moderate connectedness around the Arbury Park woodlands and falling away along the hedgerows towards the built areas of Nuneaton. Many of the fields across the area have been enlarged, with the loss of many of the original hedgerows shown on the Victorian Ordnance Survey 1:2500 scale maps.

The important areas of grassland connectivity are along the south-eastern section of PDA5a along Harefield Lane and south to the Bermuda Balancing Lakes with high to moderate connectivity. The small areas of semi-improved grassland around Ensor's Pool and the remaining patches at Paradise LWS (SP38P3) which was a mosaic of semi-improved grassland, tall herb, scrub and pioneer habitats has now been largely destroyed. The current grassland connectivity map illustrates the continuing decline in habitat connectivity.

PDA5b and PDA5c have no mapped areas of grassland connectivity.

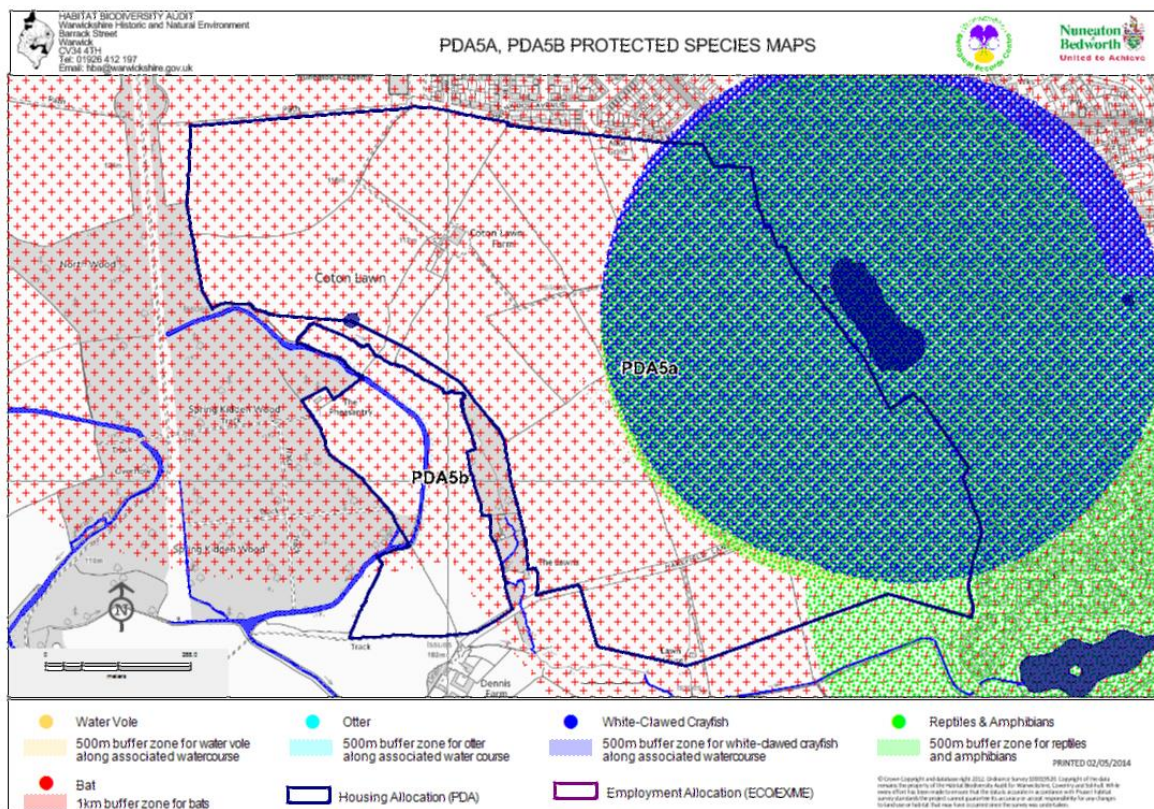


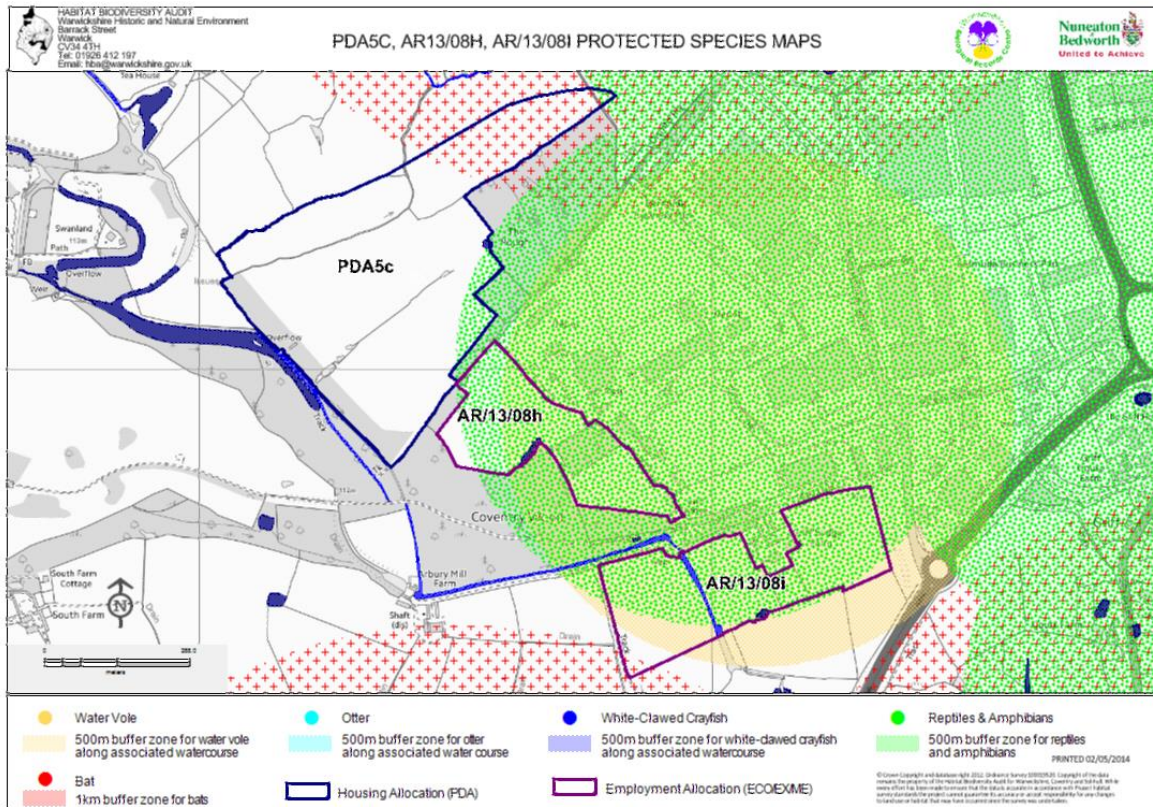


Protected Species

There are no records of protected or notable flora or fauna within any of these sites. There are records of white clawed crayfish, watervole, grass snake, common frog, common toad, hedgehog, Daubenton's bat, Noctule bat and small heath and dingy skipper butterflies close by to PDA5a. There are further records of reptiles, amphibians, watervole and bats in the surrounding area.

We do not anticipate that protected or locally rare and endangered species will preclude the proposed development sites from proceeding. However, should the proposal go ahead, we recommend that protected species are taken into consideration through more detailed ecological assessments. Please note that an absence of species records does not mean absence of species.

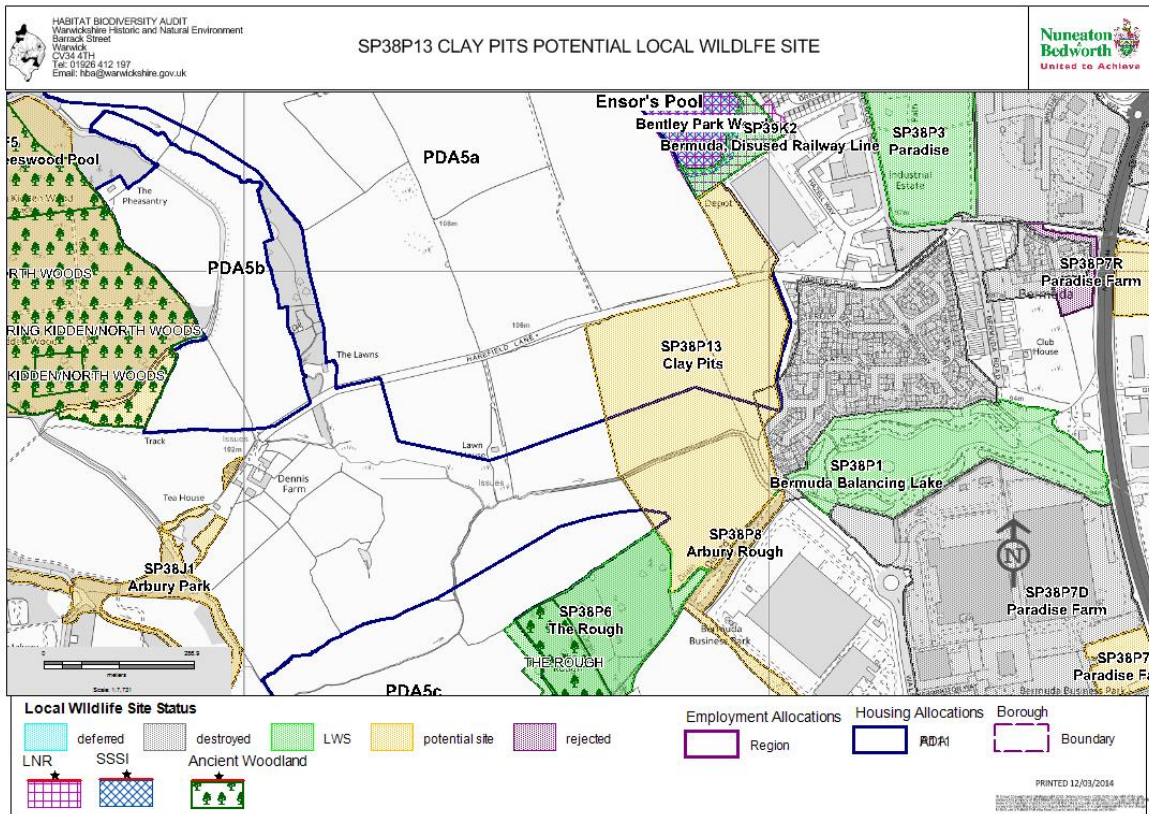




Recommendations

Extend the Bermuda Disused Railway Line LWS and the Ensor's Pool south to the Bermuda Balancing Lake LWS and SP38P8 Arbury Rough potential LWS. This would create a wildlife buffer south of Ensor's Pool and create a linear wildlife corridor from Red Banks LWS in the north to Court Farm LWS in the south, a total length of approximately 3.5 km.

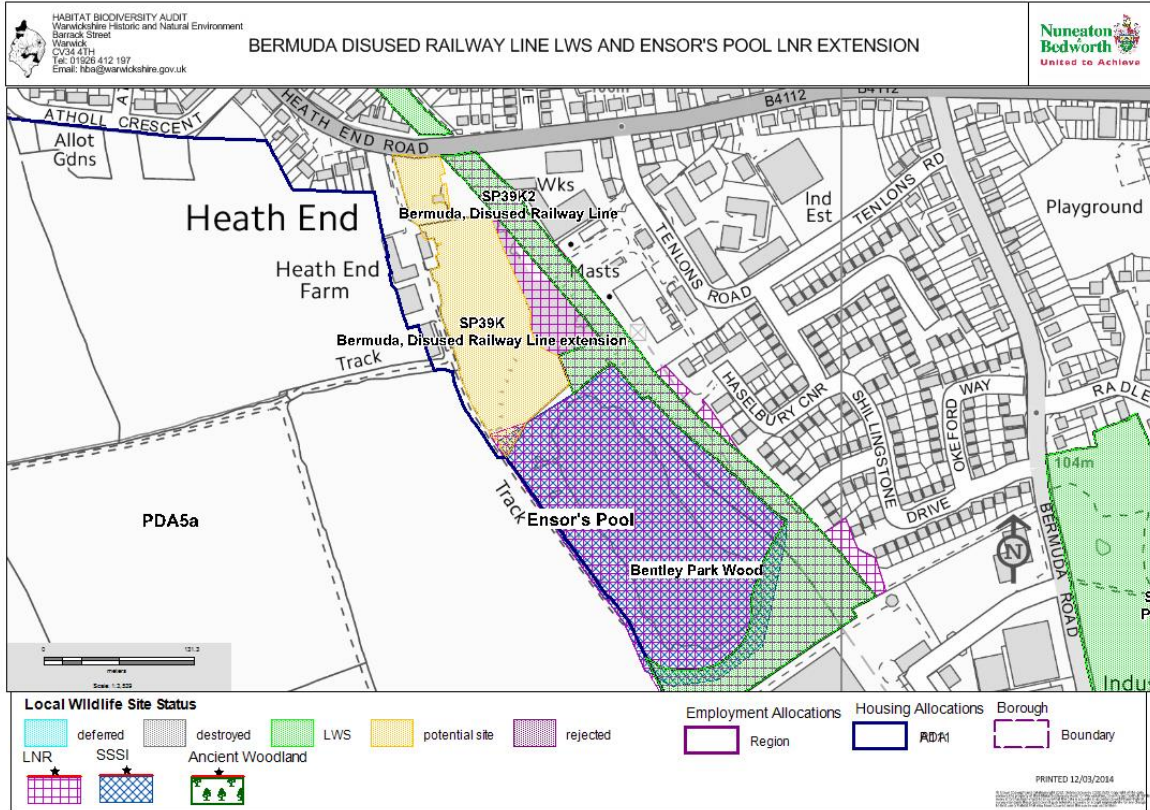
The newly proposed pLWS Clay Pits SP38P24 covers part of the former area of clay pits attached to the nearby former brick works, which have now been replaced by housing development along Harefield Lane, immediately north of Bermuda Balancing Lake LWS. The proposed new site is partly post-industrial with semi-improved grassland and scrub.



Consideration should be given to restoring and incorporating the improved grasslands and reducing the area of dense scrub immediately north of Ensor's Pool and incorporating this area into the existing LNR. This would further extend and buffer the current Ensor's Pool LNR and SSSI. These fields could be given potential LWS status, as an addition to the SP39K2 Bermuda Disused Railway Line (now renamed as Ensor's Pool Corridor LWS).

A minimum buffer zone of 100 metres is recommended to the northern and western Ensor's Pool SAC boundaries. This indicative buffer will look to ensure that all possible surface and below ground pollution pathways are considered and, where pathways are identified, negated. The buffer will protect the site's interests as identified in the SAC, SSSI and LNR selection criteria. This buffer will also assist with protecting the landscape and setting of the pool in the wider area.

Hedgerow surveys should be done to confirm whether they are species-rich and should be properly recorded for protection under hedgerow regulations. Gaps in hedgerows and opportunities for new hedgerow restoration should also be considered. These can be identified from the hedgerow connectivity mapping.



9.11. MAP REF: PDA6

Area: 74.61 hectares

Overview

Site PDA6 is located west of Mount Pleasant, Bedworth along the A444. South of the site is the built up area of Bedworth Heath. To the north and west the site is surrounded by open fields. The site itself consists mainly of small fields of pastureland with occasional arable fields. Along the southern boundary of the site is headwater stream of the River Sowe with a complex of ponds.

Key Features

- Wetland areas including ponds, marsh and marshy grassland
- Semi-natural woodland
- Semi-improved neutral grasslands

Designated Sites

Site PDA6 contains four areas of designated local wildlife sites; SP38N4 The Nook, SP38N5 Bedworth Woodlands Flash Meadow and SP38N8 Charity Spinney Meadows (2 parts).

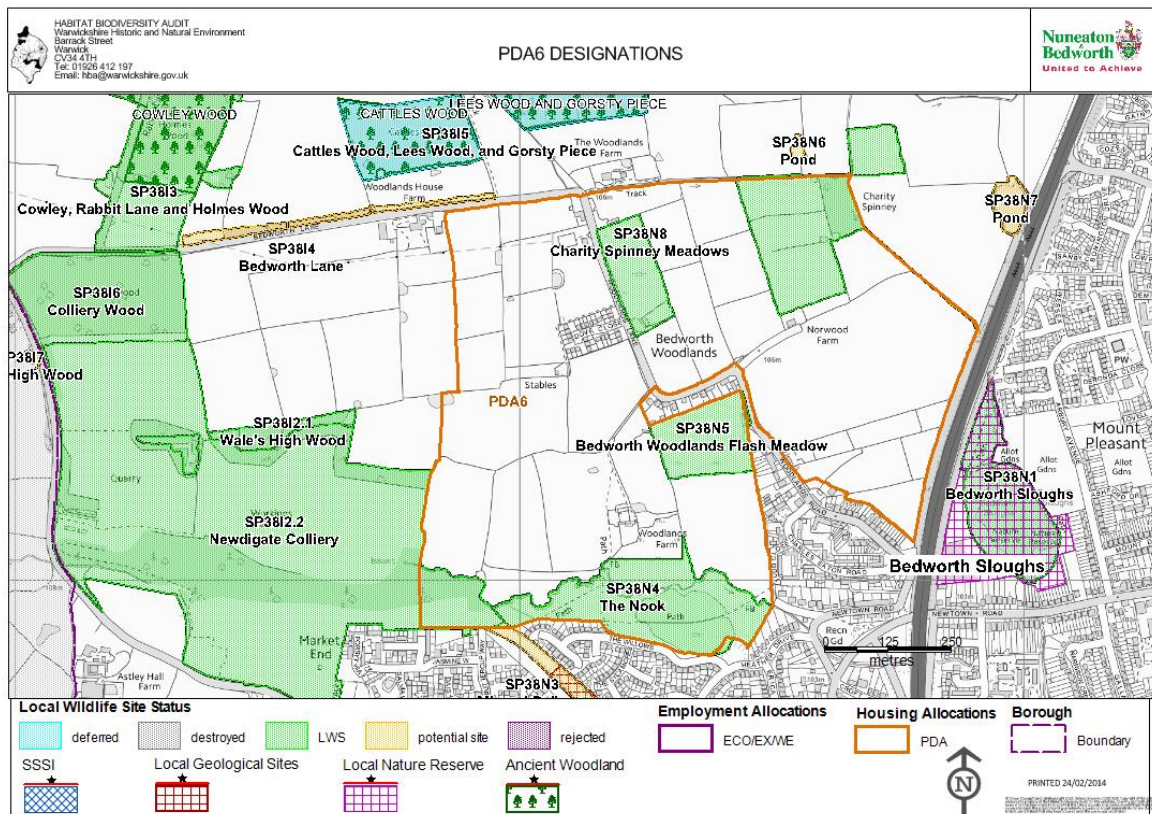
Charity Spinney Meadows LWS comprises five small wet semi-improved neutral fields and a small block of semi-natural woodland. The site was until the 1950's part of a large dairy farm that extended across to Bedworth. Since then the farmland was either improved and ploughed or sold for development.

Bedworth Woodlands Flash LWS is a 2.5 hectare semi-improved rectangular horse pasture containing a flash pool situated behind the houses flanking the west side of Woodlands Lane. The flash was caused by subsidence into the flooded mine workings and was formerly seasonal but since the late 1980's there has been a permanent pool. In winter, flooding extends into the fields to the south. Similar flash pools have also formed nearby including Bedworth Nook LWS and Bedworth Slough LNR. The field is bounded by fragmented species-rich hedgerows and contains a narrow pond to the east, which was a former fishing pool but has now largely reverted to swamp.

The Nook LWS is a shallow pool formed by mining subsidence. A raised causeway that previously carried an old mineral railway line runs through the middle section of the pool. The pool and causeway is bordered by emergent vegetation which gradually merges into marshy grassland. The River Sowe, which is also a potential LWS, flows across the south of the site. The site has open public access from nearby residential areas, providing informal recreation and access to wildlife.

The western boundary of The Nook merges with Newdigate Colliery LWS, a 34.9 hectare area of semi-improved grasslands, pioneer habitats, scrub and plantation woodland. Newdigate Colliery LWS is at the centre of a concentration of woodland, grassland and wetland LWSs associated with the Arbury Park estate to the north and the sites to the east in PDA6.

The Local Geological Sites of Newdigate Colliery Minerals Railway Cutting lies to the south of PDA6 and is a connective corridor to PDA6. A field visit in 1983 recorded exposures either side of the bridge at SP 341 868, revealing hard red limestone with green marl horizons, overlain by red marl with discontinuous green horizons totalling c. 2m in height. The original literature records a lower portion that was not well exposed, consisting of red marl with thin sandstones. This was succeeded by rather coarse, massive, false bedded, red-brown sandstone with fairly well rounded grains; at the base and near the top were several feet of pellet-rock, consisting of red and yellow marl fragments set in a calcite matrix. The rest of the section was mainly bright red sharply marl, containing abundant small nodules of race, together with a band of Spirorbis Limestone, some marly sandstone, and purple and green calcareous flags. The presence of a Spirorbis limestone, in this case the Whitacre-Longford Limestone, is important because it provides an accurate index of position within the sequence, in this case 140-180m above the base of the Keele Group, but exposures are rare. It is likely that this site would be of greatest use to researchers.

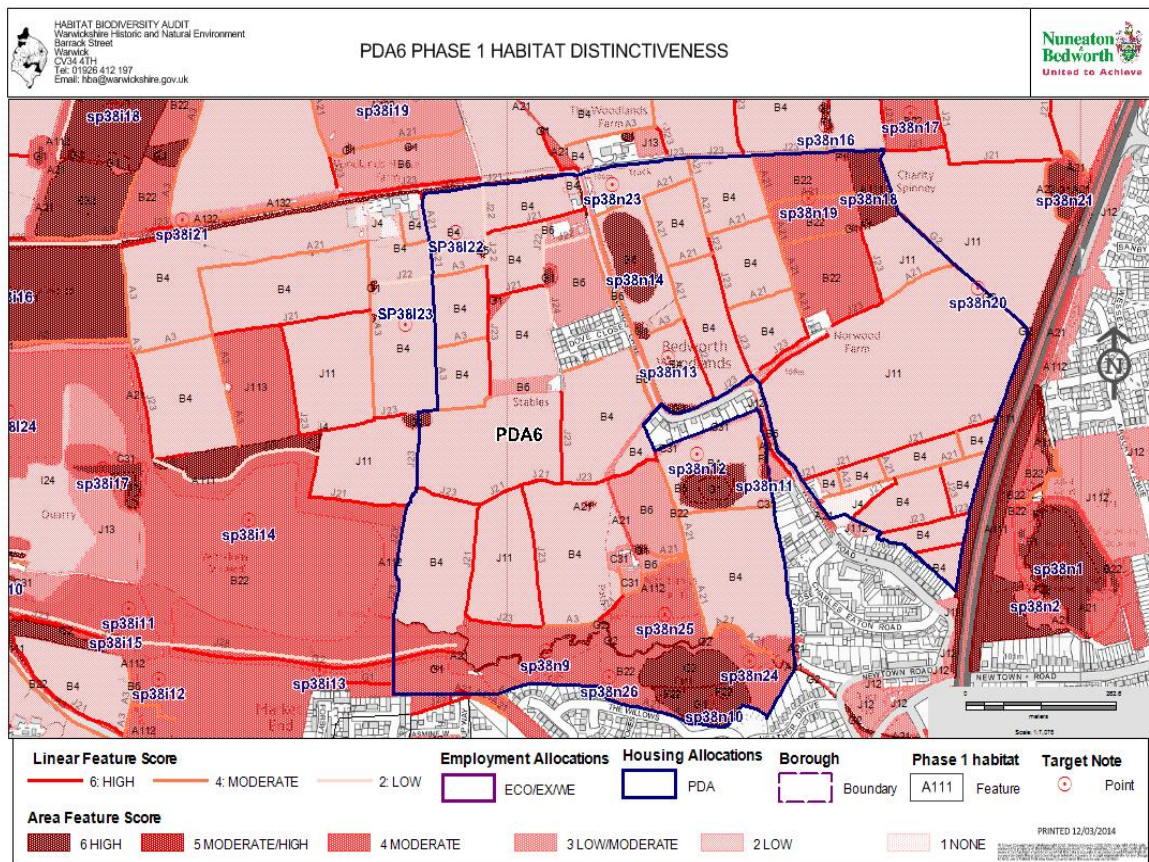


Phase 1 habitat Distinctiveness

Site PDA6 consists mainly of small fields of improved grassland (B4) with occasional arable (J11) which are low habitat distinctiveness. Many of the fields are intensively grazed by horses reducing their habitat diversity. Some of the fields are also noted as having ridge-and-furrow indicating that they are remnants of old pasture fields. The grassland does become less improved (less intensively grazed) in part and range from poor semi-improved (B6) grazing with moderate distinctiveness, to moderately high distinctiveness semi-improved neutral (B22) and wet/marshy grasslands (B5) in the wetter areas of the site.

Areas of high distinctiveness are associated in and around the pools including standing water (G1), emergent vegetation/swamp (F22) and running water (G2). Many of the larger pools, including the marsh within Charity Spinney Meadows LWS off Woodlands Lane, have formed from mining subsidence and have an abundance of floating and emergent vegetation. One pool (Target note SP38N21) notes the banks strewn with freshwater mussel shells. Around the pools are small patches of scrubland (A21).

The fields retain their old field patterns with mostly intact hedgerows (J21) and hedges with trees (J23).



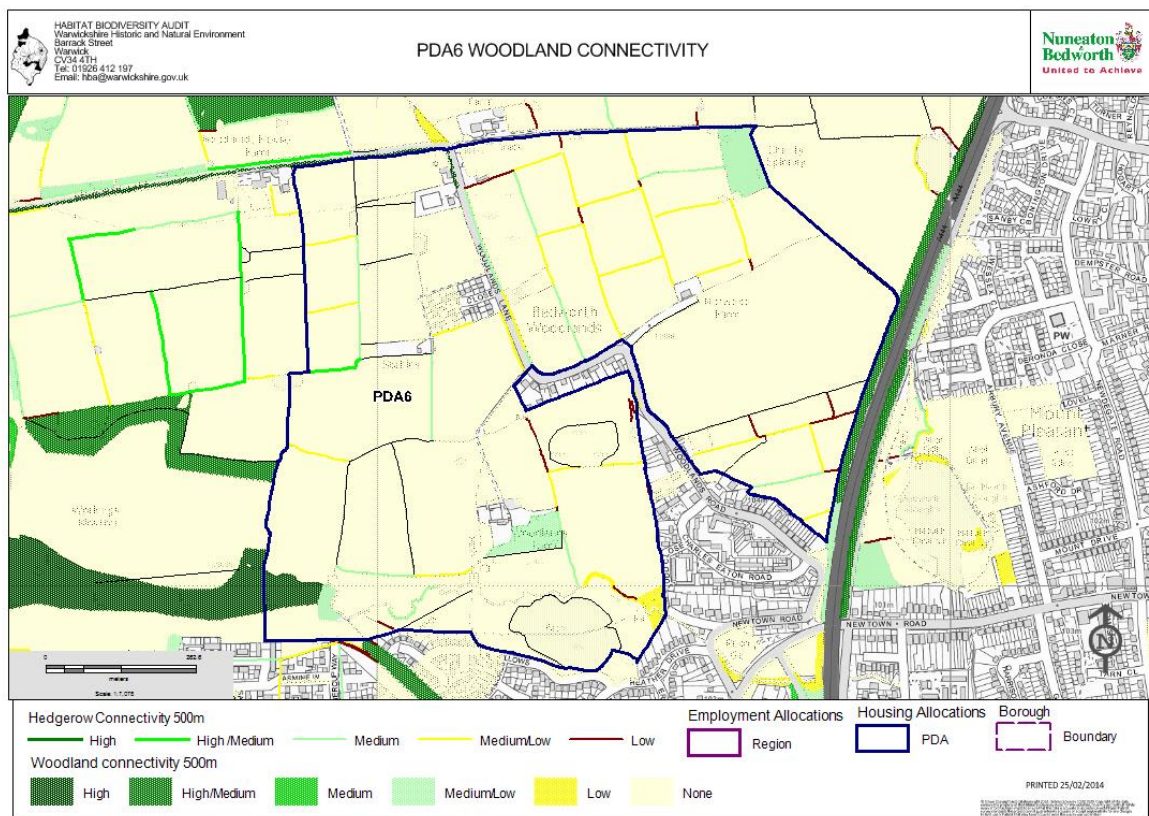
Phase 1 Habitat Connectivity

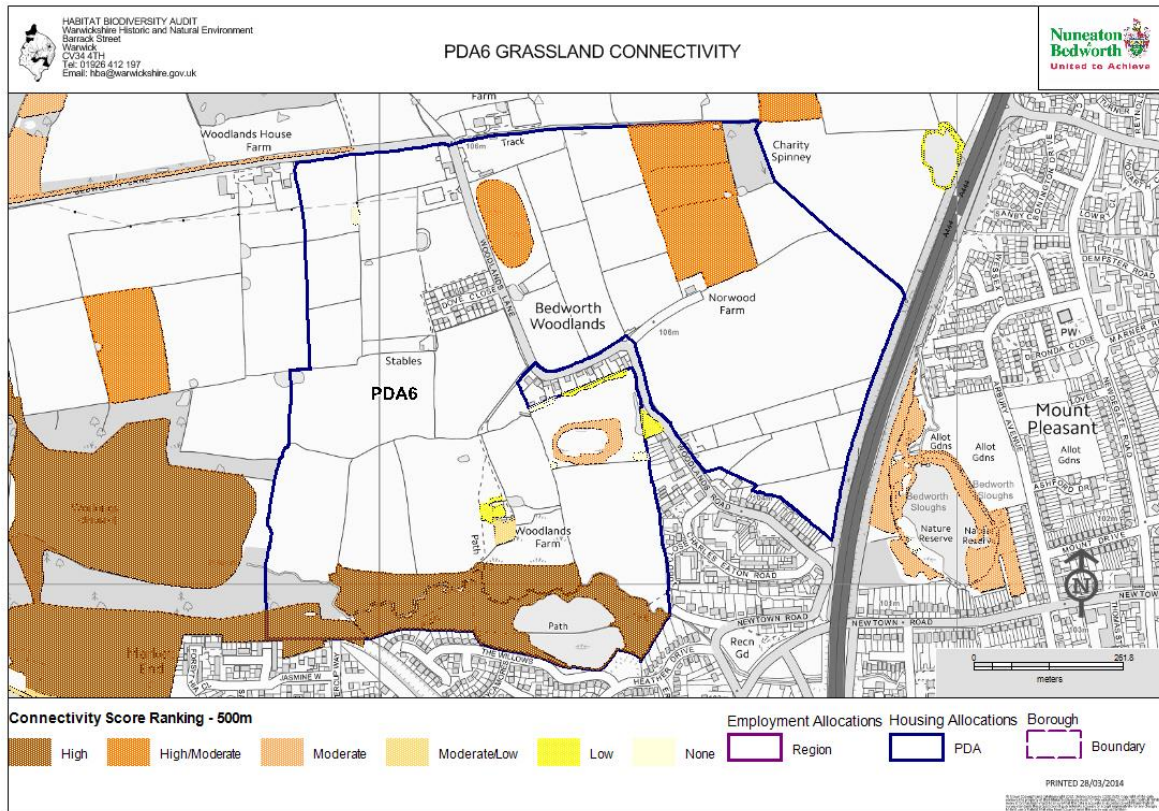
The woodland and hedgerow connectivity mapping of the site shows a declining connectedness in and around the area. The majority of the hedgerows range in connectivity from medium, to medium-low and low. In some parts hedgerows have been removed in the past to create larger arable fields.

The only remaining areas of woodlands in the area have become isolated with medium to low habitat connectedness.

The important area for grassland connectivity is along the southern section of PDA6 where The Nook LWS extends westwards into the Newdigate Colliery LWS providing a continuous area of highly connected grasslands.

The remaining grassland LWS including Arbury Rough and Charity Spinney Meadows retain their high to moderate connectedness because of the size and proximity to each other. In contrast Bedworth Sloughs LWS and nature reserve has a moderate to low connectivity because of its isolation from the other sites across the A444 in PDA6.

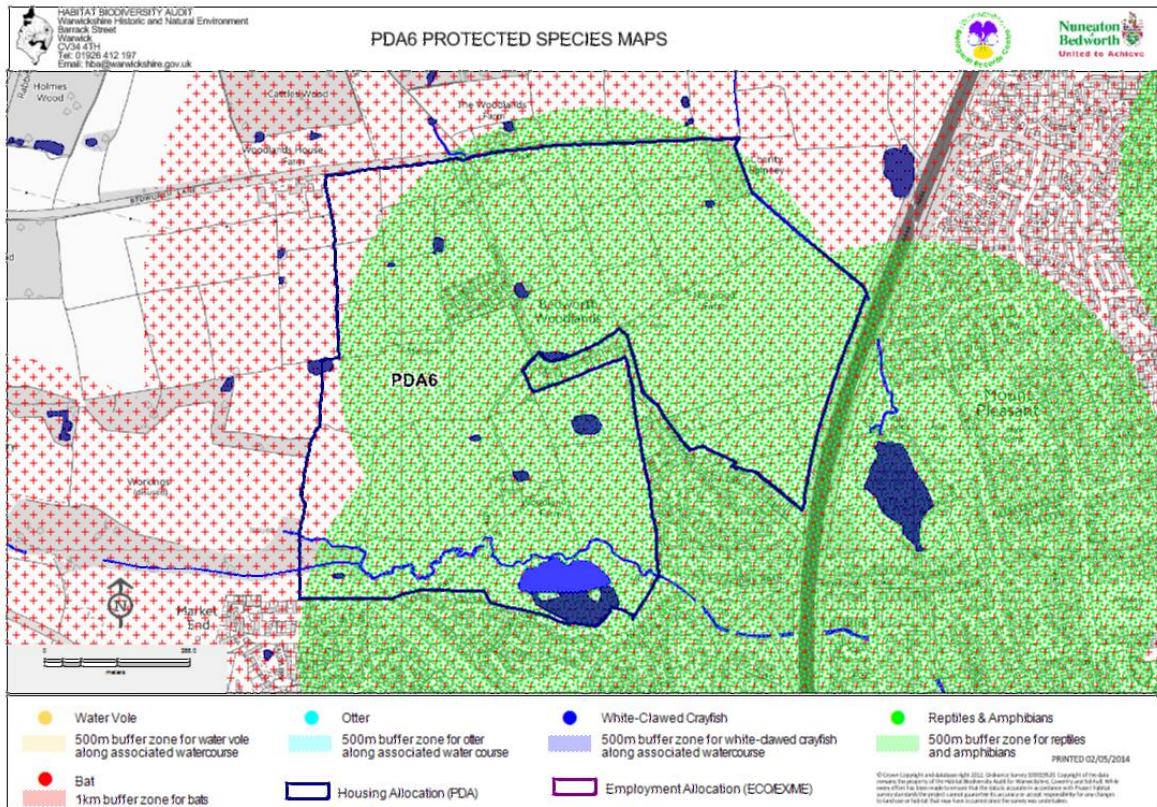




Protected Species

There are records of bat species, namely brown long eared, soprano and common pipistrelle, noctule and myotis species, within site PDA6. There are also records of great crested newts, smooth newts, common frogs and wall, small heath and dingy skipper butterflies in the surrounding area. In addition there are records of county rare plants nearby. These are bottle sedge (*Carex rostrata*) and common spike-rush subspecies (*Eleocharis palustris ssp palustris*).

We do not anticipate that protected or locally rare and endangered species will preclude the proposed development sites from proceeding. However, should the proposal go ahead, we recommend that protected species are taken into consideration through more detailed ecological assessments. Please note that an absence of species records does not mean absence of species.



Recommendations

The wetland areas should not be within the PDA6 boundary; this includes the LWS areas of The Nook south of Woodlands Farm, the Charity Spinney Meadows marsh and the Bedworth Woodlands Flash Meadows, all of which have a range of county important wildlife habitats. Also importantly they are liable to extensive flooding, with local mining subsidence still likely to reoccur in future.

The network of large open pools and smaller ponds should also be retained and where possible added to in order to increase the opportunity for invertebrates and amphibians to move between these areas of open water.

Consideration should also be given to maintaining and restoring the wet neutral grasslands and marshy grasslands to their former condition by reducing the intensity of grazing on the designated sites.

Hedgerow connectivity should also be considered across the site with the woodland areas to the north and west, particularly those associated with the Arbury Park estate.

In conclusion the areas covered by the three LWSs are very much valued by local people for recreation and wildlife watching and should if possible be combined to form a new Local Nature Reserve.

The Newdigate Colliery Mineral Railway Cutting Local Geological Sites should be enhanced as part of any development in this area with an appropriate management plan.

9.12. MAP REF: PDA7

Area: 26.01 hectares

Overview

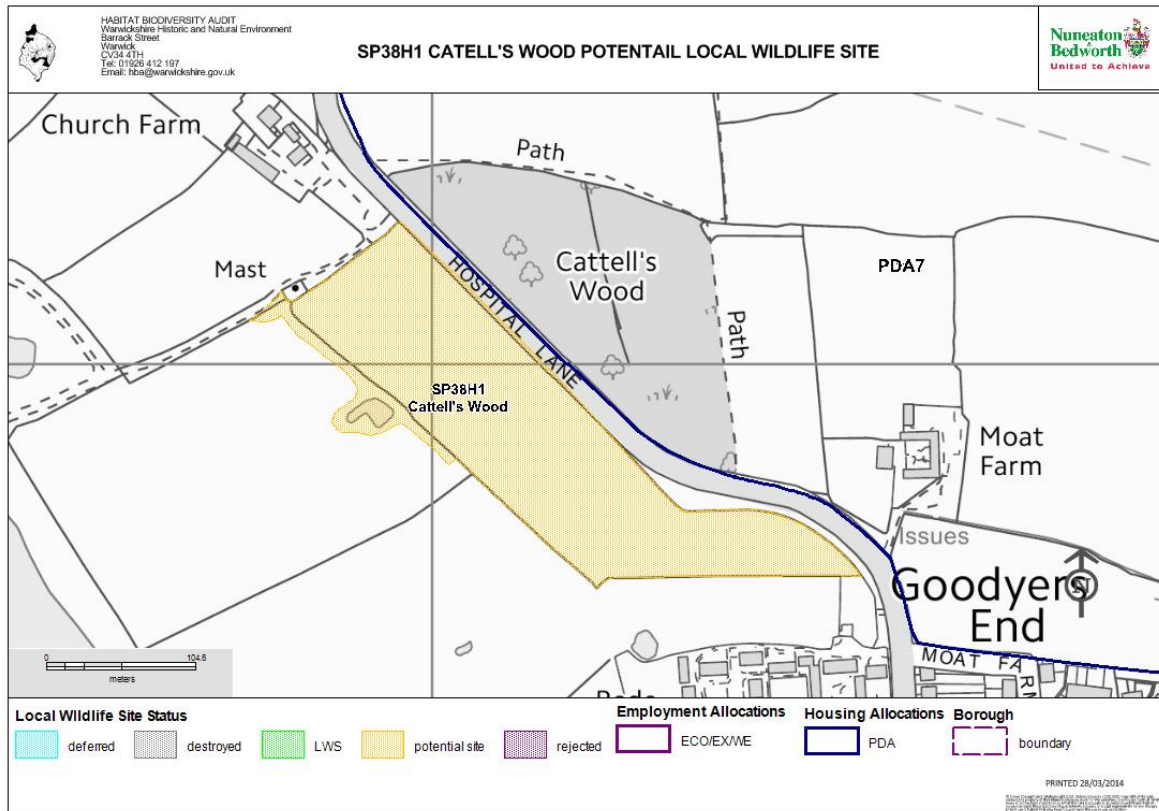
Site PDA7 is an area of mainly arable fields and poor wet grassland, enclosed on three sides by housing developments. Part of the site includes the playing field at Newdigate Primary School. The middle section of the site has wet areas with rushes throughout the grassland sections. The central section of the site is bisected by a public footpath with a linear hedge and ditch extending from Hospital lane to Mavor Road. The ditches run alongside the majority of hedgerows in the area. There are both formal and informal footpaths throughout the area which are well used by local residents. Overhead power lines cross the northern section of the site.

Key Features

- Intact hedgerows
- Semi-improved grassland and scrub

Designated Sites

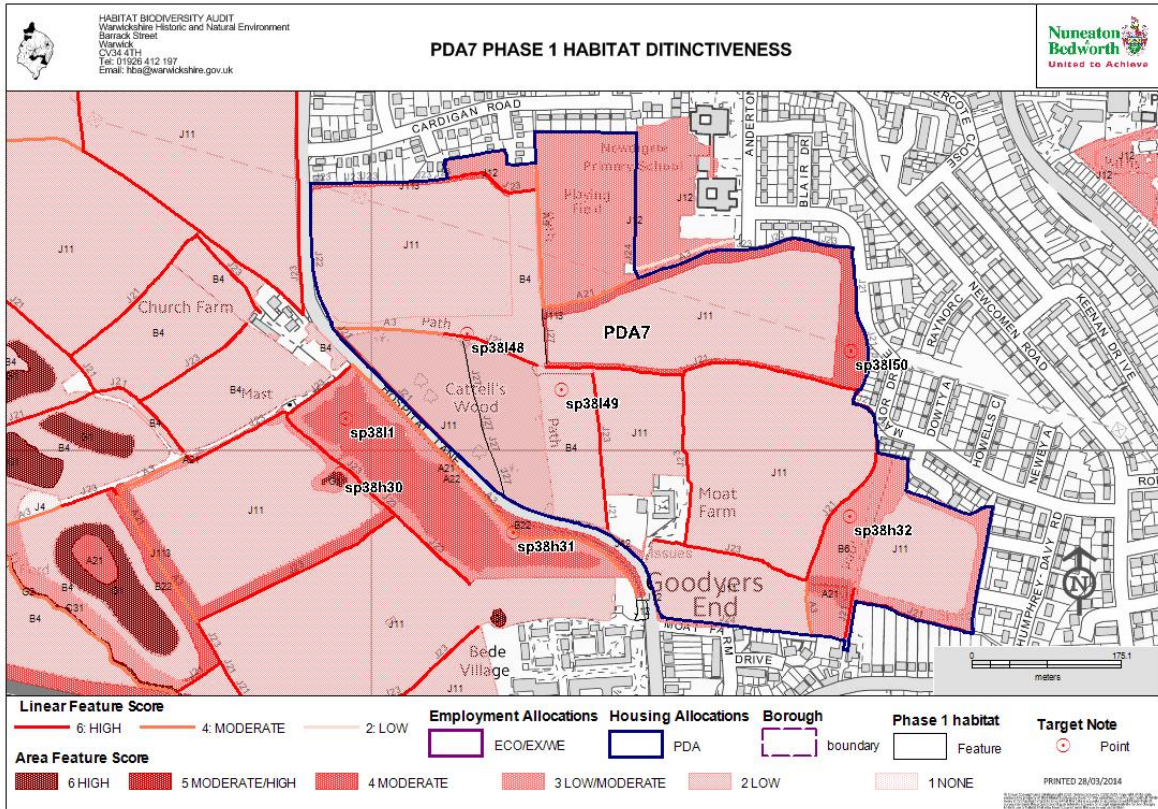
There were no designated sites within the vicinity of site PDA7, however further survey has identified a potential local wildlife site and nature area for the area opposite the former Cattell's Wood (which is now arable fields) alongside Hospital Road. The proposed Cattell's Wood lws SP38H1 is an area of semi-improved grassland with scattered scrub surrounded by encroaching dense scrub. The perimeter is surrounded by mature trees and there is a pond on the eastern edge of the site which is included in the proposed lws.



Phase 1 Habitat Distinctiveness

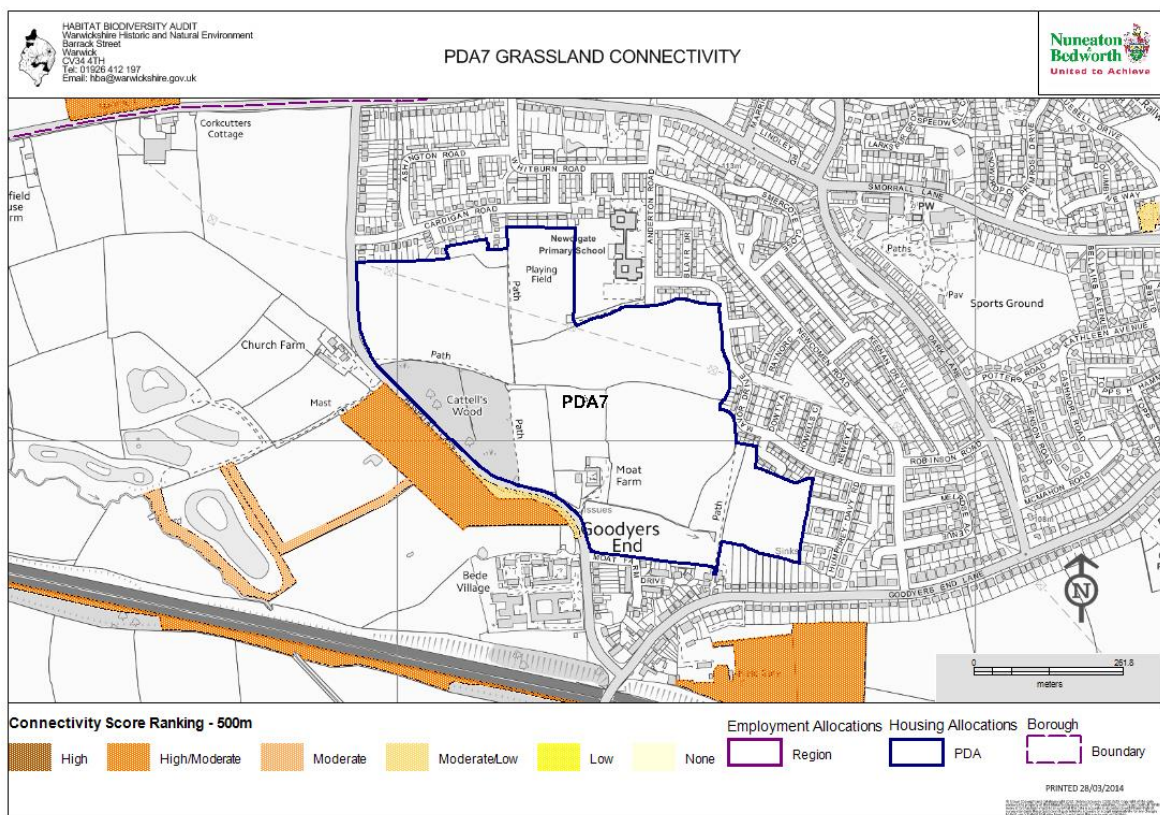
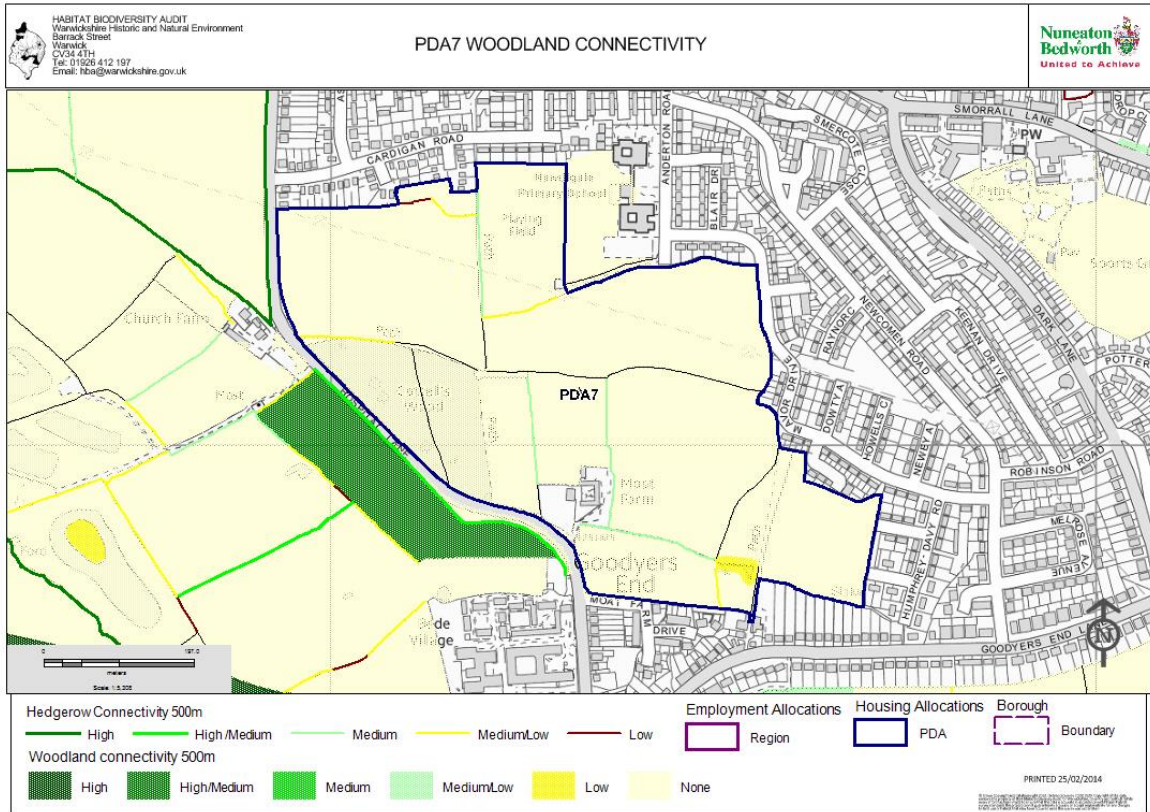
PDA7 consists mostly of arable fields (J12) and fields of improved grassland (B4) with low habitat distinctiveness. The grassland is poor marshy grassland with frequent patches of Hard Rush (*Juncus inflexus*). There is a playing field within the site boundary noted as amenity grassland (J12) with low to moderate distinctiveness. To the south-west is an area of poor-semi-improved grassland (B6) with small patches of dense scrub (A21). This area is used as a public footpath between Moat Farm Drive and Manor Road. The area of grassland extends around the cultivated fields effectively creating a buffer between the built up area and the open arable fields. The individual fields are divided by intact hedgerows (J21) and occasional hedgerows with trees (J23) and linear scrub (A3).

The longest section of hedgerow running alongside the public footpath between Hospital lane and Mavor Drive has a wide



Phase 1 Habitat Connectivity

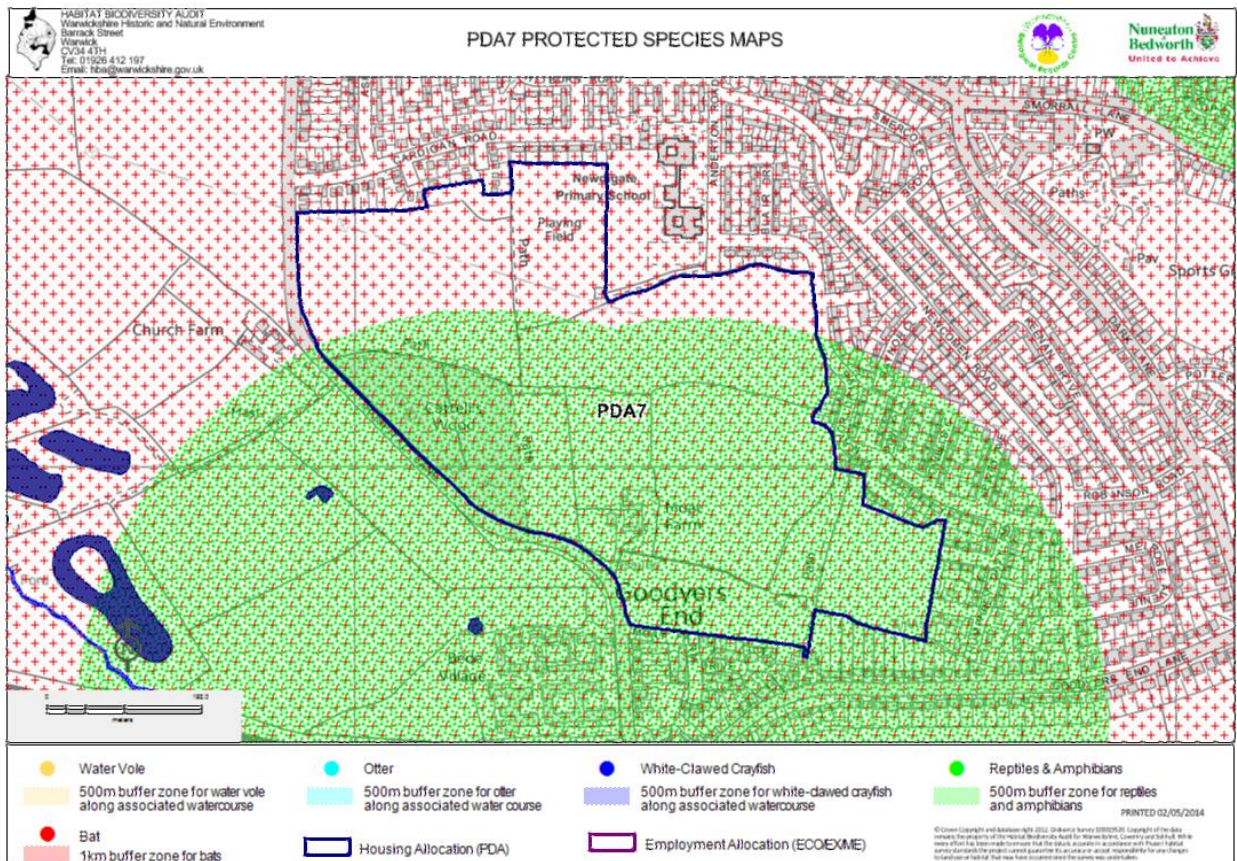
The site generally has poor woodland and hedgerow connectivity. There are no large areas of woodland close by and the only area of any connectedness is the scrubland across from the Hospital Lane section.



Protected Species

There are no records of protected or notable species within the boundary of site PDA7. There are records of bats nearby (common pipistrelle and indeterminate species), as well as several great crested newts to the south of the site. In addition there are records of dingy skipper, small heath and wall butterflies and hedgehog nearby. There are also several county rare plant species, although these records are over ten years old. The records include galingale (*Cyperus longus*), bog pondweed (*Potamogeton polygonifolius*) and green-winged orchid (*Orchis morio*).

We do not anticipate that protected or locally rare and endangered species will preclude the proposed development sites from proceeding. However, should the proposal go ahead, we recommend that protected species are taken into consideration through more detailed ecological assessments. Please note that an absence of species records does not mean absence of species.



Recommendations

The newly identified potential local wildlife site SP38H1 Cattell's Wood is an opportunity to create and maintain an area for wildlife with public access where there has been no previous provision available in the area. The designated site would also provide a landscape feature effectively buffering the proposed housing development at PDA7 from the M6 motorway to the south of the site.

The site has retained the hedgerows and in particular the hedgerow running from Hospital Lane to Mavor Road. The footpath which runs the length of the hedgerow is well used by local residents and has a connected network of footpaths from Newdigate Primary School and playing fields to north down to Goodyers End in the south. These inter-connected hedgerows and footpaths provide green corridors across the area and so should be retained and enhanced.

The Hospital Lane to Mayor Road hedgerow is a central habitat feature of the site and is possibly an ancient hedgerow feature with bank and ditch but has been replanted at some stage and has not retained a species richness associated with an ancient hedgerow. The hedge has deteriorated with frequent gaps along its length which becomes more apparent towards the Mavor Drive end.

The hedge would greatly benefit with replanting of the gaps using appropriate native shrub species other than what is already in the hedgerow. Occasional native standard trees should also be planted at intervals along the length of the hedgerow. There is a wide 5 – 10 metre grassland border between the hedge and the arable fields where the foot path runs parallel to the hedge. This should be enhanced as semi-improved grassland edge. The ditch running alongside the hedge should also be cleared with consideration to disposing of the dredged material on the arable field side of the hedge.

There is also an opportunity to create an open grassland area to the south-east where the public footpath continues from Mavor Drive to Moat Farm Drive, Goodyers End.

9.13. MAP REF: PDA8

Area: PDA8 12.47 hectares

Overview

Site PDA8 is a triangular section of land between the M6 motorway and the B4113 Longford Road. The northern edge of the site boundary is along School Lane. The site consists of seven grassland fields.

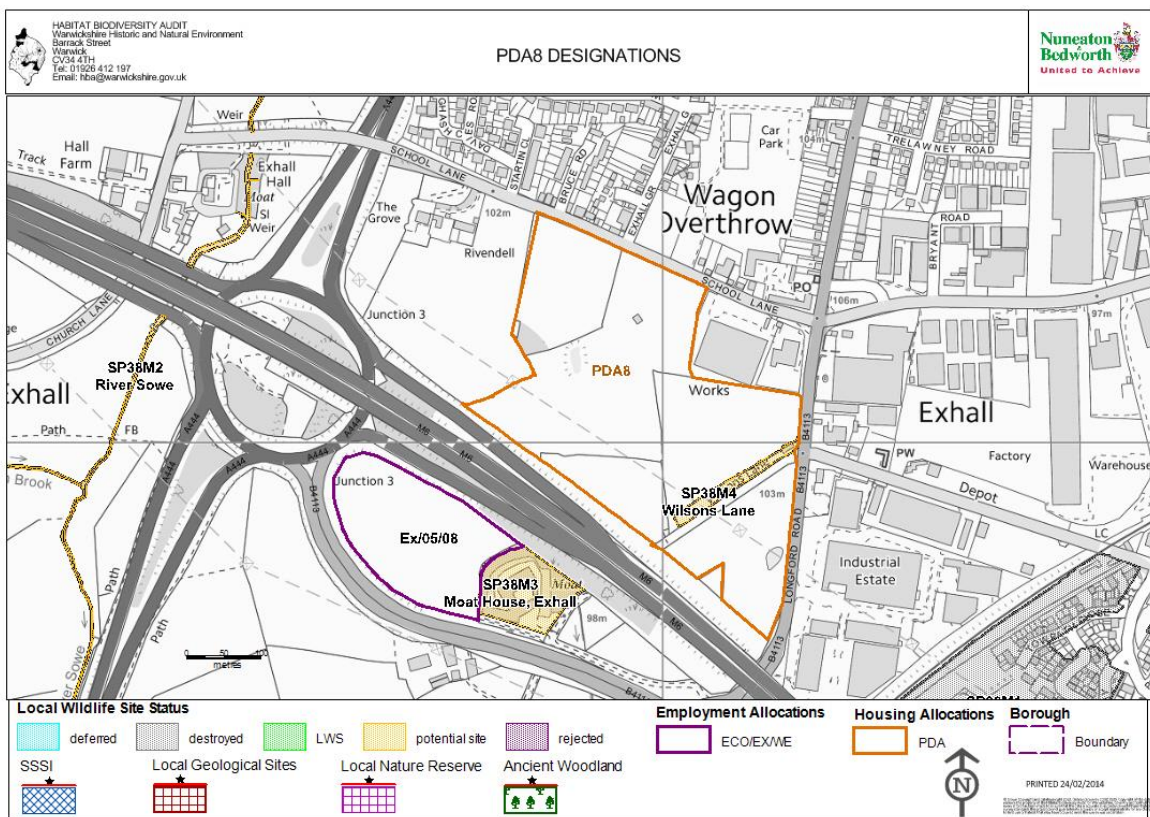
The whole site is surrounded by housing developments and industrial estates.

Key Features

- Semi-improved grasslands
- Water-body
- Woodland

Designated Sites

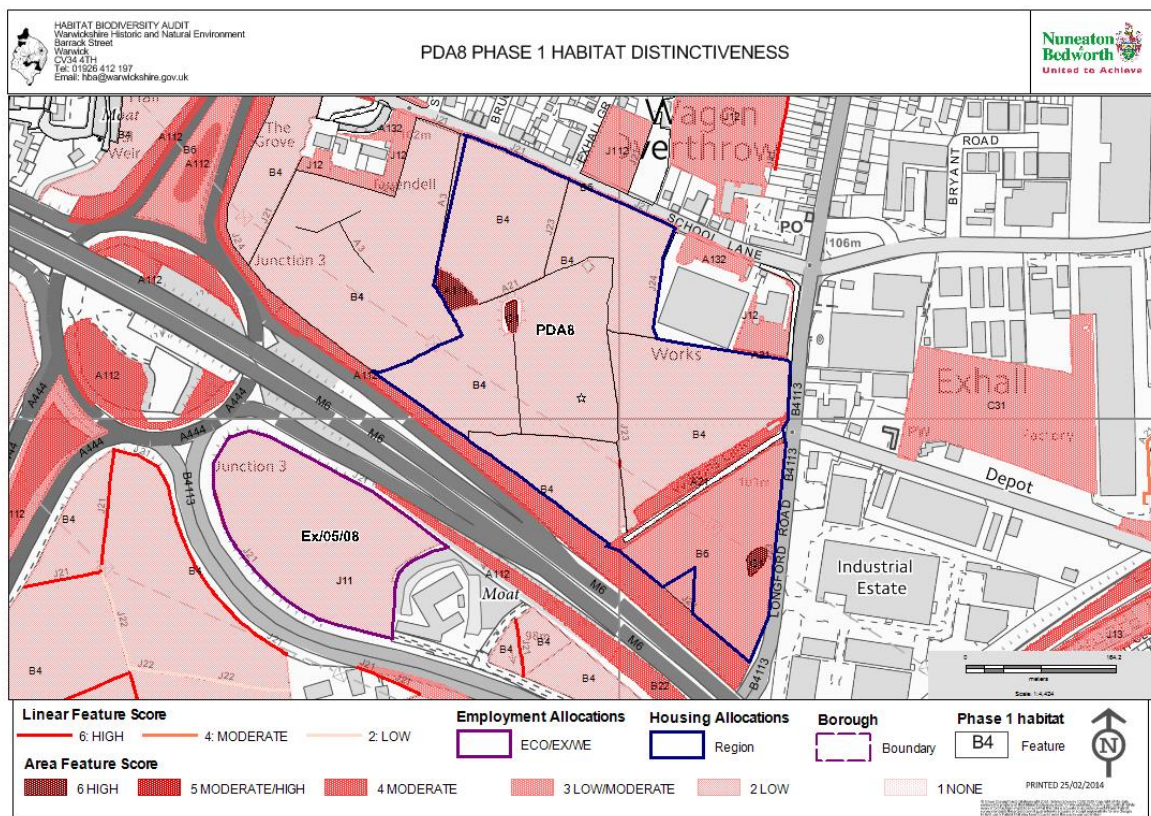
There are no designated sites, but there are two potential Local Wildlife Sites, SP38M4 Wilsons Lane a species rich hedgerow and SP38M3 Moat House Exhall a small area of semi-natural woodland with pools.



Phase 1 Habitat Distinctiveness

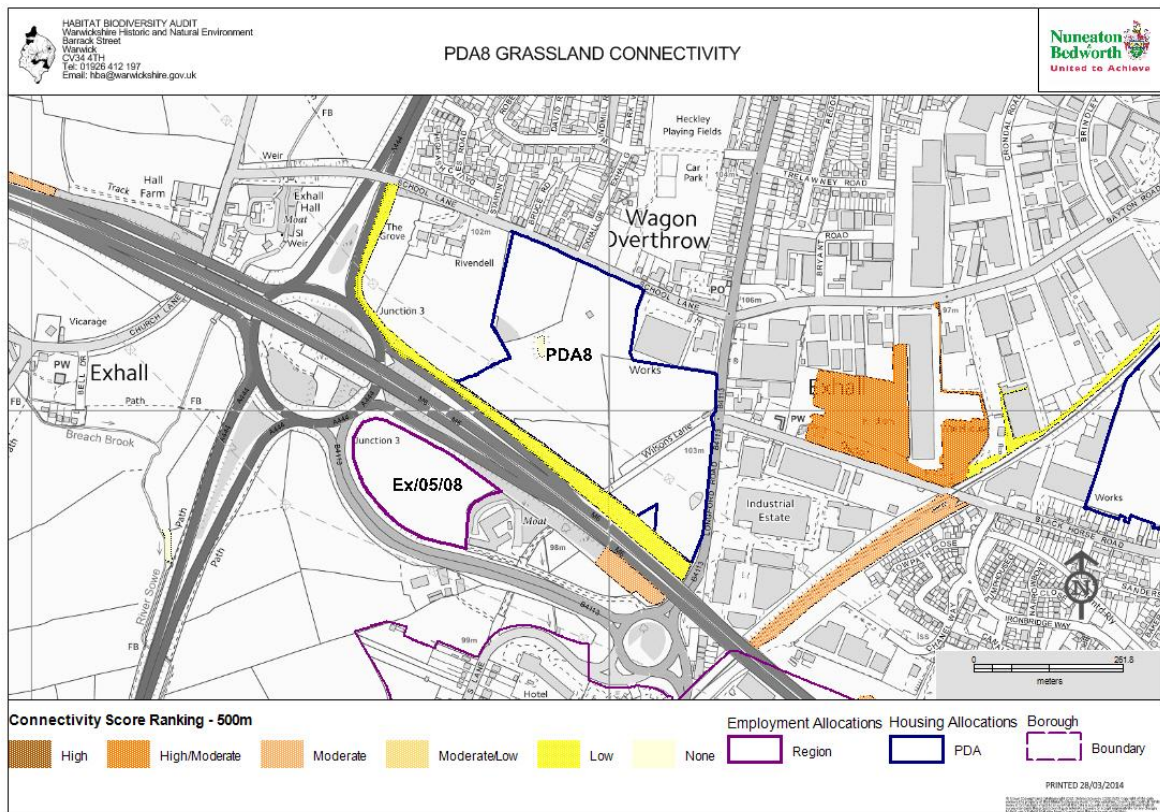
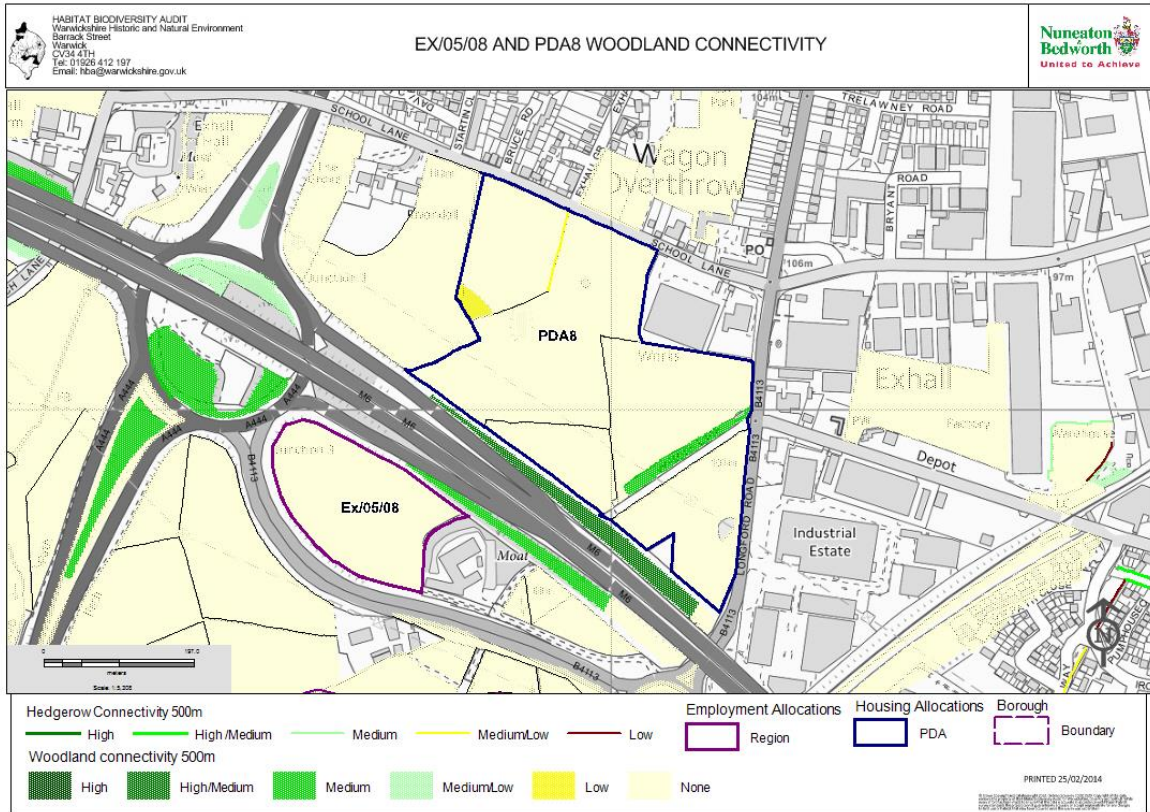
Site PDA8 consists mainly of agriculturally improved grassland (B4), with low habitat distinctiveness. A broad-leaved plantation (A112) with a moderate distinctiveness score, buffers the site from the M6 motorway. The field at the south-east end of the site, along Longford Road is classed as poor semi-improved grassland (B6) with low to moderate habitat distinctiveness. A hedgerow and section of dense scrub runs along the edge of the field cutting diagonally across from Longford Lane to the motorway, possibly the remnant of an old pathway connecting the Moat which is just across the motorway. This area of land has been highlighted as a potential local wildlife site.

There is a small woodland (A111) and pond (G1) in the site with high distinctiveness. There remain intact hedgerows (J21) and hedgerows with trees (J23).



Phase 1 Habitat Connectivity

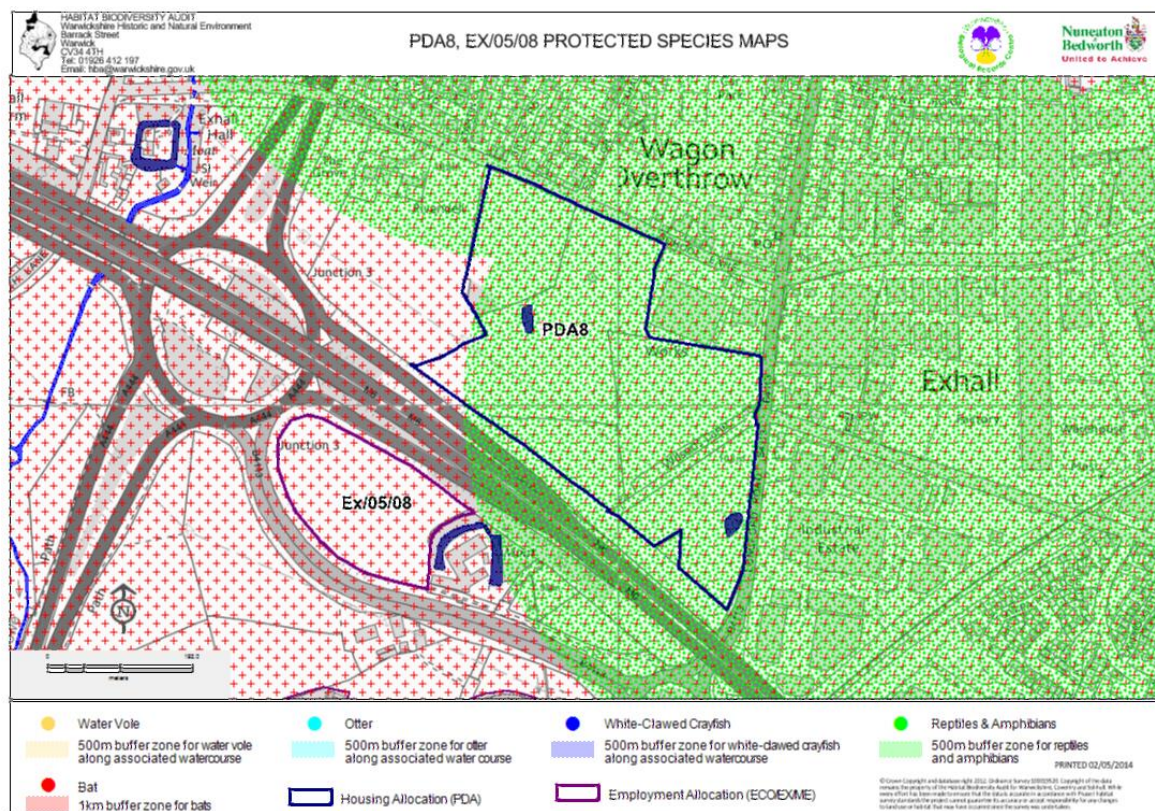
Woodland and hedgerow connectivity around the site is very limited. The only areas with moderate connectivity are the broad-leaved plantations along the road sides. Hedgerow connectivity where it occurs is moderate to low.



Protected Species

There is a single record of a pipistrelle species bat within site PDA8. There are nearby records of protected and notable species including bats, common frog, common toad, common lizard and small heath butterflies. There is also a historic record of a county rare plant, greater duckweed (*Spirodela polyrhiza*), on the other side of the railway.

We do not anticipate that protected or locally rare and endangered species will preclude the proposed development sites from proceeding. However, should the proposal go ahead, we recommend that protected species are taken into consideration through more detailed ecological assessments. Please note that an absence of species records does not mean absence of species.



Recommendations

Survey the hedgerow at Wilsons Lane under hedgerow regulations and possible designation as a species rich hedgerow LWS. There are no other specific habitat recommendations for this site.

9.14. MAP REF: PDA9

Area: 32.85 hectares

Overview

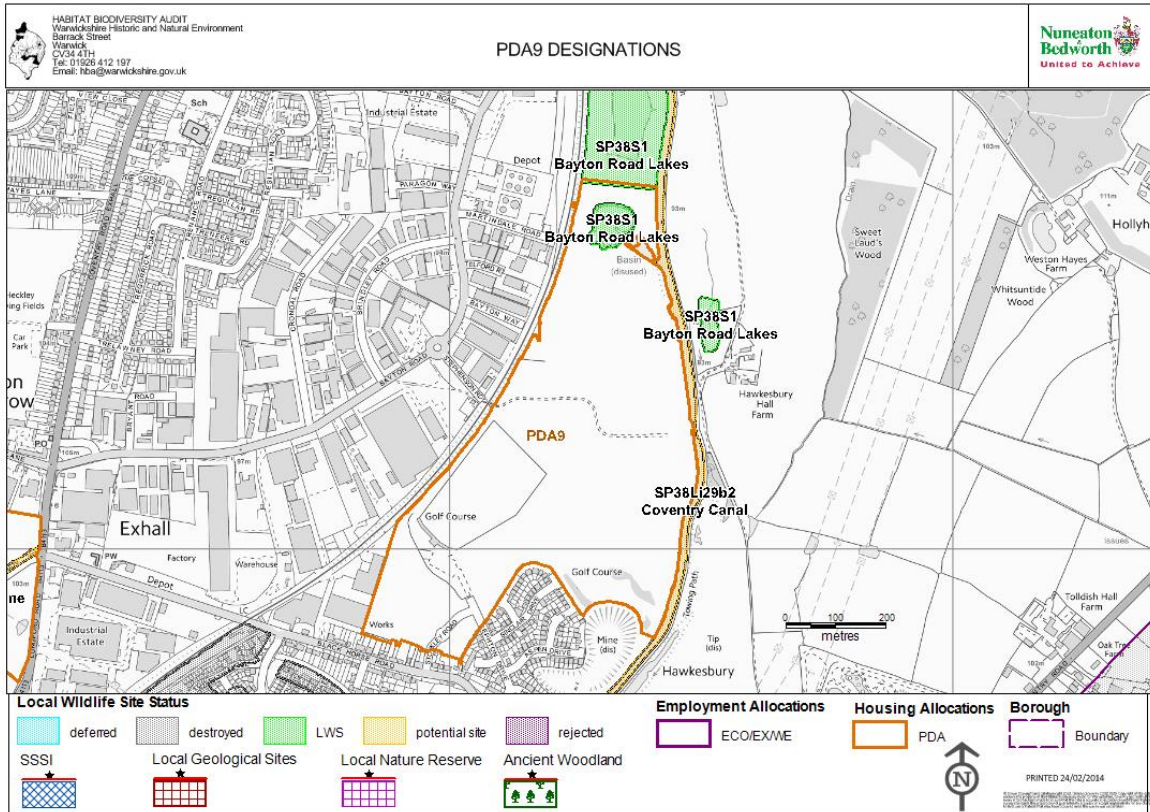
Site PDA9 is an area of open land on the former Hawkesbury Golf Course which before that was also the site of the former Hawkesbury Colliery. Immediately west of the site is the Coventry Canal with open farmland beyond. The eastern boundary of the site is the railway line and the built-up area of Hawkesbury. The southern edge of the site consists of housing developments along the Black Horse Road and the industrial warehousing at Exhall in Bedworth. The northern boundary of the site is an area of public open space surrounding a large pool.

Key Features

- Open water
- Scrub and semi-improved grassland

Designated Sites

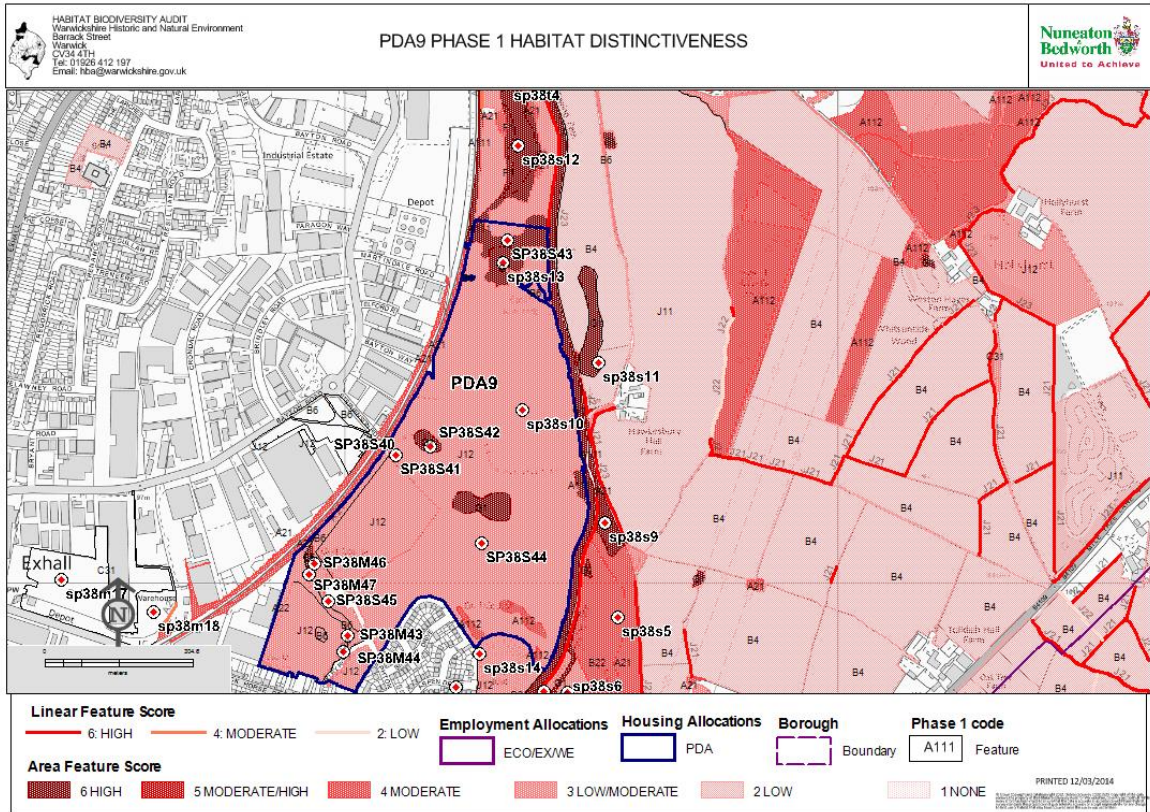
Site PDA9 contains part of one Local Wildlife Site, SP38S1 Bayton Road Lakes LWS. The LWS includes three lakes, with each lake containing abundant marginal vegetation surrounded by semi-improved grassland. One of the lakes is used for private fishing. The site is noted for its importance in terms of its ecological position as it is one of several semi-natural sites in the area and is adjacent to the Coventry Canal which is also a potential LWS. The site has high community value as the largest lake is open to the public and close to nearby residential areas.



Phase 1 Habitat Distinctiveness

PDA9 is open land consisting mainly of amenity grassland (J12) with low/moderate habitat distinctiveness. Within the former golf course are small areas of broad-leaved plantation (A11) with moderate distinctiveness and ponds (G1) with high distinctiveness. The ponds in the area of open grassland contain some inundation vegetation including Common Reedmace (*Typha latifolia*), Yellow Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*), sweet-grass (*Glyceria sp.*) and Great Willowherb (*Epilobium hirsutum*). The ponds are mown closely to the water's edge. The larger of these ponds was used as an angling pool. The two ponds to the north of the site are designated part of a LWS and are fringed by wet woodland (A11) and dense scrub (A21).

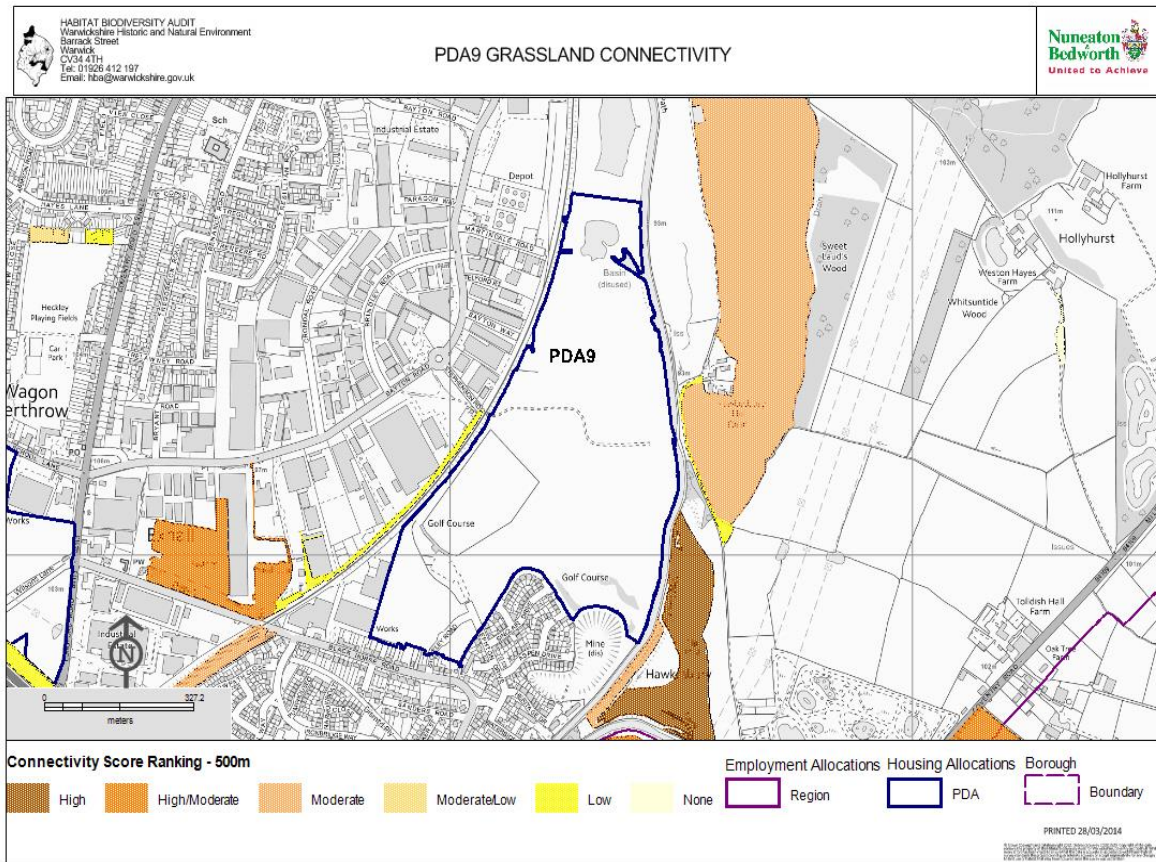
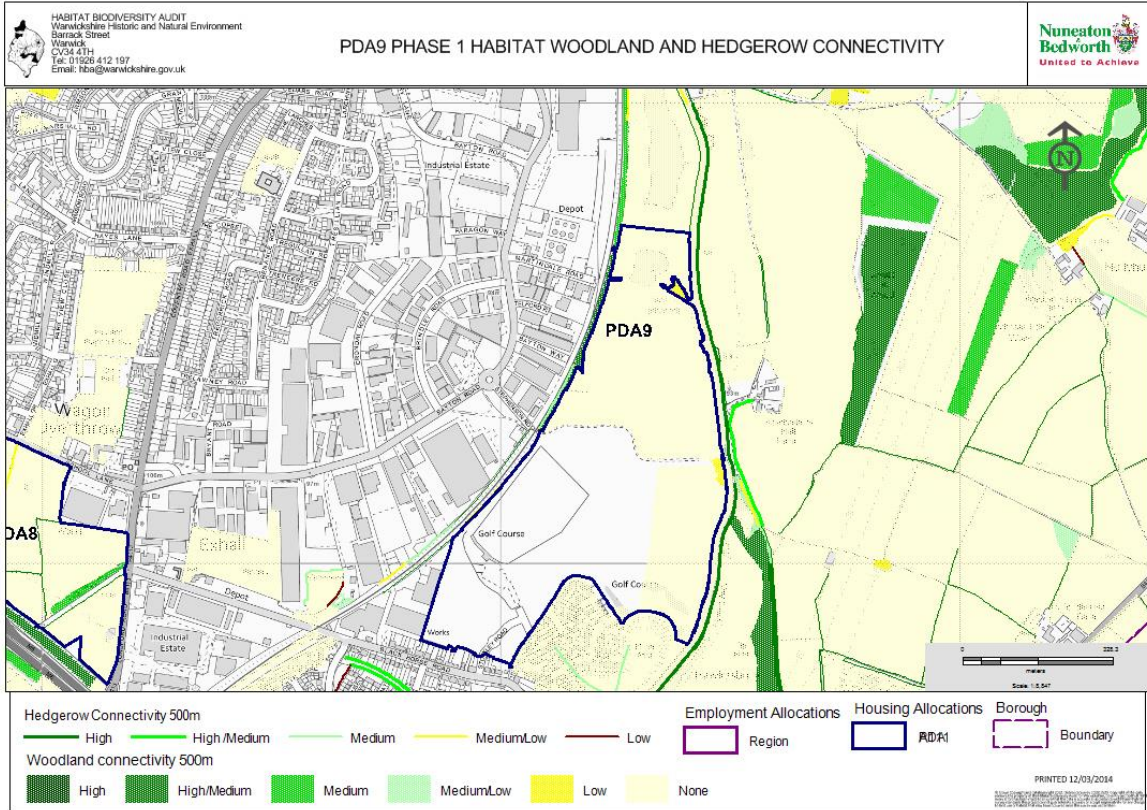
Along the south-west section of the site where the site is accessed from Black Horse Road is an area of poor semi-improved grassland (B6) with patches of scattered scrub (A22), consisting of Butterfly-bush (*Buddleja davidii*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosus*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*). The scrub progressively becomes denser (A21) and includes specimens of Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*) which line the back of the railway line.



Phase 1 Habitat Connectivity

The site has limited woodland and hedgerow connectivity. The only sections of connectivity are along the railway line and the Coventry Canal. There are no hedgerows recorded in or around the site. The small areas of plantation woodland have little or no habitat connectivity.

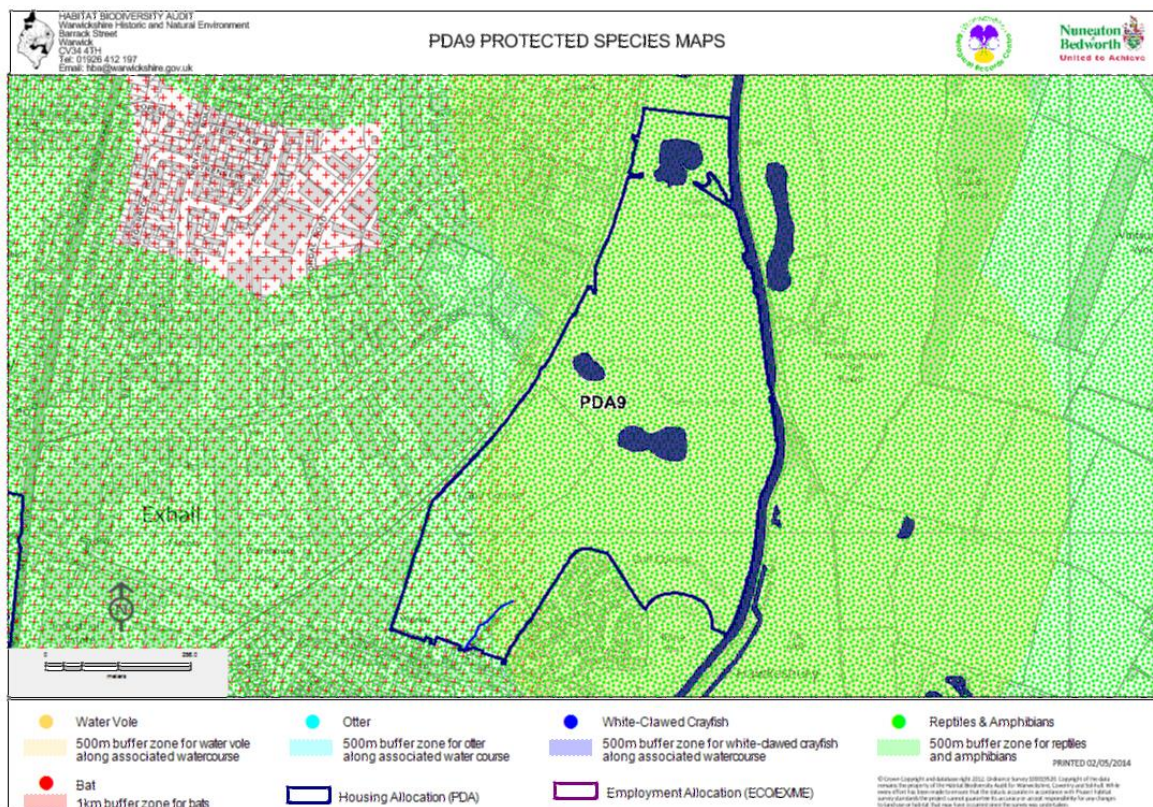
The ponds and the canal will have important wetland connectivity.



Protected Species

There are records of common lizard, common toad and smooth newt within the boundary of PDA9. There are further records of these nearby, along with records of great crested newts, Daubenton's bat, watervole and wall butterflies.

We do not anticipate that protected or locally rare and endangered species will preclude the proposed development sites from proceeding. However, should the proposal go ahead, we recommend that protected species are taken into consideration through more detailed ecological assessments. Please note that an absence of species records does not mean absence of species.



Recommendations

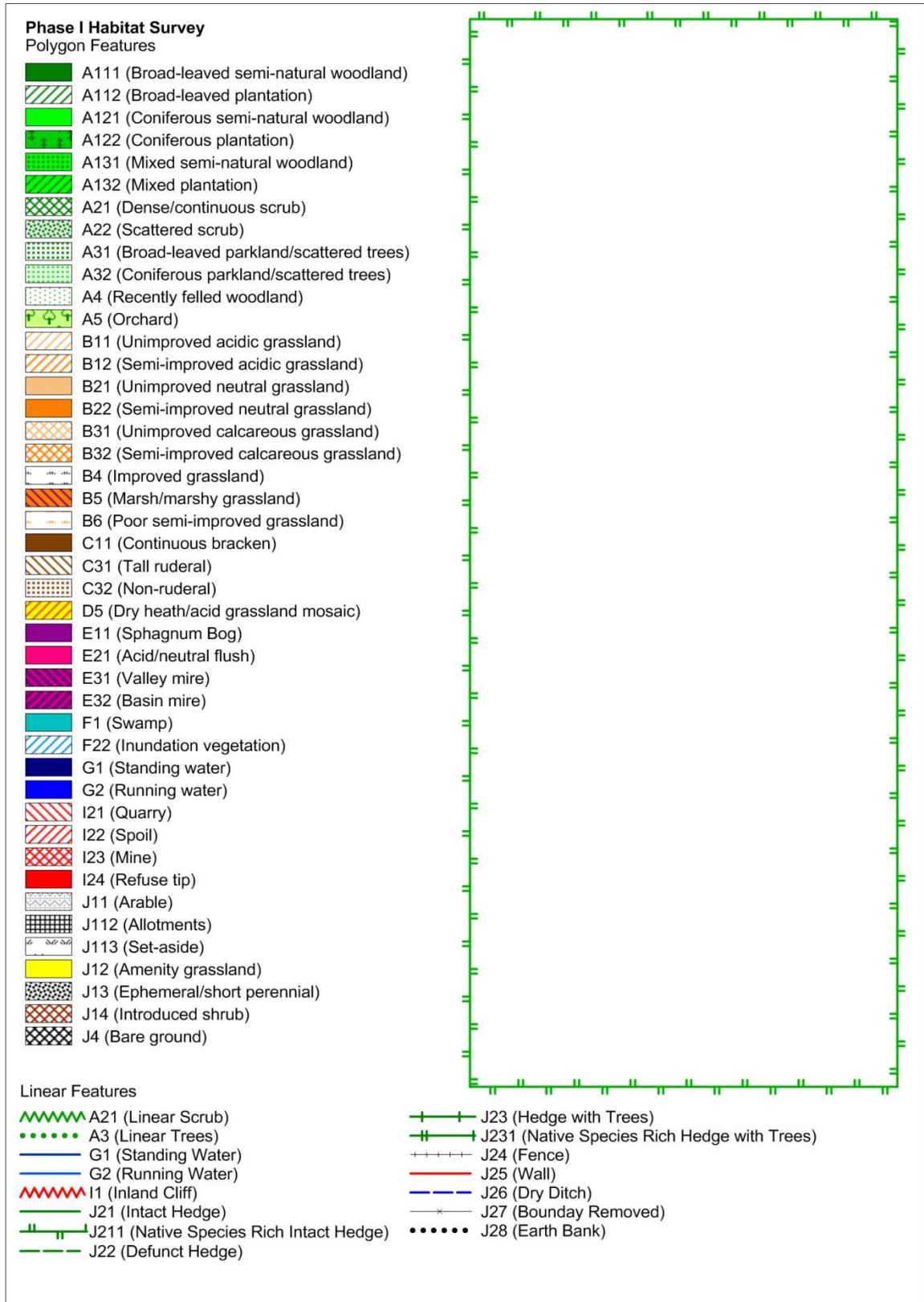
Consideration should be given to conserving the area around the ponds possibly creating public open space and with broad-leaved tree planting.

Reduce the site boundary to the north so it does not encroach on the existing Bayton Road Lakes LWS and incorporate the area of wet woodland and semi-improved grassland into the LWS.

Maintain a natural green buffer alongside the Coventry Canal and consider the former disused mining area to the south-west of the site boundary at the end of Aspen Drive for public open space and a managed wildlife area.

10. TECHNICAL APPENDIX

10.1. PHASE 1 HABITATS KEY



10.2. EQUIVALENCE OF URBAN HABITATS IN UK BAP AND PHASE 1 SURVEYS (TRUEMAN IAN, 2013)

Habitats of national (N) and local (L) importance. UKBAP; Biodiversity Action Plan for Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull)	Habitats identified in the Phase 1 survey (NCC/EN/NE)
<p>WOODLAND Ancient semi-natural woodland (N) Wood pasture and parkland (N) Orchards (N) Scrub and Carr (L)</p>	<p>WOODLAND Semi-natural and broadleaved (A111) Parkland and scattered trees (A3) Orchards (A5) Scattered Scrub (A22) Wet woodland (A116)</p>
<p>HEATHLAND Lowland heathland (N)</p>	<p>HEATHLAND Dry heath /acid grassland mosaic (D5)</p>
<p>GRASSLAND Lowland meadows (N) Lowland calcareous grassland (N) Lowland dry acid grassland (N) Floodplain grazing marsh (N)</p>	<p>GRASSLAND and MARSH Unimproved and semi-improved neutral grassland (B21/B22) Unimproved and semi-improved calcareous grassland (B31/B32) Unimproved and semi-improved acidic grassland (B11/B12) Marsh/marshy grassland (B5)</p>
<p>WETLAND Mesotrophic Lakes (N) Eutrophic standing waters (N) Ponds (N) Reedbed (N) Fen and Swamp (N) Rivers and streams (N) Canals (L)</p>	<p>WETLAND Standing water (G1) Swamp (F1) Inundation vegetation (F22) Running water (G2)</p>
<p>FARMLAND Arable field margins (N) Hedgerows (N)</p>	<p>FARMLAND Set aside (J113) Hedgerows intact (J21) with trees (J23) Native species rich (J211) with trees (J231)</p>
<p>BUILT ENVIRONMENT Gardens, Parks and Churchyards (L) Parks and public open spaces (L) Roadside verges (L) Allotments (L) School grounds (L) Open mosaic on previously developed land (N) Disused industrial (L) Quarries and gravel pits (L)</p>	<p>BUILT ENVIRONMENT Introduced shrub (J14), Amenity grassland (J12) Ephemeral/short perennial (J13) Tall herb – ruderal (C31) Tall herb - non-ruderal (C32) Quarry (J21) Bare ground (J4)</p>

10.3. PHASE 1 HABITAT DISTINCTIVENESS: AREA FEATURES

ID	Phase 1 code	Habitat description	IHS Code	Distinctiveness	Score
1	A111	Broad-leaved semi-natural woodland	WB3	High	6
2	A112	Broad-leaved plantation	WB3Z	Medium	4
3	A122	Coniferous plantation	WCZ	Low	2
4	A131	Mixed semi-natural woodland	WB1	Medium/High	5
5	A132	Mixed plantation	WB1	Low/Medium	3
6	A21	Dense continuous scrub	WB2	Low/Medium	3
7	A22	Scattered scrub	WB2	Medium	4
8	A31	Broad-leaved parkland/scattered trees	TS11	High	6
9	A32	Coniferous parkland/scattered trees	TS13	Medium/High	5
10	A4	Recently felled woodland		Low	2
11	A5	Orchard	CL31	High	6
12	B12	Semi-improved acidic grassland	GU0	High	6
13	B21	Unimproved neutral grassland	GN1	High	6
14	B22	Semi-improved neutral grassland	GU0	Medium	4
15	B31	Unimproved calcareous grassland	GC0	High	6
16	B32	Semi-improved calcareous grassland	GU0	High	6
17	B4	Improved grassland	G10	Low	2
18	B5	Marsh/marshy grassland	EM0	High	6
19	B6	Poor semi-improved grassland	GU0	Low/Medium	3
20	C31	Tall ruderal		Low/Medium	3
21	F1	Swamp	EM1	High	6
22	F22	Inundation vegetation	EM2	High	6
23	G1	Standing water	AP11	High	6
24	G2	Running water	AR1	High	6
25	I21	Quarry (active)	RE21	Low	2
26	I24	Refuse tip	RE24	Low	2
27	J11	Arable	CR2	Low	2
28	J112	Allotments	UA33	Low/Medium	3
29	J113	Set-aside (field margins)	CR61	Medium	4
30	J12	Amenity grassland	GL1	Low/Medium	3
31	J13	Ephemeral/short perennial		Low/Medium	3
32	J14	Introduced shrub		Low	2
33	J4	Bare ground		None	1
34	C11	Continuous bracken	BR0	Low	2
35	C32	Non-ruderal		Medium	4
36	B11	Unimproved acidic grassland	GA1	High	6
37	D5	Dry heath/acidic grassland mosaic	HE1/GA	High	6
38	E32	Basin Mire	EM3	High	6
39	A121	Coniferous semi-natural woodland	WCZ	Medium	6
40	E21	Acid/neutral flush	EM0	High	6
41	E11	Sphagnum Bog	E00	High	6
42	I22	Spoil	RE22	Low	2

10.4. PHASE 1 HABITAT DISTINCTIVENESS: LINEAR FEATURES

Phase 1					
ID	code	Habitat description	IHS Code	Distinctiveness	Score
43	A21	Linear scrub		Medium	4
44	A3	Linear trees	LF1Z	Medium	4
45	G1	Standing water (wet ditches)	AC111	High	6
46	G2	Running water	AR1	High	6
47	I1	Inland cliff		Medium	4
48	J21	Intact hedge	LF11Z	High	6
49	J211	Native species rich intact hedge	LF111	High	6
50	J22	Defunct hedge	LF1Z	Low	2
52	J23	Hedge with trees	LF11Z	High	6
53	J231	Native species rich hedge with trees	LF111	High	6
54	J24	Fence	LF26	Low	2
55	J25	Wall	LF23	Low	2
56	J26	Dry ditch	LF24	Low	2
58	J28	Earth bank	LF22	Low	2
59	A113	Wet woodland	WB34	High	6
60	F21	Emergent vegetation	EM21	High	6