



Date: 04/10/2016
Our Ref: MG6131
Name: Merle Gering
Company: N/A
Site Name: Nr Bunsons Woods, Keresley
Grid Ref: SP3141084265
Site Radius: 1km

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Ecosite Brief Descriptions

<p>05/38 Bunsons Wood LWS</p>	<p>Designated as a Local Wildlife Site (LWS).</p> <p>A deciduous wood on a north-east facing slope dominated by oak <i>Quercus robur</i>, ash <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> and birch <i>Betula pendula</i>. The ground flora includes wood sorrel <i>Oxalis acetosella</i>, foxglove <i>Digitalis purpurea</i>, bluebell <i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>, honeysuckle <i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>, red campion <i>Silene dioica</i>, greater stitchwort <i>Stellaria holostea</i> and tufted hair grass <i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>. A small leaf filled pond in the north is shaded by sycamores <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>. Intact hedges surround much of the wood.</p>
<p>111/38 Thompsons Farm</p>	<p>Nature conservation status ungraded.</p> <p>A smallish farm on the edge of Coventry, all the fields used for grazing cows or growing barley. The hedges are substantial and fairly high and contain oak <i>Quercus</i> sp, hawthorn <i>Crataegus monogyna</i>, ash, hazel <i>Corylus avellana</i> and holly <i>Ilex aquifolium</i>. There are a couple of ponds onsite with amphibian potential (May 2008).</p>
<p>112/28 Hazel Grove Farm and Pikers Lane Farm</p>	<p>Nature conservation status ungraded.</p> <p>Pasture with three ponds having marginal vegetation of celery-leaved buttercup <i>Ranunculus sceleratus</i>, heath bedstraw <i>Galium saxatile</i>, broad buckler-fern <i>Dryopteris dilatata</i>, gorse <i>Ulex europaeus</i> and some holly <i>Ilex aquifolium</i>. Great crested newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i> may potentially be present onsite.</p>
<p>112/38 Five Field Road</p>	<p>Nature conservation status ungraded.</p> <p>A waste field bordering arable land, with hawthorn <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> and blackthorn <i>Prunus spinosa</i> scrub developing. The road verge is on sandy soil and supports dwarf gorse <i>Ulex minor</i>, broom <i>Cytisus scoparius</i>, harebell <i>Campanula rotundifolia</i> and perforate st johns wort <i>Hypericum perforatum</i>.</p>

<p>113/38 Keresley Manor</p>	<p>Nature conservation status ungraded.</p> <p>The grounds of the manor consist of mixed woodland, lawns and gardens. The woodland is a plantation with oak <i>Quercus</i> sp, ash <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>, birch <i>Betula</i> sp, larch <i>Larix decidua</i> and scots pine <i>Pinus sylvestris</i>. The understorey comprises of holly <i>Ilex aquifolium</i> and hawthorn <i>Crataegus monogyna</i>, whilst the ground flora is poor.</p>
<p>114/38 Royal Court Hotel</p>	<p>Nature conservation status ungraded.</p> <p>Previously part of the Coventry and Warwick hospital, the site contains a range of trees with many exotic. Bordering the car park area are patches of tall ruderal.</p>
<p>115/38 Cottage Farm</p>	<p>Nature conservation status ungraded.</p> <p>A survey of the site in May 2008 found several fields of improved grassland with some horse grazing. There are boundary hedges comprising blackthorn <i>Prunus spinosa</i>, hawthorn <i>Crataegus monogyna</i>, ash <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>, oak <i>Quercus</i> sp, elder <i>Sambucus nigra</i> and holly <i>Ilex aquifolium</i>, with several mature oaks having good bat potential. There are ponds in the southern part of each field with crack willow <i>Salix fragilis</i> and soft rush <i>Juncus effusus</i>. Dense patches of bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> and elder scrub border the eastern hedgerow adjacent to the road.</p> <p>The southernmost field is semi-improved grassland with meadow buttercup <i>Ranunculus acris</i>, salad burnet <i>Sanguisorba minor</i>, common knapweed <i>Centaurea nigra</i>, mouseear <i>Cerastium fontanum</i>, lady's smock <i>Cardamine pratensis</i>, soft brome <i>Bromus hordeaceus</i>, bluebell <i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>, germander speedwell <i>Veronica chamaedrys</i> and creeping bent <i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>. A small field of tall ruderals borders a farm on the south-eastern side.</p>

14/38

Durham House Farm
and Manor Farm South
Part LWS

Part of this site is designated a Local Wildlife Site (LWS).

The LWS comprises Pikehorne Wood, the adjoining wood called The Alders, the large pool known as Keresley Mere and areas of seepage fed rush pasture and semi improved grassland associated with the above.

Pikehorne Wood is dominated by birch *Betula* sp, rowan *Sorbus aucuparia* and oak *Quercus* sp, with bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*, bramble *Rubus fruticosus* and bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* dominating the ground flora.

The adjacent Alders is wetter with less acidic soils with a greater dominance of alder *Alnus glutinosa* and ash *Fraxinus excelsior*. A variety of wetland plants are present including marsh marigold *Caltha palustris*, brooklime *Veronica beccabunga*, meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*, great bittercress *Cardamine* and gypsywort *Lycopus europaeus*.

There is an area of semi-improved grassland with meadow vetchling *Lathyrus pratensis*, pignut *Conopodium major*, sorrel *Rumex* sp, creeping bent *Agrostis stolonifera*, sweet vernal grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, common knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, field horsetail *Equisetum arvense*, crested dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus* and field woodrush *Luzula campestris*.

There are also three man-made fishing ponds that provide habitat for wetland birds. There is a natural pond in the centre of the ecosite bordered by improved grassland. The pond includes floating sweet grass, iris *Iris*, soft rush *Juncus effusus*, cuckooflower, bulrush *Typhus latifolia* and bur-reed *Sparganium* sp. Great crested newt *Triturus cristatus* has been recorded here.

Manor farm

Seven fields off Five Field Road formerly used for grazing but now arable. Site contains dried out pond, surrounded by hawthorn and willow scrub with occasional mature pedunculate oak standards.

Durham House Farm & Manor Farm South is split into two parts with Keresley Road dividing the two. The western side is mostly farmland comprising arable fields, improved grassland and horse grazed pasture. The eastern side is significantly smaller and consists of two arable fields and improved grassland.

FURTHER SURVEY REQUIRED

There are three 14/38 sites in close proximity; these should either be combined into one polygon, or split with different names.

14/38

Manor Farm, Keresley
Part LWS

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14/38

Pikehorne Wood and
The Alders
Part LWS

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<p>23/38 Hall Yard Wood LWS</p>	<p>Designated as a Local Wildlife Site (LWS). Woodland is on English Nature's 'Ancient Woodland Inventory'.</p> <p>A small semi-natural ancient wood with a canopy dominated by oak <i>Quercus</i> sp, some birch <i>Betula</i> sp and rowan <i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>. A ride runs through the north of the wood, with the shrub layer having holly <i>Ilex aquifolium</i> and hazel <i>Corylus avellana</i> and is quite dense in places. The soil is well drained and evidently sandy and acidic. A very sparse ground flora is present and consists predominately of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>, bluebell <i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>, bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> and honeysuckle <i>Lonicera</i> sp, with herbs such as wood sorrel <i>Oxalis acetosella</i>, foxglove <i>Digitalis purpurea</i>, wood anemone <i>Anemone nemorosa</i> and greater stitchwort <i>Stellaria holostea</i>.</p>
<p>50/38 Hall Brook</p>	<p>Nature conservation status ungraded.</p> <p>The brook contains brooklime <i>Veronica beccabunga</i>, celery-leaved crowfoot <i>Ranunculus sceleratus</i>, fool's watercress <i>Apium nodiflorum</i> and a number of rush species. The adjacent hedgerow contains hawthorn <i>Crataegus mongyna</i>, hazel <i>Corylus avellana</i>, holly <i>Ilex aquifolium</i>, field maple <i>Acer campestre</i>, blackthorn <i>Prunus spinosa</i> and crab apple <i>Malus sylvestris</i>.</p>
<p>666/38 Scrub Woodland, Coventry Colliery</p>	<p>Nature conservation status ungraded.</p> <p>Privately owned, some of the site is well vegetated with several tree species and an area of overgrown land with bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> and rosebay willowherb <i>Epilobium angustifolium</i>.</p>

Non-statutory site designations

County important sites are known as 'Local Wildlife Sites' (previously Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation). There are also a number of sites of nature conservation importance, termed "Ecosites", which are found within your area of search. Information about the designation and grading of Ecosites is included in the table above.

The county is currently reviewing its site system and will be identifying further Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) over the next few years. Currently we have identified those sites which are potential Local Wildlife Sites (pLWS) and these are also indicated below with the Ecosite details; many sites are as yet ungraded against the LWS system. Please contact us if you would like a copy of the detailed citation for an LWS within your search area.

Some Ecosites are also Local Geological Sites (LGS) or statutory Local Nature Reserves (LNRs). Details of these designations are also given in the table with the Ecosite details.

The table above gives brief details of all known Ecosites within your area of search; please see the enclosed map for locations. Sites of regional and local biodiversity interest are considered to play a fundamental role in meeting overall national biodiversity targets, and therefore appropriate weight must be attached to designated Ecosites in all planning applications (in accordance with local plan policies and the general principles of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)).

N.B. All watercourses are considered to be of ecological importance; however, accurate assessment of the relative importance of the various stretches is not yet generally possible.

Structure and Local Plan policies provide protection for these sites or, in circumstances where development is allowed, require mitigation measures to off-set any damage. In order to achieve this it is essential that adequate survey details for sites which may be affected by development are gathered at a very early stage. For sites of high biodiversity value this requires Phase 2 survey work and species specific surveys including invertebrates, mammals, birds and so on. Guidance is available from the Institute of Environmental Assessment (IEA) in "Guidelines for Baseline Ecological Assessment".

Please note that the brief descriptions above include species recorded within the whole Ecosite, and therefore potentially an area outside of your specific area of search. In particular descriptions of linear Ecosites such as water courses and railway lines may include species which were not necessarily recorded within your area of search.

**For further information relating to specific sites please contact WBRC at wbrc@warwickshire.gov.uk
For information relating to SSSIs please contact Natural England.**

*Working for
Warwickshire*