

**LOCAL WILDLIFE SITE CITATIONS – CHADDESLEY CORBETT PARISH**

**SITE No: SO86/14**

<b>SITE NAME</b>	<b>HADLEY, ELMLEY AND HOCKLEY BROOKS</b>
<b>NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE</b>	SO867694
<b>LINEAR SITE LIMITS (if appropriate)</b>	North SO936759, South SO869621
<b>DATE OF LISTING</b>	28.09.1990
<b>DISTRICT COUNCIL(s)</b>	Bromsgrove, Wychavon, Wyre Forest
<b>PARISH</b>	Belbroughton, Chaddesley Corbett, Rushock, Elmley Lovett, Doverdale, Ombersley, Salwarpe
<b>TOTAL AREA</b>	N/A
<b>LENGTH IF LINEAR</b>	24km
<b>LWS HABITAT</b>	Open Water - flowing
<b>NATIONAL BAP HABITATS</b>	Rivers and Streams, Unimproved Neutral Grassland, Wet Woodland
<b>OTHER HABITATS OF IMPORTANCE</b>	Marshland
<b>NATIONAL BAP SPECIES</b>	Otter
<b>OTHER SPECIES OF IMPORTANCE</b>	Kingfisher, green figwort, lady's mantle

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION**

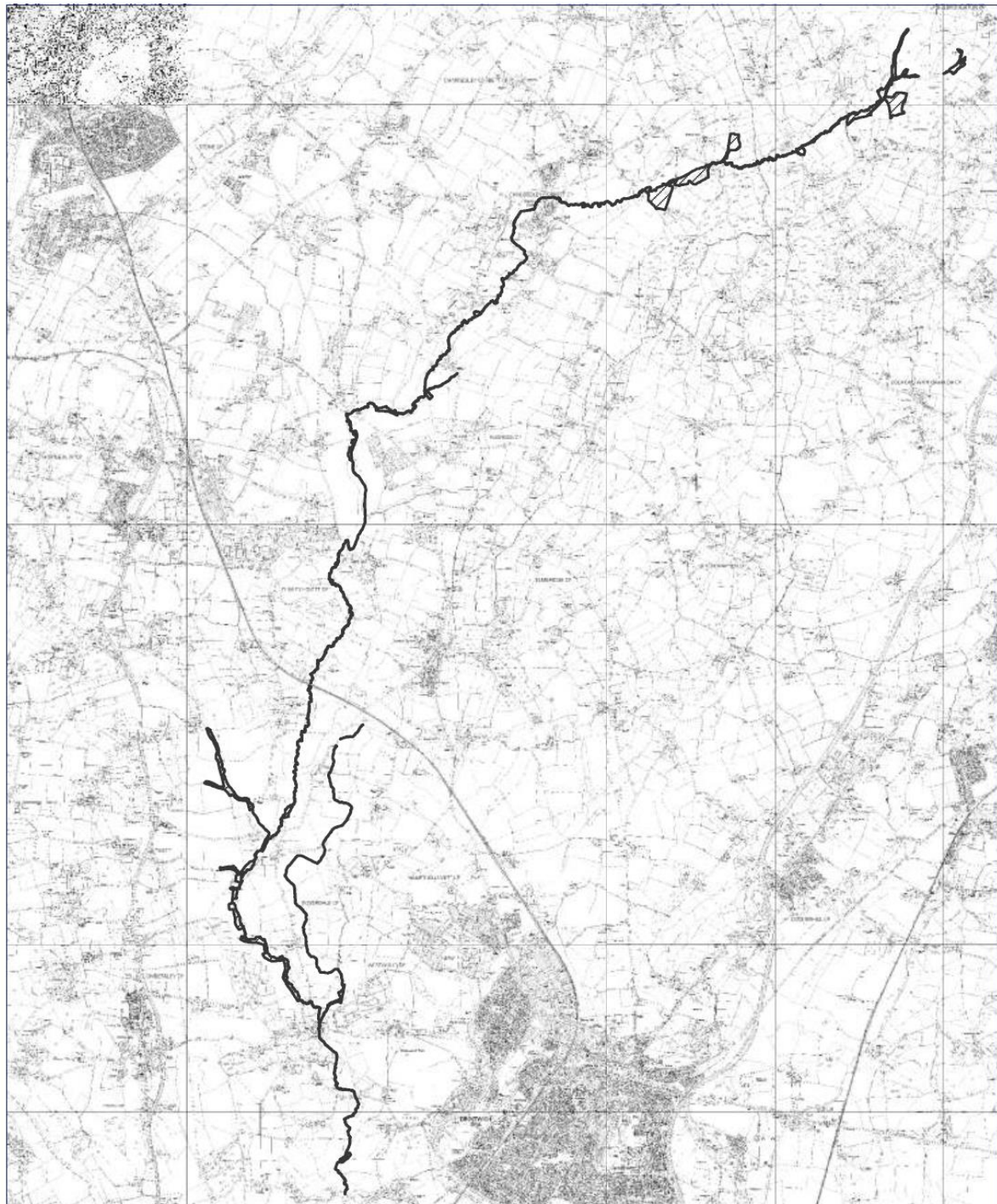
Rising close to Dodford the Elmley and Hockley Brooks become the Hadley Brook in their lower reaches, before eventually flowing into the River Salwarpe at Salwarpe. The brooks have a fairly natural structure with a wide range of depth, speed and bed material. In places there are steep banks which provide nesting sites for kingfishers. For the most part the brooks are well wooded, with alders, willows and other trees forming a valuable corridor, which in places is augmented by wider belts of woodland that add significant value to the brook valley. In the central section many of these are very wet willow woodlands and there are also adjoining areas of marshland and damp grassland. The aquatic vegetation is sparse throughout, although there are occasional beds of emergent plants in the areas that are not shaded by trees. A plant of particular note on the banks is the rare green figwort. Through its central reaches the brook probably has the most natural valley structure of any brook in the County.

There are several botanically diverse unimproved grasslands adjoining the brook corridor near Tanwood, Bourne's Green and Chaddesley Wood. These are damp, grazed pastures with swards of common knapweed with crested dog's-tail of the National Vegetation Classification (NVC) type: MG5 and MG5c. Their flora includes a number of characteristic broadleaved herbs including devil's-bit scabious, pignut, cowslip, self-heal and more scarcely, lady's mantle and pepper saxifrage.

## Hadley Elmley and Hockley Brooks

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Scale 1:60800



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<b>SITE NAME</b>	<b>HOO &amp; BARNETT BROOKS</b>
<b>NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE</b>	SO896761
<b>LINEAR SITE LIMITS (if appropriate)</b>	Western: SO852752 Eastern: SO932773
<b>DATE OF LISTING</b>	28.09.1990
<b>DISTRICT COUNCIL(s)</b>	Wyre Forest, Bromsgrove
<b>PARISH</b>	Stone Chaddesley Corbett Belbroughton
<b>TOTAL AREA</b>	N/A
<b>LENGTH IF LINEAR</b>	8.5 km
<b>LWS HABITAT</b>	Open Water – Flowing, Grassland, Woodland, Marshland
<b>NATIONAL BAP HABITATS</b>	Woodland, Grassland, Swamp
<b>OTHER HABITATS OF IMPORTANCE</b>	Scrub/bracken, mixed plantation and secondary woodland, tall-herb/ruderal
<b>NATIONAL BAP SPECIES</b>	Otter
<b>OTHER SPECIES OF IMPORTANCE</b>	Wild service, small-leaved lime great woodrush, nettle-leaved bellflower, western polypody, wood melick, wood club-rush, wild thyme, devil's-bit scabious, lady's mantle, tormentil, blackcurrant, great bitter-cress.

#### **GENERAL DESCRIPTION**

A complex linear site which follows the line of the Barnett and Hoo Brooks – an important wildlife corridor which runs from the east at Belbroughton through to the outskirts of Kidderminster. There are many old mill pools within the corridor, some of which still form significant water bodies whilst others are nearly dry.

Adjoining the brooks are a number of habitats of value including areas of ancient semi-natural and wet woodland, marsh, and fragments of unimproved grassland. Of particular note are Dunclent Marsh, which supports a rich flora, Fenny Rough, a wooded dingle, and species-rich pasture near Harvington.

#### **Habitats/Vegetation Description:**

There is dry ancient semi-natural woodland interest in the Fenny Rough dingle. Though it has been planted with conifers, the ground flora is still largely original, with a cover of bluebell, bramble and bracken (NVC: W10) with transitions to W8 flora with dogs mercury and enchanters nightshade. Elsewhere along the corridor, there is a narrow wooded corridor at Deansford. There is an area of wet alder/willow woodland (NVC: W6) with ponds, springs and swamp vegetation at the confluence of the Barnett and Hoo brooks at Dunclent. This is locally lush with ferns and sedges. In places around the pools there is deep silt which has given rise to 'quaking' swamps of meadowsweet, wild angelica, water mint and occasionally, lesser water parsnip. Probably the best area of open marsh and swamp vegetation is Dunclent marsh. This has been a combination of wet meadow, swampy pool and alder coppice, though recently it has suffered from drying out and scrubbing up. It has good stands of wood-club rush and colonies of southern marsh orchid appear in some years. Grassland of particular note is found in a grazed gully following a marshy stream at Harvington. The soil creep terracettes here support a species-rich neutral/acidic sward of ribwort plantain, lady's bedstraw, tormentil, devil's-bit scabious, pignut and burnet saxifrage. Wild thyme occurs and the upper slopes around sandstone rock exposures grade to acidic U1 grassland. The brooks themselves are mostly clear and fast flowing with a cobble-shingle bed, though there are silt substrates where flow is reduced. The corridors are tree-lined for the most part and aquatic flora is typically at its richest in the pools. The brooks and their associated habitats provide important corridors for riparian species such as otter and kingfisher though they are increasingly being invaded by Himalayan balsam.

#### **Flora and Fauna:**

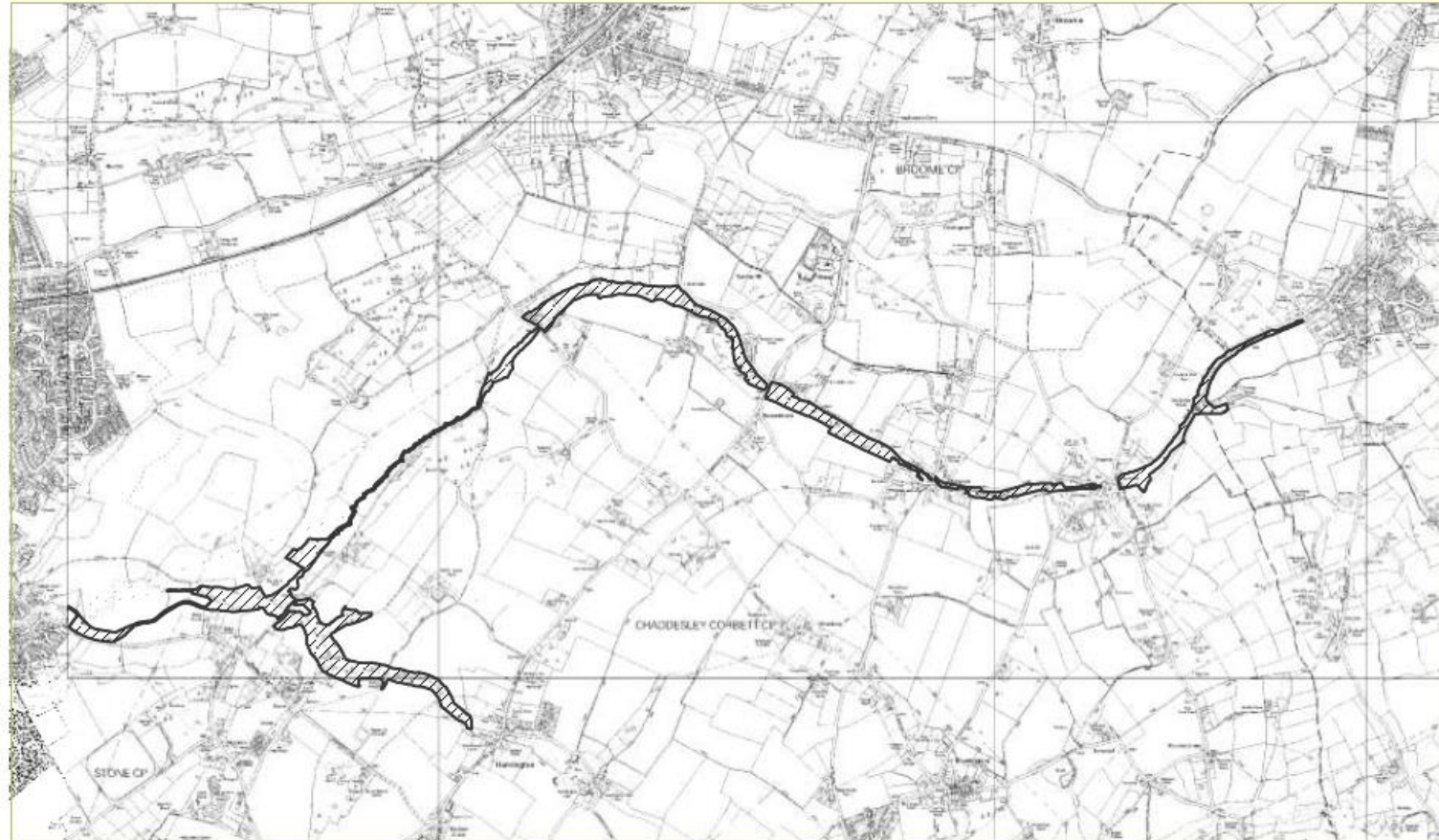
Worcestershire notable plants include– southern marsh orchid, bog stitchwort, wood club-rush, lesser water parsnip, bladder sedge in Dunclent Marsh and wet woodlands. Fenny Rough woodland contains great woodrush, wild service, tutsan, small-leaved lime; nettle-leaved bellflower. Grasslands near Harvington and Dunclent lane contain wild thyme, harebell, common milkwort, knotted clover, least bird's-foot.

Otters are known to use the brooks.

## Hoo and Barnett Brooks

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<b>SITE NAME</b>	<b>MEARSE FARM HEATH</b>
<b>NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE</b>	SO875760
<b>LINEAR SITE LIMITS (if appropriate)</b>	N/A
<b>DATE OF LISTING</b>	28.11.2007
<b>DISTRICT COUNCIL(s)</b>	Wyre Forest District Council
<b>PARISH</b>	Chaddesley Corbett
<b>TOTAL AREA</b>	16.39 ha
<b>LENGTH IF LINEAR</b>	N/A
<b>LWS HABITAT</b>	Heathland; Grassland; Woodland
<b>NATIONAL BAP HABITATS</b>	Woodland (W10)Grass/Heath mosaic (H9 & U2) Grassland: U1
<b>OTHER HABITATS OF IMPORTANCE</b>	Secondary woodland; scrub (W23); bracken (U20); conifer plantation
<b>NATIONAL BAP SPECIES</b>	No information
<b>OTHER SPECIES OF IMPORTANCE</b>	Heather, sheep's sorrel, hare's-foot clover, least bird's-foot, early hair-grass, heath woodrush, harebell, heath bedstraw.

#### GENERAL DESCRIPTION

An area of acidic grassland and bracken with stands of heather, on a plateau and gentle north-west facing slope. There is some invasion by scrub and trees. The surrounding land is mostly arable but the site adjoins semi-natural ancient and plantation woodland at Mount Segg, and some grazed pasture fields.

#### Habitats/Vegetation Description:

Heathland\*: This is becoming a relict habitat here, since in the absence of grazing there is a natural succession to bracken/bramble and oak/birch woodland which is encroaching on to the open heather. The National Vegetation Classification (NVC) H9 community supports a mosaic vegetation of wavy hair-grass (NVC: U2) grassland, with very occasional clumpy, over-mature heather (NVC: H9). Within this matrix, there is some acidic grassland of common bent/sheep's/fescue/sheep's sorrel (U1) type, with locally, a reasonable diversity of moss and lichen species.

\*[True lowland heath is a rare and threatened habitat in Worcestershire with just over 100 ha surviving – or  $\frac{1}{10}$  of what existed 200 years ago. Most of it had no value as agricultural land and therefore succumbed to 19<sup>th</sup>C and later to post-war housing development around Kidderminster and south Birmingham. It is now internationally important in a European context, therefore any remnants of dwarf-shrub heathland, however small are considered to be national Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) priority habitats].

Scrub and Secondary Woodland: These other habitats colonising the heath comprise bracken with sheeps fescue/heath bedstraw grassland (U20); gorse/broom/bramble scrub (W23); and developing oak/birch with wavy hair-grass woodland (W16) - semi-open shrub and tall-herb understorey of bramble, bracken, rosebay willowherb and honeysuckle, with a ground flora (along pathways) of creeping softgrass and common bent.

#### Flora and Fauna:

Past records for Worcestershire notable plants include: Heath/grassland: heath wood-rush, least bird's-foot, knotted clover, sand spurrey and early forget-me-not. Scrub/woodland: *Hieracium umbellatum* – a hawkweed.

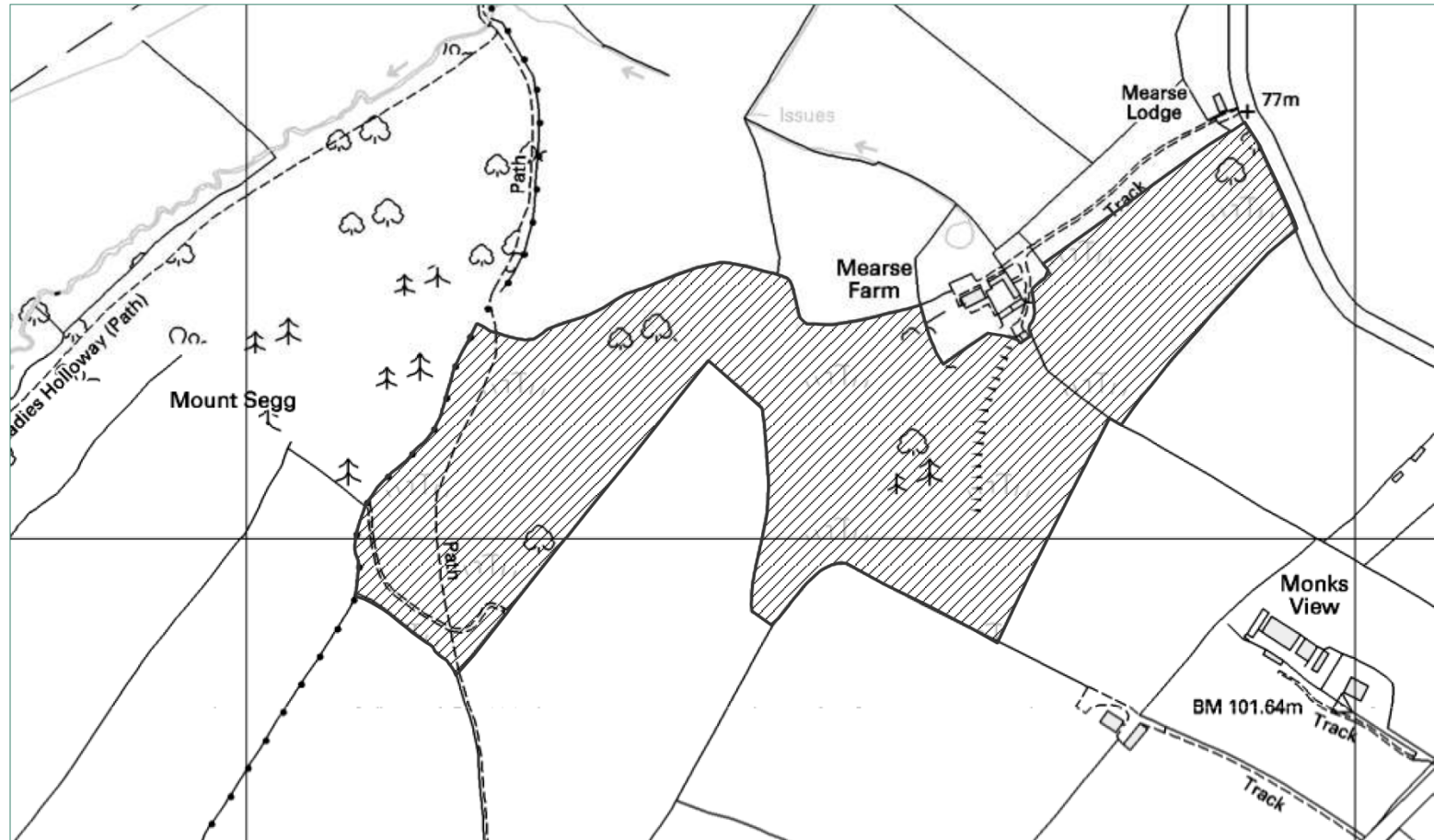
Spring vetch (*Vicia lathyroides*), a rare plant in the county, found at a few scattered locations on sandy soils around the Kidderminster area, has been reported from the vicinity.

Faunal records: No records available for notable fauna.

# Mearse Farm Heath

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<b>SITE NAME</b>	<b>LETT'S WOOD</b>
<b>NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE</b>	SO877726
<b>LINEAR SITE LIMITS (if appropriate)</b>	-
<b>DATE OF LISTING</b>	08092015
<b>DISTRICT COUNCIL(s)</b>	Wyre Forest
<b>PARISH</b>	Chaddesley Corbett
<b>TOTAL AREA</b>	1.06 ha
<b>LENGTH IF LINEAR</b>	258 m
<b>LWS HABITAT</b>	Broadleaved Woodland
<b>NATIONAL BAP HABITATS</b>	W8b/d Ash woodland with W7a alder carr
<b>OTHER HABITATS OF IMPORTANCE</b>	Open water (flowing & standing), wet woodland (carr)
<b>NATIONAL BAP SPECIES</b>	
<b>OTHER SPECIES OF IMPORTANCE</b>	Small-leaved lime, guilder rose, hemp agrimony, great bittercress

#### GENERAL DESCRIPTION

A small rectangular block of ash/alder woodland running north to south along a side tributary of the Hockley Brook. An artificially dammed pond is located at the southern end of the wood, forming a causeway for a farm track, which bisects the southern extremity of the site. The wood is situated on silty alluvial deposits over Bromsgrove sandstones. While it has excellent ecological links to an osier bed upstream and large ponds downstream, it is an undisturbed wildlife haven, being relatively isolated from roads and habitation.

#### Habitats/Vegetation Description:

Along the course of the stream, and within shallow winter-flooded depressions and craters formed by wind-thrown trees to east of stream, the vegetation is characterised by a form of alder carr – most likely National Vegetation Classification (NVC) type: W7. The sub-shrub layer includes hawthorn, holly, hazel, guilder rose and dogwood. The ground flora is variable but along the stream banks includes yellow iris, marsh marigold, remote sedge, tufted hair-grass dog's mercury, nettle, wood anemone, bluebell, enchanter's nightshade, great bitter-cress, blackcurrant, redcurrant.

Drier parts of the woodland show evidence of a switch to Ash/dog's mercury type flora. Though the canopy is sycamore-invaded, the ground layer exhibits strong dominance of dogs mercury and ivy, suggesting the W8d (ivy) sub-community – this is normally characteristic of tracts of undisturbed or neglected coppice woodland.

The pond at the lower end of the site adds another layer to the site's habitat diversity, with its fringes of greater pond-sedge, field horsetails, yellow iris, meadowsweet and great willowherb.

#### Flora and Fauna:

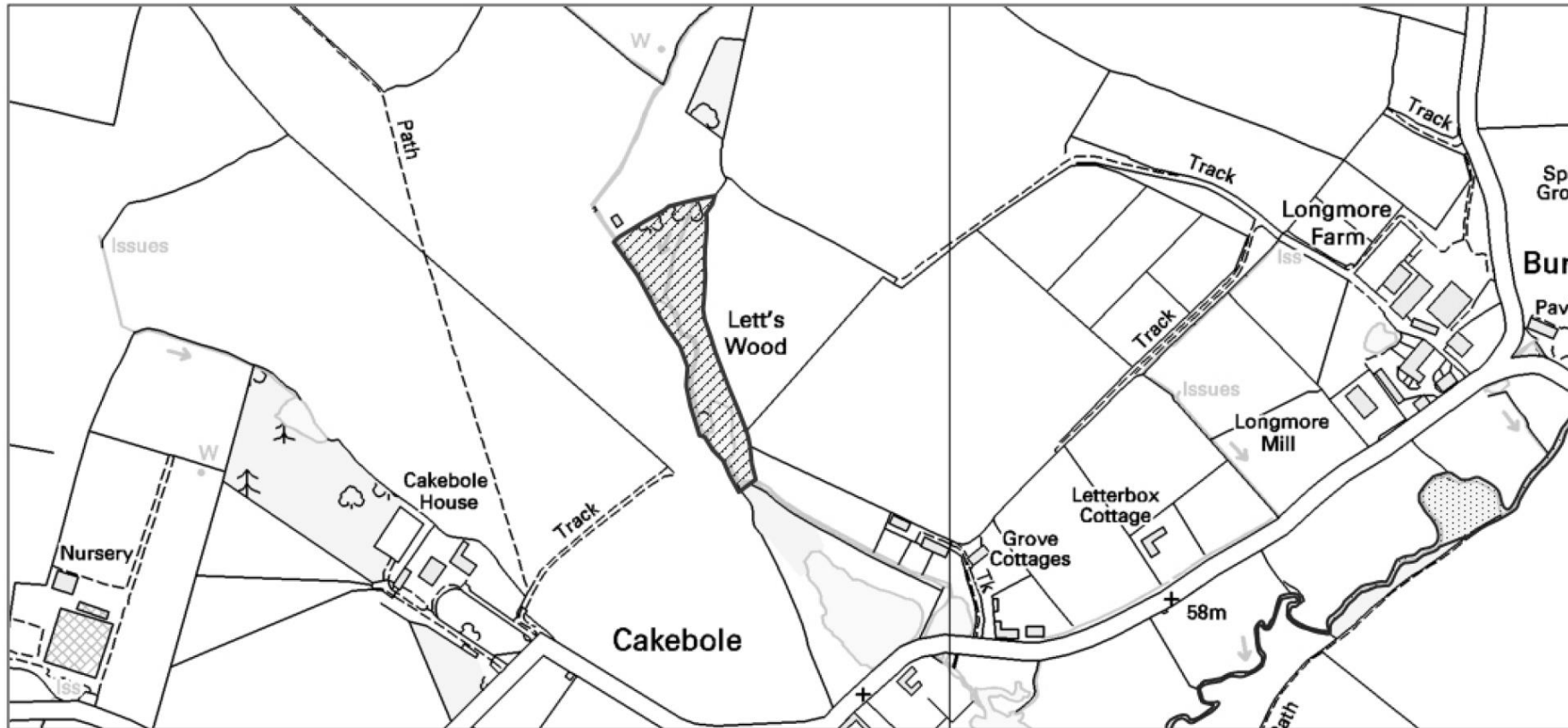
There are old records for the wood of green-flowered helleborine (*Epipactis phyllanthes*). This plant has been classified as 'nationally scarce', being more characteristic of SE Britain. There are at least five known localities for the species in Central and Southern Worcestershire. Not recorded recently here, it is a species of notoriously spasmodic emergence – can be once every 5-10 years, dependant on micro-scale soils and climatic conditions which favour it. So it could well still be present.

Anecdotal evidence suggests the stream has high water quality, as there are reports of both white-clawed crayfish and brook lamprey.

On the negative side, plants of the invasive Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) are beginning to show here. They will require removal to prevent further encroachment – though the stream may be carrying seeds from an upstream source.

## Lett's Wood

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<b>SITE NAME</b>	<b>CHADDESLEY &amp; HIGH WOODS COMPLEX</b>
<b>NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE</b>	SO916734
<b>LINEAR SITE LIMITS</b> (if appropriate)	N/A
<b>DATE OF LISTING</b>	27.03.09
<b>DISTRICT COUNCIL(s)</b>	Bromsgrove & Wychavon
<b>PARISH</b>	Chaddesley Corbett, Dodford with Grafton, Belbroughton
<b>TOTAL AREA</b>	54.3 ha
<b>LENGTH IF LINEAR</b>	N/A
<b>LWS HABITAT</b>	Woodland (ASNW & PAWS)
<b>NATIONAL BAP HABITATS</b>	Broadleaved, Mixed and Yew Woodland
<b>OTHER HABITATS OF IMPORTANCE</b>	Acid grassland, wet grassland, pond, orchard
<b>NATIONAL BAP SPECIES</b>	None recorded
<b>OTHER SPECIES OF IMPORTANCE</b>	Bluebell

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION**

The Chaddesley and High Woods complex is a remnant of the old Royal Hunting Forest of Feckenham, crossing the Wyre Forest and Bromsgrove Districts boundary. Much of the remaining woodland in the area is listed as a Site of Special Scientific Interest – the Local Wildlife Site includes areas of woodland and pasture. Part of the site is managed as a nature reserve by Worcestershire Wildlife Trust.

The under-lying geology is Keuper marl with some areas of sand and gravel.

**Habitat/Vegetation Description:**

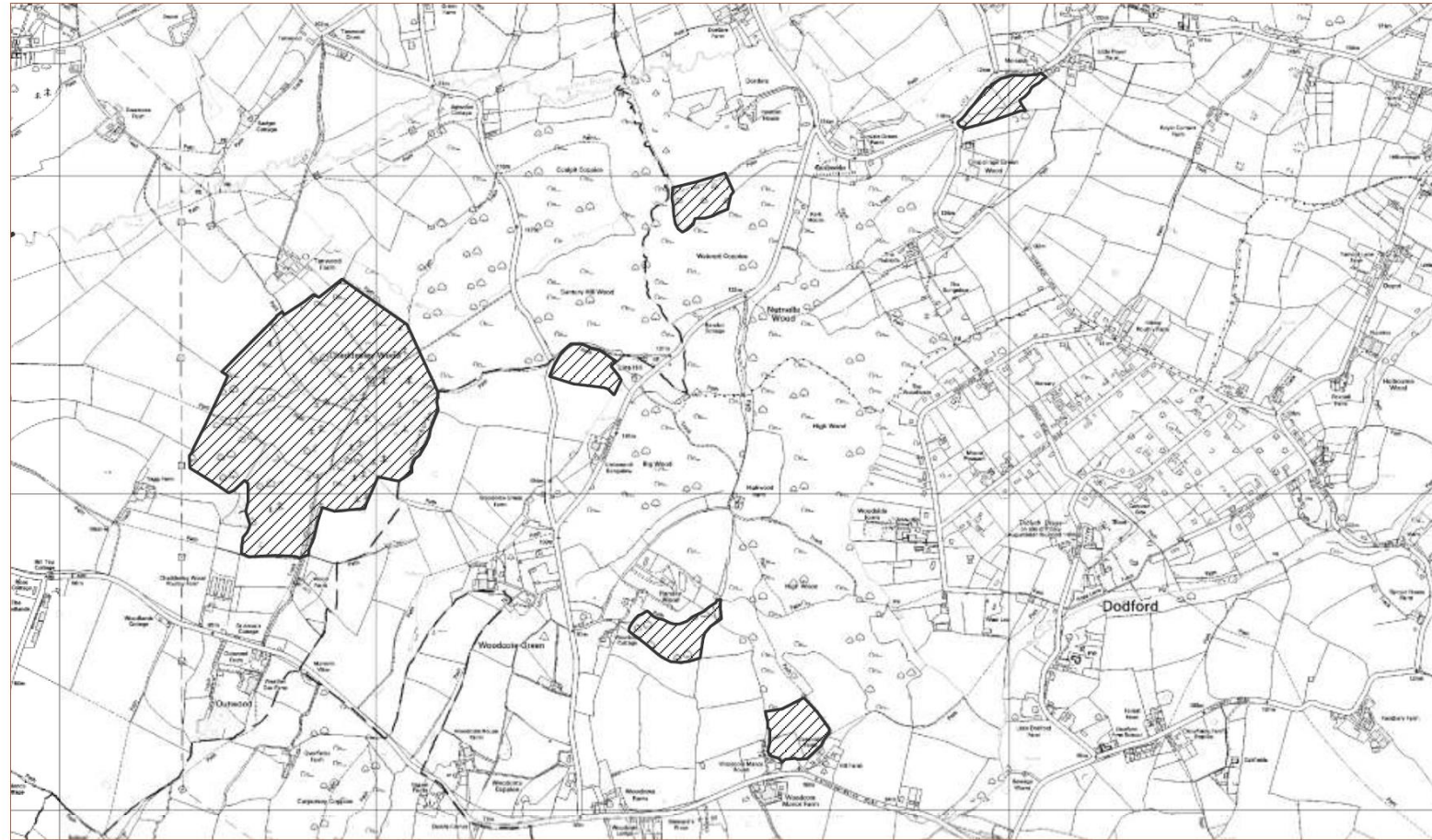
This site is predominantly woodland which is ancient in origin although part replaced by coniferous plantations. There are a number of hills through the site and this varied topography, together with the varied geology, has enabled the development of different woodland communities. On the hilltops the W10 *Quercus robur-Rubus fruticosus-Pteridium aquilinum* woodland occurs with species such as common cow-wheat, yellow archangel and bluebell. On the lower slopes this is replaced by the W8 *Fraxinus excelsior-Acer campestre-Corylus avellana* woodland with species such as cuckoo pint and dog's mercury.

In addition to the woodland are small fields. On the higher hill slopes these hold acid grassland with species such as heath speedwell, red fescue, bird's-foot trefoil, common bent, ribwort plantain, Yorkshire fog and white clover. This shows similarities to the U4b *Holcus lanatus-Trifolium repens* sub-community of U4 *Festuca ovina-Agrostis capillaris-Galium saxatile* grassland. Marshy grassland occurs in the lower-lying fields with species such as plicate sweet-grass, tufted hair-grass and soft rush. A remnant of formerly extensive orchards occurs in the north of the site.

# Chaddesley and High Woods Complex

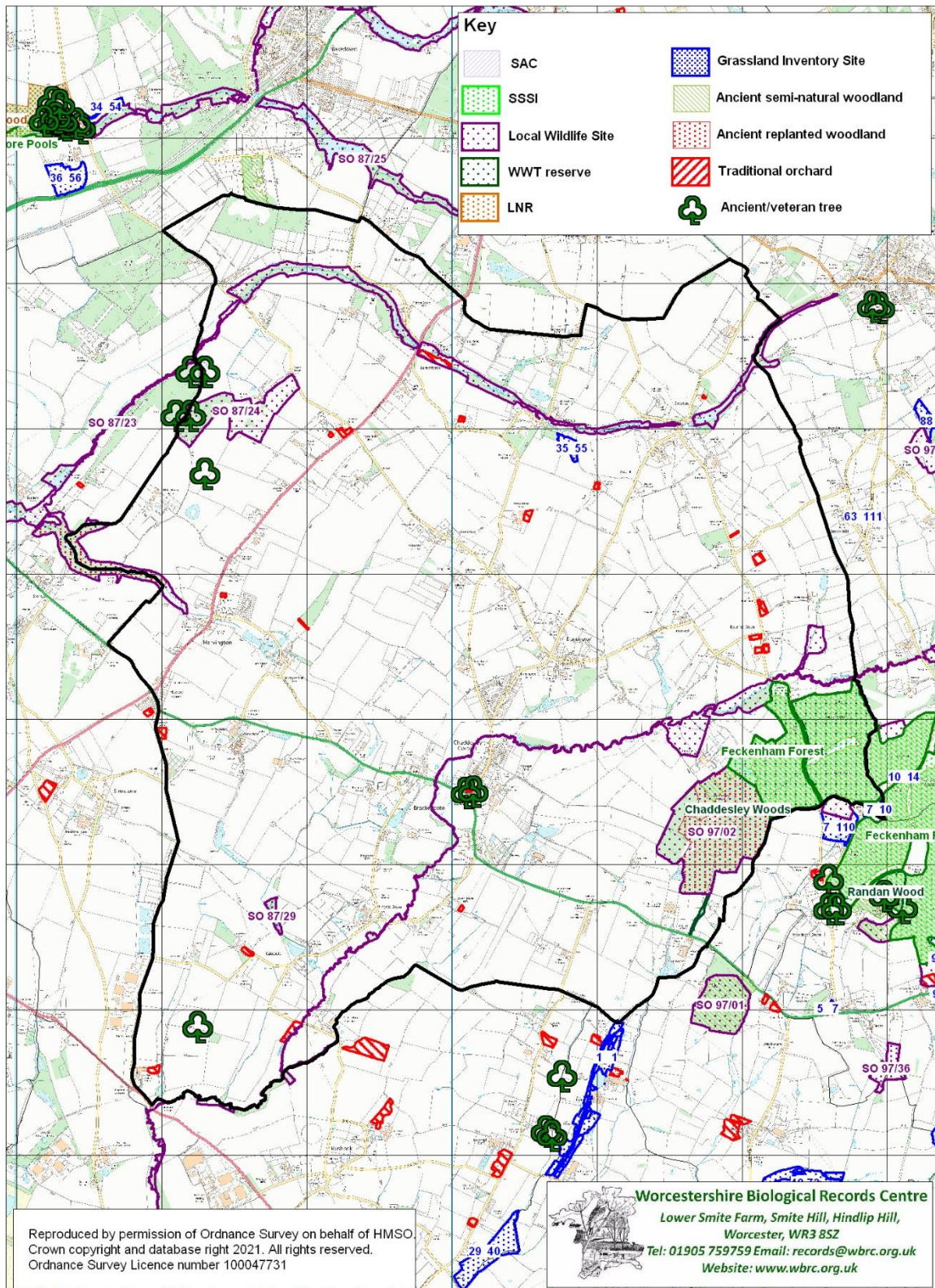
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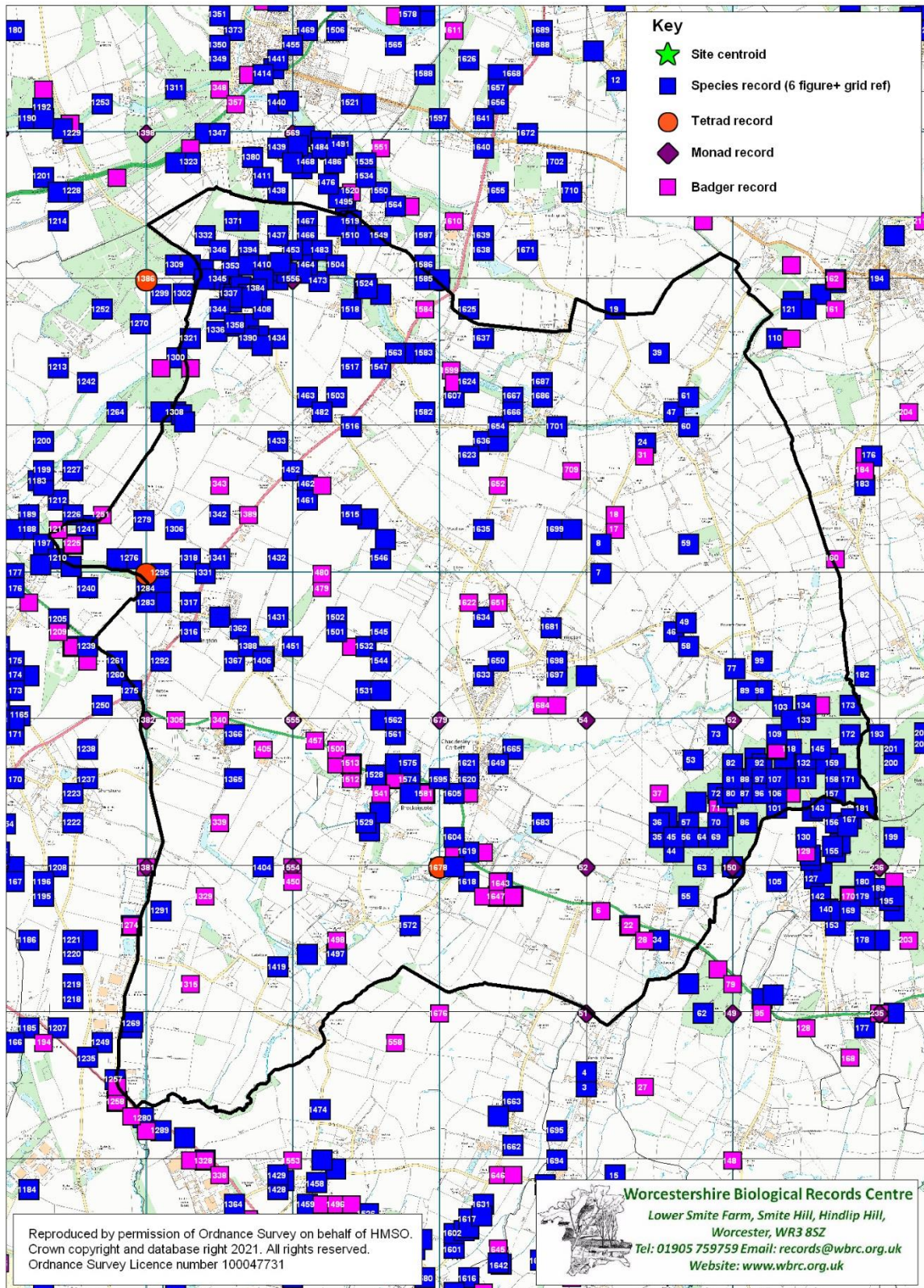
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# SITES MAP



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# SPECIES MAP



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