Stratford-on-Avon District Council

Ecological and Geological Study of Local Service Villages

Settlement Assessment: Lighthorne Heath

Designated sites:

Status and Name	Area in hectares	Grid ref.	Description
LWS			
SP35M1 Gaydon Coppice	5.01	SP3575	Woodland & scrub
SP35N1 Lighthorne Quarry	55.83	SP3456	Semi-natural grasslands & marsh
potential site			
SP35M2 Kingston Grange Pools	2.60	SP3585	Water courses and water bodies
rejected			
SP35N5 Lighthorne Quarry	5.20	SP3495	Post-industrial sites

Key Target Notes

- SP35m17 and SP35m25 Lighthorne Heath and Quarry
- SP35m25 Lighthorne Quarry pools
- SP35m17 Lighthorne Quarry swamp and marshy grasslands
- SP35m18 Gaydon Coppice

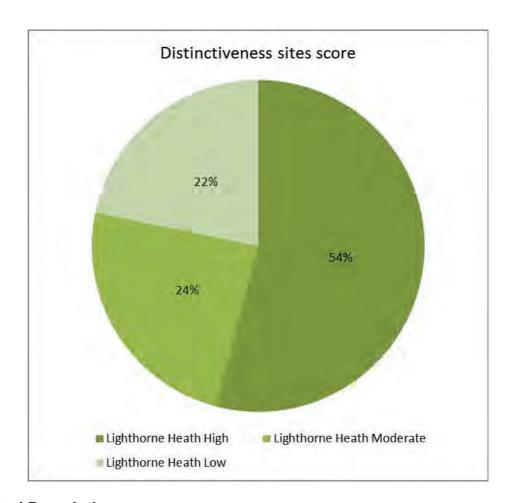
Habitat Descriptions

The settlement boundary for Lighthorne cuts through the Lighthorne Quarry LWS which is an extensive area of semi-improved grassland with large pools surrounded by swamp and marshy grassland, which contributes to the high distinctiveness score for the area.

There are also the Kingston Grange Pools and surrounding grasslands contributing to the high distinctiveness for the area.

To the south of Lighthorne village are the Gaydon proving grounds and their associated semi-improved grassland areas, which together create an extensive area of semi-improved grassland.

Distinctiveness Phase 1 habitats	No. of sites	Area in hectares	Score
High			
A111 Broad-leaved semi-natural woodland	6	6.12	18
A31 Broad-leaved parkland/scattered trees	1	0.20	3
B22 Semi-improved neutral grassland	10	26.57	30
B32 Semi-improved calcareous grassland	3	1.04	9
B5 Marsh/marshy grassland	4	0.66	12
F1 Swamp	2	0.30	6
F22 Inundation vegetation	1	0.42	3
G1 Standing water	10	1.27	30
G2 Running water	2	0.09	6
Sub Total	39	36.68	117
Moderate			
A112 Broad-leaved plantation	9	4.22	18
A21 Dense/continuous scrub	12	2.27	24
B6 Semi-improved neutral grassland	5	9.47	10
Sub Total	26	15.96	52
Low			
A122 Coniferous plantation	3	0.83	3
B4 Improved grassland	17	26.09	17
C31 Tall ruderal	7	1.19	14
J11 Arable	3	24.52	3
J12 Amenity grassland	15	4.69	30
J13 Ephemeral/short perennial	1	0.24	2
J4 Bare ground	1	0.04	1
Sub Total	47	57.60	70
Totals	112	110.24	239



Geological Description

Lighthorne Heath has much potential for its outcrop of Late Triassic Penarth Group strata (notably the 'White Lias' limestones, with potential for significant palaeontological finds. Any excavations into natural geology would be of potential interest for purposes of recording and/or museum collecting.

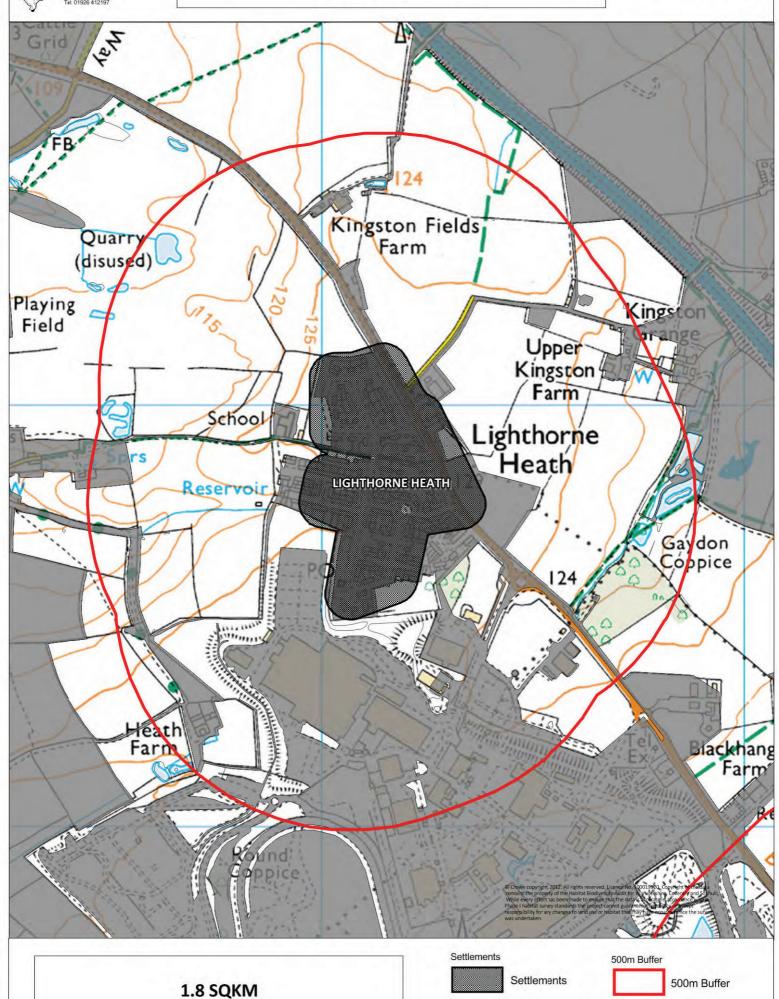
Protected Species

Grass snake, great crested newt, smooth newt and hedgehog plus the bat species of brown long-eared, brandts and butterfly species of wall, small heath, grizzled skipper and granville fritillary have been recorded in the settlement area. In the wider area there are additional records, badger, brown hare, otter, harvest mouse, butterfly species of dingy skipper, white letter haristreak and small heath and additional bat records of leislers and indeterminate bat species. There are also rare plants including harsh downy rose, slender spike-rush, yellow sedge sub-species, stinking hellebore, meadow saffron and slender tare recorded in the wider area

Recommendations for Further Survey

None

PRINTED 09/02/2012



Stratford-on-Avon District Council Ecological Villages Study

Target Notes

Lighthorne Heath

sp35m17

Part of Lighthorne Heath; recorder site 1369. This is a swampy area with steep banks; the swamp is dominated by Schoenoplectus lacustris; there is also some open water with patches of algae on it. UPDATED 06/05/2012 MF. Area remains as previously described although areas of marshy grassland are perhaps not as extensive. Tufted duck, coot and mallard seen.

sp35m18

A field of poor semi improved grassland; it includes frequent Arrhenatherum elatius; Dactylis glomerata; Cynosurus cristatus; Lolium perenne; Phleum pratense; Festuca rubra and patches of Deschampsia cespitosa and Carex nigra. There is also a variety of other plants including frequent black knapweed; ragwort; creeping buttercup; red clover; selfheal; creeping thistle; creeping cinquefoil; agrimony and meadow vetchling as well as some encroaching hawthorn and rose. UPDATED 06/05/2012 MF. Field has charactersitcs of poor semi-improved grassland with scattered hawthorn scrub (most dense alongside the school fence and to the south of the field). Locals confirm great crested newts on site under a large container used as storage by landowner. Birds seen include, green woodpecker, barn owl, ravnens, kestral, buzzards. Some evidence of scrub clearene. Forbs include cowslip, vetch spp, meadow vetchling, and does not appear as diverse as previously recorded. Dominant grasses appear to be cocksfoot.

sp35m19

Gaydon Coppice recorder site 1355. An area of broad leaf semi natural woodland dominated by ash and oak. The understorey includes hawthorn; field maple; hazel coppice and blackthorn. There is a small shaded stream to the west of the wood. The ground flora in the wood consists of frequent ivy; nettle; ground ivy; ground elder; wood avens and Brachypodium sylvaticum as well as some Dryopteris filix-mas and dogãs mercury. UPDATED 06/05/2012 MF. Woodland remains as described. At time of survey there were abundant bluebells with cow parsley, cleavers and garlic mustard. Her robert, lesser celandine and dogs mercury. Owner is Richard White (Kingstone grange farm) - site surveyed by J Bowley 20/05/2011 (SP35M1).

sp35m20

A small pool at the north end of Gaydon Coppice; there is a small pool in its centre with a willow tree on it. There is little emergent vegetation but on the bankside there is frequent Juncus effusus; greater willowherb; nettle; Dactylis glomerata; coltsfoot and several willow trees. UPDATED 06/05/2012 MF. Wood pool. The tree on the island is a weeping willow. The remander of the island is coverd in bramble. Most of the trees surrounding the pool are spruce, pine, and conifer also likely to have been introduced. Naturalised trees mature goat willow, crack willow, ash, hawthorn, and occasional hazel and crab apple. The grassland is well maintained but at the time of survey, cuckoo flower, wild angelica, water mint, field horsetail, rosebay, willow herb and lesser celandine are all abundant. On the west of the site are there old oaks with dogs mercury and blubell at their bases. The pond vegetation is dominated by greater pond sedge. Shrub species include budleia and snow berry.

sp35m21

A semi improved field which appears to have been fairly recently disturbed. There are two man made pools; one of these has now dried up. The dried pool will apparently be refilled and used for fishing once the leak has been repaired. In the grassland areas there is frequent Dactylis glomerata; Phleum pratense; Deschampsia cespitosa; Arrhenatherum elatius; Holcus lanatus; Festuca rubra; creeping thistle; birds foot trefoil; dock; nettle; hedge wound wort; smooth hawkãs beard; ragwort; black knapweed; prickly lettuce; oxeye daisy; bristly oxtongue; bush vetch; selfheal; redshank; field forget me not; germander speedwell and shepherds purse. UPDATED 06/05/2012 MF. Meadow pool. Fishing pools both of which in use at time of survey. Grassland remains as described with additional species of cuckoo flower, canada geese and moorhen seen.

sp35m22

An area of fairly young broad leaf plantation at the edge of the Rover Test Track site. It includes ash and sycamore; it is densely planted and the ground flora is dominated by nettle; bramble; ivy with frequent common hemp nettle. UPDATED 06/05/2012 MF. Naturalised ash and sycamore dominated woodland with occasional willow. Understory dominated by elder, hawthorn, ash and sycamore saplings. Sparse ground flora. Unable to access, viewed from roadside.



Target Notes

sp35m23

This area of the Rover Test Centre has not been coded from a previous survey. It could only be seen from the road through some trees but the area does appear to be semi improved and unmanaged. UPDATED 06/05/2012 MF. Area is poor semi-improved grassland. Dominant grasses are cocksfoot and false oat grss. Few forbs of interest apart from very occasional cowslip, vetch spp, and knapweed. An area of hawthorn scrub has developed around the buildings to the north of the site. The grassland slopes down to the north and leads to a more diverse area with ox-eye daisy, cowslip, meadow vetchling, meadow buttercup, wild carrot, birds foot trefoil, and lesser knapweed.

sp35m25

This is a small pool on Lighthorne Heath; recorder site 1369. It is used for fishing. There is some emergent Carex riparia; grasses dominate the banks and the pond is surrounded by dense hawthorn; blackthorn; elm and elder with some mature ash. There is a variety of bird life here. UPDATED 06/05/2012 MF. Lex Breaters A.C (01926771069). Pool used for fishing and surrounded by scrub and trees as perviously recorded. Kingfisher reported by anglers.

sp35m28

An area of a semi improved field; part of which has been sown with a seed mix. This part of the field is more species rich than the rest. The grasses here include frequent Dactylis glomerata; Arrhenatherum elatius; Holcus lanatus; Phleum pratense and Festuca rubra. There are a variety of forbs which include frequent creeping thistle; tufted vetch; black knapweed; selfheal; birds foot trefoil; as well as less frequent field scabious; yellow rattle; chicory and occasional snakeãs head fritillary and stemless thistle. UPDATED 06/05/2012 MF. Field remains as described. Additional species include meadow buttercup and abundant cowslip. Fritillary not seen at time of survey.

SP35M48

This area of an arable field appears to have been set aside and seeded possibly as ground cover for game birds or specifically for wildlife. Aundant vetch sp, knapweed, red campion, ox eye daisy, red clover, mayweed, interspersed with creeping thistle, dandelion, cleavers and pansy. There is much bare ground. There are few grass species and the dominant appears to be cocks foot. Richard white is land owner (kings stone grange farm). Mr. White confirmed field sewn for wildflowers (bee and bird mixes) as part of higher level stewardshop scheme DEFRA.

SP35N21

Semi natural broadleaved woodland dominated by ash and oak. Und of elder and hawthorn. ground flora dominated by nettle, herb robert, dog violet, ground ivy.

sp35n5

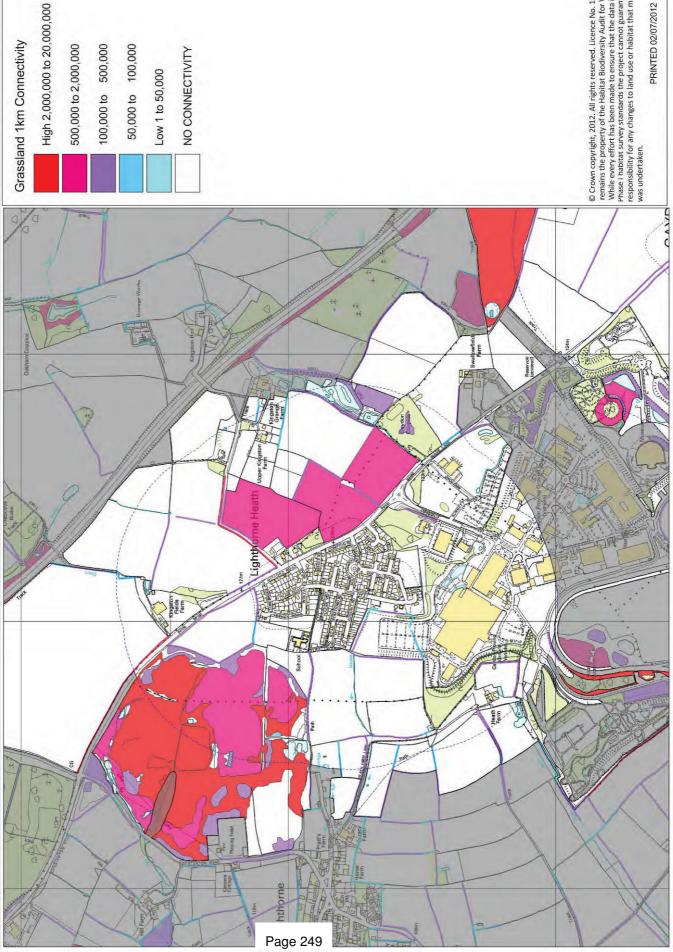
Young broadleaf plantation over semi-improved grassland. Includes Dactylis glomerata; Holcus lanatus; ragwort; hogweed; bramble; creeping buttercup; creeping thistle; mugwort and yarrow. Kestrel sighted. UPDATED 22/05/2012 MF. Land owner conformed that concrete bases built since 1940 were covered with spoil, then a few years later the plantation was created- ash, oak, hazel, walnut, dogwood, rowan, silver birch.

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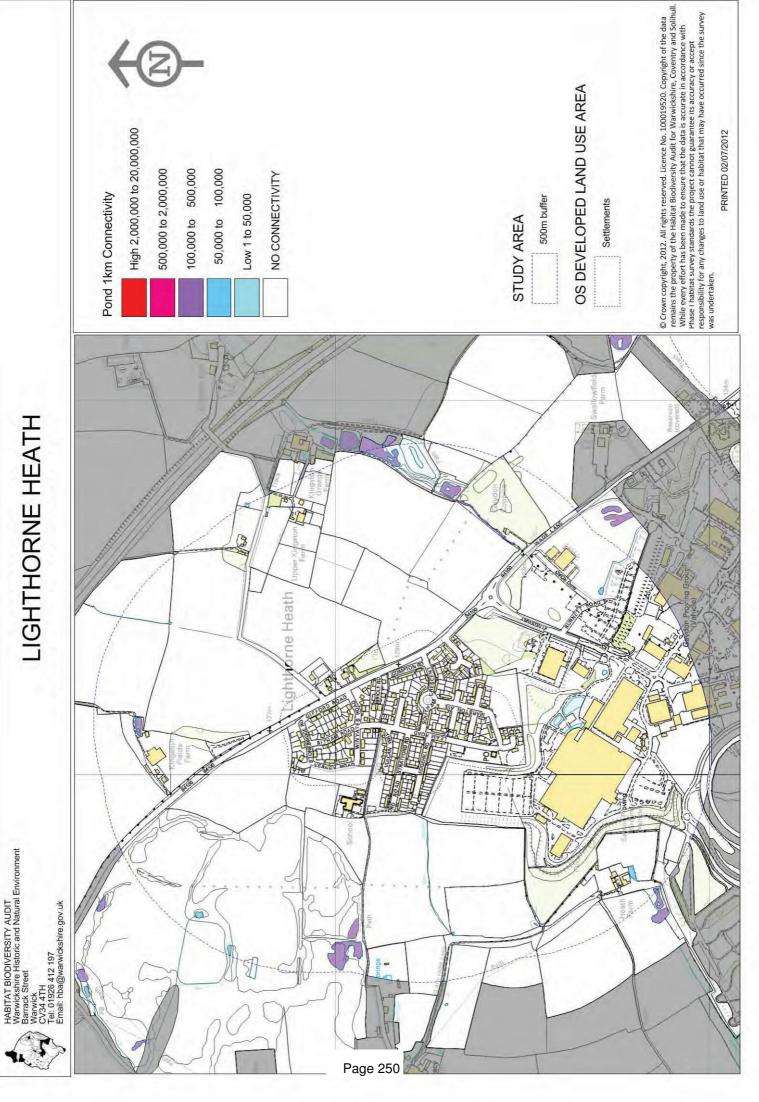
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Stratford-on-Avon District Council

Ecological and Geological Study of Local Service Villages

Settlement Assessment: Long Compton

Designated sites:

Status and Name	Area in hectares	Grid ref.	Description
Local Geological Site			
Weston Park Lodge Quarry	n/a	SP2834	sandy oolitic limestone
LWS potential site			
SP23W1 Long Compton Meadows	2.82	SP2913	Semi-natural grasslands & marsh

Key Target Notes

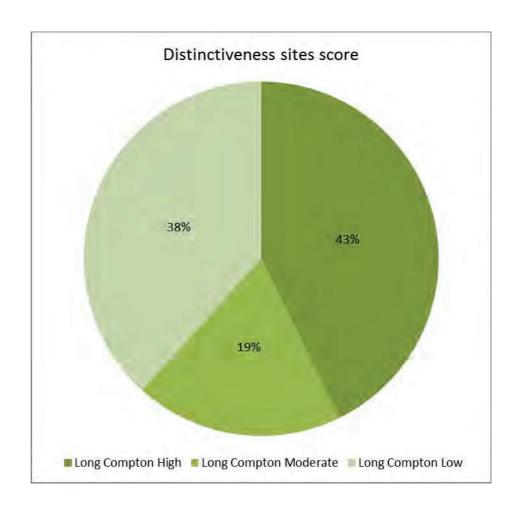
- SP23w2 Semi-improved grassland at Long Compton meadows
- SP23w5 Species rich hedgerow and bank
- SP23w13 Species rich hedgerow and road side verges

Habitat Descriptions

Just outside the village survey boundary is the Whichford Wood SSSI and surrounding wood lands including Long Compton Woods potential local wildlife site. These are seminatural woodlands connected by species rich hedgerows and linear trees along the fields and roads providing connectivity between the woods and fields.

In addition to the woodlands and hedgerows Long Compton has a mix of semi-improved, poor semi-improved grasslands and amenity grasslands, largely determined by the different management regimes.

Distinctiveness Phase 1 habitats	No. of sites	Area in hectares	Score
High			
A111 Broad-leaved semi-natural woodland	10	1.06	30
A5 Orchard (commercial)	5	1.24	15
B22 Semi-improved neutral grassland	12	4.26	36
G1 Standing water	1	0.16	3
G2 Running water	20	1.05	60
Sub Total	48	7.77	144
Moderate			
A112 Broad-leaved plantation	10	2.24	20
A131 Mixed semi-natural woodland	1	0.04	2
A21 Dense/continuous scrub	4	0.65	8
A22 Scattered scrub	2	0.35	6
B6 Semi-improved neutral grassland	12	13.33	24
J112 Allotments	1	0.61	2
J113 Set-aside	2	2.94	2
Sub Total	32	20.17	64
Low			
A122 Coniferous plantation	1	0.25	1
A132 Mixed plantation	3	1.54	3
B4 Improved grassland	51	94.88	51
C31 Tall ruderal	3	0.12	6
J11 Arable	30	207.65	30
J12 Amenity grassland	32	15.37	64
J14 Introduced shrub	3	1.21	3
J4 Bare ground	6	0.74	6
Sub Total	129	321.75	164
Totals	209	349.69	372



Geological Description

Weston Park Lodge Quarry

Long Compton has considerable potential for its early Jurassic geology (principally mudstones of the Lias Group), with potential for palaeontological discoveries. Any excavations into natural geology would be of potential interest for purposes of recording and/or museum collecting.

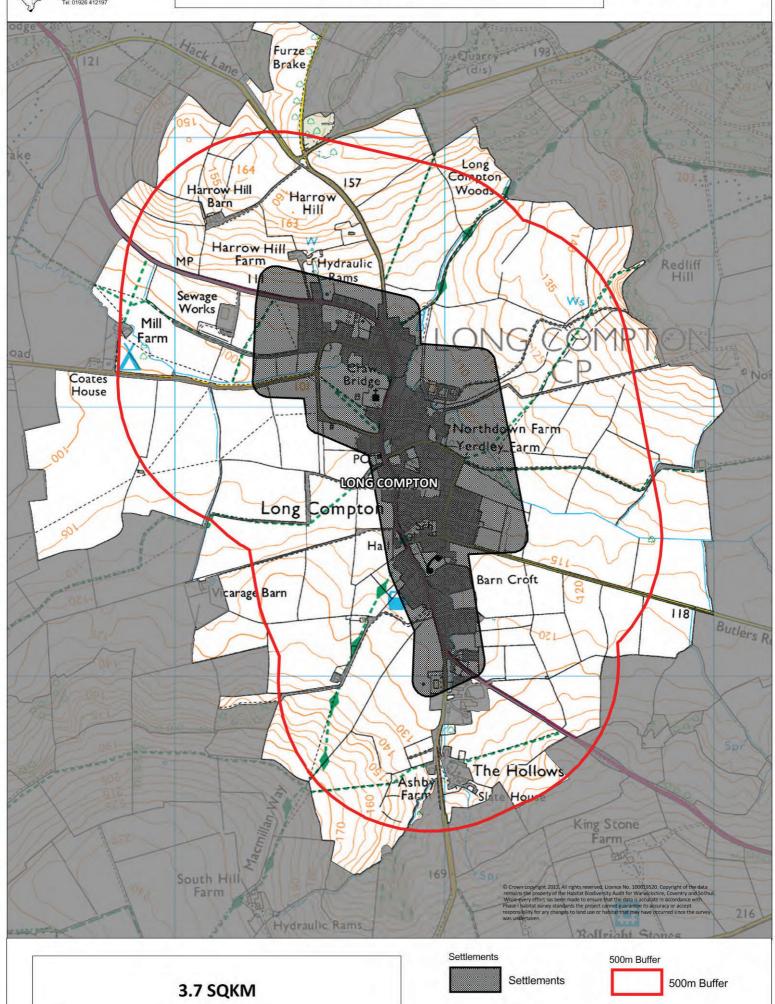
Protected Species

Smooth newt, otter, and hedgehog with the bat species of brown long-eared, whiskered/brandts, common pipistrelles, and an indeterminate species of bat plus rare plants of harsh downy-rose have been recorded in the settlement area. In the wider area there are additional records of badger, brown hare with the butterfly species of white-letter hairstreak and small heath and additional bat records of noctules, natterers, lesser horseshoe, whiskered and barbastelle. There are also rare plants including dropwort and horseshoe vetch in the wider area.

Recommendations for Further Survey

None

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PRINTED 22/06/2012

LONG COMPTON

Stratford-on-Avon District Council Ecological Villages Study

Target Notes

Target Notes	
	Long Compton
sp23v9	Coarse grass of Dactylis glomerata; Arrhenatherum elatius; Holcus lanatus; Agrostis capillaris with young planted conifers occasional across the site.
sp23w1	Poor semi improved with abundant Arrhenatherum elatius Dactylis glomerata and Agrostis capillaris with frequent Holcus lanatus and Phleum pratense. Nettles creeping and spear thistle and dock are occasional in this area.
sp23w11	A strip of dense young broad leaf plantation between an area of improved sheep grazed grass to the north and a strip of coarse Dactylis glomerata Holcus lanatus Arrhenatherum elatius dominated grass to the south.
sp23w12	UPDATED MARK FYFE SURVEY 18/08/2009- PLANTATION NOW REMOVED, PART OF ARABLE FIELD. Young broad leaf plantation over coarse grass with Dactylis glomerata Holcus lanatus Arrhenatherum elatius creeping and spear thistle and nettles.
sp23w13	Poor semi-improved roadside verge adjacent to overgrown old dry stone wall. Meadow Vetchling, Common Mouse-Ear, Common Knapweed, Greater Plantain, Wild Carrot, Hogweed, Red & White Deadnettle, Dandelion, Lords & Ladies, Wood Avens. Verge recently cut. UPDATED 20/04/2012 by CFT. All along grass verge and bank semi-improved grassland. Additional forbs includes: yellow archangel, cleavers, ground ivy, garlic mustard, red campion, herb robert, cow parsley, primrose, lesser celandine, bluebells and greater stichwort (Stellaria holostea).
sp23w14	Area more diverse than previously recorded. Part of area is semi-natural woodland (north), two areas to the south are plantation and the central part is cut to keep it as a clearing. Cherry, Rowan, Silver Birch. Ash, Hawthorne, Sycamore, Oak and Lime. Teasel, Common Nettle, Ground Ivy, Wild Carrot, Pale St John's Wort. Area to the East bordered by trees, forms part of old quarry workings, but this has largely been filled in.
sp23w15	Area of semi-improved acidic grassland on steep south facing slope. Sheep's Bit Scabious on rocky area to the south west, Lady's Bedstraw, Dwarf Thistle, Harebell, Salad Burnet, Common Mouse Ear, Birds Foot Trefoil, Yarrow and Autumn Hawkbit.
sp23w18	Poor semi-improved meadow. Creeping Buttercup, Meadow Vetchling, Red Clover & Black Meddick. UPDATED 20/04/2012 by CFT. Area reverting to open scrub with bramble, occasional, hawthorn, and regenerating elm, elder and dog rose.
SP23W19	Poor semi-improved grassland with ridge and furrow throughout. Occasional Sp. Not grazed at time of visit. Unable to access cut fine grasses appearing incuding meadow fox tail (Alopercrus pratensis) and crested dog's tail (Cynosurus cristatus), occasional buttercups and dandelions.
sp23w2	UPDATED 19/08/2009 MARK FYFE- Poor semi-improved ridge and furrow meadow. Ground very spongy underfoot and many large anthills. Many fine grasses. Cut-leaved Cranesbill, Meadow Vetchling, Yarrow, Common Nettle, Creeping Thistle, Common Mouse-ear & Ladies Bedstraw. No direct access to this site but it was seen to be a poor semi improved site with frequent spear thistle. UPDATED 20/04/2012 by CFT. Semi improved grassland possibly a former orchard. Land behind is a re-planted orchard where bees are kept. Field is subject to periodic flooding and is only sheep grazed. Not able to gain direct access.
SP23W20	Small flowing stream running behind grass frields into village, with butter burr, rose bay willow herb, iris and water crowfoot. The wide grass verge along stream has dog's mercury, cut-leaved cranes bill, ground ivy and dandelion. The bramble has been cut back from the bank.
SP23W21	Wide trackway with encroaching blackthorn on either side with hawthorn, bramble, and elder. Occasional mature oak. Ground flora includes lesser celandine, lords and ladies, cow parsley, red



campion, white nettle, ground ivy, broad leaf dock, common nettle and garlic mustard.

Target Notes	
SP23W22	Poor semi-improved grassland with a pond. Public footpath goes through the field, not particularly rich in forbs, mainly grasses including meadow fox tail, dandelion, and broad leaf dock. Around pond is cucukoo flower/lady's smock (Cardamine pratensis).
SP23W23	Species rich hedgerow with mature ash, oak, crack willow, hawthorn, blackthorn and bramble. Ground flora, dog's mercury, bluebells, lords and ladies and primrose.
SP23W24	Poor semi-improved grassland with stream running alongside. Subject to periodic flooding, mainly sheep grazed, occasional horses. Local resident reported that grasssnakes were regularly been along here. Also brown have bread here. Along stream bank is mature ash and pollorded willow with occasional coppiced hazel and hawthorn. Shepherds pass along path.
SP23W25	AN area of introduced scrub running along side stream. Mix of forbs here including broad leaded dock, white dead nettle, iris, green hellebore (Helleborus vividis), russian comfrey (Symphytum x), primrose, burdock, garden lady's mantle (Alchemilla mollis). Area gradually merges into more naturalized scrub which is denser. Includes bramble, blackthorn, re-generating elm, elder, hawthorn and hazel.
SP23W26	Veteran pollarded ash SP29367. estimated girth 15-18ft (5-6m) (Verfiy reported to WBRC)
SP23W27	Plantation consisting of young oak, field maple, horse chestnut, ash, and hawthron.
sp23w3	A small patch of woodland with ash oak and field maple in the canopy an understorey of elm hawthorn and beech and the ground flora dominated by ivy and including also ground ivy brambles cow parsley and garlic mustard. UPDATED 20/04/2012 by CFT. Flora additions: dogs mercury, wood forget me not, bluebell, lords and ladies, primrose and lesser cellandine.
sp23w4	A pond in an improved field with occasional yellow flag iris and Typha latifolia around the edges. Occasional water mint great willowherb Juncus inflexus and teasel also fringe the water edge and abundant willow trees are found to the east of the pond.
sp23w5	UPDATE 18/08/2009 MARK FYFE - Also: Self-heal, Dog Rose, Creeping Thistle, Burdock, Hogweed, Meadow Sweet, Meadow Vetchling, Red & White Clover, Herb Robert, Red Campion, Great Willowherb, Creeping Buttercup & Greater Plantain. A lane lined with young elm and willow with frequent hawthorn blackthorn and bramble scrub. The grass verges of the lane contain abundant Dactylis glomerata and Holcus lanatus with nettles burdock creeping buttercup hedge woundwort and more which couldn't be identified as the grass had been recently cut. UPDATED 20/04/2012 by CFT. April - dogs' mercury, primrose along bank, groun divy, lords and ladies, ivy, bush vetch

and cow slips. A stream runs along one side of wide track with coppiced ash and hazel on other side and layed hedge with occasional mature oak. Track has ponds at either end PLWS to note.

PRINTED 02/07/2012

HABITAT BIODOVERSITY AUDIT
Wawkeshire Historic and Natural Environment
Barrack Street
Valence
CVS4 412 197
Elmair hab@wawwicshire.gov.uk



Buffer zone for water vole or white-clawed crayfish

Buffer zone for protected amphibians and reptiles

Warwickshire Biological Records Centre

OS DEVELOPED LAND USE AREA

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