

**Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council Additional Site Options
Ecological Assessment:**

South of Knowle

**Habitat Biodiversity Audit Partnership for Warwickshire, Coventry
and Solihull**

Warwickshire Wildlife Trust

Ecological Services Warwickshire County Council



February 2020



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SITE: SOUTH OF KNOWLE

Area: 49 hectares

Overview

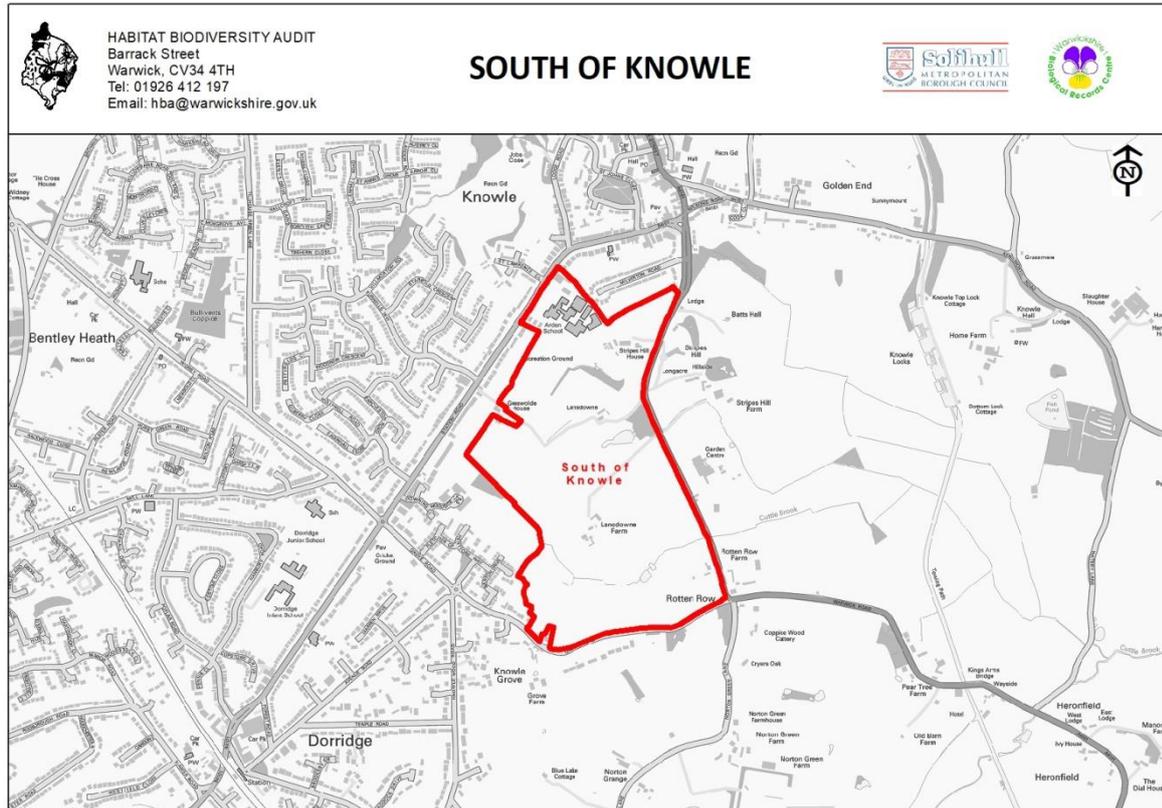


Figure 1 Site Location

The proposed development parcel consists of the playing fields around the Arden Academy with the surrounding farmland consisting of arable fields and pasture.

The centre of the development parcel is dominated by Lansdowne Farm with Stripes Hill House and Gresholde House comprising elements of the parcel to the east and north-west. The Cuttle Brook runs through the eastern boundary below Lansdowne Farm with a 0.2 ha pond named the Boat House adjacent to woodland off the eastern boundary of Warwick Road (A4141). The southern boundary is marked by Grove Road with the residential properties of Barton Drive and Hertford Way denoting the south-western corner. The western boundary lines the back of dwellings off Station Road before meeting Gresholde House and Arden Academy in the north-western corner.

Key Features

- Priority Grasslands of Poor & Semi-Improved Neutral Grassland
- Species-Rich Hedgerows
- Small Stands of Semi-Natural Woodland
- Veteran/Notable Trees
- Ponds
- Mixed Parkland Surrounding Stripes Hill House
- Rotten Row Fields Local Wildlife Site (SP17X6)
- Lansdowne Farm Meadow LWS (SP17S7)
- Constraints Equate to 30.8% of the Total Area of the Development Parcel

Recommendations

Rotten Row Field Local Wildlife Site (SP17X6) requires a re-survey and full condition assessment with the aim of producing detailed management recommendations.

The mix of grassland within the Lansdowne Farm Meadow Local Wildlife Site (SP17S7) should be excluded from development in the first instance to minimise biodiversity loss. Secondly, to compensate for any loss of grassland, enhancement of any remaining grassland areas to species rich grassland within the development footprint would be recommended.

There is a potential to restore all three meadows within the LWS to a state resembling the internationally threatened MG4 Meadow Foxtail-Great Burnet NVC community. This grassland type was formerly characteristic of flood meadows such as these and was once found throughout the region but is now very scarce.

There should be a strong commitment to a long-term management regime of the species-rich grassland present with the development parcel. A site-specific long-term management plan is required to prevent domination of the sward by scrub and aggressive species. Long term-management should include a monitoring and evaluation programme that will enable the management regime to be adapted as necessary with the aim to determine the extent of the grassland establishment (% ground cover, bald patches and presence of leaf litter) and sward composition (grass to herb ratio, positive indicator species, negative indicator species, species with local distinctiveness).

A regime of cutting and light grazing is essential for maintaining species richness.

Veteran and mature trees are scattered across the development parcel and are such prominent landscape features particularly within hedgerows or small copses.

These large trees especially along the driveway to Lansdowne Farm should be retained and incorporated with the development in areas of open space. The inclusion of green bridges, hedgerows, tunnels or avenues will connect woodland and veteran trees that would otherwise be separated by development. An appropriate buffer zone of semi-

natural habitat between the development and the veteran tree should be determined by an appropriate arboriculturist but a minimum buffer should be at least 15 metres.

During construction, screening barriers will protect veteran trees from dust and pollution. Veteran trees are irreplaceable and therefore compensation measures can only partially compensate for damage, the management of aged trees and replacing lost veteran trees is a last resort. Planting young trees of similar species can help compensate for removed veteran trees and should be near those trees that they are replacing. Likewise, the management of nearby veteran trees including dead trees can help compensate for lost veteran trees. The intact hulk of the veteran tree should be left intact to benefit invertebrates and fungi. Otherwise dead wood should be moved adjacent to other veteran trees within the development parcel.

The outer boundaries of the parcel are well-developed and would provide important screening regards to any proposed development. As such sensitive design should incorporate important habitat corridors. A potentially species-rich hedgerow borders the main eastern entrance to Landsdowne Farm at SP1803575847. Any potentially species-rich hedgerow should be subject to a full hedgerow survey detailed in the Hedgerow Survey Handbook (2nd edition) under The Hedgerows Regulations (made under Section 97 of the Environment Act 1995). The Regulations set out criteria (simplified below) to be used by the local planning authority in determining which hedgerows are important;

1. Marks a pre-1850 parish or township boundary.
2. Incorporates an archaeological feature.
3. Is part of, or associated with, an archaeological site.
4. Marks the boundary of, or is associated with, a pre-1600 estate or manor.
5. Forms an integral part of a pre-parliamentary enclosure field system.
6. Contains certain categories of species of birds, animals or plants listed in the Wildlife and Countryside Act.
7. Includes:
 - a) at least seven woody species, on average, in a 30 metre length;
 - b) at least six woody species, on average, in a 30 metre length and has at least three associated features;
 - c) at least six woody species, on average, in a 30 metre length, including a black poplar tree, or large-leaved lime, or small-leaved lime, or wild service tree; or
 - d) at least five woody species, on average, in a 30 metre length and has at least four associated features. The list of 56 woody species comprises mainly shrubs and trees. It generally excludes climbers (such as clematis, honeysuckle and bramble) but includes wild roses.
8. Runs alongside a bridleway, footpath, road used as a public path, or a byway open to all traffic and includes at least four woody species, on average, in a 30 metre length and has at least two of the associated features listed below. The associated features are:
 - i) a bank or wall supporting the hedgerow;
 - ii) less than 10% gaps;
 - iii) on average, at least one tree per 50 metres;
 - iv) at least three species from a list of 57 woodland plants;
 - v) a ditch;

- vi) a number of connections with other hedgerows, ponds or woodland; and
- vii) a parallel hedge within 15 metres.

Constraints

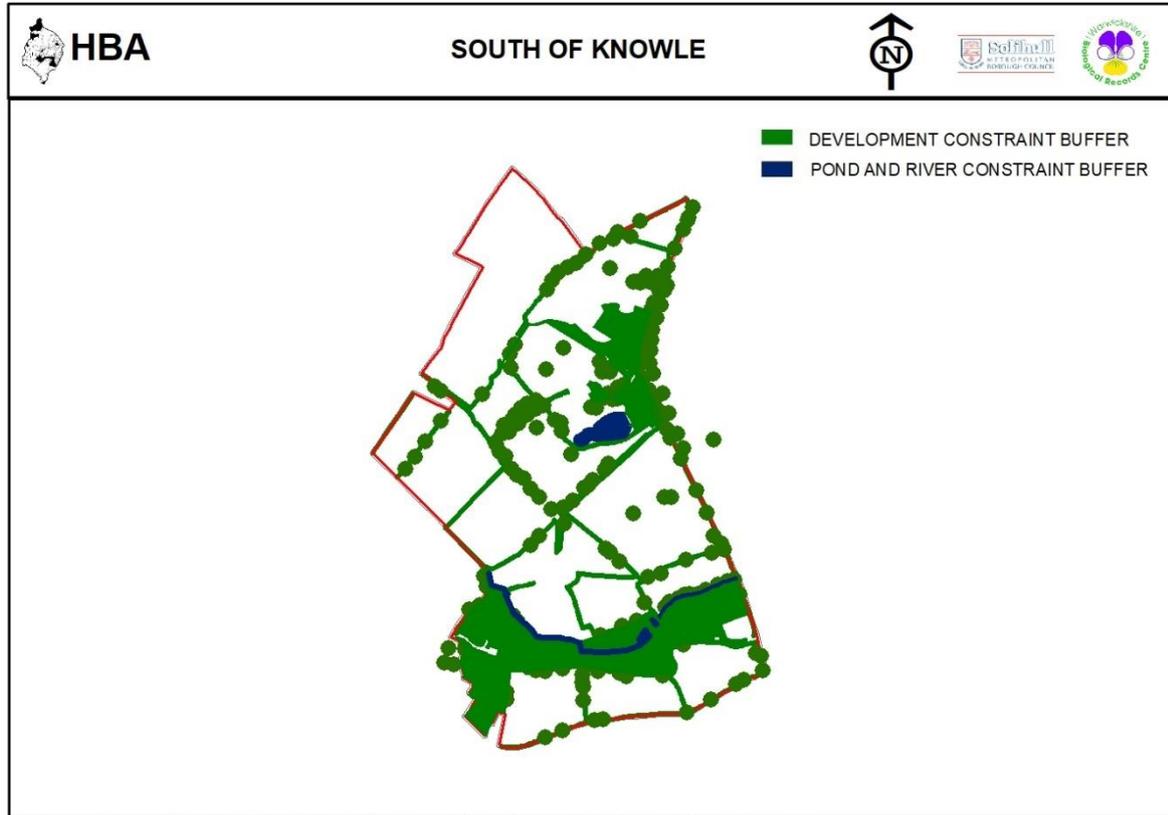


Figure 2 Constraints Map

The areas marked in green and blue on the above constraints map as a component of a very early and preliminary assessment represent existing biodiversity value and should ideally be retained and incorporated into any development proposals. They indicate where development should be avoided, and ecological enhancement encouraged. The maps show's a feasible case scenario with the aim to meet no net loss and the net gain approach. The green and blue areas at the absolute minimum highlight the need for further ecological investigation.

They include:

- 30m buffer around woodland
- 8m buffer either side of adjacent to watercourses
- 8m buffers around ponds
- 5m buffer either side of intact hedgerows
- Areas of medium to high distinctiveness habitats (Values 4, 5 & 6)

The circular green dots represent notable/veteran trees which should be retained and incorporated into green infrastructure. They are currently buffered by default at 15 metres as recommended by Natural England. A tree

or arboricultural survey is recommended for the site to distinguish on such issues, determining height of tree and the spread of the tree's canopy so that adequate buffers can then be calculated. The buffers are not exact but illustrative based on the extent of the canopy from aerial photography. You could buffer these trees either by 5m from the extent of the canopy, or by the length of the tree trunk or by a standard length being 15 to 30m depending on results from an arboricultural survey. If veteran trees are identified, a buffer of 30m would be recommended. The development parcel is characteristic of the Arden Landscape so woodland, hedgerows and notable/veteran trees are of the utmost importance.

The hedgerows are buffered at 5 metres to coincide with the no net lost and biodiversity net gain approach, likewise these should remain and not be re-created forming part of any development as green infrastructure.

The 194 trees across the development parcel equates to 9ha represented as 18.3% of the development parcel and important habitats and Local Wildlife Sites representing 6ha and 12.2% of the total area of the development parcel.

Designated Sites

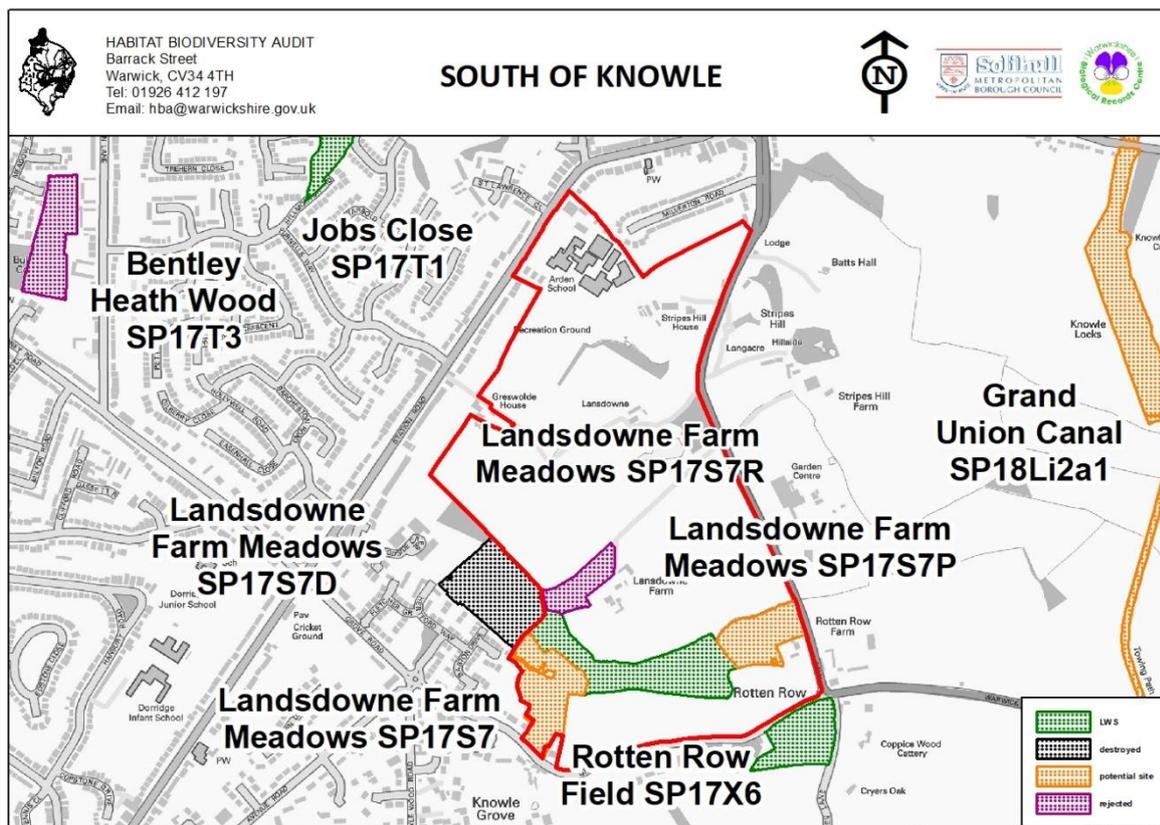


Figure 3 Site Designations

LWS NAME	STATUS	AREA (HA)	SURVEY DATE
LANDSDOWNE FARM MEADOWS (SP17S7)	LWS	2.94	06/09/17
LANDSDOWNE FARM MEADOWS (SP17S7P)	Potential LWS	3.21	06/09/17

LANDSDOWNE FARM MEADOWS (SP17S7R)	Rejected LWS	0.85	06/09/17
LANDSDOWNE FARM MEADOWS (SP17S7D)	Destroyed	2.35	08/08/19
ROTTEN ROW FIELD (SP17X6)	LWS	1.46	22/07/03

Local Wildlife Site

ROTTEN ROW FIELD LWS¹ (SP17X6) Area:1.5ha Survey Date; 22/07/03

Rotten Row Field is located on the outer edge of the proposed development parcel and is situated approximately 1km south of Knowle. The site entrance is at Barn End on Grove Road, close to the junction with the Warwick Road (A4141).

This is a relatively un-improved meadow that has become somewhat rank through lack of management in recent years. The meadow is surrounded by tall unmanaged hedges, scrub and mature trees. There is a slight incline from east to west.

The site consists of two fields, the first and larger field has not been mown or grazed for several years and the vegetation is tall (>1m) with frequent tussocks. A range of grasses and herbs are present. Lack of management has resulted in the spread of scrub into the grassland. There are small, but well-established, Oak trees at the eastern end of the field where the vegetation is most diverse, and dense Bramble at the western end and along the northern edge.

The vegetation in the smaller northern field is less diverse with encroaching Oak scrub at the eastern end of the field and dense Bramble along the other edges. The field boundaries consist of tall, unmanaged hedges and scrub with some mature trees. The tall unmanaged hedges and trees along the boundary screen the site from the road. There is no public access to this site.

The site qualified as a Local Wildlife Site, although unmanaged, retained the characteristics of an un-improved meadow, which retains a good range of species including several un-improved grassland indicators such as Great Burnet, Black Knapweed, Meadow Vetchling, Devil's-bit Scabious and Betony. The quality of the grassland would un-doubtedly improve with appropriate management.

LANDSDOWNE FARM MEADOWS¹ (SP17S7) Area:9.2 ha Survey Date: 06/09/17

Three small damp fields of moderately diverse semi-improved neutral grassland surrounded by a network of old well-timbered hedges and containing a small pool.

The three small fields making up the LWS form a green corridor of semi-natural habitats situated in a still semi-rural (but potential development) area on the eastern verge of

¹ Local Wildlife Sites Project –SP17S7 Landsdowne Farm Meadows 2017 & SP17X6 Rotten Row Field 2004HBA, Warwick

the Knowle-Dorridge suburban area, about 0.7km south of the old village centre of Knowle and 200m west of the hamlet of Rotten Row. The site is bounded by improved pasture and hay fields to the north, by small semi-improved horse paddocks to the east, by arable fields fronting Grove Road to the south and by a new housing development to the west. The nearest LWS to the site is Rotten Row Field situated 150m to the south-east across Grove Road. Otherwise the nearest sites include Knowle Wet Meadow LWS 1.5km to the north-north-east, Job's Close LNR/LWS 1.25km to the north-north-west, and Dorridge Wood and Meadows LNR/LWS 1.1km to the south-west. In addition, the Grand Union Canal (including Knowle Locks), a pending LWS and important wildlife corridor is located 0.75km to the east beyond the Warwick Road. All these sites contain varying amounts of semi-improved grassland.

There is no public access to the LWS except along the wooded public footpath running between Grove Road and Warwick Road, which forms the western boundary. The LWS comprises three small fields which are part of the network of fields making up Lansdowne Farm, with the farmhouse standing on the low hill 200m to the north. This farmhouse occupies the site of a late medieval small-holding called Jacknet (a corruption of Jack at Wood, indicating that the higher fields to the north were then covered with woodland) and a small farm by this name remained on site until the 20th century. The modern farmhouse took its name from the Victorian Lansdowne House which stands in grounds to the north in the Warwick Road.

Traditionally it was managed as a dairy farm and the former tenant kept a herd of cattle until the tenancy ended in 1982 following his death. Since then it has been farmed by the owners, starting initially in 1983 in partnership with another local farmer. A programme of improvements during 1983-4 included turning over to arable five larger fields and the excavation of two wildlife pools along the stream course. During the partnership the LWS fields were grazed principally by cattle and sheep. The partnership ended in 2003 and since then only horses have grazed. Other fields are used for horse grazing (now down to four animals) and for growing hay, but these are all improved. The three small fields making up the LWS contain a stream and are naturally wet. The western member of this group is still regularly grazed, the other two less so and are now rather neglected. More recently, the two original ponds have been joined up and a new dam put in to form a balancing pool. The owner currently has plans to top the unmanaged fields and clear some of the encroaching scrub, including around the pool which has become partly heavily overgrown.

The LWS occupies the upper end of a shallow valley situated at around 110-115m ASL and containing a minor east-flowing tributary stream of the Cuttle Brook, itself a tributary of the River Blythe SSSI to which it joins 2.5km away at Temple Balsall. This minor stream rises from a spring located by the public footpath at the north-western end of the LWS. The sides of the valley rise gently to the north and south, reaching about 125m ASL at the farmhouse and along Grove Road.

The underlying geology is composed of non-calcareous slow-draining marls and clays of the Mercia Mudstone series, although there are outcrops of Arden Sandstone south of Grove Road.

The three meadows that at present comprise the LWS form part of a green corridor of five semi-improved fields extending from the new housing estate to the Warwick Road at Rotten Row. Only the western and two central fields have been surveyed so far.

Western Meadow. This small field at the north-western end of the LWS and adjoining the new housing estate is more improved than the rest of the site, but there is good potential for increasing species diversity. The lower section of it is rather damp, particularly along the northern side by the stream, and it has been recently grazed rather short. It appears to be dominated by Yorkshire Fog and False Oat-grass, with frequent Red Fescue and at least occasional Common Bent, Perennial Ryegrass, Timothy and Smooth Meadow-grass, although other grasses may be present. Forbs include frequent to locally abundant Ribwort Plantain, Meadow Buttercup, White Clover and in the wetter areas, Creeping Buttercup. More occasional species include Hairy Sedge, Common Mouse-ear, Cut-leaved Cranesbill, Meadow Vetchling, Autumn Hawkbit, Red Bartsia, Common Sorrel, Broad-leaved Dock, Common Ragwort and Red Clover. A disturbed area by the gate in the northern corner supports several common farm ruderals as well as occasional Lesser Swinecress, Scented Mayweed and Oxford Ragwort. The most diverse area of grassland in the field runs along the top of a buried pipeline which crosses it from the south-east to north-west. The thin soils here support a sward dominated by Common Bent and Red Fescue, as well as abundant Creeping Cinquefoil and both Red and White Clovers. Other forbs noted here at low frequency include Yarrow, Dovesfoot Cranesbill, Meadow Vetchling, Black Medick, Red Bartsia, Lesser Stitchwort and Germander Speedwell.

Central Meadows. These two narrow fields occupy the bottom of the valley and lie to the north and south of the stream. The boundary hedge between them has been removed at some time in the past in the western third and as both possess a similar flora they are considered together. The sward is rank and unmanaged but very variable, and includes both dry banks (as in the south-east) and areas of impeded drainage which stay wet much of the year. The latter is especially notable in the north field, and extends westwards along the former course of the stream (here piped underground) in the conjoined western end. Common Bent, Red Fescue and Yorkshire Fog appear to dominate the grassland, the first two particularly on the drier banks where sward height is lower. Other species which are frequent to locally abundant include Meadow Foxtail, False Oat-grass (particularly in the ranker margins), Cocksfoot and Smooth Meadow-grass, whereas other more locally frequent grasses in the drier areas include Crested Dogstail, Tall Fescue, Common Couch and Timothy. The wetter areas tend to be dominated by Floating Sweet-grass, but with locally frequent Creeping Bent as well as occasional to locally frequent Compact, Hard and Soft Rushes. The most abundant forb throughout the two meadows is Meadow Buttercup, but there is also frequent to locally abundant Hairy Sedge, Creeping Cinquefoil, Creeping Buttercup, Common Sorrel, Lesser Stitchwort and both Red and White Clovers. Species of locally frequent occurrence include Common Mouse-ear, Meadow Vetchling, Autumn Hawkbit and Common Birdsfoot-trefoil, while on the dry banks in the south-eastern and eastern corners the flora includes very locally frequent Lady's Bedstraw and occasional Pignut, Common Tormentil, Tufted Vetch and Common Dog-violet. Forbs found in the wet areas along the stream course in the north meadow comprise frequent Brooklime, occasional Fool's Watercress, Lady's Smock, Great Willowherb, Field Horsetail, Clustered and Curled Docks, Bittersweet and Russian Comfrey, with rare Wild Angelica, Wavy Bittercress and

Square-stemmed Willowherb. There has been some extensive Blackthorn invasion in recent years in the eastern section of the north field, while both fields have locally broad and expanding patches of tall herb along the hedge boundaries, comprising particularly of Cow Parsley, Creeping Thistle, Bramble and Common Nettle.

The most interesting feature of this area is the large pool situated at the eastern end of the north field, which formerly comprised two separate ponds but has been more recently joined together. Although only around thirty years in age numerous aquatic plants have colonised naturally. The western basin is now heavily overgrown with Common Reedmace and little open water remains. This is bordered and part-shaded by Grey Sallows, which have grown up in recent years, and self-seeded Alders. Other components of the swamp include abundant Gipsywort and frequent Pendulous Sedge, Great Willowherb, Hard Rush and Water Mint, with occasional Compact Rush.

The eastern basin is still open water and appears quite deep with steepish banks. It contains frequent floating patches of Amphibious Bistort and is partly edged by Common Reedmace, which is colonising from the other basin. The pond margins also have locally abundant Common Spike-rush, a patch of Lesser Pond-sedge, as well as frequent Field Horsetail, Hard Rush, Gipsywort, Water Mint and Brooklime, with occasional Pendulous Sedge and Clustered Dock.

Well-timbered hedgerows form the boundaries to all three fields, although these are fragmented or absent altogether in places and fencing has replaced them. The best sections border the stream through the centre of the central fields and along the northern border of the western field, as well as along the southern boundary of the LWS and along the public footpath. The southern boundary hedge is more species-diverse than the others and stands on a considerable bank and is probably of relatively ancient origin. The principle constituents of all the hedges are Hawthorn and Blackthorn, but there is occasional Hazel and the latter becomes frequent in the southern hedge of the Western Meadow. Other components include occasional Field Maple, Ash, Holly, Apple, Field and Dog Roses, Goat and Grey Sallows, Elder and Wych Elm. There are numerous standard trees of various ages, particularly Ash but with occasional Pedunculate Oaks and Alder, the latter being frequent in the hedges bounding the West Meadow. Crack Willows are also occasional and there are locally several Sycamores. A single planted Wild Cherry stands near the pool. The bank flora is dominated by Cow Parsley, Ivy and Bramble, but Cleavers, Herb Bennet, Dog's Mercury and Red Campion are all frequent, as is Pendulous Sedge along the stream. Where the latter is unvegetated there are occasional patches of Fool's Watercress and Brooklime. Other species noted at rare to occasional frequency along the hedgerows include Hairy Brome, Rough Chervil, Scaly Male-fern, Herb Robert, Three-nerved Sandwort, Hart's-tongue, Black Bryony and the county scarce Greater Chickweed, the latter in the southern boundary hedge of the Western Meadow.

The LWS is locally important for its birds with the areas of scrub and trees attracting many species. During the survey visit 34 species were noted, including Common Buzzard, Stock Dove, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Jay, Jackdaw, Raven, Starling, Song Thrush, Dunnock, Lesser Whitethroat, Blackcap, Chiffchaff, Goldcrest, Long-tailed Tit, Nuthatch, Treecreeper, Chaffinch, Goldfinch and Bullfinch. Mallard and Moorhens frequent the pool. Little Owls formerly occurred here but have not been seen recently.

Four species of bats have been recently detected (Common and Soprano Pipistrelle, a Myotis sp. and Long-eared). The pool supports Smooth Newt, Common Frog, Common Toad, Three-spined Stickleback and dragonflies, with Migrant Hawker and both Common and Ruddy Darters noted during the survey. Butterflies noted during the survey visit included Speckled Wood, Small Tortoiseshell, Red Admiral, Comma and Small White.

The three meadows together with their attendant hedgerows and pond supports a moderately high diversity of vascular plants, with 118 species recorded on the survey day. Amongst these are many characteristic plants of damp meadows such as Meadow Foxtail, Lady's Smock, Hairy Sedge, Yorkshire Fog, Soft Rush, Meadow Vetchling, Meadow Buttercup, Common Sorrel and Red Clover, together with further species in peripheral areas more typical of drier pastures, such as Crested Dogtail, Red Fescue, Pignut, Lady's Bedstraw and Common Tormentil. Although relatively small in area there is a good variety of habitats and sub-habitats, including both wet and dry neutral grassland, marshy areas, Reedmace swamp, a pool, well-timbered hedgerows, dense scrub (both of Blackthorn and Grey Sallow), dry banks, areas of rank grassland and tall herb, and a small stream. Together these support much wildlife and is particularly important locally for birds.

The site seems to support just one county notable plant, Greater Chickweed, which is becoming increasingly rare in the county.

The recent lack of management has possibly led to a decline in overall grassland diversity, with the site particularly vulnerable to the spread of tall herb and scrub. The site forms part of a corridor of semi-improved grassland which includes the two eastern fields towards Rotten Row and the land south of the Western Meadow. Rotten Row Field LWS across Knowle Road to the south-east is also very close to this corridor. It is important to keep this corridor as a green space in any future development proposals.

The site is a survivor from the pre-suburban landscape of Victorian Knowle and is characteristic of the local Arden landscape. Until the 1980's the land had been traditionally used as cattle pasture, with this activity quite possibly extending back for centuries.

Habitat Description

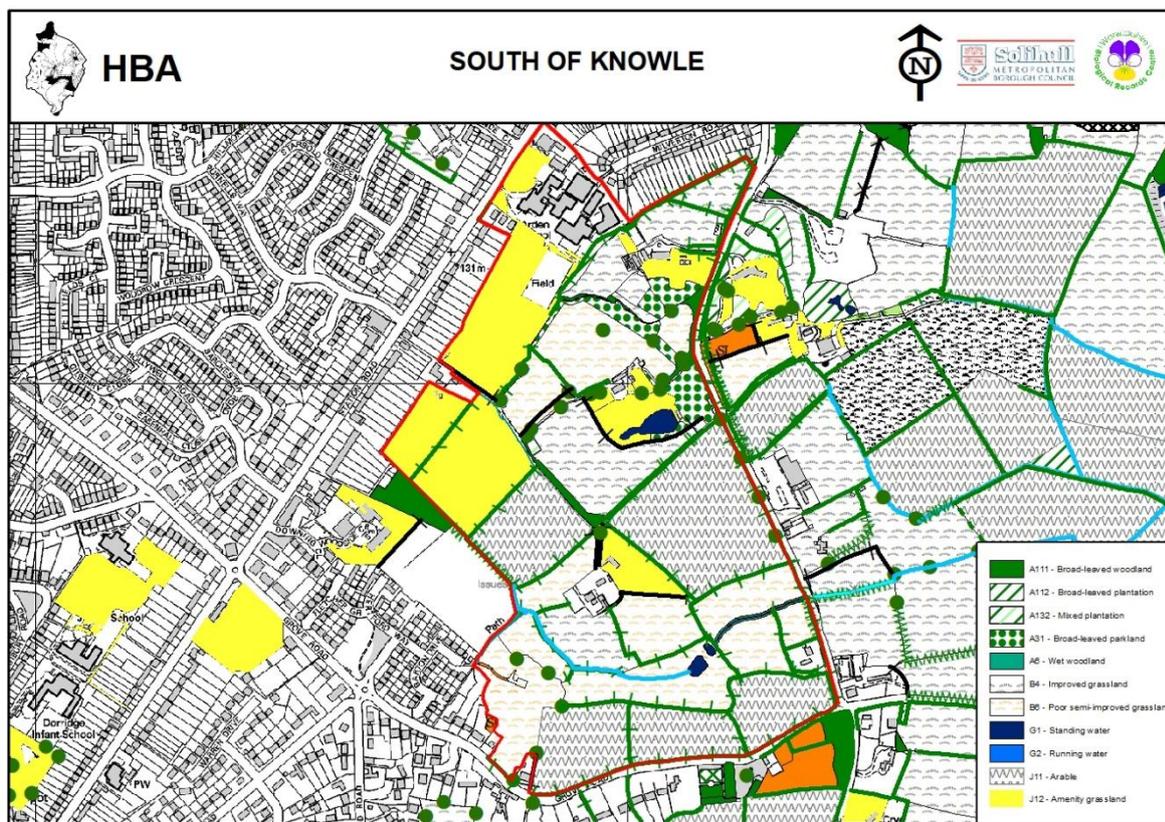


Figure 4 Phase 1 Habitats

The habitats on site consist of a mix of grasslands ranging from agriculturally improved grasslands (B4) with a low distinctiveness score through to amenity grassland (J12) with low to medium distinctiveness and poor to semi-improved grassland (B6, B22) with high to medium distinctiveness. The remaining habitats are mainly arable (J12) with low habitat distinctiveness and small patches of semi-natural woodland (A111), marshy grassland (B5) and ponds (G1) with high distinctiveness. The hedgerows are mainly shrubby but do provide connectivity across the area linking the small areas of semi-natural woodland. A species-rich hedgerow borders the main eastern entrance to Landsdowne Farm at SP1803575847.

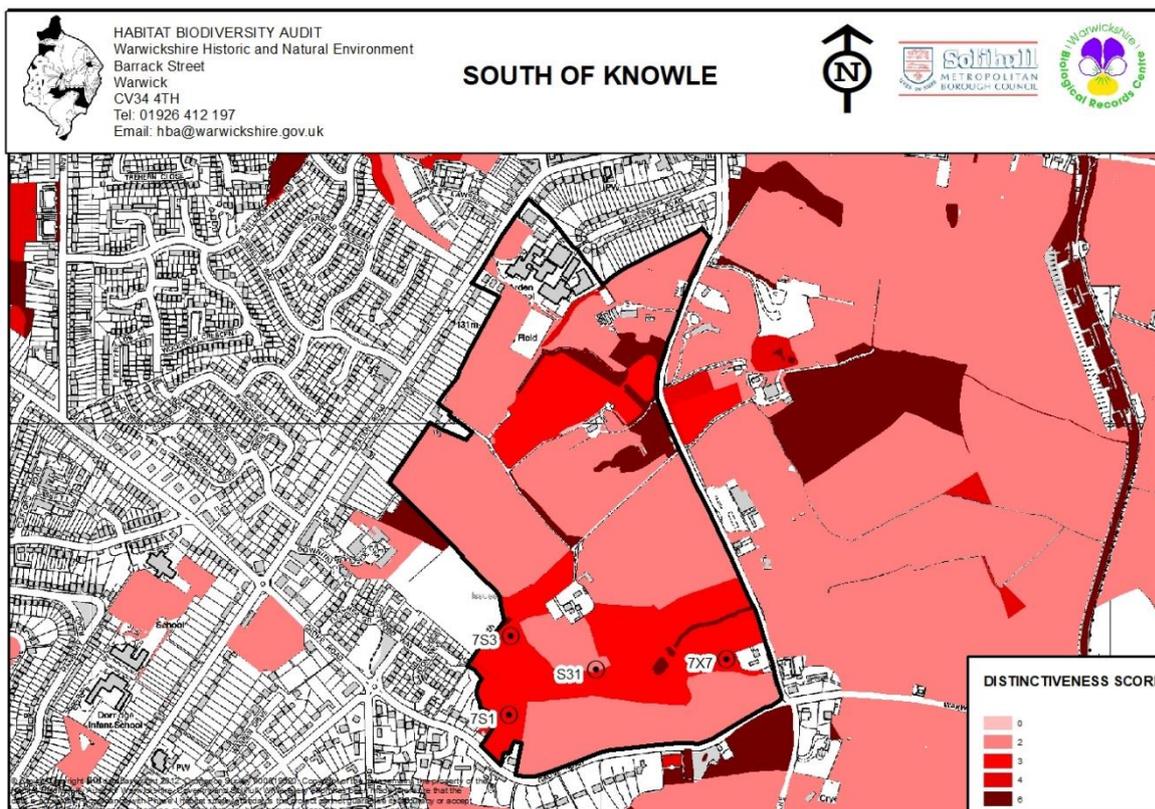


Figure 2 Phase 1 Habitat Distinctiveness & Target Notes

Target Notes

Number	Grid Reference	Survey Date
SP17X7	SP1824675524	16/02/1999

Poor neglected rank semi-improved grassland dominated by false oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*) and common bent (*Agrostis capillaris*) with some locally frequent common knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*). Full assessment hampered by restricted access. Grassland appears to be used predominately for dog walking by neighbouring kennels.

UPDATE 08/08/2019 GP

Poor to semi-improved neutral grassland now designated as the potential LWS; Landsdowne Farm Meadows (SP17S7P)

SP17S31	SP1799075503	03/08/2011
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Network of small fields which appear to be old pasture with a mix of wet and neutral semi-improved grassland. Not able to gain access but may merit further investigation. Possible potential Local Wildlife Site requires a detailed survey.

UPDATE 08/08/2019 GP

Now designated within the Landsdowne Farm Meadow LWS (SP17S7).

SP17S3

SP1782275570

03/08/2011

Poor horse grazed semi-improved grassland dominated by false oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) and cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*) with frequent hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium*) and common nettle (*Urtica dioica*).

UPDATED 03/08/2011

Unable to gain full access, the field was grazed at time of visit and appears to be inappropriately managed as semi-improved neutral grassland and thus its condition may have deteriorated. Species present include timothy (*Phleum pratense*), broad-leaved dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*) and occasional common ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*). Various meadow grasses are also present.

UPDATE 08/08/2019 GP

Poor and semi-improved neutral grassland designated as former flood-meadow now contained within the Landsdowne Farm Meadow LWS (SP17S7).

SP17S1

SP1782075414

03/08/2011

Disturbed perennial rye-grass (*Lolium perenne*) grassland re-seeded as part of drainage systems for a recently built housing estate. Some areas could be described as poor semi improved and contain species such as red clover (*Trifolium pratense*) and hairy tare (*Vicia hirsuta*).

UPDATED 03/08/2011

Private land with no public access or right of way detailed as Homes and Communities Agency.

UPDATE 08/08/2019 GP

Habitat mitigation for the recent housing development close-by with a new balancing pool and a mosaic of grassland and planted trees interspersed by a mown path. The mosaic forms part of the potential LWS Landsdowne Farm Meadow (SP17S7P)

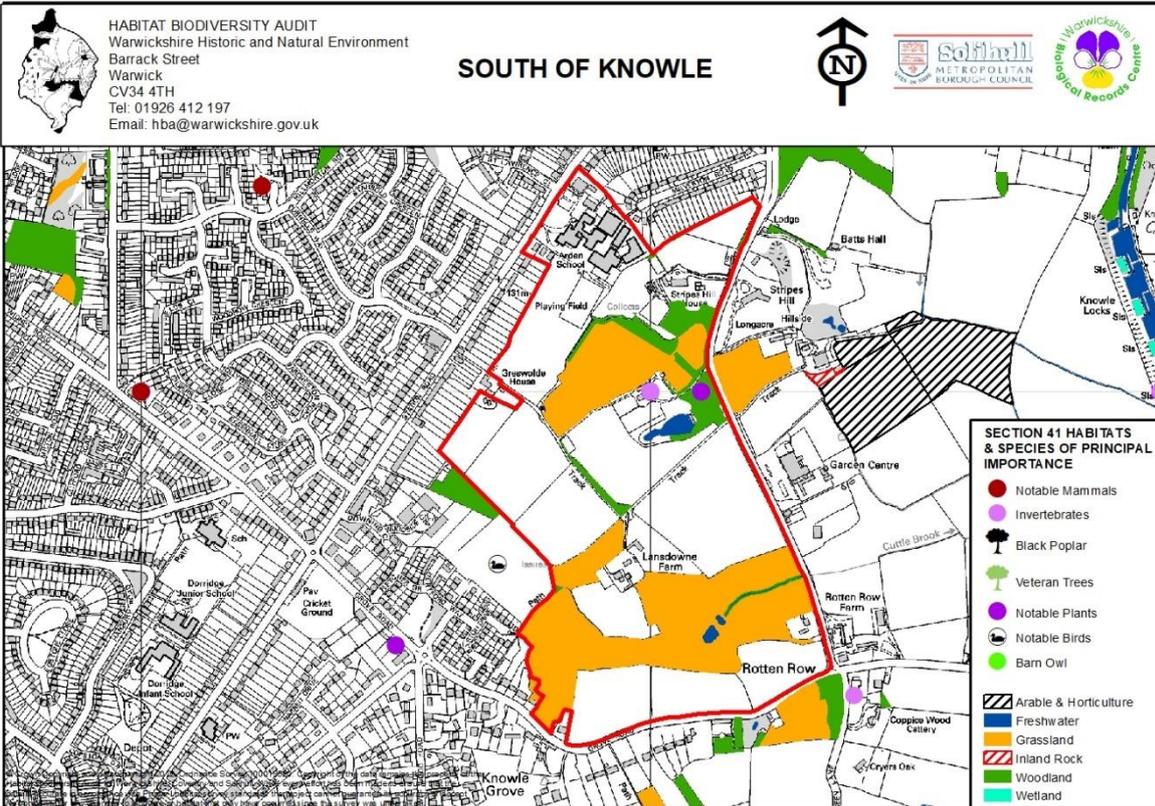


Figure 6 Section 41 Habitats & Species of Principal Importance

Habitat Connectivity

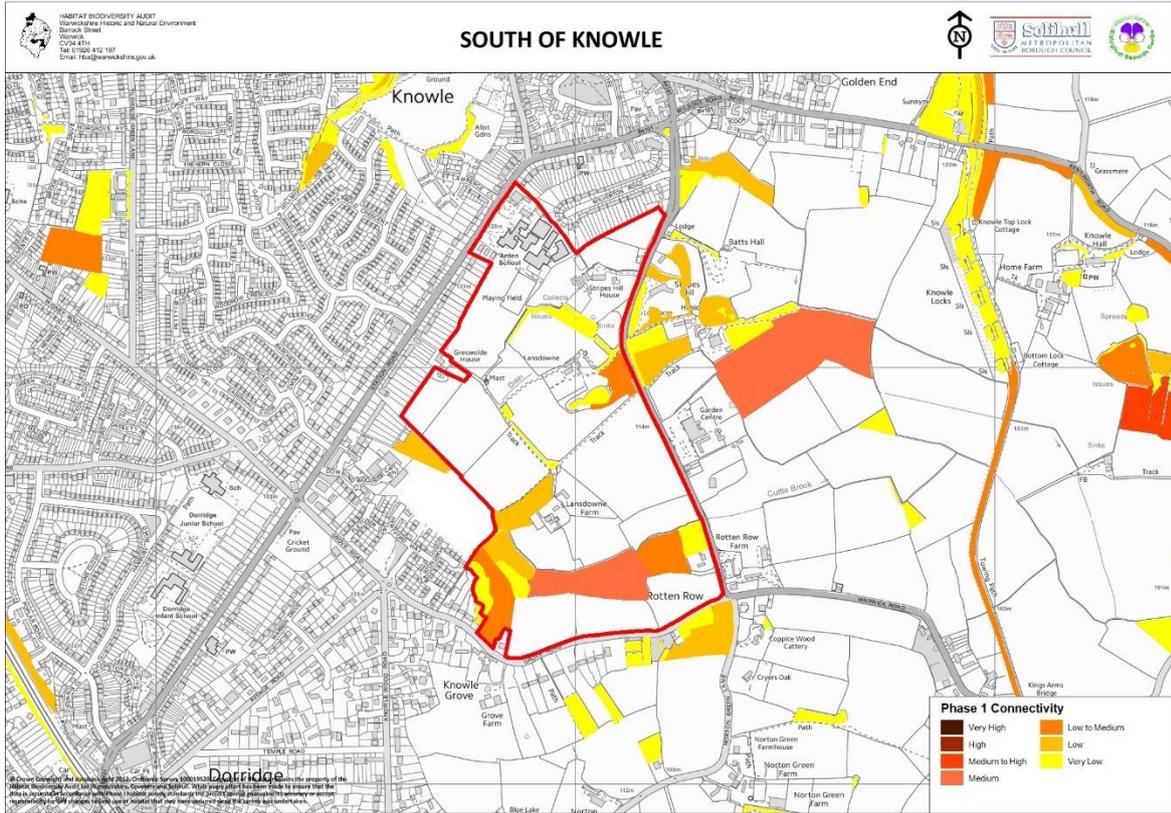


Figure 7 Habitat Connectivity

Grassland connectivity is particularly high within the development parcel represented by priority grasslands designated within Rotten Row LWS (SP17X6) and Meadows Near Landsdowne Farm pLWS (SP17S7).

Protected Species

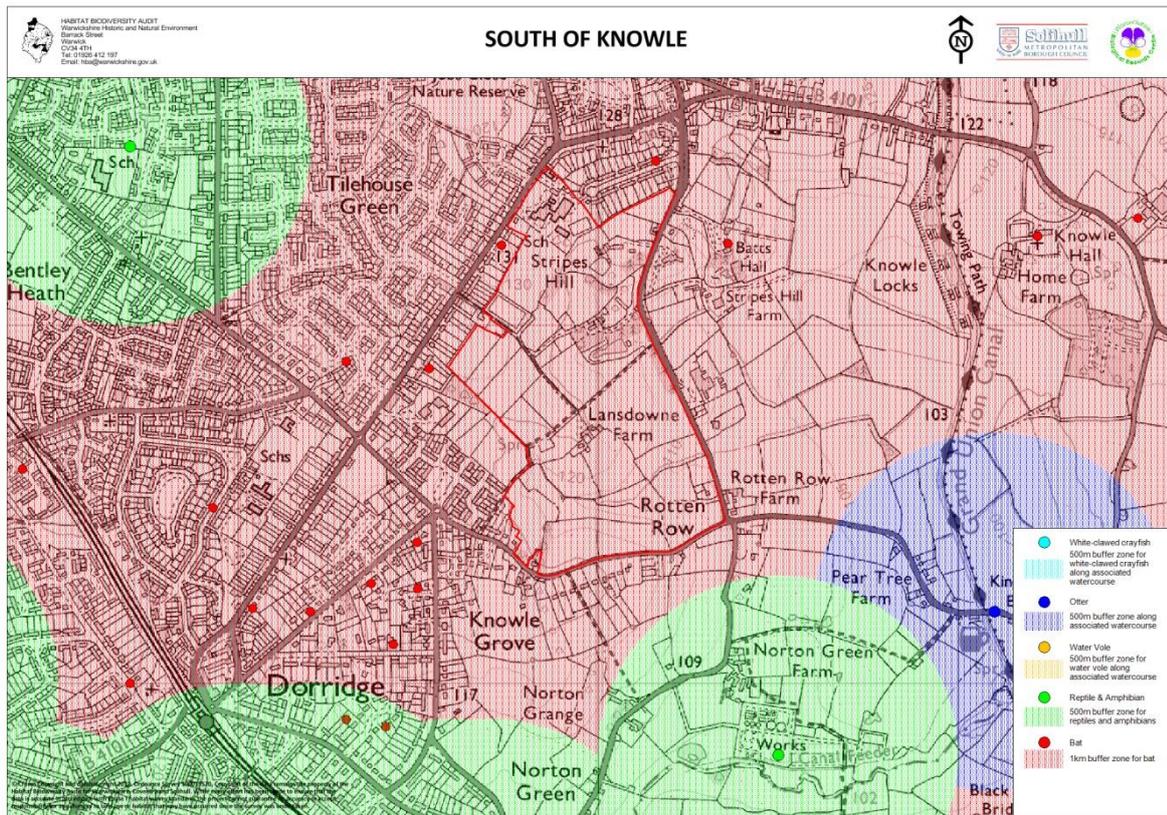


Figure 8 Protected Species

There are no protected or notable species records located within the Site boundaries but there are records of protected species nearby mainly within residential properties of the suburbs of Tilehouse Green and town of Dorridge including recent records of a roost site for three species of bat within 283m from the south-western corner of the development parcel. Other records date back to 2005 for foraging, commuting and potential roosting bats particularly Brown Long-Eared (*Plecotus auritus*) and Common Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) bats.

We recommend that protected species are taken into consideration through more detailed ecological assessments. Please take note that an absence of species records does not mean an absence of species.