

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

**Barratts Farm**

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

**Warwickshire Wildlife Trust**

**Ecological Services Warwickshire County Council**



**December 2019**



## Contents

<b>SITE: BARRATTS FARM .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Overview .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Key Features .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Recommendations .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Constraints .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Designated Sites.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Habitat Description .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Target Notes.....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Habitats and Species of Conservation Importance .....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Habitat Connectivity .....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Protected Species .....</b>	<b>19</b>

# SITE: BARRATTS FARM

Area: 97.1 hectares

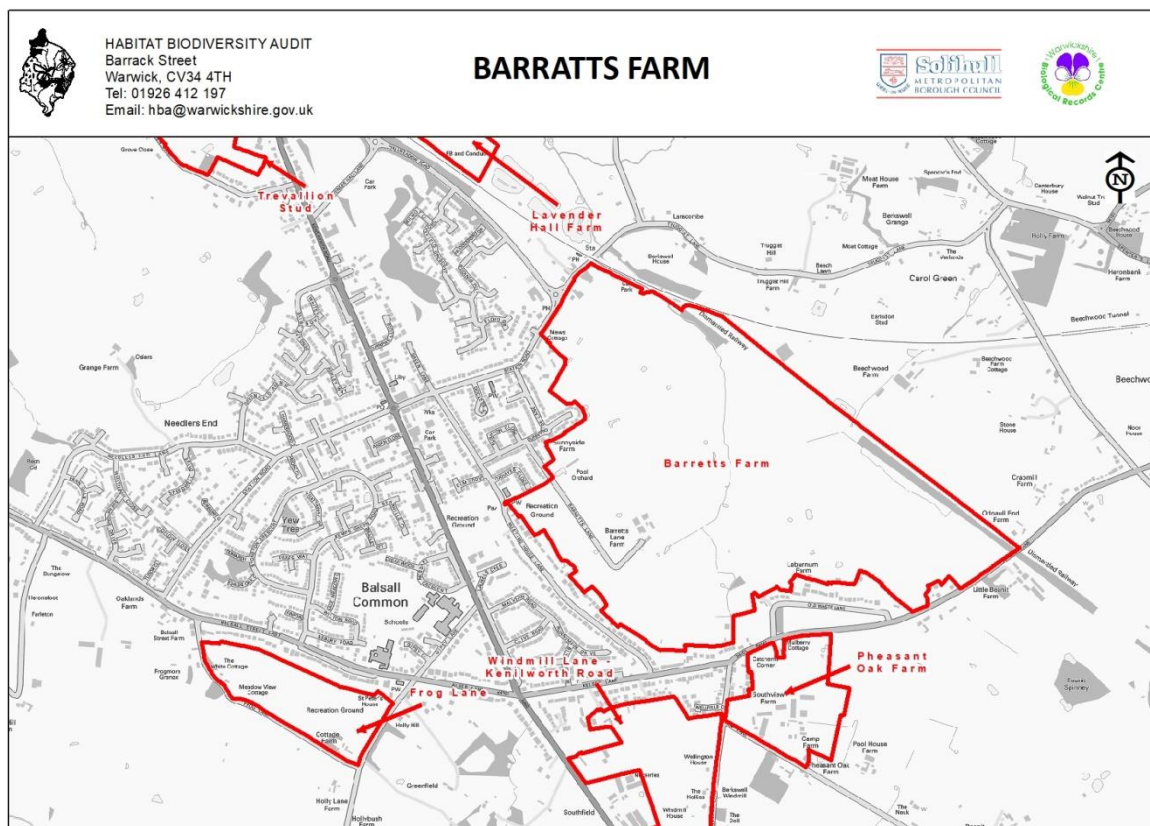


Figure 1 Site Location

## Overview

The development parcel is a large rural area of intensive agriculture (92.9 ha) comprising 56.9% of improved grassland and 31% arable farmland managed as part of a ley farming system. The small field patterns are enclosed by intact hedgerows with mature and veteran trees present.

This rural landscape abounds the large rural settlement of Balsall Common to the east with the boundary extending beyond Kenilworth Green Dismantled Railway Line to the west. The line stretches 4.5 miles from Kenilworth to Berkswell Station. This is the proposed section of HS2. Balsall Common is one of the larger villages within the borough and sits in the rural greenbelt known as the Meridan Gap. A small brook crisscrosses parts of the parcel and eventually becomes a tributary to the River Blythe.

The centre of the parcel is dominated by Barratts Lane Farm with the farmsteads of Sunnyside and Laburnum Farm dominating the western and south-east periphery. The Lant Rec Ground or Meeting House Lane Park is sandwiched between Barratts Lane and residential properties off Meeting House Lane that mark the southern rim.

## **Key Features**

- Semi-Improved Grassland and Scattered Scrub Mosaic
- Species-rich Intact Hedgerow and Veteran Trees of Barratts Lane
- Ponds, Swamp & Marshy Grassland
- Hedgerows with Mature and Veteran Trees
- Amphibians
- Kenilworth Greenway LWS (SP27Li9n)
- Potential Local Wildlife Site of Barratts Green Lane (SP27N7)
- Constraints Equate to 17.3 % of the Total Area

## Recommendations

Many of the small fields of semi-improved grassland with their associated ridge and furrow have been degraded through intensive grazing, general neglect or through expansion of housing development. The few remaining viable semi-improved grasslands have continued to be neglected and have further declined in habitat value. Consideration should be given to restoring the semi-improved grasslands along the southern boundary of the site incorporating the rejected local wildlife site.

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.

The small fields are characteristic of the Arden landscape and retention of hedgerows should be a priority to maintain the connection with the open countryside south of Balsall Common.

Any potentially species-rich or sufficient hedgerows 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 were introduced in England and Wales in 1997 to protect this characteristic element of the countryside. The Regulations prohibit the removal of most countryside hedgerows without first submitting a hedgerow removal notice to the local planning authority. Local planning authorities can order the retention of 'important' hedgerows but not others.

Veteran and or notable trees present within most of the hedgerows of the development parcel must be retained as one of the most valuable features within the landscape. In addition, the hedgerow that abounds Barratts Lane holds possible ancient trees and should be surveyed firstly as a pLWS and secondly as part of a Tree Preservation Order. An arboriculture survey is recommended to inform a Tree Management Strategy for the development parcel given the high value of veteran and/or notable trees present on site. 242 in total totalling 7.56 ha with 10m buffers.

The presence of recent valid amphibian records for great crested newts, smooth newt, common frog and common toad necessitates the requirement for amphibian surveys to determine the status of populations within the development parcel. The supporting pond network should be surveyed to LWS survey standard as a pond cluster.

Given the position of the proposed development in relation to metapopulations of great crested newts, the development scheme should be designed to incorporate additional aquatic features and green corridors to improve linkage between sites in addition to the retention of suitable terrestrial habitat. Sustainable urban drainage schemes should be

used to achieve conservation gains for great crested newts. Particularly, the use of drainage ladders.

Building and development work can harm great crested newts and their habitats, for example if it:

- Removes habitat or makes it unsuitable
- Disconnects or isolates habitats, eg by splitting it up
- Changes habitats of other species, reducing the newts' food sources
- Increases shade and silt in ponds or other water bodies used by the newts
- Changes the water table
- Introduces fish, which will eat newt eggs or young
- Increases the numbers of people, traffic and pollutants in the area or the amount of chemicals that run off into ponds

You should be able to avoid harming the newts, damaging or blocking access to their habitats by adjusting proposed development plans and incorporating appropriate amphibian ladders in existing and new drainage systems.

Mitigation measures must demonstrate that the assessed great crested newt population has suffered no net loss on its conservation status.

## Constraints

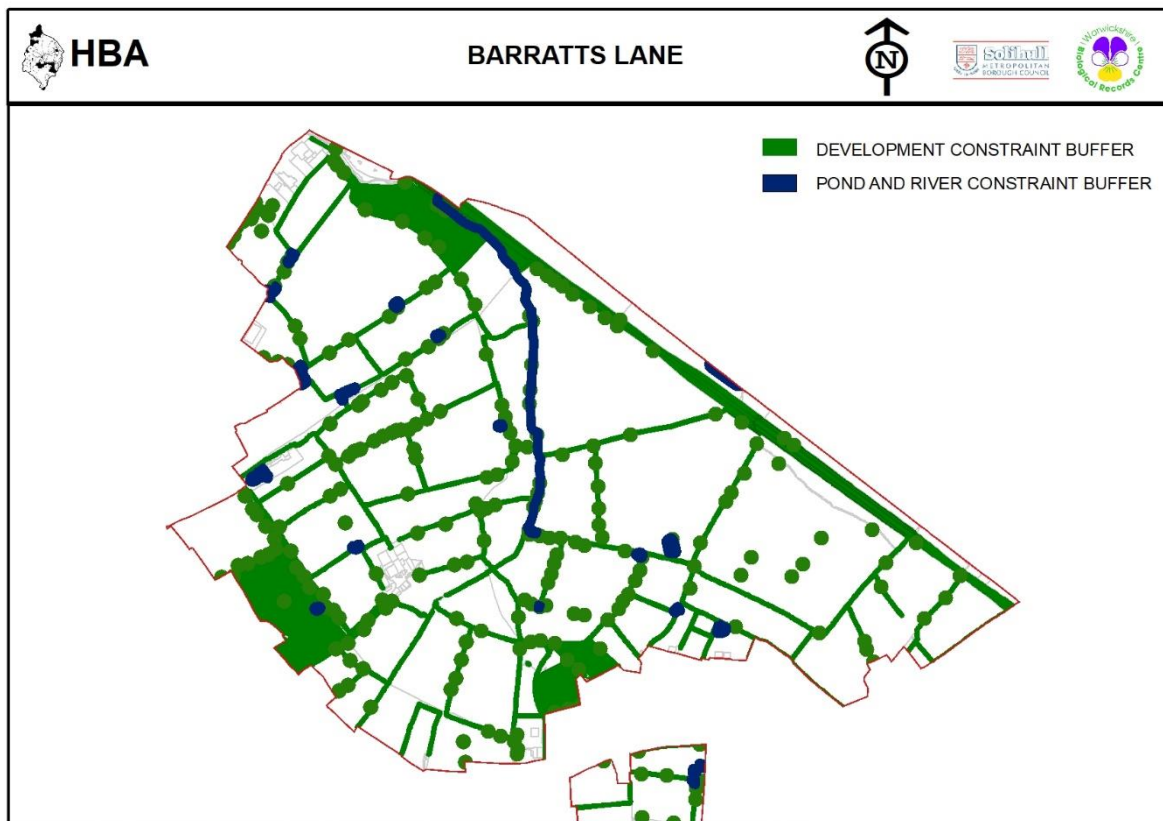


Figure 2 Constraints Map

The areas marked in green and blue on the above constraints map indicate where development should be avoided and ecological enhancement encouraged.

They include:

- 30m buffer around woodland
- 8m buffer either side of adjacent to watercourses
- 8m buffers around ponds
- 5m buffer either side of hedgerows
- Areas of medium to high distinctiveness habitats (Values 4, 5 & 6)
- Local Wildlife Sites
- Veteran/Notable Trees

Constraints equate to 17.3 % of the development parcel including an illustrative 7.56 ha (7.1%) representing a 10m buffer around all identified tree standards. 242 trees have been identified across the parcel with 14,270m of hedgerow.

## Designated Sites

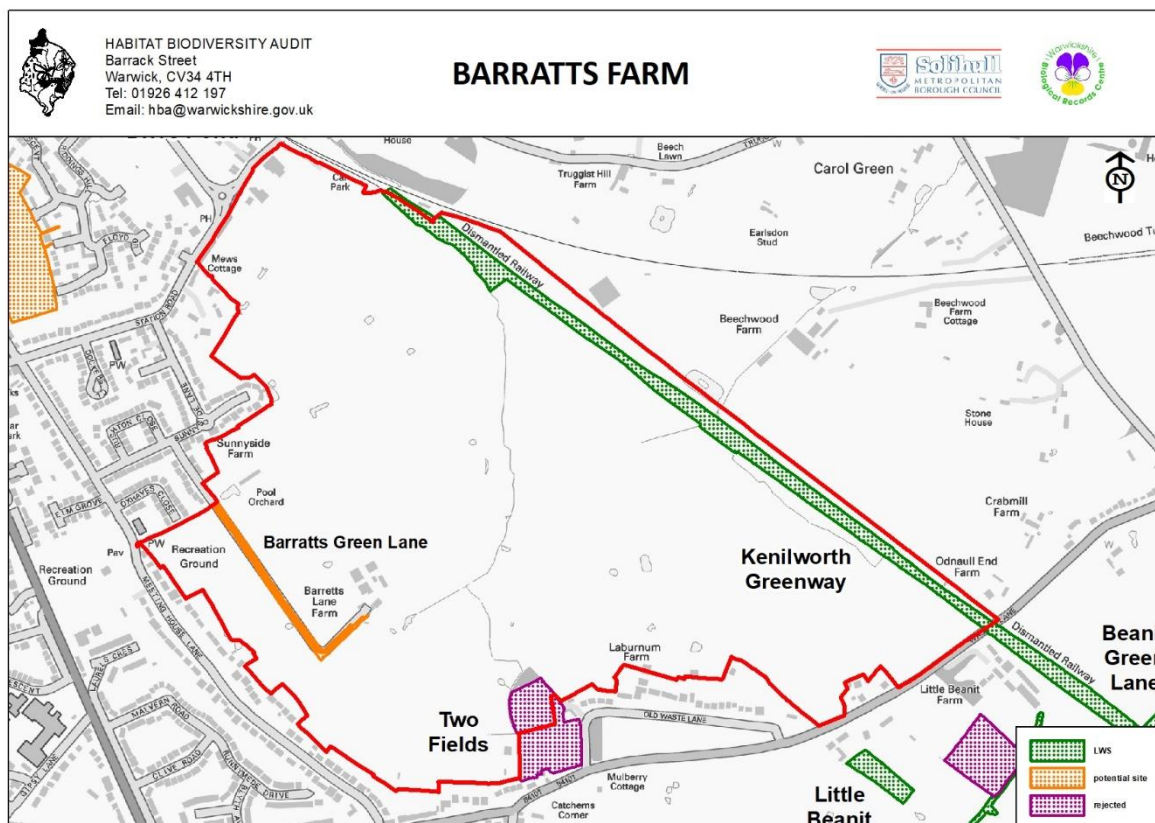


Figure 3 Site Designations

There is one designated site and one proposed site within the Barratts Farm development parcel. Two small fields on the southern border of the site were rejected as a local wildlife site in 2005<sup>1</sup>.

LWS NAME	STATUS	AREA (HA)	SURVEY DATE
KENILWORTH GREEN WAY (SP27Li9n)	LWS	0.81	04/10/01
BARRATTS GREEN LANE (SP27N7)	Potential LWS	0.32	24/08/19
TWO FIELDS (SP27N2)	Rejected LWS	1.69	22/06/05

### Local Wildlife Site

**KENILWORTH GREENWAY LWS<sup>2</sup> SP27Li9n    Area;0.81ha    Survey Date; 04/10/01**

The Kenilworth Greenway is a 6.5km long linear country park owned by Warwickshire County Council occupying the route of a former railway running from Common Lane on the perimeter of Kenilworth Common LWS, north-westwards to a point 100m east of Berkswell Station on the Coventry to Birmingham main line railway. It occupies a series of low embankments and cuttings as it crosses a mainly rural landscape of farmland and scattered woodlands; although it starts within the small suburb of Crackley on the northern edge of Kenilworth. It also passes by way of a deep cutting the linear settlement of Burton Green, part of the ribbon development extending out from Coventry along Cromwell Lane. The Greenway is a popular open green space for the general public, who use it for walking, cycling and horse riding, with direct access from the town of Kenilworth at the south-east end and the populous dormitory settlement of Balsall Common at the north-west end. It also links up with a new cyclepath running from Kenilworth to the University of Warwick, 2km to the north. The Greenway is a major wildlife corridor due to the unbroken chain of habitats, including secondary woodland, scrub, tall herb and grassland along the route. It is also important for connectivity as it links up several woodland LWSs along the route which would otherwise be now rather isolated, and these include Black Waste Wood, Broadwells Wood, Crackley Wood NR and Kenilworth Common NR. At the north-western end, it also links up directly with Beanit Green Lane LWS and is within a few metres of Beanit Farm Hedge LWS, both near Waste Lane.

The former branch railway was constructed by the London North-west Railway (LNWR) in 1884 in order to provide competition to the established GWR route between Royal Leamington Spa and Birmingham, which went via Coventry. However, it was not a commercial success for passenger traffic, partly due to the poor service and absence of stations on the route between Kenilworth Junction and Berkswell Junction, and services had declined to just one train a day by 1948. It was mainly used latterly as a freight line as it bypassed the busy junctions at Coventry and Rugby. Following the Beeching

<sup>1</sup> Local Wildlife Sites Project Two Fields – SP27N2 2005 HBA Warwick

<sup>2</sup> Local Wildlife Sites Project – HBA, Warwick



Enquiry, passenger trains stopped running along the line in 1965, followed by freight in 1969, after which the rails and most of the ballast were removed.

British Rail sold the line to WCC in 1974, who intended to open it up as a cycleway and footpath. This plan was suspended for many years however after proposals were made by British Coal to open a new pit at Hawkhurst Moor 2.5km to the north, in which case the railway would have been reopened. This application made during 1984-5 was subsequently turned down, with the railway being left to go back to nature for 20 years. Following a public meeting a Friends Group was set up in 1996 who began to work with Sustrans and the WCC to finally realise the plan for creating a cycleway. This has now been achieved, with the route being constructed with limestone and recycled materials and an all-weather path put in. The Greenway Trust was set up in 2012 in order to manage the site, now a country park, using volunteers and the WCC ranger service following an established management plan, with advice from bodies such as Warwickshire Wildlife Trust.

The topography of the Arden landscape through which the Greenway passes is gently rolling, with the altitude gradually increasing from a low of around 80m ASL where the route passes under the

A429 Coventry Road in Kenilworth, up to a maximum of around 132m ASL around Burton Green and where the site connects with Beanit Green Lane LWS. Much of the route is through moderately acidic clays of the Mercia Mudstone series, but from Kenilworth Common out to Crackley Wood the underlying geology consists of the Permian Kenilworth Sandstone overlain locally with Pleistocene sands and gravels. At the far eastern end of the LWS, the sandstone exposures on the east side of the deep cutting by Woodland Road is designated as a Local Geological Site (LGS).

The LWS is a registered public bridleway open to walking, cycling and (by permit) horse riding, but not to motorised vehicles. The Coventry Way, a long-distance public footpath, follows the Greenway from Coventry Road, Kenilworth as far as a point about 250m north-west of Waste Lane (the B4101) at Beechwood.

For descriptive purposes the LWS has been divided into four sections, namely from south-east to north-west: 1) Common Lane (Kenilworth) to Crackley Lane, 2) Crackley Lane to the border of Solihull MBC at Cromwell Lane, 3) Cromwell Lane to Waste Lane, and 4) Waste Lane to Berkswell Junction.

Waste Lane to Berkswell is the only section contained within the proposed development parcel.

#### Waste Lane to Berkswell Junction

The woodland continues for about 100m beyond Waste Lane bridge on a low embankment, with the sides and top dominated by tall mature Hawthorn scrub together with scattered Sycamore, Ash and Pedunculate Oak. Also present are occasional Holly, Dog Rose, Goat Sallow and Elder. The ground below is often dominated by Ivy, but there is still frequent to locally abundant Cow Parsley, Cleavers, Herb Bennet, Herb Robert, Bramble, Hedge Woundwort, Greater Stitchwort, Upright Hedge-parsley and Common Nettle, with occasional Common Male-fern, Foxglove, Bearded Couch and Creeping Soft-

grass. A wet flush nearest the bridge again contains a flora of Wavy Bittercress, Common Water-pepper, Creeping Buttercup and Brooklime.

From here is a long stretch of much more open steep-sided embankment, with younger dense Hawthorn scrub being restricted to the sides. This species has again invaded from the old boundary hedges which also contain frequent young Ash trees, Blackthorn, Dog and Field Roses, Goat and Grey Sallow, and Elder, with more occasional Field Maple, Sycamore, Hazel, Holly, Pedunculate Oak and Elm. The scrub is very dense, with little ground flora beneath apart from Ivy. The top of the embankment still contains rough unmanaged semi-improved grassland along this section, it being the best remaining stretch for this habitat within the LWS. False Brome tends to dominate but there is also frequent Red Fescue, Yorkshire Fog, False Oat-grass and some Hairy Brome. Meadow forbs still include frequent to locally abundant Common Knapweed, Common Mouse-ear, Perforate St.John's-wort, Meadow Vetchling, Field Forgetmenot, Tufted Vetch and White Clover, with more locally frequent Yarrow, Black Medick and Creeping Cinquefoil. Occasional species here include Imperforate St.John's-wort, Oxeye Daisy, Musk Mallow, Ribwort Plantain, Common Sorrel, Lesser Stitchwort, Narrow-leaved Vetch and notably, Lesser Burnet-saxifrage which grows near the adjoining Beechwood Farm pond. This grassland is however threatened by invasive tall herb, including locally abundant Creeping Thistle and Rosebay Willowherb, as well as increasing shade caused by the developing nearby scrub. The latter has led to the gradual spread of shade plants, which here includes locally abundant Ground-ivy and Dog's Mercury, and frequent Broad-leaved Willowherb, Black Bryony and Red Campion. Occasional woodland edge species include a Hawkweed species, Bush Vetch and both Sweet and Common Dog-violets.

Woodland reasserts itself for the last 500m of the LWS up to the former Berkswell Junction which partly lies within a shallow cutting. This young secondary woodland is dominated by tall Hawthorn and Ash, with older fenced-off Ash woodland occurring at the very end beyond the end of the footpath. Other species recorded were of occasional to rare frequency only and included Alder, Aspen, Downy Birch, Midland Hawthorn, Apple, Blackthorn, Field Rose and Goat Sallow.

Most of the banks are very shaded and are either bare or dominated by Ivy, but Herb Bennet and Common Nettle are locally abundant, while False Brome, Hairy Brome, Common Male-fern, Bearded Couch, Broad-leaved Willowherb, Dog's Mercury, Wood Dock and Common Dog-violet are all frequent. In addition, Dog's Mercury is locally dominant (with Ivy) in the fenced off woodland at the end. The cutting floor continues to have some areas of impeded drainage which has a flora comprising frequent Creeping Bent, Wavy Bittercress, Enchanter's Nightshade, Tufted Hair-grass, Great Willowherb, Common Water-pepper, Creeping Buttercup and Brooklime.

## **Fauna**

The 6.5km long site is a locally important breeding site for birds as well as providing an important food source for migrant and wintering birds. Among the species which are known to breed regularly here are Stock Dove, Tawny Owl, Green, Great Spotted and Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers, Song and Mistle Thrushes, Lesser and Common Whitethroats, Garden Warbler, Blackcap, Willow Warbler, Chiffchaff, Goldcrest, Spotted Flycatcher, Long-tailed Tit, Marsh Tit, Coal Tit, Nuthatch, Treecreeper, Jay, Linnet, Bullfinch and Yellowhammer. In addition, Sparrowhawk, Common Buzzard, Common Kestrel and Raven are resident. Some former red-listed breeding species have probably

disappeared from the LWS in the past 15 years, and these include Turtle Dove, Cuckoo, Willow Tit and Tree Sparrow. Many of these are characteristic species of woodland and scrub, for which the site provides an important connective corridor to other local woodland LWSs.

Other vertebrates known to be present include Fox, Badger, Stoat, Hedgehog, Muntjac, Grass Snake, Slow-worm, Common Toad and Common Frog. There are recent records of the county threatened Common Lizard from the Greenway near Coventry Road.

Butterflies present within the LWS include Purple Hairstreak, Common Blue, Holly Blue, Small Copper and Speckled Wood, with the Greenway being potentially an important means for this group to disperse and colonise new sites in the area. Glow-worms have been recorded in the grassier stretches but are probably declining as these areas scrub over. Hornets are now common.

### **Rejected Local Wildlife Site**

#### **TWO FIELDS SP27N2<sub>1</sub>**

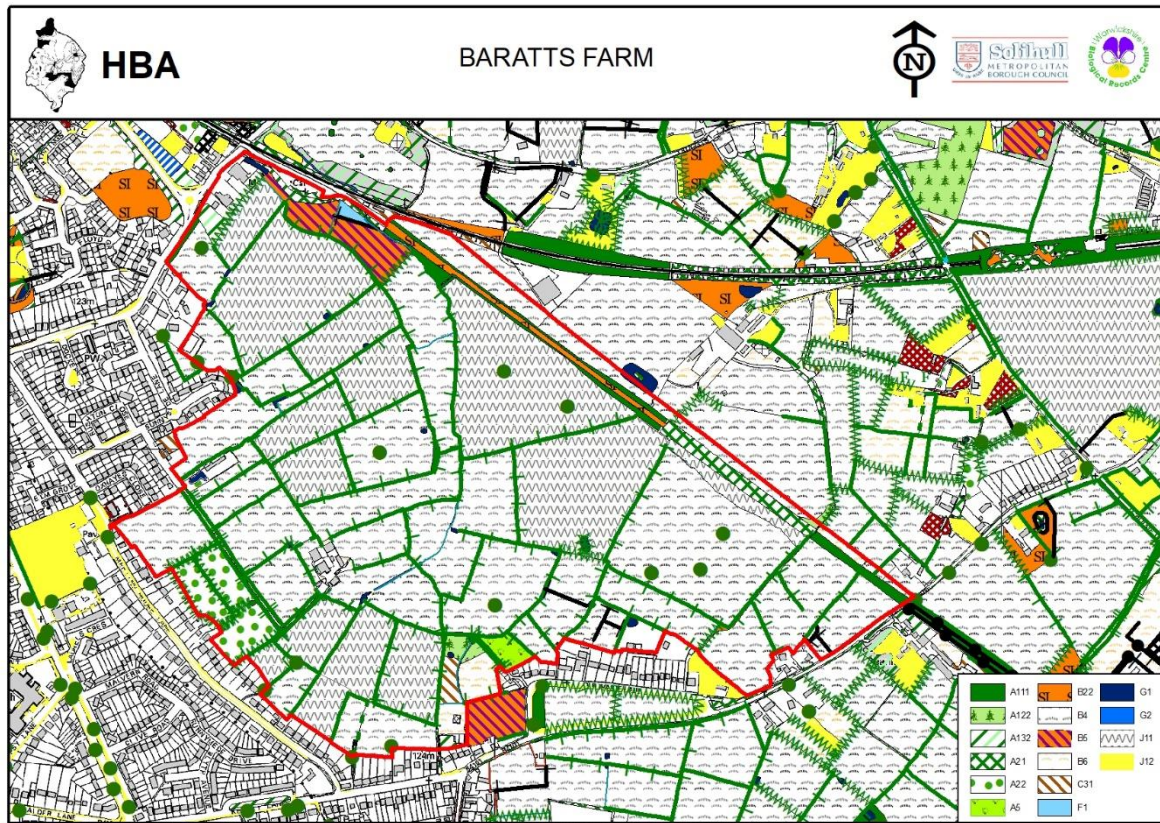
**1.6 ha**

Small heavily sheep grazed pasture over ridge and furrow. Difficult to accurately assess due to short sward but appeared largely grass dominated. There is a good range of grass species typical of semi-improved grassland including frequent Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Yorkshire Fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), occasional Meadow Foxtail (*Alopercurus pratensis*), Tufted Hair-grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*), Rough Meadow grass (*Poa trivialis*), with rare Cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*) and Timothy (*Phleum pratense*).

The majority of the field appears to be herb poor with Common Sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*), Creeping Buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*) and White Clover (*Trifolium repens*) all occasional to frequent throughout. Lesser Stitchwort (*Stellaria graminea*) is also occasional. Nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and Creeping Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) are locally abundant in the south-west. There is some species richness in the north of the field where a narrow strip of damp ground runs east to west across most of the field. Species include locally abundant Sharp-flowered Rush (*Juncus acutiflorous*), occasional Common Bird's-foot Trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), Meadow Vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*), Field Wood-rush (*Luzula campestris*), Soft Rush (*Juncus effusus*), locally frequent Lady's Smock (*Cardamine pratensis*), Hairy Sedge (*Carex hirta*) and Tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*).

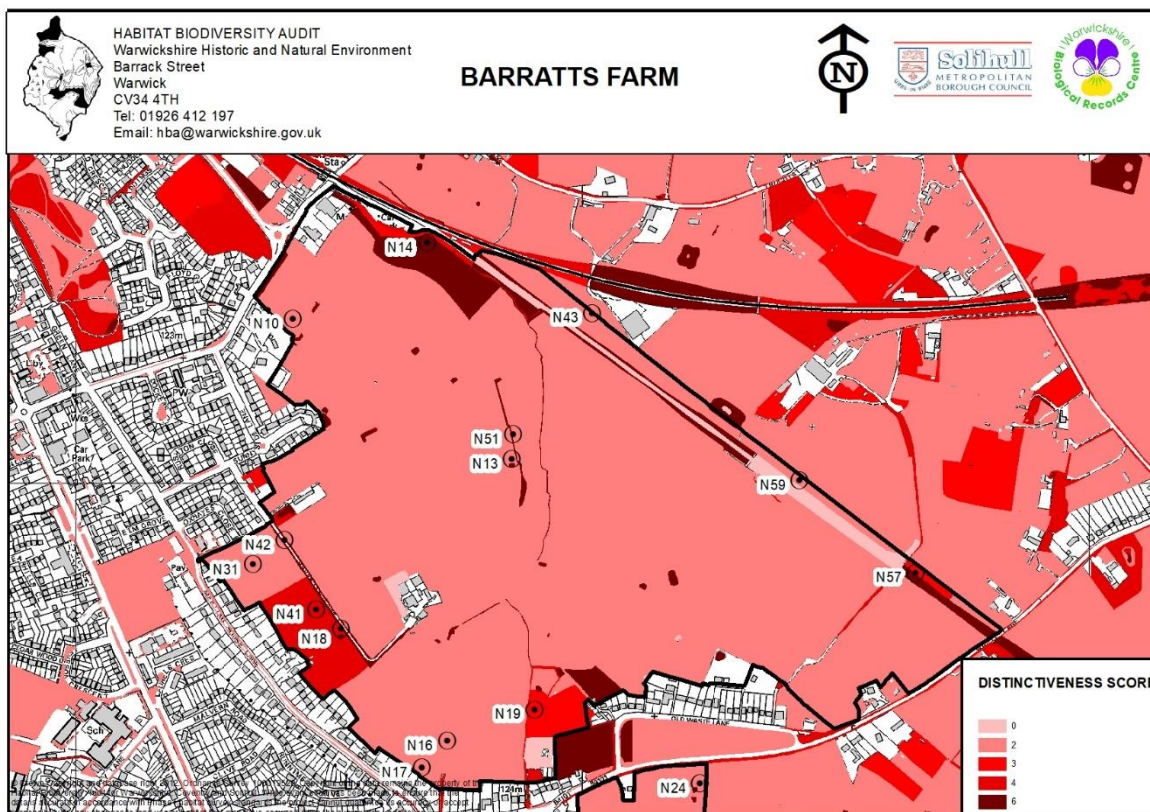
The field is surrounded by tall, gappy unmanaged hedges with some mature Oak (*Quercus robur*). Shrubs include Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*). There is also some Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*). The ground flora includes occasional Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*).

# Habitat Description



**Figure 4 Phase 1 Habitats**

The habitats present consist mostly of improved grassland (B4) equating to 56.9% with low habitat distinctiveness and arable farmland at 31%. Previously identified better quality grasslands have been assessed of in-determinate quality as they continue to be heavily grazed. Some of these fields retain their ridge and furrow character. The site does have an interconnection of non-species rich hedgerows with a network of veteran/notable trees within those hedgerows. The hedgerows are well-established and form an important character of the landscape. A species rich hedgerow marks Barratts Lane with veteran tree standards showing great age to the hedgerow. Semi-improved grasslands as a mosaic with scattered scrub equates to 3 ha or 2.8% of the total development parcel. Poor or rank semi-improved grassland equates to 1.1 ha or 1.0 %. Marshy grassland and swamp habitat equate to 2.7 ha or 2.6%.



**Figure 5 Habitat Distinctiveness & Target Notes**

The most distinct habitats are scattered scrub and semi-improved grassland parcels (B22) prevalent on the south-western boundary. These should be retained and incorporated within development proposals. Marshy grassland (B5) to the north and the south of the development parcel as well as small broad-leaved woodland components along Barratts Lane and the disused railway as too a planted orchard (A5).

## Target Notes

Number	Grid Reference	Survey Date
SP27N10	SP2442777314	21/07/1997

Improved old pasture with very irregular topography and a mature mixed plantation of sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) and scots pine (*Pinus sylvestica*) bordering Station Road.

**UPDATE GP 24/08/19**

Habitats remains as described.

**SP27N13**

**SP2486077037**

**21/07/1997**

Pond unshaded by any large trees or shrubs coated instead by duckweeds (*Lemna* spp.) with little open water. Banks and edges have good mix of grasses and herbs including small reed's (*Calamagrostis* spp.), floating sweet-grass (*Glyceria fluitans*), reed canary-grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), timothy (*Phleum pratense*), cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*), soft rush (*Juncus effusus*), celery-leaved buttercup (*Ranunculus sceleratus*) and redshank (*Persicaria maculosa*).

**UPDATE GP 24/08/19**

Habitats remains as described.

**SP27N14**

**SP2469277464**

**21/07/1997**

Damp corner dominated by meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*) with frequent creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) and occasional marsh thistle (*Cirsium palustre*).

**UPDATE GP 24/08/19**

Marshy grassland with extensive pooling in and around Berkswell Station Car Park.

**SP27N16**

**SP2473176482**

**05/07/2012**

Marshy area bordered to north and east by a deep ditch with soft rush (*Juncus effusus*), small sweet-grass (*Glyceria declinata*) and reed sweet-grass (*Glyceria maxima*). The rest of the area is a mixture of tufted hair-grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*), reed canary-grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), broad-leaved dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*) and common nettle (*Urtica dioica*).

**UPDATE 05/07/2012**

Now a private property with mown grassland.

**UPDATE GP 24/08/2019**

Short grassland behind residential properties with mixed management.

**SP27N17**

**SP2468176429**

**05/07/2012**

Neglected improved grassland invaded by tall ruderal vegetation.

**UPDATE 05/07/2012**

Now a private property with mown grassland.

**UPDATE GP 24/08/2019**

Short grassland behind residential properties with mixed management.

**SP27N18**

**SP2452276702**

**21/07/1997**

Mesotrophic pond with mostly open water with floating sweet-grass (*Glyceria fluitans*), yellow iris (*Iris pseudacorus*) and water plantain (*Alisma plantago-aquatica*).

**UPDATE GP 24/08/2019**

Pond remains as described with some goat willow (*Salix caprea*) encroachment.

**SP27N19**

**SP2490576543**

**21/07/1997**

Private garden with a recently created pond and introduced plant species.

**UPDATE GP 24/08/2019**

Tall ruderal vegetation separated as a distinct parcel with a scrubby pond in the northern segment adjacent to mixed coniferous and broad-leaved plantation

**SP27N31**

**SP2434876830**

**05/07/2012**

Holly blue (*Celastrina argiolus*) noted in farmyard.

**UPDATE 05/07/2012**

Now a mown field which is privately owned by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham.

**UPDATE GP 24/08/2019**

Now a recreational ground known as Meeting House Lane Park adjacent to the Blessed Robert Grissold Catholic Church

**SP27N41**

**SP2447376740**

**05/07/2012**

Neglected semi-improved grassland meadow dominated by tall grasses including cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*) and creeping soft-grass (*Holcus mollis*) alongside patches of meadow vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*) and oak (*Quercus robur*) saplings throughout.

**UPDATE GP 24/08/2019**

Scattered scrub with patches of neglected semi-improved grassland still dominated by tall grasses with a field pond edged by goat willow (*Salix caprea*)

**SP27N42**

**SP2441176877**

**05/07/2012**

Species rich-hedgerow with trees containing specimens of common hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), midland hawthorn (*Crataegus laevigata*), hazel (*Corylus avellana*), crab apple (*Malus sylvestris*), holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), oak (*Quercus robur*) and ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*). Ground flora includes foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*),

bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg), creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), ivy (*Hedera helix*), hedge woundwort (*Stachys sylvatica*), cleavers (*Galium aparine*), common nettle (*Urtica dioica*), honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*), herb-robert (*Geranium robertianum*), field rose (*Rosa arvensis*) with yellow iris (*Iris pseudacorus*) recorded frequently in a wet ditch. The hedge is well maintained but is scrubby and up to 25m high.

**UPDATE GP 24/08/19**

Species rich-hedgerow as described with pedunculate oak and ash standards. The age and character of specimens should be surveyed under Tree Preservation Orders and the green lane to LWS standard.

**SP27N51**

**SP2486277086**

**05/07/2012**

An important linear feature, which comprises of a continuous line of sessile oak (*Quercus petraea*) alongside occasional goat willow (*Salix caprea*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and a poplar (*Populus* sp.) species. The under-storey comprises of bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and dog rose (*Rosa canina*). The fenced hedgerow prevents stock damage and is shadowed by a wet ditch along its entire length.

**UPDATE GP 24/08/19**

Habitat remains as described.

**SP27N57**

**SP2565776813**

**05/07/2012**

Kenilworth Greenway LWS of the dismantled Coventry to Birmingham Railway Line comprising predominately of common hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) scrub with additional specimens of ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), field maple (*Acer campestre*), young oak (*Quercus robur*), hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*). The ground flora includes scattered bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), meadow vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*), perforate St John's-wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), bush vetch (*Vicia sepium*), black medick (*Medicago lupulina*) and hedge woundwort (*Stachys sylvatica*).

**UPDATE GP 24/08/2019**

Most of the Kenilworth Greenway remains as described except for scrub succeeding to developing woodland and HS2 construction works having started.

**SP27N59**

**SP2542876995**

**05/07/2012**

Raised section of Kenilworth Greenway LWS of the dismantled Coventry to Birmingham Railway Line with dense linear scrub on either side including midland hawthorn (*Crataegus laevigata*), goat willow (*Salix caprea*), elder (*Sambucus nigra*), dog-rose (*Rosa canina*) and occasional oak (*Quercus robur*) and ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*). The railway supported an old badger (*Meles meles*) sett. The dismantled railway lines opens to a wide track composed of scattered grassland and scrub comprising of spear thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium*), bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*

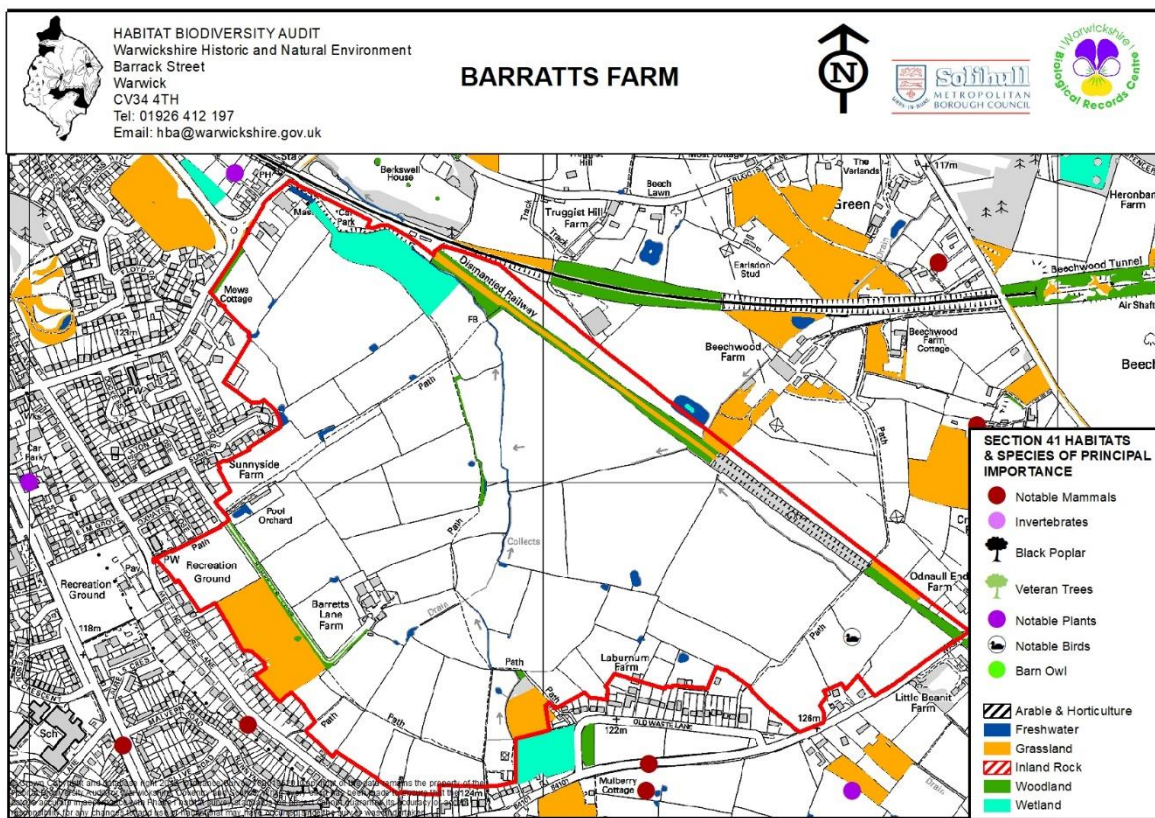


agg.), tufted vetch (*Vicia cracca*), perforate St John's-wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), common nettle (*Urtica dioica*), black medick (*Medicago lupulina*), white dead-nettle (*Lamium album*) and red campion (*Silene dioica*).

**UPDATE GP 24/08/2019**

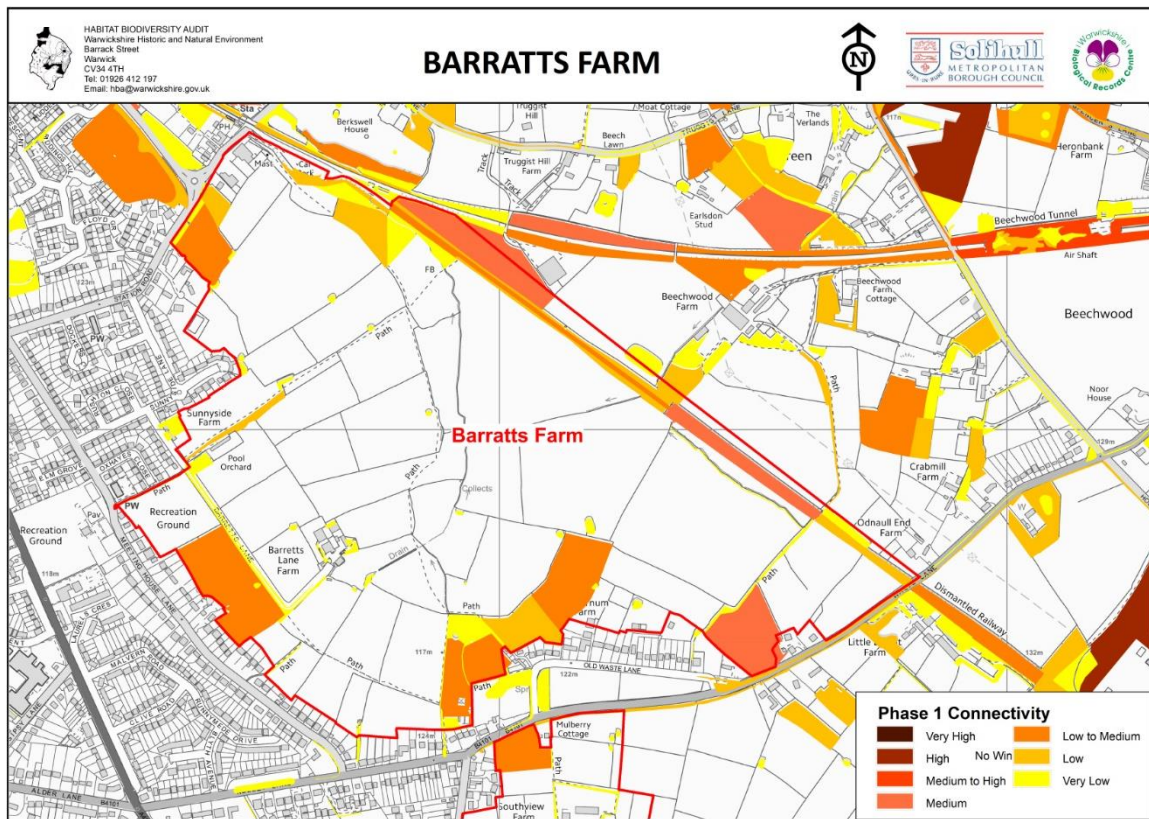
Most of the Kenilworth Greenway remains as described except for scrub succeeding to developing woodland and HS2 construction works having

**Habitats and Species of Conservation Importance**



**Figure 6 Section 41 Habitats & Species of Principal Importance**

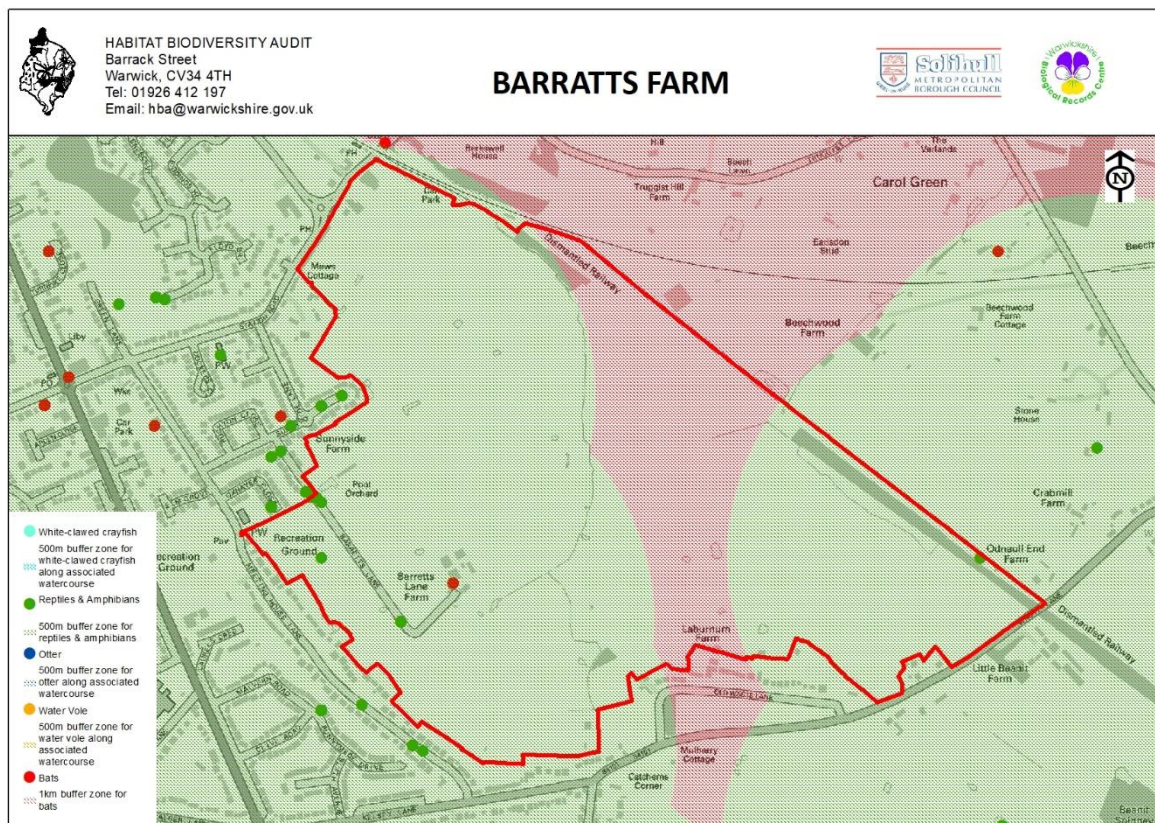
# Habitat Connectivity



**Figure 7 Habitat Connectivity**

Semi-improved grasslands occupy medium connectivity and those areas highlighted on the southern and western boundary should be enhanced as grassland creation and enhancement zones.

## Protected Species



**Figure 8 Protected Species**

The development proposal holds modern records for breeding great crested newts (*Triturus cristatus*). The Warwickshire Reptile and Amphibian Network recorded great crested newts within and immediately adjacent to the proposed development within residential properties on and adjoining to Barratts and Sunnyside Lane in 2015. A great crested newt breeding pond lies just inside the central western boundary of the development parcel, which in addition supports a pond network in addition to suitable terrestrial habitat for great crested newts. An assessment of the status and distribution of the population will be required.

In the same survey, numerous records indicated strong populations for smooth newt (*Lissotriton vulgaris*), common toad (*Bufo bufo*) and common frog (*Rana temporaria*) within similar habitats along Meeting House, Barratts and Sunnyside Lane.

The likely presence of strong populations of amphibians necessitates that the first aim will be to avoid negative effects on amphibian populations by re-designing the development scheme to avoid habitat fragmentation by creating corridors or stepping stones of habitat to join up populations, altering road routes, installing green bridges and creating new breeding and terrestrial habitats on both sides of roads to prevent road casualties.

It is essential that new habitats are designed to avoid trapping amphibians by using sloping kerbs either side of gully pots, creating draining schemes without sumps and not using kerbs.

Modern records from 2012 for Brown Long-Eared (*Plecotus auritus*) and pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus* sp.) bats supersede records from 2006, 100m-300m from the western development parcel boundary.

Roosting and foraging bats of common pipistrelle and noctule (*Nyctalus noctula*) (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) from 2005 are superseded in 2013, 500m from the development parcel on Station and Kenilworth Road.