



Shropshire
Wildlife Trust

Revised Guidelines for the Selection of Local Sites in Shropshire



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Shropshire Wildlife Trust

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Amendments		
Date	Change	By Whom
April 2008	Page numbers added and this table added	Colin Wright SWT
April 2010	Habitat Connectivity and Nationally'/locally rare criteria added.	Robin Mager SWT
Oct 2013	Species-rich meadow criteria changed	Fiona Gomersall SWT
Jan 2014	Revised botanical data	Fiona Gomersall SWT
Mar 2014	Revised document	Local Sites Partnership
Nov 2014	Invertebrate criteria revised and methodology for selection	Carolin Uff (NT), SCC
Dec 2014	Geomorphological revisions other general amendments	Mary Steer (SGS) Dan Wrench and Alison Slade (SCC)
Dec 2014	Flow diagram added regarding procedure. Species additions to heathland criteria	Kate Singleton SWT
Nov 2017	Fungi criteria, invertebrate habitat criteria, churchyard criteria added. Sphagnum added to Bog criteria	Kate Singleton

1 Introduction

In general, throughout the UK, Local Sites (or their equivalent) are selected following evaluation of their nature conservation and geological/geomorphological value against local guidelines or criteria. Sites are eligible for selection if they meet certain minimum standards.

This document sets out guidelines for the selection of Local Sites in Shropshire, which comprises the unitary authority areas of Shropshire Council and Telford & Wrekin Council.

1.1 What is a Local Site?

A “Local Site” can be either a Local Wildlife Site (LWS) and/or a Local Geological Site (LGS). They are not to be confused with Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Local Sites are non-statutory but are taken into account as part of the planning process.

A LWS is a site which is considered to have substantive nature conservation value on the geographical scale of a county, or in some cases, its current equivalent in local authority jurisdiction (e.g. unitary authority area). Local Wildlife Sites are the most important places for wildlife outside legally protected land such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs).

In some instances Local Sites will be of local geological and/or geomorphological interest, in which case they will be known as Local Geological Sites (LGS). LGS replaces the RIGS (or Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Site).

Although the term “Local Site” has now been widely adopted, these sites are sometimes referred to by other names (such as Wildlife Sites, County Wildlife Sites, Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation, Sites of Nature Conservation Importance and Second Tier Sites). In Shropshire they were formerly called Prime Sites for Nature Conservation and Wildlife Sites.

1.2 Why are Local Sites Important?

“Although the system of statutory designations (such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest) contains well over a million hectares, it is widely recognised as leaving out many sites that are, nevertheless, of significant value for the conservation of wildlife and geological features. This is because the purpose of such statutory designations is to provide a representative (rather than a comprehensive) suite of sites. The individual sites exemplifying the nation’s most important wildlife and geological features, rather than including every site with such interest.

In most areas, local authorities, working with other local partners, have set up systems of locally valued non-statutory sites (Local Sites). These are important because:

- Local Site networks provide a comprehensive rather than a representative suite of sites;
- Local Sites provide wildlife refuges for most of the UK's fauna and flora and, through their connecting and buffering qualities, they complement other site networks;
- Local Sites have a significant role to play in meeting overall national biodiversity targets;
- Local Sites represent local character and distinctiveness;
- Local Sites contribute to the quality of life and well-being of the community, with many sites providing opportunities for research and education"

(Extract from "Local Sites; Guidance on their identification, Selection and Management", DEFRA 2006)

2 The Local Sites Partnership

As advised in the DEFRA 2006 Guidance, a partnership has been created that deals with Local Sites in Shropshire. This partnership comprises representatives from Shropshire Wildlife Trust, Shropshire Council, Telford and Wrekin Council, Natural England, Environment Agency, Forestry Commission and The Geological Society and is known as the "Local Sites Partnership".

The key roles of the Local Sites Partnership are:

- to assess and monitor the condition of existing Local Sites;
- to identify and select new Local Sites (candidate sites);
- to promote appropriate management of sites;
- to offer advice and support to site owners;
- to promote the enhancement of sites through buffering and increasing connectivity.

3 Policies Relating to the Selection of Local Sites

Policies that relate to Local Sites are described below:

3.1 National Policy relating to selection of Local Sites

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

Key policies relating to the selection and protection of Local Sites are contained within the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

The key principle in NPPF (paragraph 109) is that Local Authorities should work to 'establish coherent ecological networks.' *Making Space for Nature: A Review of England's Wildlife Sites and Ecological Network* by Sir John Lawton makes it clear that local wildlife sites are considered to be a key aspect of a coherent ecological network and places great weight on the need for our core biodiversity areas to be bigger, better, more and better connected. NPPF also makes clear references to the role of Local Authorities in 'promoting the preservation, restoration and recreation' of priority habitats and ecological networks.

Local Sites: Guidance on their Identification, Selection and Management (DEFRA 2006)

These published guidelines provide guidance on the development and management of systems to identify sites of local importance for nature conservation in England. It deals with the management of Local Site systems for biodiversity and geological conservation which complements the series of internationally and nationally designated wildlife and geological sites.

3.2 Local Planning Policy relating to Local Sites

Local sites are a material consideration within the planning system by virtue of the protection offered to them through Local Planning Policy.

In Telford and Wrekin saved policies from the Wrekin Local Plan and Core Strategy give protection to Local Sites and, in due course, will be replaced by policies in the new Draft Local Plan for Telford & Wrekin which is currently in production and should be available in draft early in 2015 and formally adopted later that year. Those draft plan policies are anticipated to recognise the contribution of Local Sites to ecological networks and green infrastructure and to offer them, and their ecological functions, protection during the development process.

In Shropshire Core Strategy policy CS17: Environmental Networks (together with the Environmental Networks Map that accompanies this document) states that all development will be required to avoid 'significant adverse impacts on Shropshire's environmental assets.' Local Wildlife Sites are clearly defined in the supporting text as being a key part of Shropshire's environmental assets.

4 Procedure

4.1 Background to the Existing Local Sites

Shropshire has over 600 Local Wildlife Sites and 323 Local Geological Sites.

The LWS were largely identified from a habitat survey of Shropshire undertaken between 1978 and 1979. A team of ecologists was employed to carry out a field by field survey of the county with the aim of ascertaining the nature, extent and distribution of places with ecological interest. Over 4000 sites were identified. Of these almost 60, including some geological sites, had already been designated as nationally important sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs) and so received statutory protection. The other sites were further assessed using criteria such as rarity, species number, size and of these approximately 600 sites were identified as being valuable and worthy of conservation in a county context.

These sites were known as Prime Sites (and later became County Wildlife Sites) and Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites (RIGS). These are now known collectively as Local Sites.

4.2 Contacting Landowners

When an existing Local Site (or candidate Local Site) requires surveying then permission to access the land will be sought from the landowner, agent and/or tenant (whichever applicable).

In the DEFRA guidance it states “Site owners should, whenever possible, be contacted and asked for access permission to survey and monitor sites. This initial engagement will provide an ideal opportunity to discuss the implications of the survey and potential site selection and offer an opportunity for the site owner to raise any issues.”

In the majority of cases it will be Shropshire Wildlife Trust who will contact landowners, but permission may be sought from anyone from the Local Sites Partnership.

Every effort shall be made to contact the correct landowners, however this can be very difficult in some cases. Under no circumstances will the land be entered without consent, however information may be obtained from other sources (refer to 4.4 below) or from observations from neighbouring land and used in consideration by the Local Sites Partnership (LSP).

4.3 Site Survey

As a baseline to assess the Local Wildlife Site or potential LWS, a survey will be undertaken by a competent person or group. This tends to be a botanical survey, however, a site may have conservation interest in its fauna, e.g. birds, butterflies, invertebrates etc. in which case other specialist surveys may be arranged.

For botanical surveys the appropriate site evaluation form will be used. These forms are held at the Shropshire Wildlife Trust. Other methodologies may be adopted for specific species.

Where any uncertainty occurs over a species the surveyor shall either validate the species with the appropriate County Recorder or if this is not possible then not record the species for the site.

4.4 Identification of New (Candidate) Local Sites

As well as assessing whether the existing Local Sites still retain their nature conservation or geological/geomorphological features the Local Sites Partnership has the responsibility to identify new (or candidate) Local Sites.

There are a number of ways that potential new Local Sites can be identified. On some sites there will already be sufficient habitat or species survey data to warrant consideration for Local Site status. Frequently, parcels of interesting habitat may have been seen in the landscape or may be known to local wildlife and biodiversity groups or local authorities or governmental organisations and may require further investigation. Also, the Phase 1 habitat surveys¹ being carried out across the county can identify areas that could be of substantive nature conservation interest, but again are likely to need a more detailed survey. Historical information, such as species data from the County Recorders can be used to assess the significance of the site, however, the data should not be older than 5 years unless there are exceptional circumstances.

4.5 Evaluation and Adoption of New Local Sites

Once survey information has been collected and assessed, any candidate sites that meet the selection criteria are presented to the Local Sites Partnership with the evidence for their selection. The Local Sites Partnership considers the proposed new sites and the reasons for their selection and where this is agreed the site is provisionally adopted as a Local Site.

The landowner is contacted to inform them of the decision to adopt the site as a Local Site and the owner is given 28 days to make observations prior to its final endorsement; for example on whether or not the site hosts the listed features; provides the functions stated and accords with the assessment made against the selection criteria.

Where no observations are made the Local Site will be formally adopted.

Where observations have been made by the landowner these are presented to the Local Sites Partnership (along with any further information needed to make a decision) for consideration. Following further consideration the landowner is once again contacted to inform them of the final decision.

¹ The Phase 1 habitat classification and associated field survey technique provides a relatively rapid system to record semi-natural vegetation and other wildlife habitat. The Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey describes the methodology.

Under the DEFRA guidance the objective of site selection is to select *all* sites that meet the criteria.

When considering any observations from landowners the LSP will take into account the following (none of which affects the landowner's right to make observations within the 28 day period):

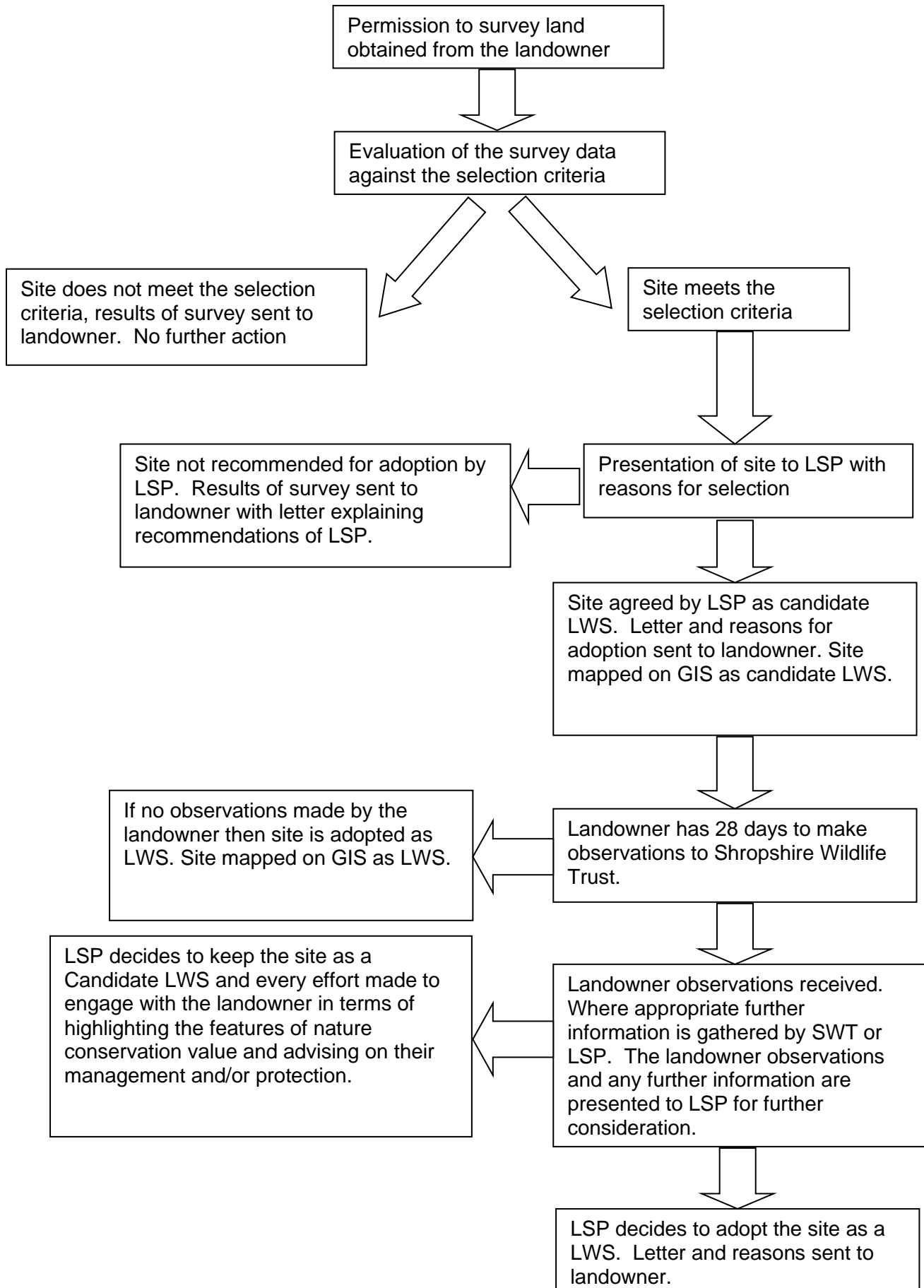
- Where the candidate LWS lies on land for which the landowner has been in receipt of agri-environmental payments to protect and enhance nature conservation, then it is assumed that the landowner already recognises that the land has some higher environmental value.
- Where the candidate LWS is owned by Shropshire Council or Telford & Wrekin Council or other public body then it is understood they have a duty to promote biodiversity and the natural environment.²
- Where the site is in private ownership and/or access to the site has/has not been formally granted to undertake a survey then the candidate site will still be registered and mapped. In recognition that it is best to work with the landowner, every effort will be made to engage with the landowner in terms of highlighting the features of nature conservation value of the site and advising on their management and/or protection.

² Guidance for Public Authorities on Implementing the Biodiversity Duty

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69311/pb12585-pa-guid-english-070516.pdf

Process of Adoption of New Local Sites

(LSP = Local Sites Partnership)



4.6 Deselection and Amendments of Local Wildlife Sites

The LSP can de-select sites if their nature conservation interest deteriorates to such an extent that they no longer qualify as Local Sites. De-selection proposals may be prompted by an individual or picked up during monitoring. If sites are proposed for deselection, owners and other interested parties will be notified and given the opportunity to make observations. Formal de-selection, once agreed by the partnership, will be notified to owners and other interested parties.

In considering whether to de-select a site, the partnership will consider any implications for the provision of contact with nature and the availability of sites for educational use. The potential for restoring the site's features of interest will also be a consideration. This is particularly relevant where a site has been deliberately damaged, or degraded through neglect or inappropriate management.

(Extract from "Local Sites; Guidance on their identification, Selection and Management", DEFRA 2006)

4.7 Mapping and Use of Data

Each Local Site or Candidate Site is given a unique reference number and information relating to each site is held at Shropshire Wildlife Trust's headquarters in Shrewsbury. The information may be held on paper files and electronic files and is primarily used to advise landowners of the nature conservation of their site and to respond to planning applications which may have an affect on a Local Site.

For Local Authorities and Statutory Agencies the Local Sites data is for their own internal use and SWT ask that they seek permission before releasing to any third party.

The boundaries of Local Sites and Candidate Local Sites are mapped on a Geographical Information System (GIS). GIS data is shared with Natural England, Environment Agency, Forestry Commission, both Local Authorities and the National Trust for use in land management, planning issues, agri-environmental applications, water quality assessment and evaluation of the health of the County.

In addition the Local Site boundaries and a basic description are given in response to data requests by external consultants, such as developers, who need to meet the requirements of the planning process.

A database containing the contact details of the landowners is held at SWT however this information is not made public and only used to keep in contact with the landowner on Local Sites issues.

Information for Local Geological Sites is held at Shropshire Council with more detail about each site held by the Shropshire Geological Society.

5 Selection Criteria

5.1 Introduction

The following guidelines set out what is considered to constitute “substantive nature conservation value” in a Shropshire context. They form the basis upon which a Local Wildlife Site can be assessed by the Local Sites Partnership (LSP).

The guidelines are based primarily on criteria first used by Ratcliffe (1977) to identify key national sites and which have generally formed the basis for nature conservation evaluation systems since then. The main criteria used here are size, diversity, rarity, naturalness and typicalness. How these criteria are applied varies between habitats and species/species groups. For more detail on these criteria refer to The Wildlife Sites Handbook (The Wildlife Trusts, 1997).

In order to qualify/quantify the guidelines in a Shropshire context (for example the rarity of a particular species in Shropshire), reference is made to a number of existing documents. Where information is lacking, certain of the guidelines apply an expert, but subjective, assessment of what constitutes a “substantive nature conservation interest” for the county.

In recognition of the importance of wildlife to people, and more fundamentally their need to engage with it in order to appreciate and become involved in its conservation, a set of criteria to cover the social aspect of wildlife sites has been incorporated. These criteria supplement and add weight to the nature conservation value of a site. They elaborate on Ratcliffe’s Criteria and on the social criteria, sections 10.1 & 10.2 of the previously adopted selection criteria. They are based on those currently in use by the Wildlife Trust for Birmingham & Black Country and we acknowledge their kind permission to adapt them for use in Shropshire.

5.1.1 Local Geological and Geomorphological Sites

For the assessment of Local Geological Site:

The sites are selected on a local basis according to the following nationally agreed criteria:

- The value of a site for educational purposes in life-long learning
- The value of a site for study by both amateur and professional Earth scientists
- The historical value of a site in terms of important advances in Earth science knowledge, events or human exploitation
- The aesthetic value of a site in the landscape, particularly in relation to promoting public awareness and appreciation of Earth sciences.

(Extract from Natural England website)

5.2 Defining “Site Boundaries”

5.2.1 *Boundaries for Habitats*

In many cases the boundary of the area of habitat(s) considered eligible for selection will be an obvious physical feature (e.g. a field boundary) and for wetland sites, where known, the hydrological zone of influence of the site will be considered on a case-by-case basis. However, in some cases, habitats of significant nature conservation value may comprise only part of a field, or an area with no clear physical boundary. In these instances the Wildlife Site boundary will generally follow a clear feature on the ground (such as a field boundary) and thus may encompass areas of habitat of lower nature conservation value.

Where the boundary of a Wildlife Site comprises linear habitat (e.g. hedgerow, ditch, dry stone wall) this will normally be included within the Site as additional habitat. Where boundaries are of high nature conservation value in their own right this should be noted (see also habitat mosaics below).

Rivers, Streams and other linear water features

The usual boundary for rivers, streams or other linear water features would be the break of slope, thus including the bank-side habitat, but semi-natural riparian habitat directly associated with, and immediately adjacent to, the watercourse could also be included in the Wildlife Site (see also habitat mosaics below).

5.2.2 *Boundaries for Species*

The boundary of a site required for the conservation of species, can be problematic, especially for highly mobile species (for example certain bird and bat species).

As a general rule:

- the boundary should encompass all habitat at the recorded location of the species considered likely to be required for its conservation.
- the boundary will often follow physical features on the ground in a similar way to that described for habitats above.
- For more specialist species the Local Sites Partnership will refer back to advice from the County Recorder or specialist group,

Details are given under the appropriate species guidelines.

5.2.3 *Boundaries for Geology and Geomorphology*

Wherever possible the boundaries are kept as close to the ‘outcrop’ as possible but if this is not possible as there is no obvious demarcation on the ground then the boundary is drawn to a recognised feature e.g. a fence line. When it comes to underground features like mines then the entrance is mapped as the surface manifestation of the site.

6 Habitat Selection Criteria

Initially habitat types were based on those originally defined by the Nature Conservancy Council in 1990, commonly known as Phase 1 habitat types. These have been revised slightly to reflect the work by the United Kingdom Biodiversity Steering Group to identify priority habitats now known as '[Habitats of Principal Importance in England](#)' as listed in Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006). Those habitats listed in the former Shropshire Biodiversity Action plan are no longer valid due to the lack of a formal review process for these habitats. As our knowledge of the plant communities for each site increases through the use of the National Vegetation Classification system we are able to provide a more accurate quantification of the resource of each of these habitats and allow for an assessment of habitat loss and gain across the counties. Taking into account the past history of site survey in the County and the various methodologies used, the habitat types below are perhaps best described as a hybrid of NCC, NVC and BAP systems.

Note that some areas of habitat which are not eligible for selection under the following habitat guidelines may qualify for selection under the species guidelines.

6.1 Woodland, scrub and trees

The following are considered eligible for selection:

6.1.1 *Broadleaved semi-natural woodland:*

- All ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW) included in the provisional Shropshire Inventory of Ancient Woodlands (AWI) (Carter, 1988) that retains a semi-natural structure and species composition could be selected.
- Semi-natural woodland not recorded in the AWI but believed to be ancient and more than 1ha in extent (refer to Appendix 1 Section 1 Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland)
- Semi-natural woodland not recorded in the AWI and not necessarily believed to be ancient but which support more than 0.5ha of wet woodland (ie: typical examples of NVC Communities W1-W7)
- Flora to include at least two frequent and four occasional woodland groundflora axiophytes, along with a good number of vascular plant species generally associated with ancient woodland (examples listed in Carter, 1988) widespread throughout the site.

6.1.2 *Plantation:*

Plantation woodland on an ancient woodland site (PAWS) (either included in the AWI or believed to be an ancient woodland site) which retains significant features characteristic of ASNW (Appendix 1 Section 1 – Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland) For example:

- At least two frequent and four occasional woodland axiophytes along with a good number of vascular plant species generally associated with ancient woodland (examples listed in Carter, 1988) widespread throughout the site ;
- frequent mature/over-mature broadleaved trees which pre-date replanting;
- significant patches of semi-natural vegetation (in the canopy, shrub layer and/or field layer).

6.1.3 Veteran Trees/Parkland with scattered trees/Traditional Orchard:

Groups of open-grown, large, mature/over-mature, site-native trees occurring in parkland or other habitat.

Traditional orchards are defined, for priority habitat purposes, as groups of fruit and nut trees planted on vigorous rootstocks at low densities in permanent grassland; and managed in a low intensity way. Cobnut plats are also included. (Taken from: *UK Biodiversity Action Plan; Priority Habitat Descriptions. BRIG (ed. Ant Maddock) 2008*).

6.2 Grassland

The following are considered eligible for selection:

6.2.1 Lowland & Upland Acid Grassland

Acid (calcifugous) grassland which supports at least six axiophytes (at least 2 frequent and 4 occasional) indicative of agriculturally unimproved acid grasslands (as listed in Appendix 1 Section 2 Sub-section 2.1). Examples should normally be at least 5ha in extent.

However, examples of the U1 NVC acid grassland community over 0.5ha in extent can also be considered (as listed in Appendix 1 Section 2 Sub-section 2.1.1).

6.2.2 Lowland Neutral Grassland and Species-rich Meadows

Neutral (mesotrophic) grassland which supports at least 6 axiophytes (as listed in **bold** in Appendix 1 Section 2 Subsection 2.2), 2 x frequent and 4 x occasional **OR** 15 + species (from the list given in Appendix 1 Sec. 2 Subsec. 2.2) in 1 metre square quadrat excluding Perennial rye grass and White clover **OR** at least 6 good MG5 indicator species (*) and/or axiophytes (2 x frequent, 4 x occasional).

Examples should normally be at least 0.5ha in extent, although smaller areas (over 0.1ha) of notably species-rich swards can also be considered.

Explanatory Note:

It should be noted that in previous versions of this guidance sites required six (frequent to occasional) habitat indicator species (axiophytes) which meant many good meadows were left undesignated.

Criteria used by DEFRA in their assessment of grassland sites was trialled on previously selected sites (using the threshold of 15-16 plants per m²) which worked well in identifying meadows with abundance of one or more axiophytes such as Yellow Rattle, but did not support the six axiophytes required for designation under the neutral species rich grassland criteria.

This has enabled the selection of many more, mainly MG5 meadows to be selected, with the proviso that species present should include at least 20 of the characteristic grasses and other plants listed in Appendix 1, Section 2 Subsection 2.2/ record of 16 + (total of all) species in quadrat.

6.2.3 Lowland Calcareous grassland

Calcareous grassland which supports at least six plant species (at least 2 frequent and 4 occasional) indicative of agriculturally unimproved and species-rich calcareous grasslands (as listed in Appendix 1 Section 2 Subsection 2.3). Examples should normally be at least 0.5ha in extent, although smaller areas (over 0.1ha) of notably species-rich swards can also be considered.

6.2.4 Floodplain Grazing Marsh

Marsh/marshy grassland which supports a good number of plant species indicative of unimproved marshy grasslands (as listed Appendix 1, Section 2, Sub-section 2.5) Examples should normally be at least 0.5ha in extent, although smaller areas (over 0.1ha) of notably species-rich swards can also be considered.

6.2.5 Waxcap Grassland

Grassland specialist fungi are vulnerable primarily through loss, fragmentation or changes to management of their grassland habitat. Research suggests that waxcap grasslands would take decades to re-establish. Evidence from surveys indicates that the UK is particularly important for grassland fungi compared with other European countries. Many species relatively common in the UK are on one or more European red lists. The UK therefore has an international responsibility for the conservation of these fungi and their special grassland habitat.

Any grassland site that supports 4-8 or more species of waxcap *Hygrocybe spp.* (or 3-5 species during a single visit) shall be considered eligible for selection. See also 7.2 below.

6.3 Upland & Lowland Heathland

All dry, and/or wet, dwarf shrub heath greater than 0.25ha in extent is considered eligible for selection. (Appendix 1, Section 3 gives a list of characteristic species).

6.4 Wetland Habitats

Appendix 1, Section 4 lists the characteristic species of each habitat.

6.4.1 Bog, Fen, Mire & Flush

All bog, fen, mire and flush habitat greater than 0.1ha in extent is considered eligible for selection.

6.4.2 Swamp

All swamp habitat greater than 0.1ha in extent is considered eligible for selection.

6.4.3 Standing open water

The following standing open water types are considered eligible for selection:

- All oligotrophic (nutrient-poor), standing water greater than 0.01ha (100 sq m) in extent.
- All eutrophic (nutrient-rich) and mesotrophic waterbodies which score 'high' or 'very high' when assessed using the methodology 'A guide to the methods of the National Pond Survey' (Pond Action, 1998).

6.4.4 Ponds

Permanent and seasonal standing water bodies that meet the 'Priority Habitat' criteria defined in document

http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/PDF/UKBAP_PriorityHabitatDesc-Rev2011.pdf

will be considered eligible for selection.

6.4.5 Running open water (including rivers, streams, ditches)

Stretches of watercourses where the bed and banks are largely unmodified, the water is not grossly polluted by long-term sources and which support characteristic semi-natural aquatic, emergent and bankside vegetation communities (i.e. dominated by communities of native plant species) and aquatic fauna are considered eligible for selection.

Note that the usual boundary to any such site would be the break of slope, thus including the bank-side habitat, but semi-natural riparian habitat directly associated with, and immediately adjacent to, the watercourse could also be included in the Wildlife Site (see also habitat mosaics below).

6.5 Open Mosaic Habitat on Previously Developed Land

These are generally primary successions, and as such unusual in the British landscape, especially the lowlands. The vegetation can have similarities to early/pioneer communities (particularly grasslands) on more 'natural' substrates but, due to the edaphic conditions, the habitat can often persist (remaining relatively stable) for decades without active management (intervention). Stands of vegetation commonly comprise small patches and may vary over relatively small areas, reflecting small-scale variation in substrate and topography.

The definition of this habitat is complex but any site that meets the criteria described for this 'Priority Habitat' in document http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/PDF/UKBAP_PriorityHabitatDesc-Rev2011.pdf will be considered eligible for selection.

6.6 Inland rock outcrop and scree habitats

Inland rock outcrops and scree habitats that support notable plant and animal species as described in the criteria for this Priority Habitat defined in document http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/PDF/UKBAP_PriorityHabitatDesc-Rev2011.pdf will be considered eligible for selection.

6.7 Habitat Mosaics

A Local Wildlife Site may comprise a combination of habitats where the habitats together attain substantive nature conservation value.

A site is considered eligible for selection on the basis of its habitat mosaic where:

- Two or more of the above habitats are narrowly excluded from selection in their own right but occur adjacent to one another.
- One or more of the above habitats is narrowly excluded from selection in its own right but occurs adjacent to eligible habitat.

Where the following additional habitats occur, these can be included in the Local Wildlife Site, but they should comprise less than 25% of the total site area:

- scrub (comprising primarily of native species);
- tall herb and fern (comprising primarily of native species);
- marginal and inundation vegetation (comprising primarily of native species);
- natural rock exposures;
- hedgerows (comprising primarily native species).

6.8 Habitat Connectivity

Sites or linear features can be considered for selection provided that at least one of the following applies:

- It provides an appropriate 'corridor' or habitat connectivity between, or close to, two or more other Local Wildlife Sites, or other notable sites.
- It provides a significant extent of habitat in a part of the county otherwise deficient in such habitat.

- It constitutes part of the “ghost” outline of a former habitat extent and retains some of the characteristic flora and/or fauna (e.g. wood banks, old river beds, etc.)
- It provides linkages between known populations of priority species that would otherwise be unacceptably isolated.

6.9 Potential Invertebrate Habitat

Sites which support four or more features from the list below shall be considered to have high potential for habitat for invertebrates and therefore eligible for selection:

Invertebrate micro-habitats:

1. Variable topography or areas of vertical or near vertical exposed soil (e.g. on river banks)
2. Free-draining light soils
3. At least some areas of species-rich, semi-natural vegetation (no evidence of improvement using inorganic fertilizers)
4. Frequent patches of bare ground 0.01-0.1m² in size
5. Occasional to abundant anthills
6. Patches of mixed, scattered scrub; one or more ancient or veteran trees; unpolluted, natural springs and flushes; or other temporary or permanent water bodies with low nutrient status
7. Variable vegetation structure with frequent patches of tussocks (over 5cm taller than the surrounding vegetation) and short turf (less than 3cm total height) with tussocks remaining in place over winter.
8. Abundant seed or flower production throughout the year
9. Dry stone walls or other walls with soft friable mortar
10. Fibrous dung (ie. Dung that retains a solid shape on the ground) from cattle or horse droppings which attracts beetles.

6.10 Churchyards

Churchyards that do not meet the criteria under other sections (such as species-rich grassland, waxcap grassland) but contain one or more of the following features listed below are considered eligible for selection:

1. Mature/ancient Yew
2. Weathered hardwood features such as fences, grave markers, gates
3. Old local stone features such as toms, boundary walls/coping, buttresses, chamfered plinths, string courses
4. Roosting bats
5. Nesting Swift, Swallow, House Martin, Spotted Fly Catcher

7 Species Selection Criteria

Appendix 2 gives more detailed definitions of some of the status terminology for each species group. The current data references should be used to determine

which species (and their sites) meet the guidelines as individual species lists are constantly under review. Appendix 2 contains the current references/ sources and species list for some of the species groups.

Specialist advice from the County Recorders may be sought when determining the local significance of a species.

7.1 Non-vascular and vascular plants

Sites/habitat which support a Nationally Rare (Red Data Book); Nationally Scarce or Locally Rare species are considered eligible for selection. Such sites when proposed, or supported, by the County Recorder or Recording Group should be viewed as very strong candidates.

7.2 Bryophytes & Fungi

Sites/habitat which support a Nationally Rare (Red Data Book); Nationally Scarce or Locally Rare species are considered eligible for selection. Such sites when proposed, or supported, by the County Recorder or Recording Group should be viewed as very strong candidates.

7.3 Invertebrates

7.3.1 *Invertebrates*

As this covers such a wide and varied range of orders and species, it is important that advice is sought from the appropriate county recorder. Sites proposed by county recorders should be seen as very strong candidates. Sites should encompass sufficient habitat to maintain viable populations of the species concerned.

Sites and habitats which meet any of the following 3 criteria should be considered for wildlife site status.

i. Sites which support a confirmed or probable breeding* population of invertebrates listed under either:

- IUCN Red list vulnerable, endangered or critically endangered (or equivalent)
- Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act
- Annex 2 of the Habitats Directive
- NERC Act Section 41

See appendix 2 for definitions.

ii. Sites which support an assemblage of 5 or more species listed as:

- Nationally notable/scarce or equivalent
- IUCN Red List near threatened (NT) or equivalent
- Shropshire axiozoans as listed on SEDN

A useful series of documents which list notable invertebrates associated with 32 priority habitats can be downloaded from buglife <https://www.buglife.org.uk/> under 'advice for managing priority habitats'. There is also information on species associated with brownfield sites which are particularly important habitats for many invertebrates.

7.3.2 *Dragonflies and Damselflies*

as these are a very small group, sites should also be considered which support:

- Confirmed or probable breeding* populations of species listed as IUCN near threatened
- Confirmed or probable breeding* of 10 or more species

* The interpretation of confirmed or probable breeding varies between different invertebrate groups, and if uncertain, advice should be sought from the appropriate county recorder.

7.4 Amphibians

1. All sites supporting 'large' breeding populations of Great Crested Newts (over 100 individuals) would be eligible for selection. The site should include any water bodies and associated habitat within 250m (not including that separated by significant barriers).
2. All sites supporting 'medium' (10 – 100) and 'large' (over 100 individuals) breeding populations of Palmate Newt would be eligible for selection. The site should include any water bodies and associated habitat within 250m (not including that separated by significant barriers).
3. All sites supporting an assemblage of breeding populations of three or more native amphibian species would be eligible for selection. The site should include any water bodies and associated habitat within 250m (not including that separated by significant barriers).

Qualifying waterbodies within 250m of each other could be aggregated into a single Local Wildlife Site, together with any suitable intervening terrestrial habitat.

7.4.1 *Combined herpetile (reptile and amphibian) sites*

Any site supporting an assemblage of 4 or more reptile and amphibian species would be eligible for selection. The site should include the mosaic of habitats likely to be relied upon by the species for breeding, foraging and hibernating.

7.5 Reptiles

1. . Any sites supporting 'Good' (between 5 and 10 individuals) or 'exceptional' (over 10 individuals) populations of Adder (where the records have been made in the last 5 years) would be eligible for selection. The site should include the mosaic of habitats likely to be relied upon by the species for breeding, foraging and hibernating.
2. Any sites supporting both snake species (Grass Snake and Adder) would be eligible for selection. The site should include the mosaic of habitats likely to be relied upon by the species for breeding, foraging and hibernating.
3. Any site supporting an assemblage of three or more native reptile species would be eligible for selection. The site should include the mosaic of habitats likely to be relied upon by the species for breeding, foraging and hibernating.

7.5.1 *Combined herpetile (reptile and amphibian) sites*

Any site supporting an assemblage of 4 or more reptile and amphibian species would be eligible for selection. The site should include the mosaic of habitats likely to be relied upon by the species for breeding, foraging and hibernating.

7.6 Mammals

The following are considered eligible for selection:

- Sites/habitat with evidence of supporting breeding populations or locally important or significant populations of priority species (including dormouse; water vole; otter; harvest mouse; pole cat; hedgehog, brown hare and Water Shrew).
- Sites/habitat which regularly support 'significant' breeding or wintering bat roosts (refer to Appendix 2 for further details of 'significant').

7.7 Birds

The following are considered eligible for selection:

- Any site that regularly supports 0.1% or more of the total British breeding population, or 1% or more of the total Shropshire breeding population, of any native species.
- The largest colonies in the county of any colonially nesting species (e.g. herons, sand martins, house martins and swifts) should also be selected, but only if no sites meet the first criteria.
- Any site that regularly supports 0.1% or more of the total British non-breeding population, or 1% or more of the total Shropshire non-breeding population, of any species at any season.

- Any site which supports a breeding bird assemblage with a total score, calculated from tables below, which equals or exceeds the threshold site index values shown in the table.
- Any site which supports a regular breeding population of a rare or scarce Shropshire breeding bird species or a notable assemblage of species in a county context.
- Any site consisting of semi-natural habitats with at least 50 breeding species or at least 65 wintering species, or where at least 110 species are recorded during the year.

Explanatory notes

For all bird criteria, the records used should be no more than five years old and the 'population' of a species should be based on an average of the maximum number recorded for at least three years out of the previous five years at the time of selection. Following selection, species should be recorded every five years to confirm status.

The tables (see Appendix 2) used for selecting sites under the fourth criteria (bulleted above) replicate those used for the selection of SSSIs except for the exclusion of species that are not likely to ever occur in the county as a breeding species (e.g. golden eagle) or are unlikely to occur but, if they did, the occurrence would ensure site selection anyway (e.g. wryneck). The Shropshire Index Value has been set at a level to select sites which have a very strong representation of the characteristic species along with one or two species that are much less common in the county.

Sites selected using the fifth criteria (bulleted above) are likely to be for specific Schedule 1 species, sites for species at the edge of their range in Shropshire or sites which, in a Shropshire context, support significant assemblages of breeding waders, wintering wildfowl etc.

The threshold figures used in the sixth criteria are approximately 75% of the figures used nationally.

7.8 Fish

The protection of fish is better dealt with under the protection of a habitat. Therefore rivers supporting BAP Priority species will be considered eligible.

8 Social Selection Criteria

The social selection criteria for adopting a site shall only be used when it is clear that the social value is derived from the wildlife and natural features.

"Where local space provides primarily for social and community functions or benefits not related to a site's nature conservation interest it should not be selected

as a Local Site, but should be recognised for these in relation to local open space policies.”

(Extract from Local Sites, Guidance on their Identification, Selection and Management, DEFRA 2006).

Therefore, social selection criteria is one of the supporting criteria for a Local Site but cannot be the primary criteria for its selection.

8.1 Access

The existence of paths, formal or informal, entry points and other signs of recreation indicate a de facto use and thus demand for access. It is desirable for people to have access to a natural open space within a reasonable distance of their homes. Where the site has access, the larger the number of people living within this distance of a site, the more value it has for access. Conversely, uncontrolled access to a site may be harmful to its nature conservation interest.

8.2 Aesthetic Quality

Views into and out of a site should be considered. Features that provide a seasonal high point such as a carpet of bluebells, heather in bloom, autumn colour, annual flower meadows, a winter scene should be considered for their contribution to aesthetic value.

8.3 Physical Value

Nature conservation sites can provide opportunities for informal exercise such as walking, cycling, jogging, children’s play and practical habitat management work in a setting of natural green-space.

8.4 Social Value

Natural open space offers valuable opportunities to meet others and socialise with like-minded neighbours. The wider range of uses by way of sex, age, ethnic background or special needs, the greater the site’s social value.

8.5 Sense of Ownership

Sites may be highly regarded by the owners or users. They are likely to be more sustainable than those without, if that regard can be translated into action. The sense of ownership that the landowner of a site has can be of great value especially in terms of the sympathetic management of the site.

8.6 Educational Value – Formal and Informal

Nature conservation sites can provide an actual or potential resource for use by educational establishments at all levels. This should be taken into account. A warden scheme and the provision of special facilities or materials may enhance this value. Size, access, safety and sensitivity also need to be taken into account.

Sites are often a focus for action by the community. The site's role in the development of skills by involvement in its protection, management and recording can enhance its value.

8.7 Recorded History

A history of natural, management and historical records for a site adds considerably to its interest and helps to provide a picture of how a site has changed and the factors causing this. Sites mentioned by pioneer workers or otherwise featured in early published works, or sites of significance in the economic or social history and development of a region are of special value.

Appendix 1 – Habitat Indicator Species

1. Ancient Semi-natural Woodland

(*Acer campestre* – Field Maple)

***Adoxa moschatellina* – Moschatel**

***Agrimonia procera* – Fragrant Agrimony**

***Allium ursinum* – Wild Garlic**

***Anemone nemorosa* – Wood Anemone**

***Betonica officinalis* – Betony**

***Blechnum spicant* – Hard Fern**

***Bromopsis benekenii* – Lesser Hairy-brome**

***Br. ramosa* – Wood Brome**

***Campanula latifolia* – Great Bellflower**

***C. trachelium* – Nettle-leaved Bellflower**

***Cardamine amara* – Large Bitter-cress**

***C. impatiens* – Narrow Bitter-cress**

***Carex digitata* – Fingered Sedge**

***C. laevigata* – Smooth-stalked Sedge**

***C. pallescens* – Pale Sedge**

C. remota – Remote Sedge

***C. strigosa* – Thin-spiked Wood-sedge**

***C. sylvatica* – Wood Sedge**

***Chrysosplenium alternifolium* – Alternate-leaved Golden-saxifrage**

C. oppositifolium – Opposite-leaved Golden-saxifrage

***Circaea x intermedia* – Upland Enchanter's-nightshade**

C. lutetiana – Enchanter's-nightshade

Conopodium majus - Pignut

***Convallaria majus* – Lily of the Valley**

(*Cornus sanguinea* – Dogwood)

Cruciata laevipes- Crosswort

***Daphne laureola* – Spurge-laurel**

***Deschampsia flexuosa* – Wavy Hair-grass**

***Dipsacus pilosus* – Small Teasel**

***Dryopteris carthusiana* – Narrow Buckler-fern**

***D. affinis* agg. – Scaly Male Fern**

***Elymus caninus* – Bearded Couch**

***Epipactis helleborine* – Broad-leaved Helleborine**

***E. leptochila* – Narrow-lipped Helleborine**

***E. phyllanthes* – Green-flowered Helleborine**

***E. purpurata* – Violet Helleborine**

***Equisetum sylvaticum* – Wood Horsetail**

(*Euonymus europaeus* – Spindle)

***Euphorbia amygdaloides* – Wood-spurge**

***Festuca altissima* – Wood Fescue**

Fragaria vesca – Wild Strawberry

***Gagea lutea* – Yellow Star-of-Bethlehem**

***Galium odoratum* – Woodruff**

***Geranium sylvaticum* – Wood Crane’s-bill**
***Geum rivale* – Water Avens**
Gnaphalium sylvaticum – Heath Cudweed
***Helleborus foetidus* – Stinking Hellebore**
***H. viridis* – Green Hellebore**
***Hordelymus europaeus* – Wood Barley**
***Hyacinthoides non-scripta* - Bluebell**
Hypericum androsaemum – Tutsan
***H. humifusum* - Trailing St John’s Wort**
***H. pulchrum* - Slender St John’s Wort**
(Ilex aquifolium – Holly)
***Iris foetidissima* – Stinking Iris**
***Lamiastrum galeobdolon* ssp. *Montanum* – Yellow Archangel**
***Lathraea squamaria* - Toothwort**
***Luzula pilosa* – Hairy Woodrush**
***L. sylvatica* – Great Woodrush**
Lysimachia nemorum – Yellow Pimpernel
(Malus sylvestris – Crab Apple)
***Melampyrum pratense* – Common Cow-Wheat**
***Melica nutans* – Mountain Melick**
***M.uniflora* – Wood Melick**
Mercurialis perennis – Dog’s Mercury
***Milium effusum* – Wood Millet**
Moerhingia trinervia – Three-veined Sandwort
***Narcissus pseudonarcissus* ssp. *Pseudonarcissus* – Wild Daffodil**
***Neottia nidus-avis* – Bird’s-nest Orchid**
***N. ovata* - Twayblade**
***Oreopteris limbosperma* – Lemon Scented-fern**
***Orchis mascula* – Early-purple Orchid**
***Oxalis acetosella* – Wood Sorrel**
***Paris quadrifolia* – Herb Paris**
***Planathera chlorantha* – Greater Butterfly-orchid**
Poa nemoralis – Wood Meadow-grass
***Polygonatum multiflorum* – Solomon’s Seal**
***Polystichum setiferum* – Soft Shield-fern**
***P. aculeatum* – Hard Shield-fern**
(Populus tremula – Aspen)
Potentilla sterilis – Barren Strawberry
***Primula vulgaris* – Primrose**
(Prunus avium – Cherry)
(P. padus – Bird Cherry)
(Quercus petraea – Sessile Oak)
***Ranunculus auricomus* – Goldilocks**
***Sanicula europaea* – Sanicle**
Schedonorus gigantea – Giant Fescue
***Scrophularia umbrosa* – Green Figwort**
***Scirpus sylvaticus* – Wood Club-rush**
***Solidago virgaurea* -Goldenrod**
(Sorbus torminalis – Wild Service Tree)
***Stellaria neglecta* – Greater Chickweed**

(*Taxus baccata* – Yew)

(*Tilia cordata* – Small Leaved Lime)

(*T. platyphyllos* – Large Leaved Lime)

(*Ulmus glabra* – Wych Elm)

Valeriana spp – Valerian species

***Veronica montana* – Wood Speedwell**

(*Viburnum opulus* – Guelder Rose)

***Vicia sylvatica* – Wood Vetch**

***Viola reichenbachiana* – Early Dog-violet**

BOLD = axiophytes

(Plants in brackets = woody species)

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2 Grassland

U1 grasslands, dry, sandy soils etc.

2.1 Lowland and upland acid grasslands

Species present are likely to include a number of the characteristic grasses and plants listed below. Two species should be at least frequent and four occasional:

Swards dominated by, or containing an abundance of grasses such as:

***Aira praecox* – Early Hair-grass**

Agrostis capillaris – Common Bent

Agrostis canina – Brown Bent

***Danthonia decumbens* – Heath Grass**

***Deschampsia flexuosa* – Wavy-hair Grass**

Festuca ovina – Sheep's Fescue

***Nardus stricta* – Mat-grass**

And containing flowering plants such as:

***A. ptarmica* – Sneezewort**

***Anagallis minima* – Chaffweed**

Aphanes spp – Parsley Piert

***Betonica officinalis* - Betony**

***Calluna vulgaris* – Ling**

***Carlina vulgaris* – Carlina Thistle**

Campanula rotundifolia - Harebell

Carex spp. – sedge species

Centaureum erythraea – Common Centaury

Conopodium majus - Pignut

***Dactylorhiza maculata* - Heath Spotted-orchid**

***Dianthus deltoids* – Maiden Pink**

***Empetrum nigrum* - Crowberry**

***Erica cinerea* – Bell Heather**

***E. tetralix* – Cross-leaved Heath**

Erodium cicutarium – Common Stork's-bill

***E. maritimum* - Sea Stork's-bill**

***Filago minima* - Small Cudweed**

***Jasione montana* – Sheep's Bit**

Galium saxatile – Heath Bedstraw

***Genista anglica* - Petty Whin**

***Gentianella campestris* – Field Gentian**

***Hypericum humifusum* - Trailing St John's Wort**

***Hypochaeris glabra* – Smooth Catsear**

Juncus squarrosus – Heath Rush

***Lepidium campestre* – Field Pepperwort**

***Lepidium heterophyllum* – Smith's Pepperwort**

Lotus corniculatus – Common Bird's-foot-trefoil

Luzula campestris – Field Wood-rush
L. multiflora - Heath Wood-rush
Moenchia erecta - Upright Chickweed
Myosotis discolor – Changing Forget-me-not
M. ramosissima – Early Forget-me-not
Orobanche rapum-genistae - Greater Broomrape
Pedicularis sylvatica - Lousewort
Plantago coronopus - Buck's-horn Plantain
Polygala serpyllifolia - Heath Milkwort
Potentilla argentea - Hoary Cinquefoil
P. erecta - Tormentil
Rumex acetosella – Sheep's-sorrel
Serratula tinctoria – Saw-wort
Scleranthus annuus – Annual Knawel
Sherardia arvensis – Field Madder
Spergularia rubra – Sand Spurrey
Stellaria pallida – Pale Chickweed
Teesdalia nudicaulis – Shepherd's cress
Thymus ploytrichus-Wild Thyme
Thymus pulegioides-Large Thyme
Trifolium micranthum - Slender Trefoil
Vaccinium myrtillus – Bilberry
Veronica arvensis-Wall Speedwell
Veronica officinalis – Heath Speedwell

Shropshire Botanical Society U1 list

***Festuca ovina*-*Agrostis capillaris*-*Rumex acetosella* grassland**

Erophila verna – Common Whitlowgrass
Pilosella officinarum – Mouse-ear Hawkweed
Ornithopus perpusillus – Bird's-foot
Cerastium semi-decandrum – Little Mouse-ear
C. arvense – Field Mouse-ear
C. diffusum – Dark Green Mouse-ear
C. fontanum – Common Mouse-ear
C. glomeratum – Sticky Mouse-ear
Thymus polytrichus – Wild Thyme
Aphanes australis – Slender Parsley-piert
Dianthus deltoides – Maiden Pink
Plantago coronopus – Buck's-horn plantain
Filago minima – Small Cudweed
Trifolium striatum – Knotted Clover
Sedum forsterianum – Rock Stonecrop
Hypochaeris glabra – Smooth Cat's-ear
Viola canina - Heath Dog-violet
V. lutea – Yellow Mountain Pansy

BOLD = Axiophytes ;others are characteristic

2.2 Neutral Grasslands and Lowland Meadows

The MG grasslands – mostly MG5 but also MG8

Surveyors should record: at least 6 axiophytes (**in bold**), 2 x frequent and 4 x occasional **OR**

15 + species in 1metre square quadrat excluding Perennial rye grass and White clover **OR**

at least 6 good MG5 indicator species (*) and/or axiophytes (2 x frequent, 4 x occasional).

Swords containing grasses, sedges and ferns such as:

Agrostis capillaris - Common Bent

A. canina – Brown Bent

Aira caryophyllea - Silver Hair-grass

Alopecurus geniculatus - Marsh Fox-tail

A. pratensis – Meadow Fox-tail

Anthoxanthum odoratum – Sweet Vernal Grass

Botrychium lunaria - Moonwort

Briza media - Quaking Grass

Bromus racemosus - Smooth Brome

Carex disticha - Brown Sedge

C. pallescens - Pale Sedge

C. caryophyllea - Spring Sedge

Cynosurus cristatus – Crested Dog's Tail

Festuca rubra – Red fescue

Ophioglossum vulgatum - Adder's Tongue

Phleum bertolonii – Small-leaved Timothy

Trisetum flavescens – Yellow Oat-Grass

And containing other flowering plants such as:

**Agrimonia eupatoria* - Agrimony

Alchemilla glabra - Lady's-mantle

A. filicaulis - Hairy Lady's-mantle

A. xanthochlora - Lady's-mantle

Anacamptis morio – Green-winged Orchid

Ajuga reptans - Bugle

Betonica officinalis – Betony

Cardamine pratensis – Lady's-Smock

**Centaurea nigra* – Black (Common) Knapweed

Colchicum autumnale - Meadow Saffron

**Conopodium majus* - Pignut

**Dactylorhiza fuschii* - Common Spotted-orchid

D. incarnata - Early March-orchid

D. maculata - Heath Spotted-orchid

D. praetermissa - Southern Marsh-orchid

D. purpurella - Northern Marsh-orchid
Dianthus deltoides - Maiden Pink
Euphrasia officinalis agg. - Eyebright
 **Filipendula ulmaria* – Meadowsweet
 **Galium verum* – Lady's Bedstraw
Genista tinctoria – Dyer's Greenweed
Geranium pratense – Meadow Crane's-bill
Hypericum pulchrum - Slender St John's-Wort
Hypochaeris radicata – Cat's-ear
Knautia arvensis – Field Scabious
Lathyrus linifolius - Bitter Vetch
 **L. pratensis* – Meadow Vetchling
 **Leontodon hispidus* – Rough Hawkbit
L. saxatilis – Lesser Hawkbit
 **Leucanthemum vulgare* – Ox-eye Daisy
Linum catharticum - Fairy Flax
 **Lotus corniculatus* – Common Bird's-foot-trefoil
Lotus pedunculatus – Greater Bird's-foot-trefoil
Myosotis discolor - Changing Forget-me-not
Ononis spinosa - Spiny Restharrow
Orchis mascula - Early Purple Orchid
Pilosella officinalis – Mouse-ear Hawkweed
Pimpinella saxifraga - Burnet-saxifrage
Polygala serpyllifolia - Heath Milkwort
 **P. vulgaris* – Common Milkwort
 **Potentilla erecta* - Tormentil
 **Primula veris* - Cowslip
Rhinanthus minor - Yellow-rattle
Sanguisorba officinalis - Great Burnet
Serratula tinctoria – Saw-wort
Silaum silaus - Pepper-saxifrage
Succisa pratensis - Devil's-bit Scabious

BOLD = Axiophytes

2.3 Lowland calcareous grasslands

The CG grasslands – base-rich, underlain by limestone or lime-rich clays. Grasslands of interest are CG2, CG6 and CG10

Species present are likely to include a number of the characteristic grasses and plants listed below, if CG2, then four species should be at least frequent and three occasional; if CG6, then two species should at least be frequent and two occasional :

Swards containing grasses sedges and ferns such as:

***Carex caryophyllea* - Silver Hair-grass**
***Bortrychium lunaria* - Moonwort**
***Carapodium rigidum* - Fern-grass**
***Carex muricata* ssp. *Muricata* - Prickly Sedge**
***C. caryophyllea* - Spring Sedge**
C. flacca - Glaucous Sedge
***Helictotrichon pubescens* – Hairy Oat-grass**
***Briza media* – Quaking-grass**
***Bromopsis erecta* – Upright Brome**
Festuca ovina – Sheep’s Fescue
***Helictotrichon pubescens* - Downy Oat-grass**
***Poa compressa* - Flattened Meadow-grass**
***Trisetum flavescens* - Yellow Oat-grass**

And containing flowering plants such as:

Agrimonia eupatoria - Agrimony
***Anacamptis pyramidalis* - Pyramidal Orchid**
***Anthyllis vulneraria* - Kidney Vetch**
***Arabis hirsuta* – Hairy Rock-cress**
Arenaria serpyllifolia - Thyme-leaved sandwort
***Blackstonia perfoliata* - Yellow-wort**
***Campanula trachelium* - Nettle-leaved Bellflower**
***Carlina vulgaris* - Carlina Thistle**
***Centaurea scabiosa* - Greater Knapweed**
Centaurium erythraea – Common Centaury
***Cirsium acaule* - Dwarf Thistle**
***C. dissectum* - Meadow Thistle**
***C. eriophorum* - Woolly Thistle**
***Clinopodium acinos* - Basil Thyme**
***C. ascendens* - Common Calamint**
***C. vulgare* - Wild Basil**
***Coeloglossum viride* - Frog Orchid**
Dactylorhiza spp - Spotted and Marsh Orchids
***Echium vulgare* - Viper’s Bugloss**
***Erigeron acris* – Blue Fleabane**
***Filipendula vulgaris* - Dropwort**

Galium verum - Lady's Bedstraw
***Gentianella amarella* - Autumn Gentian**
***G. campestris* - Field Gentian**
***Geranium columbinum* – Long-stalked Crane's-bill**
***Gymnadenia conopsea* - Fragrant Orchid**
***Helianthemum nummularium* - Common Rock-rose**
Pilosella officinarum- Mouse-ear Hawkweed
***Hypericum montanum* - Pale St. John's-wort**
***Inula conyzae* - Ploughman's-spikenard**
***Knautia arvensis* – Field Scabious**
Leontodon hispidus - Rough Hawkbit
***L. saxatilis* – Lesser Hawkbit**
***Linum catharticum* - Fairy Flax**
***Lithospermum officinale* - Common Gromwell**
Lotus corniculatus – Common Bird's-foot-trefoil
***Ononis repens* – Common restharrow**
***Ophrys apifera* - Bee Orchid**
***Origanum vulgare* - Wild Marjoram**
***Pimpinella saxifrage* - Burnet Saxifrage**
***Plantago media* - Hoary Plantain**
***Platanthera chlorantha* - Greater Butterfly-orchid**
Polygala vulgaris - Common Milkwort
***Poterium sanguisorba* - Salad Burnet**
Primula veris - Cowslip
***Rhinanthus minor* - Yellow-rattle**
***Rosa micrantha* - Small-flowered Sweet Briar**
***Samolus valerandi* - Brookweed**
***Scabiosa columbaria* - Small Scabious**
***Sherardia arvensis* - Field madder**
***Solidago virgaurea* - Goldenrod**
***Spiranthes spiralis* - Autumn Lady's-tresses**
***Succisa pratensis* – Devil's-bit Scabious**
***Thymus pulegioides* - Large Thyme**
T. polytrichus – Wild Thyme
Viola hirta – Hairy Violet

BOLD = axiophytes

2.5 Floodplain grazing marsh and rush pastures

The MG4 and MG8, MG11 and MG13 and M23 grasslands (and mires)

Species present are likely to include a number of the characteristic grasses and plants listed below, two species should be frequent and four at least occasional:

Swards not completely dominated by species such as:

Agrostis stolonifera – Creeping Bent

Holcus lanatus – Yorkshire Fog

Juncus acutiflorus - Sharp-flowered Rush

J. effusus - Soft Rush

***Molinia caerulea* – Purple Moor-grass**

And containing a range of species such as:

***Achillea ptarmica* – Sneezewort**

***Anagallis tenella* - Bog Pimpernel**

Angelica sylvestris – Angelica

***Briza media* – Quaking Grass**

Caltha palustris – Marsh-marigold

Cardamine pratensis – Cuckoo-flower

***Carex demissa* – Common Yellow Sedge**

***C. disticha* - Brown Sedge**

***C. echinata* – Star Sedge**

***C. hostiana* – Tawny Sedge**

C. flacca – Glaucous Sedge

C. hirta- Hairy Sedge

C. leporina – Oval Sedge

***C. nigra* – Common Sedge**

***C. panicea* – Carnation Sedge**

***C. pilulifera* – Pill Sedge**

***C. pulicaris* – Flea Sedge**

***C. vesicaria* – Bladder Sedge**

***Cirsium dissectum* – Meadow Thistle**

***Comarum palustris* – Marsh Cinquefoil**

Dactylorhiza spp – Marsh and Spotted Orchids

***Dryopteris carthusiana* – Narrow Buckler-fern**

Epilobium palustre – Marsh Willowherb

***Equisetum sylvaticum* – Wood Horsetail**

***Erica tetralix* – Cross-leaved Heath**

***Eriophorum angustifolium* - Common Cottongrass**

***E. vaginatum* - Hare's-tail Cottongrass**

Filipendula ulmaria - Meadowsweet

Galium palustre – Common Marsh-bedstraw

***Galium uliginosum* – Fen Bedstraw**

***Hydrocotyle vulgaris* – Marsh Pennywort**

Iris pseudacorus – Yellow Iris

***Isolepis setacea* –Bristle Club-rush**

Juncus foliosus – Leafy Rush
Juncus subnodulosus – Blunt-flowered Rush
Lotus pedunculatus – Greater Bird's-foot-trefoil
Luzula multiflora – Heath Wood-rush
Lythrum salicaria – Purple-loosestrife
Mentha aquatica – Water Mint
Menyanthes trifoliata – Bogbean
Montia fontana - Blinks
Myosotis laxa – Tufted Forget-me-not
Myosotis secunda – Creeping Forget-me-not
Narthecium ossifragum – Bog Asphodel
Pedicularis spp – Lousewort species
Persicaria hydropiper – Water-pepper
P. minor - Small Water-pepper
Pinguicula vulgaris – Common Butterwort
Polygala serpyllifolia – Heath Milkwort
Potentilla erecta - Tormentil
Pulicaria dysenterica - Common Fleabane
Ranunculus flammula – Lesser Spearwort
Saxifraga granulata – Meadow Saxifrage
Succisa pratensis – Devil's-bit Scabious
Scutellaria galericulata – Skullcap
S. minor - Lesser Skullcap
Senecio aquaticus - Marsh Ragwort
Serratula tinctoria – Saw-wort
Silene flos-cuculi – Ragged Robin
Thalictrum flavum - Common Meadow-rue
Trichophorum cespitosum - Deergrass
Triglochin palustre - Marsh Arrowgrass
Valeriana dioica– Marsh Valerian
Veronica scutellata - Marsh Speedwell
Viola palustris – Marsh Violet

BOLD = axiophytes

3. Upland & Lowland Heathland

Blechnum spicant - Hard Fern
Calluna vulgaris – Heather (Ling)
Carex canescens - White Sedge
C. binervis - Green-ribbed Sedge
C. demissa – Common Yellow Sedge
C. echinata - Star Sedge
C. hostiana - Tawny Sedge
C. laevigata - Smooth-stalked Sedge
C. lepidocarpa – Long-stalked Yellow-sedge
C. montana - Soft-leaved Sedge
C. pilulifera - Pill Sedge
C. pulicaris - Flea Sedge
Ceratocarpus claviculata - Climbing Corydalis
Dactylorhiza maculata - Heath Spotted-orchid
Diphasiastrum alpinum – Alpine Clubmoss
Dryopteris carthusiana - Narrow Buckler-fern
Empetrum nigrum - Crowberry
Equisetum sylvaticum - Wood Horsetail
Erica cinerea – Bell Heather
Erica tetralix – Cross-leaved Heath
Erigeron acer - Blue Fleabane
Eriophorum angustifolium - Common Cottongrass
E. vaginatum - Hare's-tail Cottongrass
Genista anglica - Petty Whin
Gentiana pneumonanthe - Marsh Gentian
Gnaphalium sylvaticum - Heath Cudweed
Gymnocarpium dryopteris - Oak Fern
Huperzia selago – Fir Clubmoss
Hypericum pulchrum -Slender St. John's-wort
Jasione montana - Sheep's-bit
Littorella uniflora - Shoreweed
Luzula multiflora - Heath Wood-rush
L. sylvatica - Great Wood-rush
Lycopodium clavatum - Stag's-horn Clubmoss
Melampyrum pratense - Common Cow-wheat
Oreopteris limbosperma - Lemon-scented Fern
Orobancha rapum-genistae - Greater Broomrape
Pedicularis sylvatica - Lousewort
Pinguicula vulgaris - Common Butterwort
Platanthera bifolia - Lesser Butterfly-orchid
Polygala serpyllifolia - Heath Milkwort
Salix aurita - Eared Willow
S. pentandra - Bay Willow
S. repens - Creeping Willow
S. x multinervis - a Willow
Trichophorum cespitosum - Deergrass
Vaccinium myrtillus - Bilberry
Vaccinium oxycoccos – Cranberry

***V. vitis-idaea* - Cowberry**

BOLD = axiophytes

4. Wetland Habitats

Species present are likely to include a number of the characteristic plants listed below, two species should be at least frequent and three occasional:

4.1 Fen

***Anagallis tenella* - Bog Pimpernel**
***Calamagrostis canescens* - Purple Small-reed**
***C. epigejos* - Wood Small-reed**
***Cardamine amara* – Large Bitter-cress**
***Carex demissa* - Common Yellow Sedge**
***C. disticha* - Brown Sedge**
***C. elata* -Tufted Sedge**
***C. elongata* - Elongated Sedge**
***C. paniculata* - Greater Tussock-sedge**
***C. pseudocyperus* - Cyperus Sedge**
***C. vesicaria* - Bladder-sedge**
***Cicuta virosa* - Cowbane**
***Cirsium dissectum* - Meadow Thistle**
***Cladium mariscus* - Great Fen-sedge**
***Comarum palustris* - Marsh Cinquefoil**
***Crepis paludosa* - Marsh Hawk’s-beard**
***Dactylorhiza praetermissa* - Southern Marsh-orchid**
***D. purpurella* - Northern Marsh-orchid**
***Epipactis palustris* - Marsh Helleborine**
***Eriophorum angustifolium* - Common Cottongrass**
***E. latifolium* - Broad-leaved Cottongrass**
***E. vaginatum* - Hare’s-tail Cottongrass**
***Galium uliginosum* - Fen Bedstraw**
***Geum rivale* - Water Avens**
***Gymnadenia conopsea* - Fragrant Orchid**
***Hypericum elodes* - Marsh St. John’s-wort**
***Isolepis setacea* - Bristle Club-rush**
***Juncus foliosus* - Leafy Rush**
***J. subnodulosus* - Blunt-flowered Rush**
***Lysimachia vulgaris* - Yellow Loosestrife**
***Menyanthes trifoliata* - Bogbean**
***Oenanthe fistulosa* -Tubular Water-dropwort**
***Parnassia palustris* - Grass of Parnassus**
***Pedicularis palustris* - Marsh Lousewort**
***Persicaria minor* - Small Water-pepper**
***Phragmites australis* – Common Reed**
***Pinguicula vulgaris* - Common Butterwort**
***Pulicaria dysenterica* - Common Fleabane**

Ranunculus lingua - Greater Spearwort
Rumex maritimus - Golden Dock
Sagina nodosa - Knotted Pearlwort
Salix purpurea - Purple Willow
S. repens - Creeping Willow
Samolus valerandi - Brookweed
Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani - Grey Club-rush
Scirpus sylvaticus - Wood Club-rush
Senecio aquaticus - Marsh Ragwort
Silene flos cuculi – Ragged-Robin
Stachys palustris - Marsh Woundwort
Stellaria palustris - Marsh Stitchwort
Thalictrum flavum - Common Meadow-rue
Thelypteris palustris - Marsh Fern
Triglochin palustre - Marsh Arrowgrass
Trollius europaeus - Globe-flower
Typha angustifolia - Lesser Bulrush
Valeriana dioica - Marsh Valerian
Veronica anagallis-aquatica - Blue Water-speedwell
V. catenata - Pink Water-speedwell
V. scutellata - Marsh Speedwell

4.2 Bog, Flush and Mire

Anagallis tenella - Bog Pimpernel
Andromeda polifolia - Bog-rosemary
Briza media - Quaking-grass
Carex binervis - Green-ribbed Sedge
C. canescens - White Sedge
C. demissa – Common Yellow Sedge
C. dioica - Dioecious Sedge
C. echinata - Star Sedge
C. hostiana - Tawny Sedge
C. lasiocarpa - Slender Sedge
C. lepidocarpa – Long-stalked Yellow-sedge
C. pulicaris - Flea Sedge
C. rostrata - Bottle Sedge
Comarum palustris - Marsh Cinquefoil
Crepis paludosa - Marsh Hawk's-beard
Dactylorhiza incarnata - Early Marsh-orchid
D. maculata - Heath Spotted-orchid
D. purpurella - Northern Marsh-orchid
Drosera anglica - Great Sundew
D. intermedia - Oblong-leaved Sundew
D. rotundifolia - Round-leaved Sundew
Dryopteris carthusiana - Narrow Buckler-fern
Eleocharis multicaulis - Many-stalked Spike-rush
E. quinqueflora - Few-flowered Spike-rush
Equisetum fluviatile – Water Horsetail
Equisetum sylvaticum – Wood Horsetail

Eriophorum angustifolium - Common Cottongrass
E. vaginatum - Hare's-tail Cottongrass
Frangula alnus - Alder Blackthorn
Gentiana pneumonanthe - Marsh Gentian
Hottonia palustris - Water-violet
Hypericum elodes - Marsh St. John's-wort
Isolepis setacea - Bristle Club-rush
Juncus foliosus - Leafy Rush
Littorella uniflora - Shoreweed
Lythrum portula - Water Purslane
Menyanthes trifoliata - Bogbean
Myosotis secunda - Creeping Forget-me-not
Myrica gale - Bog Myrtle
Nardus stricta - Mat-grass
Narthecium ossifragum - Bog Asphodel
Oreopteris limbosperma - Lemon-scented Fern
Osmunda regalis - Royal Fern
Pedicularis palustris - Marsh Lousewort
P. sylvatica - Lousewort
Pinguicula vulgaris - Common Butterwort
Potamogeton polygonifolius - Bog Pondweed
Ranunculus ompiophyllus - Round-leaved Crowfoot
Rhynchospora alba - White Beak-sedge
Rubus chamaemorus - Cloudberry
Sagina nodosa - Knotted Pearlwort
Salix pentandra - Bay Willow
S. purpurea - Purple Willow
S. repens - Creeping Willow
Samolus valerandi - Brookweed
Scutellaria minor - Lesser Skullcap
Trichophorum cespitosum - Deergrass
Triglochin palustre - Marsh Arrowgrass
Utricularia minor - Lesser Bladderwort
Vaccinium oxycoccus - Cranberry
Valeriana dioica - Marsh Valerian
Veronica scutellata - Marsh Speedwell
Viola palustris - Marsh Violet
Wahlenbergia hederacea - Ivy-leaved Bellflower

Sphagnum angustifolium - Fine Bog-moss
Sphagnum capillifolium - Red Bog-moss
Sphagnum compactum - Compact Bog-moss
Sphagnum contortum - Twisted Bog-moss
Sphagnum cuspidatum - Feathery Bog-moss
Sphagnum denticulatum - Cow-horn Bog-moss
Sphagnum fallax - Flat-topped Bog-moss
Sphagnum fimbriatum - Fringed Bog-moss
Sphagnum flexuosum - Flexuous Bog-moss
Sphagnum inundatum - Lesser Cow-horn Bog-moss
Sphagnum magellanicum - Magellanic Bog-moss

Sphagnum palustre Blunt-leaved Bog-moss
Sphagnum papillosum Papillose Bog-moss
Sphagnum platyphyllum Flat-leaved Bog-moss
Sphagnum pulchrum Golden Bog-moss
Sphagnum quinquefarium Five-ranked Bog-moss
Sphagnum russowii Russow's Bog-moss
Sphagnum squarrosum Spiky Bog-moss
Sphagnum subnitens Lustrous Bog-moss
Sphagnum subsecundum Slender Cow-horn Bog-moss
Sphagnum tenellum Soft Bog-moss
Sphagnum teres Rigid Bog-moss
4.3 Standing Open Water

Alisma lanceolatum – Narrow-leaved Water-plantain

Alisma plantago-aquatica – Water-plantain

Alopecurus aequalis - Orange Foxtail

Apium inundatum - Lesser Marshwort

Baldellia ranunculoides – Lesser Water-plantain

Berula erecta - Lesser Water-parsnip

Bidens cernua – Nodding Bur-marigold

Bidens tripartita – Trifid Bur-marigold

Butomus umbellatus - Flowering Rush

Callitriche hermaphroditica - Annual Water-starwort

C. platycarpa – Various-leaved Water-starwort

C. stagnalis – Common Water-starwort

Catabrosa aquatica – Whorl Grass

Ceratophyllum demersum – Rigid Hornwort

Carex acuta - Slender Tufted-sedge

C. lasiocarpa - Slender sedge

C. paniculata - Greater Tussock-sedge

C. pseudocyperus – Cyperus Sedge

C. rostrata - Bottle Sedge

Catabrosa aquatica - Whorl-grass

Cladium mariscus - Great Fen-sedge

Comarum palustris - Marsh Cinquefoil

Elatine hexandra - Six-stamened Waterwort

Eleocharis acicularis - Needle Spike-rush

Eleogiton fluitans - Floating Club-rush

Equisetum fluviatile – Water Horsetail

Hippuris vulgaris - Maretail

Hottonia palustris - Water-violet

Hydrocharis morsus-ranae - Frogbit

Juncus foliosus - Leafy Rush

Lemna minuta – Least Duckweed

L. trisulca – Ivy-leaved Duckweed

Littorella uniflora - Shoreweed

Luronium natans - Floating Water-plantain

Lycopus europaeus - Gipsywort

Lythrum portula - Water Purslane

Lythrum salicaria – Purple Loosestrife

Menyanthes trifoliata - Bogbean
Myosotis secunda - Creeping Forget-me-not
Myriophyllum alterniflorum, Alternate Water-milfoil
M. verticillatum - Whorled Water-milfoil
Nuphar pumila - Least Water-lily
Oenanthe aquatica - Fine-leaved Water-dropwort
O. crocata - Hemlock Water-dropwort
O. fistulosa - Tubular Water-dropwort
Persicaria minor - Small Water-pepper
Phragmites australis – Common Reed
Potamogeton alpinus - Red Pondweed
P. compressus - Grasswrack Pondweed
P. natans – Broad-leaved Pondweed
P. friesii - Flat-stalked Pondweed
P. obtusifolius - Blunt-leaved Pondweed
P. perfoliatus – Perfoliate Pondweed
P. polygonifolius - Bog Pondweed
P. praelongus - Long-stalked Pondweed
Ranunculus circinatus - Fan-leaved Water-crowfoot
R. fluitans - River Water-crowfoot
R. lingua – Greater Spearwort
R. omiophyllus - Round-leaved Crowfoot
R. peltatus - Pond Water-crowfoot
R. pencillatus - Stream Water-crowfoot
R. trichophyllus - Thread-leaved Water-crowfoot
Rumex hydrolapathum - Water Dock
Rumex maritimus – Golden Dock
Schoenoplectus lacustris – Common Club-rush
S. tabernaemontani - Grey Club-rush
Senecio aquaticus - Marsh Ragwort
Sparganium emersum – Branched Bur-reed
Sparganium erectum – Unbranched Bur-reed
Spirodela polyrhiza - Greater Duckweed
Stachys palustris - Marsh Woundwort
Typha angustifolia - Lesser Bulrush
Utricularia minor - Lesser Bladderwort
Veronica anagallis-aquatica - Blue Water-speedwell
V. catenata - Pink Water-speedwell
V. scutellata - Marsh Speedwell
Zannichellia palustris - Horned Pondweed

BOLD = Axiophytes

Appendix 2

Definitions of status terminology used and data and definition sources

STATUS TERM	DEFINITION	Source of status definitions and/or species data
	Non-vascular & vascular plants	
Nationally Rare (Red Data Book)	occurring in 15 or fewer 10km squares in the Ordnance Survey national grid of Britain.	Various - eg: Wiggington, 1999
Nationally Scarce species	occurring in 16-100 10km squares in the Ordnance Survey national grid of Britain.	Various - eg: Stewart et al, 1994
Locally Rare species	occurring at three or fewer sites within Shropshire (a site being here defined as a movable 1km square or a single continuous habitat).	Lockton & Whild, 1997 (vascular plants) (bryophytes)
	Invertebrates	
Nationally notable	Species which are estimated to occur within the range of 16 to 100 10km squares. (subdivision into Notable A and Notable B is not always possible because there may be insufficient information available). Superseded by Nationally Scarce, and therefore no longer in use.	NBN Gateway 2014
Nationally Rare	Nationally Rare - Occurring in 15 or fewer hectads in Great Britain. Excludes rare species qualifying under the main IUCN criteria.	NBN Gateway 2014
Nationally scarce	Nationally Scarce - Occurring in 16-100 hectads in Great Britain. Excludes rare species qualifying under the main IUCN criteria.	NBN Gateway 2014
IUCN (2001) - Lower risk - near threatened	Taxa which do not qualify for Lower Risk (conservation dependent), but which are close to qualifying for Vulnerable. In Britain, this category includes species which occur in 15 or fewer hectads but do not qualify as Critically Endangered, Endangered or Vulnerable.	NBN Gateway 2014
	Bats	
Significant breeding or wintering roosts	Brown long-eared bat at least 10 individuals Pipistrelle bat at least 20 individuals All other bat species all breeding and wintering roosts	after Clements D & Price R, 2000 and SCC, 2002
	Breeding birds	
Nationally important	species included on the Red Data list because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • they occur in Britain in internationally significant numbers; • they are scarce as British breeders (below 300 pairs); • they are declining in breeding numbers; • they are restricted in distribution to vulnerable sites or habitats. 	SCC, 2002

Appendix 2 continued

Breeding Bird Assemblages for Key Habitats

Woodland

Grey Heron	3	Blackcap	1
Honey Buzzard	5	Wood Warbler	2
Red Kite	5	Chiffchaff	1
Goshawk	5	Goldcrest	1
Sparrowhawk	2	Firecrest	5
Buzzard	3	Spotted Flycatcher	1
Osprey	5	Pied Flycatcher	2
Hobby	4	Long-tailed Tit	1
Woodcock	2	Marsh Tit	1
Stock Dove	1	Willow Tit	2
Cuckoo	2	Coal Tit	1
Tawny Owl	2	Nuthatch	2
Long-eared Owl	3	Treecreeper	1
Nightjar	3	Jay	1
Green Woodpecker	2	Raven	3
Great Spotted Woodpecker	2	Siskin	2
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	3	Redpoll	1
Tree Pipit	1.5	Crossbill	3
Nightingale	3	Bullfinch	1
Redstart	1	Hawfinch	3
Garden Warbler	1		
National Index Value	39	Shropshire Index Value	25

Upland Habitats

Little Grebe	2.5	Curlew	2
Teal	3	Redshank	2
Goosander	3.5	Common Sandpiper	2
Hen Harrier	4	Short-eared owl	3
Buzzard	3	Grey Wagtail	2
Merlin	4	Dipper	2
Peregrine	4	Whinchat	2
Red Grouse	1	Stonechat	2
Golden Plover	2	Wheatear	2
Dunlin	3	Ring ouzel	2.5
Snipe	2	Raven	3
National Index Value	34	Shropshire Index Value	20

Heathland

Hobby	4	Tree Pipit	1.5
Snipe	2	Whinchat	2
Curlew	2	Stonechat	2
Cuckoo	2	Wheatear	2
Long-eared Owl	3	Grasshopper Warbler	2
Nightjar	3	Dartford Warbler	4
Woodlark	4	Linnet	1
National Index Value	20	Shropshire Index Value	9

Lowland Wet Grassland

Mute Swan	3	Curlew	2
Shelduck	2	Redshank	2
Gadwall	4	Cuckoo	2
Teal	3	Yellow Wagtail	1
Garganey	5	Whinchat	2
Shoveler	4	Grasshopper Warbler	2
Lapwing	1	Sedge Warbler	1
Snipe	2	Reed Bunting	1
National Index Value	16	Shropshire Index Value	7

Fen (where this habitat occurs in combination with open water, use the open waters list instead.)

Little Grebe	2.5	Snipe	2
Bittern	5	Cuckoo	2
Gadwall	4	Whinchat	2
Teal	3	Cetti's Warbler	4
Garganey	5	Grasshopper warbler	2
Shoveler	4	Sedge warbler	1
Pochard	4	Reed warbler	2
Marsh Harrier	5	Reed bunting	1
Water Rail	3		
National Index Value	16	Shropshire Index Value	8

Open Water

Little Grebe	2.5	Water Rail	3
Great Crested Grebe	3	Little ringed Plover	4
Black-necked Grebe	5	Ringed Plover	3
Bittern	5	Snipe	2
Grey Heron	3	Redshank	2
Mute Swan	3	Common Tern	3
Shelduck	2	Cuckoo	2
Gadwall	4	Kingfisher	3
Teal	3	Yellow Wagtail	1
Pintail	5	Grey Wagtail	2
Garganey	5	Cetti's Warbler	4
Shoveler	4	Grasshopper warbler	2
Pochard	4	Sedge Warbler	1
Tufted Duck	3	Reed Warbler	2
Marsh Harrier	5	Reed Bunting	1
National Index Value	31	Shropshire Index Value	16

Scrub (excluding heath)

Turtle Dove	1.5	Stonechat	2
Cuckoo	2	Grasshopper Warbler	2
Long-eared Owl	3	Whitethroat	2
Nightjar	3	Lesser Whitethroat	2
Tree Pipit	1.5	Garden Warbler	1
Nightingale	3	Blackcap	1
Whinchat	2	Linnet	1
National Index Value	15	Shropshire Index Value	7

Appendix 3

Guidelines for undertaking Observational Studies and recording evidence of Social Value

Access	This can be assessed by examining the evidence of people using the site. Features to record include:- Numbers of people seen on the site, type of people (children, adults, elderly), presence of footpaths, desire lines, types of entry points
Aesthetic Quality	Are there good views into and out of the site? Photographs can take some of the subjectivity out of assessing these criteria. Is the site varied, with a range of landscape elements, or alternatively does the site lack variety, or does it give a feeling of wilderness? At particular times of the year does the site provide a feature? What do the users say about the sites?
Physical Value	Are people using the site to gain physical exercise? Dog walking, jogging, play, site management works? Observe not only numbers of people, but also what they are doing. Ask people how they use the site.
Social Value	Are the people using the site for social interaction (chatting, sitting, watching the world go by)? What types of people are using the site (age, sex, ethnic background, special needs)?
Sense of Ownership	Do the owners use and value the site? Is the site a focus for activities (campaigns, friends of groups)?
Educational Value, Formal and Informal	Is the site used by schools/colleges/universities etc at the moment? What facilities are available on the site (visitors centre, rangers, nature trail). Is the site close to schools which could use the area? Has the site helped people develop new skills (campaigning, land management, biological recording)?

Recorded History	Does the site have a well documented history? Not only in terms of its scientific history, but also in its social, cultural and management history. Wildlife Trusts, recording groups and local history libraries are all sources of evidence
Potential Value	Are there realistic ways in which the social value of a site can be enhanced?

A procedure for mapping site use to record observational studies has been developed by the Wildlife Trust for Birmingham & the Black Country.

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