

Appendix 3 – LDU Ecological Profiles

LDU MW33.4 Rhydd Riverside Meadows

Biodiversity: moderate (good ponds)

Abundance: moderate

Network: moderate

Range: moderate minus

Impacts: locally severe impact of caravans, localised high impact of landscaping/property improvements.

Woodland - formerly fairly high cover of wet woodland associated with old brickpit and traditional orchard but cleared recently (last 12 years). Tree cover now associated with landscaped grounds - derived from former cleared area of orchard and wet woodland on brickpit. Tree cover also associated with riverbank

Grassland - eutrophic - old grassland resource in part but not species rich

Wetland - small-scale features associated with drainage lines. Pond margins support fairly diverse swamp flora including *Poa palustris*

Open water - two large eutrophic ponds on former brickpit site with reasonable flora - old brickpit sites almost eu-mesotrophic (between eutrophobic and mesotrophic), running water - main river

Primary network - river

Hedgerows - only modern field boundaries

LDU MW33.5 Pixham Riverside Meadows

Biodiversity: moderate

Abundance: moderate minus

Network: moderate

Range: moderate minus

Impacts: high impact of modern farming, localised impact of flood defence works

Woodland - very low cover, small blocks, largest being damp woodland associated with old brickworkings, otherwise tree cover associated with watercourses, other linear features and settlements associated with ferries etc. Pollards a feature especially willows.

Orchards - fragment of traditional orchard.

Grassland - eutrophic, significant old grassland resource, diverse types restricted to micro features

Wetland - reasonable representation associated with watercourses including river, and with old brickworkings

Open water - eutrophic - associated with floodplain hollows, ponds and old brickworkings

Primary - strongly represented, based on watercourse network

Hedgerows - largely enclosure age, species poor and in generally declining condition, locally ancient boundaries apparent

Potential for wetland restoration as elsewhere on floodplain

Classic ham meadow situation but no ham meadow here, despite name

LDU MW33.6 Powick Ham Riverside Meadows

Biodiversity: moderate

Abundance: moderate (for floodplain location)

Network: moderate - 2 rivers providing corridors

Range: moderate

Impacts: high impact of modern agriculture including localised drainage impacts, high impact of transport corridor, localised impact of recreational activities on riverside (moorings) - tipping in last decades of 20th century in 2 separate areas

Woodland - several small discrete blocks of woodland, including carr woodland, and secondary woodland associated with old brickworkings and settlement. Tree cover also associated with linear features especially watercourses, also stand-alone trees associated with destroyed field boundaries of old field systems. Osier bed on paleochannel. Veterans, including pollarded willows. Tree cover also associated with landscaping of road corridor/amenity planting

Orchards - neglected orchards.

Grassland - eutrophic, extensive areas of old grassland. Diverse grassland now confined to small-scale features - one of greatest losses of grassland interest in county over last 100 yrs

Wetland - reasonable wetland interest, including wet grassland, fen, damp woodland, generally associated with watercourses including oxbows and palaeochannels

Open water - eutrophic standing water resource associated with flood plain hollows, and ponds, including former oxbows

Primary network - strongly represented by two main rivers, large tributary and network of floodplain watercourses, plus transport corridors - (new habitats as opposed to floodplain habitats)

Hedgerows - large unenclosed area although road fractures this - some medieval enclosure. Southern part of area is a classic network of ancient clearance pattern including species rich examples.

Special features - diverse series of representative wetland habitats. Peat deposits associated with paleochannels. Managed osier bed.

High potential for restorability

ws. Tree cover also associated with landscaping of road corridor/amenity planting

Orchards - neglected orchards.

Grassland - eutrophic, extensive areas of old grassland. Diverse grassland now confined to small-scale features - one of greatest losses of grassland interest in county over last 100 yrs

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Primary network - strongly represented by two main rivers, large tributary and network of floodplain watercourses, plus transport corridors - (new habitats as opposed to floodplain habitats)

Hedgerows - large unenclosed area although road fractures this - some medieval enclosure. Southern part of area is a classic network of ancient clearance pattern including species rich examples.

Special features - diverse series of representative wetland habitats. Peat deposits associated with paleochannels. Managed osier bed.

High potential for restorability

LDU MW33.7 Powick Bridge Riverside Meadows

Biodiversity: moderate - both Teme and Seven in this area and whole of Teme of national importance - locally good riffles at Powick, one of most diverse Coleoptera sites in Britain

Abundance: moderate (most land farmland and pretty poor)

Network: moderate

Range: moderate minus

Impacts: high impact of modern agriculture, locally high impact of recreation

Woodland - no woodland as such, tree cover associated with watercourses and other wetland features (including ponds). Localised pollards

Grassland - eutrophic area, old grassland resource in blocks - no diverse grassland

Wetland - riparian habitat associated with watercourses

Open water - eutrophic resource including some floodplain hollow ponds, plus series of manorial fishponds, the latter including some reedbeds - some over eutrophicated.

Primary network - strong network associated with watercourses and wetland features

Hedgerows - species poor, enclosure age with fragmented pattern

Special feature - 'wild' river of national significance (Teme)

Potential - in part, still not too damaged. Potential for floodplain wetland restoration greatest in northern part.

LDU MW33.8 Kempsey Lower Ham Riverside Meadows

Biodiversity: moderate plus (Lower Ham improved slightly, Upper Ham significantly improved in mid 90's)

Abundance: moderate plus

Network: good

Range: moderate

Impacts: locally severe impact of modern agriculture, localised impact of recreation

Woodland - lacks any woodland as such (discrete blocks). Tree cover associated with linear features including localised pollards

Grassland - eutrophic resource, high cover of old grassland, including one substantial block of diverse (MG 4) grassland.

Wetland - associated with watercourses, also small areas of wet meadow, fen and swamp communities

Open water - flood plain hollows

Primary network - good, based on watercourse network. Upper Ham has good back channel - with cliff behind, plus main tributary, Lower Ham more of a broad plain

Hedgerows - relatively narrow area, with few hedges that are not associated with watercourses. Hedges largely of enclosure age but some ancient ones present as would have been expected with an Anglo Saxon meadow.

Special features - an ancient hay meadow under traditional management, also palaeochannels holding geomorphological interest including peat
Potential - significant area of old grassland recently destroyed so restoration and rehabilitation opportunities.

LDU MW33.9 Severn Stoke Riverside Meadows

Biodiversity: moderate plus - lacks big meadow but good micro features, probably one of best areas of its type

Abundance: moderate

Network: good - good hedgerow network

Range: good (for flood plain habitats)

Impacts: high impact of modern agriculture (quite a high % of arable), localised impact of flood defenceworks

Woodland - very localised amount of wet woodland associated with old brickworking. Fairly good representation of tree cover associated with linear features including ancient semi-natural woodland micro features. Localised willow and oak pollards. Veterans - oaks, but many pollards may also come into this category.

Grassland - significant area of old grassland - diverse types restricted but still exist in the area and include damp types

Wetland - good representation of typical floodplain wetland communities associated with watercourses, including fen, wet meadow, carr and swamp communities - small blocks as well as linear features - one of best areas of its type.

Open water - good eutrophic open water resource associated with floodplain hollows, paleochannels and old brickworkings

Primary network - good, strong representation especially associated with watercourse features including many paleochannels

Hedgerows - pattern largely ancient, and species rich - association with watercourse has helped their survival - one of best ancient floodplain hedgerow systems in county. Some enclosure hedges as well.

Special features - hedgerow pattern and the variety of floodplain habitats represented as microfeatures

Potential - good ancient network - plenty of scope to enhance the wetland value of the floodplain

LDU MW34 Guarlford Principal Timbered Farmlands

Biodiversity: good minus

Abundance: moderate plus

Network: good

Range: good

Impacts: locally severe impact of agriculture

Woodland - reasonable area of woodland, quite a lot in semi-natural condition. Mostly secondary woodlands associated with estates but one large ancient site (Cliffey Wood), parts of which are ancient semi-natural, the greater part replanted. Veterans present especially oak pollards. Tree cover also associated with settlement, watercourses, other linear features and common land. River cliff woodland of high value.

Orchards - traditional orchards associated with settlements.

Grassland - valuable mesotrophic resource especially associated with unenclosed commonland and highway verge network. Generally, grassland compromised elsewhere

Wetland - some habitats associated with stream corridors, and damp grasslands associated with commons

Open water - significant pond resource, associated with commons and good field pond network

Hedgerows - significant hedgerow interest, variable age but tending to be older, species rich hedgerows. Network fragmented but very good byway network

LDU MW35.1 Madresfield Principal Timbered Farmlands

Biodiversity: good minus

Abundance: good

Network: moderate plus. Large woodland blocks enhance network structure

Range: moderate plus

Impacts: locally severe impact of modern farming, local impact of forestry

Woodland - Very significant woodland resource, predominantly estate woodland origin, with significant blocks of ancient semi-natural woodland. Much under mixed forestry dating from WW2. Parkland. Veteran interest, both in parkland and in wider landscape, especially oak pollards. Tree cover associated with watercourses and other linear features.

Orchards - significant traditional orchard resource.

Grassland - poor resource, despite pastoral dominance. Quite a lot of old grassland but unimproved types limited and of fragmentary nature associated with micro and linear features, some associated with parkland.

Wetlands - large stream corridors with associated riparian habitats

Open water - pond resource, partly ornamental associated with parkland, but also a concentration of field ponds

Hedgerows - varied, certain areas of enclosure age, (late enclosure of common) others species rich, associated with earlier clearance. Highway network hedges ancient and derived from forest. Big fields and fragmented pattern in parts.

LDU MW35.2 Clevelode Principal Timbered Farmlands

Biodiversity: moderate plus

Abundance: good

Network: moderate

Range: moderate plus

Impacts: local impact of modern farming and forestry (coniferisation)

Woodland - significant area of woodland, mostly replanted, mostly of mixed plantations. Some are ancient sites, fragments could be termed ancient semi-natural. At least two

river cliff woodlands (ancient semi-natural) a special feature. Veteran tree resource throughout area.

Orchards - traditional orchards present.

Grassland - formerly a good area of mesotrophic grassland - reasonable quantity of old grassland today but unimproved types restricted and confined to remnants associated with steep slopes, road verges, and small fields associated with settlement.

Wetland - reasonable stream corridors with associated riparian habitats

Open water - pond resource fairly significant locally - some scarce plant species

Hedgerows - varied - LDU includes older, species rich hedges throughout, together with significant number of enclosure age. Byway hedges are old and species rich.

Ecological Profile (39)

Information currently unavailable.

LDU MW40.1 Bransford Principal Timbered Farmlands

Biodiversity: moderate overall but variable, substantial part is low but has peripheral areas of high interest, plus block of moderate interest

Abundance: moderate

Network: moderate, locally good

Range: moderate

Impacts: high agricultural impact over large area, local impacts of recreation and settlement

Woodland - significant ancient semi-natural woodlands, also modern woodland blocks - amenity plantings. Tree cover also associated with settlement and linear features.

Veteran interest

Orchards - traditional orchards associated with settlement.

Grassland - unimproved grassland very restricted, largely fragmented and associated with linear and micro features - valley scarp slopes, railway etc. Old grassland areas present.

Open water - recent ornamental pools significant

Hedgerows - most of enclosure age, fragmented and declining. Ancient hedgerows associated with primary network - byways etc and these are generally intact.

Special features

Woodland - river cliff woodland. Highly localised Tufa deposits on river cliff - unexpected on keuper marl.

LDU MW40.2 Leigh Sinton Principal Timbered Farmlands

Biodiversity: moderate, locally good

Abundance: moderate

Network: moderate, but variable. Extensive stream system and extensive river scarp

Range: moderate plus - not enough grassland for good

Impacts: locally severe impact of modern agriculture (Leigh Sinton plateau), locally impact of settlement - (Colletts Green), recreational impact - golf course. Local impact of forestry.

Woodland - ancient semi-natural resource throughout area in form of discrete enclosed woodlands, with concentrations along river scarp and some stream valleys - dingle element to these latter woods, with a different suite of species as soon as humidity increases. Dingles unexpected in such a Keuper marl area. Veterans throughout area with notable pollards. Elsewhere tree cover associated with settlements and with watercourses, the latter well developed in places, extending to small woodlands.

Orchards - traditional orchard resource associated with settlements, plus commercial orchard and abandoned commercial plantings.

Grassland - disappointing - mesotrophic area with quite a lot of old grassland.

Unimproved grassland much restricted, confined to areas of smallholder settlement, areas of marked relief - steep slopes, scattered though area. In addition, mesotrophic interest associated with linear features, especially byways and highways and railway lines, and micro features ie churchyards.

Wetland - large watercourses with riparian interest

Open water - field pond resource, also concentration of ornamental lakes - significant injection over last 10 - 15 yrs

Hedgerows - quite dense hedgerow network, much of which is old and species rich. Considerable tracts are more open, fragmented and possibly of later age.

LDU MW40.3 Old Hills Principal Timbered Farmlands

Biodiversity: good minus

Abundance: good

Network: good - near continuous semi-natural habitat

Range: moderate

Impacts: locally severe impact of agriculture in the assarted areas.

Woodland - present - secondary woodland due to natural regeneration. Veterans on common and around it.

Scrub - areas of old growth scrub, which includes significant areas of gorse scrub.

Grassland - considerable resource present, Old Hills an area of unimproved mesotrophic grassland

Open water - pond resource scattered on common, supporting mesotrophic elements, less good than Kempsey and Castlemorton commons.

Hedgerows - mostly open, enclosure age hedgerows, old hedgerows bound the common

LDU MW41 Powick Settled Farmlands on River Terraces

Biodiversity: low

Abundance: low

Network: low

Range: low

Impacts: severe impact of arable cultivation, local impact of development, sewage works, caravan sites.

Woodland - limited woodland resource, confined to clumps in association with settlement (planted) and river scarp slope (secondary), otherwise tree cover associated with watercourses, settlement and large house.

Grassland - most land cultivated so grassland scarce - fragments of unimproved mesotrophic grassland associated with scarp slopes, otherwise rudimentary interest in verges

Wetland - a very short section of Carrey Brook provides a good corridor

Hedgerows - very fragmented enclosure pattern

LDU MW42 River Teme - Upper Wick to Lulsey Riverside Meadows

Biodiversity: good

Abundance: moderate plus

Network: good

Range: moderate plus - one good large site but a lot of agricultural land

Impacts: high impact of agriculture and locally high impact of recreation. Field drainage in part of area

Woodland - low cover, virtually all floodplain wood gone, a few natural, secondary woodlands associated with river features, colonisation on shingle banks etc, some wet woodland associated with river features ie oxbows and paleochannels, other woods confined to a few small ash beds - classed as old secondary woods. The river itself is very wooded and forms a linear woodland. Tree cover also associated away from woods, with river well wooded along much of its length, pollards being a feature. There is a veteran tree resource. There are micro features of ancient semi-natural woodland associated with bases of river cliffs (cliffs in adjacent LDU) - very valuable natural habitats

Scrub - much willow scrub

Grassland - mainly mesotrophic and/or damp - there is an old grassland resource although species diverse areas are confined to micro and linear features, rarely a whole field. There are natural grassland communities associated with riverbanks - ledges on eroding cliff banks.

Wetland - wet grassland present in valley, mainly associated with paleochannels and floodplain hollows, occurring throughout but with localised concentrations. Fen and swamp communities are associated with the same sort of features. Considerable amount of riparian communities associated with natural course of river - quite a large area - banks are very large and steep with many in-channel features ie shingle banks.

Open water - *i.* standing - localised concentrations of floodplain ponds and hollows associated mainly with paleochannels. There are oxbow lakes and also recent amenity pools. *ii.* running water - the Teme itself is one of the finest examples of its type in UK with rich associated fauna and flora. There are a number of main tributaries and fair dispersal of smaller floodplain streams and ditches, but these tend to be localised.

Primary network - excellent corridor based on Teme with all its microhabitats.

Hedgerows - fairly intact pattern, including considerable ancient clearance patterns with species rich hedges, also significant areas of more fragmented pattern, likely to be of enclosure age.

Special features - river and all its microhabitats. Geomorphological interest - there are tufa deposits, emerging from calcareous springs and bands of marl in Mercia mudstones. Good habitat concentration.

Potentiality - potential for wetland restoration especially where concentrations of hollows and paleochannels

LDU MW43 Leigh Brook Riverside Meadows

Biodiversity: moderate plus (not enough good grassland)

Abundance: moderate

Network: good

Range: moderate

Impacts: moderately high impact of modern farming

Woodland - only small area under woodland cover in valley, - blocks are probably secondary but a lot of ancient semi-natural micro features present, including stream corridor itself which supports a fairly intact, albeit linear, ancient semi-natural woodland along much of its length. Veteran trees including pollards - not just willows - unlike lowland brooks, this corridor has large and small leaved lime pollards.

Orchards - small amount of traditional orchard

Grassland - generally mesotrophic, quite a lot of old grassland, - but more diverse, species rich types associated with micro features and fragments in larger fields. Old records show rich calcareous grassland here, probably associated with calcareous flushes - still in late 1970's but gone to arable in 1980's. Areas of damp grassland associated with either flood plain hollows or flushes.

Wetland - riparian habitat associated with brook, some fragments of wet meadow (no whole fields)

Open water - *i.* running - Leigh Brook itself is a trout stream with an associated fauna and flora. High quality.

Primary network - basically large brook dominating small valley - good network as a result

Hedgerows - ancient pattern, tending to be species rich, fragmented in part in both pattern and condition, declining in places.

Special features - Leigh Brook is one of best county examples of a fast flowing trout stream (along with Dowles Brook)

LDU MW44 Brockamin Principal Timbered Farmlands

Biodiversity: moderate plus

Abundance: moderate plus

Network: moderate plus

Range: moderate plus

Impacts: locally severe impact of modern agriculture

Woodland - this area supports a fairly intact ancient semi-natural woodland resource, largely confined to areas of difficult topography - scarp slopes and rejuvenated stream valleys. Some is of very high value. Probably the best example in county of dingle woods within Mercia mudstones. Also river cliff woodland of high value. Tree cover also associated with watercourses and settlement

Orchards - traditional orchards present, predominantly associated with settlement

Scrub - disused railway line, wooded in part

Grassland - supports valuable mesotrophic resource, mainly on steep slopes associated with stream valleys and difficult topography. Also grassland associated with linear features especially road verges and old railway line.

Open water - ponds present but not high value

Hedgerows - intact network, much of which is species rich and pre enclosure, a valuable resource

LDU MW46.1 Kings Green Principal Timbered Farmlands

Biodiversity: moderate plus

Abundance: moderate plus

Network: high/good. Highway and byway network ancient and rich

Range: moderate

Impacts: high impact of modern farming over quite a large area. Also extensive commercial fruit growing (Bulmers' orchards - still trees rather than bushes). Very localized impact of settlement

Woodland - ancient semi-natural woodland resource in area, generally small blocks but not as extensive as LDU 55.1. Tree cover also associated with stream corridors, settlement, and other linear features. Veterans plentiful

Orchards - traditional field size orchards associated with settlements, also extensive plantings of mainly apple in commercial production for cider industry.

Grassland - lot of old grassland but unimproved element is restricted, and mainly associated with micro and linear features and with old orchards but, although no units of field size, there are verge grasslands as good as SSSI's. About 5km of unimproved verge grassland, of good width therefore a sizeable resource.

Wetland - headwaters of Laugherne and Fitcher Brooks with associated riparian habitats

Open water - reasonable field pond resource - linear pits as well

Hedgerows - network is predominantly ancient, species rich and fairly intact.

LDU MW46.2 Martley Principal Timbered Farmlands

Biodiversity: moderate minus

Abundance: low plus

Network: moderate

Range: moderate minus

Impacts: high impact of modern agriculture, locally very high impact of development, (industrial development putting great pressure on landscape)

Woodland - a well worked landscape with ancient semi-natural woodland surviving as a linear streamside block virtually throughout whole LDU - some gaps (relating to medieval fishponds). Woodland has only survived here on most intractable soils. Tree cover also associated with settlement and linear features, also remnant parkland.

Orchards - fragments of traditional orchards associated with settlement

Grassland - some old grassland present, including a few small blocks of unimproved mesotrophic grassland, but most interest confined to micro and linear features, banks, verges etc. Variations due to sandstone and mudstone strata.

Wetland - associated with principle stream corridor, more significant than most as pools present along course, plus wet woodland and other associated riparian wetland habitat. Stream corridor is the best feature of LDU.

Open water - pond resource of interest - relating to monastic/church ponds - old stews, rather than ponds resulting from extraction. Also field ponds relating to settlement

Hedgerows - fragmented ancient network of species rich hedges.

LDU MW46.3 Wants Green Principal Timbered Farmlands

Biodiversity: moderate plus

Abundance: moderate plus

Network: high/good

Range: moderate plus

Impacts: locally severe impact of modern agriculture

Woodland - significant ancient semi-natural woodland resource, - dingle woodlands - discrete blocks and valley units - steep sided valleys retaining blocks rather than linear fragments. Reasonable tree cover also associated with other linear features and settlement. Veteran trees

Orchards - traditional orchard resource associated with settlements.

Grassland - much old grassland. Varied relief. Unimproved grassland restricted, largely confined to micro and linear features - steep slopes, verges, fields associated with settlement, plus a very few discrete blocks.

Wetland - tufa deposits associated with dingles, on mudstones as opposed to the more usual sandstones.

Hedgerows - ancient, significantly species rich hedges with an intact network.

Special qualities

Tufa deposit on mudstones. High quality of micro and linear features

LDU MW47.1 Ockeridge Wooded Estatelands

Biodiversity: good minus overall - divides into two, east being better. Two of best woodland sites in county

Abundance: good, locally poor

Network: variable - tending to be east west divide, good in east, moderate to poor in west

Range: moderate plus

Impacts: severe impact of modern agriculture, considerable impact of extensive orchard growing

Highlights

Woodland - extensive and important ancient woodland resource, much of which is in ancient semi-natural condition. (Much is Harris woodland, which is not asnw). One of most important asnw woodland sites on Mercia Mudstones - fragments of original forest

and very extensive blocks. Significant veteran resource - especially oak pollards. Other tree cover associated with watercourses - linear wooded features locally frequent.

Modern windbreaks a locally prominent feature.

Orchards - traditional orchards associated with settlement, plus very extensive commercial plantations, some undergrazed.

Heathland - (Sandstone ridges throughout area so could have supported small areas of heathland).

Grassland - significant amount of old grassland, however high value unimproved sites are scarce. Lot of grassland interest in this area associated with linear and micro features - good network. Mesotrophic

Wetland - watercourses with associated riparian habitats

Open water - a dry area due to ridge location but has a limited resource of open ponds and recent amenity pools.

Hedgerows - variable - underlying framework of very ancient hedgerows associated with highway and byway network, old patterns of clearance, especially in east, however supplemented by a lot of early enclosure age hedgerows. Declining network where agriculture intensive.

Special features - one of densest concentrations of ancient woodland sites on Mercia Mudstones in Worcestershire - an important concentration of habitats.

LDU MW48.1 Witley Wooded Estate lands

Biodiversity: good

Abundance: good

Network: overall moderate but locally high - secondary network fragmented but primary network good. Superb water corridors for wildlife with extensive semi-natural habitat extending up valleys

Range: good

Impacts: considerable area under intensive cropping. Sandstone areas very heavily farmed and open

Woodlands - very significant ancient semi-natural woodland resource, also very extensive resource of secondary woodland, both broadleaved and, locally, conifers. Contains one of the largest individual woodlands in county. Most stream corridors heavily wooded with asnw. Tree cover also associated with settlement and linear features. Veterans significant, reasonable density. Much variation in woodland type - significant % of the naturally occurring woodland types occurring in the county occur here, small-leaved lime woodland of particular note, Shrawley Wood being one of the best of this type in England. Also dingle woodland, and wet woodlands in valleys, plateaus where poorly drained or flushes along springline on valley sides.

Orchards - some traditional orchards associated with settlement, also some commercial orchards, and vineyards, a formerly traditional feature.

Grassland - important mesotrophic grassland resource, confined to areas of difficult relief ie river scarps and stream scarps, and valley slopes, otherwise limited and confined to micro and linear features ie verges. A sandstone area so does include oligotrophic grasslands - again confined to linear features, dry valleys and woodland edges. A lot of ground apparently abandoned, some formerly woodland - these tend to support lowland acidic grassland with bracken.

Heath - no heath, but heathy woodland and grass heath present.

Wetland - wetland habitats associated with watercourses

Open water - most of area dry - on sandstone - but a series of ornamental lakes and millpools present. Small field ponds limited due to geology and arable land use.
Hedgerows - mixed. Most of landscape poorly hedged, with hedges of enclosure age with declining pattern. Older hedges associated with highway and byway network, and valley network.

Special features - small-leaved lime woodland, sheer concentration of all woodland and its varied nature. Also rock habitats mainly derived from quarrying and natural cliffs.

LDU MW51 River Severn - Ombersley to Worcester Riverside Meadows

Biodiversity: good

Abundance: good

Network: good

Range: good

Impacts: locally high impact of agriculture, locally high impact of recreational activities, locally high impact of field drainage. Invasion of alien species, locally severe impact of tipping, locally high impact of forestry, 20th century increase in arable.

Woodland - moderate level of cover, including some ancient semi-natural alderwood - a scarce feature, also fairly high cover of secondary floodplain woodland, largely associated with old brickworkings - of high value even though secondary - willow especially prevalent in these. Also good veteran tree resource especially oak. Tree cover also associated with linear features especially watercourses and, locally, settlement (at locks, pubs and crossing points). Some of willow woodland is willow swamp woodland - associated with brickworks - very scarce.

Scrub - willow scrub present

Grassland - old grassland resource, especially in higher part of valley, lower part is better drained with arable. Rather than the typical eutrophic old grassland of ham meadows - this is more mesotrophic. Diverse types limited to banks and channels and remnants.

Wetland - wet grassland scattered through valley system but not as blocks, rather as parts of fields. Some fen and swamp. Also mesotrophic bog. Fen/bog habitats are some of best examples of the types in Worcestershire and are associated with old brickworkings. Lot of wetland habitat associated with watercourses and banks

Open water - *i.* standing - quite a number of floodplain pools, mainly associated with old brickworkings, but also floodplain hollows. Some ponds and wetlands associated with paleochannels and amenity pools of recent origin. *ii.* running water - the Severn is an important resource

Primary network - strong with river forming dominant feature in this LDU

Hedgerows - variable, definitely fragmented and declining in parts. Generally species poor but locally older.

Special features - good concentration of wet floodplain habitats, with potential to increase

LDU MW52 Holt Principal Settled Farmlands

Biodiversity: moderate minus - would be poor if not for acquired habitat (pools)

Abundance: moderate minus

Network: poor plus

Range: poor (lot of one thing)

Impacts: severe impact of modern farming for most of area. High impact of gravel extraction. Locally high impact of recreational activity

Woodland - no ancient semi-natural woodland. Some blocks of secondary broadleaved woodland. A few small units of damp woodland associated with stream courses. Tree cover otherwise associated with watercourses and settlements.

Remnant veteran tree resource associated with castle (remnant parkland)

Orchards - very relict traditional orchard, plus some modern commercial orchard

Grassland - resource very restricted, some rough grassland associated with gravel workings together with damp grassland along Grimley Brook

Wetland - wetland habitat along Grimley Brook

Open water - a significant open water resource, all associated with gravel extractions since WW2. All eutrophic. Individual ponds not valuable in their own right but have status in a collective sense.

Hedgerows - very fragmented, mostly of enclosure age, - older hedgerows very few and associated with byway network.

LDU MW53 Grimley Settled Farmlands on River Terraces

Biodiversity: moderate

Abundance: high at moment due to gravel pits, but will change as long term restoration proceeds

Network: moderate - no hedgerows but lot of area covered by habitat although minor features are missing.

Range: moderate

Impacts modern farming has had high impact. Gravel extraction very high impact (positive and negative) localised impact of settlement

Woodland - no ancient semi-natural woodland but old secondary woodland present, damp woodlands associated with watercourses and drainage features. Blocks of modern planting (from last 20 years) plus tree cover associated with settlement. Some veteran tree presence (on LDU boundary) at boundary of terrace and floodplain - possibly relating to floodplain forest.

Grassland - remnant interest of mesotrophic and damp grassland, associated with micro features – churchyards etc. More acidic grassland communities found on old gravel workings ie on steep banks - oligotrophic grasslands as opposed to true acid grasslands.

Wetland - varied habitats, associated with watercourses - wet woodland, ponds and reedswamp, and some fen communities. Wetland communities also associated with gravel workings.

Open water - ponds fall into two groups - those associated with medieval fishponds and the series of gravel pit pools, some of which are permanent. Eutrophic

Hedgerows - virtually no network, only fragments of enclosure age hedges, plus a few older fragments associated with byway network.

LDU MW54 Hallow Principal Timbered Farmlands

Biodiversity: moderate plus

Abundance: moderate

Network: moderate plus. Good network of byways and highways with ancient features

Range: moderate plus

Impacts: moderate impact of agriculture - fairly high impact over large proportion of area, and of urban development, especially associated with Broadheath and Hallow

Woodland - few blocks of ancient semi-natural woodland. Quite a bit of old secondary woodland. Lot of forest micro features. Significant veterans - especially oak pollards. Parkland, from medieval parks to 18th century (designed parks), and 19th century big houses with grounds. Overall a significant and wide ranging tree element.

Orchards - traditional orchard present especially associated with settlement. Pear orientated orchards on terraces

Grasslands - important resource, varied, reflecting nature of soils and varied relief.

Mesotrophic and oligotrophic grassland, plus damp grassland. Grassland especially associated with scarp slopes, valley fields and commonland.

Heathland - Broadheath was known to have heathland up to 20th century, still present in 1920, but now lost

Wetland - associated with stream valleys - fen communities associated with Grimley Brook

Open water - moderately significant - ornamental lakes associated with parkland, plus field pond resource, and more recently created features.

Hedgerows - varied - much loss evident. An area of modern farm units with fragmented system with species poor hedges especially in east. Assart hedges in north and west

Special features

Damp oligotrophic habitats - in two areas, probably more - Broadheath and Moseley.

Potential for re-creation, especially as one site is commonland

LDU MW55.1 Kenswick and Broadwas Principal Timbered Farmlands

Biodiversity: moderate plus

Abundance: moderate

Distribution: good/high

Range: good

Impacts: locally severe impact of modern farming - Kenswick area, and locally high impact of forestry since WW2

Woodland - this area holds a very significant ancient semi-natural woodland resource, unique perhaps in Britain as it has a high number of very small asn woodlands - most of which are too small to go in the Ancient Woodland inventory.

Also a few larger woodland blocks, but influenced by modern forestry. Many veteran trees, possibly relating to ancient woodpasture.

Orchards - many traditional orchards associated with settlement. Lot of field names associated with perry

Grassland - significant grassland resource, a lot of old grassland, also reasonable unimproved grassland resource relating to commonland (including one important site) - apart from that mostly associated with linear and micro features - ie not whole fields.

Road verges particularly good here, plus churchyards, and grounds of big house. A lot of grassland interest but few good fields.

Wetland - two main streams drain area, with associated riparian habitats

Open water - significant pond resource in terms of density. 3 groups: fields ponds - usually from marl digging, moats - most old farms have moats, many now filled in, and linear ponds - too many to be associated with moats, often located in woodland.
Hedgerows - either ancient or very old (pre 14th century) – Norman hedging (straight lines). Fairly intact network.

Special features

Density of small ancient semi-natural woodland. Wild service tree abundant here - related to method of clearance - woodland edge species so lot of potential - as abundant here as anywhere else in GB. Lots of small-scale features of wildlife interest - typical ancient countryside. Highway and byway network ancient and rich
Potentiality – high

LDU MW55.2 Broadwas Principal Timbered Farmlands

Biodiversity: moderate

Abundance: moderate minus

Network: moderate

Range: moderate minus

Impacts: locally high impacts of modern agriculture and settlement

Woodland - blocks of woodland absent, no ancient semi-natural woodland. Reasonable tree cover associated with linear features, watercourses and settlements.

Orchards - significant but fragmented traditional orchard resource, associated with settlement, much in a semi-derelict state.

Grassland - a lot of old grassland, of which there is a significant unimproved mesotrophic resource, especially associated with one commonland site, together with settlement and steep slopes - (settlement above on ridge with grassland below), and with orchards.

Grassland interest also associated with linear and micro-features

Hedgerows - intact system of ancient, mixed species hedges

Potential:

Good potential for grassland restoration as there is existing well spread resource and a lot of suitable small fields, associated with settlement

LDU MW56 Crown East Principal Timbered Farmlands

Biodiversity: moderate

Abundance: moderate

Network: moderate, locally poor. Reasonable primary network of roads, tracks and streams across unit

Range: moderate plus

Impacts: high impact of intensive agriculture over whole area. Negative impact of forestry operations

Woodland - significant ancient semi-natural woodland resource, although significant decline in 20th century with two large woods lost (Crown East and Birchen Grove). Old and new wood pasture represented. Veteran tree resource, especially oak pollards. Other tree cover associated with watercourses, linear features and settlement. Remnant old parkland - Crown East.

Orchards - traditional orchard and intensive commercial production, latter somewhat in decline.

Grassland - an area of unimproved grassland, including mesotrophic, acidic and damp grasslands, both as fields and as micro features, latter mainly along stream corridors.

Heathland - tiny remnant of heath, - on high terrace soils that have been leached.

Wetland - wetland presence along watercourses, some of moderate extent, especially marshland

Open water - significant resource present, with a range of types, old ornamental ponds in parkland, fishing, irrigation lakes and small old field ponds.

Hedgerows - enclosure age, species poor, in very declining condition, although locally older mixed species hedges, especially in west.

Special Features

Wood Pasture a traditional feature of this area. Presence of hornbeam a notable feature - and small hornbeam wood in area, one of most northerly sites in Britain

Heathland potential, especially Crown East estate area, - potential to link with Broadheath (latter was heath).

On high ridge, associated with oldest river terraces, are found habitats associated with oligotrophic/poor soils, sometimes on gravel, sometimes on poorly drained ground. A number of oligotrophic species normally found in north of county, occur here.

LDU MW57 Rushwick Principal Timbered Farmlands

Biodiversity: moderate

Abundance: moderate minus

Network: moderate minus. Dense primary network - significant road, railway and verge system

Range: moderate

Impacts: high impact of ancient, and modern, farming on lighter soils, also high impact of development and transport corridors, plus locally high impact of recreational activities - fishing pools and golf courses - mostly on eastern side.

Woodland - very restricted ancient semi-natural woodland resource - survival restricted to linear blocks along watercourses. Some secondary woodland - also associated with watercourses. Tree cover also associated with linear features, settlement, former parkland, old houses and recreational/amenity plantings. Cotheridge Court had notable lime avenue. Significant veteran tree resource

Orchards - some traditional orchards

Grassland - some old grassland present, but mostly either farmed or improved.

Unimproved resource fragmented and associated with micro and linear features - banks, churchyards, verges, and especially with riverside scarp slopes.

Wetland - some wetland habitats associated with watercourses.

Open water - quite a lot of amenity pools (bigger than ponds) - especially for fishing pools and irrigation

Hedgerows - varied resource in terms of age - some ancient with mixed species, others of enclosure age. Pattern highly fragmented in places.

Ecological Profile (MW58)

Information currently unavailable.

Ecological Profile (MW59)

Information currently unavailable.

Ecological Profile (MW60)

Information currently unavailable.

Ecological Profile (MW61)

Information currently unavailable.

LDU MW62.1 Norton Principal Settled Farmlands

Biodiversity: moderate - cleared common leaves a less diverse landscape

Abundance: poor

Network: moderate - variable - old style field pattern locally, elsewhere significant fragmentation, compounded by transport corridors causing further loss of integrity

Range: moderate

Impacts: local impacts of agriculture and urban development, together with large transport corridors, which whilst creating habitat have also caused major fragmentation

Woodland - currently confined to very small remnants, early landscape was very wooded and some woodland interest has survived in micro features of western and southern part of area. Most tree cover associated with settlement. In addition, secondary woodland has grown up around mineral workings.

Orchards - some traditional orchards, including (rare) walnut orchard

Grassland - reasonable old grassland resource of which there are significant mesotrophic examples remain - old meadows, stream side meadows, railway land, ancient monuments and mineral workings, ie Crookberow Hill. In addition several damp and wet grassland sites. Grasslands provide main interest for this LDU

Wetlands - one stream noted for particular range of wetland habitats, others poor.

Open water - ponds associated with mineral workings together with range of smaller marl pit type ponds throughout the area.

Comment

It is quite likely that this area supported heathland - significant area of past commonland. Could be potential for restoration work

LDU MW62.2 Kempsey Principal Settled Farmlands

Biodiversity: poor

Abundance: poor

Network: moderate - strong n/s orientation

Range: poor

Impacts: locally high impact of arable farming, settlement and urban growth

Woodland - supports asn woodland associated with river scarp slope otherwise tree cover largely confined to settlement and large houses

Grassland - restricted to micro and linear features

Wetland - wetland corridor along line of Hatfield Brook

Hedgerow - network fragmented. Hedges species poor.

Comment

River scarp main feature.

LDU MW63 Kempsey Unenclosed Commons

Biodiversity: good (semi-natural habitat over whole area)

Abundance: good plus (nearly all one extensive block)

Network: good

Range: moderate - lacks woodland element

Impacts: none

Woodland - no woodlands, however some veteran tree interest associated with old wood/park banks.

Scrub - notable scrub interest. One of largest extents of gorse scrub in Worcestershire.

Secondary scrub developed where grazing pressure restricted

Grassland - majority of area old grassland. Unusual grassland type - transitional - between mesotrophic and acid in parts and as such unusual in Worcestershire, and supports unusual range of species. Far from uniform, range of micro features within site increases habitat range - especially old banks.

Heath - not present but highly likely was present in past

Wetland - watercourses support rich and diverse wetland flora

Open water - number of pond sites, including some of rarest pond communities in Worcestershire - mesotrophic in chemistry and ephemeral/seasonal in nature, supporting rich and rare flora.

Highlights

Ponds and grasslands are very special features. One of best sites that isn't designated as SSSI. Still stock grazed

Hotspot.

LDU MW64 Croome Settled Farmlands on River Terraces

Biodiversity: moderate minus

Abundance: moderate minus

Network: poor - fragmented - area has discrete sites, lacking linkage. Interest lies in sites rather than in network. Poor

Range: moderate

Impacts: high impact of arable farming. Motorway has compromised sites by fragmentation, width becomes a barrier

Woodland - a few small discrete woodland blocks, of which some are on ancient sites.

Parkland remnant. Veteran tree interest - local parkland and ancient woodland links.

Tree cover associated with settlement, especially Severn Stoke

Grassland - interest restricted but does include a common and fields supporting mesotrophic grassland otherwise restricted to micro and linear features

Open water - some pools

Hedgerow - network fragmented, hedgerows generally species poor and enclosure age.

Special features

True service tree specimen

LDU MW65.1 Clifton Settled Farmlands on River Terraces

Biodiversity: good at present - little land under agriculture

Abundance: good at present

Network: moderate - network destroyed but new structure created

Range: good - at present

Impacts: modern agriculture impacted considerably, subsequent gravel workings had severe impact.

Woodland - holds ash woodland, one of very few natural flood plain/wet woodlands in county. Wet woodlands formerly occupied most of flood plains of major rivers - most cleared as continuous forest in Iron age, although some survived to Anglo Saxon period - wherever too wet, woodland would have persisted. Woodland regeneration on floodplain was obviously possible at some time as so many veterans today, - might have been managed by Anglo Saxons as wood pasture, although veterans tend to indicate some oak woodland. Flood plain veterans quite significant

Grassland - important wet grassland resource of county significance developed on paleo channels of Severn

Wetland - fen development on channels

Open water - considerable areas related to temporary phases of gravel workings

Network - original network largely compromised but semi-natural habitat over whole area at present so network less important

Special features

Paleo channels some of best developed in county (geomorphological interest)

Currently a **hotspot** but ephemeral situation, although there is potential to retain this status

LDU MW65.2 Kerswell Green Settled Farmlands on River Terraces

Biodiversity: poor but locally high - the old paleo channel (Ashmoor) being a particularly good area within it

Abundance: moderate

Network: moderate minus - moderate primary, poor secondary

Range: moderate

Impacts: arable farming

Woodland - confined to small block of secondary woodland and small areas of willow.

Tree cover elsewhere associated with settlement and watercourses

Grassland - significant grassland interest in area, largely confined to old paleo channel of Ashmoor Common

Wetland - series of wetland habitats associated with old Severn paleo channel, including mesotrophic fen, marsh, wet grassland, swamp and ditch system

Open water - at least 2 pools of county significance along old paleochannel

Network - hedgerow fragmented, only intact in N-S direction

Special features

Series of high value wetland communities

Peat deposits and geomorphological interest associated with ancient river channel

LDU MW67 Croome Estate Farmlands

Biodiversity: moderate, locally good - southern part less good

Abundance: moderate - locally good

Network: moderate - locally good

Range: good

Impacts: local impact of arable/intensive agriculture. Disruptive effect of motorway.

Woodland - fairly reasonable woodland cover of which small proportion is in ancient semi-natural condition ie Lickmore coppice. Most woodland of a type, not necessarily of high status but mass value gives moderate value. Estate woodlands - broad leaf plantations - largely classed as old secondary. High veteran tree resource. Extensive but compromised parkland resource.

Orchards - traditional orchards associated with settlements

Grasslands - mesotrophic resource especially associated with common land and varied relief/steep banks and settlement and micro features remaining from parkland, ie banks around lake, ridges and banks not suitable for cultivation. Old deer parks located on difficult land with varied relief provide further grassland interest

Wetland - alluvial stream valleys supporting wetland habitats - wet grassland. Wet grassland/marsh would formerly have been extensive but created into lake. Dunstall Common still supports wet grassland and fen communities in that valley.

Open water - very important resource here - reasonable pond resource but main features are large lakes, two of largest in county associated with work of Capability Brown, one, Pirton Pool, is of outstanding county importance with nationally rare aquatic open water communities - small catchment with least eutrophic land draining into it. Croome also high value with extensive reed swamp. Both water bodies are of county importance.

Hedgerows - fragmented pattern over most of area, but still significant resource. Mixed age, those associated with linear features of most importance

Special features

Concentration of scarce/unusual habitat types - woods, grassland and water combinations create localised **hotspots**.

LDU MW75 Croome Ridge Estate Farmlands

Biodiversity: moderate

Abundance: moderate

Network: moderate

Range: moderate

Impacts: locally high impact of arable farming, impact from 18th century landscaping movement

Woodland - broadleaf resource, much associated with 18th century landscaping. All compromised, no ancient semi-natural woodland. Largely old secondary woodland subject to modern forestry practices. Remnant parkland. Veteran tree resource

Orchards - traditional orchards associated with settlements

Grassland - interest mainly associated with micro and linear features, esp steep banks.

Does include mesotrophic and limestone elements

Wetland - just above spring line so no wetland

Hedgerows - network lost in part through landscaping activities and further depleted in modern times

Special features

Floristic interest - specific flora associated with this limestone ridge - including nationally rare plant, usually a cotswolds sp.

LDU MW 78 Wadborough Wooded Estate lands

Biodiversity: area of extremes, overall moderate, locally high (N where smaller land units), locally poor

Abundance: moderate plus - due to sheer extent of woodland.

Network: variable, much of area very fragmented, core forest areas have fairly intact ancient network

Range: good

Impacts: locally 'ancient' area in good condition, outside of that, intensive modern agriculture with severe impact, the latter being the greater part of the LDU

Highlights

Woodland - superb asnw resource, some local forestry impact, declining now. Tree cover also associated with settlement, veteran trees resource, remnant parkland. Tree cover/woodland also associated with stream corridors.

Orchards - significant traditional orchard resource, much now abandoned.

Grassland - significant mesotrophic grassland resource, frequently lying close to asnw, often glades which were never improved (meadows cut out of forest) Concentrated in main woodland areas but grassland scattered throughout area, remnants associated with railway and verges - some basic (limestone) grassland with railway.

Wetland - stream corridor network - associated riparian habitat especially fen. Well wooded.

Hedgerows - fragmented, especially species poor hedgerows in large scale landscape areas. Older, richer hedges in associated with woodland areas.

Special features

Close juxtaposition of main habitats in certain areas = local hotspots

Rare butterflies associated with this area

LDU MW80.1 Stoulton Principal Timbered Farmlands

Wooded status in Anglo Saxon period uncertain, evidence of early Saxon settlement at White Ladies Aston.

Substantive part derived from planned landscape rather than ancient. A transitional unit between east (planned) and ancient to north and west. Southern part thought to have been well wooded.

Biodiversity: moderate

Abundance: moderate, locally poor

Network: moderate minus, primary fairly good, secondary (hedgerow) badly affected by modern agriculture

Range: *no information*

Impact: fairly high impact of modern agriculture

Woodland - only a few discrete blocks survive, some of which is as old - blocks tend to be isolated. Tree cover associated with settlement and relic parkland. Stream corridors well wooded, much being ancient woodland

Orchards - traditional orchard resource present

Grassland - confined to relic unimproved remnant patches associated with linear features and micro features, notably transport corridor, stream valleys and churchyards. Formerly very good grassland resource but now replaced by old grassland rather than unimproved. Much ridge and furrow.

Wetland - Bow Brook and attendant tributaries support good range of riparian habitats

Primary network - good overall, stream corridors notable

Hedgerows - network badly affected by agriculture

LDU MW80.2 Drakes Broughton Principal Timbered Farmlands

Biodiversity: low

Abundance: moderate - only on account of orchards, otherwise low

Network: poor/low

Range: low

Impacts: high impact of urbanisation, modern agriculture

Woodland - Tree cover associated with settlements

Orchards - significant orchard resource

Grassland - interest confined to remnants of highway verges

LDU MW81 Bishampton Village Claylands

Biodiversity: poor

Abundance: low

Network: moderate, locally poor

Range: moderate to poor

Impacts: modern agriculture has had a significant negative impact, together with local development associated with airfields, tips etc

Woodland - a few discrete blocks of secondary woodland, asnw absent. Tree cover associated with settlement and linear features especially stream corridors

Orchards - traditional orchards a feature and some significant areas remain, bigger (commercial) blocks as opposed to domestic. Orchards provide biggest area of tree cover

Grassland - still supports mesotrophic basic grasslands, some small concentrations associated with settlements, also microfeature grassland interest especially verges and byways. Notable grassland resource also associated with Throckmorton airfield site, excluded from agricultural use since WW2 - difficult to estimate as access restricted.

Wetland - stream corridor provides an important feature supporting a range of associated habitats, including marsh, reedbed, pools

Open water - some pools associated with stream corridor plus some ornamental/recent pools

Hedgerows - predominantly species poor and in poor condition, fragmented over most of area

Special features

Arable weed interest still extant in area - surviving seedbank in part.

LDU MW82 Kington Village Claylands

Biodiversity: moderate

Abundance: moderate

Network: moderate

Range: moderate/poor

Impacts: locally high intensity agriculture

Woodland - tree cover and woodland very sparse, mainly associated with settlement and stream corridors, low tree cover associated with hedgerows

Orchards - local traditional orchards associated with settlement

- significant old grassland resource - of this a reasonable proportion is unimproved and high value – at the basic end of the mesotrophic range. (Lias grasslands generally transitional between mesotrophic and basic [limestone] grasslands)

Wetland - locally important stream corridors with associated wetland habitats

Primary network - good stream corridor network

Hedgerows - network fairly intact, hedges tend to be species poor

Special features

Potential for grassland restoration

LDU MW99.5 Goosehill Green Principal Timbered Farmlands

Biodiversity: moderate - range of semi-natural habitats limited

Abundance: poor plus

Network: good

Range: *no information*

Impacts: less impact of modern farming than most areas

Woodlands - notable veteran tree presence

Orchards - traditional mature orchards present

Grassland - reasonable resource, notable amount of old grassland - though traditional unimproved grassland poorly represented.

Open water - ponds well represented

Hedgerows - fairly intact hedge and ditch structure

Special Features

Significant hedge/ditch system with associated micro features.

Veteran tree presence notable

Ponds

LDU MW105.1 Himbleton Wooded Estatelands

Biodiversity: high, locally very high

Abundance: good and extensive including large blocks of semi-natural habitat

Network: moderate plus

Range: good

Impacts: locally high impact of farming and 20th century forestry.

Woodland - high cover of woodland - large and exceptional woodland resource.

Significant quantity of asn. Most woods in discrete blocks of ancient provenance. Two large Harris woods. Some coniferisation.

Orchards - traditional orchards present

Grassland - important resource, particularly associated with stream corridors and scarp slopes. Grassland resource also associated with linear features of transport corridors - railways, canal and roadsides - extant, not just remnants. Notable road verges.

Wetlands - locally valuable wetland resource associated with stream corridors - quite large streams, including wet woodland, fen and marsh habitats. Canal also present.

Hedgerows - moderate network, locally species rich

Special Features

This area is one of most important concentrations of wildlife and habitat in southern Worcestershire - a **hotspot** in the south and east Worcestershire natural area.

LDU MW105.2 Crowle Wooded Estatelands

Biodiversity: moderate

Abundance: poor to low

Network: poor overall, apart from Bow Brook which raises it to moderate to poor

Range: low (woodlands and grassland have been lost in the area)

Impact: agriculture has been biggest impact from medieval to modern times

Woodland - generally confined to linear and micro features - and to tree cover in village
Orchards - significant traditional orchards resource in area - main tree cover other than stream corridor cover

Grassland - associated with micro features and linear features

Wetland - Bow Brook significant wildlife resource with associated riparian habitats

Hedgerows - enclosure age with locally ancient and species rich hedges

LDU MW106 Grafton Flyford Wooded Estate lands

Biodiversity: moderate, locally good

Abundance: moderate to locally good with extensive blocks of habitat (woodland)

Network: moderate to poor, locally substantive and good in places, fragmented elsewhere. Mixed

Range: moderate

Impact: locally severe impact of agriculture and forestry

Woodland - large, significant, discrete blocks still extant, some of which of exceptionally high quality, also large blocks of replanted woodland together with estate woods (secondary, planted over last 200 yrs). Such a concentration of these unusual for Worcestershire (around Huddington). Well wooded stream corridors, one especially. Remnant parkland. Veteran trees a notable feature.

Orchards - traditional orchards associated with settlements

Grassland - significant in not too distant past, very reduced and restricted today, mainly associated with micro features, churchyards, verges and a few stream banks

Wetland - some wetland interest confined to (Bow Brook Valley) stream corridor

Hedgerows - variable network, largely species poor but locally ancient and sp rich

Special features

Nationally rare butterfly species present

LDU MW107.1 Spetchley Principal Timbered Farmlands

Biodiversity: moderate, locally good

Abundance: moderate, with an extensive block of semi-natural habitat

Network: moderate, primary network good, (secondary) hedgerow pattern fragmented

Range: moderate plus

Impact: significant negative agricultural impact

Woodland - outstanding woodland interest here is a deer park with considerable veteran tree interest, still functioning, one of few remaining in county. In addition to wood pasture, a scattering of enclosed blocks of woodland, tending to be estate (secondary) woodland. Elsewhere tree cover associated with settlement, relic parkland and stream corridors.

Grassland - largest block is old pasture associated with deer park. Some mesotrophic unimproved grassland, also considerable interest associated with micro and linear features - railways, bridleway, road-verges and streamsides.

Wetland - number of fields of fen and wet meadows associated with stream network, together with reedbed.

Open water - two large lakes and a number of smaller pools of wildlife interest.

Primary network - stream corridor network substantive.

Hedgerows - hedgerow structure compromised and poor, tends to be enclosure age unless associated an older features.

Special features

Working deer park is a high value site in a county context

Additional special feature - peat deposits

LDU MW107.2 Bredicot Principal Timbered Farmlands

Biodiversity: moderate

Abundance: moderate to locally high

Distribution: moderate,

Range: moderate

Impact: locally high impact of modern agriculture, locally high impact of urban fringe and transport corridors (latter a mixture of positive and negative)

Woodland - significant woodland resource, some ancient semi-natural but mostly estate woodland, created over last few centuries, mostly old broadleaved plantation. Veteran tree resource present

Orchards - present but not highly significant

Grassland - some mesotrophic grassland, very limited. Mostly lost, some remnant interest, some interest associated with transport corridors and verges on some minor roads

Hedgerows - network moderately intact, generally not species rich

LDU MW108 Netherwood Wet Pasture Meadows

Biodiversity: moderate minus

Abundance: moderate minus

Network: moderate - fairly intact

Range: moderate minus

Impacts: general agricultural improvement, greater to south, more pastoral to north

Woodland - woodland blocks absent, Tree cover represented by stream system and other linear features

Orchards - very localised representation of farm orchards

Grassland - would have had very significant grassland, now very fragmented, confined to minor and linear features, including railway (big cutting through limestone)

Wetland - interest now confined to watercourses, including canal

Hedgerow - network fairly intact, some enclosure age, others older, creating wooded appearance in places

Special Features

High potential for habitat restoration

LDU MW109.1 Tibberton Settled Farmlands with Pastoral Land Use

Twyning mudstones. Forest derived, indications of common field systems developed around distinct hamlet assemblages, with subsequent enclosure leading to regular field patterns. Unit therefore transitional between ancient and planned. Agriculture not over-intensive but semi-natural habitat scarce both at large blocks and microfeature scale.

Biodiversity: moderate to low

Abundance: moderate to low. Semi-natural habitat scarce at both large block and microfeature scale.

Network: moderate

Range: low

Impacts: *no information*

Woodland - virtually no woodland, tree cover primarily associated with settlement

Orchards - some good traditional orchards

Grassland - some fields of semi-improved interest plus remnants on byway verges, churchyards etc.

Open water - scattering of field ponds, shortest section of canal

Hedgerows - fairly intact network

LDU MW109.2 Newland Settled Farmlands with Pastoral Land Use

Biodiversity: moderate to poor

Abundance: *no information*

Network: fragmented due to motorway and agricultural usage

Range: *no information*

Impacts: high impact of motorway, intensive agriculture and, locally, new development.

Potential positive impact of golf course providing wildlife retreat

Woodland - new planting associated with golf course. Little hedgerow timber

Orchards - local presence

Open water - ponds and pools locally important

Hedgerows - small fields so hedgerows numerous but pattern fragmented

LDU MW109.3 Primsland Settled Farmlands with Pastoral Land Use

Keuper marl landscape of early clearance. Commonland to south, which may indicate former more extensive areas of open field commonland. Semi-natural habitat very limited in both quantity and range and largely represented by micro features such as banks of ponds and old lanes.

Biodiversity: moderate to low

Abundance: moderate to low - very limited in quantity and range, largely represented by micro features - banks of ponds and old lanes

Network: moderate network of minor features

Range: low

Impacts: urban fringe impacts

Open water - some ponds

Hedgerows - moderate pattern of hedges and byways

LDU MW110 Hanbury Wet Pasture Meadows

Biodiversity: moderate, locally high

Abundance: good

Network: good minus

Range: *no information*

Impacts: *no information*

Woodland - white willow and other species typical of alluvial soils notable in hedgelines.

Orchards - present but largely over mature

Grassland - extensive area of alluvial grassland of interest (ie for hare population) including high value unimproved grassland areas - both hay-meadows and permanent pastures. Alluvial soils naturally rich so tend to retain some of their interest even if improved.

Hedgerows - ditch/hedgerow network good, species rich and fairly well wooded. Massive double hedgerows with deep ditch. Interesting hedgerow systems - straightlines even though some are old.

Special features

Intact common system of traditional 'green' type, formerly flanking road

One big farm with moated site

LDU MW111 Hindlip Principal Timbered Farmlands

Biodiversity: very variable, moderate plus overall

Abundance: moderate

Network: moderate, locally good

Range: good

Impacts: diverse, locally severe impact of agriculture, plus impacts of urban fringe and transport corridors, not all negative (A449 positive, M5 less so)

Woodland - answ woodland still occurs, reasonable sized units. A number of estate woodlands, some awes, others secondary. Veteran tree resource. Relic parkland and wooded common. Linear woodland associated with transport corridors - (ground allowed to scrub over)

Orchards - reasonable traditional orchard resource

Grassland - exists as relic especially associated with primary linear features (road and canal network) some old pasture.

Wetland - high wetland interest - canal, lakes and ponds significant, also fen and reedbed communities associated with lakes and natural fen, (the fen includes wet grassland). Also stream system.

Primary network - very good, based on transport corridors - roads and canal, together with stream system. Reasonable quantity of semi-natural habitat linked with many of these.

Hedgerow - network disappointing, poorly managed, original pattern still apparent in places

LDU MW112.1 Martin Hussingtree Settled Farmlands with Pastoral Land Use

Biodiversity: moderate

Abundance: moderate

Distribution: moderate

Range: low

Impacts: high agricultural impact over considerable area

Woodland - exceptionally scarce, confined to unfarmable ground, steep slopes etc.

Micro features indicate woodland remnants. Tree cover represented by relic parkland, stream and hedgerow network, and cover around settlements. Veterans a local feature.

Grassland - mesotrophic grassland very limited, restricted to railway, canal and other linear features and micro features

Wetland - locally incised stream valleys with associated habitats, woodland and marsh.
Forms little dingles
Canal with reedbed locally very notable - reedbed of county significance.
Hedgerows - linear network variable - good byways and associated hedgerows on valley sides but much of area on plateau where agricultural impact greatest, with hedgerow network fragmenting.

Special features
Unusually high salinity for inland location

LDU MW112.2 Fernhill Heath Settled Farmlands with Pastoral Land Use.

Biodiversity: low
Abundance: low
Network: fragmented urban (+/-)
Range: poor
Impacts: high impact of urbanisation, loss of most open areas

Highlights

Woodland - No woodland blocks but tree cover associated with settlement, especially a few large residences
Grassland - mesotrophic grassland but associated now with transport routes and few patches of old pasture
Heath - probably heath till 18th century – marginal land of this nature lost during agricultural revolution. No heath today
Primary network - whole pattern disrupted and fragmented by urbanisation – A449 and railway provide primary routes

LDU MW113 Claines Settled Farmlands on River Terraces

Biodiversity: moderate
Abundance: moderate minus
Network: fragmented - moderate minus - some big fields
Range: moderate
Impacts: high impact of intensive arable agriculture. Where farming doesn't survive, urban fringe land uses - golf, allotments, horses, garden centres - some destruction but generally lower impact.

Woodland - exceptionally sparse. Some wood pasture (ornamental trees). Bevere particularly well supplied with tree cover and wood pasture including mature trees. Remnants of wet woodland associated with Barbourne Brook.
Orchards - some orchard interest
Grassland - mesotrophic grassland interest in Perdiswell area - (never improved)
Wetland - reedbeds along Barbourne Brook, pools associated with landscape of Bevere area
Hedgerows - network very fragmented, some areas however may have lacked original enclosure - could have been one big open field at Bevere and at Perdiswell. Landscape pattern today totally disrupted.

LDU MW114 Salwarpe Riverside Meadows

Biodiversity: moderate

Abundance: moderate

Network: good - with canal and river

Range: moderate

Impacts: locally high impact of agriculture and drainage. Deterioration in water quality

Woodland - cover very low, including small broadleaf plantations and small areas of natural regeneration. Tree cover otherwise associated with watercourses and other linear features, and settlement. Remnant parkland - difficult to identify. Localised pollards

Scrub - small areas of scrub

Grassland - predominantly eutrophic resource including old grassland, but mesotrophic grassland represented as a minor feature confined to micro and linear features.

Fragments of damp grassland remain.

Wetland - wetland habitats include notable tall herb associations with watercourses and important reedswamp habitat associated with canal. Still some fragments of wetland in valley, still some eutrophic flush sites with reedbeds. Most significant wetland feature is the naturally saline condition of the Salwarpe - saline flushes in valley. The fen wet grassland communities were formerly of greater extent

Open water - *i.* standing - some floodplain hollows, some fairly new fishing lakes, Droitwich canal (saline waterbody) *ii.* running - River Salwarpe (high saline site) with an associated flora and fauna.

Primary network - strongly represented due to canal and river

Hedgerows - fairly narrow valley floor, hedgerow pattern moderately intact - variable age and species composition.

Special features - saline environment with presence of halophytic species. Reedbed habitat

Potentiality - high potential for restoration of wetland floodplain communities - wet meadow/grazing marsh etc.

Ecological Profile (MW115)

Information currently unavailable.

Ecological Profile (MW116)

Information currently unavailable.

Ecological Profile (MW117)

Information currently unavailable.

LDU MW118.1 Hanbury Principal Timbered Farmlands

Biodiversity: moderate to locally good

Abundance: moderate - some fairly extensive blocks

Network: generally good, fragmented in intensively farmed areas

Range: good

Impacts: varied - intensive mixed farming dominant with, low impact areas of parkland/pastoral land uses.

Woodland - moderate representation, mostly broadleaf, majority secondary rather than ancient. Much estate woodland and significant parkland element with notable veterans throughout area. Beyond parkland, tree cover poorly represented.

Wet woodland (ash dominated) associated with alluvial stream valley - scarce

Grassland - limited. Significant proportion of old grassland associated with estateland and small areas of unimproved grassland associated with transport corridors, especially railway

Wetland - some wetland and riparian habitat associated with main (alluvial) stream valley through area

Open water - notable pond resource especially in parkland

Primary Network - many big linear features, notably transport corridors

Hedgerows - fragmented pattern of hedgerows and byways.

Special features

Saline influence in this area, resulting in a few atypical species for the area

LDU MW118.2 Westwood Principal Timbered Farmlands

Biodiversity: good overall but severely impacted locally

Abundance: good, but depleted in east. Generally high % cover with good number of large semi-natural habitats

Network: *no information*

Range: *no information*

Impacts: high impact of modern agriculture over significant part of area.

Woodland - well represented to west with significant proportion on ancient sites, much compromised by estate forestry so not in prime ecological condition. In part well supplemented by micro features, banks, stream corridors. Locally, very little woodland to east other than modern game coverts with conifers.

Parkland - area has experienced emparking at different periods, with associated wooded features - belts, clumps, and veterans. Westwood Park established in 17th century, High Park of earlier date, connected with Salwarpe Manor.

Orchards - some traditional orchards remaining.

Scrub - associated with stream corridors

Grassland - largely restricted to patches of wood pasture, railway embankments and urban fringe grasslands.

Wetland - fen, damp grassland and other riparian habitats associated with stream networks

Open water - very significant lake resource - including site of national importance (Westwood Pool), ornamental in origin. High Stank also significant, plus other smaller pools, ornamental in origin rather than industrial. Open water succession to swamp and alder woodland represented in places.

Primary network - railway locally significant, highway network less so, lane system fragmented.

Hedgerows - old field patterns survive to the west, remaining area significantly fragmented.

Special features:

Parkland associations very strong in this LDU, relating to different periods

Stream networks some of most significant in county.

Hagley Brook Valley - incised valley with ancient countryside patterns with notable carrying capacity for wildlife

Good density of habitats associated with urban fringe areas.

LDU MW119.3 Elmley Bridge Principal Timbered Farmlands

Biodiversity: moderate plus

Abundance: *no information*

Network: moderate plus

Range: *no information*

Impacts: locally high impact of agriculture. Local impact of forestry

Woodland - significant resource including moderate to large blocks of ancient semi-natural woodland. Wild service prominent in some parts. Local afforestation on some of these woodlands. Woodland micro-features associated with byways, banks etc. very significant. Veteran tree presence in parts.

Orchards - a feature of the area, mostly mature or over mature, apparently declining

Grassland interest - poorer than expected from a Keuper marl area - due to loss of commonland field system and grassland improvement. Grassland micro-features associated with linear features.

Primary network - good

Hedgerows - good

Special features

Principal interest lies in the stream corridors - some large streams and section of River Salwarpe a major feature of the District - including marshland, wet grassland and wet woodland habitats.

Byway and highway network a valuable resource - grassland, relic woodland habitats etc

LDU MW120 Ombersley Principal Timbered Farmlands

Biodiversity: *no information*

Abundance: *no information*

Network: *no information*

Range: *no information*

Impacts: local impact of transport corridors and urban development. Widespread intensive agriculture

Woodlands - important series of damp woodlands (willow/alder) of considerable width throughout area associated with stream corridors.
Wetland - range of riparian habitats, including swamp, associated with stream corridors.
Grassland - wet grassland associated with stream corridors otherwise minimal interest
Open water - new ponds/fishing lakes, otherwise poor open water resource
Primary network - good main network based on stream corridors
Hedgerows - fragmented pattern, hedgerows neglected

LDU MW121 Ombersley Park Estate Farmlands

Biodiversity: moderate plus
Abundance: good
Network: *no information*
Range: good
Impacts: *no information*

Woodland - significant proportion of ancient semi-natural woodland. Parkland with veteran trees an important habitat resource.
Scrub - significant scrub habitats.
Grassland - limited but occurs as micro-features along verges woodland edge, verges etc.
Wetland - significant swamp resource associated with areas of open water
Open water - significant bodies of open water particularly associated with parkland
Hedgerows - species poor. Network very fragmented.

Special features

Greater proportion of semi-natural habitats than normal for a sandstone area, mostly associated with the old parkland.

LDU MW122.1 Holt Fleet - Tilton Principal Settled Farmlands

Biodiversity: good
Abundance: *no information*
Network: moderate plus
Range: *no information*
Impacts: widespread intensive agriculture

Woodland resource - ancient semi-natural woodland woodlands including small - leaf lime woodland, forming a near continuous linear woodland, 6 km long, along ridge line. Also carr woodland and parkland of interest. Veteran tree interest, notable at Hartlebury Castle. Also woodland fragments associated with byway network of interest.
Grassland - area of oligotrophic grassland of county significance, otherwise grassland also associated with byway micro-features.
Wetland - some significant stream corridors with wetland and riparian habitat of value
Open water - significant open water interest and associated wet woodland habitats, notably in Hartlebury area.
Primary network - good
Hedgerows - fragmented and poor condition

LDU MW122.2 Hartlebury/Ombersley Principal Settled Farmlands

Biodiversity: moderate minus

Abundance: *no information*

Network: poor, fragmented

Range: *no information*

Impacts: High impact of transport corridors

Woodland - localised interest associated with stream valleys, elsewhere most tree cover associated with settlements

Wetland - riparian habitats associated with Elmley Brook

Primary network - most habitat associated with byways and highways

Hedgerows - species poor, fragmented network