

Preliminary Ecological Report

For

Fenny Compton Parish Council

Habitat Biodiversity Audit Partnership
for Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull
Warwickshire Wildlife Trust



December 2018

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Introduction

Wildlife and biodiversity are valuable as part of the natural environment, and in terms of contributing to people's quality of life and wellbeing. The Government has committed itself to halt and reverse the overall decline in biodiversity. Neighbourhood plans offer significant opportunities to understand the biodiversity assets you have and how they can be protected and enhanced.

Identifying biodiversity assets of your neighbourhood includes:

- Important habitats for example all woodlands, ponds, hedgerows and meadows;
- Designated nature areas, both statutory and non-statutory;
- Distribution of plants and animals
- Wildlife corridors between habitats to allow animals and plants to disperse

In addition to identifying biodiversity assets your local neighbourhood plan can be used to;

- Show where opportunities are for enhancing biodiversity by introducing different management of public spaces, planting trees or restoring hedgerows for example;
- Identifying where the threats to wildlife are, and how can they be avoided or mitigated;
- Plan to achieve a long-term biodiversity net gain for your parish

The Habitat Biodiversity Audit for Warwickshire Coventry and Solihull

Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull are very well provided with wildlife information from Warwickshire Wildlife Trust's Habitat Biodiversity Audit and Warwickshire County Council Biological Records Centre.

The Habitat Biodiversity Audit (HBA) Partnership for Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull has been surveying and maintaining a continuous record of the wildlife habitats for the Warwickshire sub-region since 1995. Today the HBA partnership is the longest running habitat survey programme of its kind in the country. Its success is due to the ongoing support and funding from all the local planning authorities across the sub-region, together with support and advice from the Environment Agency and Natural England.

In addition to the Phase 1 surveys the HBA incorporates the Local Wildlife Sites Project (LWSP) which designates Local Wildlife Sites (formerly Sites of Importance for Nature

Conservation – SINCs) across the sub-region. Local Wildlife Sites are recognised within the planning system as of county importance for protecting wildlife and are incorporated into all local district and county green infrastructure plans. Today there are more than 560 local wildlife sites in Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull, covering more than 5,000 hectares.

The Warwickshire sub-region Phase 1 Habitat Survey

The phase 1 habitat survey is a standardised system for classifying and mapping wildlife habitats in all parts of Great Britain.

The Warwickshire Phase 1 habitat survey programme has been running unbroken for 21 years and is updated annually with the aim to update the Warwickshire sub-region within a five-year time span. The survey is managed by a GIS/Phase 1 officer with support from volunteers and ecological trainees.

Warwickshire was one of the first pilot areas for trialing the national biodiversity offsetting scheme which has now been formally adopted into the planning policy of all local authorities. Warwickshire was able to offer the offsetting scheme because of the consistent comprehensive coverage of the Phase 1 habitat dataset. The main addition from the offsetting scheme is the habitat distinctiveness score

In addition to the biodiversity offsetting scoring the Phase 1 habitat data has also been used for modelling habitat connectivity for woodlands and hedgerows, grasslands and wetlands and most recently for pond clusters.

For a detailed description of the Phase 1 habitat survey methodology please refer to the JNCC Handbook for Phase 1 habitat Survey (JNCC, 2010) and the HBA Phase 1 Survey Guidance Notes (Habitat Biodiversity Audit, 2012). The distinctiveness scoring methodology (Defra, 2012) is available on DEFRA's website at:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/biodiversity/uk/offsetting/>

The biodiversity offsetting definitions and criteria for Warwickshire amended 10/05/2013 are available from Ecological Services Warwickshire County Council.

Warwickshire Biological Records Centre Species Records

Species information is based on existing records within the Warwickshire Biological Record Centre (WBRC). For this report EU and UK protected species, UK Biodiversity Action Plan, local Biodiversity Action Plan species and rare and endangered species have been noted where records are held digitally. These records have been used with local knowledge to provide spatial interpretation for each site.

This interpretation is based on data and information available at the time of preparing this report. Please note that lack of records may well indicate that no survey work has yet been undertaken and does not indicate that species are necessarily absent.

Protected species may be using the site and surrounding area and appropriate survey work may be required to establish their presence and to inform mitigation measures to ensure that they are not impacted by any proposed works.

Natural Environment Designations

Statutory Sites confer some form of statutory protection providing statutory protection for the best examples of the UK's flora, fauna, or geological or physiographical features.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

A Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) is a conservation designation denoting a protected area in the United Kingdom. SSSI's are legally protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000 and the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006. This legislation gives Natural England powers to ensure better protection and management of SSSIs and safeguard their existence into the future.

Local Nature Reserves

A Local Nature Reserve (LNR) is a statutory designation made under section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 and amended by Schedule 11 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. All district and county councils have powers to acquire, declare and manage LNRs. Parish and town councils can also declare LNRs but they must have the powers to do so delegated to them by the principal local authority. To qualify for LNR status, a site must be of importance for wildlife, geology, education or public enjoyment. Some are also nationally important Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

LNRs must be controlled by the local authority through ownership, lease or agreement with the owner. The main aim must be to care for the natural features which make the site special.

Ancient Woodlands

Ancient woodland is defined as woodland that has been in continuous existence since at least 1600 AD (Spencer and Kirby 1992). An inventory of ancient woodland was first initiated in 1981 by the Nature Conservancy Council (predecessor to Natural England), but only included woodlands greater than two hectares.

They include:

- Ancient semi-natural woodlands (ASNW) consisting mostly of native trees and shrubs, usually arising through natural regeneration

- Plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS) where the former tree cover has been felled and replaced by planted trees, usually with native species
- Ancient wood-pasture and historic parkland, many of which have not been included in the Ancient Woodland Inventory because their low tree density did not register on historical maps

Ancient Woodlands unless they are designated a SSSIs come under the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Communities and Local Government, 2012) guidance section 118 – state: “When determining planning applications, local planning authorities should aim to conserve and enhance biodiversity” and to do this “planning permission should be refused for development resulting in loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats, including ancient woodland and the loss of aged or veteran trees, unless the need for, and benefits of the development in that location clearly outweigh the loss (Woodland Trust, 2017)).

Due to historic significance under section 12 of the NPPF, LPAs may also consider veteran trees, and woodland pasture and parkland as heritage assets.

Hedgerows

The Hedgerow Regulations 1997 (Defra, 1997) protect important countryside hedges from removal, without the permission of the local planning authority. If a hedgerow is at least 30 years old and qualifies under any one of the criteria, then it is an important hedgerow as set out in the regulations. The criteria relate to a hedgerows importance with respect to its archaeology and history; wildlife and landscape.

The Hedgerows Regulations states that the hedgerow does not have to contain trees, but any trees in it form part of the hedgerow. Where a former hedgerow has not been actively managed and has grown into a line of trees it is not covered by the regulations. However, lines of trees may be protected under existing licensing procedures for felling or by Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs).

The Warwickshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) for hedgerows is defined as having more than 80% native woody species, including at least five woody species that are either native somewhere in the UK or which are archaeophytes. If this is the case then the hedgerow is defined as being species-rich.

Designated non-statutory sites - Local Wildlife Sites

Non-statutory sites, covering local nature conservation importance, are more difficult to classify as they have no legislative basis or standardised definition.

LWS are defined in local and structure plans under the Town and Country Planning system and are a material consideration when planning applications are being determined.

Local Sites are a network of defined areas that are selected and designated locally for their wildlife or geological importance. Together they form a network of our most valuable urban and rural areas for the natural environment. Local Sites are complimentary to statutory sites such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), and are afforded protection through the planning system, helping them to fulfil a crucial role in protecting our natural environment.

The few sites which have statutory designations because of their international or national interest represent the top of the hierarchy of protection. These sites are selected according to standardised criteria and procedures. Second tier, non-statutory sites, covering local nature conservation importance, are more difficult to classify as they have no legislative basis or standardised definition. The Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull Local Wildlife Sites Project created in 2000 set out to formerly identify Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs), now known as Local Wildlife Sites (LWS). The formal process for identifying, surveying and designating Local Wildlife Sites is set out in *The Green Book: Guidance for the Selection of Local Wildlife Sites in Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull* (HBA, 2015 rev.)

Identifying Local Wildlife Sites

Local Wildlife Sites help buffer and connect natural areas, providing ecological networks and increasing resilience of biodiversity to pressure of land use and climate change. They contribute to the quality of life and the health and well-being of communities and provide important open space in urban areas.

The Making Space for Nature report (*Lawton, 2010*) states that Local Wildlife Sites are highly vulnerable to damage and loss, and recommended improving their protection and management, underlining that Local Sites are “important to future ecological networks, because they not only provide wildlife refuges in their own right, but can act as stepping stones and corridors to link and protect nationally and internationally designated sites”.

The Government response to Making Space for Nature, published alongside the Natural Environment White Paper, (Defra, 2011), encouraged Local Site Partnerships to continue to implement Defra’s Local Sites guidance and play an increased role in identifying, protecting and managing Local Sites. The subsequent England Biodiversity Strategy 2020 (Defra, 2011) restated that Government will encourage local authorities to take a more active and positive role in the management of Local Sites, including through reporting data on such sites in the Government’s new Single Data List.

The HBAs Local Wildlife Sites Project identifies potential local wildlife sites and re-visits designated local wildlife sites wherever possible to ensure their continuation as viable wildlife areas, and makes recommendations and advice on the selection and management of these sites.

National Planning Policy (NPPF)

The Government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Communities and Local Government, 2012) states that the distinction should continue to be made between the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites, so that protection is commensurate with their status and gives appropriate weight to their importance. It advocates the protection of local sites recognising their importance and the contribution that they make to wider ecological networks.

The NPPF says that to minimise impacts on biodiversity and geodiversity, planning policy should:

- “Plan for biodiversity at a landscape-scale across local planning policies;
- Identify and map components of the local ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity, wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them, and areas identified by local Partnerships for habitat restoration and creation;
- Promote the preservation, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species populations, linked to national and local targets, and identify suitable indicators for monitoring biodiversity in the plan;
- Where Nature Improvement Areas (NIAs) are identified in Local Plans, consider specifying the types of development that may be appropriate in these Areas.”

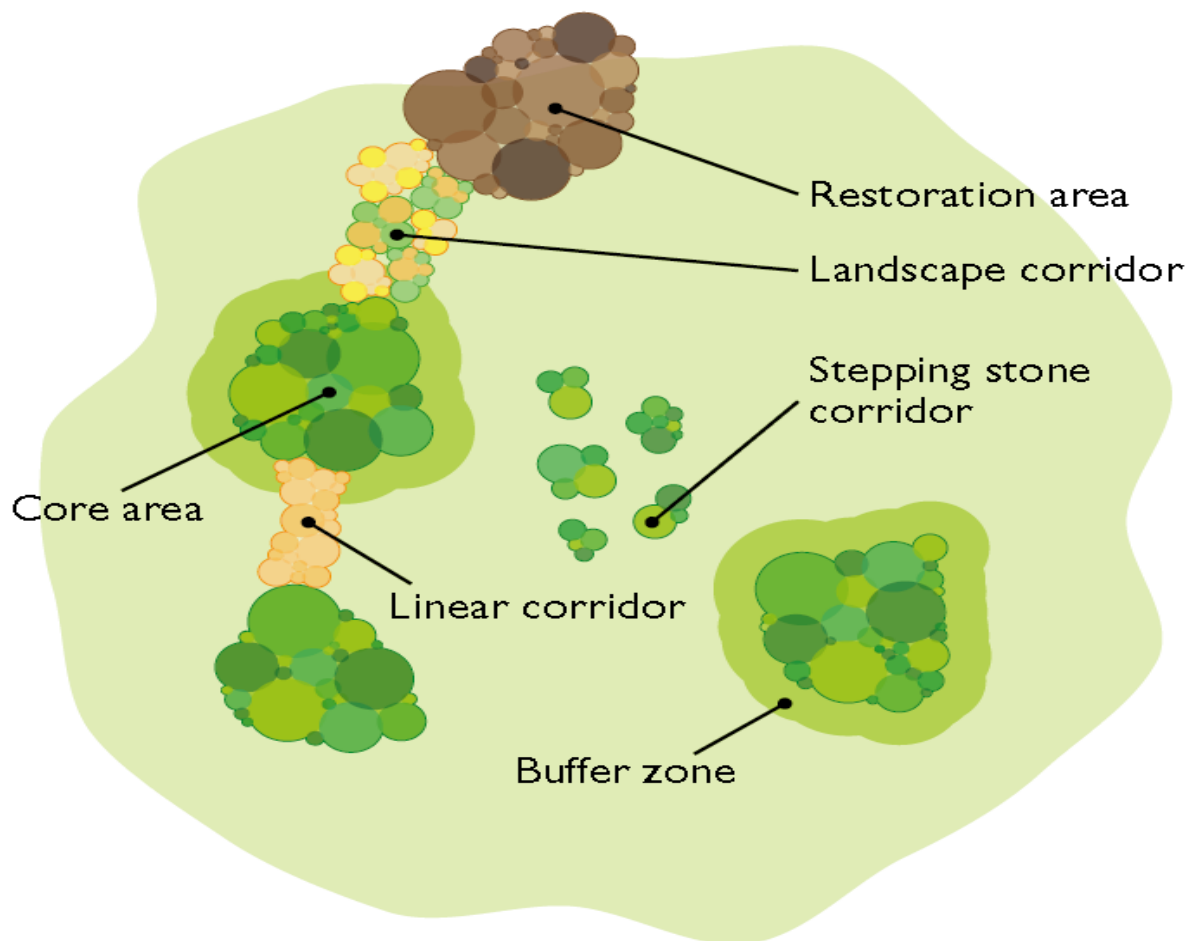


Figure 1 Wildlife zones - bigger, better and connected – (Lawton 2012)

Fenny Compton Parish

Fenny Compton Parish is located on the edge of the Warwickshire - Feldon Landscape Area (Countryside Commission and Warwickshire County Council, 1993), in the region described as the Ironstone Fringe.

The Ironstone Fringe is a remote rural landscape of large hedged fields and small strongly nucleated ironstone villages. Most of the region is associated with a raised Lower Lias tableland which occurs along the fringe of the Ironstone Wolds, a hilly region in the western part of Northamptonshire.

The most important feature of the Ironstone Fringe is the remote rural character of the landscape, with few roads and settlements. There are extensive areas of largely inaccessible countryside. Large isolated farmsteads are a feature of the area, elsewhere small isolated villages can be found, often along spring line sites such as Fenny Compton.

The farmed landscape is characterised by large hedged fields. Many of the hedgerows date from early Tudor enclosures and these are typically set within double banks and ditches.

Extensive areas of permanent pasture were a characteristic feature of the Ironstone fringe until relatively recently. Well preserved ridge and furrow is often a special feature in those pockets of pasture that still remain.

The Ironstone Fringe characteristic landscape features include:

- A large scale rolling tableland punctuated by prominent ironstone hills
- A large scale strongly hedged field pattern
- Pockets of permanent pasture with ridge and furrow
- Wide roadside verges bounded by tall, thick hedges
- Steep hillsides with semi-natural grassland and scrub

Fenny Compton Local Wildlife Sites

Tunnel Bank SP45D2 Local Wildlife Site (Bowley, 2011)

Tunnel Bank LWS is a 1km long bank of Lias Clay containing a mosaic of scrub, bramble and calcareous grassland lying parallel with the Oxford Canal in the parish of Fenny Compton, about 1.5 km east of the village. The LWS is set in a natural gap in the border hills between Wormleighton and Fenny Compton, which also contains the main Birmingham-Oxford railway line running parallel with the canal on the south side and the A423 Southam-Banbury Road which divides the LWS into two sections. Large rolling treeless arable fields are present to the north, with smaller sheep pastures immediately to the south of the railway.

The most important habitat within the LWS is calcareous grassland, which is uncommon in Warwickshire and mainly restricted to post-industrial sites on the Lias Clay. Such sites are rare in south-east Warwickshire south of Southam and east of Bishop's Itchington.

A wide range of county scarce or notable plants are present on site, including Pyramidal Orchid, Yellow-wort, Crosswort, Blue Fleabane, Long-stalked Cranesbill, Stinking Hellebore, Rough Hawkbit, Fairy Flax, Common Twayblade, Bee Orchid, Wild Parsnip, Hawkweed Oxtongue, Greater Burnet-saxifrage, Burnet Rose (probably naturalised from past planting) and Hairy Violet. A number of red-listed breeding birds (in the BTO/RSPB's *Birds of Conservation Concern 3*) are present including Turtle Dove, Cuckoo, Song Thrush, Grasshopper Warbler (occasional), Marsh Tit, Willow Tit, Starling, Tree Sparrow, Linnet and Yellowhammer; most of which rely on the mosaic of scattered scrub, bramble and varied grassland sward heights for breeding and feeding. The site holds one of the few remaining breeding populations for Grizzled Skipper in the county and has a good reptile population.

Potential Local Wildlife Sites – Phase 1 Target Notes.

Bush Close Spinney

Target Note: SP45H01

Survey Date: 01/07/1996

Small plantation of oak and poplar, with Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) and Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*). The ground flora contains Giant Fescue (*Festuca gigantea*), Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), Hairy Brome (*Bromopsis ramosa*), with Brooklime (*Veronica beccabunga*) and Water Mint (*Mentha aquatica*) within the stream.

Fenny Compton Wharf Field/Oxford Canal

Target Note: SP45G11

Survey Date: 01/07/1996

Oxford Canal containing Reed Sweet-grass (*Glyceria maxima*) Hard Rush (*Juncus inflexus*), Great Willowherb (*Epilobium hirsutum*), Water Dock (*Rumex hydrolapathum*), Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*), Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*), Soft Rush (*Juncus effusus*), Gypsywort (*Lycopus europaeus*), Wild Angelica (*Angelica sylvestris*), Perforate St. John's-wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), Common Ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*) Meadow Vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*), Silverweed (*Potentilla anserina*) and Creeping Jenny (*Lysimachia nummularia*). Evidence of Fox.

Target Note: SP45G12

Survey Date: 01/07/1996

Canal cutting that is generally lined with Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) scrub but including open grassland. Includes Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*), Common Dog-violet (*Viola riviniana*), Polypody (*Polypodium* sp.), Hedge Woundwort (*Stachys sylvatica*), Wood Avens (*Geum urbanum*), Herb Robert (*Geranium robertianum*), with open areas dominated by Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*) and False Brome (*Brachypodium sylvaticum*), with Wild Teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*), Common Ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*) Coltsfoot (*Tussilago farfara*) and Bush Vetch (*Vicia sepium*). The canal bank also includes Water Figwort (*Scrophularia auriculata*). Banded Demoiselle was seen.

Target Note: SP45G13

Survey Date: 01/07/1996

Neglected grassland with Great Willowherb (*Epilobium hirsutum*), Tufted Hair-grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*), Hard Rush (*Juncus inflexus*), Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*), thistles, Common Ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*) and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.).

Fenny Compton Station Meadows

Target note SP45G06

Survey Date: 30/05/2012

1996 Hay Meadow between the Great Western Railway Lines including abundant Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Yorkshire Fog (*Holcus lanatus*), with abundant Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Common Sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*), Meadow (*Ranunculus acris*) and Bulbous Buttercup (*R. bulbosus*), with locally abundant Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*), frequent Pepper-saxifrage (*Silvaum silaus*), with Selfheal (*Prunella vulgaris*), Common Sedge (*Carex nigra*), Agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*), Common Birdsfoot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*) and Lady's Smock (*Cardamine pratensis*). Wetter

areas within the field pattern furrows contains abundant Hard Rush (*Juncus inflexus*), Creeping Buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*) and an abundance of sedges (*Carex* spp.). UPDATED 22/05/2012 once a highly diverse hay meadow, this field is now permanent pasture and has suffered as a result. Species as described with Bugle (*Ajuga reptans*) and Ragged-robin (*Lychnis flos-cuculi*). Ridge and furrow are still present.

Target note: SP45G07

Survey Date: 30/05/2012

Meadow between rail lines including abundant Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), Yellow Oat-grass (*Trisetum flavescens*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Yorkshire Fog (*Holcus lanatus*), with frequent to abundant Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Common Sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*), Meadow Buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*), Bulbous Buttercup (*Ranunculus bulbosus*), Great Burnet (*Sanguisorba officinalis*) and containing locally abundant Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*), frequent Pepper-saxifrage (*Silaum silaus*), with Selfheal (*Prunella vulgaris*), Agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*) and Common Birdsfoot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*). Within hollows Lady's Smock (*Cardamine pratensis*) and Soft Rush (*Juncus effusus*) occur. The drainage ditch to the west of the site is dominated by Fool's Watercress (*Apium nodiflorum*). UPDATED 22/05/2012 As described with Cuckoo Flower and locally frequent Great Burnet.

Target note SP45G08

Survey Date: 30/05/2012

Poor semi-improved grassland with Yorkshire Fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Meadow Foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*), Yellow Oat-grass (*Trisetum flavescens*), Meadow Buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*) Creeping Buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), Common Sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*), Red Clover (*Trifolium pratense*) and including some wet areas with Hard Rush (*Juncus inflexus*), Soft Rush (*Juncus effusus*), with Lady's Smock (*Cardamine pratensis*), Hairy Sedge (*Carex hirta*), Great Willowherb (*Epilobium hirsutum*) and Silverweed (*Potentilla anserina*) along the hedgerow.

Gredenton Hill, Burton Old Covert, Tight Head and quarries

Target Note: SP45A09 Survey Date: 01/07/1996

Quarry with banks supporting an array of tall ruderal species including Wild Teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*), Rosebay Willowherb (*Chamerion angustifolium*), Common Ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*), Red Campion (*Silene dioica*), White Campion (*Silene latifolia*), Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*), Weld (*Reseda luteola*), Creeping Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), Spear Thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*), and includes encroaching Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*).

Target Note: SP45A09 Survey Date: 01/07/1996

Poor semi-improved grassland dominated by Tufted Hair-grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*), with abundant Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Yorkshire Fog (*Holcus lanatus*) and Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*). Forbs include Marsh Thistle (*Cirsium palustre*), Meadow Buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*), Creeping Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), Common Sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*), with some localised patches of Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*), Harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*), Autumn Hawkbit

(*Leontodon autumnalis*) and Common Birdsfoot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*). Some areas of bare ground occur as a result of localised gorse clearance.

Target Note: SP45A10 Survey Date: 01/07/1996

Hollow formed by the quarrying of rock. Dominated by Perennial Ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*), Crested Dogstail (*Cynosurus cristatus*), Yellow Oat-grass (*Trisetum flavescens*) and Smaller Catstail (*Phleum bertolonii*), with Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*), Autumn Hawkbit (*Leontodon autumnalis*), Common Birdsfoot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), Salad Burnet (*Sanguisorba minor*), Wild Thyme (*Thymus polytrichus*), Musk Thistle (*Carduus nutans*), Harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*), Lesser Burnet-saxifrage (*Pimpinella saxifraga*), Mouse-ear Hawkweed (*Pilosella officinarum*), Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), Red Clover (*Trifolium pratense*) and Spear Thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*).

Target Note: SP45A11 Survey Date: 01/07/1996

Quarry spoil containing abundant Crested Dogstail (*Cynosurus cristatus*), with abundant Salad Burnet (*Sanguisorba minor*), frequent Autumn Hawkbit (*Leontodon autumnalis*), Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), Musk Thistle (*Carduus nutans*), Harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*), Smaller Catstail (*Phleum bertolonii*), Yorkshire Fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*), Red Clover (*Trifolium pratense*), Wild Thyme (*Thymus polytrichus*), Common Birdsfoot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*) and Silver Hair-grass (*Aira caryophylla*).

Target Note: SP45A12 Survey Date: 01/07/1996

Quarry area dominated by Crested Dogstail (*Cynosurus cristatus*) with Yellow Oat-grass (*Trisetum flavescens*), Yorkshire Fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Timothy (*Phleum pratense*) and contains Autumn Hawkbit (*Leontodon autumnalis*), Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*), Harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*), Mouse-ear Hawkweed (*Pilosella officinarum*), Musk Thistle (*Carduus nutans*), Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), Red Clover (*Trifolium pratense*), Salad Burnet (*Sanguisorba minor*), Wild Thyme (*Thymus polytrichus*) and Field Madder (*Sherardia arvensis*).

Target Note SP45A14 Survey Date: 01/07/1996

Large hill area dominated by semi-improved grassland with calcareous features but too heavily sheep grazed to determine. Dominated by Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), with Yorkshire Fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Crested Dogstail (*Cynosurus cristatus*), Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*) and frequent Common Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*). Contains Autumn Hawkbit (*Leontodon autumnalis*), Harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*), Common Milkwort (*Polygala vulgaris*), Musk Thistle (*Carduus nutans*) and Tufted Hair-grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*).

Target note SP45A15 Survey Date: 01/07/1996

Rush pasture dominated by Soft Rush (*Juncus effusus*) with Marsh Thistle (*Cirsium palustre*), Oval Sedge (*Carex ovalis*), Yorkshire Fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Lesser Spearwort (*Ranunculus flammula*), Crested Dogstail (*Cynosurus cristatus*), Creeping Buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), Hairy Sedge (*Carex hirta*), Common Marsh-bedstraw (*Galium*

palustre), Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Marsh Birdsfoot-trefoil (*Lotus pedunculatus*), Hard Rush (*Juncus inflexus*), Sharp-flowered Rush (*Juncus acutiflorus*) and Common Sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*).

Round Hill Spinney

Target Note: SP45A19

Survey Date: 01/07/1996

Ash woodland on small hill or earth mound with abundant Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), some Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*). Little ground flora due to density of canopy. Contains badger sett.

Target Note: SP45A20

Survey Date: 01/07/1996

Semi-improved grassland with grasses of abundant Crested Dogstail (*Cynosurus cristatus*), Yorkshire Fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*) and forbs of Common Birdsfoot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), Selfheal (*Prunella vulgaris*), Harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*), Meadow Buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*), Germander Speedwell (*Veronica chamaedrys*), Red Clover (*Trifolium pratense*), Ribwort Plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*), Mouse-ear Hawkweed (*Pilosella officinarum*), Marsh Thistle (*Cirsium palustre*), Pignut (*Conopodium majus*), Meadow Vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*) and Autumn Hawkbit (*Leontodon autumnalis*).

Disused Railway Line

Target Note: SP45G04

Survey Date: 01/07/1996

Rail embankment of the active Chiltern Line from Banbury to Leamington Spa containing locally abundant Common Restharrow (*Ononis repens*), Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), Ribwort Plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), Perforate St. John's-wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), Wild Parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*), with Rosebay Willowherb (*Chamerion angustifolium*), Creeping Cinquefoil (*Potentilla reptans*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Tall Fescue (*Festuca arundinacea*), *Hieracium* sp. Tall melilot (*Melilotus altissima*), Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), locally dominated by False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), Wild Teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*), Hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium*), Field Bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*), Common Toadflax (*Linaria vulgaris*), Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*), Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Dog Rose (*Rosa canina*), Bittersweet (*Solanum dulcamara*), Oxford ragwort (*Senecio squalidus*), Great Mullein (*Verbascum thapsus*), Musk Mallow (*Malva moschata*), everlasting-pea sp., Bush Vetch (*Vicia sepium*) and Common Birdsfoot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*).

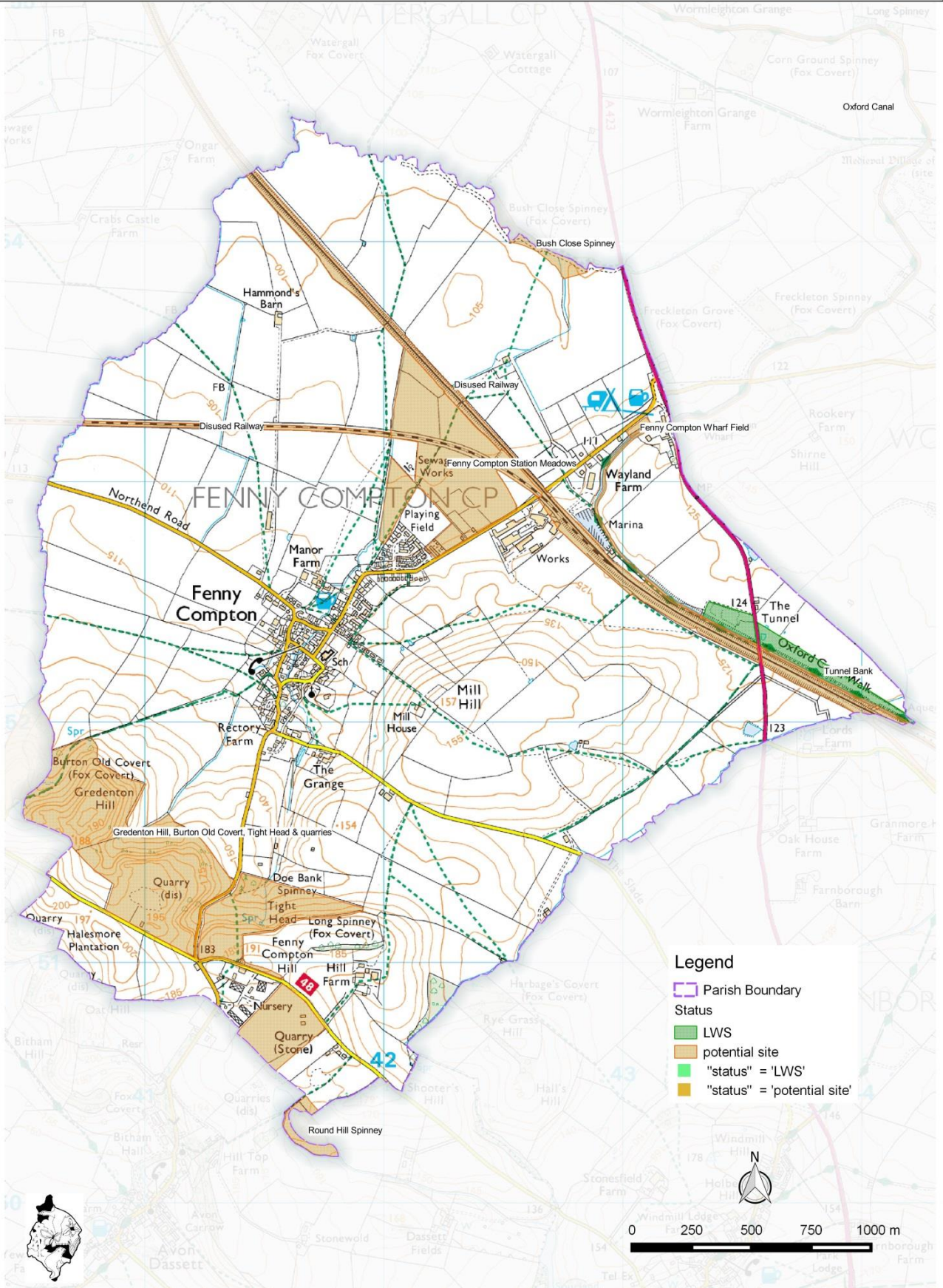
Target note: SP45G05

Survey Date: 01/07/1996

Triangular area between rail tracks containing semi-improved grassland with some patches of Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) and Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*) within rail-side ditches and a small section of outgrown hedge. Species include Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), Wild Teasel

(*Dipsacus fullonum*), Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), Wild Parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*), Tall Melilot (*Melilotus altissima*), Hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium*), Welled Thistle (*Carduus crispus*), stonecrop sp., Creeping Cinquefoil (*Potentilla reptans*), Perforate St. John's-wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), Selfheal (*Prunella vulgaris*), Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*), Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Bush Vetch (*Vicia sepium*) and Tufted Vetch (*Vicia cracca*). The main area is heavily rabbit grazed with the perimeter containing some Rosebay Willowherb (*Chamerion angustifolium*) and Dog Rose (*Rosa canina*). UPDATED 22/05/2012 No access. Reports of bee orchids.

Fenny Compton Parish Local Wildlife Sites



Identifying important habitats – Phase 1 habitats

The Phase 1 habitat survey for Fenny Compton Parish has a variable revision date ranging from the original surveys in 1996 up until the more recent Local Service Villages ecological report and survey commissioned by Stratford-on-Avon District Council in 2012 (Ecological Services & Habitat Biodiversity Audit, 2013).

The total recorded survey area for the parish of Fenny Compton is 1,246.68 hectares.

A breakdown of the Phase 1 habitats below in table 1, shows that agriculture accounts for the majority of the land use, with 762 hectares of arable land (61% of area) and 228 hectares (18% total area) of agriculturally improved grassland. Together they account for three quarters of the total land use.

The priority grassland habitats including all unimproved and semi-improved grasslands, and marsh/marshy grassland cover 96 hectares (8% of total area). The species poor semi-improved and amenity grasslands (including sports fields and mown public grassland verges etc) give a combined total of 68 hectares (3% total area)

The total area of woodland and scrub covers 46 hectares (6% total area) with around 14 hectares of semi-natural woodland and 16 hectares of dense continuous scrub.

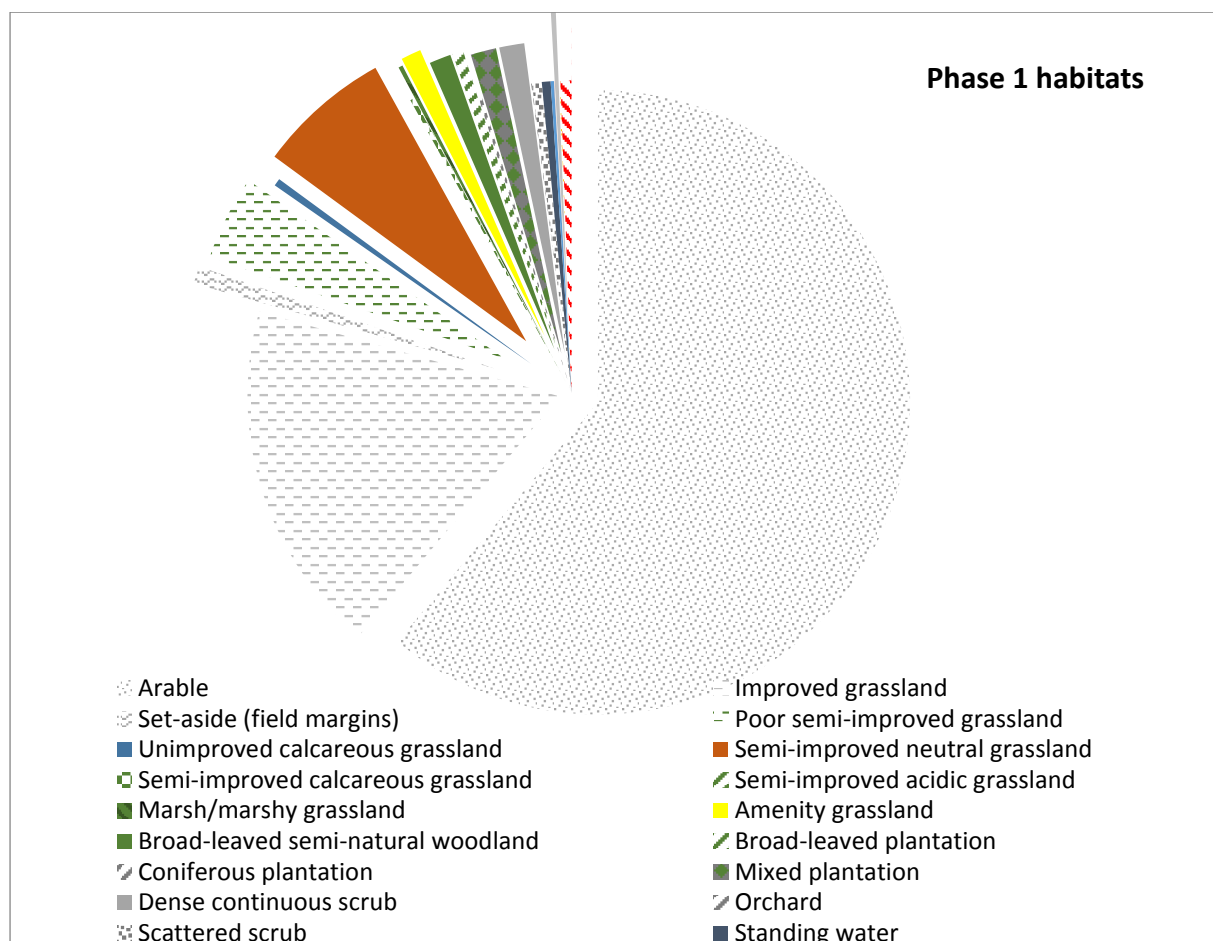
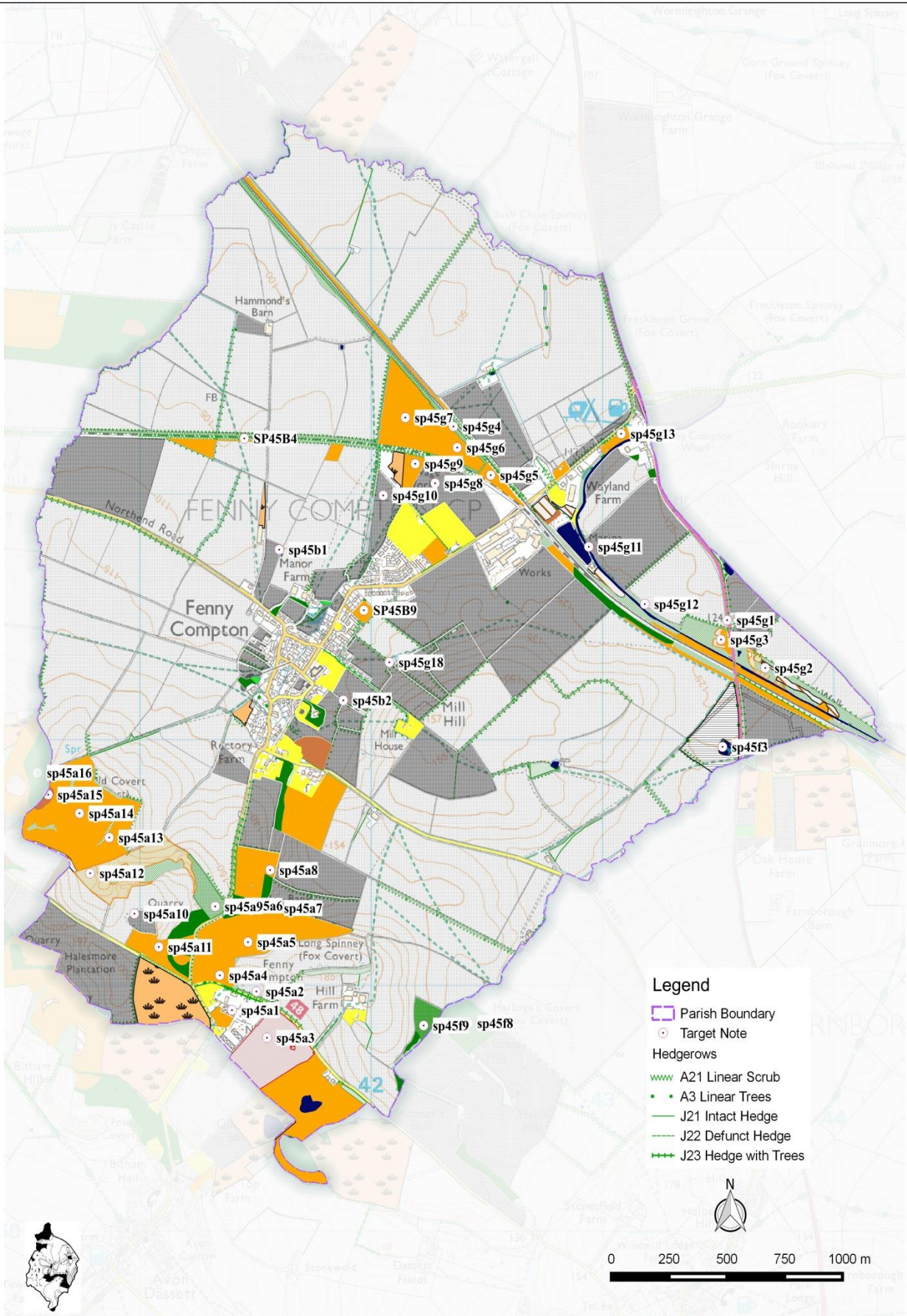


Table 1 Phase 1 habitats

Habitat	Area ha	% Area
Arable	761.70	61.10%
Improved grassland	227.95	18.28%
Set-aside (field margins)	11.39	0.91%
Poor semi-improved grassland	54.63	4.38%
Unimproved calcareous grassland	4.83	0.39%
Semi-improved neutral grassland	86.13	6.91%
Semi-improved calcareous grassland	2.61	0.21%
Semi-improved acidic grassland	0.21	0.02%
Marsh/marshy grassland	2.77	0.22%
Amenity grassland	13.02	1.04%
Broad-leaved semi-natural woodland	13.96	1.12%
Broad-leaved plantation	6.94	0.56%
Coniferous plantation	2.09	0.17%
Mixed plantation	16.52	1.32%
Dense continuous scrub	16.13	1.29%
Orchard	0.50	0.04%
Scattered scrub	6.32	0.51%
Standing water	5.64	0.45%
Running water	2.13	0.17%
Swamp	0.14	0.01%
Tall ruderal	3.16	0.25%
Non-ruderal	0.82	0.07%
Quarry (active)	7.05	0.57%
Spoil	0.04	0.00%
Grand Total	1,246.68	100.00%

Fenny Compton Parish Phase 1 habitats



Phase 1 Habitat Distinctiveness

The habitat distinctiveness categories and their associated scores have been taken from the Biodiversity Offsetting Pilot in the UK National Ecosystem Assessment (UK NEA, 2011). The Phase 1 habitat classification does not determine between those land uses that are best for biodiversity and those that are not. The distinctiveness is designed to assign scores to those land-uses that are the most bio-diverse and those that are not.

The habitat distinctiveness categories can also be interpreted as areas of habitat importance or sensitivity to development, and are a useful way of simplifying the 57 Phase 1 map categories. Each Phase 1 habitat type has been given a distinctiveness score as below:

- 6 – High distinctiveness
- 5 – Medium / High distinctiveness
- 4 – Medium distinctiveness
- 3 – Low / Medium distinctiveness
- 2 – Low distinctiveness.
- 1 - None

High distinctiveness scores equate to areas of highest biodiversity, including all unimproved habitats. High distinctiveness will incorporate statutory sites, Local Wildlife Sites and the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) habitats and species. The high distinctiveness category for linear habitats includes species-rich hedgerows.

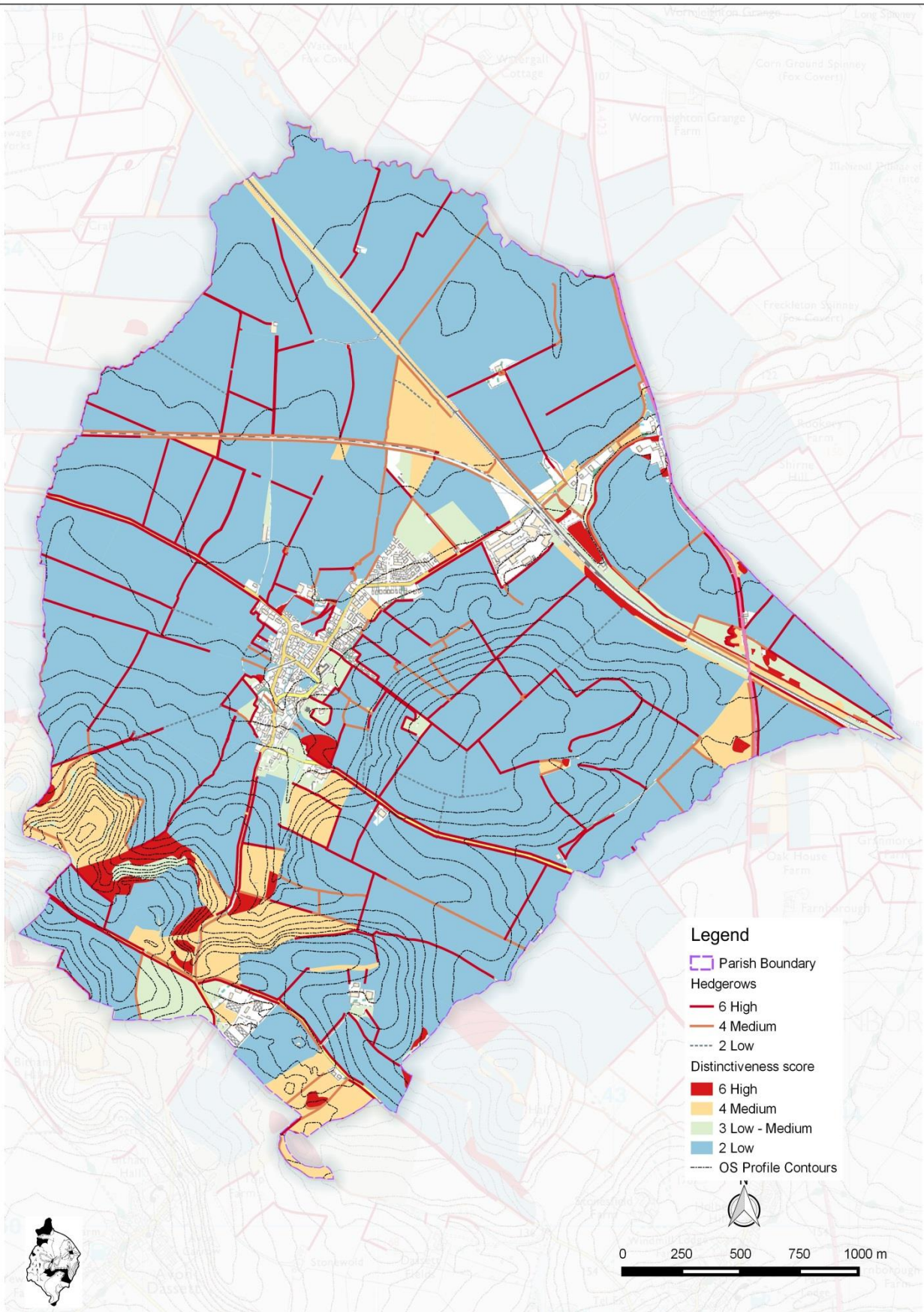
Moderate distinctiveness scores are a mid-way assessment for areas that are either a transition from high to low or vice versa; or are of indeterminate biodiversity. Examples include semi-improved neutral grassland, scrub and tall ruderal¹ which are transitional and temporary habitats. Linear sites with moderate scores include intact hedgerows.

Low distinctiveness scores are areas of low biodiversity interest. These areas cover the majority of the sub-region, including for example agricultural farmland, amenity grassland and coniferous plantation woodland. Low linear scores are associated with defunct hedgerows, fences and dry ditches.

Unimproved habitats and SSSIs and considered as irreplaceable habitats and although are given a score of 6 for the purpose of mapping they are to be avoided by development.

¹ Ruderal from the latin for rubble or rubbish refers to cleared areas that have become colonised by pioneer plant species, typical tall perennial or biennial plant species e.g. Rosebay Willowherb , Common nettle, Japanese Knotweed

Fenny Compton Parish Phase 1 habitats distinctiveness



Phase 1 Habitat Connectivity

The NPPF recognises the need for, and the implementation of landscape habitat connectivity. However, the NPPF does not specify how this should be done. The HBA together with WCC Ecological Services and York University developed a set of Phase 1 habitat connectivity maps in 2012 which continued until recently. In 2017 HBA began working with open source connectivity modelling software called *Conefor Sesinoide* (Santiago & Torne, 2009) Some of the mapped results are shown below in Figure 6.

The main habitat groups identified for the connectivity mapping include:

- Woodlands; including semi-natural, broad-leaved plantation and scrub land
- Priority grasslands; namely all grasslands that have not been agriculturally improved
- Standing water and habitats associated with marshy conditions; ponds and marsh
- Intact hedgerows and trees

The connectivity mapping shows where there are opportunities for improving connections between similar types of habitats. Conversely the mapping can be used to assess the possible impact of development on existing habitats and where these can be offset or avoided altogether.

Fauna and Flora - Lists compiled by J J Bowley

Protected Species in Warwickshire

European Protected Species (EPS) are protected under the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994 found in Warwickshire include:

- All species of bat
- Great crested newt
- Otter
- Dormouse
- White-clawed crayfish
- Other species that are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the Protection of Badgers Act 1982 relevant to Warwickshire include:
 - Water Vole
 - Barn owl
 - Grass snake
 - Slow worm
 - Common lizard
 - Badger

Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP)

The Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) provide a local response to the UK Government's National Action Plans for threatened habitats and species. The LBAP contributes to national targets wherever these are relevant to the Warwickshire sub-region but also sets local targets. The LBAP action plans for all local habitats can be found on the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust site:

<http://www.warwickshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/LBAP>

An over-view of the breeding birds within the parish of Fenny Compton during 1995-2018

The parish of Fenny Compton lies within the south-eastern corner of the Feldon district of Warwickshire, which due to its rich mosaic of old pasture fields, arable and well-timbered hedgerows make it one of the most important areas for farmland birds in the

West Midlands region (cf. *The New Birds of the West Midlands*, Harrison and Harrison, 2005). Of these, the Yellow Wagtail is the most important as the parish supports one of the strongest populations in the county, with a record 36 pairs located in 2016. Unfortunately, farming practices have gradually become more intensive over this period, with the loss of regular winter stubbles and with farm sprays considerably reducing the amount of food available (e.g. weed seeds and insects) during most of the year. This coupled with the loss of old hay meadows, the ploughing up of old pasturelands, cutting down of tall hedgerows and the loss of many old hedge trees to storms have led to a continued decline in many of our farmland birds. Declines were temporarily halted locally due to the introduction of set-aside in the 1990's but have continued to decline since this was withdrawn, despite the introduction of stewardship schemes. The canal corridor and the hills from Tight Head to Gredenton Hill remain the most important areas for scrub breeding birds such as warblers and Linnet.

Losses	Gains
Canada Goose (<1995)	Common Buzzard
Grey Partridge	Barn Owl
Little Grebe (<1995)	Reed Warbler
Coot	Nuthatch
Turtle Dove	Raven
Common Cuckoo	
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	
Grasshopper Warbler	
Sedge Warbler	
Corn Bunting	

List of Birds recorded in the Parish of Fenny Compton during 1995-2018

KEY

R - Can be seen in any month and is always present in at least part of the year.

S - Regularly present in breeding season (March-October).

W - Regularly present in winter (October-April).

P - Seen most years on passage.

I - May be seen in any month but not constantly present in any particular season.

O Seen less than annually.

U Rare visitor, only 1-3 records during period.

B Thought to breed most years.

b Only breeds occasionally or no longer breeds.

NB: Species recorded before 1995 in the parish but not since are placed in brackets.

NB Birds in Red are nationally red-listed (BoCC4), Orange are nationally amber-listed and Blue are species which have vulnerable (under 100 pairs) breeding populations in Warwickshire. Only birds which have held a breeding territory in the parish since 1995 are thus denoted.

Species	Status
Mute Swan.	Rb Breeds in some years at Clay Pool/Marina
Bewick's Swan	U
Pink-footed Goose	U
White-fronted Goose	U
Greylag Goose	O
Canada Goose.	I Bred in Compton Quarry before 1995
Mandarin Duck	U
Eurasian Wigeon	U
Gadwall	U
Teal	OW Formerly more regular.
Mallard	RB
Pochard	U
Tufted Duck	U
Goosander	OW
Red-legged Partridge	RB
Grey Partridge	O, RB until 2006.

Common Quail	OPS
Common Pheasant	RB Hundreds released in area in autumn.
(Black-throated Diver)	One caught in 1877
Little Grebe	U Bred Compton Quarry and Clay Pool 1980's
Great Cormorant	I
(Great Bittern)	One caught in 1909)
Little Egret	U
Grey Heron	I
Honey-buzzard	U
Red Kite	RP Begun to breed locally.
Marsh Harrier	OP
Hen Harrier	U
Goshawk	U
Sparrowhawk	RB
Common Buzzard	RBP
Common Kestrel	RB
Merlin	PW
Hobby	SbP Bred less frequently since 2011.
Peregrine Falcon	I
Water Rail	OPW
(Corncrake	SB to 1930's)
Moorhen	RB
Common Coot	Rb Bred at Clay Pool until about 2010.
Oystercatcher	OP
Ringed Plover	U
European Golden Plover	PW

Grey Plover	U
Northern Lapwing	RBPW
Dunlin	O
Jack Snipe	OW
Common Snipe	PW
Woodcock	PW
Bar-tailed Godwit	U
Whimbrel	OP
Eurasian Curlew	PW Less frequent in recent years
Common Redshank	U
Greenshank	OP
Green Sandpiper	U
Arctic Skua	U
Mediterranean Gull	OW
Little Gull	U
Black-headed Gull	IPW
Common Gull	PW
Lesser Black-backed Gull	IPW
Herring Gull	IW
Yellow-legged Gull	PW
Iceland Gull	U
Glaucous Gull	U
Great Black-backed Gull	W
Kittiwake	OP
Sandwich Tern	U
Common Tern	OSP

Feral Pigeon	I
Stock Dove	RBW
Wood Pigeon	RBPW
Collared Dove	RB
Turtle Dove	SbP Bred until 2007 and now rare.
Common Cuckoo	SbP Ceased to breed about 2010.
Barn Owl	RB
Little Owl	RB
Tawny Owl	RB
Long-eared Owl	U
Short-eared Owl	OPW
Common Swift	SPB
Common Kingfisher	I Mainly W
(Wryneck)	
Green Woodpecker	RB
Great Spotted Woodpecker	RB
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	Rb Now rarely seen.
Rose-ringed Parakeet	U
(Red-backed Shrike)	SB to 1930's
Wood Lark	U
Sky Lark	RBPW
Sand Martin	P
Barn Swallow	SBP
House Martin	SBP
Tree Pipit	P Bred until 1970's.
Meadow Pipit	RbPW

Rock Pipit	U
Yellow Wagtail	SBP
Blue-headed Wagtail	OSb
Grey Wagtail	RbPW Breeds irregularly.
Pied Wagtail	RBP
<i>White Wagtail</i>	P
Bohemian Waxwing	OW
Wren	RB
Duncock	RB
Robin	RB
Common Nightingale	OS Bred until 1970's.
Pied Flycatcher	U
Black Redstart	OP
Common Redstart	P Bred until 1970's.
Whinchat	P Summered 1995-6, formerly bred.
European Stonechat	P
Northern Wheatear	P
<i>Greenland Wheatear</i>	P
Ring Ouzel	P
Blackbird	RBPW
Fieldfare	PW
Song Thrush	RBPW
Redwing	PW
Mistle Thrush	RB
Cetti's Warbler	U
Grasshopper Warbler	SbP Regular to 1998, bred sporadically since.

Sedge Warbler	SbP Now breeds sporadically.
Reed Warbler	SBP
Blackcap	SBP, OW
Garden Warbler	SBP
Lesser Whitethroat	SBP
Common Whitethroat	SBP
Chiffchaff	SBP, OW
Willow Warbler	SBP
Goldcrest	RBW
Spotted Flycatcher	SBP Scarcer in recent years.
Long-tailed Tit	RB
Marsh Tit	RB
Willow Tit	RB Declining rapidly.
Coal Tit	RB
Blue Tit	RB
Great Tit	RB
Eurasian Nuthatch	RB
Eurasian Treecreeper	RB
Eurasian Jay	RB
Magpie	RB
Jackdaw	RB
Rook	RB
Carrion Crow	RB
Raven	RB
Common Starling	RB
House Sparrow	RB

Tree Sparrow	RB Declining.
Chaffinch	RBPW
Brambling	P, OW
Hawfinch	OP
Greenfinch	RB
Goldfinch	RB
Siskin	PW
Linnet	RBSP
Lesser Redpoll	PW
Common Crossbill	O
Bullfinch	RB
Snow Bunting	U
Lapland Bunting	U
Yellowhammer	RB
Reed Bunting	RBP
Corn Bunting	O, formerly (until 2000) SB.

Total: 159, 154 species since 1995 (+ 3 well-marked subspecies in italics).

Mammals

Mammals recorded in the parish number 29 and are as follows:

Hedgehog

Mole

Common Shrew

Pygmy Shrew

Water Shrew – scarce but recorded on Ham Brook and Brook Meadow.

Daubenton's Bat – along the canal

Whiskered Bat – bats probably this spp along canal and in The Slade.

Noctule Bat

Common Pipistrelle

Brown Long-eared Bat

Rabbit

Brown Hare

Grey Squirrel

Bank Vole

Field Vole

(Water Vole – formerly on the Oxford Canal, but not since before 1995).

Wood Mouse

House Mouse

Brown Rat

Fox

Stoat

Weasel

Polecat

American Mink – along the Oxford Canal

Badger

Otter – at least one regularly along the Oxford Canal in recent years.

Fallow Deer – occasional visitor.

Roe Deer

Muntjac

Reptiles

Grass Snake – common along the canal and occasional in wet meadows along the streams and ditches elsewhere.

Slow-worm – scarce. Only seen along the Tunnels.

NB: there is much suitable habitat for the Common Lizard (now scarce in Warwickshire) on the hills, but I have yet to see one there. Old (pre-1970) records of Adder there may be mistaken.

Amphibians

Common Frog

Common Toad

Smooth Newt

NB: Clay Pool looks suitable for the specially protected Great Crested Newt, but I have no definite record.

Invertebrates

The parish is rich in butterflies, with most now concentrated around the Tunnels, where a large section is managed as a reserve by the Warwickshire branch of Butterfly Conservation. The Station Meadows also used to hold huge numbers of butterflies (I

remember once seeing over 500 Marbled Whites in one of them in the late 1990's!), but since their conversion from hay to permanent pasture they are now far less attractive. A total of 31 species recorded as follows:

Small Skipper – very common

Essex Skipper – scarce

Large Skipper – common

Dingy Skipper* – scarce, only in the Tunnels.

Grizzled Skipper* – frequent in the Tunnels.

(Wood White – Vagrant. One in the Tunnels in 1980).

Clouded Yellow – Irregular migrant, sometimes common.

Brimstone – common.

Small White – very common.

Large White – very common.

Green-veined White – very common.

Orange-tip – common.

Green Hairstreak* – scarce, restricted to the Tunnels.

Purple Hairstreak – usually scarce.

White-letter Hairstreak* – rare, several records from elm hedges.

Small Copper – frequent, but declining.

Small Blue* – rare. One recent record (2016) from the Tunnels.

Brown Argus – frequent, especially in the Tunnels.

Common Blue – common, especially in the Tunnels where very common.

Holly Blue – frequent.

Red Admiral – common and occasionally very common migrant.

Painted Lady – scarce to common migrant.

Small Tortoiseshell – common, but much declined.

Peacock – common to very common.

Comma – common.

Speckled Wood – common.

Marbled White – common.

Gatekeeper – very common.

Meadow Brown – very common.

Small Heath* – now scarce and declining. Possibly recently extinct.

Ringlet – common.

NB: Those with asterisks are butterflies which are most at risk of extinction in Warwickshire, with most of these now the subjects of Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAP).

I have casual records for many moth species, but there is no total list worked out and no sustained moth-trapping has occurred. Day-flying moths are numerous in semi-improved grassland, particularly in the Station Meadows, the Oxford Canal corridor and on the Fenny Compton Hills (Tight Head to Gredenton Hill). They include the Six-spot and Narrow-bordered Five-spot Burnet, Latticed Heath, Cinnabar, Mother Shipton and Burnet Companion. Poplar and Hummingbird Hawk-moths occur annually in the village, while there is a breeding record for the county-rare Death's-head Hawk-moth in the churchyard in 1990

Most other groups of invertebrates have not been comprehensively studied, although the Avon Hill Quarry (within the parish) is known to possess a rich and varied fauna of bees, flies and beetles (studied by S J Falk and S A Lane, Warwickshire Museum), while the Dotted Bee-fly, a nationally scarce species, is common on the hills.

I have records of 18 dragonflies and damselflies, most of which are restricted for breeding to the Oxford Canal, Clay Pool and Mill Hill Pool, but are often seen elsewhere.

Beautiful Demoiselle – recently colonised. Along the streams.

Banded Demoiselle – restricted to the canal.

White-legged Damselfly – mainly along canal.

Large Red Damselfly.

Azure Damselfly.

Common Blue Damselfly.

Blue-tailed Damselfly.

Red-eyed Damselfly.

Hairy Dragonfly. One record from the canal of this county scarce dragonfly. Breeds nearby at Wormleighton Reservoir.

Migrant Hawker.

Southern Hawker.

Brown Hawker.

Emperor Dragonfly.

Four-spotted Chaser.

Broad-bodied Chaser.

Black-tailed Skimmer.

Common Darter.

Ruddy Darter.

A Summary of the Parish Flora

The parish of Fenny Compton, despite being mainly devoted to agriculture, still generally holds an exceptionally diverse flora. This is partly due to the range of soils, which although mainly calcareous, do also include areas of neutral to moderately acid soil on the hills. Almost 500 species of vascular plants have been recorded in a wild state in the parish since the 1960's, much of this high diversity was due to the presence of much unimproved grassland (mostly variants of the NVC MG5 community) in the form of hay meadows and old pasture. The hay meadows have been recently lost after their sale in the last few years, converted to year-round pasture, which has resulted in the loss of several county-rare plants. The parish is particularly poor in woodland (with no ancient woodland present) and wetland sites, apart from the Oxford Canal and a scatter of small ponds. There are however some valuable small flushes in the hills associated with the different springs.

Warwickshire Status

No fewer than 102 species of plants considered as County Rare (found in three or fewer sites), County Scarce (found in ten or fewer sites), County Notable (ten or more sites, but still scarce) or County Uncommon (declining and restricted to county uncommon habitats) have been recorded in the parish since the 1960's. Of these, 14 have not been found since 1995 and are thought to be extinct: Dwarf Cherry, Thread-leaved Water-crowfoot, Corn Spurrey, Meadow Saxifrage, Dwarf Spurge, Clustered Bellflower, Small Scabious, Devil's-bit Scabious, Corn Chamomile, Stinking Chamomile, Corn Marigold, Common Gromwell, Annual Knawel and Meadow Brome. Many of these were associated with arable land and have been lost through more intensive farming methods.

Most of the remainder are concentrated into three main areas, which are the most important for biodiversity in the parish. These are the Fenny Compton Hills (particularly Gredenton and Quarry Hills) – FCH in the following lists; the Oxford Canal corridor in the Tunnels (OC); and the Station Meadows (SM), the latter comprising especially the four former hay meadows extending from the Surgery to the mainline railway and named as Brook Meadow, Big and Little Splash and Big and Little Earnest in the Tythe Map. Other abbreviations used are the mainline railway (MR) and the Ham Brook corridor (HB) on the northern parish boundary. In the case of more widely distributed plants only the habitats are given. The species is possibly extinct at those sites marked as *.

County Rare Plants (3)

Wild Celery (OC).

Fine-leaved Water-dropwort (OC).

Rough Clover (FCH).

County Scarce Plants (9)

Sea Mouse-ear (MR)*.

Lesser Chickweed (FCH).

Confused Eyebright (FCH).

Burnet Rose (OC) – but possibly originally introduced.

Strawberry Clover (SM, MR).

Knotted Clover (FCH).

Meadow Oat-grass (FCH).

Rye Brome (Village, by the Ridge Way development).

Crested Hair-grass (FCH).

County Notable Plants (60)

Water Horsetail (FCH).

Marsh Horsetail (FCH).

Great Horsetail (FCH).

Adder's-tongue (SM*).

Babington's Poppy (Village).

Field Pepperwort (Arable fields).

Field Pennycress (Arable fields).

Wild Mignonette (MR, OC).

Common Milkwort (FCH).

Hairy Violet (OC).

Bog Stitchwort (FCH).

Fairy Flax (FCH, MR, OC).

Long-stalked Cranesbill (OC).

Spindle (Scrub, hedges).

Common Restharrow (FCH, MR, OC).

Kidney Vetch (OC*).

Dropwort (SM*, FCH, OC).

Great Burnet (SM).

Spurge-laurel (north-west parish boundary).

Marsh Willowherb (FCH).

Knotted Hedge-parsley (FCH).

Stone Parsley (HB).

Lesser Burnet-saxifrage (SM*, FCH).

Greater Burnet-saxifrage (OC).

Pepper Saxifrage (SM).

Wild Parsnip (MR, OC, SM).

Yellow-wort (OC).

Early Forgetmenot (OC).

Wood Speedwell (Harbage's Covert).

Yellow Rattle (OC, SM).

Marjoram (OC).

Wild Thyme (FCH).

Nettle-leaved Bellflower (FCH).

Field Madder (FCH, MR, OC).

Fen Bedstraw (FCH).

Common Cornsalad (MR, OC).

Blue Fleabane (MR, OC).

Sneezewort (SM*).

Musk Thistle (FCH).

Woolly Thistle (FCH).

Dwarf Thistle (FCH).

Greater Knapweed (Harbage's Lane).

Rough Hawkbit (FCH, SM*, OC).

Lesser Hawkbit (FCH).

Hawkweed Oxtongue (MR, OC).

Sharp-flowered Rush (FCH).

Stinking Iris (OC).

Bee Orchid (MR, OC, SM*, Slade).

Green-winged Orchid (SM*).

Early Purple Orchid (HB).

Pyramidal Orchid (OC).

Bristle Club-rush (FC H)

Pale Sedge (SM*).

Carnation Sedge (SM*).

Spiked Sedge (grassy verges).

Sheep's Fescue (FCH).

Fern-grass (FCH).

Narrow-leaved Meadow-grass (FCH).

Upright Brome (FCH, OC).

Silver Hair-grass (FCH).

HBA listed County Uncommon Plants (16)

These are all declining in the county and mainly restricted to county important habitats such as species-rich semi-improved grassland. Many of these were formerly listed as County Notable plants but have now been found in over 100 sites in the county.

Western Polypody (OC).

Stinking Hellebore (OC).

Lesser Spearwort (FCH).

Ragged Robin (SM*).

Meadow Cranesbill (grass verges).

Dewberry (Scrub, hedges).

Salad Burnet (FCH).

Hoary Plantain (FCH, OC).

Harebell (FCH).

Crosswort (FCH, MR*, OC*).

Field Scabious (FCH, Harbage's Lane).

Common Twayblade (OC).

Oval Sedge (SM*).

Meadow Fescue (Old pastures and verges).

Common Quaking-grass (FCH, SM*).

Downy Oat-grass (FCH, OC).

National Status

A total of 14 plants are listed as being 'Near Threatened' or 'Vulnerable' in the Red Data List of endangered plants in England. These are plants which are since 1990 rapidly declining in the country, with 'Vulnerable' highlighting greater degrees of scarcity. Two of these (Wild Strawberry, Common Tormentil) do not yet appear in the county lists as they are still moderately common in Warwickshire.

Vulnerable (England)

Green-winged Orchid

Confused Eyebright

Strawberry Clover

Near Threatened (England)

Harebell

Crosswort

Wild Strawberry (scrub, verges, hedge banks)

Field Scabious

Field Pepperwort

Hoary Plantain

Common Tormentil (FCH)

Lesser Spearwort

Ragged Robin

Recommendations

- Conserve and restore all primary hedge lines and manage them positively as wildlife corridors, wildlife habitats and landscape features
- Enhance tree cover through large scale woodland planting on rising ground
- Conserve the diversity of unimproved and semi-improved grassland on steep hillsides through regular grazing

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Appendices

Phase 1 habitat categories

