

Local Wildlife Sites Evaluation Form

Site Name: Kenilworth Greenway	Site Ref: SP27Li9n	Grid Ref: SP298731 – SP247774
Local Authority Area: Warwick DC/Solihull MBC		Date Selected: 25/5/2016
Ownership: WCC	Suitably managed: Yes	Area: 16 ha
<p>The Kenilworth Greenway is a 6.5km long linear country park owned by Warwickshire County Council occupying the route of a former railway running from Common Lane on the perimeter of Kenilworth Common LWS, north-westwards to a point 100m east of Berkswell Station on the Coventry to Birmingham main line railway. It occupies a series of low embankments and cuttings as it crosses a mainly rural landscape of farmland and scattered woodlands; although it starts within the small suburb of Crackley on the northern edge of Kenilworth. It also passes by way of a deep cutting the linear settlement of Burton Green, part of the ribbon development extending out from Coventry along Cromwell Lane. The Greenway is a popular open green space for the general public, who use it for walking, cycling and horse riding, with direct access from the town of Kenilworth at the south-east end and the populous dormitory settlement of Balsall Common at the north-west end. It also links up with a new cyclepath running from Kenilworth to the University of Warwick, 2km to the north. The Greenway is a major wildlife corridor due to the unbroken chain of habitats, including secondary woodland, scrub, tall herb and grassland along the route. It is also important for connectivity as it links up several woodland LWSs along the route which would otherwise be now rather isolated, and these include Black Waste Wood, Broadwells Wood, Crackley Wood NR and Kenilworth Common NR. At the north-western end, it also links up directly with Beanit Green Lane LWS and is within a few metres of Beanit Farm Hedge LWS, both near Waste Lane.</p> <p>The former branch railway was constructed by the London North-west Railway (LNWR) in 1884 in order to provide competition to the established GWR route between Royal Leamington Spa and Birmingham, which went via Coventry. However, it was not a commercial success for passenger traffic, partly due to the poor service and absence of stations on the route between Kenilworth Junction and Berkswell Junction, and services had declined to just one train a day by 1948. It was mainly used latterly as a freight line as it bypassed the busy junctions at Coventry and Rugby. Following the Beeching Enquiry, passenger trains stopped running along the line in 1965, followed by freight in 1969, after which the rails and most of the ballast were removed. British Rail sold the line to WCC in 1974, who intended to open it up as a cycleway and footpath. This plan was suspended for many years however after proposals were made by British Coal to open a new pit at Hawkhurst Moor 2.5km to the north, in which case the railway would have been reopened. This application made during 1984-5 was subsequently turned down, with the railway being left to go back to nature for 20 years. Following a public meeting a Friends Group was set up in 1996 who began to work with Sustrans and the WCC to finally realise the plan for creating a cycleway. This has now been achieved, with the route being constructed with limestone and recycled materials and an all-weather path put in. The Greenway Trust was set up in 2012 in order to manage the site, now a country park, using volunteers and the WCC ranger service following an established management plan, with advice from bodies such as Warwickshire Wildlife Trust.</p> <p>The topography of the Arden landscape through which the Greenway passes is gently rolling, with the altitude gradually increasing from a low of around 80m ASL where the route passes under the</p>		

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

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

Habitats

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

1) Common Lane to Crackley Lane (WDC)

This part of the Greenway follows the extent of the Kenilworth sandstone and is the most heavily used part of the route as it partly lies within the suburbs of Kenilworth (with the main access from Coventry Road) and also includes the junction with the cycle path to the University of Warwick. The first 200m near Woodland Road is situated within a deep wooded cutting containing much exposed sandstone and some eroded slopes. The mature secondary woodland which occupies the cutting sides has a canopy composed mainly of Downy Birch and Pedunculate Oak, but with frequent Silver Birch, Turkey Oak and more localised Ash, and rare-occasional Sycamore, Wild Cherry and Rowan. Hawthorn dominates the well-developed and locally dense shrub layer, while other natives include occasional Holly, Wild Privet, Elder and Common Gorse, and rare Field Maple, Hazel, Dog Rose, Goat Sallow and Yew. There are many young trees developing here but unfortunately non-native shrubs are also frequent having arrived probably from green waste tipped from adjoining gardens. Both Butterfly-bush and Cherry Laurel are frequent, while other species present include at least three species of Cotoneaster, Firethorn and Bridewort. The ground flora below is fairly luxuriant, particularly along the damp seepage line at the foot of the rock faces, though it is largely absent in the more densely shaded areas. Ivy and Bramble tends to dominate, but there is also locally abundant Herb Bennet and Common Nettle, with frequent Broad-leaved and Rosebay Willowherb, Wild Strawberry, Herb Robert, Wood Forgetmenot, Redcurrant, Raspberry, Bittersweet and Bush Vetch. Other species noted at low frequency include False Brome, Pendulous Sedge, Tufted Hair-grass, Foxglove, Creeping Soft-grass, a Hawkweed species, Tutsan (a long-established site), Nipplewort, Honeysuckle, Wood Meadow-grass, Barren Strawberry and Wood Sage. A feature of this cutting is the abundance of ferns, and these include locally abundant Common Male-fern and frequent Broad Buckler-fern, Hartstongue and Bracken, the latter occurring along the upper part of the slope. Other species noted at low frequency, mostly growing on the rock surfaces, include Black Spleenwort, Maidenhair Spleenwort, Scaly Male-fern and Hard Shield-fern. On parts of the embankment to the north of the cutting where tree cover is sparse, Large Bindweed is locally dominant, while odd alien plants of garden origin are occasional, the most serious being an area of very locally abundant Garden Yellow Archangel, which should be removed as soon as possible as it is very invasive.

The grass verges on either side of Coventry Road and by the cycle path ramp to the north of the cutting are semi-improved and dominated by Red Fescue. They have a high incidence of vetches and clovers, including frequent Common Birdsfoot-trefoil, Meadow Vetchling, Black Medick, Red Clover, Zigzag Clover, Bush Vetch and Smooth Tare. Fox-and-cubs is locally frequent on clinker at the bridge, while other plants include locally frequent Perforate St. John's-wort and Bristly Oxtongue, with occasional Yarrow, Common Catsear, Oxeye Daisy, Musk Mallow and Hairy Tare. Some Goat Sallow and Common Gorse scrub is present on the bank north of the road, while to the south of the bridge there has been some shrub planting, including Field Maple and Hazel. From the Coventry Road the cycleway then runs along a low embankment bordered by fairly young Pedunculate Oaks and Silver Birch, before it again enters a deep cutting which ends at Crackley Wood LWS, where the route levels out. The banks of this part of the route are very well wooded and dominated by mature Ash, but with locally frequent Downy Birch and Pedunculate Oak, and occasional Sycamore, Silver Birch, Turkey Oak and Goat Sallow. A shrub layer has developed through scrub invasion from the former boundary hedges, with Hawthorn dominant and frequent Field Rose and Elder. Occasional species include Field Maple, Hazel (but frequent along the route where it goes through Crackley Wood), Holly, Aspen, Blackthorn, Dog Rose, Goat Sallow and Grey Sallow. Ivy is locally dominant on the more shaded upper slopes of the cutting, but near the bottom where sun can penetrate there is abundant Cleavers, Bramble and Common Nettle, along with a woodland flora composed of locally abundant Cow Parsley, Ground-ivy, Herb Robert, Herb Bennet, Greater Stitchwort and Bush Vetch. Also frequent along here are Garlic Mustard, Common Male-fern, Honeysuckle, Rough Meadow-grass, Red Campion and Hedge Woundwort, with more occasional False Brome, Hairy Brome, Scaly Male-fern, Giant Fescue, Common Hemp-nettle, a Hawkweed species, Three-nerved Sandwort, Hartstongue, Wood Dock, Common Figwort, Upright Hedge-parsley and Tufted Vetch. Where the cutting first borders and then levels out to enter Crackley Wood LNR there are more elements indicative of ancient woodland, with frequent Wood Sedge, Bearded Couch, Bluebell, Wood Millet, Dogs Mercury and Bracken, and more occasional Broad Buckler-fern, Yellow Archangel, Wood Melick, Wood Meadow-grass, Barren Strawberry, Primrose, Redcurrant, Wood Speedwell, Common Dog-violet and rare Soft Shield-fern. The bottom of the cutting contains many small areas of impeded drainage alongside the made-up cycle path and these wet flushes contain a flora which includes abundant Wavy Bittercress, Remote Sedge, Common Water-pepper, Creeping Buttercup and Brooklime, frequent Enchanter's Nightshade, Tufted Hair-grass and Raspberry, and occasional to very locally frequent Bugle, Wild Angelica, Great and Hoary Willowherbs, Soft Rush, Tufted Forgetmenot, Pale Persicaria and Bittersweet.

2) Crackley Lane to Cromwell Lane (WDC)

From the border of Crackley Wood the route runs north-westwards along an embankment which then levels out before entering a cutting near the southern end of Broadwells Wood LWS. The embankment is bordered by tall hedges composed mainly of Hawthorn and Elder, with locally frequent mature Silver Birch, Ash and Pedunculate Oak, and occasional Wild Cherry, Turkey Oak and Goat Sallow. Field Rose is also frequent, while Dogwood, Hazel, Holly and Blackthorn are also present. The wide verges, away from the mown edges to the path, are composed of dominant Bramble and Common Nettle, with abundant False Oat-grass, Cleavers and frequent Rosebay Willowherb, Creeping Thistle and Raspberry. These now shaded rough edges, much of which used to be semi-improved grassland, now contain a number of woodland plants including locally abundant Herb Bennet and Red Campion, frequent Wild Strawberry and Bush Vetch, and occasional Cuckoo Pint, Herb Robert, Nipplewort and Wood Dock. Some rough grassland verges still survive unmanaged at the southern end of this section near the Hollis Lane bridge and these

include a relict meadow forb flora including locally abundant Common Knapweed, frequent Yarrow and Common Toadflax, occasional Cut-leaved Cranesbill, Perforate St. John's-wort, Common Birdsfoot-trefoil, Musk Mallow, Ribwort Plantain, White Campion and rare Spiked Sedge.

At the end of the embankment the path enters a steep-sided cutting, with the banks occupied by mature Ash and Pedunculate Oak dominated woodland, but with occasional Silver Birch, Turkey Oak and Goat Sallow. The shrub layer which has colonised from the boundary hedges again is largely composed of Hawthorn and Elder, but there is also frequent Hazel and Holly, with locally abundant Field Rose. The ground flora is dominated by Bramble and Common Nettle, with locally abundant Rosebay Willowherb joining these in the woodland edge habitats on the lower slopes. A good secondary woodland flora is developing, with the dry banks containing locally abundant Cow Parsley, False Brome, Red Fescue, Wild Strawberry, Herb Robert, Herb Bennet and Nipplewort, with frequent Common Male-fern, Raspberry, Red Campion, Hedge Woundwort and Wood Sage. More occasional species include Greater Burdock, Hairy Brome, Bearded Couch, Creeping Soft-grass, Wood Millet, Wood Meadow-grass, Redcurrant, Common Figwort, Bush Vetch and Tufted Vetch.

From here the cutting levels out somewhat as it approaches Black Waste Wood. The low banks are covered with young woodland, composed of a mix of mature Hawthorn, Ash and Pedunculate Oak, with occasional Downy Birch and Goat Sallow. A shrub layer has already developed in places, with sparse to moderate cover of Hawthorn, Hazel, Holly and Elder, while there is much Ash regeneration. The ground flora is dominated by Bramble, with abundant Herb Bennet and more locally Greater Stitchwort, while False Brome, Hairy Brome, Bearded Couch, Ivy and Common Male-fern are all frequent. Other species present between here and Black Waste Wood include occasional to locally frequent Wood Sedge, Broad Buckler-fern, Scaly Male-fern, Common Hempenettle, Yellow Archangel, Dog's Mercury, Wood Millet, Hartstongue, Hard Shield-fern, Barren Strawberry, Primrose, Redcurrant, Raspberry and Common Dog-violet. The wet flushes along the cutting floor in addition includes frequent Enchanter's Nightshade, Creeping Buttercup, Wood Speedwell and Brooklime, with occasional Yellow Pimpernel. The route then enters a deep dark cutting below Cromwell Lane Bridge at Burton Green. This cutting is shaded mainly by a strip of mature Ash and Pedunculate Oak woodland, but there is frequent Goat Sallow and occasional Sycamore, Downy Birch and Wild Cherry. The shrub layer is composed of frequent Hazel and Hawthorn, with Bracken and Bluebell below. Cherry Laurel is also locally frequent on the banks and Rhododendron rare, having arisen from garden waste, as has the variegated garden form of Yellow Archangel which is unfortunately now locally dominant on the banks. The banks and walls of the cutting are notable for containing abundant ferns, including frequent Hartstongue and occasional Hard Shield-fern. Also notable is the presence of rare Broad-leaved Helleborine and Wall Lettuce, the latter growing on the bridge above. The cutting floor is very wet and includes flushes containing abundant Creeping Buttercup and Enchanter's Nightshade, with Wild Angelica, Wavy Bittercress, Pendulous Sedge, Thyme-leaved and Wood Speedwells, and Brooklime also present.

3) Cromwell Lane to Waste Lane (SMBC)

Almost the whole of this section, apart from one short stretch of low embankment just beyond Burton Green, lies within a wooded cutting and includes a very diverse secondary woodland flora. Woodland occupies most of this part of the route and has a canopy dominated by Ash, Pedunculate Oak and more locally, Downy Birch. There is also locally frequent Sycamore and more occasional Horse Chestnut, Silver Birch, Sessile Oak, Goat Sallow, Small-leaved Lime and Wych Elm. The shrub layer is often quite dense and everywhere dominated by Hawthorn, but with locally frequent

Holly and Field Rose. A good range of more occasional shrubs occur including Field Maple, Red Osier Dogwood, Hazel, Midland Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Wild Plum, Cherry Laurel, Dog Rose and Guelder-rose. Beneath this scrub Ivy and Bramble are dominant, while other components of the field layer include frequent to abundant Garlic Mustard, Common Male-fern, Broad Buckler-fern, Bearded Couch, Red Fescue, Cleavers, Herb Robert, Herb Bennet, Hartstongue, Primrose, Wood Dock, Hedge Woundwort, Common Nettle, Germander Speedwell and Common Dog-violet. More occasional plants include Greater Burdock, Cuckoo Pint, False Brome, Hairy Brome, Pendulous Sedge, Spiked Sedge, Wood Sedge, Scaly Male-fern, Wild Strawberry, Bluebell, Tutsan, Wall Lettuce, Nipplewort, Honeysuckle, Three-nerved Sandwort, Wood Meadow-grass, Hard Shield-fern, Cowslip, Redcurrant, Common Figwort, Red Champion, Greater Stitchwort, Upright Hedge-parsley, Bush Vetch and Sweet Violet. At the bottom of the cutting are occasional wet flushes which contain frequent Wavy Bittercress, Enchanter's Nightshade, Common Water-pepper, Creeping Buttercup, Thyme-leaved Speedwell and Brooklime, with also occasional Wild Angelica, Remote Sedge, Tufted Hair-grass, Hoary Willowherb, Soft Rush and Wood Speedwell. The only remaining piece of grassland is situated on the more open short section of embankment just beyond the Burton Green cutting. This contains frequent Black Medick and Creeping Cinquefoil, with rare-occasional Spiked Sedge, Perforate St.John's-wort and Tufted Vetch.

4) Waste Lane to Berkswell Junction

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

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

Woodland reasserts itself for the last 500m of the LWS up to the former Berkswell Junction which partly lies within a shallow cutting. This young secondary woodland is dominated by tall

Hawthorn and Ash, with older fenced-off Ash woodland occurring at the very end beyond the end of the footpath. Other species recorded were of occasional to rare frequency only and included Alder, Aspen, Downy Birch, Midland Hawthorn, Apple, Blackthorn, Field Rose and Goat Sallow. Most of the banks are very shaded and are either bare or dominated by Ivy, but Herb Bennet and Common Nettle are locally abundant, while False Brome, Hairy Brome, Common Male-fern, Bearded Couch, Broad-leaved Willowherb, Dog's Mercury, Wood Dock and Common Dog-violet are all frequent. In addition, Dog's Mercury is locally dominant (with Ivy) in the fenced off woodland at the end. The cutting floor continues to have some areas of impeded drainage which has a flora comprising frequent Creeping Bent, Wavy Bittercress, Enchanter's Nightshade, Tufted Hair-grass, Great Willowherb, Common Water-pepper, Creeping Buttercup and Brooklime.

Fauna

The 6.5km long site is a locally important breeding site for birds as well as providing an important food source for migrant and wintering birds. Among the species which are known to breed regularly here are Stock Dove, Tawny Owl, Green, Great Spotted and Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers, Song and Mistle Thrushes, Lesser and Common Whitethroats, Garden Warbler, Blackcap, Willow Warbler, Chiffchaff, Goldcrest, Spotted Flycatcher, Long-tailed Tit, Marsh Tit, Coal Tit, Nuthatch, Treecreeper, Jay, Linnet, Bullfinch and Yellowhammer. In addition, Sparrowhawk, Common Buzzard, Common Kestrel and Raven are resident. Some former red-listed breeding species have probably disappeared from the LWS in the past 15 years, and these include Turtle Dove, Cuckoo, Willow Tit and Tree Sparrow. Many of these are characteristic species of woodland and scrub, for which the site provides an important connective corridor to other local woodland LWSs.

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

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

Phase 1 Habitats present: Semi-natural broadleaved woodland, scrub, tall herb, semi-improved grassland, wet flushes, rock faces.

Evaluation against the criteria

Habitat criteria applied: Post industrial

SCIENTIFIC CRITERIA	Elements of the criteria applying to the site						COMMUNITY CRITERIA	Elements of the criteria applying to the site				
	1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5
Diversity	√	√	√				Physical & Visual Access	√		√	√	
Rarity	√	√		√			Educational Value	√	√	√		√
Size	√	√					Community & Amenity Value	√	√	√		
Naturalness	√	√	√				Aesthetic Appeal & Landscape	√		√		
Fragility	√						Geographical Position		√			
Typicalness		√					Recorded History					
Ecological Position	√		√				Continuity of Land Use					
Significant Populations												
Potential Value	√											

Why this site qualifies as a Local Wildlife Site: summary of assessment

The Kenilworth Greenway qualifies as a Local Wildlife Site with 16 scientific and 13 community criteria applying, of which the following are considered the most important.

Diversity

The Greenway contains a diversity of habitats dominated by mosaics of semi-natural broad-leaved woodland, scrub, tall herb and semi-improved grassland, with wet flushes along the cutting bottoms. These are dominated by characteristic plants such as Pedunculate Oak, Ash, Hawthorn, Bramble, Rosebay Willowherb, a variety of ferns and woodland plants such as False Brome, Herb Robert, Herb Bennet, Dog's Mercury and Bush Vetch. The declining areas of grassland still contain a range of typical meadow species such as Yarrow, Common Knapweed, Meadow Vetchling, Common Birdsfoot-trefoil, Creeping Cinquefoil and Tufted Vetch, while the wet flushes include Wavy Bittercress, Common Water-pepper and Brooklime. In all 206 species of vascular plants were recorded during the survey, with the majority now characteristic of woodland and woodland edge habitats, while grassland species have apparently declined. The Greenway supports a good range of breeding birds and is also important for reptiles and invertebrate groups such as butterflies.

Rarity

There are no threatened habitats on site, but some of the secondary Ash-Pedunculate Oak woodland adjoining existing ancient woodland, as at Crackley Wood, do include ancient woodland indicators. These include Remote Sedge, Yellow Archangel, Yellow Pimpernel, Wood Melick, Wood Millet, Wood Meadow-grass and Wood Speedwell, while Wood Anemone is also said to occur (per Greenway Trust). The LWS contains a number of county uncommon or notable plant species, including Remote Sedge, Tutsan, Broad-leaved Helleborine, Yellow Archangel, Wood Melick, Wood Millet, Wood Meadow-grass, Hard and Soft Shield-ferns, and Wood Speedwell. In addition, Wild Strawberry is listed as 'Near Threatened' in England on the Red List for endangered plants in the UK (Stroh et al, 2014). The Greenway also supports several nationally red-listed breeding birds (in *Birds of Conservation Concern 4*, RSPB/BTO, 2015), including Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Song and Mistle Thrushes, Spotted Flycatcher, Marsh Tit, Linnet and Yellowhammer. Marsh Tit occurs in both the Warwick and Solihull sections, in the latter district the species is now known from just a few sites. The county uncommon Common Lizard occurs in at least one place along the route. The exposed rock faces in the Kenilworth cutting is an unusual habitat in the county and is a LGS.

Naturalness

The peripheral habitats have been developing naturally since the railway was dismantled in about 1970, although the central part of the track has been altered with the provision of the all-weather footpath and cycleway. Some of the bridges have also been rebuilt.

Fragility

Much of the former grassland, some of which had formerly been described as calcareous, has been lost through natural succession to tall herb, scrub and woodland. This has been due to the lack of management and is a succession which is still on-going.

Ecological Position

The site forms a very valuable long distance connective corridor of scrub and woodland, which helps to link woodland LWSs such as Broadwells, Crackley and Black Waste Woods together, which otherwise would be rather isolated.

Potential Value

The site's biodiversity would be further enhanced if some of the surviving grasslands are managed, by having an annual cut in around August-September and a scrub control programme initiated in the vicinity.

Physical and Visual Access

This criterion scores particularly highly. A footpath and cycleway follows the LWS for almost the entire length of the site.

Educational Value

The site is a designated country park, although the educational value has not yet been exploited.

Community and Amenity Value

The amenity value of the site is very high and it is very well used for recreational purposes by walkers, cyclists and horse-riders. It has local history importance as a former railway.

Kenilworth Greenway

Sources of information:		Recorder Site No:	Ecosite No: 31/27
Survey Details:			Location of records (HBA / WWT / WBRC / EN / Other)
Date: 23/09- 14/10/2015 (5 dates)	Survey Type: Phase 2	Surveyors: J J Bowley	HBA
17/07/2012 1959-	Phase 1 General records Faunal records	O Powell Various Various	HBA WBRC WMBC, Greenway Trust
Any Other Information:			
Parts of the Greenway may be destroyed or damaged by the future construction of the HS2 railway.			
Completed by: J J Bowley Date: 16/05/2016		Map attached: Yes Species list attached: Yes	
Passed by Sites Selection Panel: Yes / No / Further survey required: (circle as candidate Wildlife Site appropriate)			
Signed by the Chair:		Date:	
On behalf of the LWS panel.			