

## Warwickshire Sites Of Importance for Nature Conservation: Wildlife Site Evaluation Form

(Refer to guidelines for completion)

Site Name: Little Beanit Farm Meadow	Site Ref: SP27 N5	Grid Ref: SP 257763
Local Authority Area: Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council		Date Selected:
<p>Summary:</p> <p>Little Beanit Farm Meadow is a small field of unimproved, though neglected, neutral grassland. Several species associated with unimproved or species rich semi-improved grassland are present including Sneezewort, Lesser Knapweed, Greater Bird's-foot-trefoil, Tormentil, Betony and Devil's-bit Scabious.</p>		
Site description:		Area: 0.42ha
<p>Little Beanit Farm Meadow comprises a small, 0.42ha field of largely unimproved, neglected neutral grassland. There is little in the way of other unimproved or species rich semi-improved grassland in the area which is predominantly improved grassland with some arable.</p> <p>False Oat-grass (<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>) and Tussock Grass (<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>) are abundant with occasional Common Bent (<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>), Cock's-foot (<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>), Red Fescue (<i>Festuca rubra</i>) and Yorkshire fog (<i>Holcus lanatus</i>) plus rare frequency Meadow Foxtail (<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>). Compact Rush (<i>Juncus conglomeratus</i>) and Soft-rush (<i>Juncus effusus</i>) are occasional. Herbs include locally frequent Lesser Knapweed (<i>Centaurea nigra</i>), Greater Bird's-foot-trefoil (<i>Lotus pedunculatus</i>) and Creeping Buttercup (<i>Ranunculus repens</i>) with smaller areas of locally frequent Devil's-bit Scabious (<i>Succisa pratensis</i>) and Sneezewort (<i>Achillea ptarmica</i>). Occasional frequency herbs include Creeping Cinquefoil (<i>Potentilla reptans</i>), Meadow Buttercup (<i>Ranunculus acris</i>), Common Sorrel (<i>Rumex acetosa</i>), Curled Dock (<i>Rumex crispus</i>) and Tufted Vetch (<i>Vicia cracca</i>) with rarer occurrences of Yarrow (<i>Achillea millefolium</i>), Marsh Thistle (<i>Cirsium palustre</i>), Hogweed (<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>), Tormentil (<i>Potentilla erecta</i>), Bittersweet (<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>), Betony (<i>Stachys officinalis</i>). There is some tall herb encroachment of mostly Bramble (<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>) with some Rosebay Willowherb (<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>) and Nettle (<i>Urtica dioica</i>). The following butterflies are present Gatekeeper (<i>Pyronia tithonus</i>), Common Blue (<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>), Peacock (<i>Inachis io</i>), Meadow Brown (<i>Maniola jurtina</i>), Speckled Wood (<i>Pararge aegeria</i>) and Large White (<i>Pieris brassicae</i>). Grasshoppers (<i>Orthoptera</i>) are also present. The field boundary has remained the same since the first edition Ordnance Survey map, apart from small areas of garden encroachment on the north-western boundary.</p>		
<p>Phase 1 Habitats present:</p> <p>Unimproved neutral grassland Tall herb</p>		

<b>Evaluation against the criteria</b>												
<b>Habitat criteria applied: Grassland and Marsh</b>												
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 Landuse	✓			▨	▨
Significant Populations			▨	▨	▨	▨						
Potential Value	✓		▨	▨	▨	▨						

Why this site qualifies as a Wildlife Site: Summary of assessment

Little Beant Farm Meadow qualifies for eight scientific and seven community criteria from the grassland and scrub criteria set.

The most important aspects of the SINC are it's naturalness, rarity and diversity.

The sward is semi-natural, largely unimproved, neutral grassland as indicated by the presence of species such as Sneezewort, Lesser Knapweed, Greater Bird's-foot-trefoil, Tormentil, Betony and Devil's-bit Scabious. Such vegetation is locally rare and is suffering a rapid decline in lowland areas nationally. Overall vascular plant diversity is not high at 28 species. This is probably due to the rank nature of the sward. Despite this there is a good range of unimproved grassland indicator species.

Sources of Information : WSP		Recorder Site No: NA	Ecosite No: 39/27
Survey Details:  Date:  10/08/2001	Survey Type:  Phase II	Surveyors:  Jeff Waddell	Location of records  Wildlife Sites Project
<p>Any Other Information:</p> <p>Not previously selected as a SINC. Other areas of Little Beanit Farm are subject to a Countryside Stewardship Scheme.</p>			
Completed By: Jeff Waddell Date: 02/10/2001		Map attached: Yes Species list attached: Plant	
Passed by Sites Selection Panel:		Yes / No / Further survey required: candidate Wildlife Site	(circle as appropriate) Date:
Signed:			

