

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

(Refer to guidelines for completion)

Site Name:	Site Ref:	Grid Ref:
Big Pools and Little Pools Wood	SP27S3	SP 267 757
Local Authority Area:	Date Selected:	
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council	8.3.05	

Site description: Area: 4.7 ha

Big Pools and Little Pools SINC is located at Burton Green, in a rural area of Solihull to the south east of Balsall Common. It comprises two small blocks of W10 Oak-Bracken-Bramble Woodland (*Quercus robur*-*Pteridium aquilinum*-*Rubus fruticosus*). However, both woodlands have been modified to some extent by planting with species such as Larch. The surrounding landscape is largely arable and improved grassland. The eastern boundary of the Little Pools Wood is bordered by residential gardens, and the northern boundary by a disused railway with cutting. Both woodlands are shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey Map.

Big Pools Wood

Even age mature woodland with canopy of abundant Oak (*Quercus robur*), occasional Lime (*Tilia sp*), with rare Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*), and Larch (*Larix sp*). The understorey contains frequent Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), occasional Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), rare/locally frequent planted Wild Cherry (*Prunus avium*), with rare Elder (*Sambucus nigra*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), and Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*).

The field layer contains abundant/locally dominant Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus agg.*), frequent Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), occasional/locally dominant Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*), rare/locally frequent Rough Meadow-grass (*Poa trivialis*), rare Lesser Celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*), Nettle (*Urtica dioica*), Broad Buckler-fern (*Dryopteris dilatata*), Yellow Archangel (*Galeobdolon luteum*), Water Figwort (*Scrophularia auriculata*), Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*), and Soft Rush (*Juncus effusus*).

Birds recorded; Blackcap, Cuckoo, Great Tit, and Woodpecker.

Little Pools Wood

Canopy with abundant Oak (*Quercus robur*), locally abundant Larch (*Larix sp*), occasional Silver Birch, rare Rowan, and Crab Apple (*Malus slyvestris*). Understorey of occasional Hazel, Holly, with rare Elder, Hawthorn (*C. monogyna*), Blackthorn, and Goat Willow (*Salix caprea*).

The field layer is dominated by abundant to dominant Bramble, and occasional/locally dominant Bracken, with rare/locally abundant Nettle, Cleavers (*Galium aparine*), and rare/locally frequent Bluebell. Other ground flora species found at rare frequency include Wood Forget-me-not (*Myosotis sylvatica*), Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*), Broad Buckler-fern, Rosebay Willowherb (*Chamerion angustifolium*), St John's-wort (*Hypericum sp*), and Soft Rush. There is a small pond in the north west corner of the wood. This was mostly dry at the time of survey and no aquatic vegetation was recorded. The eastern boundary of the Wood is bordered by residential gardens, some having encroached into parts of this side of the woodland. Cultivated plants such as Daffodil, and Snowdrop are quite frequent here, and piles of garden rubbish are found in places. A small hardstanding car parking area used by residents of the adjoining properties, is also located within this part of the woodland.

Bird species recorded; Great Spotted Woodpecker, and Jay.

A public footpath runs along the western and southern boundaries of this woodland, and there are a number of unofficial paths that pass through the wood.

Phase 1 Habitats present:
Semi Natural Broad Leaved Woodland

Evaluation against the criteria

Habitat criteria applied: Woodland

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

The SINC qualifies for at least 12 scientific and 7 Community criteria. The most important attributes of the site are its diversity, rarity, naturalness, and fragility.

The woodlands contain a diverse range of semi natural tree and shrub species. The ground flora includes several ancient woodland indicator species including Yellow Archangel, and Bluebell.

In terms of rarity, semi-natural woodland is rare in the sub-region.

Both woods have been modified to some extent e.g. tree planting, but both are largely in a semi-natural state as shown by the largely natural distribution of native tree and shrub species, and the presence of ancient woodland indicator species.

The fragility of the woodland habitat is shown most markedly in Little Poors Wood, which is threatened by the encroachment of adjoining private gardens, the introduction of cultivated garden species, and the dumping of garden waste.

Sources of Information :

Recorder Site No:

Ecosite No:

WBRC, HBA

Survey Details:

Date:

Survey Type & Area:

Surveyors:

Location of records

23/4/04

Phase II

J. Easton

Wildlife Sites Proj.

24/10/1996

Phase I

M. Whyte, D. Ottley

HBA

Any Other Information:

Completed By: David Cole

Date: 18/1/05

Map attached:

Species list attached:

Passed by Sites Selection Panel:

Yes / No / Further survey required:
candidate Wildlife Site

(circle as
appropriate)

Signed:

Date: