



<b>Site Name:</b>	<b>Site Ref: SP</b>	<b>Grid Ref: SP</b>
<b>Local Authority Area:</b>	<b>Date Selected:</b>	
<b>Ownership:</b>	<b>Area:</b>	<b>Management:</b>
<b>1. Summary of importance.</b>		
<p>A former mill pond, now seasonal, surrounded by a mosaic of marsh, reedbed, alder and willow carr and broad-leaved woodland. Records suggest that the pool, once more extensive, has been affected by falling water table levels and by the breaching of the clay lining in the mid 1980's. Part of the pool area has been colonised by alder and willow woodland but this currently does not appear to be spreading into the remaining marsh and pool area.</p>		
<p>The seasonal pond are supports a short sward containing creeping buttercup (<i>Ranunculus repens</i>), marsh bedstraw (), creeping bent (), mosses and scattered hard rush (<i>Juncus inflexus</i>). Around this is a complex mosaic of carr woodland, Phragmites reedbed, marsh and tall herb communities. Drier parts are dominated by rosebay willowherb (<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>) and common nettle (<i>Urtica dioica</i>) while wetter areas support unusual mixes of wetland, woodland edge and ruderal species with abundant lesser pond-sedge, great willowherb and marsh bedstraw with frequent yellow iris, marsh woundwort, gypsywort, marsh thistle and skullcap, mixed in with enchanter's-nightshade (<i>Circaea lutetiana</i>), red campion (<i>Silene dioica</i>), common ragwort (<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>), spear (<i>Cirsium vulgare</i> and creeping thistle (<i>C. arvense</i>). Of note, good numbers of small teasel () are present.</p>		
<p>Though a permanent pool is no longer present, the presence of numerous young frogs (August 1998) indicates that water is present for several months, at least in some years, enable spawning and development to occur, the extent and duration of inundation probably depending on rainfall levels.</p>		
<p>The wood land between the pool and marsh area and the adjacent conifer/sycamore plantation is included in the site. This partly planted poplar, together with willow, sycamore, ash and pedunculate oak. The ground flora includes bluebell (<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>), primrose (), male fern (), broad buckler-fern () and notably scaly male-fern () and lady-fern ().</p>		
<p>The conifer/sycamore plantation is of some nature conservation value, supporting a number of breeding bird species, but is not included in the SINC. A ditch forms a natural boundary between the site and the woodland.</p>		
<p>Mericote Mill Pool supports wetland habitats which are now scarce in Solihull and Warwickshire, especially when found in an intimate mosaic such as that present on this site. Due to the habitat mosaic, the site supports a diversity of botanical species, including local rarities, and has potential for invertebrates. An invertebrate survey should be carried out. Historical associations add to the site's ecological importance.</p>		



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**2. Position in the landscape and access.**

**3. Land Use History.**

**4. Topography and Geology.**

**5. Habitat Description (with reference to habitat map and species list).**

**6. Other Faunal and Floral groups.**

**7. Phase 1 Habitats present (with colour codes in brackets)\***

\*Please refer to Appendix I Habitat Map

**8. Evaluation against the criteria**

Habitat criteria applied:

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					



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Naturalness							Aesthetic Appeal & Landscape					
Fragility							Geographical Position					
Typicalness							Recorded History					
Ecological Position							Continuity of Land-use					
Significant Populations												
Potential Value												

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

#### Diversity



The complex mix of habitats means that this area supports a good range of plant species, 87 having been recorded between 1995-1998. No invertebrate surveys has been carried out, however the wetland habitats present are likely to support a wide range of flies, beetles and other invertebrates. 24 breeding bird species have been recorded in the pool and plantation area and others forage on the site. The pool and marsh area supports breeding frogs and provides suitable habitat for grass snake (*Natrix natrix*).

The site supports a range of habitat types and botanical communities, showing a transition from the inundation community of the seasonal pool, through a variety of swamp and marsh communities ranging from alder and willow carr, tall herb and woodland.

#### Rarity

No rare species have been recorded but the site supports a number of plants of restricted distribution in Warwickshire and Solihull. Notable among these are scaly male-fern (), recorded from only eight tetrads (2x2km) in Warwickshire and small teasel () recorded from twelve tetrads (Computer Mapped Flora of Warwickshire). Among the breeding bird species several are classified as species of conservation concern including the Red Listed song thrush, goldfinch, dunnock and blackbird. The wall brown butterfly recorded from the woodland edge is defined as regionally important in Butterfly Conservation's West Midlands Regional Action Plan and is a scarce and declining species throughout England and Wales.

In terms of protected species, evidence of badger foraging was recorded in the adjacent plantation

#### Fragility

#### Typicalness

#### Ecological Position

#### Significant Populations

#### Potential Value

#### Physical and Visual Access

#### Aesthetic Appeal and Landscape Character

#### Continuity of Land Use

Sources of information:

Ecosite No:



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Survey Details:			Location of records (HBA / WWT / WBRC / EN / Other)
Date:	Survey Type:	Surveyors:	

Any Other Information:

## Management

<u>Habitat category</u>	<u>Current management</u>	<u>Management recommendation</u>
A	Good	Maintain current regime
B	Medium	Enhance current regime
C	Poor	Change management regime
D	Minimal	Enhance as necessary

## Recommendations:

Completed by:	Date:
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Passed by Sites Selection Panel: Yes / No / Further survey required: (circle as appropriate)  
candidate Wildlife Site

Signed by the Chair: Date:

On behalf of the LWS panel.



## References

1. JNCC. (1993 repr.). *Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey: a technique for environmental audit*. Peterborough: JNCC.
2. Local Wildlife Sites Project. (2015). *The Green Book: Guidance for the selection of Local Wildlife Sites in Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull*. Warwick: Habitat Biodiversity Audit office.
3. Rodwell J S et al (2003 repr.) *British Plant Communities* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
4. RSPB/BTO. (2015). *BoCC4: Birds of Conservation Concern*. RSPB/BTO.
5. Stroh et al. 2014 *Red Data List of plants in England*: Peterborough JNCC