Staffordshire Wildlife Trust Evidence

Section 1: Analysis of local ecological data

Section 2: Nature sites report

ANALYSIS OF LOCAL ECOLOGICAL DATA

Following the strong positive results from the Neighbourhood Plan survey in response to questions related to protecting and enhancing the natural environment, contact was made with Staffordshire Wildlife Trust (SWT) in order to obtain information held by them related to the parish and surrounding area. SWT have already been involved in the preparation of key documents for the AONB, Cannock Chase District Council (CCDC) and Staffordshire County Council.

SWT manage a number of important wildlife sites around the parish and have carried out limited mapping and survey of the area. Fig 1 shows the location of the key wildlife sites in and around the parish. Fig 2 and Table 1 show currently identified nature conservation sites within the parish and how these relate geographically to sites just outside the parish.

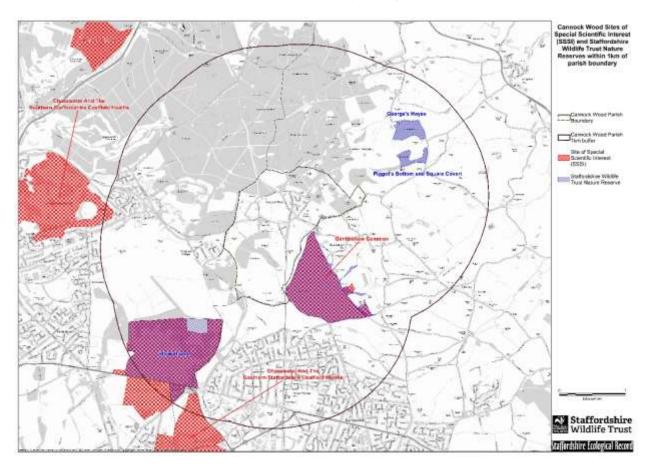


Fig 1: Nature Conservation Sites around Cannock Wood

Fig 2: Identified Nature Conservation Sites in the immediate parish area.

Table 1: List of non-statutory biological/ecological sites: N/A of Cannock Wood Neighbourhood Plan (SK047119) produced 3/2/2022

SiteID	Grid Ref.	Site Name	Status	Year	Abstract
01-	SK037112	Sevens Road	Local Wildlife	2019	Species-rich semi-
31-72			Site		improved neutral
					grassland with areas of
					bare ground, marshy
					grassland and associated
					habitats; tall ruderal,
					semi-natural broad-
					leaved woodland and
					ponds.
01-	SK036124	New Hayes Tip	Local Wildlife	2009	An area of colliery spoil
32-64			Site		with typical ruderal
					vegetation which also
					includes common spotted
					orchids, and has been
					known to support
01	SK040110	Dodroom Hill (work of)	Diadiconsite	2010	breeding lapwings.
01- 41-00	SKU4U11U	Redmoor Hill (west of)	Biodiversity Alert Site	2019	Dry heath/acid grassland
41-00			Alert Site		mosaic, with areas of continuous Bracken.
01-	SK043116	Courtbanks Covert,	Local Wildlife	1990	Ancient semi-natural
41-36	3KU43116	Redmoor Wood	Site	1990	woodland remnant
41-30		Redificor Wood	Site		containing a site of
					archaeological interest.
01-	SK045116	Hayfield Hill (near	Retained BAS	2005	Two small fields with still
41-56	3K043110	Redmoor)	Retained B/15	2003	species rich semi-
12 30		Tredition,			improved neutral
					grassland.
01-	SK048119	Gentleshaw Grassland	Biodiversity	2019	Semi-improved neutral
41-89			Alert Site		grassland with flushes
					and areas of marshy
					grassland, surrounded by
					scattered trees.
01-	SK044129	Castle Ring	Local Wildlife	2019	A dry heath/acid
42-49			Site		grassland mosaic, with
					marshy grassland and
					flush. The site includes an
					Iron Age hill fort. Included
					in the Heathland
					Inventory for
					Staffordshire.

In addition to this list, Nunswell Park was historically listed as a Local Wildlife Site (LWS) but has not been recently surveyed to current criteria. The Parish Council has written to CCDC

asking for the park to be re-surveyed. Other potential Local Wildlife Sites may exist in the parish but these need to be identified and surveyed. In many counties, the percentage of land covered by Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) is less than 10% of that covered by LWS which illustrates the importance of the latter as wildlife havens, stepping-stones and highways between wildlife-rich sites.

The parish contains a variety of habitats. SWT have identified these (largely from desk studies and aerial maps plus some 'on the ground data' as:

Grassland Wetland Woodland Heathland

The areas in which each habitat predominates is shown on the Cannock Wood Habitat Map (Fig 3).

The legends of the symbols and coloration used throughout this summary are presented in Annex A.

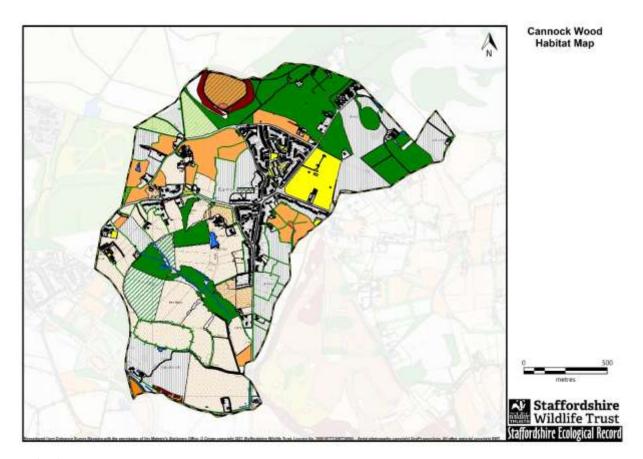


Fig 3: Cannock Wood Habitat Map

The map does not include detailed data on species present but uses the habitat classifications as an indicator of the biodiversity expected to be present. The map can be used to identify areas of high biodiversity which should be given the highest levels of protection from development and which are prime candidates for improvement as well as semi-natural areas of medium value which could be improved and where development should be avoided if at all possible. Both these area types could potentially be put forward by landowners as potential Biodiversity Net Gain sites. The map also helps to identify possible wildlife corridors.

Building on the Habitat Mapping, a Strategic Habitat Area Map can be developed (Fig 4). This consists of a grid of squares on 100mx100m resolution. The map ranks in a simple manner the importance of smaller areas of land than the Habitat map based on the % of natural various or semi-natural habitat:

Strategic >20% Semi-strategic 5-20% Non-strategic <5%

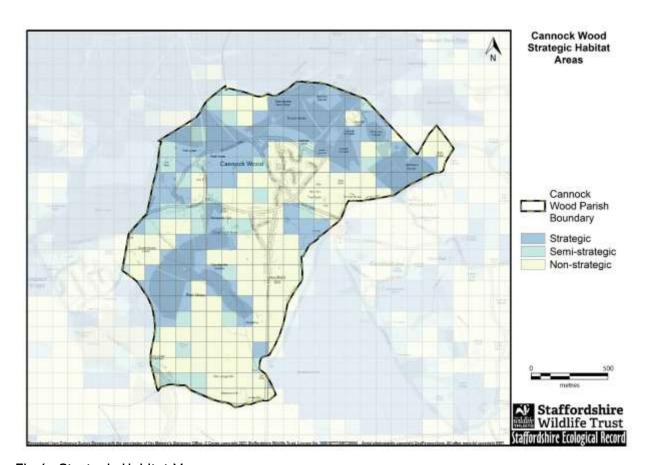


Fig 4: Strategic Habitat Map

As can be seem from Fig 4, the Strategic areas are often linked through semi-strategic areas which should be considered as areas for habitat improvement. Linkage of areas of high biodiversity through corridors or 'stepping stones' is considered vitally important both to allow species to move should a disaster hit one particular area and also to reduce in-breeding which

can occur within an isolated community. These aspirations are reflected in Government documents including the Lawson Report, Environment Bill and NPPF.

By assessing the location and estimating the quality of the different habitat types and including data from other sources in an Ecological Modelling software programme (Condatis), High Connectivity Opportunity Maps can be developed (Figs 5-9). These show on a broad scale where various type of habitat exist, if they are already connected and where to direct efforts which could be used to improve connectivity.

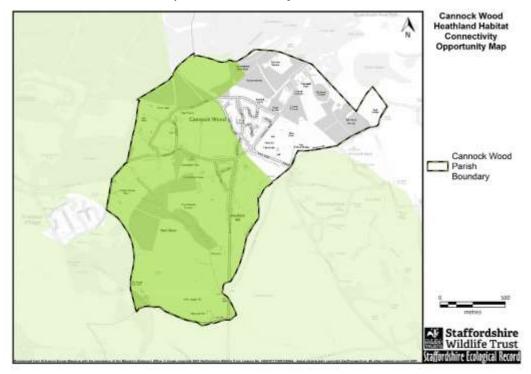


Fig 5: Heathland Habitat Connectivity Opportunity Map

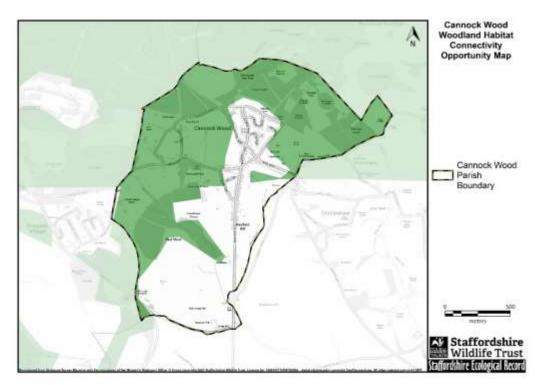


Fig 6: Woodland Connectivity Opportunity Map

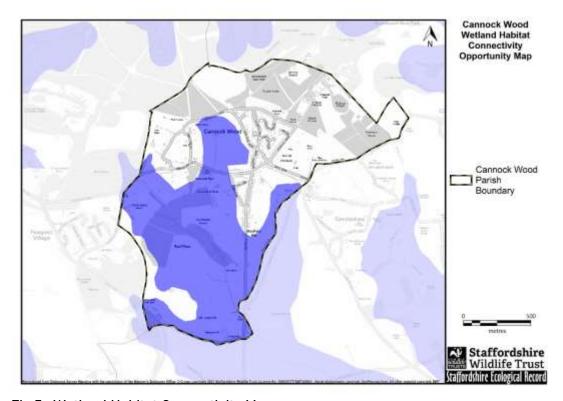


Fig 7: Wetland Habitat Connectivity Map

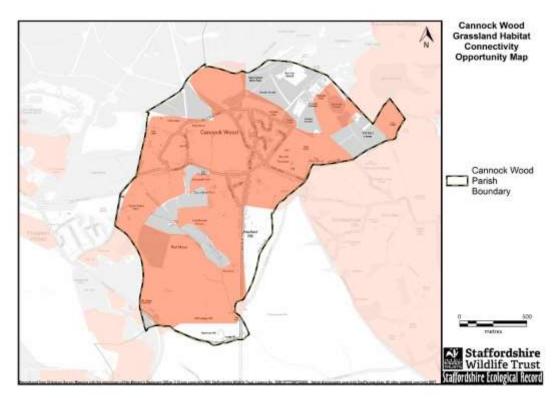


Fig 8: Grassland Connectivity Opportunity Map

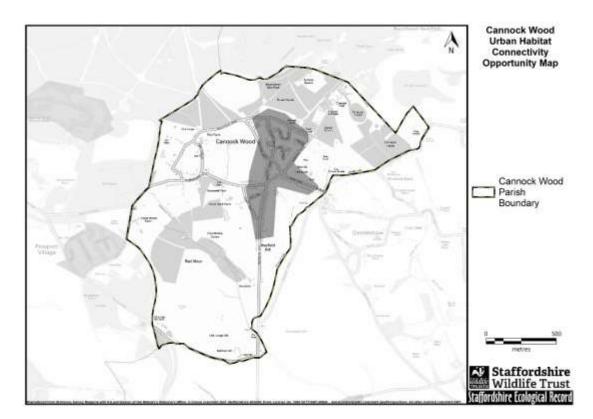


Fig 9: Urban Habitat Connectivity Opportunity Map

These HCO maps are fairly coarse as they were designed to work at a large scale and incorporate only one habitat type. Clearly it is impractical in most circumstances to use these maps to identify priorities for development of corridors and developing a Nature Recovery Network.

In order to refine the Connectivity Opportunity maps, the data is reviewed against local expert knowledge including the location of potential connectivity barriers, known local habitat connection priorities and plans. In this way, Condatis can model habitat gaps and the resistance to 'flow' through the landscape and suggest priority green (land) and blue (wetland/water) corridors (fig 10). These green and blue corridors provide a more local context of connectivity, either existing or potential i.e. they represent the areas which already provide habitat connectivity and areas where we may wish to look at improving connectivity in line with the broader HCO areas.

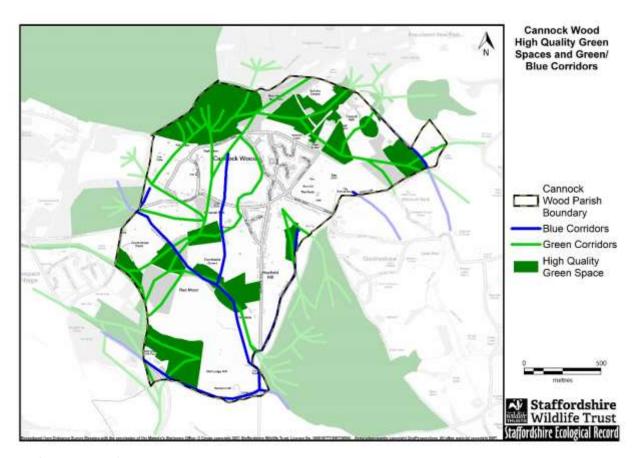


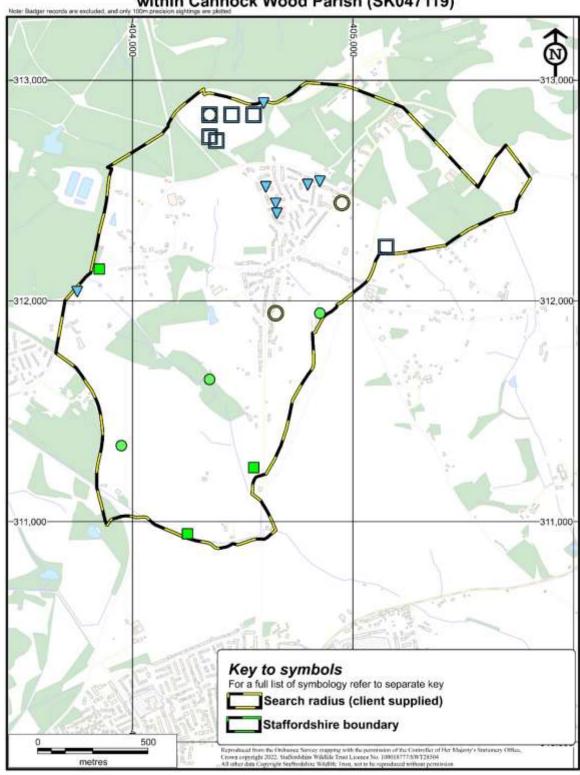
Fig 10 - Priority Connectivity Routes

None of the analysis presented above depends on detailed analyses of species present. To do this requires that Ecological Surveys are carried out and data from known species reports

considered. Fig 11 shows the data currently available. Information on species sightings can be reported online to the Staffordshire Ecological Record www.staffs-ecology.org.uk. Data on ancient trees can be reported to the Woodland Trust www.ati.woodlandtrust.org.uk who maintain an inventory. Requests to protect a tree with a tree preservation order (TPO) or queries on damage to suspected trees covered by a TPO can be reported to CCDC - www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk tree management.

Reporting sightings and important natural features helps to provide a better picture of our local environment and may help to protect it.

Nature Conservation Sites within Cannock Wood Parish (SK047119)



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1.1 Habitat Key

Staffordshire Ecological Record A Key to Colours and Patterns used The Wolseley Centre, Wolseley Bridge, Stafford, ST17 0WT on SER & SWT Habitat Maps Tel: 01889 880100 Fax: 01889 880101 Email: info@staffs-ecology.org.uk Introduction: These colours are broadly based on the "Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey" published by Nature Conservancy Council, 1990, now distributed by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee. Categories marked '*' are not the same as in the Handbook Woodland and scrub categories A111: Semi-nat. broad-leaved A1*: Undefined woodland A112: Broad-leaved plantation woodland A121: Coniferous woodland A122: Conifer plantation A13*: Mixed woodland A26: Scrub A21: Dense/continuous scrub A22*: Scattered scrub A3*: Scattered trees : over other habitats: Orchards Grassland and marsh categories B11: Unimproved Acid gld B21: Unimproved Neutral grassland B#: Undefined grassland B12: Semi-improved acid gld B22: Semi-improved neutral grassland B31; Unimp, calc. grassland B4*: Improved grassland B5°: Marsh/marshy grassland B32: Semi-imp calc, grassland B6*: Poor semi-improved gld J12: Amenity grassland B4a*: Improved grassland or arable Tall herb and fern categories C11: Continuous bracken C12*: Scattered bracken C3*: Undefined tall herbs C31: Tall ruderal herbs C32: Non-ruderal tall herbs J11*: Arable land J13*: Ephemeral/short J14: Introduced shrubs perennial herbs Heathland categories D*: Undefined heathland D1: Dry dwarf shrub heath D2°: Wet dwarf shrub heath D5*: Dry heath/acid grassland D6*: Wet heath/acid grassland D3*: Lichen/bryophyte heath mosaic Wetland categories; mire, swamp and open water E1: Sphagnum bog E2: Flush and spring E3*: Fen E4: Bare peat F21*: Marginal vegetation F22: Inundation vegetation F1: Swamp G*: Open water, both standing (G1) and running (G2) G2: Running water if water body is wide enough (linear feature) Rock exposures and waste categories 11114: Inland cliff (acid/neutral) 11124: Inland cliff (basic) 1121: Scree (acid/neutral) 113: Limestone pavement 1122: Scree (basic) 114*: Natural rock exposure 1141: Acid rock exposure I142: Basic rock exposure 12*: Artificial exposures 121*: Quarry [122: Spoil 'S'; 123: Mine 'M'; 124: Refuse-tip 'R'] Miscellaneous other categorjes (For J1 categories refer to grassland and tall herb categories) J211*: Intact hedge (sp-rich) J221*: Defunct hedge (sp-rich) J231*: Hedge with trees (sp-rich) J212: Intact hedge (sp-poor) J222: Defunct hedge (sp-poor) J232: Hedge with trees (sp-poor) J24: Fence J25: Wall J26: Dry ditch J28: Earth bank J27: Boundary removed J3*: Built-up land J32: Industrial J36: Buildings 34: Bare ground J34: Caravan site UR0: Houses and gardens (BHT)

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Staffordshire Ecological Record

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A legend to the map showing Nature Conservation Sites and Species

The Wolseley Centre, Wolseley Bridge, Email: info@staffs-ecology.org.uk Introduction These colours are used on the site alert mapping within the SWT GIS, but SER cannot guarantee the same colours are used in any other mapping system, particularly those based on ArcView. Statutory Designations from Natural England's web-site National Nature Reserves NNR (boundary not available owing to OS restrictions) Sites of Special Scientific Interest SSSI (boundary not available owing to OS restrictions) Local Nature Reserves LNR (boundary not available owing to OS restrictions) Non-statutory Designations from the Staffordshire Grading System (1995 onwards) Site of Biological Importance (ex Grade 1 SBI) equivalent to "Local Wildlife Site" Biodiversity Alert Site (ex Grade 2 SBI) Proposed/potential Site of Biological Importance Geological Sites Regionally Important Geological/geomorphological Site (= Local Geological Site) Staffordshire Wildlife Trust Sites SWT Nature Reserves Ancient Woodland Inventory Other Nature Reserves Ancient & Semi-natural Woodland Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

Ancient Replanted Woodland Species Information Mammals excluding those listed below Amphibians and reptiles excluding those below Otter (Lutra lutra) Great Crested Newt (Triturus cristatus) Badger (Meles meles) - not normally supplied Native Crayfish (Austropotamobius pallipes) Water Vole (Arvicola terrestris) Flowering plants except those below All bat species Bluebell (Hyacinthoides non-scripta) All bird species Butterflies and Moths Any other protected species (precise to 100m) BAP Species Records (precise to 100m) All Protected Species Records (precise to 1km) BAP Species Records (precise to 1km)

Notes:

The Local Nature Reserve and other nature reserve boundaries can overlay the current grading when both layers are actively visible

Where there are multiple species records for the same grid reference the dot for one species may obscure the dots for other species - all species records will be displayed in the accompanying spreadsheet

Not all the above categories may be present on the accompanying map

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