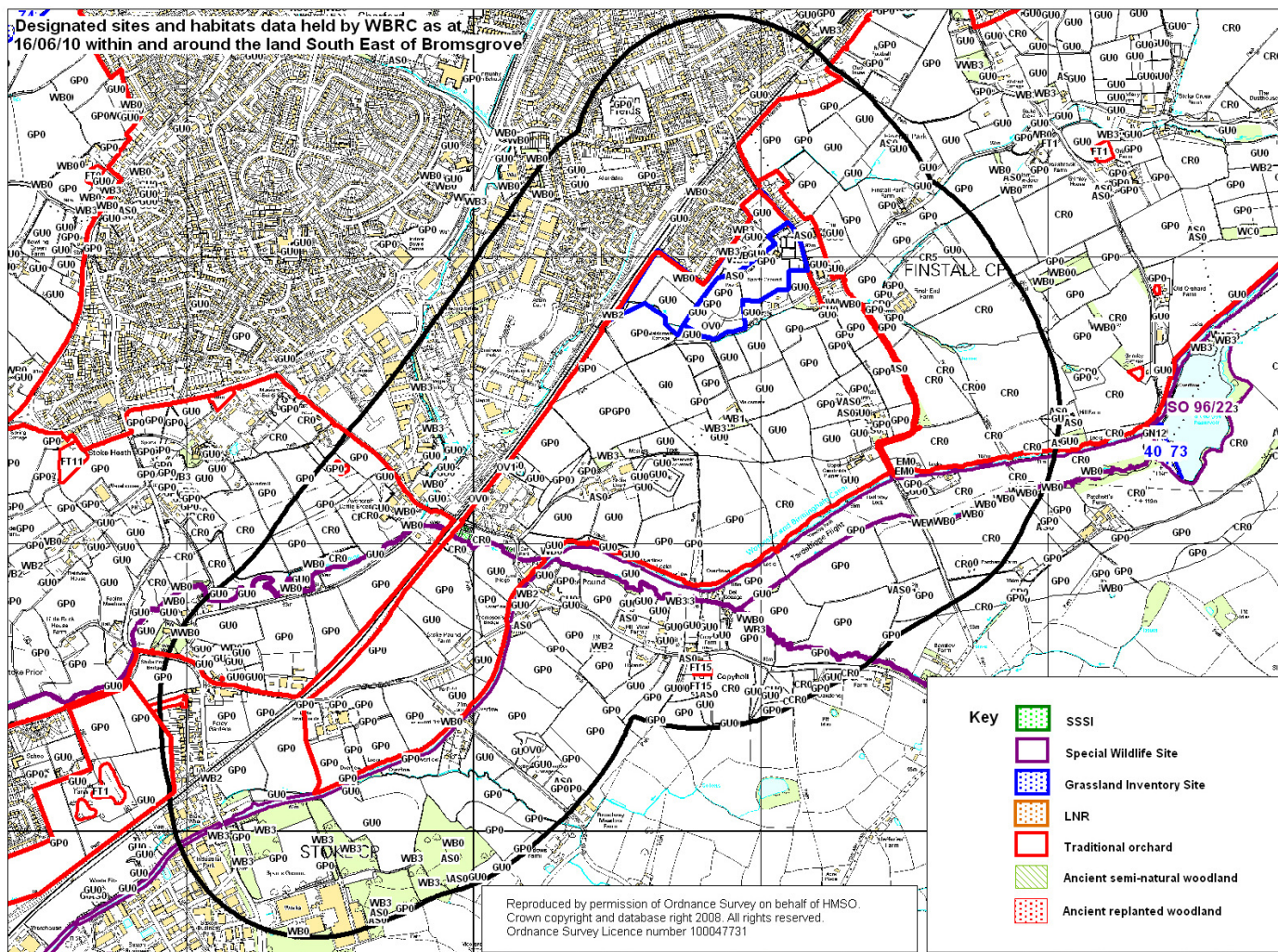


- Enhancement of the built environment to provide additional habitats and facilities for bats, great crested newts, badgers and water voles should be a priority here. These protected species should form a strong 'node' on a wider Green Infrastructure Network and links should be made to connect the habitats to the wider countryside.

### AREA 3



### SITE DESCRIPTION

- This site lies to the south east of Bromsgrove Town and comprises of land south of St. Godwalds Road and extends south beyond Lower Gambolds Lane to the Worcester and Birmingham Canal. The area measures approximately 121 hectares. Bromsgrove Cricket, Hockey and Tennis Club falls within the area.
- The dominant habitat is grassland, in the county habitat inventory they are described as 'probably improved' or 'possibly unimproved' grassland. Other notable features include a small area of arable land, two watercourses and a variety of woodlands, including numerous trees with tree preservation orders. One tree is recorded as Veteran in the ancient tree record for the county.

#### *SITE CONSTRAINTS AND FURTHER WORK REQUIRED*

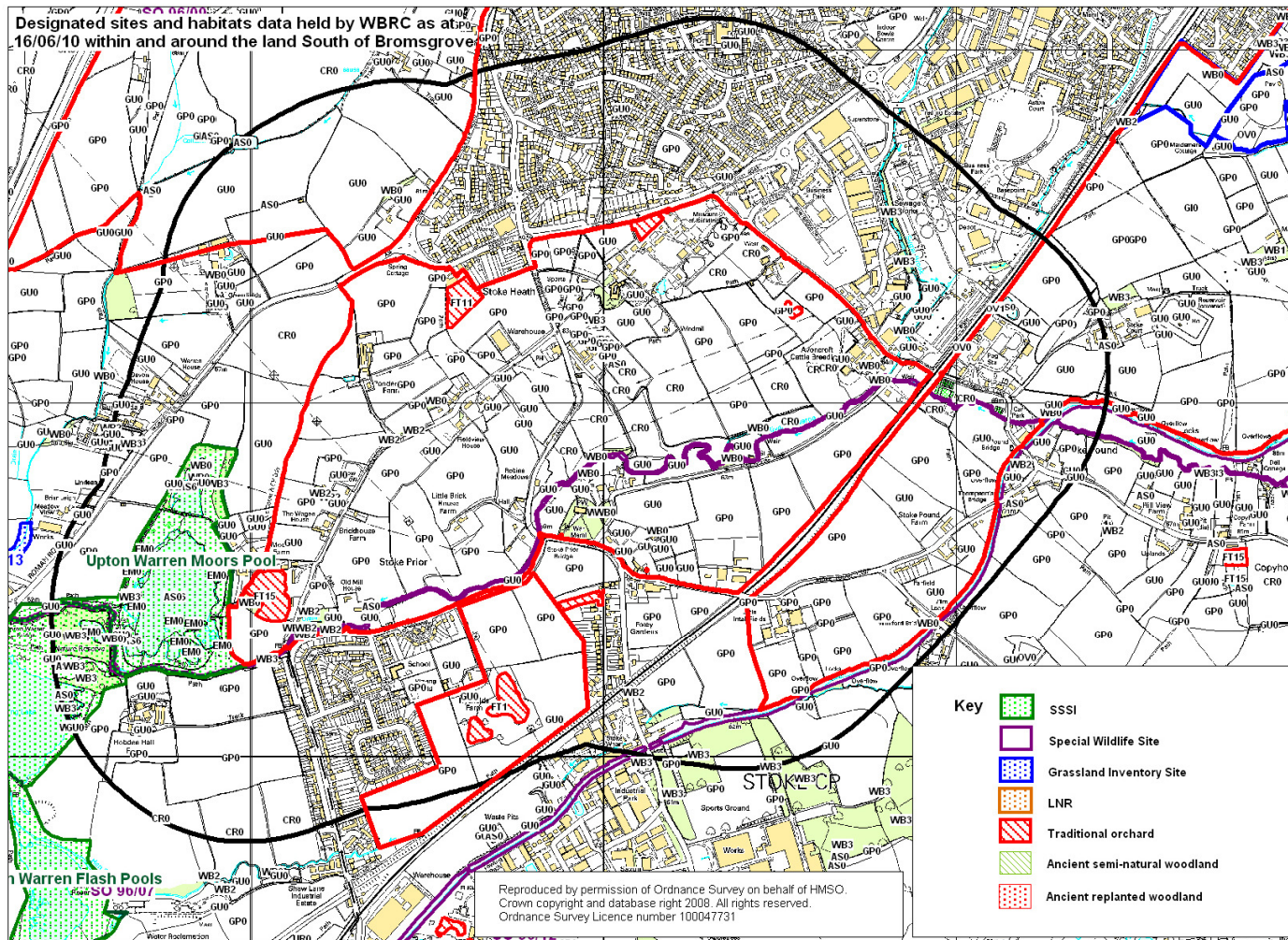
- Statutory sites: There are no statutorily protected sites within 500m of the area and Sites of Special Scientific Interest are therefore unlikely to be a constraint to development here.
- Protected species: There are records for bats, water voles and further work will be required in order to determine their status on site. The presence of any of these species is likely to lead to a requirement for buffering and enhancement of existing landscape features. Whilst this would not render development impossible it might well reduce the area of developable land.
- It is also highly likely that the site is used by nesting birds and further work will be required to determine the species and populations found on site.
- Non-statutory sites and habitats: There is a Special Wildlife Site (the River Salwarpe SWS, 27.5km long) and a nearby Special Wildlife Site (the Worcester and Birmingham Canal SWS, 37.5km long) in the area. Open water, marshlands and reedbeds are the SWS habitats.
- There is lots of 'grassland, possibly unimproved' in the county habitat inventory and the status of public open space may be a way forward for incorporation of this habitat.
- Some patches of adjacent woodland and a mixed of hedgerow resource are present in the area.
- Additional work will be required in order to determine whether the wetlands will form a constraint to development. Habitat suitable for water vole is likely to be present which will require buffering.
- The small veteran tree resource should be considered as important feature and whilst they do not represent an over-riding constraint to development they must be taken into account in final area allocations and site layout. Significant buffering of these features will be required to protect them from the adverse effects of development.
- Non-statutory species: There are records for terrestrial mammals but no records of species would pose an overriding constraint to development here. However given the scale of the area further work will be required in order to determine whether there are any pockets of high biodiversity value that should be retained and enhanced within any development proposals.
- Other issues: The evidence provided does not suggest that there are any other ecological issues pertaining to this site at this time but again it is likely that further work will be required in order to confirm that this is actually the case.

#### *POSSIBLE ENHANCEMENTS*

- Buffering and enhancement of hedge corridors and water courses should be a guiding principle of development here. There is an opportunity to enhance the area overall.
- The presence of the watercourses and canal nearby suggest that a biodiversity-led SUDS and close control on runoff rates and water quality will be a prerequisite on this area but it should be possible to design the development so that this need not be an overriding constraint.



## AREA 4



### SITE DESCRIPTION

- This site lies to the south of Bromsgrove Town. The area totals some 98 hectares of greenfield land. The Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove School, a cricket club, a children's play area and a garden centre fall within the area.
- The dominant habitat is grassland, in the county habitat inventory majority of them are described as 'probably improved', only a few of them are 'possibly unimproved' grassland. Other notable features include patches of traditional orchards and a variety of woodlands and a small area of arable land. There are also standing open water, two watercourses, fens and marsh swamps.

### SITE CONSTRAINTS AND FURTHER WORK REQUIRED

- **Statutory sites:** Part of the Upton Warren Pools Site of Special Scientific Interest falls within the 500m buffer of the site. The site is 42.57 hectare and consists of a series of shallow pools of different origin. The main habitats of the site are fen, marsh and swamp-lowland, standing open water, canals, and littoral sediment. According to Natural England's assessment in 2009, they are all in favourable conditions. The site will need to be buffered and must not be built on. This

represents an absolute constraint to development, which must be recognised from the earliest stages of the site allocation process. The presence of open water suggests that a biodiversity-led SUDS and close control on runoff rates and water quality will be critical on this area.

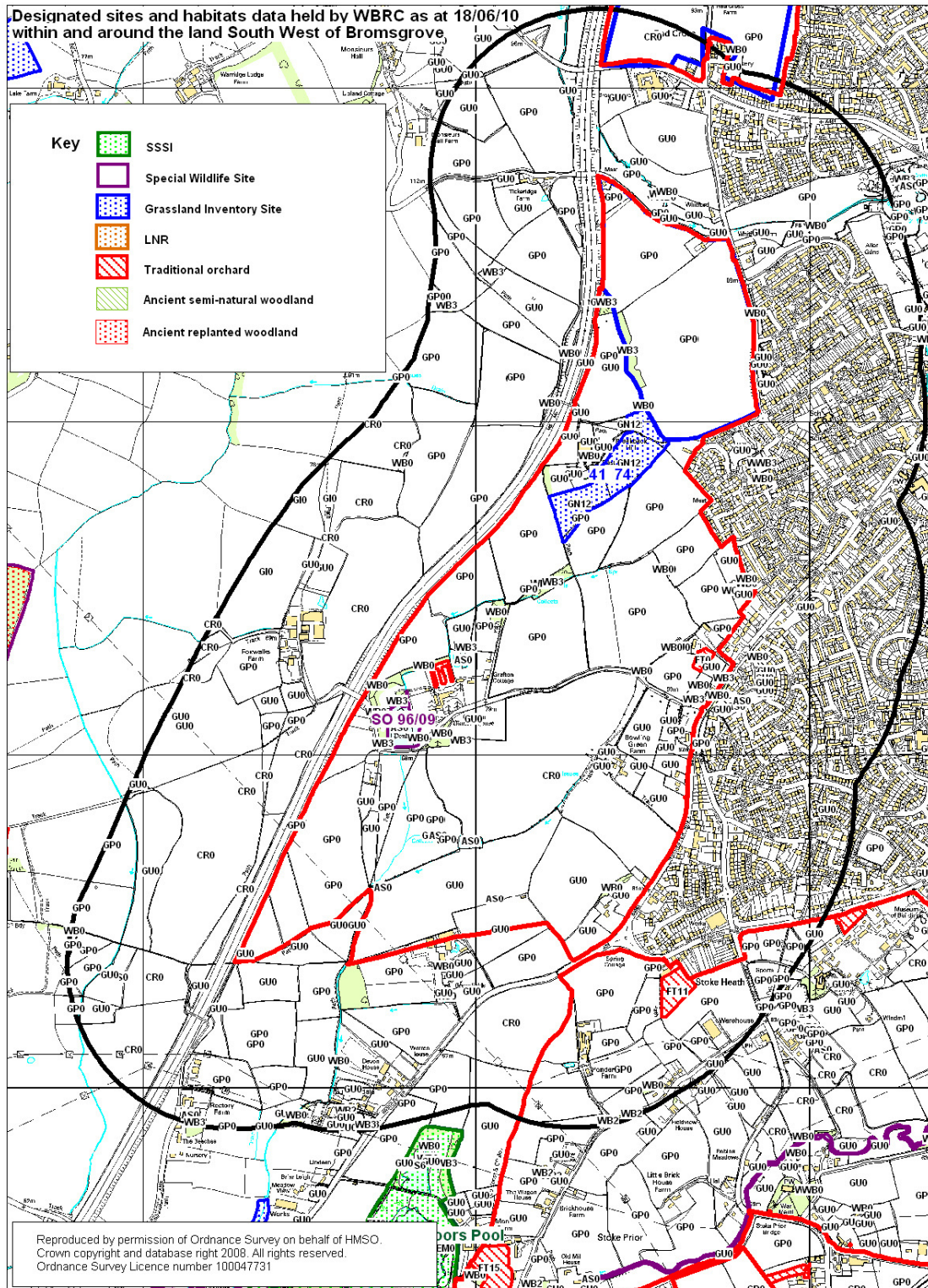
- Protected species: There are records for protected species, including wide varieties of nesting birds, slow worms, water voles, bats, badgers, slow worms, otters and great crested newts. Several protected plant species are also found. Their presence in site will require buffering and enhancement of existing landscape features.
- Water voles should be a priority for protection. Breeding birds and any potential disturbance of those on SSSI may be constraints to development.
- Non-statutory sites and habitats: There are two Special Wildlife Sites, the River Salwarpe SWS (27.5km long) and the Worcester and Birmingham Canal SWS (37.5km long) in the area. Open water, marshlands and reedbeds are the SWS habitats. A Worcestershire Wildlife Trust Reserve, the Upton Warren Reserve also falls within the area.
- Some patches of woodlands, moderate hedge network, some possibly unimproved grassland that will need further survey prior to setting the final developable area and the watercourse corridor are all important habitats for wildlife. The protected species should form a strong 'node' on a wider Green Infrastructure Network and links should be made to connect the habitats to the wider countryside.
- Non-statutory species: There are records for terrestrial mammals but no records of species would pose an overriding constraint to development here. However given the scale of the area further work will be required in order to determine whether there are any pockets of high biodiversity value that should be retained and enhanced within any development proposals.
- Other issues: The evidence provided does not suggest that there are any other ecological issues pertaining to this site at this time but again it is likely that further work will be required in order to confirm that this is actually the case.

#### *POSSIBLE ENHANCEMENTS*

- There is excellent opportunity to feed into the water vole strategy for the area through SUDS development but wider buffering of existing features and integration at a landscape scale should be driving force for the development style.



## AREA 5



### SITE DESCRIPTION

- This site lies to the south west of Bromsgrove Town and provides long views over Worcestershire. The highest point of the site to the north provides views over

Bromsgrove Town. The area totals some 160 hectares of greenfield land. Grafton Manor Hotel is located in the heart of the site.

- The dominant habitat is grassland, in the county habitat inventory most are described as 'probably improved', only a small numbers are 'possibly unimproved' grassland. Other notable features include a small area of arable land, a pond, a watercourse and a variety of woodlands. Three trees are recorded as veteran in the ancient tree record for the county.

#### *SITE CONSTRAINTS AND FURTHER WORK REQUIRED*

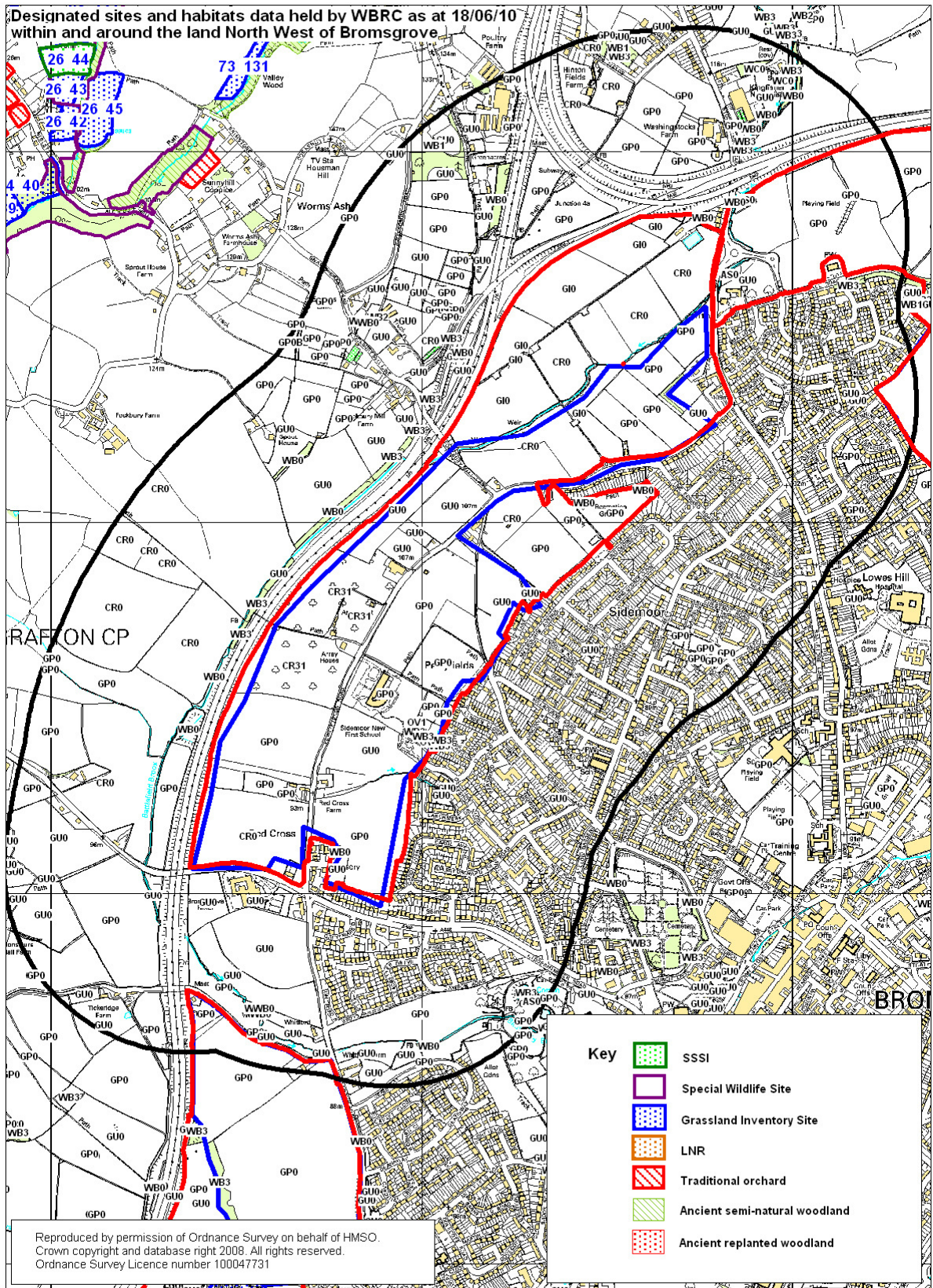
- Statutory sites: There are no statutorily protected sites within 500m of the area and Sites of Special Scientific Interest are therefore unlikely to be a constraint to development here.
- Protected species: There are records for water voles, badgers, bats and great crested newts. Further work will be required in order to determine their status on site. The presence of any of these species is likely to lead to a requirement for buffering and enhancement of existing landscape features. Whilst this would not render development impossible it might well reduce the area of developable land.
- Though there are no existing records for nesting birds on site they are highly likely to be present and further work will be required in order to determine how much of an impact they will have on the developable area.
- Non-statutory sites and habitats: The Grafton Manor pool Special Wildlife Site (1.5hectare in size) and a grassland inventory site falls within the area. Open water is the SWS habitat. Both will require protection. The presence of open water suggests that a biodiversity-led SUDS and close control on runoff rates and water quality will be critical on this area.
- There are several possibly unimproved grassland in the county habitat inventory and the status of these must be clarified through further work. They may limit the overall developable area.
- The hedges, flowering plants and tree networks are likely to be important ecological features in a local context and would be worthy of protection and buffering as for other sites.
- The small veteran tree resource should be considered as important feature and whilst they do not represent an over-riding constraint to development they must be taken into account in final area allocations and site layout. Significant buffering of these features will be required to protect them from the adverse effects of development.
- Non-statutory species: There are records for terrestrial mammals but no records of species would pose an overriding constraint to development here. However given the scale of the area further work will be required in order to determine whether there are any pockets of high biodiversity value that should be retained and enhanced within any development proposals.
- Other issues: The evidence provided does not suggest that there are any other ecological issues pertaining to this site at this time but again it is likely that further work will be required in order to confirm that this is actually the case.

### *POSSIBLE ENHANCEMENTS*

- Enhancement of the existing grassland, watercourse, veteran trees and hedge network should be a guiding principle of development here and should form a significant part of any landscaping proposals. Links between these features, together with buffers to the existing resource should be a requirement and the aim should be to connect these habitats to the wider countryside, making the area a strong 'node' on a wider Green Infrastructure Network.



# AREA 6



## SITE DESCRIPTION

- This site lies to the south west of Bromsgrove Town and includes land on both sides on Perryfields Road. The land totals some 76 hectares of greenfield land. Sidemoor First School and Array Fruit Farm fall within the area.
- The dominant habitat is grassland, in the county habitat inventory they are mainly described as ‘probably improved’ or ‘improved’ grassland, only a few grassland are described as ‘probably unimproved’ and require further work. Other notable features include an intensively managed orchard, a small area of arable land, a watercourse (Battlefield Brook) and a variety of woodlands. Three trees are recorded as veteran in the ancient tree record for the county.

#### *SITE CONSTRAINTS AND FURTHER WORK REQUIRED*

- Statutory sites: There are no statutorily protected sites within 500m of the area and Sites of Special Scientific Interest are therefore unlikely to be a constraint to development here.
- Protected species: There are records for bats, water voles, badgers and further work will be required in order to determine their status on site. The presence of any of these species is likely to lead to a requirement for buffering and enhancement of existing landscape features. Whilst this would not render development impossible it might well reduce the area of developable land.
- It is also highly likely that the site is used by nesting birds and further work will be required to determine the species and populations found on site.
- Non-statutory sites and habitats: There are no non-statutorily sites within 500m of the area and therefore they are unlikely to be a constraint to development here.
- The presence of the Battlefield Brook suggests that a biodiversity-led SUDS and close control on runoff rates and water quality will be important on this area.
- The small veteran tree resource should be considered as important feature and whilst they do not represent an over-riding constraint to development they must be taken into account in final area allocations and site layout. Significant buffering of these features will be required to protect them from the adverse effects of development.
- Non-statutory species: There are records for terrestrial mammals but no records of species would pose an overriding constraint to development here. However given the scale of the area further work will be required in order to determine whether there are any pockets of high biodiversity value that should be retained and enhanced within any development proposals.
- Other issues: The evidence provided does not suggest that there are any other ecological issues pertaining to this site at this time but again it is likely that further work will be required in order to confirm that this is actually the case.

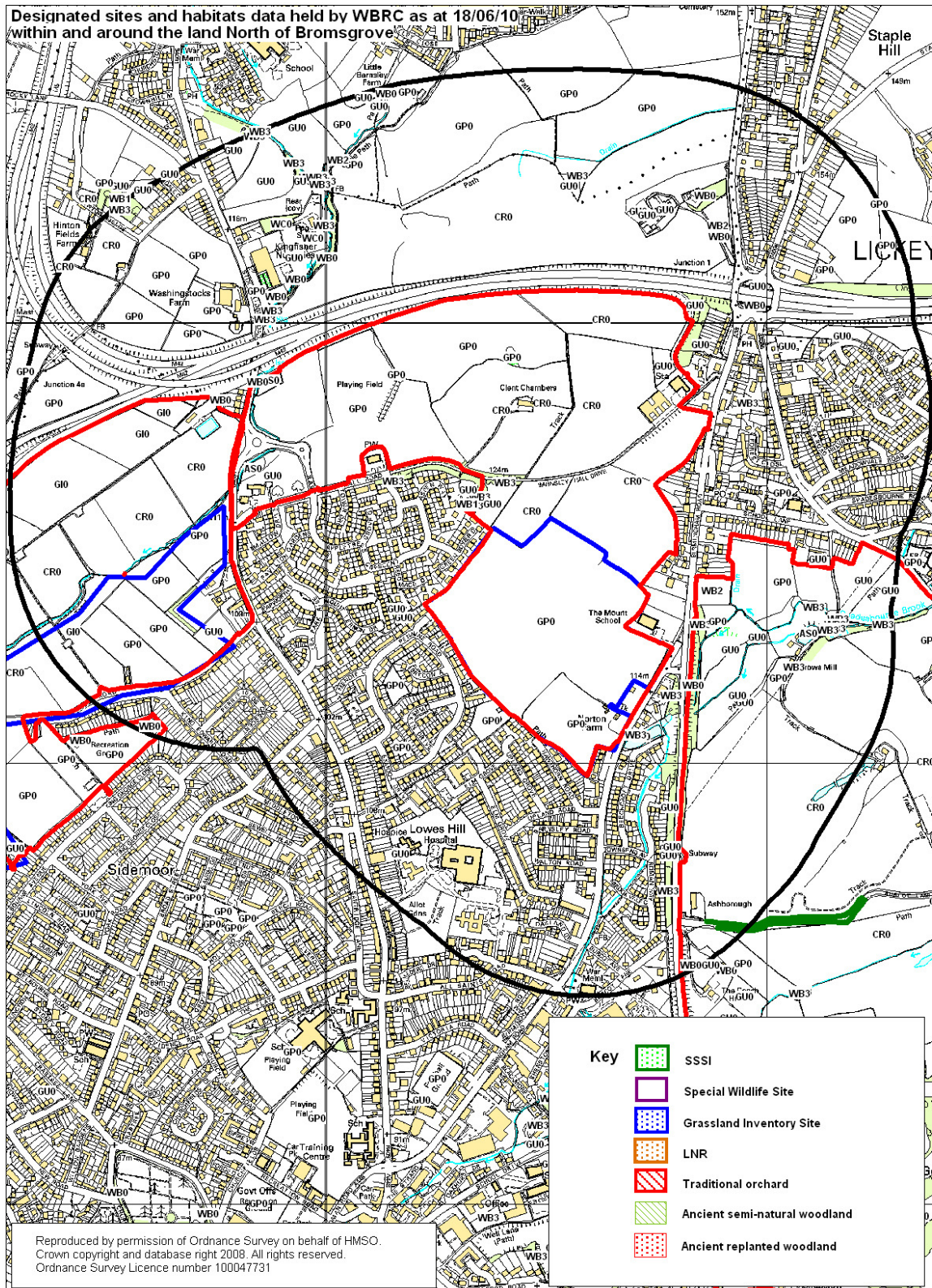
#### *POSSIBLE ENHANCEMENTS*

- The impoverished hedge network and mature trees mean that there is an opportunity to design in biodiversity from scratch.

- Enhancement to the wetland habitats used by water voles (such as existing slow-flowing streams, marshes and ponds, with plenty of vegetation) should form a significant part of any development plans and links between these features, together with appropriate buffers to the existing resource should be a requirement.



# AREA 7



## SITE DESCRIPTION

- This site lies on the northern fringe of Bromsgrove Town and is bounded by M42 to the north. The site totals some 56 hectares of greenfield land. The Norton Farm and Ambulance Services are located in this area.
- According to the county habitat inventory, the dominant habitat is 'probably improved' grassland and arable land. Other notable features include a watercourse (Battlefield Brook) and some small patches of woodlands nearby. Three trees are recorded as veteran in the ancient tree record for the county.

#### *SITE CONSTRAINTS AND FURTHER WORK REQUIRED*

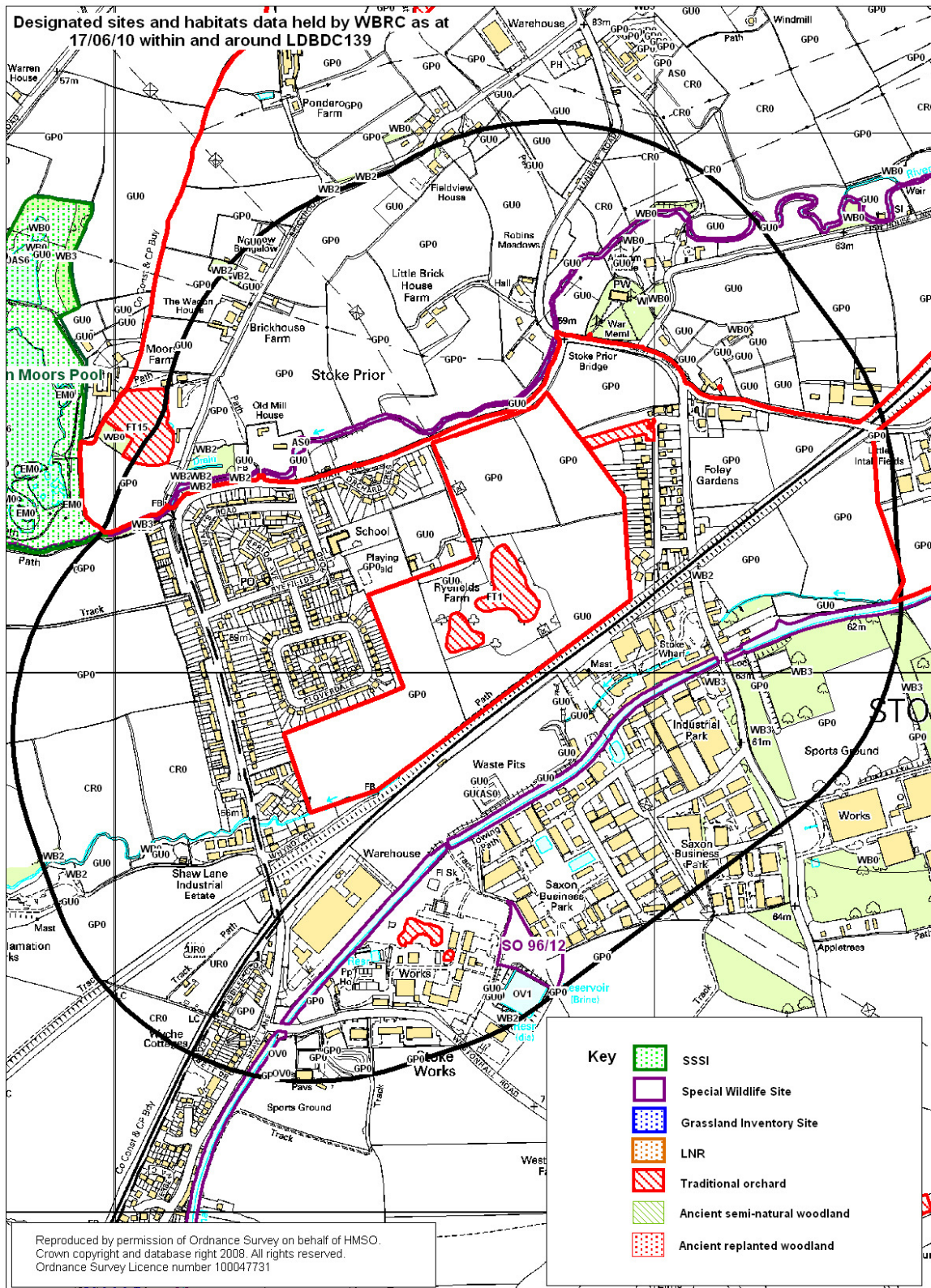
- Statutory sites: The Burcot Lane Cutting geological SSSI, a site of 0.38ha in size, just falls within the 500m radius of the site. The SSSI is far enough away to be outside the zone of influence and hence unlikely to be a constraint to development.
- Protected species: There are records for badgers, slow worms and further work will be required in order to determine their status on site. The presence of badgers and slow worms makes it likely that the two will need buffering and will be a material consideration here.
- It is also highly likely that the site is used by nesting birds and further work will be required to determine the species and populations found on site.
- Non-statutory sites and habitats: There are no non-statutorily sites within 500m of the area and therefore they are unlikely to be a constraint to development here.
- Grasslands of uncertain status will need to be surveyed to determine their status on site.
- The few hedges and small veteran tree resource should be considered as important features and whilst they do not represent an over-riding constraint to development they must be taken into account in final area allocations and site layout. Significant buffering of these features will be required to protect them from the adverse effects of development.
- Non-statutory species: There are records for terrestrial mammals but no records of species would pose an overriding constraint to development here. However given the scale of the area further work will be required in order to determine whether there are any pockets of high biodiversity value that should be retained and enhanced within any development proposals.
- Other issues: The evidence provided does not suggest that there are any other ecological issues pertaining to this site at this time but again it is likely that further work will be required in order to confirm that this is actually the case.

#### *POSSIBLE ENHANCEMENTS*

- Opportunities for Green Infrastructure should focus on linking and buffering existing features such as the mature trees and hedges, but there is also an opportunity to design in biodiversity from scratch.



# BDC139 (STOKE PRIOR)



## SITE DESCRIPTION



- This site lies to the east of the Stoke Prior settlement and comprises of land and is bounded by Hanbury Road to the east, the railway to the south. The Ryefields Farm is located within the site.
- The dominant habitat is grassland in the county habitat inventory most of them are described as 'probably improved' and only a few are described as 'possibly unimproved'. Other notable features include five traditional orchards (two within the site and three nearby) and some nearby arable lands and small patches of woodlands.

#### *SITE CONSTRAINTS AND FURTHER WORK REQUIRED*

- Statutory sites: The Upton Warren Pools Site of Special Scientific Interest falls within 500m radius of the site. The site is 42.57 hectare and consists of a series of shallow pools of different origin. The main habitats of the site are fen, marsh and swamp-lowland, standing open water, canals, and littoral sediment. As the site will need to be buffered and must not be built on. This may represent an absolute constraint to development, which must be recognised from the earliest stages of the site allocation process.
- Protected species: There are records for bats, water voles, hedgehogs, slow worms, moths (ghost moths, small emeralds) and badgers. Further work will be required in order to determine their status on site. A protected plant species, the northern yellow cress, is also found. The presence of any of these species is likely to lead to a requirement for buffering and enhancement of existing landscape features. Whilst this would not render development impossible it might well reduce the area of developable land.
- It is also highly likely that the site is used by nesting birds and great crested newts, further work will be required to determine if these species and populations are on site.
- Non-statutory sites and habitats: There are three Special Wildlife Sites and one Wildfowl & Wetland Trust Reserve that fall within the 500m radius of the site. They are the River Salwarpe SWS (27.5km long), the Worcester and Birmingham Canal SWS (37.5km), the Land near Stoke Works SWS (1.91 hectare in size) and the Upton Warren Moors Pool WWT reserve. Open water, marshlands, reedbeds and open vegetations are the SWS habitats found in the SWSs.
- The Hen Brook is culverted from the Shaw Lane Industrial Estate onwards and there is opportunity to open up the culvert and include a biodiversity-led SUDS here.
- Several traditional orchards and possibly unimproved grassland which needs further survey to confirm their status. These features should be protected and link to the wider countryside.
- Non-statutory species: There are records for terrestrial mammals but no records of species would pose an overriding constraint to development here. However given the scale of the area further work will be required in order to determine whether there are any pockets of high biodiversity value that should be retained and enhanced within any development proposals.

- Other issues: The evidence provided does not suggest that there are any other ecological issues pertaining to this site at this time but again it is likely that further work will be required in order to confirm that this is actually the case.

*POSSIBLE ENHANCEMENTS*

- Opportunities to enhance and add to semi natural corridors where they remain but possibly a start-from-scratch restoration as part of the development would be available.