

SITE NAME	PECK WOOD LOCAL WILDLIFE SITE
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	SP037712
LINEAR SITE LIMITS (if appropriate)	N/A
DATE OF LISTING	17.11.2008 - LISTING STILL CORRECT - 2026
DISTRICT COUNCIL (s)	Bromsgrove District Council
PARISH	Alvechurch
TOTAL AREA	8.57 Ha
LENGTH IF LINEAR	N/A
SWS HABITAT	Broadleaved woodland
NATIONAL BAP HABITATS	Alder flush woodland (W7). Oak woodland (W10), Ash woodland (W8)
OTHER HABITATS OF IMPORTANCE	scrub, open water (flowing), open water (standing), grass rides
NATIONAL BAP SPECIES	No information
OTHER SPECIES OF IMPORTANCE	Oak, wild service, beech, rowan, alder, field maple, honeysuckle, wood sorrel, yellow archangel bluebell, moschatel, lady fern, yellow pimpernel

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

This woodland lies on a flank of Newbourne Hill near Rowney Green over a geology of triassic Mercia mudstones with overlay of glacial gravels. The south-western section is shown on the Inventory of Ancient Woodland (NCC 1986), much of the rest of the site originated as wood-pasture, and the eastern end is secondary woodland - part planted during the early-mid 20th Century. The wood lies on a spring line, giving rise to alder carr dingles, so there are at least three different broadleaved woodland vegetation types present and hence a good diversity of wildlife

Habitat and Vegetation Descriptions

Wet Alder carr Stands: from the botanical standpoint, this is the most important habitat and vegetation on the site, valley alderwoods with acidic mineral flushes - National Vegetation Classification (NVC) type W7a/c - being uncommon and localised in Worcestershire. The typical ground cover carpet of species on these flushes includes opposite-leaved golden saxifrage, yellow pimpernel, water mint and occasionally common skullcap, in association with an abundance of mosses and liverworts - such as bifid crestwort (*Lophocolea bidentata*). Taller vegetation round the flush margins is characterised by rush species, meadowsweet and a luxuriance of ferns - such as lady fern

Transitional ash stands (NVC: W8): these occur only very locally on the dingle slopes - occasional large ash top out in the otherwise oak-dominated canopy and some wych elm and occasional field maple occur in the sub-canopy, with coppiced hazel understorey. The field layer is typically an assemblage of bluebell, dogs mercury, enchanters nightshade

Oak woodland (NVC: W10): this type occurs in the higher drier parts of the wood, on free-draining brown earths. There are some fine examples of mature oak and occasional beech, but the understorey flora is generally less rich being typically composed of bramble bracken honeysuckle and some bluebell and much leaf-litter, under hawthorn, hazel coppice, holly and self-set silver birch. Glades can be rather different, often colonised by creeping softgrass and moss carpets, especially *Polytrichum* species. Semi-open areas are occasionally spangled with wood anemone and primrose in the spring

Other features throughout: the amounts of standing deadwood and fallen or windthrown trees. These are highly valuable for a range of wildlife, from fungi to saprophytic invertebrates, such as longhorn beetles; to woodpeckers and bats which inhabit holes and internal cavities. Parts of the wood are used for study and recreational activities. There are some planted conifer species. Sycamores locally encroaching the canopy.

Flora and Fauna

Alder carr flushes: most of the rarer plants occur here including: wood horsetail (*Equisetum sylvaticum*), smooth-stalked sedge (*Carex laevigata*), narrow buckler fern (*Dryopteris carthusiana*).

Oak and ash stands: special or local species recorded here include: wild service tree (*Sorbus torminalis*), thin-spiked wood-sedge (*Carex strigosa*) and climbing corydalis (*Ceratocarpus claviculata*). This last-mentioned plant is a sprawler associated with bracken and bramble on acid-neutral soils.

Bird species: nuthatch, green woodpecker, buzzard and tawny owl were seen or heard in 2008. There are records for woodcock, garden warbler, spotted flycatcher and redstart. The last two species are reported as breeding here in the past. **Mammals:** Muntjac deer are commonly seen. Other species - badger, yellow-necked mouse. No comprehensive data available for invertebrates. Typical woodland butterfly and moth species occur.

SITE NAME	ROWNEY GREEN LOCAL WILDLIFE SITE
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	SP043713
LINEAR SITE LIMITS (if appropriate)	N/A
DATE OF LISTING	11.12.2008 - LISTING STILL CORRECT - 2026
DISTRICT COUNCIL (s)	Bromsgrove District Council
PARISH	Alvechurch
TOTAL AREA	14.09 Ha
LENGTH IF LINEAR	N/A
SWS HABITAT	Wet woodland, broadleaved woodland, bog, grassland, marshy grassland
NATIONAL BAP HABITATS	Oak: W10; Wet woodland: W4, W7; marsh/grassland: M23/MGG10, U1
OTHER HABITATS OF IMPORTANCE	Scrub/bracken; open water (flowing)
NATIONAL BAP SPECIES	The native white-clawed crayfish has been reported from stream
OTHER SPECIES OF IMPORTANCE	Alder, birch, bracken, climbing corydalis, golden saxifrage, wood sorrel, wood-horsetail, lousewort, lesser spearwort, heath bedstraw, least birds-foot.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

This is a complex site of varied geology and topography, scattered around the hilltop village of Rowney Green. The site comprises a mosaic of woodlands, alder carr, unimproved acidic grassland, bracken scrub, wet flushed areas, and unusually, elements of a valley mire habitat. Though this vegetation type is barely surviving here, acidic carr of valley mire type is still an unusual ecotone in Worcestershire.

Habitat and Vegetation Descriptions

Carr/valley mire/flush mire habitats: The primary vegetation and probably still the main focus of botanical and nature conservation interest is the 'valley mire', which has now mostly undergone successional change to wet woodland vegetation and birch scrub. This occurs around a springhead and adjacent to a stream in the valley bottom - characterised by a grassy sedgey field layer amongst alder and downy birch with occasional swathes of opposite-leaved golden saxifrage on deep organic silt and peat (Approximates to National vegetation Classification or NVC types W4 transitional to W7). Some of the rarer species occur here such as wood horsetail and marsh violet. Sphagnum mosses were present in the 1990s and may still persist. Also adjoining the stream and running into it is a grazed rush pasture flush, including stands of sharp-flowered rush with tormentil, occasional devils bit scabious, lesser spearwort and very locally common lousewort - though much of this valley bottom pasture is now semi-improved.

Acidic Grassland habitats/broadleaved woodland/bracken scrub - remainder of site: The slope down from the former gravel pits adjoining Gravel pit lane has horse paddocks with dry acidic pastures of mainly N.V.C. U1 type - the sheep's fescue/common bent/sheep's sorrel sward. Interesting species here are least birdsfoot, trailing St. John's wort and a number of mosses and lichens. Similar grassland, though less well grazed, occurs in paddocks to the south-west of the site bordering Rowney Green Lane, though here crossed by rushy flushes. Remaining features included in the site are an area of semi-open woodland and bracken known as The Spinney. Though not of itself of high botanical value, the bracken associate climbing corydalis has been recorded here along with semi-open grassland species such as wood-sage and matt grass; also woodland at Bishops Croft - mostly an oak wood type flora (NVC W10) though possibly other vegetation types - flora includes bluebell foxglove, woodsage, greater stitchwort, wavy hairgrass, *Polytrichum* mosses

Flora and Fauna

Special flora found in the carr-woodland and bog section includes:- smooth-stalked sedge (*Carex laevigata*), marsh violet (*Viola palustris*), wood horsetail (*Equisetum sylvaticum*), creeping forget-me-not (*Myosotis secunda*) and Greater tussock sedge (*Carex paniculata*). Grassland and other habitats: pill sedge (*Carex pilulifera*), fen bedstraw (*Galium uliginosum*). Bryophyte species: past records for *Sphagnum subnitens*

The stream, a headwater of the Dagnell Brook, has recent records for native crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*), a national Biodiversity Action Plan (or BAP1) priority species. Slow worm is reported from the Spinney. Bird breeding records include:- common buzzard, great spotted and green woodpeckers, nuthatch. Redpoll and siskin are common winter visitors to the alder carr.