



Chapter 5

ECOLOGY AND BIODIVERSITY

Rawdon - Biodiversity and Ecology

BACKGROUND (taken from LCC Biodiversity Action Plan for Leeds)

<http://www.leeds.gov.uk/docs/Leeds%20BAP%20combined.pdf>

Rawdon is in the district of Aireborough which is The Southern Pennines Natural Area. This comprises the gently sloping, wild, open plateaux of acid Millstone Grit rock, high above the urban areas of Manchester, Huddersfield, Burnley, Blackburn and Bradford. In Leeds it covers Hawksworth Moor (the most Westerly part of Aireborough), the northern side of Guiseley and Otley, stretching to Pool in the east.

It is an *internationally important area*, special for its heather moorland and the variety and rarity of the birds it supports. These include red grouse (*Lagopus lagopus scoticus*), merlin (*Falco columbarius*) and twite (*Carduelis flavirostris*). The heather moorland is part of an extensive mosaic with wet heath, blanket bog and acidic grassland.

Down-slope from the open moor, on more fertile soils, the land has been enclosed for winter grazing and summer hay crops. This 'inbye' is important for breeding birds such as **curlew** (*Numenius arquata*), **redshank** (*Tringa totanus*), **lapwing** (*Vanellus vanellus*) and **snipe** (*Gallinago gallinago*) and many meadows still support colourful swards with ragged robin (*Lychnis flos-cuculi*) and cuckoo flower (*Cardamine pratensis*), devil's bit scabious (*Succisa pratensis*), betony (*Stachys officinalis*) and pignut (*Conopodium majus*). Clough woodlands provide suitably humid environments for lush growths of ferns and mosses, including the Killarney fern (*Trichomanes speciosum*).

Although the Leeds district has only a small area of the Southern Pennines Natural Area within its boundary, it includes part of the South Pennine Moors Site of Special Scientific Interest and Special Protection Area.

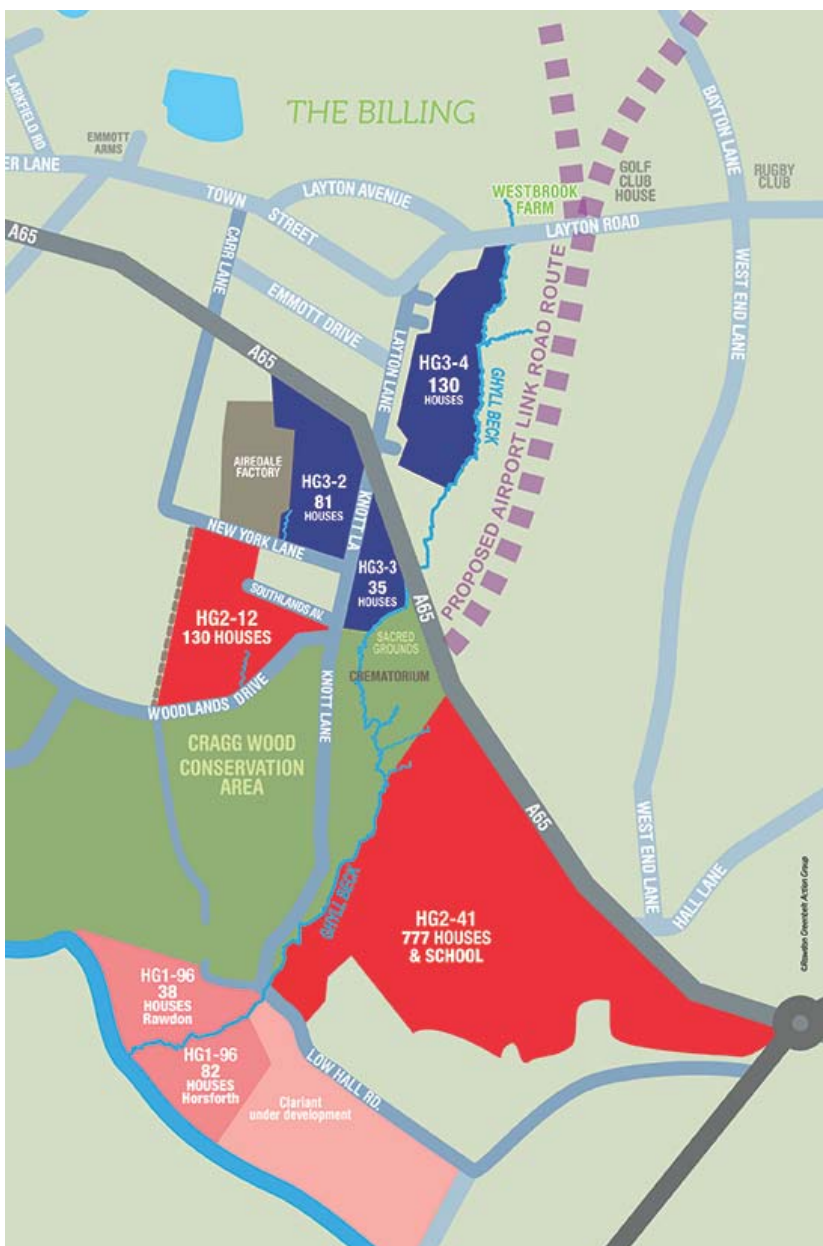
This is an extensive area of international importance and, within Leeds, adds significantly to the diversity of habitats and species.

Rawdon Sites within the Leeds City Council (LCC) Site Allocation Plan (SAP)

Four sites within Rawdon Village have been allocated or safeguarded for housing totaling 414 dwellings. LCC refer to these as **HG2-12, HG2-2, HG3-3, HG4-4** – see below. **HG2-12 is allocated for 130 dwellings.**

A neighbouring site - **HG2-41** on the geographical border with Horsforth town has also been allocated for a single development of **777 dwellings plus 'school'**.

Rawdon Village is located in the most South Easterly corner of Aireborough HMCA.



STYLISTED MAP OF SITES
– produced by RGAG

RAWDON – A natural, balanced environment

The Council's site **HG2-12** (*allocated for 130 houses*) borders **Cragg Wood Conservation Area**. Conservation Areas do not exist in isolation but are enhanced by their setting. The special position of the **Cragg Wood** conservation area on the steep slopes of the Aire Valley means that it derives particular character and value from its landscape setting, and in turn defines this important landscape, which is also a **Strategic Green Infrastructure Area** and **Special Landscape Area**. It forms a vital part of the narrow **greenbelt** corridor separating Leeds and Bradford through the Aire valley. It is within the **West Leeds Country Park** and forms the setting of the **Leeds Country Way** and is highly valued by the residents of the area and visitors from further afield (see Appendix XX of visitor comments at end of the Report).

Ancient woodland, tree lined avenues, surviving elements of the landscaped grounds, natural bluebell, in particular the boundary belts and mature trees, form a dominant element of the special character. The wooded area of **Rawdon Cragg Wood** sits on the south-facing side of the

Allocated housing sites **HG2-12** and **HG2-41** are adjacent to and in the immediate setting of, the conservation area and safeguarded site **HG3-3** is within it. Safeguarded sites **HG3-2** and **HG3-4** are very nearby.

The development of sites **HG2-12**, **HG2-41** and **HG3-3** would have a major adverse impact on the conservation area and thus the biodiversity and thriving ecology which exists in harmony with the modest volume of existing dwellings.

Bevys of Roe Deer, cetes of badger and fox, tawny owl, little owl, red kite, palmate newt, rafts of Otter thrive in this area because the landscape provides rich habitats and safe havens. The ancient **Ghyll Beck** (know as Red Beck because mineral deposits are brought up in times of heavy rain) begins at the north of the sloping site **HG3-4** and runs directly alongside **HG3-3** into the sacred grounds of the Crematorium, down the slope along the Western side of Horsforth site **HG2-41** (*through the ancient Riverside Mill brownfield site currently under development **HG1-96***) and drains directly into the River Aire.

Ghyll Beck is the geographical and naturally physical Boundary between Rawdon Village and Horsforth Town. The beck and adjacent fields have public access via pathways. The length of the Beck is naturalized and respected locally as a hub of nature. The tree lined route is, on the whole entirely protected by TPO's and is richly diverse species – please see separate Chapter 2 'Trees Around Rawdon Sites' for details of an extensive Tree Survey.



Airedale Air Conditioning Factory

Airedale Air Conditioning (AAC) is the single largest business by far in Rawdon, employing some 350 staff.

It started on the site of an 18th Century Mill and has grown to become a major business. After a major fire in September 2013, they decided to re-build their business rather than relocate because they were such an important employer within the community, in spite of offers from housing developers to buy the land from them.

The factory is located between HG2-12 and HG3-2 – please see RGAG stylized map on previous page)

AAC commissioned a Biodiversity Report from a specialist consultant, WSP Environmental Ltd. AAC are keen to retain the landscape setting of the factory and the village for the same reasons as RGAG. The factory site includes two old ponds which have been there since the first mills appeared. The ponds drain into underground becks which come out in HG2-12 and drain into Ghyll Beck and the River Aire.

Palmate Newts are believed to have originated from these ponds live or have been found in two residents gardens on Southlands Avenue – see separate Chapter on ‘Local Wildlife Sightings’.

AAC have kindly agreed to share their **Ecology Report** with RGAG and we attach it as Appendix XX. However, the following are extracts pertinent to the sites HG2-12 and HG3-2.

“The Site mainly comprises buildings and hard standing with small areas of semi-improved neutral grassland, amenity grassland and scattered trees. The wider area surrounding the Site contains two fields of semi-improved neutral grassland in the north west and north east and two fields of improved grassland in the south west and south east. Two ponds, hedgerows, small areas of dense and scattered scrub, tall ruderal vegetation and scattered trees are also present immediately bordering the Site.

The habitats are generally of low intrinsic ecological value with the exception of hedgerows on Site and two ponds off Site. Hedgerows and ponds are listed as Habitats of Principal Importance under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006 and are therefore capable of being material considerations in planning decisions. The habitats on the Site have the potential to support badger, bats and breeding birds.”

Bats

3.2.9 The habitats present on Site and in the wider area surrounding the Site, include mixed woodland, scattered trees, scrub, hedgerows and semi-improved neutral grassland. These habitats on Site and within the surrounding area all provide potential commuting and foraging habitat for bats and provide potential connectivity to suitable features within the wider landscape.

Roosts

The Survey revealed one confirmed bat roost in one of the site trees, plus high and moderate chances of bat roosts in other trees. Many trees within the Southlands Avenue residential area and New York Lane area are homes to roosting bats – a common local sight.

PROTECTED AND NOTABLE SPECIES

The following Desk Study revealed an array of protected and notable species within 2km of the site:-

“3.1 Desk Study

3.1.1 The results of designated sites and notable and protected species identified in the 2012 desk study (BL Ecology, 2012) are summarised below.

3.1.2 There is one statutory site within 2km of the Site, which comprises a section of the Leeds-Liverpool Canal that is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) due to the presence of diverse aquatic flora and fauna within the channel. There are eight non-statutory designated Local Wildlife Sites (Local Nature Areas (LNAs)) within 2km of the Site, the closest is Cragg Wood (two LNAs) – located 0.6km south east of the site.

3.1.3 The following records of *protected and notable species* were received:

- Great crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*);
- Palmate newt (*Lissotriton helveticus*);
- Smooth newt (*Lissotriton vulgaris*);
- Common toad (*Bufo bufo*);
- Common frog (*Rana temporaria*);
- Noctule (*Nyctalus noctula*);
- Common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*);
- Soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*);
- Badger (*Meles meles*);
- Otter (*Lutra lutra*);
- Water vole (*Arvicola amphibious*);
- Brown hare (*Lepus europaeus*);
- Hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*);
- Tubular water-dropwort (*Oenanthe fistulosa*); and
- Water-soldier (*Stratiotes aloides*).

3.1.4 **Twenty-six bird species** were also recorded including three species listed on **Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act:**

- Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*)
- Redwing (*Turdus iliacus*)
- Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*).

A further survey revealed:

Forty-four records of amphibians, including

- Great crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*)
- Palmate newt (*Triturus helveticus*)
- Smooth newt (*Lissotriton vulgaris*)
- Common toad, and common frog.

The closest record is a common frog 1.2km to the east of the site, with the nearest great crested newt record 1.8km to the north-west of the site;

The HSI assessment of the two ponds produced scores of 0.71 for both ponds....

A study by Oldham et al. (2000) found that a score 0.43 was the lowest score in which great crested newts were found to be present, and therefore scores of 0.71 for *the ponds adjacent to the site indicate potential for great crested newt presence*.

Thirty-seven terrestrial mammal records, including

- badger (*Meles meles*) 1.2km from the site
- otter (*Lutra lutra*) 1.5km to the south
- water vole (*Arvicola amphibius*) 1.8km to the south
- brown hare (*Lepus europaeus*) 1.5km to the north-east, and hedgehog
- (Erinaceus europaeus) 1.9km to the south-west of the site;
-

Twenty-six records of birds, including species listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act such as

- barn owl (*Tyto alba*) 1km to the south-east and
- kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*) 1.2km to the southwest,
- and species listed on the BoCC Red and Amber lists such as
- starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*)
- song thrush (*Turdus philomelos*)
- kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*)
- grey wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*) at 1.1km to the south-west; and

Two flowering plant records, comprising

- tubular water-dropwort (*Oenanthe fistulosa*)
- water-soldier (*Stratiotes aloides*), both 1.8km to the north of the site.

Habitats

3.2.7 ... Hedgerows and ponds are listed as Habitats of Principal Importance under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006 and are therefore capable of being material considerations in planning decisions.

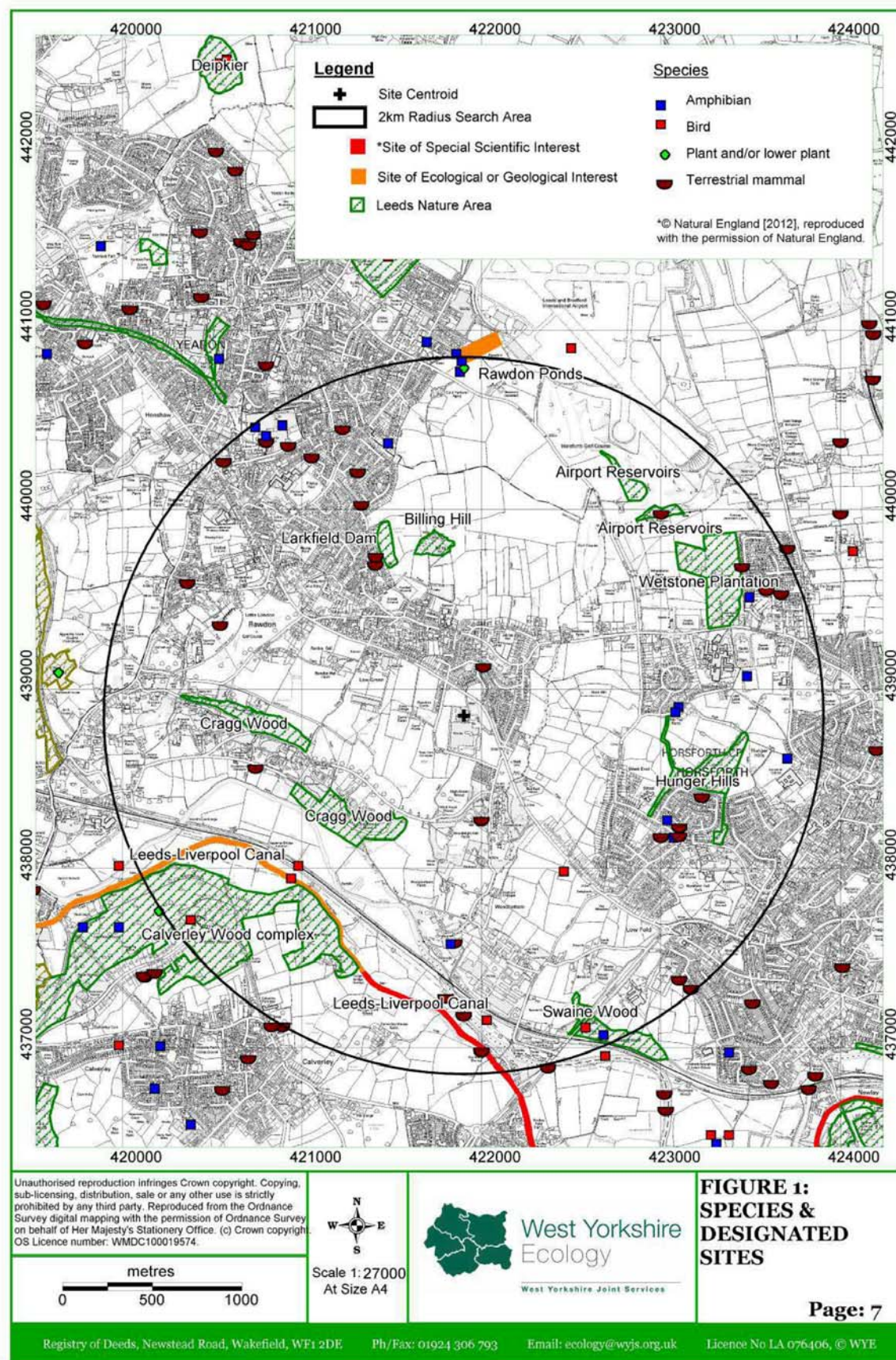
Sites of Nature Conservation Interest

3.1.2 There are no internationally designated sites for nature conservation interest within 5km. However one nationally designated site is located approximately 1.53km to the south of the site, which comprises a section of the Leeds- Liverpool Canal that is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) due to the presence of diverse aquatic flora and fauna within the channel, including one nationally scarce pondweed *Potamogeton trichoides*.

Several fish and amphibian species including:

- pike (*Esox lucius*)
- roach (*Rutilus rutilus*)
- common frog (*Rana temporaria*) and
- common toad (*Bufo bufo*) are noted to breed within this section of the canal, and a variety of
- aquatic invertebrates are also present.

LOCAL WILDLIFE SITES



3.1.3 There are eight local wildlife sites, which are called Local Nature Areas (LNAs) in the Leeds District. These are bullet pointed below, with the full details provided within Appendix 2.

- Cragg Wood (two LNAs) – located 0.6km south-east of the site;
- Billing Hill (LNA) – located 0.73km north of the site;
- Larkfield Dam (LNA) – located 0.76km north of the site;
- Hunger Hills (LNA) – located 1.05km east of the site;
- Calverley Wood Complex (LNA) – located 1.2km south-west of the site;
- Wetstone Plantation (LNA) – located 1.39km north-east of the site;
- Airport Reservoirs (two LNAs) – located 1.43km north-east of the site; and
- Swaine Wood (LNA) – located 1.62km south-east of the site.

Protected Sites

4.2.2 The nearest site of nature conservation interest to the site is Cragg Wood LNA. This is located approximately 0.6km to the south east of the site and was designated as

“a site of local or district-wide importance for the enjoyment, study or conservation of wildlife, geological features and landforms”
(Leeds City Council, 2013a).

Cragg Wood LNA comprises two areas of semi-natural broad-leaved woodland.

3.3.1 Sites of Ecological or Geological Importance

Sites of Ecological or Geological Importance’ (SEGI) are areas identified by the relevant local authority as being important for their flora, fauna, geological or physiological features. They are of county wide importance. Sites recorded include:

- Leeds to Liverpool Canal
- Rawdon Ponds

Rawdon Ponds

Rawdon Ponds is one of the most important breeding sites for amphibians in West Yorkshire. Breeding records go back to the 1950's. The ponds also support a good range of aquatic and swamp communities including the regionally rare *Oenanthe fistulosa* and nationally scarce, *Stratiotes aloides*. The grassland provides terrestrial habitat for the amphibians.

SPECIES LIST

Amphibia

frog *Rana temporaria*

toad *Bufo bufo*

smooth newt *Triturus vulgaris*

palmate newt *Triturus helveticus*

great crested newt Triturus cristatus

Odonata

blue tailed damselfly *Ischnura elegans*

common blue damselfly *Enallagma cyathigerum*

brown hawker *Aeshna grandis*

Plants

Achillea millefolium yarrow
 Achillea ptarmica sneezewort
 Agrostis capillaris common bent
 Agrostis stolonifera creeping bent
 Anthoxanthum odoratum sweet vernal-grass
 Anthriscus sylvestris cow parsley
 Calluna vulgaris heather
 Capsella bursa-pastoris shepherd's-purse
 Carex binervis green-ribbed sedge
 Carex nigra common sedge
 Centaurea nigra common knapweed
 Chamerion angustifolium rosebay willowherb
 Cirsium arvense creeping thistle
 Cirsium vulgare spear thistle
 Crataegus monogyna hawthorn
 Dactylis glomerata cock's-foot
 Deschampsia cespitosa tufted hair-grass
 Deschampsia flexuosa wavy hair-grass
 Eleocharis palustris common spike-rush
 Festuca arundinacea tall fescue
 Festuca ovina sheep's fescue
 Festuca rubra red fescue
 Galium palustre common marsh bedstraw
 Galium saxatile heath bedstraw
 Glyceria fluitans floating sweet-grass
 Glyceria notata plicate sweet-grass
 Holcus lanatus Yorkshire fog
 Juncus effusus soft rush
 Juncus squarrosus heath rush
 Leontodon autumnalis autumn hawkbit
 Lolium perenne perennial rye-grass
 Lotus corniculatus common bird's-foot trefoil
 Lycopodium europaeus gipsywort
 Matricaria discoidea pineappleweed
 Molinea caerulea purple moor-grass
 Myosotis laxa tufted forget-me-not
 Myosotis scorpioides water forget-me-not
 Nardus stricta mat grass
 Oenanthe fistulosa tubular water-dropwort
 Plantago lanceolata ribwort plantain
 Plantago major greater plantain
 Poa annua annual meadow-grass
 Polygonum aviculare knotgrass
 Potamogeton natans broad-leaved pondweed
 Ranunculus acris meadow buttercup
 Ranunculus flammula lesser spearwort
 Ranunculus repens creeping buttercup
 Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum watercress
 Rubus fruticosus bramble
 Rumex acetosa common sorrel
 Rumex acetosella sheep's sorrel
 Rumex obtusifolius broad-leaved dock
 Senecio jacobaea common ragwort
 Sparganium erectum branched bur-reed
 Stratiotes aloides water soldier
 Taraxacum agg dandelions
 Trifolium pratense red clover
 Trifolium repens white clover
 Urtica dioica nettle

The Airedale Ecology Report can be supplied to add detail to these extracts – please email us a request.

Rawdon Greenbelt Action Group - Wildlife Sub-Group

Given the extremely rich and diverse ecology of our village, our group decided to form a sub-group to ensure that we collate all the research we can find to protect the local wildlife, nature, trees, hedregrows, habitats and so on. We are currently working on our own research in and around as much of Ghyll Beck as possible. This is so that it can be made into a **Local Wildlife Site** designated by WYES, who are supporting us in this endeavour and advise us that it has a very good chance of becoming designated. Our key problem thus far is obtaining land-owner permission to survey much of the area – especially those who have submitted land themselves for inclusion in the SAP. So our surveys have been amateur to date until we raise enough capital to commission private consultants to carry out a professional survey. In the meantime therefore, we are submitting the research work we have done to date within this document.

Ghyll Beck (Red Beck known by local residents)– Research To Date

Red Beck is an important site. In terms of size, Red Beck could be designated as ***Guideline Wd1 Ancient semi-natural woodland of 0.5ha or more in size***. For this to be the case, historical map evidence is essential (back to at least 1600). We will continue to research this during the course of the group's project work.

If the Red Beck continues beyond public accessibility (there is a barbed wire fence but the wood does continue well beyond it), then Guideline

Wd5 - 'Bluebell woodlands greater than 0.5 ha with a NVC random quadrat constancy for bluebell of III or over and a ground cover by bluebells of 40% or greater in at least 10% of the woodland area' - would apply. This would make the Bluebell wood a rare and exceptional feature.

The rationale for it being a Wd5: *The UK supports a significant proportion of the European population of bluebell (Hyacinthoides non-scripta) and, as such, has a particular duty to ensure the survival of this species through the protection of bluebell woodland habitat.*



Red Beck also contains a large number of **Veteran Trees**. The Veteran Trees Initiative (VTI) has produced a book regarding all aspects of veteran trees and their management available as pdf here: http://www.treeworks.co.uk/downloads/SSM_HandBook.pdf

In this publication a veteran tree is “defined as a tree that is of interest biologically, culturally or aesthetically because of its age, size or condition.”

This includes trees that are in the ancient stage of their life and trees that are old relative to other specimens of the same species.

The VTI indicates that veteran trees are characterised by the presence of features such as:

- large girth for the species concerned,
- major trunk cavities or progressive hollowing,
- naturally forming water pools,
- decay holes,
- physical damage to trunk,
- bark loss,
- large quantity of dead wood in the canopy in damp, shady and dry, open conditions,
- sap runs,
- crevices in the bark, under branches or on the root plate sheltered from direct rainfall,
- fungal fruiting bodies (e.g. from heart rotting species),
- high number of interdependent wildlife species,

Many veteran trees can be found in Red Beck and bordering both **HG3-4** and **HG3-3**.

Red Beck is also an ancient wood. Ancient woods according to the WYES, Local Wildlife Site (LWS) Guidelines, are *‘those which have had a continuous woodland cover since at least 1600 AD and have only been cleared for underwood or timber production. The great majority are believed to be primary, that is they are surviving fragments of primeval forest, the climax vegetation type of much of this country.’*

It notes that in some instances ‘woodlands have developed on land which may have been open ground or farmland before 1600 AD. These are termed ancient secondary woodlands and are difficult to separate from primary woodlands. Both are referred to as “ancient woodland” in the West Yorkshire Inventory of Ancient Woodland (provisional) (Nature Conservancy Council 1988). Ancient woodlands have had a long time to acquire species and form rich communities of plants and animals. Their soils are also important having remained largely undisturbed for centuries.

Red Beck also has a beck or stream and this feeds in to the river. RGAG contacted WYE’s Robert Mashedur with regards to sightings of European Otters in and around the River Aire and sites adjacent to it. We wanted to know if it were possible that otters were using the beck as part of a local network.

Mashedur replied thusly:

‘I have checked our otter records for the River Aire and Ghyll Beck. The nearest records

we hold are on the River Aire under the railway bridge at SE218373 only 320m from the confluence with the Ghyll Beck. Low Mill straddles the beck and it is not clear whether or not it is likely to prevent otters getting further up-stream.”

It is important to have professional survey work carried out (funds permitting) to determine the extent of otter activity and other attributes pertaining to the important flowing water habitat of Red Beck.



Drawing on the criteria for LWS, Red Beck and **HG3-4 and HG3-3** were surveyed on 3 September 2015.

Criteria/Attributes of LWS relevant to sites **HG3-4 and HG3-3** and Red Beck include:

- Size
- Naturalness
- Rare or Exceptional Features
- Connectivity in the Landscape
- Recorded history and cultural association

It should be noted that the above criteria are not necessarily discreet categories but rather can be dependent on one another. This inter-relationship of criteria is explained in more detail in the West Yorkshire Local Wildlife Selection Criteria document.

Sites HG3-4 and HG3-3

Sites **HG3-4 and HG3-3** could be considered Grassland with limited or no management and includes meadows and pastures.

It may be argued – which is why a professional survey would have been so useful – that both sites constitute Neutral grassland.

The LWS criteria states:

‘Unimproved neutral grassland habitat underwent a major decline in the 20th century. It was estimated in 1994 that less than 15,000ha of species-rich neutral grassland remained within the UK (both upland and lowland). In England there is significantly less than 10,000ha of species rich neutral grassland. This habitat is now in small sites with a fragmented distribution throughout much of the UK.

Neutral grasslands support a high proportion of forbs (broad-leaved herbaceous species) relative to grasses. Characteristic species of this habitat, which are now scarce include pepper saxifrage (*Silaum silaus*), dyer’s greenweed (*Genista tinctoria*), and adder’s tongue fern (*Ophioglossum vulgatum*).

Commoner characteristic species include meadow crane’s-bill (*Geranium pratense*), yellow rattle (*Rhinanthus minor*), pignut (*Conopodium majus*) and red clover (*Trifolium pratense*).

On the day of the survey, no scarce species were observed on either of the allocated sites, but Red Clover and Pignut were observed.

Adjacent to both potential development sites in this location, Red Beck appears to satisfy at least TWO of the LWS habitat types. It is an ancient woodland AND contains flowing water.



RESIDENTS’ SIGHTINGS submitted to RGAG *for the purposes of this report (short notice given)*

Table of Wildlife Sightings Reported by Residents Local to the Sites designated for Development.

To follow is a table of just a few sightings submitted to the Group for this report.

Respondent	Date	Location	Wildlife
Sue Dunn (no pics)	-	New York Lane	Weasels Greater Spotted Woodpeckers Annual frog crossing point Red Kite Bats
Glen Conybeare (pics)	February 2015	Snaith Wood Drive	Roe Deer
Sue Dunn (no pics)	-	Woodlands Drive	Little Owls Badgers Barn Owls
Sue Hydes (pics)	-	River Aire parallel to Underwood Drive	Otters
Michelle Parker (pics)	frequent	Cragg Wood Road	Roe Deer Fox Badger
Glen Conybeare	5 October 2015	Knott Lane/ Woodlands Drive	Roe Deer
Joanne Gabriel	Regularly in garden	Southlands Avenue	Roe Deer Little Owl Weasel Stoat Shrew Tree creeper Great Spotted Woodpecker Green Woodpecker Fox Jay Field mouse Fieldfare Red Kite Tawny Owl Grey Heron Bats – lots
Spandler Family	Regularly in garden and on walks	Woodlands Drive, Southlands Avenue, Red Beck	Roe Deer Otter Brown Trout (Aire) Great Spotted Woodpecker Bats Jay Field Mouse Doormouse Shrew & Vole Fieldfare Treecreeper Red Kite Tawny Owl Kingfisher

Martin Fincham amateur wildlife enthusiast	During residence in area	Woodlands Drive, Southlands Avenue, Cragg Wood	<p><u>Mammals</u> Fox (<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>) Stoat (<i>Mustela erminea</i>) Weasel (<i>Mustela nivalis</i>) Roe Deer (<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>) Common Shrew (<i>Sorex araneus</i>) Pipistrelle Bat (<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>) Hedgehog (<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>)</p> <p><u>Reptiles & Amphibians</u> Palmate Newt (<i>Lissotriton helveticus</i>) Common Frog (<i>Rana temporaria</i>) Common Toad (<i>Bufo bufo</i>)</p> <p><u>Insects & Butterflies</u> Gatekeeper butterfly (<i>Pyronia tithonus</i>) Small Tortoiseshell (<i>Aglais urticae</i>) Peacock (<i>Aglais io</i>) Red Admiral (<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>)</p> <p><u>Birds</u> Jay (<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>) Siskin (<i>Carduelis spinus</i>) Bullfinch (<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>) Goldfinch (<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>) Greenfinch (<i>Carduelis chloris</i>) Long Tailed Tit (<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>) Treecreeper (<i>Certhia familiaris</i>) Nuthatch (<i>Sitta europaea</i>) Lesser Spotted Woodpecker (<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>) Greater Spotted Woodpecker (<i>Dendrocopos major</i>) Sparrowhawk (<i>Accipiter nisus</i>) Red Kite (<i>Milvus milvus</i>) Grey Heron (<i>Ardea cinerea</i>) Tawny Owl (<i>Strix aluco</i>) Chaffinch (<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>) Fieldfare (<i>Turdus pilaris</i>) Redwing (<i>Turdus iliacus</i>) Barn Swallow (<i>Hirundo rustica</i>) Swift (<i>Apus apus</i>) House Martin (<i>Delichon urbica</i>) Not to mention... House Sparrow, Dunnock, Blue Tit, Coal Tit, Great Tit, Wren, Blackbird, Robin, Song Thrush, Mistle Thrush, Wren, Jackdaw, Magpie, Mallard, Carrion Crow, Collared Dove, Wood Pigeon</p>
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RECENT DISCOVERY!**Palmate Newt** (*Lissotriton helveticus*)

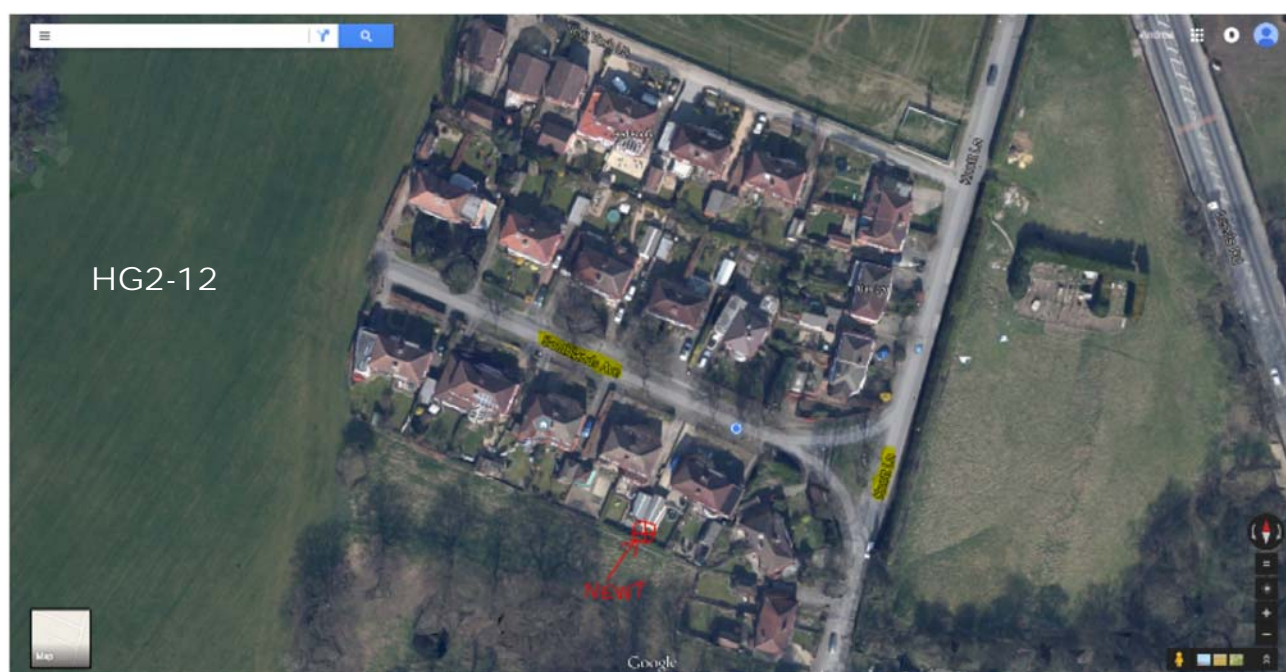
Andrew Saville - 3 Southlands Avenue, Rawdon, Leeds, LS19 6JN

Directly next to the Site allocated by the Council for housing known as HG2-12

Last weekend (23-08-15) whilst clearing some wet leaves and rotten wood from the bottom of my garden to make way for a new fence, I found a newt within the wet leaves.

The newt was found in the back garden of 3 Southlands Avenue, Rawdon, Leeds, LS19 6JN, close to the boundary with the neighbouring farmers field. Please see below a map showing the location.

This is now confirmed to be a Palmate Newt and was formally recorded with West Yorkshire Ecology Services on 28 August 2015.



Ornithology

Rawdon is with a natural green corridor, from Leeds out towards the Dales. It is next to the River Aire, it is riddled with Becks and ancient woodland, providing a myriad of habitats, feeding and resting ground for migratory birds.

Darren Shepherd is a qualified Ornithologist and has worked for the RSPB. He lives in Aireborough all his life and his love of ornithology was as a direct result of living here and being able to easily study local activity.

He contacted our campaign group, eager to join and share his knowledge in 2012. Since then he has actively watched and recorded bird life in and around Rawdon and Aireborough.

Recently we decided to ask one of our campaign group members who is a designer to create a poster featuring some of Darren's more interesting or rare discoveries. It is entitled:

Birds of Rawdon and Horsforth seen, heard and studied on the greenbelt expanses, the woodland, the River Aire and on The Billing.

BIRDS



of Rawdon and Horsforth seen, heard & studied on the greenbelt expanses, the woodland, the River Aire and on The Billing.

"I cannot overstate how essential Aireborough is to Yorkshire's avian population - it is a distinct Green Corridor from Leeds to the Dales, home to several *Schedule One* breeding species, including Curlew and Lapwing in particular."

Spring and Summer

Warblers

Common Whitethroat

A Speciality For The Billing Area

Chiff Chaff

Willow Warbler

Blackcap

Garden Warbler

Lesser Whitethroat

Passage Migrant

Yellow Hammer

Skylark

Curlew

Lapwing

House Sparrow

Blackbird

Mistle Thrush

Song Thrush - *frequent*

Greater Spotted Woodpecker

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker

Nuthatch

Goldfinch

Greenfinch

Cuckoo

Swallow

Swift

House Martin

Jay

Wren

Robin

Dunnock

Heron

Mallard

Blue Tit

Coal Tit

Small Tit

Long-Tailed Tit



River Aire

Kingfisher

Sedge Warbler

Willow Warbler

Reed Bunting

Goosander

Mallard

Tufted Duck

Moorhen

Canada Goose

Greylag Goose

Heron

Dipper

Cormorant

Teal

Gadwall

Sand Martin

Pied Wagtail

Grey Wagtail

Yellow Wagtail



Winter Visitors

These visit mainly from Scandinavia

Redwing

Fieldfare

Meadow Pipit

Golden Plover

Raptors Include:

Kestrel

Sparrowhawk

Red Kite

Common Buzzard

Hobby

Honey Buzzard - **very rare**

Owls Include:

Tawny

Barn

Short Eared - **rare**

Little Owl

Special report for RGAG by

Darren Shepherd

Ornithologist

BTO Approved Qualification in

Western Palearctic Bird ID and Sound

Nord-Trondelag University College, Denmark

Darren has worked for the RSPB and is a voluntary Warden at RSPB Nature reserve St Aidan's, near Castleford, Leeds.

He has lived in Aireborough all his life and is a passionate advocate for greenbelt and preserving these local, vital habitats



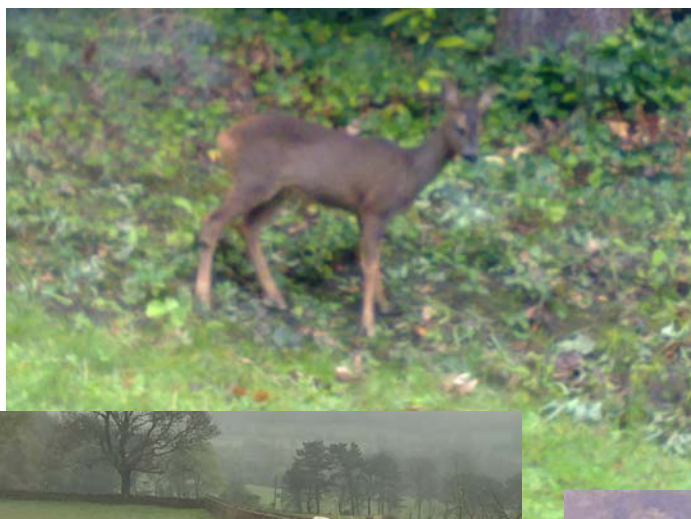
Roe Deer

Rawdon is very proud indeed of it's Bevy of Roe Deer (we don't know how many there are). Anyone living near all the Rawdon sites which LCC have put in their Site Allocation Plan will know very well the delight of suddenly spotting deer grazing in the fields or woodland. It is rare to be ready to capture them on camera though. The slightest noise or movement can disturb them and, suddenly, they are gone! However, we have managed to gather up a few sightings captured luckily in time to show that, yes, they really do live in our peaceful community.

Rawdon residents treasure the deer, and are passionate about ensuring that they continue to enjoy the peaceful setting of the local greenbelt expanses. The area includes Cragg Wood Conservation Area, its two designated wildlife sites, it is within LCC's Special Landscape Area, Leeds Country Way, the Area of Green Infrastructure, the ancient woodlands and hedgerows, the grasslands, West Leeds Country Park, the Aire Valley, Rawdon Billing Hill, the pastureland and fields which contribute so importantly to the rich biodiversity of our local ecosystem, and which defines the distinct semi-rural character of Rawdon.



HG2-12



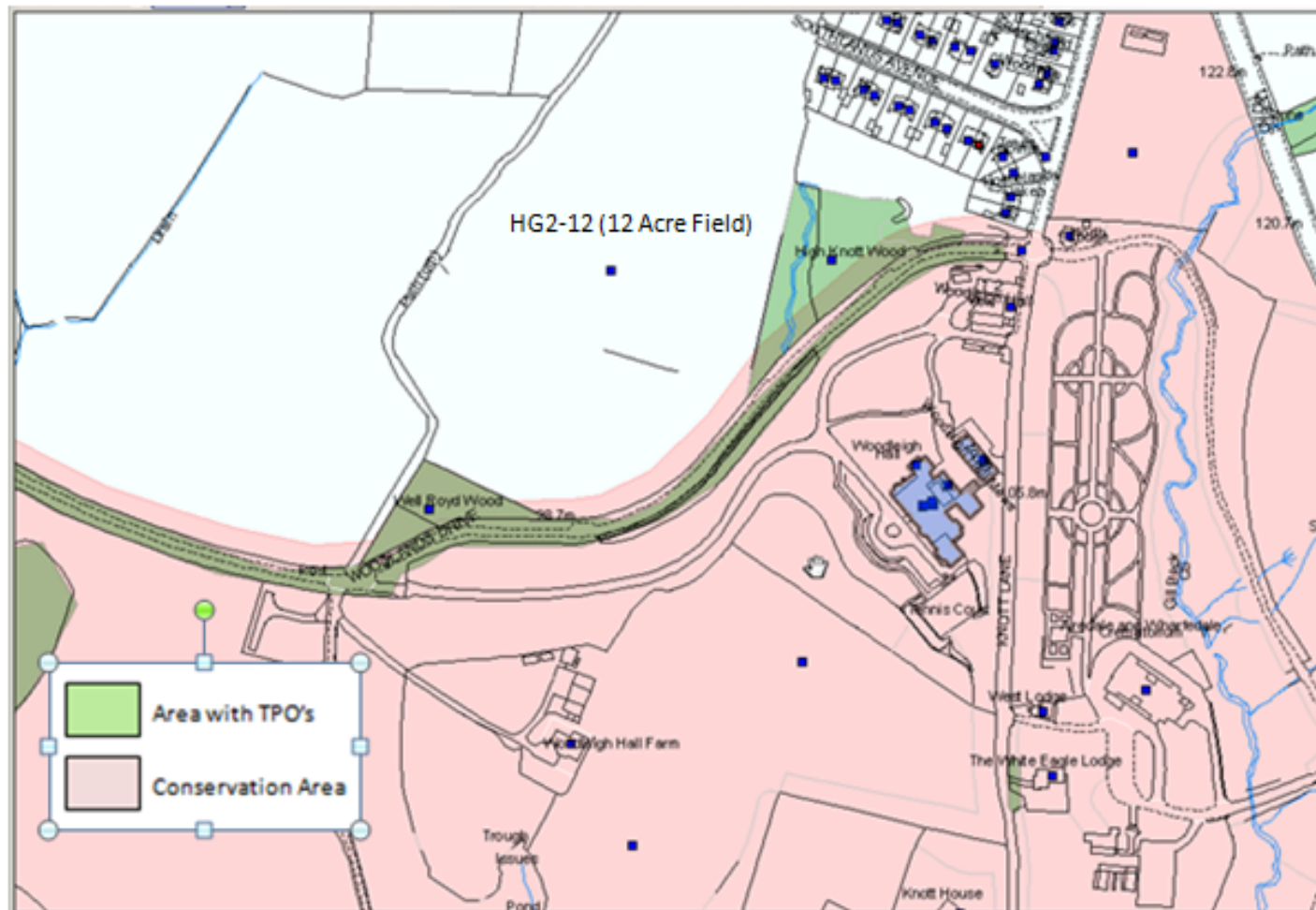
HG3-4

TREE SURVEY



**HG2-12 (12 ACRE FIELD) &
SOUTHLANDS AVENUE
Sept-Oct 2015**

Trees in HG2-12 (12 Acre Field) covered by TPOs Well Royd Wood and High Knott Wood



Map of Tree Preservation Orders provided by Leeds City Council Development Enquiry Centre, Planning Services.

HG2-12 (12 ACRE FIELD) TREE SURVEY



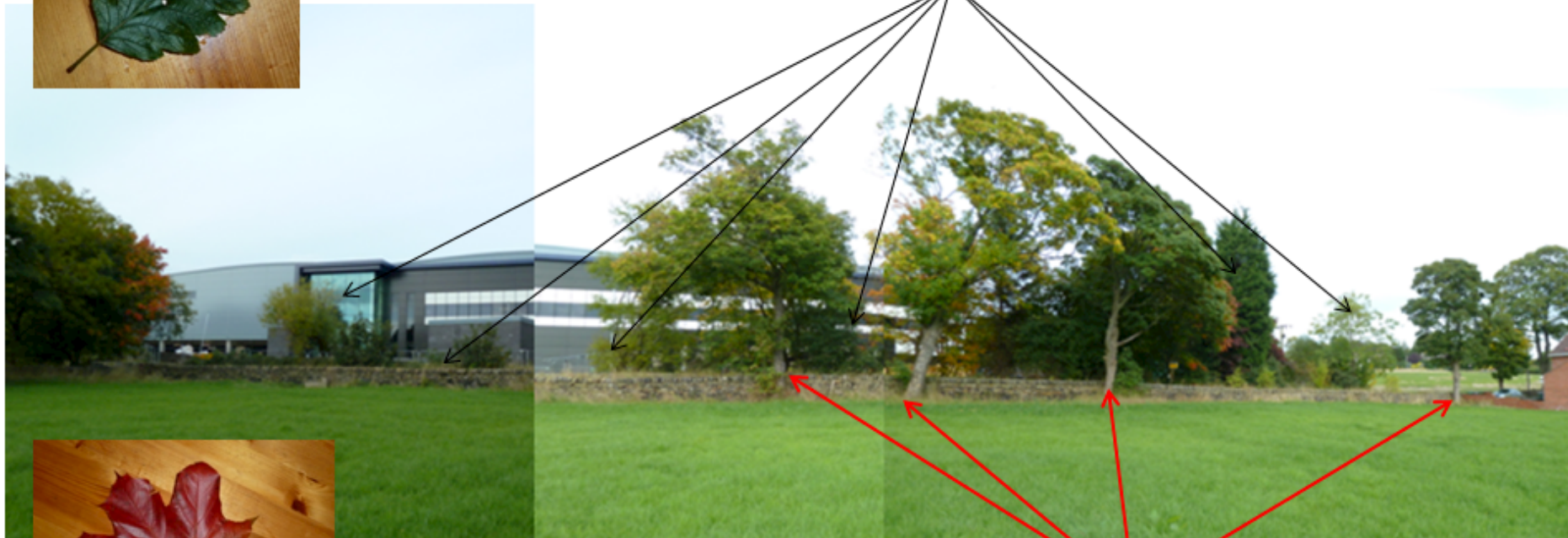
North – New York Lane
West – Leeds Country Way Footpath

Trees along north side of HG2-12 (12 Acre Field) and New York Lane

Whitebeam



Mixed group of Birch, Whitebeam, Maple, Hawthorn, Lime, Elder, Leylandii, Osier and Holly on Airedale land to north of New York Lane



Maple

4 Sycamore in 12-Acre Field (North)

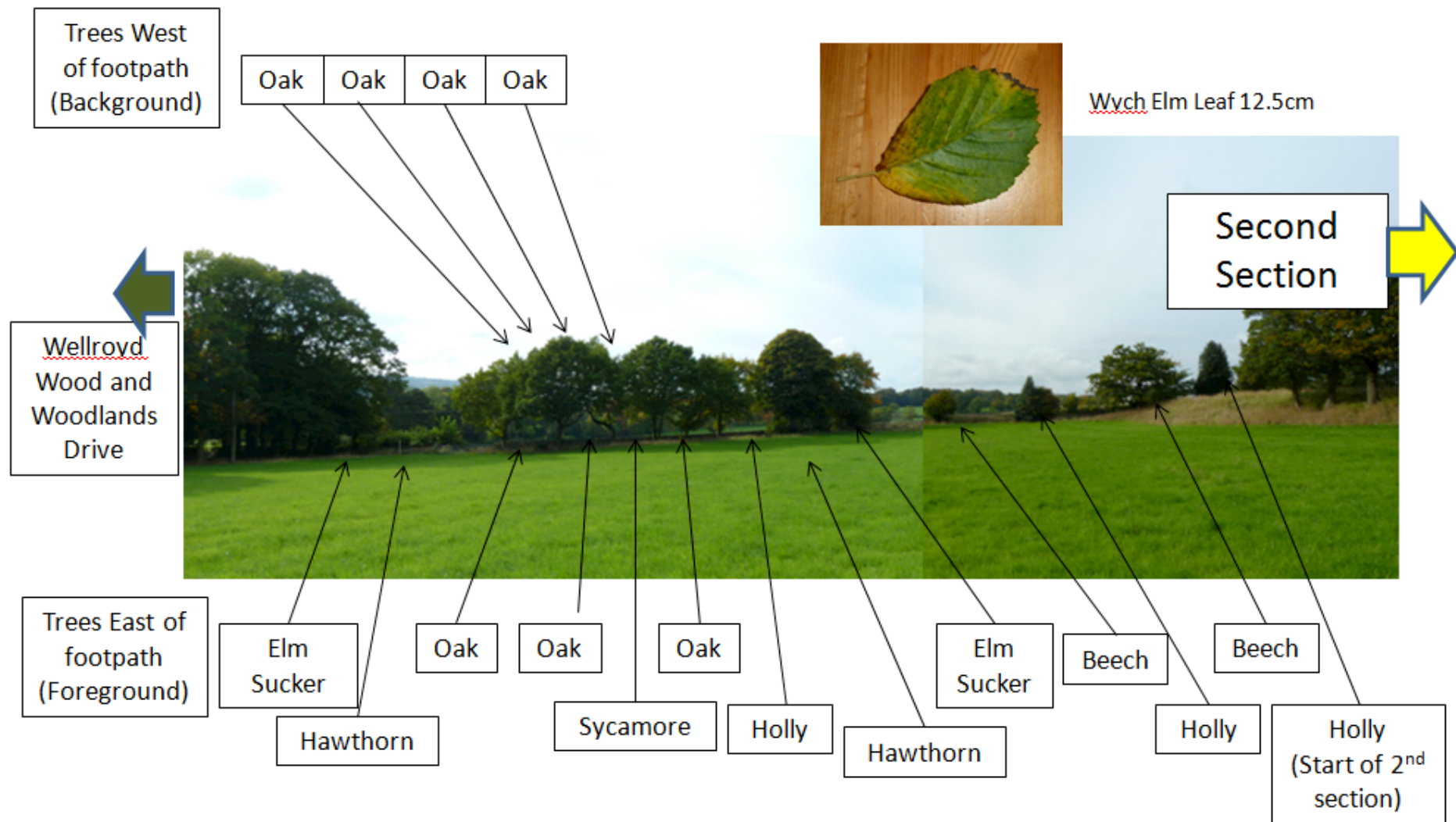
Photo taken 10-Oct-15 ; Survey 18-Oct-15

Trees along north side of HG2-12 (12 Acre Field) and New York Lane

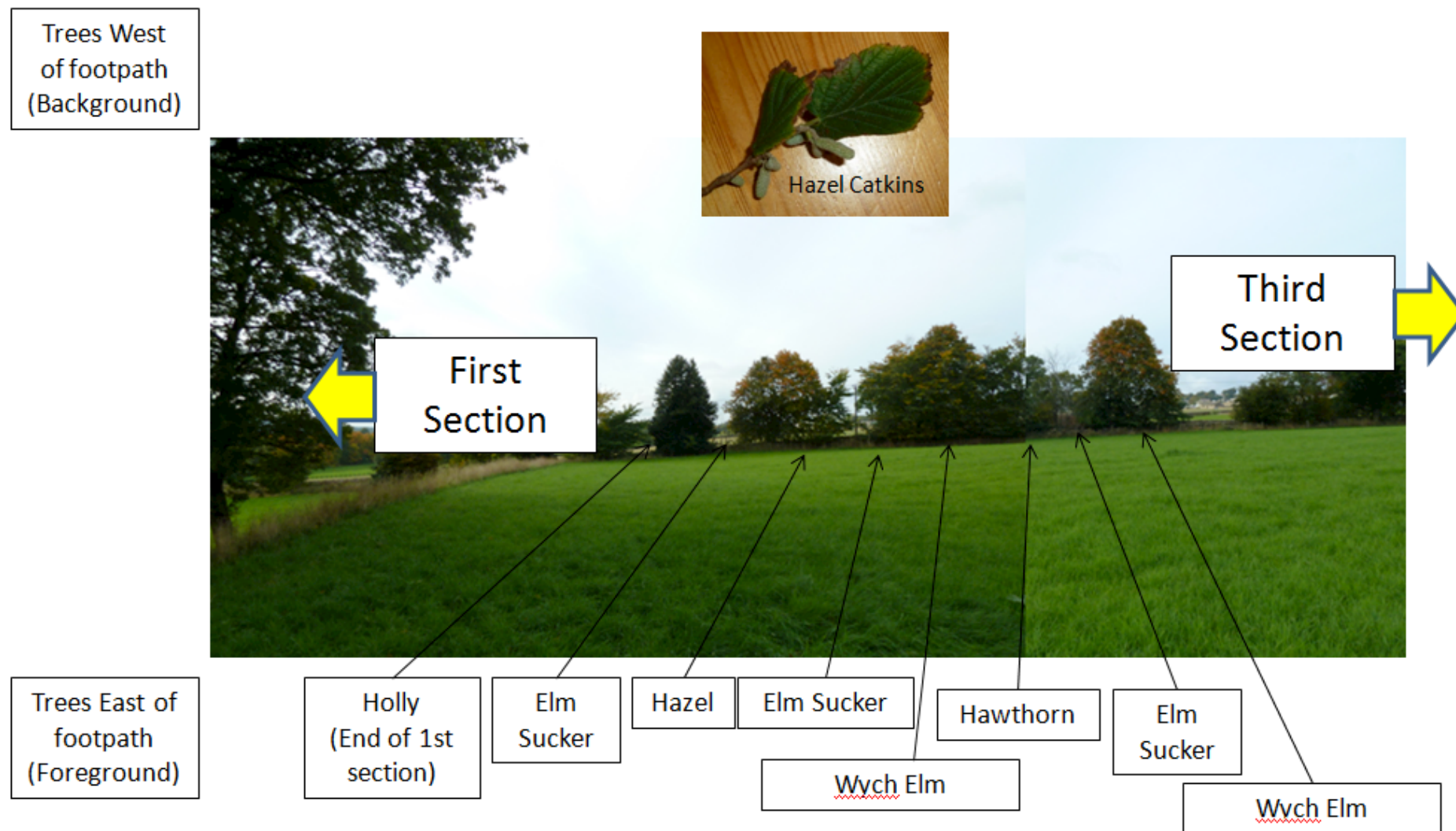


Description	Grid Reference	Address (near)	Species
Point A	SE 21921 38616	New York Lane, Rawdon	Sycamore
Point B	SE 21928 38613	New York Lane, Rawdon	Sycamore
Point C	SE 21936 38610	New York Lane, Rawdon	Sycamore
Point D	SE 21971 38601	New York Lane, Rawdon	Sycamore

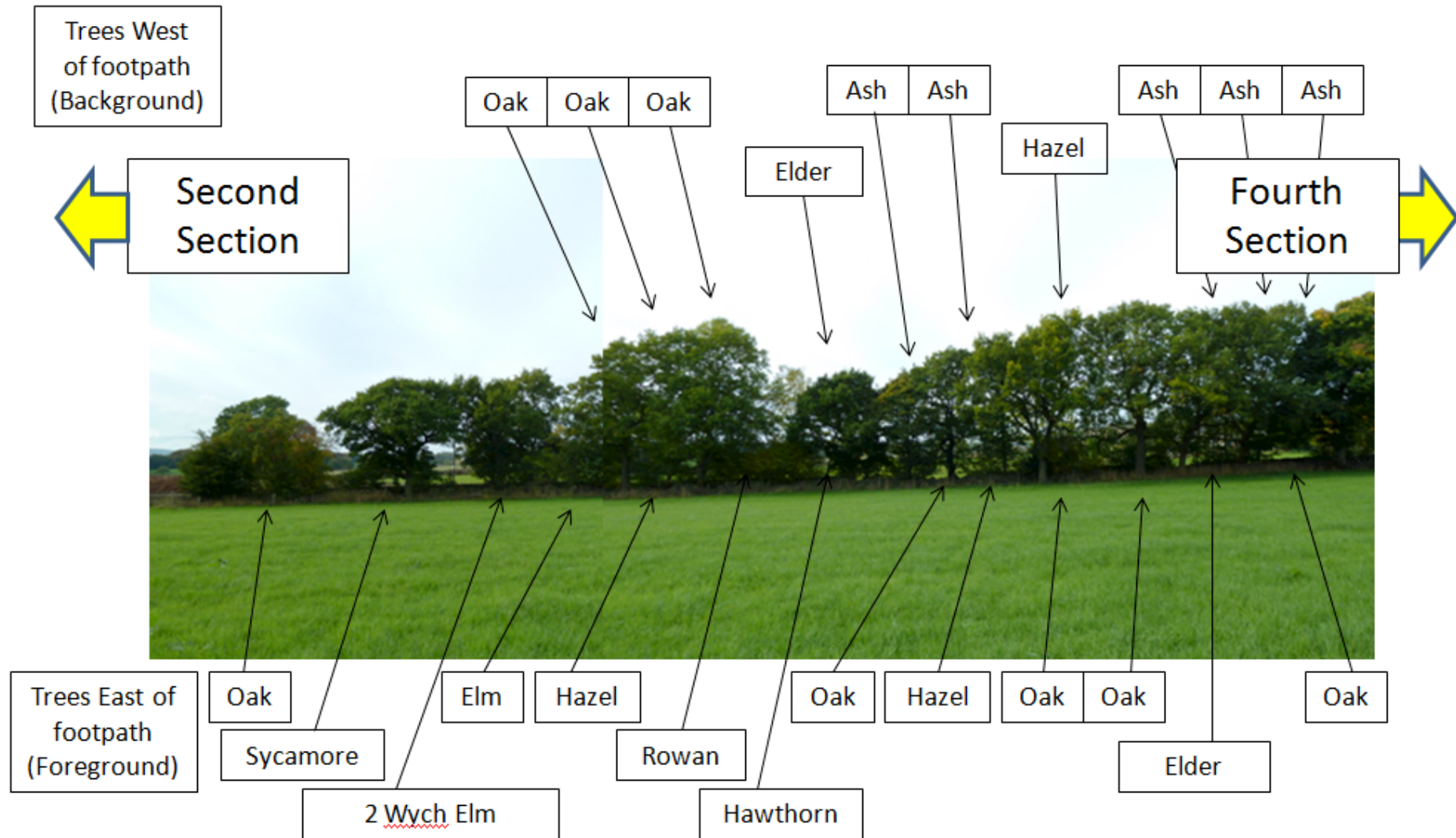
Trees along west side of HG2-12 (12 Acre Field) and Leeds Country Way Footpath First Section from Woodlands Drive (South)



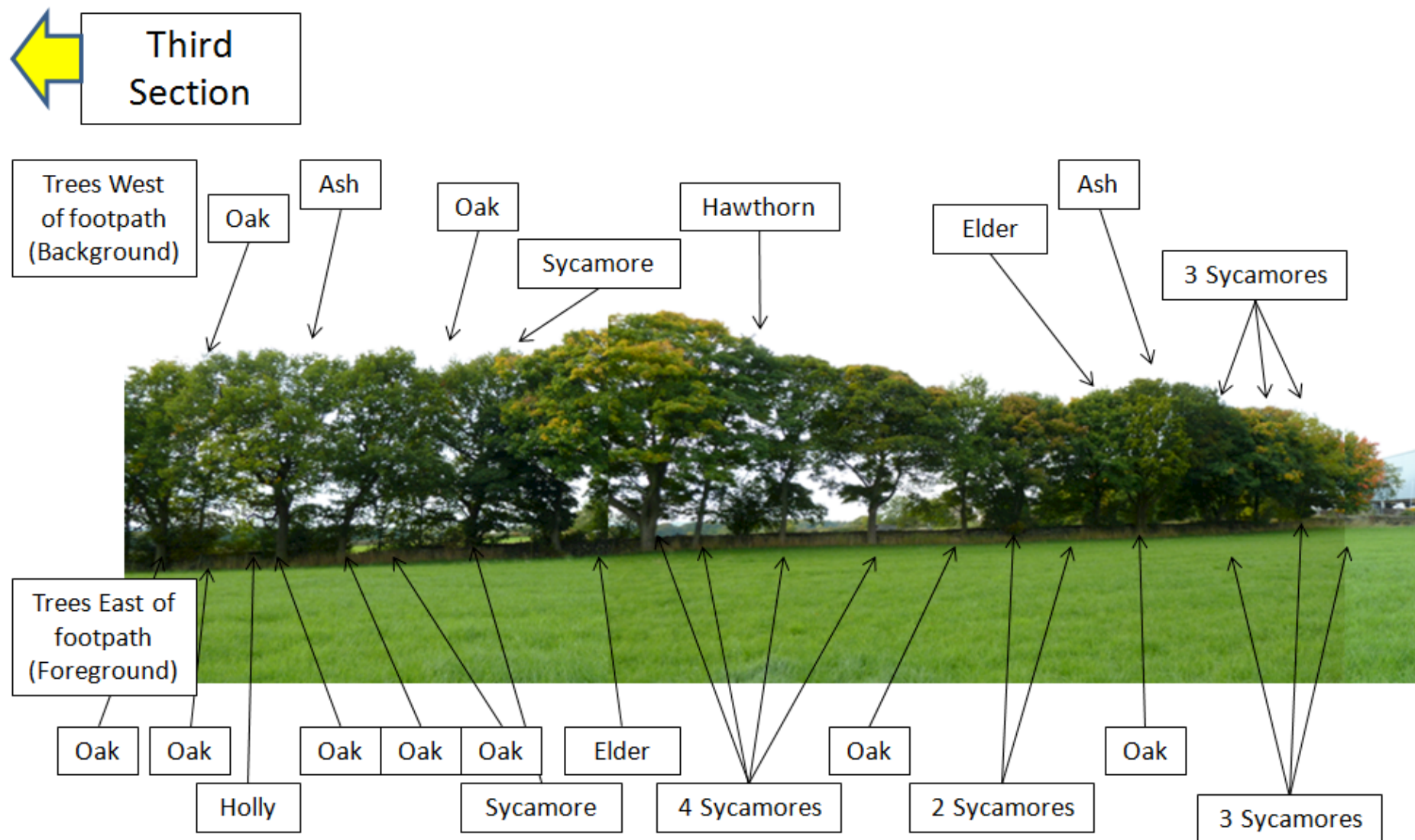
Trees along west side of HG2-12 (12 Acre Field) and Leeds Country Way Footpath Second Section from Woodlands Drive



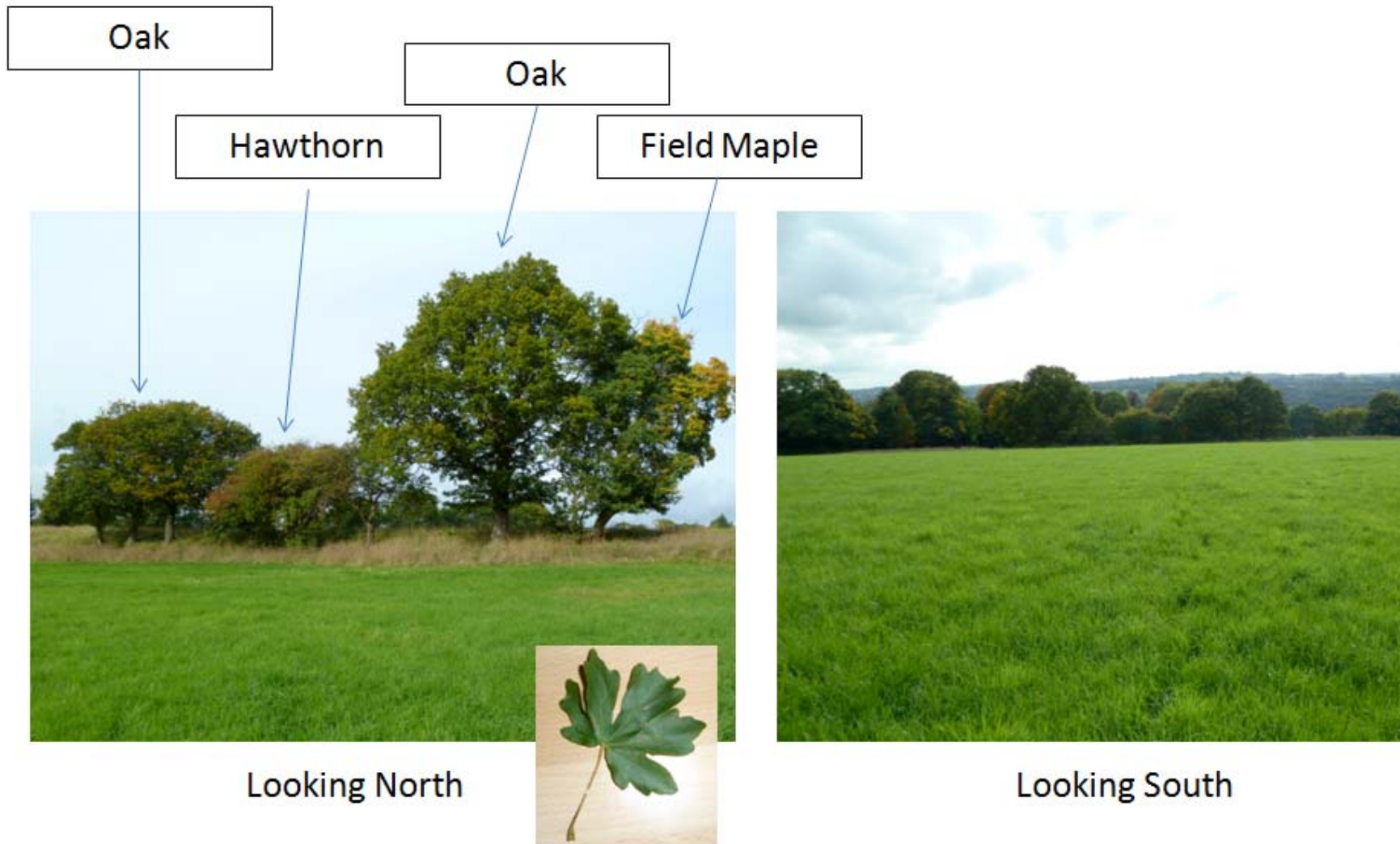
Trees along west side of HG2-12 (12 Acre Field) and Leeds Country Way Footpath Third Section from Woodlands Drive



Trees along west side of HG2-12 (12 Acre Field) and Leeds Country Way Footpath Fourth Section from Woodlands Drive to NY Lane



Trees in the middle of HG2-12 (12 Acre Field)

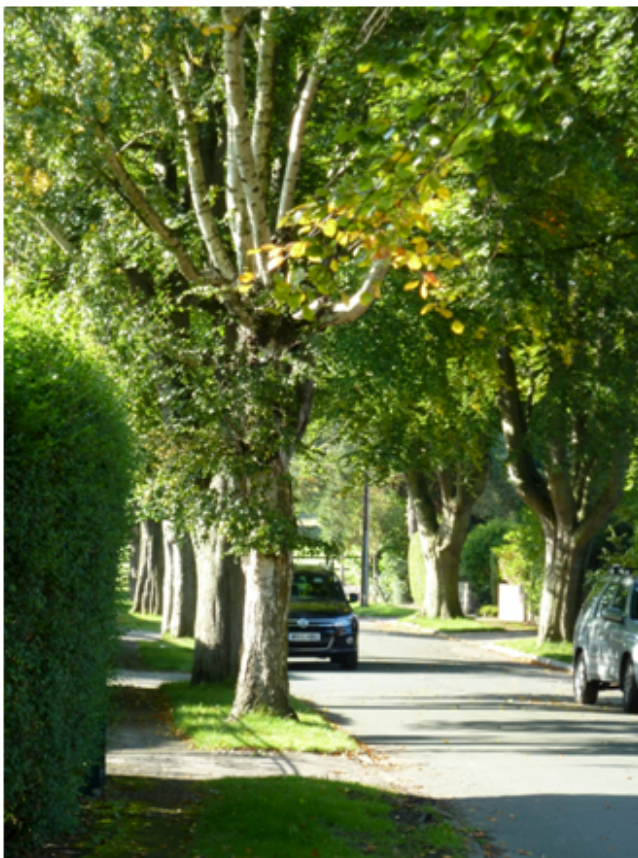


The Trees on Southlands Avenue



Description	Grid Reference	Address (near)	Species	Circumference in cm @ 1.5 M (DBH)	Approx Age	Tree Growth Rate Factor
Point A	SE 21977 38521	15 Southlands Ave, LS19 6JN	Copper Norway Maple	150		
Point B	SE 21995 38513	11 Southlands Ave, LS19 6JN	Beech	217	85	2.55
Point C	SE 22012 38505	7 Southlands Ave, LS19 6JN	Beech	230	85	2.71
Point D	SE 22029 38499	3 Southlands Ave, LS19 6JN	Beech	221	85	2.60
Point E	SE 22038 38493	1 Southlands Ave, LS19 6JN	Silver Birch	145		
Point F	SE 22057 38484	Trees Holme, LS19 6JN	Beech	239	85	2.81
Point G	SE 22066 38486	Triangle, LS19 6JN	Ash	261		
Point H	SE 22068 38492	Triangle, LS19 6JN	Sycamore	208		
Point I	SE 22041 38501	2 Southlands Ave, LS19 6JN	Beech	237	85	2.79
Point J	SE 22014 38513	6 Southlands Ave, LS19 6JN	Beech	235	85	2.76
Point K	SE 21996 38522	10 Southlands Ave, LS19 6JN	Beech	267	85	3.14

Assumed the Beech Trees were planted as 5 year old saplings when the houses on Southlands Ave were built in 1935
Beech average growth rate factor above is 2.77 which compares to 2.5 in Oare Gunpowder Works Wildlife Activity Sheet.



ENDS

Chapter 6

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT

Please see the independent report completed by Wright Engineering, together with the following.

Roads

Rawdon residents rely heavily on car usage, with a congested A65 and no rail link (nearest Rail is Horsforth). Statistics show that the majority of residents use a car to get to work¹.

Variable	Measure	Leeds 027D	Leeds (Metropolitan District)	Yorkshire and The Humber	England
All Usual Residents Aged 16 to 74 (Persons) ¹	Count	990	560,849	3,875,219	38,881,374
Work Mainly at or From Home (Persons) ¹	Count	65	14,666	110,962	1,349,568
Underground, Metro, Light Rail, Tram (Persons) ¹	Count	1	479	10,716	1,027,625
Train (Persons) ¹	Count	26	11,751	58,307	1,343,684
Bus, Minibus or Coach (Persons) ¹	Count	43	50,541	207,114	1,886,539
Taxi (Persons) ¹	Count	0	3,174	16,432	131,465
Motorcycle, Scooter or Moped (Persons) ¹	Count	1	1,779	16,173	206,550
Driving a Car or Van (Persons) ¹	Count	495	201,221	1,490,020	14,345,882
Passenger in a Car or Van (Persons) ¹	Count	19	21,569	155,856	1,264,553
Bicycle (Persons) ¹	Count	7	6,352	62,119	742,675
On Foot (Persons) ¹	Count	25	42,064	285,542	2,701,453
Other Method of Travel to Work (Persons) ¹	Count	2	1,629	14,833	162,727
Not in Employment (Persons) ¹	Count	306	205,624	1,447,145	13,718,653

Building further houses on any of the Rawdon sites: HG2-12, HG3-3, HG3-2, HG3-4, HG2-41 can only add to the congestion on local roads. Assuming 2 cars per household as statistics show for Rawdon¹ this could bring at least an extra 2300 cars onto the road in this already heavily congested area.

Variable	Measure	Leeds 027D	Leeds (Metropolitan District)	Yorkshire and The Humber	England
All Households (Households) ¹	Count	556	320,596	2,224,059	22,063,368
No Cars or Vans in Household (Households) ¹	Count	37	102,787	612,903	5,691,251
1 Car or Van in Household (Households) ¹	Count	205	133,414	954,222	9,301,776
2 Cars or Vans in Household (Households) ¹	Count	241	68,943	521,858	5,441,593
3 Cars or Vans in Household (Households) ¹	Count	55	11,751	102,611	1,203,865
4 or More Cars or Vans in Household (Households) ¹	Count	18	3,701	32,465	424,883
All Cars or Vans in Area (Vehicles) ¹	Count	937	323,030	2,451,298	25,696,833

¹ Statistics.gov.uk