

Stratford-on-Avon District Council

Ecological and Geological Study of Local Service Villages

Settlement Assessment: Wilmcote

Designated sites:

Status and Name	Area in hectares	Grid ref.	Description
SSSI Copmill Hill	11.5	SP1352	
Local Wildlife Sites			
SP15P4 Marsh Road Meadow	0.28	SP1535	Semi-natural grasslands & marsh
SP15U2 Hardwick Farm Meadows	21.65	SP1655	Semi-natural grasslands & marsh
LWS potential site			
SP15N2 Wilmcote Rough	2.48	SP1535	Semi-natural grasslands & marsh
SP15P1 Fields Near Caraven Park	1.39	SP1565	Semi-natural grasslands & marsh
SP15P5 Fields to South of Marsh Road	0.78	SP1535	Semi-natural grasslands & marsh
SP15T3 Warren Chase Water	3.65	SP1675	Water courses and water bodies
SP15U1 Hardwick Farm Meadows LWS extension	1.19	SP1655	Semi-natural grasslands & marsh
SP15Li1t Stratford-upon-Avon Canal	53.81	SP1876	Water courses and water bodies

Key Target Notes

- SP15n34 and SPp17 – Copmill Hill SSSI
- SP15p18 Marsh Road Meadow Local Wildlife Site
- SP15u8 - SP15u12; Hardwick Farm Meadows Local Wildlife Site
- SP15u19 – Spu26; Mixed habitat around Mary Arden's House
- SP15t10 – Warren Chase Water
- SP15p5 – Woods at Wilmcote Rough

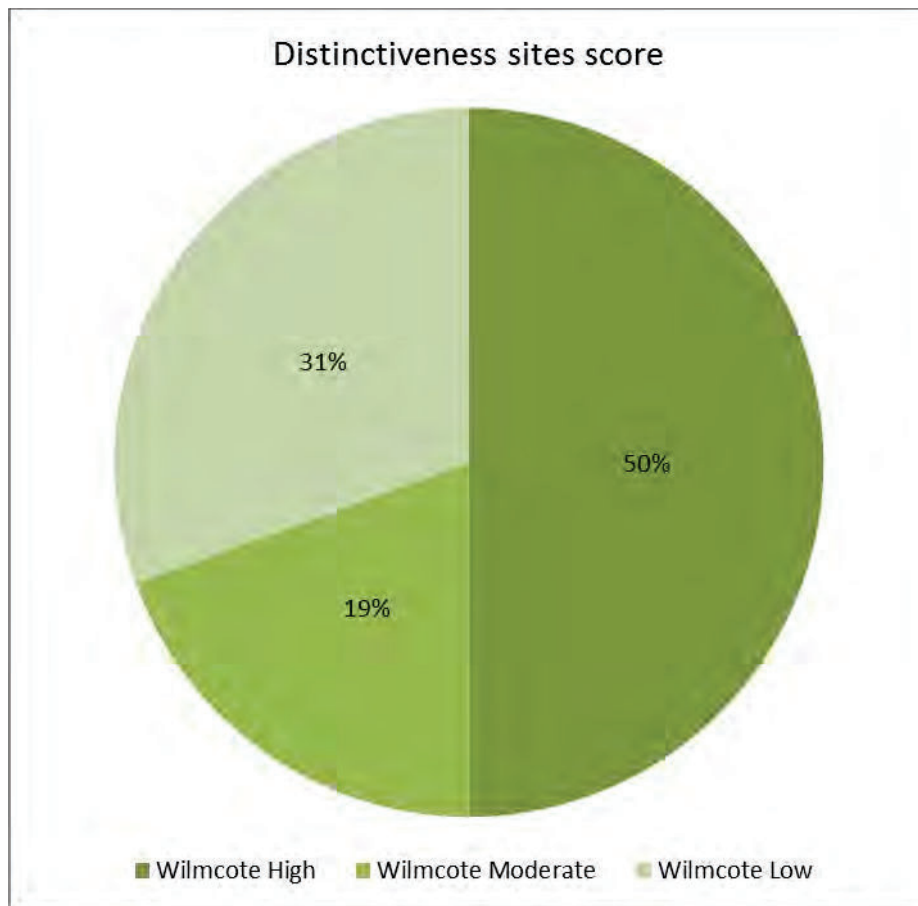
Habitat Description

Wilmcote has an overall 50 per cent of habitat score for high distinctiveness. These include the SSSI Copmill Hill site and the Marsh Road Meadow and Hardwick Farm Meadows Local Wildlife Site. In addition to these are the meadows around Mary Arden's House museum site.

Broad-leaved semi-natural woodlands are also a feature of the area the main sites are to the south of Hardwick Farm Meadows, Mary Arden's House museum and woods at Wilmcote Rough

The Water courses and water bodies also contribute to the high distinctiveness scores in particular is the Stratford-upon-Avon Canal and the Warren Chase Water

Distinctiveness Phase 1 habitats	No. of sites	Area in hectares	Score
High			
A111 Broad-leaved semi-natural woodland	28	19.90	84
A5 Orchard	2	0.51	6
B22 Semi-improved neutral grassland	16	17.04	48
B32 Semi-improved calcareous grassland	3	2.58	9
G1 Standing water	11	6.63	33
Sub Total	60	46.66	180
Moderate			
A112 Broad-leaved plantation	9	7.26	18
A21 Dense/continuous scrub	9	2.27	18
A22 Scattered scrub	2	0.63	6
B6 Semi-improved neutral grassland	13	5.65	26
J112 Allotments	1	0.09	2
J113 Set-aside	1	0.13	1
Sub Total	35	16.02	71
Low			
A122 Coniferous plantation	2	0.85	2
A132 Mixed plantation	6	2.33	6
B4 Improved grassland	54	153.79	54
C31 Tall ruderal	3	1.26	6
J11 Arable	13	115.07	13
J12 Amenity grassland	32	10.94	64
Sub Total	110	284.24	145
Totals	205	346.92	396



Geological Description

Wilmcote has much potential for its late Triassic – early Jurassic geology (Penarth Group and basal Blue Lias Formation including the Wilmcote Limestone) with considerable potential for important palaeontological discoveries. Any excavations into natural geology would be of potential interest for purposes of recording and/or museum collecting.

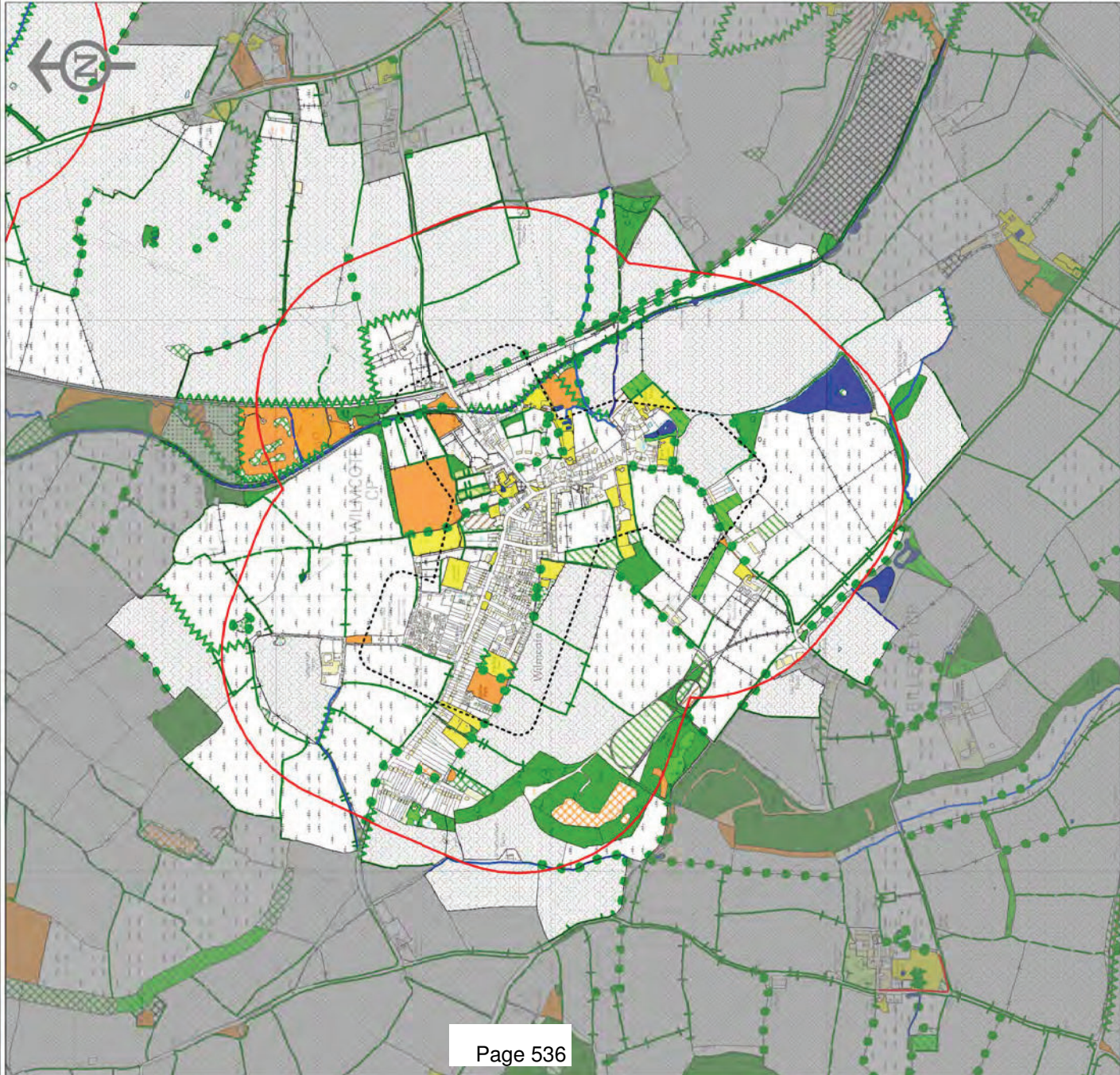
Protected Species

The bat species of brown long-eared has been recorded in the settlement area. In the wider area there are additional records of grass snake, badger, hedgehog, barn owl with additional bat records of common pipistrelle, natterer and an indeterminate bat species plus a butterfly record of grizzled skipper, dingy skipper, pearl-bordered fritillary, white-letter hairstreak and small heath. There are also rare plants including basil thyme, blue pimpernel, lesser centaury, parsley water dropwort, yellow bird’s-nest, small scabious, rye brome and field garlic, round-headed leek, greater butterfly orchid and hounds tongue in the wider area.

Recommendations for Further Survey

- Stratford-upon-Avon Canal
- Fields at Mary Arden’s House museum, new potential local wildlife site
- Extension to Hardwick Farm Meadows

WILMCOTE



PHASE 1 HABITAT SURVEY

Habitat Types

	A111 (Broad-leaved semi-natural woodland)
	A112 (Broad-leaved plantation)
	A121 (Coniferous semi-natural woodland)
	A122 (Coniferous plantation)
	A131 (Mixed semi-natural woodland)
	A132 (Mixed plantation)
	A21 (Dense/continuous scrub)
	A22 (Scattered scrub)
	A31 (Broad-leaved parkland/scattered trees)
	A32 (Coniferous parkland/scattered trees)
	A4 (Recently felled woodland)
	A5 (Orchard)
	B11 (Unimproved acidic grassland)
	B12 (Semi-improved acidic grassland)
	B22 (Unimproved neutral grassland)
	B23 (Semi-improved neutral grassland)
	B31 (Unimproved calcareous grassland)
	B32 (Semi-improved calcareous grassland)
	B4 (Improved grassland)
	B5 (Marsh/marshy grassland)
	B6 (Poor semi-improved grassland)
	C11 (Continuous bracken)
	C31 (Tall ruderal)

	C32 (Non-ruderal)
	D5 (Dry heath/acid grassland mosaic)
	E11 (Sphagnum Bog)
	E21 (Acid/neutral flush)
	E31 (Valeiy mire)
	E32 (Basin mire)
	F1 (Swamp)
	F22 (Inundation vegetation)
	G1 (Standing water)
	G2 (Running water)
	I21 (Quarry)
	I22 (Spill)
	I23 (Mire)
	I24 (Refuse tip)
	J11 (Arable)
	J112 (Allotments)
	J113 (Set-aside)
	J12 (Amenity grassland)
	J13 (Ephemeral/short perennial)
	J14 (Introduced shrub)
	J36 (Buildings)
	J4 (Bare ground)

Linear Features

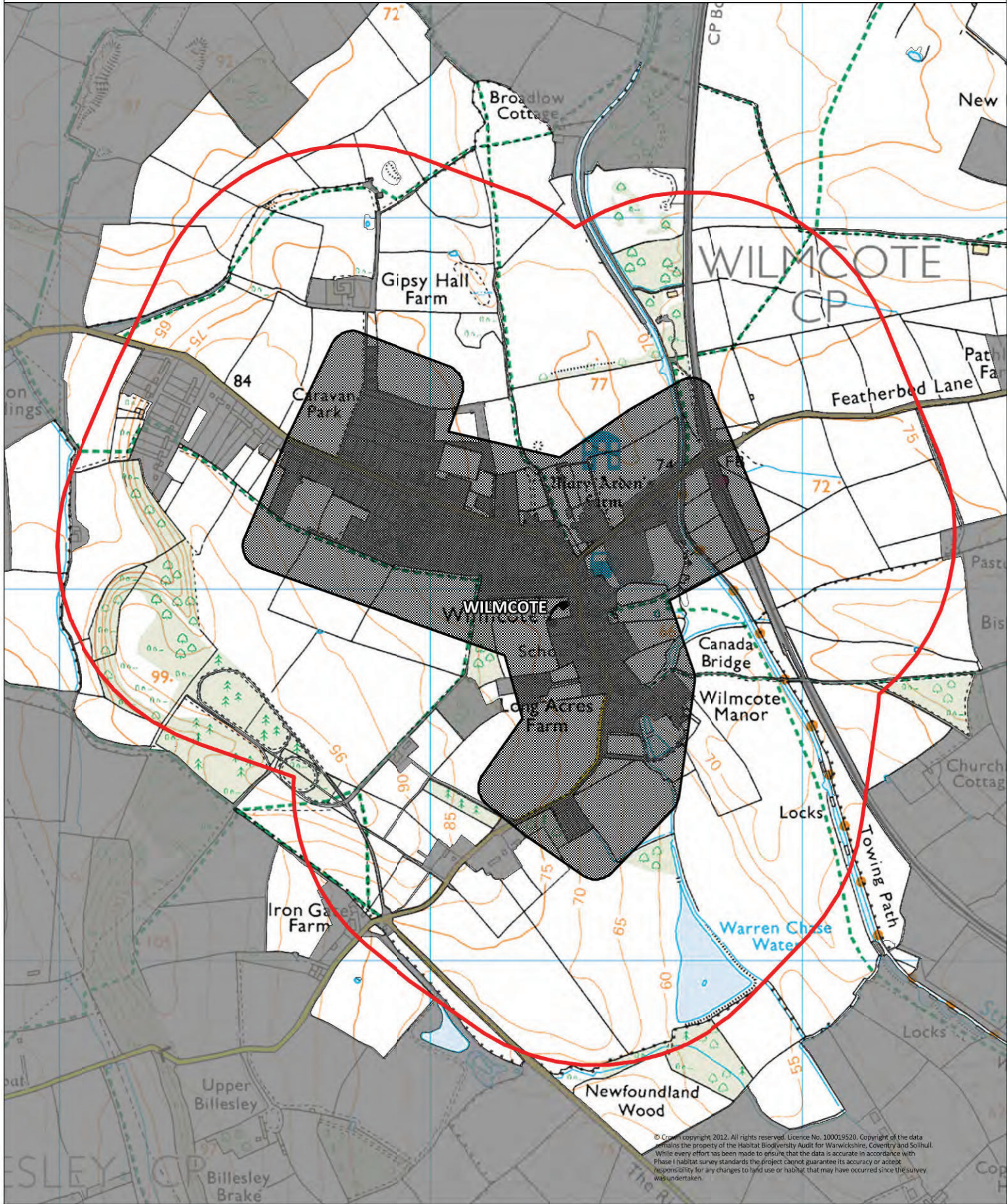
	A21 (Linear Scrub)
	A3 (Linear Trees)
	G1 (Standing Water)
	G2 (Running Water)
	I1 (Inland Cliff)
	J21 (Intact Hedge)
	J211 (Native Species Rich Intact Hedge)
	J22 (Defunct Hedge)

	J23 (Hedge with Trees)
	J231 (Native Species Rich Hedge with Trees)
	J24 (Fence)
	J25 (Wall)
	J26 (Dry Ditch)
	J27 (Boundary Removed)
	J28 (Earth Bank)

STUDY AREA
 500m buffer

OS DEVELOPED LAND USE AREA
 Settlements

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4.2 SQKM

Settlements



Settlements

500m Buffer



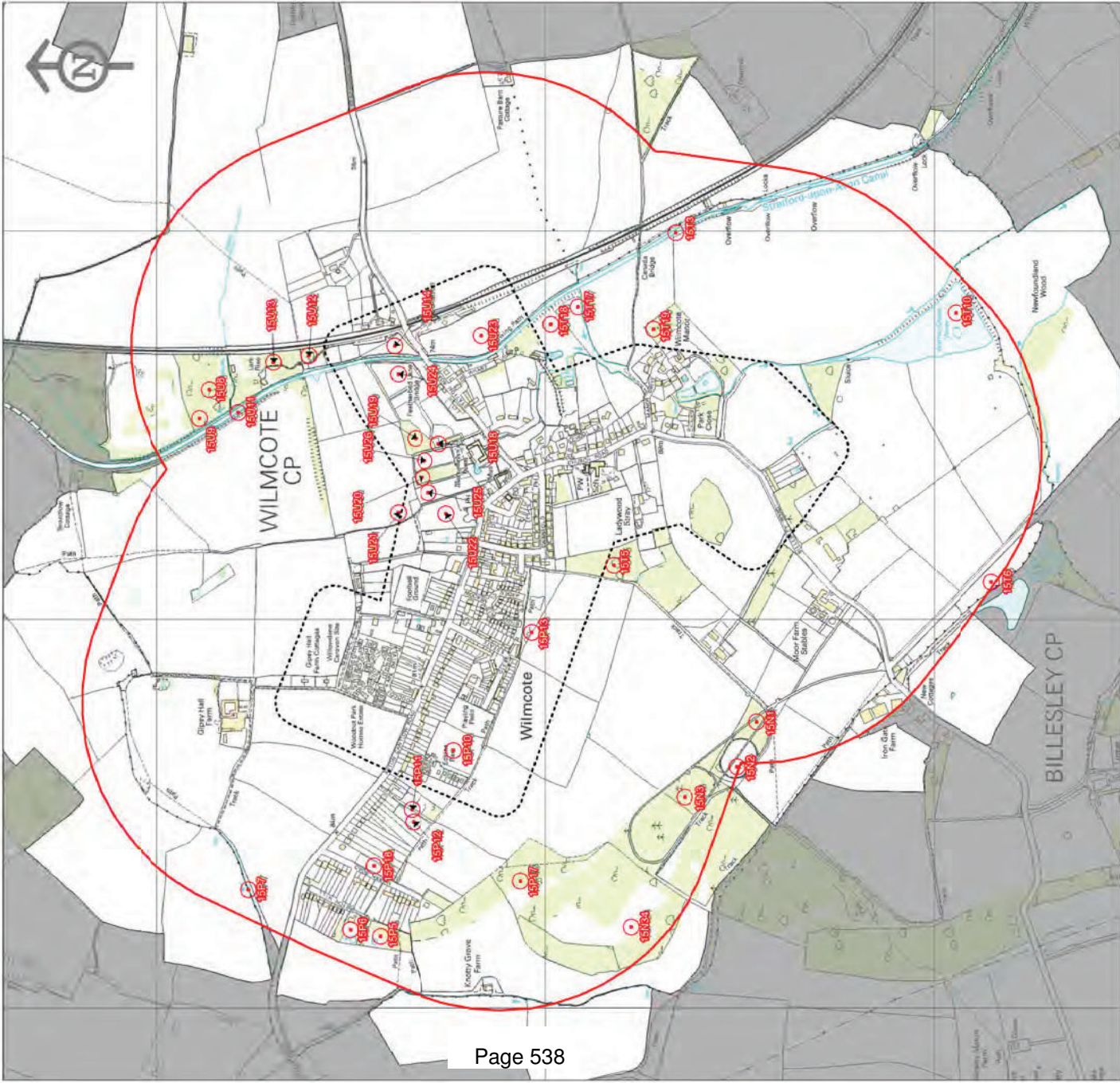
500m Buffer

WILMCOTE

TARGET NOTES
 Point

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Wilmcote

- sp15n1 A young plantation of large leaved lime over semi-improved grassland. The grasses include dominant *Arrhenatherum elatius*; frequent *Holcus lanatus* and occasional *Bromus mollis*. There was abundant creeping thistle; red bartsia; common sorrel; common ragwort and prickly sow thistle with occasional prickly lettuce; agrimony; selfheal and common centaury. UPDATED 01/06/2011 OP. Trees are poplar, not lime.
- sp15n2 Semi-improved grassland with some ruderals including creeping thistle; common ragwort; prickly sow thistle and common sorrel. Grasses present include dominant *Arrhenatherum elatius*; frequent *Dactylis glomerata*; *Alopecurus pratensis*; *Elytrigia repens*; and occasional *Holcus lanatus*. Tufted vetch; black knapweed; nettles; red bartsia; agrimony and black medick are all frequent. UPDATED 01/06/2011 OP. Now dense scrub.
- sp15n3 Young large leaved lime plantation with improved grass below. UPDATED 01/06/2011 OP. Trees are poplar, not lime.
- SP15N34 Copmill Hill SSSI. Semi-improved calcareous grassland surrounded by dense oak and hawthorn woodland. Grassland species include salad burnet, dyers greenweed, common spotted orchid, agrimony, zig-zag clover, meadow vetchling and birds foot trefoil.
- sp15p10 A small flowering meadow next to a caravan park and nursery. This contains *Arrhenatherum elatius*; *Holcus lanatus* and *Dactylis glomerata*. There is abundant red clover; and frequent nettle leaved bellflower; black knapweed; yellow rattle; coltsfoot; and common ragwort. Also found were wild carrot; field bindweed; and meadow vetchling. UPDATED 29/03/2012 by OP. Semi-improved neutral grassland with white violets and cowslip. Little else to see at time of year.
- sp15p11 This path/track between two gardens is enclosed on each side with a hedge with trees; so is quite shaded. The flora at the sides of the path contains *Arrhenatherum elatius* with *Dactylis glomerata* and frequent agrimony; wild basil and field scabious.
- sp15p12 A garden; so the land is ostensibly amenity grassland but it does in places have areas where the grass has been left uncut and appears to have developed a more varied flora. However; no access was possible.
- sp15p13 The northern end of an arable field has been separated from the rest of the field by a recently installed fence. In this area the grasses are dominated by *Elytrigia repens* and *Arrhenatherum elatius* with *Poa* and *Bromus* spp. also present. In this area there is abundant wild carrot; common ragwort; red bartsia; creeping thistle and rosebay willowherb. Also occasional to the site were ploughman's-spikenard; wild onion; teasel and selfheal. There is some scrub invasion beginning to become evident.
- sp15p17 Copmill Hill. Recorder site no. 791. This is a SSSI because of the calcareous vegetation and the entomological interest which has developed on this site. No access was given for this survey but a previous survey in 1993 found carline thistle; woolly thistle; yellowwort; small scabious and dyer's-greenweed. The insects noted include thirty species of butterflies and colonies of nationally rare moths.



sp15p18	Marsh Road Meadow SINC. The vegetation appears to be CG5 Bromus erectus- Brachypodium pinnatum grassland. The sward is diverse with 13 grasses and 30 herbs recorded. Several grasses are co-dominant; these are Briza media; Bromus erectus; Brachypodium pinnatum; Trisetum flavescens; Arrhenatherum elatius and Lolium perenne. Carex Flacca is also co-dominant whilst Anthoxanthum odoratum; Holcus lanatus and Dactylis glomerata are abundant. The sward is herb rich with red clover; lesser knapweed and birds foot trefoil the most abundant herbs. Other Species include wild onion; wild carrot; hoary ragwort; ladies bedstraw; cowslip; ox-eye daisy; agrimony; common spotted orchid; greater knapweed; common centaury and field scabious. The field was donkey grazed up until eight years ago and has been cut annually since. The cuttings where removed at first but are now left. UPDATED 29/03/2012 by OP. No access. Some scrub encroachment but what grassland remains is in good condition. No grass cuttings.
sp15p5	Dense scrub of elder; blackthorn; hawthorn; and dog rose; while on the path which leads through this area are found selfheal; common centaury; common birds foot trefoil; tufted vetch; perforate st johns wort and occasional common milkwort; a common plant of basic soils. UPDATED 29/03/2012 by OP. Now a semi mature woodland.
sp15p6	A young plantation with a mixture of oak; ash; hawthorn; beech; birch; rowan; sycamore; hawthorn and spruces. This has not developed a closed canopy yet; and it still contains abundant Arrhenatherum elatius with Holcus lanatus and Deschampsia cespitosa. Rosebay willowherb; yarrow; mugwort and tufted vetch are common with bittersweet; birdsfoot trefoil and pignut all present.
sp15p7	Ditch and hedge boundary to the field; there is running water in the bottom of the ditch. The edges are often poached by cattle coming to drink. It contains brooklime; pendulous sedge; water mint; teasel and fools watercress. Along the banks of the stream there is scarlet pimpernel; herb robert; bittersweet; and abundant Holcus lanatus. Peacock butterflies and one ringlet were seen in the area at the time of the survey.
sp15t10	A water feature probably managed for fishing; this has amenity cut grass along the edges of the lake; with scattered trees; particularly willows overhanging the water at points. There is an island in the middle with a mix of trees; willows; alder and conifers all evident. There is no obvious vegetation in the middle of the lake; but in a few areas around the edge there are stands of Typha sp.
SP15T17	Neglected species rich semi-improved grassland, surrounded by trees and a stream. Mossy grassland with ox-eye daisy, creeping cinquefoil, common dog violet, ground ivy, common knapweed, teasel. Rosebay willowherb and bramble establishing.
SP15T18	Small semi-improved grassland field with ridge and furrow. Contains a pond and has abundant cow slips, creeping cinquefoil, lesser celandine.
SP15T19	Newly, but sparsely planted mixed plantation.
sp15t3	A high bank on the canal with little vegetation on the towpath; but abundant burdock at the edges with peacock butterflies very active around here at the time of the survey. The other bank is dominated by willow; great willowherb; meadowsweet; and Glyceria maxima with patches of Typha sp.
sp15t5	A recently planted broadleaf woodland; formed of a mosaic of stands of ash; sycamore; beech and horse chestnut.
sp15t6	Two fields for horse grazing with abundant Phleum pratense; Lolium perenne; Dactylis glomerata and rare examples of Brachypodium pinnatum at the edges. The forbs present were found at low density; and consisted of scattered common sorrel; creeping thistle; bush vetch; selfheal and black medick; with rare agrimony at the edges.



Target Notes

sp15u11	Stretch of the Stratford-On-Avon Canal. There is little aquatic vegetation; but some amphibious bistort. The banks support yellow flag; purple loosestrife; <i>Juncus inflexus</i> ; meadowsweet; water mint; colt's-foot; <i>Carex remota</i> ; <i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i> and <i>Dactylis glomerata</i> . The hedge on the east bank has been laid; but is in poor condition in some parts. It consists of hawthorn; wild privet; crab apple; elm; field maple and dog rose; with ash and willow standards. There is ivy covering some of the trees and wild clematis over part of the hedge. The west bank; to the south; contains patches of rose; willow and hawthorn scrub.
sp15u12	Area of dense tall common hawthorn scrub; with occasional crab apple; elder; wild privet and willow. There is no ground flora; except some nettle near the railway.
sp15u13	Mature woodland with a sparse canopy of ash; although common hawthorn also contributes to the canopy. There is some oak and several of the trees are ivy-covered. There is some elder understorey and nettle; violet sp.; young wild privet and field maple in the ground flora.
sp15u14	Uncut meadow dominated by tall grasses; such as <i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i> and <i>Holcus lanatus</i> . The main part of the field contains abundant creeping thistle with black knapweed and yarrow. There are also melilot sp.; hogweed; meadow vetchling; red clover and a yellow umbellifer (probably wild parsnip).
sp15u18	Young orchard with some hazel. The underlying grass appears to be regularly mown.
sp15u19	Continuous scrub of hawthorn; blackthorn; elder and elm; with apple; plum and damson. Copper beech is rare. Paths have been mown through the area. Open areas are dominated by nettle; with hedge bindweed; cleavers; creeping thistle; agrimony; upright hedge parsley; cowslip; nipplewort; bramble; common hemp nettle; selfheal; meadow vetchling; field rose; great willowherb and <i>Bromus ramosus</i> also present. Where the scrub is denser; sparse nettle; cuckoo pint and dock occur.
sp15u20	Mature orchard; grazed by sheep. Grasses are short; but <i>Dactylis glomerata</i> ; <i>Hordeum secalinum</i> ; <i>Festuca</i> sp.; <i>Cynosurus cristatus</i> and <i>Lolium perenne</i> are identifiable. Forbs appear to be rare; but include creeping thistle; nettle; dock; cuckoo pint and cowslip.
sp15u21	Abandoned site; to which access could not be gained. Grasses dominate; but there are also many tall ruderals; including nettle; yarrow; mugwort; ragwort; scentless mayweed; teasel; burdock and hedge bindweed. There is some elder scrub encroaching. UPDATED 27/03/2012 by OP. Site not abandoned, but heavily horse grazed semi-improved grassland. Maybe of unimproved quality as there are numerous anthills and ridge and furrow. Owner confirmed there has been no fertiliser applied in his lifetime since the second world war. Contact details obtained for survey at more suitable time of year.
sp15u22	Apparently disused site containing tall grasses; such as <i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i> and <i>Elytrigia repens</i> and tall ruderals; such as nettle; dock; creeping thistle and great willowherb. There is some scrub encroachment of bramble; elder; field maple and young ash.
sp15u23	Meadow that had been recently cut at the time of survey. Re-survey required.
SP15U24	Mary Arden's farm. Working tudor farm under higher level stewardship, and organic entry level stewardship. Mix of permanent pasture, orchards, layed native hedgerows and a meadow (at target note point). At time of visit, the meadow contained cowslips, however a survey in July 2010 listed: yellow rattle, common vetch, common melilot, tufted vetch, lady's bedstraw, meadow cranesbill, knapweed, meadow buttercup, red clover, selfheal, oxeye daisy, meadow vetching, birds foot trefoil, and field scabious.
SP15U25	Small poor semi-improved permanent pasture field with ridge and furrow.
SP15U26	Small poor semi-improved permanent pasture field with ridge and furrow, plus species rich hedgerows.



Target Notes

sp15u8	Area of locally dense scrub; consisting of common hawthorn; blackthorn and field maple. An open area towards the canal contains nettle; creeping thistle; great willowherb; wild angelica and common comfrey.
sp15u9	Dense common hawthorn; elder and crack willow scrub with a little wild privet. The ground flora contains much herb robert and also garlic mustard; nettle; nipplewort; ground ivy and Bromus sterilis.

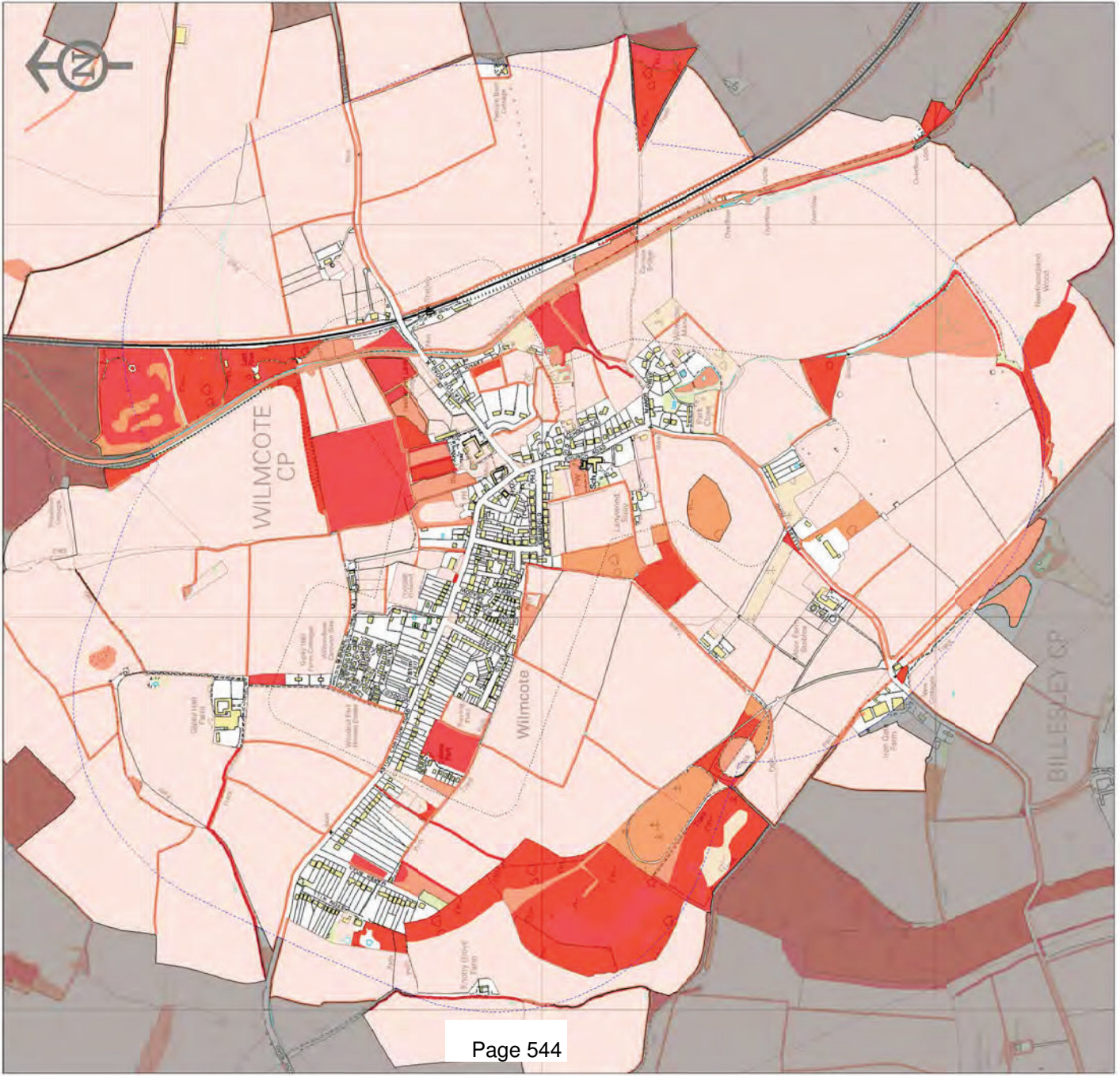


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Settlement Distinctiveness

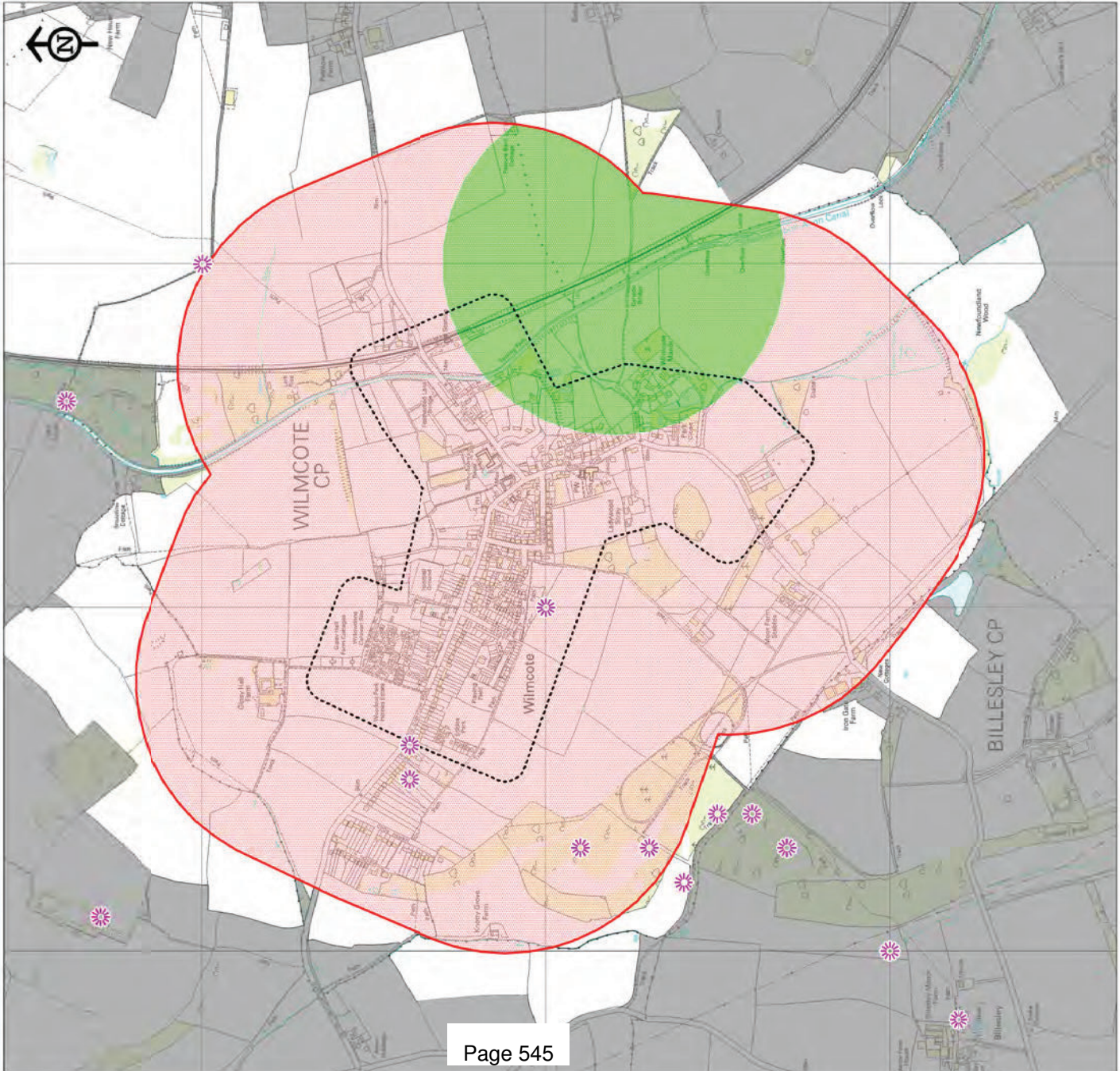
3: HIGH
 2: MODERATE
 1: LOW

STUDY AREA
 500m buffer

OS DEVELOPED LAND USE AREA
 Settlements

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Species

- Buffer zone for water vole or white-clawed crayfish
- Buffer zone for protected amphibians and reptiles
- Buffer zone for bat
- Black Poplar
- Veteran tree
- County rare plant

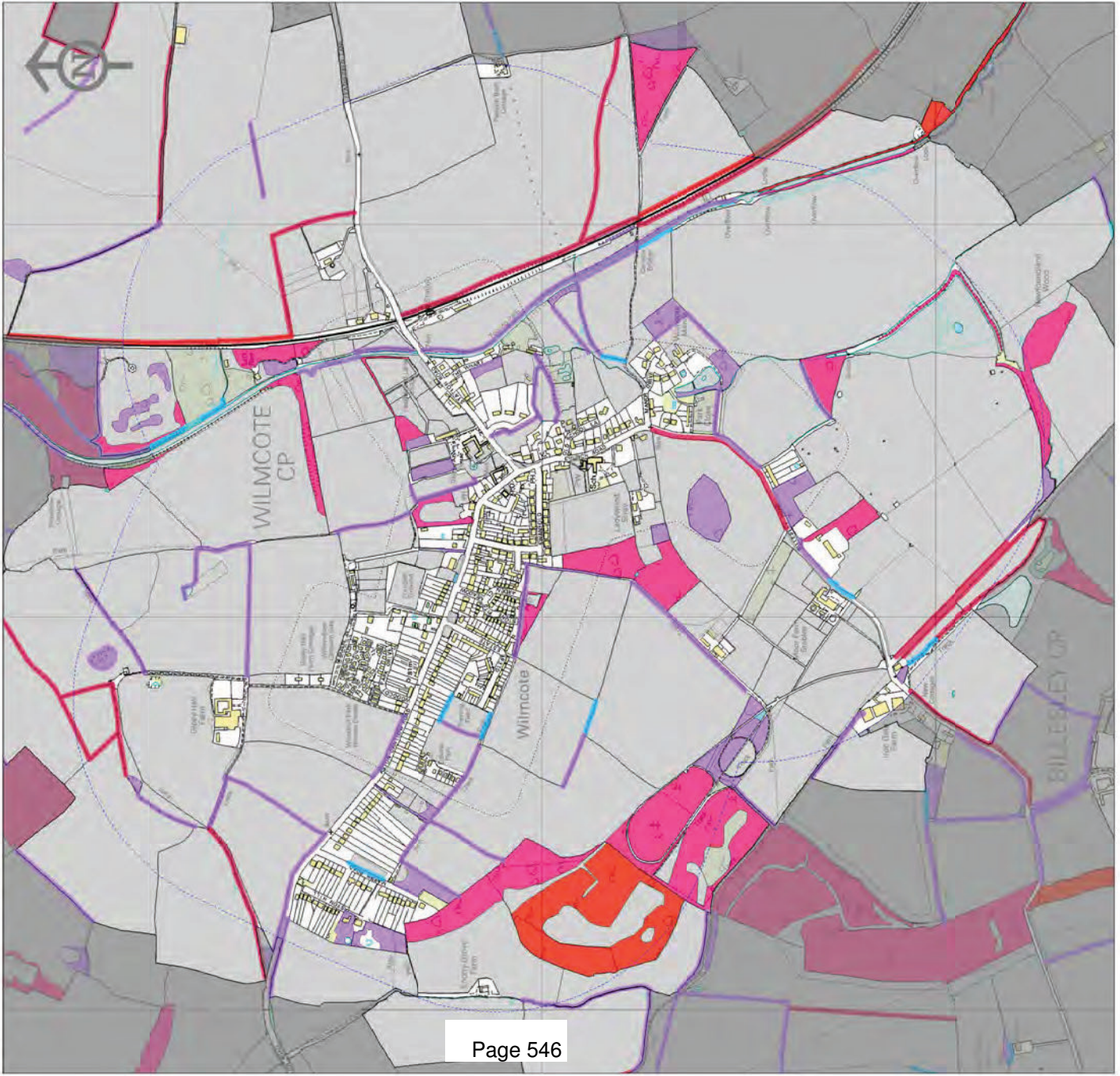
- STUDY AREA
- 500m buffer
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- Settlements

Warwickshire Biological Records Centre



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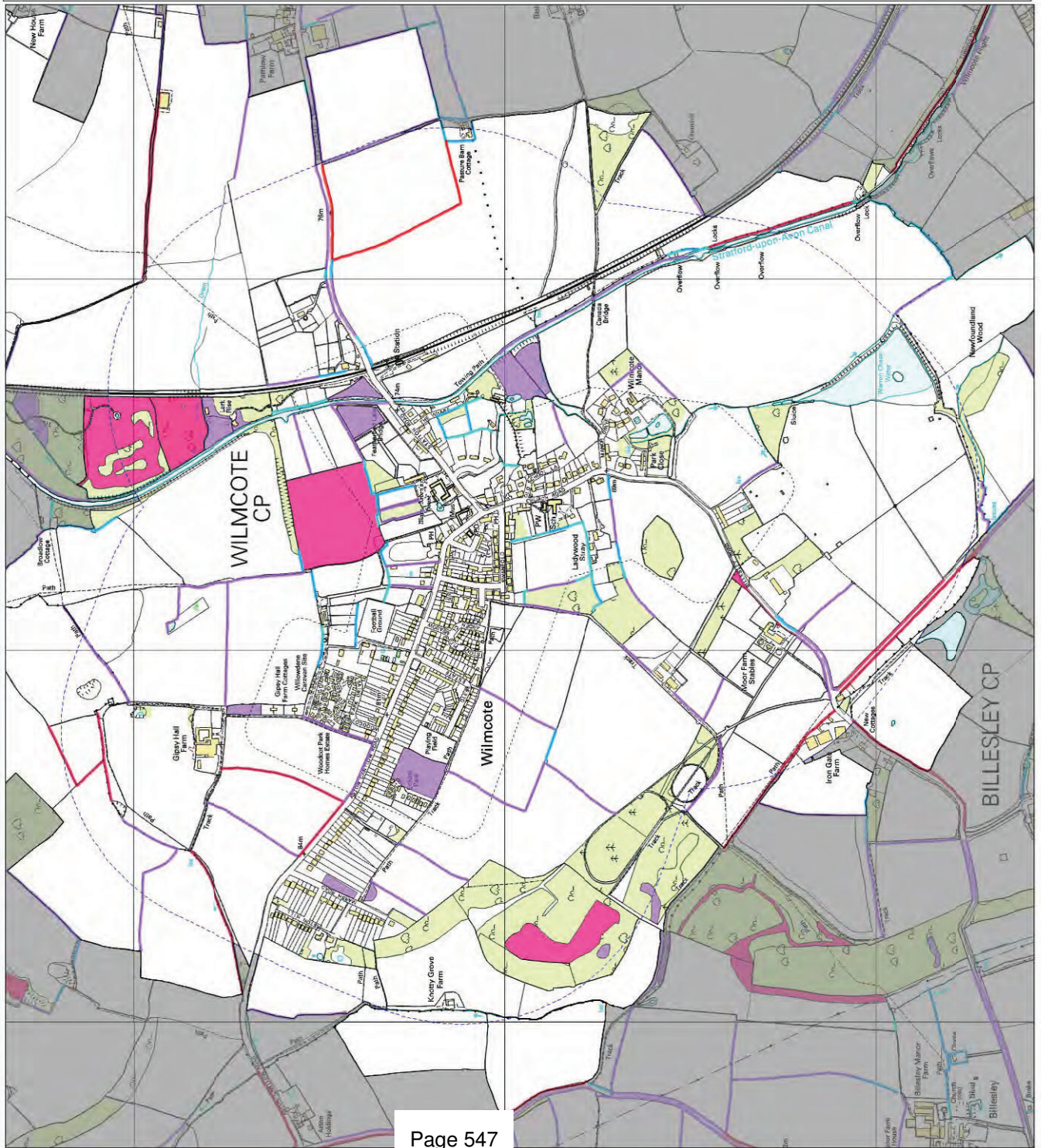
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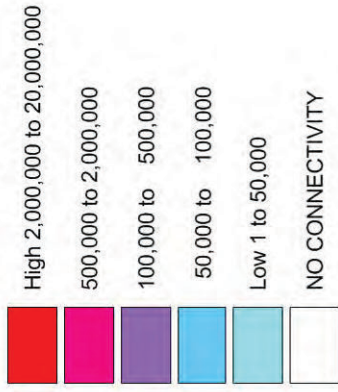
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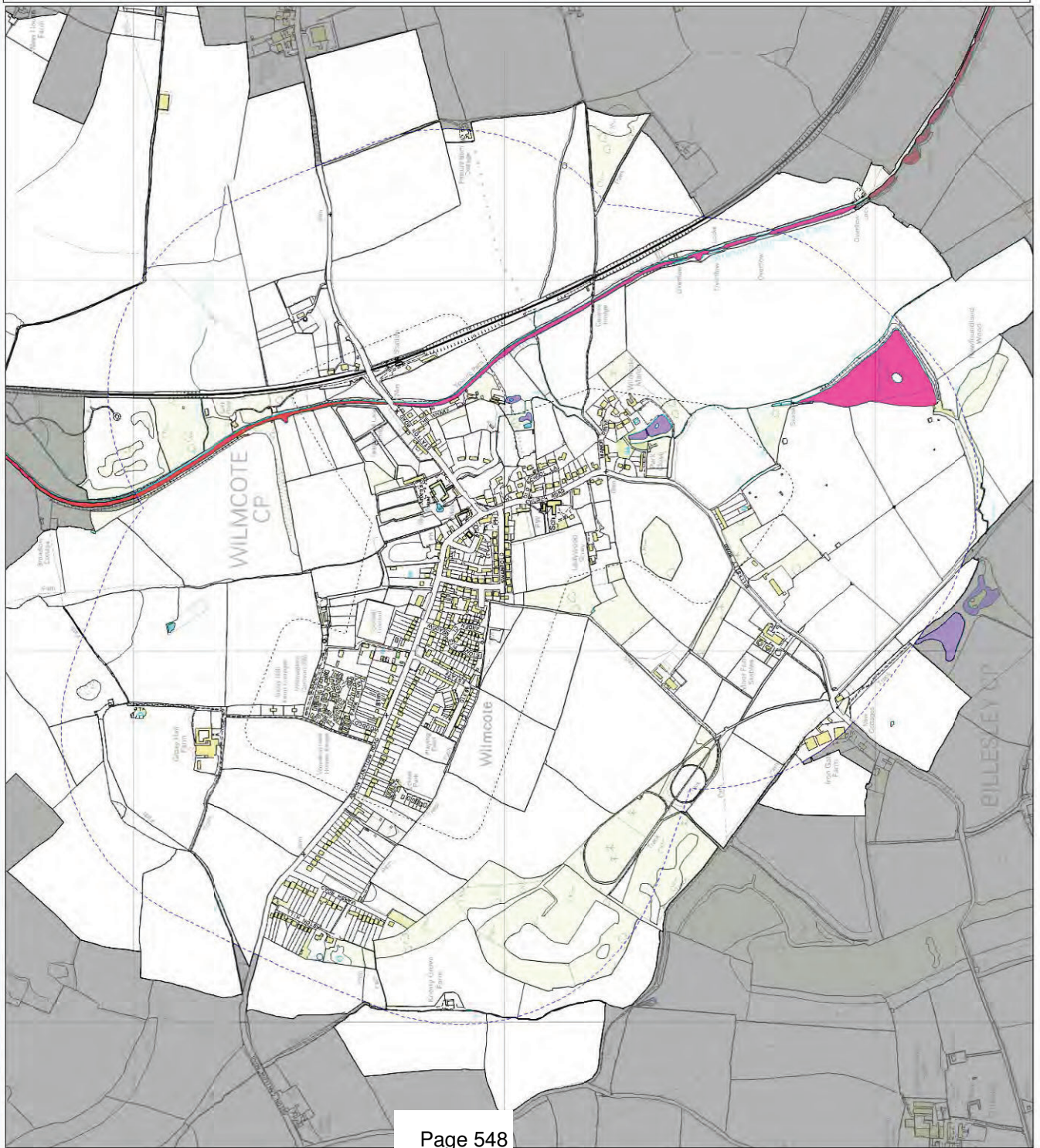


Grassland 1km Connectivity

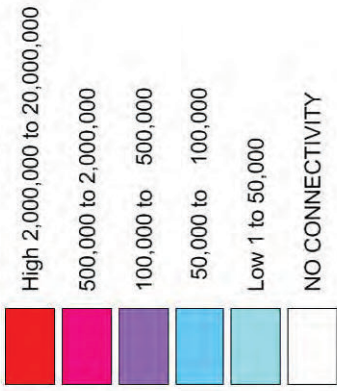




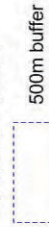
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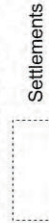
Pond 1km Connectivity



STUDY AREA



OS DEVELOPED LAND USE AREA



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