

Table 4.1: Summary of SSSI in Harborough

SSSI Name	Main Habitat	(ha)	Condition
Allextan Wood	Broadleaved mixed and yew woodland	25.89	Unfavourable recovering
Cave's Inn Pits	Neutral grassland	5.82	Unfavourable recovering
Chater Valley	Neutral grassland	3.84	Unfavourable recovering
Eyebrook Reservoir (straddles Rutland)	Broadleaved mixed and yew woodland	201.3	Unfavourable recovering
Eyebrook Valley Woods	Broadleaved mixed and yew woodland	65.71	Unfavourable recovering
Great Bowden Borrowpit	Fen, marsh and swamp	2.43	Favourable
Kilby-Foxton Canal (straddles Oadby and Wigston)	Standing open water and canals	32.09	Unfavourable no change
Launde Bigwood	Broadleaved mixed and yew woodland	41.16	Unfavourable recovering
Leighfied Forest	Broadleaved mixed and yew woodland and neutral grassland	149.76	Most of it is unfavourable recovering.
Misterton Marshes	Fen, marsh and swamp and neutral grassland	6.81	Unfavourable recovering
Owston Woods	Broadleaved mixed and yew woodland	139.56	Unfavourable recovering
Saddington Reservoir	Fen, marsh and swamp and broadleaved mixed and yew woodland and neutral grassland	19.08	Favourable
Stanford Park	Broadleaved mixed and yew woodland	20.44	Unfavourable recovering
Tilton Railway Cutting	Designated for geological assets	4.44	Favourable

Source: Natural England (2013) – Condition of SSSI units²⁹

Appendix G – SSSIs in Harborough District

Area	Key Features Important to Biodiversity		Designated Areas	Protected & Notable Species Recorded in the Area
Market Harborough	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • River Welland and associated semi-improved grassland and brooks • Other rivers, railways and canals • Mature hedgerows around Great Bowden • Ponds found to support breeding great crested newts 	SSSI	Great Bowden Borrowpit within 2km - any proposed development must not negatively impact the integrity of the site.	Badgers, bats, reptiles, great crested newts and otters
		LWS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sections of the Grand Union Canal • Two veteran ash trees at Orchard House 	
		Sites of Parish Level Importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A grassland pasture. • Roadside verge on Leicester Road. • River Welland – considered likely to meet LWS criteria due to presence of Red Data Book species. 	
Blutterworth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bitteswell Brook • River Swift • Disused railway to the east of town 	SSSI	Misterton Marsh within 1km to the east - any proposed development must not negatively impact the integrity of the site.	Badgers, freshwater crayfish, bullhead and common redstart. A notable species is the Hungarian brome, a grass with restricted distribution nationally and very few county records though it is not considered to be a native species.
		Sites of Parish Level Importance	Several sites along the River, brook and disused railway.	
Broughton Astley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • River Sence and associated brooks • Disused railway • Veteran trees to the north and south of Broughton Astley around Primethorpe Meadows LWS and south of Old Mill Road • Mature hedgerows to the north of Broughton Astley 	SSSI	Croft Pasture, Croft Hill and Croft & Huncote Quarry – those three sites located at Croft (outside HDC) could potentially suffer from increased visitor pressure should any large residential or employment developments occur to the north of Broughton Astley	Water voles, white-clawed crayfish, bats and badgers, ponds with potential to support amphibian populations. Other notable species – kingfishers and mistletoe.
		LWS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primethorpe Meadows • Broughton Astley Grassland • River Sence 	
		Sites of Parish Level Importance	Six sites	

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Scraptoft, Thumby and Bushby	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bushby Brook • Thumby Brook • Species rich hedgerow along the A47 • Semi natural broad-leaved woodland at Bushby Spinney & The Mount • Other brooks, disused railway line and a number of mature hedges 	LNR	Scraptoft	Badgers, bats, great crested newts (recorded approx. 1km to the southeast of Bushby), ponds with potential to support amphibian populations.
		LWS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bushby Spinney • The species rich hedgerow, two veteran trees and a small area of herb-rich neutral grassland adjacent to Bushby Brook are potential LWSs. 	
		Sites of Parish Level Importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bushby Brook • Thumby Brook • A number of hedgelines • Disused railway line 	
Urban Fringe (three discrete sites surveyed around Oadby and Great Glen)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plantation woodland at Glen Gorse • River Sence which runs within 50m of the surveyed areas 	SSSI	Kilby – Foxton Canal within 2km and known to support an important roost of Daubenton's bats – any proposed development must not negatively impact the integrity of the canal corridor or its interest features	Badgers, bats, kingfishers and bullfinches.
		LNR	Lucas Marsh (in Oadby) is approx. 1km away	
		LWS	Several sites within close proximity though none within the surveyed areas	
		Sites of Parish Level Importance	One of the sites, the hedgerow between Oadby and Wigston, is likely to meet LWS criteria	

Source: WYG Environment, 2008. Harborough District Council: Phase 1 Habitat Survey