

## TEN ACRES, REA VALLEY

## Site Summary Report

Report generated on 14/06/2021



EcoRecord Reference	Site Name	Other Name(s)	Grid Reference
BM092:9	Ten Acres, Rea Valley	none	SP060820

Current Designation	Designation Status	Designation Reason
SLINC (part); PSI (part)	Recognised	Wildlife

Planning Authority	Site Ownership	Area (ha)	Length (m)	Date of Most Recent Survey
Birmingham City Council	Birmingham City Council/EA	9.74	n/a	24/01/1990

**Citation (Summary of Value)**

The River Rea is a small river rising in Waseley Hills and flowing in a semi-natural corridor connecting several important sites in south Birmingham before becoming canalised and flowing through built-up areas before joining Tame at Gravelly Hill.

**Description taken from 1990 Rea Valley Survey:**

The River Rea corridor is one of Birmingham's most important green "lungs" offering a wealth of different habitats and wildlife along its 11km length between Cannon Hill Park and the Worcestershire border.

Much of the stretch below Fordhouse Lane, Stirchley has been canalised as part of a flood prevention scheme and it lies in a corridor of mown reseeded grassland surrounded by factories and suburban roads. At present a great deal of this is of low wildlife value but small pockets of rough grassland, shrub and planted trees do occur, notably to the north and south of Dogpool Lane.

**Ten Acres Section**

The river beyond Cartland Road flows roughly north east for 750m through a corridor of neglected grassland east of the Pershore Road. Access is easy from many places along the route.

Access to this site is either from the river or via the nearby River Brook Drive.

**Habitats**

This stretch of the Rea runs through a matrix of tall herb and unimproved grassland with occasional clumps of scrub, some of it slowly invading adjacent habitats.

The only mature trees in the section, apart from a few crack willows, line the boundary fence to the west of the river just south of Dogpool Lane. These consist of large crack willow, alder and hybrid black poplar, apparently following the former course of the river. There is a sparse understorey of hazel here and this along with young crack willow and willow, is invading the adjacent grassland.

Other pockets of scrub, mainly willow, crack willow, alder and hawthorn, exist elsewhere along the section, particularly to the north and south of the Bourn confluence. One large patch just on the main river bend near "site 179" is rapidly maturing to form woodland.

A good range of other species occur in these scrub areas including downy and silver birch, hazel, oak, osier, elder, garden privet and dog rose.

Parallel with the river, particularly on the west side, is much tall herb dominated by bramble, rosebay and great willowherb, nettle, creeping thistle, cow parsley and dock with coarse grasses such as cock's-foot and false oat-grass and frequent patches of Japanese knotweed.

Beyond this is much rank neutral grassland with scattered clumps of tall herb such as dock, willowherb, tansy, mugwort, common sorrel and cow parsley. Much of the grassland consists of reverted rye grass pasture overgrown with cocks foot and false oat-grass with tufted hair-grass and reed canary grass in the damper areas. The finer grassy areas have Yorkshire fog, creeping bent and crested dogtail, along with herbs such as knapweed, ox-eye daisy, vetches and great burnet.

Many wasteland ruderals can be seen here such as lupin and michaelmas daisy while more unusual plants recorded include broadleaved everlasting-pea, tall rocket, hoary willowherb and goat's-rue.

The banks of the river have largely been canalised so few aquatic plants are still present. Much of the bank side vegetation consists of typical ruderals such as nettle, cow parsley and common wintercress. Lesser celandine and hairy sedge are numerous to the north and south of the Bourn confluence.

Between the river and Ashbrook Grove is a sizeable damp depression (site 179), possibly the remains of a former mill pool. It is rapidly becoming invaded by scrub, notably crack willow, goat sallow, hawthorn and alder with some hazel and sycamore. The densest and oldest section is on the east side of the depression. The rest of the depression is overgrown with meadowsweet, nettle and great willowherb providing an excellent habitat for birds and insects. Towards the north of the section, this tall herb gives way to much compact, soft and hard rush and a large colony of lesser pond sedge.

The most interesting part floristically is a wet drain running through the site, much overgrown, but providing a habitat for plants such as yellow flag, branched bur-reed, fool's watercress, brooklime, imperforate St John's-wort and angelica.

Habitats present
River; Neutral Grassland, Broad-leaved Woodland; Scrub

Citaitaion Document
BM092 Rea Valley - 1990 Local Site Survey

Notes
Designated as part of the wider Rea Valley (BM092) SLINC

Map Showing Boundary



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