



STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT DASHBOARD

WORKING COPY

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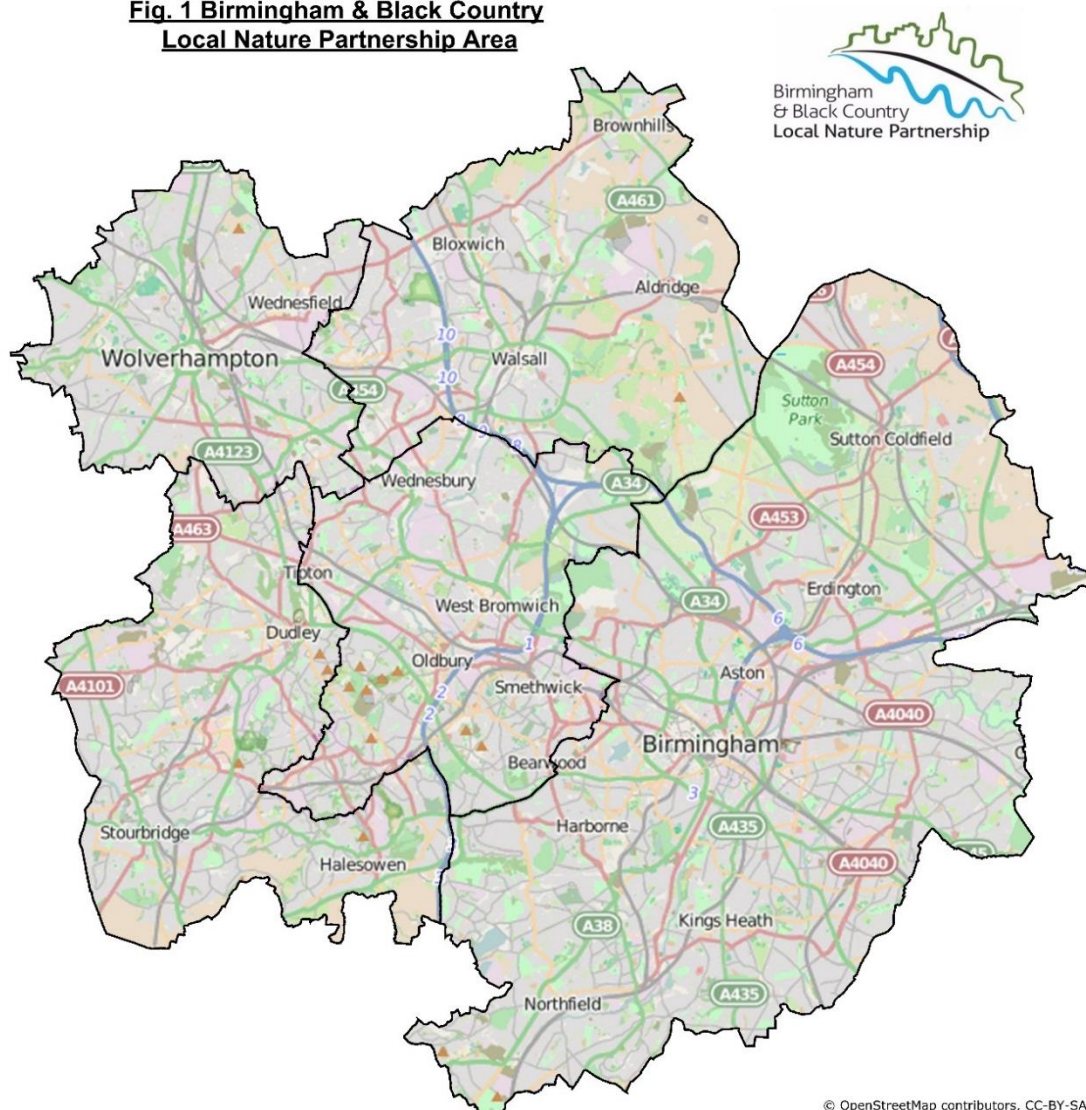
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1. Introduction to the Birmingham & Black Country Local Nature Partnership

The Birmingham & Black Country Local Nature Partnership (B&BC LNP) is one of 48 Local Nature Partnerships approved by government across England. The aim of the B&BC LNP is to represent, embed and champion the natural environment into local decision making for the benefit of its natural assets, people and the local economy. The board is chaired by John Box (Atkins), and is supported by a Secretariat provided by the Birmingham & Black Country Wildlife Trust, other board members represent the private sector, local authorities, the DEFRA agencies, partnerships that work for the natural environment, the voluntary sector and the health and well-being sector.

The B&BC LNP covers an area of around 60,000ha and is centrally located at the heart of England (see fig. 1). It represents a population of 2.1 million people, operating within the cities of Birmingham and Wolverhampton, and the Metropolitan Boroughs of Dudley, Sandwell and Walsall. These five urban areas contain a unique and outstanding collection of environmental assets including: 220km of canals and 686.5km of rivers and watercourses, our natural capital includes Sutton Park National Nature Reserve (one of the largest urban parks (877 ha) in Europe outside a capital city) and the Wrens Nest National Nature Reserve (the first urban NNR in the UK designated in the 1950s) which is the cornerstone of Black Country GeoPark UNESCO ambitions. Finally, and most significantly, the B&BC LNP is unique among LNPs, having an identical boundary to the Birmingham & Black Country Nature Improvement Area. For further information on the B&BC LNP please visit www.bbcwildlife.org.uk/LNP and for the NIA www.bbcwildlife.org.uk/NIA.

**Fig. 1 Birmingham & Black Country
Local Nature Partnership Area**



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2. Introduction to the State of the Environment Dashboard

The Black Country and Birmingham Local Nature Partnership (B&BC LNP) requires a clear State of the Environment Dashboard against which performance can be measured. Key indicators relating to various aspects of the 'Environment' need to be developed and monitored in order to understand the impact of all activity.

i. Progress

A working group consisting of representatives from the B&BC LNP, Birmingham City Council and the Black Country LEP - including Delma Dwight, Head of Intelligence, Black Country Consortium Ltd, Nick Grayson, Climate Change and Sustainability Manager, Birmingham City Council and Chris Parry, Birmingham & Black Country Wildlife Trust and LNP Co-ordinator met in October 2014 to review the various options and identified 13 potential indicators.

On the 23rd October 2014 the Black Country Environment Forum also reviewed in depth the draft state of the environment dashboard. It was suggested to the B&BC LNP that the 13 indicators that were initially drafted, should be refined to create a dashboard of indicators that would be reflective of the state of the environment, easily collectable in terms of data and would have the greatest impact for future development. From this an active framework has been developed and can be seen within Table 1 of this report.

ii. Active Dashboard

Table 1 sets out the proposed indicators that would form the main dashboard for the Birmingham & Black Country LNP. This will enable the LNP to monitor the current state of the environment, and how this can be moved or changed in a positive direction through effective actions and lobbying. Listed below are the proposed "active" indicators for the LNP to consider:-

- **Env 1: Quality of the Natural Environment** – this indicator will be split into four key categories, to give an indication as to the status of the natural environment and where it could be improved:-
 1. The number and area of sites depending on their classification status, this indicator also distinguishes between statutory and non-statutory wildlife and geological sites.
 2. The percentage and area of non-statutory sites in favourable management condition.
 3. The ownership status of non-statutory sites: public, private and unknown ownership.
 4. The approximate population within a 300m radius of the statutory and non-statutory sites.
- **Env 2: Length of Sustainable Transport Routes** – will focus on the development of the national and regional cycle network within Birmingham & the Black Country, which will have a close relationship to the local canal network and other areas of the natural environment.
- **Env 3: Encouraging exercise in the natural environment** – will show how the local population is using the environment for physical activity. The data is split into two separate indicators:-
 1. The type of exercise being performed within open space, and is split into an "outdoor location" where the location is fixed, for example football, and a "flexible location" which will include activities such as running and cycling.
 2. The Active People Survey which shows the number of individuals performing 1x30mins of exercise per week.
- **Env 4: Effect of development on the local environment** – will look to monitor the impact of the built environment on all natural environment assessments.
- **Env 5: Improve chemical and biological water quality** – by using Environment Agency Water Framework Directive it will allow the identification of areas where water quality improvements need to take place.
- **Env 6: Climate Justice Data** – will explore the effects of climate change on the socio-economic environment, and how green/blue infrastructure can be used to mitigate these effects.

Table 1: State of the Environment Dashboard

Theme	Indicator Description	Source	Baseline (2014/15)								Target Ambition	
			Year / Type	BCC	DMBC	SMBC	WMBC	WCC	BC	B&BC		
Env 1: Improving the quality of the natural environment	Wildlife & Geological Sites:- ¹ No ^o of sites ² Area (ha) ³ Length of hedgerow sites (m) (see fig. 2 – 9)	EcoRecord	Statutory	SAC	-	¹ 1 ² 20ha	-	¹ 1 ² 2ha	-	¹ 2 ² 22ha	¹ 2 ² 22ha	Maintain sites within Birmingham & Black Country to ensure no net loss of sites.
				SSSI	¹ 2 ² 893ha	¹ 9 ² 99ha	-	¹ 8 ² 103ha	-	¹ 17 ² 202ha	¹ 19 ² 1095ha	
				NNR	¹ 1 ² 811ha	¹ 1 ² 34ha	-	-	-	¹ 1 ² 34ha	¹ 2 ² 845ha	
				LNR	¹ 11 ² 311ha	¹ 7 ² 275ha	¹ 12 ² 304ha	¹ 12 ² 271ha	¹ 1 ² 51ha	¹ 32 ² 901ha	¹ 43 ² 1,212ha	
				SINC	¹ 55 ² 828ha	¹ 57 ² 381ha	¹ 31 ² 381Ha	¹ 36 ² 503ha	¹ 42 ² 217ha	¹ 166 ² 1,482ha	¹ 221 ² 2,310ha	
				SLINC	¹ 123 ² 702ha ³ 16,076m	¹ 121 ² 684ha	¹ 61 ² 300Ha	¹ 70 ² 430ha ³ 16,454m	¹ 51 ² 140ha	¹ 303 ² 1,554ha ³ 16,454m	¹ 426 ² 2,256ha ³ 32,530m	
	Number of SINC's & SLINC's in positive favourable management:- ¹ No ^o of sites ² Area (ha) & Length of hedgerow sites (m)	EcoRecord	2013/14	¹ 62% 110 of 178 ² 1,190ha 2,960m	¹ 12% 22 of 178 ² 198ha	¹ 37% 34 of 92 ² 469ha	¹ 25% 26 of 106 ² 622ha 195m	¹ 18% 17 of 93 ² 130ha	<i>*Note – data will be captured once available for the same across all councils</i>	A positive conservation management trend, towards an end goal of all sites to be in favourable management condition		
	Ownership status of SINC's & SLINC's	EcoRecord									Look to confirm the ownership status of all wildlife and geological sites within the LNP geography, and work with the relevant owners to improve and maintain sites where needed.	
	Estimated population within a 300m radius of statutory and non-statutory wildlife & geological sites	ONS (NOMIS)	Statutory	2015	45,000	61,000	30,000	43,000	14,000	149,000	194,000	Increasing the accessibility of the wildlife and geological sites to these populations <i>*Note – these figures have been rounded to the nearest 1,000 due to limitations in the data.</i>
			Non-Statutory	2015	485,000	277,000	178,000	156,000	142,000	753,000	1,239,000	

Theme	Indicator Description	Source	Baseline (2014/15)								Target Ambition
Env 2: Length of Sustainable Transport Routes	Length of national and regional cycle routes:- 1 ¹ Traffic Free 2 ² Open On-Road 3 ³ Proposed (see fig.10)	Sustrans	2015	1 ¹ 37.7 km 2 ² 9.8 km 3 ³ 9.0 km	1 ¹ 8.2 km 2 ² 1.4 km 3 ³ 8.0 km	1 ¹ 19.8 km 2 ² 3.3 km 3 ³ 0 km	1 ¹ 6.8 km 2 ² 8.7 km 3 ³ 4.0 km	1 ¹ 10.0 km 2 ² 2.9 km 3 ³ 3.0 km	1 ¹ 44.8km 2 ² 16.3km 3 ³ 15.0km	1 ¹ 82.5km 2 ² 26.1km 3 ³ 24.0km	Increase the length of National and Regional cycle routes within the region by working with local partners
Env 3: Encouraging exercise in the natural environment	% of people using outdoor open space for 1x30mins of exercise per week	Sport England (Active People Survey APS8)	2013/14 Outdoor Location	17.2%	12.2%	12.4%	16.4%	16.9%	14.3%	15.8%	Increase the amount of people doing exercise within the natural environment
	2013/14 Flexible location		8.8%	8.8%	-	9.1%	9.1%	7.7%	8.3%		
	2013/14		30.8%	31.6%	28.3%	34.3%	34.9%	32.1%	31.5%		
Env 4: Effect of development on the local environment	Area lost from designated nature sites	EcoRecord / LA AMR's	2012/13	0.53ha	0ha	1.23ha	0ha	1.6ha	2.83ha	3.36ha	Ensuring no net loss of wildlife and geological sites through development of the built environment. <i>*Note – inconsistently mapped across the councils</i>
Env 5: Improve chemical and biological water quality	WFD water body classification (see fig. 11)	Environment Agency (cycle 2 2014 data)	No ^o of water bodies	15	9	6	8	5	29		To improve biological and chemical water quality moving water body catchments towards a “moderate” classification.
			BAD	1	1	1	2	1	2		
			POOR	2	2	1	2	1	7		
			MODERATE	12	6	4	4	3	20		
			GOOD	0	0	0	0	0	0		
			<i>*Note – several water body catchment area have been double counted to establish a local authority perspective. The total water catchment bodies for the area is 29</i>								
Env 6: Climate Justice Data	Ha of green/blue interventions to mitigate climate justice per year	Met Office (Urban Heat Islands) / ClimateJust	<i>*Note – data will be mapped and captured once it becomes available to the B&BC LNP</i>								Increase the amount and area of green/blue interventions which mitigates against the urban heat island effect.

Fig. 2 Statutory & Non-Statutory Wildlife and Geological Sites within the Birmingham & Black Country Local Nature Partnership



Birmingham
& Black Country
Local Nature Partnership

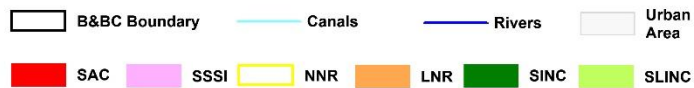
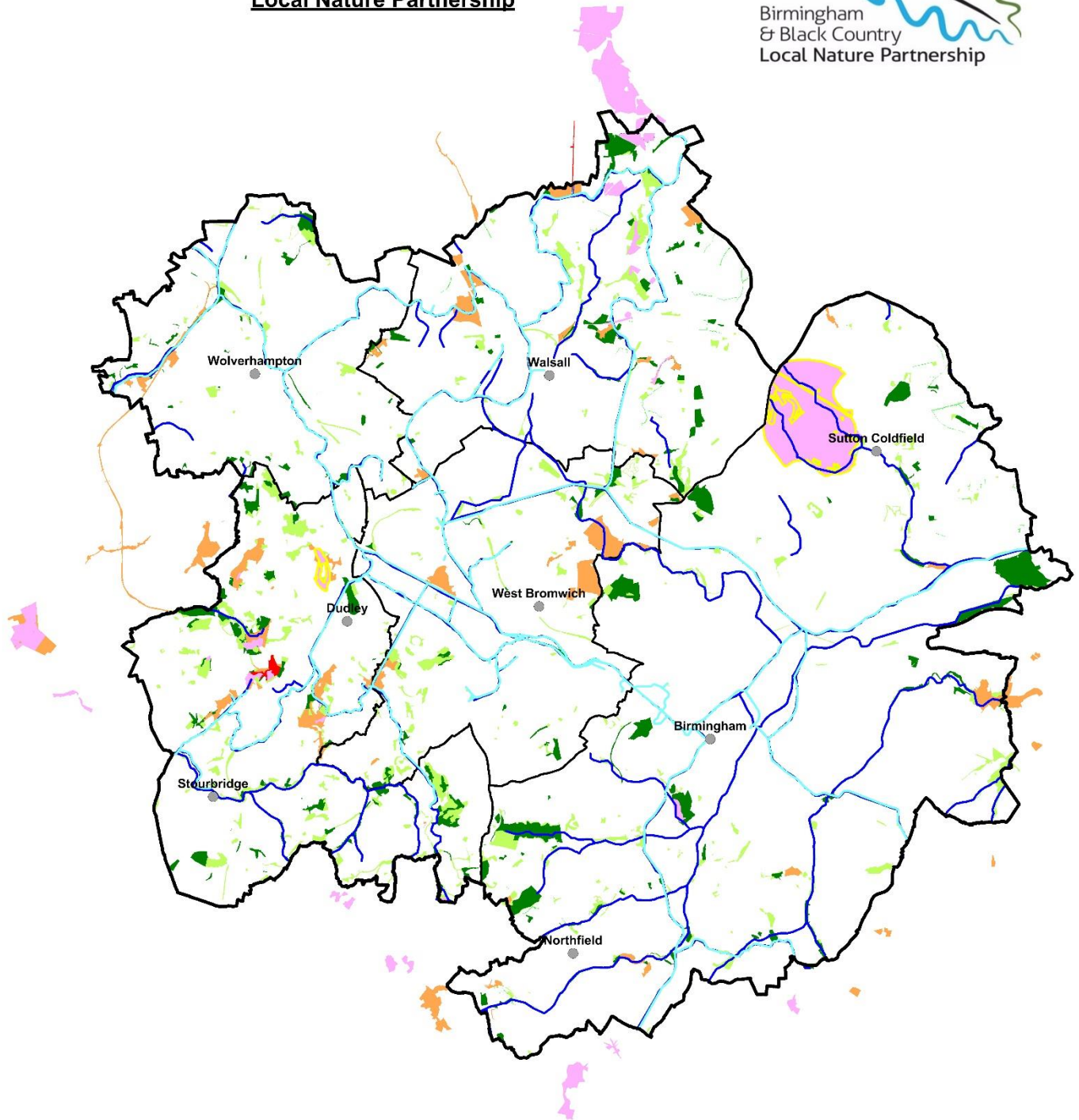
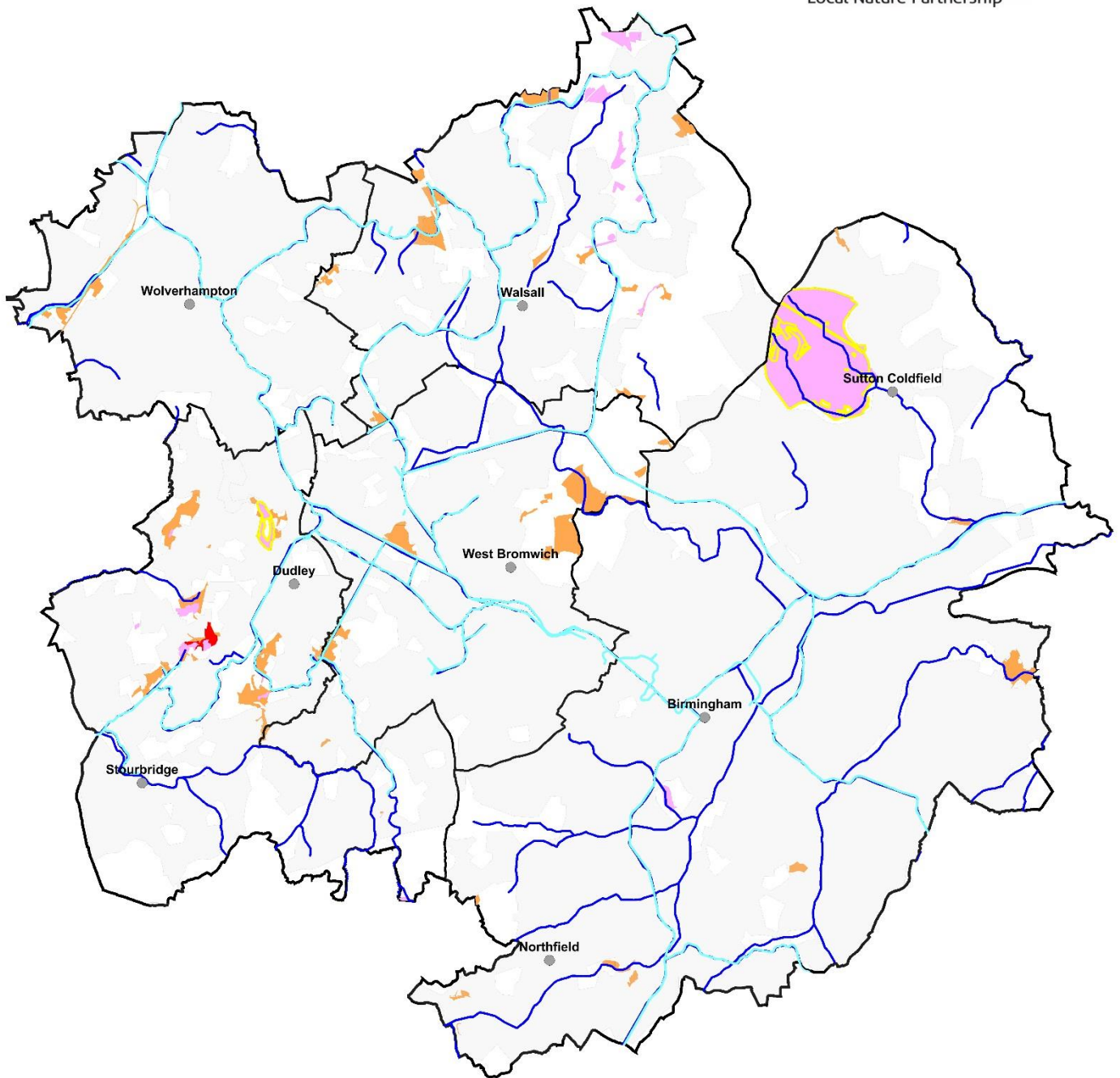


Fig. 3 Statutory Wildlife and Geological Sites within the Birmingham & Black Country Local Nature Partnership

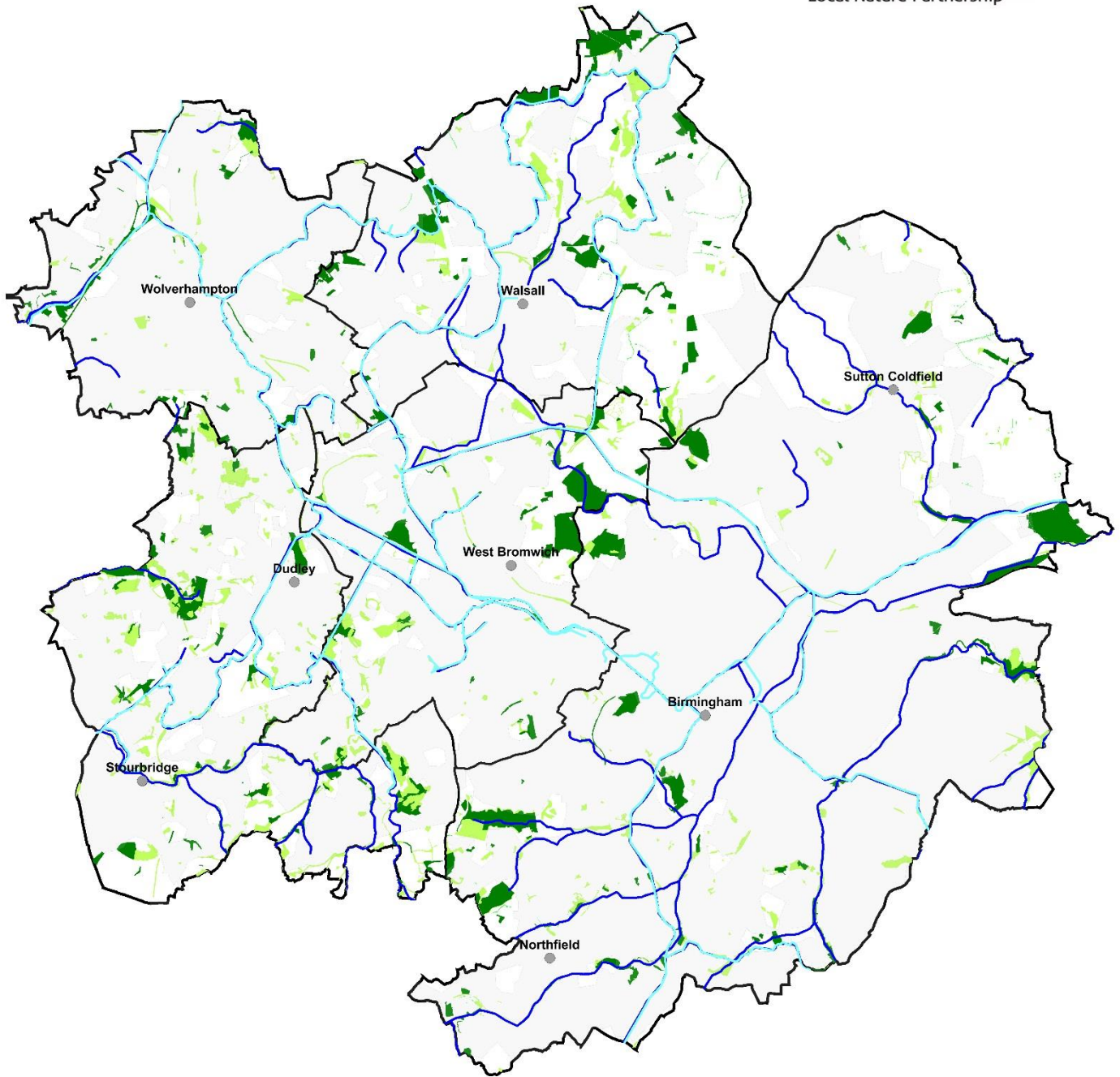


B&BC Boundary
 Canals
 Rivers
 Urban Area
 SAC
 SSSI
 NNR
 LNR

EcoRecord
the ecological database
for Birmingham and the Black Country

Black Country See it in colour

Fig. 4 Non-Statutory Wildlife and Geological Sites within the Birmingham & Black Country Local Nature Partnership



Black Country See it in colour



Fig. 5 Statutory & Non-Statutory Wildlife and Geological Sites within Birmingham City Council

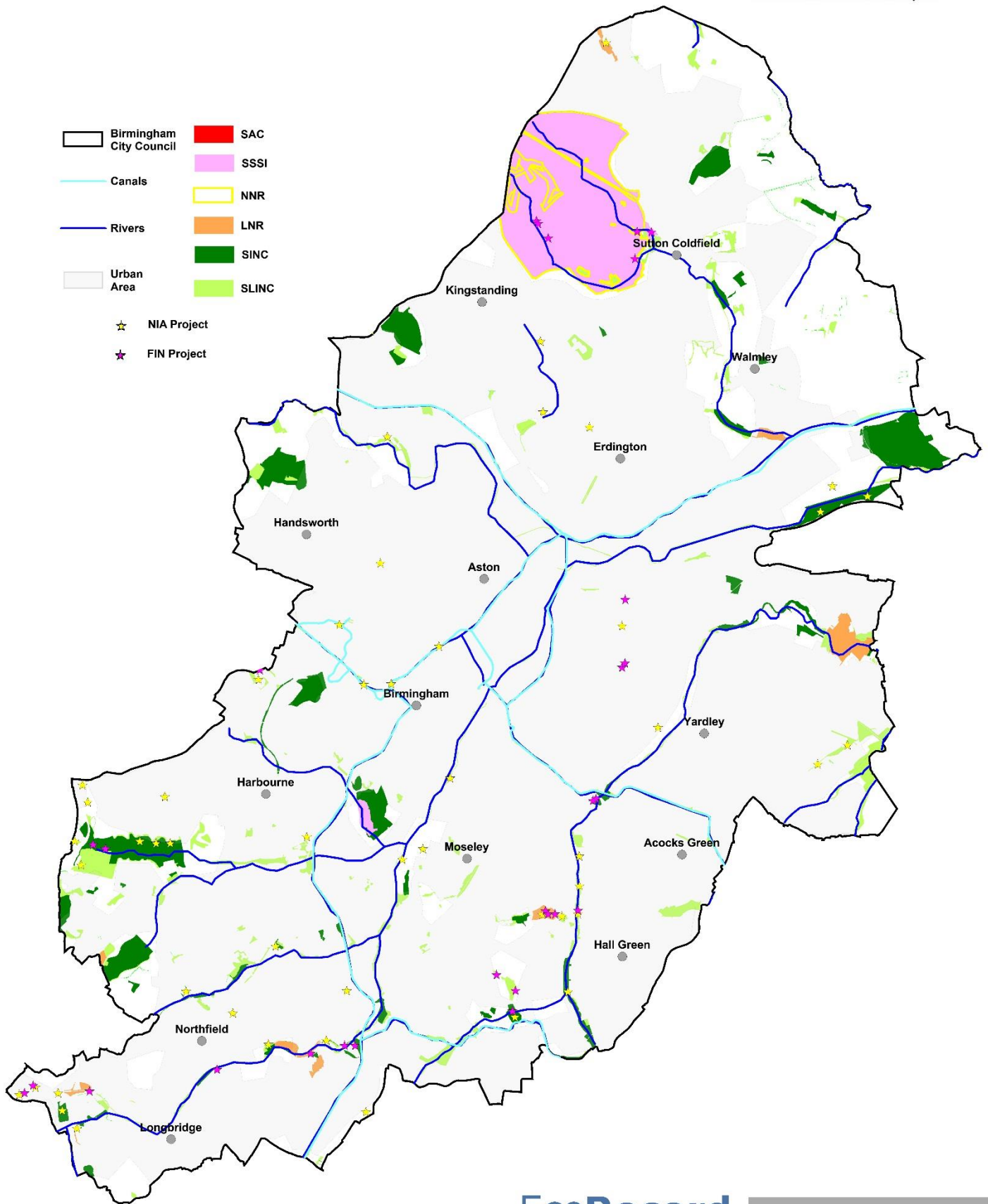


Fig. 6 Statutory & Non-Statutory Wildlife and Geological Sites within Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council

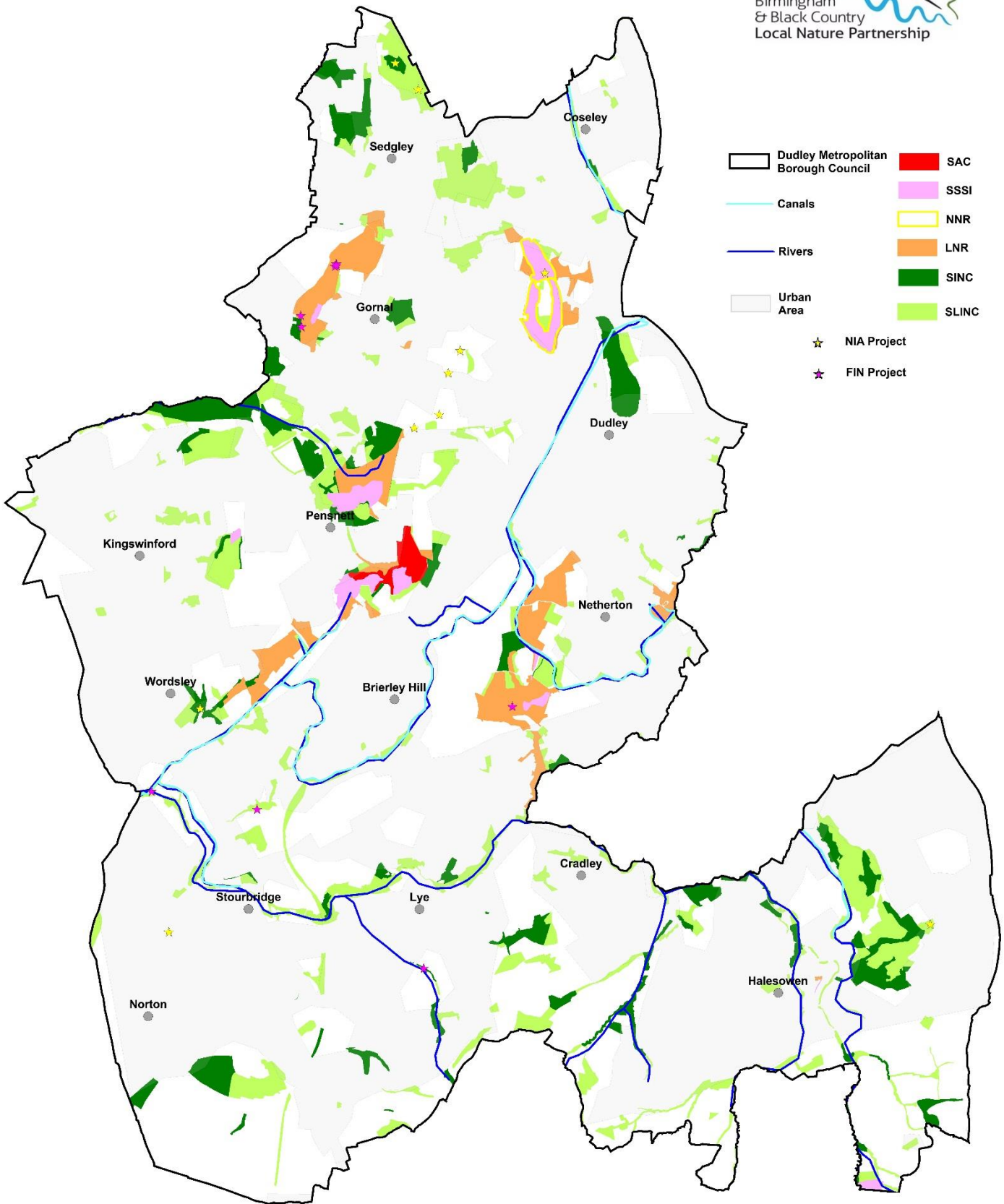


Fig. 7 Statutory & Non-Statutory Wildlife and Geological Sites within Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

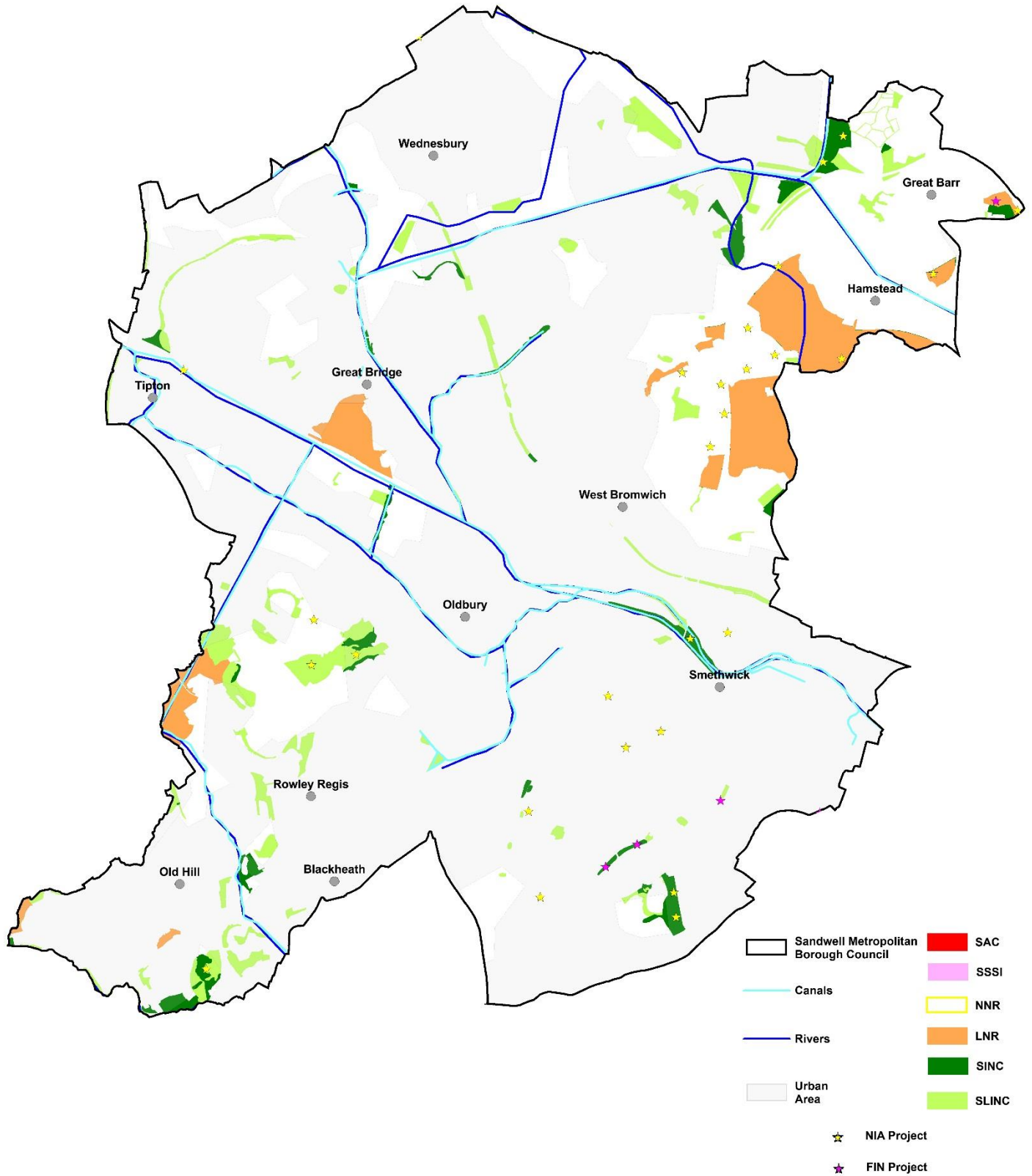


Fig. 8 Statutory & Non-Statutory Wildlife and Geological Sites within Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council

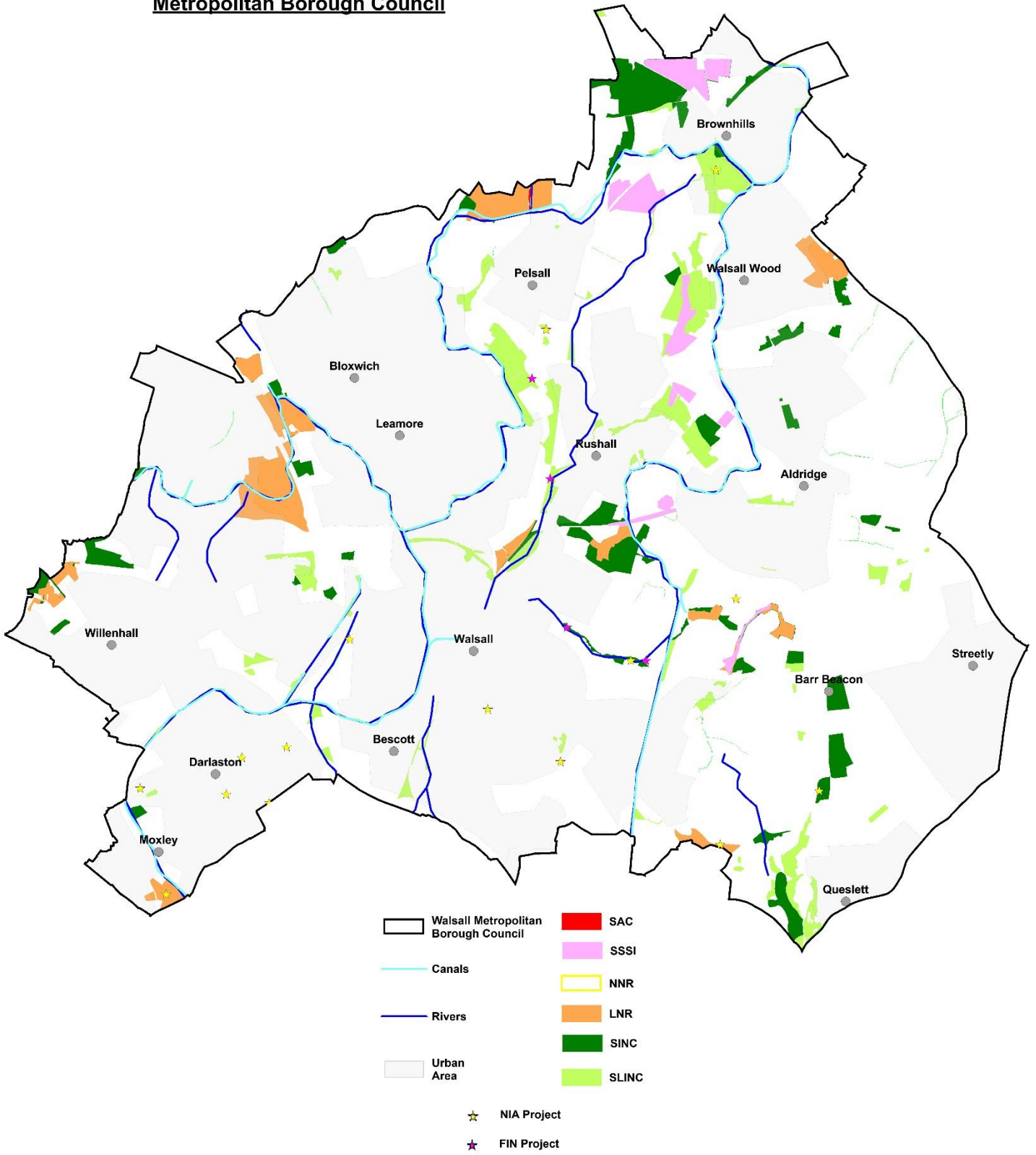
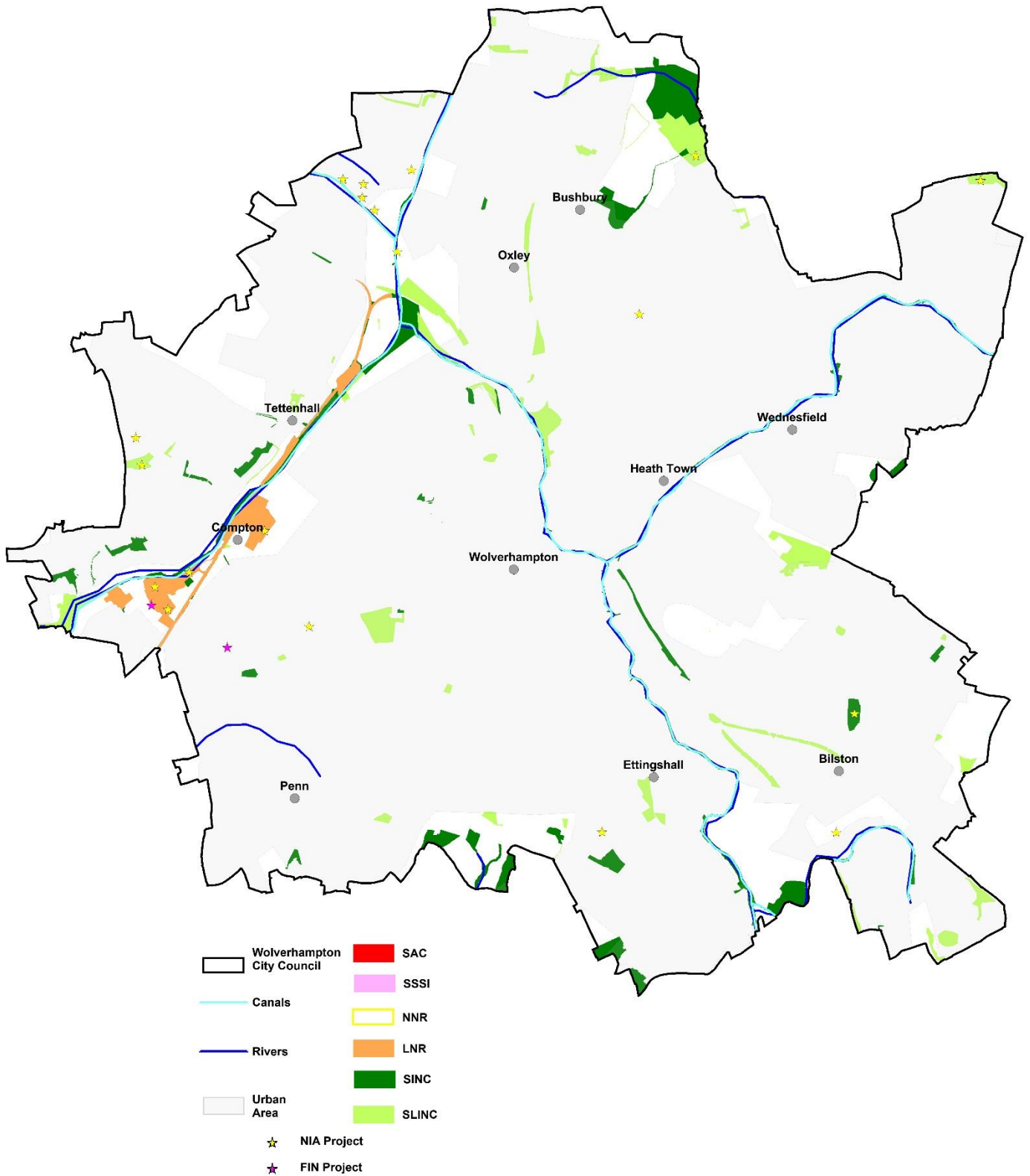


Fig. 9 Statutory & Non-Statutory Wildlife and Geological Sites within Wolverhampton City Council



**Fig. 10 National/Regional Cycle Network
Within the B&BC Local Nature Partnership**

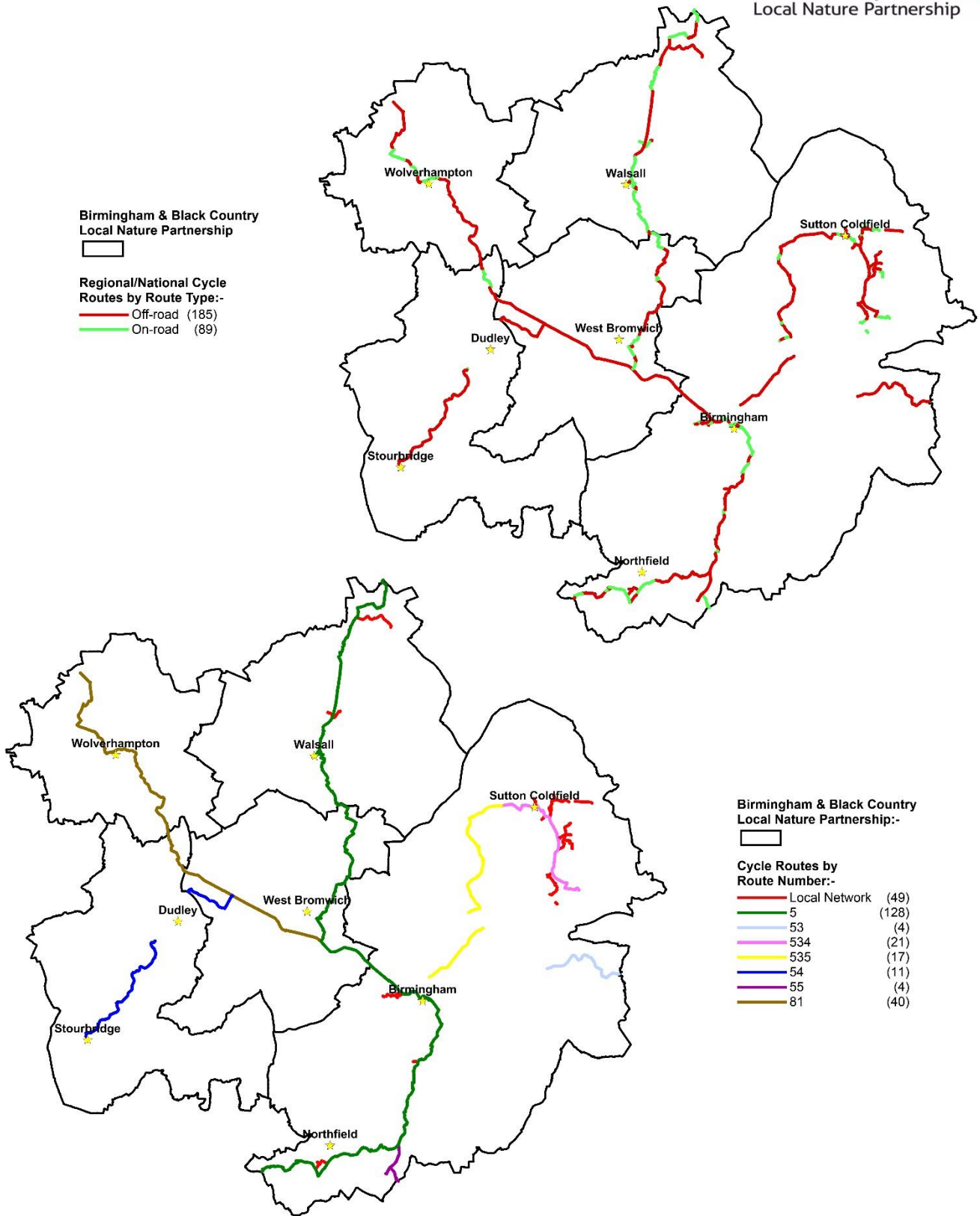
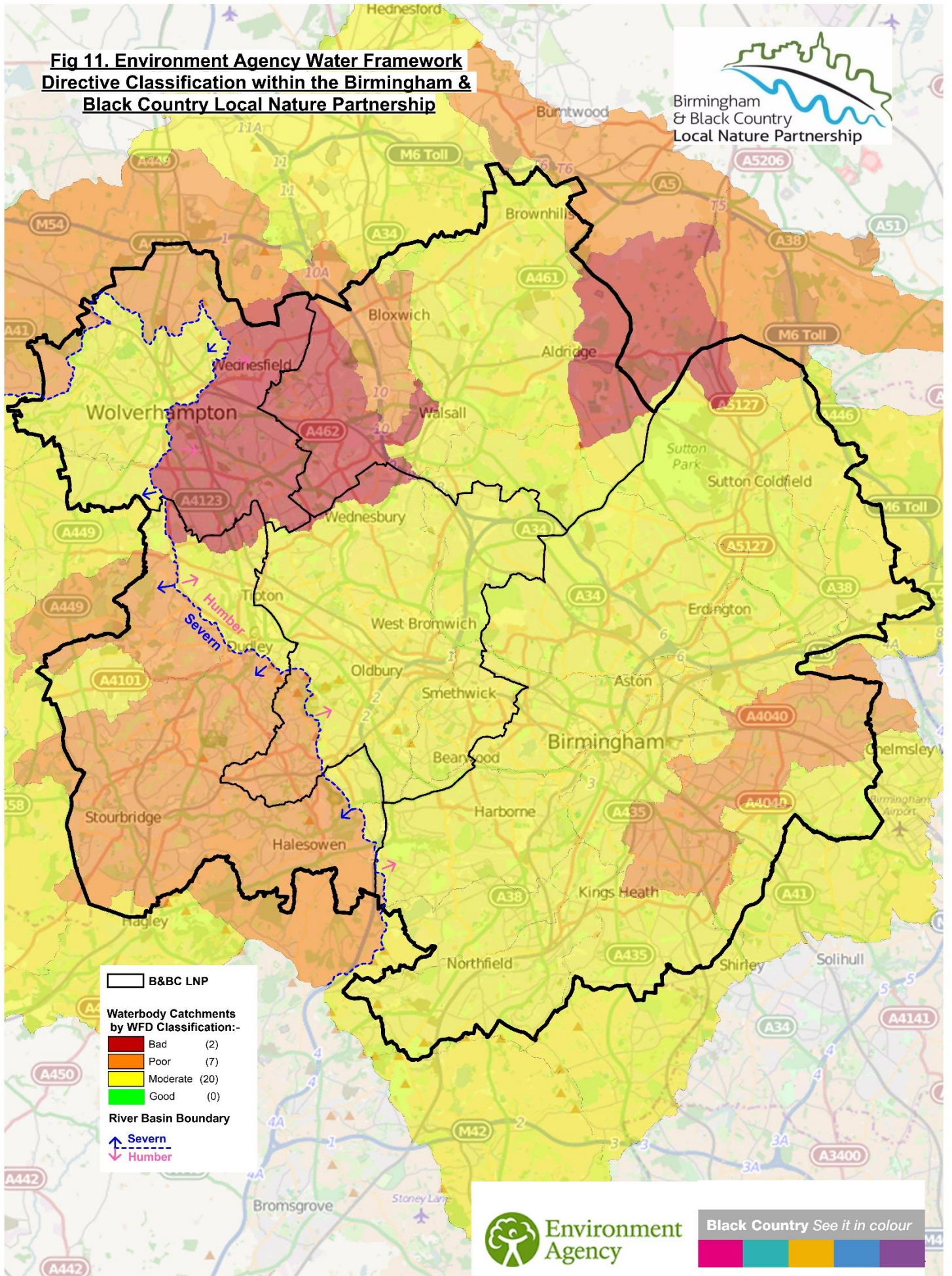


Fig 11. Environment Agency Water Framework Directive Classification within the Birmingham & Black Country Local Nature Partnership



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3. Glossary

BCC – Birmingham City Council

DMBC - Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council

EcoRecord - Is the Biological Record Centre for Birmingham and the Black Country - one of a network of Biological Record Centres that cover the whole of the UK. EcoRecord is a not-for-profit organisation which collects, manages, interprets and disseminates information relating to sites, wildlife and habitats within the area.

FIN - Freshwater Invertebrate Network – a project operating in Birmingham & the Black Country comprising a developing network of community groups that use invertebrates to monitor stream health to protect and improve urban watercourses

LA AMR - Local Authority Annual Monitoring Report is produced by each local authority annually, and measures their performance against a local development framework. The report contains key statistics against numerous indicators in relation to the demographics, transport, economy and the natural environment of the authority.

LNR - Local Nature Reserve

Local Sites in Positive Management - Sites in positive management are defined as those wildlife sites which are being managed in order to conserve their nature conservation interest. Positive changes can be made through the introduction of, or improvements to local management plans. Data is provided by local authorities to the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra).

NIA - Nature Improvement Area - established by government to create joined up and resilient ecological networks at a landscape scale, the Birmingham & Black Country NIA is one of the first 12 set up in 2012

Non-Statutory – Non-Statutory Local Wildlife Sites. These are designations applied to important nature conservation sites in Birmingham & the Black Country though, unlike statutory sites, they are not legally protected:

- **SINC** - Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (important across Birmingham & Black Country as a whole)
- **SLINC** – Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation (important within local council areas)

NNR - National Nature Reserve

ONS (NOMIS) - Web-based service provided by the Office for National Statistics which gives access to downloadable UK Market Labour Statistics. Key data areas include business counts, claimant counts and population demographics.

SAC - Special Area of Conservation

SMBC - Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

SSSI - Site of Special Scientific Interest

Statutory Sites - Include LNRs, NNRs, SSSIs and SACs within Birmingham & Black Country. These sites are of European (SAC) national (NNR & SSSI) and local (LNR) importance and are protected by law from development and other damaging actions.

WMBC - Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council

WFD Classification - Water Framework Directive Classification is used by the Environment Agency indicating the chemical and ecological water quality of water bodies.

WCC - Wolverhampton City Council

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