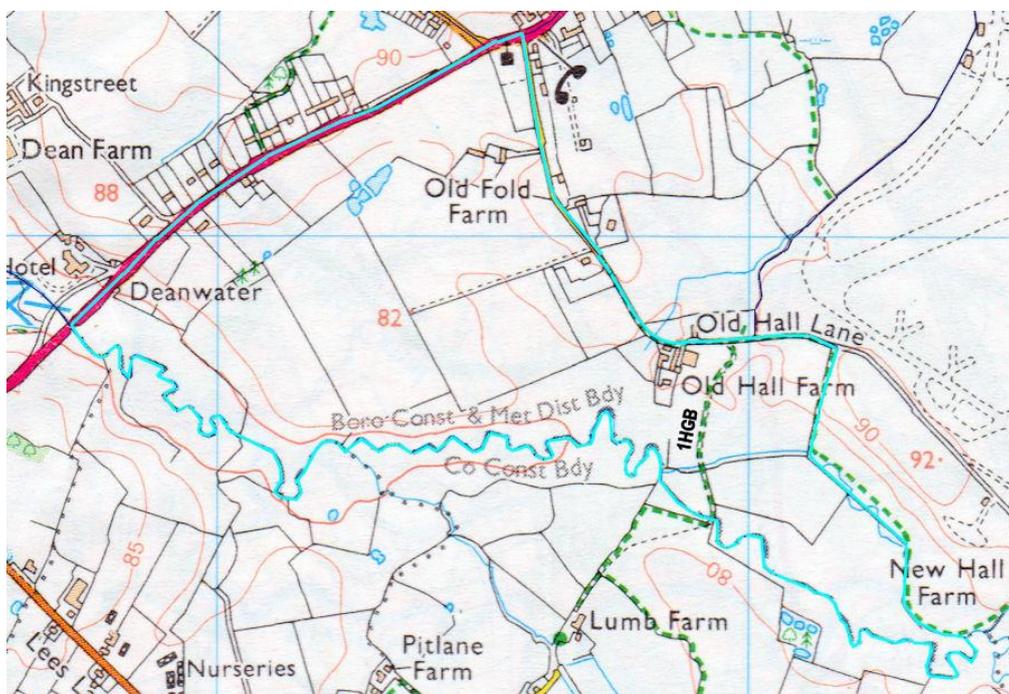


Woodford Habitat Survey

South Woodford, Area 9 (surveyed in May, July and August 2016)

Area 9 forms the south of the Neighbourhood Area, lying between Old Hall Lane, Wilmslow Road and the River Dean, as shown in OS and satellite images below, bounded by the turquoise line. The area is almost triangular in shape coming to a point at the Avro golf course at the bottom of Old Hall Lane. Footpath 1HGB crosses the area into Cheshire East heading to Woodford Lane in Mottram St Andrew. At the bottom of Old Hall Lane, the Avro Golf Course to the south, the former Woodford Aerodrome site to the east and New Hall Farm at the end of the road are outside the Neighbourhood Area, although part of the Parish of Woodford. The River Dean takes a meandering route through farmland and forms the southern boundary. The area adjoins countryside in Cheshire East on the other side of the River Dean, which continues in an arc as far as Wilmslow, Prestbury, Tytherington and Bollington, providing good connectivity with wildlife habitats outside of the neighbourhood area.



View from Wilmslow Road over 9F2 to Pennines



Trees along Wilmslow Road in autumn





The River Dean forms the border between the Woodford Neighbourhood Area and Cheshire East. Mature trees in grass verges, pavements, fields and gardens create a leafy arrival into Woodford.

Arrival into Woodford along Wilmslow Road



The border with Cheshire East on Wilmslow Road



Land use

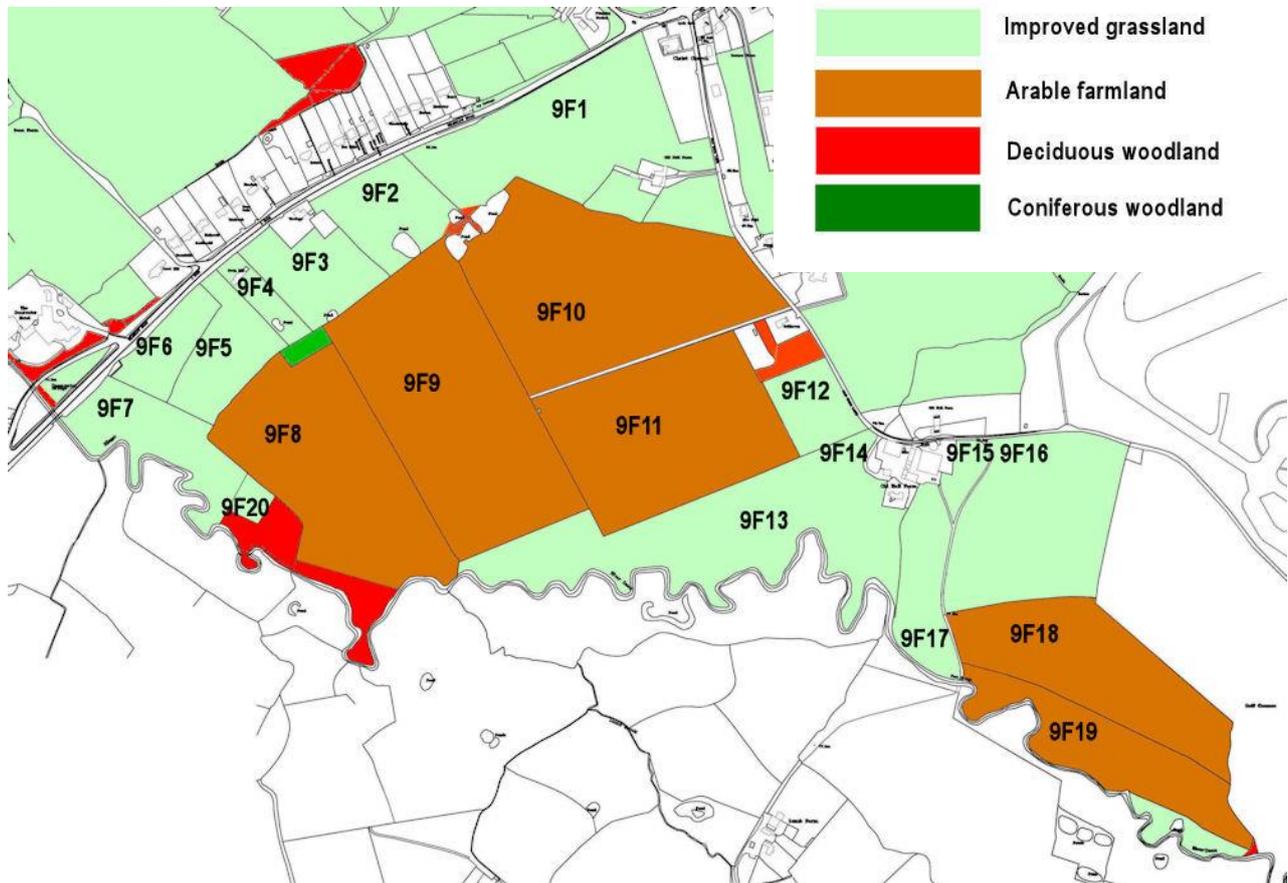
Area 9 is almost entirely agricultural land, belonging to Old Hall Farm and also landowners who live outside of Woodford. Some of the land is improved grassland, either used for grazing for cattle and/or for hay, haylage or silage crops in the summer. In addition, there are large areas are arable farmland, where crops such as maize and potatoes are grown. There are fragments of woodland around fields running parallel to

Wilmslow Road, around Dellhaven on Old Lane and along the River Dean. They can be seen on the satellite image.

Native hedgerows are luxuriant around the grazing land but sparse or absent around the arable fields. Patches of woodland scrub (predominantly willow) follow the course of the River Dean.

Map showing land use in Area 9

Key



View to White Nancy over 9F2 and 9F10



9F11, Old Hall Farm and the Pennines beyond



At the time of survey (14th July 2016), field 9F10 contained prolific quantities of redshank, possibly weeds growing after a period without cultivation. 9F11 appeared to be marked out into test plots, some with signs reading “no herbicides”.

9F10 with prolific redshank



Redshank in 9F10



9F11 with markers



Corn camomile in 9F11



9F9 with maize crop (The Grange in background)



9F5 grassland and Himalayan Balsam by the river



9F16 used for cattle grazing



9F15 used for cattle grazing and Old Hall Farm



Hay bales in 9F2



9F16 and Old Hall Farm from Avro golf course



Hedgerows

Native hedgerows border many of the fields in Area 9, but species-rich hedgerows are less common here than other parts of Woodford. Species-poor native hedgerows are predominantly hawthorn. Species-rich hedgerows include 9H2, (9H7, 9H8, 9H11, 9H17, 9H18, part of 9H29 and 9H24. Species found include alder, ash, blackthorn, birch, briar, crab apple, elder, hazel, holly, ivy oak, sycamore and willow.

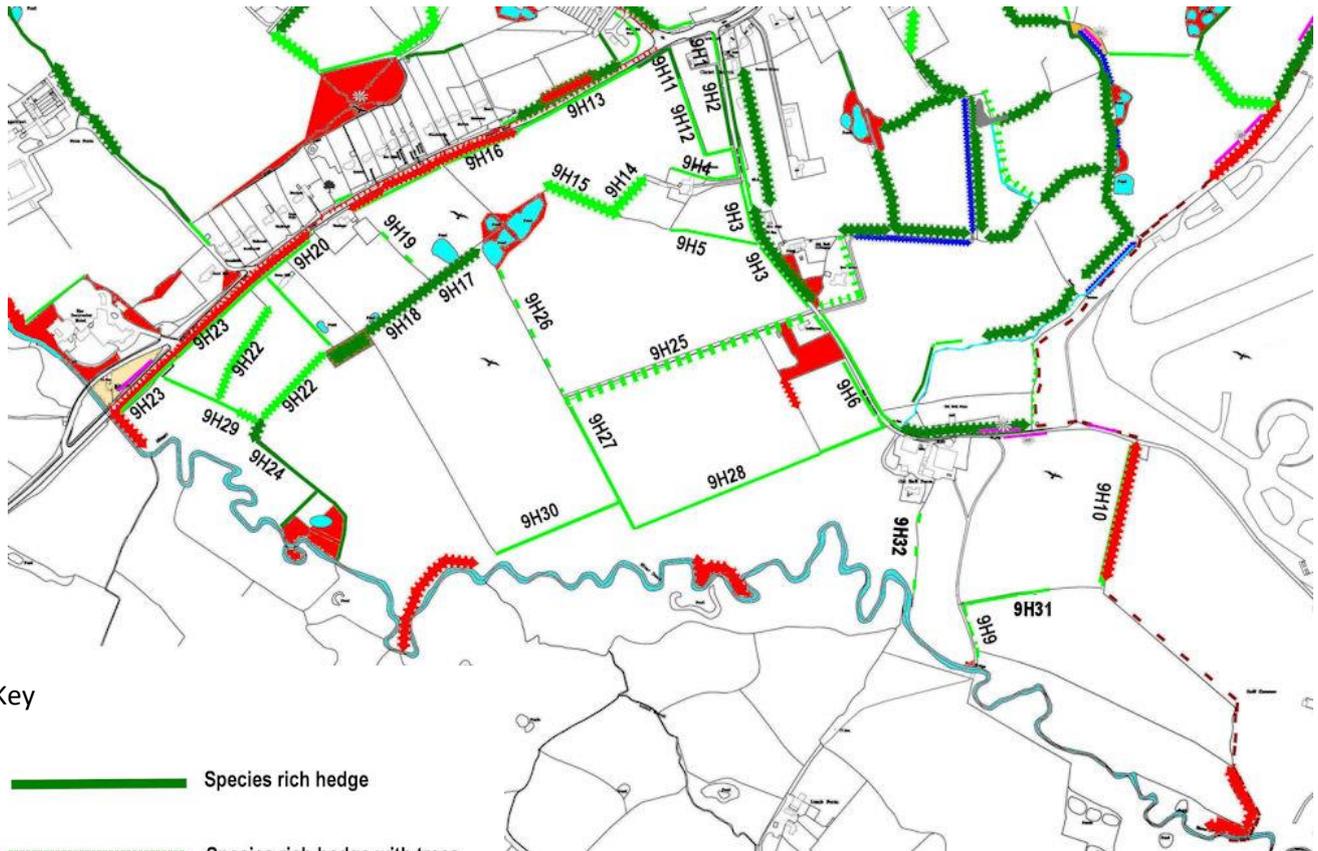
Native hedgerows and trees in Area 9



9H8 between 9F7 and maize crop in 9F8



Map of hedgerows in Area 9



Key

-  Species rich hedge
-  Species rich hedge with trees.
-  Species poor hedge
-  Species poor hedge with trees
-  Line of trees
-  Native deciduous woodland

Mature trees between golf course and 9F18



9H25 (fence with mature trees)



9H3 bordering Old Hall Lane



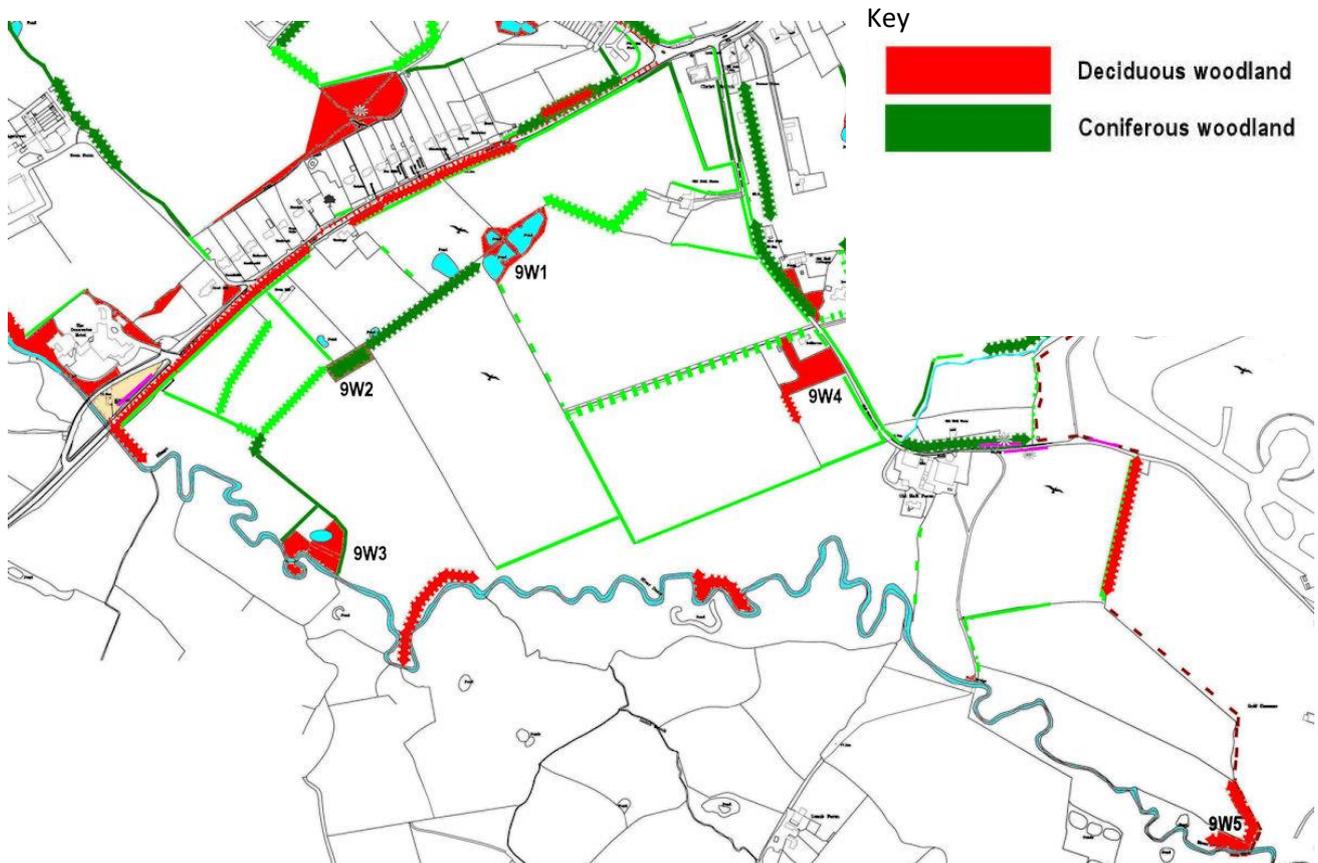
Trees in the Church yard in autumn



Woodland

Area 9 includes small areas of mixed deciduous woodland, including 9W1, 9W3, 9W4 and 9W5. 9W2 is a small area of coniferous woodland, possibly associated with a domestic curtilage. 9W1 is a dense thicket around a complex of ponds and includes alder, hawthorn, oak and willow. 9W5 is in 9F20, an area beside the River Dean which has been fenced off, apparently as a wildlife reserve. Next to the river here there are large beech, alder, rowan and willow trees. Saplings have been planted and there are nest boxes on a barn door and an old tree.

Map showing woodland



9W1 from 9F9



9W1



Mature trees

Mature trees are mostly found in hedgerows and fields in farmland adjacent to Wilmslow Road. Hedgerows with mature trees include 9H16, 9H17, 9H18, 9H19, 9H22, and 9H29. Trees in these hedges include oak and sycamore. 9H25 is a fence with a line of tall, mature beech trees.

Stand-alone trees are infrequent in Area 9, mostly found in the farmland adjacent to Wilmslow Road. They are marked on the satellite map below. 9S1, 9S2, 9S4 and 9S8 are oaks. 9S3 is an ash. 9S5, 9S6 and 9S7 are alders.

Trees on both sides of Wilmslow Road create an avenue for those arriving in Woodford from the south. The grass verge along the southern side of the road includes horse chestnut, maple and whitebeam trees. Oaks and black poplar trees in the pavements and a small field on the northern side of the road in Area 10 contribute to the effect and character of Woodford, particularly when in vibrant autumn hue. A diseased horse chestnut tree was found in the grass verge opposite the entrance to Kingstreet.

The Church yard contains yew, holly, oak, sycamore and lime trees.

Oak tree 9S1 in 9F1 with Church in background



Trees in Church yard by Old Hall Lane



Satellite image showing stand-alone trees



9S3 (ash) and 9S4 (oak) in 9F1



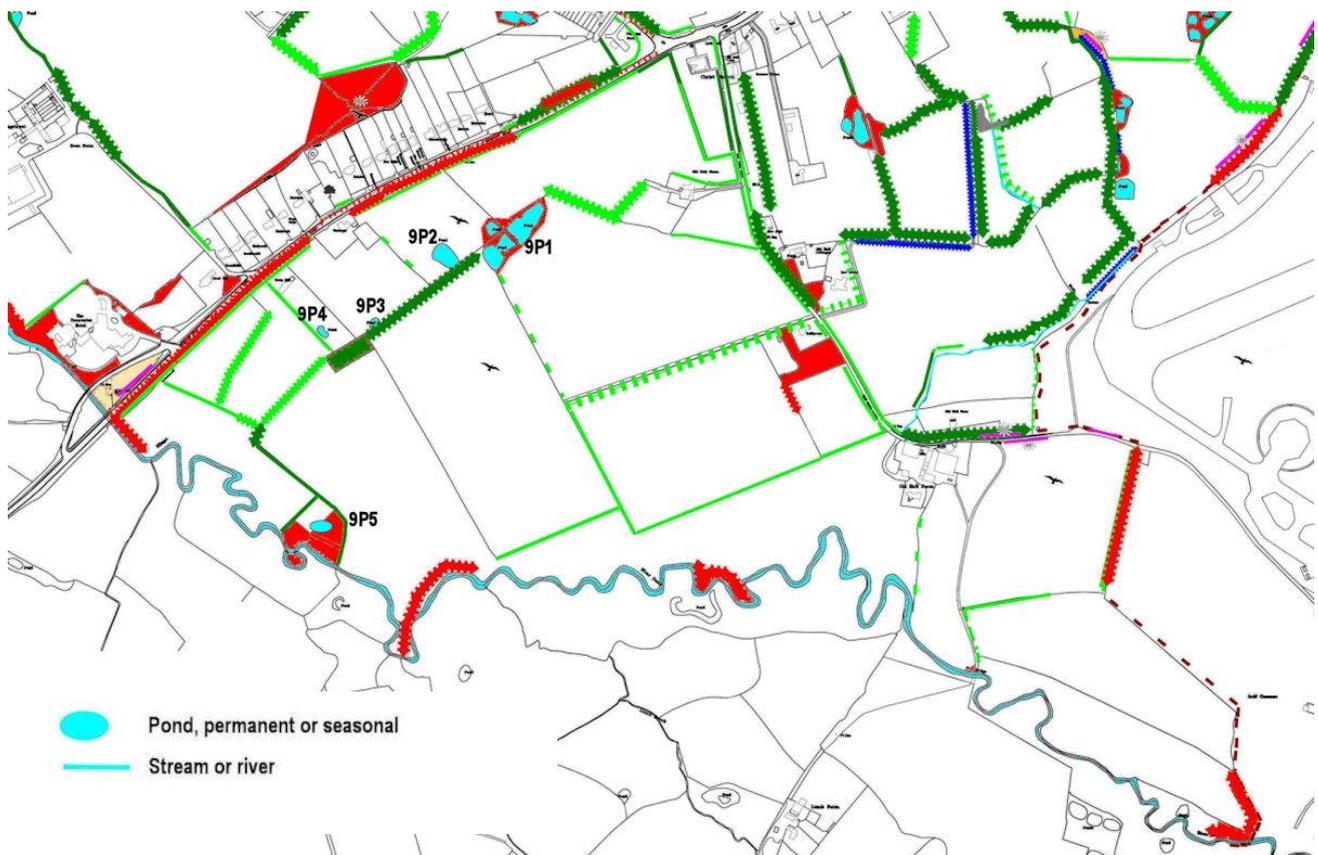
Willow tree at River Dean near 9F7



Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs)

There are no TPOs or TPAs for Area 9.

Ponds, streams and ditches



There are five ponds in Area 9. 9P1 is a complex of three ponds within woodland. 9P2 is in open grassland. 9P3 and 9P4 were not surveyed as they lie within domestic curtilages. 9P5 is within an area which has been fenced off, apparently as a nature reserve, and includes wood 9W3.

9P1 in 9W1



River Dean near 9F17



One of the landowners has created a fenced off “wildlife reserve” adjacent to the Dean, with native trees and a pond (9F20).

9F20, an area fenced off as “nature reserve”



Bird box in tree in 9F20



9P5 in 9F20, fenced off “nature reserve”



Marsh marigolds in 9P5



The banks of the River Dean are a notable feature of Area 9. These are open in places with herbaceous species including unmown grass, willow herb, ragwort, mallow, convolvulus, thistle and Himalayan balsam. Areas of scrub along the river banks include willow, alder, rowan, ash and birch.

Meandering River Dean near 9F19



Woodland scrub along the banks of the river near 9F7



Grass verges and field boundaries

A wide mown grass verge runs down the southern side of Wilmslow Road with mature trees opposite the entrance to Kingstreet and the Deanwater Hotel. Narrow verges along Old Hall Lane are rarely mown and support herbaceous species.

Grass verges on Old Hall Lane near Old Hall Farm



Bird sightings

Bird sightings in Area 9 reported by resident who lives in Area 10 but frequently walks in Area 9.

Blackbird	Blackcap	Blue Tit
Bullfinch	Buszard	Canada Goose
Chiffchaff	Coal Tit	Crow
Garden Warbler	Goldcrest	Greater Spotted Woodpecker
Grey Wagtail	Hedge Sparrow	Heron
House Martin	Kingfisher	Long-tailed Tit
Magpie	Mallard	Mistle Thrush
Moorhen	Nuthatch	Pied Wagtail
Robin	Siskin	Song Thrush
Starling	Swallow	Swift
Tawny Owl	Treecreeper	Tufted Duck
Wren		

Invasive or undesirable species

Himalayan Balsam is prevalent adjacent to the River Dean.

Proximity to other areas rich in habitats for wildlife

The area adjoins countryside in Cheshire East on the other side of the River Dean, providing good connectivity with habitats outside of the neighbourhood area. The River Dean also provides a corridor into Woodford survey Area 10 and Handforth.