Worcestershire Habitat Inventory Online Web Tool User Guide

January 2026

Contents

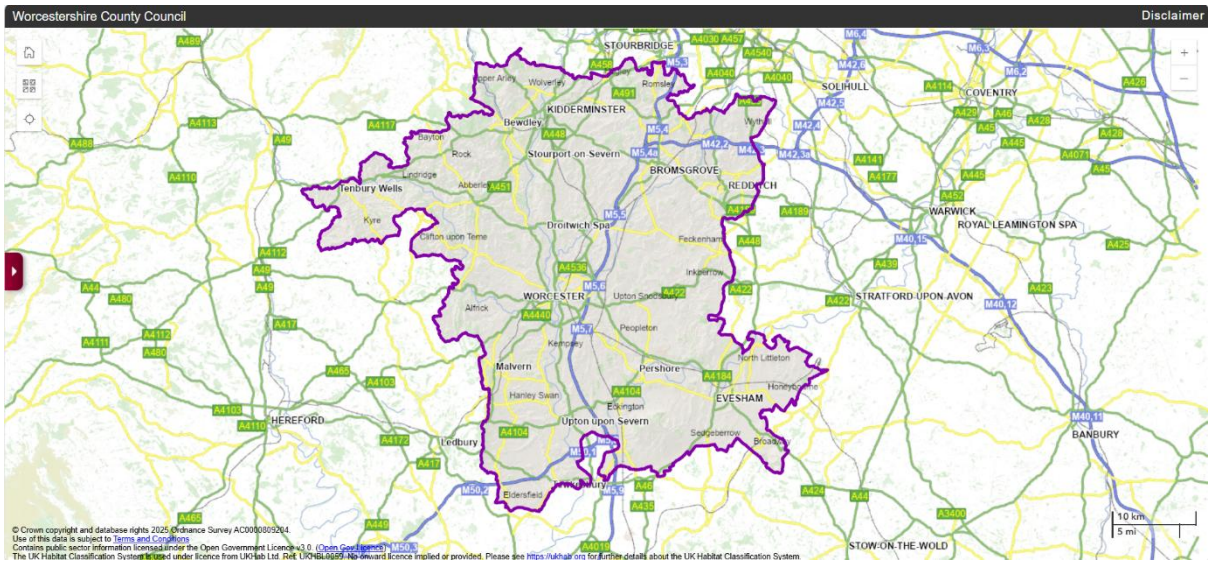

Figure 1: A screenshot of the Worcestershire Habitat Inventory showing county boundaries

Introduction

The following link: Worcestershire Habitat Inventory will take you to the home screen of the WHI3 Web Tool, a mapping inventory for Worcestershire (Figure 1).

WHI3 is based on a mixture of remote sensing, desktop, and site-specific habitat data from local, regional and national datasets. WHI3 integrates previous WHI1 and WHI2 datasets, so it presents habitat data from 2005 to today and is periodically updated with 'live' data as this becomes available. The source and date of data validation and modifications are shown inside each WHI3 habitat record, making all habitat data easily legible. Further periodic updates will be integrated within WHI3 as a 'live' dataset with the date of validation and input to WHI3 provided on the map under 'modification date'.

Section 1: Basic Functionality

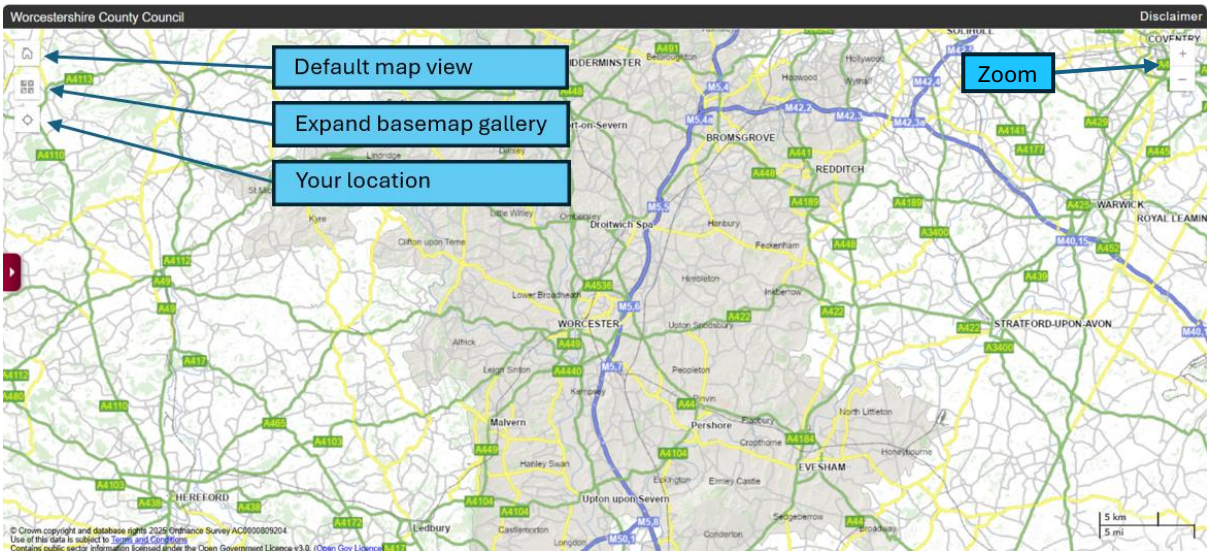

Figure 2 : A screenshot of the Worcestershire Habitat Inventory showing 'Default map view', 'Expand basemap gallery' and 'Your location'

The following features can all be found on the Worcestershire Habitat Inventory main page (Figure 2):

Zooming in and out:

At the top right of the map screen, you have zoom-in and zoom-out buttons. You can also zoom in by double-clicking on the map in the location you want to zoom to or use the scroll function (wheel) on your mouse. As you zoom in further, the map will automatically display more detailed information about roads, buildings, and landscape features, including field boundaries.

Navigating around the map

You can navigate around by clicking on and dragging the map. There is also a more advanced navigation function in the search tool (see section 3).

Scaling

There is a scale bar at the bottom right corner of the map. This will adjust automatically as you zoom in and out. Imperial measurements (feet and miles) can be found beneath the bar while metric measurements (meters and kilometers) can be found above; both with separate scale bars.

Default map view

Using the ‘Default map view’ button at the top left of the map screen will return the screen to the whole county view.

Expand basemap gallery

Through the ‘Expand Basemap Gallery’ button, at the top left of the map screen, you can edit the map view and opacity. The map view can be switched between Vector Mapping, Ordnance Survey Map, and Aerial Mapping (2021-23). Change the map background by clicking on the one you want.

Your location

The ‘Find My Location’ button at the top left of the map screen will bring the map view to your location, assuming your computer’s location settings are switched on.

Section 2: Layers

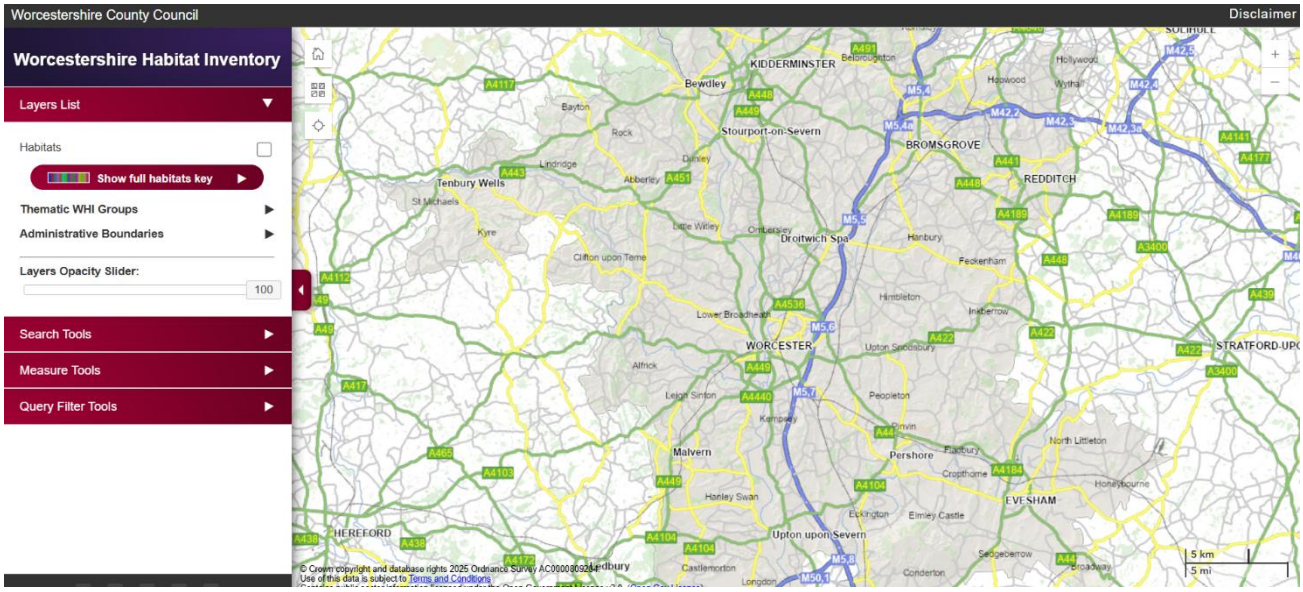

Figure 3: A screenshot of the Worcestershire Habitat Inventory showing options in ‘Layers List’

Click the down arrow on ‘Layers List’ in the sidebar (Figure 3) to view the following options:

Habitats

Ticking on the 'Habitats' data layer (Figure 5) will load all the habitat information contained within the WHI3 dataset. Habitats are mapped at field-scale, and your map (minus any areas with no mapping information) should now be covered in blocks of colour. This may take a while to load due to the quantity of information, and it is recommended to use the zoom feature to navigate to the desired area before loading habitats.

The colours and patterns on the map represent the respective habitats present, as have been mapped using the UKHabitat code system. Clicking on 'Show full habitats key' underneath the 'Habitats' layer name will bring up a list of the UKHab symbology for different habitat classes and provide both UKHab codes and full habitat class names.

What are UK HabCodes

The UK Habitat Classification system (UKHab) is a coding system used for surveying and classifying habitats over the United Kingdom. By assigning specific ecological features a primary and/or secondary code, it enables ecosystems to be mapped with accuracy and detail. It should be noted that many habitat classes are a function of their management and can be queried using secondary codes. For example, traditional orchard is not a UKHab habitat class; however, traditional orchards are recorded using the secondary code '21'.

The UKHab is used under licence from UKHab Ltd. Ref: UKHBL0059. No onward licence implied or provided. See https://ukhab.org for further details about the UK Habitat Classification System

Please note that UK Habitat codes are available to cross-reference on the UK Habitat website at https://ukhab.org/, and Integrated Habitat System (IHS) habitat codes are available at the Somerset Environmental Records Centre (SERC) website: Integrated Habitat System (PDF)

Thematic WHI Groups

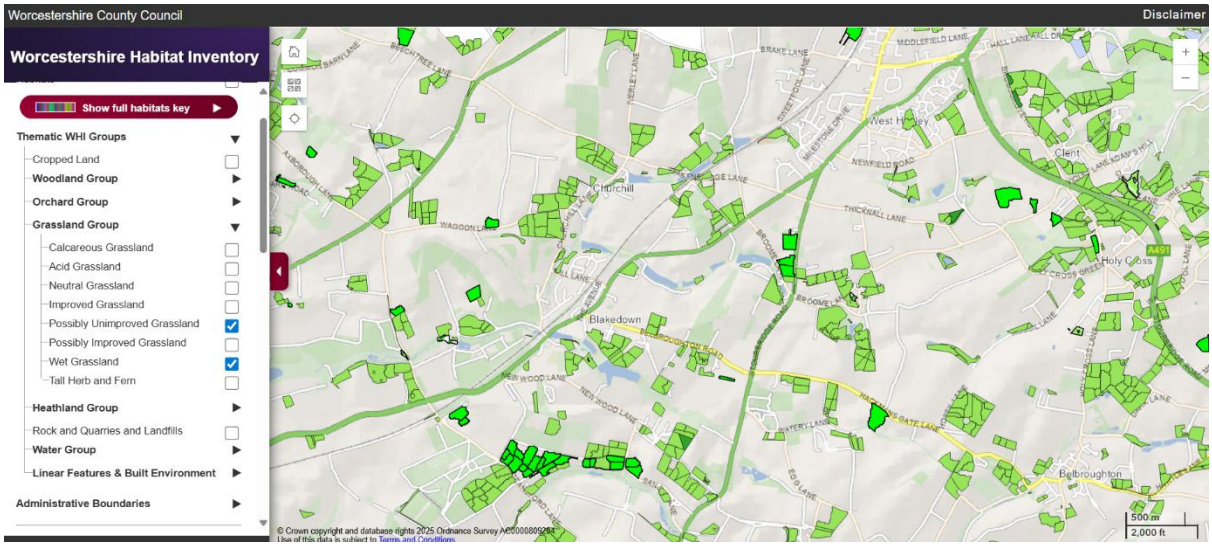

Figure 4: A screenshot of the Worcestershire Habitat Inventory showing the Thematic WHI groups

The 'Thematic WHI Group' dropdown (Figure 4) allows you to select and view individual habitat types or groups of related habitats. The habitats are grouped for ease of sorting and selection into:

- Cropped land
- Woodland Group
  - Ancient woodland
  - Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site (PAWs)
  - Broadleaved Woodland
  - Wet Woodland
  - Mixed Woodland
  - Wood Pasture and Parkland
  - Coniferous Woodland
  - Scrub
- Orchard Group
  - Traditional Orchard
  - All Orchards
- Grassland Group
  - Calcareous Grassland
  - Acid Grassland
  - Neutral Grassland
  - Improved Grassland
  - Possibly Unimproved Grassland
  - Possibly Improved Grassland
  - Wet Grassland
  - Tall Herb and Fern

- Heathland Group
  - Heathland
  - Heathland and Acid Grassland
- Rock Quarries and Landfills
- Water Group
  - Wetland
    - All Wetland
    - Reedbeds
    - Wet Grassland
    - Wet Woodland
    - Fen/Marsh/Swamp
  - Waterbodies
    - Ponds, Lakes and Canals
- Flowing Water
  - Rivers and Streams
- Linear Features & Built Environment
  - Transport Corridors
  - Major Linear Features
  - Built-up Areas

Clicking on the '▶' will expand a group to show individual habitats. In the example below, the Grassland group has been expanded and two grassland habitat types – 'Possibly Unimproved Grassland' and 'Wet Grasslands' – have been ticked so that they appear on the map.

Administrative Boundaries

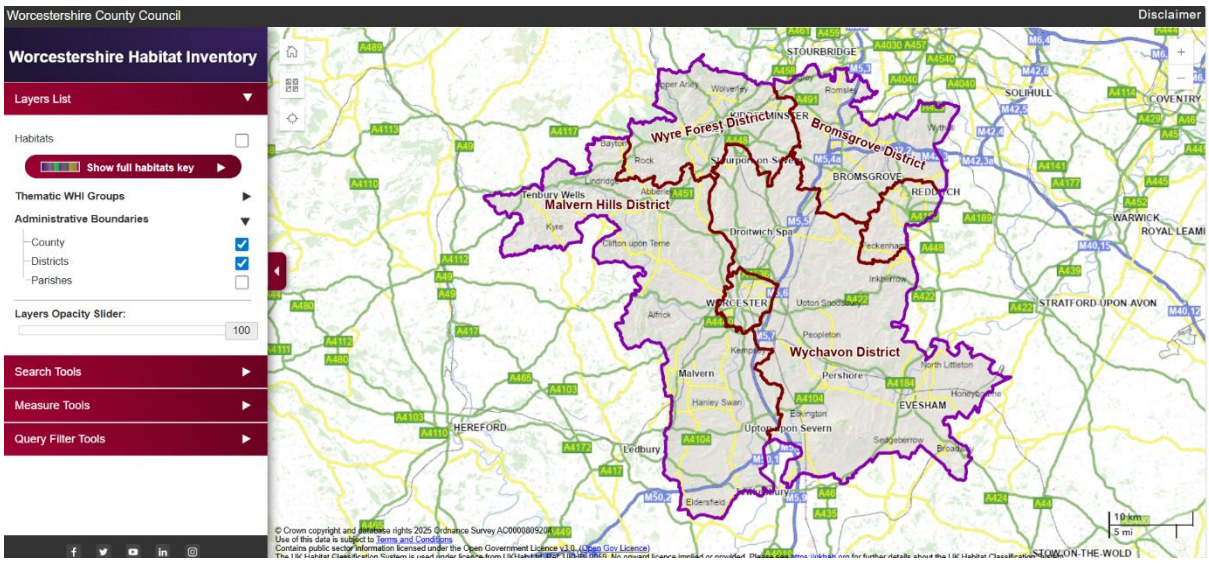

Figure 5: A screenshot of Worcestershire Habitat Inventory with County and District boundaries turned on

To aid with map navigation, the county's administrative boundaries (Parish, District and County boundaries) can be turned on or off by ticking the relevant boxes under 'Administrative Boundaries' (Figure 5).

Layers opacity slide

The opacity of layers can be changed by moving the Layers Opacity Slider (Figure 5)

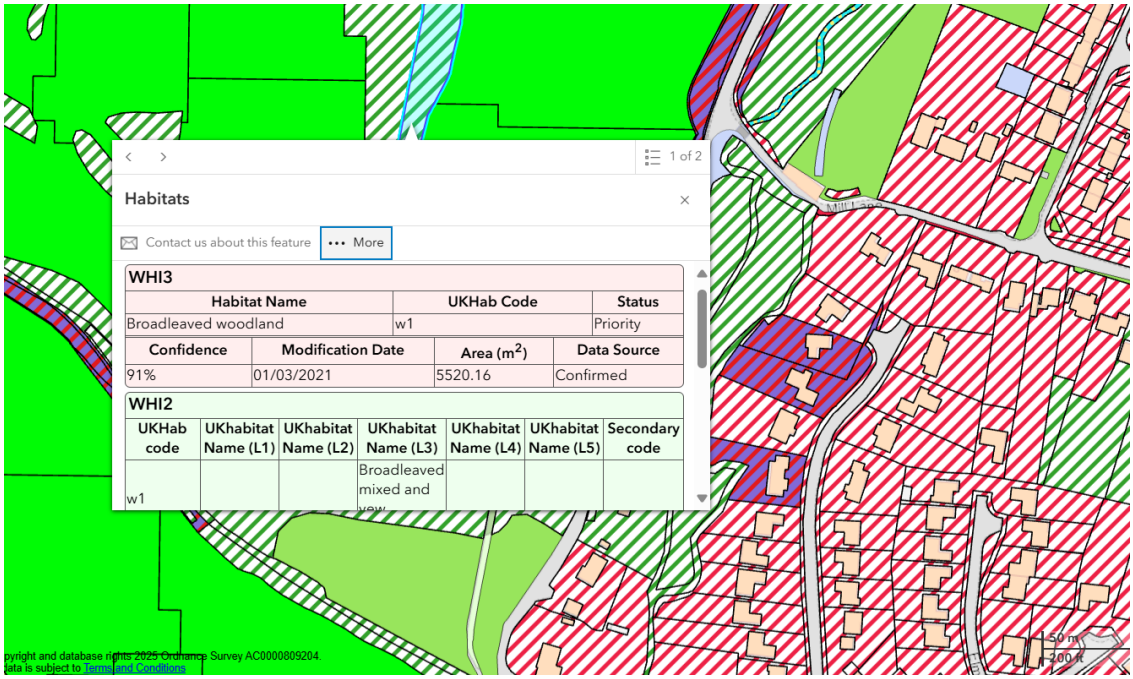

Figure 6: A screenshot of Worcestershire Habitat Inventory showing further information on a selected polygon.

Further information

Click on a polygon to view more information about it (Figure 6). You can view the attributes results either in List View (more helpful in portrait-oriented displays) or Table View (more helpful in landscape-oriented displays) by clicking on the respective button to change presentation.

Ensure you scroll to the bottom of the attributes results box to review all available information, which may include some or all of the following (Please note that WHI3 has retained all historic data from WHI2 and WHI1 (Figures 8 and 9)

WHI3 (2023+)

WHI3			
Habitat Name	**UKHab Code**		**Status**
Improved grassland	g4		
Confidence	**Modification Date**	**Area (m^2)**	**Data Source**
62%	01/03/2021	15468.22	Confirmed
WHI3 Comment			

Figure 7: A screenshot of a WHI3 attributes box within the Worcestershire Habitats Inventory

The WHI3 attributes box (Figure 7) contains the following features:

- Habitat name. The habitat class name associated with the UKHab code will be displayed here, where available.
- UK Habitat code. The recorded UKHabitat code for the polygon will be displayed here. This is linked to the polygon's symbology and will be at the lowest level of naming hierarchy available within the UKHab naming system (i.e. the greatest specificity of habitat types available).
- Status. Will state if the habitat is either priority or irreplaceable, where available. Irreplaceable habitat is categorised as habitat that is very difficult to restore, create or replace once it has been destroyed, often due to its age, uniqueness, species diversity or rarity. Priority habitat includes threatened, important semi-natural environments.
- Modification date. The latest date that the attributes box was modified.
- Area (m^2).
- Confidence. Expressed as a percentage, this figure represents the level of certainty in habitat class identification, as provided by the machine-led analysis of remote-earth observation data or as provided by third party datasets such as those issued by DEFRA.
- Data source. Describes how the habitat classification was derived.
- WHI3 Comment. Any comments about the habitat parcel, such as from field survey, manual review or automated reviews.

WHI2 (2020-2023)

WHI2			
UKHab code	**IHS Code**	**Label**	**Secondary code**
g4	GI0	Improved grassland	

WHI2 Comment	Confidence	Source
	62%	Confirmed: Machine-led habitat identification matches the original WHI habitat identification

Figure 8: A screenshot of a WHI2 attributes box within the Worcestershire Habitats Inventory

The WHI2 attributes box (Figure 8) contains the following features:

- UKHab code. The recorded UKHabitat code for the polygon will be displayed here. This is linked to the polygon's symbology and will be at the lowest level of naming hierarchy available within the UKHab naming system (i.e. the greatest specificity of habitat types available).
- Secondary code. UKHab secondary codes will be displayed here, where available.
- Label. The WHI uses a variety of codes covering plant identification and management types. The 'Label' field interprets these codes for any given parcel of land.
- IHS Code. The Integrated Habitat System habitat class (A system developed to help process habitat identification through Aerial Photographic Interpretation (API)) will be provided here, where available. Refer to Integrated Habitat Systems Definitions (PDF) for further information on these codes.
- Confidence. Expressed as a percentage, this figure represents the level of certainty in habitat class identification, as provided by the machine-led analysis of remote-earth observation data or as provided by third party datasets such as those issued by DEFRA.
- Source. Describes how the habitat classification was derived and can have the following values:
  - o 'Confirmed' – the model's first or second prediction (the most likely habitat class) match the original WHI1 class.
  - o 'Predicted' – where the model's first prediction has high accuracy or where there is no original WHI1 class.
  - o 'Original WHI' – Where the model prediction is of low accuracy (likely that the habitat is not possible to classify based on a remote sensing approach) and therefore the original WHI1 classification is retained.

o ‘Input data’ – Where the class has been attributed on the basis of one of the input datasets (e.g. hedgerows or OS MasterMap).
o ‘Training data’ – where the class has been attributed on the basis of new training data, provided by Worcestershire Biological Records Centre.

- WHI2 Comment. Will include further information where relevant.

WHI1 (2005-2020)

WHI1			
WHI1 Label	**WHI1 Summary**	**WHI1 Keywords**	**WHI1 Comment**
	GP0.BG1.SC0.GM2	Non-optimal: season	

Figure 9: A screenshot of a WHI1 attributes box within the Worcestershire Habitats Inventory

The WHI1 attributes box (Figure 9) contains the following features:

• WHI1 Label. The WHI uses a variety of codes covering plant identification and management types. The 'Label' field interprets these codes for any given parcel of land.
• WHI1 Summary. This provides a summary of relevant information as entered within WHI1 as relates to habitat formation (the composition of a particular habitat, for example plantation or semi-natural woodland) or habitat management (eg coppice, wood-pasture and parkland, grazing land or amenity grassland).
• WHI1 Keywords. Any keywords added to the WHI1 dataset (e.g. ‘ridge and furrow’) will be available to view here.
• WHI1 Comment. WHI data has been extracted from multiple datasets including Local Wildlife Site surveys, targeted ground truthing and habitat condition reports. This means that for some land parcels there is a wealth of data available on-site quality and condition or possible causes for its deterioration. The comments section tells you which dataset(s) the information for this land parcel have come from. Where required, further detailed information should be sought from Worcestershire County Council’s Environmental policy team and/or the WBRC.
• Link to document. Some of the mapped habitat types have Habitat Information Sheets written. Where these are available there will be a link to open a downloadable PDF in a new window.

Contact us regarding mapping

To contact us regarding a feature on the mapping, double click the relevant polygon then select ‘Contact us about this feature’, the top left option in the pop up box, enter your message and click submit (figure 10).

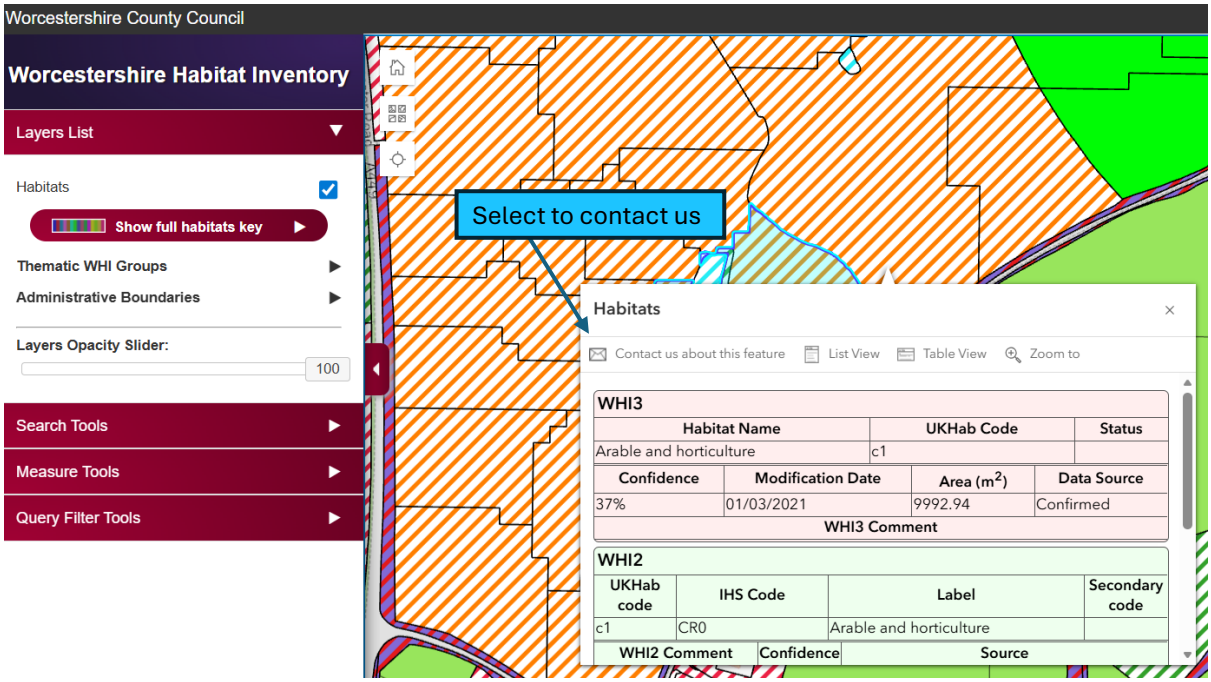

Figure 10: A screenshot of the Worcestershire Habitat Inventory, with a label to the ‘contact us about this feature’ section of the attributes box.

Section 3: Search Tools

If you know the postcode, organisation, or address of the location you wish to zoom to on the map, you can use this tool to do so. If you would like the map to zoom to a particular town or village, you can select an option from the towns and villages listed under the drop-down options by ‘Place’. You can also input the x and y coordinates of your target location. Please see A Beginner's Guide to Using Grid References for more information on how to use grid references.

The ‘Zoom to OS map sheet’ box will accept grid references from 2-figures to 10-figures in length and will zoom you to the corresponding location (the longer the grid reference, the further in you will zoom). Don't forget to include the letters – this will be SO or SP in Worcestershire.

Section 4: Measure Tools

Figure 11: A screenshot of the Worcestershire County Council Habitat Inventory showing the 'Measure Tools'

The 'Measure Tools' dropdown (figure 11) contains the following features:

Point

Select this function, click on any location on the map and you will be given the Grid Reference co-ordinates

The Grid Reference information is given in six different ways. From top to bottom these are:

- x-y co-ordinates giving accuracy to 1m
- Lat-long
- 6-figure grid reference giving accuracy to 100m
- 4-figure grid reference giving accuracy to 1km
- 2-figure grid reference giving accuracy to 10km
- 2-figure grid reference giving accuracy to 5km

Distance Measurement Tool

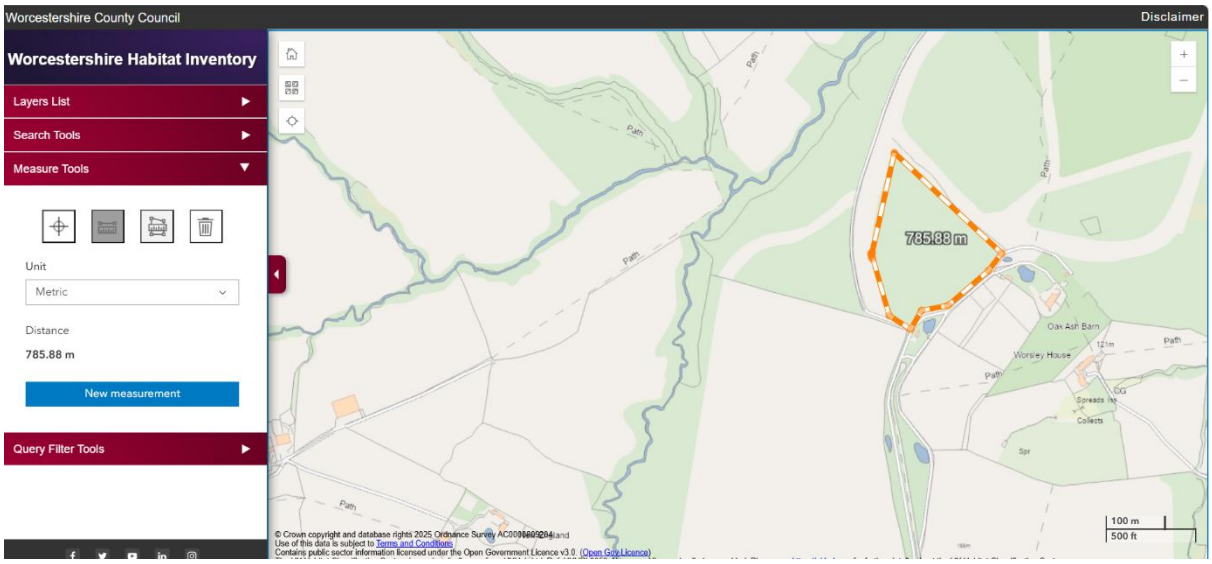

Figure 12: A screenshot of the Worcestershire County Council Habitat Inventory showing measurement of the perimeter of a field

This function allows you to measure distances on the map. The standard unit is meters, although this can be changed using the drop down box. Click on the map to begin drawing a line and to alter direction. Double-click to finish the line and complete the measurement.

Area Measurement Tool

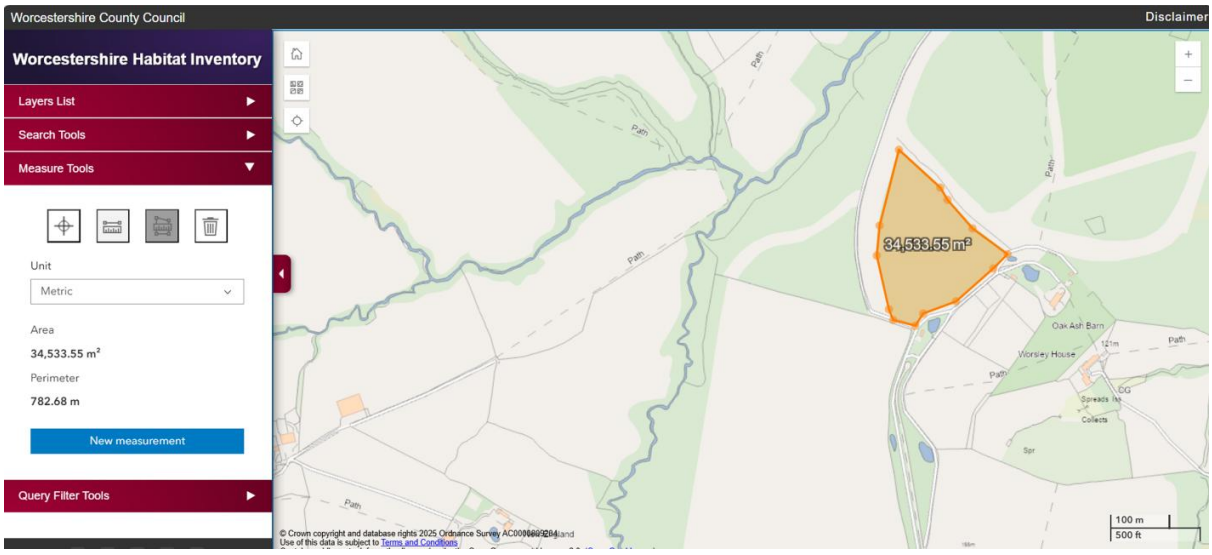

Figure 13: A screenshot of the Worcestershire County Council Habitat Inventory showing measurement of the area of a field

This function allows you to measure the area of a feature on the map in your preferred units (use the drop down box to change units). Click on the map to begin drawing a line

and to alter direction. Double-click to finish the polygon and complete the measurement.

Clear Measurements tool

Clears any measurements made on map, ready to take a new measurement.

Section 5: Query Filter Tools

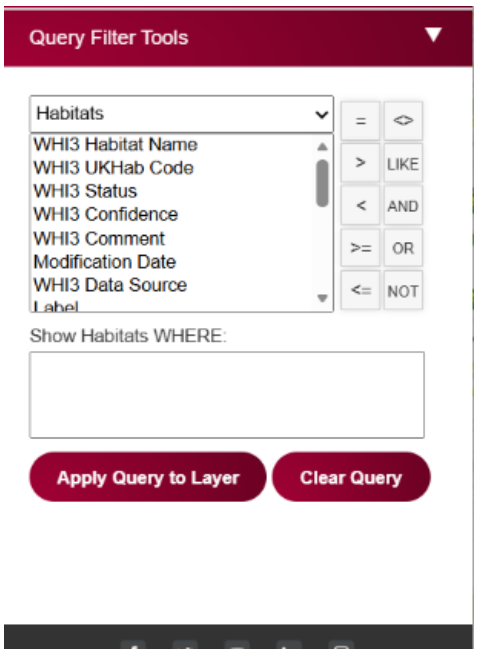

Figure 14: A screenshot of the Worcestershire County Council Habitat Inventory showing the Query Filter Tools

Using the 'Query Filter Tool' (Figure 14), you can search for habitats fitting specific fields. Before starting, make sure 'Habitats' is turned on in the 'Layers' button. Use the 'clear query' button to empty the query builder tool and start afresh. Please find examples of using the Query Filter Tool below:

Examples of Queries

To query WHI3 for Acid Grassland (g1):

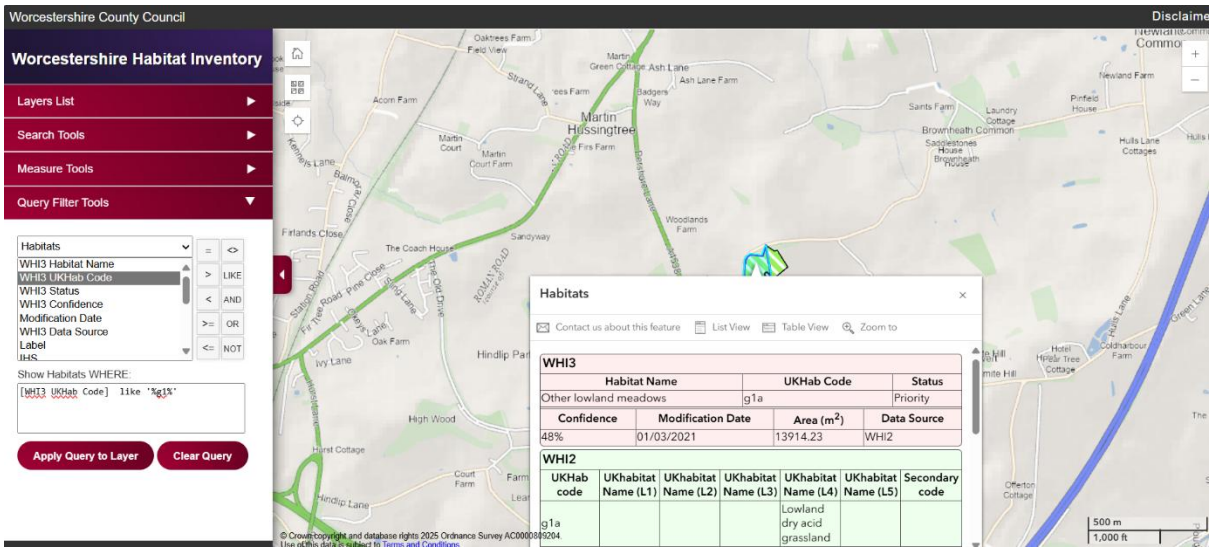

Figure 15: A screenshot of the Worcestershire County Council Habitat Inventory showing the use of the like tool

To display all fields containing recorded improved grassland (Figure 15):

- Select the ‘Habitats’ layer
- Select ‘WHI3 UKHab Code’ as the field to query
- Select ‘=’ or ‘like’ from the tools available on the right-hand side
- In the query builder window, replace the ‘value’ text with the respective UKHab code, in this case ‘’g1’’.
- Click ‘Apply Query to Layer’

To query WHI1 for comments and keywords

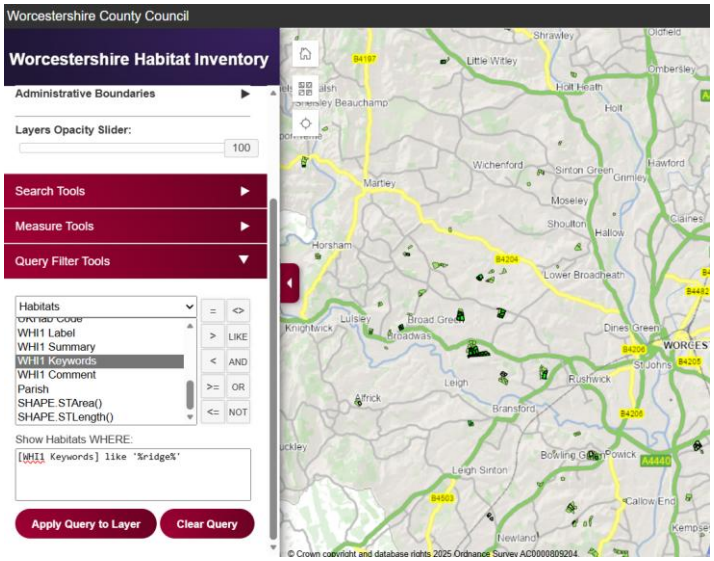

Figure 16: A screenshot of the Worcestershire Habitat Inventory showing how to search for WHI1 Keywords

WHI1 contained considerable field-by-field data in the form of 'comments' and 'keywords'. WHI3 retains this and allows you to search for this text within its attributes (Figure 16).

To search for a keyword or attribute, for example, 'ridge':

- Select the 'Habitats' layer
- Select 'WHI1 Keywords'
- Select 'like'
- In the query builder window replace the 'value' text with the term you are searching for

To Query WHI2 or WHI3 attributes using confidence intervals

WHI3 and WHI2 data can also be queried by the confidence value of the dataset.

To identify data with higher than 65% confidence:

- Select 'Habitats' as the query layer
- Select '[Confidence]'
- Select >
- Input 65%

The query tool will also allow combinations of search terms. For example, to search for improved grassland which also contains the observation 'ridge and furrow' in the 'comments' field, the following search term can be used: '[UKHab Code] = 'g4' AND [WHI1 Comment] like '%ridge and furrow%'.