Site Ecology

The isolated location and post-industrial history of the site has meant that the Paddock has primarily developed by natural colonization, creating a unique ecology and landscape character

A unique ecology

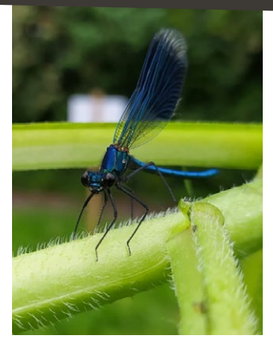
The Paddock has developed into a young woodland and scrub dominated by elder, willow and blackberry. This provides a valuable nesting habitat for birds such as song thrush, blackbird and various warblers. Weasels and hedgehogs have also been seen here.

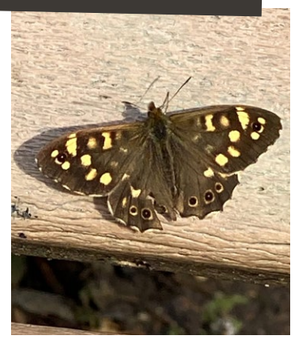
Beneath the scrub canopy a rare variety of lichens and mosses have colonised historic construction rubble creating a unique groundcover which is being studied (19 separate species have been identified).

The Old River Lea borders the eastern edge of the site, creating a natural river edge to the site - a rare occurrence in the local area where almost all the watercourses are canalised, with human-made boundaries. Reed beds and aquatic plants grow and provide habitat for kingfishers, sand martins, and amphibians.

Residents Wildlife Photographs









Existing habitats and vegetation



Meadow



South eastern view of the Old River Lea



Existing pond