

FOREST HEATH WILDLIFE AUDIT

Proposed site allocations

2015

<i>Project no.</i>	<i>Report</i>	<i>Date</i>
26/15	Final	23/02/2016
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

SWT Trading Ltd: Ecological Consultants, the wholly owned company of Suffolk Wildlife Trust (SWT), was commissioned by Forest Heath District Council in 2015 to carry out a Wildlife Audit of proposed development sites within the District. An initial list of 202 sites was drawn up by the Council which was subsequently amended.

Surveys commenced in May 2015 and continued until autumn 2015. The survey protocol conformed to Extended Phase 1 and the information was presented as individual site reports using a standardised reporting form including a Phase 1 map and photographs. The presence, or likely presence, of Biodiversity Action Plan habitats and species and also protected species was recorded. Information was also provided under various broad taxonomic groups, including flora, avifauna, invertebrates, herpetofauna and mammals. In addition, the structural diversity each habitat and the connectivity of sites within the overall ecological network across the Borough was assessed. Recommendations were provided for further survey work.

2.0 OBJECTIVES

The aim of the surveys was:

- To undertake an Extended Phase 1 habitat survey for all the identified sites during the 2012 or 2013 survey seasons;
- To provide information and a description of the wildlife interest for each site;
- To map specified habitat types, using standard colour codes for each site including a breakdown of habitat types within it;
- To list species including protected species or evidence of their presence, BAP species and habitats, remark on biodiversity and appraise the nature conservation value;
- For those sites with previous survey data available, to take these findings into account;
- To rank sites in terms of wildlife value with which to evaluate sites;
- To provide an electronic photographic record of the sites;
- To provide a written report of results and recommendations for any necessary compliance or requirements for further survey.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

In order to achieve the overall aims of the project the following tasks were undertaken:

- Existing digital information for each site was collated using data provided by Suffolk Biological Records Centre and from 1:10,000 maps and aerial photographs.
- Each site was surveyed and a record made of its conservation value, with the exception of those sites identified as small gardens or where no access could be obtained.

- Photographs were taken of relevant features within the sites, both geotagged and digital high quality images.
- Criteria and a ranking system were used to evaluate sites.
- Comments were made on habitats/species of wildlife interest.
- Ecological issues were highlighted.
- Recommendations for further surveys were provided as appropriate.
- The sites were mapped with Phase 1 colour codes using BosqMap software.

3.1 Criteria for site evaluation

At each site the following was recorded:

- **Location:** Site name, number and grid reference;
- **Size:** the size was noted in hectares (ha);
- **Survey details:** Date, surveyor, weather conditions;
- **Phase 1 map and photos;**
- **Status:** Designation, ranking and overall wildlife value;
- **Habitat type:** distinct, dominant habitat types were briefly detailed;
- **Subsidiary habitat:** this included additional habitats of particular note such as dead wood;
- **Site description:** a detailed account of the site;
- **Connectivity:** if a site linked to other green corridors, this was noted and described in detail where relevant. The juxtaposition of other proposed sites was also considered;
- **Structural diversity:** the differing vegetation structure (height) providing a variation in niche potential for a wide range of taxa was described for each site if relevant;
- **Protected species:** these were noted if recorded, or if previously recorded;
- **Protected species potential:** this was noted if the habitat was deemed suitable for named protected species;
- **Priority species:** these were noted if seen, or if previously recorded. NB: if the species is a 'protected species' and a 'priority species', then it was only listed under protected species;
- **Priority species potential:** this was noted if the habitat was deemed suitable for priority species;
- **Priority habitats:** these were noted if present;
- **Flora, avifauna, herpetofauna, mammals, invertebrates etc:** species seen or recorded were noted and habitat which offered potential for specific taxa was noted;
- **Comments and recommendations:** overall impressions of each site were noted and further survey work was recommended where relevant;
- **References:** these were included when it was appropriate to reference other surveys.

Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) species and habitats: In 2012 the 'UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework' succeeded the UK BAP and 'Conserving Biodiversity – the UK Approach'. This was the result of a change in strategic thinking following the publication of the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD's) 'Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020' and its 20 'Aichi

targets', at Nagoya, Japan in October 2010 and the launch of the new EU Biodiversity Strategy (EUBS) in May 2011. Much of the work previously carried out under the UK BAP is now focussed at a country level via the creation of biodiversity strategies. However, the UK BAP lists of priority species and habitats remain important and valuable reference sources. Notably, they have been used to help draw up statutory lists of priorities which in turn inform the local plans which have been produced for those priority species and habitats occurring in Suffolk (Suffolk Local Biodiversity Action Plans). In addition, several other habitats and species that are important with a Suffolk context have been identified and termed 'Suffolk Character Plans'.

Protected species: species protected by law under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended), The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2010) (as amended) and the Protection of Badgers Act (1992).

3.2 System of site ranking

A system of ranking each site from the information gathered during surveys was established, using a simple numbering method. Numbers 1-6 were used (1 = high, 6 = low).

- 1 Statutory designation e.g. SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) scheduled under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended).
- 2 Non-statutory designation e.g. County Wildlife Site (CWS). CWSs are sites regarded as important in a county/regional context.
- 3 Non-statutory designation e.g. Local Wildlife Site (LWS), priority species and habitats (except those that are locally common e.g. song thrush) and/or species protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended).
- 4 No designation but clearly of value due to size, connectivity, species diversity, potential for priority and protected species and locally common priority and protected species.
- 5 No designation but has some natural capital: is in character with the area (e.g. woodland), provides limited connectivity.
- 6 No designation and of no conservation value.

Site Ranking 1: Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs): the most important sites for wildlife within a national context. The criteria used to assess such sites have been developed by English Nature (now Natural England).

Site Ranking 2: County Wildlife Sites (CWSs): these sites have a high priority for protection. Although there is currently no statutory protection, all of Suffolk's local authorities have included a policy in their local plans to protect CWSs from development. The criteria used to assess CWSs have been developed by Suffolk Wildlife Trust, Suffolk County Council, Natural England and Suffolk Biological Records Centre (SBRC) (The County Wildlife Site panel). The information is available on the Suffolk Biodiversity Partnership website: <http://www.suffolkbiodiversity.org/wildlife-sites.aspx> accessed 23/02/16.

Site Ranking 3: sites which do not fulfil the criteria for SSSI or CWS status but have a high conservation value. In some districts these are designated as 'Local Wildlife Sites' when they

are situated within urban areas. These sites comprise the best examples of different habitats or are important for a particular species and are assessed of the following criteria:

- Non-recreatability. The sites must have some degree of naturalness.
- Diversity and presence of indicator species. Sites that are less diverse than CWSs will be included. For example, grassland that is not a remnant of old meadow but has a good number of grass and herb species. Areas dominated by amenity grassland will not be included.
- Rarity. Sites that contain habitats, plants and animals that are rare within the town but may be common throughout the county are included here.
- Potential value. These sites may have greater value once appropriate conservation management work is carried out. Some sites that could benefit from habitat creation are included, but only those that already have some conservation value.
- Size. There is no minimum size but sites that do not have a great diversity of species or habitats and contain no rare species are unlikely to be included if they are less than 0.25 hectares.
- Woodland. Normally such sites are secondary woodland as all ancient woods are designated as CWSs. The exceptions are small sites that may contain remnants of ancient woodland within woods of more recent origin. All secondary woodlands with a reasonably diverse ground flora or containing some old woodland indicator species are included. Woodland strips and shelter belts are not usually included unless they fulfil the criteria of having a reasonably diverse ground flora. Any sites containing exceptionally old trees are included because of their wildlife value.
- Scrub. Scrub is particularly important for breeding birds and invertebrates, particularly when it is adjacent to grassland and mature trees.
- Grassland. Areas of grassland of some diversity that do not qualify as CWSs are included. These may represent recently established grasslands and areas of amenity grassland where soil type and management favour a more species-rich sward.
- Freshwater. Freshwater sites can include rivers, streams, ditches and ponds. Sites which contain a reasonable variety of aquatic or marginal plants are included, as are those with good populations of amphibians.
- Created habitats. Some sites which have developed from former arable or industrial use have a high diversity of species or are important for a particular species.
- Species. Sites are included if they provide important habitat for one or more of the following groups: invertebrates, amphibians and reptiles, birds and mammals. This includes priority species and habitats (except those that are locally common e.g. song thrush) and/or species protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended). Note: where species are of sufficient rarity or where there are exceptional populations, sites may be designated as CWSs or SSSIs.

Site Ranking 4 Other Sites of Nature Conservation Interest: sites which are less important for wildlife but still retain a degree of naturalness. Locally common priority species such as song thrush may be present and also locally common protected species such as reptiles. However, this ranking applies only in cases of low numbers of a single species and not significant populations of one or more species (see LWS and CWSs). In addition, these sites often provide valuable stepping stones and wildlife corridors along which species can travel between sites.

Site Ranking 5: Areas that have limited value for wildlife:

These may include arable fields or regularly mown amenity grassland with some features of wildlife value, such as some boundary hedgerows or rough grass margins.

Site Ranking 6: Areas that have no or very limited value for wildlife: These may include built areas, large arable fields, other disturbed ground or regularly mown amenity grassland with no other semi-natural features.

3.3 Biodiversity value

Linked to the ranking system is a broad approach to describing whether a site was of high, medium or low biodiversity value:

- 1-2 High conservation value: These sites include designated sites such as SSSIs and CWSs. It may also include undesignated sites where it is recommended that they should be assessed by the CWS Panel as to whether they meet the criteria for designation.
- 3-4 Medium conservation value: These are undesignated sites which have a known wildlife value and contribute to the overall ecological network.
- 5-6 Low conservation value: These sites have limited wildlife value. However, a change in future management or additional enhancement may result in an increase in ecological value and a change in site ranking.

4 SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

4.1 Site coverage and distribution

Although the original site list included 202 sites, a number of sites were subsequently removed from the list by FHDC. The list was subsequently modified to exclude sites which represented small gardens or groups of small gardens combined together. Access was obtained to most sites.

The final numbers of sites visited are as follows:

Beck Row	23
Brandon	18
Exning	5
Kentford	11
Lakenheath	19
Mildenhall	27
Newmarket	19
Red Lodge	18
West Row	21

4.2 Gardens proposed as potential site allocations (not surveyed)

Where small gardens or groups of small were proposed as potential development sites, these were not surveyed. Instead, a statement has been prepared below to encompass the range of ecological features likely to be found in gardens within the Forest Heath district. The sub-headings broadly relate to those used within the site surveys.

The following sites fall into this category of unsurveyed garden(s):

Beck Row: BR/04

Brandon B/02, B/03, B/04, B/05, B/07, B/16, B/25

Exning: E/07, E/09

Lakenheath: L/03, L/06, L/10

Mildenhall: M/03, M/04, M/05, M/06, M/07, M31

Newmarket: N/07

Red Lodge: RL/01, partial RL/02, RL03

West Row: partial WR/17, WR/20, WR/32

4.2.1 Site description for gardens:

This statement relates to a range of gardens of varying size and composition associated with residential buildings within the audit area. Whilst each site is different, some of these gardens are likely to contain remnants or small areas of valuable habitat which have intrinsic wildlife value and others may be managed to encourage wildlife. Mature or established sites provide nesting, feeding, breeding, over-wintering and refuge opportunities for a wide range of species. Some will contain features which enhance the wildlife value of the garden further such as ponds, or incorporate specific micro-habitats such as insect 'homes' for bees or ladybirds, bird boxes or log piles which have been installed to encourage wildlife. Others contain features of which certain species or groups will utilize, such as raised paving slabs, compost heaps or grass piles, which, although not specifically installed for wildlife, will provide refuges.

4.2.2 Habitat type(s) in gardens:

Residential gardens may contain elements or remnants of a number of habitats including grassland (many of which are of sandy or chalky soil and of Breckland character), scrub, hedgerow, ponds, secondary woodland and orchard.

4.2.3 Subsidiary habitats in gardens:

Residential gardens may contain numerous features of this type: Deadwood, individual mature trees, native herbs and grasses and additional features found in species-rich wildlife gardens such as compost areas, grass heaps, and insect-attracting plants.

4.2.4 Protected species seen or known:

The garden sites within the remit of this audit have not been surveyed individually. However, a number of protected species have been recorded within the survey area of the audit and therefore have the potential for being present in the gardens highlighted, as detailed below.

4.2.5 Protected species potential:

Slow-worm
Grass snake
Common lizard
Great crested newt

Water vole

4.2.6 Priority habitats present:

Features of small remnants of the following priority habitats may potentially be present:

Lowland Heathland & Acid Grassland
Hedgerows
Ponds
Traditional orchards

4.2.7 Priority species seen or known:

Whilst the garden sites within the remit of this audit have not been surveyed individually, some of the species recorded within the parishes covered will have been present within the garden sites and others will have the potential for being present, as detailed below.

4.2.8 Priority species potential:

The species with potential to be found within or associated with the garden sites include the following, although this list is not exhaustive:

Birds: Swift, Song thrush, Starling, Dunnock, House sparrow, Bullfinch, Spotted flycatcher.

Mammals: Hedgehog, Soprano pipistrelle bat, Brown long-eared bat.

Herpetofauna: Common toad, Common frog, Smooth newt, great crested newt, common lizard, slow worm and grass snake.

Invertebrates: Garden tiger butterfly, Wall butterfly, Small emerald moth, White ermine moth, Large garden bumblebee, Red-shanked carder bee.

Scarce or uncommon plants (not priority species but of interest): Common cudweed

4.2.9 Connectivity:

Whilst each of the garden sites may be individually quite isolated from each other, the potential wildlife value of a garden increases significantly if it is adjacent to a wildlife-rich site or habitat functioning as a corridor connecting it to other areas of semi-natural habitat. Similarly, the close proximity of a wildlife-rich garden can increase the likelihood of a site maintaining viable populations, particularly of the more mobile species.

4.2.10 Structural diversity:

A range in structural diversity across garden sites is provided by grasses, herbs, shrubs, climbing plants and trees, offering opportunities for members of all species group. Further diversity is provided on a smaller, topographical scale by other features and micro-habitats,

such as deadwood, long grass, ant hills, paving slabs, compost heaps and grass piles.

4.2.11 Flora:

A wide diversity of flora can be found in gardens, from mosses, lichens and fungi to fully mature native trees. These offer feeding, breeding and over-wintering opportunities for a large number of species, particularly in gardens which are adjacent to wildlife-rich sites. Many native grasses and herbaceous species, such as ox-eye daisy, germander speedwell, common knapweed, field scabious, white campion, common cat's ear and meadow buttercup will spread easily from adjacent sites and thrive in a garden setting. On garden sites on Breckland soil, these could also include more specialized native species such as viper's-bugloss and common cudweed. Other common non-native garden species present in gardens will also attract invertebrates such as bees and butterflies and add to the overall wildlife value of these sites.

Many native species of shrub and tree are commonly present in gardens and will provide additional wildlife value. The light soil present in many parts of the audit area will be particularly suitable for species that are common to Breckland such as silver birch and gorse but will also include other common native species such as blackthorn, holly, hawthorn, ivy, oak, hazel, elder, field maple and bramble.

4.2.12 Avifauna:

Mature trees and dense native shrubs, particularly in the form of a mixed native hedge, can provide good roosting and nesting sites for this group. Species such as holly, ivy, bramble and hawthorn provide a valuable source of food for fruit-eating species, longer areas of grass and lawn provide opportunities for ground feeders and a good invertebrate population, encouraged through features such as those discussed below, will be beneficial for insect-eating birds.

4.2.13 Invertebrates:

Mature trees, dense scrub, deadwood, herbs and grasses can all provide opportunities for this group. Many species of invertebrate may over-winter in a garden, making particular use of compost heaps, grass heaps, log piles, dense grassland and dead stems/flower heads. The addition of man-made features for invertebrates will increase the potential for this group.

4.2.14 Herpetofauna:

A wildlife-friendly garden can provide good feeding, breeding and over-wintering opportunities for this group and their presence is increased if the garden has good connectivity to other areas of suitable semi-natural habitat.

Garden ponds or damp areas can provide breeding and feeding sites for amphibians, whilst long vegetation on pond edges, log piles, paving slabs and undisturbed areas, beneath sheds or water butts for example, will be valuable terrestrial or over-wintering sites.

Reptiles will also benefit from these refuge or hibernation sites. Garden features such as grass piles or compost heaps can also be important refuge or breeding sites. Stone features

such as paving slabs and brick walls, or log piles and compost heaps in a sunny site, can be used as basking areas.

4.2.15 Mammals:

Nesting opportunities for bats can be present in gardens in the form of dense scrub (mature ivy on trees, for example), in holes or fissures in trees and in potential nesting sites in the buildings themselves.

Gardens can be valuable feeding, shelter and over-wintering habitats for hedgehogs and overgrown gardens can provide an important overwintering resource in the form of suitable habitat for hibernation (which can be a limiting factor). Permeability of boundary features is very important for retaining the local hedgehog population.

Small mammals such as common species of mouse, vole and shrew may be present and larger mammals such as rabbit, fox, and deer will also visit gardens to feed, particularly if connected to other natural habitat. .

4.2.16 Comments and recommendations:

Garden sites can be a valuable resource for a wide range of species. They can contain a good diversity of common species as well as providing opportunities for some less common species, particularly those that require the characteristics of Breckland habitat.

Gardens can provide an essential link between valuable open spaces or wildlife-rich habitat, reducing the risk of fragmentation of habitat on a wider countryside scale and providing opportunities for species, particularly mobile species, to maintain viable populations.

4.3 Constraints to the surveys undertaken for the Wildlife Audit

This survey represents a snapshot in time and should be considered as an initial assessment of the habitats and the potential species which they may support. Every effort has been made to date to provide an accurate assessment of the current situation but no liability can be assumed for omissions or changes after the survey has taken place. In particular, no detailed surveys have been made for invasive or protected species, or specific botanical or faunal groups.

Appendix 1 Catalogue of surveyed sites

Beck Row

Code	Site Name	Ranking	Biodiversity Value
BR01	Lamble Close	3	Medium
BR02	Land adjacent to RAF Mildenhall	5	Low
BR03	Land adjacent to Smoke House Inn, Skeltons Drove	3	Medium
BR05	Land off The Grove	4	Medium
BR06	Land south of Rookery Drove	4	Medium
BR08	Land to the north of Wilde Street	4	Medium
BR09	Land at corner of Wilde Street/Aspal Lane	4	Medium
BR10	Land adjacent to and south of caravan park on Aspal Lane	3	Medium
BR11	Land between Aspal Lane and Wildmere Lane	3	Medium
BR12	Land adjacent to Beck Lodge Farm, St Johns Street	4	Medium
BR13	Land West of Aspal Hall Road	2	High
BR15	Land south of St John's Street	6	Low
BR17	Land East of Skeltons Drove	5	Low
BR18	Former coal yard, Wilde Street	5	Low
BR19	Land adjacent to Moss Edge Farm and west of the A1101	4	Medium
BR21	Aspal Nursery, Aspal Lane	4	Medium
BR23	Land at White Gables, Stocks Corner	4	Medium
BR24	Land between Wildmere Lane and Holmsey Green	4	Medium
BR25	Land adjacent to Wilde Street Farm	4	Medium
BR26	Land East of Aspal Lane	5	Low
BR27	Land adjacent to Beck Lodge Farm	5	Low
BR28	Land at junction of Aspal Lane and Johns Street	4	Medium
BR29	Scrap Yard, Skeltons Drove	6	Low

Brandon

Code	Site Name	Ranking	Biodiversity Value
B01	Land off Fengate Drove	6	Low
B06	Land off School Lane	5	Low
B09	Land at Station Way	6	Low
B10	Land south-west of Station Way	4	Medium
B11	Land north of Gas House Drove	4	Medium
B12	Land off Manor Road	2	High
B13	Omar Homes	6	Low
B14	Land off Green Road	2	High
B15	Riverside Lodge off High Street	4	Medium
B18	Land south River Little Ouse and west of High Street	4	Medium
B19	Land south Railway line including Lignacite Site	3	Medium
B20	Land at Brandon Cottage, Bury Road	4	Medium
B21	Land north of Gas House Drove (small block)	5	Low
B23	Land off Bury Road	1	High
B24	Land west of Bury Road	1	High
B27	Land off London Road	1	High
B28	Land at Abbots Court, North of Victoria Avenue	4	Medium
B17/B12 combined	Land to the west of Brandon	2	High

Exning

Code	Site Name	Ranking	Biodiversity Value
E02	Land off The Drift/Burwell Road	5	Low
E03	Land to the rear of Laceys Lane (includes Frogmore)	5	Low
E05	Land south of Burwell Road	6	Low
E06	South of Burwell Road	5	Low
E08	Land to rear of York Villas, North End Road	5	Low

Kentford

Code	Site Name	Ranking	Biodiversity Value
K01	Land east of Moulton Road	5	Low
K02	Meddler Stud	4	Medium/low
K03	Land north of A14	6	Low
K04	Land north of Bury Road	5	Low
K05	South and east of Flint House, Bury Road (near Village Hall)	4	Medium
K06	Site opposite 1 to 4 Bury Road	4	Medium
K09	Fothergills, Gazeley Road	5	Low
K13	Land to rear of Flint House	6	Low
K14	Land east of Gazeley Road	6	Low
K16	Land to the rear of Cock Public House	4	Medium
K17	Land between Bury Road and A14	5	Low

Lakenheath

Code	Site Name	Ranking	Biodiversity Value
L04	Land north of Station Road	5	Low
L07	3 Cemetery Road	4	Medium
L11	East of The Mallards	5	Low
L12	Land north of Burrow Drive and Briscoe Way	5	Low
L13	Rabbithill Covert, Station Road	5	Low
L14	Land off Maids Cross Way	5	Low
L15	Land off Covey Way and Maids Cross Hill	3	Medium
L18	Near Broom Road, off Eriswell Drive	5	Low
L19	Land north-east of South Road	5	Low (CWS)
L22	Land south of Broom Road	4	Medium (CWS)
L25	Land east of Eriswell Road and south of South Road	4	Medium (CWS)
L26	Land west of Eriswell Road	4	Medium
L27	Land south of Broom Road	5	Low (CWS)
L28	Middle Covert, land south of Station Road	4	Medium
L29	Matthews Nursery	4	Medium
L35	Land off Briscoe Way	5	Low
L36	North Lakenheath	4	Medium
L37	Land north of Cemetery	6	Low
L38	Land to north of Maids Cross Hill	6	Low

Mildenhall

Code	Site Name	Ranking	Biodiversity Value
M01	South of Gonville Close	2	High
M09	Land South of College Heath Road	5	Low
M10	Land off Finchley Avenue	5	Low
M11	Land adjacent to College Heath Road	2	High

M12	Woodlands Park off Brandon Road	4	Medium
M13	Land between the River Lark and Worlington Road	5	Low (Lark)
M14	Former builders yard north of Worlington Road	6	Low
M15	Land south of Lark Road/Raven Close	5	Low
M16	Land north of Brandon Road	1	High
M17	Land north of Thetford Road	1	High
M18	Land south of Lark Road	4	Medium
M19	Land west of Mildenhall, south of West Row Road	4	Medium
M20	Land south of Pine Trees Avenue	5	Low
M21	Land west of Miles Hawk Way	6	Low
	Land south of Mildenhall to River Lark (including Jubilee Field and site M44)	4	Medium
M22			
M23	Land east of Mildenhall to A1065 and Fiveways Roundabout	1	High
	Land north of Mildenhall, east of the A1101 (including Airfield landing lights)	1	High
M24			
M25	Precinct	6	Low
M26	Land south of Bury Road and east of A11	3	Medium
M27	Site adjacent to Parkers Mill	5	Low
M28	Land at 54 Kingsway	5	Low
	Land south of Worlington Road and adjacent to former dairy site.	5	Low
M29			
M30	The old railway station site	4	Medium
M33	Land to west of Folly Road	4	Medium
M40	Land west of Industrial Estate	6	Low
M41	Land at Meadow View Cottage	5	Low
M42	Rose Forge, south of Worlington Road	4	Medium

Newmarket

Code	Site Name	Ranking	Biodiversity Value
N03	Former Gas Works, Exning Road	6	Low
N05	Land West of Fordham Road (A12)	5	Low
N08	Allotments Studlands Park	4	Medium
N09	Brickfield Stud, Exning Road	5 (4)	Low (Tree Belt)
N10	Land at Balaton Stables, Snailwell Road	5	Low
N11	Land at Black Bear Lane and Rowley Drive Junction	4	Medium
N12	Coronation Stables, Station Approach	6	Low
N13	Land off Brickfields Avenue	4	Medium
N14	Land east of Newmarket, south of A14 (Hatchfield Farm)	4	Medium
N15	Old Newmarket Station site car park	6	Low
N18	George Lambton playing fields	5	Low
N20	Grassland off Leaders Way and Sefton Way	5	Low
N21	Land south of Exning Road and adjacent to Hamilton Road	5	Low
N24	Site off Wellington Street	6	Low
N26	East of Palace Street	6	Low
N27	Market Place	6	Low
N29	North of the High Street	6	Low
N30	Site on Depot Road	6	Low
N31	Former Scaltback Middle School Site	6	Low

Red Lodge

Code	Site Name	Ranking	Biodiversity Value
RL02	Land to rear 14 – 16 Turnpike Road	-	
RL03	Land off Turnpike Road Phase 2 (Red Lodge Masterplan)	-	
RL04	Coopers Yard and Cafe	5	Low
	Land adjoining Public House, Turnpike Road and Turnpike Lane	4	Medium
RL05			
RL06	Land adjoining Twins Belt, land east of Red Lodge	4/5	Medium/Low
RL07	The White Star Stables, Warren Road	5	Low
RL08	Land to rear 4 to14B Turnpike Lane	4	Medium
RL09	Land at Greenhays Farm	4	Medium
RL10	Land west of Elderberry Road, Kings Warren	5	Low
RL11	Land east of Turnpike Road	1 (6)	High/low
RL12	Land east of Warren Road	5	Low
RL13	Land west of Newmarket Road	6	Low
RL15	Land north and east of Red Lodge, either side of A11	Variable	
RL16	Employment land north of Hundred Acre Way	5	Low
RL18	Land south of The Carrops	4	Medium
RL19	Land south of Green Lane	3	Medium
RL20	Land north of Elderberry Road	5	Low
RL21	Land north-east of Bilberry Close	4	Medium

West Row

Code	Site Name	Ranking	Biodiversity Value
WR01	Land south of Chapel Road	5	Low
WR02	Land off Pott Hall Lane	4	Medium
WR03	Land north of The Green	6	Low
WR04	Land at the junction of Jarman's Lane and Beeches Road	4	Medium
WR06	Land north of Mildenhall Road	5	Low
WR07	Land east of Beeches Road	6	Low
WR09	Land south of Manor Farm Road	6	Low
WR10	Land off Chapel Road	6	Low
WR11	Land off Parker's Drove	5	Low
WR12	Land adjacent to Park Garden, Friday Street	5	Low
WR13	Land behind St Peter's Church, Church Lane	5	Low
WR14	Off Friday Street, behind Williams Way	5	Low
WR15	Popes Farm, Church Lane	5	Low
WR16	Land to north of Ferry Lane	6	Low
WR19	Land at junction of Mildenhall Road and Jarman's Lane	5	Low
WR21	Land east of Pott Hall Road	6	Low
WR23	Land off Friday Street	6	Low
WR25	Land off Pott Hall Road	4	Medium
WR26	Land off Parkers Drove	5	Low
WR27	Land south-west of Jarman's Lane	5	Low
WR33	Land at Popes Farm	5	Low

Unsurveyed sites due to lack of access:

Brandon: B/08 (under construction)

Beck Row: BR/20

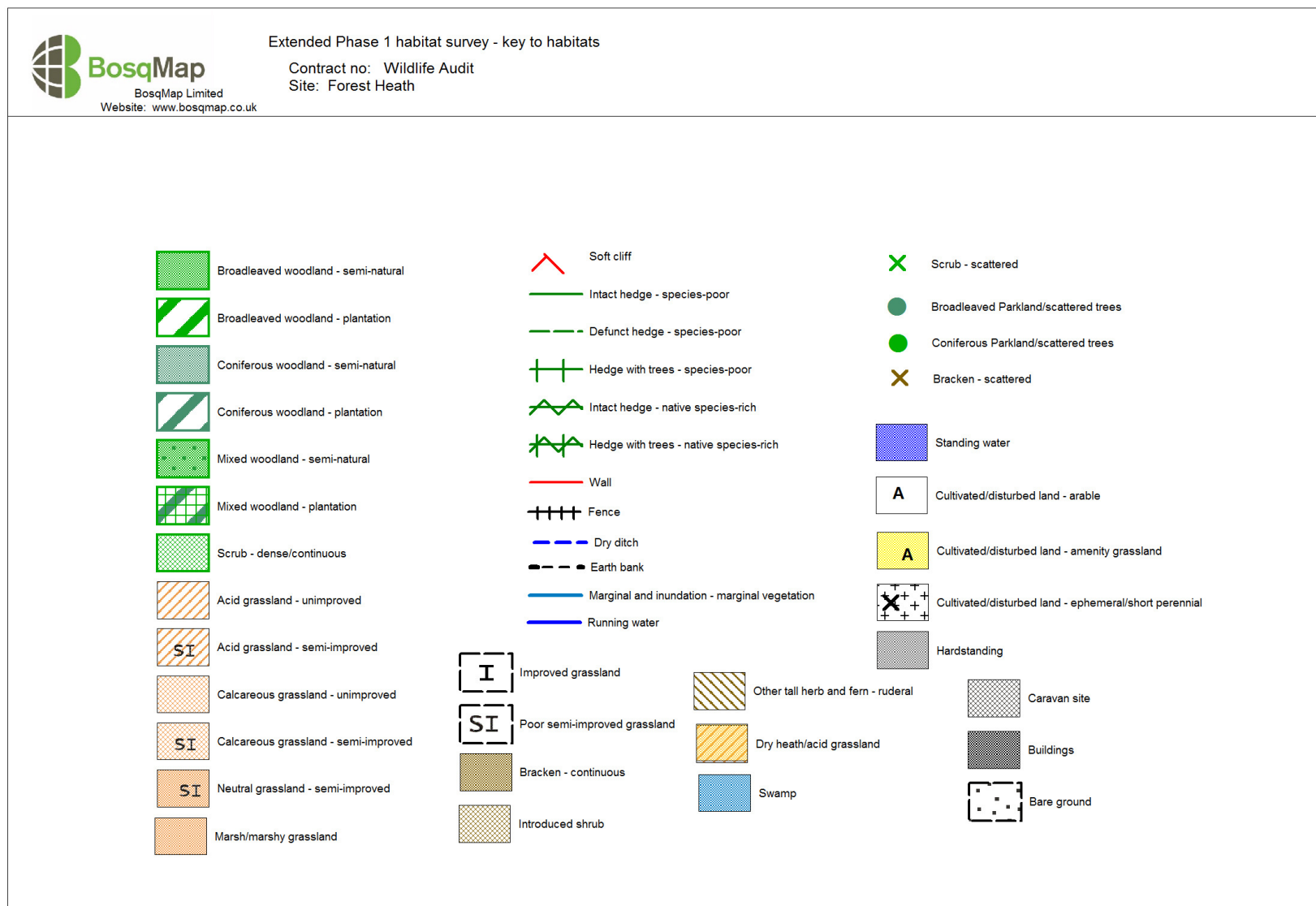
Kentford: K10

Mildenhall: M/43

Newmarket: N/32

Red Lodge: RL/03

Key to phase 1 Maps

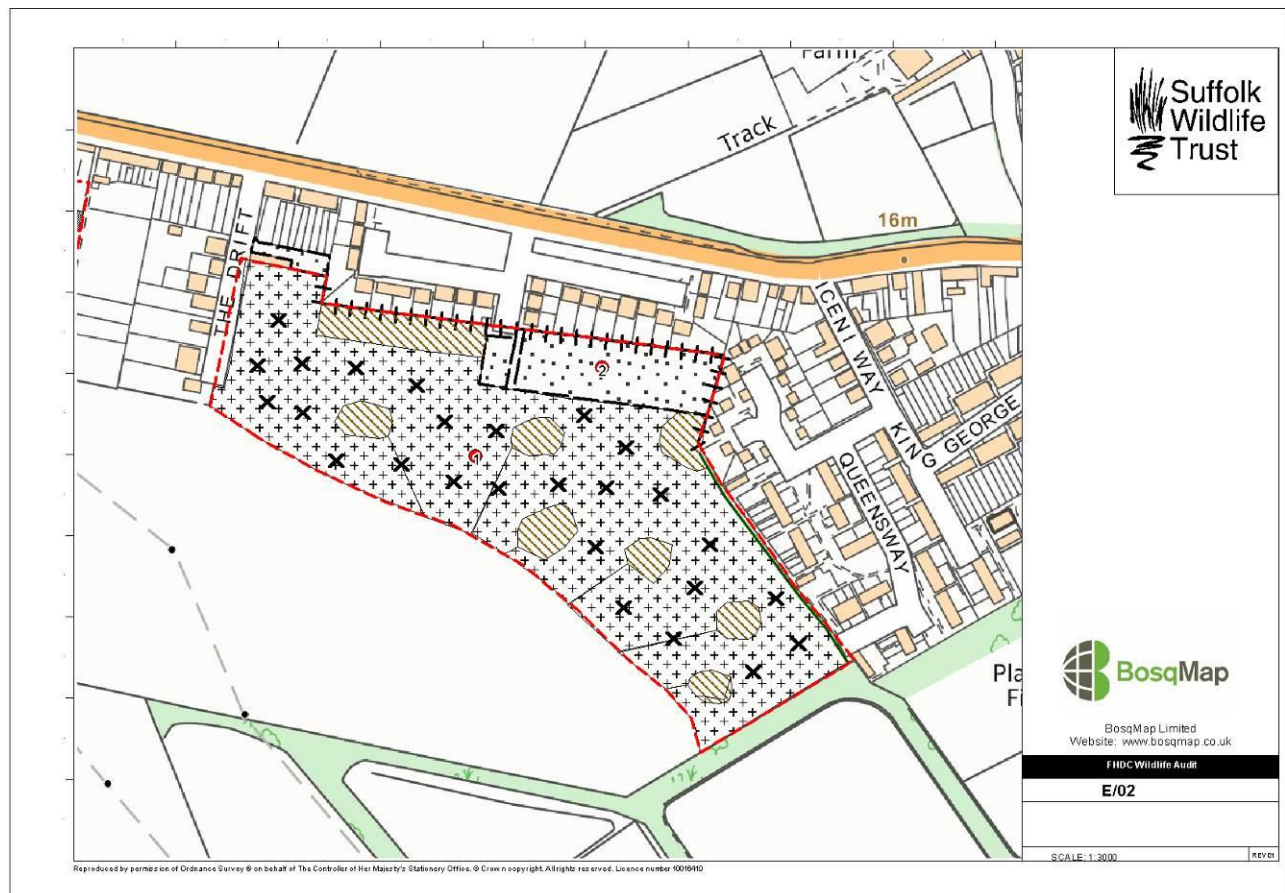


Sensitive ecological data may has been removed from these audit reports

Site name E/02 Land off The Drift/Burwell Road

FHDC Ref: E/02
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TL 61320 65711
Area: 6.1 hectares
Date: 28 August 2015
Recorder: A Sherwood
Weather conditions: Dry, warm, overcast with sunny periods
Ranking: 5
Biodiversity value: Low

Map:



Photos:



Access via 'The Drift' looking north with managed hedgerow along part of site boundary.



Northern boundary adjacent to residential properties. Garden shrubs alongside the fence form a non-native hedgerow.



View looking south looking towards plantation broad-leaved woodland. Note bare areas where topsoil has been scraped off.



Large bare area in north-west corner of the site.



Plantation broad-leaved woodland along south-east boundary of the site.

Habitat type(s):

Ephemeral short perennial
Tall ruderal
Bare ground

Subsidiary habitats:

Species-poor hedgerows

Site description:

The site is located off the Burwell Road (B1103) on the western edge of Exning. The site is part of a former arable field but has been bought by a residential developer and site investigations are being undertaken, with large areas of topsoil having been stripped off and piled on site. The site was granted outline planning consent for 120 dwellings (reference F/2012/0552/OUT) in 2014 and a Reserved Matters application (reference DC/14/0942/RM) is currently being determined. The site is bounded to the north, west and east by existing residential development and to the south-east by a belt of plantation broad-leaved woodland. The south-east boundary is an existing arable field with no field boundary.

Protected species seen or known:

Bats (common pipistrelle and noctule – both foraging only) (The Landscape Partnership, 2010)

Protected species potential:

-

Priority habitats present:

-

Priority species seen or known:

Dunnock, house sparrow and song thrush (The Landscape Partnership, 2010)

Priority species potential:

Skylark (if site is left undisturbed)

Connectivity:

The site has limited connectivity with only the plantation woodland belt along the south-east boundary forming links to the wider countryside.

Structural diversity:

The recent activities on site have created some structural diversity across the site with large areas of bare ground and a mosaic of short vegetation and taller ruderal species. However, the history of the site indicates that this is a recent change and therefore it is considered unlikely that this has attracted a wide range of faunal species.

Flora:

The site was under arable cultivation until relatively recently and now that site investigations have started for the proposed development, a ruderal transitory weedy sward has developed (Target Note 1). Species included abundant barren brome with frequent false oat-grass, common ragwort and creeping thistle. Occasional species included common couch, prickly lettuce, Canadian fleabane, dandelion, blue fleabane, hedge cranes-bill, rosebay willowherb and scentless mayweed. There were a number of species that were rare in the sward and these included common mallow, smooth hawks-beard, great willowherb, wild oat, field pansy, scarlet pimpernel, wall barley, red clover and common poppy. Other species such as perennial sow-thistle were locally frequent while knotgrass was locally dominant in places. There were large areas of bare ground where top-soil had been stripped off for site investigations (Target Note 2).

The northern boundary, along the gardens of residential properties, although fenced was beginning to develop into a hedgerow from the garden shrubs planted alongside the fence. These shrubs included species such as barberry, forsythia, garden privet and a *Cotoneaster* sp.

There were two species-poor hedgerows bordering the site. One adjacent to 'The Drift' was dominated by hawthorn and regular managed. The other bordered the residential properties along the south-east boundary. This hedgerow was dominated by privet with occasional hawthorn and sycamore. The garden species Russian vine was also present.

The woodland belt in the south-east of the site comprises beech, sycamore, horse chestnut with snowberry forming a dense layer along the edge of the belt.

Avifauna:

None recorded during the survey. The site is only likely to attract ground nesting birds in the spring and summer.

Breeding bird surveys in 2010 (The Landscape Partnership, 2010) recorded 17 bird species confirmed or likely breeding on the site. These included the Priority species dunnoek, house sparrow and song thrush. Whitethroat, which is listed as Amber on the Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) list was also recorded. Skylark, a Priority species, was recorded nesting in fields adjacent to the site.

Invertebrates:

The history of the site suggests it is only likely to support invertebrates that are opportunistic, common and widespread species.

Herpetofauna:

The site is unlikely to support common reptiles because of its recent past history.

There are no known ponds on or immediately adjacent to the site and none within 500m of the site. Therefore it is considered highly unlikely that great crested newts would be present on the site. The recent history also adds to this conclusion.

Mammals:

There were a number of pathways through the vegetation leading to the woodland belt at the southeast corner of the site. Most of these were attributed to human activity such as dog walkers.

There are no features on site that could support roosting bats although mature trees in the woodland belt adjacent to the south east boundary with features such as cracks, splits and hollows that could support roosting bats. Bat surveys in 2010 (The Landscape Partnership, 2010) recorded activity from common pipistrelle and noctule bats on the site, no roosts were found.

There are no waterbodies on or adjacent to the site that could support otters or water voles.

Comments and recommendations:

The site is part of a former arable field that has recently been marked off from the remaining arable activities. Planning permission for the development of 120 dwellings at the site was granted in 2014. The site is of low ecological value with only a weedy sward developing since regular cultivations have ceased. Currently there are no significant ecological constraints to development on the site, however it should be ensured that construction and operational lighting is directed away from the boundary vegetation.

Vegetation clearance should be undertaken outside the main bird nesting season considered to be March to August inclusive or preceded by a nesting bird check. NB. Russian vine is a non-native very fast-growing species and can spread quickly. It can cover native trees and shrubs and reduce biodiversity by shading out other species.

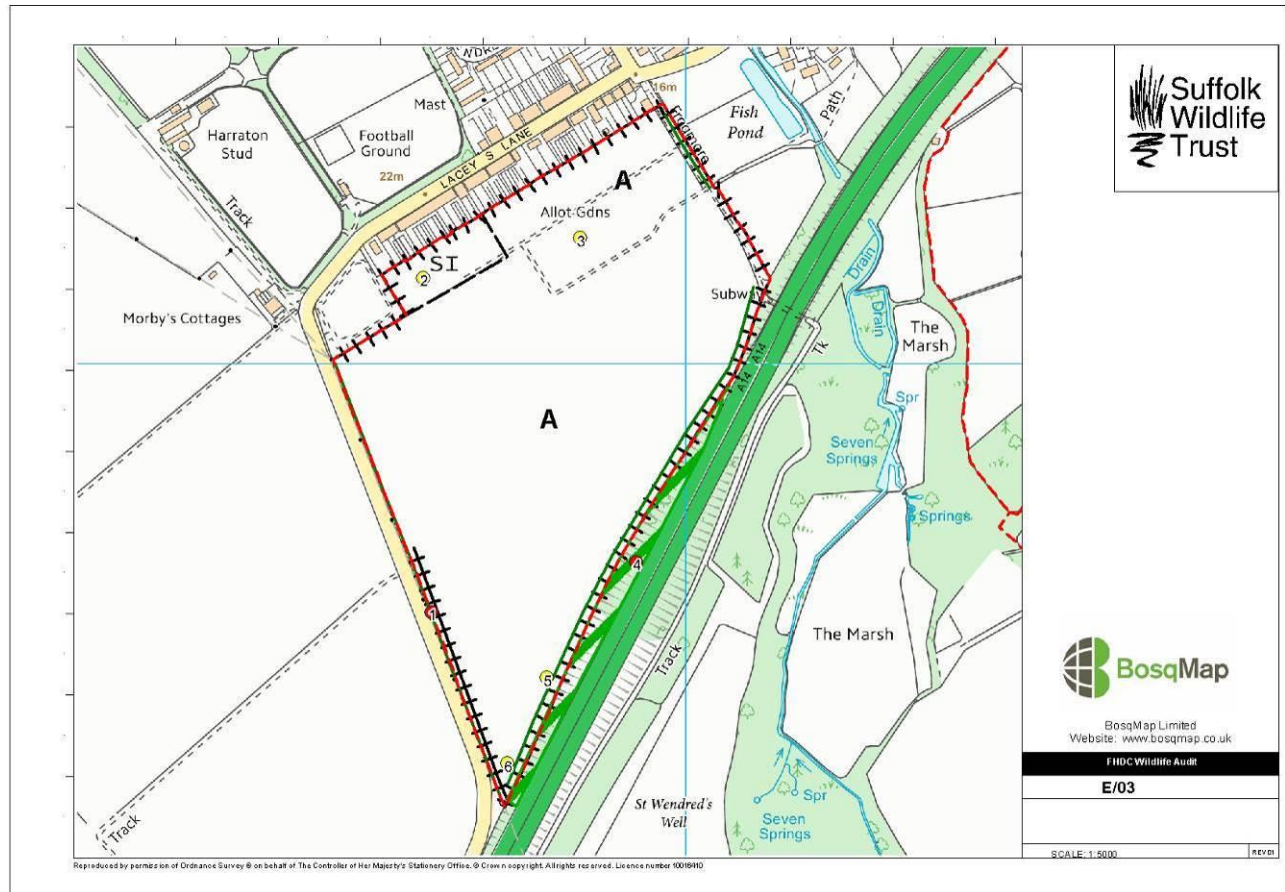
References:

The Landscape Partnership (July 2010) Ecological Appraisal for Land South of Burwell Road, Exning.

Site name E/03 Land to the rear of Laceys Lane (includes Frogmore)

FHDC Ref: E/03
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TL 61850 64980
Area: 19 hectares
Date: 28 August 2015
Recorder: A Sherwood
Weather conditions: Dry, warm, overcast with sunny periods
Ranking: 5
Biodiversity value: Low

Map:



Photos:



Roadside hedge along the western boundary of the site looking north.



Arable field looking north-east.



Track alongside the cemetery looking east.



Poor semi-improved grassland east of the cemetery looking north.



Allotments along northern boundary looking east.



New hedgerow adjacent to young plantation woodland adjacent to east boundary looking south.



Western boundary looking north with poor semi-improved grassland alongside hedge.

Habitat type(s):

Arable
Poor semi-improved grassland
Allotments

Subsidiary habitats:

Species-poor native intact hedgerow
New young hedgerow

Site description:

The site is located off Lacey's Lane in Exning and is abutted to the north by residential houses and gardens and the cemetery, to the south by the A14, to the east by horse-grazed improved grassland paddocks and Lacey's Lane to the west. The majority of the site is currently in arable production with a small area of poor semi-improved grassland east of the cemetery and numerous well-used allotments to the north by the residential properties.

Protected species seen or known:

-

Protected species potential:

Common lizard, slow-worm

Priority habitats present:

-

Priority species seen or known:

House sparrow, common toad (seen by allotment holders), hedgehog (seen by allotment holders)

Priority species potential:

Brown hare, skylark

Connectivity:

The habitats alongside the A14 provide linear connectivity east and west with the roadside hedgerow providing links from the north southwards. A bridleway under the A14 provides connectivity to Seven Springs, an area of semi-natural habitat with a number of drains.

Structural diversity:

Overall the site is of low structural diversity being under arable cultivation. However, the area of poor semi-improved grassland and the allotments along with the hedgerows provide some structural diversity around the boundaries.

Flora:

The majority of the site was under arable cultivation with little floral diversity, although there were a few common and widespread arable weeds such as common poppy, common mugwort, black horehound, common nettle, wild oat, mignonette, scentless mayweed and knotgrass. The grass track adjacent to the cemetery comprised a grass-dominated sward with frequent cock's-foot, common bent, locally dominant perennial ryegrass and rarely smaller cat's-tail. Broad-leaved species included frequent red clover, white clover, ribwort plantain and autumn hawkbit with a number of other forbs such as occasional yarrow and creeping thistle and more rarely common cat's-ear, hedgerow crane's-bill, common mallow and common toadflax.

The species-poor hedgerow alongside Lacey's Lane was dominated by hawthorn and locally dominant *Prunus* sp with occasional privet and dog-rose with elder. Hedge bindweed was also recorded. The section of hedgerow adjacent to the allotments along the east boundary and track comprised hawthorn, privet and elder with dense ivy in places and white bryony.

The young plantation woodland adjacent to the southern boundary comprised ash, hazel, field maple, hawthorn, blackthorn, cherry, guelder-rose and dogwood (Target Note 4). Species-poor grassland and tall ruderal species were dominant in between the trees (Target Note 4). The hedgerow adjacent to the site comprised hazel, *Prunus* sp, privet and spindle.

The species-poor grassland (Target Note 1) was dominated by false oat-grass, with ribwort plantain, creeping bent, cocks-foot, common couch, autumn hawkbit, red fescue, smooth hawk's-beard, field bindweed and broad-leaved dock. Other species that were less frequently occurring in the sward included white clover, majoram, common knapweed, yarrow, field scabious and goat's-beard.

Avifauna:

Several house sparrows were noted in the roadside hedgerow. Otherwise there were no species of note, although allotment holders reported regularly seeing swallows. The site is likely to attract a range of common species using the hedgerows and the allotments and farmland species, possibly including skylark, may use the arable land and grassy field boundaries in the spring and summer.

Invertebrates:

The allotments, hedgerows and poor semi-improved grassland areas will support a range of common invertebrate species. During the survey a clouded yellow butterfly was recorded along the grass track. Grasshoppers were heard in the grassland areas.

Herpetofauna:

Common lizard and slow-worm could potentially be present in any area of poor semi-improved grassland (Target Note 2) and the allotments (Target Note 3). Allotments are often good for these reptiles although here the allotments are particularly well used and generally very tidy with only a few vacant plots. The grass pathways are regularly mown. Allotment holders had noted reptiles about two years ago.

The only waterbodies within close proximity (100m) of the site was large recto-linear 'fishpond' and a running stream to the east. Neither of these waterbodies were considered likely to support great crested newts, although there is suitable terrestrial habitat around the boundaries of the site, the arable site itself is sub-optimal for this species. Allotment holders had recorded common toads on site.

Mammals:

There were no features on site that could support roosting bats.

The closest waterbody to the site was a fishpond and a running stream to the east of the site. The pond could not be accessed to survey for water vole. The stream could support otter, although it was shallow at its closest point to the site. The stream is more likely to be used as a corridor by otter and if fish are present in the 'fishpond' then this could be attractive to them.

Muntjac, roe deer and hedgehogs were reported by the allotment holders.

Comments and recommendations:

The majority of the site is under arable cultivation and is of low ecological value. The well-tended allotments are also of relatively low ecological value due to their regular management, although of slightly higher value than the arable field.

The greatest area of ecological interest is associated with the hedgerows and grassy areas and adjacent habitats such as the plantation woodland area next the A14.

Prior to any vegetation clearance, it is recommended that the semi-improved areas of grassland within the site boundary and adjacent to the site plus the allotments should be surveyed for the presence of reptiles and if present, a mitigation plan implemented.

Vegetation clearance should be undertaken outside the main bird nesting season, considered to be March to August inclusive or preceded by a nesting bird check.

Site name **E/05 Land South of Burwell Road**

FHDC Ref: E/05
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TL 61034 658769
Area: 0.06 hectares
Date: 28 August 2015
Recorder: A Sherwood
Weather conditions: Dry, warm, overcast with sunny periods
Ranking: 6
Biodiversity value: Low

Map:



Photos:



Amenity grassland and hedgerow along western boundary looking north.



Hedgerow along western boundary looking north.



Access track off Burwell Road alongside site with new wooden building.

Habitat type(s):

Amenity grassland (garden)

Subsidiary habitats:

Species-poor hedgerow

Site description:

The site is located off Burwell Road (B1103) behind residential houses and gardens with arable land to the west and an abandoned site (Forest Heath DC reference E/06) to the south. The eastern boundary comprises an access track.

The site appears to have been managed as part of a garden with regularly mown grassland and an occasional orchard tree. There were no curtilage boundaries between the house and this plot of land and the grass was regularly mown with children's play equipment and picnic tables present. In addition there were two sizeable wooden sheds (one newly built) on the site. It was not clear where the north or southern boundaries were.

Protected species seen or known:

-

Protected species potential:

-

Priority habitats present:

-

Priority species seen or known:

-

Priority species potential:

Hedgehog

Connectivity:

The site has limited connectivity where the hedgerow extends southwards a short way, residential houses to the east and Burwell Road to the north limit the connectivity of the site eastwards and northwards. Although there is a hedgerow along Burwell road to the west, this is a regularly managed low hedgerow of limited ecological value but does offer some connectivity in this direction.

Structural diversity:

Structural diversity is limited to short mown grass, occasional trees and shrubs and the western boundary hedgerow.

Flora:

The site comprised regularly mown grassland a few orchard trees such as plum and apple, lilac bushes and a Christmas tree. The western hedgerow comprised mostly garden plants such as lilac and Japanese rose (Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended) Schedule 9 invasive species) with *Prunus* sp.

Avifauna:

No birds of note were recorded during the survey. Common garden bird species are likely to nest in the hedgerow along the western boundary.

Invertebrates:

The site is likely to support common and widespread invertebrate species associated with gardens.

Herpetofauna:

The site is unlikely to support high numbers of reptiles although there are suitable habitats close by (including Site E/06 to the south), including dense scrub and gardens.

There were no waterbodies on or adjacent to the site and no known waterbodies within 500m. Great crested newts are therefore highly unlikely to be present on the site.

Mammals:

There was no potential habitat for bats, otters or water voles on the site. The sheds were single storey typical garden sheds with wood cladding and metal corrugated roofs and therefore are unlikely to provide suitable roosting habitat for bats.

Hedgehog could utilise the site and surrounding gardens and habitats.

Comments and recommendations:

The site is of low ecological value being managed as amenity grassland. Vegetation clearance should be undertaken outside the main bird nesting season considered to be March to August inclusive or preceded by a nesting bird check.

Japanese rose (*Rosa rugosa*) is present within the western hedgerow. This species is commonly grown in gardens, but it is listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended) as a species which should be prevented from spreading in the wild. If development proceeds at this site, measures should be put in place to ensure that construction activities do not result in the further spread of Japanese rose at this location.

Site name **E/06 South of Burwell Road**

FHDC Ref: E/06
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TL 61025 65819
Area: 0.1 hectares
Date: 28 August 2015
Recorder: A Sherwood
Weather conditions: Dry, warm, overcast with sunny periods
Ranking: 5
Biodiversity value: Low

Map:



Photos:



View looking north through the site with greengages forming hedgerow along western boundary.



Debris and tall ruderal vegetation looking south.



Access track off Burwell Road past Site E/05 looking south towards E/06.



Hedgerow on western boundary looking north towards Site E/05 and Burwell Road.

Habitat type(s):

Tall ruderal
Poor semi-improved grassland
Species-poor hedgerow

Subsidiary habitats:

Small plum tree grove.

Site description:

The site is a very small plot located behind a row of cottages along the Burwell Road (B1103). It appears to be used as a dumping ground and an area to undertake wood chipping. An old trailer was present on the site as well as piles of wood. The site is bounded to the west by a species-poor hedgerow, a garden (Site E/05) with mown amenity grassland to the north and a clump of mature plum trees and a track to the east. There is no southern boundary, the land extending into a similar abandoned area. To the east of the site are managed and abandoned old orchards which have become colonised with hawthorn scrub (Target Note 2).

The only access is via the narrow track leading off Burwell Road or via the arable field to the west.

Protected species seen or known:

-

Protected species potential:

Common lizard

Priority habitats present:

-

Priority species seen or known:

-

Priority species potential:

Bullfinch, hedgehog

Connectivity:

The site is small with a large expansive arable field immediately to the west and a short section of hedgerow along the western boundary that does not connect to other field boundary features. Otherwise the site is poorly connected with residential property to the north and east and no boundary features.

Structural diversity:

The site is small but within the site there is a range of short grassland, tall ruderal vegetation and a hedgerow of greengages and elder.

Flora:

The site comprised a mix of species-poor grassland and tall ruderal species (Target Note 1). These included rosebay willowherb and creeping thistle which were both locally abundant. Frequently occurring common mugwort, hemlock and common nettle, occasionally occurring Canadian fleabane

and rarely occurring prickly lettuce, hogweed, black horehound, prickly sow-thistle, ribwort plantain and greater plantain. Garden escapes were also present and included evening primrose and goldenrod. Common couch was locally dominant.

Avifauna:

Red-legged partridge were flushed from the site during the survey. The site is likely to attract a few common and widespread nesting birds in the spring and summer. Because of the presence of numerous orchard trees in close proximity to the site and also fruit trees in the hedgerow and in the small grove, the site might attract bullfinches in the spring when the blossom buds are present. Bullfinches are a UK and a Suffolk Priority species.

Invertebrates:

The site is unlikely to support a wide range of invertebrate species due to its size and any species present are likely to be widespread and common.

Herpetofauna:

Common lizard could potentially be present on the site given the surrounding orchards and gardens. There is suitable habitat for hibernation and basking, particularly associated with the debris, but the small size suggests that even if present the site is unlikely to support anything other than a small population.

There were no waterbodies on or adjacent to the site and no known waterbodies within 500m. Great crested newts are therefore highly unlikely to be present on the site even though there is potentially suitable sheltering and terrestrial habitat for them.

Mammals:

There are no features on the site that could support roosting bats. Bats roosting nearby may use the site for foraging but the site is unlikely to provide commuting corridors due to the lack of connected hedgerows and the expanse of arable land to the west and south of the site.

There are no waterbodies on site so there is no suitable habitat for otters or water voles.

Hedgehog could utilise the site and surrounding gardens and habitats.

Comments and recommendations:

This small site is currently used to store old machinery and wood. It has developed into a species-poor habitat with limited value to wildlife. It is possible that a low population of reptiles such as common lizard could be present on the site.

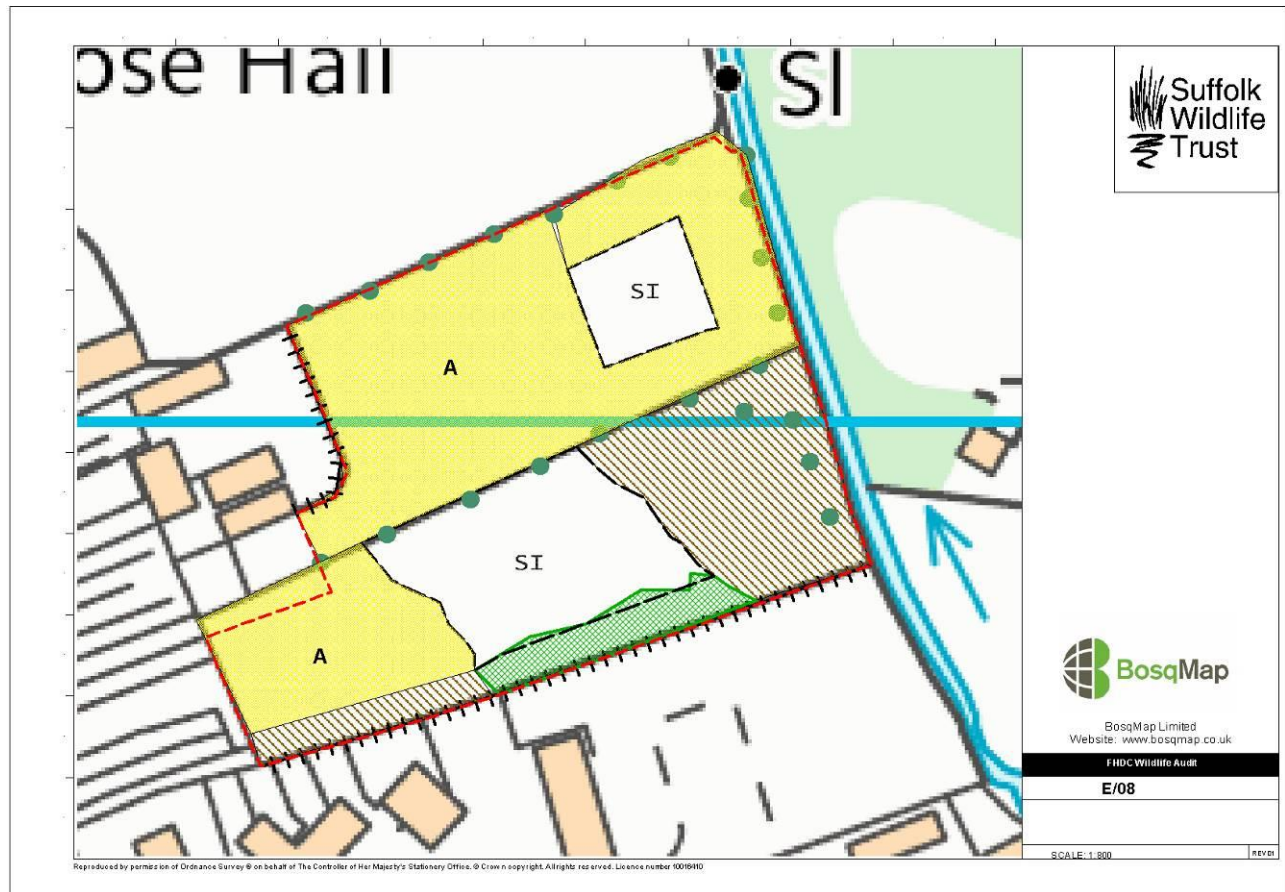
Should the site be developed then consideration should be given to the possibility that common reptiles could be present and a survey should be undertaken prior to any vegetation clearance.

Vegetation (trees, shrubs, scrub) clearance should be undertaken outside the main bird nesting season, considered to be March to August inclusive or preceded by a nesting bird check.

Site name E/08 Land to the rear of York Villas, North End Road

FHDC Ref: E/08
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TL 61796 65993
Area: 0.8 hectares
Date: 1 September 2015
Recorder: A Sherwood
Weather conditions: Dry, warm, overcast with sunny periods
Ranking: 5
Biodiversity value: Low

Map:



Photos:



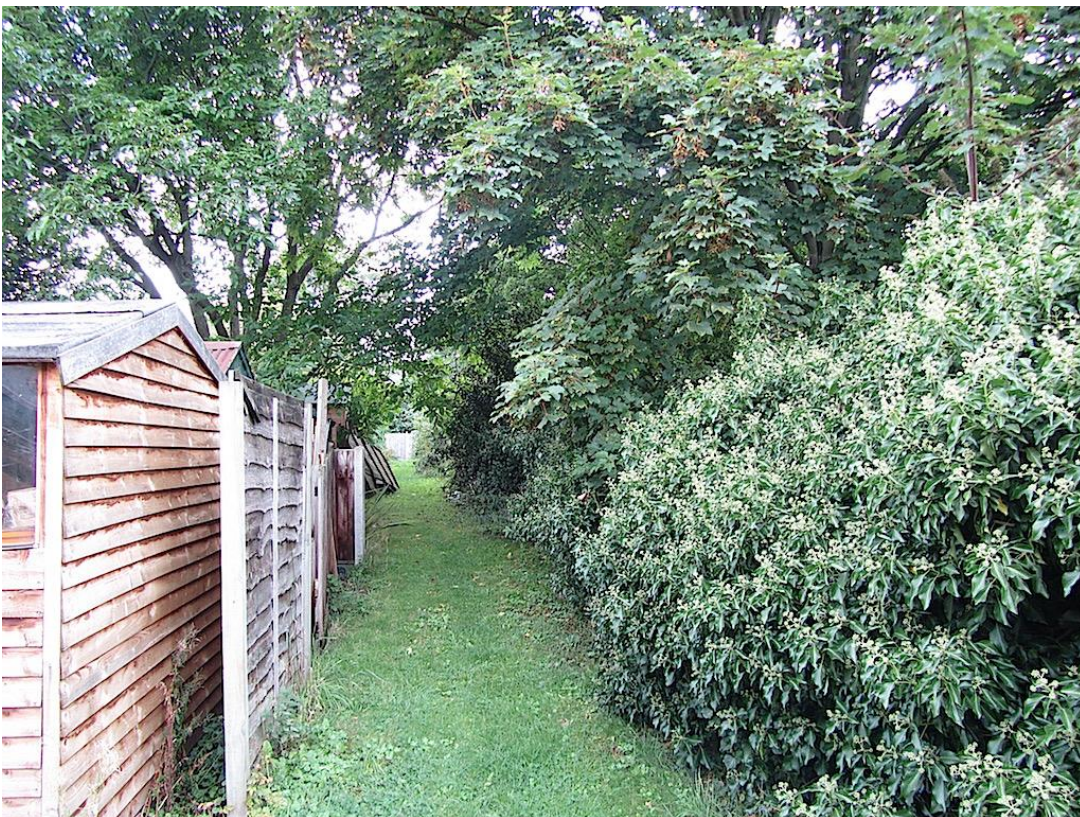
Mown amenity grassland with lines of mature trees and an area of poor semi-improved grassland.



Stream adjacent to site along eastern boundary.



Tall ruderal vegetation along eastern boundary in southern section of the site.



Part of western boundary with introduced shrubs looking north from access.

Habitat type(s):

Amenity grassland
Poor semi-improved grassland
Mature broad-leaved trees

Subsidiary habitats:

Tall ruderal
Scrub

Site description:

The site is located off North End Road in Exning with a narrow access to land behind residential properties along the street. Access is also possible from New Road via an area of amenity grassland in between residential properties and is likely to be the access to the site should it be developed. The site generally comprises areas of mown amenity grassland with areas of un-mown poor semi-improved grassland bordered by tall mature broad-leaved trees. The southern section also has a number of orchard trees. To the east is a running stream that flows northwards.

Protected species seen or known:

-

Protected species potential:

Water vole, otter, grass snake

Priority habitats present:

-

Priority species seen or known:

-

Priority species potential:

Hedgehog, common toad

Connectivity:

The site is well connected via the lines of tall trees and the stream to the east that provides excellent links to areas of semi-natural woodland habitat running north/south.

Structural diversity:

The site is largely mown amenity grassland with patches of poor semi-improved grassland. The tall mature trees, stream and orchard trees all add to the overall structural diversity of the site.

Flora:

The mown amenity grassland is of low ecological value dominated by grasses such as rough meadow-grass, red fescue, cock's-foot with a few forbs such as daisy, dandelion, yarrow and slender speedwell. The areas of poor semi-improved grassland were dominated by false oat-grass with occasional cock's-foot and common knapweed with hedge bedstraw, musk mallow, wild carrot, red fescue, spear thistle, common ragwort and vervain. In the southern section this grassland also had areas of locally frequent creeping thistle with occasional cow parsley.

The tall ruderal vegetation comprised common nettle with an understory of ground ivy and the dense

scrub comprised bramble.

The stream was characterised by narrow shallow bare banks and open water with only pendulous sedge apparent in this location.

The tall mature trees comprised a mix of sycamore, horse chestnut, lime, cherry and Norway maple.

The orchard trees were mostly apple trees.

Avifauna:

No species of note were recorded during the survey. Duck are likely to utilise the stream. Pheasant and green woodpeckers were both present on the site.

Invertebrates:

The site is only considered likely to support common and widespread species. The only invertebrates noted were large white and red admiral butterfly.

Herpetofauna:

Although there is some habitat suitable for reptiles, it is considered unlikely that they would be present given the generally intensively managed nature of the site and the small areas of suitable habitat present. Grass snake could use the stream and grassy habitats adjacent to it.

Mammals:

The stream could provide a corridor for otter particularly as the stream joins a larger stream to the south, although the watercourse is not extensive. The site boundary adjacent to the stream had no evidence of otter holts and there were no suitable places where otters could build one.

The banks were shallow and bare and there was no evidence to suggest that water vole was present at this location. No burrows were noted.

Any of the mature trees could support roosting bats if they have features such as cracks, crevices, holes or dense ivy cover. The trees and stream provide an excellent foraging and commuting corridor for bats.

Moles were present on the site. Hedgehog could utilise the site.

Comments and recommendations:

The site is small and of low ecological value although the mature trees and the stream are of moderate ecological value. The areas of poor semi-improved grassland add to the value but the areas are small and unlikely to support significant numbers of notable species.

It is recommended that all the mature trees are assessed for their suitability to support roosting bats and this may need to be followed up with further presence/absence surveys. Mitigation might include restrictions on lighting along the tree-lined stream to maintain a dark corridor.

Should the site be developed then consideration should be given to the possibility that common reptiles could be present.

Vegetation clearance (trees and shrubs) should be undertaken outside the main bird nesting season,

considered to be March to August inclusive or preceded by a nesting bird check.