

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

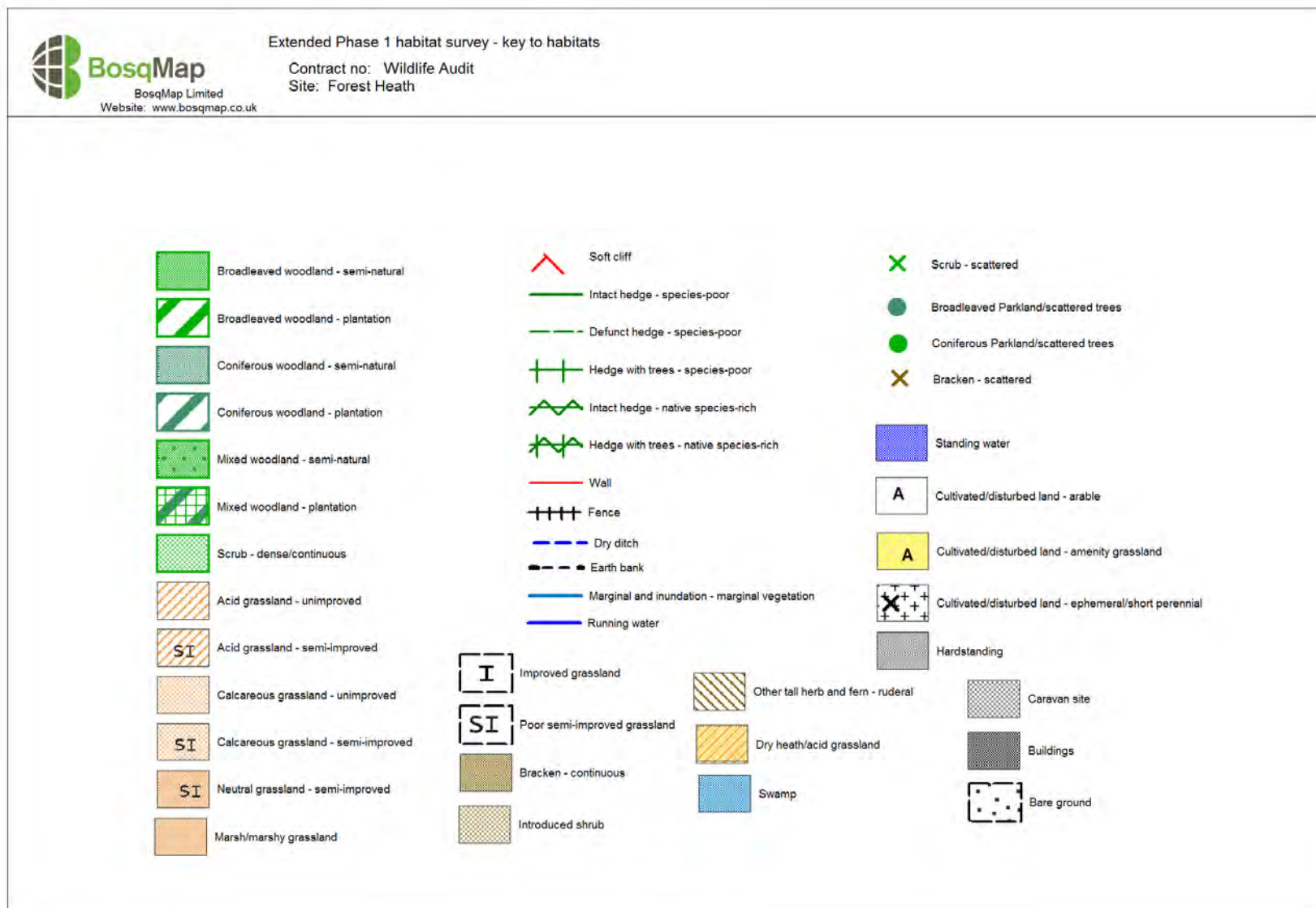
Kentford: K10

Mildenhall: M/43

Newmarket: N/32

Red Lodge: RL/03

Key to phase 1 Maps

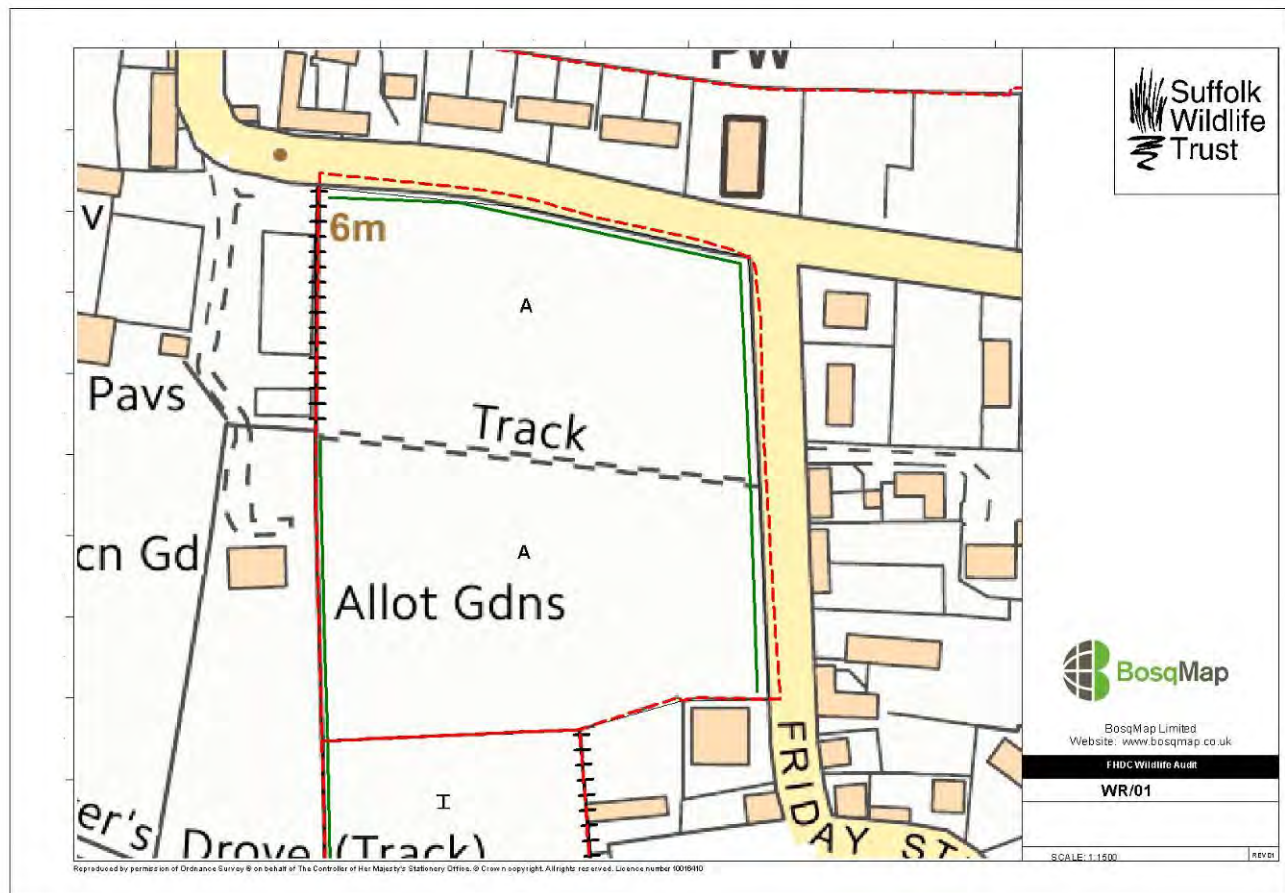


Sensitive ecological data may have been removed from these audit reports

Site name **West Row WR01**

FHDC Ref: WR/01
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TL 67311 75781
Area: 2.59 hectares
Date: 19th August 2015
Recorder: A Looser
Weather conditions: Warm, dry, still
Ranking: 5
Biodiversity value: Low

Map:



Photos:



View along the wide grassy track through the middle of the field

Habitat type(s):

Arable

Subsidiary habitats:

Species-poor hedgerow

Site description:

This is a large arable field situated to the south of Chapel Road, west of Friday Street. There is a wide grassy track across the middle of the site representing a public footpath. There is a mature species-poor hedgerow along the eastern and northern boundaries. To the south of the track on the western boundary is a beech hedge but to the north of the track a fence defines the boundary on the western edge, bordering adjacent gardens.

Protected species seen or known:

-

Protected species potential:

-

Priority habitats present:

-

Priority species seen or known:

-

Priority species potential:

White letter hairstreak

Connectivity:

This site is located on the western side of West Row where there is a contiguous series of arable and formerly arable sites (WR/26, WR/11, WR/12 and WR/13) linking together. There is also a hedgerow network of varying quality throughout this area.

Structural diversity:

The thick roadside hedgerows provide some structural diversity, otherwise this is poor.

Flora:

The site is largely arable and was being cultivated at the time of survey. The grassy track across the middle of the site was species-poor with a few common herbs including knotgrass, fat-hen, common mallow, mugwort, dandelion and greater plantain.

The hedge along the road was tall and thick but species-poor with a few garden escapes and was dominated by elm with hawthorn, *Prunus* spp, elder, lilac, privet and hops. Much of the hedge was covered with ivy.

Avifauna:

The hedgerows around the boundaries provide some roosting and nesting opportunities for birds but there are likely to be only common species present.

Invertebrates:

This site is sub-optimal for invertebrates although common species are likely to be present. As elm is present in the hedge, white letter hairstreak (Priority Species) may be present.

Herpetofauna:

The habitat is unsuitable for reptiles and amphibians.

Mammals:

The site is sub-optimal for mammals however common species such as fox, deer and grey squirrel are likely to be present. Small populations of small mammals such as mice, voles and shrews are likely to be present around the hedgerows.

Comments and recommendations:

The hedgerows provide a good wildlife corridor and should be retained and buffered if the site is developed. No hedgerow removal should take place during the bird nesting season (March – August inclusive).

For sites within 9.5km of the Breckland SPA

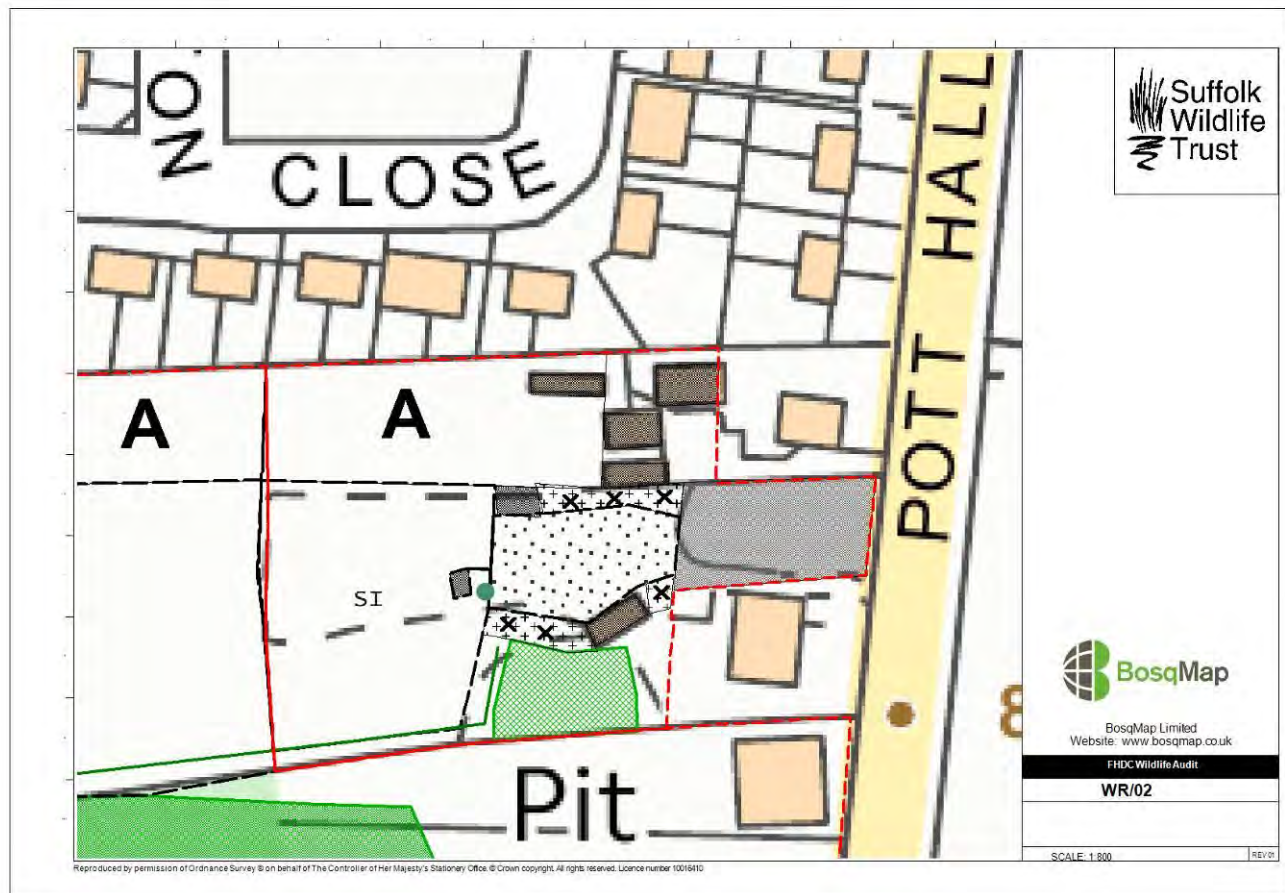
A study undertaken by Footprint Ecology on behalf of Forest Heath DC and St Edmundsbury BC identified that over half of visitors to Breckland SPA locations within the districts lived within 9.5km of the SPA. It is therefore considered that new residential development within 9.5km of the SPA will

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Site name: West Row WR/02

FHDC Ref: WR/02
Site status: No designation
Grid ref: TL 68151 75319
Area: 0.58 hectares
Date: 19th August 2015
Recorder: S Bullion
Weather conditions: Warm, dry, still.
Ranking: 4
Biodiversity value: Medium (primarily for the former pit)

Map:



Photos:



Strip of cultivated land along the northern edge



Area of bare ground and agricultural buildings with vegetation encroaching



Dense scrub on the edge of disused pit

Habitat type(s):

Poor semi-improved grassland, cultivated land, hard standing and agricultural buildings.

Subsidiary habitats:

Scrub, species-poor hedge.

Site description:

The site lies to the west of Pott Hall Road and is contiguous with another, larger site (WR/25). The northern third is being cultivated for garden produce, whilst the remainder is semi-improved grassland currently short mown. The eastern edge of the site includes hard standing and scattered agricultural buildings. On the southern boundary the land falls away sharply into a former pit, most of which lies within WR/25. The edge of the pit is scrubbed up and impenetrable.

Protected species seen or known:

-

Protected species potential:

Priority habitats present:

-

Priority species seen or known:

Hedgehog (Wellington Close bordering northern boundary) 2014

Priority species potential:

-

Connectivity:

The site is part of a larger area of land which is part cultivated and part short mown grassland, with a thickly wooded pit to the south. The two areas (WR/02 and WR/25) are surrounded by roads and housing, but their value to wildlife is enhanced due to the size of the block.

Structural diversity:

With the exception of the scrubby edges adjacent to the pit, this site has poor structural diversity.

Flora:

The grassland contained a reasonable variety of common herbaceous species, typical of regularly mown grassland. The following were recorded: creeping buttercup, red clover, white clover, smooth hawk's beard, ribwort plantain, common mallow, common mouse-ear, smooth sow-thistle, black medick, creeping thistle, spear thistle, yarrow, common ragwort, wild parsnip, dove's-foot crane's-bill, dandelion, daisy and violet spp. Grasses included Yorkshire fog and red fescue, with false oat-grass, common couch and smaller cat's-tail appearing in the unmown edges.

The area of the pit that lies within WR/02 is covered in dense, impenetrable scrub, including hawthorn, bramble, wild rose, blackthorn and buddleia. The scrub at the edge of the pit has been cut back forming a hedgerow-type edge. A large, ivy covered field maple was recorded in this boundary.

Areas of hard standing are now becoming colonized with vegetation including stonecrop spp and knotgrass.

Avifauna:

It was a sub-optimal time of year for recording this group, but with the exception of the adjacent pit, this site provides poor habitat for birds. The southern boundary of the site included a range of berry producing shrubs, which will provide good nesting, roosting and foraging habitat. It is possible that birds may nest within some of the larger buildings on the site, if there are holes through which they can gain access.

Invertebrates:

With the exception of the southern boundary, this site is sub-optimal for invertebrates. Common species will be present.

Herpetofauna:

This site is not suitable for reptiles. It is possible that common amphibians such as toad, smooth newt or frog may be present if there are ponds within neighboring gardens and the pit to the south provides good habitat for hibernation.

Mammals:

Hedgehog is recorded on Wellington Close in 2014 and at other locations in West Row, so it is likely that this species will forage within the grassland and cultivated areas. The pit provides excellent hibernation habitat for hedgehogs and this may be providing an important overwintering resource for the local population. Fox, grey squirrel and muntjac deer are also highly likely to be present. There are trees within the pit that are of a sufficient size to support roosting bats and the interface between the grassland and scrubbed-up southern edge of the site will provide good foraging habitat for bats. The existing buildings within the site did not appear suitable for roosting bats.

Comments and recommendations:

Most of this site is of low value to biodiversity, but if future proposals resulted in an impact on habitats associated with the pit, then further surveys are recommended. These should include bats, and consideration of the impacts upon priority species such as hedgehog and toad.

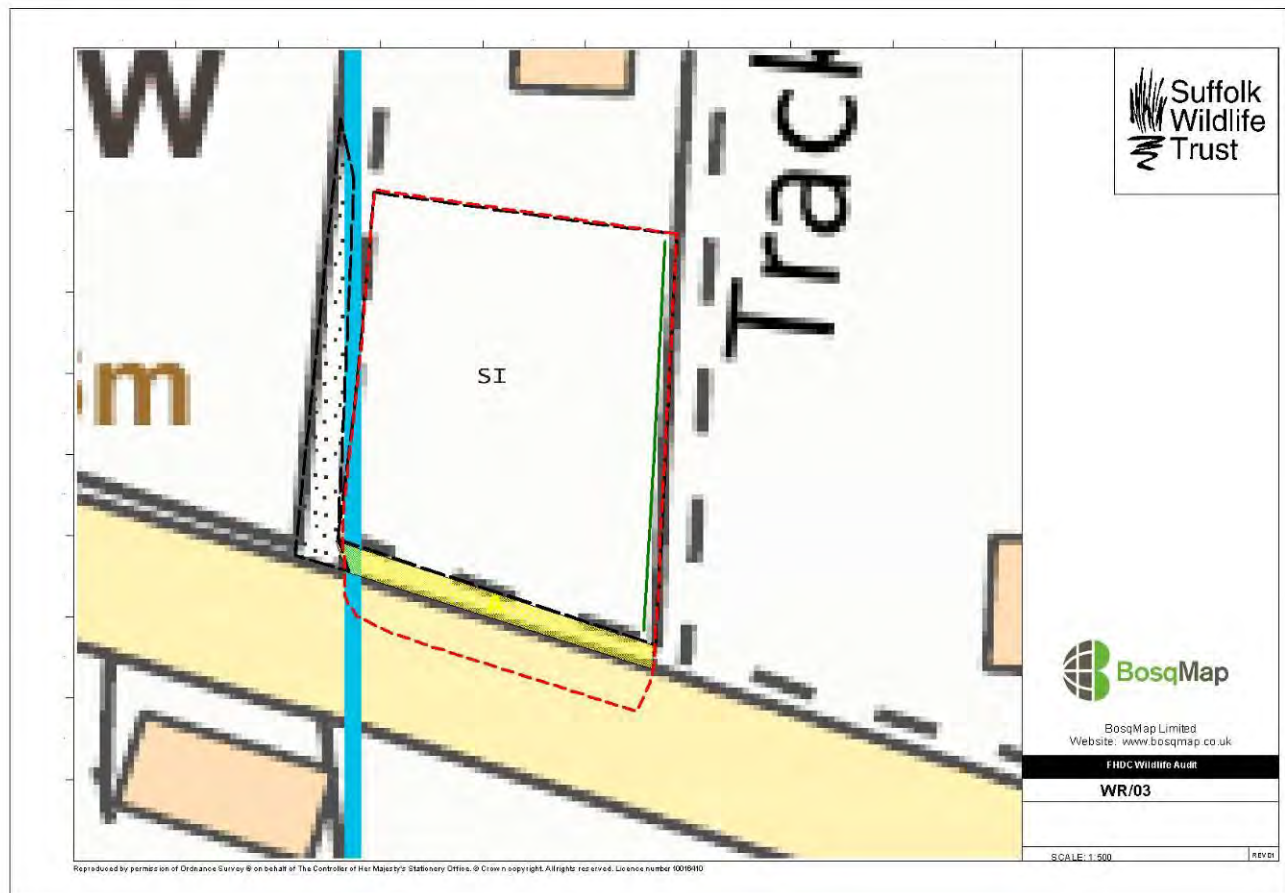
For sites within 9.5km of the Breckland SPA

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Site name **West Row WR/03**

FHDC Ref: WR/03
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TL67017 76277
Area: 0.18 hectares
Date: 19 August 2015
Recorder: A Sherwood
Weather conditions: Dry, warm, overcast
Ranking: 6
Biodiversity value: Low

Map:



Photos:



View looking north

Habitat type(s):

Poor semi-improved neutral grassland

Subsidiary habitats:

Hedgerow

Site description:

The site is a small plot located off 'The Green' in Thistley Green, northwest of West Row. It comprised species-poor grassland with an access drive on the western boundary leading to existing properties and a regularly managed coniferous hedgerow along the eastern boundary. There is a species-poor hedgerow adjacent to the access drive, also regularly managed. There was no boundary feature along the northern or southern boundaries. A narrow section of grass roadside verge is mown regularly.

Protected species seen or known:

-

Protected species potential:

-

Priority habitats present:

-

Priority species seen or known:

-

Priority species potential:

-

Connectivity:

The hedgerows provide limited connectivity to open countryside which is mostly arable to the north, via hedgerows to the east and west and trees to areas of grassland and scrub.

Structural diversity:

Limited.

Flora:

The poor semi-improved grassland is regularly managed and comprises abundant white clover and frequent false oat-grass. In addition, other grasses included red fescue, cock's-foot and Yorkshire fog. Herbaceous species are infrequent and included creeping cinquefoil, ribwort plantain, hogweed, black medick, broad-leaved dock, smooth hawk's-beard, cow parsley, white dead-nettle, common mouse-ear, and prickly sow-thistle.

The regularly mown roadside verge was dominated by perennial ryegrass and common bent with a few broad-leaved species such as white clover, ribwort plantain, daisy, field bindweed, doves-foot crane's-bill, dandelion and ground-ivy.

The western hedgerow adjacent to the access drive was dominated by hawthorn and the eastern boundary hedgerow was dominated by a Cypress spp.

Avifauna:

No birds of note were recorded during the survey. The site is unlikely to support many bird species although the hedgerows could support some common species that could nest in the adjacent hedgerows.

Invertebrates:

This site is a sub-optimal habitat for this group. Grasshoppers were recorded in the poor semi-improved grassland along with common blue butterflies but the site is unlikely to support a wide range of species.

Herpetofauna:

The site is not suitable for this group.

Mammals:

The site is small and regularly managed and is therefore sub-optimal habitat for large mammals other than transient species such as fox. Bats may forage across the grassland and along hedgerows.

Comments and recommendations:

The site is of low conservation value and therefore should the site be developed there are currently no ecological constraints to development.

For sites within 9.5km of the Breckland SPA

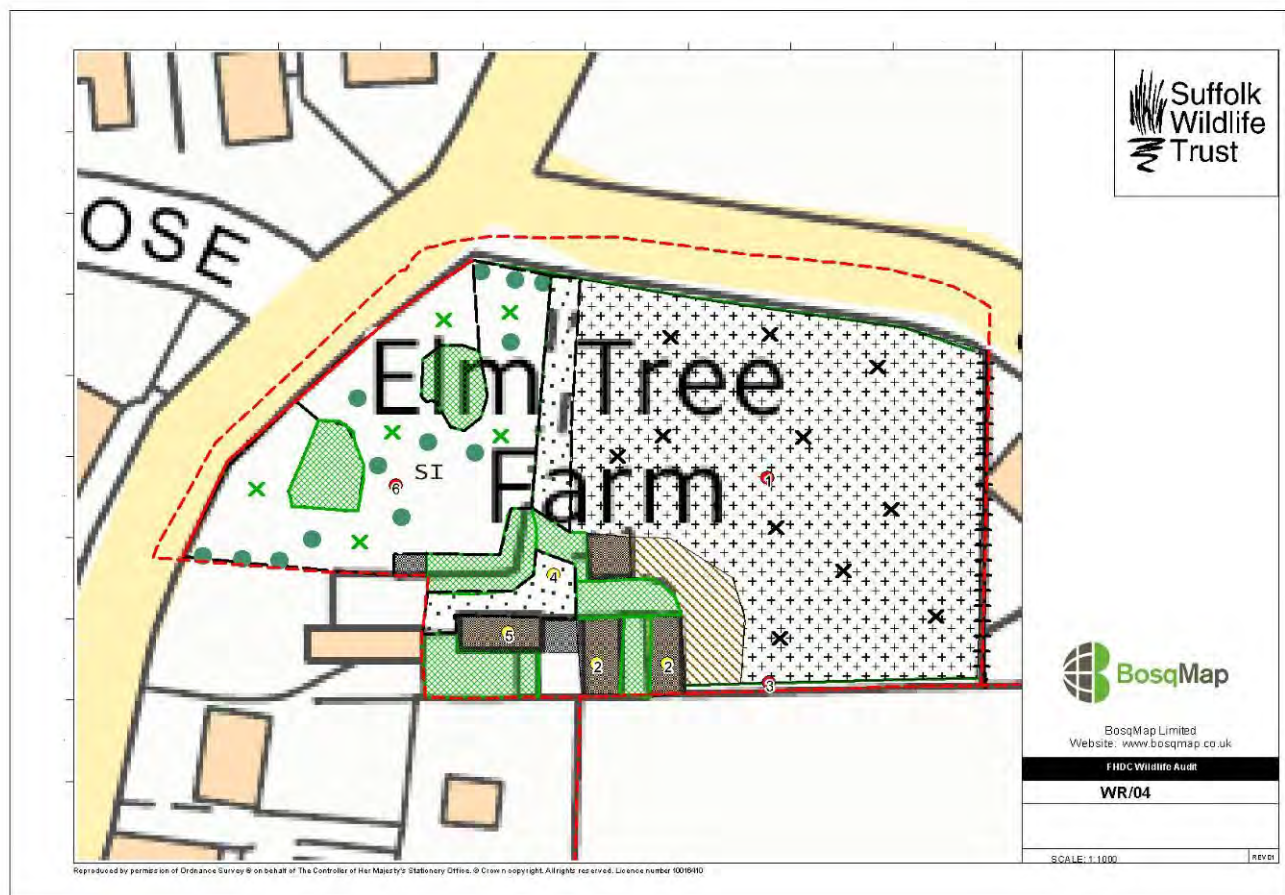
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Site name **West Row WR/04**

FHDC Ref: WR/04
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TL 67580 76356
Area: 0.77 hectares
Date: 19 August 2015
Recorder: Ann Sherwood
Weather conditions: Dry, warm, overcast with sunny periods
Ranking: 4
Biodiversity value: Medium

Map:



Photos:



Access to Elm Tree Farm off Jarman's Lane looking south



Ex-arable field to the west of the farm buildings looking northeast



Dilapidated ivy-covered building (B1) with potential for roosting bats



Buildings 1 & 2 looking north from WR/27



Eastern boundary fence looking north towards Jarman's Road



Building 4 - Shed overgrown by ivy with potential for roosting bats



Overgrown nursery and orchard with poly-tunnels looking west



View looking west into orchard area



View looking west adjacent to Beeches Road. Mown grassland and scrub



View looking northeast from Beeches Road. The yew trees form the boundary with the adjacent Elm Tree farmhouse

Habitat type(s):

Poor semi-improved grassland
Ephemeral short perennial grassland
Orchard

Subsidiary habitats:

Trees
Scattered scrub
Tall ruderal

Site description:

The site is located off Jarman's Lane, Thistley Green, north of West Row. The western boundary abuts Beeches Road, the southern boundary comprises a hedgerow partially adjacent to Site WR/27 and other residential property and the western boundary comprises a low ivy-covered wall. The northern boundary abuts Jarman's Lane. The eastern part of the site was formerly arable land but does not appear to have been cropped in the current season. The land to the west comprises an orchard and a derelict garden nursery.

Protected species seen or known:

-

Protected species potential:

Bats
Common lizard
Slow worm

Priority habitats present:

Traditional orchard

Priority species seen or known:

Swift

Priority species potential:

Hedgehog

Connectivity:

The site is bounded by Jarman's Lane and Beeches Road and residential development to the south west. The site is located along with other sites WR/06, WR/19 and WR/27 in an area surrounded by either roads or residential development. Connectivity is limited as a result.

Structural diversity:

There is good structural diversity across the site with a mosaic of poor semi-improved grassland, trees, scrub and hedgerows along with an old wall. Abandoned nursery materials such as pots and various other bits of debris make excellent artificial refugia for newts and reptiles (TN 4).

Flora:

The site comprises a contrasting floristic range of sward types from established grassland to ephemeral short ruderal vegetation that has colonized the arable field to the east of the site.

The recently abandoned arable field had been topped and bare ground was still apparent in this area (TN1). Species that had colonized the area included black bindweed, hoary willowherb, common ragwort, dwarf mallow, fat-hen, annual mercury creeping thistle, cock's-foot, rough meadow-grass, white dead-nettle, common mallow, Canadian fleabane, scentless mayweed, dandelion, common nettle, common chickweed, horse-radish, bristly ox-tongue, green nightshade, prickly lettuce and common cat's-ear. Buddleia was present in the field.

The hedgerows along the northern boundary comprised sycamore, ash, ivy and wild plum species. The southern hedgerow comprised yew, hawthorn and a variety of ornamental shrubs such as variegated holly and cotoneaster. Russian vine was also present along the southern boundary (TN3). The hedgerow along the access track comprised wild plum species and sumac, a garden ornamental.

Dense bramble scrub was present in the old orchard area and around the buildings.

Tall ruderal vegetation dominated by common nettle was adjacent to the buildings abutting the ex-arable field.

The old orchard and nursery comprised a variety of fruit trees including apples and pears (TN6). It is not featured on the Historic Orchard GIS layer, but its appearance is of a type that it appears to qualify as a Traditional Orchard under the UK Priority Habitat description. Some of the grass areas were cut but generally comprise species-poor semi-improved grassland. Species recorded included false oat-grass, ribwort plantain, red fescue, common ragwort, field scabious, cow parsley, field sow-thistle, oxeye daisy, creeping thistle and white dead-nettle.

There were a number of garden plants and culinary herbs within the nursery area and around the buildings that have colonised the site from the previous nursery activities.

Avifauna:

August is a sub-optimum time of year to record bird species and no species of note were recorded during the survey. The dense ivy, scrub and buildings provide suitable nesting habitat for a range of species. The owner reported that swifts nest in the farm house just off-site.

Two owl pellets were found in the orchard area.

Invertebrates:

The site is likely to support a range of common and widespread species. Peacock butterflies were observed during the survey and cinnabar moth caterpillars were recorded on the ragwort in the field. Grasshoppers were heard in the tall uncut grassland in the orchard and nursery area.

Herpetofauna:

The site could support common reptiles such as common lizard and slow worm, although the owner had not noted any. There is suitable habitat and plenty of refugia where reptiles could shelter or hibernate.

Mammals:

The outbuildings and farmhouse offer potentially suitable roosting habitat for bats, although access was not possible for all buildings to be ascertain suitability. Trees on site could also support roosting bats if suitable features are present. The site does offer some limited foraging opportunities across the site.

The owner reported that foxes have been seen on occasions. Hedgehog may nest within the site.

Comments and recommendations:

The site currently comprises an ex arable field and an old orchard and abandoned garden nursery with a range of dilapidated outbuildings and various trees. The orchard should be retained in any development proposals.

Past history suggests that the site was managed and therefore it is unlikely that high populations of common reptiles are present. However, it is recommended that if the site is developed then consideration should be given to undertaking vegetation clearance in a manner that accommodates the potential for reptiles.

The outbuildings and mature trees could support roosting bats if suitable features are present and therefore it is recommended that further assessment of the trees and buildings should be undertaken to ensure compliance with both European and national legislation.

Vegetation should only be cleared outside the main bird nesting season (March - August inclusive) or immediately preceded by a nesting bird check.

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.

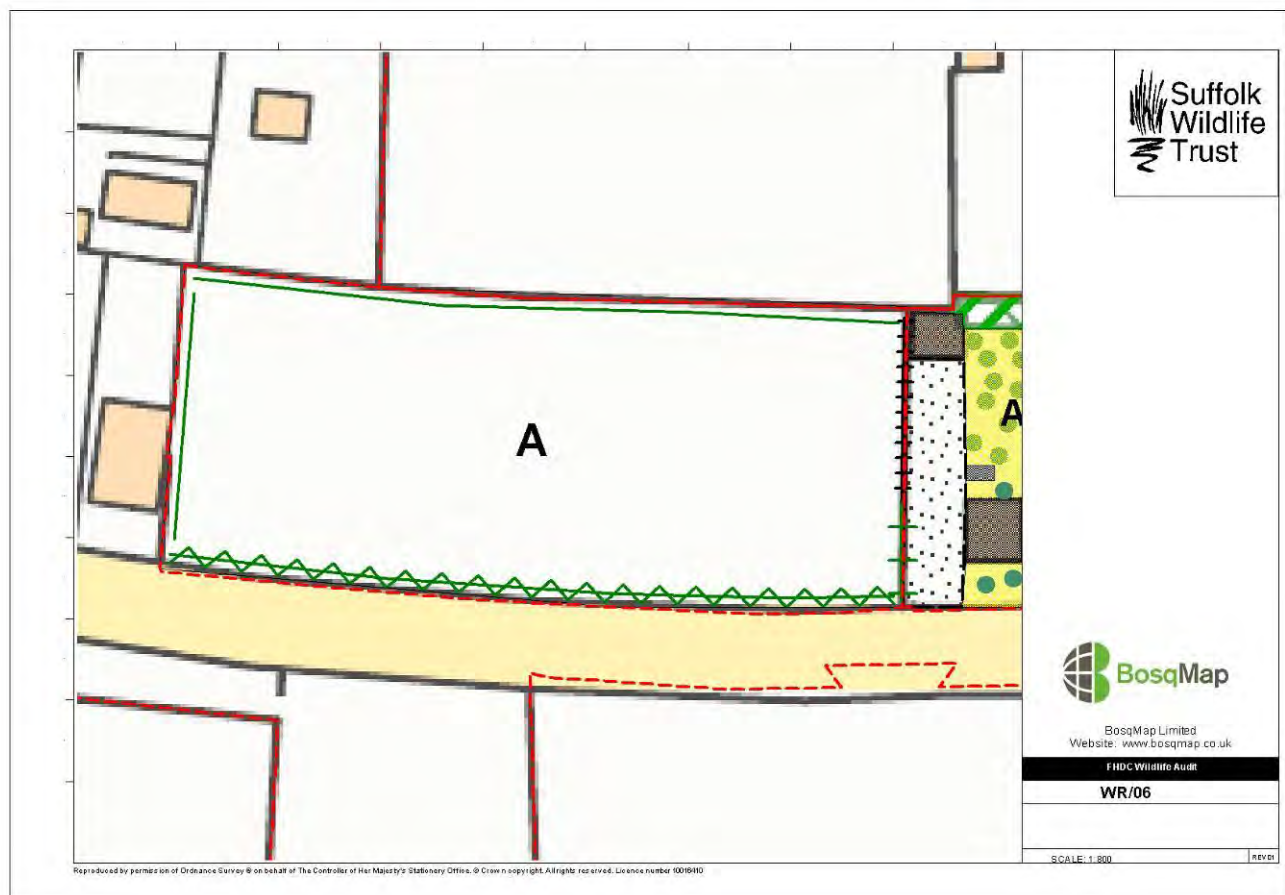
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Site name **West Row WR/06**

FHDC Ref: WR/06
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TL 67603 76236
Area: 0.71 hectares
Date: 26th August 2015
Recorder: A Looser
Weather conditions: Cool with heavy rain
Ranking: 5
Biodiversity value: Low

Map:



Photos:



View across site looking north east

Habitat type(s):

Arable (currently not cultivated)

Subsidiary habitats:

Species-rich and species-poor hedgerows

Site description:

This site is situated north of Mildenhall Road and is adjacent to a series of other sites (WR/04, WR/27, WR/19 and also the larger WR/07 south of the road). The field has contained an arable crop in the past, but is currently uncultivated. A thick, species-rich, road-side hedge screens the site on the southern boundary. There are species-poor hedges on part of the eastern boundary, along the northern boundary and the western boundary adjoining gardens.

Protected species seen or known:

-

Protected species potential:

Priority habitats present:

-

Priority species seen or known:

White- letter hairstreak (2008)

Priority species potential:

Hedgehog, cinnabar moth

Connectivity:

The site is part of a block of sites with land to the north currently used for horse grazing. There is some connectivity at a local level between sites, but in the wider context this is poor.

Structural diversity:

With the exception of the hedgerows, structural diversity is low.

Flora:

Although the site is arable it is currently fallow and so contains a good range of plants typical of disturbed land. Species recorded include false oat-grass, cock's-foot, common couch, red fescue and creeping bent grasses with red valerian, fat-hen, common poppy, perennial sow-thistle, bristly ox-tongue, groundsel, common ragwort, mugwort, great and white mullein, spear thistle, creeping thistle, common cat's-ear, scarlet pimpernel, sun spurge, hemlock, rosebay willowherb, black medick, wild mignonette, red dead-nettle and white dead-nettle, common fumitory, green field speedwell. Blue fleabane and hoary ragwort were also present suggesting a chalky influence.

The hedge along the road was more species rich. It was dominated by elm with hawthorn, ash, blackthorn, elder and dog-rose. Much of the hedge was ivy covered.

The hedge along the northern boundary had more of a garden influence with some garden species as well as native ones. Species include blackthorn, do- rose, plum, honeysuckle, yew and cotoneaster. Japanese rose (*Rosa rugosa*) an invasive species was also present in this hedge.

The western hedge formed the boundary with adjacent gardens and was purely privet. The eastern hedge was also species poor but native.

Avifauna:

The hedgerows around the site provide some roosting and breeding opportunities for a range of common bird species. At the time of surveying there was also a good range of seeds which will attract birds in the autumn to forage.

Invertebrates:

The site is sub-optimal for invertebrates, however as it is currently fallow there are likely to be some common species present. There are records of white- letter hairstreak (Priority species) in the area and due to the elm in the hedgerows this species could be present. There is common ragwort on site which is the feed plant for the caterpillar of the cinnabar moth (Priority species).

Herpetofauna:

This site is sub-optimal for reptiles and amphibians. Reports 4 Planning (see below) also advise that the risk of reptiles using this site is currently very low and recommend that any clearance of the site is undertaken by undertaking a two stage cutting regime, with a high cut followed by a low cut, as a precaution against harming reptiles. However, if the site continues to be left uncultivated it will improve in habitat quality for this group and the need for surveys may need to be reviewed.

Mammals:

Hedgehogs are known to occur in the southern part of West Row and although there are no records close to this site they may forage on this site, although there is limited shelter apart from the hedgerows. . A number of common species are likely to be present including fox, deer and grey squirrel. Low numbers of small mammals could be present associated with the hedgerows. Bats may forage over the mature hedgerows.

Comments and recommendations:

Ideally the roadside hedge should be retained and buffered. Any removal of this hedge should be outside of bird nesting season (March-August inclusive).

Rosa rugosa (Japanese rose) is listed as a Schedule 9 species under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 as amended. It is important that the spread of this plant is limited and it should not be allowed to escape to the wild.

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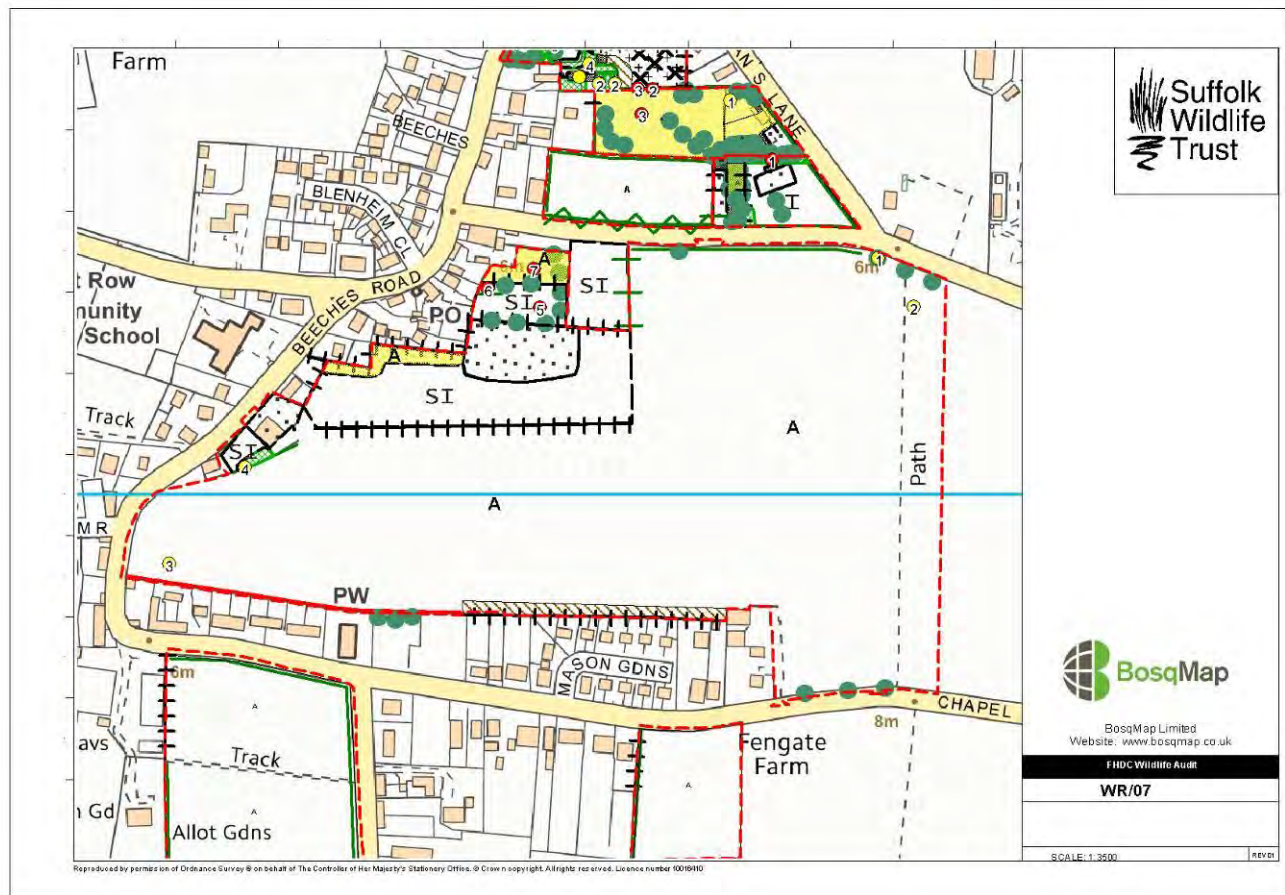
References:

Reports 4 Planning (March 2014) Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey. Land adjacent to Mildenhall Road, West Row.

Site name **West Row WR/07**

FHDC Ref:	WR/07
Site status:	No wildlife designation
Grid ref:	TL 67574 76056
Area:	15.07 hectares
Date:	19th August 2015
Recorder:	A Sherwood
Weather conditions:	Dry, warm, overcast with sunny periods
Ranking:	6
Biodiversity value:	Low

Map:



Photos:



View looking south along eastern edge of the site and the public footpath



Abandoned arable field with colonising vegetation.



Old site of White Horse pub with recently cut bramble scrub and old lawn looking southwest



Disturbed ground looking east behind residential properties and gardens off Beeches Road



Poor semi-improved grassland behind new residential property looking towards Beeches Road



Amenity grassland with free range chickens looking north towards Mildenhall Road

Habitat type(s):

Arable
Hedgerows

Subsidiary habitats:

Poor semi-improved grassland
Scrub

Site description:

The site is located in Thistley Green near West Row. The site is enclosed by Mildenhall Road, Beeches Road and Chapel Road on the northern, western and southern boundaries. Residential properties and gardens abut the site along Beeches Road and Chapel Road and to a lesser extent along Mildenhall Road. There is a public footpath leading from Mildenhall Road to Chapel Road along the eastern boundary. The site comprises a large arable field with some amenity grassland in the north west of the site, with associated hedgerows and occasional trees.

The site has been the subject of a previous ecology report undertaken by Applied Ecology Ltd in 2014.

Protected species seen or known:

Protected species potential:

-

Priority habitats present:

-

Priority species seen or known:

-

Priority species potential:

Hedgehog
Brown hare

Connectivity:

The site has limited connectivity with only the hedgerow along the northern boundary linked to the wider countryside. Otherwise there are few semi-natural boundary features. The arable field is largely enclosed behind residential properties.

Structural diversity:

The majority of the site has limited structural diversity, being regularly cultivated. Land in the north-west corner of the site offers some structural diversity with short sections of hedgerows, trees and poor semi-improved grassland.

Flora:

The majority of the site is regularly cultivated and with very limited flora associated with it. The only arable flora noted included a number of typical arable species such as fat-hen, field speedwell, wild oat, common poppy, pineappleweed, field pansy, redshank, black bindweed and fool's-parsley, all of

which were rare throughout.

The hedgerow along the northern boundary comprised a typical hawthorn and blackthorn hedgerow with wild plum and occasional sycamore and ash. Ivy was also present. Hedgerows associated with the north-west corner of the site comprised wild plum, privet, walnut and silver birch. A line of poplar trees was present along the southern edge of the area in the north-west corner.

A further hedgerow along an embankment was present along the western boundary behind the old White Horse pub off Beeches Road that had been demolished. This was dominated by English elm and wild plum trees. White bryony and ivy were also recorded.

Dense bramble scrub had recently been cut back. Along Beeches Road at this point was a row of sumac shrubs that formed a partial hedgerow along the roadside.

In the north-west corner of the site, some of the amenity grassland reported in the Applied Ecology report had become poor semi-improved grassland due to withdrawal of management (TN5). The grassland was dominated by red fescue suggesting this had previously been an area of mown lawn. One area had been used as a bonfire site. Behind the Cyprus hedge in this area were a small number of apple trees that appeared to be connected to the gardens beyond (TN6). There were also garden plants present such as hollyhocks and elephant's ears.

A fence had been installed to enclose free-range chickens and therefore access to the area north of the fence could not be gained. The sward was short due to the presence of chickens and classified as amenity grassland (TN7). A few scattered trees were present and included mature ash and orchard trees.

The poor semi-improved grassland area in the main body of the site comprised common couch, red fescue, cock's-foot, false-oat grass and creeping bent. There were very few forbs present and some bare ground was still apparent. A large area of disturbed bare ground was present in the northwest behind new residential properties the area appeared to be being used as a dumping ground for builder's materials.

The poor semi-improved grassland associated with the old pub comprised ground elder, smooth hawk's-beard, common cat's-ear, false oat-grass, red fescue, perennial ryegrass and white clover.

Tall ruderal vegetation was present around the boundaries of the farm buildings and along the southern boundary. This comprised field sow-thistle, common nettle, common mallow and occasional broad-leaved dock.

Avifauna:

The survey was carried out at a sub-optimal time for recording birds. But jackdaws were noted using the poor semi-improved grassland in the main body of the site. Otherwise no notable bird species were recorded.

Goldfinches were recorded in June 2014 according to the Applied Ecology report. It is likely that the gardens and scrub areas around the site will support a range of common farmland and garden bird species all of which could nest in the spring and summer.

Invertebrates:

The site is unlikely to support a wide range of invertebrate species, however common species will utilise the trees, hedgerows and areas of poor semi-improved grassland. A few common butterfly species were noted such as large white and meadow brown.

Herpetofauna:

The past history of the site and the grassland areas in the north-west corner of the site suggest that common reptiles are highly unlikely to be present in this area. The remainder of the site offers limited habitat for reptiles. The site offers sub-optimal habitat for amphibians.

Mammals:

There were limited features that could support roosting bats within the site boundary although the mature ash tree of interest on the northern boundary had a dense covering of ivy that could potentially offer some roosting potential (TN1). There were no suitable buildings within the site boundary and this confirms the findings of the Applied Ecology report.

Brown hare favours arable sites such as this. Hedgehog may utilise the boundary features.

Comments and recommendations:

Overall the site is of low ecological value and there are no major ecological constraints that would prevent development.

A tree assessment should be carried out on all trees that could potentially support roosting bats where features such as cracks, crevices, rot holes, dense ivy-cover are present such as the ash tree near the public footpath along the northern boundary (TN1).

Vegetation should only be cleared outside the main bird nesting season, March-August inclusive.

For sites within 9.5km of the Breckland SPA

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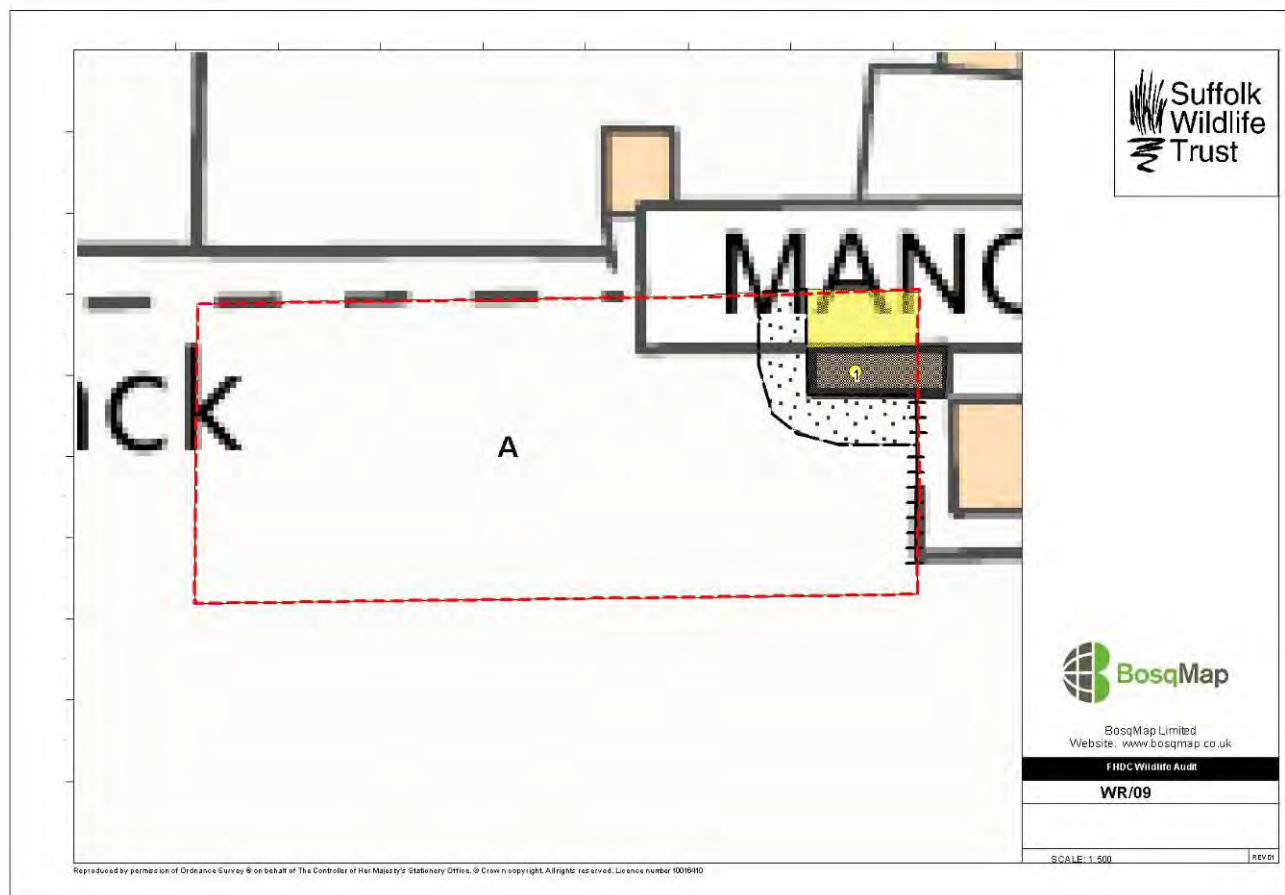
References:

Applied Ecology Ltd. (June 2014) Land off Beeches Road, West Row. Ecology Report

Site name **West Row WR/09**

FHDC Ref: WR/09
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TL67067 75959
Area: 0.27 hectares
Date: 19th August 2015
Recorder: A Sherwood
Weather conditions: Dry, warm, overcast
Ranking: 6
Biodiversity value: Low

Map:



Photos:



Track and public footpath leading to site off Manor Farm Road looking west



Manor Farm Road and shed on the site looking west

Habitat type(s):

Arable

Subsidiary habitats:

Amenity grassland

Site description:

The site lies off Manor Farm Road in West Row adjacent to a public footpath leading to Shop Drove. Manor Farm lies adjacent to the north. The site is currently in arable production with a recently harvested cereal crop. There are no boundary features within the site boundary other than a fence making the curtilage of a residential property adjacent to the eastern boundary.

A small corrugated iron shed lies within the site boundary in the north east corner of the site.

There is a relict hedgerow adjacent to the public footpath off site with mown amenity grassland north of this.

Protected species seen or known:

-

Protected species potential:

-

Priority habitats present:

-

Priority species seen or known:

-

Priority species potential:

-

Connectivity:

The site is within an existing arable field and therefore there are no field boundary connections within the outlined site boundary.

Structural diversity:

Very poor.

Flora:

The cereal crop had been harvested and was weed-free. There were no botanical species worthy of note. The adjacent track off site had areas of bare ground and improved grassland dominated by perennial ryegrass.

An area of regularly mown amenity grassland was present along Manor Farm Road and the shed.

Avifauna:

No birds were recorded and the site offers limited habitat for nesting birds other than those that nest on

the ground. Some songbird species could nest in the shed on site such as robin or wren and possibly swallow. Common birds are likely to nest in the relict hedgerow adjacent to the track in the spring and summer.

Invertebrates:

None recorded. The site was an arable field with a recently harvested cereal crop.

Herpetofauna:

The site represents sub-optimal habitat for this group.

Mammals:

The site is of sub-optimal habitat for this group. Small mammals such as mice, voles and shrew may utilise the field edges or the shed on site.

Comments and recommendations:

The site is of low ecological value and therefore there are no ecological constraints to development.

If the shed is to be removed, then this should be checked for the presence of nesting birds or removed in the winter months outside the main bird-nesting season of March-August inclusive.

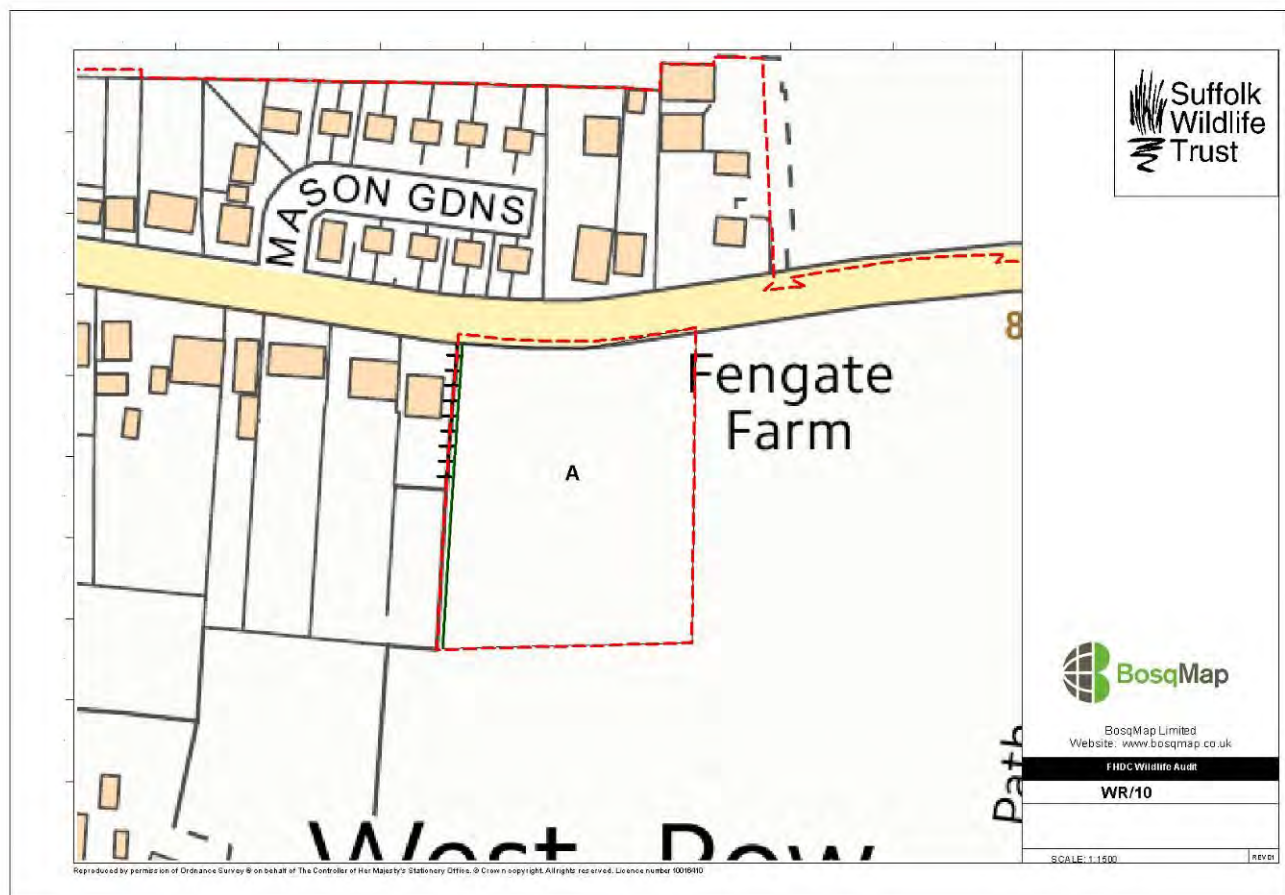
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Site name **West Row WR/10**

FHDC Ref: WR/10
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TL 67651 75766
Area: 0.86 hectares
Date: 19th August 2015
Recorder: A Looser
Weather conditions: Warm, overcast but dry
Ranking: 6
Biodiversity value: Low

Map:



Photos:



Looking south from Chapel Road



Verge along road looking east (site to right of picture)

Habitat type(s):

Arable

Subsidiary habitats:

Species poor intact hedge

Site description:

This arable site lies to the south of Chapel Road and is part of a larger block of arable farmland. Gardens lie to the west beyond a leylandii hedge. There are no hedges on the northern, eastern and southern boundaries.

Protected species seen or known:

-

Protected species potential:

-

Priority habitats present:

-

Priority species seen or known:

House sparrow

Priority species potential:

Skylark

Connectivity:

This site is part of a larger block of arable farmland but otherwise has very poor connectivity.

Structural diversity:

Structural diversity is very poor.

Flora:

The field was currently arable and had recently been harvested.

The roadside verge was relatively species-poor with common species: barren brome, false oat grass, common mallow, nettle, black horehound, ribwort plantain, mugwort, scentless mayweed, smooth sow-thistle, knotgrass, fat-hen, white dead-nettle, yarrow, purple toadflax and horse-radish.

There was a leylandii hedge bordering the garden to the west.

Avifauna:

A flock of about 20 house sparrows were flying from the shelter of a garden hedge on the north side of Chapel Road to forage on the verge and field edge of the site. The site is part of a larger arable field and is likely to also support nesting skylark.

Invertebrates:

There is very limited potential for invertebrate species on this site.

Herpetofauna:

There is no suitable habitat for reptiles or amphibians.

Mammals:

There is very limited habitat for mammals on this site, although larger mammals such as brown hare may move through the arable field.

Comments and recommendations:

This site has very low ecological value.

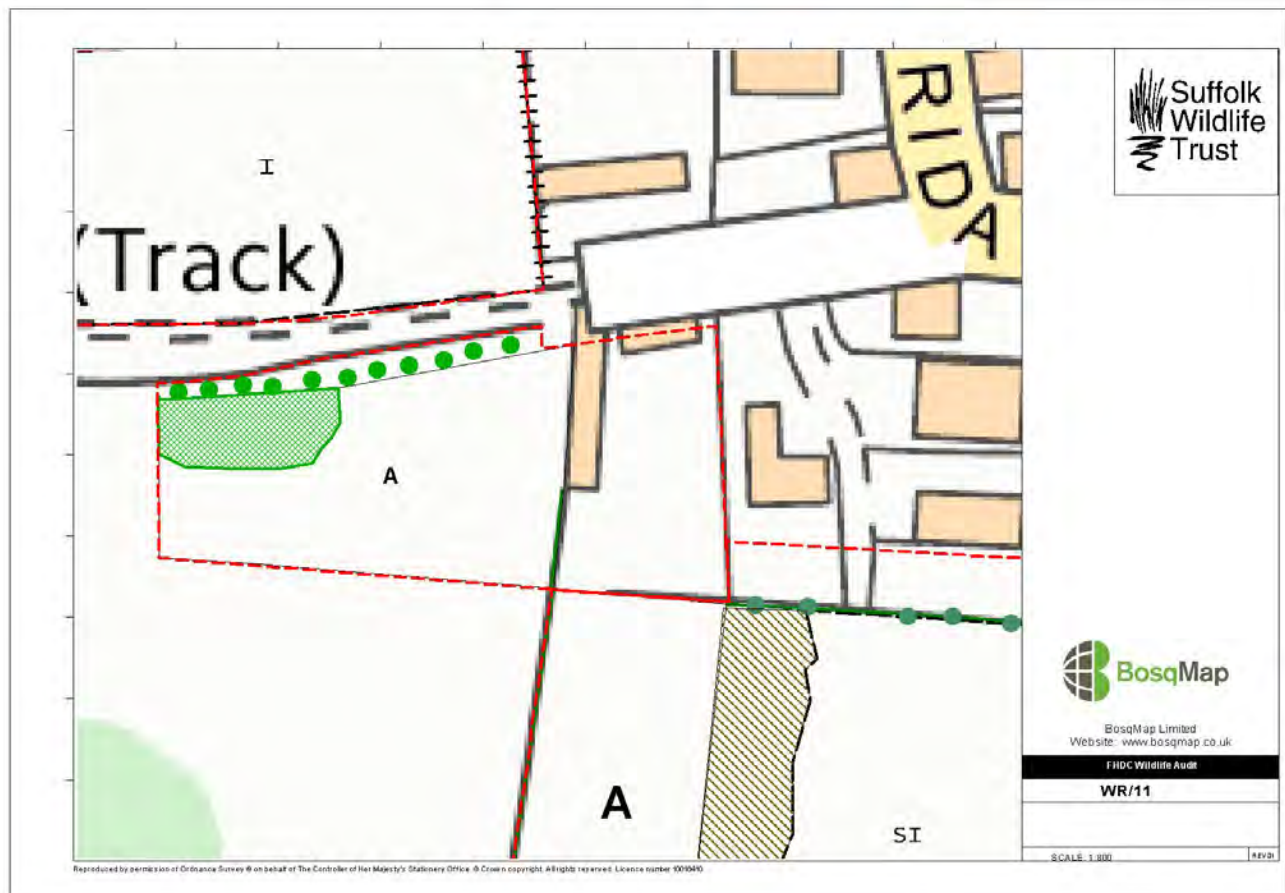
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Site name West Row WR/11

FHDC Ref: WR/11
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TL 67315 75615
Area: 0.41 hectares
Date: 19th August 2015
Recorder: A Looser
Weather conditions: Warm, overcast but dry
Ranking: 5
Biodiversity value: Low

Map:



Photos:



Looking west across cultivated strips of wildflowers, with scrub visible in background on right

Habitat type(s):

Arable

Subsidiary habitats:

Scrub, tree belt

Site description:

The site lies to the south of Parker's Drove on the western side of West Row and is contiguous with other sites in this area (WR/01, WR/26, WR/12 and WR/13). The west of the site is arable, but is currently sown with rows of wildflowers rather than an arable crop and is part of a larger arable field. A tall belt of leylandii trees is present on the northern boundary of the site. The north-western corner is colonised by scrub. Buildings and a garden forms the eastern section of the site and this section was not surveyed.

Protected species seen or known:

-

Protected species potential:

-

Priority habitats present:

-

Priority species seen or known:

-

Priority species potential:

Hedgehog

Connectivity:

The site is situated on the west side of West Row and is contiguous with other arable land.

Structural diversity:

Normally structural diversity of arable land is low, but the sowing of the various wild-flower mixes increases this a little. The garden to the east will also have limited structural diversity.

Flora:

The arable field had been sown with a variety of wildflowers including glandular globe-thistle, cornflower and common poppy.

The rough grass track was dominated by grasses including cock's-foot, wall barley, false oat-grass, red fescue and common couch plus some common herbs including common mallow, black horehound, white dead-nettle, red clover, white clover, mugwort, hogweed, perennial sow-thistle, goosefoot and fat-hen.

The scrub in the corner was dominated by blackthorn and elder.

Avifauna:

The survey took place at a sub-optimal time of year for this group. Common species will be present and the scrub in the north-west will provide some nesting opportunities.

Invertebrates:

The sown wild flowers were being visited by large numbers of invertebrates, including bumble bees, hoverflies and butterflies.

Herpetofauna:

This site is sub-optimal for this group, although grass snake may be present, being more mobile and wider ranging.

Mammals:

Common species will be present, such as muntjac, grey squirrel and fox

Comments and recommendations:

Although the western half of the site is arable, the sown wild flower strips increase its wildlife value during the life of this crop.

Any clearance of the scrub should take place outside of the bird nesting season (March-August inclusive).

For sites within 9.5km of the Breckland SPA

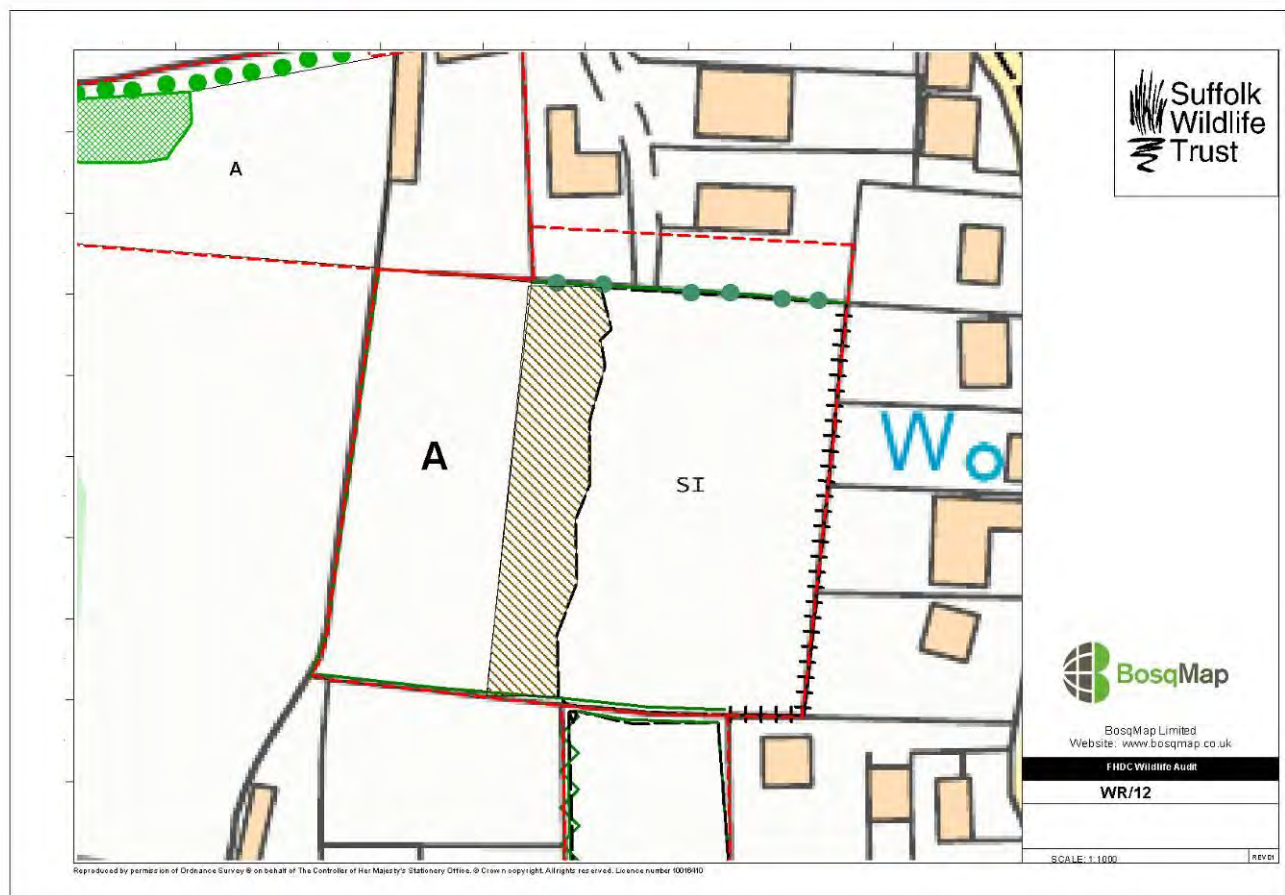
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Site name **West Row WR/12**

FHDC Ref: WR/12
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TL 67379 75545
Area: 0.89 hectares
Date: 26th August 2015
Recorder: A Looser
Weather conditions: Cool, dry but following heavy rain
Ranking: 5
Biodiversity value: Low

Map:



Photos:



View south across site



Maize strip along western edge

Habitat type(s):

Arable, poor semi-improved grassland

Subsidiary habitats:

Species-poor hedgerow

Site description:

This site lies on the western edge of West Row and is contiguous with a series of other sites on this side of the village (WR/01, WR/11, WR/13 and WR/26). The western boundary is marked by a tall elm hedgerow next to which is a strip currently cultivated with a maize crop. The rest of the site has been left uncultivated and has reverted to poor semi-improved grassland with small patches of scrub in the eastern section and an area colonized by tall ruderal vegetation adjacent to the maize crop. On the northern side trees and close-cut hedges mark the boundary with a series of gardens. There is a species-poor hedge on the southern boundary but a fence forms the boundary to the east.

Protected species seen or known:

-

Protected species potential:

Slow-worm
Grass snake

Priority habitats present:

-

Priority species seen or known:

-

Priority species potential:

Hedgehog
White letter hairstreak

Connectivity:

This site is located on the western side of West Row where there is a contiguous series of arable and formerly arable sites (WR/26, WR/11, WR/01 and WR/13) linking together. There is also a hedgerow network of varying quality throughout this area.

Structural diversity:

Structural diversity is currently poor, but if areas of this site are left uncultivated for several years, scrub will develop and structural diversity will increase.

Flora:

This field has been left uncultivated so has reverted back to species poor grassland. It was dominated by common couch with occasional wall barley, barren brome and creeping bent. There was a low diversity of common herbs including knotgrass, fat-hen, black horehound, common poppy, prickly lettuce, creeping thistle, bristly ox-tongue, perennial sow-thistle and viper's bugloss. Next to the maize strip the species-poor, tall, ruderal vegetation was dominated by mugwort, common nettle and broad-leaved dock.

There were silver birch, sycamore and ash trees along the northern boundary with the gardens. The hedge bordering WR/13 was species poor with elm, hawthorn and bramble present. Along the western boundary is a small section of recently planted laurel hedge with an older elm and hawthorn hedge further south.

Avifauna:

The survey took place at a sub-optimal time of year for recording this group. Apart from the hedgerows, there are limited opportunities for nesting. However, if this site remains uncultivated for several years small areas of scrub will develop and the bird diversity will increase.

Invertebrates:

The elm hedge may support white letter hairstreak. Several butterflies were recorded (small white, large white and a species of skipper) as well as a silver y moth. Other common species of invertebrate are likely to be present in the grassland.

Herpetofauna:

The uncultivated parts of the site are potentially suitable for reptiles (slow-worm, common lizard and grass snake), although there are no records of this group in this part of West Row.

Mammals:

The undisturbed nature of the uncultivated part of this site means that various mammals are likely to be present. The site provides shelter and foraging opportunities for hedgehog and fox. Muntjac deer are also highly likely to be present. The western and southern hedgerows may provide a commuting corridor for bats.

Comments and recommendations:

If this site remains uncultivated, its wildlife value will increase. If any hedgerows are to be removed, or any scrub which may develop in future, then this should take place outside of the bird nesting season (March-August inclusive).

If most of this site remains uncultivated it is recommended that it should be surveyed for reptiles.

For sites within 9.5km of the Breckland SPA

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Site name **West Row WR/13**

FHDC Ref: WR/13
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TL 67400 75440
Area: 0.55 hectares
Date: 26th August 2015
Recorder: S Bullion
Weather conditions: Cool, cloudy and recently rained heavily
Ranking: 5
Biodiversity value: Low

Map:



Photos:



View looking north with poor semi-improved grassland and mature species rich hedge

Habitat type(s):

Poor semi-improved grassland

Subsidiary habitats:

Mature species-rich hedge and species-poor hedge

Site description:

The site lies to the north of Church Lane and south of an arable field (WR/12). A tall, mixed-species hedge is present along the western and northern boundaries. To the south-east lies the churchyard boundary with a thick hawthorn hedge. The site is typical of an area which has not been cultivated for some time, with tall, rank grassland occupying the majority of the site.

Protected species seen or known:

-

Protected species potential:

grass snake

Priority habitats present:

-

Priority species seen or known:

-

Priority species potential:

White letter hairstreak, hedgehog, cinnabar moth

Connectivity:

The hedges on the western and northern boundaries represent good links to the wider network of hedges on the western edge West Row.

Structural diversity:

The hedges and tall grassland provide some degree of structural diversity.

Flora:

The majority of the site was dominated by poor semi-improved grassland. A range of common species was recorded: false oat-grass was dominant with red fescue, common couch, barren brome, Yorkshire fog and tussocks of cock's-foot, although beneath the western hedge was rough meadow grass. Creeping thistle, spear thistle, common nettle, mugwort, black medick, ribwort plantain, common ragwort, Canadian fleabane, marjoram, ground-ivy, prickly ox-tongue, willowherb spp, with upright hedge-parsley beneath the western hedge. Walnut is seeding into the grassland as well as garden escapes such as buddleia, everlasting pea and aquilegia.

The western hedge included elm with hawthorn, blackthorn, wild rose, oak, sycamore, walnut, elder and plum as well as a large amount of bramble. The northern hedge was predominantly elm with hawthorn and a small amount of wild rose.

To the east there are large leylandii trees forming the boundary with a garden. The boundary with the churchyard is defined by a thick hawthorn hedge.

Avifauna:

It was a sub-optimal time of year for recording this group, but this site provides some habitat for birds. The hedgerows provide excellent nesting and roosting opportunities and there were abundant berries as an autumn food source for this group. The tall grassland sward offers a good seed and invertebrate resource.

Invertebrates:

Common species of invertebrates are likely to be present. A number of butterflies were recorded along the western hedge: large white, small white, gatekeeper, speckled wood and common blue. The presence of elm means that white-letter hairstreak (Priority Species) may also be present. The presence of common ragwort means that cinnabar moth (Priority Species) may also be present. Bedeguar galls (robin's pin cushions) were present on the wild rose, a common phenomenon derived from the larvae of a tiny gall wasp. Ant hills indicated that the site has not been managed for some time and there were good numbers of grasshoppers.

Herpetofauna:

This site is sub-optimal for reptiles, although grass snake may be present in low numbers, particularly

as it is only 500m to the River Lark in the south-west and this is a highly mobile species.

Mammals:

Hedgehog is recorded at other locations in West Row, so it is likely that this species will forage within the grassland and the hedgerow provides excellent hibernation opportunities. Fox droppings were found on the western boundary. Grey squirrel and muntjac deer are also highly likely to be present.

Comments and recommendations:

Should this site be developed then further surveys are recommended for reptiles. Care should be taken to ensure that any clearance of scrub is outside of the bird nesting season of March-August (inclusive) and only after the results of a reptile survey are known.

The hedges are important connecting features and may be used as a commuting route for bats as well as providing a hibernation site for hedgehogs. They should be retained and buffered in any future development proposals.

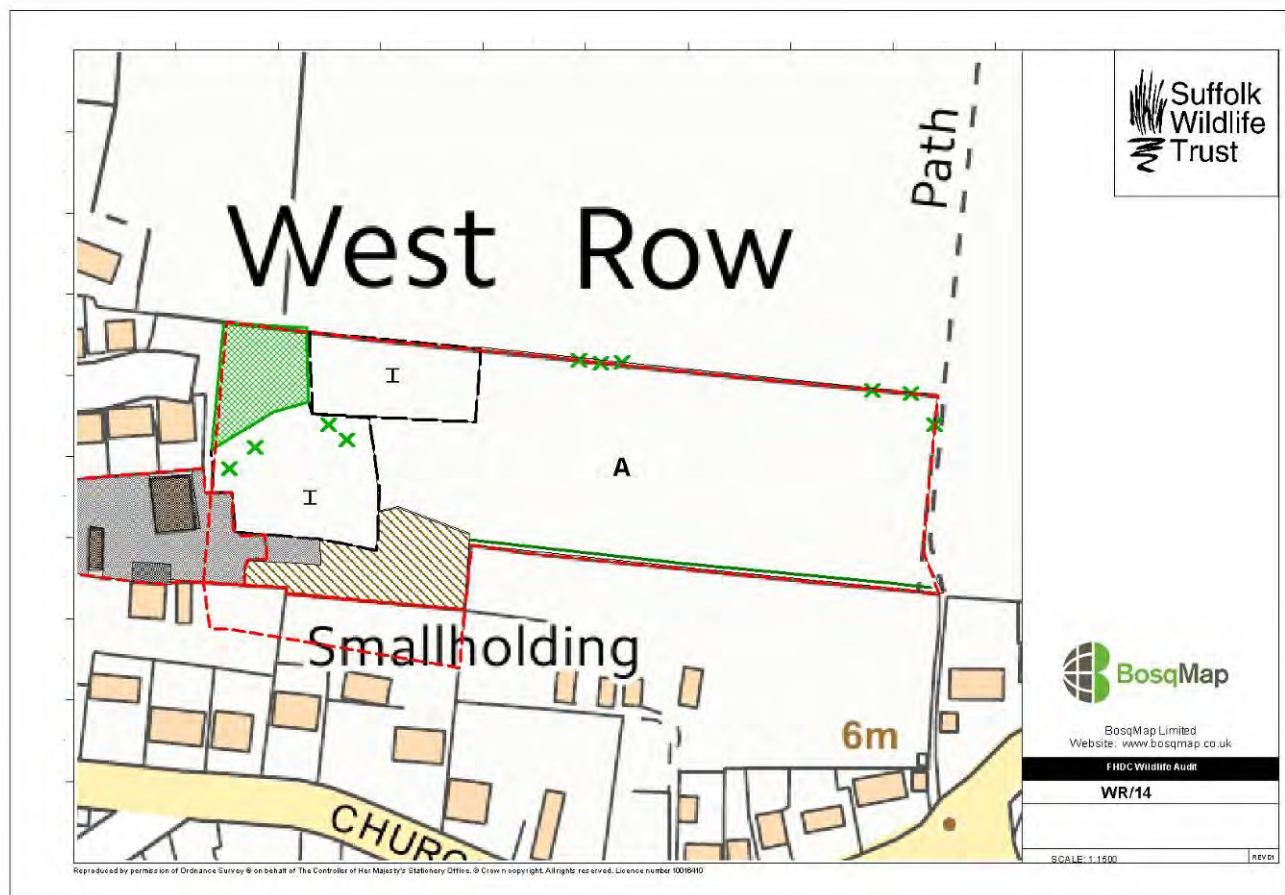
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Site name **West Row WR/14**

FHDC Ref: WR/14
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TL 67667 75572
Area: 1.77 hectares
Date: 19th August 2015
Recorder: A Looser
Weather conditions: Warm, overcast but dry
Ranking: 5
Biodiversity value: Low

Map:



Photos:



View west along arable field with plum hedge on southern boundary



Looking west showing improved grassland football field in north-west of site

Habitat type(s):

Arable, improved grassland

Subsidiary habitats:

Tall ruderal, species poor hedge, scrub

Site description:

The majority of the site is arable, largely sown with a cereal crop with a narrow strip of various vegetable crops growing along the southern boundary. There is a fence along the northern boundary with occasional small patches of scrub and a footpath runs along the eastern boundary. A thick fruit-bearing hedge (greengage and other plums) is present along most of the southern boundary. This represents the relic boundary of a former historic orchard, with its original extent mapped on the historic orchard GIS layer. The south-western section of this site is currently being used for the storage of trailers associated with the business of WR/23.

Protected species seen or known:

-

Protected species potential:

-

Priority habitats present:

-

Priority species seen or known:

-

Priority species potential:

Hedgehog

Connectivity:

The site is part of a wider arable area with few landscape features. The hedge in the south provides limited connectivity.

Structural diversity:

Structural diversity is very poor.

Flora:

The site is largely arable and cultivated with a mixture of cereal and vegetable crops. The field margins are species-poor with common herbs including fat-hen, mallow, common nettle, mugwort, black horehound, white campion and shepherd's-purse.

The tall ruderal area is also species-poor being dominated by nettle, fat-hen and common mallow.

The improved grassland football field and the area containing parked trailers is species-poor, with only a few common herbs including ribwort and broad leaved plantain, dandelion and white clover.

The hedge along the southern boundary (the northern limit of a former orchard) comprises a variety of fruit trees including apple, walnut, plum, damson and greengage.

There were some small patches of elm and elder scrub along the northern and eastern edges of the site.

Avifauna:

The survey took place at a sub-optimal time of year for surveying this group, but the site offers very little habitat for this group, apart from the scrub in the north-western corner. The parked trailers are occasionally used by nesting birds such as collared dove and blackbird.

Invertebrates:

A few common invertebrate species will be present due to the limited habitat for this group. A small white butterfly was recorded.

Herpetofauna:

The site is unsuitable for this group.

Mammals:

Fox has been reported to be present and muntjac deer are also likely to occur.

Comments and recommendations:

Any clearance of scrub or hedgerow should be outside of the bird nesting season (March-August inclusive).

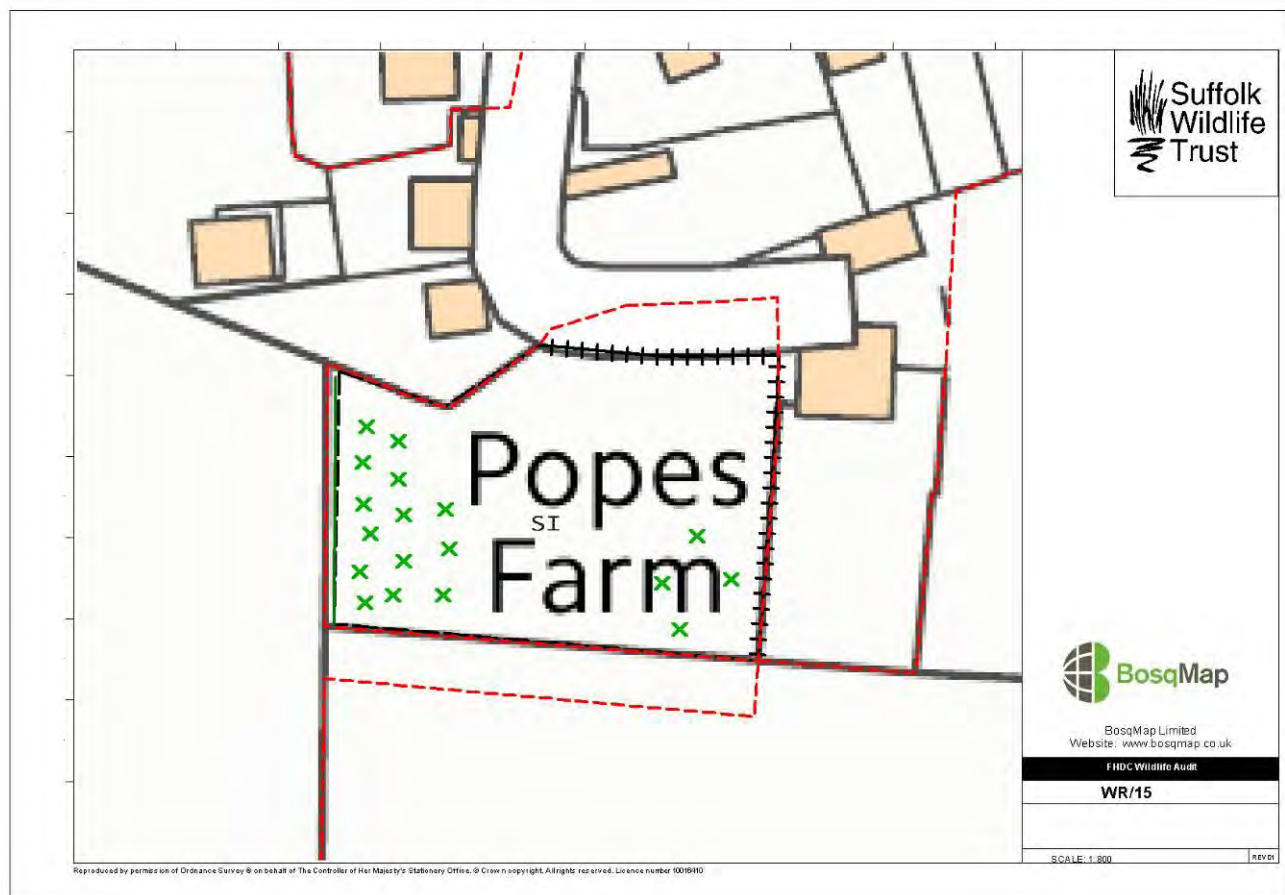
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Site name **West Row WR/15**

FHDC Ref: WR/15
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TL 67425 75281
Area: 0.42 hectares
Date: 19th August 2015
Recorder: S Bullion
Weather conditions: Warm, overcast but dry
Ranking: 5
Biodiversity value: Low

Map:



Photos:



Looking south west with grassland, scattered scrub and mature hedgerow in background

Habitat type(s):

Poor, semi-improved grassland and scattered scrub

Subsidiary habitats:

Species-poor hedge

Site description:

The site lies to the south of Church Lane, off Pamments Lane and north of another, larger site (WR/33). The site is currently unmanaged although it has been formerly used for horse grazing. It is dominated by poor semi-improved grassland and scattered scrub is developing, particularly on the western edge. A tall hedge is present along the western boundary, which also represents the western boundary of WR/33.

Protected species seen or known:

-

Protected species potential:

-

Priority habitats present:

-

Priority species seen or known:

Small heath butterfly

Priority species potential:

Hedgehog, cinnabar moth

Connectivity:

The site, located on the south-western edge of West Row, is outside of the built-up area and contiguous with adjacent farmland and horse paddocks. The mature hedge on the western boundary represents a good wildlife corridor towards the River Lark in the south.

Structural diversity:

This site is developing some structural diversity due to the grassland/scrub mosaic.

Flora:

The majority of the site is dominated by poor semi-improved grassland and scattered scrub. The scrub is densest on the western edge. A range of common species was recorded: false oat-grass (dominant), red fescue, cock's-foot, creeping thistle, spear thistle, dandelion, common nettle, mugwort, ribwort plantain, common ragwort, black horehound, white clover, red clover, burdock, perennial sow-thistle, smooth hawk's-beard and black medick. The abundant presence of blue fleabane indicates neutral to chalky soils. The scrub included dense patches of bramble with wild rose, willow and silver birch.

The hedge included hawthorn, blackthorn, elder, with white bryony and bramble.

Avifauna:

It was a sub-optimal time of year for recording this group, but this site provides some habitat for birds. The hedgerow and developing scattered scrub will provide nesting and roosting opportunities and the ruderals provide a seed source for foraging. A swallow was recorded catching insects over the site.

Invertebrates:

A small heath butterfly (Priority Species) was recorded on the southern edge of the site. Other, more common species of invertebrates are likely to be present. The presence of common ragwort means that cinnabar moth (Priority Species) may be present. A large white butterfly was recorded.

Herpetofauna:

This site is sub-optimal for reptiles, although grass snake may visit the site particularly as it is undisturbed and only 500m to the River Lark in the south.

Mammals:

Hedgehog is recorded at other locations in West Row, so it is likely that this species will forage within the grassland and the bramble scrub provides an excellent hibernation resource in this part of West Row. Two muntjac deer were seen on land to the south and these will be common and widespread, as will also be fox and grey squirrel.

Comments and recommendations:

Care should be taken to ensure that any clearance of scrub is outside of the bird nesting season of March-August (inclusive). In addition, clearance of scrub should be sensitive to the presence of hedgehog which may be using this as year round shelter. The hedge is an important connecting feature in an otherwise open landscape and may be used as a commuting route for bats.

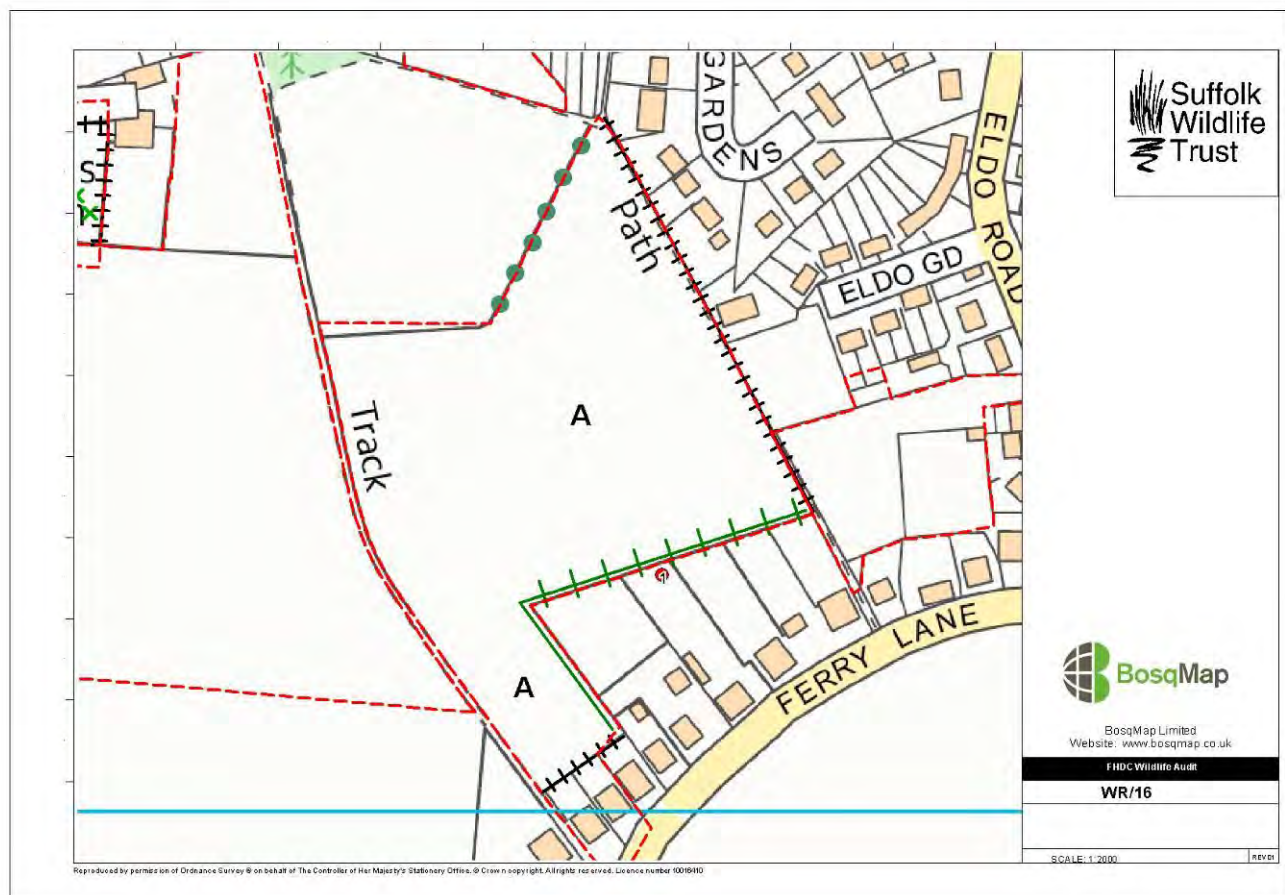
For sites within 9.5km of the Breckland SPA

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Site name **West Row WR/16**

FHDC Ref: WR/16
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TL 67668 75171
Area: 3.16 hectares
Date: 19th August 2015
Recorder: A Looser
Weather conditions: Warm, overcast but dry
Ranking: 6
Biodiversity value: Low

Map:



Photos:



View north-east across field



Large walnut tree with bat potential along southern boundary

Habitat types:

Arable

Subsidiary habitats:

Tree belt, garden hedges

Site description:

This arable field is situated on the southern side of West Row and it is part of a group of sites in this area (WR/15, WR/33 and WR/17). A hedge with trees marks the north-west boundary, which is unconnected to any other hedges at its southern end. The southern boundary is defined by garden hedges. A public footpath runs along the western boundary, beyond which is a young hedge planted on WR/33.

Protected species seen or known:

-

Protected species potential:

Bats

Priority habitats present:

-

Priority species seen or known:

-

Priority species potential:

Skylark

Connectivity:

Connectivity is poor. The boundary hedgerows do not appear to link to a wider hedgerow network.

Structural diversity:

Structural diversity is poor.

Flora:

The arable field had been harvested recently. A number of arable weeds were noted, particularly around the margins. These were: fool's parsley, scarlet pimpernel, white dead-nettle, fumitory spp, grey speedwell, green speedwell and field speedwell. Around the edges there was also common couch grass, cow parsley and mugwort. A couple of garden escapes, purple toadflax and nigella, were seen near the northern boundary.

The hedge bordering gardens along the southern boundary included sycamore, blackthorn, hawthorn, bramble, elder, walnut, privet and white bryony. Much of the hedge was ivy covered.

The trees along the northern boundary included pine, walnut and damson with some hops also present.

Avifauna:

The survey took place at a sub-optimal time of year for this group. The hedge in the south had an abundance of berries at the time of the survey, which will provide a good autumn and winter food

source and also provides potential nesting sites. Skylark may nest within the arable field.

Invertebrates:

This site is sub-optimal for invertebrates, although common species will be present. Small white, large white and common blue butterflies were recorded during the survey.

Herpetofauna:

The habitat is not suitable for this group.

Mammals:

This arable site provides poor habitat for mammals. However, it was noted that a large walnut tree, just beyond the southern boundary, had a number of woodpecker holes high up the trunk, which can provide bat roosting opportunities.

Comments and recommendations:

A bat survey is recommended along the southern boundary, to assess for the likely presence of roosting bats. In addition, any hedgerow removal should be outside of the bird nesting season (March-August inclusive).

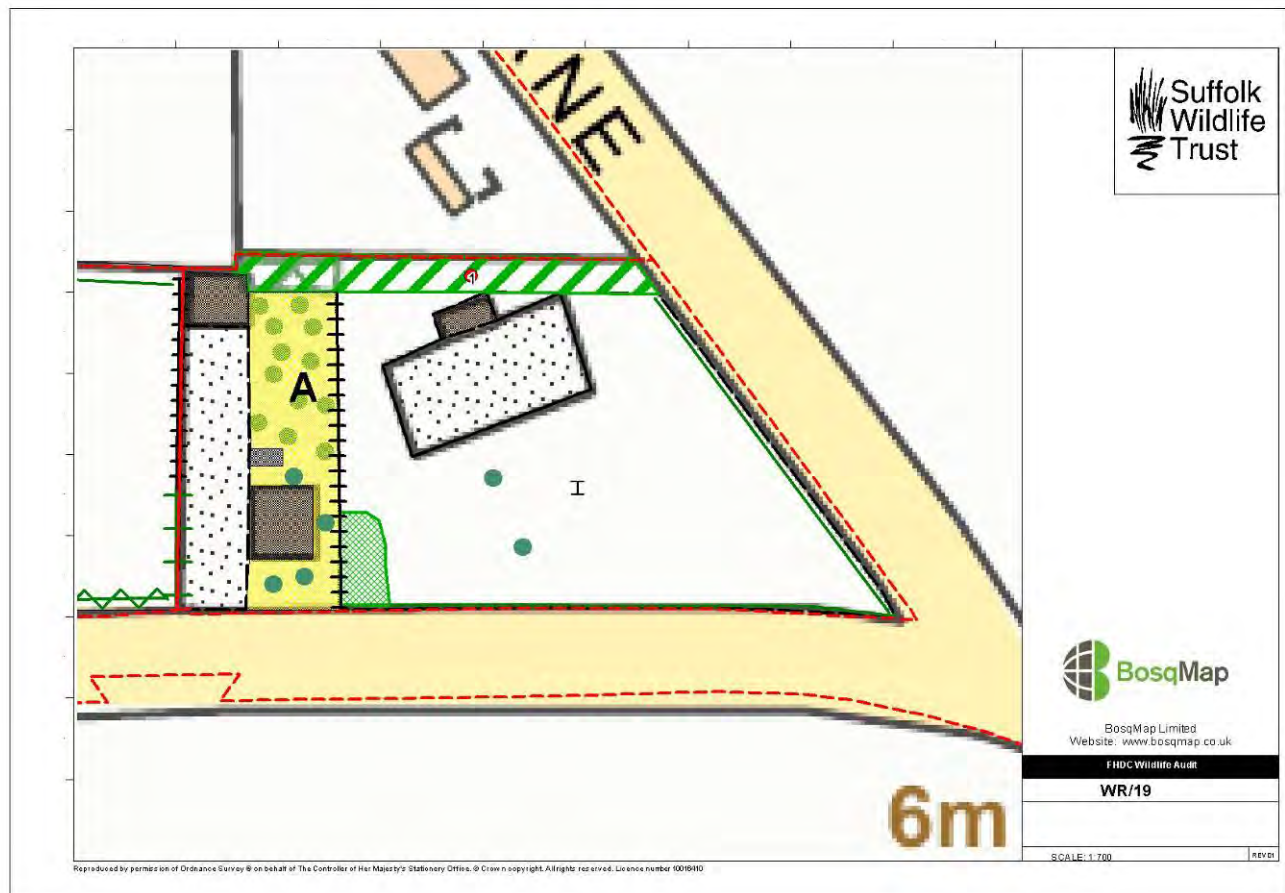
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Site name **West Row WR19**

FHDC Ref: WR/19
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TL667721 76234
Area: 0.52 hectares
Date: 19th August 2015
Recorder: A Sherwood
Weather conditions: Dry, warm, overcast
Ranking: 5
Biodiversity value: Low

Map:



Photos:



Improved grass horse paddock with boundary hedgerows looking east



*Tree (*Prunus* spp) belt along boundary with WR/27*



Trees in garden of residential property adjacent to paddock looking south



Residential house and outbuildings

Habitat type(s):

Improved grassland

Subsidiary habitats:

Hedgerows, trees, amenity grassland

Site description:

The site lies off Mildenhall Road in Thistley Green near West Row. It comprises a residential property and outbuildings, gardens and a horse paddock with a stable. The site is surrounded on the east and south by regularly managed hedgerows along Jarman's Lane and Mildenhall Road and there is a narrow belt of trees along the northern boundary adjacent to site WR/27. The western boundary is fenced with shrubs and trees at the southern end. Two young willow trees were present in the horse paddock.

Protected species seen or known:

-

Protected species potential:

Bats

Priority habitats present:

-

Priority species seen or known:

-

Priority species potential:

Limited

Connectivity:

The site is connected via hedgerows to an arable field to the west, otherwise it is surrounded by residential properties with large gardens.

Structural diversity:

Limited to the hedgerows and trees around and within the site boundary. The grassland comprises a tightly grazed sward with no structural diversity.

Flora:

The improved grassland was tightly grazed and of limited botanical interest. There were two young willow trees in the paddock.

The roadside hedgerows around the paddock were dominated by privet with occasional elder.

Various trees and fruit trees along the northern boundary (TN 1) and in the garden area of the residential property were recorded and included horse chestnut, Scot's pine, yew, Chilean pine and wild plum trees (*Prunus* sp). Old apple trees were along the western boundary. Bramble, elder and ivy dominated the shrub and ground flora layer under and adjacent to the trees.

The southern boundary in front of the house comprised a line of copper beech trees with garden privet underneath along the fence.

Avifauna:

No birds of note were recorded during the survey. The survey was carried out at a sub-optimal time of year for this group, but the owner has recorded swallows nesting in the stables.

Invertebrates:

The site has a limited range of species-poor habitats and is not therefore likely to support a wide diversity of invertebrate species. The hedgerows around the site may support privet hawk moth.

Herpetofauna:

The site is considered unlikely to support reptiles.

Mammals:

The buildings on site comprised a stone built, slate roof residential house, garage and outbuildings. All appeared to be in good condition offering limited opportunities for bats. Some of the trees could support roosting bats if holes, cracks or crevices are present. The owner reported that bats are seen foraging at night on the site.

Comments and recommendations:

The site is currently a residential property with a small horse paddock and associated gardens. It is of low ecological value and therefore should the site be developed there are currently no ecological constraints to development.

However, the buildings and mature trees could support roosting bats if suitable features are present and therefore it is recommended that further assessment of the trees and buildings should be undertaken to ensure compliance with both European and national legislation.

Vegetation should only be cleared outside the main bird nesting season (March-August inclusive).

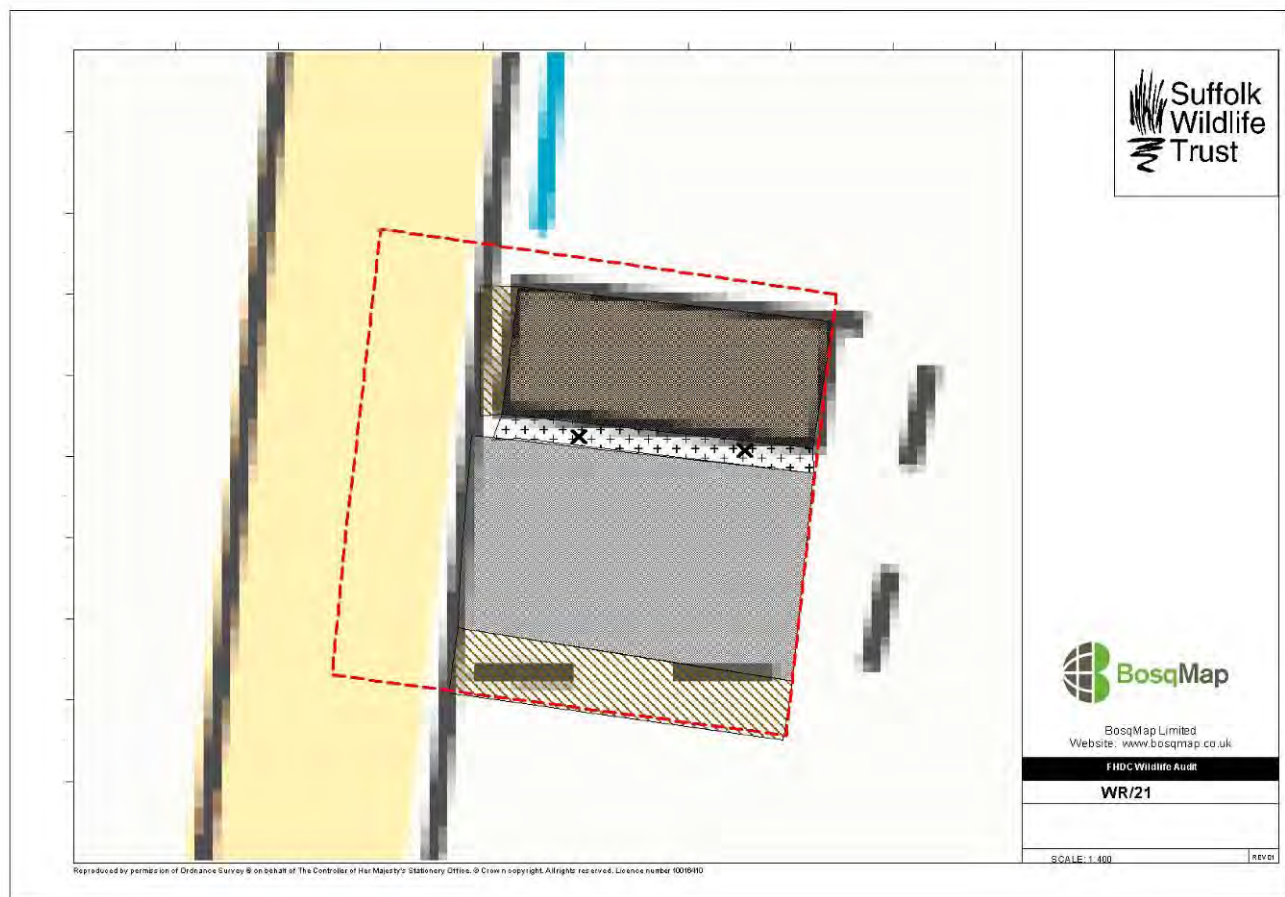
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Site name West Row WR/21

FHDC Ref: WR/21
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TL 68282 75649
Area: 0.10 hectares
Date: 19th August 2015
Recorder: A Looser
Weather conditions: Warm, overcast but dry
Ranking: 6
Biodiversity value: Low (subject to survey of interior of building)

Map:



Photos:



View of site looking east

Habitat type(s):

-

Subsidiary habitats:

Ivy covering building, ruderal plants, ephemeral/short perennial plant species

Site description:

This very small site lies to the east of Pott Hall Road. On the northern half is a locked agricultural building covered in climbing plants and on the southern half the site had been levelled and spread with hardcore. Common ruderal and ephemeral/short perennial plant species are associated with perimeter of hard core area.

Protected species seen or known:

-

Protected species potential:

Bats

Priority habitats present:

-

Priority species seen or known:

-

Priority species potential:

Swift (Suffolk character species)

Connectivity:

Connectivity is very poor.

Structural diversity:

Poor across most of the site, with the exception of the ivy-clad building which provides some limited structural diversity in the wider landscape.

Flora:

The site was occupied by an area of hard standing covered in hard core. The building on site was covered with ivy. There were very few plant species present, mainly around the perimeter: cock's-foot, ribwort plantain, mugwort, common mallow, bristly ox-tongue, creeping cinquefoil, black medick, wild carrot, weld and fat-hen. A small amount of wild rose was present.

Avifauna:

The ivy-clad building is likely to support common nesting birds. No access was available to the interior of the building but it is possible that swallows and swifts may nest within. The ivy will offer a good source of berries in the late autumn to local and migrant thrush species.

Invertebrates:

Common invertebrates may be associated with the ivy covering the building, which provides a good nectar source when in flower.

Herpetofauna:

The site is unsuitable for this group.

Mammals:

There was no access to the interior of the building and whilst it appeared sub-optimal in terms of providing opportunities for roosting bats, their presence cannot be completely ruled out without a further survey.

Comments and recommendations:

It is recommended that a bat survey of the building is undertaken prior to any demolition. In order to avoid impacts upon nesting birds, demolition and/or the removal of ivy should be undertaken outside of the bird nesting season (March-August inclusive), unless it can be confirmed that no birds are nesting either within the interior of the building or in the dense ivy.

The site has been disturbed in the recent past and although no evidence of invasive species was seen their presence cannot be ruled out.

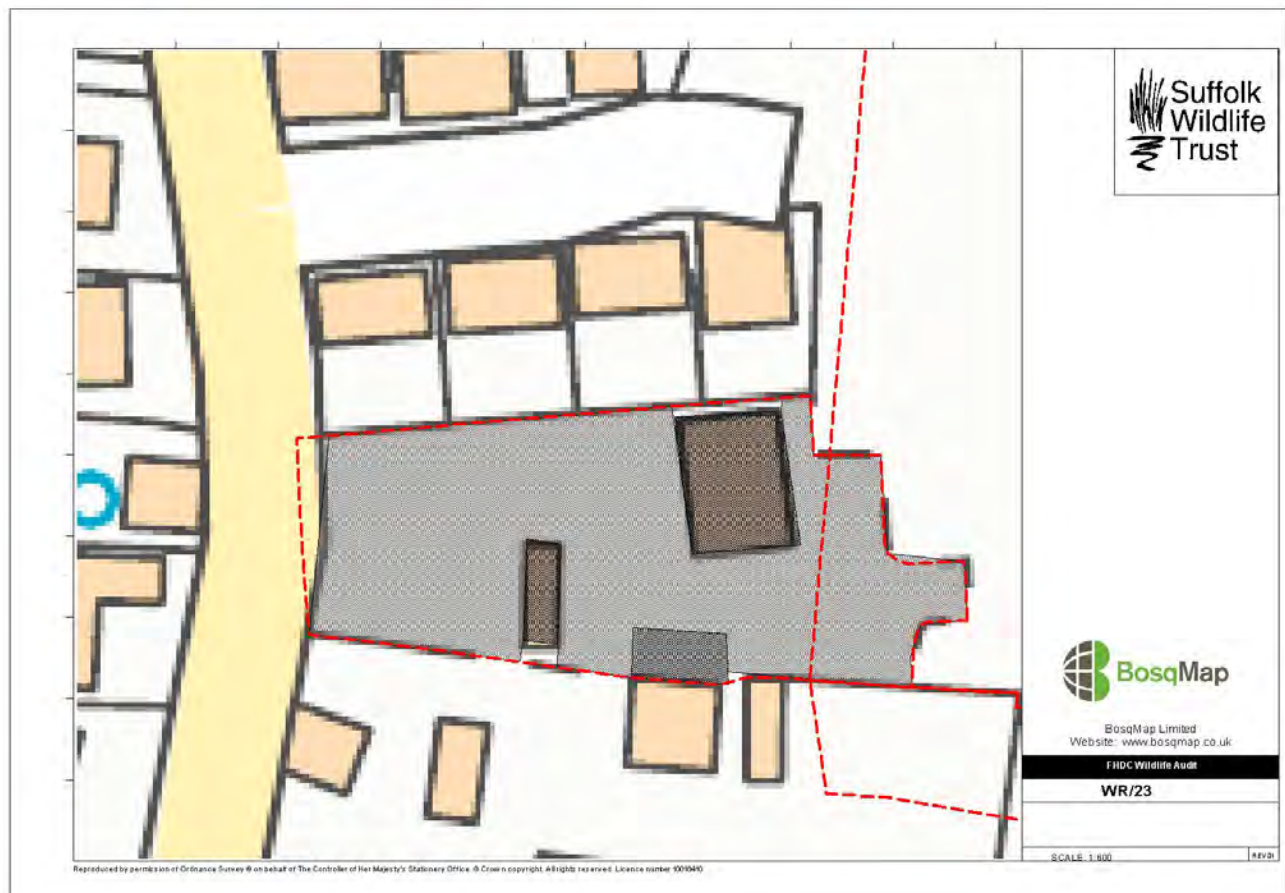
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Site name **West Row Site 23**

FHDC Ref: **WR/23**
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TL 67528 75547
Area: 0.27 hectares
Date: 19th August 2015
Recorder: A Looser and S Bullion
Weather conditions: Warm, overcast but dry
Ranking: 6
Biodiversity value: Low

Map:



Photos:



View of lorry park looking east

Habitat type(s):

Hard standing, buildings

Subsidiary habitats:

-

Site description:

This is a small site just west of Friday Street which is currently used as a haulage business. Therefore it represents an area of hard standing with some buildings to the east. WR/14 is adjacent to the site on the eastern boundary and slightly overlaps with it.

Protected species seen or known:

-

Protected species potential:

-

Priority habitats present:

-

Priority species seen or known:

-

Priority species potential:

-

Connectivity:

This site has fairly poor connectivity being almost surrounded by roads and residential housing. The western side is an arable field.

Structural diversity:

There is very poor structural diversity as it comprises hard-standing and buildings.

Flora:

It is very sparsely vegetated with a scattering of common herbs including fa- hen and creeping thistle.

Avifauna:

There are very limited opportunities for birds although some are known to nest in and around the buildings and stationary lorries. A blackbird nest was seen in the grill of a stationary lorry and collared doves have also been known to nest in a trailer.

Invertebrates:

There are very limited opportunities for invertebrates although some spiders are likely to use the buildings and stationary lorries.

Herpetofauna:

There is no suitable habitat for reptiles or amphibians.

Mammals:

The habitat is not suitable for mammals although low populations of mice may be present.

Comments and recommendations:

This site is already a lorry yard with very low wildlife value. There are currently no ecological constraints if any other development were to occur on site.

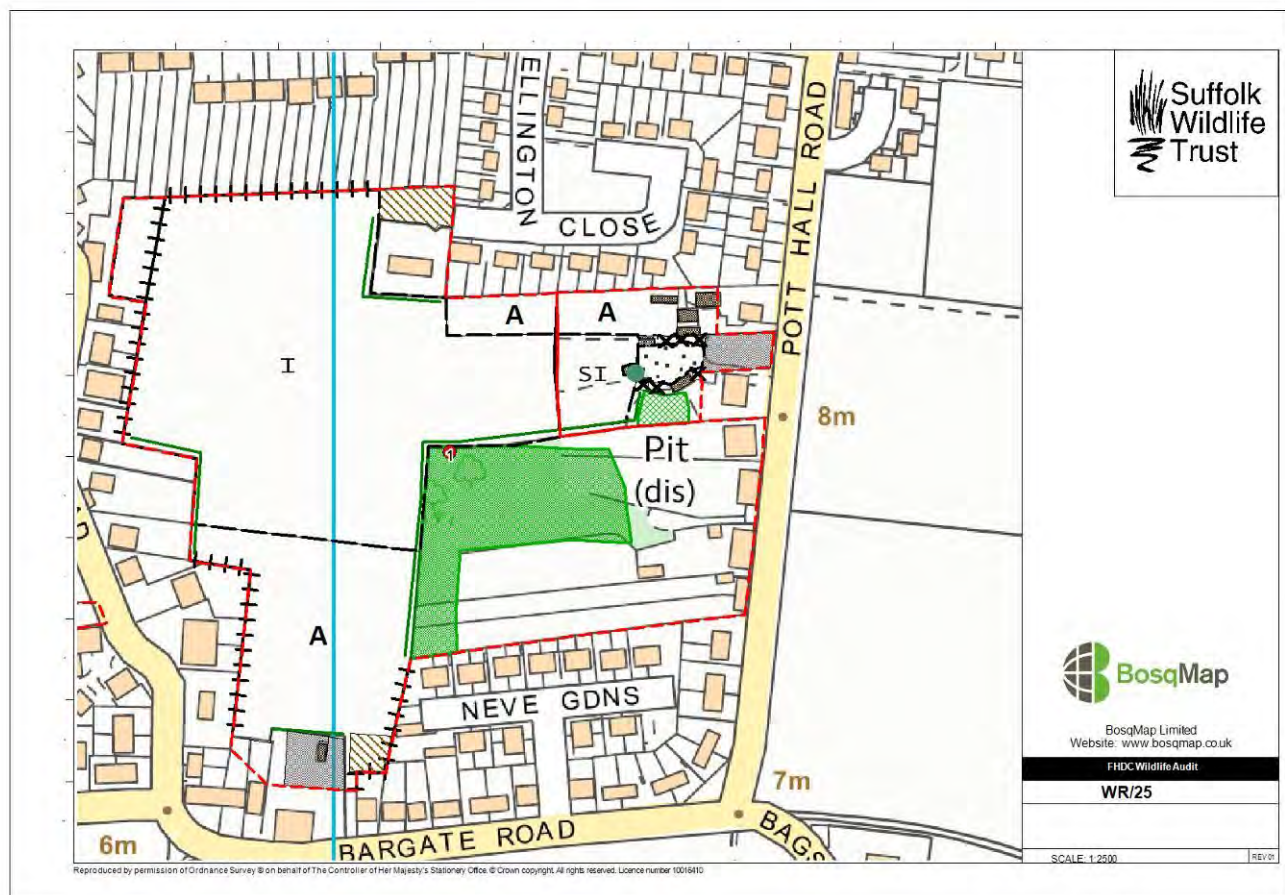
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Site name **West Row WR/25**

FHDC Ref: WR/25
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TL 67990 75287
Area: 5.77 hectares
Date: 19th August 2015
Recorder: A Looser
Weather conditions: Warm, overcast but dry
Ranking: 4
Biodiversity value: Medium

Map:



Photos:



View across site looking south



Group of large sycamore trees on northern edge of the pit (TN1)

Habitat type(s):

Improved grassland, arable, broadleaf woodland

Subsidiary habitats:

Hedgerow, tall ruderal

Site description:

This site is located on the south-eastern edge of West Row and lies to the south and west of the smaller WR/02. The northern third of the site is improved grassland, with very limited species diversity. The southern third of the site is arable. The eastern section of the site represents large gardens to which there was no access. These gardens lie within an area demarcated as a former pit, with steeply sloping sides, thick scrub and trees around the margins. There is a mature hedge on the western side representing the boundary with gardens. The southern-most part of the site represents gardens, an area of hard standing and small block of tall ruderal plants.

Protected species seen or known:

-

Protected species potential:

Priority habitats present:

-

Priority species seen or known:

Hedgehog (Wellington Close 2014)

Priority species potential:

White-letter hairstreak, common toad

Connectivity:

The site is part of a larger area of land which is partly cultivated and partly short mown grassland, with a thickly wooded pit to the east. The two areas (WR/02 and WR/25) are surrounded by roads and housing, but their value to wildlife is enhanced due to the size of the block.

Structural diversity:

Apart from the pit this site has poor structural diversity.

Flora:

The grassland is very species poor and almost exclusively dominated by perennial ryegrass.

The arable field to the south was cultivated and had recently been harvested at the time of survey. There were several typical arable weeds present around the margins including common poppy, fat- hen, wild mignonette, sun spurge, knotgrass, common field speedwell, scarlet pimpernel and fool's parsley.

Access was not possible to the disused pit, however it was surveyed from the edges and includes sycamore, elder, bramble, hawthorn, blackthorn, plum and ash. The understorey is dominated by nettle with occasional black horehound.

The small areas of tall ruderal vegetation included perennial ryegrass, cock's-foot, red fescue, false oat-grass, timothy and smaller cats-tail grasses with prickly lettuce, willowherb spp, weld, Canadian fleabane, common poppy, mugwort and spear thistle.

The hedgerow along the western boundary was species- poor with rose, hawthorn, yew, elder, walnut and white bryony. A dense patch of Russian vine was recorded on this boundary.

The hedgerow around the pit was also species-poor with damson, hawthorn, sycamore and rose present.

Avifauna:

The woodland and scrub in the pit gives breeding, foraging and roosting opportunities for a variety of bird species although only common ones are likely to be present.

Invertebrates:

Apart from the pit, this site is sub-optimal for invertebrates. Common species are likely to be present. Several common butterfly species were noted including meadow brown, small white, peacock and holly blue. There were numerous grasshoppers and crickets in the areas of tall ruderal vegetation.

Herpetofauna:

This site is not suitable for reptiles. It is possible that common amphibians such as toad, smooth newt or frog may be present if there are ponds within neighboring gardens and the pit provides good habitat for hibernation.

Mammals:

Hedgehog is recorded on Wellington Close in 2014 and at other locations in West Row, so it is likely that this species will forage within the grassland and cultivated areas. The pit provides excellent hibernation habitat for hedgehogs and this area may be providing an important overwintering resource for the local population. Fox, grey squirrel and muntjac deer are also highly likely to be present. There are trees within the pit that are of a sufficient size to support roosting bats (TN1) and the interface between the grassland and scrubbed-up southern edge of the site will provide good foraging habitat for bats.

Comments and recommendations:

The majority of the site is of low value to biodiversity, with the exception of the former pit. If future proposals resulted in an impact on habitats associated with the pit, then further surveys are recommended. These should include bats, and consideration of the impacts upon priority species such as hedgehog and toad.

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.

For sites within 9.5km of the Breckland SPA

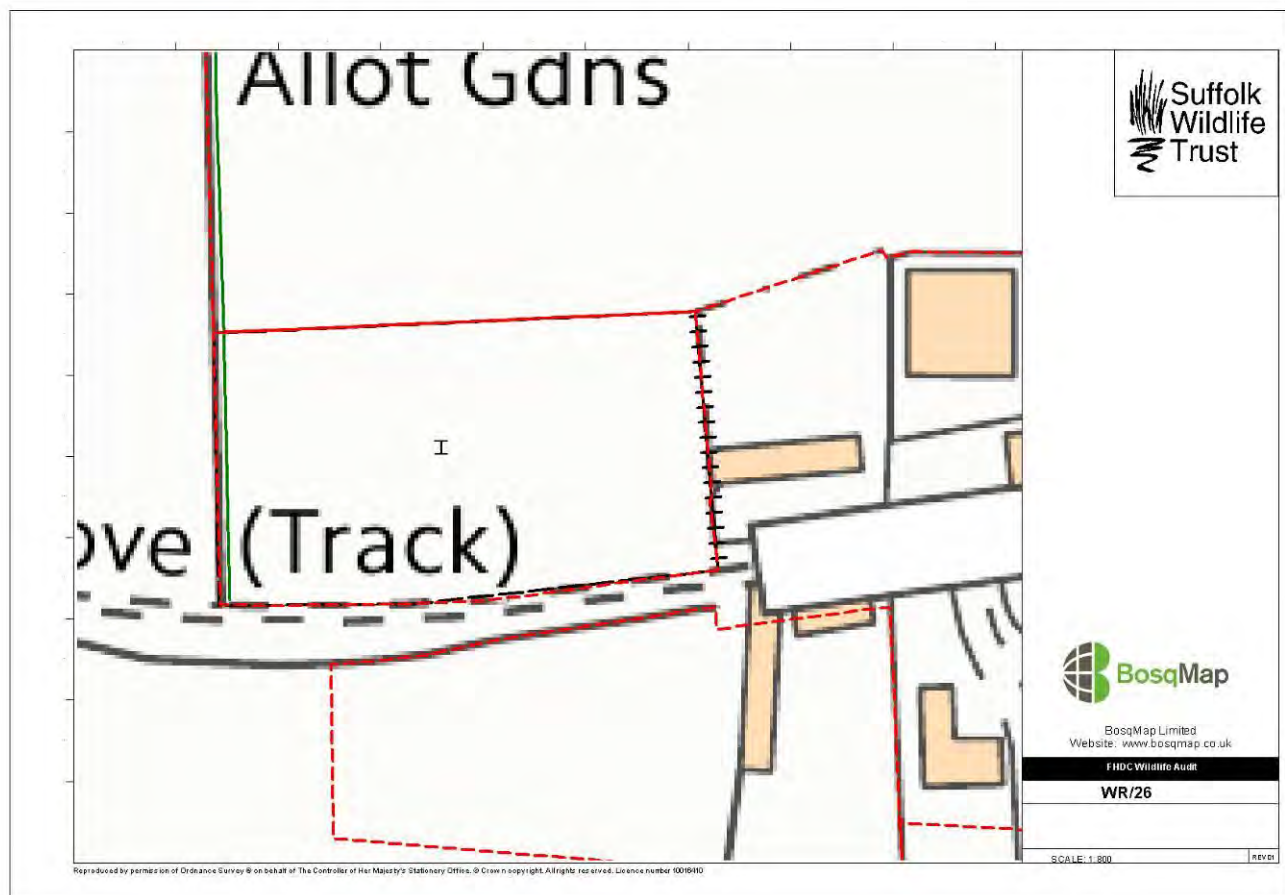
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Site name **West Row WR/26**

FHDC Ref: WR/26
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TL 67287 75664
Area: 0.43 hectares
Date: 19th August 2015
Recorder: A Looser
Weather conditions: Warm, dry, still
Ranking: 5
Biodiversity value: Low

Map:



Photos:



View of site looking west towards beech hedge

Habitat type(s):

Improved grassland

Subsidiary habitats:

Species-poor intact hedge

Site description:

This is a small block of improved grassland situated to the north of Parker's Drove which is currently short mown. There is a beech hedge defining the western boundary. To the north the site is contiguous with the larger WR/01 which is currently arable. There is a fence along the eastern boundary beyond which is gardens.

Protected species seen or known:

-

Protected species potential:

-

Priority habitats present:

-

Priority species seen or known:

Hedgehog (2014)

Connectivity:

This site is located on the western side of West Row where there is a contiguous series of arable and formerly arable sites (WR/01, WR/26, WR/11, WR/12 and WR/13) linking together. There is also a hedgerow network of varying quality throughout this area.

Structural diversity:

This site has very poor structural diversity.

Flora:

The grassland was species-poor being dominated by perennial ryegrass with some wall barley and cock's-foot round the edges. There were very few common herbaceous plants present including clover, broad leaved plantain, creeping thistle, bristly ox-tongue, mugwort and Canadian fleabane.

The hedge along the western boundary is beech.

Avifauna:

This site is unlikely to support many bird species.

Invertebrates:

This site is sub-optimal for invertebrates although common species will be present.

Herpetofauna:

The habitat is unsuitable for reptiles.

Mammals:

The site is poor for mammals but common species such as muntjac deer are likely to visit the site. There are hedgehog records in the area and hedgehogs are likely to forage on site, although the beech hedge provides the only on-site opportunity for shelter.

Comments and recommendations:

This site is of low wildlife value but if the hedge along the western boundary needs to be removed this must be undertaken outside the bird nesting season (March-August inclusive).

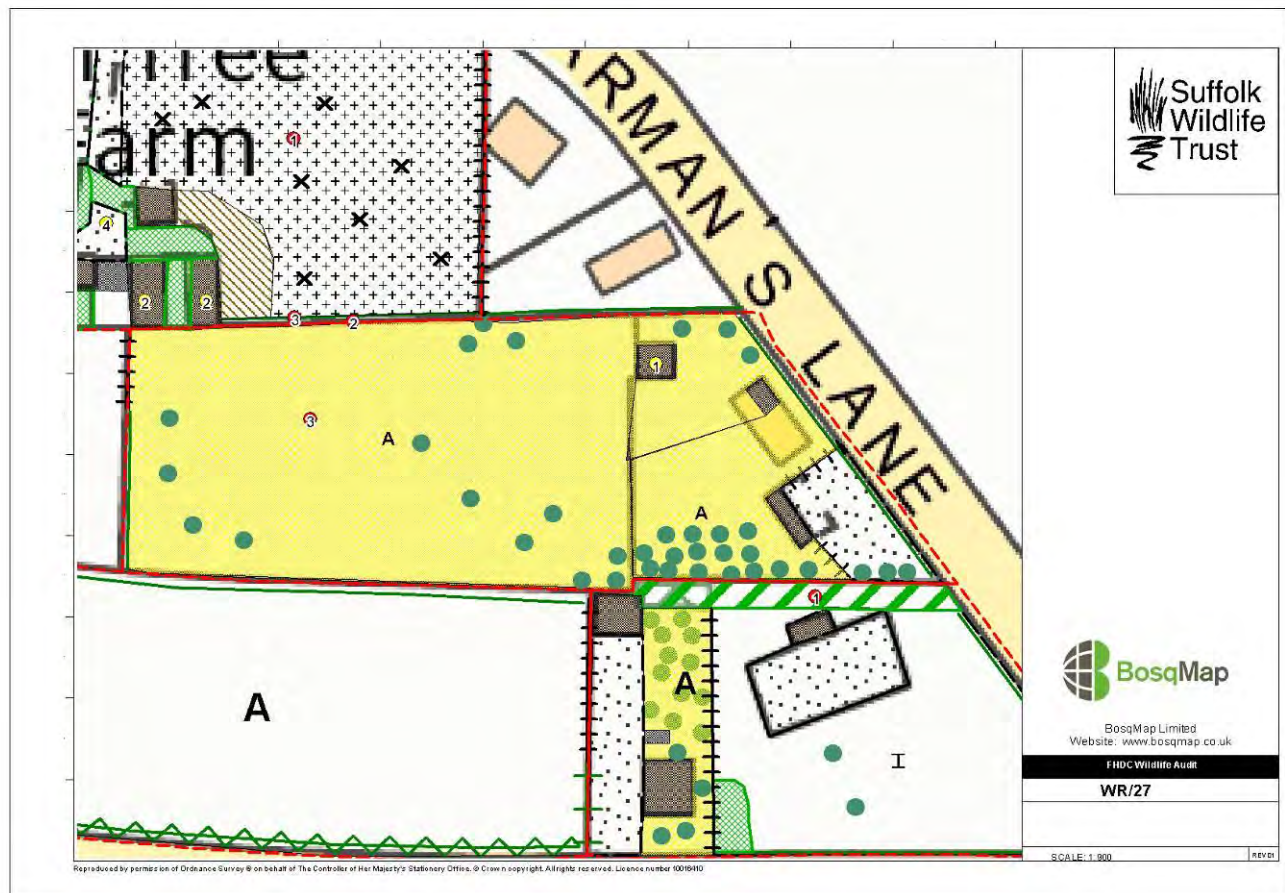
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Site name **West Row WR/27**

FHDC Ref: WR/27
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TL 67650 76234
Area: 0.77 hectares
Date: 19th August 2015
Recorder: A Sherwood
Weather conditions: Dry, warm, overcast
Ranking: 5
Biodiversity value: Low

Map:



Photos:



Amenity grassland with scattered trees looking west



Northern boundary hedgerow adjacent to site WR04 comprising native and ornamental garden shrubs looking west



Residential property and amenity grassland looking east

Habitat type(s):

Amenity grassland

Subsidiary habitats:

Hedgerows, trees, pond

Site description:

The site is located off Jarman's Lane in Thistley Green near West Row and consists of a small residential property with mown amenity grassland, garden shrubberies and two polytunnels. There is a shed associated with a small area in the south-east corner of the garden that supports free-range chickens. This area was out of bounds and could not be surveyed. Other residential properties surround the site and there is an arable field (site WR/06) to the south demarked by a boundary hedgerow.

Protected species seen or known:

-

Protected species potential:

Bats

Priority habitats present:

-

Priority species seen or known:

Common toad

Song thrush
House sparrow
Common starling

Priority species potential:

Limited

Connectivity:

The site is isolated with Jarman's Lane abutting the eastern boundary and residential properties and gardens to the west, north (site WR/04) & partially to the south (site WR/19). An arable field (site WR/06) abuts the remainder of the southern boundary. The site plus other potential adjacent sites WR/19, WR/06 & WR/04 are enclosed by roads.

Structural diversity:

Structural diversity is limited with the majority of the area being regularly mown amenity grassland. The trees and hedgerows provide some degree of structural diversity.

Flora:

The amenity grassland comprised abundant ribwort plantain with frequent common cat's-ear and smooth hawk's-beard (TN3). There was very little grass in the sward. Cowslips are present in the spring according to the owner. The other main species included ground-ivy, white clover, self-heal, dandelion, common mouse-ear, field bindweed, common ragwort and a violet species which was locally dominant.

The northern boundary hedgerow comprised a mix of garden shrubs including a cotoneaster species, holly, a variegated holly, yew and hawthorn (TN2).

The southern boundary hedgerow comprised hazel, hawthorn, sycamore, a cotoneaster species, forsythia and cherry.

Trees within the site boundary comprised rowan, silver birch, pedunculate oak and various coniferous trees.

Avifauna:

House sparrows were recorded during the survey. This was a sub-optimal time to survey this group but the owner reported having a range of common bird species on the site and these included goldfinch, greenfinch, starling, thrush, robin, blackbird, house sparrow, collared dove, jay, pheasant, magpie, swallow, red-legged partridge, jackdaw, green woodpecker, blue tit, long-tailed tit, black cap, pied wagtail and tree creeper. Buzzards and sparrowhawks have also been noted. However, it is likely that this range of birds is not only utilising some of the habitats on site but also the surrounding area.

Song thrush and common starling are UK Biodiversity Action Plan species. House sparrow, song thrush and common starling are Suffolk Biodiversity Action Plan species.

The site has limited nesting opportunities other than in some of the mature trees and hedgerows around the site.

Invertebrates:

The site is likely to support a limited range of common and widespread species. Peacock butterflies

were observed during the survey.

Herpetofauna:

The site is considered unlikely to support reptiles.

There was a small ornamental pond in the garden. This pond supports fish. Frogs, toads and smooth newts are also known to be present according to the owner.

Mammals:

The cottage had a pan-tiled roof that may provide opportunities for roosting bats (TN1). Some of the trees could support roosting bats if holes, cracks or crevices are present.

Comments and recommendations:

The site is currently a residential property with a large area of mown amenity grassland with scattered trees. It is of low ecological value and therefore should the site be developed there are currently no ecological constraints to development.

However, the cottage and mature trees could support roosting bats if suitable features are present and therefore it is recommended that further assessment of the trees and buildings should be undertaken to ensure compliance with both European and national legislation.

It is recommended that further bird surveys should be conducted in the spring to determine which species utilise the site and ascertain whether there are any specially protected species nesting in the grounds. In any event, vegetation should only be cleared outside the main bird nesting season (March-August inclusive).

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Site name **West Row WR/33**

FHDC Ref: WR/33
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TL 67477 75159
Area: 4.14 hectares
Date: 19th August 2015 and 26th August
Recorder: Simone Bullion
Weather conditions: Cool and cloudy, recent heavy rain
Ranking: 5
Biodiversity value: Low

Map:



Photos:



View across horse paddocks with mature hedge in background



Looking north along eastern boundary with recently planted species rich hedge

Habitat type(s):

Poor semi-improved grassland

Subsidiary habitats:

Mature species-poor hedgerow, young species-rich hedgerow

Site description:

The site was formerly arable, but approximately 7-8 years ago this was sown with a grassland mix suitable for horse grazing and this is the current land use. A mature hedge runs along the western boundary and a new hedgerow has been planted on the eastern boundary to the west of a public footpath. There are scattered horse shelters across the site in the various paddocks and the main farmhouse is situated on the northern edge,

Protected species seen or known:

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Protected species potential:

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Priority habitats present:

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Priority species seen or known:

House sparrow, starling, brown hare, small heath butterfly

Priority species potential:

Hedgehog, cinnabar moth

Connectivity:

This site is situated on the south-western edge of West Row and contiguous with other land used for horse grazing to the north. The western hedge represents a good wildlife corridor towards the River Lark in the south.

Structural diversity:

The horse paddocks are grazed on rotation so there is a varying sward height across the site, which provides limited structural diversity. The hedgerows are also important in this context.

Flora:

Many of the grassland species reflect the seed mix which was sown approximately 7-8 years ago, with a dominance of red fescue, with also timothy, ryegrass and red and white clover. Smooth hawk's-beard was abundant in the thin sward. However, the clay soils also favour species which thrive in a neutral to slightly alkali pH and blue fleabane was abundant. Other species include creeping thistle, ribwort plantain, bristly ox-tongue, black medick, fat-hen, weld, great mullein, perennial sow-thistle, common ragwort, mugwort, Canadian fleabane, dandelion, burdock, common mallow, cock's-foot, Yorkshire fog, small cat's-tail. Black horehound, upright hedge- parsley and field bindweed were present on the eastern boundary.

The western mature hedge was mostly blackthorn, with hawthorn, wild rose, elder and occasional walnut. The newly planted hedge on the eastern boundary included a diverse mix, with hawthorn,

blackthorn, field maple, hazel, spindle, prunus spp and dogwood with occasional ornamental species. To the north of this young hedge is an established beech hedge with white poplar.

Avifauna:

Swallows were seen hunting insects over the site and these nest within the horse shelters. House sparrow and starling were also recorded in the paddocks. Chaffinch and blackcap were noted in the hedge and this feature provides excellent nesting, roosting and foraging habitat for a range of locally common species. Green woodpecker and buzzard are also reported to be present.

Invertebrates:

Several butterflies were recorded: large white, common blue, peacock and a small heath was seen on the northern edge of the site. Cinnabar moth may occur due to the presence of common ragwort. Other locally common invertebrates will be present within the taller, ungrazed sward.

Herpetofauna:

The site is sub-optimal for this group, although grass snake may be present due to the River Lark being located 240m from the southern boundary. However, this is a highly mobile species which ranges widely, so any sighting is likely to be incidental.

Mammals:

A brown hare was seen on site as well as several muntjac deer. Hedgehog may also be present as the site offers both foraging and shelter for this species.

Comments and recommendations:

Should this site be developed, the mature, eastern hedgerow should be retained and buffered from development. No removal of any hedgerow should take place during bird nesting season (March-August inclusive).

For sites within 9.5km of the Breckland SPA

A study undertaken by Footprint Ecology on behalf of Forest Heath DC and St Edmundsbury BC identified that over half of visitors to Breckland SPA locations within the districts lived within 9.5km of the SPA. It is therefore considered that new residential development within 9.5km of the SPA will result in increased numbers of visitors accessing the SPA; this could in turn result in significant impacts on the features for which the SPA is designated. Prior to granting planning consent for residential development at this site the proposed development should be assessed under the requirements of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2010) (as amended) to determine whether it is likely to result in a likely significant effect on the SPA, either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects.