

# IPSWICH WILDLIFE AUDIT 2019

<i>Project no.</i>	<i>Report</i>	<i>Date</i>
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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

SWT Trading Ltd: Ecological Consultants, the wholly owned company of Suffolk Wildlife Trust (SWT), was commissioned by Ipswich Borough Council on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2019 to carry out ecological audits of 79 sites around Ipswich as part of a review of the Local Plan. Following the UK Government's mandate for net gain in 2019, the brief also included providing advice on how this could be achieved on each site.

Surveys were undertaken between July and September 2019. 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 Priority habitats and species and 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 District was assessed. 23 of the sites were subject to Phase 1 Habitat Survey through the 2012 Wildlife Audit, so these reports were updated to reflect current conditions. Recommendations were provided for further survey work if required and the provision of 'net gain' for every site.

Natural England provides the following explanation of net gain:

*"Net gain in planning describes an approach to development that leaves the natural environment in a measurably better state than it was beforehand. Net gain is an umbrella term for both biodiversity net gain and wider environmental net gain.*

## 2.0 OBJECTIVES

The aim of the surveys was:

- To undertake an Extended Phase 1 habitat survey for all the identified sites
- 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, Priority 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;
- To provide recommendations for net gain for each survey site.

### 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 Biodiversity Information Service and from 1:10,000 maps and aerial photographs.
- Each site was surveyed and a record made of its conservation value.
- 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.
- Management and net gain recommendations 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 management work was recommended where relevant. Opportunities for net gain were described;
- **References:** these were included when it was appropriate to reference other surveys.

**Priority species and habitats:** Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006) states that 'Every public body must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity'. UK priority species as listed under Section 41 of the Act are normally taken as a good benchmark for demonstrating biodiversity duty. These were formerly known as 'BAP' habitats and species.

The UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP, 1994) was the UK Government response to the 1992 International Convention on Biological Diversity. The UK BAP listed a range of habitats, plus a number of birds and species from other taxa of conservation interest. National targets and priorities were set in order to address the particular needs of those habitats and species. There is no longer a UK Biodiversity Action Plan; this has been replaced by the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework (2012). The England Biodiversity Strategy has been replaced by *Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services* (2011). The result of these changes is that the BAP process has been devolved to local level with each county deciding its own way forward. Suffolk made the decision in June 2013 to continue to support the Suffolk Biodiversity Action Plan, particularly because the BAP is still enshrined in law through the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006) and also in planning policy through the National Planning Policy Framework and National Policy Statements.

**Protected species:** species protected by law under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended), The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2017) (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. mature trees forming part of the street scene), 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 Information Service (SBIS) website: <http://www.suffolkbis.org.uk/suffolk-sites/cws>.

**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. This may include Red and Amber listed Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) which may or may not also be Priority species.
- 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. In a highly built up area this could also include individual mature trees.

**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.

### **3.4 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.

Impact Risk Zones (IRZs) are a GIS tool developed by Natural England to make rapid initial assessment of the potential risks posed by development proposals to: Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Ramsar sites. They define zones around each site which reflect the particular sensitivities of the features for which it is notified and indicate the types of development proposal which could potentially have adverse impacts. Many of these sites fall within Natural England's SSSI IRZs where the nature of the proposal requires that Natural England is consulted regarding such planning applications.

## **4 Notes to accompany Appendix 1**

Sites previously surveyed in the 2012 Wildlife Audit are marked with their original Site Reference number and \* in Appendix 1.

Access was limited/not permitted or was limited at several sites and consequently they could not be fully assessed (Site Reference marked with # in Appendix 1). In these instances, our observations have been supplemented with local records, other available survey information and publicly available imagery in order to complete the reports (referenced within individual reports).

In Appendix 1, where the Ranking value is accompanied by '+', this indicates that the value will likely be higher following detailed surveys.

## Appendix 1 Catalogue of surveyed sites

Site Name	Site Reference	Ranking	Biodiversity Value
Waste tip and employment area north of Sir Alf Ramsey Way (Site 49)*	IP003	5	Low
Co-op Depot Felixstowe Road (Site 27)*	IP010a#	5	Low
Felixstowe Road (Site 27)*	IP010b	5	Low
Lower Orwell Street (formerly Smart Street/ Foundation Street)	IP011a	5	Low
Smart Street / Foundation Street	IP011b	6	Low
Peter's Ice Cream	IP012	6	Low
Hope Church	IP014	6	Low
West End Road Surface car park	IP015	5	Low
Island adj to Jewsons, Greyfriars Road	IP028a	5	Low
Jewsons, Greyfriars Road	IP028b	6	Low
Land Opposite 674-734 Bramford Road (Site 41)*	IP029	3+	Medium
Burrell Road	IP031	5	Low
King George V Field, Old Norwich Road (Site36)*	IP032	5	Low
Land at Bramford Road (Stocks Site) (Site 47)*	IP033#	4	Medium
Key Street / Star Lane / Burtons Site	IP035	4	Medium
The Island Site	IP037	5	Low
Land between Gower Street & Great Whip Street	IP039a	6	Low
Civic Centre Area / Civic Drive	IP040	6	Low
Former Police Station, Civic Drive	IP041	6	Low
Land between Cliff Quay and Landseer Road (Table 2)	IP042#	6	Low
Commercial Buildings and Jewish Burial Ground , Star Lane	IP043	6	Low
Holywells Road West	IP045	6	Low
Commercial Road	IP047	5	Low
Mint Quarter / Cox Lane East	IP048a	6	Low
Cox Lane West Regeneration Area	IP048b	6	Low
Land between Old Cattle Market and Star Lane	IP054b	6	Low
School Site, Lavenham Road (Site 45)*	IP061	5	Low
Land between Holywells Road and Holywells Park	IP064a	6	Low
JJ Wilson, White Elm Street (part covered by Site 35)*	IP066	6	Low
Former British Energy Site (Site 31)*	IP067a#	4	Medium
Former British Energy Site (Site 31)*	IP067b#	4	Medium
Church and land at Upper Orwell Street	IP074	6	Low
240 Wherstead Road	IP080	5	Low
Banks of river upriver from Princes Street (Site24)*	IP083	4	Medium
Waterworks Street	IP089	5	Low
Car Park Handford Road	IP096	5	Low
Transco south of Patteson Road	IP098#	6	Low
Depot, Beaconsfield Road	IP105	6	Low
Jupiter Road/Reading Road	IP109	4	Medium
Land east of West End Road	IP119	5	Low



Land west of West End Road	IP120b	5	Low
Milton Street	IP131	6	Low
Land South of Felaw Street	IP133	5	Low
112-116 Bramford Road	IP135	6	Low
Land at Futura Park, Nacton Road (formerly the Cranes site) (site frontage Futura Park)	IP141a(1)#	3	Medium
Land at Futura Park, Nacton Road (formerly the Cranes site) – employment site behind Waitrose	IP141a(3)#	4	Medium
Land at Duke Street	IP142	5	Low
Former Norsk Hydro, Sandy Lane (Site 32)*	IP143#	4	Medium
Areas U, V & W, south of Ravenswood	IP150 (a)	4	Medium
Land south of Ravenswood west (Sports Park) (Site 46)*, (Site 50)*	IP150 (b)	3+	Medium
Land south of Ravenswood east (fronting Nacton Road) (Site 46)*, (Site 50)*	IP150 (c)	3+	Medium
Land south of Ravenswood west (fronting Alnesbourn Crescent) (Site46)*, (Site 50)*	IP150 (d)	3+	Medium
Land south of Ravenswood east (fronting Alnesbourn Crescent) (Site46)*, (Site 50)*	IP150 (e)	3+	Medium
Airport Farm Kennels (Site 23)*	IP152	4	Medium
Webster's Saleyard Site, Dock Street	IP188#	6	Low
Griffin Wharf, Bath Street	IP200#	5	Low
The Flying Horse PH, 4 Waterford Road	IP221	4	Medium
Former British Telecom Office, Bibb Way	IP279#	6	Low
Grimwade Street, Student Union Clib and adjacent car park, Rope Walk	IP283	5	Low
Prince of Wales Drive	IP307	5	Low
68A Austin Street	IP309	4	Medium
Suffolk Retail Park	IP346	6	Low
79 Hutland Road/Sidegate Lane	IP356	4/5	Medium/Low
<b>Confidential sites</b>			
Land North of Whitton Lane (Site 39)*	IP140	4	Medium
Land north of Millennium Cemetery (Site 149)*	IP183	5	Low
Land opposite 383 to 447 Humber Doucy Lane (KC Ltd) (Site 150)*	IP184a®	5	Low
Land opposite 367 to 383 Humber Doucy Lane (Site 150)*	IP184b	4	Medium
Land opposite 341 to 365 Humber Doucy Lane (KC Ltd) (part covered by site 150)*	IP184c®	4	Medium
Westerfield House, Humber Doucy Lane	IP280	5	Low
East corner Humber Doucy Ln/Tuddenham Rd (KC Ltd)	IP303®	5	Low
Land north of 447 and fronting Humber Doucy Lane	IP344®	5	Low
West corner of Humber Doucy Lane/Tuddenham Road	IP350®	4	Medium
Humber Doucy Lane (opposite 97 to 123)	IP030a	5	Low
Humber Doucy Lane (opposite 37 to 97)	IP030b	5	Low
Land at Rushmere (Ramsey, area inside IBC)	IP302	4	Medium

# Survey incomplete due to access issues / \* Site updated from 2012 Wildlife Audit report
































® These sites are now combined to form site allocation ISPA4.

## Key to Phase 1 Maps



Extended Phase 1 habitat survey - key to habitats

Contract no: Ipswich Wildlife Audit 2019

	Broadleaved woodland - semi-natural		Intact hedge - native species-rich
	Broadleaved woodland - plantation		Intact hedge - species-poor
	Scrub - dense/continuous		Defunct hedge - native species-rich
	Improved grassland		Defunct hedge - species-poor
	Poor semi-improved grassland		Hedge with trees - native species-rich
	Neutral grassland - semi-improved		Hedge with trees - species-poor
	Cultivated/disturbed land - amenity grassland		Fence
	Cultivated/disturbed land - arable		Earth bank
	Cultivated/disturbed land - ephemeral/short perennial		Dry ditch
	Introduced shrub		Wall
	Other tall herb and fern - ruderal		Broadleaved Parkland/scattered trees
	Marginal and inundation - inundation vegetation		Coniferous Parkland/scattered trees
	Bracken - continuous		Scrub - scattered
	Standing water		Cultivated/disturbed land - ephemeral/short perennial
	Buildings		
	Bare ground		
	Hardstanding		