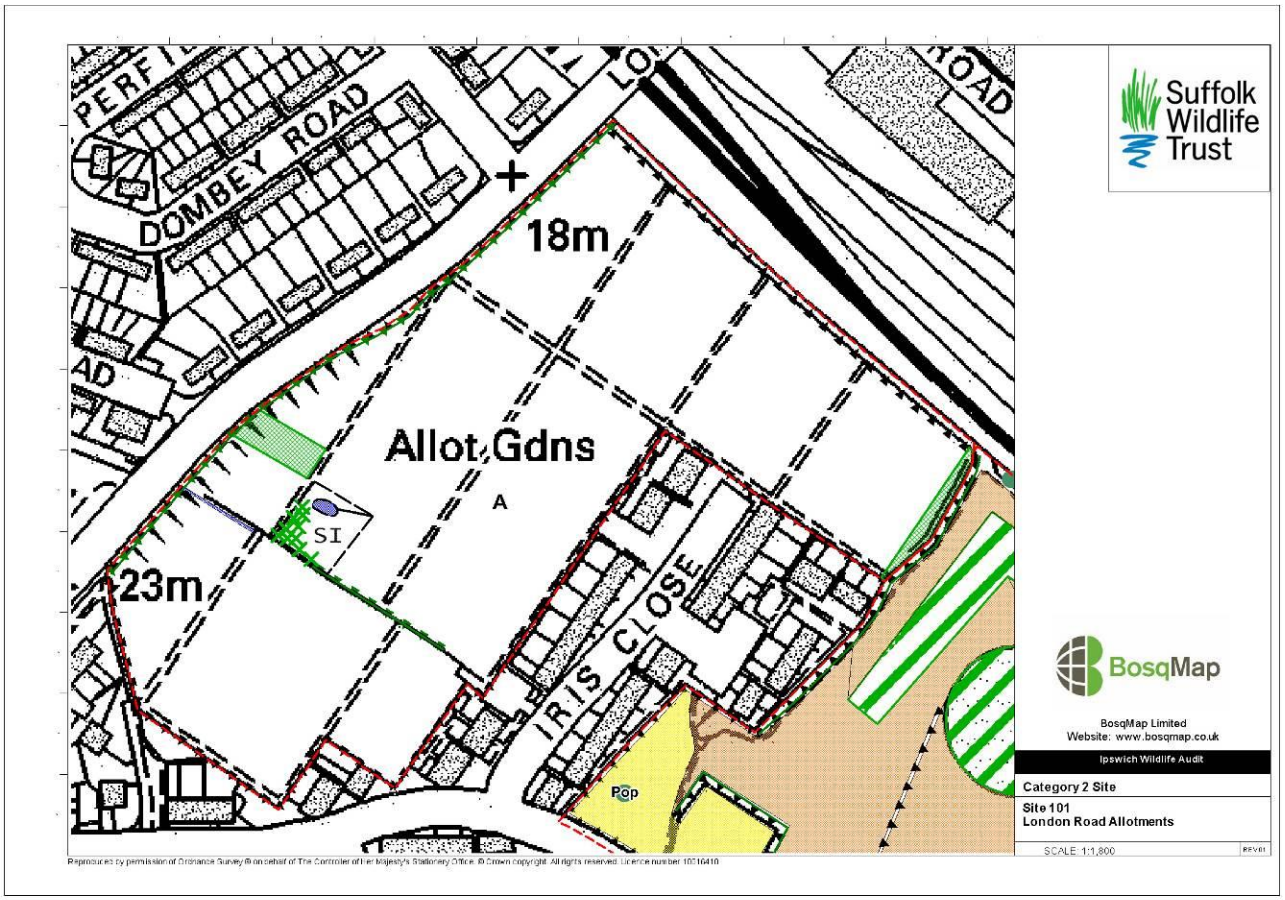
Site name — Site reference 101 – London Road Allotments

IBC Ref: New
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 14621 44177
Area: 4.34 hectares
Date: 6 June 2013
Recorder: S Bullion
Weather conditions: Warm and sunny 16°C
Ranking: 4
Biodiversity value: Medium

Map:



Photos:

Wildlife area with overgrown pond. Ancient hedge in distance


Water-filled stagnant ditch


Wildlife area with willows to rear

Ancient, species-rich hedge within site

Habitat type(s):
Scrub, species-poor rough grassland, short mown grass, cultivated areas

Subsidiary habitats:
Ancient, species-rich hedge, wildlife pond and other individual ponds,

Site description:
These allotments lie to the south of the main railway line (separated by a footpath) and west of Gippeswyk Park (Site 88). The western boundary is defined by a thick hedge and tree belt beyond which is the London Road. Housing lies to the south and south-east. The plots are generally well cultivated, but there are some areas of rough grass and bramble, particularly in the north-eastern corner. Approximately five years ago a wildlife area was created with a pond, in an area that was prone to flooding from road run-off. This area includes rough grassland and bramble scrub. Of particular interest is a stretch of ancient species-rich hedge with associated dry ditch running south east to north-west in the southern section of the site, adjacent to the wildlife area, which is thought to be a relic of an old field boundary.

Protected species:
Slow worm and grass snake (seen by allotment holders)

Protected species potential:
Common lizard

BAP habitats present:
Ancient species-rich hedgerow

BAP species seen:
House sparrow and starling

BAP species known:
Slow worm

BAP species potential:
Stag beetle, common lizard

Connectivity:
The location of the allotments next to the railway line and west of Gippeswyk Park means that it has good connectivity to other sites.

Structural diversity:
The majority of the allotments are well maintained and cultivated. The central, species-rich mature hedge adds excellent structural diversity, as do the boundary hedges and trees and areas of marginal bramble scrub.

Flora:
There is the usual mixture of common grassland and ruderal species, including false oat grass, Yorkshire fog, cock's foot, hogweed, black medick, ribwort plantain, yarrow, daisy, cowparsley. Dittander, a nationally scarce plant that is common in Ipswich was noted. The site margins and wildlife area have clumps of bramble and in the north-east corner, abutting Gippeswyk Park, there is a thick belt of scrub including hawthorn and blackthorn.

The ancient species-rich hedge was approximately four metres thick and included large hazels, hawthorn, field maple, holly, blackthorn and elm. White bryony and ivy was scrambling up some of the shrubs.

Willow has been planted in an area prone to flooding from road run-off. A large leylandii is present on the edge of the wildlife areas. There are scattered hawthorn bushes across the site, along with fruit trees and walnut.

The pond was choked with reed mace and was difficult to access. Marsh marigold has been planted on the margins.

Avifauna:
The site offers good foraging and nesting opportunities for birds. Starling and house sparrow were recorded, along with blackbird, blue tit, great tit, magpie and woodpigeon. The marginal scrub is good for migrant warblers and blackcap and whitethroat were noted.

Invertebrates:

It was early in the season for recording this group, so few invertebrates were seen apart from small white and large white butterflies. Stag beetle larvae may be present if there is subterranean deadwood arising from old fruit trees or the central hedgerow. The hedge, boundary tree and scrub will support a good range of invertebrates.

Herpetofauna:

Slow worms are seen regularly by allotment holders across the site and an occasional grass snake is also seen. Railway margins provide excellent habitat for reptiles, so these animals will be part of a wider population in the area. It is expected that common lizard will also be present, particularly as they have been recorded in Gippeswyk Park to the east. Newts and frogs have been reported in ponds but surprisingly no toads have been seen.

Mammals:

Muntjac deer and foxes are known and the site provides excellent foraging and hibernation habitat for the declining populations of hedgehog which has been observed in 2013. The areas of rough grassland and bramble will support a range of small mammals such as mice, voles and shrews.

Comments and recommendations:

The ancient, species rich hedge in the centre of the site is of particular interest and is probably a relic of an old field boundary predating housing and allotments in this part of Ipswich.

Although this is a well-used allotment, the creation of a small wildlife area adjoining the old, species-rich hedge provides valuable wildlife habitat. The pond within this area is in need of some management work as it is becoming overgrown with reed mace. This should be undertaken in the autumn to minimize impacts upon amphibians and aquatic invertebrates. Currently only the paths are mown within the rough grassland surrounding the pond. In future, it is recommended that small blocks are cut on an annual rotation. The area should ideally be cut in late autumn using a high cut to avoid injury to slow worms. This should help maintain the grassland and prevent scrubbing over with bramble and possibly improve the floristic value as well. All cuttings should be raked off, to avoid smothering and enriching the sward and these can be placed in a pile in a corner of the wildlife area as basking and egg laying habitat for grass snake.

The site receives run-off from the London Road and there is currently a drain that was filled with stagnant water running across part of the site, which eventually reaches the wildlife pond. It may be appropriate to plant *Phagmites* (common reed) in the drain to help as a flood attenuation measure, but further advice should be sought from the Environment Agency. Willows have also been planted next to the drain to help reduce flooding in this part of the site.

Site name — Site reference 102 – London Road treebelt

IBC Ref: New
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 13613 43478
Area: 0.81 hectares
Date: 21 March 2013
Recorder: A Looser
Weather conditions: Cold and overcast with sunny intervals 3°C
Ranking: 5
Biodiversity value: Low

Map:

Photo:

Looking west along site

Habitat type(s):
Amenity grassland

Subsidiary habitats:
Scattered trees

Site description:
This site is the long, thin central reservation of the London Road between the junction of the A1071 and the junction with Robin Drive. It is predominantly short mown amenity grassland with a mixture of scattered mature and recently planted trees. There is a short section of brick wall covered in ivy near the eastern end.

Protected species:
.-
Protected species potential:
-
BAP habitats present:
-
BAP species seen:
-
BAP species known:
-
BAP species potential:
-

Connectivity:
The site generally has very poor connectivity as there is a busy road either side of it. However it is close to a number of other sites including Chantry Park (Site 74 & Site 8), London Road Allotments (Site 54) and Robin Drive Open Space (site 121).

Structural diversity:
The site has poor structural diversity with only amenity grassland and trees.

Flora:
At the time of the survey, the majority of the site is short amenity grassland. Species in this include rye grass with daffodils, dandelion, clover, daisy, doves foot cranesbill, yarrow, common mouse ear, spear thistle, red dead nettle and bristly ox-tongue. Later in the spring, cow parsley grows amongst taller grasses in areas that have been left un-mown because daffodils are present.

The tree species are oak, scots pine, chestnut, cherry, hawthorn, rose, ash, elder and monkey puzzle.

Avifauna:
A magpie was seen during the visit. The grass provides limited foraging opportunities for some common bird species. House sparrows, which are a BAP species, were observed in the hedge immediately south of this site.

Invertebrates:
The weather conditions were poor for recording this group and none were observed. However there are limited nectar sources available for butterflies so it is likely to be a very poor site for them.

Herpetofauna:
The habitat is unsuitable for this group.

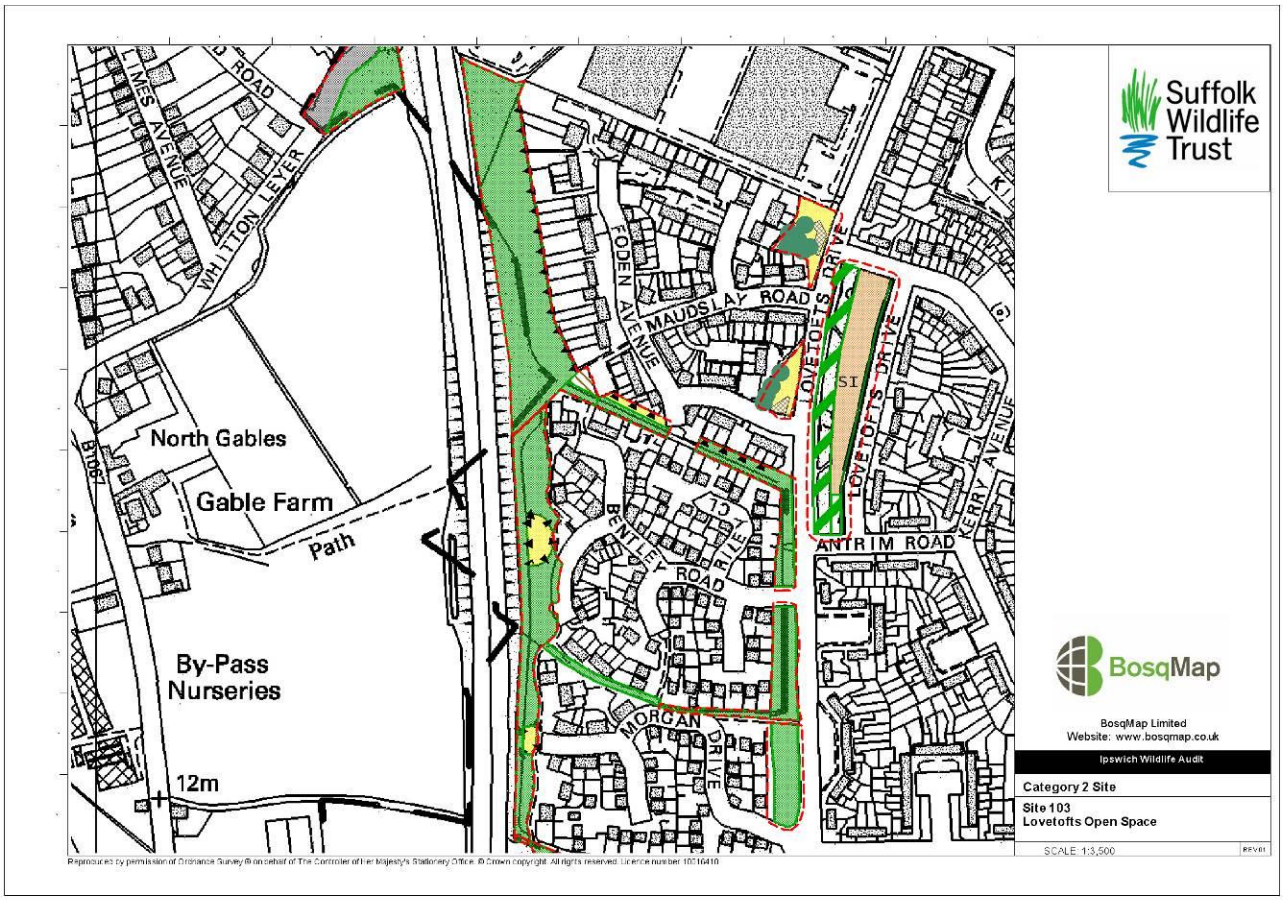
Mammals:
Common species of mammal such as grey squirrel may occasionally use the site.

Comments and recommendations:
The size and location of this site provides limited opportunities for enhancement.

Site name — Site reference 103 – Lovetofts Drive Open Space

IBC Ref: W75
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 13448 46543
Area: 3.83 hectares
Date: 20 August 2013
Recorder: A Looser & S Bullion
Weather conditions: Hot and Sunny 23°C
Ranking: 4
Biodiversity value: Medium

Map:



Photos:

Woodland strip behind houses near Foden Avenue

Tall ruderal vegetation behind houses on Foden Avenue

Semi-improved neutral grassland along Lovetofts Drive, north of Antrim Road

Amenity grassland and large oak tree on lovetofts Drive

Woodland Strip bordering A14, near Bentley Road

Habitat type(s):
Amenity grassland, semi-natural broadleaved woodland, plantation broadleaved woodland, tall ruderal, species rich hedgerow

Subsidiary habitats:
Scattered trees, dry ditch

Site description:
This site consists of a group of green spaces along Lovetofts Drive and associated roads towards the A14 corridor. These linked sites consist of a mixture of thin woodland strips, particularly along the A14 corridor, amenity grassland with scattered trees and semi-improved grassland. There was a dry ditch associated with some of the woodland strips which suggests they could be old field boundaries which were retained when the housing was built. East of Lovetofts Drive is an area of rough grassland behind a planted tree belt, with an old hedgerow with mature oaks along the eastern boundary.

Protected species:
-
Protected species potential:
Slow worm
Bats

BAP habitats present:
-
BAP species seen:

-

BAP species known:

-

BAP species potential:

Slow worm
Bats
Hedgehog
Stag beetle

Connectivity:

The site is adjacent to the A14 on its western boundary which provides good connectivity. It is also part of a series of sites associated with the A14 corridor including Bramford Road Recreation Ground (Site 65) and Olympus Close Wood (Site 114).

Structural diversity:

The site has good structural diversity with amenity grassland, longer grass, woodland and hedgerows.

Flora:

The dominant habitat is woodland belts and hedgerows with a good mixture of species including hazel, bramble, blackthorn, hawthorn, elder, field maple, cherry, dogwood, horse chestnut, elm (some dead), ash, ivy, goat willow and apple.

The section of planted woodland contained cherry plum, field maple, sycamore, oak, hawthorn, beech and pine.

The section along the side of the A14 also included a good diversity of species including hazel, goat willow, gorse, silver birch, aspen, dog rose, alder, field maple, cherry, hawthorn, *prunus* spp, snowberry, oak, cotoneaster, elm, dogwood, elder, flowering currant, viburnum and hornbeam.

The small section of tall ruderal vegetation included nettle, prickly sow thistle, hedge bindweed, ragwort, mugwort and dittander a nationally scarce but locally common plant.

The areas of amenity grassland contained the usual mixture of species including rye grass with dandelion, daisy and bristly ox tongue. The scattered trees on the amenity grassland were a mixture of oak, ash, beech, pine, elm, buddlea and snowberry shrubs.

The section of rough, semi-improved grassland contained species including cocksfoot, smaller cat's tail, false oat, timothy, wall barley and perennial rye grass with black knapweed, greater plantain, ribwort plantain, yarrow and upright hedge parsley.

The hedgerow with trees next to the semi-improved grassland contained oak, hawthorn, hazel, field maple, elder, sycamore, blackthorn and ash.

Avifauna:

This site provides excellent foraging, roosting and nesting habitat for a range of bird species and several common ones were seen including blue tit, great tit, long tailed tit, blackbird and magpie.

Invertebrates:

The scrub and area of longer grass provide some nectar sources for a range of butterfly species and

small white, large white, meadow brown, gatekeeper and peacock butterflies, as well as several dragonflies were all seen during the visit. The area of semi-improved grassland provides good habitat for a range of invertebrates such as grasshoppers, crickets and spiders. Fallen dead wood was seen in the woodland strips which provides habitat for a different range of invertebrates. There were also several tree stumps which provide good subterranean dead wood habitat for stag beetle larvae.

Herpetofauna:

A number of slow worms have been released onto Bramford Road recreation ground which is immediately south of this site. It is likely that some of those animals have spread into suitable areas on this site. Grass snakes have also been recorded nearby.

Mammals:

As the site is adjacent to the A14 it is likely a variety of mammals utilize the site. The woodland and long grass provides good habitat for small mammals and grey squirrel, muntjac deer and fox are highly likely to be present. The site also provides good foraging and potential nesting opportunities for hedgehogs. Bats are likely to navigate along the woodland strips and several trees seen had the potential to support bat roosts.

Comments and recommendations:

This site provides good connectivity for a range of wildlife in an otherwise very built up part of the town.

Some of the large ash trees looked unhealthy. However these had good potential bat roosts so a bat survey should take place if any arboricultural work is required to them.

Site name — Site reference 104 – Maryon Road Tree Belt

IBC Ref: W42
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 18906 42123
Area: 0.32 hectares
Date: 12 August 2013
Recorder: A Looser
Weather conditions: Cloudy with sunny intervals 18°C
Ranking: 4
Biodiversity value: Medium

Map:

Photos:

Looking south across site

Habitat type(s):
Broad leaved woodland, scrub, poor semi-improved grassland

Subsidiary habitats:
Amenity grassland, species poor hedgerow

Site description:
This site is a long and fairly thin strip along the eastern side of Maryon Road. The southern section is amenity grassland with a species poor hedge on the eastern side and an oak tree. The northern section is completely fenced and is a mixture of woodland, scrub and long grass.

Protected species:
Slow worm (2005)

Protected species potential:
Bats

BAP habitats present:
-

BAP species seen:
-

BAP species known:
Slow worm (2005)
Toads (2005)

BAP species potential:
Stag beetle
Hedgehog

Connectivity:
The site is surrounded by roads and residential housing. However it is adjacent to Nacton Road Wildlife Corridor (Site 109) and Ravenswood open spaces (Site 118).

Structural diversity:
The site has excellent structural diversity with amenity grassland, longer grass, scrub and scattered trees.

Flora:
The small area of amenity grassland is species poor with rye grass, dandelion, daisy and yarrow as the only species observed.

The species poor hedgerow around the amenity grassland was dominated by hawthorn and blackthorn.

The main section of the site is dominated by a good mixture of trees and scrub including oak, bramble, dogwood, broom, gorse, elder, hawthorn, apple, field maple, silver birch, blackthorn and guelder rose.

The areas of longer grass contained false oat, cock's foot, smaller cats tail and creeping bent grass with ragwort, oxeye daisy, nettle, yarrow, ribwort plantain, toadflax and black horehound.

Avifauna:
This site provides good foraging, nesting and roosting habitat for a range of common bird species, although only magpie and woodpigeon were seen during the visit.

Invertebrates:
The long grass and scrub provide good habitat for a range of invertebrate species. Meadow brown, small white and gatekeeper butterflies were seen during the visit. The site provides good habitat for invertebrate species such as spiders, snails and grasshoppers. There could be stag beetles present if there are any areas of subterranean dead wood.

Herpetofauna:
A reptile survey conducted in 2005 found low numbers of slow worms present. A previous reptile survey in 1998 found both slow worm and common lizard. However the site is scrubbing up quite rapidly so the amount of suitable habitat for reptiles is reducing. Toads and frogs were recorded during the reptile survey in 2005 and are likely to still be present.

Mammals:
Common species of mammal such as grey squirrel are likely to use the site. The site provides good cover for small mammals such as mice and voles. The habitat is suitable for hedgehogs but the fencing surrounding it is too secure for hedgehogs to move through. Bats are likely to use the site as a corridor for foraging over.

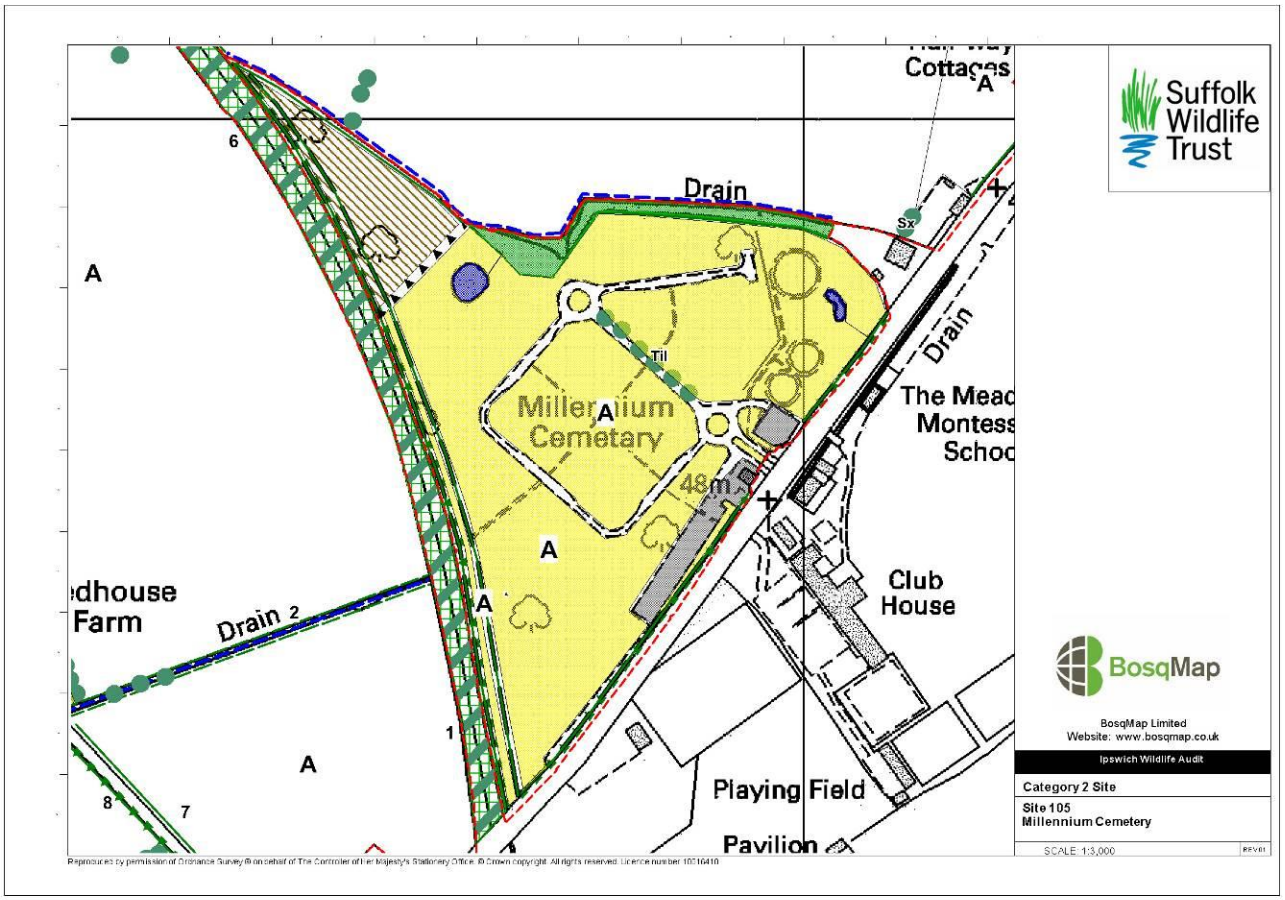
Comments and recommendations:
The site needs some scrub management to avoid the canopy closing completely. This will enable better habitat for reptiles otherwise the population of slow worms will eventually be lost.

References:
Reptile survey of Wildlife Areas: Ravenswood Ipswich (2005). Survey by Suffolk Wildlife Trust for Bellway Homes.

Site name: Site reference 105 - Millennium Cemetery

IBC ref: W100
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 17852 46807
Area: 8.59 hectares
Date: 29 August 2012
Recorder: S Bullion
Weather conditions: Cool 16°C but temperature rising
Ranking: 3
Biodiversity value: Medium

Map:



Photos:


Thick hedgerow on northern boundary


Recent planting forming a high value track on north-western boundary


Ornamental pond


Natural pond

Habitat type(s):
Short amenity grass, uncut amenity grass, pond, ruderals, hedgerows and tree belts.

Subsidiary habitats:
Ornamental pond

Site description:
This triangular site lies on the northern edge of Ipswich within an area that is largely open and away from residential areas. The north-western boundary borders the spur of the Ipswich to Felixstowe railway line beyond which lie arable fields. Beyond the northern boundary is another arable field and the eastern boundary is defined by the Tuddenham Road beyond which are sports grounds/playing fields. The site contains a mosaic of habitats. The central area of the cemetery includes short mown grass, consistent with its purpose, but in the southern corner the grass has been left un-mown allowing a more flower-rich sward to develop. In the western corner the area is dominated by taller ruderal plants, possibly because this area was arable more recently or it had not been reseeded. The whole site is surrounded by thick hedgerows and tree belts, some of which have been recently planted and these are species-rich and diverse. The perimeter of the site therefore provides excellent habitat for a range of species. Two waterbodies are present: A ‘natural’ pond lies towards the western edge and an ornamental pond and associated water features towards the north-eastern corner.

Protected species:
Great crested newt

Protected species potential:
Slow worm, grass snake, bats

BAP habitats present:
Ancient species-rich hedgerows, eutrophic standing water (pond)

BAP species seen:
-

BAP species known:
Great crested newt, toad

BAP species potential:
Slow worm, grass snake, bats and hedgehog

Connectivity:
The adjacent railway line provides some connectivity and the perimeter hedges and trees link to similar features in the wider countryside.

Structural diversity:
The site has good structural diversity around the periphery, where hedgerows and trees abut tall grassland or ruderal vegetation. The natural pond adds additional habitat opportunities to the site.

Flora:
Along the roadside are large oak trees with hedgerow species (hawthorn, hazel, dogwood, field maple, guelder rose, blackthorn, elm, sallow) as well as ornamental species such as silver birch, honey locust and red oak. Within the central part of the site is an avenue of limes and beech hedges.

The area of un-mown grassland included white clover, red clover, bristly ox-tongue, sorrel, daisy, self heal, creeping cinquefoil, dandelion, black medick as well as Yorkshire fog, occasional creeping thistle and wild rose seedlings.

On the north-western boundary, adjoining the railway line, is a planted double hedge of mixed species. At the time of the visit there was a superb abundance of nuts and berries, including guelder rose, ash, hawthorn, field maple and beech. Between the hedges there was a diverse ground flora, with common centaury, smooth hawkweed, forget-me-not spp, black knapweed, perforate St-Johns wort, ragwort, agrimony, greater plantain and ribwort plantain, corn sowthistle, teasel, creeping buttercup and great willowherb.

In the fenced off area in the north-western corner the sward was ruderal, with spear thistle, creeping thistle, ragwort, rosebay willowherb, self heal, bristly ox-tongue, teasel, creeping cinquefoil, smooth hawkweed and mouse-ear chickweed. A small patch of cudweed, typical of sandy free-draining soils was also noted. At the time of the visit this area was providing a good nectar source for butterflies.

The hedge/tree belt along the northern boundary was thought to be an ancient feature, with large woody

species and a ditch and bank. Field maple, elm, hazel and mature oaks were noted. The pond shown on the Ordnance Survey map towards the centre of the northern boundary was a dry depression, fully shaded by the tree belt. New planting has occurred along this boundary.

The 'natural 'pond to the west was steep sided with open water and surrounded by coppiced willow. Great willowherb, gypsywort and branched bur-reed were also present, with water lilies in the open water. The ornamental pond was bordered by non-native species such as bamboo and ornamental dogwood as well as common reed, purple loosestrife and great willowherb. It contained numerous carp.

Avifauna:
The combination of mixed hedges, grassland areas and ruderal area in the western triangle all provide an excellent habitat mosaic for birds. Although it was an unsuitable time of year to record this group, the following species were noted: long-tailed tit, chiffchaff, blackbird, greenfinch, green woodpecker, little owl, wood pigeon, jackdaw, rooks as well as mallard duck and moorhen by the ponds.

Invertebrates:
Various butterflies were noted in the ruderal area: common blue, meadow brown, large white. Speckled wood was associated with the hedgerows. A migrant hawker dragonfly and willow emerald damselfly was recorded next to the 'natural' pond. The diverse hedgerows will support a wide variety of invertebrate species.

Herpetofauna:
Great crested newts have been recorded on site, but the timing of this site visit was outside the optimal survey season for this species. There are records for the 'natural' pond for 2008, 2010 and 2011 and the ornamental pond for 2008. Unfortunately the ornamental pond contains some very large carp, so the newts are unlikely to successfully breed in this pond. It is possible that slow worm may be associated with the railway corridor and there is an undocumented record for this species on site (Ipswich Rangers pers. comm.). Grass snakes are wide ranging and therefore may frequent the pond. Toads have been recorded on site (2008) in the vicinity of the ornamental pond.

Mammals:
Some of the large oaks provide roosting opportunities for bats. Common mammals such as rabbit and grey squirrel are present. There is an old record for hedgehog on the Tuddenham Road in 1995 (likely to be a road casualty), but the habitat within the cemetery and its margins is highly suitable for hedgehog foraging, nesting and hibernating.

Comments and recommendations:
The natural pond would benefit from more light reaching the open water. There is evidence that the surrounding willow has been coppiced in the past, but there was vigorous re-growth. Selectively re-coppicing and painting the stumps with a herbicide may be required to limit the willow growth to prevent future pond shading.

Consideration needs to be given to the future management of the young hedges to promote a thick, bushy, structure, particular for bird species. At the current time they provide excellent habitat for species such as the finches, but provide poor habitat for migrant warblers. We recommend that they should be coppiced in sections on a long rotation. In addition, a rough margin should be left next to the hedgerows to provide a good seed source for foraging birds.

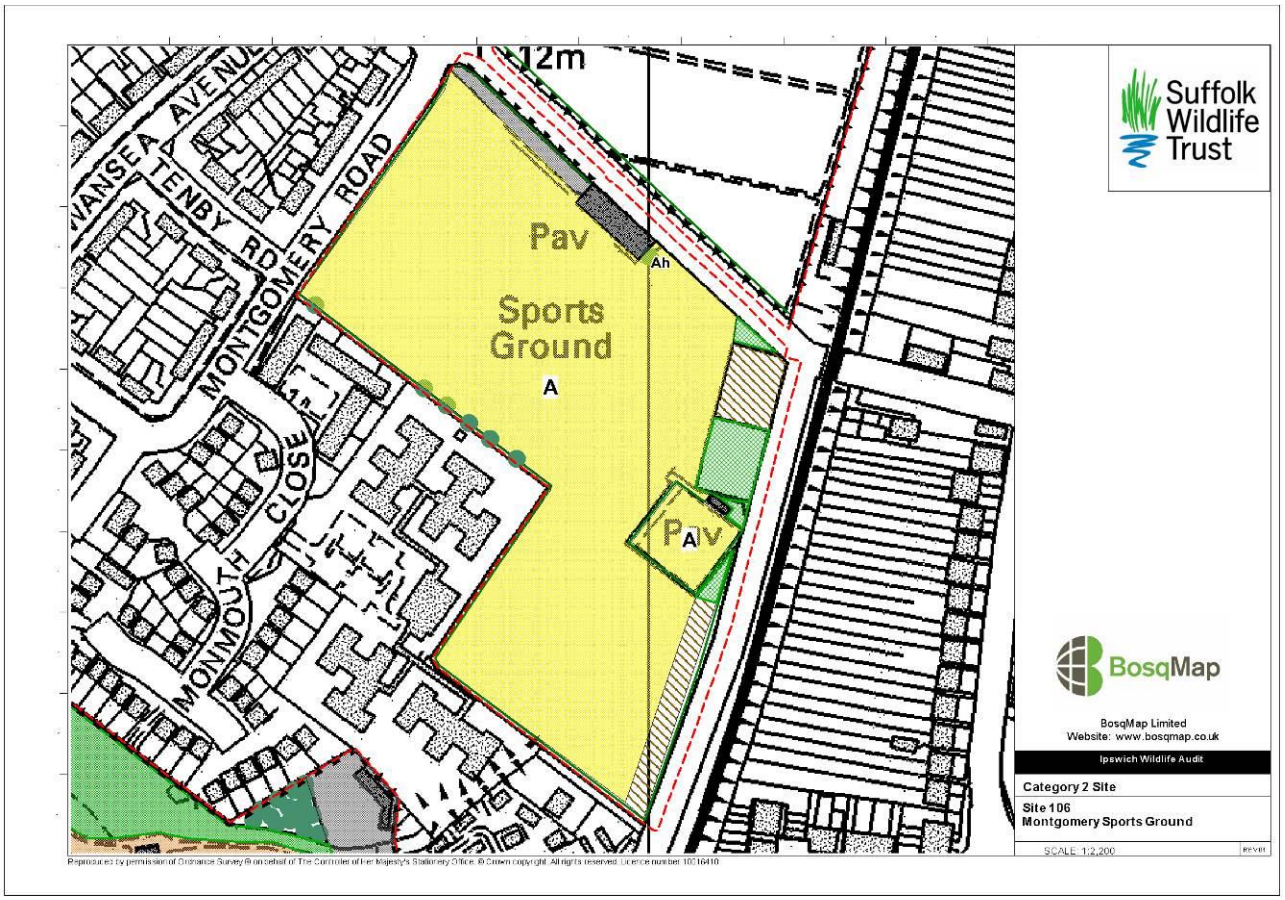
The unmown areas should be managed on rotation, so that each year there is always a proportion of

taller sward left uncut in different locations. This will also benefit invertebrates and foraging birds.

Site name — Site reference 106 –Montgomery Sports Ground

IBC Ref: W77
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 15961 42341
Area: 4.67 Hectares
Date: 6 June 2013
Recorder: S Bullion
Weather conditions: Warm and sunny 18^{o}C
Ranking: 5
Biodiversity value: Low

Map:



Photos:

Thick hedgerow and rough margins

Rough margins bordering the railway line

Habitat type(s):
Species-poor short mown grass, mature hedgerows, rough grasslands margins, bramble scrub

Subsidiary habitats:
Fallen deadwood

Site description:
These playing fields and bowls court are situated close to the southern boundary of the Borough, south of the Maidenhall Allotments (Site 92). The majority of the site is species-poor short mown grassland, but the perimeter of the site includes thick hedges and areas of rough grassland and bramble scrub, particularly bordering the railway line. A very large cut log is present in the western corner of the field. The bowls court is surrounded by leylandii hedge. There is an area of hardstanding that is becoming overgrown in the north-eastern corner.

Protected species:
-
Protected species potential:
Common lizard and slow worm in rough habitat bordering the railway line
Pipistrelle bat

BAP habitats present:
-
BAP species seen:
Hedge sparrow

BAP species known:
-
BAP species potential:
Common lizard and slow worm
Hedgehog
Stag beetle
Pipistrelle bat

Connectivity:
The site is adjacent to the railway line so connectivity is excellent.

Structural diversity:
Structural diversity is limited as much of the site is short mown amenity grassland. However the boundary hedges and peripheral areas of bramble scrub provide important habitat.

Flora:
The grassy sward contained a range of common grasses and herbs, particularly where margins were left un-mown. Yarrow, dandelion, hedge crane's bill, cat's ear, white campion, bush vetch, cow parsley, nettle, ribwort plantain, germander speedwell, white deadnettle, Yorkshire fog, false oat grass, and barren brome were recorded.

The hedges were thick hawthorn with occasional elder. Six very large poplar trees were present along the south-western boundary, within the hedge. White bryony was seen scrambling up some of the hedges. The margin bordering the railway line was left rough and was dominated by bramble.

Avifauna:
A number of bird species were seen at the time of the visit. Sparrows were present in the hedge on the southern boundary. Chaffinch, pied wagtail, crow, blackbird, wood pigeon were also seen.

Invertebrates:
Locally common invertebrates will be present in the hedges. The very large log in the western corner of the site may have come from a tree that still has underground roots, so there may be subterranean deadwood suitable for stag beetle larvae.

Herpetofauna:
The rough habitat and bramble scrub adjacent to the railway line is highly suitable for common lizard and slow worm. Both these species have been recorded on the allotments to the north in 2012.

Mammals:
Hedgehogs could utilise the rough habitat bordering the railway line for shelter and forage on the short grass. The margins of the site are suitable for foraging bats, but the floodlights may be a deterrent when in use.

Comments and recommendations:
The margins of the site are the principal features of interest, particularly the boundary adjacent to the railway line, which has been left rough with bramble scrub. Any future management of these areas should take into consideration the likely presence of reptiles and nesting birds.

Site name — Site reference 107 - Morland Road Allotments

IBC Ref: W114
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 17871 41787
Area: 2.74 hectares
Date: 7 September 2012
Recorder: A Looser
Weather conditions: Hot and sunny, 29°C
Ranking: 4
Biodiversity value: Medium

Map:

Photos:

Looking west across site

Habitat type(s):
Cultivated areas

Subsidiary habitats:
Scattered trees, hedges

Site description:
The site is a well used area of allotments to the west of Morland Road and all the plots seemed to be in active cultivation. The area is surrounded by a secure fence and the gates were locked at the time of survey so access was not possible, but the linear nature of the site meant that most of it could be observed from roadside.

Protected species:
Slow worm

Protected species potential:
Common lizard

BAP habitats present:
-

BAP species seen:
-

BAP species known:
Slow worm

BAP species potential:
Common lizard, stag beetle

Connectivity:
Connectivity is good as the allotments are situated on the eastern boundary of Pipers Vale and on the northern boundary of Elm Hill (all designated as County Wildlife Site).

Structural diversity:
The site consists of well used allotments with the occasional tall tree, which limits structural diversity.

Flora:
The majority of the site is garden sheds and allotments containing various fruit and vegetables. There are a few large trees on site mainly sycamore and oak. Around the edges of the allotments and in the empty plots there are species such as Yorkshire fog, cock's foot, false oat grass as well as mallow, dock, fat hen, Canadian fleabane, white clover, wall barley and the nationally scarce plant dittander.

At the north eastern edge a new hedge has recently been planted containing species such as hawthorn, blackthorn and dog rose. Around the edges there are also some bramble entanglements, pyracantha, hedge bindweed and buddleia. There is a tall hedge along the boundary with Pipers Vale but as access was not obtained it was only noted from a distance.

Avifauna:
No birds were observed during the visit and this was a sub-optimal time of year for surveying this group. However some common bird species are also likely to use the allotments as the site provides foraging and nesting opportunities.

Invertebrates:
No butterflies were seen during the visit. The site is likely to support a range of butterfly and bee species during the year, particularly on the buddleia and bramble round the edges of the site. There are two old stag beetle records in the vicinity of the allotments (1994 and 1997), but the lack of recent records is likely to be due to under-recording so it is highly likely their larvae will be present if there is any subterranean deadwood on site.

Herpetofauna:
Slow worm was recorded on site in 2007, when 5 adults and 1 juvenile were discovered under a plastic sheet. Common lizard, slow worm and grass snake have all been recorded on the adjacent Elm Hill CWS (2005 record). It is likely that common lizards may be present in small numbers as the habitat is suitable.

Mammals:
Common species of mammal are likely to be present, such as grey squirrel. Small mammals such as mice, voles and shrews may be present in small numbers as there is some cover available for them.

Comments and recommendations:

Allotments can provide excellent habitat, particularly in urban areas, although this tends to be where there are occasional unused plots which are allowed to become overgrown. This site is well used, so it is the boundaries that will provide more permanent habitat, although there will also be seasonal opportunities for wildlife across the site.

Site name — Site reference 108 - Murray Road Recreation Ground

IBC Ref: NEW
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 18453 43222
Area: 4.61 Hectares
Date: 20 August 2012
Recorder: A Looser
Weather conditions: Warm and sunny, 25°C
Ranking: 5
Biodiversity value: Low

Map:

Photos:

Looking south across site

Rough grassland at northern end

Habitat type(s):

Amenity grassland, Semi-improved neutral grassland

Subsidiary habitats:

Scattered trees around perimeter

Site description:
The site is situated just off Murray Road, Ipswich and is primarily short mown amenity grassland with scattered trees. There is a line of mature lime and London plane trees planted round the edge of the recreation ground. There is a playground at the southern end and it is popular with dog walkers. There is a small area of rough grassland at the northern end with several scattered trees.

Protected species:
-

Protected species potential:
-

BAP habitats present:
-

BAP species seen:
-

BAP species known:
-

BAP species potential:
-

Connectivity:
Connectivity is very poor as it is completely surrounded by roads and residential housing.

Structural diversity:
The majority of the site is short mown amenity grassland, with the exception of an area of rough grassland at the northern end and the perimeter trees. Structural diversity is therefore limited.

Flora:
Most of the site consisted of species poor short mown grass with few herbaceous species (greater plantain, ribwort plantain and dandelion were noted). In the area of slightly longer grass there was also clover, bindweed, yarrow and ragwort, cock's foot, common bent and rye grass.

Around the edge of the site is a line of mature lime trees, with some London plane trees. At the northern end there is a small section with recently planted trees including cherry, ash, sycamore and holly.

Avifauna:
No birds were observed during the visit and this was a sub-optimal time of year for surveying this group. However, the trees provide some feeding and roosting opportunities for garden birds.

Invertebrates:
Several small white butterflies were recorded during the visit, all of them over the area of rough grassland. Other species of butterfly and bees and wasps are likely to feed over the rough grassland.

Herpetofauna:
This site was not thought to be suitable for this group.

Mammals:
Common small mammals such as mice and voles may occur in the areas of longer grass at the northern end.

Comments and recommendations:
Increasing the areas of longer grass adjacent to the boundaries would improve the potential for butterflies and common small mammals. Some additional scrub planting on the northern boundary would help improve structural diversity and if berry producing could also benefit local bird species.

Site name — Site reference 109 – Nacton Road Wildlife Corridor

IBC Ref: New
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 19201 42051
Area: 1.08 hectares
Date: 12 August 2013
Recorder: A Looser
Weather conditions: Cloudy with sunny intervals 18°C
Ranking: 4
Biodiversity value: Medium

Map:

Photos:

Looking east along site

Habitat type(s):
Broadleaf woodland

Subsidiary habitats:
-

Site description:
This site is a long and fairly thin strip which runs along the back gardens of the houses along Nacton Road. The site is completely fenced and is dominated by broadleaf woodland with occasional patches of bramble scrub.

Protected species:
Common Lizard (1998)

Protected species potential:
Bats

BAP habitats present:
-

BAP species seen:

-

BAP species known:
Common Lizard (1998) Toad (2005)

BAP species potential:
Bats
Stag Beetle

Connectivity:
The site is surrounded by roads and residential housing. However it is adjacent to Maryon Road Wildlife Corridor (Site 104) and Ravenswood open spaces (Site 118).

Structural diversity:
The site has good structural diversity with some grassland, scrub and woodland.

Flora:
The majority of the site is a mixture of scrub and trees with bramble, hawthorn, oak, elder, apple, blackthorn, broom, sycamore, snowberry and dogwood.

The small amount of rough grassland remaining contained false oat grass with rosebay willowherb, nettle, comfrey and ragwort.

Avifauna:
This site provides good foraging, nesting and roosting habitat for a range of common bird species, although only magpie was seen during the visit.

Invertebrates:
The habitat is good for a range of invertebrate species. Small white, peacock and small tortoiseshell, butterflies were seen during the visit. The site provides good habitat for species such as spiders, snails and grasshoppers. There could be stag beetles present if there are any areas of subterranean dead wood.

Herpetofauna:
Common lizards were recorded in 1998 during a survey prior to houses being built on the Ravenswood estate. However a follow up survey in 2005 failed to find any evidence of them. Since most of the site is now woodland or scrub, there is very little suitable habitat available for reptiles, so they are unlikely to be present. Frogs and toads are likely to be present and both were recorded during the reptile survey in 2005.

Mammals:
Common species of mammal such as grey squirrel are likely to use the site. The site provides good cover for small mammals such as mice and voles. The habitat is suitable for hedgehogs but the fencing surrounding it is too secure for hedgehogs to move through. Bats are likely to forage over the site and a few of the trees may support roosting sites.

Comments and recommendations:
It is very unlikely there are any reptiles left within this site as the site is now shaded by woody species. However woodland and scrub in this location will be valuable for other species such as invertebrates and birds and consequently should be retained.

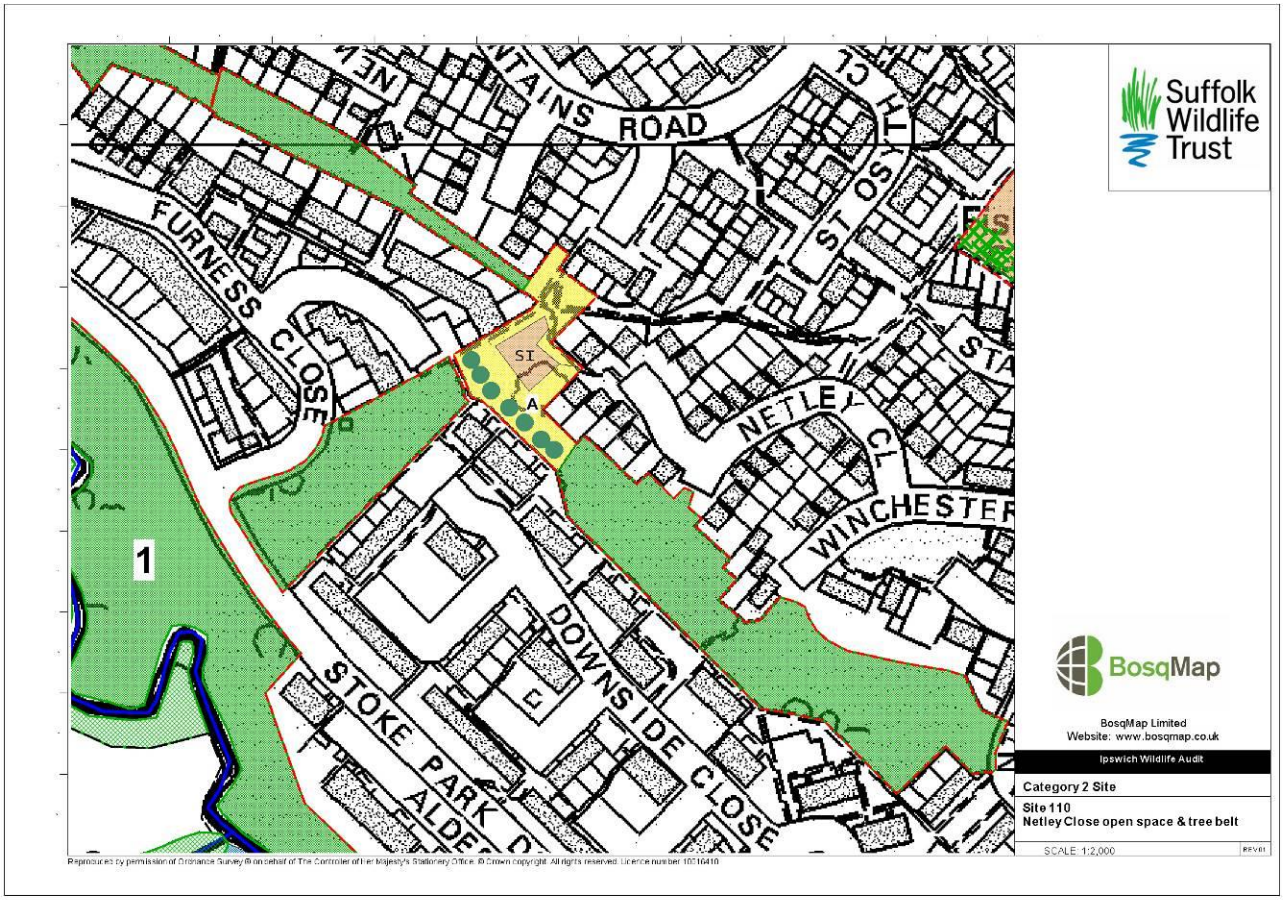
References:

Reptile survey of Wildlife Areas: Ravenswood Ipswich (2005). Survey by Suffolk Wildlife Trust for Bellway Homes.

Site name — Site reference 110 – Netley Close Open Space and Tree Belt

IBC Ref: NEW
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 14753 41844
Area: 1.80 hectares
Date: 31 August 2012
Recorder: A Looser
Weather conditions: Warm and sunny, 23°C
Ranking: 4
Biodiversity value: Medium

Map:



Photos:

Grassland area managed by Greenways

Wooded strip looking east

Habitat type(s):
Secondary woodland

Subsidiary habitats:
Semi-improved grassland, scrub

Site description:
The site is a very long, thin area of semi-natural green space stretching between Canterbury Close on the eastern side and towards the Belstead Road on the western side, where it directly links to the Belstead Road Tree Belt (Site 59). Although it is surrounded on all sides by roads and residential housing, connectivity is good with other sites of wildlife value. Most of the area is secondary woodland with a small area just north-east of Furness Close of rough grassland.

Protected species:
Slow worm and common lizard

Protected species potential:
Bats

BAP habitats present:
-

BAP species seen:
-

BAP species known:
Slow worm and common lizard

BAP species potential:
Bats, stag beetle

Connectivity:
Good. The site provides an ecological corridor in its own right and is connected to the Belstead Road Tree Belt in the west. Ashground Covert and Bobbit's Lane Meadows County Wildlife Site (CWS) lie to the south, immediately beyond Stoke Park Drive. There is also some limited connectivity with Stoke Park Wood CWS, which is 200m to the north-east.

Structural diversity:
The site has reasonable structural diversity with grassland, scrub and woodland present.

Flora:
Most of the site is secondary woodland consisting of a good diversity of tree and shrub species including oak, sycamore, field maple, laurel, sweet chestnut, alder, elm (some dead), hawthorn, hornbeam, bramble, hazel and ash. Yew, holly, gorse and elder were also present in the eastern part of the site.

The ground flora was dominated by nettle and ground ivy with a small patch of dog's mercury.

There is a small area of semi-improved grassland which was un-mown at the time of the visit. It contained a good range of species including cocksfoot, rough meadow grass and common bent. The herbs included yarrow, dandelion, white dead nettle, red dead nettle, ground ivy, ribwort plantain, doves foot cranesbill, creeping cinquefoil, clover, wild carrot, ragwort, creeping buttercup.

Avifauna:
The visit took place at a sub-optimal time of year for this group. Magpie, jay and blue tit were observed during the visit. The trees also provide good foraging, feeding and nesting opportunities for many common bird species.

Invertebrates:
Several large white and speckled wood butterflies were recorded during the visit, all of them over the area of rough grassland. Other species of butterfly and bees are likely to feed over the site and several anthills were noted in the grassland. The rough grass will also provide good habitat for other invertebrate species such as spiders, of which a variety were seen. There were lots of hoverflies and bees among the ivy in the woodland and the mature trees, particularly oak, are good for a wide range of invertebrate species. Underground deadwood is highly likely to support stag beetle larvae.

Herpetofauna:
Slow worms and common lizard have both been seen in the rough grassland (reported on interpretive sign on site), which provides good habitat for this group.

Mammals:
Common small mammals such as mice, voles and shrews are likely to occur in the areas of rough grass and in the woodland belt. It may be a good corridor for bats and some of the trees, particularly oak are mature enough to have cracks and crevices suitable for bats to roost in.

Comments and recommendations:
A sign next to the grassland area explained that the site was being managed by Greenways. Increasing the areas of longer grass as well as continuing the current grassland management would improve the potential for butterflies, reptiles and small mammals.