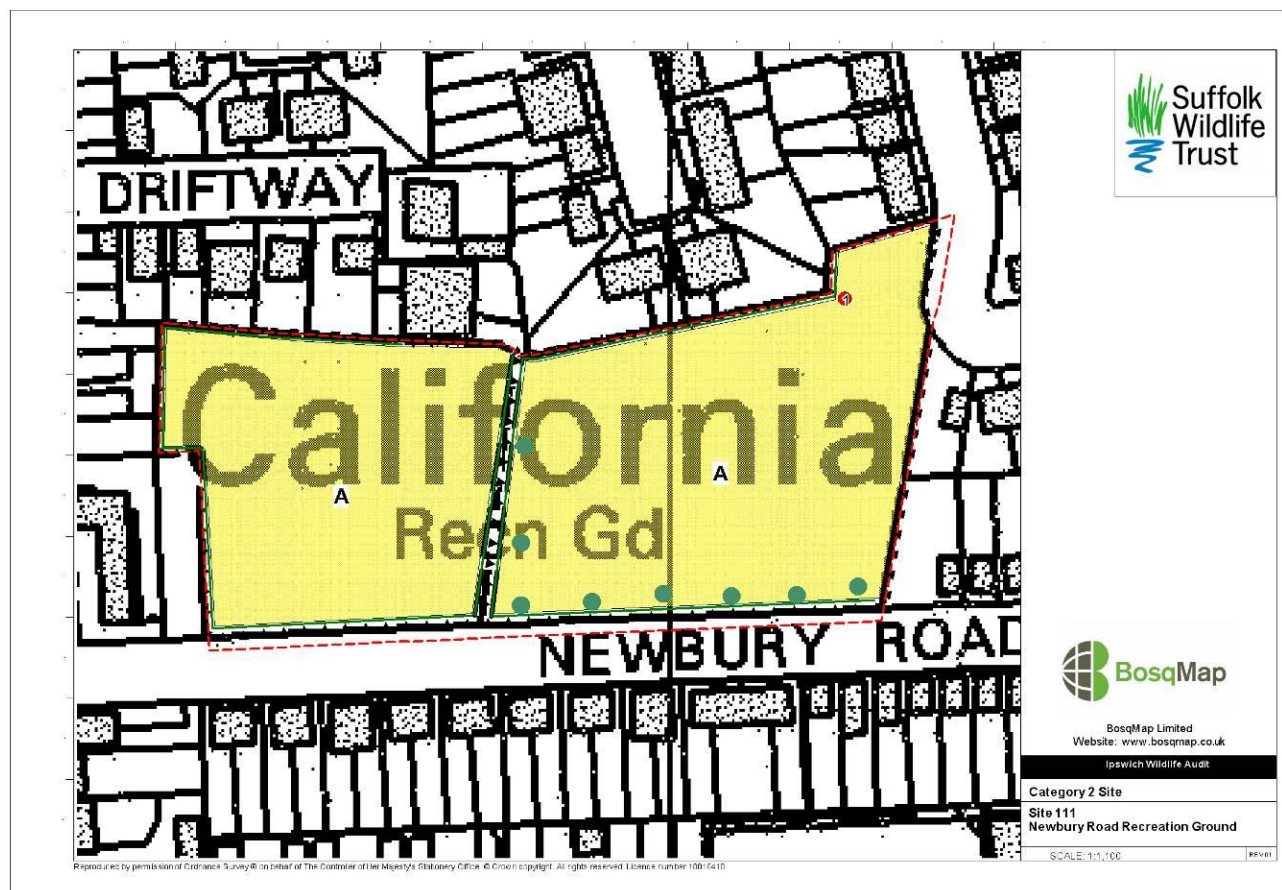


Site name **Site reference 111 – Newbury Road Recreation Ground**

IBC Ref: New
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 18972 44556
Area: 1.39 hectares
Date: 15 May 2013
Recorder: A Looser
Weather conditions: Cloudy with sunny intervals 12°C
Ranking: 5
Biodiversity value: Low

Map:



Photos:



Looking north-west across site

Habitat type(s):

Amenity grassland, species poor hedgerow, species rich hedgerow

Subsidiary habitats:

Scattered trees

Site description:

This site is a small recreation ground situated along Newbury Road. It is fenced all around and is divided in half with the eastern section containing play equipment and the western section is used as a dog exercise area. The site is amenity grassland with scattered trees, although there is a small section of acid grassland in the north east corner (target note). There are hedgerows along all but the eastern boundary.

Protected species:

.-

Protected species potential:

-

BAP habitats present:

-

BAP species seen:

House Sparrow

Starling

BAP species known:

-

BAP species potential:

-

Connectivity:

The site has very poor connectivity as it is surrounded by roads and residential housing.

Structural diversity:

The site has fairly poor structural diversity with mainly amenity grassland and trees. The hedgerow provides some structural diversity although it is kept very tightly trimmed.

Flora:

The majority of the site is short mown amenity grassland. Species include rye grass with ribwort plantain, buck's horn plantain, greater plantain, dandelion, daisy, clover, yarrow, spotted medick, dove's foot cranesbill and common mouse ear. In the areas around the edges which are left slightly longer there is also red dead nettle, honesty, creeping buttercup and greater celandine. The north-west corner contains abundant common cat's ear and sheep's sorrel which indicates it is a patch of acid grassland.

The scattered trees are a mixture of alder, ash and chestnut.

The hedgerow around the boundary of the site is dominated by hawthorn and hops, with occasional holly and sycamore. The hedge along the boundary between the two sections of the site is slightly more diverse with wayfaring tree, spindle and hazel also present. The hedge along the northern boundary runs along the back gardens of neighbouring properties and as such has a different mix including buddleia, lilac, honeysuckle, elder, holly, clematis, elm and field maple.

Avifauna:

This site provides limited habitat for a range of common bird species and magpie, robin and blackbird were observed during the visit. House sparrows and starlings were also seen both of which are BAP species.

Invertebrates:

No butterflies were observed during the visit but there are limited nectar opportunities so it is unlikely to be a good site for butterflies. However several nests of brown tailed moth caterpillars were noted in the hedgerow between the two sections.

Herpetofauna:

The habitat is unsuitable for this group and the site is isolated so there is unlikely to be any migration of reptiles onto the site if the mowing regime was relaxed.

Mammals:

Common species of mammal such as grey squirrel are likely to use the site. However the site is isolated and provides no cover for small mammals such as mice and voles. The site does provide good foraging habitat for hedgehogs, however the fence surrounding the site is too secure to allow hedgehogs to move into and out of the site.

Comments and recommendations:

Allowing the hedge to grow slightly taller and wider will benefit the wildlife, particularly birds by providing better nesting and foraging opportunities.

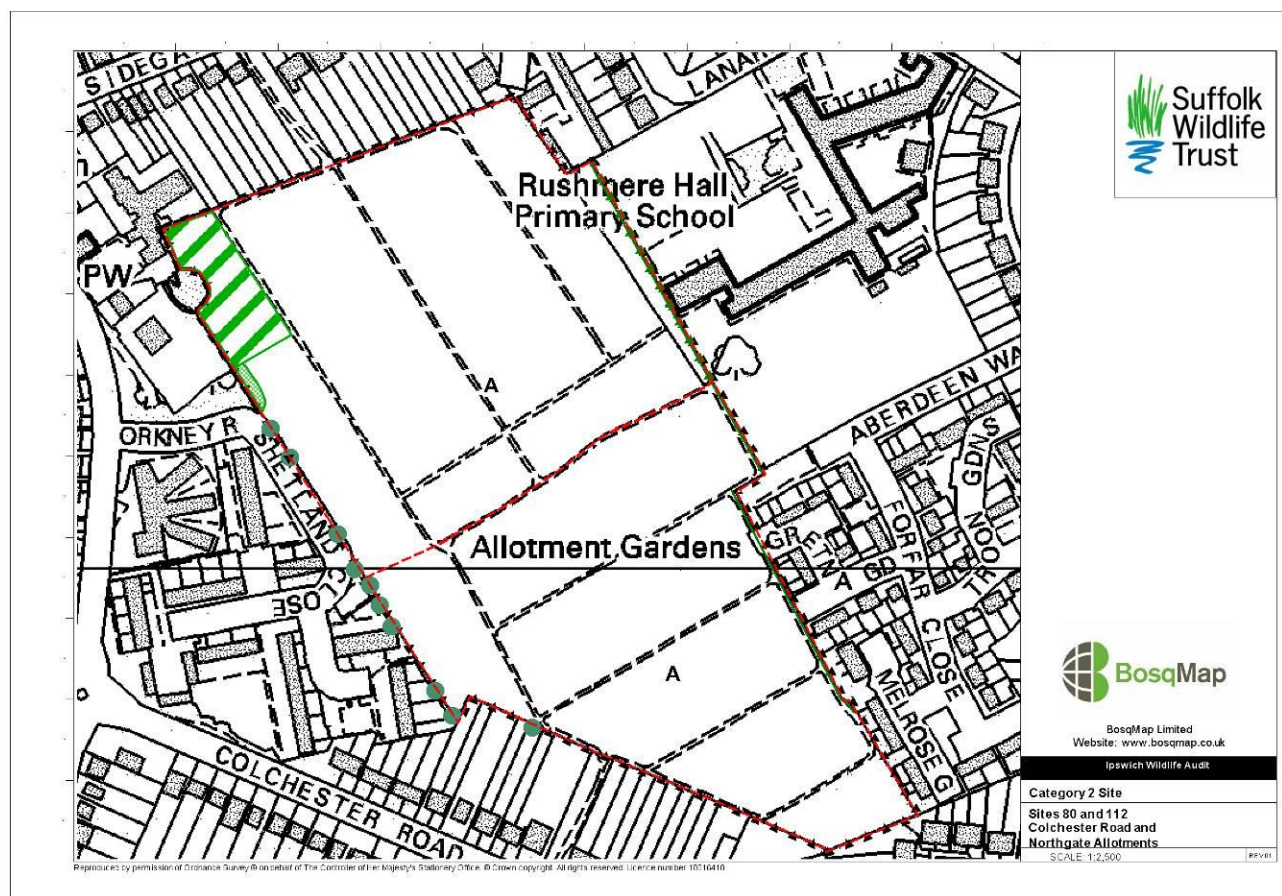
Making one or more small holes in the base of the fence would benefit hedgehogs, which could use the site for foraging and nesting.

Site name

**Site reference 80 Colchester Road Allotments &
112 Northgate Allotments**

IBC Ref: New
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 18531 45966
Area: 8.60 hectares
Date: 12 September 2013
Recorder: S Bullion
Weather conditions: Cool, sunny, 17°C but rising
Ranking: 4
Biodiversity value: Medium

Map:



Photos:



View across allotment



Woodland area in north-west corner



View of entrance to allotment with planted wild service tree.

Habitat type(s):

Broadleaf woodland, short mown grass, cultivated areas, ruderals and taller grasses on uncultivated plots, hedges,

Subsidiary habitats:

Pond and deadwood within woodland

Site description:

The site is an amalgamation of two allotments: Colchester Road Allotments (Site 80) and Northgate Allotments (Site 112). The two are functionally continuous and under the same management, so should be treated as a single, large site. The site is well cultivated but there is a woodland wildlife area in the north-west corner including an area of planted hazel. A hedge is present along the north-eastern boundary, but other boundary features are off-site, such as the large trees along Shetland Close and the pond in the north-west corner.

Protected species:

Slow worm (seen by allotment holder)

Protected species potential:

-

BAP habitats present:

-

BAP species seen:

-

BAP species known:

Hedgehog (seen by allotment holder)

Toad (seen by allotment holder)

BAP species potential:

Stag beetle

Connectivity:

The site is surrounded by housing and primary school grounds, so connectivity is poor.

Structural diversity:

Structural diversity is very good within the woodland wildlife area. The majority of the allotments are well maintained and cultivated, but the scattered fruit bushes and trees add some limited structural diversity, complemented by the eastern boundary hedge.

Flora:

There is the usual mixture of common grassland and ruderal species, including false oat grass, ribwort plantain, yarrow, field and hedge bindweed, nettle, fat hen, ragwort and dandelion. Dittander, a nationally scarce plant that is common in Ipswich was noted.

Many of the plot holders are growing wildlife friendly flowers including borage and teasel, as well as ornamental varieties.

The woodland was well established and had a wide range of woody species, including hazel, field maple, hawthorn, sweet chestnut, ash, dogwood, guelder rose, blackthorn, elder and oak. A wild service tree has been planted on the edge. Bramble is also an important species within this area, adding structural diversity along the sunny edges. The field layer was dominated by ivy and nettle, but arum, herb Robert, comfrey, wood avens and primrose were also present, as well as two patches of cyclamen in flower and also snowdrops and bluebells in spring. There is a small pond that has been created within the woodland, with lots of duckweed on the surface.

The eastern boundary included a mixture of mature hedge adjacent to the primary school and younger hedge further south. Hawthorn and *Prunus* varieties are the dominant species.

The western boundary was notable for its large oak trees, but these were growing outside of the fence. Similarly the pond in the north-west corner lay beyond the fence and appeared to be within a private garden.

Avifauna:

The survey took place at a suboptimal time for recording this group. The woodland offers good foraging and nesting opportunities for birds and nest boxes have been provided. The hedge on the eastern boundary is also a valuable feature. Blackbirds were frequently heard within the woodland.

Invertebrates:

There were good numbers of butterflies flying, including small and large white butterflies, speckled wood adjacent to the woodland edge and also a clouded yellow butterfly visiting flowers. The wide range of flowers on site was good for bumblebees. Stag beetle larvae may be present if there is subterranean deadwood arising from old fruit trees or decaying trees on the boundary.

Herpetofauna:

Slow worms are known to occur and have been recorded by allotment holders in 2013. No other reptile species has been seen. Frogs, toads and newts are also reported to be numerous.

Mammals:

Hedgehogs have been seen in 2013. Other common species such as fox, grey squirrel and mice and voles are highly likely to be present.

Comments and recommendations:

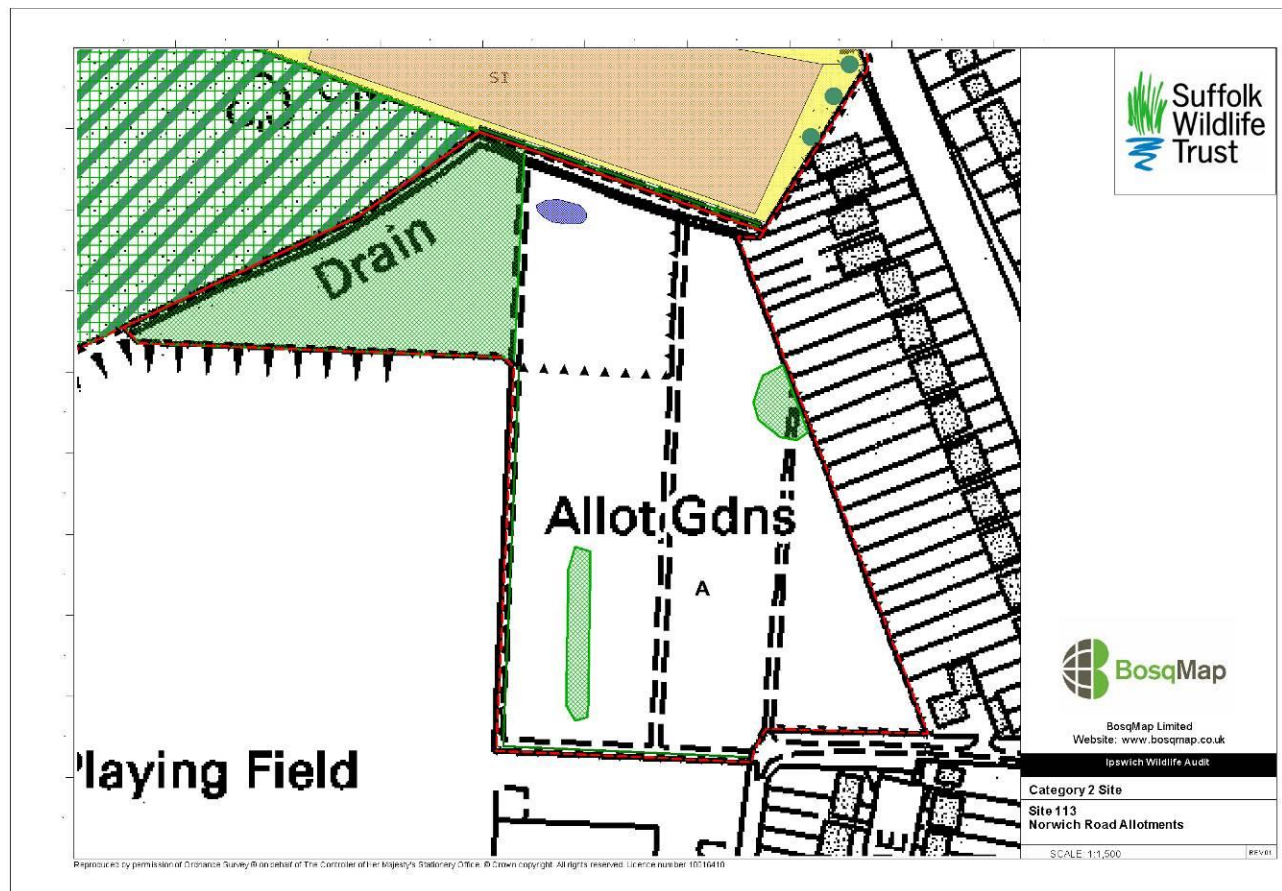
The small woodland is managed by coppicing and it is recommended that different areas are cut at different times to ensure a mosaic of age structure.

Site name

Site reference 113 – Norwich Road Allotments

IBC Ref: New
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 14230 46671
Area: 2.56 hectares
Date: 6 June 2013
Recorder: S Bullion
Weather conditions: Hot and sunny 21°C
Ranking: 4
Biodiversity value: Medium

Map:



Photos:



Thick scrub in the triangle in south-west of site



Rough grass areas in south-east of site

Habitat type(s):

Scrub and young woodland, species-poor rough grassland, short mown grass, cultivated areas

Subsidiary habitats:

Ponds, boundary species- poor hedges

Site description:

This allotment is situated in the north-west of Ipswich to the south of Whitehouse Park (138). The site represents two main areas: the allotments themselves behind the Norwich Road and a second, triangular area in the north-west which contains impenetrable scrub, which represents an area of former allotments. A noticeable number of the allotment plots are not being cultivated and these are colonised with tall grasses and ruderals. The site is bordered by a thick hawthorn hedge on the southern and western boundaries and by mature trees and scrub on the northern boundary.

Protected species:

Slow worm (2000)

Protected species potential:

-

BAP habitats present:

-

BAP species seen:

House sparrow

BAP species known:

Slow worm (2000)

Hedgehog (seen by allotment holder)

BAP species potential:

Stag beetle

Connectivity:

The location of the allotments to the south of Whitehouse Park (138) means that it is part of a wider block of semi-natural habitat, although overall this area is surrounded by roads, housing and employment land.

Structural diversity:

A number of the plots are not being cultivated so within the allotments there are areas of tall grass and scrub habitat. The scrubbed-up triangle to the north-west has excellent structural diversity.

Flora:

The triangular area in the north-west was completely impenetrable and contained hawthorn, willow, wild rose, elder and much bramble. The uncultivated plots were colonised by common grasses such as false oat and cocksfoot, as well as broad-leaved dock, dandelion and nettles. Areas of bramble and hawthorn are present, as well as various fruit trees.

Avifauna:

The timing of the visit (early afternoon on a hot spring day) was not conducive to recording birds, but

a small number of sparrows were recorded (6). Robin and wood pigeon were recorded and it is expected that a range of common garden bird species will be present. The bramble, rose and hawthorn scrub of the 'wild' triangle will provide superb nesting and foraging habitat for birds.

Invertebrates:

The season was still rather early for recording this group, but it is likely the site supports a good range of butterflies and common invertebrates. An orange tip butterfly and a small white butterfly were observed. If there is subterranean deadwood then stag beetle larvae will be present.

Herpetofauna:

Slow worms were translocated to this site in 2000 from the Flying Horse Public House development on Waterford Road 250m to the west. There are no recent records but the habitat remains suitable for this species. There are a number of ponds on site and allotment holders have seen frogs, but no toads.

Mammals:

The rough grassland and bramble will support a range of small mammals such as mice, voles and shrews. Grey squirrel, muntjac deer and foxes are observed as well as brown rat. The site provides excellent foraging and hibernation habitat for hedgehogs, which are seen by allotment holders.

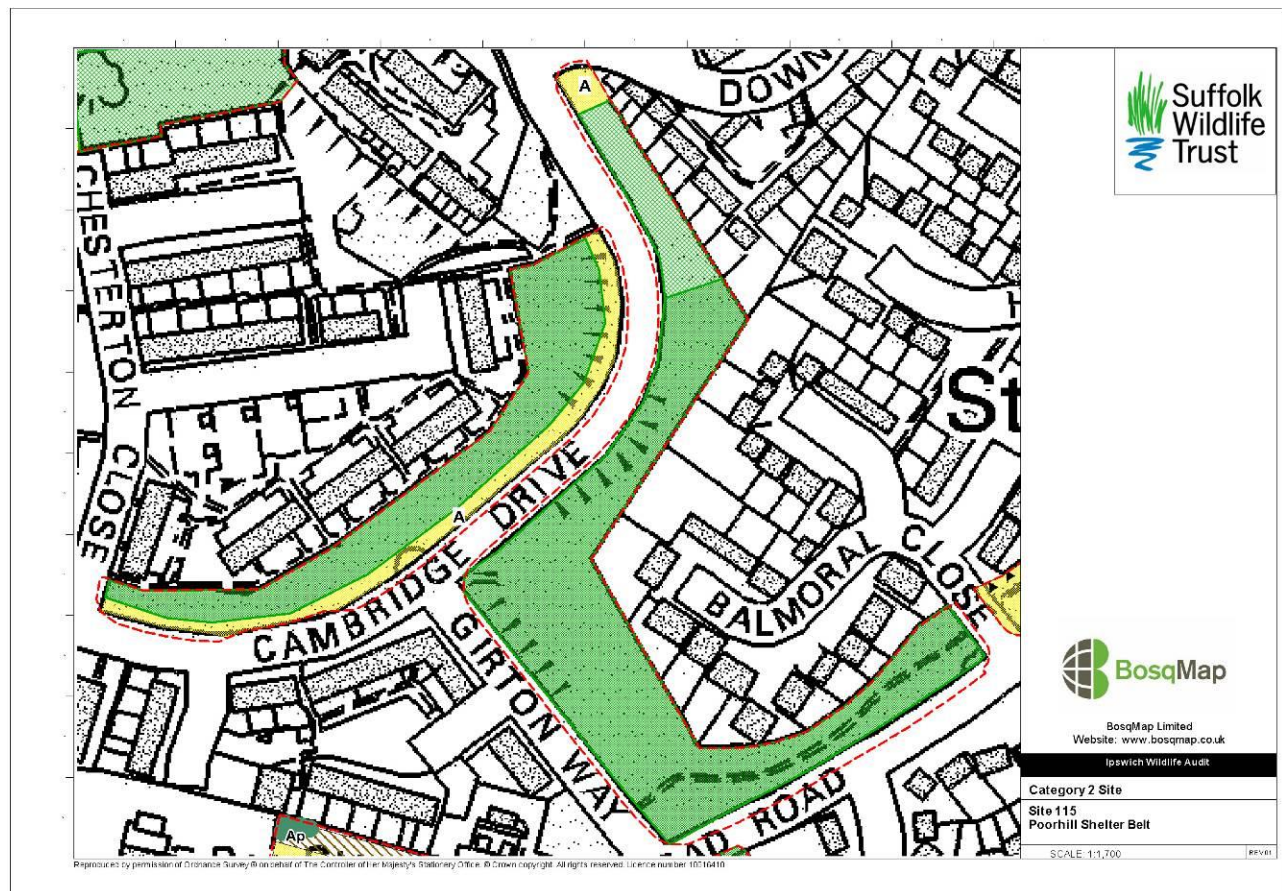
Comments and recommendations:

The scrubbed up triangle contained well established habitat and clearly this area has not been cultivated for some considerable time. The Allotment Secretary who was present at the time of the site visit is keen to open up pathways within this area using a bulldozer, but it is felt that this could be ecologically damaging, particularly if carried out in spring and summer. There may also be difficulties in maintaining the pathways once created, so we would not recommend this takes place.

Site name Site reference 115 – Poorhill shelter belt

IBC Ref: W34
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 14680 42380
Area: 1.91 Hectares
Date: 21 March 2013
Recorder: A Looser
Weather conditions: Cold and overcast with sunny intervals 3°C
Ranking: 4
Biodiversity value: Medium

Map:



Photos:



Looking towards Cambridge Drive

Habitat type(s):

Amenity grassland, broadleaved woodland

Subsidiary habitats:

Scrub

Site description:

This site is a thin, linear strip along Girton Way and Cambridge Drive. It is predominantly secondary broadleaved woodland with amenity grassland and a small quantity of scrub.

Protected species:

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Protected species potential:

Bats

BAP habitats present:

-

BAP species seen:

-

BAP species known:

-

BAP species potential:

Bats

Stag Beetles

Connectivity:

The site generally has fairly poor connectivity as it is surrounded by roads and residential housing. However it is part of a network of sites in the area including Chesterton Open Space (Site 76) and Belstead Road Treebelt (Site 59).

Structural diversity:

The site has reasonable structural diversity with amenity grassland, woodland and some scrub.

Flora:

The trees and shrub species in the secondary woodland include oak, silver birch, ash, sycamore, chestnut, hornbeam, hawthorn, blackthorn, hazel, willow, yew, holly, laurel, broom, gorse, cherry and bramble. There is also a large dead pine. The ground flora included dandelion, cleavers, comfrey and ivy. The small area of scrub has bramble, honeysuckle, hawthorn and clematis.

The areas of amenity grassland are composed of rye grass with daisy, dandelion, daffodils, ribwort plantain, clover, yarrow, dove's foot cranesbill, purple dead nettle, dog violet, common field speedwell, nettle, cow parsley and dock.

Avifauna:

The secondary woodland and scrub provides good foraging and nesting opportunities for a range of common bird species. A good range of species were recorded during the visit including blue tit, great tit, blackbird, chaffinch, wren, robin, magpie and wood pigeon.

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. Stag beetles have been recorded nearby so they could be present if there is any subterranean dead wood.

Herpetofauna:

The habitat appears unsuitable for this group. Slow worm are more shade tolerant than other species of reptiles, but it is unlikely that they are present unless they are in very low numbers on less shaded banks.

Mammals:

Common species of mammal such as grey squirrel are likely to use the site. There is also good cover for small mammals such as mice and voles. Bats have been recorded nearby and whilst most of the trees were too young to support bats a few trees were big enough to provide roosting opportunities.

Comments and recommendations:

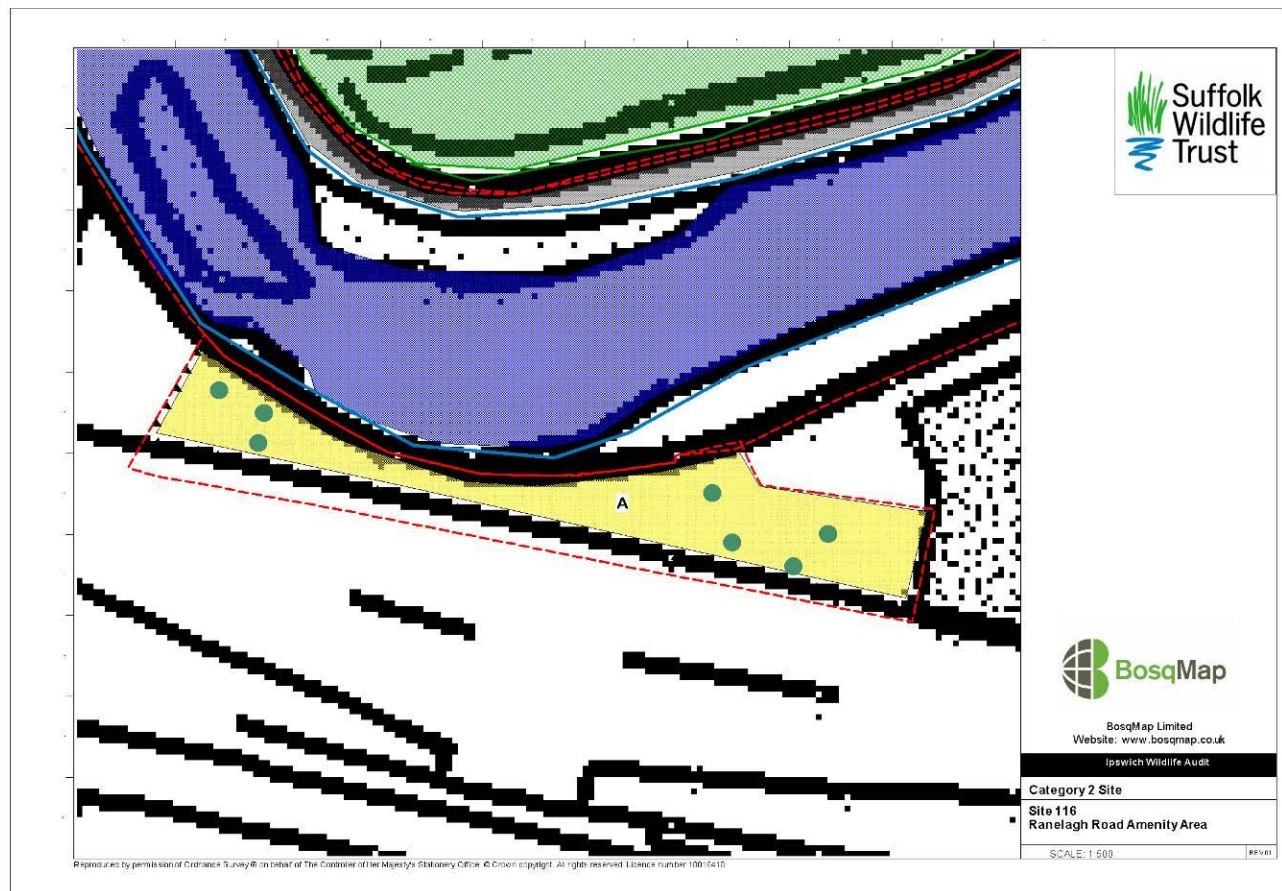
Due to the size and location of this site there are limited options for enhancement. However, if some thinning or coppicing occurred this would let more light in, improving the ground flora and the shrub layer.

Site name

Site reference 116 – Ranelagh Road Amenity Area

IBC Ref:	W82
Site status:	No wildlife designation
Grid ref:	TM 15532 43891
Area:	0.10 hectares
Date:	19 June 2013
Recorder:	A Looser
Weather conditions:	Sunny 24°C
Ranking:	5
Biodiversity value:	Low

Map:



Photos:



Looking north east along site

Habitat type(s):

Amenity grassland

Subsidiary habitats:

Scattered trees

Site description:

This site is a small long thin strip of amenity grassland with scattered trees, between Ranelagh Road and the River Orwell. Some of the trees were ivy covered.

Protected species:

.-

Protected species potential:

-

BAP habitats present:

-

BAP species seen:

-

BAP species known:

-

BAP species potential:

Hedgehogs

Connectivity:

The River Orwell (Site 16) runs adjacent to the site on the northern side which provides some connectivity. Other sites nearby are Gippeswyk Park (Site 88) and Stoke Tunnel Cutting (Site 132).

Structural diversity:

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

Flora:

The majority of the site is short mown amenity grassland. Species in this include rye grass with ribwort plantain, dandelion, daisy, mallow, yarrow, doves foot cranesbill, black medick and white clover.

The tree species planted on the site include a mixture of poplar, ash, rowan, willow, wayfaring tree and oak. There is ivy on several of the trees.

Avifauna:

This site provides limited habitat for a range of common bird species and only wood pigeon and collared dove were seen during the visit. Species such as blackbird may forage in the short grass.

Invertebrates:

The trees and ivy will support some invertebrate species but otherwise there are limited nectar sources and micro-habitats available for this group.

Herpetofauna:

The habitat is unsuitable for this group.

Mammals:

Common species of mammal such as grey squirrel are likely to use the site. However the site provides no cover for small mammals such as mice and voles. The site does provide good foraging habitat for hedgehogs, however there is no habitat for them to hibernate so they are only likely to be present if there is a population in the neighbouring gardens.

Comments and recommendations:

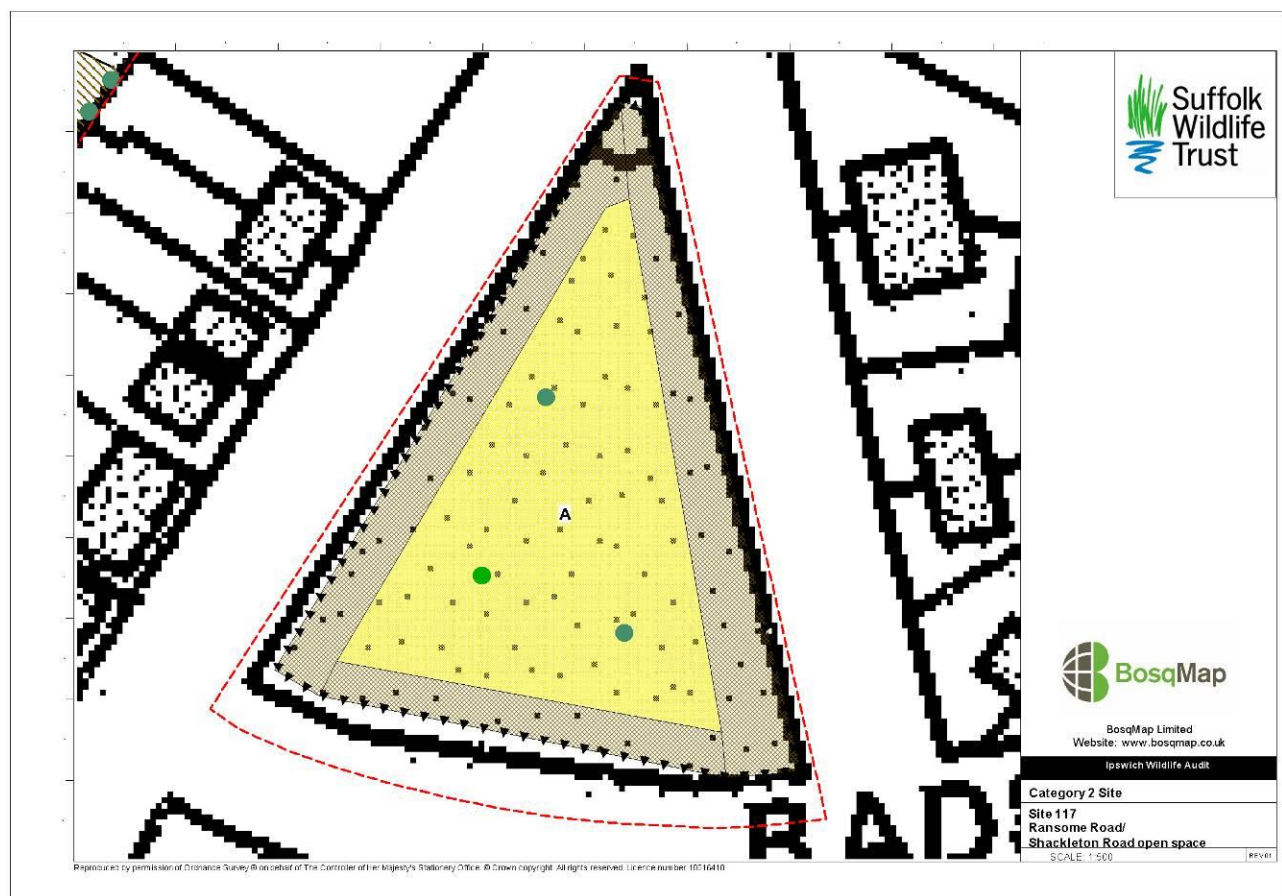
Due to the size and location of the site there are limited opportunities for improvement.

Site name

Site reference 117 – Ransome Road/Shackleton Road Open Space

IBC ref: New
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 18818 43204
Area: 0.32 hectares
Date: 7 September 2012
Recorder: A Looser
Weather conditions: Hot and sunny, 27°C
Ranking: 4
Biodiversity value: Medium

Map:



Photos:



Looking east across site

Habitat type(s):

Amenity grassland

Subsidiary habitats:

Scattered trees, shrubs

Site description:

The site is a small triangle of land just south of Felixstowe Road. It is situated between Shackleton Road, Ransome Road and Badshah Avenue. It is amenity open space but currently not accessible to the general public and is surrounded by secure metal railings. The gates were locked at the time of survey so access was not possible, but the small size of the site and easy viewing from the three roads meant that most areas were visible. The habitat is short mown amenity grassland with a variety of native and non native flowers and shrubs planted around the perimeter with some scattered trees. At the northern point of the triangle, outside of the fence, was a small ornamental rockery.

Protected species:

-

Protected species potential:

-

BAP habitats present:

-

BAP species seen:

-

BAP species known:

-

BAP species potential:

Hedgehog, stag beetle

Connectivity:

It is a small triangle of land completely surrounded by roads and residential housing so connectivity is poor. Garrods Pond (Site 87) lies 50m to the west, behind housing on Ransome Road. St Clements golf course (Site 130) is approximately 300m to the north-east, beyond roads, housing and the railway).

Structural diversity:

The site consists of short mown grass with flower beds, shrubs and scattered tall trees which provides some structural diversity in an otherwise built-up area.

Flora:

The central part of the site consisted of short mown amenity grassland with yarrow, cat's-ear, ornamental St Johns wort, prickly lettuce, mallow, willow herb spp, ivy, hedge bindweed and black nightshade.

Surrounding the grassy area are ornamental borders with a variety of native and non native trees and shrubs, some of which had been coppiced, including elm, prunus, snowberry, cotoneaster, mahonia, poplar, pine, lime, holly, broom, dogwood, rowan, hazel, variegated laurel and larch.

Avifauna:

The season when the survey took place was sub-optimal for recording this group. Magpie and crow were both observed foraging in the garden. Other common bird species are also likely to be present as the site provides foraging, roosting and nesting opportunities.

Invertebrates:

A large white butterfly was seen during the visit. It is likely to support a range of butterfly and bee species during the year. There was some standing dead wood in the garden which is good for a variety of invertebrate species. Stag beetle larvae may be present if there is subterranean dead wood.

Herpetofauna:

This site was not thought to be suitable for this group due to its small size and lack of connectivity.

Mammals:

Locally 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. Hedgehogs may forage on the site by squeezing through the fence and the low growing shrubs also provides habitat for their hibernation nests.

Comments and recommendations:

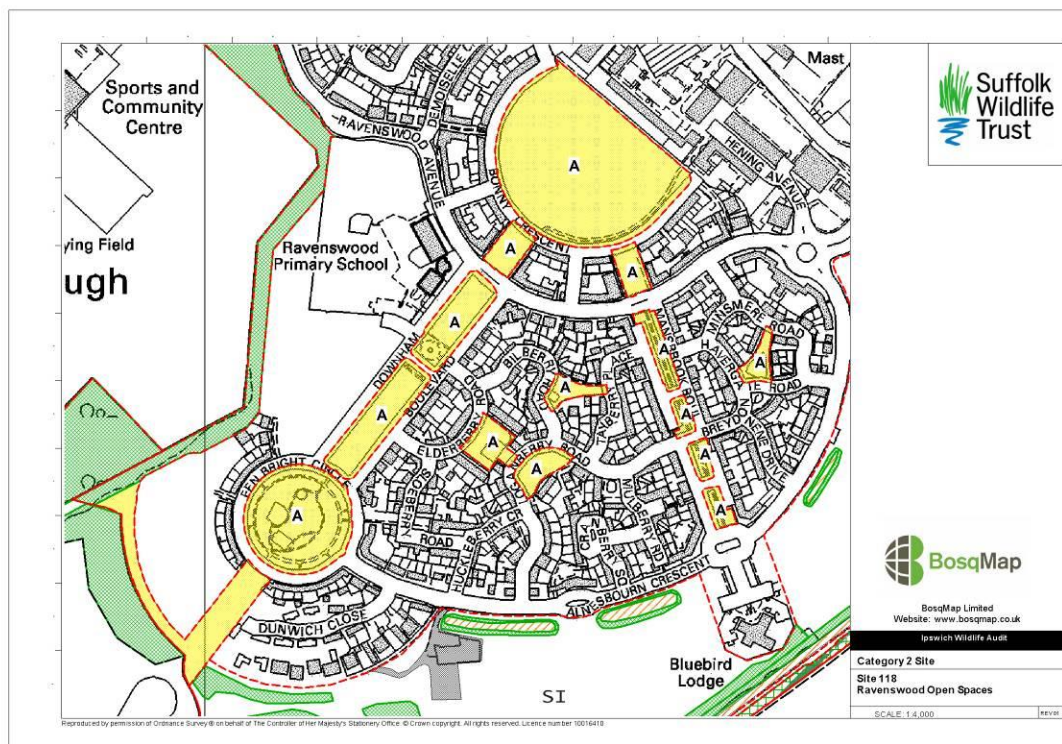
Consideration could be given to future planting that maximises insect-friendly flowering species and

berry producing shrubs for birds. A stag beetle 'pyramid' could be constructed by burying logs vertically in the ground to a depth of 30-45 cm in a partially shady corner.

Site name: **Site reference - 118 Ravenswood Open Spaces**

IBC ref: New
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 19190 41623
Area: 10.3 hectares
Date: 28 July 2012
Recorder: M Wright
Weather conditions: Warm and sunny, light westerly breeze
Ranking: 3
Conservation value: Medium

Map:



Photos:



The large area of amenity grassland adjacent to Bonny Crescent and the formal and informal thoroughfare of Downham Boulevard to and including the play area at Fen Bright Circle.

The woodland along Ravenswood Avenue

The wildlife area by Martinet Green



Open space by Loganberry Road



The formal thoroughfare of Mansbrook Boulevard



The start of the woodland ride fringing the Gainsborough sports field

Habitat type(s);

Woodland, scrub, amenity grassland, herb rich grassland with remnants of acid grassland

Subsidiary habitats:

-

Site description:

Ravenswood open spaces are made up of seven areas and each area varies from amenity to herb rich grassland, formal areas, woodland and wildlife areas.

- Site 1. The large area of amenity grassland adjacent to Bonny Crescent
- Site 2. The formal and informal thoroughfare of Downham Boulevard to and including the play area at Fen Bright Circle
- Site 3. The mown footpath around the circular built area and woodland ride fringing the Gainsborough sports field
- Site 4. The wooded area along Ravenswood Avenue
- Site 5. The wildlife area by Martinet Green
- Site 6. Open spaces by Loganberry, Bilberry and Minsmere Roads
- Site 7. The formal thoroughfare of Mansbrook Boulevard

Site 1. Lying adjacent to Bonny Crescent is a large circular area of short mown amenity grassland with a single area of herb rich grassland and scrub.

Site 2. The formal and informal thoroughfare of Downham Boulevard to the play area of Fen Bright Circle comprise formal areas of short grass, managed hedges, a lime avenue to a combination of shallow depressions of herb rich grassland with surrounding mown areas. Interspersed throughout the thoroughfare are large sculptures. Surrounding the circular play area there is another very good mosaic of shrubs, mown grassland and herb rich grassland.

Site 3. This site comprises the mown footpath around the circular built area and woodland ride fringing the Gainsborough sports field. Much of this site is short mown grassland with a consolidated footpath before meandering into a woodland ride. There is a good mixture of trees and shrubs.

Site 4. The wooded area along Ravenswood Avenue is of excellent wildlife value. The area comprises a tree belt, which included mountain ash, silver birch, oak and sweet chestnut. The trees were associated with a mosaic of dense scrub of bramble, hawthorn and gorse, with open areas of herb rich rough grassland. There was also a footpath through the site.

Site 5. The wildlife area by Martinet Green is excellent habitat. The wildlife area has been created around and within a depression where there is herb rich grassland with good quality shrub habitat and trees. Surrounding the area was mown grassland.

Site 6. The small open spaces by Logan Berry, Bilberry and Minsmere roads are depressions in the ground with herb rich grassland and a few shrubs surrounded by mown grassland, or just short mown grassland with play areas.

Site 7. The formal thoroughfare of Mansbrook Boulevard contains an avenue of lime trees, non-native shrubs and mown grassland.

Protected species:

Slow worm, common lizard, grass snake

Protected species potential:

Bats

BAP habitats present:

Remnants of acid grassland

BAP species seen:

House sparrow

BAP species known:

Slow worm, common lizard, grass snake, linnet

BAP species potential:

Hedgehog, bats, dunnoek, song thrush and small heath and grayling butterflies.

Connectivity:

Ravenswood open spaces in conjunction with other former airfield sites are all of high wildlife value and make an excellent contribution to the wildlife corridors that link the wider countryside with the major wildlife areas of the Orwell Country Park and Orwell Estuary corridor.

Structural diversity:

The structural diversity of the Ravenswood open spaces is excellent, with their mosaic of scrub, trees, tall grasses and herbs as well as herb rich swards.

Flora:

Plants observed for all the sites include bird's-foot-trefoil, black horehound, black knapweed, black medick, bristly oxtongue, broad-leaved dock, buckshorn plantain, Canadian fleabane, cat's-ear, common broomrape, common centaury, common nettle, common mouse-ear, common poppy, common ragwort, common sorrel, common storksbill, common vetch, creeping thistle, curled dock, daisy, dandelion, dittander (nationally scarce), dove's-foot crane's-bill, dwarf mallow, fat-hen, field pansy, goat's-beard, great lettuce, great mullein, groundsel, field bindweed, hairbell, hairy tare, hare's-foot clover, hedge bindweed, hedge mustard, hedgerow crane's-bill, hemlock, hogweed, hop trefoil, ivy, knotgrass, lady's bedstraw, lesser stitchwort, mallow, mugwort, ox-eye daisy, perforate St. John's wort, red campion, red clover, ribwort plantain, rosebay willowherb, rough poppy, rough sow-thistle, smooth sow-thistle, scarlet pimpernel, self heal, sheep's sorrel, smooth hawksbeard, smooth tare, spear thistle, vipers bugloss, weld, wild carrot, wild parsnip, wild radish, white campion, white clover and yarrow.

Sedges and grasses include annual meadow grass, cocksfoot, common bent, creeping bent, false fox sedge, false oat-grass, red fescue, rye grass, smaller cat's tail, squirrel-tail fescue, sweet vernal, and Yorkshire fog.

Trees and shrubs include blackthorn, bramble, broom, buddleia, Corsican pine, dog rose, elder, field maple, gorse, hawthorn, holly, oak, holm oak, lime, laurel, mountain ash, poplar, silver birch, Scot's pine, sweet chestnut and willow spp.

In addition to the above there were formal areas that contained a variety of non-native shrubs and trees.

Avifauna:

Although the season when the survey took place was sub-optimal for recording this group observations included blackbird, carrion crow, chiffchaff, collared dove, chaffinch, goldfinch, goldcrest, house sparrow, pied wagtail, jay, wood pigeon and sparrowhawk.

It is also known that at least two pairs of Black Redstarts (very rare breeding bird in Suffolk) breed in this area, nesting on suitable ledges of the built environment and feeding in the open spaces especially near the play area.

Invertebrates:

Given the quality and variety of habitats the site will be supporting a wide variety of invertebrates. Observations included gatekeeper, meadow brown, red admiral, small skipper, small white, speckled wood and ringlet. There is the potential for small heath and grayling butterflies.

There were also six spot burnet moths seen and throughout the site there were anthills.

Herpetofauna:

No species were seen during the site visit, however slow worm and common lizard are known to occur, grass snake are also known to be present in small numbers.

Mammals:

Although no species were seen during the site visit the habitat is ideal for small mammals such as field vole; also the site is likely to be used by rabbit, muntjac and fox. These areas will provide foraging habitat for various species of bats.

Comments and recommendations:

It is recommended that the current mowing regimes be continued as they are providing a very balanced mosaic of grassland swards and maintaining species diversity. It is also recommended that the herb rich area in the woodland belt and depressions of the open spaces receive an autumn cut with the clippings removed. This type of cutting regime should prevent scrub from colonizing the whole area and it will maintain the habitat mosaic and species richness.

It is also highly recommended that there is a strategy for managing the wildlife areas through implementation of a long-term management plan.

Site name

Site reference 119 – Redhouse Park

IBC Ref: New
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 17294 46216
Area: 0.40 hectares
Date: 15 July 2013
Recorder: A Looser
Weather conditions: Hot and Sunny 28°C
Ranking: 5
Biodiversity value: Low

Map:



Photos:



Looking south along site

Habitat type(s):

Amenity grassland, scattered trees, species poor hedge

Subsidiary habitats:

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Site description:

This site is a small rectangle of amenity grassland with scattered trees around the edges, and bordered by a species poor hedge. It sits between Valley Road and Chelsworth Avenue.

Protected species:

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Protected species potential:

Bats

BAP habitats present:

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BAP species seen:

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BAP species known:

Hedgehog (1995)

BAP species potential:

Bats

Connectivity:

The site has very poor connectivity as it is surrounded by roads and residential housing.

Structural diversity:

The site has fairly poor structural diversity with only amenity grassland and trees, although the hedgerow provides some structural diversity.

Flora:

The majority of the site is short mown amenity grassland. Species in this include rye grass with ribwort plantain, greater plantain, dandelion, daisy, self heal and white clover.

The trees around the edge are all mature lime trees, with a few young cherry trees planted either side of the central path.

The hedgerow round the borders of the site is dominated by holly with occasional bramble, dog rose, privet, yew, sycamore and elder.

Avifauna:

This site provides limited habitat for a range of common bird species and only blackbird was seen during the visit. The hedgerow will provide some foraging and nesting opportunities for common bird species.

Invertebrates:

This site provides only limited nectar sources for butterflies and only small white butterflies were observed during the visit.

Herpetofauna:

The habitat is unsuitable for this group.

Mammals:

Common species of mammal such as grey squirrel are likely to use the site. However the site is isolated and provides no cover for small mammals such as mice and voles. There is an old (1995) record of hedgehog and whilst this site does provide good foraging habitat, there are limited nesting opportunities and they will be dependent on moving within and between neighbouring gardens. The mature lime trees provide some cracks and crevices which are suitable for bats to roost in.

Comments and recommendations:

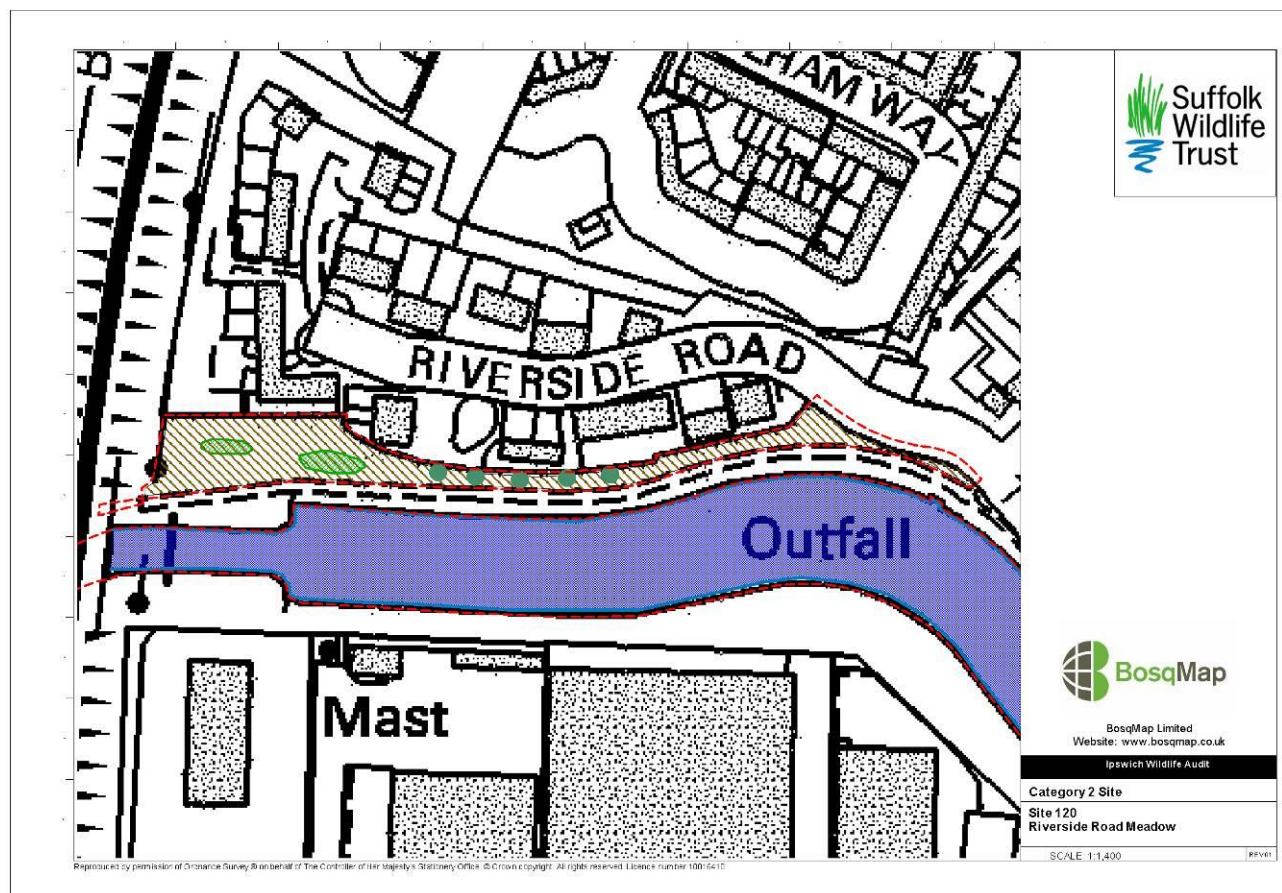
The hedgerow around the boundary of the site appears to be cut each year. It is recommended that this is undertaken on rotation, with a winter cut every three-four years of different sections to improve the habitat available for birds.

Site name

Site reference 120 – Riverside Road Meadow

IBC Ref: W59
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 14496 45266
Area: 0.28 hectares
Date: 19 June 2013
Recorder: A Looser
Weather conditions: Sunny, 24°C
Ranking: 4
Biodiversity value: Medium

Map:



Photos:



Tall grassland/ ruderal with scrub mosaic

Habitat type(s):

Tall ruderal, scrub, scattered trees

Subsidiary habitats:

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Site description:

This site is a small area of grasses and tall ruderal species with occasional scrub between the houses on Riverside Road and the path along the River Gipping. There are occasional scattered willow trees. The site currently does not appear to be being managed.

Protected species:

Slow worm (unreported record 2009)

Protected species potential:

BAP habitats present:

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BAP species seen:

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BAP species known:

Slow worm (unreported record 2009)

BAP species potential:

Hedgehog

Connectivity:

As this site is adjacent to the River Gipping (CWS Site 15) and also borders the railway line on its western boundary, it has excellent connectivity.

Structural diversity:

The opportunities are limited on a small site such as this. However, there is a small amount of bramble scrub and trees so structural diversity is reasonable.

Flora:

There is a good floral diversity on this site with wall barley, cocksfoot, false oat, and barren brome grass with mallow, nettle, dandelion, ribwort plantain, doves foot crane's bill, mugwort, red valerian, cow parsley, curled dock, hops, creeping thistle, spear thistle, white campion, ragwort, red clover, creeping cinquefoil, field bindweed, goat's beard, tansy, bush vetch, horse radish and dittander (a nationally scarce plant).

The scrub was composed of bramble and dog rose with occasional willow trees.

Avifauna:

The small area of scrub on the site provides limited foraging, roosting and nesting opportunities for a range of common bird species and blackbird and blue tit were observed during the visit.

Invertebrates:

There is a good diversity of plant species on this site which provide good nectar sources for butterflies so there are likely to be a range of common species throughout the year. Small white butterflies were seen during the visit as well as banded demoiselles.

Herpetofauna:

Due to the location of this site between the river and the railway line it is likely there will be a small population of reptiles present, particularly slow worm. A slow worm was seen on the edge of this site in 2009, during an advisory visit to a local community group (Simone Bullion pers. comm.).

Mammals:

Although the site is small it is well connected and has plenty of long grass which provides good habitat for a range of small mammals including mice, voles and shrews. Hedgehogs may be present in this areas and the adjacent river corridor will be used by bats, so they may forage over the site.

Comments and recommendations:

The site would benefit from some management, but at a time of year that would not impact on reptiles. It is recommended that areas are managed on rotation in late autumn and the cuttings removed to prevent nutrient enrichment and smothering of the sward. This will provide rough grass areas for reptiles without it scrubbing up completely.