Site name — Site reference 71 – Ipswich Cemetery

IBC Ref: W27
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 17386 45637
Area: 24.6 hectares
Date: 8 August 2013
Recorder: A Looser
Weather conditions: Sunny 23°C
Ranking: 4
Biodiversity value: Medium

Map:

Photos:

Looking south across site

Rough grass margins

Habitat type(s):

Semi-improved, dry grassland

Subsidiary habitats:
Scattered trees
Species poor hedgerow

Site description:
The Ipswich cemetery is divided into three sections subdivided by roads, although the habitats are similar in all areas. It is dominated by close-mown semi-improved dry grassland and scattered trees, with occasional areas of longer grass round the edges. On the sloping ground to the south is the occasional patch of sheep's sorrel, indicating more acid soil (Target Note). There are a number of species poor hedgerows throughout the site. The railway line runs along the eastern edge of the cemetery which has a wooded slope. There is a small section of dry ditch at the northern end of the Old Cemetery along the railway line.

Protected species:
Slow worm (2011)

Protected species potential:
Common lizard

BAP habitats present:
-
BAP species seen:
-
BAP species known:
Slow worm (2011)

BAP species potential:
Common lizard
Stag beetle
Hedgehog

Connectivity:
This large site is part of a cluster of sites in this area. The railway line runs along its eastern boundary which provides a good corridor for a range of wildlife. This site is adjacent to Cemetery Cutting (slow worm site) (Site 72), Hayhill Allotments (new open space) (Site 93) and Tuddenham Road Tree Belt (Site 134).

Structural diversity:
The site has fairly limited structural diversity with mostly close mown grassland and scattered trees. However the boundary with the railway line and the hedgerows does provide some structural diversity.

Flora:
The majority of the site is short-mown dry grassland with abundant herbs, including common cat's ear, clover, ribwort plantain, dandelion, mouse ear hawkweed, black medick, creeping buttercup, daisy, yarrow and creeping cinquefoil. Where the land slopes to the south, sheep sorrel is also present within these very dry areas, indicating more acidic soils.

In contrast, some areas of longer grass have a different mix in the sward, including rye grass, false oat, Yorkshire fog and sweet vernal grass with hedge bindweed, red dead nettle, yarrow, black knapweed, lady's bedstraw and crosswort. Lords and ladies were noted under shaded edges.

The scattered trees contained a good mixture of species including yew, sycamore, holly, silver birch, London plane, scots pine, hornbeam, ash, hawthorn, beech, lime, walnut, horse chestnut, larch, rowan with exotics such as monkey puzzle tree, copper beech, and leylandii.

The tree belt along the railway line also contains a good mixture of trees and shrubs including sycamore, hawthorn, holly, bramble, dog rose, blackthorn, horse chestnut, field maple, walnut, oak, lime, ash, elder, holm oak, beech, snowberry and cotoneaster scrub.

There are a variety of short sections of species poor hedgerows on site containing between them a mixture of beech, privet, holly, elm, yew and laurel.

Avifauna:
The site visit took place at a sub-optimal time fo year for recording this group. With the exception of the railway line boundary, this site provides limited nesting opportunities for birds. However the grassland and scattered trees will support foraging and roosting habitat for common bird species. Only magpie, robin and blackbird were seen during the visit.

Invertebrates:
Although this site is dominated by short-mown grassland it is still quite floristically diverse with a high abundance of the daisy family providing good nectar sources for a range of invertebrates. Small white, speckled wood and small copper butterflies were observed during the visit and other species are likely to be present during the year. Stag beetles have been recorded in the area and could be present along the railway line corridor if there is any subterranean dead wood for their larvae.

Herpetofauna:
Most of the habitat is unsuitable for this group but large numbers of slow worms were released adjacent to the cemetery. A survey in 2011 recorded two immature individuals on the eastern bank of the cemetery. Common lizard may also be present, due to the proximity of the railway line and these were recorded on the adjacent site to the south (Site 72).

Mammals:
Common species of mammal such as grey squirrel will be resident on the site. A number of large rabbit holes were observed on the bank of the railway line on the periphery of the site. The majority of this site provides no cover for small mammals such as mice and voles, although there may be small numbers in the longer grass areas around the edges of the site and on the edge of the railway line. Bats are likely to use the railway line as a corridor although none of the standard trees on site were considered suitable for roosting sites. Some of the sheltered areas between the trees could provide good foraging habitat for bats. The habitat provides good foraging for hedgehogs and the railway boundary is suitable for nest building, so this could be an important site for this declining species.

Comments and recommendations:
Due to the nature of the site there are limited options for enhancement. However increasing the areas of longer grass will improve the floristic diversity of the site as well as improving the habitat for butterflies. Such areas should be managed on rotation, so that each winter there is always a refuge area left for invertebrates. This would also benefit the reptile community present in the local area as well as

hedgehogs.

References

Survey Report and Future Habitat Management Advice for Old Cemetery and Adjacent Hayhill Release Site (2011) Sudbury Ecological Field Services

Site name — Site reference 72 – Cemetery Cutting (Hayhill Slow Worm Site)

IBC Ref: W55
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 17457 45362
Area: 0.56 hectares
Date: 20 August 2013
Recorder: A Looser & S Bullion
Weather conditions: Sunny 29°C
Ranking: 4
Biodiversity value: Medium

Map:

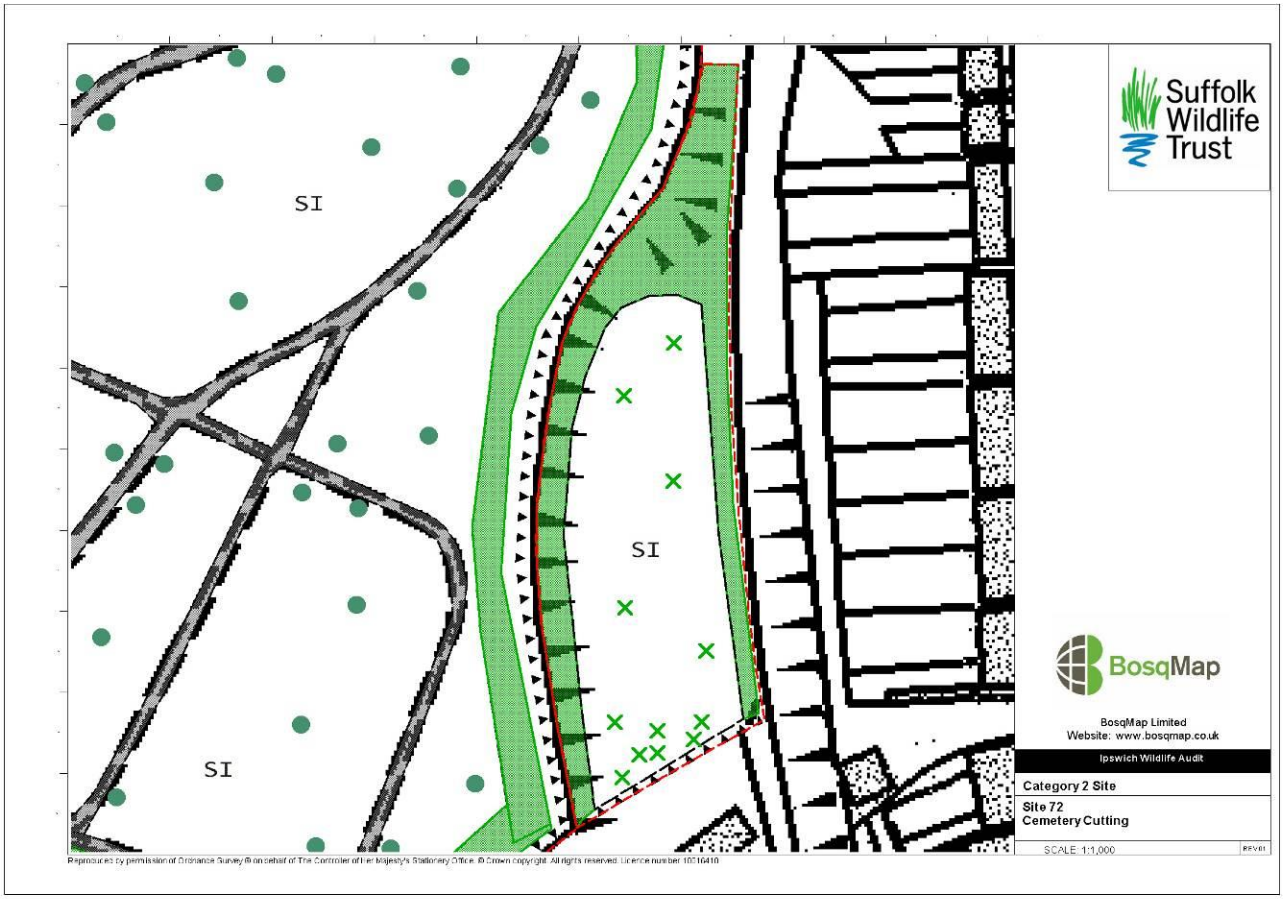


Photo:

Looking north towards boundary with cemetery

Habitat type(s):
Poor semi-improved grassland, scrub

Subsidiary habitats:
-

Site description:
This is a small site situated between the cemetery and the railway line. There is a steep wooded bank along the cemetery side. The site is poor semi-improved grassland with scattered scrub. Currently there is no public access to the site as there is Herras fencing along the southern boundary.

Protected species:
Slow worm

Protected species potential:
-

BAP habitats present:
-

BAP species seen:
-

BAP species known:
Slow worm

BAP species potential:
Hedgehog

Connectivity:
The site has excellent connectivity as it is part of a cluster of sites in this area and is adjacent to the railway line, which runs along its eastern boundary which provides a good corridor for a range of wildlife. This site is adjacent to the cemetery (Site 71) and Hayhill Allotments (new open space) (Site 93).

Structural diversity:
There is reasonable structural diversity, particularly along the margins

Flora:
The majority of the site is poor semi-improved grassland including cock's foot and false oat grass with nettle, goldenrod, soapwort, black horehound, white campion, spear thistle and bramble.

The trees and shrubs round the edges of the site include sycamore, elder, willow, beech, oak and ash.

Avifauna:
The wooded edges provide some roosting and nesting opportunities for birds.

Invertebrates:
This site is likely to be good for invertebrates. Meadow brown butterflies were seen during the visit. The long grass also provides good habitat for a range of other invertebrates and snails, crickets and spiders were all seen.

Herpetofauna:
A large number of slow worms have been translocated onto this site from a nearby development. However there appears to have been very little management of this site so the habitat is scrubbing up and becoming less suitable for them.

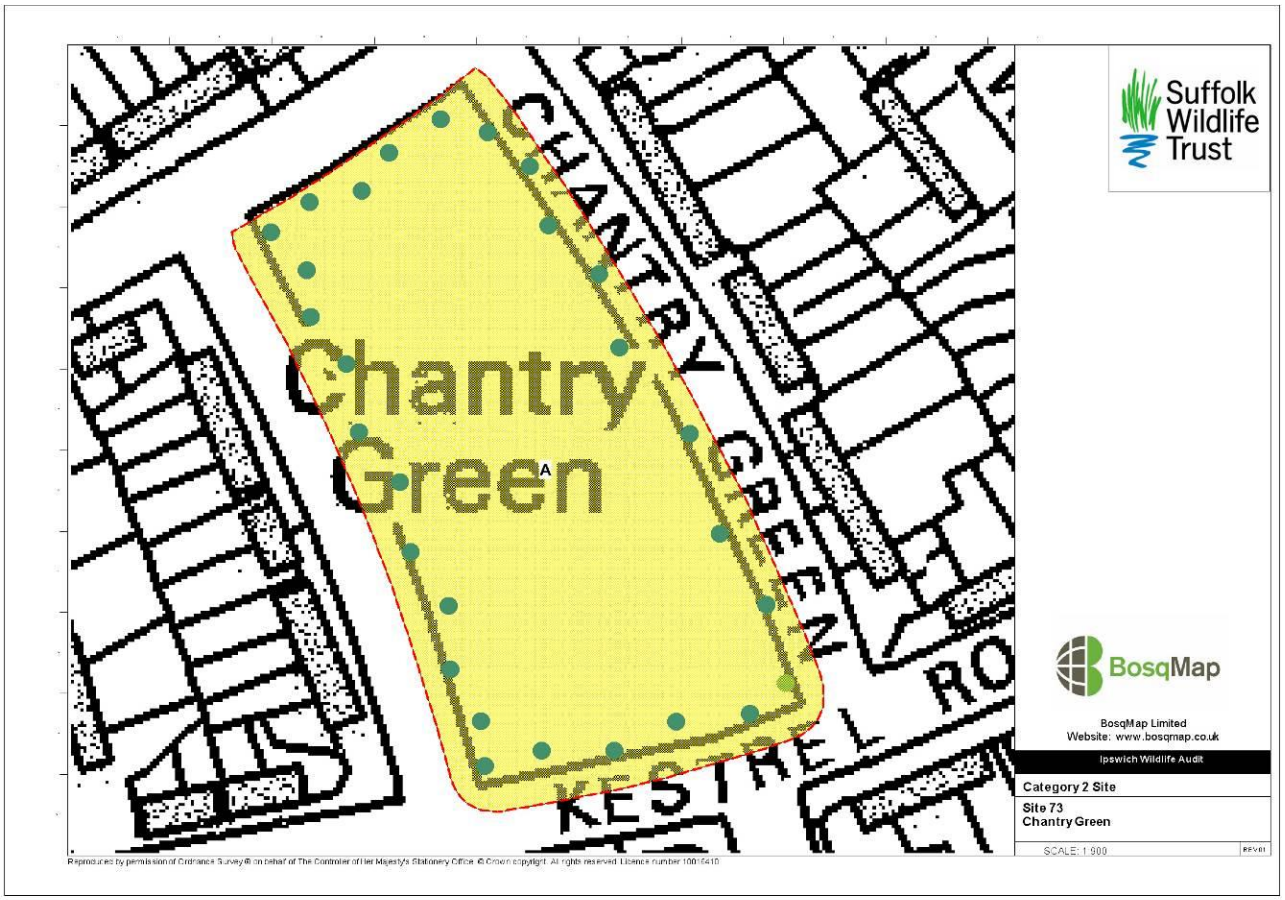
Mammals:
Common species of mammal such as grey squirrel are likely to use the site. The site provides good habitat for a range of small mammal species such as mice, voles and shrews. The site does provide good habitat for hedgehogs so they could be present.

Comments and recommendations:
This site needs active management to prevent it scrubbing over and maintain a good grassland mosaic which is suitable for supporting the reptile population which has been placed there. Without this management the site will eventually become unsuitable for reptiles and the local population will inevitably be reduced.

Site name — Site reference 73 – Chantry Green

IBC Ref: New
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 13794 43222
Area: 0.97 hectares
Date: 27 March 2013 and 15 June 2013
Recorder: A Looser
Weather conditions: Cold and overcast 2^{o}C
Ranking: 5
Biodiversity value: Low

Map:



Photos:

Looking north east along site

Habitat type(s):
Amenity grassland with boundary scattered trees

Subsidiary habitats:
-

Site description:
This site is a small rectangle of amenity grassland with scattered trees around the edges, along Chantry Green.

Protected species:
.-

Protected species potential:
-

BAP habitats present:
-

BAP species seen:
-

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 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, white clover, yarrow, dove's foot cranesbill, spotted medick and common mouse ear.

There is a good mix of tree species planted round the edge including hawthorn, norway maple, poplar, cherry, ash, sweet chestnut, beech, silver birch, hornbeam, sycamore, turkey oak, lime, viburnum and rowan.

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 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 are likely to use the site. However the site is isolated and provides no cover for small mammals such as mice and voles. Whilst the site does provide some foraging habitat for hedgehogs, there is no habitat for them to hibernate on site, so if present in the area they will be reliant on being able to move within and between the neighboring gardens to reach this resource.

Comments and recommendations:
Leaving areas of longer grass, particularly around the edges of the site would provide additional foraging opportunities for birds and nectar sources for invertebrates.

Site name — Site reference 74 – Chantry Park (outside CWS)

IBC Ref: New
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 13912 44048
Area: 39.53 hectares
Date: 22 June 2013 and 1 July 2013
Recorder: S Bullion
Weather conditions: Warm with sunny intervals 22°C
Ranking: 2
Biodiversity value: High

Map:

Photos:

Looking north east along site

View westwards across un-mown areas

Shaded pond to west

Ornamental pond east of The Chantry

Standing dead wood fenced off to allow for its retention

Habitat type(s):

Broadleaf woodland, scrub, rough grassland, short mown grassland, lake, tall ruderals

Subsidiary habitats:
Mature and veteran trees within the parkland, pond, standing dead wood

Site description:
The overall park, when combined with the CWS to the west, amounts to over 50 hectares. The centre of the park is dominated by the historic building of The Chantry and its surrounding formal gardens. West of the house is an area used as a horticultural nursery. On the eastern edge of these gardens is a large lake surrounded by a belt of woodland. Much of the park is close mown amenity grassland, but large tracts of grassland have been left uncut to flower interspersed by veteran oak trees and mature ornamental trees. The northern boundary borders the Hadleigh Road and there is a thick tree belt on both this edge of the park and the eastern boundary where it borders a residential area. On the eastern boundary, adjacent to housing on Milden Road, there is a heavily shaded pond. The north-west corner of the site includes an overgrown area of tall ruderals west of the car park. There is also an area of rank grassland with a ditch running through it (currently dry).

Protected species:
Grass snake, slow worm and common lizard (2011)
Bats (noctule, common pipistrelle and brown long eared bat) (2005)

Protected species potential:

BAP habitats present:
Eutrophic standing water
Wood pasture and parkland

BAP species seen:

BAP species known:
Slow worm, grass snake and common lizard (2011)
Dunnock, Song thrush, Starling, Lesser Redpoll (2013)
Noctule bat and brown long eared bat, common pipistrelle bat (2005)
Stag beetle (2011)
Hedgehog (2011)

BAP species potential:
Common toad

Connectivity:
The site is situated on the south-western edge of Ipswich and forms the eastern, non CWS component of the overall area known as Chantry Park. Via the adjacent CWS the park is adjacent to farmland and is connected via the hedgerow network.

Structural diversity:
Structural diversity is excellent with a mixture of short and rough grassland with scattered parkland trees, woodland, scrub and two water bodies.

Flora:
In the rough grassland a range of grasses are present: Yorkshire fog, false oat, yellow oat grass, cock's foot, rough meadow grass, sweet vernal grass, meadow foxtail, meadow fescue, perennial rye grass and

also wall barley in shaded areas beneath the trees. Herbs include meadow and creeping buttercup, ribwort plantain, white clover, yarrow, germander speedwell, lesser stitchwort, black knapweed, greater knapweed, common sorrel, ragwort, bird's foot trefoil, common cat's ear and smooth hawk's beard. Pignut is also present in rough grassland in the south-east (Target Note).

There are a wide range of very large specimen and parkland trees, including cedar, Scot's pine, beech and veteran oaks.

The tree belt along Hadleigh Road includes ash, Scot's pine, beech, maple species, lime, oak with a bramble understorey. Along the eastern boundary a double line of oaks form a shady avenue, with ash, field maple and hazel forming a shrub layer with occasional elm, holly and sweet chestnut. Cow parsley is a common spring flower in this area.

The central eastern boundary and surrounding the pond is more scrubby, with elm, field maple, snow berry, guelder rose, hazel, sycamore, holly and cherry. The ground flora in this area is poor and dominated by nettles, cow parsley and ivy with rough meadow grass and burdock. A large bank of bramble in the south-eastern edge improves structural diversity and will provide very good habitats for birds and invertebrates.

The pond is very shaded by crack willow and rhodendron. Pendulous sedge, soft rush and brook lime were recorded and duckweed was abundant over the water surface.

A central belt of woodland in the south-east included a mix of sweet chestnut, beech, oak, pines and a copper beech, with a belt of pines nearer the road.

In the north-western corner is an area of rank grassland with a drain running through (currently dry). False oat grass dominates, with Yorkshire fog, nettle, cow parsley and docks, with occasional tansy and white campion.

Avifauna:

This site is good for birds and there is a separate breeding bird report for Chantry Park. BAP species seen in 2013 include dunnock, song thrush, starling and lesser redpoll. Other birds recorded breeding on site include mallard, moorhen, stock dove, wood pigeon, collared dove, tawny owl, green and greater spotted woodpecker, robin, mistle thrush, blackbird, blackcap, whitethroat, chiffchaff, goldcrest, wren, great, coal, blue and long tailed tit, treecreeper, magpie, jay, carrion crow, chaffinch, goldfinch and greenfinch.

Invertebrates:

The woodland/grassland mosaic will be important for a wide range of invertebrates. Ant hills are present within parts of the un-mown grassland. There is fallen and standing deadwood within the park providing excellent opportunities for saprophytic invertebrates, including stag beetle.

Few butterflies were recorded but it started as a poor year for this group. Speckled wood was seen.

The pond was dipped with a net and was found to be poor in its diversity of pond life. Pond snails, freshwater shrimp, mayfly nymph, bloodworm and beetles were recorded in low numbers, although there was a reasonable amount of plankton (water fleas).

Herpetofauna:

A previous survey in 2011 recorded a very high population of grass snake as well as smaller numbers of slow worm and common lizard. The small pond is heavily shaded and the lack of emergent and submerged vegetation creates a lack of egg-laying opportunities for newts. Frogs and toads may still be able to spawn. Similarly the lake, with its large numbers of ducks, provides poor habitat for newts but may support other amphibians.

Mammals:

The site will support common mammals such as muntjac deer, grey squirrel, rabbit, mole, fox and various small mammals. The habitat is suitable for hedgehog and may be an important site for this declining mammal. The very large mature and veteran trees within the park offer superb roosting opportunities for bats. Three species of bat have been recorded in bat detector surveys.

Comments and recommendations:

This part of the park is of high wildlife value and it is recommended that a proposal to amend the boundary of the adjacent County Wildlife Site to include the remainder of the park is put before the County Wildlife Site panel.

The pond needs a considerable amount of tree removal on the western and southern sides to allow sunlight to penetrate. This will allow the growth of emergent and submerged vegetation and improve the appearance of this water body as well as increasing the biodiversity it can support.

The large tracts of un-mown grassland are extremely valuable for invertebrates. Mowing of such areas should be on rotation, to ensure that there are always tussocky areas remaining as an overwintering refuge for invertebrates.

As hedgehogs are known to be present the presence of a rough grass/short grass mosaic combined with woodland is ideal for this species. Similarly, leaving some areas of grass to grow on to become more tussocky will be beneficial, but care needs to be taken during any episodes of cutting. Late autumn/winter cutting of these areas will avoid animals being injured as they are more likely to hibernate under brambles or in woodland where there are fallen leaves from trees for them to construct their winter nests.

From a floristic point of view, the removal of cuttings is always advised to promote a species-rich sward and to encourage less competitive plant species.

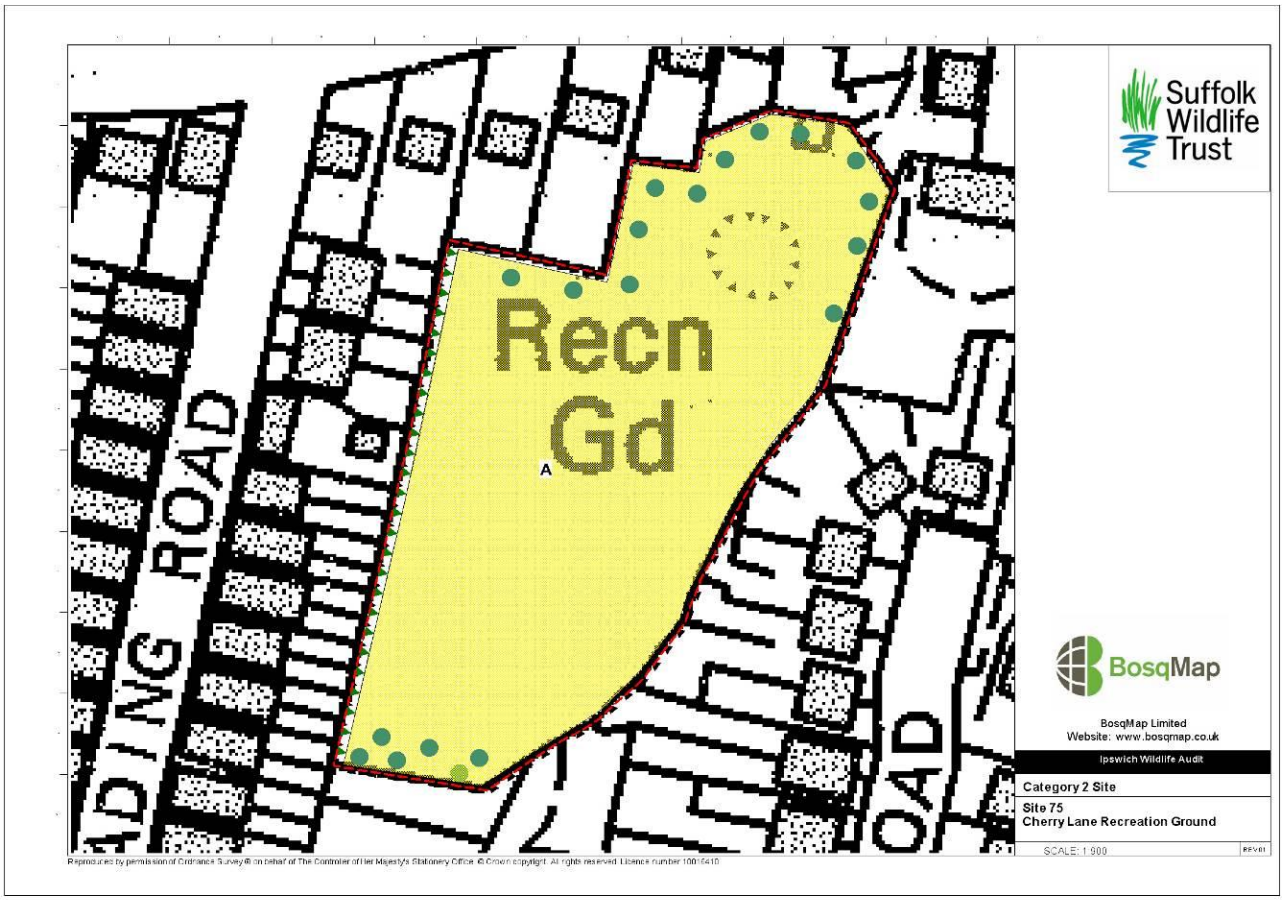
References:

G.Millins and M.Woolnough. Chantry Park reptile survey (2011)
Breeding Bird Survey of Chantry Park, Ipswich (2013) SWT Trading Ltd

Site name — Site reference 75 – Cherry Lane Recreation Ground

IBC Ref: New
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 18712 45256
Area: 0.85 hectares
Date: 15 May 2013
Recorder: A Looser
Weather conditions: Cloudy with sunny intervals 12°C
Ranking: 5
Biodiversity value: Low

Map:



Photos:

View across site

Habitat type(s):
Amenity grassland

Subsidiary habitats:
Scattered trees
Species rich hedgerow

Site description:
This site is a small recreation ground situated along Cherry Lane. The site is amenity grassland with scattered trees, with a gappy hedgerow along the western boundary bordering the back gardens. There is a small play area at the northern end of the site and the overall site is fenced all around.

Protected species:
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Protected species potential:
-
BAP habitats present:
-
BAP species seen:
-
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, 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, clover, yarrow, dove's foot cranesbill and common mouse ear. In the areas around the edges which are left slightly longer there is also green alkanet, honesty and mallow.

The scattered trees are a mixture of eucalyptus, cherry, chestnut, silver birch, ash, hornbeam and Norwegian maple. One of the trees had mistletoe growing.

The hedgerow along the western boundary contained sycamore, elder, buddleia, ash, oak, hawthorn, dogwood, snowberry, laurel, cherry and honeysuckle.

Avifauna:

This site provides limited habitat for a range of common bird species and only blackbird was observed during the visit.

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. Species such as buddleia will attract a small number of common butterflies during the year.

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. The site does provide good foraging habitat for hedgehogs, but the fence surrounding the site is too secure to allow hedgehogs to move into and out of the site.

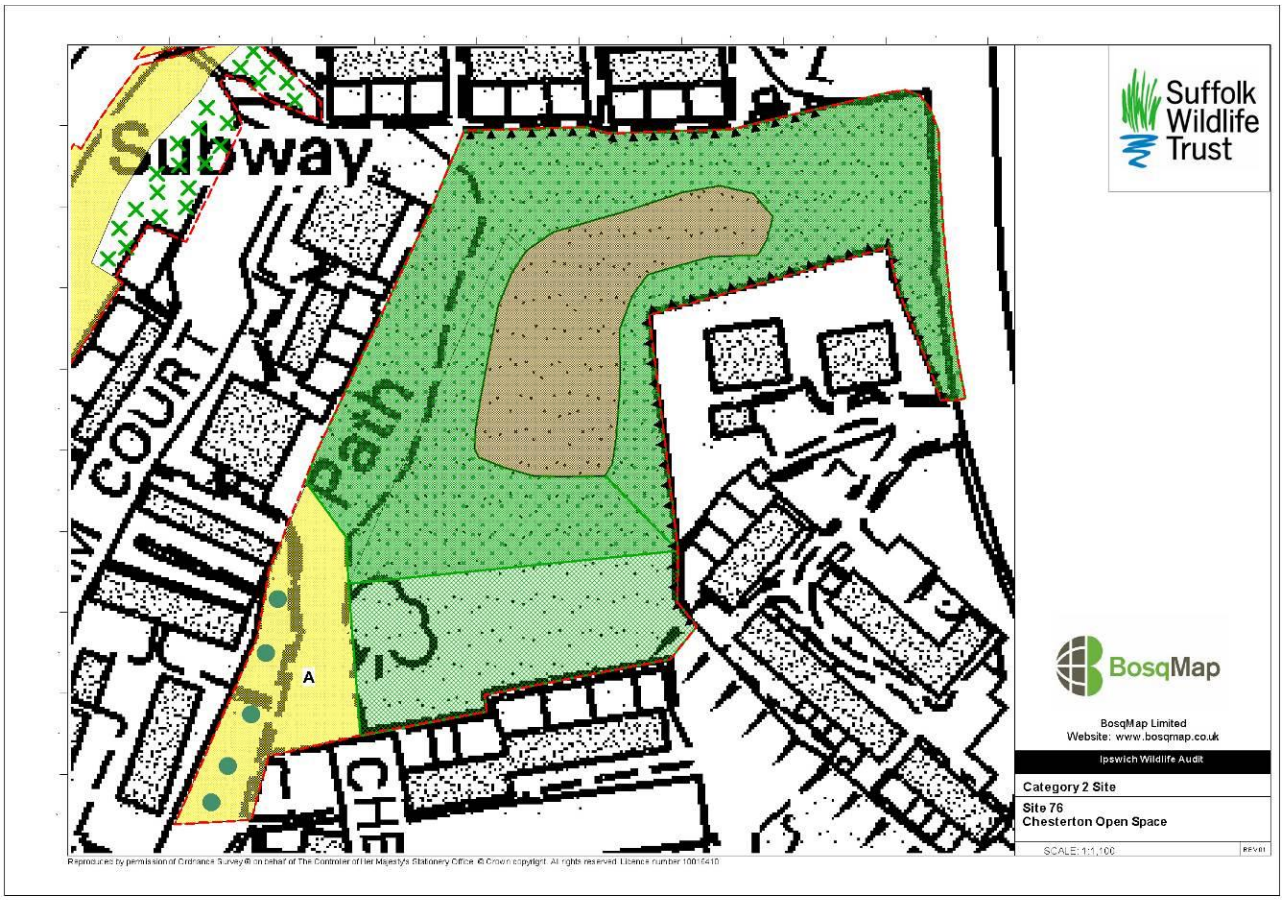
Comments and recommendations:

Allowing some areas of longer grass, particularly near the trees will provide more foraging opportunities for birds. If hedgehogs are discovered to occur in the wider area, then providing small access points through the fence would increase habitat availability for this species.

Site name — Site reference 76 – Chesterton Open Space

IBC Ref: W29
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 14532 42603
Area: 1.5 hectares
Date: 27 March 2013 and 21 August 2013
Recorder: A Looser
Weather conditions: Cold and overcast 2°C
Ranking: 4
Biodiversity value: Medium

Map:



Photos:

Woodland and scrub

Open area dominated by bracken

Habitat type(s):
Amenity grassland, mixed semi-natural woodland, bracken, scrub, scattered trees

Subsidiary habitats:
Standing deadwood

Site description:
This site is situated just north of Chesterton Close. The majority of the site is mixed semi-natural woodland and with a large open area in the middle which is dominated by a stand of dense bracken. There is a large patch of bramble scrub to the south of the wooded area. There is a small area of amenity grassland with a few scattered trees in the south western corner with a small children's play area.

Protected species:
.-
Protected species potential:
Bats

BAP habitats present:
-
BAP species seen:
Dunnock

BAP species known:
-
BAP species potential:
Bats
Stag beetle
Hedgehog

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 Poorhill Shelter Belt (Site 115), Belstead Road Treebelt (Site 59) and Birkfield Drive (Site 60)

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

Flora:
The trees and shrub species in the secondary woodland include oak, silver birch, ash, sycamore, hawthorn, blackthorn, yew, holly, broom, gorse, cherry, scots pine, beech and bramble. There is also a large dead pine forming standing deadwood. The ground flora included nettle, cleavers, ivy and false wood brome. There is an open area in the middle of the woodland which is dominated by bracken and willowherb. The small area of amenity grassland is composed of rye grass with daisy, dandelion, yarrow, dog violet and common mouse ear.

Avifauna:
The secondary woodland 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, long tailed tit, dunnock, pied wagtail, magpie and wood pigeon.

Invertebrates:
The weather conditions were poor for recording this group and none were observed. There are limited nectar sources available for butterflies so it is likely to be a very poor site for them, but the trees will provide opportunities for a range of other insects. Stag beetles have been recorded nearby so they could be present in any areas of subterranean dead wood.

Herpetofauna:
The habitat is unsuitable for this group.

Mammals:
Common species of mammal such as grey squirrel and muntjac deer are likely to use the site and a fox was observed during the visit. There is also good cover in the woodland for small mammals such as mice and voles. Bats have been recorded nearby and some of the trees were mature enough to support temporary roosting sites. The site provides excellent foraging and nesting habitat for hedgehogs.

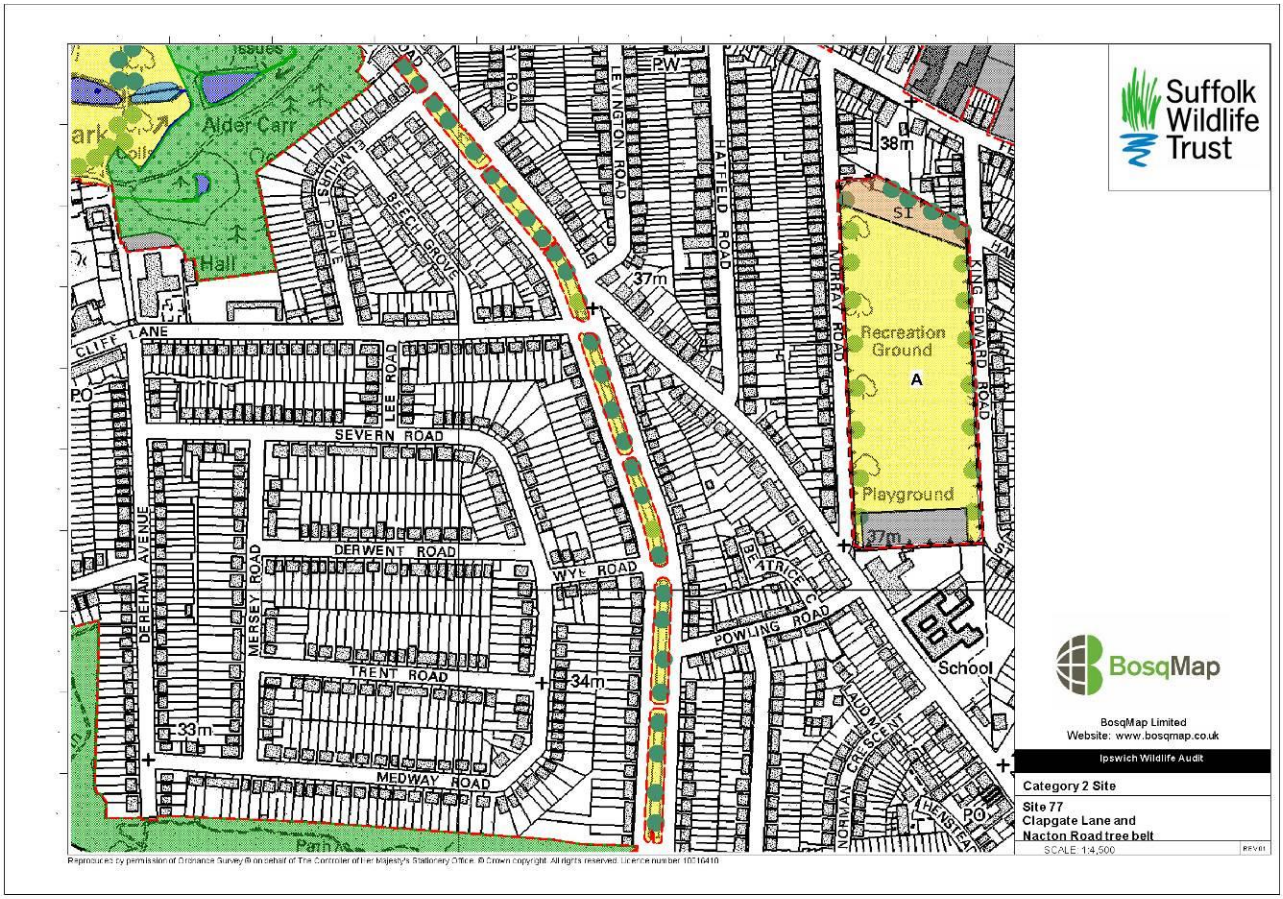
Comments and recommendations:
If some thinning or coppicing occurred this would let more light in, improving the ground flora and the shrub layer.

Site name

Site reference 77 - Clapgate Lane and Nacton Road tree belt

IBC Ref: W56
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 18129 431156
Area: 1.32 hectares
Date: 20 August 2012
Recorder: A Looser
Weather conditions: Warm and overcast with sunny intervals 24^{o}C
Ranking: 4
Biodiversity value: Medium

Map:



Photos:

Looking north along site

Habitat type(s):
Scattered trees

Subsidiary habitats:
Amenity grassland

Site description:
The site is a 250 metre long thin belt of mature well spaced trees with short mown amenity grass beneath, along Clapgate Lane and Nacton Road, Ipswich. The tree belt is separated into eight blocks and bordered by roads, beyond which is housing. However, this linear feature provides a green corridor through this part of the Town and its value is increased because it helps provide an additional link between Holywells Park and Landseer Park.

Protected species:
-

Protected species potential:
Bats

BAP habitats present:
-

BAP species seen:
-

BAP species known:
-

BAP species potential:
Bats

Connectivity:
The site is surrounded by roads and residential housing, but it does help provide an additional 'green' corridor between Holywells Park County Wildlife Site (CWS) to the north and Landseer Park CWS to the south.

Structural diversity:
The site consists of short mown grass with tall mature trees which provides some structural diversity.

Flora:
There are a number of well spaced mature trees along the site including oak, horse chestnut, larch, beech, cherry, holly and field maple. Beneath the trees is short mown grass which is dominated by a thick grass sward, with few herbaceous species other than ribwort plantain and yarrow.

Avifauna:
Great tit and blackbird were both observed foraging in the tree belt, however the time of year was sub-optimal for undertaking a full survey for this group. Other common bird species are also likely to be present as the site provides foraging, roosting and nesting opportunities.

Invertebrates:
No invertebrates were recorded during the visit, but mature trees, particularly oak, are good for a range of invertebrate species.

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

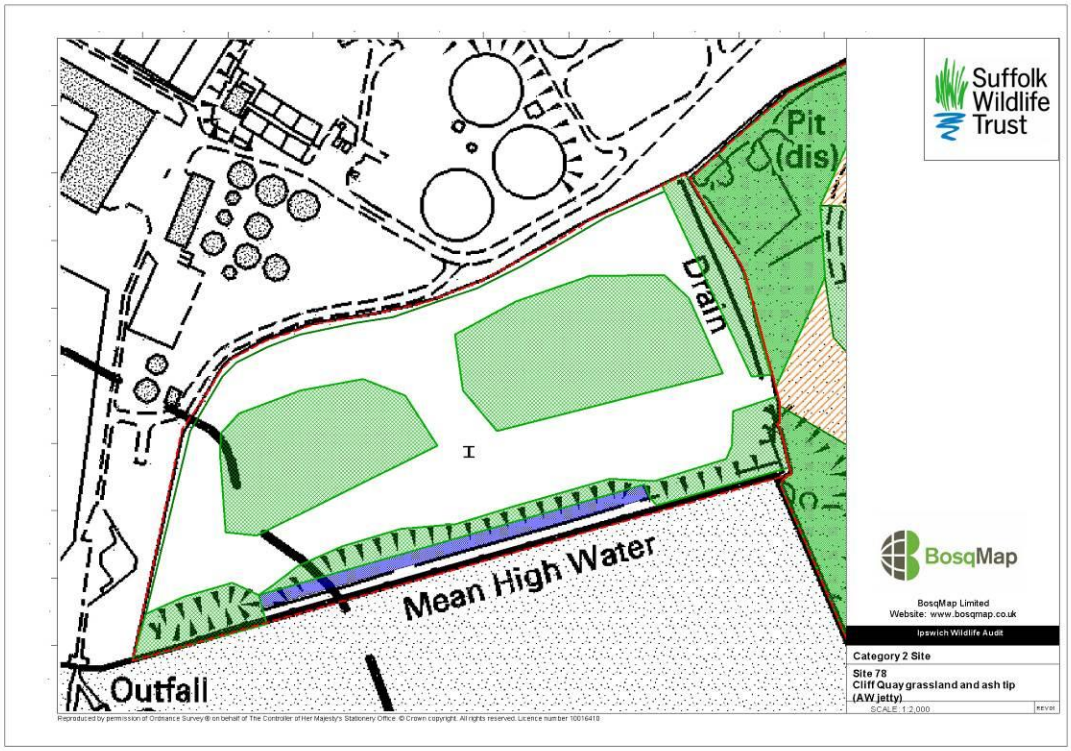
Mammals:
Common species of mammal are likely to be present, such as rabbit and grey squirrel. Small mammals are unlikely to be present as the site is isolated and there is no cover available for them. The site may represent an important corridor for bats, and some of the mature oaks had cracks and crevices that are potentially suitable for roost sites.

Comments and recommendations:
Leaving areas of longer grass around the base of the trees in spring/early summer would help improve the floral diversity and provide foraging areas for locally common birds. These long grass areas could be mown in mid to late summer to help limit any perception that the site may be 'unkempt'.

Site name: Site reference 78 - Cliff Quay Grassland & Ash Tip (AW jetty)

IBC ref: W57
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 617191 241686
Area: 5 hectares
Date: 10 October 2012
Recorder: M Wright
Weather conditions: Warm and sunny, light northwest wind
Ranking: 2
Biodiversity value: Medium-high

Map:



Photos:

View west across scrub and herb rich grassland

The soak dyke and scrub edge

The jetty edge looking across the River Orwell

Habitat type(s):
Herb rich grassland, scrub and soak dyke

Subsidiary habitats:
-

Site description:
The Cliff Quay grassland area supports a wealth of wildlife; the herb rich ground flora supports butterflies, moths and grasshoppers in abundance and the scrub areas support a range of breeding bird species.

This site comprises a mosaic of herb rich grassland, extensive thick scrub areas and a soak dyke. The soak dyke is the only remnant left of the old power station fly ash site and is slowly drying out, however, in conjunction with the scrubby margins supports several species of warbler and amphibians.

The south-west corner of the site lies within Babergh District.

Protected species:
Common lizard (2012)

Protected species potential:
Bats, slow worm and grass snake

BAP habitats present:
-

BAP species seen:
-

BAP species known:
Common lizard

BAP species potential:
Bats, toad, slow worm, grass snake, stag beetle, hedgehog, bullfinch, turtle dove, dunnock, song thrush, linnet, yellowhammer and reed bunting.

Connectivity:
The Cliff Quay grassland is adjacent to Pipers Vale County Wildlife Site (CWS) and the combined areas are part of the highly valuable and extensive ecological network of the Orwell estuary.

Structural diversity:
The structural diversity is excellent due to the variety of quality habitats from tall herb rich and short grassland in a mosaic with scrub and a soak dyke with associated habitats of reed and scrub.

Flora:
The plants observed in the grassland areas included bird's-foot-trefoil, black horehound, black medick, buck's-horn plantain, Canadian fleabane, common centaury, common chickweed, common nettle, common stork's-bill, common toadflax, creeping bent, creeping thistle, dandelion, dittander (nationally scarce), fennel, hare's foot clover, greater stitchwort, hedgerow crane's-bill, horse-radish, hop trefoil, knapweed, mugwort, narrow-leaved ragwort, red clover, ribwort plantain, ribbed melilot, white melilot, rosebay willowherb, rough sow-thistle, spear thistle, tansy, wild radish, white campion, wild carrot, wild teasel, yarrow and Yorkshire fog. Plants associated with the soak dyke included hemp agrimony, great horsetail, common reed and reed mace.

The floristically rich grassland is known to have southern marsh orchid, bee orchid, great burnet and cowslips.

Scrub species included blackthorn, bramble, broom, dogwood, dog rose, field maple, gorse, guelder rose, hazel, ivy, oak, sallow and silver birch. There was also a group of nine ash trees.

Avifauna:
Observations included carrion crow, wood pigeon, blackbird, long-tailed tit, blue tit, great tit, robin and reed warbler (late date for this species). However, the time of year was sub-optimal for undertaking a full survey for this group.

There was a single nightingale territory in 2012 (national nightingale survey) in the central area of scrub.

In a breeding bird survey of the Orwell Country Park for Ipswich Borough Council in 2009, it was found that there were five summer migrants, reed warbler, lesser whitethroat, whitethroat, blackcap and willow warbler breeding (Wright, 2009).

Invertebrates:
The survey took place at a time of year that was sub-optimal for recording butterflies and dragonflies, but it is expected that there should be a good variety of members of these groups. The habitats of the soak dyke, scrub areas and the herb rich ground flora will support an excellent diversity of invertebrate species.

Herpetofauna:
Common lizards have been observed on site earlier in the year and it is highly likely that slow worm and grass snake are also present. It is known that frogs are attracted to the soak dyke to spawn and it is likely that toads may frequent this area.

Mammals:
Rabbits were the only mammal species seen but it is also known that fox and muntjac use the site. Small mammals are also likely to occur in the grassland areas as well as possibly hedgehog. The habitat may support foraging bats.

Comments and recommendations:
The site, although small, has become established as one of the best local areas for wildlife. At this current time the quality of habitat with the mosaic of scrub and grassland areas is superb, however there will be a requirement for future scrub management to ensure that habitat quality is maintained. Coppicing the scrub on rotation will prevent this eventually out-competing the grassland.

It is recommended that the herb rich grassland should have an autumn cut with the clippings removed in order to maintain species richness.

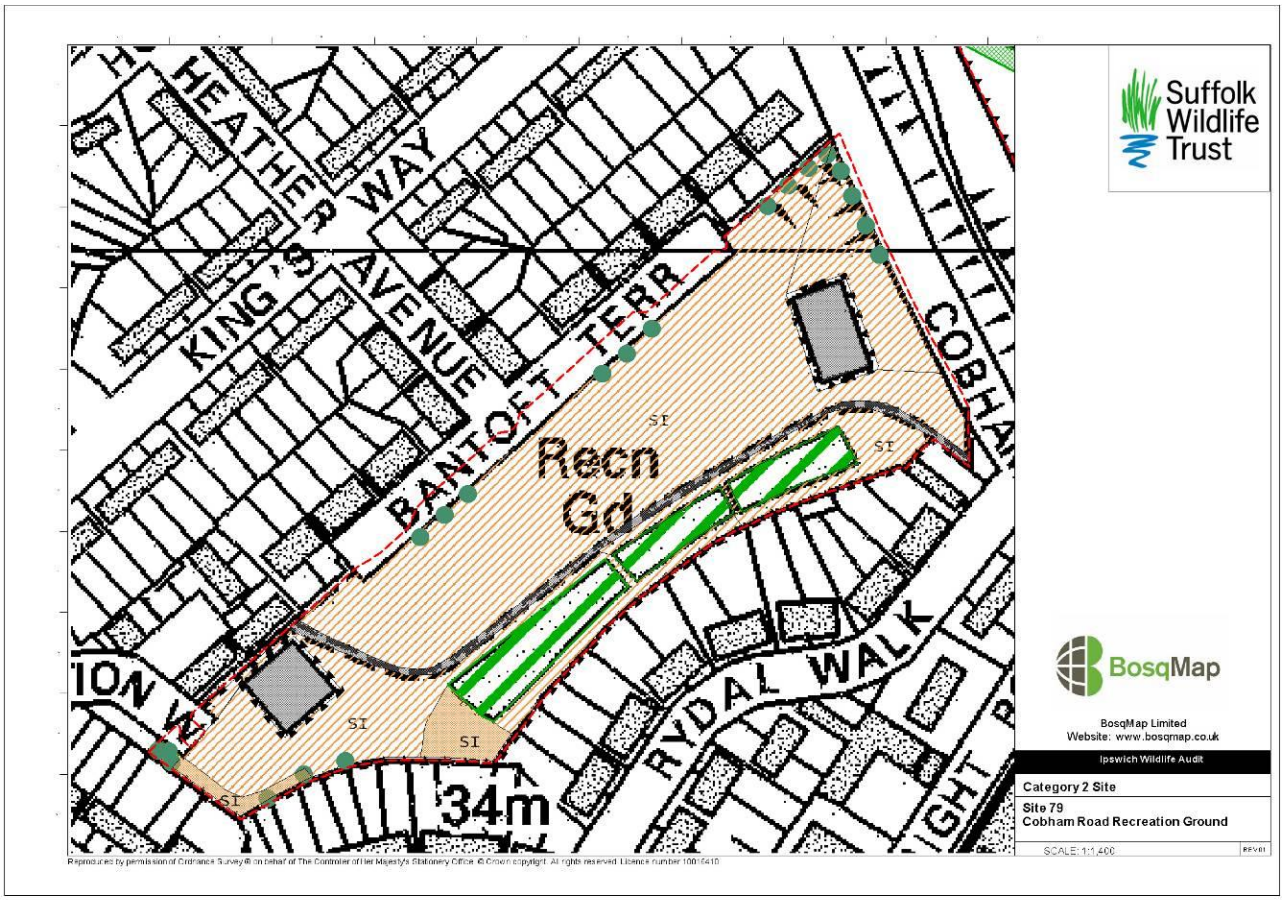
Consideration should be given to whether this site meets CWS status and the details of this assessment should be passed to the CWS panel for their assessment.

References:
Wright M. (2009) Orwell Country Park Breeding Bird Survey 2009, Suffolk Wildlife Trust Report for Ipswich Borough Council

Site name — Site reference 79 – Cobham Road Recreation Ground

IBC Ref: New
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 19169 42921
Area: 1.88 hectares
Date: 12 June 2013
Recorder: A Looser
Weather conditions: Cloudy with sunny intervals 17°C
Ranking: 4
Biodiversity value: Medium

Map:



Photos:

Grassland mosaic with woodland

Habitat type(s):

Lowland acid grassland, broadleaf woodland, semi-improved grassland, scattered trees

Subsidiary habitats:

-

Site description:

This park is also known as St Augustine's Green and is a situated along Cobham Road. The site is poor short mown acid grassland with scattered trees, with an area of planted scrub along the south eastern boundary. There are a few small areas of longer grass in the south western section which appears to have been sown with a wildflower mix. There are two small play areas on the site. There is a low bank along the northern and western boundaries.

Protected species:

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Protected species potential:

-

BAP habitats present:

-

BAP species seen:

-

BAP species known:

-

BAP species potential:

Hedgehog

Connectivity:

Although it is surrounded on three sides by roads and residential housing, this site has good connectivity as it is adjacent to the railway line. Also nearby and connected to the railway line are Felixstowe Road Allotments (Site 84) and St Clements Golf Course (Site 130).

Structural diversity:

The site has reasonable structural diversity for this habitat type with amenity grassland, longer grass, woodland and individual trees.

Flora:

There was abundant common cat's ear and sheep's sorrel in the grassland sward indicating that this is acidic grassland. Other species include rye grass and wall barley with clover, dandelion, daisy, ribwort plantain, yarrow, doves foot cranesbill, black medick and common mouse ear.

The areas of longer grass were more diverse and appeared to be part of a wildflower mix with species including rye grass, common bent grass, Yorkshire fog, cocksfoot, rough meadow grass, yarrow, greater plantain, mallow, meadow buttercup, doves foot cranesbill, common mouse ear, black knapweed, lady's bedstraw, common sorrel, oxeye daisy, bluebell, honesty and salad burnet.

The scattered trees on site are a mixture of alder, sycamore, lime and hornbeam.

The area of woodland in the southern section appears to have been planted with a good variety of species including bramble, cherry, field maple, silver birch, elm, hawthorn, hazel, dog rose, scots pine, sycamore, buddleia, alder buckthorn and elder.

Avifauna:

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

Invertebrates:

The areas of longer grass and the woodland, particularly in the southern section of the site, provide some nectar sources for butterflies so there are likely to be a range of common species throughout the year. Small white, holly blue and speckled wood butterflies were seen during the visit.

Herpetofauna:

The railway line runs very close to this site which will support good populations of reptiles. There are reports of slow worm, common lizard and occasional grass snake from the Felixstowe Road allotments, which are adjacent to this site. However the area nearest the railway line is all short mown acid grassland which is unsuitable for reptiles.

Mammals:

Common species of mammal such as grey squirrel are likely to use the site. The areas of longer grass

and scrub provide some habitat for small mammals such as mice and voles although these areas are isolated. The site does provide good foraging habitat for hedgehogs and the woodland could provide nesting opportunities for them.

Comments and recommendations:

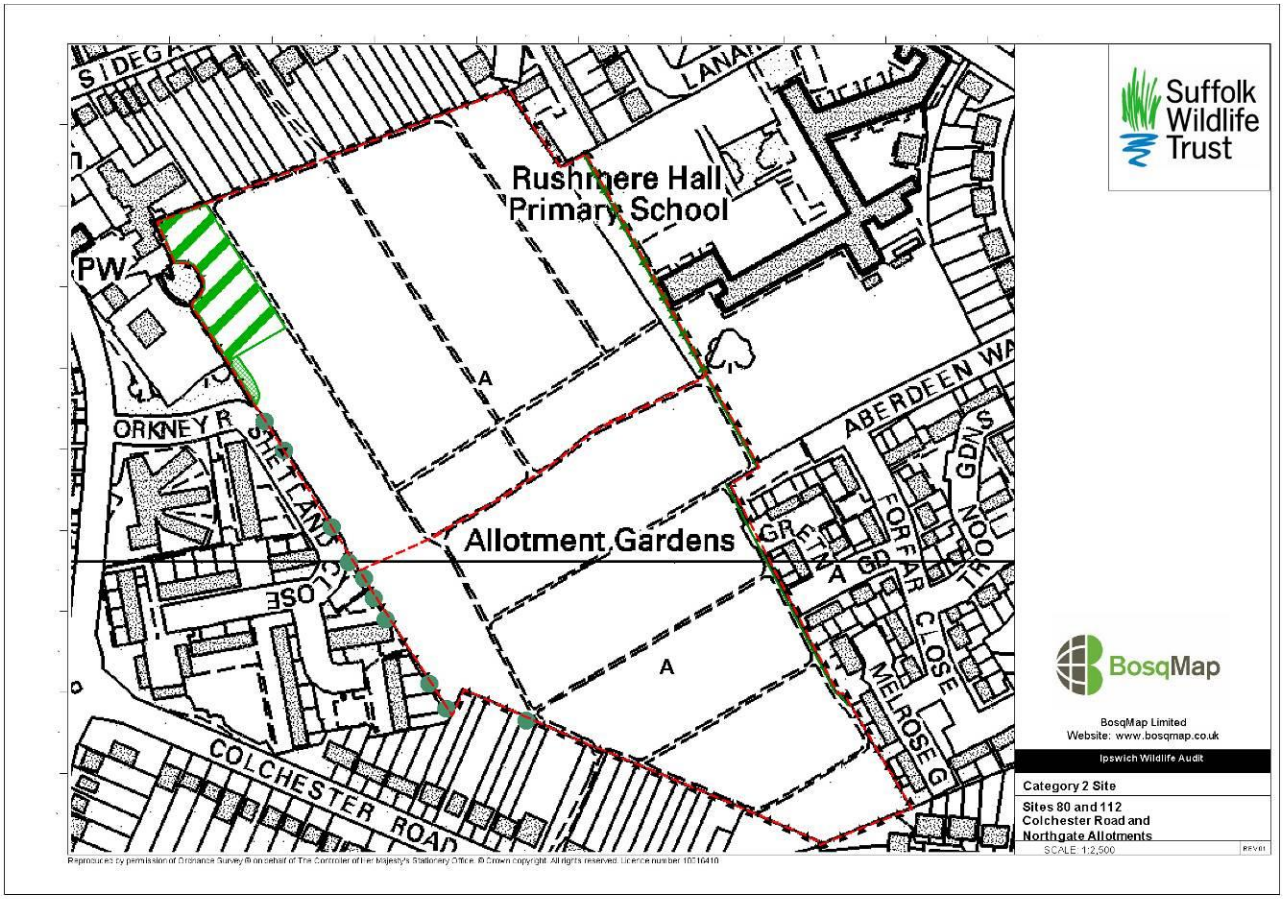
Periodically coppicing parts of the scrubby area will keep this section good for birds, mammals and butterflies. We also recommend leaving areas of longer grass near the railway line to provide better habitat for reptiles.

Although this is classified as acid grassland it was not considered high enough quality to be counted as BAP habitat.

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.