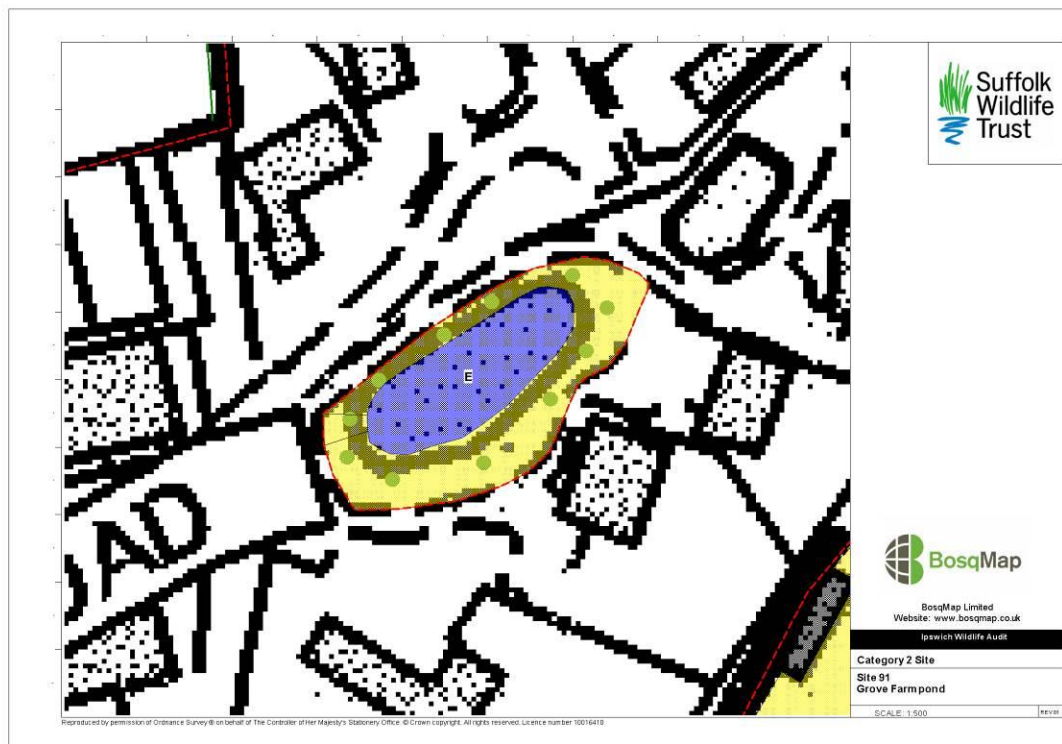


Site name: **Site reference - 91 Grove Farm Pond**

IBC ref: W64
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 16304 46602
Area: 0.09 hectares
Date: 7 August 2012
Recorder: M Wright
Weather conditions: Mostly cloudy, some sunny periods, rain showers heavy at times, cool south-westerly breeze
Ranking: 4
Conservation value: Medium

Map:



Photos:



Pond looking north east

Habitat type(s):

Pond and limited marginal vegetation

Subsidiary habitat:

Bankside trees

Site description:

This pond lies at the end of The Grove, off Henley Road. It is surrounded by mature trees and mature sallow scrub. The pond lacks submerged and floating aquatic vegetation and the marginal vegetation is minimal due to mown banks.

Protected species:

-

Protected species potential:

Toad and common frog

BAP habitats present:

Eutrophic standing water (pond)

BAP species seen:

-

BAP species potential:

Toad and common frog

Connectivity:

The pond is surrounded by housing, but Site 142 is only 65m to the north.

Structural diversity:

The structural diversity is poor due to inappropriate management.

Flora:

The species assemblage was poor. Plants include curled dock, great willowherb, hard rush, hawthorn, ivy, pendulous sedge and yellow iris. Tree species include ash, sallow, snowberry, sycamore, weeping willow, white willow.

Avifauna:

Mallard ducks were the only species observed. Moorhen may be present. The site visit took place at a sub-optimal time of year for surveying this group.

Invertebrates:

Aquatic invertebrates were not sampled, but the absence of floating and submerged vegetation means that the diversity of this group is likely to be suppressed. Dragonflies, damselflies and other pond invertebrates may use the pond, particularly if the pond were to be restored.

Herpetofauna:

The pond currently provides poor habitat for amphibians, although frogs and toad may still be present. There is a 1997 record for great crested newt record for 400m to the north-west at 178 Henley Road but the pond currently provides no egg laying substrate for this species.

Mammals:

There were no species seen during the site visit. The isolation of the pond means that it is highly unlikely to support species such as water vole.

Comments and recommendations:

The pond is relatively shallow and during long drought periods is liable to dry out. However, it is highly recommended that the pond be restored to provide a rich wildlife environment. Management would entail letting more light into the pond by reducing the tree canopy over the pond. The mature scrub and sallow should be coppiced and ideally some of the stumps need to be treated with herbicide to prevent regrowth. The sloping portions of the pond's banks should not be mown, as this will allow regrowth of marginal vegetation. It is likely that the presence of ducks is limiting the growth of floating and submerged vegetation (and correspondingly aquatic invertebrates), as well as contributing to nutrient enrichment in the water, so ideally they should not be encouraged.

Site name

Site reference 92 –Halifax Road Maidenhall Allotments

IBC Ref: W112
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 16061 42611
Area: 5.33 hectares
Date: 6th June 2013
Recorder: S Bullion
Weather conditions: Warm and sunny 19°C
Ranking: 4
Biodiversity value: Medium

Map:

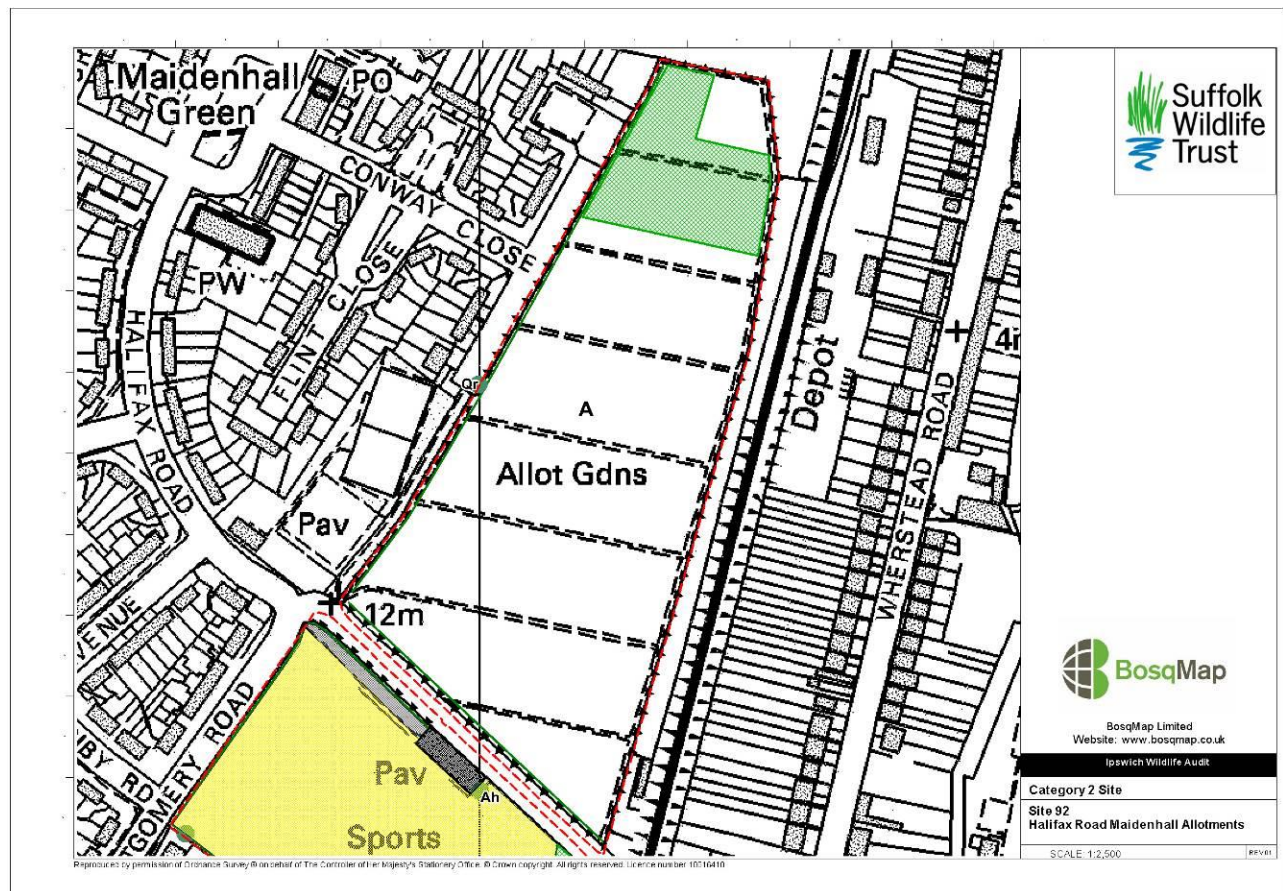


Photo:



North of the site looking south along railway boundary, with bramble area to west

Habitat type(s):

Scrub, species-poor rough grassland, short mown grass

Subsidiary habitats:

Ponds, fruit trees

Site description:

This site lies close to the southern edge of Ipswich and is bracketed to the north and south by playing fields. The eastern boundary, marked by a chain-link fence, abuts the main Ipswich to London railway line. The southern and central plots are well cultivated, but the northern end of the allotments has been allowed to become re-colonised with semi-natural vegetation. Here there is a high value scrub and grassland mosaic. Individual plot holders have created small ponds. There are a few scattered fruit trees, some of which are old. Grassy paths are mown to enable plot holders to walk around the perimeter and across the site.

Protected species:

Slow worm and common lizard (2012)

Protected species potential:

-

BAP habitats present:

-

BAP species seen:

House sparrow

BAP species known:

Slow worm and common lizard (2012)

Starling and bullfinch

BAP species potential:

Stag beetle

Toad

Hedgehog

Connectivity:

The location of the allotments next to the railway line means that it has excellent connectivity to other sites and eventually the wider countryside 500m to the south. The railway margins are colonised by a high value mosaic of grassland and scrub which link directly to the allotment margins and are separated only by a chain-link fence.

Structural diversity:

The majority of the allotments are well maintained and cultivated but the scrub and rough grassland area in the north of the site has good structural diversity.

Flora:

The grassland was species poor with tall grasses such as cock's foot and false oat and common herbs. There is plentiful bramble at the northern end of the site with occasional hawthorn and willow. Various fruit trees (green gages, plums, apples) are present, some of which are mature. A hawthorn hedge is present along the southern and western boundary, with a large oak tree in the latter.

Avifauna:

A range of birds are seen by allotment holders on site of which bullfinch, starling and house sparrow are BAP species. Other species include green woodpecker, wren, blue tit, great tit, goldfinch, blackbird, green woodpecker, magpie and wood pigeon. The bramble scrub in the north of the site provides excellent nesting and foraging habitat.

Invertebrates:

Stag beetle larvae may be present if there is subterranean deadwood arising from old fruit trees. A range of common invertebrates will be present. A brimstone butterfly was seen.

Herpetofauna:

The habitat is highly suitable for slow worm and common lizard and there are 2012 records of common lizard (two adult females and two juveniles found basking) and slow worm (two immature animals). The adjacent railway line provides excellent connecting habitat.

Frogs have been observed in the small ponds and the site may also support toads.

Mammals:

The rough grassland and bramble will support a range of small mammals such as mice, voles and shrews. Grey squirrel are frequently observed. The site provides excellent foraging and hibernation habitat for the declining populations of hedgehog but none have been observed on site.

Comments and recommendations:

Approximately four years ago the northern part of the site was cleared of bramble, but this has subsequently re-grown. Although this is not a 'formal' wildlife area, this area is currently not required for cultivation, so will remain as a 'wild' area for the time being. This adds considerable wildlife value to the site as the rest of the site is well cultivated. Any future clearance of bramble or rough grassland must be in accordance with best practice to ensure compliance with the legislation protecting reptiles. For example, small areas could be carefully cleared in stages on hot days when animals can move safely out of the way, but the use of heavy machinery during cold weather or in the winter could have a high impact.

Map:



Photos:



Looking north-east along length of site



Area of grassland and new planting on northern edge



View looking north-east along stream

Habitat type(s):

Tall ruderal, poor semi-improved grassland, stream, plantation woodland, scrub

Subsidiary habitats:

Pond (being created)

Site description:

This site is part of an area of former allotments, north of the Woodbridge road. It is part of a site which is being developed for housing, with the site being used as an amenity area and wildlife corridor. There is a clear stream running through the middle of the site with a spring rising in the most northerly corner. The majority of the site is tall ruderal vegetation which has developed on the disturbed ground arising from site clean-up operations. There is a small area of grassland north of the stream along with a small area that has been recently planted with a variety of young trees. Elsewhere there are scattered trees and scrub and some areas of bramble scrub near the cemetery. A new pond has been recently dug, but this was still dry at the time of the survey.

Protected species:

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Protected species potential:

Slow worms

BAP habitats present:

-

BAP species seen:

-

BAP species known:

-

BAP species potential:

Slow worm

Toads

Hedgehog

Connectivity:

The site is part of a cluster of sites in this area and is adjacent to the cemetery (Site 71) and links to Cemetery Cutting (Site 72). The railway line runs close to its eastern boundary which provides a good corridor for a range of wildlife.

Structural diversity:

The site has good structural diversity for this habitat type, with a mixture of ruderals, grassland, scrub and trees, as well as the stream.

Flora:

The majority of the site is sloping banks with tall ruderal vegetation consisting of common bent, Yorkshire fog, Italian rye grass with fat hen, redshank, mugwort, spear thistle, black medick, poppy, melilot spp, bristly ox tongue, horseradish, Canadian fleabane, cotton thistle, fennel, doves foot cranesbill, black horehound, tansy, ground elder, perforate st johns wort, white campion and dittander (a nationally scarce plant which is common in Ipswich).

Along the stream there was also pendulous sedge, hedge bindweed, reedmace, mares tail, soft rush, broad leafed willowherb, purple loosestrife, meadowsweet and common reed. The stream had areas with emergent vegetation which appeared to be water cress, possibly a legacy of when the site was an allotment. Woody species include scattered willow, elder and bramble with sycamore and ash on the north-eastern boundary.

Avifauna:

This site is likely to be good for birds, although the timing of the visit was outside the optimal survey season. It was reported that a kestrel used to be seen regularly over the site although it hasn't been seen recently.

Invertebrates:

The floral diversity on this site as well as the long vegetation makes this a good site for invertebrates. A number of butterfly species were seen during the visit including small white, speckled wood, common blue and gatekeeper and a silver y moth. Clouded yellow butterflies were also seen which are summer migrants. The stream provides good habitat for a range of aquatic invertebrates. A southern hawker dragonfly was seen flying during the visit. The long vegetation also provides good habitat for a range of other invertebrate species such as spiders of which a number were seen.

Herpetofauna:

The habitat is suitable for this group and slow worms have been present in the past. The site manager advised that all reptiles were translocated off this site to an adjacent area (Site 72) when the building work commenced and there are still impermeable barriers in place to prevent them returning. However when the construction has been completed it is likely that the slow worms will start to recolonise the site. The stream provides good habitat for amphibians and smooth newts have been found in the stream although these have also been removed. Frogs and toads are likely to be found regularly.

Mammals:

Common species of mammal such as grey squirrel and deer 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, particularly as this site is part of a larger area associated with the cemetery to the north.

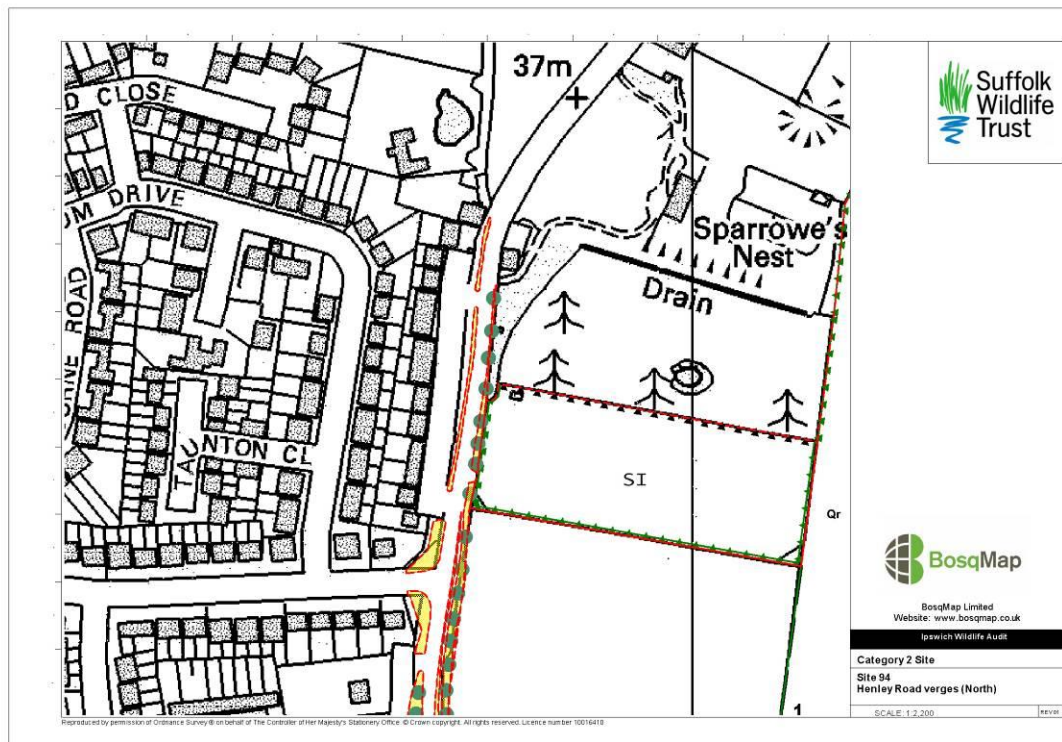
Comments and recommendations:

This site provides a good habitat for wildlife in a highly built-up part of the town. The differing habitats on site complement the larger, but less structurally diverse area of the adjacent cemetery. Future management should seek to maintain a mosaic of habitats to maximize biodiversity opportunities.

Site name: **Site reference 94 - Henley Road verges**

IBC ref: W66
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 15893 47331
Area: 0.69 hectares
Date: 24 July 2012
Recorder: M Wright
Weather conditions: Clear skies, hot and sunny, 26°C
Ranking: 5
Conservation value: Low

Maps:



Map 1 - Site 94 northern section



Photos:



Henley Road verges

Habitat type(s):

Short-mown amenity grassland

Subsidiary habitats:

Individual trees

Site description:

This linear site borders the Henley Road and represents a roadside verge, a central tarmac footpath, a strip of mown grass on the eastern margin. Along the verge are well-spaced planted trees. Immediately adjacent to the arable crop there is a shallow ditch and there is a narrow, uncut margin.

Protected species:

-

Protected Species potential:

Pipistrelle bat species (foraging and commuting)

BAP habitats present:

-

BAP species seen:

-

BAP species potential:

Starling, house sparrow, pipistrelle bat species (foraging and commuting), slow worm, common lizard

Connectivity:

The linear nature of this site and its location on the edge of farmland provides some link to nearby field margins and hedgerows of the wider countryside. The canopy associated with the line of trees will allow birds to feed and pass through the site with some safety.

Structural diversity:

There is very little structural diversity for much of the site except for the limited plant assemblage of the field margin and the trees.

Flora:

Most of the grass has been mown short and as a consequence is species-poor and supports little wildlife. However, where the sward has been left uncut, such as along the field margin, there is a greater variety of plants.

Plants included black knapweed, black horehound, black medick, bramble, buck's-horn plantain, bird's-foot-trefoil, common cat's-ear, common chickweed, common poppy, common stork's-bill, creeping cinquefoil, creeping thistle, dandelion, dove's-foot crane's-bill, false oat grass, field bindweed, field scabious, greater plantain, hedge mustard, hogweed, hedge parsley, hop trefoil, mallow, mugwort, nettle, ribwort plantain, red dead nettle, self heal, shepherd's purse, spear thistle, traveller's joy, wall barley, white clover and yarrow.

Trees included native and non-native species; beech, cherry, copper beech, hawthorn, horse chestnut, maidenhair tree, mountain ash, oak, red oak, silver birch and sycamore.

Avifauna:

The only birds noted using the verge and the trees were blackbird and woodpigeon, however the site visit took place at a sub-optimal time of year for surveying this group. At other times of the year it is likely that starlings, house sparrows and finches use the site.

Invertebrates:

The plant assemblage of the field margin is good for a variety of invertebrates.

Herpetofauna:

Reptiles such as slow worm and common lizard may be present in very low numbers along the field margin. If mowing was relaxed on the eastern section of the verge this would encourage this group.

Mammals:

No species were seen during the site visit. However, it is likely that small mammals do occur in the rough grass headland. It also possible that bats such as pipistrelle spp. may use the corridor as commuting and possibly foraging habitat.

Comments and recommendations:

The site, albeit small and narrow, could be improved considerably for small mammals, reptiles and insects if the mowing regime was relaxed to allow the rough grass and herb area to become wider. We therefore recommend that the eastern margin is left un-mown until the late summer or early autumn. However, if this is undertaken, consideration needs to be given to avoiding impacts on reptiles. This can be implemented by delaying until reptiles are in hibernation or by a cutting regime that employs a high cut first (15cm), followed by a lower cut and removal of clippings.

Site name

Site reference 95 – Henniker Road Wildlife Meadow

IBC Ref: W33
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 13525 45860
Area: 0.12 hectares
Date: 1 August 2013
Recorder: A Looser
Weather conditions: Hot and Sunny 28°C
Ranking: 4
Biodiversity value: Medium

Map:



Photos:



Looking south

Habitat type(s):

Scrub, broadleaf woodland, semi-improved grassland, species poor hedge

Subsidiary habitats:

Site description:

This is a small site just south of Henniker Road. Although named as a 'meadow', the southern end is dominated by mature trees, with a large area of bramble scrub in the middle and only a small strip of semi-improved grassland at the northern end. There is a short section of hedgerow along the northern boundary. The 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:

Stag Beetle

Hedgehog

Connectivity:

The site has poor connectivity as it is surrounded by roads and residential housing. However it is close to a number of other sites including Bramford Road Recreation Ground (Site 65).

Structural diversity:

The site has good structural diversity with long grass, scrub and trees.

Flora:

The majority of the site is bramble scrub with a good mixture of taller trees including hazel, blackthorn, lilac, elder, willow, silver birch, dogwood, sycamore, hawthorn and hornbeam.

The small area of long grass at the northern end of the site was quite diverse with false oat and cock's foot with mallow, broad leafed dock, nettle, ragwort, field scabious, tansy, black knapweed, lords and ladies, wild carrot, mullein, evening primrose and toadflax.

The hedgerow along the northern boundary is fairly young and is dominated by hazel and blackthorn.

Avifauna:

The trees and scrub provide excellent foraging, nesting and roosting habitat for a range of common bird species and blue tit, great tit, robin and wren were all seen during the visit. It is likely to also be good for some summer migrant species such as blackcap and chiffchaff.

Invertebrates:

The large area of bramble and the long grass provides excellent habitat for butterflies and a large number were seen during the visit including comma, large white, small white, gatekeeper and meadow brown. There was also dead wood lying on the site which provides excellent habitat for a range of invertebrate species. There could be stag beetles if there is any subterranean dead wood present.

Herpetofauna:

Whilst there is some suitable habitat present for this group the amount of habitat is currently too small and shaded to support a viable population. There may, however, be small numbers of slow worm present if there is a population in this area. There are records of grass snake and slow worm in the vicinity although these are more likely to be found along the A14 corridor.

Mammals:

Common species of mammal such as grey squirrel are likely to live permanently on site. Despite the site being small and isolated there is very good habitat on site for small mammals such as mice, voles and shrews so they are likely to be present in good numbers. The habitat is also suitable for hedgehogs, particularly as a hibernation site, although due to the size of the site these are only likely to be present if there is a population in the area.

Comments and recommendations:

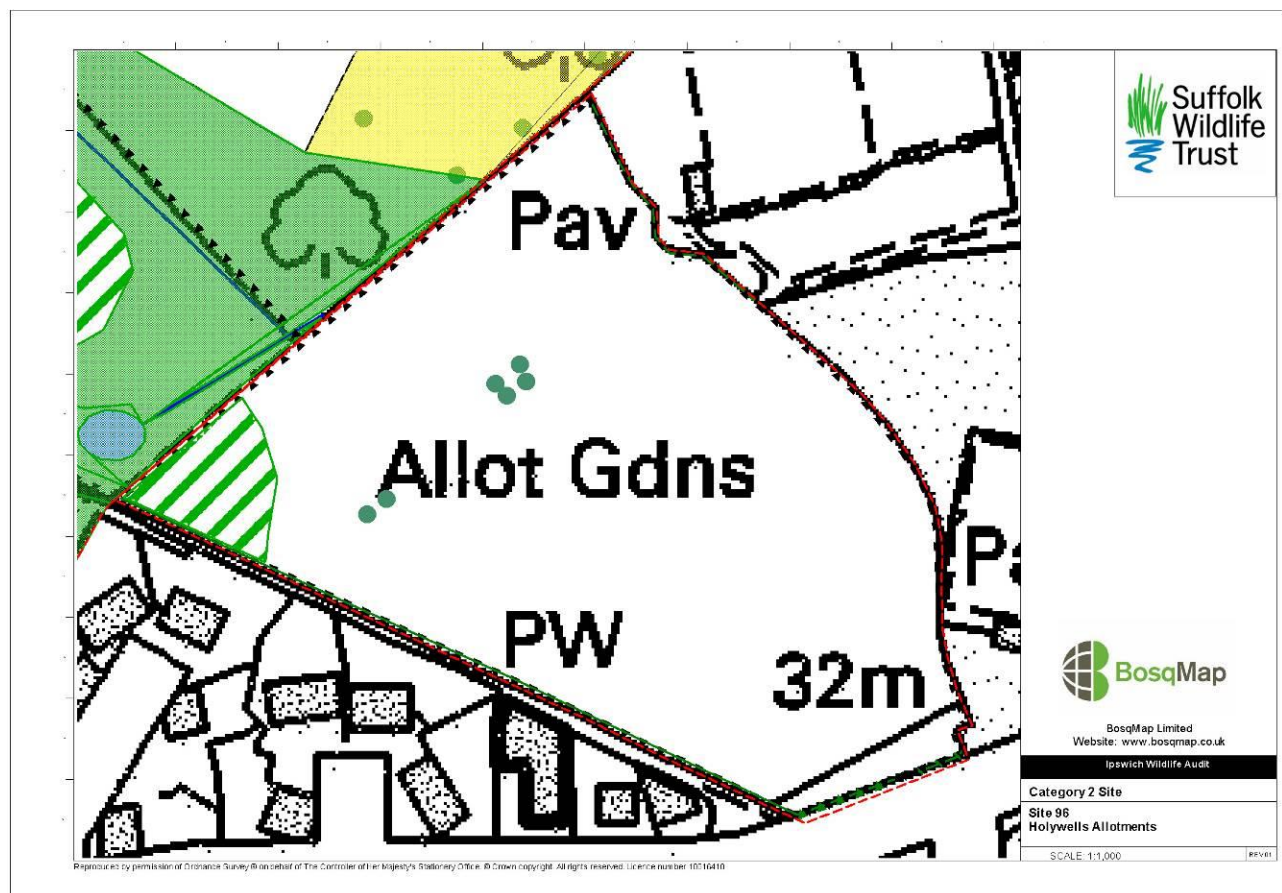
Although this is a small site it provides excellent habitat for a range of wildlife. However if the quantity of bramble is reduced slightly, and the long grass area cut once in the late summer with the cuttings removed from the site this would improve the floristic diversity of the site and improve the site for reptiles if they are present. Also selected thinning of some of the trees would improve the light levels to the grassland area. Any tree stumps should be left to provide valuable habitat for stag beetles.

Site name

Site reference 96 – Holywells Allotments

IBC Ref: New
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 17493 43290
Area: 1.59 hectares
Date: 18 July 2013
Recorder: S Bullion
Weather conditions: Warm and sunny 16°C
Ranking: 4
Biodiversity value: Medium

Map:



Photos:



General view across allotments



Hedge in north-east corner



Wet area in western corner

Habitat type(s):

Boundary hedgerows, species-poor rough grassland, short mown grass, cultivated areas

Subsidiary habitats:

Mature trees, spring, pond/marshy area.

Site description:

This allotment is situated on part of the southern boundary of Holywells Park, with the ground sloping downhill from Cliff Lane towards the park. The majority of plots are well cultivated, so there are few overgrown areas, but small areas within the site have been left un-mown. The site is surrounded by hedges and scrub, including a thick holly hedge along the south-western boundary adjacent to Kissing Gate Lane. A spring rises on the north-western boundary. There is a 'wild' area in the northern-western corner, adjacent to the park and within this area are an overgrown, spring-fed pond, damp area and surrounding woodland which are structurally continuous with habitats within the park. Mature trees are present along the southern boundary, bordering Cliff Lane and there is a group of 4 oak trees in a central location within the allotment. There is also a mature oak and ash tree towards the western edge of the boundary, both showing signs of fungal attack and decay.

Protected species:

Grass snake (seen by allotment holders)

Protected species potential:

Various species of bats, common lizard and slow worm

BAP habitats present:

Eutrophic standing water (pond)

BAP species seen:

BAP species known:

Grass snake, hedgehog, toad, stag beetle (all seen by allotment holders)

BAP species potential:

Bats, common lizard and slow worm

Connectivity:

The location of the allotment adjacent to Holywells Park provides excellent connectivity.

Structural diversity:

The majority of the allotments are well maintained and cultivated. The boundary hedges and scrub provides additional structural diversity along with the small un-mown areas and the individual mature trees. The inclusion of the pond and boggy area and woodland within the site increases structural diversity along the northern boundary.

Flora:

Common grassland species are present within the site, including false oat grass, cock's foot, wall barley, Yorkshire fog, yarrow, ribwort plantain and dove's foot. On a central dry bank the presence of common bent, sheep sorrel and foxglove indicated free-draining more acidic soils.

The hedge along the eastern boundary is thick and tall and included elder and privet, whilst the hedge bordering Kissing Gate Lane was thick holly. Mature trees within the site included pedunculate oak and non-native oak species, as well as a mature ash.

The pond was choked with horsetails and surrounded by nettles, so was difficult to access. The surrounding woodland included ivy-covered poplar and holly.

The spring had watercress growing within it.

Avifauna:

The boundaries of the site offer good foraging and nesting opportunities for a range of locally common birds. Green woodpeckers are seen by the allotment holders.

Invertebrates:

Adult stag beetles have been seen by allotment holders and it is highly likely that the site contains subterranean deadwood supporting their larvae. The boundaries of the site will provide good habitat for invertebrates including butterflies. A tortoiseshell butterfly was recorded during the visit and more butterfly and other invertebrate species will be present.

Herpetofauna:

Toads are frequently seen by allotment holders and the habitat is highly suitable for them. Grass snakes are also seen by allotment holders. A release of slow worm and common lizard has taken place within the adjacent Kissing Gate Meadow, within the park, so it is possible that they may have colonised the allotments also.

Mammals:

The site provides excellent foraging and year round habitat for hedgehogs, which have been seen by allotment holders, including in 2013. Fox and grey squirrel are also observed.

Comments and recommendations:

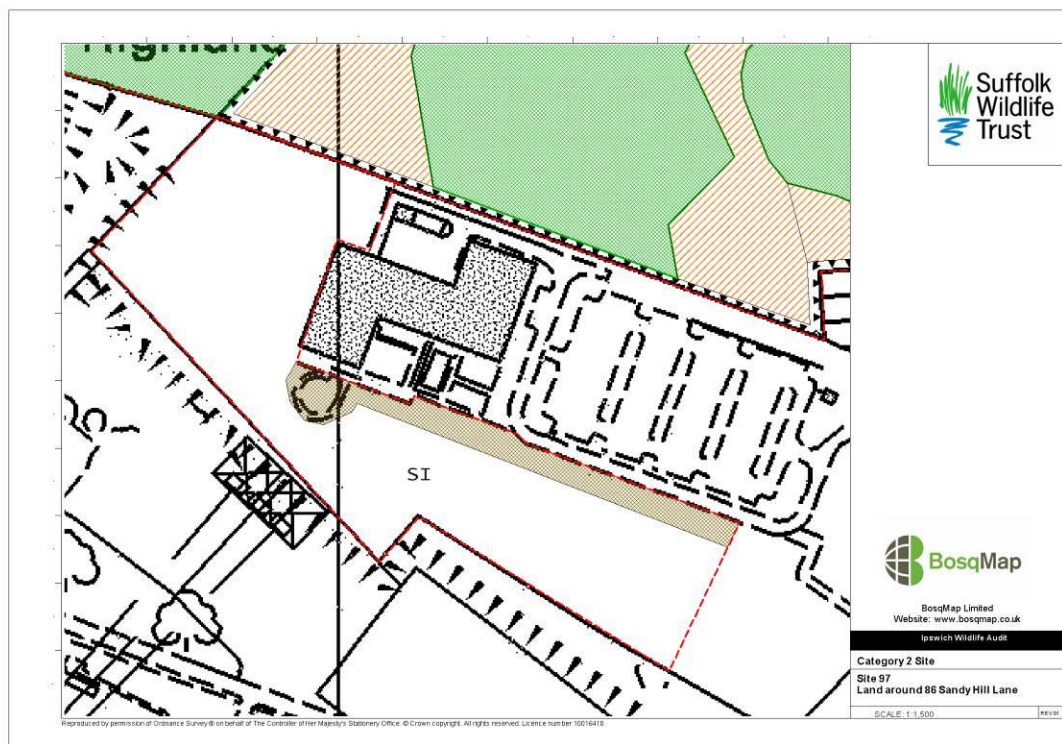
The pond would benefit from de-silting in the autumn as it is currently silted up and choked with horsetails. If a small digger could be used this would be the most straightforward way of achieving this.

The mature ash tree is showing signs of considerable decay at the base. However a former woodpecker hole partway up the trunk showed potential as a bat roost and should be assessed prior to any tree works. The oak tree adjacent to the ash also has signs of fungal attack at the base.

Site name: **Site reference 97 - Land around 86 Sandy Hill Lane**

IBC ref: New
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 17020 42338
Area: 1.79 hectares
Date: 13 September 2012
Recorder: M Wright
Weather conditions: Hot and sunny, cool breeze
Ranking: 4
Biodiversity value: Medium

Map:



Photos:



View west along shrub belt



View south towards estuary and Orwell Bridge

Habitat type(s):

Mown semi-improved grassland and a managed linear belt of shrubs

Subsidiary habitats:

-

Site description:

The site is on a southwest slope between the ISG Jackson offices and the Cliff Quay Power Station site. The site is almost all semi-improved grassland, which, at the time of the visit was mown short. Adjacent to the offices there was a linear landscaped belt of mixed shrubs.

Protected Species:

-

Protected Species potential:

Slow worm and common lizard

BAP habitats present:

-

BAP species seen:

-

BAP species known:

-

BAP species potential:

Slow worm and common lizard

Connectivity:

The site lies in an important part of the Orwell estuary corridor and is adjacent to the thin scrub belt of Cliff Quay. However, the connectivity value of this site could be improved further.

Structural diversity:

The linear scrub on the margins helps provide some structural diversity, but due to the majority of the area being mown, the structural diversity of the site is currently poor.

Flora:

The semi-improved grassland is a mixture of coarse and finer grasses and appears to be species poor, although the date of the survey was too late to record a good species list of plants. The species identified included bracken, black horehound, bramble, creeping thistle, dittander (nationally scarce), field bindweed, field scabious, ivy, hemlock, hogweed, ladies bedstraw, mallow, ox-eye daisy, nettle, ribwort plantain, salad burnet, yarrow, wild carrot and Yorkshire fog. The species in the grassland suggest that this area may have either been sown or enhanced with a wild flower mix.

Between the mown grassland and the car park and buildings there was a landscaped belt of shrubs and trees, which included alder, ash, broom, cherry, guelder rose, field maple, hawthorn, sweet chestnut, holly, Leylandii, mountain ash, oak and a number of non-native species such as rose-of-sharon, Portuguese laurel, shrubby cinquefoil, *Viburnum tinus*, *Arbutus unedo* (strawberry tree), green alder, *Eleagnus pungens* and *Arbutus x andrachoides*,

Avifauna:

The survey took place at a sub-optimal time of year for surveying this group. No bird species were seen and the site is unlikely to support many bird species although the fruiting shrubs will sustain wintering thrushes for a while.

Invertebrates:

At the time of the visit the mown grassland and lack of nectar provided very little habitat, consequently very few species were seen. Observations included small white, meadow brown butterflies and a few field grasshoppers.

Herpetofauna:

None were seen, although the habitat at the moment is poor for these species it is possible that slow worm and common lizard could occur.

Mammals:

Rabbit was the only species seen. Small mammals such as mice and voles may be associated with the margins. Common species such as fox, grey squirrel and muntjac deer may also be present.

Comments and recommendations:

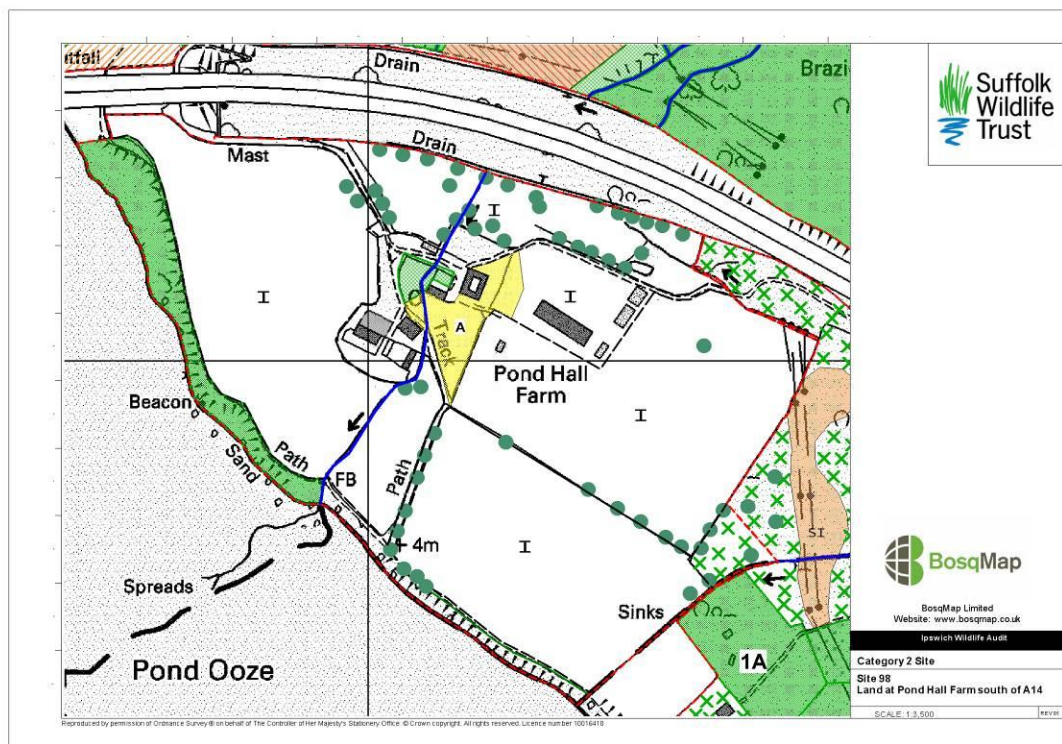
The site lies in an important part of the Orwell Estuary corridor and is adjacent to the thin scrub belt of Cliff Quay. To improve the quality of the wildlife corridor it is recommended that along the bottom of the sloping hillside a scrub and rough grassland strip be allowed to develop. Consideration should be given to relaxing the mowing regime across the majority of the site, so that it is managed on rotation, with different plots being cut in different years. However, if this is undertaken, consideration needs to be given to avoiding impacts on reptiles. This can be implemented by delaying until reptiles are in hibernation or by a cutting regime that employs a high cut first (15cm), followed by a lower cut.

Should any development be proposed on this site in future, more detailed surveys should be undertaken including a reptile survey.

Site name: **Site reference 98 – Land at Pond Hall Farm south of A14**

IBC ref: UC266/IP1
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 18092 40984
Area: 21.76 hectares
Date: 8 October 2012
Recorder: M Wright
Weather conditions: Warm and sunny, light northwest wind
Ranking: 4
Biodiversity value: Medium

Map:



Photos:



Grazing meadows and stream corridor



The shoreline meadows with Bridge Wood in the background



Pond Hall Farm and stream flowing through the lower meadows to the shoreline



Shoreline trees, scrub and tall ruderal fen

Habitat type(s):

Mature trees, improved grassland, fresh water stream drains and tall fen.

Subsidiary habitats:

Subsidiary habitats include a sandy cliff, standing deadwood, holes and splits in mature trees and farm buildings.

Site description:

Pond Hall Farm lies south of the A14 and west of Bridge Wood. On the western and southern boundaries are the tidal mudflats of the Orwell estuary. The farm is accessed via Gainsborough Lane.

The farm is mostly improved grassland, which is grazed by cattle. Over the whole farm there are mature oaks (some of which are very old), ash, poplars and willows. A fresh water stream runs through the meadows and out onto the mudflats, creating one of the best quality freshwater flows into the estuary. There is a small area being colonized by fine and coarse grasses and by a variety of flowering plants. The

shoreline edge of the farm contains tall ruderal fen, sandy cliffs, scrub and mature trees.

There are a number of farm buildings, some of which are now disused.

Protected species:

-

Protected species potential:

Bats, grass snake, common lizard

BAP habitats present:

-

BAP species seen:

-

BAP species known:

Song thrush, stag beetle, cinnabar moth

BAP species potential:

Bats, toad, grass snake, common lizard, hedgehog, dunnoek

Connectivity:

The land at Pond Hall Farm is directly connected to Bridge Wood and the Orwell Estuary. It is a part of the wider ecological network including Pipers Vale, Pond Hall Meadow and Carr, Braziers Wood, the former Airfield grasslands and the rest of the Orwell Estuary.

Structural diversity:

Whilst the structural diversity of much of the grazed grassland is poor, apart from where there are hedgerows and trees, the habitats associated with the shoreline and stream are very good.

Flora:

Trees and shrubs by the farm entrance and secluding the farmhouse and gardens included limes, oak, ash, elder, holly, cypress, lilac, alder, sumac, cherry, laurel and snowberry.

The hedgerow and tree line through the farm, adjacent to the footpath to the shore, contained some mature oaks, dead elms and elm scrub with bramble, elder, plum and blackthorn. Bluebells can be seen here in the late spring.

The shoreline edge of the farm contains some very good habitat, tall fen, sandy cliffs, scrub and mature trees. Species observed included elm, young and mature oaks, hawthorn, blackthorn, field maple, dog rose, ash, apple sp., elder, sycamore, dittander (nationally scarce), saltmarsh grass, sea beet, Canadian fleabane, bracken, reed, sea couch and spring beauty.

The trees and plants observed on the farmland site included oak, ash, white willow, creeping willow, hazel, broom, Scots pine, poplar sp., alder, black horehound, broad-leaved dock, brooklime, bracken, burdock, Canadian fleabane, common cudweed, common fiddleneck, common hawkweed, common storksbill, creeping buttercup, creeping thistle, giant hogweed, great mullein, knotgrass, soft rush, scentless mayweed, thorn-apple, water cress, water mint, white dead-nettle, white clover, yarrow.

Avifauna:

Although the site visit took place at an unsuitable time of year for surveying this group observations included carrion crow, jackdaw, magpie, moorhen, wood pigeon, green woodpecker, blackbird, long-tailed tit, blue tit, great tit, robin, wren, goldfinch, chaffinch and kestrel.

Invertebrates:

The timing of the site assessment was not favorable to see invertebrates. However, the various habitats associated with this site will support a wide variety of invertebrates. Stag beetle are known at the site (2007 record) and the presence of mature trees means there is a high likelihood that there is subterranean dead wood supporting the larvae. Cinnabar moth has been recorded on site (2002 record).

Herpetofauna:

No species were seen during the visit; however it is likely that frogs and toads are attracted to the stream and drains. Common lizard may be present and there is a 2003 record of a sighting in Bridge Wood adjacent to the shore.

Mammals:

Rabbits and muntjac deer were seen and fox is known to use the site. Small mammals such as field vole are likely to occur in the grassland areas. The stream may support water shrew. The mature trees and derelict farm buildings may support roosting bats and the grassland and trees will provide foraging habitat for this group.

Comments and recommendations:

The proximity of the farm to other wildlife sites means that this land has very high potential for biodiversity enhancement as well as enjoyment by the local community.

A late spring/early summer survey would be very useful in order to increase understanding of the wildlife interest of this site.

NB In 2013 it was reported that the grassland had been ploughed up to become arable. This will have had a negative impact upon the wildlife value of this site.

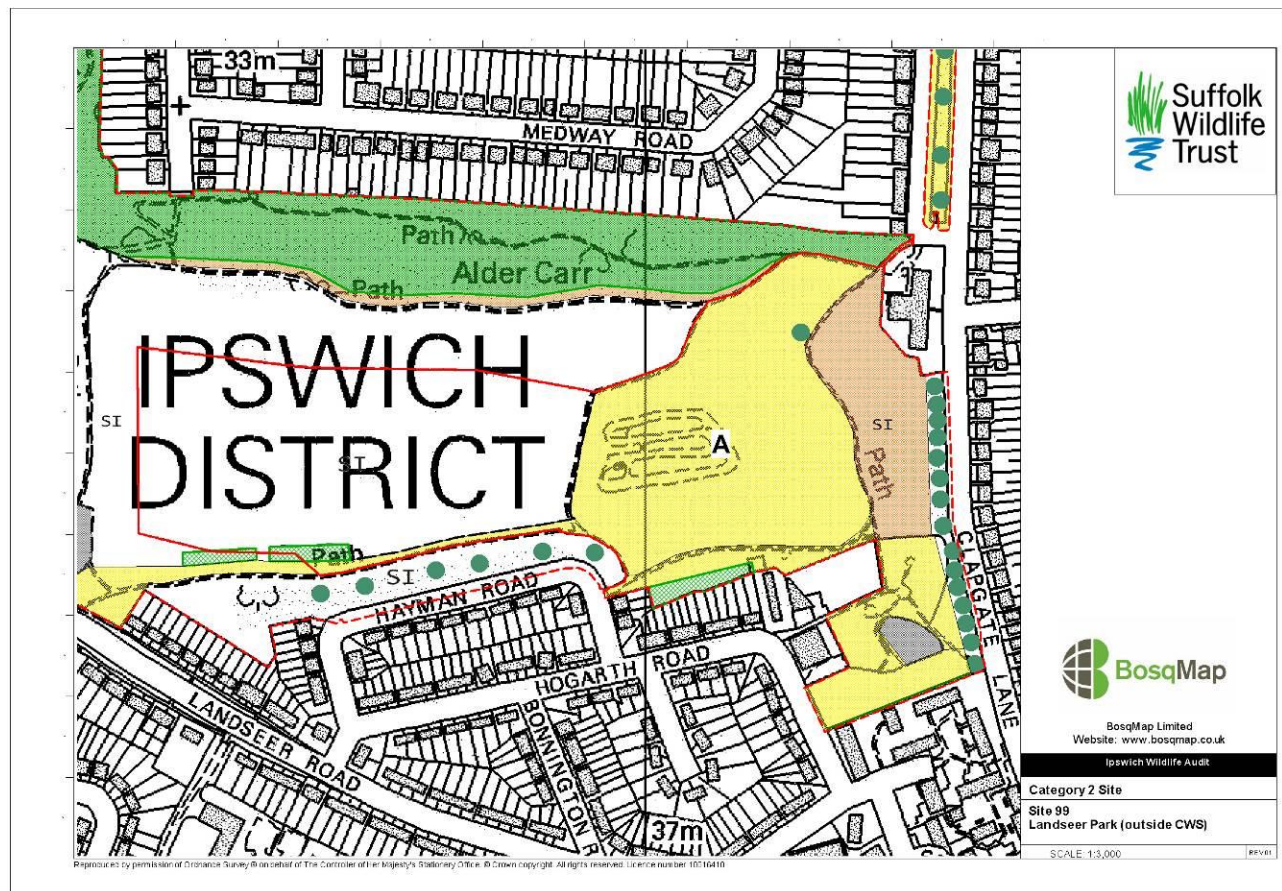
References:

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

Site name Site reference 99 - Landseer Park (outside CWS)

IBC Ref: New
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 17973 42586
Area: 8.69 hectares
Date: 7 September 2012
Recorder: A Looser
Weather conditions: Hot and sunny 28°C
Ranking: 3
Biodiversity value: Medium

Map:



Photos:



Rough grassland looking east



Grassland looking west



Dead tree stumps

Habitat type(s):

Semi-improved grassland, amenity grassland

Subsidiary habitats:

Scattered trees, species poor hedge

Site description:

This site is the part of Landseer Park that has not been designated as a County Wildlife Site (CWS). It is a mixture of short mown amenity grassland, play areas, scattered trees and areas of rough grassland. The south west corner of the site has a childrens' play area with amenity grassland surrounding it with a short section of species poor hedge along the boundary with houses. Bordering Clapgate Lane is a line of trees and an area of rough grassland. To the west of that is an area of amenity grassland with a skateboard park and west again is a large area of rough grassland.

Protected species:

-

Protected species potential:

Slow worm, common lizard and grass snake

BAP habitats present:

-

BAP species seen:

-

BAP species known:

Stag beetle

BAP species potential:

Slow worm, common lizard and grass snake

Connectivity:

This site is part of the larger Landseer Park, much of which is designated as CWS. It is only separated from Holywells Park CWS to the north by Cliff Lane. Clapgate Lane and Nacton Road tree belt (site 77) starts just north of the site and continues northwards until just south of Holywells Park creating an additional, but poorer, link between the two sites.

Structural diversity:

The site consists of short mown grass, areas of uncut, taller grassland and trees which provide a good structural diversity.

Flora:

There are several areas with slightly different flora over the site. The short mown amenity grassland has yarrow, ribwort plantain, greater plantain, buck's-horn plantain, daisy, autumn hawkbit, dandelion and white clover.

The more easterly area of rough grass has cocksfoot, false oat grass, rye grass, common bent, red fescue and meadow foxtail. Other species include ribwort plantain, dandelion, cat's-ear, black knapweed, yarrow, field bindweed, white clover, smooth hawkbit, mallow and a few small clumps of ragwort.

The westerly area of rough grassland has rye grass, common bent, cocksfoot and red fescue. There is also creeping cinquefoil, ribwort plantain, autumn hawkbit, red clover, yarrow, cat's-ear, Canadian fleabane, nettle, dandelion, fennel, white clover and the nationally scarce plant dittander.

There are several wetter patches in this grassland with ranker vegetation such as hogweed, nettle and spear thistle.

There is a bank bordering the CWS which has wild carrot, dittander, weld, white campion, cornflower, poppy, black knapweed and corn marigold. It is likely that this has been seeded with a wildflower mix.

There is a short section of hedge near the play area which is dominated by hawthorn with elder and the occasional sycamore.

Along Clapgate Lane there is a row of trees, dominated by lime and poplar with cherry, ash, dogwood, oak, turkey oak and plane trees.

Avifauna:

The season the survey took place was sub-optimal for recording this group. A jay was seen during the visit. The overall site is likely to be very good for a variety of bird species, particularly within the woodland area to the north (part of the CWS), providing foraging, feeding 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. The rough grassland will also support a range of other invertebrates including

spiders. Several garden spiders were seen during the visit. Some tree stumps have been left which provide a good dead wood habitat for many invertebrate species. Stag beetle larvae are likely to be present in the subterranean dead wood and adults have been recorded within the park (2003 record).

Herpetofauna:

The large areas of rough grassland are likely to support a good population of reptiles, particularly slow worm and common lizard. Grass snake may also be present.

Mammals:

Common species of mammal are likely to be present, such as grey squirrel and fox. There is good habitat available for small mammals such as mice, voles and shrews which are likely to be present in good numbers in the rough grassland.

Comments and recommendations:

This site should be considered in the context of the overall Landseer Park. The areas of rough grassland will be particularly good for invertebrate species. However, some parts had been recently cut but not yet raked up. If left, these cuttings will smother the sward and reduce floral diversity. It is recommended that all the tall grass areas should be managed on rotation, leaving some longer areas each year which will benefit invertebrates.

Site name

Site reference 100– Little Gipping Street Wood

IBC Ref: W73
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 15845 44591
Area: 0.16 hectares
Date: 20 August 2013
Recorder: S Bullion
Weather conditions: Warm and sunny 22°C and rising
Ranking: 4
Biodiversity value: Medium

Map:



Photos:



Looking into wood from Civic Drive Roundabout

Habitat type(s):

Broadleaf semi-natural woodland

Subsidiary habitats:

Fallen deadwood

Site description:

A small, linear sycamore woodland alongside the Civic Drive roundabout. The woodland is uniform in age structure and species poor, but does provide some valuable habitat in an otherwise highly built-up area.

Protected species:

-

Protected species potential:

-

BAP habitats present:

-

BAP species seen:

-

BAP species known:

-

BAP species potential:

Stag beetle

Connectivity:

Connectivity is poor as this small woodland is bordered by a busy road and housing.

Structural diversity:

Structural diversity is relatively poor for this habitat type, as the sycamore trees appear to be of similar age structure. There is little understorey apart from occasional elder.

Flora:

The woodland was all sycamore, with occasional elder and holly in the understorey. The woodland cast a dense shade so there was little ground flora apart from a carpet of ivy and occasional bramble and nettle. There is a small amount of Japanese Knotweed in the woodland.

Avifauna:

The woodland will provide some foraging habitat but the even structure will limit nesting opportunities for many bird species.

Invertebrates:

The site will support a limited range of common invertebrates. There was some fallen deadwood and there is a slight possibility that the site may support stag beetle larvae.

Herpetofauna:

The site is unsuitable for this group.

Mammals:

The woodland may support common small mammal species such as wood mouse. Fox and grey squirrel may be present.

Comments and recommendations:

The particular value of this site lies in the mature trees in their location close to the centre of the Town. However the uniform age structure and closed canopy casts dense shade so any future management work should focus on letting in more light. Coppicing some of the sycamores would achieve this as well as improving the woodland structure.

The non-native and invasive species, Japanese knotweed, is present within the woodland. Further advice should be sought (particularly if any habitat management work is to be undertaken) to ensure that there is no spread of this plant.

The fence alongside the roundabout had been broken down in one place and there was evidence of drug-taking within the woodland.