Site name: Site reference 41 - Opposite 674-734 Bramford Road

IBC ref: UC030/IP029
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 13380 45770
Area: 2.26 hectares
Date: 16 August 2012
Recorder: S Bullion
Weather conditions: Hot, sunshine with cloud, 22° C, slight breeze
Ranking: 4
Biodiversity value: Medium

Map:

Photos:

View southwards across site.

Habitat type(s):
Rough grassland with scattered scrub

Subsidiary habitats:
Boundary hedgerows and trees

Site description:
The site lies to the south of Bramford Road and is bordered on the western boundary by the A14 and to the south by the Ipswich-Norwich railway line. In the 2000 Ipswich Wildlife Audit the site is described as recently arable with a developing ruderal flora. The ensuing twelve years has resulted in the development of a well-established sward, with a good variety of herb species typical of this habitat.

Protected species:
-

Protected species potential:
Slow worm and common lizard

BAP habitats present:
-

BAP species seen:
-

BAP species known:
-

BAP species potential:
Toad, slow worm, common lizard and hedgehog

Connectivity:
Connectivity is very good, due to the proximity of the railway corridor and A14 margins.

Structural diversity:
The site is developing a good structural diversity. In time scrub will continue to increase, but at the current time there is a good mix of habitats.

Flora:
The site is developing an interesting sward with a good range of species.
Herbs: Ox-eye daisy, blue fleabane, Canadian fleabane, ploughman's spikenard, wild carrot, creeping cinquefoil, smooth tare, tansy, yarrow, lesser burdock, prickly lettuce, prickly ox-tongue, agrimony, hop trefoil, ribwort plantain, upright hedge parsley, black horehound, hemlock, spear thistle, hedge cranesbill, hogweed, poppy, Oxford ragwort, ragwort.
Grasses: Wood small reed, wild oat, rye grass, false oat grass

Hedgerows: The roadside hedge was dominated by elm, with hawthorn, sallow, cherry, oak, hawthorn and a single lime. Ivy and traveller's joy are present. The eastern boundary was dominated by elm and hawthorn. Adjacent to the railway line was a scrubby band of elm (some dead), elder, oak, dogwood and wild rose. The A14 margin is a tree belt (offsite) of primarily poplar species.

Avifauna:
No birds were recorded but this was an unsuitable time of year for surveying this group. The trees and hedgerows do provide good nesting and foraging opportunities for this group.

Invertebrates:
The habitat is currently very good for invertebrate species and a wide variety was visible at the time of the site visit. In particular, there were very large numbers of grasshoppers. Ant hills were numerous within the sward indicative of more undisturbed grassland. Meadow brown and gatekeeper butterflies were recorded during the visit. Buff ermine and latticed heath moths are desktop records for adjacent Weaver Close in 2007 and Small Heath butterflies have been recorded in a garden in Bramford Road in 2003. 5 Banded Tailed Digger Wasp has also been recorded on nearby Europa Way in 2001. A wasp spider was observed on site.

Herpetofauna:
Slow worms have been recorded on the Bramford Road and on Europa Way (adjacent to the railway line), so there is a high likelihood that this species is present. The habitat is also suitable for common lizard and toad. Grass snake has been recorded further afield along the railway line in 2005. The railway line is a good corridor so animals could disperse onto this site now that the habitat is suitable.

Mammals:

Hedgehog may be present on site, although the thickness of the sward may be less suitable for this species. Small mammals and fox are also likely to be present.

Comments and recommendations:

Despite lack of management this site is developing a wildlife interest. A circular path is present, indicating that local people are walking around the site, but there was no evidence of dog faeces as might have been expected if the purpose was solely for dog walking.

Further surveys should be undertaken to asses the wildlife interest. This should include a reptile survey, due to the proximity of the site to the A14 margins and railway corridor. Certainly, before any development is consented on this site the reptile survey must be carried out. No clearance of vegetation should take place until the presence of reptiles is properly assessed and mitigated, in order to ensure compliance with the Wildlife & Countryside Act (1981) (as amended).

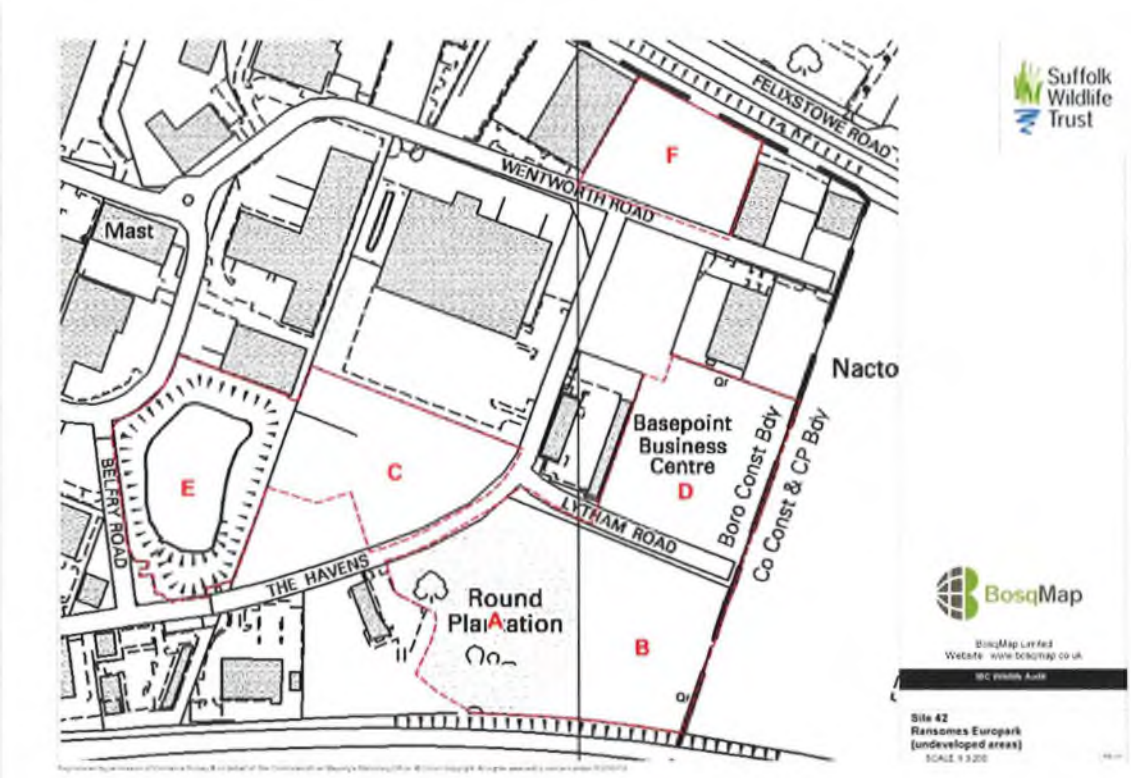
Development on this site should retain habitat adjacent to the railway and A14 margins to help retain their value as connective features.

Site name: Site reference 42 - Ransomes Europark (undeveloped areas)

IBC ref:	UC263/IP1
Site status:	No wildlife designations
Grid ref:	TM 20937 41455
Area:	10.14 hectares
Date:	28 August 2012
Recorder:	M Wright
Weather conditions:	Scattered cloud, warm and sunny 22°C
Ranking:	3
Biodiversity value:	Medium

Maps:

Phase 1 map



Compartment map

Photos:

Site A & B

Site C

Site D

Site E

Site F

Habitat type(s):
Heathland, acid grassland, deciduous woodland, pine tree belts, scrub, rough grassland and a small wetland

Subsidiary habitats:
Dead wood, holes and splits in the mature trees and spoil heaps

Site description:
This particular site on Ransomes Europark is made up of six sub-sites all of which are located at the eastern end of the Europark.

Site A- Round Plantation
Site B- Abandoned arable land adjacent to Round Plantation
Site C- A unit of land opposite Round Plantation, adjacent to The Havens Road
Site D- A unit of land opposite Round Plantation and adjacent to Lytham Road
Site E- A large storm soak away (Anglian Water) adjacent to Belfry Road
Site F- A unit of land adjacent to Wentworth Road

Site A. Round Plantation is deciduous woodland of oak and silver birch with Corsican pine on the northern edge. The wood has a closed canopy consequently the understory is sparse but thickens at the woodland edge by elder and some hawthorn. At ground level there are areas of leaf litter to a ground flora of bracken, low bramble and wood sage dominated areas to areas with a mixture of all three species. (Thirty years ago the ground flora was dominated by bracken and climbing corydalis).

Site B. The abandoned arable land is rabbit grazed on its periphery and has large areas that are being colonized by low bramble. Ragwort and Canadian fleabane dominate the remainder of the area. Located on the boundary of the site were a few Corsican pines and oak.

Site C. The unit of land adjacent to The Havens road has been colonized by common ruderals and low creeping bramble. On the eastern boundary there is line of old Corsican pine with a weak understory of elder. At the western end, next to the Anglian Water storm drain, there is a group of oaks and areas of low bramble and acid grassland.

Site D. The unit of land adjacent to Lytham Road has been colonized by grasses, which form a mosaic of swards between coarse grasses and fine grasses such as bents and fescues. Two mature ash and one oak trees are to be found on the eastern

boundary and there are appreciable amounts of soil spoil heaps on the southern boundary.

Site E. This large storm soak away is a very important site for wildlife. On the slopes and rim is acid grassland with some regenerating bramble and gorse but is dominated by fine grasses ling and bell heather. In the wetter areas it is a mosaic of short and tall herbs with alder sallow and willows.

Site F. The unit of land adjacent to Wentworth Road is in use as a builder's compound with store containers lots of spoil heaps and disturbed ground. There are areas of acid grassland and large areas that have been colonized by common ruderals dominated by ragwort and Canadian fleabane and buddleia.

Protected species:
Common lizard

Protected species potential:
Slow worm, grass snake and toad

BAP habitats present:
Heathland, acid grassland

BAP species seen:
Common lizard

BAP species known:
-

BAP species potential:
Bats, skylark, linnet, toad, silver studded blue, grayling, small heath, grass snake and slow worm

Connectivity:
Although all six sites were once part of a large heathland area they are still important for key species. They are also an important part of the wildlife corridors around and through this part of east Ipswich and connect to the wider countryside.

Structural diversity:
The structural diversity of some of the sites is good as a mosaic of grassland swards. The large storm soak away is particularly good with its herb rich sward, heath and variety of habitats. The structural diversity of the woodland could be improved but for the most of the perimeter there is a good scrub and soft edge.

Flora:
Site A. Round Plantation species included bracken, common nettle, Corsican pine, creeping thistle, elder, hawthorn, honeysuckle, oak, rosebay willowherb, silver birch, spear thistle and wood sage.

Site B. Ruderals, various grasses and herbs with large areas of low bramble are colonising the abandoned arable area adjacent to Round Plantation. Species present

included bittersweet, black horehound, black medick, bracken, bramble, bristly oxtongue, broad-leaved dock, buckshorn plantain, bugloss, Canadian fleabane, catsear, common centaury, common cudweed, common fiddleneck, common field speedwell, common hawkweed, common nettle, common ragwort, common sorrel, common storksbill, corn sowthistle, creeping cinquefoil, creeping thistle, daisy, dandelion, dove's foot cranesbill, great lettuce, great mullein, groundsel, field bindweed, haresfoot clover, hedge bindweed, hedge mustard, hemlock, meadow buttercup, redshank, ribwort plantain, rosebay, rough sow-thistle, scarlet pimpernel, scentless mayweed, sheep's sorrel, smooth hawksbeard, smooth sow-thistle, spear thistle, weld, white bryony, wood sage, yarrow and Yorkshire fog. Located on the boundary of the site were a few Corsican pines and oak with buddleia, bramble and elder.

Site C. Trees included Corsican pine with a weak understory of elder on the northeastern perimeter and oak. Low bramble dominated the site with ruderals, which included common centaury, common nettle, chicory, perforate St. John's wort, ragwort, rosebay, scarlet pimpernel and spear thistle. The area of acid grassland also contained common cudweed and bell heather seedlings.

Site D. In the main an area of acid grassland with some coarse grass areas. There are a number of plant species to be found here, similar to B above but with an abundance of fine grasses such as bents and fescues, other species included birds-foot trefoil, field pansy, self heal and perforate St. John's wort.

Site E. This large storm soak away was surveyed from behind the fence. On the rim and adjacent to the fence bramble and gorse was regenerating and colonizing the area. Fine grasses with ling and bell heather dominated the slopes and rim. Other species noted included birdsfoot trefoil, common centaury, biting stonecrop and wood sage. Heather and acid grassland was translocated from the edge of the Ransomes Europark Heathland County Wildlife Site approximately five years ago, to try to mitigate for the loss of some of the heathland to development.

In the wetter areas there was a mosaic of short and tall herbs with sallow and willows. Species included alder, branched burr-reed, bulrush, fleabane, giant hogweed, great willowherb, hard rush and sallow.

Site F. The unit of land adjacent to Wentworth Road. There were areas of acid grassland and large areas that have been colonized by common ruderals dominated by ragwort and Canadian fleabane and buddleia. Other species included Canadian fleabane, common storksbill, evening primrose, perforate St. John's wort, creeping cinquefoil, vervain, weld and yellow-eyed grass.

Avifauna:

The site visit was undertaken at a sub-optimal time of year for this group. Observations included blackbird, blackcap, blue tit, carrion crow, coal tit, great tit, great spotted woodpecker, green woodpecker, jay, robin, whitethroat and wood pigeon. Swallows were feeding over the sites.

The sites would support a much greater number of species than the observations listed. The bramble scrub and habitats associated with the storm soak away would be

particularly important for summer migrants. The mature oaks and Corsican pines would also attract and support different bird species.

Invertebrates:

The various habitats associated with these sites will support a wide variety of invertebrates. Butterfly observations included gatekeeper, large white, meadow brown, peacock, red admiral, small copper, small tortoiseshell and speckled wood. Other species include common darter, dark bush-cricket and common field grasshopper. In the area adjacent to Lytham Road there were long-winged coneheads (nationally notable [Na]) and short-winged coneheads and several very good colonies of wasp spider. Silver studded blue butterflies have been recorded nearby (2006) on the Ransomes Europark Heathland CWS and they could colonise the heathland around the lagoon.

Herpetofauna:

A common lizard was observed in the area adjacent to The Havens road, however common lizard and possibly also slow worm are likely to occur in all of the grassland areas and grass snake in the wetland area.

Mammals:

Rabbits appear to be abundant especially in the piece of abandoned arable land adjacent to Round Plantation and the land adjacent to Lytham Road. Observations were only of a nest of wood mice. There were also signs of fox in the wood.

Comments and recommendations:

It is highly recommended that the heathland and acid grassland (BAP habitats) are retained and managed appropriately. Future monitoring for silver studded blue butterflies should take place on the storm soakaway, where the developing heathland may support them.

A management plan should be produced for the storm soak away, this should include the appropriate cutting regime otherwise the bramble scrub will out-compete the heathers and acid grassland. Depending on growth, periodically, the willow, sallow and alder scrub should be coppiced and some stumps to be treated with herbicide to prevent the mosaic of wet habitats succeeding to tall mature woodland.

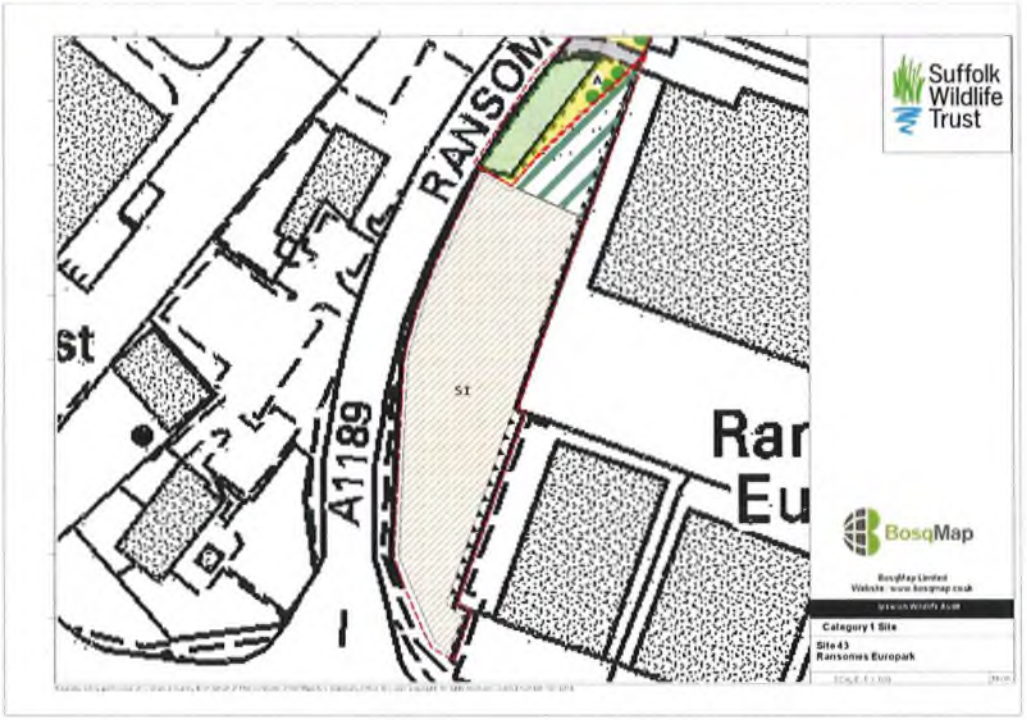
The habitat of Round Plantation could be improved if a ride and glade was created, this would let more light into the wood and allow a better structure to develop. Fly tipping ought to be prevented and existing rubble cleared. It was also noted that there were a number of campfire areas within the wood. In addition, all mature trees ought to be retained for their valuable habitat for wildlife.

Before any future development is consented on this site a reptile survey must be carried out, due to the high likelihood that they will be present. No clearance of vegetation should take place until the presence of reptiles has been properly assessed and mitigated, in order to ensure compliance with the Wildlife & Countryside Act (1981) (as amended).

Site name: Site reference 43 - Ransomes Europark

IBC ref:	W83
Site status:	No wildlife designation
Grid ref:	TM 20610 42060 and TM 19800 41820
Area:	1.45 ha
Date:	1 October 2012 and 23 October 2012
Recorder:	M Wright
Weather conditions:	Overcast with light rain; second visit with fog
Ranking:	4
Biodiversity value:	Medium

Maps:



Site A

Site B

Photos:

Site A. The verge, adjacent to Ransomes Way, looking towards the roundabout

Site B. A typical view of the tree belt (taken in foggy weather)

Habitat type(s):
Acid grassland with trees, coniferous and deciduous tree belt

Subsidiary habitats:
Dead wood

Site description:
The Ransomes Europark comprise of two sites.

Site A. This site is a grass verge opposite a roundabout and adjacent to Ransomes Way (A1189). It is an area of acid grassland, short mown and rabbit grazed with a number of planted trees. There was a small plantation of Scot's pine.

Site B. This site is adjacent to the Ipswich to Felixstowe railway line. It is a linear coniferous and deciduous tree belt with a ground flora dominated by bracken with an abundance of dead wood, leaf litter and grasses. The understory is relatively open but with a profusion of large cotoneaster bushes.

Protected species:
Grass snake and common lizard (Site B only)

Protected species potential:
Bats, slow worm (Site B only)

BAP habitats present:
Acid grassland (Site A only)

BAP species seen:
Song thrush

BAP species known:
Grass snake and common lizard (Site B only)

BAP species potential:
Bats, slow worm and toad (Site B only)

Connectivity:
Site A has limited connectivity as it is mostly bounded by existing development. The tree belt which forms Site B is a good wildlife area, which connects a number of sites through the industrial site into Ipswich.

Structural diversity:
Site A has limited structural diversity, consisting primarily of planted trees within the wide road verge. The structural diversity of Site B is good with various ages of trees, a good understory with an abundance of berries and a varied ground cover.

Flora:
Site A. The extremely short mown and grazed grassland is comprised of fine grasses, bents and fescue species with sheep's sorrel, dove's-foot cranesbill, scarlet pimpernel, black medick, white clover, buckshorn plantain, creeping cinquefoil, common mouse-ear chickweed, mouse-eared hawkweed, daisy and smooth hawksbeard.

The small plantation of Scot's pine has an understory of elder; other planted trees included silver birch, mountain ash, white poplar and green alder.

Site B. The woodland belt was predominately of Scot's pine and silver birch with a few oaks; the understory was dominated by cotoneaster sp., with white poplar, elder, hawthorn, buddleia, bramble and holly. The ground flora included fine and coarse grass species, bracken, ground ivy, ragwort and wood sage.

There was an abundance and variety of fungi present in the ground flora.

Avifauna:
Observations included a feeding party of coal, blue, great and long-tailed tits, wood pigeon, song thrush, blackbird, robin and carrion crow.

Invertebrates:
No invertebrates were readily seen, however the habitat of Site A would be poor for this taxa; whereas Site B would be good. There are several silver studded blue butterfly records in the area as recently as 2010 and small heath has also been recorded nearby, again in 2010.

Herpetofauna:
At the time of the survey no reptiles were seen and the habitat of Site A is not considered suitable although reptiles are undoubtedly present in neighboring areas. With regard to Site B and adjacent habitats it is highly likely that grass snake, common lizard and amphibians occur.

Mammals:

Although no species were seen during the site visit there was plenty of evidence that rabbits were present. Grey squirrels are known to be present and it is highly likely that fox, muntjac and other small mammals occur. Bats are likely to feed along the railway line corridor (Site B).

Comments and recommendations:

The verge (Site A), as it is predominately acid grassland (BAP) ought to have the cutting regime relaxed to create a mosaic of sward heights and to allow for a better flowering season to benefit invertebrates. An annual cut by the fence and in other suitable places would allow for a longer grass sward to flourish. This would provide better habitat for reptiles. Any formal planting of bulbs and bedding plants ought to be avoided.

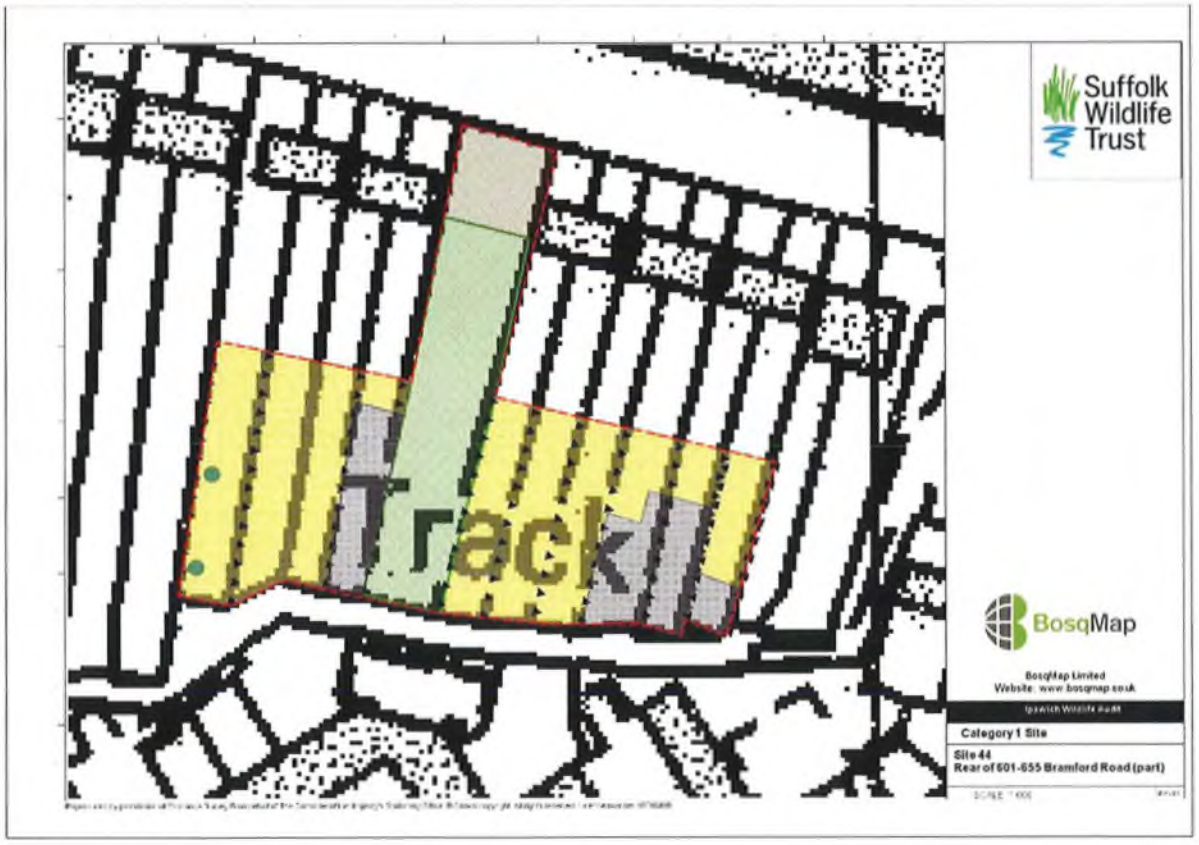
The tree belt (Site B) is very good for wildlife particularly as a wintering site for feeding finches and thrushes. It is also good for fungi species and all dead wood should be left on site.. The habitat is also suitable as a refuge site for reptiles, which are highly likely to occur given the adjacent heathland sites of the adjacent golf course, buggy testing area. According to one of the Ransomes Jacobsen groundsmen, adders are present but this has not been substantiated. It is therefore recommended that a reptile survey be carried out on Site B.

The small private golf course immediately south of site B (owned by Ransomes Jacobson), with its mosaic of habitats including heathland and lake, is of high wildlife interest and should be surveyed in greater detail in 2013.

Site name: Site reference 44 - Rear of 601-627 Bramford Road

IBC ref: UC132/IP107
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 13940 45650
Area: 0.30 hectares
Date: 16 August 2012
Recorder: S Bullion
Weather conditions: Hot, sunshine with cloud, 22° C, slight breeze
Ranking: 6
Biodiversity value: Low

Map:



Photos:

Central strip looking north

Habitat type(s):
Cultivated gardens, with trees and shrubs

Subsidiary habitats:
Overgrown central strip

Site description:
The majority of the site is the back gardens of properties fronting the southern side of Bramford Road. With the exception of the central strip, which does not contain a house, all the gardens are well used, with mown lawns, flower borders and trees and shrubs. Some gardens have extensive areas of hard standing. The central strip is extremely overgrown and impenetrable.

Protected species:
-

Protected species potential:
-

BAP habitats present:
-

BAP species seen:
-

BAP species known:
-

BAP species potential:
-

Connectivity:
Connectivity is poor. The site is completely surrounded by housing.

Structural diversity:
Structural diversity is limited due to the nature of the habitat.

Flora:
The gardens contain a mixture of mown grass, flower borders and ornamental/fruiting trees and shrubs. The central strip is an impenetrable growth of bramble, nettle with occasional elder, willow and lilac. There are several tall Leylandii trees near the middle. On the Bramford Road frontage, there is a gate into this area, behind which is a dense thicket of buddleia, jasmine and elder scrub with nettles, spear thistle and mallow.

Avifauna:
No birds were recorded but this was an unsuitable time of year for surveying this group. This site provides some habitat for nesting and foraging.

Invertebrates:
A large white butterfly was seen, but overall, this site provides poor habitat for this group.

Herpetofauna:
Prior to development on the southern boundary, the site may have supported slow worms and toads as part of a wider ecological unit, but now its small size and isolation makes it unsuitable for this group. A reptile survey undertaken by James Blake Associates in 2010 (in conjunction with planning application IP/10/01007/FUL) found no evidence of reptiles.

Mammals:
The site may support common species such as grey squirrel, wood mouse and brown rat.

Comments and recommendations:
This site was surveyed from the boundaries only. If developed care should be taken to avoid bird nesting season when removing garden shrubs. Opportunities should be taken to retain suitable trees, such as the large willow on the western boundary of the site, behind property 427. A search of the Ipswich Borough Website did not reveal any TPOs in the vicinity of the site.

There is a very large willow bordering the south-eastern corner of the site in an area that may have been a former pond. This tree has previously dropped a large limb with the woody bough lying beneath. This tree is of ecological value due to its age and size, but will require arboricultural assessment. Work to the crown may allow this tree to be retained.

Site name: Site reference 45 - School Site, Lavenham Road

IBC ref: UC064/IP61
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 14340 44160
Area: 1.08 hectares
Date: 2 September 2012
Recorder: S Bullion
Weather conditions: Warm and sunny 20° C.
Ranking: 5
Biodiversity value: Low

Map:

Photos:

View south west from Kelly Road

Habitat type(s):
Short mown grassland

Subsidiary habitats:
Hedgerow, two lines of yew trees

Site description:
This is an area of short mown amenity grassland bordering Lavenham Road and Kelly Road. A hedge defines the north-eastern boundary, with all other boundaries being open or garden fences. Two short lines of yew trees occur in the south-west of the site, possibly a relic from a former garden or parkland. The site is used for dog exercising as well as other local recreational activities.

Protected species:
-

Protected species potential:
-

BAP habitats present:
-

BAP species seen:
-

BAP species known:
-

BAP species potential:
-

Connectivity:
The site is surrounded by roads and housing. Although Chantry Park lies 125m to the west, there is no direct connectivity between the two sites.

Structural diversity:
Structural diversity is poor due to the close mown sward and very few trees and shrubs.

Flora:
Perennial rye grass was the predominant grass, but within the sward were common herbs, including ribwort plantain, yarrow, white clover, dandelion, creeping cinquefoil, rough hawkbit, autumn hawkbit and dove's foot cranesbill. The hedge was primarily elder and ivy in the western section, with some hawthorn and *Prunus* species in the centre and a dense stand of elm at the eastern end. There is a small amount of bramble associated with the hedge. A large ash tree is situated at the northern corner, adjacent to the hedge. This tree displays signs of physical damage on one side of the trunk and limbs, with a small amount of die back in the crown on the same side. Two lines of tall yew trees are present in the south-western area, which may be a relic of a former park or large garden.

Avifauna:
No birds were recorded but this was an unsuitable time of year for surveying this group. There are few nesting and foraging opportunities for this group.

Invertebrates:
There is little opportunity for this group. Common species may be present in the hedgerow.

Herpetofauna:
The site is not suitable for this group.

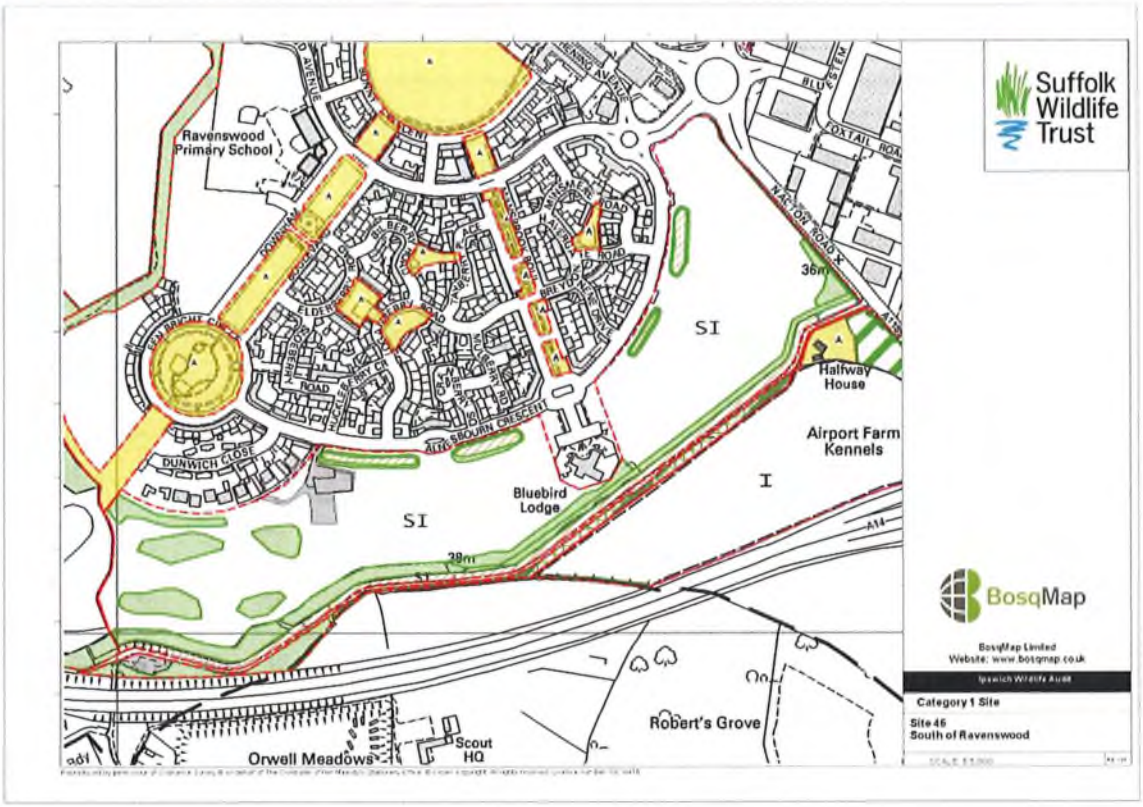
Mammals:
The site is not suitable for this group.

Comments and recommendations:
The ongoing management means this site is currently of low wildlife value. Planting additional mixed, native species hedges around the perimeter would improve structural diversity and provide further habitat, particularly if a rough grass margin was allowed to grow up next to any additional planting, once it was established.

Site name: Site reference 46 - South of Ravenswood

IBC ref: UC267/IP1
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 19490 41170
Area: 17.97 hectares
Date: 24 July 2012
Recorder: M Wright
Weather conditions: Clear skies, hot and sunny
Ranking: 3
Biodiversity value: Medium

Map:



Photos:

The north side of the scrub belt adjacent to the airport perimeter road

One of the landscaped areas

The Nacton Road hedge

Habitat type(s):
Tall herb and ruderal, rough grassland, herb rich grassland, hedge, scrub and young plantations.

Subsidiary habitat:
-

Site description:
The site was formally part of the Ipswich airport and is now bisected by the Bluebird Lodge care home. The site is composed mostly of tall grassland and plant species with areas of scrub and pioneer saplings. Along Nacton Road perimeter there is a managed field maple and hawthorn hedge, landward side of the hedge there is a mown strip of grassland approximately one metre wide. The wildlife value of the hedge and grass strip is poor, however the adjacent bramble scrub habitat with uncut grass and tall vegetation is developing into a biodiversity rich habitat. In the corner area where the Airport perimeter track meets Nacton Road Corsican pine has been planted, which has an understory and edge of bramble. The southern perimeter of the site that runs the length of the Airport perimeter track has developed into a wonderful rich habitat for wildlife. There is a mown edge to the road followed by at least four metres of herb rich grassland, bank and ditch followed by a rich scrub fringe of bramble, gorse, broom, plum, elder Corsican pine, silver birch and oak. On the northern edge of the site along Alnesbourn Crescent there are several landscaped areas planted with silver birch, dog rose, holm oak, oak and field maple with gorse and bramble colonising to provide excellent habitat, hotspots for plants, butterflies and breeding birds. The greater part of the site comprise of tall grass and flowering plants with scrub patches of bramble, gorse, broom and hawthorn with regenerating oaks throughout.

Protected species:
Grass snake, slow worm and common lizard

Protected species potential:
Bats

BAP habitats present:
-

BAP species seen:
Skylark, linnet, house sparrow and starling

BAP species known:
Grass snake, slow worm, common lizard and cinnabar moth

BAP species potential:
Bats, hedgehog, yellowhammer, song thrush, small heath and grayling.

Connectivity:
This site in conjunction with the Airport perimeter track (Site 50) tree belt is a very important and excellent wildlife corridor that links the wider countryside with the major wildlife areas of the Orwell Country Park and Orwell estuary corridor.

Structural diversity:
The structural diversity of the boundary areas is excellent with a mosaic of scrub, trees, tall grasses and herbs as well as herb rich swards.

Flora:
There was a very good plant assemblage, which included birdsfoot trefoil, black horehound, black knapweed, black medick, bristly oxtongue, broad-leaved dock, catsear, common centaury, common nettle, common poppy, common ragwort, common sorrel, common storksbill, common toadflax, common vetch, creeping thistle, curled dock, dandelion, dittander (nationally scarce), field pansy, goatsbeard, great lettuce, great mullein, groundsel, field bindweed, hairy tare, haresfoot clover, hawkweed oxtongue, hedge bindweed, hedge mustard, hedgerow cranesbill, hemlock, hogweed, hop trefoil, lady's bedstraw, lesser stitchwort, mallow, mugwort, musk thistle, oxeye daisy, perforate St. John's wort, red campion, red clover, red dead-nettle, ribwort plantain, rosebay, rough poppy, rough sow-thistle, scarlet pimpernel, self heal, sheep's sorrel, slender thistle, smooth hawksbeard, smooth sow-thistle, spear thistle, weld, wild carrot, wild parsnip, wild radish, white campion, white clover and yarrow.

Grasses include annual meadow grass, cocksfoot, common bent, creeping bent, false oat-grass, red fescue, 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, holm oak, pedunculate oak, plum, silver birch and spindle.

The plant list above would undoubtedly be much greater if the fieldwork was carried out over a larger time span.

Avifauna:
The site is clearly important for breeding summer migrants and for finches. There were four BAP and Birds of Conservation Concern red listed species observed, which were skylark, starling, house sparrow and linnet; other observations included magpie, meadow pipit, goldfinch, greenfinch, whitethroat, chiffchaff, blue tit, great tit, wood pigeon and feeding over the site were house martin and swift (Suffolk character species), both species breed on the estate.

There are at least six skylark territories (Wright 2012). The site also supports breeding meadow pipit, chaffinch, greenfinch, goldfinch, linnet, blackbird and the following summer migrants whitethroat, lesser whitethroat, blackcap and chiffchaff.

In 2007 a pair of grasshopper warblers and cuckoos (both BAP and BoCC species) were present (Wright 2012).

Invertebrates:
Observations of butterflies included small white, large white, Essex skipper, small skipper, small copper, gatekeeper, meadow brown and ringlet. Cinnabar moth larvae have also been recorded on this site in 2001.

The emperor dragonfly was the only species observed in this taxa group.

Other species of insect identified included six-spot burnet, meadow grasshopper and hornet. In addition there were numerous bees and hoverflies.

Throughout the site there were an abundance of large anthills.

Herpetofauna:
No species were seen during the site visit, however grass snake, slow worm and common lizard are known to occur in this location.

Mammals:
There was evidence of moles and although no species were seen during the site visit the habitat is ideal for small mammals such as short-tailed field vole; also the site is likely to be used by rabbit, muntjac and fox.

In previous visits to this site a kestrel has been seen hunting for small mammals.

Comments and recommendations:
Currently the hedge and mown strip along the Nacton Road are of poor value in terms of wildlife habitat. To improve the habitat for wildlife the hedge would have to be left uncut and allowed to become bushy, likewise the grass ought to be cut once a year in the autumn.

It is highly recommended that the perimeter wildlife corridor and habitat of herb rich grassland and scrub is safeguarded. On the north side of the scrub a headland of herbs and grassland ought to be allowed to develop. On the northern edge there are several landscaped areas, which have become excellent habitat and are hotspots for various plants, butterflies and breeding birds; these areas ought to have the grass cut only in the autumn with the clippings removed and any colonizing shrubs retained. The cutting regime should prevent the scrub from colonising the whole area.

Before any development is consented on this site a reptile survey must be carried out, due to the high likelihood that they will be present. No clearance of vegetation should take place until the presence of reptiles is properly assessed and mitigated, in order to ensure compliance with the Wildlife & Countryside Act (1981) (as amended).

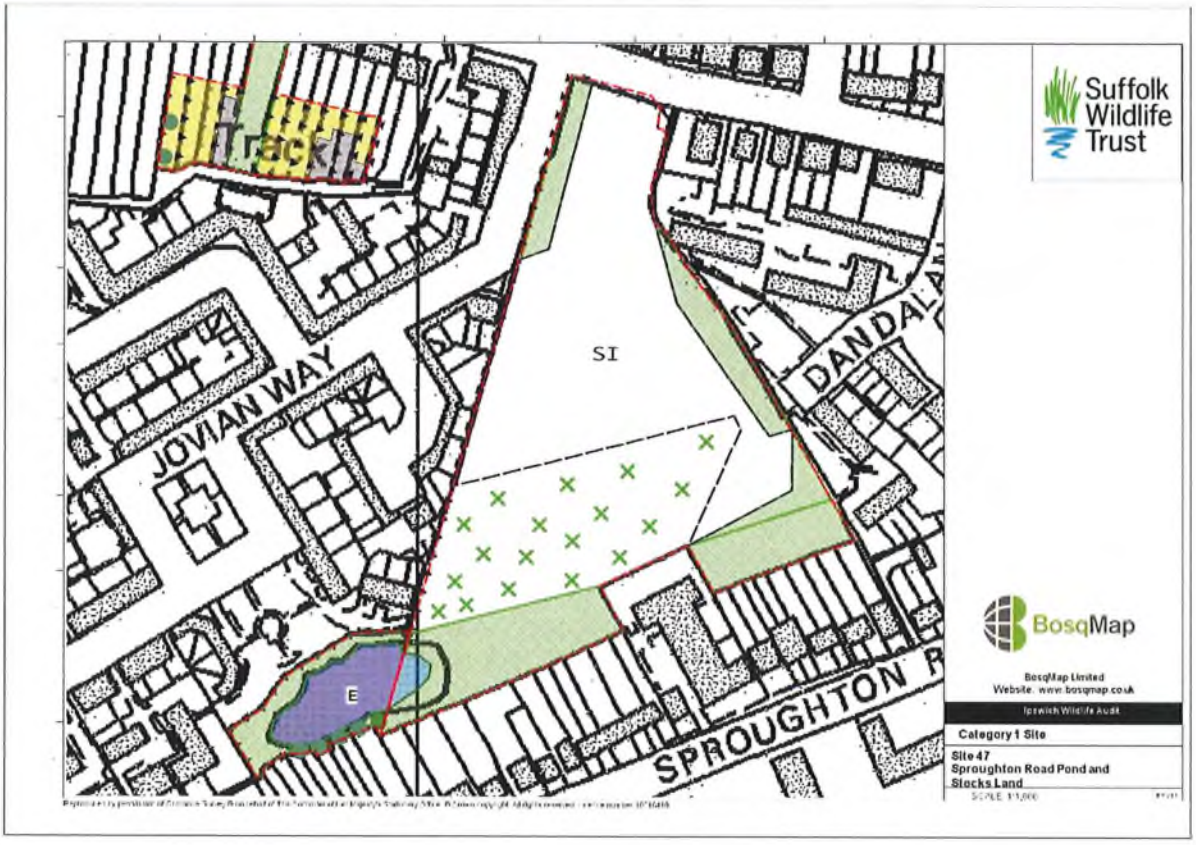
It is recommended that an invertebrate survey of this site should be undertaken.

References:
Wright M. 2012, Skylark Survey at Ravenswood 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012, Suffolk Wildlife Trust report to Ipswich Borough Council

Site name: Site reference 47 - Sproughton Road Pond and Stock's Land

IBC ref: W38/UC034
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 14070 45510
Area: 2.03 hectares
Date: 16 August 2012
Recorder: S Bullion
Weather conditions: Hot, sunshine with cloud, 22° C, slight breeze
Ranking: 4
Biodiversity value: Medium

Map:



Photos:

Habitat type(s):
Rough grassland with scrub, large pond

Subsidiary habitats:

Site description:
The site lies to the south of Bramford Road and was once part of a larger site known as Sproughton Road Wasteground. The site was once used for traveling fairgrounds, but it has not been managed for many years and contains a tall, rough grassland sward with developing scattered scrub. In the south-western corner is a large pond. The north-eastern edges of this pond are surrounded by almost impenetrable scrub, whereas the southern side borders back gardens. The pond can be viewed from the open space on Jovian way, on its western side. A secure fence prevents public access, so the habitat is very undisturbed.

Protected species:
-

Protected species potential:
Slow worm, common lizard

BAP habitats present:
Eutrophic standing water (pond)

BAP species seen:
-

BAP species known:
-

BAP species potential:
Slow worm, common lizard, toad and hedgehog

Connectivity:
Although once connected to the wider countryside, the site is now surrounded by roads and housing.

Structural diversity:
Structural diversity is good, with a mixture of tall grasses and herbs, scrub, wet woodland, reeds and open water.

Flora:
A good assemblage of plant species was recorded, typical of rough grassland:
Herbs: Yarrow, common mallow, white clover, red clover, creeping cinquefoil, prickly lettuce, ragwort, mugwort, buckhorn plantain, hedge cranesbill, tansy, greater plantain, hope trefoil, black medick, field bindweed, shepherd's purse, black horehound, white campion, Canadian fleabane, black knapweed, smooth hawk's-beard, nodding thistle, creeping thistle, spear thistle, white dead nettle, hemlock, weld, rosebay willowherb soapwort and the nationally scarce (but locally common) dittander.
Grasses: Rough-stalked meadow grass, rye grass, small timothy, red fescue, meadow fescue, common bent, couch grass.
Scattered scrub occurred mostly along the eastern and southern boundaries, with bramble, hawthorn, *Prunus* spp, dogwood and elder. The scrub was particularly impenetrable on the northern edge of the pond, where bramble is supplanted by willow in wetter areas.

Aquatic plants visible from the eastern edge of the pond included common reed and amphibious bistort.

Avifauna:
No birds were recorded but this was an unsuitable time of year for surveying this group. This site provides good habitat for nesting and foraging.

Invertebrates:
The mosaic of habitats on this site means it is good for invertebrates. Grasshoppers were abundant at the time of the visit. There are numerous ant hills consistent with this being undisturbed grassland. A large white and meadow brown butterflies was seen and further members of this group are highly likely to be present. Grayling has been recorded nearby in 1995. On the south-western edge of the grassland a southern hawker dragonfly was seen hunting, with a brown hawker dragonfly flying over the pond itself.

Herpetofauna:
The site is suitable for reptiles such as slow worm and common lizard and also toads.

Mammals:
The site may support species such as grey squirrel, hedgehog and various small mammals

Comments and recommendations:

Before any development is consented on this site a reptile survey must be carried out, due to the high likelihood that they will be present. No clearance of vegetation should take place until the presence of reptiles is properly assessed and mitigated, in order to ensure compliance with the Wildlife & Countryside Act (1981) (as amended).

Any future development proposals should retain a thick scrubby buffer around the pond.

Site name: Site reference 47 - Sproughton Road Pond

IBC ref: W38
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 14070 45510
Area: 2.03 hectares
Date: 16 August 2012
Recorder: S Bullion
Weather conditions: Hot, sunshine with cloud, 22° C, slight breeze
Ranking: 4
Biodiversity value: Medium

Map:

Photos:

Habitat type(s):
Large pond, fringing reed swamp, tall ruderal, scrub and wet woodland

Subsidiary habitats:
-

Site description:
This pond can be viewed from the open space on Jovian way, on its western side. A secure fence prevents public access, so the habitat is undisturbed. The north-eastern edges of this pond are surrounded by almost impenetrable scrub, whereas the southern side borders back gardens. East of the pond is a larger site known as Sproughton Road Wasteground. This site was once used for traveling fairgrounds, but it has not been managed for many years and contains a tall, rough grassland sward with developing scattered scrub. The boundary between the two sites currently runs through the pond.

Protected species:
-

Protected species potential:
Slow worm, common lizard

BAP habitats present:
Eutrophic standing water (pond)

BAP species seen:
-
BAP species known:
-
BAP species potential:
Slow worm, common lizard, toad and hedgehog

Connectivity:
Although once connected to the wider countryside, the site is now surrounded by roads and housing, apart from where it adjoins the larger habitat block associated with Sproughton Road Wasteground.

Structural diversity:
Structural diversity is good, with a mixture of tall ruderals, scrub, wet woodland, reeds and open water.

Flora:
Aquatic plants visible from the eastern edge of the pond included common reed, reed mace and amphibious bistort. In drier parts, creeping bent, nettle, mallow, creeping thistle, hemlock, tansy and dittander (nationally scarce) was present. Boundary scrub included bramble, hawthorn, dog rose and elm. The scrub was particularly impenetrable on the northern-eastern edge of the pond, where bramble is supplanted by willow in wetter areas.

Avifauna:
No birds were recorded but this was an unsuitable time of year for surveying this group. This site provides good habitat for nesting and foraging.

Invertebrates:
The mosaic of habitat associated with the pond and its margins will support a good range of invertebrates. On the south-western edge of the grassland a southern hawker dragonfly was seen hunting, with a brown hawker dragonfly flying over the pond itself.

Herpetofauna:
The site is suitable for reptiles such as slow worm and common lizard and also toads. A slow worm was recorded on the Bramford Road in 2013 as part of Suffolk Wildlife Trust's 'i-Spy a Reptile' website-based recording project.

Mammals:
The site may support species such as grey squirrel and various small mammals. The habitat is very good for the hedgehogs, a rapidly declining species.

Comments and recommendations:
Any future development proposals on the adjacent Sproughton Road Wasteground should retain the thick scrubby buffer around the full perimeter of the pond.

Site name: Site reference 48 - St Clements Hospital Grounds

IBC ref: W35/UC185
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 19020 43840
Area: 12.64 hectares
Date: 24 August 2012
Recorder: S Bullion
Weather conditions: Cool, cloudy 18°C, slight shower at end of afternoon
Ranking: 4
Biodiversity value: Medium

Map:

Photos:

Car park looking north-east towards woodland belt on road frontage

Hospital buildings viewed from south

Rough grassland in south-west corner

Outbuildings in south-west

Habitat type(s):
Short mown grass, un-mown rough grassland, tall grass and scrub, tree belt

Subsidiary habitats:
Mature/veteran trees

Site description:
Within this large site are the older buildings of the St Clements Hospital as well as more modern buildings throughout the site. A mature tree belt screens the buildings from the Foxhall Road. Amenity grassland surrounds most of the buildings, but the eastern areas have been left unmown at the time of the survey. To the rear of the main hospital buildings are former gardens and much of the centre of the site is occupied by a playing field within which is a bowls square screened by a beech hedge. To the south-west are a sports/recreational centre and football pitch and also older buildings which may have been former stabling/coach houses. The small plot of land adjoining the railway line is rough grassland and scrub, with mature pine trees. Bordering the roads within the site are large Scots pine trees and also smaller silver birch.

Protected species:
Grass snake

Protected species potential:
Common lizard and slow worm in rough grassland areas (Target Note 1) and bats in the older buildings and trees

BAP habitats present:
-

BAP species seen:
-

BAP species known:
Stag beetle, grass snake, grayling, small heath, house sparrow, dunnock, common starling and song thrush

BAP species potential:
Common lizard, slow worm, hedgehog, bat species

Connectivity:
The site abuts the Ipswich – Felixstowe railway line and is also directly north of the Golf Course (Site 130), so there is good connectivity to other local sites associated with the railway corridor.

Structural diversity:
Structural diversity is good in parts of the site, such as in the rough habitat adjacent to the railway line and the site boundaries.

Flora:
The northern edge tree belt includes some very large specimens of holm oak, with holly, Norway maple, beech, oak, Scot's pine, horse chestnut, sycamore. At the front of the site is a large cedar tree and also lime trees and a black mulberry within the car park area. Within the site itself are some large specimens of Scot's pine, particularly to the east of the playing field. There are also numerous silver birch and occasional beech and a poplar. Leylandii and beech are used for screening within the site.

The short mown grass areas around the site are of lower biodiversity value, with typical species such as yarrow, ribwort plantain, buck's-horn plantain, greater plantain, cat's-ear, rye grass, common bent, wall barley. Rougher edges include perforate St-John's wort and mugwort.

In the south-west corner, abutting the railway line, there is a fenced off area of rough grassland and scrub. Although not species-rich, these sorts of habitat can be very important as urban refuges for wildlife. False oat grass, Canadian fleabane, ragwort, broad-leaved dock, prickly sow-thistle, nettle were recorded. Close to the railway line is a line of mature Scot's pine trees with a very large willow in the south-western corner.

Within the rough grassland around the buildings on the eastern side, the grasses were finer (Fescue species) and ladies bedstraw was noted as an additional species.

Avifauna:
The tree belt adjacent to the Foxhall Road will provide some nesting opportunities for garden species, as will other shrub habitat on site. There are several records of birds on the BAP list including house sparrow, common starling, song thrush, and dunnock in 2010.

Invertebrates:
There is an old record of stag beetle for the site (1992) but it is highly likely that the larvae of this species are present where there is subterranean deadwood. The rough grassland areas will support a range of species such as butterflies and grasshoppers, but the weather conditions during the survey were not favourable for recording this group. There are records of grayling (1995) and small heath (2006) from the boundaries of the site.

Herpetofauna:
Excellent habitat for common lizard and slow worm exists adjacent to the railway line in the north-west sector of the site. The unmown areas to the east also provide suitable habitat for reptiles and may have been colonised from a local population. There are records of grass snake on site (2007).

Mammals:
There is excellent habitat for hedgehog (BAP species). Common mammals such as muntjac deer will be present and signs of grey squirrel and fox were observed. The old buildings and the mature trees provide roosting opportunities for bats.

Comments and recommendations:
We strongly recommend that a reptile survey is undertaken in the rough habitats in the south western corner of the site, adjacent to the railway line. Other areas of rough grassland within the site should also be included within the survey area. No clearance of vegetation should take place until the findings of this survey are available and appropriate mitigation has been implemented as required.

A comprehensive bat survey should be undertaken as part of any future development. In the main hospital building gaps in the brick mortar were noted, which can provide access points for bats. In addition, old buildings may use lead around chimneys which can also lift and provide bat access points. The old stables/coach houses near the social club should be included in the bat survey, as should the mature trees which also may support roosting bats. Development proposals should also ensure that bat activity is not affected by light spillage, both during construction and afterwards.

In addition, clearance of rough vegetation *(assuming that any reptile issues have already been fully mitigated for - see above)* should endeavour to limit any impacts on hedgehogs. During the winter these animals may be in hibernation and therefore highly vulnerable during any site clearance. In the

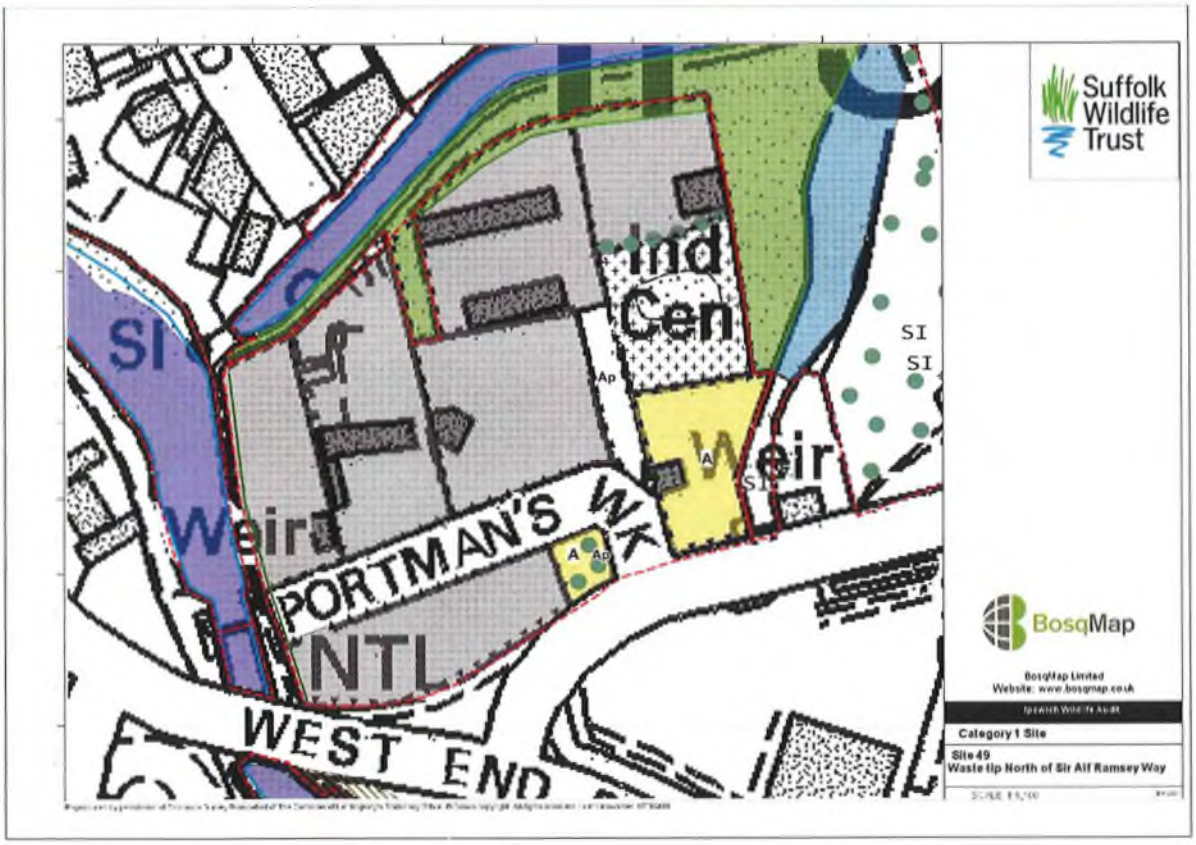
summer dependent young in nests are similarly vulnerable. It is suggested that site clearance of any rough grassland should involve a high cut first, then a check by a suitably qualified ecologist.

Stag beetle larvae feed for up to seven years within underground deadwood, then emerge as adults in late spring. Removal of the stumps of mature/senescent trees may un-earth the larvae. In this situation, the larvae should be re-buried with their deadwood habitat in an undisturbed, semi-shaded part of the site under the guidance of a suitably qualified ecologist.

Site name: Site reference 49 - Waste Tip North of Sir Alf Ramsey Way

IBC ref: UC003/IP003
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 15547 44438
Area: 1.57 hectares
Date: 7 September 2012
Recorder: S Bullion
Weather conditions: Clear, hot and still, 26°C
Ranking: 5
Biodiversity value: Low

Map:



Photos:

View eastwards along Portman Walk

Wheelie bin storage area in north-east corner

Habitat type(s):
Scrub on boundaries and within site.

Subsidiary habitats:
Short mown grass and garden borders. Individual trees.

Site description:
The majority of the site is hard standing and buildings and is currently being used for waste recycling, car parking, light industry and sand and gravel distribution. In the south-west of the site, Portman's Walk, a dead-end road, runs towards the river. A single house and garden lies in the south-eastern corner of the site, bounded by a tall wooden fence. A small rectangle of grass with 6 sycamore trees lies on the corner of Portman's Walk. The Alderman Canal County Wildlife Site (CWS) borders the site on three sides, with Sir Alf Ramsey Way forming the bulk of the southern boundary. Continuous scrub borders the canal, forming a valuable corridor. The scrub is particularly thick along the eastern boundary. Within the site there is limited scrub bordering the service road running north from Portman's Walk and a line of sycamore trees.

Protected species:
-

Protected species potential:
-

BAP habitats present:
-

BAP species seen:
-

BAP species known:
-

BAP species potential:
-

Connectivity:
The site's location next to the Alderman Canal means that it has the potential to be well connected to other sites with a wildlife value.

Structural diversity:
The margins of the site adjacent to the Alderman Canal provide good structural diversity and the garden also complements this. The remainder of the site provides no habitat for wildlife.

Flora:
The nature of the site means that there are few species to record within this group. Ivy and buddleia occasionally occur within the site itself, otherwise all plants are found associated with the margins. The boundaries of the Alderman Canal are colonised by brambles, but along the canal path there has been some additional planting of hawthorn, field maple, hazel and dogwood. The garden was not accessible at the time of the visit, but contained short mown grass and ornamental species. The eastern edge of the

site contains more scrubby species, with hawthorn, rose, sycamore and ivy bordering the eastern edge of the short service road leading north from Portman's Walk. A line of sycamores subdivides two areas currently being used for wheelie bin storage.

Avifauna:
The margins of the site provide nesting and foraging opportunities.

Invertebrates:
The margins of the site provide good opportunities for this group and a red admiral and large white butterfly were recorded within this habitat. A large clump of ivy at the western end of Portman's Walk provides a superb nectar source with hundreds of hoverflies and several bees being seen. Clumps of buddleia within the site provide an additional nectar source.

Herpetofauna:
There is no habitat on site currently suitable for this group.

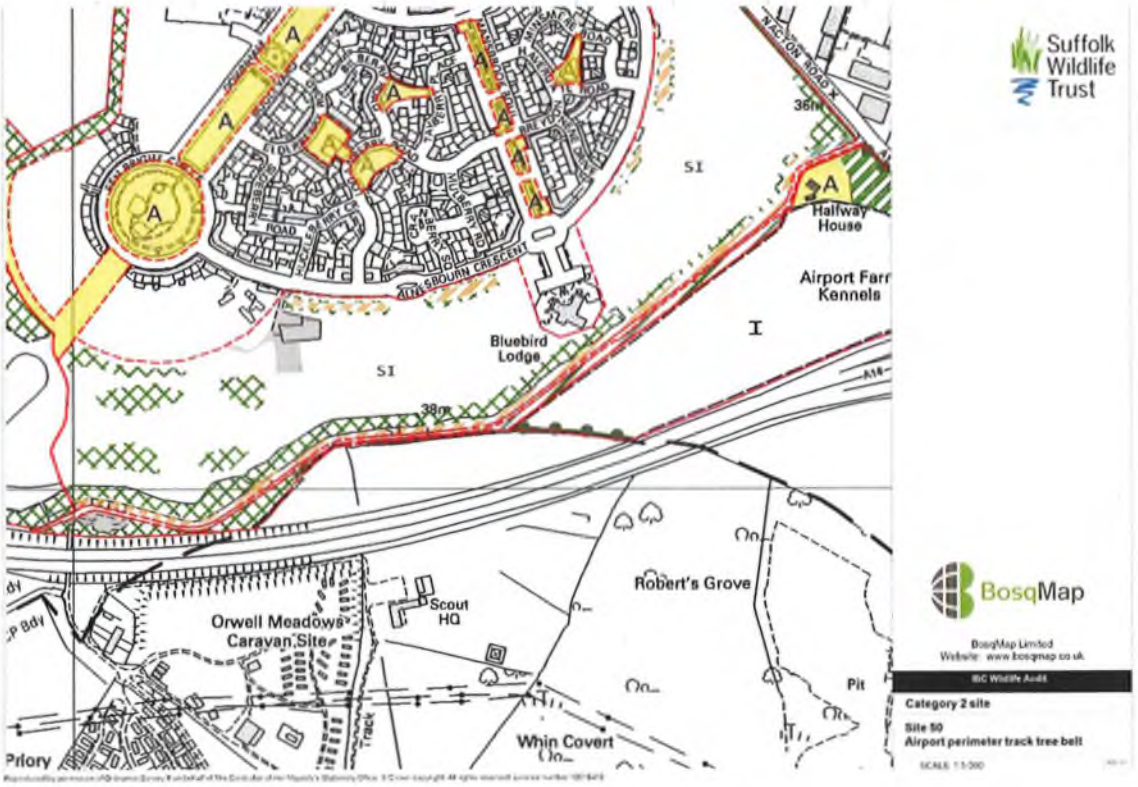
Mammals:
There is no habitat on site currently suitable for this group. However there are records of otter (2007), water vole (2007) and hedgehog (2007) from the Alderman Canal.

Comments and recommendations:
Development of this site should ensure that the Alderman Canal corridor and its associated habitats are buffered and enhanced. Any future green space should be sited adjacent to the canal, to complement it.

Site name: Site reference 50 - Airport Perimeter Track Tree Belt

IBC ref: W43
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 19379 41074
Area: 1.09 hectares
Date: 25 July 2012
Recorder: M Wright
Weather conditions: Clear skies, hot and sunny
Ranking: 4
Biodiversity value: Medium

Map:



Photos:

Looking towards Halfway House and the pines and oaks along part of the tree belt

Habitat type(s):
Mature trees and remnant hedgerow, scrub

Subsidiary habitats:
-

Site description:
The site lies to the south of Ravenswood (Ref. 46) and runs the length of the track from the Nacton Road (A1189). The site is a linear line of mature trees and remnants of a hedgerow.

Protected species:
-

Protected Species potential:
Bats, badger, slow worm, grass snake

BAP habitats present:
-

BAP species seen:
Starling and linnet

BAP species known:

BAP species potential:
Bats, common lizard, slow worm, grass snake

Connectivity:
This site, in conjunction with the area of the Airport Farm Kennels (Site 23), is a very important part of the local ecological network, linking the wider countryside with the major wildlife corridor associated with the Orwell estuary.

Structural diversity:
The structural diversity of the tree belt is good but could be improved further to benefit wildlife.

Flora:
A good mixture of plants including birds-foot-trefoil, black horehound, black medick, bracken, bristly ox tongue, broad-leaved dock, cat's-ear, common nettle, common poppy, common ragwort, common sorrel, common storksbill, creeping thistle, dandelion, dittander (nationally scarce), goat's-beard, great lettuce, great mullein, groundsel, field bindweed, hedge bindweed, hedge mustard, hemlock, hogweed, hop trefoil, mallow, mugwort, red campion, ribwort plantain, rosebay willowherb, rough sow-thistle, scarlet pimpernel, smooth hawk's-beard, smooth sow-thistle, spear thistle, weld, wild parsnip, wild radish, white campion and yarrow.

Trees and shrubs include ash, blackthorn, bramble, broom, Corsican pine, elder, field maple, gorse, hawthorn, hazel, holly, ivy, oak and sycamore.

Avifauna:
There were two BAP and Birds of Conservation Concern red listed species observed, which were starling and linnet. Other observations included carrion crow, wood pigeon, blue tit, great tit, chaffinch, robin, blackbird and whitethroat. However, the time of year was unsuitable for undertaking a full survey for this group.

Invertebrates:
An interesting assemblage of butterflies was observed including purple hairstreak, small white, Essex skipper, small copper, gatekeeper, meadow brown, ringlet and red admiral. The scarce wall butterfly was recorded in 2005, 150m to the south of the site and cinnabar was recorded 100m to the north in 2001.

Herpetofauna:
No species were seen during the site visit; however common lizard is known to occur on the adjacent airfield (Roger Spring pers. comm. 2013), slow worm is also likely to occur and grass snake has been recorded 600m to the north (2008).

Mammals:
There were no species seen during the site visit. Hedgehog has been recorded on the neighbouring Kennels site, but this is an old record (1996). Badgers are known to be moving through the wider area and there is a nearby record for the A14 from 1996 (likely to be a road casualty). The site also has the potential to support bats.

Comments and recommendations:
It is recommended that all the mature oaks and hedges be retained for their wildlife value and for their important role in connecting wildlife corridors.

The wildlife value of the Airport perimeter track tree belt could be enhanced still further if a wider field margin was included on the adjacent Airport Farm Kennels site (Ref. 23), to allow a grass and herb edge to develop. Gaps in the tree belt should be planted with native, locally common trees and hedging plants to improve connectivity.