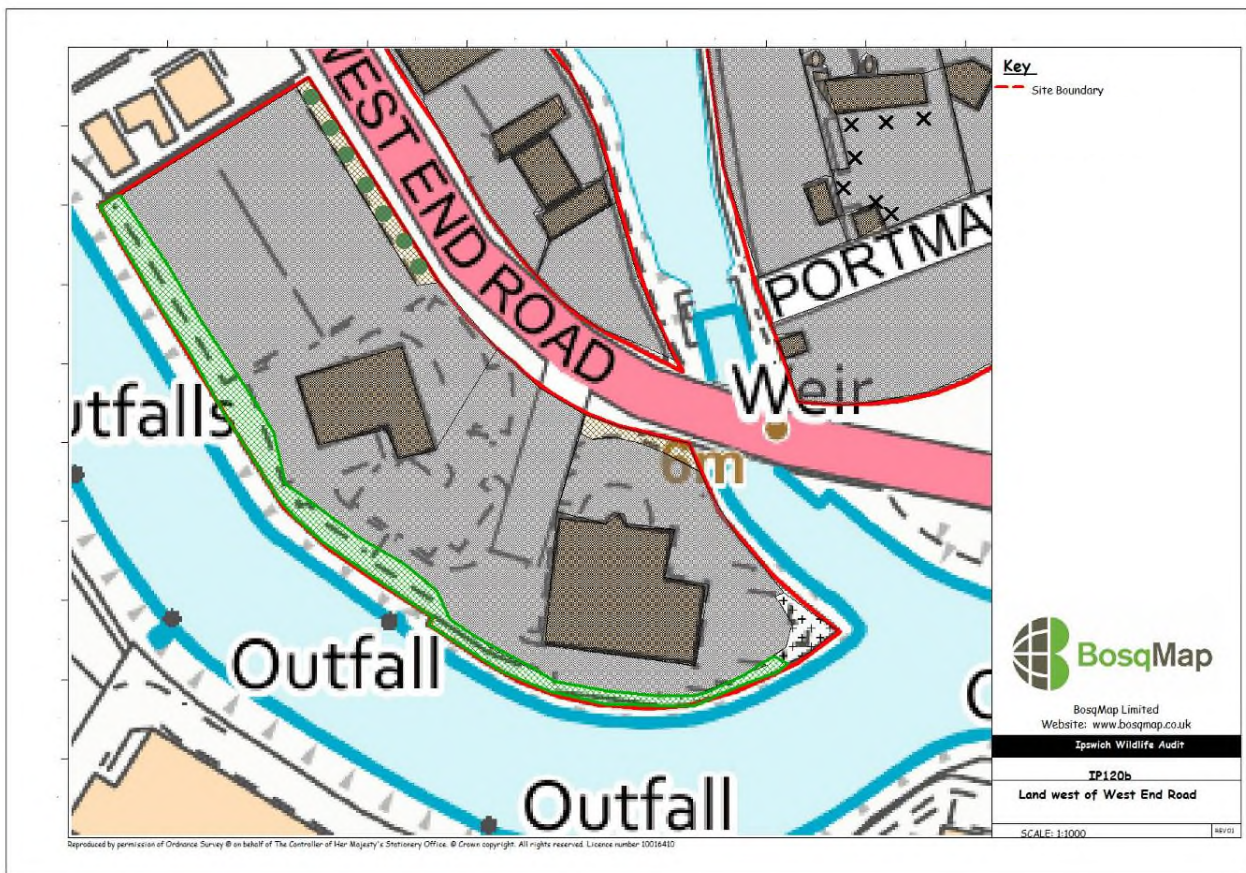


Site name: Land west of West End Road

Site ref: IP120b
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 15197 44258
Area: 1.02 hectares
Date: 25th July 2019
Recorder: A Looser
Weather conditions: Hot and sunny, 26°C
Ranking: 5
Biodiversity value: Low

Map:



Photos:



Introduced shrub at edge of car park



Dense scrub belt along River Orwell

Habitat type(s):

Hard standing, buildings, dense continuous scrub, ephemeral short perennial, introduced shrub, scattered trees

Subsidiary habitats:

-

Site description:

This site is located at the confluence of the River Gipping and River Orwell on the western side of West End Road. The river is a County Wildlife Site at this point. It is currently used as car showrooms and car park by Mitsubishi Motors. Along the road edge is a border of introduced shrubs with trees and along the River Orwell is a dense scrub belt. There is small triangle of ephemeral short perennial vegetation at the eastern end.

Protected species seen or known:

-

Protected species potential:

Species recorded in the area include:

Otter

Water vole

Common pipistrelle bat

Soprano pipistrelle bat

Daubentons bat

Natterer's bat

Noctule bat

Grass snake

Slow worm

Priority habitats present:

River (adjacent to site)

Priority species seen or known:

Records in the area include:

Hedgehog

Stag beetle

Common toad

BoCC Red List birds including herring gull, house sparrow and starling

BoCC Amber List birds including dunnock and swift (Suffolk Character Species)

Priority species potential:

-

Connectivity:

The River Orwell and Gipping provide excellent connectivity despite it being a built-up area of the Town.

Structural diversity:

The structural diversity is moderate with some short vegetation, shrubs, scrub and trees.

Flora:

The scrub belt along the river has a good mixture of species including ash, beech, silver birch, lime, sycamore, alder, privet, hawthorn, blackthorn, gorse, hazel, elder, buddleia and occasional berberis. There is occasional sea couch, perforate St john's-wort, perennial sow thistle, black horehound and mugwort along the base of the scrub.

The eastern corner has a good diversity of species typical of the habitat including false oat grass, Canadian fleabane, mugwort, common cat's-ear, hop trefoil, bristly ox tongue, rough hawkbit, common field speedwell, poppy, fat hen, dove's-foot cranesbill and common storks-bill. Dittander, a nationally scarce but locally common species is also present along the river along with sea couch, ragwort, horseradish and perennial sow thistle.

Avifauna:

The time of year and weather conditions were sub-optimal for recording this group. Only herring gull (Priority species) and black headed gull were recorded during the visit, however the scrub and trees along the river corridor provide excellent habitat for a range of common and migratory birds. Due to its location the site could be important for small migratory birds when they first make landfall.

Invertebrates:

Most of the site is sub-optimal for this group. However, the vegetation around the margins provides some foraging opportunities for common invertebrates. Small white butterflies were seen during the visit.

Herpetofauna:

The habitats are unsuitable for this group, except along the River corridor.

Mammals:

Bats are likely to forage and commute along the River Orwell and the scrub alongside the river. Otter has been recorded in the river and they could rest in the scrub along the river. Hedgehogs are recorded in the area and they are likely to forage along the river corridor. Common small mammal species including mice, voles and shrews will be present in the scrub.

Comments and recommendations:

This site is proposed for housing at high density on 80% of the site.

This site is located adjacent to both the River Orwell and River Gipping CWS. There is an opportunity to strengthen the local ecological network by enhancement of on-site habitats adjacent to this feature.

The scrub along the river provides valuable habitat for birds and as much as possible should be retained. Further bird surveys should be undertaken. Any tree or scrub removal must take place outside bird nesting season (March to the end of August inclusive) unless immediately preceded by a nesting bird check undertaken by a suitably qualified ecologist.

As this site is located next to the river any lighting scheme should be designed to prevent light spillage into this area. Bats are particularly sensitive to increased light levels, so it is important to maintain dark corridors to support local ecological networks.

Swifts are a declining migratory species that are almost totally dependent on holes and crevices in buildings for nesting but leave no mess. Swift boxes should be integrated into taller new buildings using 'swift bricks' or 'swift blocks'. Externally mounted boxes can also be used but have a shorter life span than integrated features. Both types are most effective at attracting swifts when used with a swift 'call system'.

Holes in fences for hedgehog should be part of new housing proposals, to deliver landscape permeability for this wide-ranging, declining species. Toad, another UK Priority species, will also benefit from holes in garden fences.

At this location there is also an opportunity for off-site enhancement to benefit eels, as since the mid-1980s there has been a significant decline in their populations. An important contributing factor to this decline is thought to be the addition of water control structures such as weirs and gauging stations, which present a barrier to the natural migration of eels and elvers. A potential solution to the problem is the installation of a suitable 'eel pass' to the obstruction. Detailed information can be found in the "Elver and eel passes; A guide to the design and implementation of passage solutions at weirs, tidal gates and sluices" (Gregory *et al*, 2017).

References:

Gregory, J. *et al* (2017). *Elver and eel passes; A guide to the design and implantation of passage solutions at weirs, tidal gates and sluices. The Eel Manual – GEHO0211BTMV-E-E*. Bristol, Environment Agency

Site name: Milton Street

Site ref: IP131

Site status: No wildlife designation

Grid ref: TM 18453 45049

Area: 0.28 hectares

Date: 29th July 2019

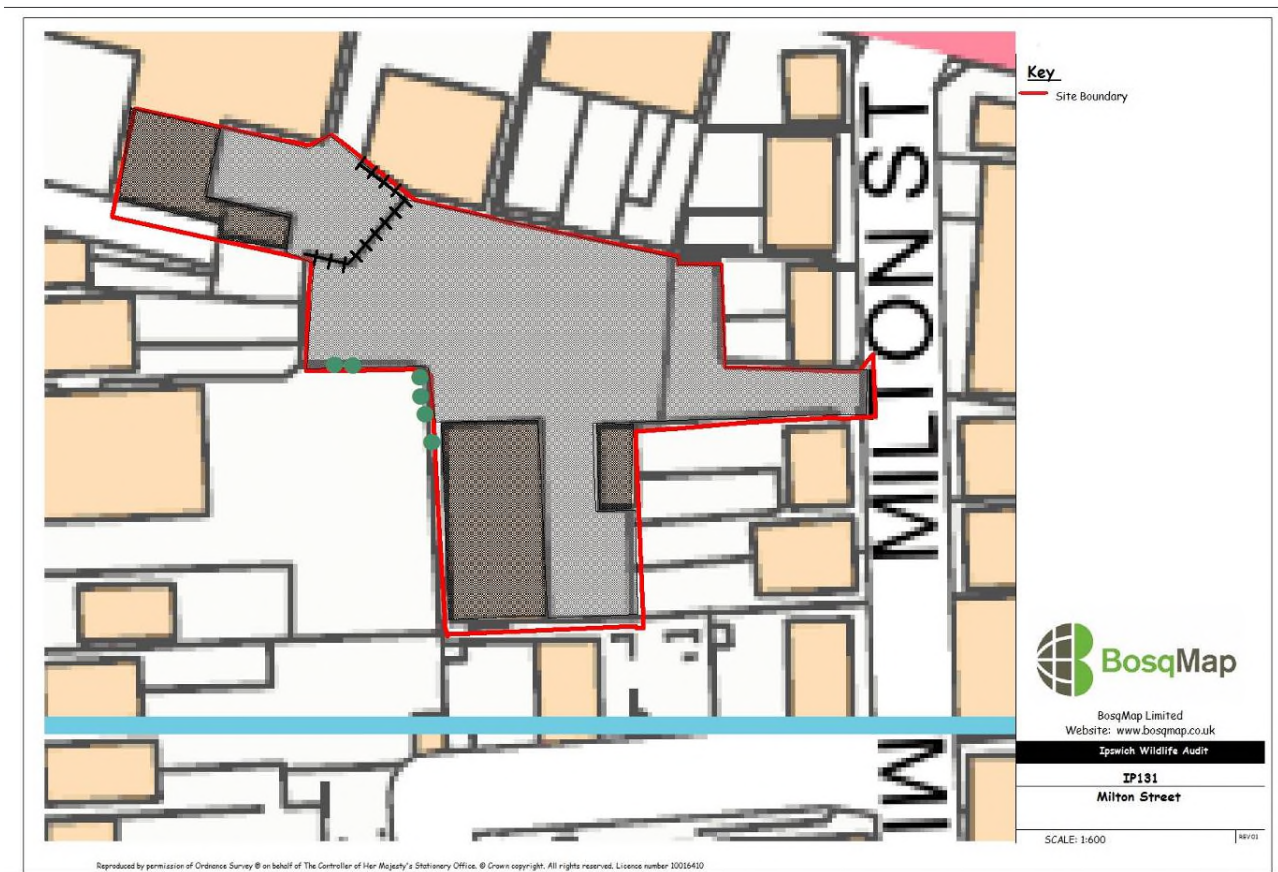
Recorder: J Crighton

Weather conditions: Warm, clear skies with moderate breeze, *ca.* 24°C

Ranking: 6

Biodiversity value: Low

Map:



Photos:



Car park within industrial yard

Habitat type(s):

Hard standing, buildings

Subsidiary habitats:

Cracks in tiles and bricks

Site description:

This site is currently in use as a mechanics yard along with some other small businesses. It is enclosed on all sides by residential dwellings and is accessed via a lane leading from Milton Street, off Woodbridge Road in the west of Ipswich.

Protected species seen or known:

Records in the surrounding area include:

Badger
Common pipistrelle bat
Soprano pipistrelle bat
Noctule bat
Serotine bat
Slow worm

Protected species potential:

-

Priority habitats present:

-

Priority species seen or known:

Records in the surrounding area include:

Hedgehog
Stag beetle

Swift (Suffolk Character Species)
Common toad
House sparrow
Starling

Priority species potential:

-

Connectivity:

A degree of connectivity is provided by the gardens of the properties that surround the site.

Structural diversity:

Structural diversity is very poor being entirely buildings and hard standing.

Flora:

There are no plants within the site itself, however, in an adjacent garden, overhanging the fence, lime, sycamore, hazel and clematis are present.

Avifauna:

It was a sub-optimal time of year for recording this group. The only potential habitat is for nesting along the eaves of the buildings. However, no activity was recorded during the survey and the site lacks any feeding opportunities.

Invertebrates:

There are no opportunities for this group within this site.

Herpetofauna:

There are no opportunities for this group within this site.

Mammals:

There are very limited opportunities for this group within the site itself, but bats, hedgehogs and foxes may forage around the surrounding gardens.

Comments and recommendations:

The indicative capacity of this site is 9 dwellings. Development would be subject to relocation of the current business use.

This site is very small and located in a built-up area, so the opportunities for enhancement are limited. However, any landscaping scheme should include low-maintenance nectar and berry producing shrubs and perennial plants to provide some benefit for birds and invertebrates.

In addition to this, action can be taken for individual species such as swifts and hedgehogs.

Swifts are a declining migratory species that are almost totally dependent on holes and crevices in buildings for nesting but leave no mess. Swift boxes should be integrated into new buildings using 'swift bricks' or 'swift blocks'. Externally mounted boxes can also be used but have a shorter life span

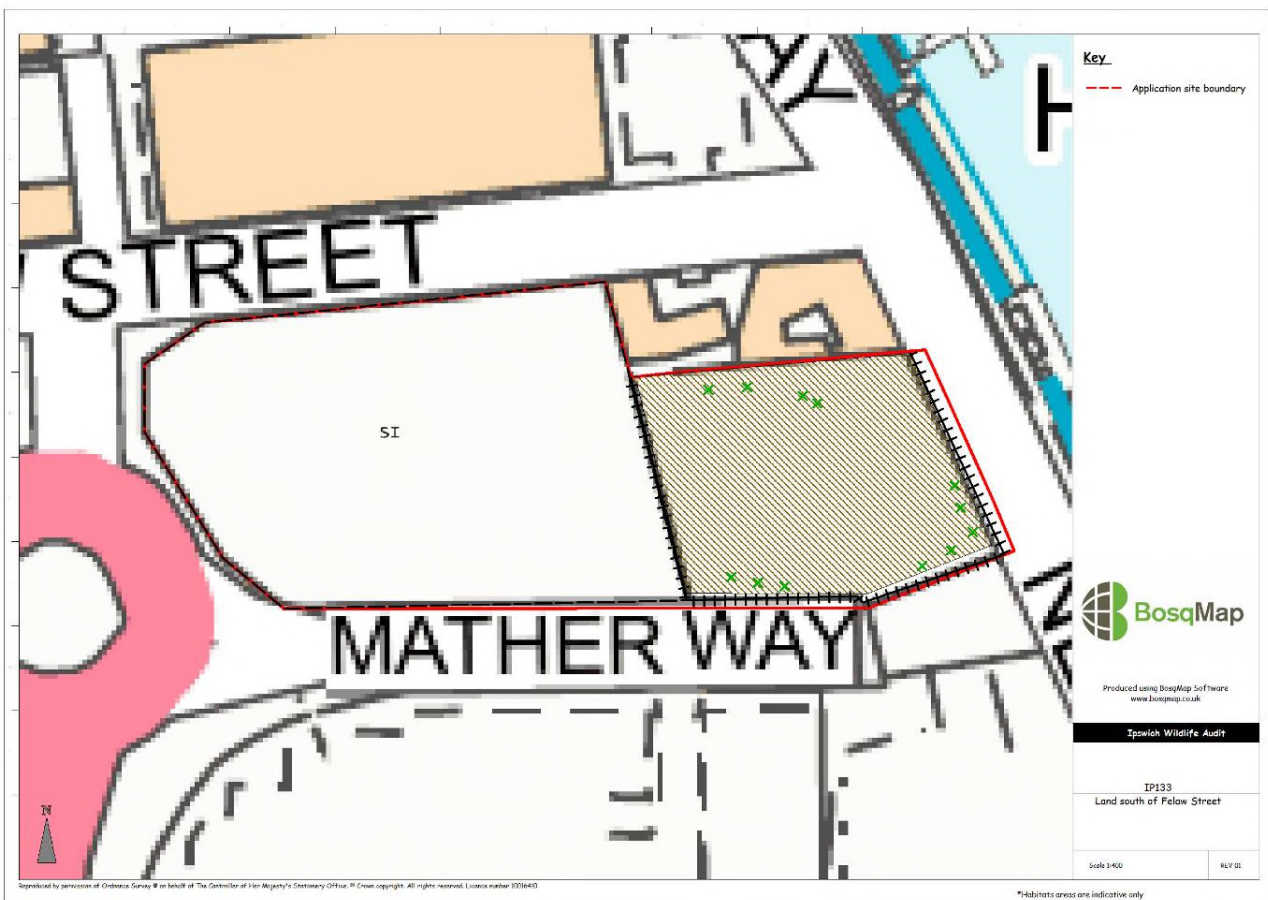
than integrated features. Both types are most effective at attracting swifts when used with a swift 'call system'.

Holes in fences for hedgehog should be part of any new housing proposals, to deliver landscape permeability for this wide-ranging, declining species.

Site name: Land south of Felaw Street

Site ref: IP133
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 16672 43654
Area: 0.37 hectares
Date: 5th August 2019
Recorder: A Looser
Weather conditions: Hot and sunny, 25°C
Ranking: 5
Biodiversity value: Low

Map:



Photos:



Short mown grassland on western part of site



Eastern section of site

Habitat type(s):

Amenity grassland, poor semi-improved grassland, ephemeral short perennial, tall ruderal, scattered scrub

Subsidiary habitats:

-

Site description:

This site is located to the south of Felaw Street, east of the roundabout. The New Cut West road runs along the eastern boundary of the site which separates the site from the River Orwell County Wildlife Site (CWS). It has two distinct areas: the western area is short mown grassland which is currently public open space. East of that is a fenced off section containing tall ruderal vegetation with scattered scrub. This part was only viewed from the boundaries.

Protected species seen or known:

Species recorded in the area include:

- Badger
- Common pipistrelle bat
- Soprano pipistrelle bat
- Daubenton's bat
- Brown long eared bat
- Common lizard
- Slow worm

Protected species potential:

-

Priority habitats present:

-

Priority species seen or known:

Records recorded on site or surrounding area include:

Hedgehog
House sparrow
Dunnock
Starling
Stag beetle
Wall butterfly

Priority species potential:

Cinnabar moth

Connectivity:

Although situated in a built-up area of the Town the eastern boundary of the site is very close to the River Orwell which provides an excellent wildlife corridor.

Structural diversity:

The structural diversity of the western part of the site is poor, however the eastern part has a much more varied sward height, as well as some scattered scrub.

Flora:

Although short mown, the grassland in the western part of the site has a good diversity of species typical of dry grassland near the coast. Species recorded include rye, wall barley and common couch grasses with greater plantain, ribwort plantain, sea plantain, perennial sow thistle, ragwort, groundsel, dandelion, rough hawkbit, dove's-foot cranesbill, cut leaved cranesbill, herb Robert, mallow, common mouse ear, daisy, black nightshade, field bindweed, poppy, yarrow and common field speedwell.

The area that was fenced off was viewed from the boundaries but also has a good diversity of species associated with disturbed habitats. There is very little grass except a clump of wood small-reed, with ribwort plantain, mugwort, weld, evening primrose, curled dock, fennel, poppy, bristly ox-tongue, black medick, knotgrass, scarlet pimpernel, creeping thistle, comfrey and fat-hen.

The scrub, which is starting to encroach, includes buddleia, willow, sycamore, elm, bramble and dog rose.

Avifauna:

The diversity of plants and occasional scrub in the eastern section of the site provides good habitat for a range of bird species, particularly for foraging. A large flock of house sparrows (Priority species) were seen, and other species recorded include dunnock (Priority species) and more common species such as goldfinch.

Invertebrates:

The habitat in the eastern part of the site is good for common invertebrates. A range of butterflies were noted including painted lady, peacock, small white and meadow brown. Buff-tailed bumblebees

and red-tailed bumblebees were also seen and the site provides good habitat for other members of this group. A number of crickets and grasshoppers were also recorded. Due to the presence of ragwort, cinnabar moths (Priority species) are likely to occur as their caterpillars feed exclusively on ragwort.

Herpetofauna:

The habitat in the eastern part of the site is currently suitable for this group. However, the relative isolation of this site reduces the risk that reptiles may have colonised this site.

Mammals:

The habitat is largely sub-optimal for this group although common species will be present. There are numerous hedgehog records in the area and the short-mown grassland provides good foraging habitat for hedgehogs.

Comments and recommendations:

This site is proposed for housing at a high density.

This site is located adjacent to the River Orwell CWS. New development should retain as much of the existing habitat as possible and integrate it within a landscaping scheme. Greenspaces should be interlinked to provide functional ecological corridors for a range of species and as much as possible they should connect with wider off-site ecological networks, particularly the River Orwell CWS. New planting should seek to use native species typical of the local area.

As the site is located next to the river any lighting scheme should be designed to prevent light spillage into this area. Bats are particularly sensitive to increased light levels, so it is important to maintain dark corridors to support local ecological networks.

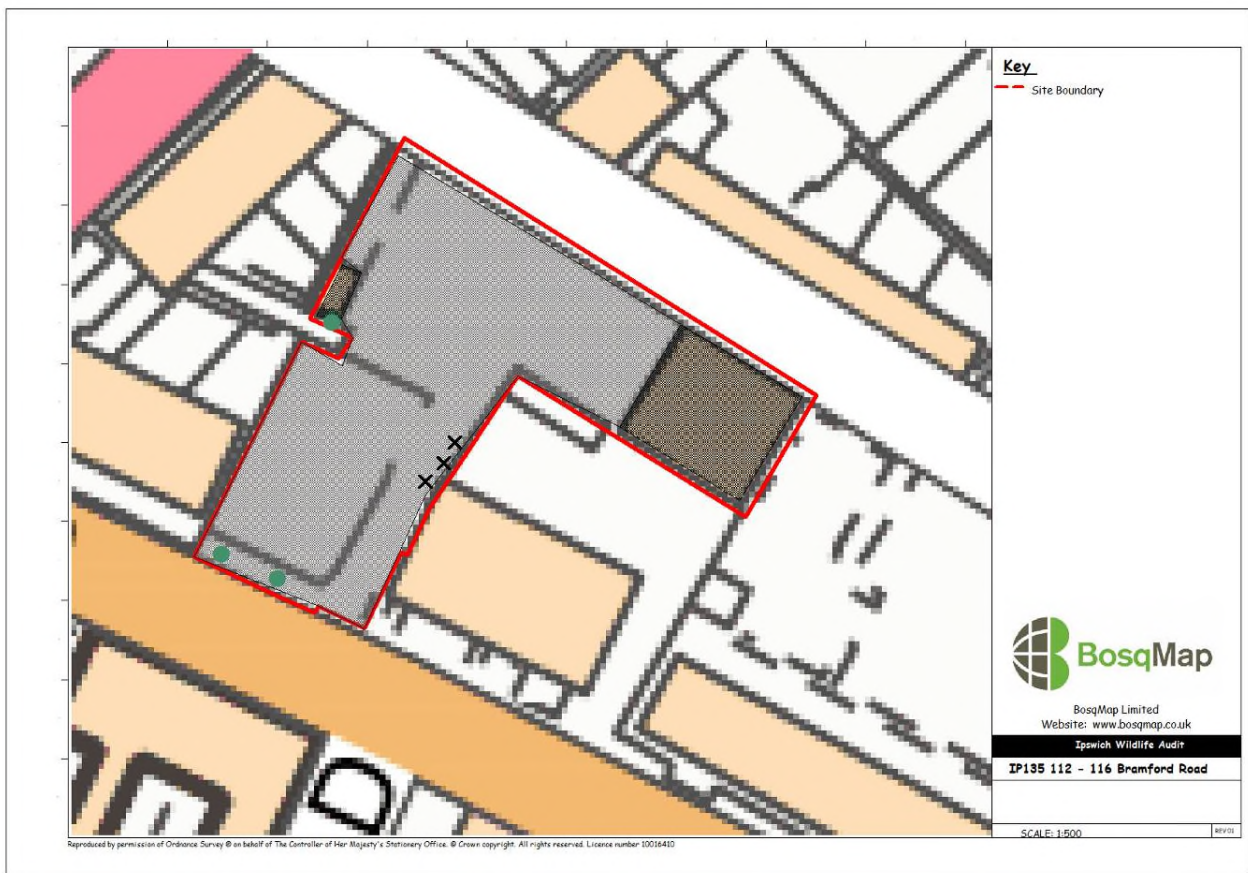
It is unknown if houses or flats are proposed for this site. Swifts are a declining migratory species that are almost totally dependent on holes and crevices in buildings for nesting, but leave no mess. Swift boxes should be integrated into taller new buildings using 'swift bricks' or 'swift blocks'. Externally mounted boxes can also be used but have a shorter life span than integrated features. Both types are most effective at attracting swifts when used with a swift 'call system'.

Holes in fences for hedgehog should be part of new housing proposals, to deliver landscape permeability for this wide-ranging, declining species.

Site name: 112 – 116 Bramford Road

Site ref: IP135
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 15181 45216
Area: 0.17 hectares
Date: 25th July 2019
Recorder: A Looser
Weather conditions: Hot and sunny, 25°C
Ranking: 6
Biodiversity value: Low

Map:



Photos:



Mature sycamore on western edge

Habitat type(s):

Broadleaved tree, ephemeral short perennial, hard standing, building

Subsidiary habitats:

Standing dead wood

Site description:

This is a small site which is currently a car wash and car sales area. It is situated to the north of Bramford Road. It consists of an area of hard standing with a couple of buildings. There is a large multi-stemmed sycamore located on the western edge which is believed to be covered by a Tree Preservation Order. There are also two lime trees on the road edge.

Protected species seen or known:

Species in the surrounding area include:

- Common pipistrelle bat
- Soprano pipistrelle bat
- Natterer's bat
- Noctule bat

Protected species potential:

-

Priority habitats present:

-

Priority species seen or known:

Species recorded in the area include:

Hedgehog

Stag beetle

BoCC Red List birds including house sparrow and starling

BoCC Amber List birds including swift (Suffolk Character Species)

Priority species potential:

-

Connectivity:

This site has poor connectivity being located in a built-up area of the town, surrounded by roads and residential housing.

Structural diversity:

This site has poor structural diversity.

Flora:

The nature of the site means this group is very limited. However, a few common plants are growing through cracks in the paving along the eastern fence including wall barley, fat hen, redshank, dandelion and scarlet pimpernel.

The tree on the western edge is a sycamore and the two roadside trees are lime.

Avifauna:

There is very little habitat suitable for this group, although the trees provide some foraging and nesting opportunities for common species.

Invertebrates:

The habitat is poor for this group, although the trees and plants near the fence provide limited foraging opportunities for common invertebrates. Stag beetle (Priority species) may be present if the sycamore has any subterranean dead wood.

Herpetofauna:

The habitat is unsuitable for this group.

Mammals:

The habitat is poor for this group, although hedgehogs may pass through the site to navigate between local gardens. The mature sycamore has some potential roosting features for bats.

Comments and recommendations:

This site is proposed for housing.

Any clearance of woody vegetation should only take place outside the main bird nesting season (March - August inclusive) or immediately preceded by a nesting bird check. The significant trees on this site are covered by a TPO.

This site is very small and located in a built-up area of the Town, so the opportunities for enhancement are limited. However, any landscaping scheme should include low-maintenance nectar and berry producing shrubs and perennial plants to provide some benefit for birds and invertebrates.

Holes in fences for hedgehog should be part of new housing proposals, to deliver landscape permeability for this wide-ranging, declining species.

It is unknown whether this housing proposal is for houses or flats. Swifts are a declining migratory species that are almost totally dependent on holes and crevices in buildings for nesting, but leave no mess. Swift boxes should be integrated into taller new buildings using 'swift bricks' or 'swift blocks'. Externally mounted boxes can also be used but have a shorter life span than integrated features. Both types are most effective at attracting swifts when used with a swift 'call system'.