

Photos:



Two woodland views (above and below)





Standing dead wood

Habitat type(s):

Broadleaf woodland

Subsidiary habitats:

Standing and fallen deadwood

Site description:

This private, linear, mature woodland is surrounded by houses and gardens, in the vicinity of Tuddenham Road. There is a good variety of mature trees and shrubs, with senescent trees allowed to remain as standing deadwood or kept on site as fallen deadwood. The ground flora is typical of secondary woodland.

Protected species:

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Protected species potential:

Bats

BAP habitats present:

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BAP species seen:

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BAP species known:

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BAP species potential:

Bats

Stag Beetle (recorded on adjacent roads, 1993 and 1995)

Hedgehog (recorded Westerfield Road 2007)

Connectivity:

Although surrounded by housing, many of these have large gardens which complement the woodland. To the south of the Tuddenham Road lies the cemetery (Site 71) so the site lies close to a large block of greenspace.

Structural diversity:

As a woodland site there is reasonable structural diversity, which has been improved by tree-works to open up several glades.

Flora:

There is a very good range of tree and shrub species some of which are very large: oak, sweet chestnut, horse chestnut, field maple, lime, beech, elm, ash, sycamore and a single large larch, with holly, hazel, elder and a single yew in the understorey. There was also a type of non-native American oak of unknown species and occasional laurel and bamboo. Bramble was present but only in small quantities.

The ground flora was quite species-poor and is dominated by cow parsley in the spring and nettles and ivy later in the year. Other species noted included false wood brome, wood avens, woundwort, red campion, herb Robert, green alkanet and a variegated yellow archangel. There were also single plants of arum, male fern and a few clumps of pendulous sedge. There is a small patch of planted cyclamen.

Tree works have resulted in wood chip being placed along the central path and there were large numbers of different fungi in evidence, all along this path.

Avifauna:

This site provides good habitat for a range of common bird species, but the visit was at a sub-optimal time for recording this group. A local resident reported tawny owl, great spotted woodpecker and long-tailed tits.

Invertebrates:

Stag beetles are highly likely to be present and have been recorded from nearby properties in previous years. The woodland will support a good range of invertebrates typical of this habitat. White admiral butterfly was recorded in 2009 on Tuddenham Road, but no honeysuckle was recorded within this site, which is a key food plant for this species.

Herpetofauna:

The habitat is unsuitable for reptiles as it is too shaded. The woodland provides a superb terrestrial refuge for amphibians, which may be present in neighbouring gardens, particularly if there are ponds.

Mammals:

Common species of mammal such as grey squirrel, muntjac deer and foxes use the site. Small mammals such as wood mice may also be present. Several trees are mature enough to have small cracks and crevices that could be used as roosting sites by bats and the woodland also provides

foraging opportunities.

Comments and recommendations:

Future management should ensure that the shrub layer does not become too shaded, to preserve structural diversity. If any large trees need to be cut down a check for the likely presence of bats should be undertaken. In addition, the stumps should continue to be left in place and allowed to rot naturally to create good subterranean dead wood habitat for stag beetles and other saprophytic invertebrates.

Cordale Spinney Ltd is a company set up by the local residents in the 1950s to ensure that the woodland is retained and managed for enjoyment by local residents. Approximately seven or eight years ago the owner of a large garden on Westerfield Road transferred part of this land to the Company and this plot at the northern end of the Spinney is now incorporated within the boundary of the site (see map).

Photos:



Looking north-west across site

Habitat type(s):

Amenity grassland, species poor hedgerow, semi-improved neutral grassland, mixed plantation woodland, semi-natural broadleaf woodland

Subsidiary habitats:

Scattered trees

Site description:

This site is a recreation ground situated along Dumbarton Lane. The site is amenity grassland with scattered trees, with a species poor hedgerow along the northern boundary. There is a thin wooded strip associated with the southern boundary. There is a fairly thin strip of longer grass around the edges of the site on all but the north-eastern boundary. There is a line of scattered trees running south of the pavilion. A small play area is situated in the centre of the site and the perimeter of the site is fenced.

Protected species:

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Protected species potential:

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BAP habitats present:

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BAP species seen:

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BAP species known:

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BAP species potential:

Hedgehog
Stag Beetle

Connectivity:

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

Structural diversity:

The site has very good structural diversity with amenity grassland, longer grass, hedgerows, woodland and trees.

Flora:

The majority of the site is short mown amenity grassland. Species in this include rye grass with clover, dandelion, daisy, greater plantain and ribwort plantain. The areas of longer grass were more diverse with species including rye grass, common bent grass, Yorkshire fog, cock's foot, yarrow, creeping buttercup, meadow buttercup, dandelion, clover, ribwort plantain, doves foot cranesbill, common mouse ear, germander speedwell and lesser stitchwort.

There are a good variety of scattered trees which are a mixture of field maple, silver birch, sycamore, rowan, cherry, oak, turkey oak, alder, scots pine, snowberry and bramble.

The wooded strip along the south western boundary was dominated by sycamore with holly, oak, elder, laurel, leylandii, laburnum and dog rose.

The area of planted woodland in the north-west corner has a good variety of species including dogwood, elder, wayfaring tree, sycamore, hazel, apple, cherry, hornbeam, silver birch, field maple, beech and larch. The ground flora included herb robert and garlic mustard.

The hedge was composed of beech, with occasional elder and bramble.

Avifauna:

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

Invertebrates:

The areas of longer grass, particularly in the southern section of the site, provide a variety of nectar sources for butterflies so there are likely to be a range of common ones throughout the year. Small white, meadow brown, common blue and holly blue butterflies were seen during the visit. There are a number of stag beetle records close to the site and the larvae could be present if there is any subterranean dead wood in the woodland.

Herpetofauna:

Some of the habitat is suitable for this group, however as this site is very isolated it is unlikely that any are present.

Mammals:

Common species of mammal such as grey squirrel are likely to use the site. However the site is isolated

but does provide some cover for small mammals such as mice and voles. The site does provide good foraging habitat for hedgehogs and there are old records of them in the area so they may be present in small numbers.

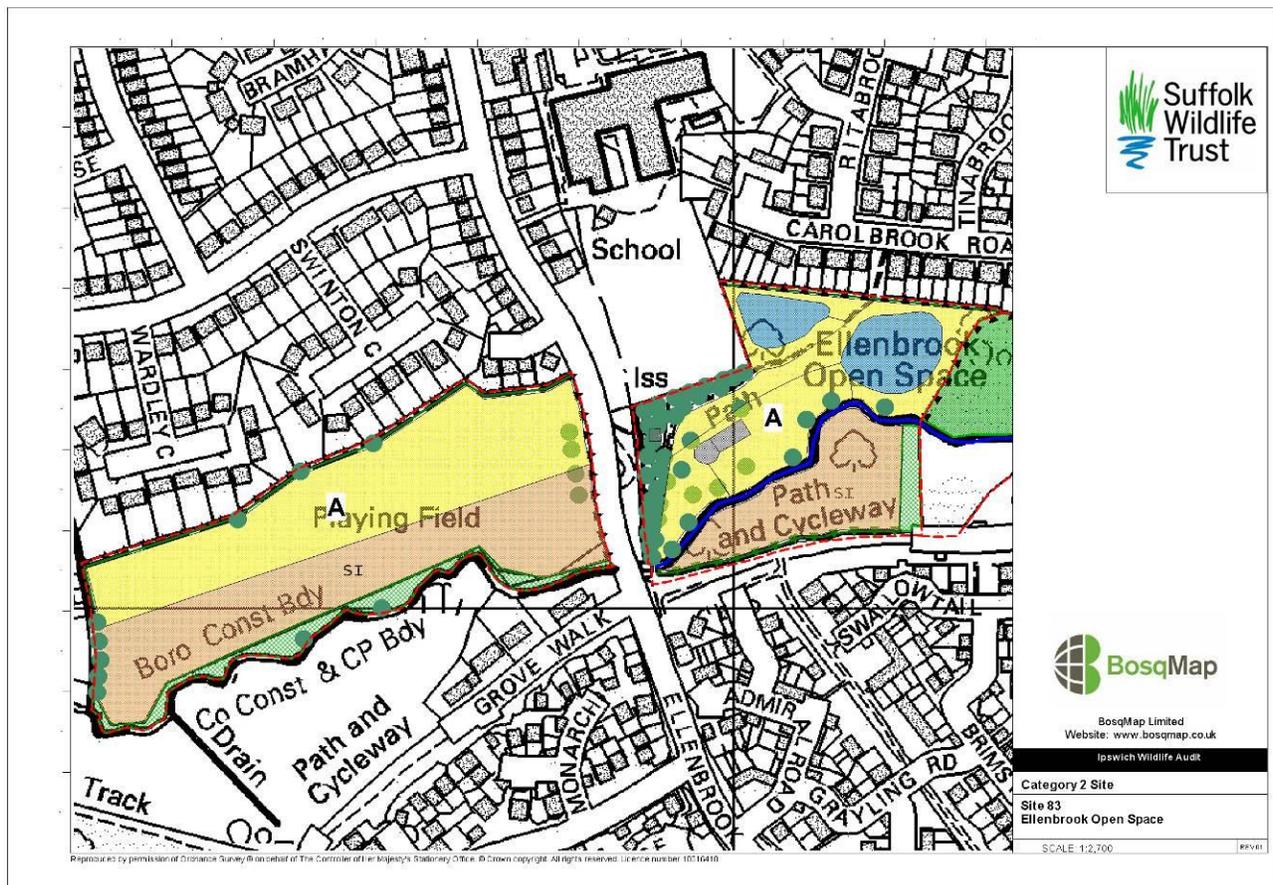
Comments and recommendations:

Building a partially buried stag beetle log pile in the small woodland area would improve the site for stag beetles as they require subterranean dead wood for their larval stage. This will also benefit a number of other invertebrate species.

Site name **Site reference 83 – Ellenbrook Open Space**

IBC Ref: W31
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 13886 42070
Area: 5.80 hectares
Date: 10 April 2013
Recorder: A Looser
Weather conditions: Warm and sunny 15°C
Ranking: 3
Biodiversity value: Medium

Map:



BosqMap Limited
 Website: www.bosqmap.co.uk
 Ipswich Wildlife Audit

Category 2 Site
 Site 83
 Ellenbrook Open Space
 SCALE: 1:2,700

Photos:



Looking west



Belstead Brook



Rough grass south of river



Possible water vole burrow

Habitat type(s):

Amenity grassland, scattered trees, species rich hedgerow, scrub, semi-improved neutral grassland, river

Subsidiary habitats:

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Site description:

This site is in two sections, the first section is on the western side of the Ellenbrook Road. This is a large area of short mown amenity grassland with rougher grass round the edges. The northern boundary of this section is fenced from the back gardens of neighboring properties and there is also a hedge along there. The southern boundary is along the Belstead Brook and there are some trees and scrub along the river. The second section is on the eastern side of the Ellenbrook Road. The Belstead Brook runs through the middle of this section and there is rough grassland with trees and scrub bordering it. To the north of the Belstead Brook it is dominated by amenity grassland with scattered trees. There is a play area in the middle of the grassland. There are also some areas of wetter grassland and scrub. To the south of the river is an area of grassland that is not cut as regularly.

Protected species:

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Protected species potential:

Reptiles (grass snake, common lizard and slow worm)

Bats

Water Vole

Otter

Dormice

BAP habitats present:

Species rich hedgerow

River

BAP species seen:

House sparrow

Starling

Water vole (possible burrow found)

BAP species known:

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BAP species potential:

Bats, otter, hedgehog

Reptiles (grass snake, common lizard and slow worm)

Stag beetle

Connectivity:

The site has very good connectivity. To the south and west is the large area of green space of Belstead Park and to the east it is adjacent to Belstead Brook hotel grounds (Site 54). The river also provides a good corridor for wildlife to move along.

Structural diversity:

The site has fairly good structural diversity with a combination of amenity grass, longer grass, scrub, hedgerows and trees.

Flora:

The majority of the western section of the site is short mown amenity grassland. Species in this include rye grass with ribwort plantain, yarrow, clover, buttercup, daisy and dandelion. In the areas of longer grass there were also dog violets, red dead nettle, germander speedwell, honesty, celandines, dock, ground ivy, common thistle, spear thistle, cow parsley, daffodils and nettles.

The scrub and trees along the river include blackthorn, hawthorn, hazel, ash, field maple, alder (including some dead), sycamore, elder, willow, holly and elm.

The hedgerow along the northern edge comprises elder, leylandii, cherry, bramble, hawthorn, rose, cotoneaster, field maple, ash, blackthorn, clematis, honeysuckle, buddleia, hazel, silver birch, laurel and a sumac species.

On the eastern section, along the river was sycamore, oak, alder, hawthorn, rose, dogwood, elder, hazel, ash and blackthorn. The ground flora included celandines, violets, lords and ladies, nettle, cow parsley and mares tail. Giant hogweed (invasive weed – see Comments) was growing near the boundary with the Belstead Brook hotel grounds.

The amenity grassland was dominated by rye grass with white dead nettle, dandelion, daisy and dock.

Along the northern boundary with houses is a scrubby boundary with rose, bramble, buddleia and sumac species. The ground flora included daffodils, snowdrops, cow parsley, nettle, cleavers and dock.

Avifauna:

The hedgerow, scrub and trees on the site provides good foraging, nesting and roosting habitat for a range of common bird species and a good range were seen during the visit including magpie, blue tit, great tit, robin, chaffinch, greenfinch, blackbird, wood pigeon, carrion crow and collared dove. In addition starling and house sparrow were also seen (both of which are BAP species).

Invertebrates:

There is a good habitat mosaic within the site, which will support a range of invertebrates. Small

tortoiseshell and comma butterflies were seen during the visit as well as bumblebees and the site provides a range of nectar sources so there are likely to be a good variety of butterfly and bee species throughout the year. Along the river corridor dead wood has been left and this provides excellent habitat for a range of invertebrate species. Several stag beetle piles were spotted along the river which, along with the dead trees, provide excellent subterranean dead wood habitat for stag beetles.

Herpetofauna:

The Belstead Brook provides a good corridor for reptiles to move along. In addition the area south of the river on the eastern section of the site is left rough and so provides good habitat for reptiles, particularly slow worms. Grass snake also is typically associated with riverine habitats and is a wide ranging species, so may be present in low numbers.

Mammals:

Common species of mammal such as grey squirrel will live permanently on the site. A number of mole hills were also seen during the visit. The rough grass at the edges of the site, and the rough grassland south of the river provide excellent habitat for a range of small mammals such as mice, voles and shrews. The site provides good foraging and nesting habitat for hedgehogs so they are likely to be present in good numbers.

The Belstead Brook provides a good habitat for water voles and a probable water vole burrow was discovered along the river. It also provides good habitat for otters. Bats are likely to regularly fly along the Brook as it is an excellent corridor. In addition several of the trees along the river are large enough to provide roosting opportunities for them.

Dormice have been recorded along the A14 corridor and there appears to be good connecting habitat between there and the western side of the site. It is therefore possible that dormice may be able to colonise the area using the adjacent habitat.

Comments and recommendations:

The hazels along the Belstead Brook are mature and producing nuts so a dormouse nut search would be useful to assess whether dormice are present.

The likely presence of water vole merits further investigation. Any future management of the water course should take into account the presence of riparian species such as otter and water vole.

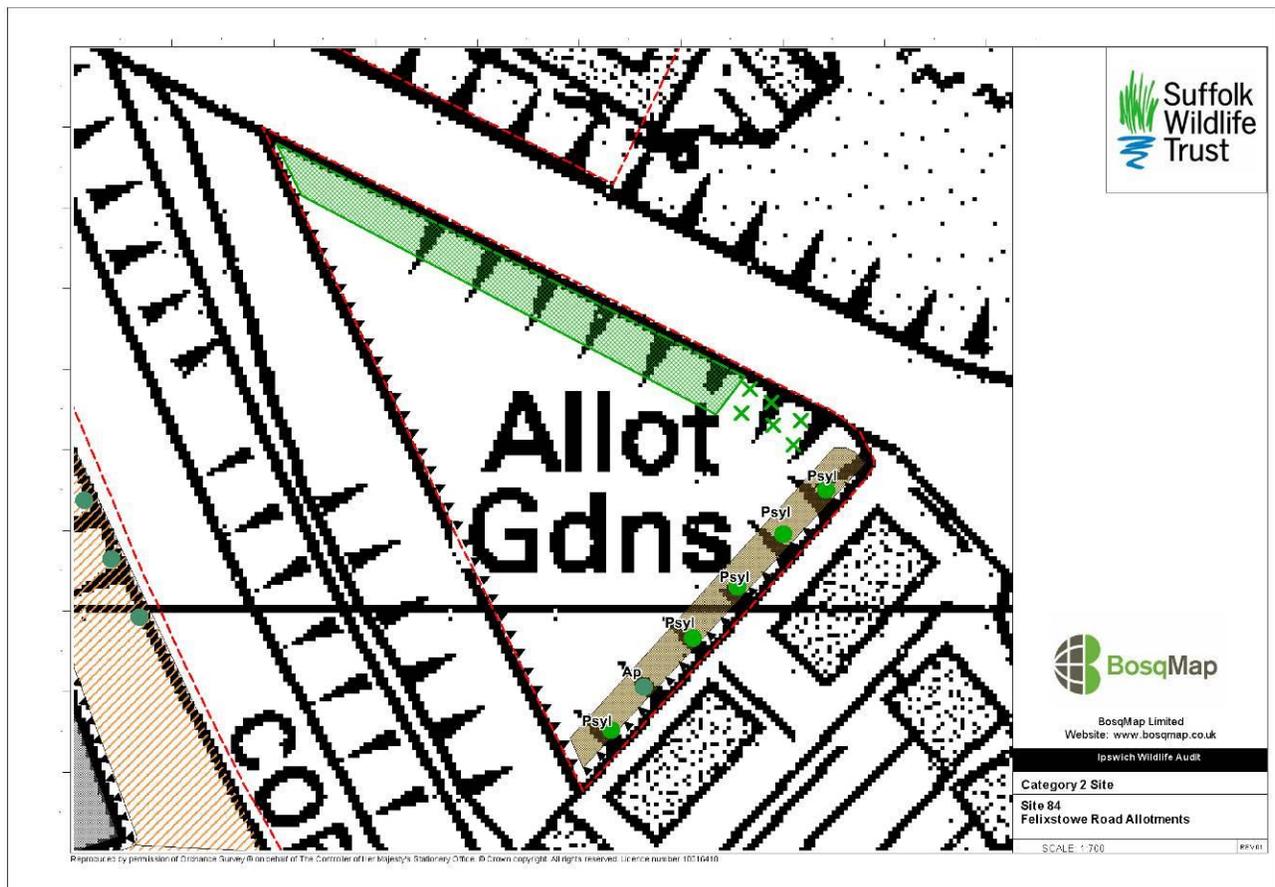
Giant hogweed was recorded on the eastern edge of the site close to Belstead Brook. This is an invasive weed under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 9).

Site name

Site reference 84 – Felixstowe Road Allotments

IBC Ref: New
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 19326 43024
Area: 0.4 hectares
Date: 22 August 2013
Recorder: S Bullion
Weather conditions: Light rain, 17°C
Ranking: 4
Biodiversity value: Medium

Map:



Photos:



View south west, with large pine tree on left of picture



South facing bank and trees bordering Bucklesham Road

Habitat type(s):

Tree belt, bracken covered bank, cultivated areas

Subsidiary habitats:

Large pine trees

Site description:

These small, triangular-shaped, allotments lie south of the Felixstowe Road and are bordered on the south-western boundary by the Ipswich-Felixstowe railway line. A bracken covered bank with mature pines marks the eastern boundary. The northern boundary is also steeply sloping and colonised by a diverse mixture of scrub and trees, with occasional grassy patches.

Protected species:

Common lizard (2005)

Slow worm & grass snake (seen by allotment holders)

Protected species potential:

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BAP habitats present:

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BAP species seen:

Dunnock

BAP species known:

Common lizard (2005), slow worm and grass snake

Toad

BAP species potential:

Stag beetle

Connectivity:

The site lies to the east of the Ipswich-Felixstowe railway line, separated by a narrow parking lot, so connectivity is quite good.

Structural diversity:

This allotment is very small and all plots are well cultivated, but structural diversity is good for this type of habitat and is complemented by the south facing banks and boundary trees and scrub.

Flora:

There is the usual mixture of common grassland and ruderal species, including false oat grass, nettle, and fat hen. Dittander, a nationally scarce plant that is common in Ipswich was noted. Bracken covers the eastern bank beneath five mature pine trees and a single sycamore.

The northern bank has a diverse mixture of trees and shrubs, including oak, blackthorn, cherry plum, silver birch, gorse, broom and occasional sweet chestnut. There is a very large eucalyptus tree on the bank. Buddleia bushes are also present within the site.

Avifauna:

The scrub on the northern site offers good foraging and nesting opportunities for birds and individual plot holders have provided nest boxes along this edge. Common garden birds are present, including blackbird, chaffinch, blue tit, robin, dunnock and mistle thrush.

Invertebrates:

The weather was not suitable for recording invertebrates but buddleia and *Echinops* provide good nectar sources. The plot holders do see a good range of butterfly species in good summer weather. A common wasp nest was present in the eastern bank. Stag beetle larvae may be present if there is subterranean deadwood arising from old fruit trees or decaying trees on the boundary.

Herpetofauna:

The south facing bank (south of Felixstowe Road) is an important basking, foraging and hibernation site for slow worm and common lizard. There is a 2005 record of common lizard provided by SBRC. A grass snake has also been seen by a plot holder. Frogs and toads are also seen.

Mammals:

Hedgehogs have not been seen but their droppings are occasionally found. A stoat was reported by an allotment holder, probably entering the site via the railway line. Wood mice are common in compost heaps.

Comments and recommendations:

Despite being small, this sheltered allotment supports a diverse range of species.

Site name **Site reference 85 – Five Acre Wood (Bramford)**

IBC Ref: W61
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 13171 47010
Area: 2.34 hectares
Date: 12 June 2013
Recorder: S Bullion
Weather conditions: Cool and overcast 14°C
Ranking: 4
Biodiversity value: Medium

Map:



Photos:



Southern section of woodland



Northern planted woodland

Habitat type(s):

Broadleaf woodland, mixed plantation woodland

Subsidiary habitats:

Site description:

An area mixed woodland adjacent to the A14. The southern-most section is mature woodland but the northern block has been planted with pine and a variety of broadleaf species. There are a few small glades where the free-draining, gravelly soil is less conducive for woodland growth. A path with no obvious signage runs between the site and the A14 and there is also evidence that people are entering the site, but otherwise it is quite overgrown.

Protected species:

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Protected species potential:

Slow worm

BAP habitats present:

-

BAP species seen:

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BAP species known:

Hedgehog (local resident observation)

BAP species potential:

Stag beetle

Slow worm

Connectivity:

Connectivity is good as the site is adjacent to the A14 road embankments

Structural diversity:

Structural diversity is quite good as there is a mixture of mature trees, scrub and more open glades.

Flora:

The mature woodland in the southern section was dominated by sycamore and oak, with elm, holly, elder, hawthorn and laurel. Many of the trees are ivy covered. The ground flora was species poor, with nettles, burdock, garlic mustard, herb robert, cleavers, comfrey, cow parsley, white dead-nettle, ground ivy and Welsh poppy.

The centre of the site contains a scrubby habitat with scattered young sycamore, Norway maple and pine, wild rose, hawthorn, field maple and occasional hazel, ash and bramble. The soil appeared to be very dry and free-draining and the ground flora in the glades was ruderal in type, with red campion, field forget-me-not, hedge cranesbill, perforate St John's-wort, ragwort, ribwort plantain, nettle and ground ivy and very sparse grasses.

Avifauna:

There was much bird activity from common species including wood pigeon, blackbird, robin and chiffchaff. The site is likely to support a good range of birds.

Invertebrates:

The site will support a range of invertebrates typical of woodland habitats. A local resident reported seeing stag beetle, so if there is subterranean deadwood then larvae may be present on site.

Herpetofauna:

The proximity of the site to the A14 and its grassy margins means that the site may support low populations of slow worm, as these are more shade tolerant.

Mammals:

Hedgehogs have been observed by local residents in 2013 and the site is highly suitable for this species. Muntjac and roe deer are also seen locally, along with foxes.

Comments and recommendations:

This small block of undisturbed woodland makes a contribution to the ecological network of the area.

Site name **Site reference 86 – Former Convent Woodbridge Road**

IBC Ref: W52
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 17762 44812
Area: 1.2 Hectares
Date: 22 August 2013
Recorder: A Looser
Weather conditions: Overcast and cool, light rain 18°C
Ranking: 3
Biodiversity value: Medium

Map:



Photos:



Mature woodland



Tall ruderal and scrub east of railway line (thought to be the original slow worm receptor area)



Stag beetle pyramid

Habitat type(s):

Broadleaf and mixed woodland, scrub, tall ruderal

Subsidiary habitats:

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Site description:

This site is predominantly semi-natural woodland at the southern edge of the former convent at Woodbridge Road. In the north-west, the woodland includes more pines and has been classified as mixed, whereas the rest of the site is broadleaf. All of the woodland is mature and whilst it may be planted in origin, the length of time elapsed means that it can now be classified as semi-natural. There is an area of impenetrable scrub and ruderal habitat on the western edge which is thought to be the site of the 'slow worm sanctuary' area arising from the earlier planning consent. This area is connected to the railway line (Westerfield-Felixstowe) which is likely to also support slow worm habitat.

Protected species:

Slow worms (2010)

Protected species potential:

Bats

BAP habitats present:

-

BAP species seen:

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BAP species known:

Slow worm (2010)

BAP species potential:

Bats
Stag beetles
Hedgehog

Connectivity:

The site is surrounded by roads and residential housing although it is connected by the railway line to a number of other sites including, Spring Road 1 Allotments (Site 126) Spring Road 2 allotments (Site 127) and Spring Road allotments wood (Site 128). Overall, this is an important cluster of sites. In addition, to the north the railway line connects it to the large cemetery (Site 71) and cemetery cutting (Site 72).

Structural diversity:

The woodland has a good structure with well-developed shrub layer. The area directly south of the flats shows a greater degree of public access so the field layer is quite trampled, but the remainder of the site is relatively undisturbed.

Flora:

The majority of the site is woodland which includes a good variety of species including sycamore, pine, bramble, holly, elder, field maple, hawthorn, oak, ivy, cedar, holm oak, copper beech, beech, yew, sweet chestnut and horse chestnut. Broom, buddleia and white bryony were also noted. The ground flora was dominated by cow parsley but the remains of bluebell were seen.

The area by the railway line was impenetrable with bramble with hedge bindweed, nettle, great willowherb, fennel and comfrey.

Avifauna:

This site visit took place at a sub-optimal time for recording this group. However, it provides good foraging, roosting and nesting opportunities for a range of common bird species. Blue tit, wren, robin and blackbird were observed during the visit and a more detailed breeding bird survey could reveal a good range of species using the site.

Invertebrates

The standing dead wood on site will provide habitat for a range of common invertebrates. Butterflies such as speckled wood are likely to be present. The stag beetle pyramids which have been constructed provide additional habitat for stag beetle, whose larvae require subterranean dead wood.

Herpetofauna:

As part of the planning consent for development of the old convent school, a planning condition was attached that a 'slow worm sanctuary' needed to be set up to receive animals from the wider parts of the sites. It is believed that large numbers of slow worms were translocated to this area. Slow worms are still present on site and a local resident indicated they are occasionally seen within the wider site. There is an SBRC record for 2010. However, the area believed to be the slow worm sanctuary is the scrubbed up area adjacent to the railway line, so this habitat is rapidly becoming unsuitable and requires management at the appropriate time of year. In the long term this area will cease to support a viable population.

Mammals:

Common species of mammal such as grey squirrel, muntjac deer and fox are likely to permanently occupy the site. The site also provides good cover for small mammals such as mice and voles. Bats are likely to feed over the site and several of the trees had cracks and crevices suitable for roosting sites. It is possible that undisturbed areas with bramble may provide nesting habitat for hedgehog.

Comments and recommendations:

This site has a management plan which has been developed with Greenways. It is of high wildlife value but the scrub should be cleared near the railway line to allow more open areas to support the slow worm population. This should be implemented during the winter months over several years, ie clearing in sections, to develop a rough grassland/scrub habitat mosaic favoured by this species.

Any arboricultural work to the large trees should take into consideration the likelihood of roosting bats and a survey should be undertaken to assess this.

Further survey work to assess the wildlife value of the site should include breeding birds and also bats (evening visit using bat detectors).

Site name

Site reference 87 – Garrods Pond

IBC Ref: W62
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 18746 43263
Area: 0.17 hectares
Date: 12 June 2013 & 24 September 2013
Recorder: A Looser & Simone Bullion
Weather conditions: Cloudy with sunny intervals 17°C
Ranking: 4
Biodiversity value: Medium

Map:



Photos:



Photo taken on 12 June 2013 showing scrub formerly in south-west corner



Photo taken on 24 September showing pond after clearance has taken place



View taken from southern corner looking northwards on 24 September



Small areas of open water within the pond taken on 24 September

Habitat type(s):

Pond and swamp, tall ruderal, scrub

Subsidiary habitats:

Boundary trees

Site description:

The site is situated off Prettyman Road. It is a steep-sided pit with open water and swamp vegetation at the bottom. Scrub and tall ruderals have colonised the slopes surrounding the pond and there are some mature trees on the southern and eastern boundaries. There is no public access and on the first visit the site was viewed from the boundaries. A second visit was carried out whilst much of the northern part of the site was being cleared by machinery. This enabled a better view of the site so the remaining habitats could be mapped.

Protected species:

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Protected species potential:

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BAP habitats present:

Eutrophic standing water (pond)

BAP species seen:

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BAP species known:

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BAP species potential:

Toads

Hedgehog

Connectivity:

The site has very poor connectivity as it is surrounded by roads and residential housing. The nearest site is Ransome Road/Shackleton Road Open Space (Site 117), which lies to the east beyond a road and housing.

Structural diversity:

Within the remaining un-cleared areas there is reasonable structural diversity.

Flora:

The scrub in the northwestern corner contained species such as dogwood, field maple, holly and blackthorn, but this has been subsequently cleared. The untouched northern boundary contained a line of mature hazel along with hawthorn, dogwood, holly. The eastern boundary included mature sycamore maple species and ash. The southern boundary included large, mature hawthorn, with elder bramble, bracken and nettle on the steeply sloping ground.

There was water in the pond, but with duckweed covering much of the water surface. Bull rush (*Typha*) was also present with two willows on the margins. Drier areas around the edge of the pond included great willowherb, nettle, bramble, bracken and bittersweet.

Occasional garden plants were present, such as buddleia and *Mahonia*.

Avifauna:

The scrub on the site provides foraging, roosting and nesting opportunities for some common bird species and blackbird was observed during the first visit and a blackcap heard on the second visit.

Invertebrates:

The pond will support a range of aquatic invertebrates, as will areas of taller marginal vegetation and woody species.

Herpetofauna:

The pond provides habitat for frogs, newts and toads which may be present in small numbers. A frog was seen on site by the contractor and an owner of a neighbouring garden sees large numbers of newts (probably smooth newts but a specific amphibian survey is required). Common lizards are also recorded in neighbouring gardens, but the site itself is less suitable for reptiles. However, now that much of the scrub has been removed, the site may become more suitable for this group if low vegetation colonises bare ground areas.

Mammals:

The site has been disturbed so is much less likely to provide good habitat for mammals. Grey squirrel is likely to be the only mammal species present.

Comments and recommendations:

Further surveys should be carried out, including amphibians, reptiles and to assess the likelihood of the presence of hedgehogs.

The pond is one of the few locations with aquatic habitat in the dry, free-draining soils of this part of Ipswich.

Broken asbestos cement sheeting was seen on site within areas cleared by the bulldozer.

Photos:



Looking south east across site



Planted woodland in northern corner



Wasp spider seen on 7 October

Habitat type(s):

Neutral and poor semi-improved grassland, amenity grassland, plantation woodland, scattered trees, scrub

Subsidiary habitats:

Species poor hedgerow

Site description:

This site is a large park situated along Gippeswyk Avenue. The site is dominated by grassland with scattered trees. The area to the west represents semi-improved neutral grassland, but to the south a formerly wet area appears to have become drier and is now poor semi-improved grassland, scrub and woodland. The eastern area is short-mown amenity grassland. There is an area near the north-western boundary which has been recently planted with a range of native species. In this area there is also a circular planted woodland and an area immediately south of that which has been fenced off and with young saplings in the grassland (target note). There is a small play area in the south western part of the site. The railway line forms the northern boundary.

Protected species:

Common Lizard (2012)

Protected species potential:

Bats

BAP habitats present:

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BAP species seen:

Song thrush

BAP species known:

Common lizard

BAP species potential:

Hedgehog

Stag Beetle

Connectivity:

The railway line along the northern border of this site provides good connectivity. It is also adjacent to Gippeswyk Park Spinney (Site 89) and London Road Allotments (Site 101) and is close to a number of other sites including Birkfield Drive (site 60).

Structural diversity:

The site has very good structural diversity with short mown grassland, longer grass areas, young trees, scrub and mature trees.

Flora:

The much of the site is short mown amenity grassland. Species in this include rye grass with clover, dandelion, daisy, yarrow, greater plantain and ribwort plantain. The areas of longer grass contain a greater diversity of species including rye grass, cocksfoot, Yorkshire fog, rough meadow grass, meadow foxtail, smaller cat's tail, reed sweet grass and wall barley with lesser stitchwort, germander speedwell, creeping buttercup, meadow buttercup, common mouse ear, sorrel, common thistle, dove's-foot cranesbill, black knapweed, mallow and hop trefoil.

There is a wetter area at the southern end, near Hawthorn Drive but this is dominated by nettle, creeping thistle and great willowherb. In the 2000 audit this was described as wet grassland with several spikes of southern marsh orchid. These were not evident at the time of the survey and the dominance of nettle indicates that this area has been drying out over the years.

There is a row of mature trees along the railway line which are a mixture of London plane, sycamore, lime and oak. Other standard trees include larch, Scot's pine, silver birch, field maple, elder, poplar, hornbeam, ash, rowan and willow. There is a large hybrid black poplar near the play area.

The planted woodland contains a mixture of cherry, rowan, silver birch, sweet chestnut, beech, Scot's pine, elder and oak. The area that has been fenced off immediately south of that currently has young hawthorn and field maple growing in it.

The hedge around the play area is species poor, containing variegated laurel, privet, hazel and dog rose. The hedge on the border with the allotments is also species poor but contains a different mix of species which are elder, elm, blackthorn, bramble and sycamore. The hedge at the eastern end is dominated by beech.

There is a section of scrub in the southern section of the park which contains blackthorn, hawthorn, hazel, dog rose, silver birch, ash and rowan.

The trees which have been recently planted in several areas around the site are a good range of native

species including hawthorn, rowan, field maple, silver birch and hazel.

Avifauna:

This site provides excellent foraging, roosting and nesting opportunities for a range of bird species and several species were observed during the visit. These include blackbird, blue tit, great tit, magpie, robin, jay and green woodpecker. In addition song thrush which is a BAP species were also observed.

Invertebrates:

This site now contains a good area of longer grass. This provides good nectar sources for a range of butterfly and moth species, and despite the weather being poor for recording this group several common blue butterflies were seen. This is likely to be a good site for them. The longer grass also provides good habitat for a range of other insects including bees, wasps, hoverflies and spiders. Stag beetles could occur in any subterranean dead wood in the woodland area. A wasp spider was seen on a later visit.

Herpetofauna:

There are recent records of common lizard (2012) from the site. The large areas of long grass, particularly near the railway line provides good habitat for reptiles and the railway provides good connectivity for them. Slow worm and grass snake have been recorded on the adjacent allotments so it is likely that they may also be present.

Mammals:

Common species of mammal such as grey squirrel will permanently occupy the site. The areas of longer grass provide good habitat for a range of small mammals including mice, voles and shrews. The habitat on site is good for hedgehogs so it is likely they will be present on site. The hybrid black poplar near the play area has several cracks and crevices that could be suitable for bat roosting sites.

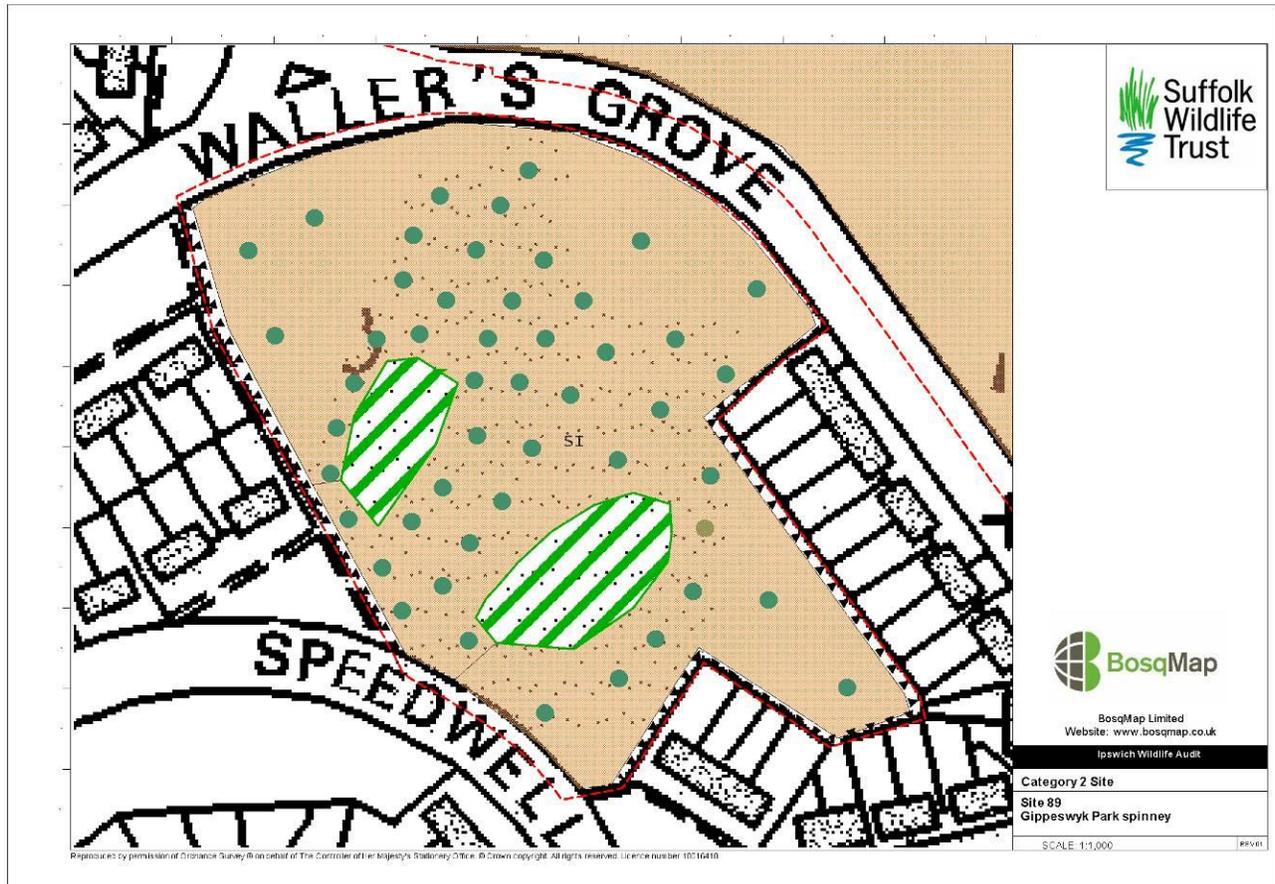
Comments and recommendations:

A former area of wetland grassland appears to be drying out and has become less diverse. It is unknown whether this is due to lack of management or lowering of the water table. It is recommended that this area is cut this autumn/winter, with another early spring cut as the nettles are starting to develop. It is important that the cuttings are removed and that there are further cuts in future years.

Site name **Site reference 89 - Gippeswyk Park Spinney**

IBC ref: W63
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 14767 43904
Area: 1.54 hectares
Date: 20 August 2012
Recorder: A Looser
Weather conditions: Warm and overcast with sunny intervals 24°C
Ranking: 4
Biodiversity value: Medium

Map:



Photos:



Looking south across site



Native tree belts

Habitat type(s):

Scattered trees

Subsidiary habitats:

Semi-improved grassland

Site description:

This site is situated between Waller's Grove and Speedwell Road, Ipswich. It is an area of rough semi-natural grassland with well spaced mature oak trees. There has also been fairly recent planting of native trees and shrubs in tree belts on the site.

Protected species:

-

Protected species potential:

Bats, slow worm, common lizard

BAP habitats present:

-

BAP species seen:

-

BAP species known:

-

BAP species potential:

Bats, slow worm, common lizard, stag beetle and hedgehog

Connectivity:

The connectivity is reasonable as it is only separated by a small road from the rest of Gippeswyk Park.

Structural diversity:

The site consists of long grass with tall mature trees and native trees and shrub belts, which provides good structural diversity.

Flora:

There are a number of well spaced mature oak trees spread over the site. There are also some native tree belts including field maple, sweet chestnut, hazel, rowan, cherry, horse chestnut, spindle, hornbeam and guelder rose.

The grassland beneath the trees was tall grass dominated by cock's foot and common bent with some timothy. It also contained species such as greater plantain, smooth sow thistle, hemlock, dandelion, yarrow, clover, dock, nettle, hoary willowherb, black knapweed and self heal.

Avifauna:

The site visit took place at a sub-optimal time of year for surveying this group. Magpie, collared dove and blackbird were observed on the site. Other common bird species are also likely to be present as the site provides good foraging, roosting and nesting opportunities.

Invertebrates:

Good numbers of speckled wood and gatekeeper butterflies were recorded during the visit. It is likely that other species of butterfly are also present at different times of the year. There were also a number of bees. Old trees, particularly oak, are good for a range of invertebrate species and stag beetle larvae will be present if there is subterranean deadwood.

Herpetofauna:

The rough grass under the trees provides suitable habitat for reptiles, particularly slow worm and also common lizard. Common lizards were recorded at Gippeswyk Park by the Rangers on 26th March 2012. However, if reptiles are present, they are likely to be concentrated at the edges of the site in the sunnier areas.

Mammals:

Common species of mammal are likely to be present, such as rabbit and grey squirrel. Small mammals such as mice, voles and shrews are likely to be present across the whole site. The site may represent an important feeding area for bats, and some of the mature oaks had cracks and crevices that are potentially suitable for roost sites. The habitat is also suitable for hedgehog.

Comments and recommendations:

Cutting and raking off parts of the grassland on a rotation would improve the floristic diversity of the site, whilst still allowing plenty of habitat for small mammals and reptiles.

Photos:



Looking north across site

Habitat type(s):

Amenity grassland

Subsidiary habitats:

Scattered trees

Site description:

The site is situated just off Glamorgan Road. It is a small area of short mown amenity grassland dominated by a short grass sward with few herbs, with scattered trees. There is also an area of hard standing which is used for car parking.

Protected species:

-

Protected species potential:

-

BAP habitats present:

-

BAP species seen:

-

BAP species known:

-

BAP species potential:

-

Connectivity:

Connectivity is very poor as it is completely surrounded by roads and residential housing.

Structural diversity:

The majority of the site is short mown amenity grassland, so here structural diversity is poor. The trees provide the only structural diversity within this landscape.

Flora:

Most of the site consisted of species poor, short mown grass with greater plantain, ribwort plantain, dandelion, white clover, doves foot cranesbill and yarrow.

The trees on site were oak, ash, cherry and an ornamental tree (likely to be a Robinia spp).

Avifauna:

No birds were observed during the visit, although the site visit took place at a sub-optimal time of year for surveying this group. The trees provide some foraging, feeding and nesting opportunities for garden birds.

Invertebrates:

No invertebrates were recorded during the visit. The trees provide limited habitat for this group, however the sandy track and bald areas could potentially be used by ground nesting bees and wasps, some of which can be scarce species. Stag beetles are recorded within the locality, but their presence on site depends on whether there is any underground deadwood for the larvae.

Herpetofauna:

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

Mammals:

As it is purely short mown grass and scattered trees it is unlikely to be used by any mammals other than grey squirrel.

Comments and recommendations:

Allowing some areas of longer grass, particularly under the trees, would improve the potential for invertebrates and foraging birds. These longer grass areas could be mown in mid to late summer to help limit any perception that the site may be 'unkempt'.