

Site name **Site reference 131 – St Mary’s Churchyard, Whitton**

IBC Ref: W36
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 15033 47684
Area: 0.1 hectares
Date: 17 June 2013
Recorder: S Bullion
Weather conditions: Mild and still 17°C
Ranking: 4
Biodiversity value: Medium

Map:



Photos:



Looking north east along site

Habitat type(s):

Scrub and young woodland, rough mown grassland

Subsidiary habitats:

Gravestones providing substrate for plants such as lichens

Site description:

This small site is part of the wider churchyard of St Mary's Church. It is situated in the south-eastern corner of the churchyard and differs from the rest of the churchyard by having more young trees colonising the area. The grassland is rough mown and appears to be species-poor. However around the graves there is a variety of native flowering plants which add diversity to the site.

Protected species:

Unidentified bats recorded on Whitton Church Lane in 2008 (roost could be in church)

Protected species potential:

Slow worm

BAP habitats present:

-

BAP species seen:

-

BAP species known:

-

BAP species potential:

Stag beetle
Hedgehog
Slow worm

Connectivity:

The churchyard lies on the northern edge of Ipswich and although it is surrounded by houses and buildings on three sides, there are playing fields directly to the north so there is some limited connectivity.

Structural diversity:

Structural diversity is good in this part of the churchyard as there is a mixture of scrub, taller grasses and flowers.

Flora:

This part of the cemetery contained more scrub than elsewhere, with hawthorn, suckering elm, field maple, wild rose and sycamore. Two large holm oaks were present on the eastern boundary. A yew was growing on the southern boundary. Sprawling over the scrub and fences was ivy, hop and clematis. Nettle was encroaching beneath the boundary trees.

The grassland was relatively species poor, with creeping buttercup, ribwort plantain, creeping cinquefoil, daisy, field speedwell, black knapweed, rough meadow grass. Within and around some of the gravestones was ox-eye daisy and tall clumps of bush vetch.

Avifauna:

The timing of the visit (late afternoon towards the end of the breeding season) was not conducive to recording birds. Blackbird was recorded and other locally present birds will be present.

Invertebrates:

The year is proving poor for recording butterflies and none were sighted. The flowers on the gravestones, particularly bush vetch, were being visited by large numbers of bumblebees and honey bees. There are some very large ant hills indicative of undisturbed grassland. Stag beetle larvae may be present if there is any subterranean deadwood.

Herpetofauna:

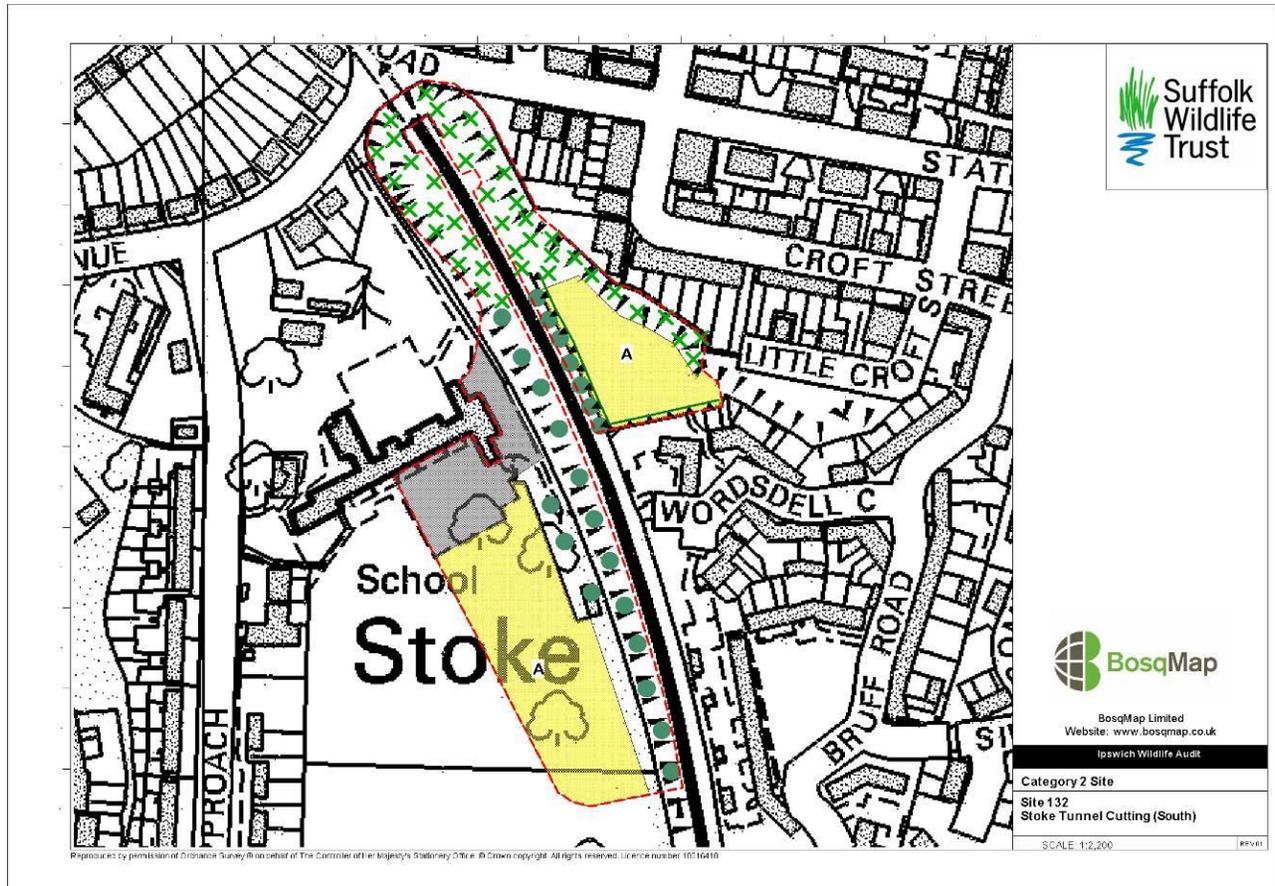
Slow worm may be present as the habitat is suitable, although there does not appear to be a population in the immediate vicinity. Toad may also be present and these are recorded on the allotments (139) to the north.

Mammals:

The habitat will support a range of small mammals such as mice, voles and shrews. Grey squirrel, muntjac deer and foxes are also likely to visit the site. The site provides foraging and hibernation habitat for hedgehogs.

Comments and recommendations:

In the 2000 Audit this small corner of the churchyard is described as former 'species-rich hay meadow' but the wildlife interest was already reduced due to lack of management. The remainder of the cemetery is more regularly mown. In future some management will be required to control the scrub as the site will revert to woodland otherwise. It is unclear if the cuttings are being removed when the grass is cut, but the quality of the sward indicates they are probably being left. If the management regime could include the removal of grass cuttings in future this would help improve diversity of flowers in the grassland.



Southern Section

Photos:



Southern section of site



Heavily wooded and inaccessible areas south of station

Habitat type(s):

Amenity grassland, broadleaved woodland, scrub

Subsidiary habitats:

Scattered trees, species poor hedgerow

Site description:

This site is two sections associated with the Ipswich to London railway line and forms the land at either end of the Stoke Tunnel. The northern section lies south of the railway station and is a dense area of broadleaf woodland on steeply sloping banks. The southern section is just south of Luther Road. This section is a Geological SSSI due to the fossils discovered when the tunnel was constructed. Here there is a combination of close mown amenity grassland, scrub and scattered trees. Part of the Geological SSSI extends into the school playing fields.

Access was not possible to the northern section so this area was surveyed from a distance. Similarly access was difficult in parts of the southern section and the school playing fields were not specifically surveyed. It was not considered necessary to access those areas adjacent to the trackside as much of these habitats could be viewed from the boundaries. Permission was granted by station personnel to view the wooded areas from the platforms.

Protected species:

Common lizard and slow worm (On southern section 2004)

Protected species potential:

Bats

BAP habitats present:

-

BAP species seen:

-

BAP species known:

-

BAP species potential:

Bats (particularly northern section)
Stag beetles (particularly northern section)
Hedgehogs

Connectivity:

The railway line corridor provides the key linkage to other sites of wildlife value. Otherwise these sites are surrounded by roads and residential housing.

Structural diversity:

The northern site is woodland and is likely to have reasonable structural diversity. The southern site has fairly poor structural diversity with mainly amenity grassland and trees.

Flora:

The grassland area in the southern section of the site included rye grass with clover, yarrow, daisy and black medick. The longer areas on the banks also contained evening primrose and mugwort.

The scrub along the railway line embankments included bramble, buddleia, hawthorn, sycamore and elder.

The scattered trees along the edge of the railway line are dominated by chestnut and leylandii.

The young hedgerow along the fence line contains a mix of native species including hawthorn, blackthorn, dogwood and hazel.

The area behind the railway station contains a mixture of trees and shrubs including sycamore, bramble, oak, ash, field maple, silver birch, buddleia and pine.

Avifauna:

This site, particularly the wooded northern section provides good habitat for a range of common bird species and magpie, robin and blackbird were observed during the visit.

Invertebrates:

Lots of butterflies were observed during the visit including small tortoiseshell, small white and peacock. There are nectar opportunities, particularly the buddleia and bramble, so there is likely to be a range of common butterfly species throughout the year. Stag beetles have been recorded in a garden along Maidenhall Approach in 1998. They could still be present, particularly in the woodland area if there is any subterranean dead wood present.

Herpetofauna:

Both common lizard and slow worms have been recorded in the grassland part of the Geological SSSI in 2004. The edge habitat remains suitable for them so they are likely to still be present.

Mammals:

Common species of mammal such as grey squirrel, fox and mole are likely to use the sites. The sites are connected by the railway line to other areas and provide good cover for small mammals such as mice and voles. Some of the larger trees within the woodland and the chestnuts along the railway line

are mature enough to contain cracks and crevices suitable for bat roosting sites. Hedgehogs may navigate along the railway line corridor and the bramble present in the woodland section provides good suitable nesting and hibernation sites.

Comments and recommendations:

The mowing regime on the southern area could be relaxed around the site edges to provide rough grassland. This could be cut on rotation (every three years) to allow a tussocky sward to develop which would provide good summer habitat for hedgehogs.

Photos:



Looking north



Pond

Habitat type(s):

Amenity grassland

Semi – improved grassland

Subsidiary habitats:

Scattered trees, Scrub

Pond

Site description:

Stonelodge Park is situated between Royston Drive and Lakeside Road. The northern half of the site is short mown amenity grassland with scattered trees and a play area in the north-eastern corner. There is a pond in the centre of the site surrounded by scrub and scattered trees. To the south west of the pond is a wet area with a small stream which is probably spring-fed. The land slopes uphill towards Lakeside Road and here there is an area of longer semi-improved grassland with scattered trees.

Protected species:

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Protected species potential:

Bats

BAP habitats present:

Eutrophic standing water

BAP species seen:

House sparrow

Dunnock

BAP species known:

Hedgehog (1992)

BAP species potential:

Bats

Stag Beetle

Toad

Connectivity:

The site has poor connectivity being completely surrounded by roads and residential housing. The nearest sites are Chantry Green (Site 73) and Birkfield Drive (Site 60).

Structural diversity:

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

Flora:

Half the site is short mown amenity grassland with rye grass with ribwort plantain, greater plantain, yarrow, clover, daisy and dandelion. In the area of longer grass there was also dock, cow parsley, spear thistle, doves foot cranesbill, germander speedwell, dog violet, celandines, daffodils and garden anemones.

The tree and scrub species present include oak, cherry, holly, elder, silver birch, beech, lime, scots pine and larch. The species around the pond include bramble, alder, willow, weeping willow, hazel, fir, snowberry, elder and a flowering currant.

The wet area in the north eastern corner of the site has alder, ash and willow with mare's tail, dock, celandine, sedge spp and broad leafed willowherb.

Avifauna:

The site provides good habitat for a wide range of bird species, particularly with the pond. A good range of species were seen during the visit including wood pigeon, great tit, blue tit, carrion crow, magpie, blackbird, robin, wren, blackcap, chiffchaff, Canada goose, mallard and moorhen. In addition house sparrows and dunnock were both seen in the scrub around the pond. A bird box is within a tree overlooking the houses in Lakeside Road.

Invertebrates:

The weather conditions were poor for recording this group and none were observed during the visit. However there is a good habitat mosaic for invertebrates and there is also a reasonable range of food plants so there is likely to be a good variety of butterfly and bee species throughout the year. Dead wood was observed which is excellent for a range of invertebrate species. Dead tree stumps have also been left which provides excellent subterranean dead wood habitat for stag beetles.

Herpetofauna:

The pond provides a good habitat for frogs and toads. The isolation of the site means that it is unlikely to support reptiles.

Mammals:

Common species of mammal such as grey squirrel will live permanently on the site. The area of semi-improved grassland also provides some habitat for a range of small mammals such as mice, voles and shrews. There is an old (1992) record of hedgehogs at this site. The site provides good foraging habitat for hedgehogs if they can move through the fence surrounding the site. Bats are likely to forage over the site, particularly around the pond area. Some of the trees on site are mature enough to support roosting sites.

Comments and recommendations:

There was litter in the pond during the visit. This should be removed to prevent any problems to wildlife. A local resident also reported problems with fishing line being left in the vegetation surrounding the pond which caused problems with the resident ducks and geese.

Rough grassland should be managed on rotation to ensure there is always an overwintering resource of this type of habitat, to benefit invertebrates and other species.

Site name

Site reference 134 – Tuddenham Road Tree Belt

IBC Ref: W101
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 17264 45879
Area: 1.61 hectares
Date: 15 July 2013
Recorder: A Looser
Weather conditions: Hot and Sunny 28°C
Ranking: 5
Biodiversity value: Low

Map:



Photos:



Looking from The Albany

Habitat type(s):

Amenity grassland

Subsidiary habitats:

Scattered trees

Site description:

This site is long and thin and is situated along the side of Tuddenham Road between the junction of Belvedere Road and the roundabout with Valley Road. It is predominantly short mown amenity grassland with scattered mature trees. The western boundary of the sections on the western side of the road backs onto the nearby gardens and has a wooden fence along it. There is a small strip which heads eastwards towards Carlton Way. This section was fenced all round and access was not obtained, so this strip was surveyed from the boundary.

Protected species:

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Protected species potential:

Bats

BAP habitats present:

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BAP species seen:

-

BAP species known:

-

BAP species potential:

Bats
Stag Beetle

Connectivity:

The site generally has very poor connectivity as there is a busy road to the north of it and it is surrounded by residential housing. However it is close to a number of other sites including Ipswich Cemetery (Site 71), Redhouse Park (Site 119) and Cordale Spinney (Site 81).

Structural diversity:

The site has fairly poor structural diversity with only amenity grassland and trees.

Flora:

The majority of the site is short mown amenity grassland. Species in this include rye grass with dandelion, daisy and greater plantain.

The tree species are lime, beech, holm oak, oak and ash.

There is a small strip which heads eastwards towards Carlton Way. This section was fenced all round and access was not obtained. However it contained sycamore, ash, blackthorn, field maple, hawthorn, elm, snowberry and elder with nettle, burdock and cow parsley as the ground flora.

Avifauna:

This site provides some habitat for a range of common bird species, species seen during the visit included blackbird and green woodpecker.

Invertebrates:

No butterflies were observed during the visit despite good weather conditions. There are very limited nectar sources here so it is likely to be a very poor site for them.

Herpetofauna:

The habitat is unsuitable for this group.

Mammals:

Common species of mammal such as grey squirrel are likely to use the site and a squirrel drey was seen in one of the trees. However the site is isolated and provides no cover for small mammals such as mice and voles. There are several records of bats nearby and several trees are mature enough to have small cracks and crevices that could be used as temporary roosting sites by bats.

Comments and recommendations:

Due to the size and location of this site there are limited options for enhancement. However, if any trees need to be cut down the stumps should be left in place and allowed to rot naturally to create good subterranean dead wood habitat for stag beetles.

Photos:



Looking north-east along site

Habitat type(s):

Neutral semi-improved grassland, spring and inundation grassland, scattered trees, secondary woodland, tall ruderal

Subsidiary habitats:

Species poor hedgerow,

Site description:

This site is a long, but fairly narrow semi-natural strip of habitat along Valley Road opposite Broom Hill Park. There is a line of scattered trees at regular intervals along the roadside edge which marks the northern boundary of the site. The south western corner contains secondary woodland. The majority of the site is neutral semi-improved grassland and there is some tall ruderal vegetation along the southern edge bordering the woodland. At the south-west corner there is an area with springs bringing water to the surface (target note). These were not apparent during the August site visit, but there were areas where the grassland was becoming inundated with water in October. Further east the land rises and the grassland becomes much drier. There is a species poor hedge along the south eastern boundary and an old hedge running south, near the eastern end of the site.

Protected species:

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Protected species potential:

Slow worm and common lizard

BAP habitats present:

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BAP species seen:

-

BAP species known:

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BAP species potential:

Slow worm and common lizard

Hedgehog

Stag Beetle

Connectivity:

The site is part of a cluster of sites, separated only by roads, which collectively provide good habitat for a range of wildlife. This includes Broom Hill Park (Site 67), Westwood Avenue Open Space (Site 137), and Sherrington Road Recreation Ground (Site 123).

Structural diversity:

The site has excellent structural diversity with tall, rough grassland, tall ruderal vegetation, scattered trees and woodland. The ecotone from wet to dry grassland is also important.

Flora:

The tree and shrub species in the woodland are diverse and include oak, blackthorn, sycamore, hawthorn, ash, cherry, larch, holly, beech, elder, bramble, silver birch, alder, rowan, scots pine, sweet chestnut, hornbeam and hazel.

The scattered trees along the road were a mixture of oak, ash, beech and birch.

The longer grass also includes a good range of species with rye grass, cocksfoot, false oat, Yorkshire fog, common bent, meadow foxtail, wall barley and smaller cats tail. The herbs included ragwort, nettle, creeping thistle, spear thistle, ribwort plantain, greater plantain, hedge bindweed, mallow, broad leaved dock, bracken, black horehound, hogweed, creeping buttercup, dandelion, autumn hawkbit, corn sow thistle, ground ivy, herb Robert, lesser stitchwort, black knapweed, mouse ear hawkweed and red clover. Small-reed spp, greater willowherb and purple loosestrife (Target Note 1) were growing in the low-lying wet grassland areas.

A small patch of sheep's sorrel, common cat's ear and buck's horn plantain was found towards the north-eastern end of the site, indicating dry, acidic conditions (Target Note 2).

The hedge along the south eastern boundary was dominated by hawthorn with bramble, lime and elder. The hedgerow running south of the road was a hawthorn hedge, however it has now turned into a line of hawthorn trees.

Avifauna:

This site provides excellent foraging, nesting and roosting habitat for a range of common bird species and magpie, blue tit, great tit, robin and blackbird were all seen during the visit. In addition a sparrowhawk nest was seen in one of the trees along the southern edge.

Invertebrates:

This site provides a good range of nectar sources for butterflies and moths so it is likely to be a very good site for them. A number of common butterfly species were seen during the visit including meadow brown, small white, small copper, common blue, peacock and speckled wood. There are also a number of records of white letter hairstreak in the area which is a BAP species. A number of anthills were observed during the visit which suggests the grassland has been undisturbed for a number of years. Dead wood and piles of brash were observed on site which will provide excellent habitat for a range of invertebrate species. There are also several dead tree stumps which provide good subterranean dead wood habitat for stag beetles.

Herpetofauna:

The site provides excellent habitat for reptiles such as common lizard and slow worm. Apart from the busy road it is well connected to other areas which also offer good reptile habitat. The piles of brash and dead logs also increase the potential habitat available so it is very likely there are reptiles present, although they are likely to stay in the sunnier areas.

Mammals:

Common species of mammal such as grey squirrel are likely to live permanently on site. The range of habitats also provides good cover for small mammals such as mice, voles and shrews. The habitat is suitable for hedgehogs and there are old records of them in the area (1996) so they may still be present.

Comments and recommendations:

This site is of high wildlife value and should be maintained as such. The transition of wet grassland to dry grassland further eastwards is of particular interest. Occasional scrub clearance is likely to be required in the future to keep the grassland open. The grassland should be managed on rotation so that there is always a long grass resource at any one time. This will provide undisturbed summer habitat for reptiles and hedgehogs and also overwintering habitat for invertebrates.

Site name

Site reference 137 – Westwood Avenue Open Space

IBC Ref: New
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 15500 45687
Area: 0.19 hectares
Date: 07 August 2013
Recorder: A Looser
Weather conditions: Cloudy with sunny intervals 18°C
Ranking: 4
Biodiversity value: Medium

Map:



Photos:



Veteran oak tree in the centre of this small site

Habitat type(s):

Amenity grassland, poor semi-improved grassland, scattered trees,

Subsidiary habitats:

Veteran oak tree

Site description:

This site is a small area of amenity grassland and scattered trees on the corner of Valley Road and Westwood Avenue. The very large veteran oak tree is the main feature of this site, under which the grass has been left un-mown. This is likely to be a relic parkland tree and shows evidence of pollarding in the past. It is therefore of very high wildlife value.

Protected species:

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Protected species potential:

Bats

BAP habitats present:

-

BAP species seen:

-

BAP species known:

-

BAP species potential:

Bats
Hedgehog
Stag beetle

Connectivity:

The site is part of a cluster of sites which, although separated by roads, collectively provide good connectivity for a range of wildlife. This includes Broom Hill Park (Site 67), Valley Road Amenity Area (Site 136) and Sherrington Road Park (Site 123).

Structural diversity:

Structural diversity is limited for a small site of this nature, but the mature oak provides the centerpiece for the site.

Flora:

The majority of the site is short mown amenity grassland. Species in this include rye grass with dandelion, yarrow, clover, ribwort plantain, greater plantain, creeping cinquefoil, ground ivy, daisy, dog violets and rough hawkbit. The area under the oak tree has been left to grow longer, but is species-poor with cocksfoot, smaller cats tail, common bent, Yorkshire fog and broad leafed dock.

The tree species planted on the site include a mixture of an ornamental trees, (tulip tree, copper beech) as well as ash and a notably large veteran oak tree.

Avifauna:

This site provides limited habitat for a range of common bird species and only wood pigeon was seen during the visit. Species such as blackbird may forage in the short grass.

Invertebrates:

There are limited nectar sources available for butterflies so it is likely to be a very poor site for them. The large oak tree will provide excellent habitat for a range of invertebrate species. There is a standing dead tree on site which as provides dead wood for saprophytic beetles, which may include stag beetles if there is also underground dead wood.

Herpetofauna:

The habitat is unsuitable for this group.

Mammals:

Common species of mammal such as grey squirrel are likely to use the site. The site does provide good foraging habitat for hedgehogs, however there is no habitat for them to hibernate so they are only likely to be present if there is a population in the neighbouring area. The large oak tree has the potential to support roosting bats, particularly as it is close to other areas with good foraging habitat.

Comments and recommendations:

Due to the size and location of the site there are limited opportunities for improvement. The oak tree should be viewed as an important ecological resource. If any arboricultural work is required for this tree a bat survey should be undertaken first.

Photos:



Looking east across site



Planted woodland in south-west corner

Habitat type(s):

Amenity grassland, semi-improved grassland, mixed plantation woodland, scattered trees

Subsidiary habitats:

Species poor and species rich hedgerows

Site description:

This site is a recreation ground situated along the Norwich road. The site is amenity grassland with large sections of longer grass mainly concentrated centrally and at the southern end of the site. There are scattered trees across the site and a woodland has been planted in the south western corner. There is a small play area in the northern part of the site. There is a species rich hedge with trees along the boundary with the Norwich road allotments and small sections of species poor hedgerows along the northern and western boundaries. The site is fenced all around.

Protected species:

-

Protected species potential:

Reptiles (slow worm)

Bats

BAP habitats present:

-

BAP species seen:

-

BAP species known:

-

BAP species potential:

Reptiles (slow worm)

Bats

Hedgehog

Stag Beetle

Toads

Connectivity:

This site is fairly isolated as it is surrounded by roads and residential housing. It is adjacent to the Norwich Road allotments (Site 113). It is also close to several sites including Whitton Recreation ground (Site 141), Bramford Lane Open Space (Site 64) and Bramford Lane Allotments (Site 63).

Structural diversity:

The site has excellent structural diversity with amenity grassland, longer grass, hedgerows and woodland.

Flora:

The majority of the site is short mown amenity grassland. Species in this include rye grass and wall barley with ribwort plantain, greater plantain, dandelion, white clover, red clover and yarrow.

The areas of longer grass are more diverse with cock's foot, Yorkshire fog, false oat, smaller cats tail and common bent with ribwort plantain, hedge bindweed, black knapweed, creeping thistle, spear

thistle, creeping buttercup, broad leafed dock, ragwort, scentless mayweed and mallow.

The hedgerow along the northern boundary was species poor with sycamore, elder, bramble and hawthorn. The short section of hedge along the western edge was dominated by hawthorn. The hedge bordering the allotments contained oak, bramble, elder, snowberry, sycamore and hawthorn.

The scattered trees were a good mixture of lime, field maple, London plane, sweet chestnut, horse chestnut, ash, holm oak and beech.

The planted woodland contained a good mix of species with cherry, oak, elder, hazel, lime, field maple, scots pine, larch, blackthorn, guelder rose, walnut and ash.

Avifauna:

The habitat provides good foraging, roosting and nesting opportunities for birds so it is likely to be a good site for them.

Invertebrates:

The areas of longer grass provide good year round habitat for a range of invertebrate species such as spiders and grasshoppers. Several anthills were seen in the areas of longer grass. A good range of butterflies including small white, large white, peacock, small tortoiseshell, meadow brown, holly blue and speckled wood were seen during the visit. Stag beetles could be present if there is any subterranean dead wood on site.

Herpetofauna:

Slow worms were translocated to the adjacent Norwich Road Allotments (Site 113) in 2000 from the Flying Horse Public House development on Waterford Road 250m to the west. There are no recent records but the habitat remains suitable for this species. The rough grassland at the southern end of the park is suitable for reptiles so it is likely that they have spread from the allotments into this site. The habitat is also suitable for toads if there are any ponds nearby.

Mammals:

Common species of mammal such as grey squirrel are likely to use the site. The areas of longer grass provide some habitat for small mammals such as mice and voles. The site also provides good foraging opportunities for hedgehogs. Some of the mature standard trees on site have cracks and crevices which are suitable for bats to use as roosting sites.

Comments and recommendations:

The woodland would benefit from being thinned out and/or coppiced to let some light in. This would improve the ground flora and would give it a better structure to support more birds and insects.

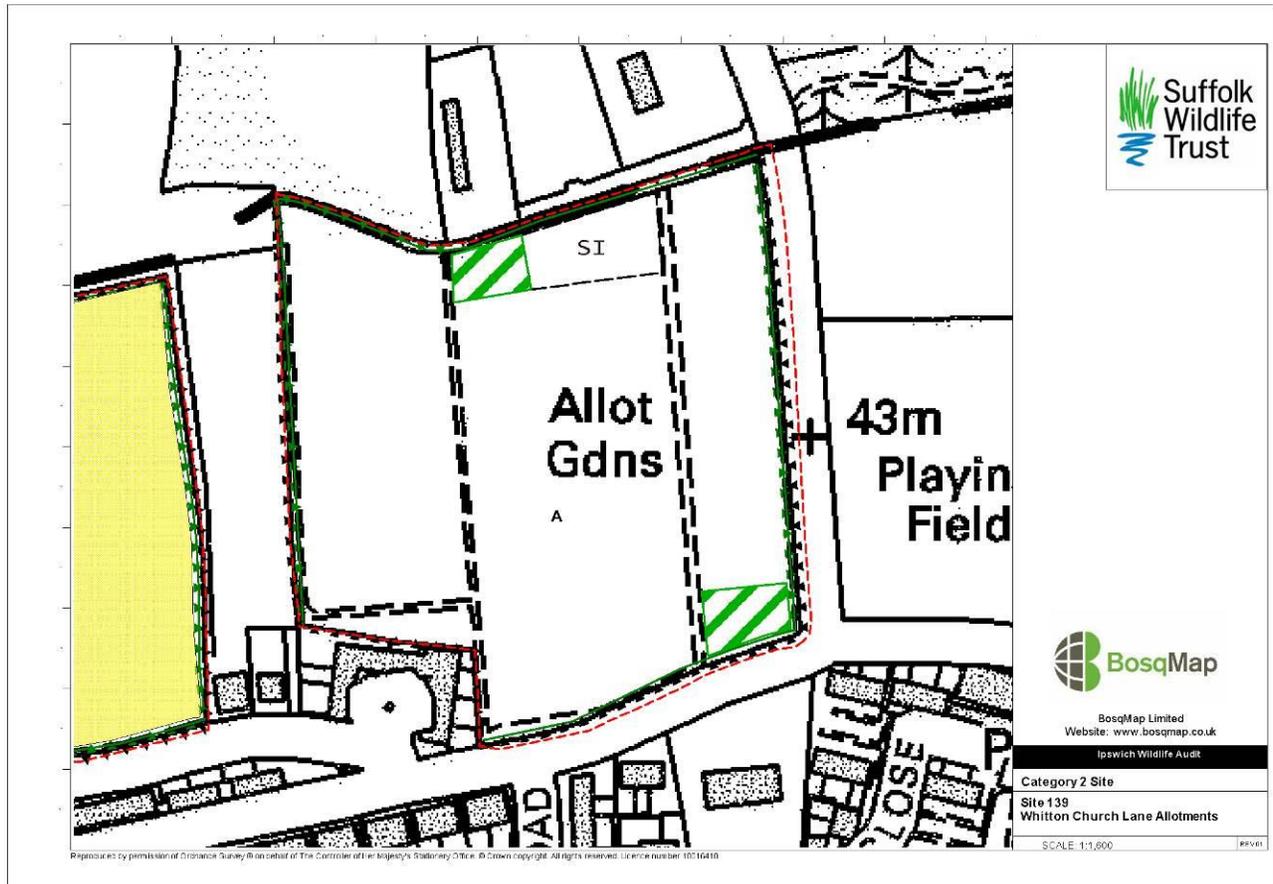
The rough grassland should be managed on rotation to ensure that there is always an overwintering resource of this habitat to benefit invertebrates. If reptiles are present then care should be taken with the timing of mowing, to avoid harm to these animals. Late autumn mowing would avoid this issue and also not impact on hedgehogs either.

Site name

Site reference 139 –Whitton Church Lane Allotments

IBC Ref: New
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 14810 47842
Area: 3.16 hectares
Date: 17 June 2013
Recorder: S Bullion
Weather conditions: Mild and still 17°C
Ranking: 4
Biodiversity value: Medium

Map:



Photos:



Looking north east towards hedge bordering Thurleston Lane

Habitat type(s):

Tall boundary hedges with trees, two hazel copses, cultivated areas

Subsidiary habitats:

Rough grassland

Site description:

This allotment is situated on the north-western edge of Ipswich. The site is bordered by mature hedges and tree belts on all sides and nearly all the plots are in cultivation. There are few trees within the site itself, other than walnut and occasional fruit trees. Two areas of hazel have been planted at least ten years ago, one in the south-east corner and the other on the northern edge as part of an initiative to provide a source of bean poles and pea sticks, as well as providing biodiversity value.

Protected species:

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Protected species potential:

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BAP habitats present:

Ancient species-rich hedegrow

BAP species seen:

-

BAP species known:

Song thrush

BAP species potential:

Stag beetle

Connectivity:

The site lies on the north-western edge of Ipswich and is linked to semi-natural habitats. Whitton Open Space (Site 140) lies 30m to the west, beyond a garden.

Structural diversity:

There are several features which add structural diversity to an otherwise well-cultivated site. The boundaries of the site with its hedges, tree belts and hazel copses are bordered in parts by rough grass areas, providing good structural diversity around the perimeter.

Flora:

The hedge bordering Thurleston lane on the eastern boundary contains tall elm, with hazel, field maple, blackthorn, dogwood, elder and oak. Ivy is growing on some of the trees and some elm is showing signs of die-back as is typical of this species. This hedge appears to be ancient as well as species rich. The southern hedge bordering Whitton Church Lane is thick with *Prunus* species as well as oak, elder, sycamore and bramble. Black bryony and honeysuckle are growing within the hedge. The northern hedge is a mixture of *Prunus*, field maple and bramble and is bordered by rough grassland. The western boundary contains tall, mature trees, some ivy covered, including oak, field maple, hazel, *Prunus* and elder.

Within the site are common species such as rough meadow grass, false oat grass, Yorkshire fog, cock's foot, creeping buttercup, curled and broad-leaved dock, white deadnettle, cleavers, nettle and mugwort. Hemlock is growing in a rough grassland area on the northern boundary.

Avifauna:

The timing of the visit was largely outside of the bird nesting season. Common birds such as wood pigeon, collared dove and magpie are present, as well as garden birds such as blackbird, robin, blue tit, great tit, goldfinch and song thrush. Green woodpeckers are also seen by allotment holders. Chiffchaff was heard in the hedge bordering Thurleston Lane.

Invertebrates:

It has been a poor spring for recording this group, but it is likely the site will support a range of butterflies and common invertebrates. In addition, stag beetle larvae may be present in the boundary hedges if there is subterranean deadwood.

Herpetofauna:

Allotment holders see numerous frogs and toads. Newts may be present in small ponds on individual plots. Reptiles have not been seen on site.

Mammals:

Allotment holders see wood mice, grey squirrels, brown rat and foxes and mole hills convey the

presence of moles also. Surprisingly hedgehogs are not seen, but the fences around the allotment may lack holes at ground level and thus be impenetrable to hedgehogs, which may also explain why muntjac deer are also not seen.

Comments and recommendations:

This is a well cultivated site, but the boundary hedges and trees provide good habitat for birds and invertebrates and are valued by the allotment holders.

Site name

Site reference 140 –Whitton Open Space with BMX

IBC Ref: New
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 14584 47793
Area: 3.14 Hectares
Date: 17 June 2013
Recorder: S Bullion
Weather conditions: Mild and still 17°C
Ranking: 4
Biodiversity value: Medium

Map:

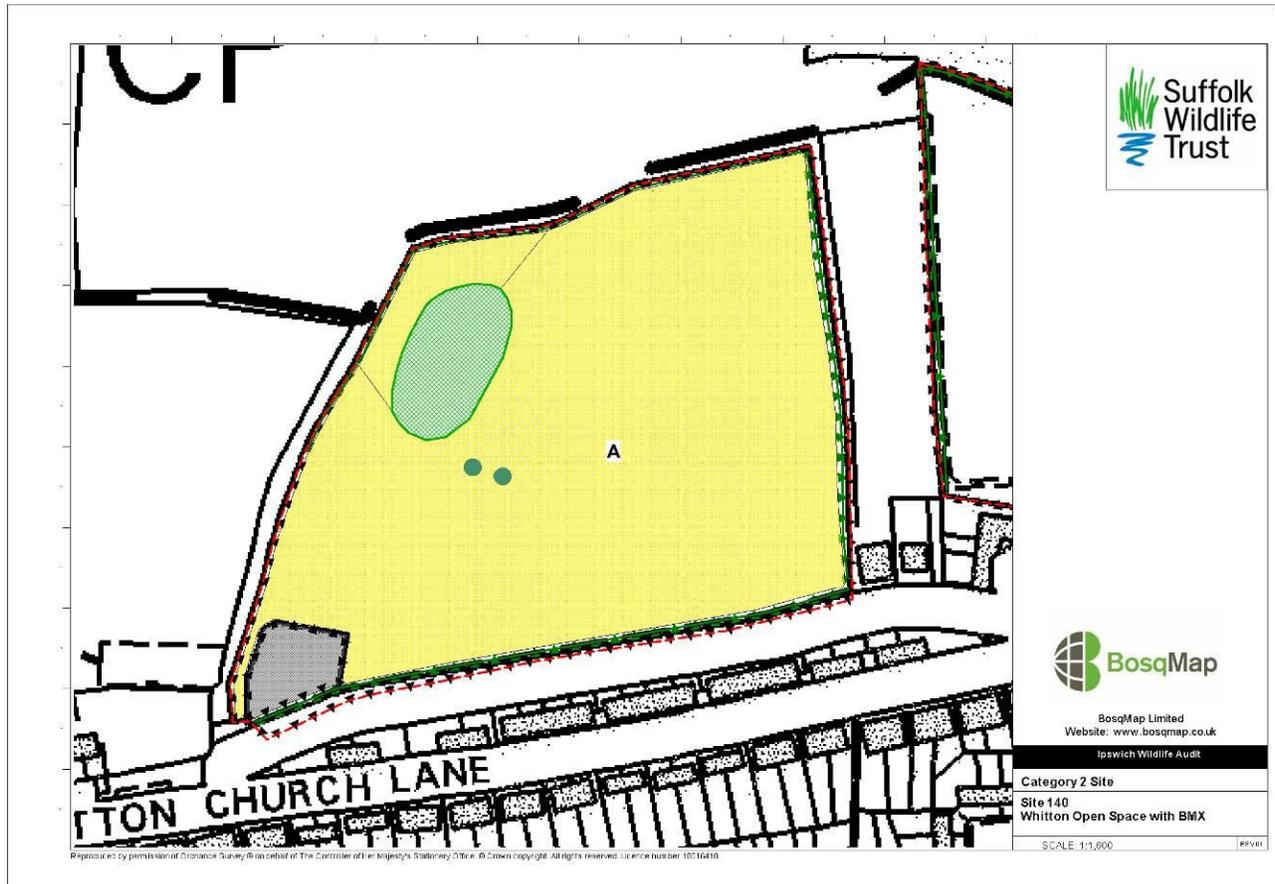


Photo:



View westwards showing mature hedge with trees along southern boundary

Habitat type(s):

Amenity grassland, rough species-poor grassland, scrub, boundary hedges with trees,

Subsidiary habitats:

-

Site description:

This site is situated on the north-western edge of Ipswich. The site is bordered by mature and diverse hedges and tree belts on all sides (apart from the south-west corner). The majority of the site is mown grassland, but large areas, including man-made mounds and slopes, have been left un-mown and this provides valuable habitat. Bramble scrub is developing, particularly towards the northern edge and this adds to the wildlife interest of the site. A fence is situated around the boundaries and in the south-western corner a lock-up compound is shown within the site boundaries, but this is hard standing and built structures of very low biodiversity value.

Protected species:

-

Protected species potential:

Reptiles such as common lizard and slow worm

BAP habitats present:

Ancient species-rich hedgerow

BAP species seen:

-

BAP species known:

-

BAP species potential:

Stag beetle

Hedgehog

Reptiles such as common lizard and slow worm

Toad

Yellowhammer and other declining farmland birds

Connectivity:

The site lies on the north-western edge of Ipswich and is linked via hedgerows to other semi-natural features in the wider countryside.

Structural diversity:

The combination of short mown, tall, rough grassland, scrub and boundary hedgerows and trees provides excellent structural diversity.

Flora:

The hedge with trees along the southern boundary was tall and diverse and likely to be ancient. Species recorded include hazel, field maple, dogwood, hawthorn, elder, elm, ash, wild rose and *Prunus* species. The hedge on the eastern boundary included a combination of native shrubs such as hazel, elm, field maple and *Prunus* species with some ornamental species from the adjacent garden. The hedge on the northern boundary abuts farmland and contains oak, field maple, wild rose, *Prunus* species and bramble.

The mown grassland is species poor with typical species such as ribwort plantain, white clover, daisy and dandelion. Grasses include rough stalked meadow grass, perennial rye grass, cock's foot and Yorkshire fog. In the un-mown areas additional species were recorded: false oat grass, cow parsley, hedge cranesbill, hemlock, white campion, yarrow, black knapweed, red clover, creeping thistle and nettle. Bramble scrub is invading areas of hummocky ground, but this will provide good habitat for invertebrates and birds. Occasional individual young trees have been planted within the site.

Avifauna:

The timing of the visit was largely outside of the bird nesting season and few birds were seen during the afternoon visit. The boundary hedgerows combined with the scrub/grassland mosaic will support a range of species associated with both gardens and also farmland. Declining farmland birds such as yellowhammer could be present.

Invertebrates:

It has been a poor year for recording this group, but it is likely the site will support a good range of butterflies and common invertebrates. In addition, stag beetle larvae may be present in the boundary hedges if there is subterranean deadwood.

Herpetofauna:

Frogs and toads are frequently recorded by allotment holders to the east (Site 139) and smooth newts may also be present. Great crested newts were recorded 400m to the north (1999), but whilst the site provides suitable terrestrial habitat there is no pond on site and there does not appear to be any semi-natural ponds in the vicinity so this reduces the likelihood of their presence. However, the habitat on site is excellent for species such as common lizard and slow worm, so these reptiles may be present.

Mammals:

The site provides excellent foraging and nesting habitat for hedgehog, a declining species. Common species of mammal will be present such as grey squirrel, rabbit, fox and muntjac deer. A variety of small mammals will inhabit the grassland/scrub mosaic and given the proximity of the site to open countryside, the habitat could potentially support harvest mouse.

Comments and recommendations:

The site currently has a good mosaic of habitat. In future it may be necessary to manage the bramble scrub on rotation to prevent this becoming too invasive. The rough grassland should also be managed on rotation, by cutting a proportion in mid-late summer and removing the cuttings. Ideally at least a quarter or a third of the rough grassland should be left as overwintering habitat for invertebrates, then cut in a subsequent year.

The site boundary should be amended to exclude the lock-up area in the south western corner.

The hedgerows appear to be healthy and do not currently require any management. Any coppicing in future to promote thick re-growth would require good protection from browsing deer.

Photos:



Looking south east across site

Habitat type(s):

Amenity grassland

Subsidiary habitats:

Semi-improved grassland

Species poor hedgerow

Site description:

This site is a recreation ground situated along Old Norwich Road in Whitton. The site is amenity grassland with sections of longer grass around the boundaries of the site. There is a line of scattered trees near the western edge and a species poor hedge along the western boundary. There is a play area in the southern part of the site. The site is fenced all around.

Protected species:

-

Protected species potential:

-

BAP habitats present:

-

BAP species seen:

House Sparrow

BAP species known:

-

BAP species potential:

Hedgehog

Connectivity:

This site is isolated as it is surrounded by roads and residential housing. However it is fairly close to the northern edge of Ipswich and open countryside. Its location towards the northern edge of Ipswich means it is quite close to the wider countryside and several other sites are nearby, including Whitehouse Park (Site 138), Whitton Open Space with BMX (Site 140) and Whitton Church Lane Allotments (Site 139).

Structural diversity:

The site has fairly poor structural diversity with mainly amenity grassland, although the hedge along the western boundary provides some structural diversity.

Flora:

The majority of the site is short mown amenity grassland. Species in this include rye grass with ribwort plantain, dandelion, white clover and yarrow. In the area of longer grass around the boundaries there is also cocksfoot, Yorkshire fog, smaller cats tail and common bent with nettle, hedge bindweed, hogweed, dock, ragwort, germander speedwell, autumn hawkbit and spear thistle.

The hedgerow was mainly the other side of the fence along the western boundary and contained sycamore, hawthorn, privet, elder, blackthorn, sumac spp and lilac.

The scattered trees were predominantly silver birch with occasional sycamore.

Avifauna:

The habitat is fairly poor for birds apart from the hedgerow along the western boundary which provides some habitat for them. House sparrows were seen in this hedge (BAP species).

Invertebrates:

The areas of longer grass provide some habitat for a range of invertebrate species such as spiders and grasshoppers. Several anthills were seen in the areas of longer grass. Large white, peacock and meadow brown butterflies were seen during the visit.

Herpetofauna:

The isolation of the site means that there is a low risk of reptiles being present. Reptiles have been recorded just to the north of this site so there is a possibility, albeit low, that if there is a population in the vicinity they will use the areas of longer grass around the edges of the site.

Mammals:

Common species of mammal such as grey squirrel are likely to use the site. The areas of longer grass provide some habitat for small mammals such as mice and voles. The site also provides good foraging opportunities for hedgehogs.

Comments and recommendations:

There are limited opportunities for enhancement on this site.

Site name: **Site reference 142 – Land Adjacent to The Grove**

IBC ref: W65
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 16343 46709
Area: 0.95 hectares
Date: 7 August 2012
Recorder: M Wright
Weather conditions: Mostly cloudy, some sunny periods, rain showers heavy at times, cool south-westerly breeze. 16°C, but variable
Ranking: 4
Biodiversity value: Medium

Map:



Photos:



View looking south, grassland, tall herbs and scrub

Habitat type(s):

Scrub, rough grass and tall herb

Subsidiary habitats:

None

Site description:

This is a small, but valuable area of semi-natural habitat. In some documents it is referred to as 'Grove Farm Wasteground'. For the most part the area is fenced and impenetrable due to dense scrub but there is also an area of grass and tall herb. The site is bordered by arable fields on three sides and housing to the south. On the large adjacent area of farmland (Site reference 144) a species-rich hedge connects to the site, running north-eastwards and this in turn connects to the wider hedgerow network.

Protected species:

-

Protected species potential:

Slow worm and common lizard

BAP habitats present:

-

BAP species seen:

Linnet

BAP species known:

-

BAP species potential:

Slow worm, common lizard, hedgehog, toad, song thrush, turtle dove and bullfinch

Connectivity:

The area is a small oasis of wildlife habitat, which links to a species rich hedgerow.

Structural diversity:

The structural diversity of the site is very good as a result of scrub habitat and tall herb interface.

Flora:

Hawthorn dominates the scrub area; other species include young oak, bramble, elder, creeping thistle, cocksfoot, corn sowthistle, black knapweed, false oat-grass, hogweed, field bindweed, field scabious, hedge bindweed, prickly sowthistle, teasel, tansy, great mullein, mugwort, meadow vetchling, ragwort, scentless mayweed, spear thistle, wild mignonette, white bryony, wild parsnip, yarrow and Yorkshire fog.

Avifauna:

The very good scrub habitat and would support a much greater number of species than the observations listed. Linnet was the only BAP species seen. Although the season when the survey took place was sub-optimal for recording this group other observations included wood pigeon, pheasant and chaffinch.

Invertebrates:

Given the quality of the scrub, grassland and tall herb the site will be supporting a wide variety of invertebrates. Butterfly observations included small skipper, gatekeeper, small white and meadow brown.

Herpetofauna:

No species were seen during the site visit; however it is likely that slow worm and common lizard occur. Slow worm and common lizard have been recorded in 2008 within the adjacent site (144) in areas of suitable habitat (hedgerows, tall ruderal vegetation, rough grassland, scrub, around field margins and along the railway embankment) Entec Environmental Statement (2009). Toad may also be present, particularly as there is a pond in close proximity (Site reference 91).

Mammals:

There were no species seen, however, small mammals such as mice and voles are likely to be present as well as common species such as muntjac deer, grey squirrel and fox. Hedgehog may use the site as it provides good habitat for hibernation.

Comments and recommendations:

This is a small but valuable site for wildlife but the quality and structure needs to be maintained and the scrub prevented from completely invading the tall herb and grassland area. It is interesting that in the Phase 1 survey of 2000, bee orchid is noted and it is commented that the total plant species list is likely to be high. It is therefore recommended that the scrub is managed on rotation to retain the habitat mosaic.

Further survey work in the spring would be useful to fully assess the diversity of flora and also the bird species breeding in this habitat.

References:

Entec. 2009. North Ipswich Development Environmental Statement.

Suffolk Wildlife Trust. 2000. North Ipswich Corridor (Westerfield) Natural Resources and Wildlife Sites.