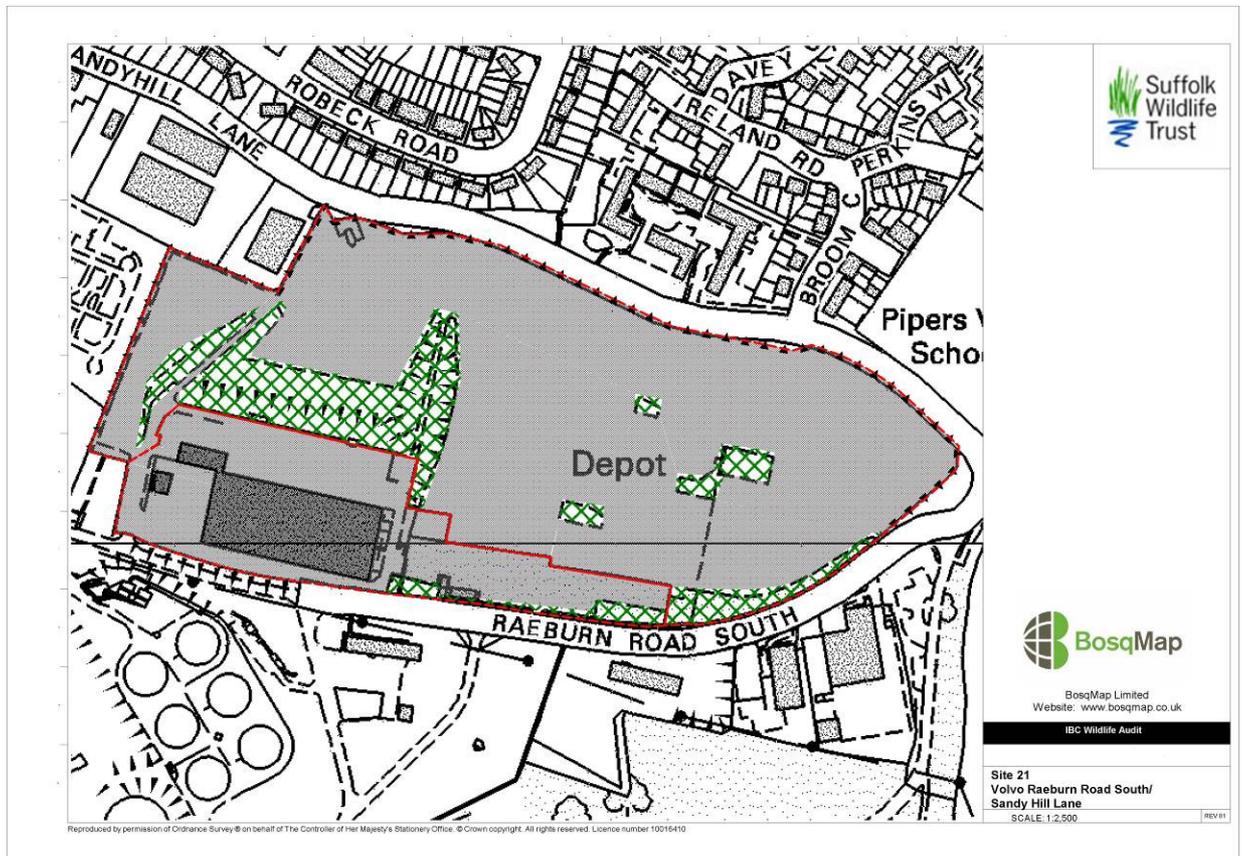


**Site name:** **Site reference 21 - Volvo Raeburn Road South/Sandy Hill Lane**

**IBC ref:** W21/IP058  
**Site status:** County Wildlife Site (CWS)  
**Grid ref:** TM 17640 42080  
**Area:** 6.31 hectares  
**Date:** 4<sup>th</sup> September 2012  
**Recorder:** M Wright  
**Weather conditions:** Clear skies, calm, hot and sunny  
**Ranking:** Formerly 2 but subject to review  
**Biodiversity value:** Formerly high, but subject to review

**Map:**



**Photos:**



Concrete hard standing and ruderal plants over looking the Orwell Bridge



Excellent scrub habitat on the steepest slopes of the site



Overgrown scrub islands



Excellent scrub habitat either side of the road looking north east



Part of the skip storage site showing scrub and ruderals colonising the area

**Habitat type(s):**

Scrub

**Subsidiary habitats:**

-

**Site description:**

The site is situated to the west of Pipers Vale and north of Anglian Water's sewage plant. Formerly known as the 'Volvo' site where cars were parked, this large area is now semi-derelict and is entirely of hard standing with a few buildings. Most of the site is leased to Haughley Motors for storing Indian blocks and slabs. Another area is leased to Cooks Waste Kare for storing skips.

Ruderals and scrub are colonizing the cracks in all of areas the hard standing and former grass verges, with the most dominant species being narrow-leaved ragwort and buddleia. There are two small and one very large area of scrub. On the perimeter of the site there were some bramble patches.

**Protected species:**

-

**Protected species potential:**

Slow worm and common lizard

**BAP habitats present:**

-

**BAP species seen:**

House sparrow

**BAP species known:**

-

**BAP species potential:**

Song thrush, linnet, slow worm and common lizard

**Connectivity:**

The large area of scrub is an important link in the wildlife corridor that skirts southeast Ipswich.

**Structural diversity:**

The structural diversity of the main scrub area is excellent.

**Flora:**

The composition of all the scrub habitats was similar, the scrub was thick and tall in places, and the species mixture formed a good mosaic of species. The plants recorded are as follows American Willowherb, black horehound, bramble, broom, buddleia, common nettle, common poppy, corn sowthistle, dittander (nationally scarce), dog rose, elder, evening primrose, field bindweed, field maple, hedge bindweed, hedge mustard, great lettuce, great willowherb, hawthorn, mallow, mouse-eared hawkweed, mullein, oak, narrow-leaved ragwort, nettle, ribwort plantain, perforate St. John's wort, sallow, silver birch, smooth hawksbeard, smooth sow-thistle, spear thistle, sycamore, weld, wild parsnip, white poplar, yarrow, Yorkshire fog,

**Avifauna:**

There was one BAP and Birds of Conservation Concern red listed species seen, which was house sparrow. Other observations included blackbird, blue tit, chiffchaff, collared dove, common whitethroat, greenfinch, magpie, wood pigeon and wren.

**Invertebrates:**

Observations of butterflies included comma, large white, small tortoiseshell, small white, red admiral and speckled wood.

**Herpetofauna:**

No species were seen during the site visit. However the habitat is suitable for slow worm and common lizard.

**Mammals:**

Rabbit was the only species seen but it is likely that muntjac deer and fox may inhabit and pass through the site.

**Comments and recommendations:**

Should development proceed on this site, it is highly recommended that a corridor for wildlife is created through the site by incorporating existing scrub areas, to help retain the current ecological network in this part of Ipswich. The main sloping scrub area is excellent habitat for a wide range of wildlife through all seasons and creation of grassy areas would improve the quality of edge habitat still further.

A reptile survey should be undertaken and no clearance of vegetation should take place until the presence of reptiles is properly assessed and mitigated, in order to ensure compliance with the Wildlife & Countryside Act (1981) (as amended).

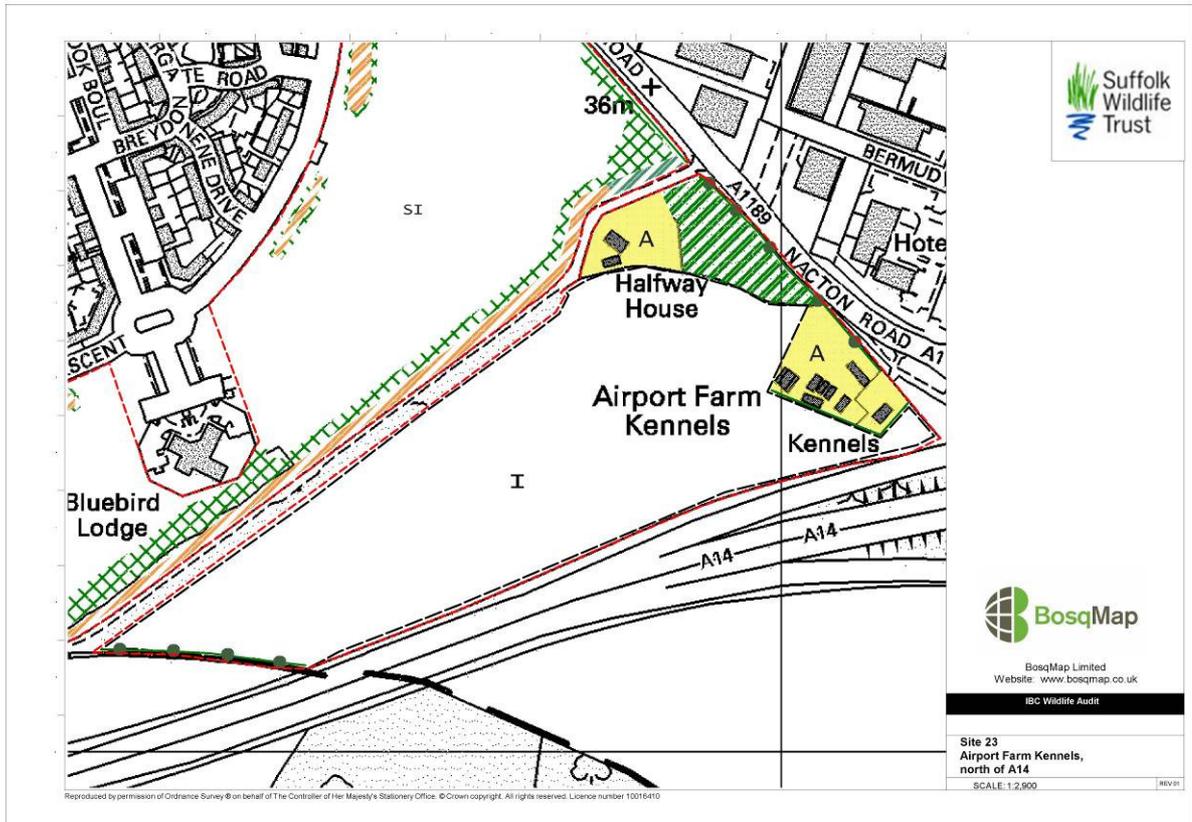
When the site was used for car storage by Volvo, the hard standing area was sectioned by grass verges, which were either rabbit-grazed or regularly cut by mechanical means. All the grass areas supported good populations of bee orchids; several thousand individual plants were noted in 1991. However, at the time of this survey all these grass verges have now entirely scrubbed over making them unsuitable to support orchids or a grassland sward.

Due to the change in its floristic value we strongly recommend that the CWS status of this site is reviewed by the CWS panel at the soonest opportunity.

**Site name:** **Site reference - 23 Airport Farm Kennels**

**IBC ref:** UC269/IP1  
**Site status:** No wildlife designations  
**Grid ref:** TM 19830 41180  
**Area:** 7.82 hectares  
**Date:** 25<sup>th</sup> July 2012  
**Recorder:** M Wright  
**Weather conditions:** Clear skies, hot and sunny  
**Ranking:** 4  
**Biodiversity value:** Medium

**Map:**



**Photos:**



Looking west: A14 hedge on the left and the airport road tree belt in the background



Looking north-east: half way house, kennels and mature oaks adjacent to the Nacton Road

**Habitat type(s):**

Hedgerows, species poor grassland, semi- improved grass verge adjacent to the slip road, individual trees.

**Subsidiary habitat:**

-

**Site description:**

This wedge of land lies between the disused airport perimeter road and the A14 trunk road. The land was recently in arable production but is now rough, species poor grassland. On the north-western boundary lies the airport road tree belt, adjacent to the Nacton Road (A1189) there is a belt of mature oak trees with a thick scrub hedge

and along the A14 perimeter there are lengths of Corsican pine and a broad, mixed species hedge. Running diagonally through the rough grassland there is a broad mixed hedgerow with oaks.

Also within the site is Halfway House, Airport Farm kennels and various associated outbuildings.

**Protected species:**

-

**Protected species potential:**

Grass snake, slow worm and common lizard

**BAP habitats present:**

-

**BAP species seen:**

Starling, house sparrow and linnet

**BAP species known:**

Yellowhammer, skylark

**BAP species potential:**

Bats, hedgehog, slow worm, grass snake, common lizard, bullfinch and song thrush

**Connectivity:**

This site in conjunction with the Airport road tree belt is part of a very important wildlife corridor linking to the Orwell estuary and its hinterland. Associated habitats include the southern part of the former airfield, Orwell Country Park including Braziers Wood and Piper's Vale County Wildlife Site (CWS). Beyond the A14 is Bridge Wood and Pond Hall Farm and the estuary itself.

**Structural diversity:**

The structural diversity of the hedges and scrub areas associated with the mature trees is good but could be easily improved still further to benefit wildlife.

**Flora:**

Plants include birdsfoot trefoil, black horehound, black medick, bracken, bristly oxtongue, broad-leaved dock, catsear, common centaury, common nettle, common poppy, common ragwort, common sorrel, common storks-bill, creeping thistle, dandelion, dittander (nationally scarce), evening primrose, goatsbeard, great lettuce, great mullein, groundsel, field bindweed, hairy tare, haresfoot clover, hedge bindweed, hedge mustard, hemlock, hogweed, hop trefoil, houndstongue, lady's bedstraw, lesser stitchwort, mallow, mugwort, musk thistle, perforate St. John's wort, red campion, red clover, ribwort plantain, rosebay, rough sow-thistle, scarlet pimpernel, self heal, sheep's sorrel, smooth hawksbeard, smooth sow-thistle, spear thistle, viper's bugloss, weld, wild parsnip, wild radish, white campion, white clover and yarrow.

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

**Avifauna:**

There were three BAP and Birds of Conservation Concern red listed species observed, which were starling, house sparrow and linnet; other observations included carrion crow, wood pigeon, collared dove, blue tit, great tit, goldfinch, chaffinch, robin, wren, blackbird and whitethroat.

The site also supports a rookery.

**Invertebrates:**

Observations of butterflies included purple hairstreak, small white, large white, Essex skipper, small skipper, small copper, gatekeeper, meadow brown, ringlet and red admiral.

**Herpetofauna:**

No species were seen during the site visit; however grass snake, slow worm and common lizard are likely to occur.

**Mammals:**

There were no species seen during the site visit, however the habitat is likely to support small mammals such as short-tailed field vole and is also likely to be used by muntjac and fox. Hedgehogs have been recorded nearby in 1992 and the habitat is suitable for foraging opportunities for them.

**Comments and recommendations:**

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

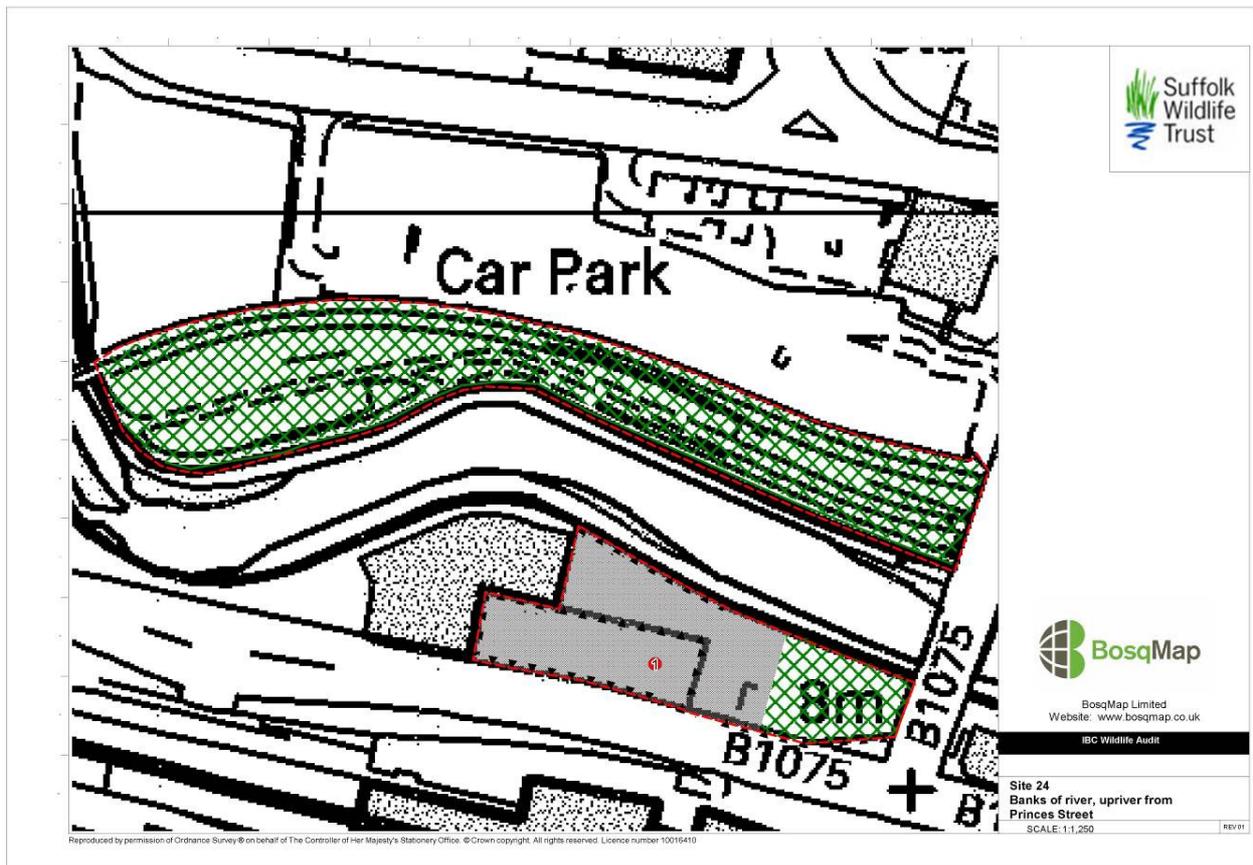
A reptile survey should be undertaken and no clearance of vegetation should take place until the presence of reptiles is properly assessed and mitigated, in order to ensure compliance with the Wildlife & Countryside Act (1981) (as amended).

The wildlife value of the Airport perimeter track tree belt could be enhanced still further if a margin was left to allow a tall grass and herb edge to develop. This would also allow the tree belt to develop more scrub and improve the quality of the existing hedge. Likewise, the diagonal hedge and tree belt could be enhanced if a headland was left on either side to allow a grass and herb edge to develop.

**Site name:** **Site reference 24 - Banks of River, upriver of Princes Street**

**IBC ref:** UC089/IP083  
**Site status:** No wildlife designation  
**Grid ref:** TM 15620 43951  
**Area:** 0.76 hectares  
**Date:** 7<sup>th</sup> September 2012  
**Recorder:** S Bullion  
**Weather conditions:** Hot, clear and still, 29°C  
**Ranking:** 4  
**Biodiversity value:** Medium

**Map:**



**Photos:**



Scrub with railway tracks just visible and signs of substance abuse

**Habitat type(s):**

Scrub belt

**Subsidiary habitats:**

-

**Site description:**

This linear site is former railway sidings, located on the northern bank of the River Gipping. A public footpath separates the site from the river itself. Beyond the northern boundary of the site is a public car park. The site is scrubbed up with trees, scrub and colonising species such as buddleia and bramble, but the tracks are still visible in places.

**Protected species:**

-

**Protected species potential:**

Slow worm, grass snake and otter

**BAP habitats present:**

-

**BAP species seen:**

-

**BAP species known:**

-

**BAP species potential:**

Slow worm, grass snake, otter and red-tailed carder bee

**Connectivity:**

The location of the site next to the river means that connectivity is very good.

**Structural diversity:**

There is good structural diversity which complements the additional planting along the public river path.

**Flora:**

Scrub and tree species include sycamore, silver birch, field maple, dog rose, bramble, with buddleia, and old man's beard. There is very little ground flora on the northern edge, but more light reaches the southern edge so there is greater diversity, with bracken, tansy and perforate St John's-wort. There is new planting along the river path with field maple, hazel and hawthorn.

**Avifauna:**

No birds were recorded during the visit but the time of year was unsuitable for recording this group. However, the site provides excellent roosting, nesting and foraging habitat for a range of bird species.

**Invertebrates:**

Stands of buddleia, rose and bramble provide excellent nectar sources for a range of invertebrates, including hover flies, bees and butterflies. Small white, large white, small tortoiseshell, red admiral and comma butterflies were recorded, making this a good site for butterflies. There is a nearby record for red-tailed carder bee.

**Herpetofauna:**

Although the canopy is quite closed in places, the site may provide foraging and hibernating habitat for reptiles such as slow worm and grass snake, particularly due to the close proximity of the river corridor which also may provide suitable habitat.

**Mammals:**

The site will support locally common mammals, such as fox. There is a record of otter very close to the site (2012), and this site could provide shelter for them to rest up during the day.

**Comments and recommendations:**

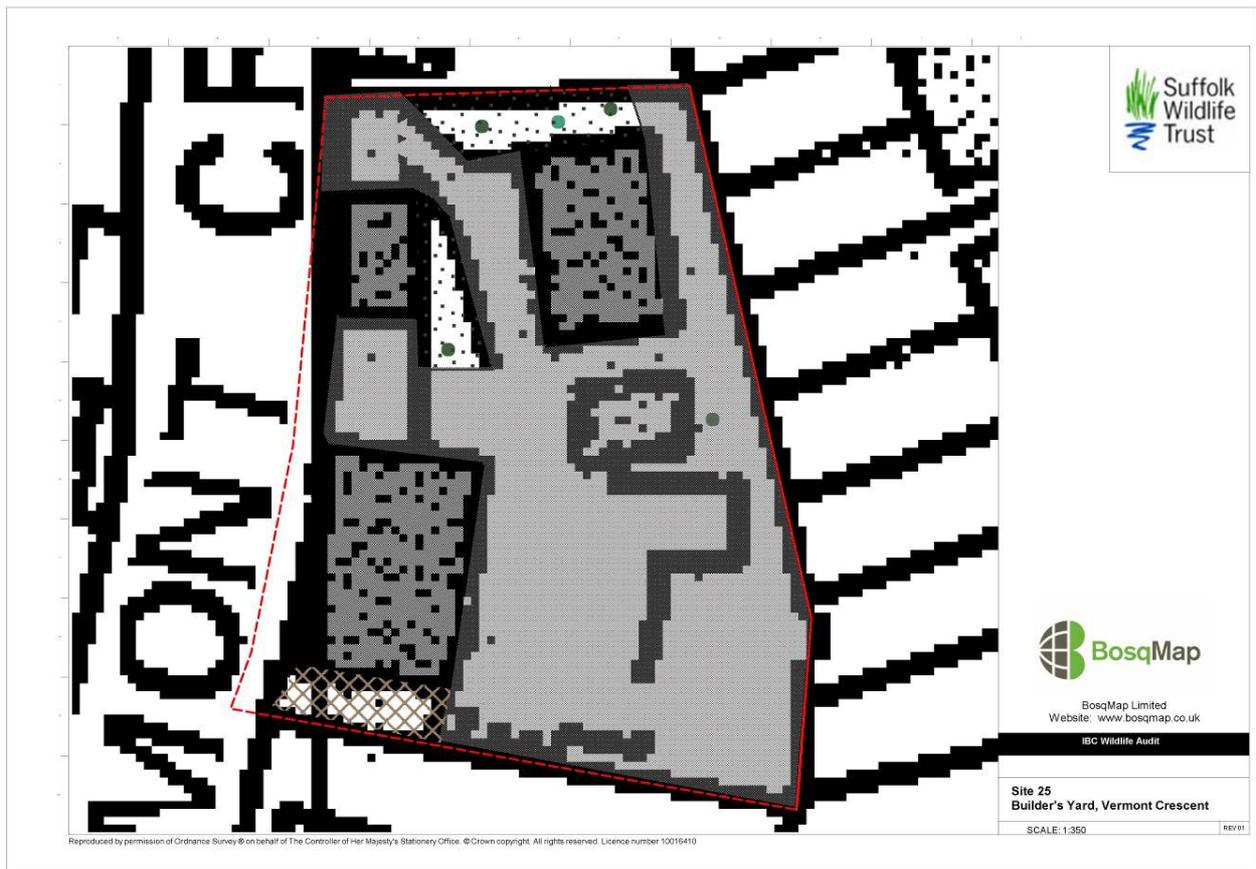
If the site is to be cleared of vegetation a reptile survey should be undertaken first and appropriate mitigation implemented if they are present on site. The possibility that otters could use the habitat as lying-up areas should also be investigated by further surveys. A scrubby boundary should be maintained along the southern edge, adjacent to the river path, to ensure that some biodiversity is retained in this locality and to complement the ecology of the river corridor.

In two locations it was apparent that people are accessing the scrub, with large piles of bottles and other debris.

**Site name:** **Site reference 25 - Builders Yard, Vermont Crescent**

**IBC ref:** UC148/IP  
**Site status:** No wildlife designation  
**Grid ref:** TM 17016 45287  
**Area:** 0.2 hectares  
**Date:** 26<sup>th</sup> October 2012  
**Recorder:** S Bullion  
**Weather conditions:** Cold, cloudy 8°C  
**Ranking:** 5  
**Biodiversity value:** Low

**Map:**



**Photos:**



View along road frontage



Yard to rear

**Habitat type(s):**

-

**Subsidiary habitats:**

Mature trees, ivy covering trees and fence, narrow ornamental border

**Site description:**

The majority of the site is occupied by buildings, hard standing and areas used for storage of materials. A linear strip along the south-western edge was planted up with ornamental plants such as rosemary and lavender, but this was overgrown and young saplings of ash, oak and sycamore had colonised this border. There are several mature trees on site including two large sycamores and a silver birch.

**Protected species:**

-

**Protected species potential:**

Bats (various species)

**BAP habitats present:**

-

**BAP species seen:**

-

**BAP species known:**

-

**BAP species potential:**

Bats (various species)

**Connectivity:**

Connectivity is extremely poor. The site is surrounded by housing.

**Structural diversity:**

Extremely poor. The trees provide the principal habitat on this site.

**Flora:**

There are two large sycamore trees and a silver birch, plus a pine. *Leylandii* is present along the southern edge. The rest of the species on site are ornamental species in narrow borders.

**Avifauna:**

The survey was undertaken outside of the season for recording this group, but there are limited opportunities for birds on this site. The trees and ivy may provide limited habitat.

**Invertebrates:**

There is little habitat on site currently suitable for this group, primarily the ornamental border and trees.

**Herpetofauna:**

There is little habitat on site currently suitable for this group, although the building material may provide hibernation opportunities for frogs, toad and newts. It is extremely unlikely that great crested newts are present as they are not known to occur in this part of Ipswich.

**Mammals:**

The ivy covered sycamore tree could provide roosting opportunities for bats such as pipistrelle. The building in the north-east corner has a pan-tile roof and this also may allow access for roosting bats under the tiles.

A grey squirrel was seen, but there is unlikely to be any other mammal species present other than brown rat.

**Comments and recommendations:**

The site is of low wildlife value, but consideration must be given to the possibility that bats may use the ivy clad sycamore near the centre of the site as a roost, or any holes in the larger sycamore to the eastern edge, or under the pan-tiles of the north-east building. Although this is probably low risk and consequently a detailed bat survey is not recommended, a precautionary approach should still be taken with regard to felling these large trees, or during removal of the pan-tiles from the building. This means felling the trees in sections and lowering them carefully to the ground, avoiding cutting through rot holes. Pan-tiles should be removed by hand. If any sign of bats is detected the work must stop immediately and a licensed bat worker contacted without delay, to ensure compliance with the legislation.