

**Site name:** **Site reference 40 - Part former Volvo site,  
Raeburn Road South**

**IBC ref:** UC113/IP99  
**Site status:** No wildlife designations  
**Grid ref:** TM 17517 41996  
**Area:** 1.85 hectares  
**Date:** 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2012  
**Recorder:** M Wright  
**Weather conditions:** Calm conditions, clear skies, hot and sunny  
**Ranking:** 5  
**Biodiversity value:** Low

**Map:**



**Photos:**



Most of the site is of hard standing, debris and buildings, the scrub belt on the left of the picture is not part of the site



Raeburn Road verge bramble and perimeter trees

**Habitat type(s):**

Bramble scrub and rough grassland on Raeburn Road verge.

**Subsidiary habitats:**

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**Site description:**

Access to the former Volvo site is via Sandy Hill Lane and Raeburn Road South. Almost the whole of the site comprised derelict hard standing and boarded up buildings. It appeared that at least one building was operational and there were a number trucks being either cleaned or loading up. The habitats on site consisted of ruderal and pioneer shrubs and trees that were colonizing the cracks and joints in the hard standing. Fencing, gates and some buildings were unkempt and overrun by vegetation. A fenced off area to the east of the buildings is also of hard standing that is being colonised by ruderals and young shrubs, planted trees were on the perimeter of this site. Only part of the verge has been colonised, in the main by bramble and is of good wildlife value.

**Protected Species:**

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**Protected species potential:**

Slow worm and common lizard

**BAP habitats present:**

-

**BAP species seen:**

-

**BAP species known:**

-

**BAP species potential:**

House sparrow, slow worm and common lizard

**Connectivity:**

The site is a weak link in the wildlife corridor that skirts southeast Ipswich. However this could be improved in the event of any site development.

**Structural diversity:**

Structural diversity is very poor, apart from along the road verge.

**Flora:**

Plants included black horehound, bramble, bristly oxtongue, broom, buddleia, Canadian fleabane, dittander (nationally scarce), great lettuce, hedge mustard, herb Robert, horse radish, gorse, great Mullein, hollyhock, mallow, mugwort, oxeye daisy, narrow-leaved ragwort, pampas grass, perforate St. John's wort, reed, rosebay willowherb, nettle, sallow, smooth sowthistle, tufted hair grass, wild carrot and wild parsnip. Trees and shrubs planted on the boundary of the site included blackthorn, bramble, hawthorn, oak, weeping willow, sallow, silver birch, Scot's pine and sycamore.

**Avifauna:**

Observations included carrion crow, common whitethroat, chiffchaff, magpie, robin, and wood pigeon. House sparrows were observed during surveys of the site to the north (Site 21) and could also be present on this site.

**Invertebrates:**

The following butterfly species were seen large white, red admiral, small tortoiseshell, small white and speckled wood; other species of invertebrate noted were migrant hawkler and common darter.

**Herpetofauna:**

No species were seen during the site visit, however slow worm and common lizard may occur around the margins.

**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:**

This site is of low conservation value, however this could improve if linear scrub and herb areas were created around the site and to connect to adjacent wildlife areas.

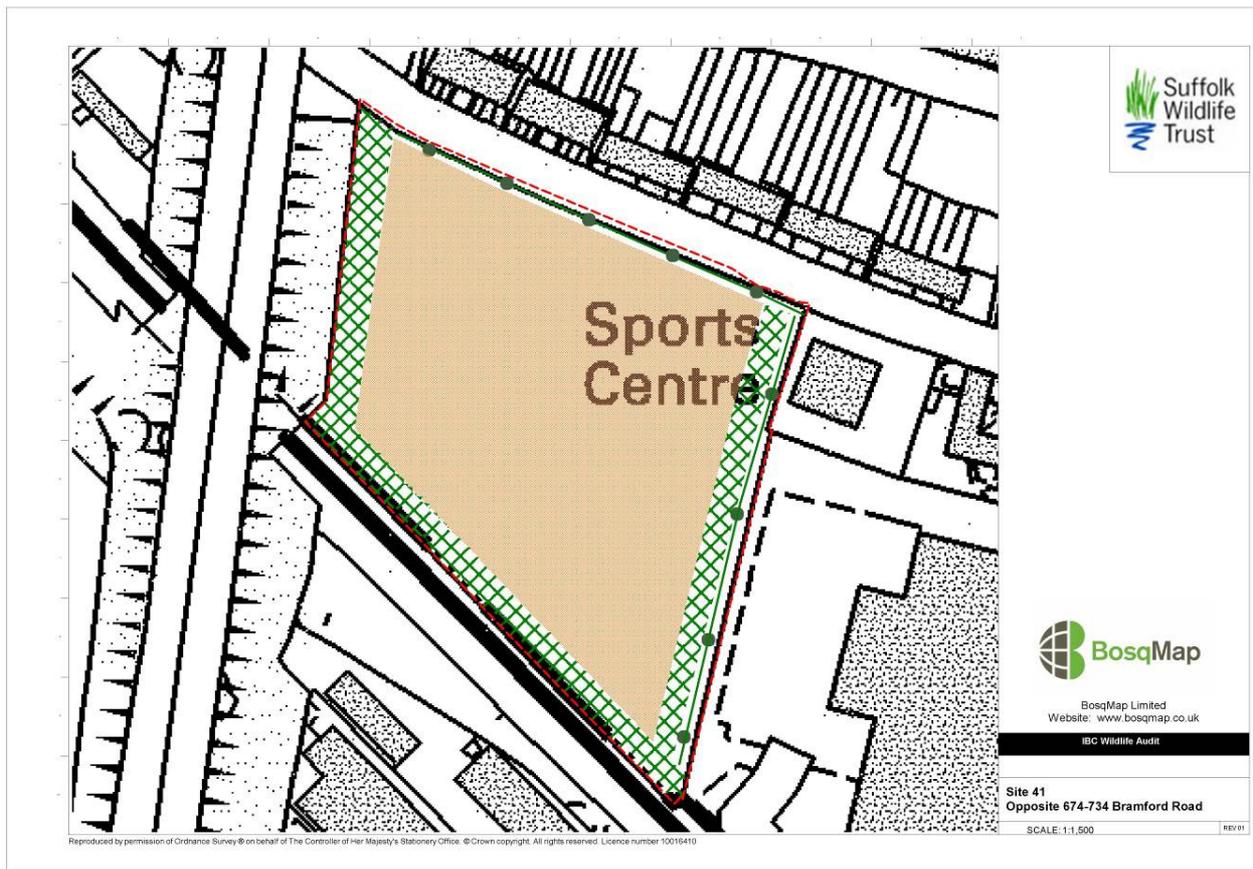
The connectivity of this site could be improved considerably in the event of any development. By creating a wide scrub hedge for the length of the frontage of this site along Raeburn Road (only part of this verge has a good quality scrub edge) and by connecting to remaining scrub areas of the former Volvo site.

Before any development commences on this site it recommended that a reptile survey should be carried out.

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

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

**Map:**



**Photos:**



View southwards across site.

**Habitat type(s):**

Rough grassland with scattered scrub

**Subsidiary habitats:**

Boundary hedgerows and trees

**Site description:**

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

**Protected species:**

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**Protected species potential:**

Slow worm and common lizard

**BAP habitats present:**

-

**BAP species seen:**

-

**BAP species known:**

-

**BAP species potential:**

Toad, slow worm, common lizard and hedgehog

**Connectivity:**

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

**Structural diversity:**

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

**Flora:**

The site is developing an interesting sward with a good range of species.

Herbs: Ox-eye daisy, blue fleabane, Canadian fleabane, ploughman's spikenard, wild carrot, creeping cinquefoil, smooth tare, tansy, yarrow, lesser burdock, prickly lettuce, prickly ox-tongue, agrimony, hop trefoil, ribwort plantain, upright hedge parsley, black horehound, hemlock, spear thistle, hedge cranesbill, hogweed, poppy, Oxford ragwort, ragwort.

Grasses: Wood small reed, wild oat, rye grass, false oat grass

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

**Avifauna:**

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

**Invertebrates:**

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

**Herpetofauna:**

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

**Mammals:**

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

**Comments and recommendations:**

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

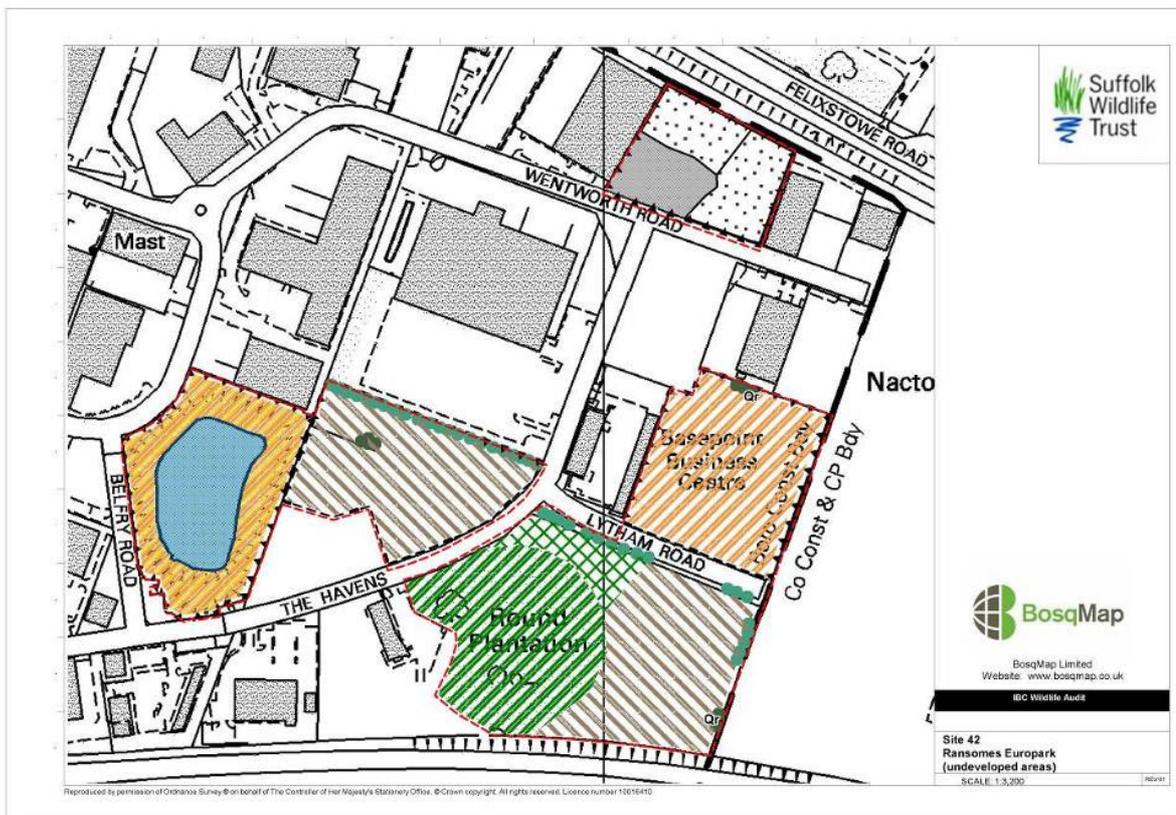
Further surveys should be undertaken to assess the wildlife interest. This should include a reptile survey, due to the proximity of the site to the A14 margins and railway corridor. Certainly, before any development is consented on this site the reptile survey must be carried out. No clearance of vegetation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

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

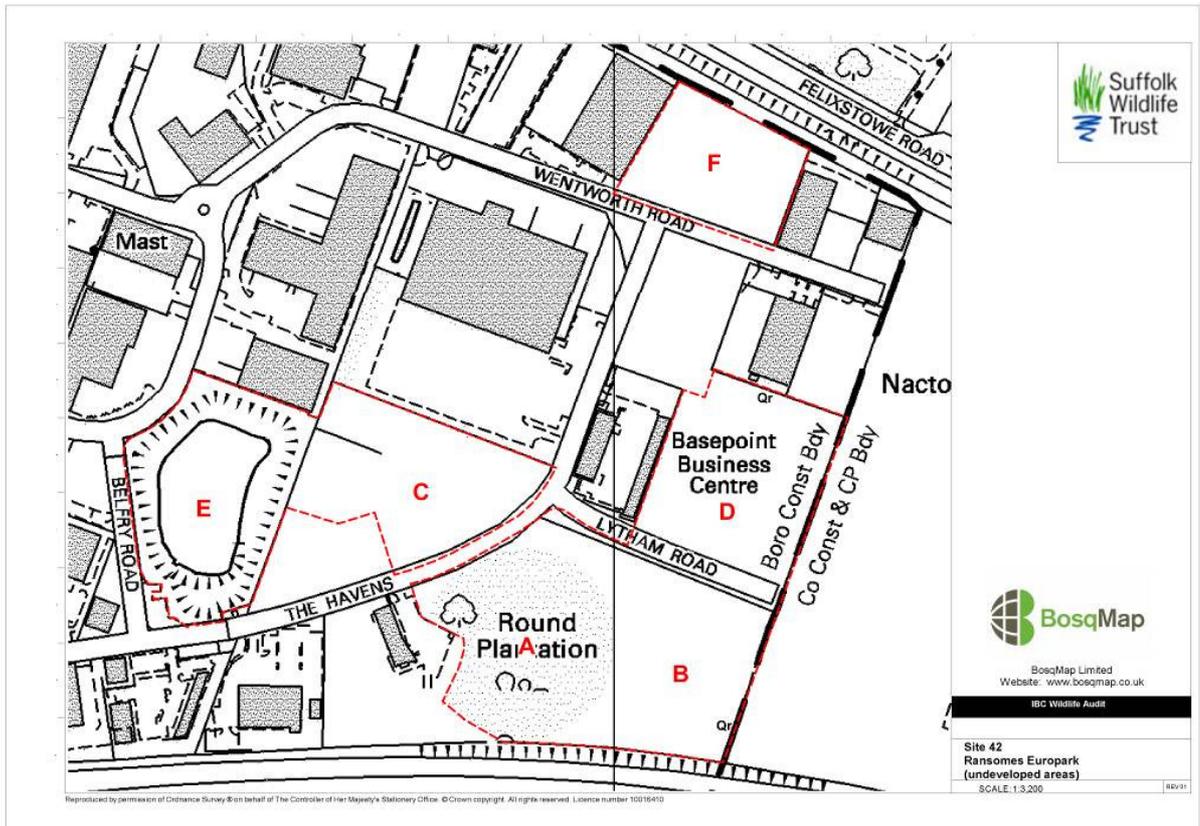
**Site name:** Site reference 42 - Ransomes Europark  
(undeveloped areas)

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

**Maps:**



Phase 1 map



Site map

**Photos:**



Site A & B



Site C



Site D



Site E



Site F

**Habitat type(s):**

Heathland, acid grassland, deciduous woodland, pine tree belts, scrub, rough grassland and a small wetland

**Subsidiary habitats:**

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

**Site description:**

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

Site A- Round Plantation

Site B- Abandoned arable land adjacent to Round Plantation

Site C- A unit of land opposite Round Plantation, adjacent to The Havens Road

Site D- A unit of land opposite Round Plantation and adjacent to Lytham Road

Site E- A large storm soak away (Anglian Water) adjacent to Belfry Road

Site F- A unit of land adjacent to Wentworth Road

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Protected species:**

Common lizard

**Protected species potential:**

Slow worm, grass snake and toad

**BAP habitats present:**

Heathland, acid grassland

**BAP species seen:**

Common lizard

**BAP species known:**

-

**BAP species potential:**

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

**Connectivity:**

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

**Structural diversity:**

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

**Flora:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **Avifauna:**

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

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

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

#### **Invertebrates:**

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

#### **Herpetofauna:**

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

#### **Mammals:**

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

#### **Comments and recommendations:**

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

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

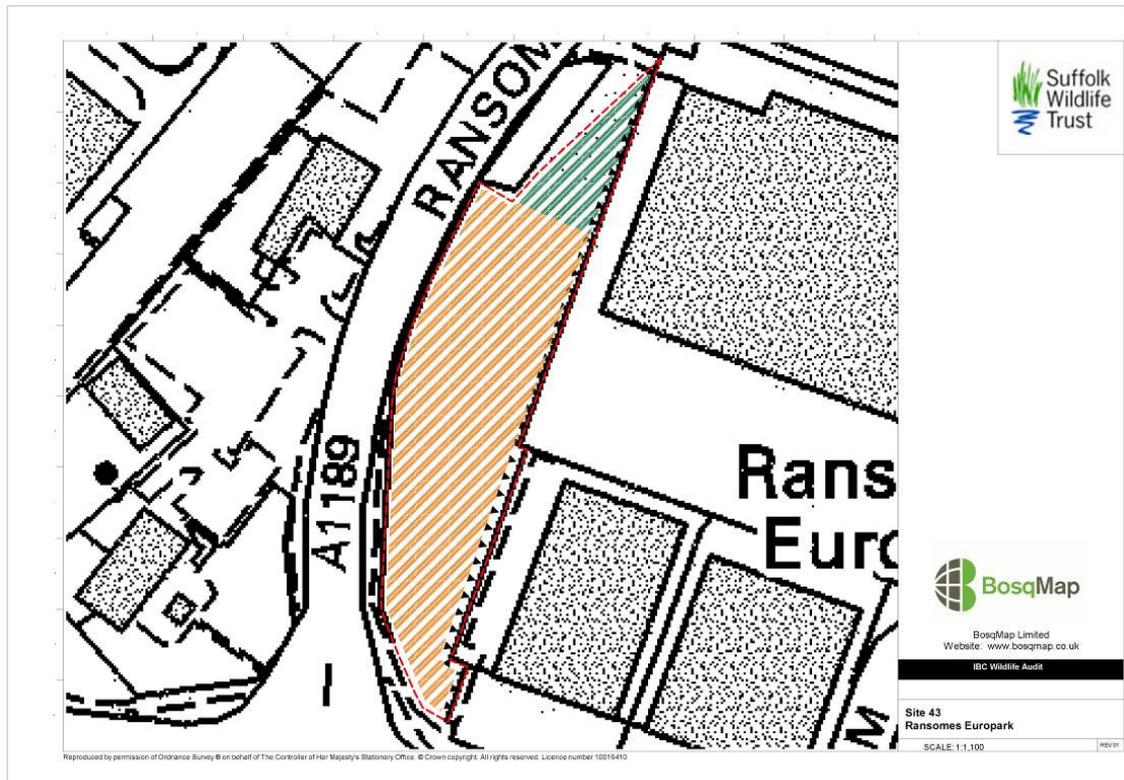
The habitat of Round Plantation could be improved if a ride and glade was created, this would let more light into the wood and allow a better structure to develop. Fly tipping ought to be prevented and existing rubble cleared. It was also noted that there were a number of campfire areas within the wood.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

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

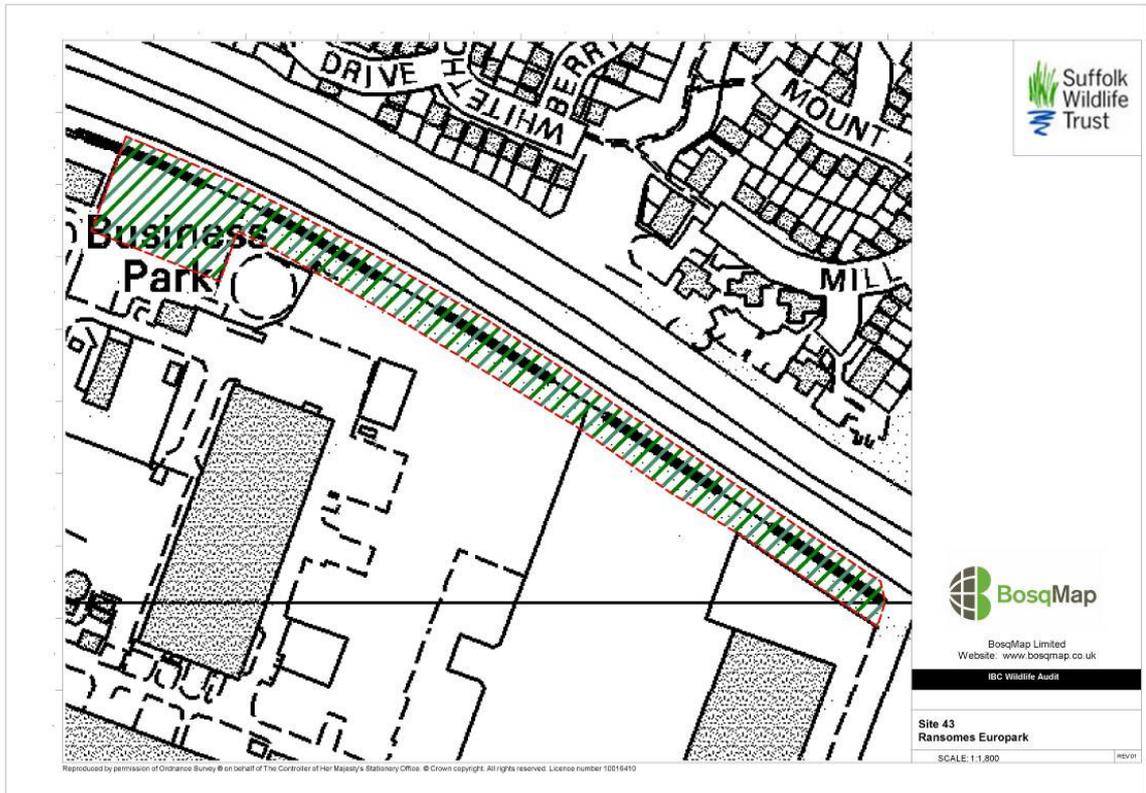
**Site name:** **Site reference 43 - Ransomes Europark**

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

**Maps:**



Site A



Site B

**Photos:**



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



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

**Habitat type(s):**

Acid grassland with trees, coniferous and deciduous tree belt

**Subsidiary habitats:**

Dead wood

**Site description:**

The Ransomes Europark comprise of two sites.

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

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

**Protected species:**

Grass snake and common lizard (Site B only)

**Protected species potential:**

Bats, slow worm (Site B only)

**BAP habitats present:**

Acid grassland (Site A only)

**BAP species seen:**

Song thrush

**BAP species known:**

Grass snake and common lizard (Site B only)

**BAP species potential:**

Bats, slow worm and toad (Site B only)

**Connectivity:**

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

**Structural diversity:**

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

**Flora:**

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

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

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

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

**Avifauna:**

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

**Invertebrates:**

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

**Herpetofauna:**

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

**Mammals:**

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

**Comments and recommendations:**

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

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

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