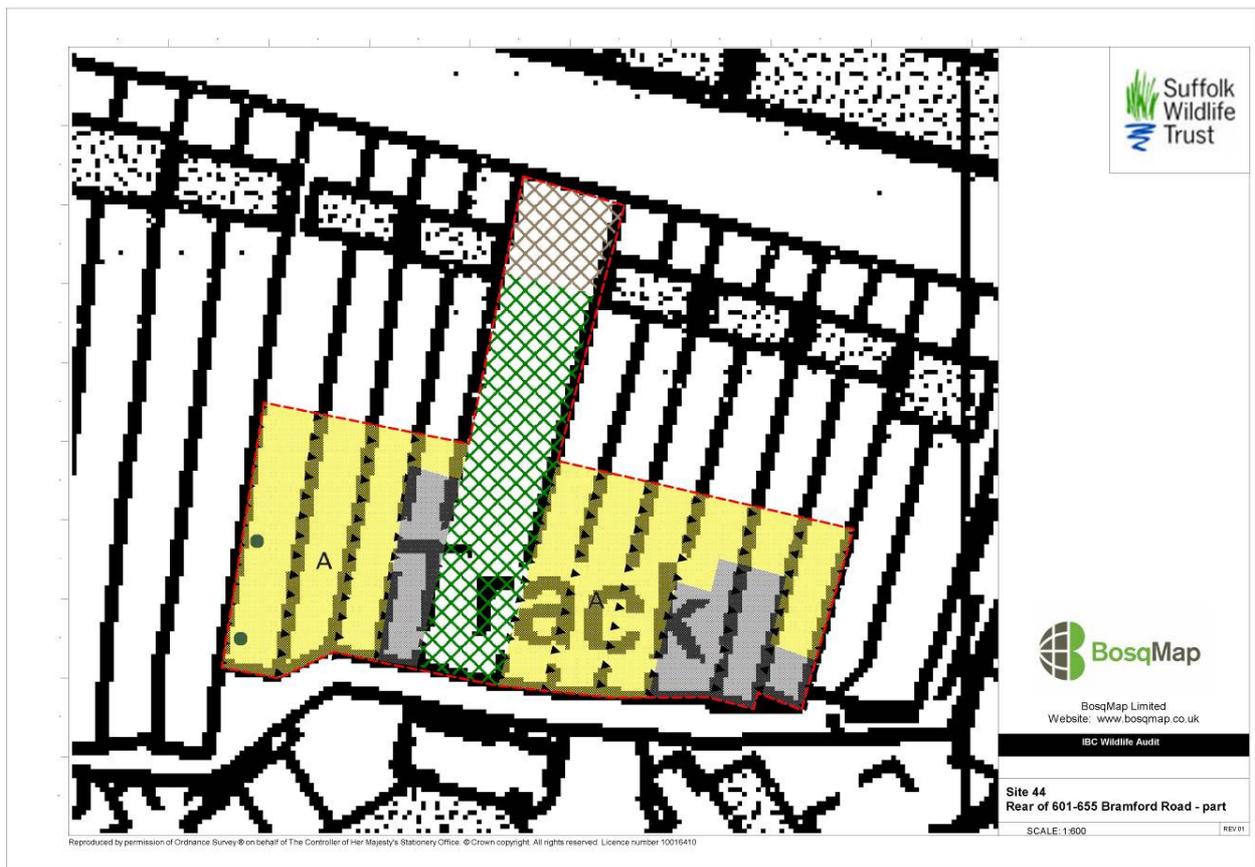


**Site name:** **Site reference 44 - Rear of 601-627 Bramford Road**

**IBC ref:** UC132/IP107  
**Site status:** No wildlife designation  
**Grid ref:** TM 13940 45650  
**Area:** 0.30 hectares  
**Date:** 16<sup>th</sup> August 2012  
**Recorder:** S Bullion  
**Weather conditions:** Hot, sunshine with cloud, 22° C, slight breeze  
**Ranking:** 6  
**Biodiversity value:** Low

**Map:**



**Photos:**



Central strip looking north

**Habitat type(s):**

Cultivated gardens, with trees and shrubs

**Subsidiary habitats:**

Overgrown central strip

**Site description:**

The majority of the site is the back gardens of properties fronting the southern side of Bramford Road. With the exception of the central strip, which does not contain a house, all the gardens are well used, with mown lawns, flower borders and trees and shrubs. Some gardens have extensive areas of hard standing. The central strip is extremely overgrown and impenetrable.

**Protected species:**

-

**Protected species potential:**

-

**BAP habitats present:**

-

**BAP species seen:**

-

**BAP species known:**

-

**BAP species potential:**

-

**Connectivity:**

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

**Structural diversity:**

Structural diversity is limited due to the nature of the habitat.

**Flora:**

The gardens contain a mixture of mown grass, flower borders and ornamental/fruited trees and shrubs. The central strip is an impenetrable growth of bramble, nettle with occasional elder, willow and lilac. There are several tall Leylandii trees near the middle. On the Bramford Road frontage, there is a gate into this area, behind which is a dense thicket of buddleia, jasmine and elder scrub with nettles, spear thistle and mallow.

**Avifauna:**

No birds were recorded but this was an unsuitable time of year for surveying this group. This site provides some habitat for nesting and foraging.

**Invertebrates:**

A large white butterfly was seen, but overall, this site provides poor habitat for this group.

**Herpetofauna:**

Prior to development on the southern boundary, the site may have supported slow worms and toads as part of a wider ecological unit, but now its small size and isolation makes it unsuitable for this group. A reptile survey undertaken by James Blake Associates in 2010 (in conjunction with planning application IP/10/01007/FUL) found no evidence of reptiles.

**Mammals:**

The site may support common species such as grey squirrel, wood mouse and brown rat.

**Comments and recommendations:**

This site was surveyed from the boundaries only. If developed care should be taken to avoid bird nesting season when removing garden shrubs. Opportunities should be taken to retain suitable trees, such as the large willow on the western boundary of the site, behind property 427. A search of the Ipswich Borough Website did not reveal any TPOs in the vicinity of the site.

There is a very large willow bordering the south-eastern corner of the site in an area that may have been a former pond. This tree has previously dropped a large limb with the woody bough lying beneath. This tree is of ecological value due to its age and size, but will require arboricultural assessment. Work to the crown may allow this tree to be retained.

**Site name:** **Site reference 45 - School Site, Lavenham Road**

**IBC ref:** UC064/IP61  
**Site status:** No wildlife designation  
**Grid ref:** TM 14340 44160  
**Area:** 1.08 hectares  
**Date:** 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2012  
**Recorder:** S Bullion  
**Weather conditions:** Warm and sunny 20° C.  
**Ranking:** 5  
**Biodiversity value:** Low

**Map:**



**Photos:**



View south west from Kelly Road

**Habitat type(s):**

Short mown grassland

**Subsidiary habitats:**

Hedgerow, two lines of yew trees

**Site description:**

This is an area of short mown amenity grassland bordering Lavenham Road and Kelly Road. A hedge defines the north-eastern boundary, with all other boundaries being open or garden fences. Two short lines of yew trees occur in the south-west of the site, possibly a relic from a former garden or parkland. The site is used for dog exercising as well as other local recreational activities.

**Protected species:**

-

**Protected species potential:**

-

**BAP habitats present:**

-

**BAP species seen:**

-

**BAP species known:**

-

**BAP species potential:**

-

**Connectivity:**

The site is surrounded by roads and housing. Although Chantry Park lies 125m to the west, there is no direct connectivity between the two sites.

**Structural diversity:**

Structural diversity is poor due to the close mown sward and very few trees and shrubs.

**Flora:**

Perennial rye grass was the predominant grass, but within the sward were common herbs, including ribwort plantain, yarrow, white clover, dandelion, creeping cinquefoil, rough hawkbit, autumn hawkbit and dove's foot cranesbill. The hedge was primarily elder and ivy in the western section, with some hawthorn and *Prunus* species in the centre and a dense stand of elm at the eastern end. There is a small amount of bramble associated with the hedge. A large ash tree is situated at the northern corner, adjacent to the hedge. This tree displays signs of physical damage on one side of the trunk and limbs, with a small amount of die back in the crown on the same side. Two lines of tall yew trees are present in the south-western area, which may be a relic of a former park or large garden.

**Avifauna:**

No birds were recorded but this was an unsuitable time of year for surveying this group. There are few nesting and foraging opportunities for this group.

**Invertebrates:**

There is little opportunity for this group. Common species may be present in the hedgerow.

**Herpetofauna:**

The site is not suitable for this group.

**Mammals:**

The site is not suitable for this group.

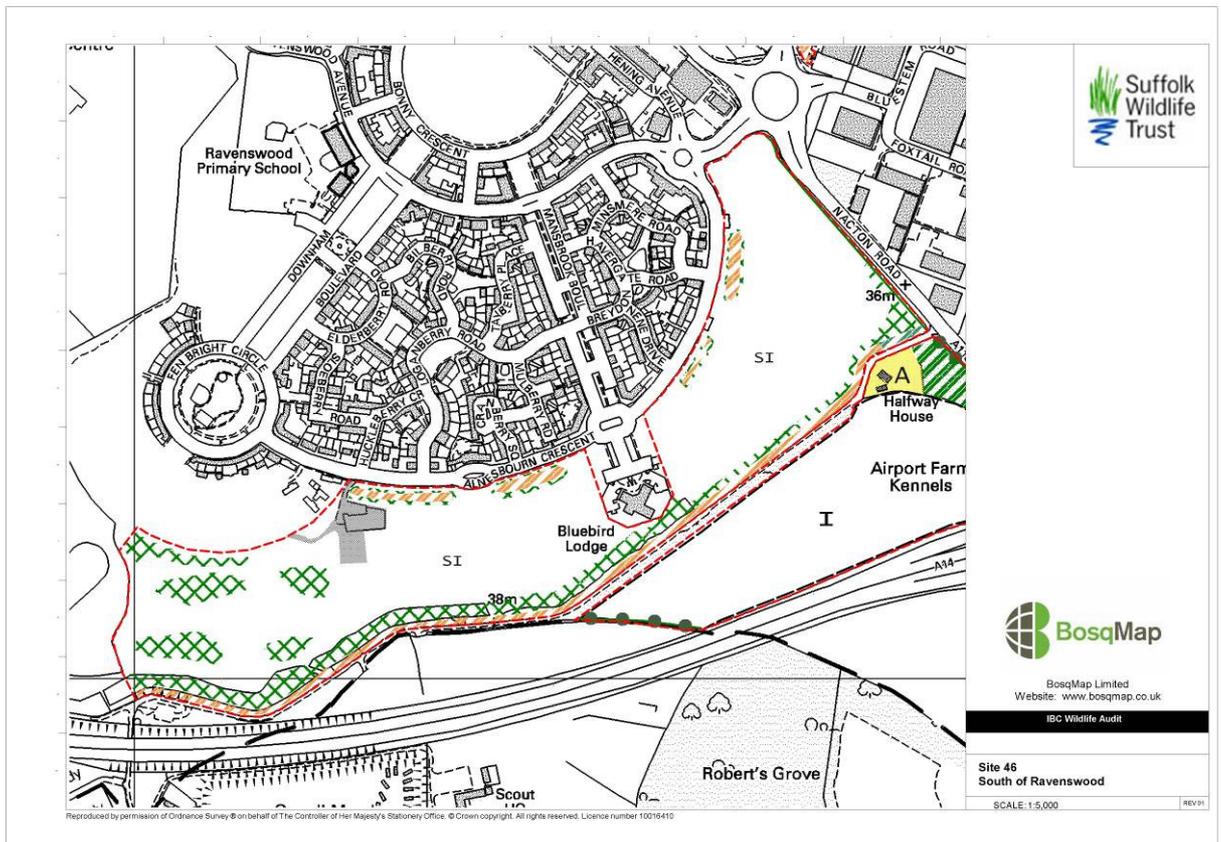
**Comments and recommendations:**

The ongoing management means this site is currently of low wildlife value. Planting additional mixed, native species hedges around the perimeter would improve structural diversity and provide further habitat, particularly if a rough grass margin was allowed to grow up next to any additional planting, once it was established.

**Site name:** **Site reference 46 - South of Ravenswood**

**IBC ref:** UC267/IP1  
**Site status:** No wildlife designation  
**Grid ref:** TM 19490 41170  
**Area:** 17.97 hectares  
**Date:** 24<sup>th</sup> July 2012  
**Recorder:** M Wright  
**Weather conditions:** Clear skies, hot and sunny  
**Ranking:** 3  
**Biodiversity value:** Medium

**Map:**



**Photos:**



The north side of the scrub belt adjacent to the airport perimeter road



One of the landscaped areas



The Nacton Road hedge

**Habitat type(s):**

Tall herb and ruderal, rough grassland, herb rich grassland, hedge, scrub and young plantations.

**Subsidiary habitat:**

-

**Site description:**

The site was formally part of the Ipswich airport and is now bisected by the Bluebird Lodge care home. The site is composed mostly of tall grassland and plant species with areas of scrub and pioneer saplings. Along Nacton Road perimeter there is a managed field maple and hawthorn hedge, landward side of the hedge there is a mown strip of grassland approximately one metre wide. The wildlife value of the hedge and grass strip is poor, however the adjacent bramble scrub habitat with uncut grass and tall vegetation is developing into a biodiversity rich habitat. In the corner area where the Airport perimeter track meets Nacton Road Corsican pine has been planted, which has an understory and edge of bramble. The southern perimeter of the site that runs the length of the Airport perimeter track has developed into a wonderful rich habitat for wildlife. There is a mown edge to the road followed by at least four metres of herb rich grassland, bank and ditch followed by a rich scrub fringe of bramble, gorse, broom, plum, elder Corsican pine, silver birch and oak. On the northern edge of the site along Alnesbourn Crescent there are several landscaped areas planted with silver birch, dog rose, holm oak, oak and field maple with gorse and bramble colonising to provide excellent habitat, hotspots for plants, butterflies and breeding birds. The greater part of the site comprise of tall grass and flowering plants with scrub patches of bramble, gorse, broom and hawthorn with regenerating oaks throughout.

**Protected species:**

Grass snake, slow worm and common lizard

**Protected species potential:**

Bats

**BAP habitats present:**

-

**BAP species seen:**

Skylark, linnet, house sparrow and starling

**BAP species known:**

Grass snake, slow worm, common lizard and cinnabar moth

**BAP species potential:**

Bats, hedgehog, yellowhammer, song thrush, small heath and grayling.

**Connectivity:**

This site in conjunction with the Airport perimeter track (Site 50) tree belt is a very important and excellent wildlife corridor that links the wider countryside with the major wildlife areas of the Orwell Country Park and Orwell estuary corridor.

### **Structural diversity:**

The structural diversity of the boundary areas is excellent with a mosaic of scrub, trees, tall grasses and herbs as well as herb rich swards.

### **Flora:**

There was a very good plant assemblage, which included birdsfoot trefoil, black horehound, black knapweed, black medick, bristly oxtongue, broad-leaved dock, catsear, common centaury, common nettle, common poppy, common ragwort, common sorrel, common storks-bill, common toadflax, common vetch, creeping thistle, curled dock, dandelion, dittander (nationally scarce), field pansy, goatsbeard, great lettuce, great mullein, groundsel, field bindweed, hairy tare, haresfoot clover, hawkweed oxtongue, hedge bindweed, hedge mustard, hedgerow cranesbill, hemlock, hogweed, hop trefoil, lady's bedstraw, lesser stitchwort, mallow, mugwort, musk thistle, oxeye daisy, perforate St. John's wort, red campion, red clover, red dead-nettle, ribwort plantain, rosebay, rough poppy, rough sow-thistle, scarlet pimpernel, self heal, sheep's sorrel, slender thistle, smooth hawksbeard, smooth sow-thistle, spear thistle, weld, wild carrot, wild parsnip, wild radish, white campion, white clover and yarrow.

Grasses include annual meadow grass, cocksfoot, common bent, creeping bent, false oat-grass, red fescue, squirrel-tail fescue, sweet vernal, and Yorkshire fog.

Trees and shrubs include blackthorn, bramble, broom, buddleia, Corsican pine, dog rose, elder, field maple, gorse, hawthorn, holm oak, pedunculate oak, plum, silver birch and spindle.

The plant list above would undoubtedly be much greater if the fieldwork was carried out over a larger time span.

### **Avifauna:**

The site is clearly important for breeding summer migrants and for finches. There were four BAP and Birds of Conservation Concern red listed species observed, which were skylark, starling, house sparrow and linnet; other observations included magpie, meadow pipit, goldfinch, greenfinch, whitethroat, chiffchaff, blue tit, great tit, wood pigeon and feeding over the site were house martin and swift (Suffolk character species), both species breed on the estate.

There are at least six skylark territories (Wright 2012). The site also supports breeding meadow pipit, chaffinch, greenfinch, goldfinch, linnet, blackbird and the following summer migrants whitethroat, lesser whitethroat, blackcap and chiffchaff.

In 2007 a pair of grasshopper warblers and cuckoos (both BAP and BoCC species) were present (Wright 2012).

### **Invertebrates:**

Observations of butterflies included small white, large white, Essex skipper, small skipper, small copper, gatekeeper, meadow brown and ringlet. Cinnabar moth larvae have also been recorded on this site in 2001.

The emperor dragonfly was the only species observed in this taxa group.

Other species of insect identified included six-spot burnet, meadow grasshopper and hornet. In addition there were numerous bees and hoverflies.

Throughout the site there were an abundance of large anthills.

**Herpetofauna:**

No species were seen during the site visit, however grass snake, slow worm and common lizard are known to occur in this location.

**Mammals:**

There was evidence of moles and although no species were seen during the site visit the habitat is ideal for small mammals such as short-tailed field vole; also the site is likely to be used by rabbit, muntjac and fox.

In previous visits to this site a kestrel has been seen hunting for small mammals.

**Comments and recommendations:**

Currently the hedge and mown strip along the Nacton Road are of poor value in terms of wildlife habitat. To improve the habitat for wildlife the hedge would have to be left uncut and allowed to become bushy, likewise the grass ought to be cut once a year in the autumn.

It is highly recommended that the perimeter wildlife corridor and habitat of herb rich grassland and scrub is safeguarded. On the north side of the scrub a headland of herbs and grassland ought to be allowed to develop. On the northern edge there are several landscaped areas, which have become excellent habitat and are hotspots for various plants, butterflies and breeding birds; these areas ought to have the grass cut only in the autumn with the clippings removed and any colonizing shrubs retained. The cutting regime should prevent the scrub from colonising the whole area.

Before any 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 is properly assessed and mitigated, in order to ensure compliance with the Wildlife & Countryside Act (1981) (as amended).

It is recommended that an invertebrate survey of this site should be undertaken.

**References:**

Wright M. 2012, Skylark Survey at Ravenswood 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012, Suffolk Wildlife Trust report to Ipswich Borough Council

**Site name:** **Site reference 47 - Sroughton Road Pond and Stock's Land**

**IBC ref:** W38/UC034  
**Site status:** No wildlife designation  
**Grid ref:** TM 14070 45510  
**Area:** 2.03 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:**



**Habitat type(s):**

Rough grassland with scrub, large pond

**Subsidiary habitats:**

**Site description:**

The site lies to the south of Bramford Road and was once part of a larger site known as Sproughton Road Wasteground. The site was once used for traveling fairgrounds, but it has not been managed for many years and contains a tall, rough grassland sward with developing scattered scrub. In the south-western corner is a large pond. The north-eastern edges of this pond are surrounded by almost impenetrable scrub, whereas the southern side borders back gardens. The pond can be viewed from the open space on Jovian way, on its western side. A secure fence prevents public access, so the habitat is very undisturbed.

**Protected species:**

-

**Protected species potential:**

Slow worm, common lizard

**BAP habitats present:**

Eutrophic standing water (pond)

**BAP species seen:**

-

**BAP species known:**

-

**BAP species potential:**

Slow worm, common lizard, toad and hedgehog

**Connectivity:**

Although once connected to the wider countryside, the site is now surrounded by roads and housing.

**Structural diversity:**

Structural diversity is good, with a mixture of tall grasses and herbs, scrub, wet woodland, reeds and open water.

**Flora:**

A good assemblage of plant species was recorded, typical of rough grassland:

Herbs: Yarrow, common mallow, white clover, red clover, creeping cinquefoil, prickly lettuce, ragwort, mugwort, buckhorn plantain, hedge cranesbill, tansy, greater plantain, hope trefoil, black medick, field bindweed, shepherd's purse, black horehound, white campion, Canadian fleabane, black knapweed, smooth hawk's-beard, nodding thistle, creeping thistle, spear thistle, white dead nettle, hemlock, weld, rosebay willowherb soapwort and the nationally scarce (but locally common) dittander. Grasses: Rough-stalked meadow grass, rye grass, small timothy, red fescue, meadow fescue, common bent, couch grass.

Scattered scrub occurred mostly along the eastern and southern boundaries, with bramble, hawthorn, *Prunus* spp, dogwood and elder. The scrub was particularly impenetrable on the northern edge of the pond, where bramble is supplanted by willow in wetter areas.

Aquatic plants visible from the eastern edge of the pond included common reed and amphibious bistort.

**Avifauna:**

No birds were recorded but this was an unsuitable time of year for surveying this group. This site provides good habitat for nesting and foraging.

**Invertebrates:**

The mosaic of habitats on this site means it is good for invertebrates. Grasshoppers were abundant at the time of the visit. There are numerous ant hills consistent with this being undisturbed grassland. A large white and meadow brown butterflies was seen and further members of this group are highly likely to be present. Grayling has been recorded nearby in 1995. On the south-western edge of the grassland a southern hawker dragonfly was seen hunting, with a brown hawker dragonfly flying over the pond itself.

**Herpetofauna:**

The site is suitable for reptiles such as slow worm and common lizard and also toads.

**Mammals:**

The site may support species such as grey squirrel, hedgehog and various small mammals

**Comments and recommendations:**

Before any 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 is properly assessed and mitigated, in order to ensure compliance with the Wildlife & Countryside Act (1981) (as amended).

Any future development proposals should retain a thick scrubby buffer around the pond.