

Site name: **Site reference 48 - St Clements Hospital Grounds**

IBC ref: W35/UC185
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 19020 43840
Area: 12.64 hectares
Date: 24th August 2012
Recorder: S Bullion
Weather conditions: Cool, cloudy 18°C, slight shower at end of afternoon
Ranking: 4
Biodiversity value: Medium

Map:



Photos:



Car park looking north-east towards woodland belt on road frontage



Hospital buildings viewed from south



Rough grassland in south-west corner



Outbuildings in south-west

Habitat type(s):

Short mown grass, un-mown rough grassland, tall grass and scrub, tree belt

Subsidiary habitats:

Mature/veteran trees

Site description:

Within this large site are the older buildings of the St Clements Hospital as well as more modern buildings throughout the site. A mature tree belt screens the buildings from the Foxhall Road. Amenity grassland surrounds most of the buildings, but the eastern areas have been left unmown at the time of the survey. To the rear of the main hospital buildings are former gardens and much of the centre of the site is occupied by a playing field within which is a bowls square screened by a beech hedge. To the south-west are a sports/recreational centre and football pitch and also older buildings which may have been former stabling/coach houses. The small plot of land adjoining the railway line is rough grassland and scrub, with mature pine trees. Bordering the roads within the site are large Scots pine trees and also smaller silver birch.

Protected species:

Grass snake

Protected species potential:

Common lizard and slow worm in rough grassland areas (Target Note 1) and bats in the older buildings and trees

BAP habitats present:

-

BAP species seen:

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BAP species known:

Stag beetle, grass snake, grayling, small heath, house sparrow, dunnock, common starling and song thrush

BAP species potential:

Common lizard, slow worm, hedgehog, bat species

Connectivity:

The site abuts the Ipswich – Felixstowe railway line and is also directly north of the Golf Course (Site 130), so there is good connectivity to other local sites associated with the railway corridor.

Structural diversity:

Structural diversity is good in parts of the site, such as in the rough habitat adjacent to the railway line and the site boundaries.

Flora:

The northern edge tree belt includes some very large specimens of holm oak, with holly, Norway maple, beech, oak, Scot's pine, horse chestnut, sycamore. At the front of the site is a large cedar tree and also lime trees and a black mulberry within the car park area. Within the site itself are some large specimens of Scot's pine, particularly to the east of the playing field. There are also numerous silver birch and occasional beech and a poplar. *Leylandii* and beech are used for screening within the site.

The short mown grass areas around the site are of lower biodiversity value, with typical species such as yarrow, ribwort plantain, buck's-horn plantain, greater plantain, cat's-ear, rye grass, common bent, wall barley. Rougher edges include perforate St-John's wort and mugwort.

In the south-west corner, abutting the railway line, there is a fenced off area of rough grassland and scrub. Although not species-rich, these sorts of habitat can be very important as urban refuges for wildlife. False oat grass, Canadian fleabane, ragwort, broad-leaved dock, prickly sow-thistle, nettle were recorded. Close to the railway line is a line of mature Scot's pine trees with a very large willow in the south-western corner.

Within the rough grassland around the buildings on the eastern side, the grasses were finer (Fescue species) and ladies bedstraw was noted as an additional species.

Avifauna:

The tree belt adjacent to the Foxhall Road will provide some nesting opportunities for garden species, as will other shrub habitat on site. There are several records of birds on the BAP list including house sparrow, common starling, song thrush, and dunnoek in 2010.

Invertebrates:

There is an old record of stag beetle for the site (1992) but it is highly likely that the larvae of this species are present where there is subterranean deadwood. The rough grassland areas will support a range of species such as butterflies and grasshoppers, but the weather conditions during the survey were not favourable for recording this group. There are records of grayling (1995) and small heath (2006) from the boundaries of the site.

Herpetofauna:

Excellent habitat for common lizard and slow worm exists adjacent to the railway line in the north-west sector of the site. The unmown areas to the east also provide suitable habitat for reptiles and may have been colonised from a local population. There are records of grass snake on site (2007).

Mammals:

There is excellent habitat for hedgehog (BAP species). Common mammals such as muntjac deer will be present and signs of grey squirrel and fox were observed. The old buildings and the mature trees provide roosting opportunities for bats.

Comments and recommendations:

We strongly recommend that a reptile survey is undertaken in the rough habitats in the south western corner of the site, adjacent to the railway line. Other areas of rough grassland within the site should also be included within the survey area. No clearance of vegetation should take place until the findings of this survey are available and appropriate mitigation has been implemented as required.

A comprehensive bat survey should be undertaken as part of any future development. In the main hospital building gaps in the brick mortar were noted, which can provide access points for bats. In addition, old buildings may use lead around chimneys which can also lift and provide bat access points. The old stables/coach houses near the social club should be included in the bat survey, as should the mature trees which also may support roosting bats. Development proposals should also ensure that bat activity is not affected by light spillage, both during construction and afterwards.

In addition, clearance of rough vegetation (*assuming that any reptile issues have already been fully mitigated for - see above*) should endeavour to limit any impacts on hedgehogs. During the winter these animals may be in hibernation and therefore highly vulnerable during any site clearance. In the

summer dependent young in nests are similarly vulnerable. It is suggested that site clearance of any rough grassland should involve a high cut first, then a check by a suitably qualified ecologist.

Stag beetle larvae feed for up to seven years within underground deadwood, then emerge as adults in late spring. Removal of the stumps of mature/senescent trees may un-earth the larvae. In this situation, the larvae should be re-buried with their deadwood habitat in an undisturbed, semi-shaded part of the site under the guidance of a suitably qualified ecologist.

Photos:



View eastwards along Portman Walk



Wheelie bin storage area in north-east corner

Habitat type(s):

Scrub on boundaries and within site.

Subsidiary habitats:

Short mown grass and garden borders. Individual trees.

Site description:

The majority of the site is hard standing and buildings and is currently being used for waste recycling, car parking, light industry and sand and gravel distribution. In the south-west of the site, Portman's Walk, a dead-end road, runs towards the river. A single house and garden lies in the south-eastern corner of the site, bounded by a tall wooden fence. A small rectangle of grass with 6 sycamore trees lies on the corner of Portman's Walk. The Alderman Canal County Wildlife Site (CWS) borders the site on three sides, with Sir Alf Ramsey Way forming the bulk of the southern boundary. Continuous scrub borders the canal, forming a valuable corridor. The scrub is particularly thick along the eastern boundary. Within the site there is limited scrub bordering the service road running north from Portman's Walk and a line of sycamore trees.

Protected species:

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Protected species potential:

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BAP habitats present:

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BAP species seen:

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BAP species known:

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BAP species potential:

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Connectivity:

The site's location next to the Alderman Canal means that it has the potential to be well connected to other sites with a wildlife value.

Structural diversity:

The margins of the site adjacent to the Alderman Canal provide good structural diversity and the garden also complements this. The remainder of the site provides no habitat for wildlife.

Flora:

The nature of the site means that there are few species to record within this group. Ivy and buddleia occasionally occur within the site itself, otherwise all plants are found associated with the margins. The boundaries of the Alderman Canal are colonised by brambles, but along the canal path there has been some additional planting of hawthorn, field maple, hazel and dogwood. The garden was not accessible at the time of the visit, but contained short mown grass and ornamental species. The eastern edge of the

site contains more scrubby species, with hawthorn, rose, sycamore and ivy bordering the eastern edge of the short service road leading north from Portman's Walk. A line of sycamores subdivides two areas currently being used for wheelie bin storage.

Avifauna:

The margins of the site provide nesting and foraging opportunities.

Invertebrates:

The margins of the site provide good opportunities for this group and a red admiral and large white butterfly were recorded within this habitat. A large clump of ivy at the western end of Portman's Walk provides a superb nectar source with hundreds of hoverflies and several bees being seen. Clumps of buddleia within the site provide an additional nectar source.

Herpetofauna:

There is no habitat on site currently suitable for this group.

Mammals:

There is no habitat on site currently suitable for this group. However there are records of otter (2007), water vole (2007) and hedgehog (2007) from the Alderman Canal.

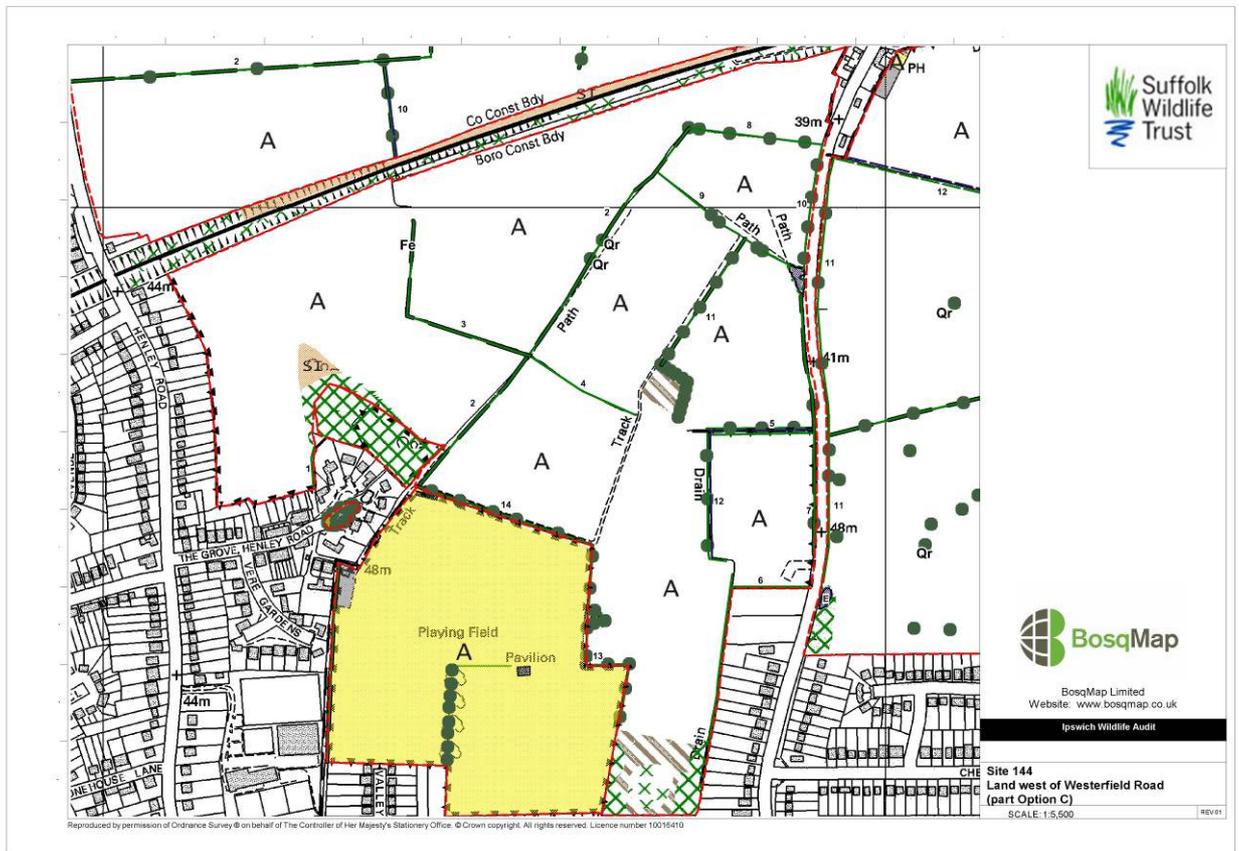
Comments and recommendations:

Development of this site should ensure that the Alderman Canal corridor and its associated habitats are buffered and enhanced. Any future green space should be sited adjacent to the canal, to complement it.

Site name: Site reference 144 - Land west of Westerfield Road

IBC ref: IP181
Site status: No Wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 16598 46795
Area: 42.09 hectares
Date: 7th August 2012
Recorder: M Wright & S Bullion
Weather conditions: Mostly cloudy, some sunny periods, rain showers heavy at times, cool south-westerly breeze
Ranking: 4 (subject to further surveys)
Biodiversity value: Medium

Map:



Photos:



View looking southwest along footpath and hedgerow number 2



Ruderal habitat with tall elms behind



Tall ruderal and scrub habitat in the south-east of the site



Scrubbed up pond on eastern boundary

Habitat Type(s):

Arable land and field margins, hedgerows, semi-improved grassland, ponds

Subsidiary habitats:

Subsidiary habitats include deadwood, holes and splits in the mature trees.

Site Description:

The site lies west of Westerfield Road, east of the Henley Road. Ipswich School playing fields (Site 146) lie in the south-western corner and the remaining south and south-eastern boundary borders residential rear gardens. The Ipswich to Lowestoft/Felixstowe railway line forms the northern perimeter. The land was almost all arable and divided by species rich hedgerows with mature trees. A small square-shaped area of tall ruderal plants lies centrally, bordered on two sides by tall elms. A larger area of mixed tall ruderal and scrub habitat lies in the south-eastern corner. An overgrown pond is situated on the eastern boundary.

Protected species:

Slow worm, common lizard

Protected species potential:

Various bats

BAP habitats present:

Ancient species-rich hedgerows, Eutrophic standing water (pond)

BAP species seen:

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BAP species known:

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BAP species potential:

Bats, slow worm, common lizard, bullfinch, grey partridge, turtle dove, song thrush, linnet, yellowhammer and brown hare.

Connectivity:

The railway embankment and species rich bushy hedgerows provide excellent linkage to the wider countryside and through all the northern sites.

Structural diversity:

The structural diversity of the hedgerows was very good despite the headlands being narrow and species poor.

Flora:

The flora found within all the headlands and verges associated with the hedges were similar and species poor; this was due to the paucity and quality of the field margins, consequently the species have been compiled as one list.

Plants included annual meadow grass, black horehound, bristly oxtongue, broad-leaved dock, catsear, cleavers, common mouse-ear, common poppy, cock's foot, corn sowthistle, creeping bent, creeping cinquefoil, creeping thistle, curled dock, cut-leaved cranesbill, daisy, false oat grass, field bindweed, field horsetail, field pansy, great willowherb, hedge bindweed, hedge mustard, hemlock, herb bennet, herb robert, hogweed, ivy, knotgrass, lord's and ladies, mugwort, nettle, perennial ryegrass, prickly oxtongue, prickly sow-thistle, ragwort, red campion, redleg, ribwort plantain, scarlet pimpernel, scentless mayweed, spear thistle, teasel, traveller's joy, wall barley, white bryony, white campion, white clover, wild radish, yarrow and Yorkshire fog,

The species present in each hedgerow are shown in the table below.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Mature oak		*		*	*		*	*	*		*		*	*
Oak		*								*				
Ash	*	*	*		*	*	*		*				*	*
Field maple		*	*	*		*	*	*			*	*	*	*
Hawthorn	*	*	*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*			*
Blackthorn	*	*		*	*			*	*		*	*	*	*
Hazel	*	*	*								*			
Bird cherry		*												
Crab apple		*												
Sycamore							*			*				
Elm		*	*		*		*	*		*	*		*	*
Dogwood		*	*				*				*			*
Elder	*	*	*			*	*			*	*	*		*
Travellers' Joy		*	*				*							*
Wild rose	*	*	*			*		*	*		*			
Bramble	*	*					*				*		*	
Honeysuckle														

Ivy	*	*			*		*							*
Aspen					*		*							
Pine						*	*							
Snowberry						*	*							
Prunus spp								*						*
Poplar spp							*					*	*	

Avifauna:

The well developed hedgerows and mature trees are excellent habitat and would support a much greater number of species than the observations listed.

Observations included chiffchaff, chaffinch, carrion crow and blackbird.

Invertebrates:

Given the quality of the hedgerows the site will support a wide variety of invertebrates.

Observations included small white, speckled wood, comma, red admiral and ringlet

Herpetofauna:

Slow worm and common lizard have been recorded in 2008 within areas of suitable habitat (hedgerows, tall ruderal vegetation, rough grassland, scrub, around field margins and along the railway embankment) Entec Environmental Statement (2009).

Slow worms have been observed by neighbouring residents in the south-eastern ruderal area (Lockington pers. comm).

There is a great crested newt record from 178 Henley Road dated from 1997; adjacent to the south-west boundary, but no further details are available. The pond on the eastern edge of the site is heavily shaded and silted up and unlikely to support great crested newts.

Mammals:

A rabbit was seen and there was evidence around the site of rabbit grazing. The habitat is ideal for small mammals such as short-tailed field vole. Badger, fox and muntjac could also use the area. Brown hare is also likely to occur.

Comments and Recommendations:

Further, detailed surveys will be required to fully assess the wildlife value of this large area of farmland. This should encompass birds, herpetofauna and invertebrates and the surveys should be undertaken at the optimum season, depending on the group being investigated.

It is recommended that all the ancient oaks, mature trees and hedges be retained for their wildlife value and for their important role in connecting wildlife corridors. In addition, any future development should ensure that retained hedgerows and tree belts remain unlit, to ensure they remain as functional commuting routes for bats.

It is highly recommended that through all the northern compartments permanent wildlife corridors are established both from east to west and north to south. This could be done using existing railway embankments and the hedgerow/tree belts. Selected sections could be widened on either side of the hedgerow/tree belts by planting a variety of native shrub species and planting up any gaps. More oaks should be planted and allowed to grow to maturity. It is essential that margins should be left on either side to allow for a grass and herb edge to develop. The pond should be restored as a wildlife feature and new ponds created where they will be connected to the linear habitat. Such areas would become rich in wildlife and become linear nature reserves that should be maintained through a long-term management plan.

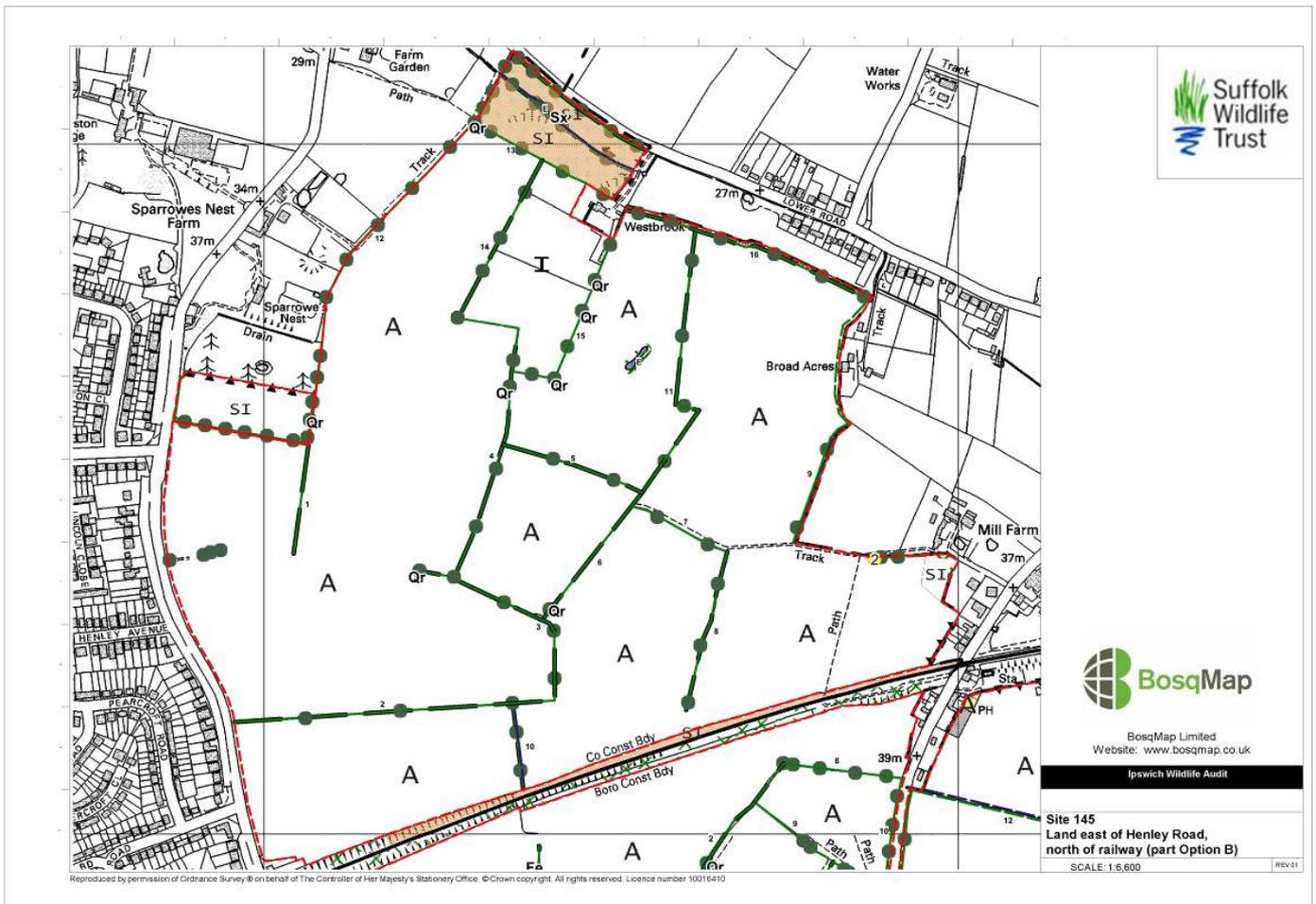
References:

Entec (2009) North Ipswich Development Environmental Statement.

Site name: Site reference 145 - Land to east of Henley Road, north of railway line

IBC ref: IP180
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 16383 47484
Area: 75.69 hectares
Date: 7th August 2012
Recorder: M Wright
Weather conditions: Mostly cloudy, some sunny periods, rain showers heavy at times, cool south-westerly breeze 20°C
Ranking: 4 (subject to further surveys)
Biodiversity value: Medium

Map:



Photos:



View looking north down hedgerow number 3



View looking east down hedgerow number 5



Semi-improved meadows in north of site



In-field pond surrounded by scrub



Southern boundary



Railway margin

Habitat type(s):

Arable land and field margins, hedgerows, semi-improved grassland, ponds, watercourse

Subsidiary habitats:

Standing and fallen deadwood, holes and splits in the mature trees.

Site description:

This very large site lies on the northern edge of Ipswich. Much of the western boundary is the Henley Road, although the north-western corner lies behind existing properties. The site lies to the west of Westerfield Road, but this boundary is defined by hedgerows and tracks. Its southern boundary is the Ipswich-Lowestoft//Felixstowe railway line and the northern boundary is on or just south of Lower Road, Westerfield.

The majority of the land is arable farmland, intersected by large hedgerows with mature/veteran trees. Many of these can be classified as species-rich and high wildlife value. In the north of the site are two areas of semi-improved grassland, used for horse grazing, surrounded by thick hedgerows. A pond, linking to a narrow watercourse lies between these two meadows. Another pond lies centrally within an arable field, but is heavily shaded by scrub.

The arable field margins contain common species, but the flora becomes more species-rich where it borders the railway line. The south-facing slopes of the railway line contain a good variety of neutral grassland plant species and will support a good invertebrate assemblage.

Protected species:

Badger, slow worm and common lizard (from LDA Design report 2011), overflying bats (3 species from LDA Design report 2011)

Protected species potential:

Bats (roosting), slow worm and common lizard.

BAP habitats present:

Ancient species-rich hedgerows, Eutrophic standing water (pond)

BAP species seen:

House sparrow, song thrush, bullfinch

BAP species known:

Slow worm and common lizard, starling (from LDA Design report 2011), bats (from LDA Design report 2011)

BAP species potential:

Turtle dove, skylark, grey partridge, linnet, yellowhammer, brown hare, harvest mouse and hedgehog

Connectivity:

The railway embankment and species rich hedgerows and trees provide excellent linkage across the site and the wider landscape. The watercourse on the northern edge of the site is also an important feature.

Structural diversity:

The structural diversity of the hedgerows and trees is very good and represents the main feature in the landscape. With the exception of the field margin along the southern boundary, these margins are generally structurally poor and if their quality was improved, this would further contribute to the ecological value of the hedgerows. The two semi-improved grassland meadows have quite good structural diversity, which is complemented by the surrounding hedgerows.

Flora:

With the exception of the margin adjacent to the railway line, the flora found within all the headlands and margins associated with the hedges were species-poor and broadly similar across the site. As a consequence the species have been compiled as one list.

Herbaceous plants: black horehound, black medick, black knapweed, bristly oxtongue, broad-leaved dock, curled dock, cat's ear, chicory, cleavers, common fleabane, common mouse-ear, common poppy, corn sowthistle, creeping cinquefoil, creeping thistle, cut-leaved cranesbill, daisy, field bindweed, field horsetail, field scabious, field pansy, goat's beard, great mullein, great willowherb, hedge bindweed, hedge mustard, hemlock, herb bennett, herb robert, hogweed, ivy, knotgrass, lord's and ladies, meadow vetchling, mugwort, nettle, ox-eye daisy, perforate St. John's wort, prickly lettuce, prickly oxtongue, prickly sow-thistle, ragwort, red campion, redshank, ribwort plantain, rough chervil, scarlet pimpernel, scentless mayweed, self heal, spear thistle, teasel, traveller's joy, weld, white bryony, white campion, white clover, white dead-nettle, wild radish, yarrow. The patch of rough grassland in the SE corner included tansy amongst the other common species.

Grasses: annual meadow grass, smooth meadow grass, barren brome, cock's foot, creeping bent, false oat grass, perennial rye-grass, soft brome, wall barley, Yorkshire fog. Bracken was also present in some of the field margins.

The northern railway margin (south facing) had a higher density of herbaceous species, including wild carrot, wild parsnip, ox-eye daisy, black knapweed, tufted vetch, field scabious, common mouse-ear, perforate St John's wort, ribwort plantain, yarrow, occasional ragwort and also frequent common bent. There was also scattered scrub (gorse, blackthorn, elder, oak).

The semi-improved paddocks in the north contained the following species: black knapweed, ribwort plantain, bird's foot trefoil, meadowsweet, self heal, betony, creeping cinquefoil, yarrow, common mouse-ear, hedge mustard, hedge bindweed, broad-leaved dock, creeping buttercup, creeping thistle, spear thistle, smaller cat's tail, creeping bent, Yorkshire fog.

All the hedgerows are of good wildlife value. They comprise of a wide variety of species, the hedges are broad, tall and bushy and are frequently thickets of vegetation.

Many of the trees within the hedges are large especially the ash and oaks plus there are some notable coppiced field maple stools. In addition, throughout the network of hedgerows there are a number of ancient oaks.

The species present in each hedgerow are shown in the table below.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Mature oak	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*			*	*		*	*
Oak		*	*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*	
Ash		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*	*	*	
Aspen																
Field maple	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*		
Hawthorn	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Blackthorn	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*	*	*		*	*	*	*
Hazel		*		*	*			*		*				*		*
White poplar																
Poplar sp.																
Sycamore		*														
Elm		*	*	*				*		*					*	*
Dogwood	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*	*	*					*
Elder	*	*	*	*	*	*			*		*	*			*	*
Crab apple			*		*									*	*	*
Spindle											*					
Bird cherry		*														
Cherry plum	*	*														
Sallow/willow						*										*
Wild rose	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*	*	*		
Bramble	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*			*
Honeysuckle		*	*													
Ivy		*		*		*										
Travellers joy				*				*								

Avifauna:

The well developed hedgerows and mature trees are excellent habitat and would support a much greater number of species than the observations listed. There were three BAP species (house sparrow, song thrush and bullfinch). Other observations included stock dove, blackbird, blue tit, carrion crow, chaffinch, chiffchaff, collared dove, great tit, green woodpecker, goldfinch, magpie, pheasant, robin, rook, sparrowhawk, whitethroat, wood pigeon and wren. Yellowhammer is likely to be present.

Observations of birds feeding over the site were swallow and swift (Suffolk character species). A later visit on 25th October recorded jay, redwing and fieldfare feeding on hedgerow berries.

Invertebrates:

Given the quality of the hedgerows the site will be supporting a wide variety of invertebrates.

The weather conditions were not conducive for invertebrate survey, however the following butterflies were observed: meadow brown, ringlet, gatekeeper, small skipper, small white, large white and speckled wood. The grassland/scrub mosaic of the railway corridor will support a good range of invertebrates.

Herpetofauna:

A slow worm was seen on adjacent Site 147 on the morning of this visit, so they are highly likely to be on site within the field margins. Slow worm and common lizard have been recorded along the railway corridor (LDA Design 2011).

The pond within the arable field is highly unlikely to support great crested newts due to its heavy shading and isolation. It is unknown whether the pond within the paddocks contains fish, which are detrimental to great crested newts, but as it is stream-fed, there is a possibility that fish are naturally present. Other off-site ponds could support great crested newts but these were not assessed. There is a great crested newt record from 178 Henley Road dating from 1997 adjacent to the south-west boundary, but no further details are available.

Mammals:

Rabbit and evidence of moles was seen but as the site is predominantly arable brown hare is also likely to occur. Common mammals such as short-tailed field vole, grey squirrel, fox and muntjac deer will use the area and it is possible that hedgehog and harvest mouse may also be present. A badger sett was recorded in the south-east of the site (Target Note 2). Badgers have also been recorded on the western boundary by LDA Design 2011. Three species of bat were recorded foraging on site by LDA Design (2011): Common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle and noctule. Other species are likely to be present due to the presence of very large, mature and veteran trees on site.

Comments and recommendations:

The majority of this site is arable, but the hedgerows, hedgerow trees, railway margins, grassland, ponds and watercourse are all of ecological interest and should be retained within any future development proposals.

Further, detailed surveys will be required to fully assess the wildlife value of this large area of farmland. This should encompass birds, herpetofauna and invertebrates and the surveys should be undertaken at the optimum season, depending on the group being investigated.

Should development take place on this site, a master plan should include permanent wildlife corridors both from east to west and north to south. The basis of this should be the existing railway embankments, the hedgerow/tree belts and the watercourse to the north. Selected sections should be widened on either side of the hedgerow/tree belt by planting a variety of native species and planting up any gaps, to form copses. It is also essential that broad margins are left on either side of the hedgerows to allow a grass and herb edge to develop. Any future development should ensure that retained

hedgerows remain unlit, to ensure they remain as functional commuting routes for bats.

Wherever possible, ponds should be restored as wildlife features and new ponds created where they will be connected to the linear habitat. Such areas would become rich in wildlife and should be managed in accordance with an ecological management plan.

References:

LDA Design (2011) Henley Gate, North Ipswich. Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey.