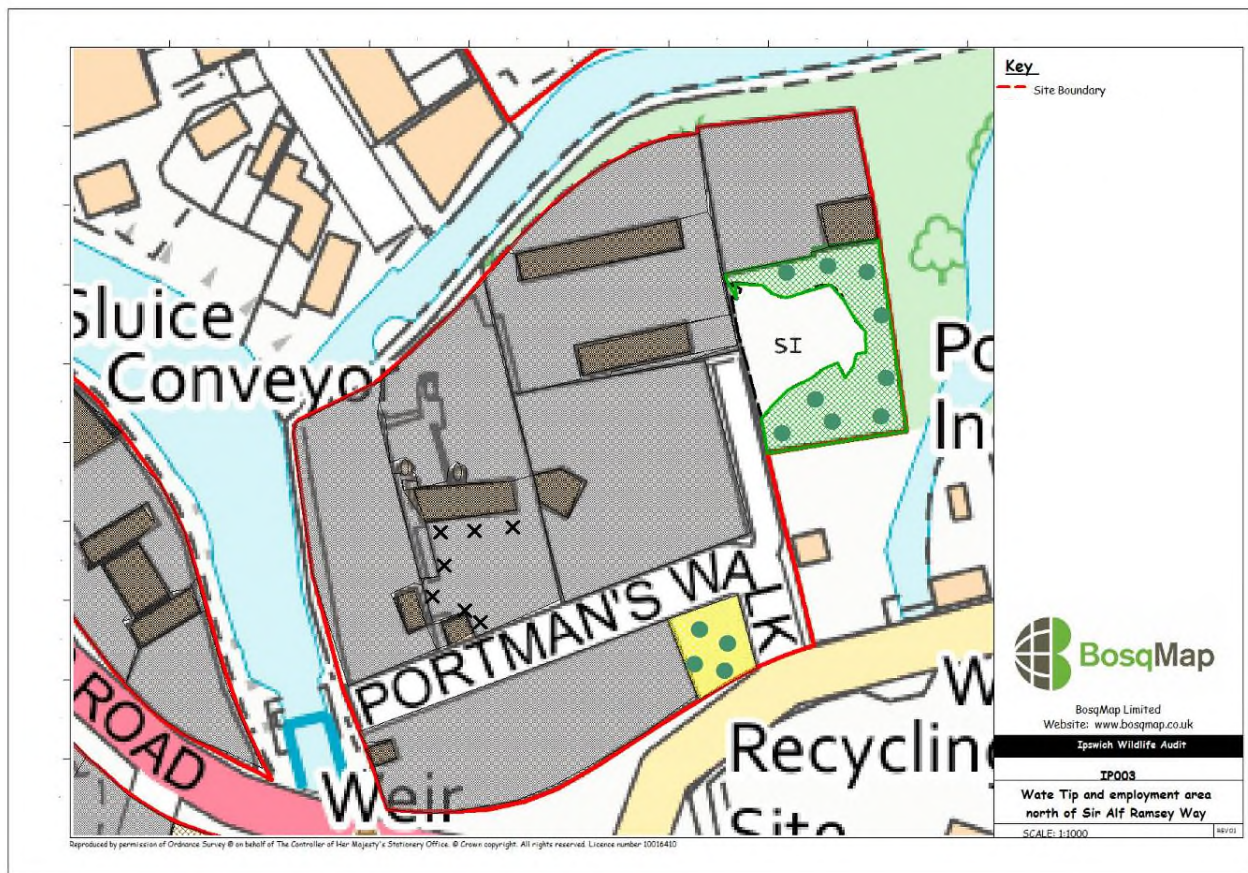


**Site name:** Waste Tip and Employment Area North of Sir Alf Ramsey Way

**Site ref:** IP003  
**Site status:** No wildlife designation  
**Grid ref:** TM 15321 44336  
**Area:** 1.45 hectares  
**Date:** 25<sup>th</sup> July 2019  
**Recorder:** A Looser  
**Weather conditions:** Hot and sunny, 26°C  
**Ranking:** 5  
**Biodiversity value:** Low

**Map:**



**Photos:**



*View west along Portman's Walk towards Alderman Canal*

*Area of dry grassland in north-east of site*

**Habitat type(s):**

Hard standing, buildings, amenity grassland, poor semi-improved grassland, ephemeral short perennial, dense continuous scrub, scattered trees

**Subsidiary habitats:**

-

**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 small rectangle of grass with 5 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. There is an area of dry grassland surrounded by scrub and trees on the eastern boundary which was fenced off and only viewed from the boundaries. In a previous Wildlife Audit site visit in 2012 this part of the site was largely bare ground.

**Protected species seen or known:**

Species in the area includes:

Otter

Water vole

Badger

Common pipistrelle bat

Soprano pipistrelle bat

Daubentons bat

Natterers bat

Noctule bat

Grass snake  
Slow worm

**Protected species potential:**

Common lizard

**Priority habitats present:**

River (adjacent to site)

**Priority species seen or known:**

Hedgehog  
Common toad  
Stag beetle

BoCC Red List species including herring gull, house sparrow, starling, song thrush  
BoCC Amber List species including dunnock, reed bunting and swift (Suffolk Character Species)

**Priority species potential:**

-

**Connectivity:**

The site is well connected via the Alderman Canal to the River Gipping which provides an important wildlife corridor.

**Structural diversity:**

The margins of the site adjacent to the Alderman Canal provides moderate structural diversity. The small section of grassland, scrub and trees provides good structural diversity.

**Flora:**

The area north of the garden, was fenced off and inaccessible, but from the boundary it appeared to be dry grassland with species including false oat grass with ragwort, creeping thistle, melilot spp, sedge spp, bristly ox tongue, St john's wort spp, rosebay willowherb and mugwort. The scrub around the margins was dominated by bramble and dog rose, with ash and sycamore trees further back.

The majority of the site is hard standing and therefore the flora is limited. Ivy and buddleia occasionally occur within the site itself as well as prickly lettuce, Canadian fleabane, petty spurge and pellitory-of-the-wall, otherwise all plants are associated with the margins. The boundaries of the Alderman Canal are colonised by bramble and hops, but along the canal path there has been some additional planting of hawthorn, field maple, hazel and dogwood.

The small rectangle of amenity grassland has species typical of this habitat including dandelion, daisy, white clover, selfheal, smooth hawk's-beard and yarrow.

**Avifauna:**

The margins of the site provide some foraging and nesting opportunities for common bird species and blackbird was seen during the visit.

### **Invertebrates:**

The margins of this site, as well as the grassland, provide good opportunities for this group and small white, large white and gatekeeper butterflies were recorded during the visit. The ivy around the canal margins provides a good nectar source with lots of hoverflies and bees seen. The clumps of buddleia also provide good nectar sources for invertebrates. The trees around the margins and in the eastern part of the site provide good habitat for stag beetles (Priority species).

### **Herpetofauna:**

Although previously unsuitable habitat in 2012, the grassland in the eastern part of the site provides potential habitat for reptiles, particularly common lizard and grass snake. The proximity of the river corridor and adjacent park to this area increases the likelihood that reptiles have colonised this area. Toad could also be present in the grassland on the eastern side.

### **Mammals:**

The majority of the site is sub-optimal for this group. Bats are likely to use the canal for commuting and foraging. Otter has been recorded in the Alderman Canal adjacent to this site. The scrub and grassland on the eastern side of the site provides good foraging and nesting habitat for hedgehogs, including for overwintering.

### **Comments and recommendations:**

This site has been allocated for mixed use, primarily for residential at a high density on 90% of the site, with small scale retail and leisure and offices as a secondary allocation. This site is located adjacent to the Alderman Canal CWS. There is an opportunity to strengthen the local ecological network through retention and enhancement of on-site habitats adjacent to this feature, which could be in combination with any greenspace provision.

Prior to the site being developed, further surveys for reptiles and potentially bat activity surveys will be required and any lighting scheme should be designed to prevent light spillage into the river corridor. Scrub clearance should not be undertaken in the bird nesting season unless a suitably qualified ecologist has indicated that no active bird's nests are present.

Consideration should also be given during site clearance to the likely presence of hedgehog on the eastern part of the site. Holes in fences for hedgehog should be part of new housing proposals, to deliver landscape permeability for this wide-ranging, declining species. Toad, another UK Priority species, will also benefit from holes in garden fences.

Japanese Knotweed has been recorded close to the site. This species is listed as invasive on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Although no evidence was found on site during the survey, this site assessment does not constitute an invasive species survey and further monitoring of this species is required to ensure it has not spread and colonised the site.

Planting of low-maintenance nectar and berry producing shrubs amongst the buildings will provide some small-scale benefit for birds and invertebrates.

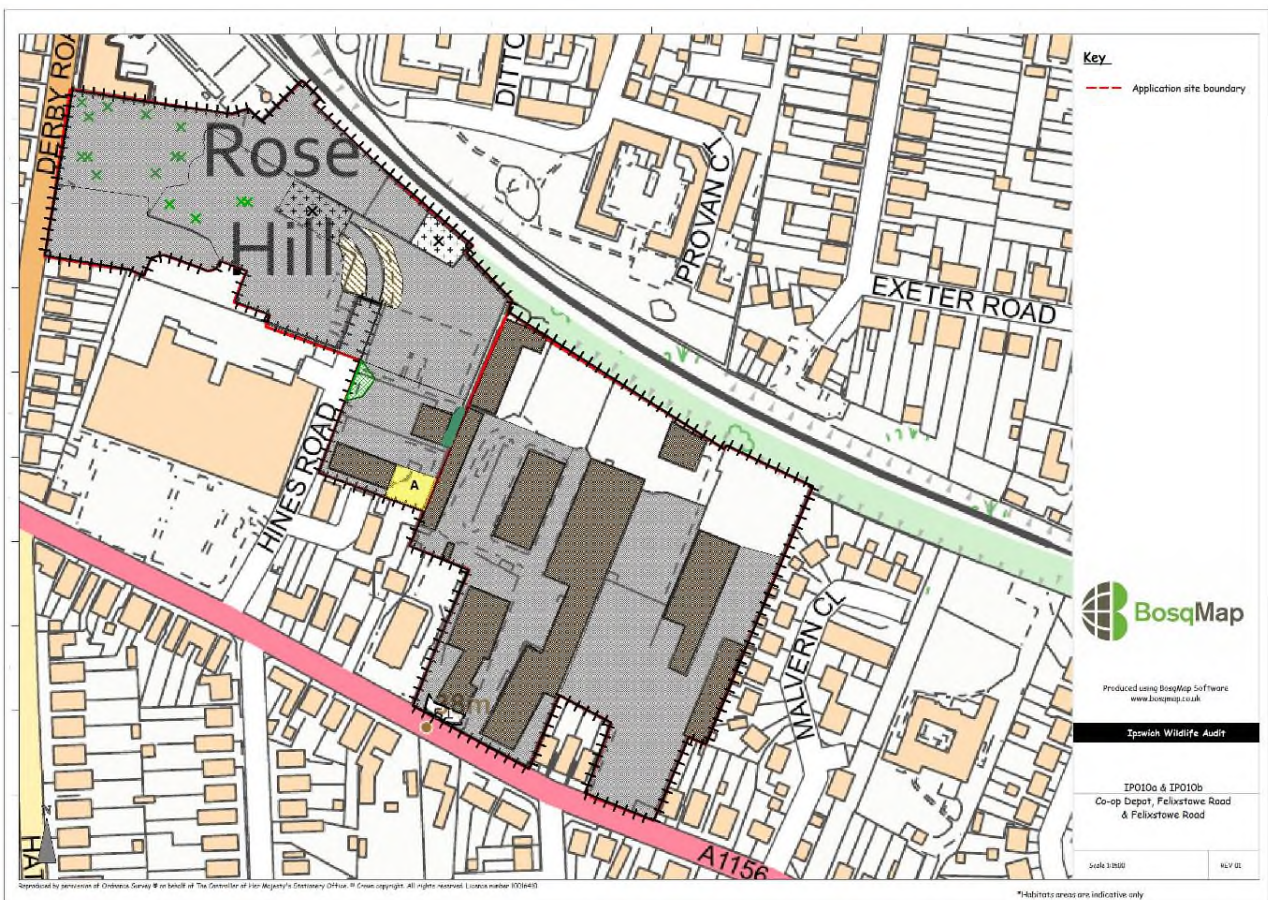
Swifts are a fast-declining migratory species that are almost totally dependent on holes and crevices in buildings for nesting but leave no mess. Swift boxes should be integrated into taller new buildings using 'swift bricks' or 'swift blocks'. Externally mounted boxes can also be used but have a shorter life span than integrated features. Both types are most effective at attracting swifts when used with a swift 'call system'.



**Site name:** Co-Op Depot Felixstowe Road

**Site ref:** IP010a/IP010b  
**Site status:** No wildlife designation  
**Grid ref:** TM 18382 43701/TM 18544 43570  
**Area:** 2.21 hectares/2.77 hectares  
**Date:** 29<sup>th</sup> August 2019  
**Recorder:** A Looser  
**Weather conditions:** Hot and sunny, 22°C  
**Ranking:** 5  
**Biodiversity value:** Low

**Map:**



**Photos:**



*View north-west across IP10a showing colonisation of vegetation*



*Old brick building in IP10b with bat potential*

**Habitat type(s):**

Buildings, hard standing, ephemeral short perennial, tall ruderal, scattered scrub, scattered trees

**Subsidiary habitats:**

-

**Site description:**

This is a large site extending between Felixtowe Road and the Ipswich to Felixtowe railway line. Most of site IP10b is in retail/employment use and is largely occupied by buildings, whilst most of IP10a is currently hard standing which has been left for some time, so tall ruderal and perennial species have started to colonise. Site IP10a was securely fenced so was only viewed from the boundaries. The site was previously surveyed during the previous Wildlife Audit in 2012.

**Protected species seen or known:**

Records in the surrounding area include:

- Badger
- Common pipistrelle bat
- Soprano pipistrelle bat
- Brown long-eared bat
- Serotine bat
- Common lizard
- Grass snake

**Protected species potential:**

Slow worm

**Priority habitats present:**

-

**Priority species seen or known:**

Records in the surrounding area include:

Hedgehog

Stag beetle

BoCC Red List birds include herring gull, house sparrow and starling

BoCC Amber List birds include dunnock and swift (Suffolk Character Species)

**Priority species potential:**

Cinnabar moth

**Connectivity:**

The railway corridor provides good connectivity through this otherwise built up area of the Town.

**Structural diversity:**

The structural diversity of 10b is very poor, but 10a currently has some structural diversity.

**Flora:**

The flora is limited due to the nature of this site, however a good range of species are present including false oat, rough meadow grass, wall barley, rat-tailed fescue and fern grass with Canadian fleabane, prickly lettuce, bristly ox-tongue, dandelion, ragwort, common cat's-ear, groundsel, smooth sow thistle, goat's-beard, white melilot, wild carrot, rough chervil, ribwort plantain, greater plantain, ox-eye daisy, teasel, black medick, purple toadflax, rosebay willowherb and goldenrod (garden escape). Scrub is developing, particularly to the rear of the site with buddleia dominating as well as bramble and gorse. There are also occasional trees including poplar and horse chestnut.

**Avifauna:**

The visit took place at a sub-optimal time of year for recording this group, however there are a number of records of both Red and Amber list species present in the surrounding area. The developing scrub provides some nesting opportunities. The range of plants also provides good foraging, particularly for seed eating species such as finches.

**Invertebrates:**

Site IP10a provides good habitat for a range of invertebrates. Common species of butterfly including red admiral, small white and large white were noted during the survey as well as several species of bee and hoverfly. Some crickets and grasshoppers were also observed. Cinnabar moth caterpillars (Priority Species) feed exclusively on ragwort so they could be present. Site IP10b is currently sub-optimal for this group, although common species will be present.

**Herpetofauna:**

The habitat, especially closest to the railway line, is developing into suitable habitat for slow worm and common lizard. The low banks along parts of the site also provide good potential hibernation opportunities for this group.

**Mammals:**

Several of the buildings have the potential to support bat roosts and there are records of several



species from other buildings close to the site. Bats are also likely to commute and forage along the railway line. Badgers are known to be in the area and the railway line provides a good corridor for them to move. Other common mammal species are likely to be present.

**Comments and recommendations:**

Site IP010a is planned as a mixed-use site with its primary allocation being residential with 75 dwellings at 45dph on 75% of site. The secondary allocation is for a school extension covering approx. 25% of site.

Site IP010b has a primary allocation of residential properties with 62 dwellings planned at 45dph on 50% of site. The secondary allocation covers its current employment uses which are not planned to change.

Due to the presence of semi-natural habitats on site detailed and up-to-date surveys are required particularly for flora (including invasive species), reptiles, bats and badgers. A Tree Preservation Order is believed to relate either to a tree on this site or closeby.

If reptiles are present on site, mitigation for the impacts on the population will be required and ideally they should be retained on site adjacent to the railway line, in conjunction with additional habitat enhancement. In order to achieve this, log piles for basking reptiles sited over the top of a below-ground hibernacula should be incorporated into an undisturbed area. Hibernacula can be created by filling holes (minimum 2m long by 1m wide, and up to 50cm deep) with loose log sections. This should be covered with topsoil and turf, allowing access opportunities so that reptiles can easily enter the hibernacula at the appropriate time. These structures could also be used to provide stag beetle habitat.

Greenspaces should be interlinked to provide functional ecological corridors for a range of species and as much as possible they should connect with wider off-site ecological networks. Consequently, new development should retain as much as possible of the existing habitat adjacent to the railway corridor and integrate it within a landscaping scheme. This will help retain the local biodiversity resource, with enhancement through additional habitat creation and long-term good habitat management practices. The residential lighting scheme should be designed to prevent light spillage into this area. Bats are particularly sensitive to increased light levels, so it is important to maintain dark corridors to support local ecological networks.

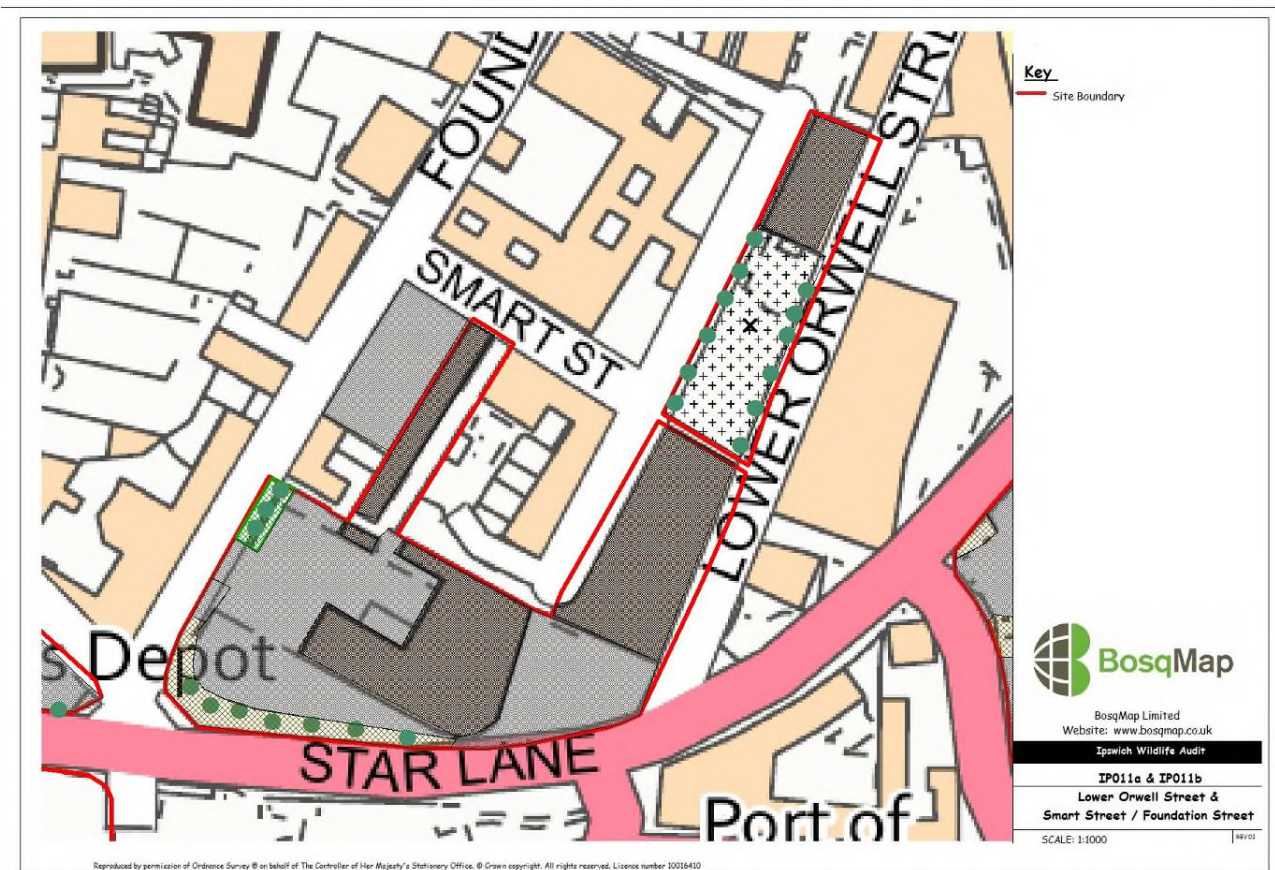
Careful planning and design can integrate the requirement for sustainable drainage systems with the retention of wildlife habitat. Where possible, existing habitats should be retained and integrated into the system as this will result in greater species diversity.

Holes in fences for hedgehog should be part of this new housing proposals, to deliver landscape permeability for this wide-ranging, declining species.

**Site name:** Lower Orwell Street (formerly Smart St/Foundation St) and Smart Street/Foundation Street

**Site ref:** IP011a/IP011b  
**Site status:** No wildlife designation  
**Grid ref:** TM 16639 44240/TM 16535 44283  
**Area:** 0.15 hectares/0.61 hectares  
**Date:** 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2019  
**Recorder:** J Crighton  
**Weather conditions:** Bright with moderate wind, ca. 80% cloud cover, 21°C  
**Ranking:** 5  
**Biodiversity value:** Low

**Map:**



*IP011a is the smaller northern-most site, and IP011b is the larger southerly area.*



**Photos:**



*IP011a Open area with ephemeral short perennial vegetation*



*IP011a Disused gym*



*IP011b Bus depot*



*IP011b Gravel car park*



*IP011b Building with bat potential and swift nesting potential*

**Habitat type(s):**

Buildings, hard standing, ephemeral short perennial, dense/continuous scrub, scattered broad-leaved trees, introduced shrub

**Subsidiary habitats:**

Wall surfaces, roof voids

**Site description:**

Site IP011a lies west of Lower Orwell Street adjacent to the Central Conservation area, in an area of archaeological importance. The site consists of a disused building formerly used as a gym in the northernmost section and directly south of the building is a fenced-off gravel car park which has overgrown with sparse vegetation. This car park is lined with London plane trees, (protected under TPOs) on the eastern and western boundaries. It also contains a scheduled monument. Directly west of the site is Tooley's Court and Smart's Almshouses grade II Listed building, which is currently used as sheltered housing for the elderly.

Directly south of IP011a is site IP011b, which has boundaries with Lower Orwell Street to the east, Star Lane to the south and Foundation Street to the west. The site is mainly industrial buildings with a Bus Depot and associated car park occupying the southernmost section. IP011b also lies within an area of archaeological importance, between the Central and Wet Dock Conservation areas, close to the grade II Listed St Mary at Quay Church. It contains two scheduled monuments. Also included in this site is a long narrow building with a pantile roof.

**Protected species seen or known:**

Records in the surrounding area include:

Brown long-eared bat  
Common pipistrelle bat  
Soprano pipistrelle bat  
Daubenton's bat  
Natterer's bat  
Noctule bat

**Protected species potential:**

-

**Priority habitats present:**

-

**Priority species seen or known:**

Records in the surrounding area include:

Hedgehog  
Stag beetle  
Swift (Suffolk Character Species)  
Starling  
Song thrush  
House sparrow



### Priority species potential:

-

### Connectivity:

These sites lie within a heavily built up area near the centre of Ipswich. The vegetation within the site is limited to mature trees and some scattered plants and scrub vegetation in unmanaged areas. This means that there is no connectivity between the sites and any semi-natural greenspace in the wider area.

### Structural diversity:

Structural diversity is very limited being mostly buildings and hard standing. The walls and roofs could offer an alternative substrate for growth, however this potential niche habitat is currently bare.

### Flora:

IP011a has several mature London plane trees on the boundaries of the car park. The gravel car park is relatively undisturbed and thus some ruderal vegetation has grown throughout, albeit sparsely. This includes Canadian fleabane, cow parsley, herb Robert and prickly sow thistle.

IP011b is a heavily used bus depot, but around the outskirts there are several mature and semi-mature trees including whitebeam, ash, lime and London plane. The verge beneath the tree canopy has historically been planted with ornamental species including tutsan and cotoneaster, but has been left relatively unmanaged so some areas have been colonised by patches of bramble and dog rose along with forbs typical of disturbed ground such as fat hen, nettle, black horehound, bristly ox-tongue, prickly lettuce, Canadian fleabane and mugwort, along with false oat, Yorkshire fog and barren brome grasses. Small areas contain fern grass, which can often be found in towns in artificial habitats such as walls or cracks in pavements.

A small area of scrub with trees is present along Foundation Street which contains hawthorn, ash, apple, sycamore, rowan, yew and holly with a ground flora of primrose, white clover, herb Robert, hedge mustard and stinking iris.

### Avifauna:

Although none were observed during the survey, the pantiled roof of the brick building could support nesting swifts. However, it was a sub-optimal time of year for recording most other bird species. The mature trees and dense scrub offer some roosting opportunities for garden birds. Feral pigeons can be associated with industrial buildings and town centres. Gulls may also use the roofs of the buildings for perching and nesting.

### Invertebrates:

There are currently limited opportunities for this group, although stag beetles have been recorded near to the site.

### Herpetofauna:

There are no opportunities for this group within these two sites.

### **Mammals:**

The long narrow brick and pantiled building adjacent to Foundation Street has the potential to support roosting bats with access routes including slipped tiles and damaged areas of roof.

### **Comments and recommendations:**

Proposals for the sites include 18 dwellings on IP011a with a density of 110dph. IP011b is also allocated to residential with 56 dwellings at 90dph.

Although this site is currently of low wildlife value, the brick and pantile building could support bats and consequently further surveys are recommended.

Any clearance of woody vegetation should only take place outside the main bird nesting season (March - August inclusive) or immediately preceded by a nesting bird check. The significant trees on this site are covered by a TPO. Nesting swifts are also protected under the same legislation as all nesting birds, so care should be taken to avoid work to this building during the bird breeding season, unless it can be confirmed by a suitably qualified ecologist that swifts are not nesting. Swifts are a rapidly declining migratory species that are almost totally dependent on holes and crevices in buildings for nesting, but leave no mess. Swift boxes can be integrated into new buildings using 'swift bricks' or 'swift blocks'. Externally mounted boxes can also be used but have a shorter life span than integrated features. Both types are most effective at attracting swifts when used with a swift 'call system'.

IP011b contains cotoneaster and members of this group are listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981, as amended, because they can become dominant to the detriment of other species. As such, it is an offence to plant or otherwise cause these species to grow in the wild. If this plant is removed as part of a vegetation clearance programme then it should be disposed of in a way as not to contravene the legislation.

As this area will remain highly built-up the options for net gain are limited but should include utilising some of the potential space available. For example, on the employment areas green roofs and living walls could provide important stepping-stone habitats within this urban area.

Green roofs can work as part of sustainable drainage options but also be designed to support wildflowers, grasses and sedum species and in turn, these can benefit both foraging invertebrates and birds. Living walls can be created as part of schemes that harvest rainwater or can utilise grey water sources. Aspect is important as shaded walls usually establish quickest. A simple solution could include climbers, such as ivy, which can be trained on wires or trellis, or for more complex schemes, adapted planters can be used for other species to create diverse green walls. Green walls provide cover for birds such as house sparrow and shelter and foraging habitat for invertebrates.

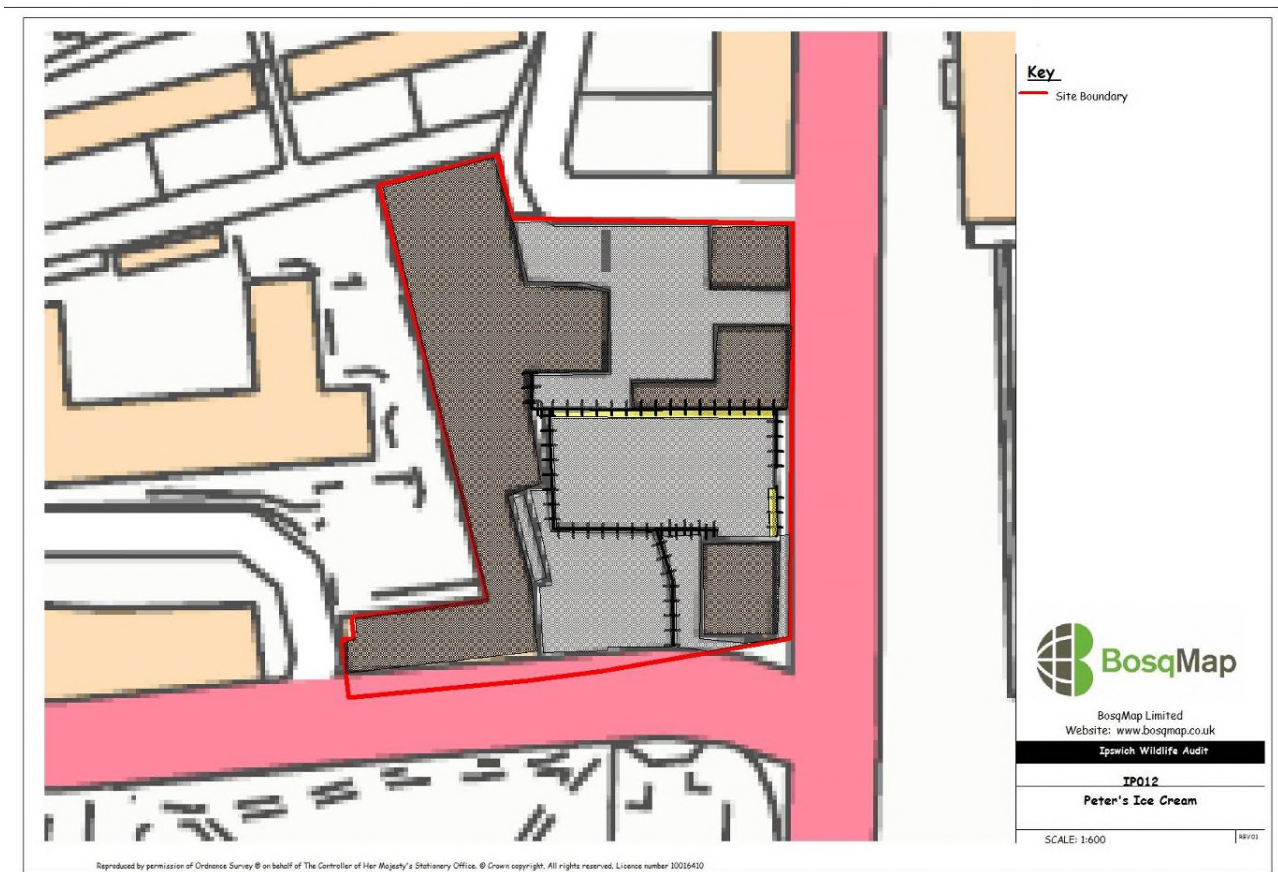
Although a declining species, this area of the county is a stronghold for stag beetles which can often be found in relatively small garden habitats around Ipswich. A habitat pile, created by burying stumps in an upright position, rather like a cluster of organ-pipes, should be constructed within a corner of greenspace to benefit this species. This greenspace should be landscaped to include low-maintenance nectar and berry producing shrubs and perennial plants to provide some benefit for birds and invertebrates, or alternatively integrated with a rain garden to deliver sustainable drainage

options. This feature requires free-draining soils in trenches and can be planted with nectar producing species, which can be non-native as long as they are not listed as invasive.

**Site name:** Peter's Ice Cream

**Site ref:** IP012  
**Site status:** No wildlife designation  
**Grid ref:** TM 168989 44291  
**Area:** 0.32 hectares  
**Date:** 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2019  
**Recorder:** J Crighton  
**Weather conditions:** Bright with moderate wind, ca. 80% cloud cover, 21°C  
**Ranking:** 6  
**Biodiversity value:** Low

**Map:**





**Photos:**



*Hard standing with cracks in paving*



*Gravel car park in south with sparse perimeter vegetation*



*Building to south west*



*Building to south east*

**Habitat type(s):**

Buildings, hard standing, scattered scrub, ephemeral short perennial

**Subsidiary habitats:**

Wall surfaces

**Site description:**

This site lies at the corner of the junction between Grimwade Street and Star Lane, with its other boundaries being in residential and industrial use. It is adjacent to the Central Conservation Area and within the Anglo-Saxon and Medieval core in an Area of Archaeological Importance. The grade II Listed Church of St Clement's and its associated churchyard is located on the opposite side of Star Lane, directly south of the site. The site itself is largely hard standing and buildings, many of which are boarded up, but one is in current use as a hand car washing facility.

**Protected species seen or known:**

Brown long-eared bat  
Common pipistrelle bat  
Soprano pipistrelle bat  
Daubenton's bat  
Natterer's bat  
Noctule bat  
Badger

**Protected species potential:**

-

**Priority habitats present:**

-

**Priority species seen or known:**

Records in the surrounding area include:

Stag beetle  
Hedgehog  
Toad  
Swift (Suffolk Character Species)  
Starling  
Song thrush  
House sparrow

**Priority species potential:**

Swift  
House sparrow

**Connectivity:**

This site currently has relatively poor connectivity but has the potential to improve. The gardens to the north provide a degree of connectivity, as does the churchyard with mature trees to the south and the trees lining Grimwade Street to the west. However, improved stepping-stone habitat could be created through strategic landscaping, helping to link the site with Alexandra Park in the west.

**Structural diversity:**

Structural diversity is very limited being mostly buildings and hard standing. The walls and roofs could offer a substrate for growth, however this potential niche habitat is currently bare.

### **Flora:**

The flora of this site is limited to the edges of car parks and cracks in paving and walls. Typical species of this type of habitat were noted, including nettle, Canadian fleabane, knotgrass, black horehound, rosebay willowherb, common mallow, petty spurge, bristly ox-tongue, herb Robert, groundsel, chickweed sp., white clover and the occasional common poppy. Grasses were rare but included wall barley, creeping bent and annual meadow grass. Some buddleia and Tutsan are growing over fences and walls on the perimeters and throughout the site.

### **Avifauna:**

Although none were observed during the survey, some of the older buildings could support nesting swifts. However, it was a sub-optimal time of year for recording most other bird species. Common garden birds may use the perimeter of this site for foraging and it is likely that pigeons will nest in the disused buildings. The habitats on the immediate outskirts of the site (churchyard and mature trees) provide more suitable nesting and foraging habitat for birds in general.

### **Invertebrates:**

The site is currently sub-optimal for this group but is likely to be visited by flying insects. Large white butterflies were seen feeding on the buddleia shrubs.

### **Herpetofauna:**

Although common toad has been recorded nearby, there is currently no scope for habitat for amphibians or reptiles within this site.

### **Mammals:**

The buildings in the south east and west of the site (as shown in above photographs) could provide roosting opportunities for bats so any development would need to be informed by a bat survey prior to works.

### **Comments and recommendations:**

Proposals for this site is for 35 residential units at a density of 110dph.

Although this site is currently of low wildlife value some of the buildings in the could support bats and consequently further surveys are recommended.

Nesting swifts are also protected under the same legislation as all nesting birds, so care should be taken to avoid demolition of the older buildings during the bird breeding season, unless it can be confirmed by a suitably qualified ecologist that swifts are not nesting. Swifts are a declining migratory species that is almost totally dependent on holes and crevices in buildings for nesting but leave no mess. Swift boxes should be integrated into new buildings using 'swift bricks' or 'swift blocks'. Externally mounted boxes can also be used but have a shorter life span than integrated features. Both types are most effective at attracting swifts when used with a swift 'call system'.

Although this site is small and in a built-up area of the Town, so opportunities for enhancement are limited. A perimeter landscaping scheme which includes low-maintenance nectar and berry producing shrubs and perennial plants would provide some benefit for birds and invertebrates. This should be in conjunction with sustainable drainage proposals to dispose of surface water.