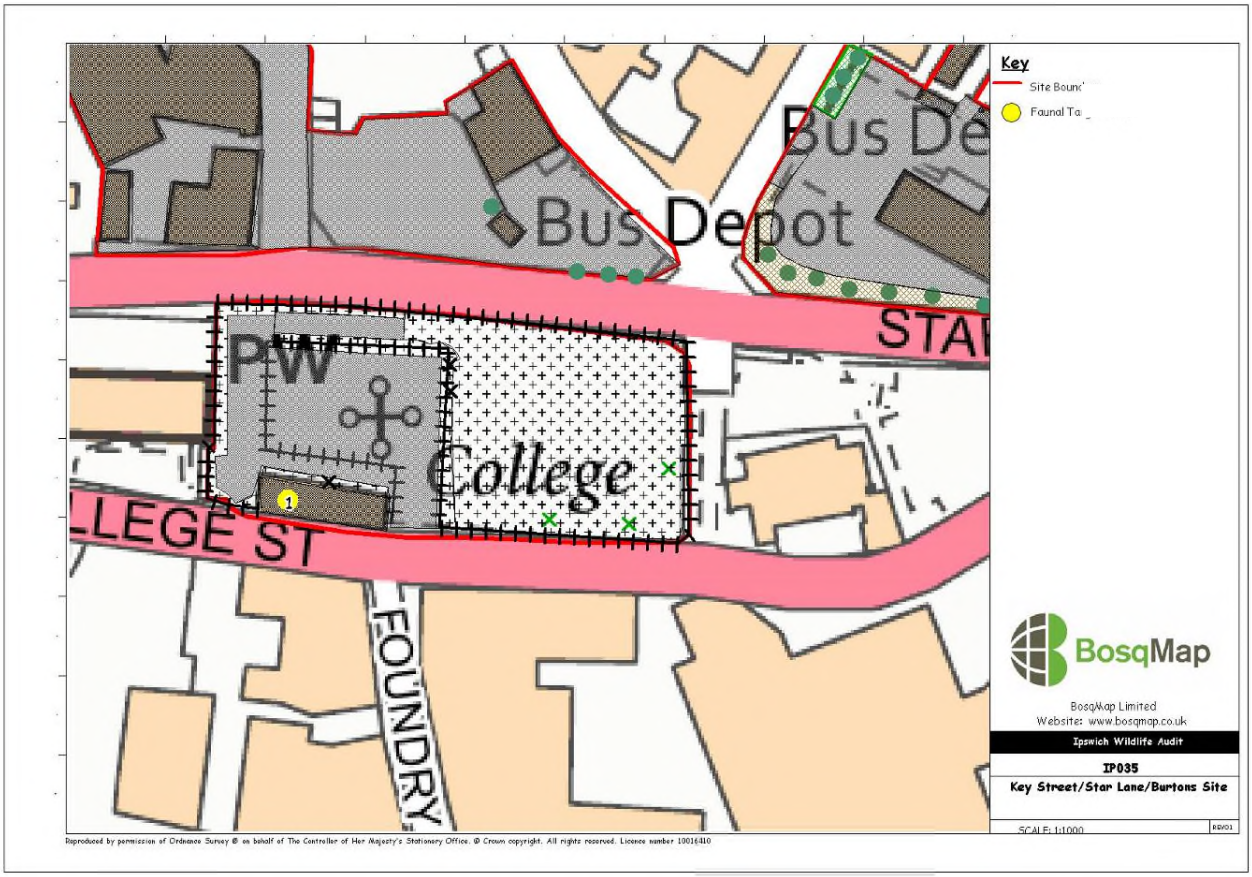
Site name: Key Street/Star Lane/Burtons Site

Site ref: IP035
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 16432 44109
Area: 0.54 hectares
Date: 29th August 2019
Recorder: A Looser
Weather conditions: Hot and sunny, 21°C
Ranking: 4
Biodiversity value: Medium

Map:



Photos:

Ephemeral short perennial

Disused building on southern part of site (Target Note 1)

Habitat type(s):

Ephemeral short perennial, building, hard standing, scattered scrub

Subsidiary habitats:

Bare ground

Site description:

This site lies between Star Lane and Key Street. Part of the site is currently being used as a public car park. There is a disused Grade 11 listed building with scaffolding around it in the southern part of the site (Target Note 1). The remainder of the site comprises hard standing which has been left undisturbed for some time and has been colonized by ephemeral short perennial vegetation which was found to contain a composition of species indicative of the Priority Habitat, Open Mosaic Habitats on Previously Developed Land (Brownfield).

Protected species seen or known:

Records in the surrounding area include:
Badger
Common pipistrelle bat
Soprano pipistrelle bat
Brown long-eared bat
Daubenton's bat
Natterer's bat
Noctule bat
Great crested newt
Common lizard
Slow worm

Protected species potential:

-

Priority habitats present:
Open Mosaic Habitats on Previously Developed Land (Brownfield)

Priority species seen or known:
Records in the surrounding area include:
Hedgehog
Stag beetle
Red-shanked carder bee
Cinnabar moth
BoCC Red List birds include herring gull, house sparrow, song thrush and starling
BoCC Amber List birds include dunnock and swift (Suffolk Character Species)

Priority species potential:
-

Connectivity:
The site is fairly isolated by busy roads. Although the River Orwell CWS is located only 100m south of the site there is no direct connectivity.

Structural diversity:
The tall ruderal vegetation and scattered scrub provide good structural diversity with a diversity of sward heights and bare areas.

Flora:
This site currently supports a good diversity of flora typical of heavily disturbed sites. Grasses include common bent, Yorkshire fog, wall barley, rat tailed fescue, barren brome, cock's-foot and fern grass with a good diversity of herbs including creeping thistle, spear thistle, mugwort, mallow, dandelion, rough hawk's-beard, lesser hawkbit, prickly lettuce, ragwort, hedge mustard, bird's-foot trefoil, black medick, red clover, herb Robert, red dead-nettle, poppy, yarrow, weld, white melilot, stonecrop spp, Canadian fleabane, curled dock, black nightshade, scentless mayweed, tutsan, hedge bindweed, wild parsnip and rosebay willowherb.

Occasional buddleia bushes are also colonizing the site along with bramble, elder and ash on the margins.

Avifauna:
The nesting opportunities for this group are very limited, however the diversity of plants provides good foraging habitat. Pied wagtails were seen feeding during the visit. The boarded up building has potential for nesting swift, although the scaffolding currently prevents access.

Invertebrates:
Sites containing this type of habitat can support interesting invertebrate assemblages and the majority of the site currently provides good habitat for this group. Small white, red admiral and painted lady butterflies were noted as well as honey bees, buff tailed bees and hoverflies. A number of grasshoppers and crickets were also seen. Cinnabar moth caterpillars (Priority Species) were seen feeding on the ragwort.

Herpetofauna:
Due to the isolation of this site it is highly unlikely that any reptiles are present.

Mammals:
The disused building provides potential bat roosting features although this was not fully assessed on Health and Safety grounds. The isolation of this site reduces the risk of other mammal species being present, but hedgehog could visit to forage and potentially lie up in day nests.

Comments and recommendations:
This site is proposed for mixed development with the primary allocation for housing at very high density on 80% of the site, with a secondary allocation for small scale office, leisure or retail.

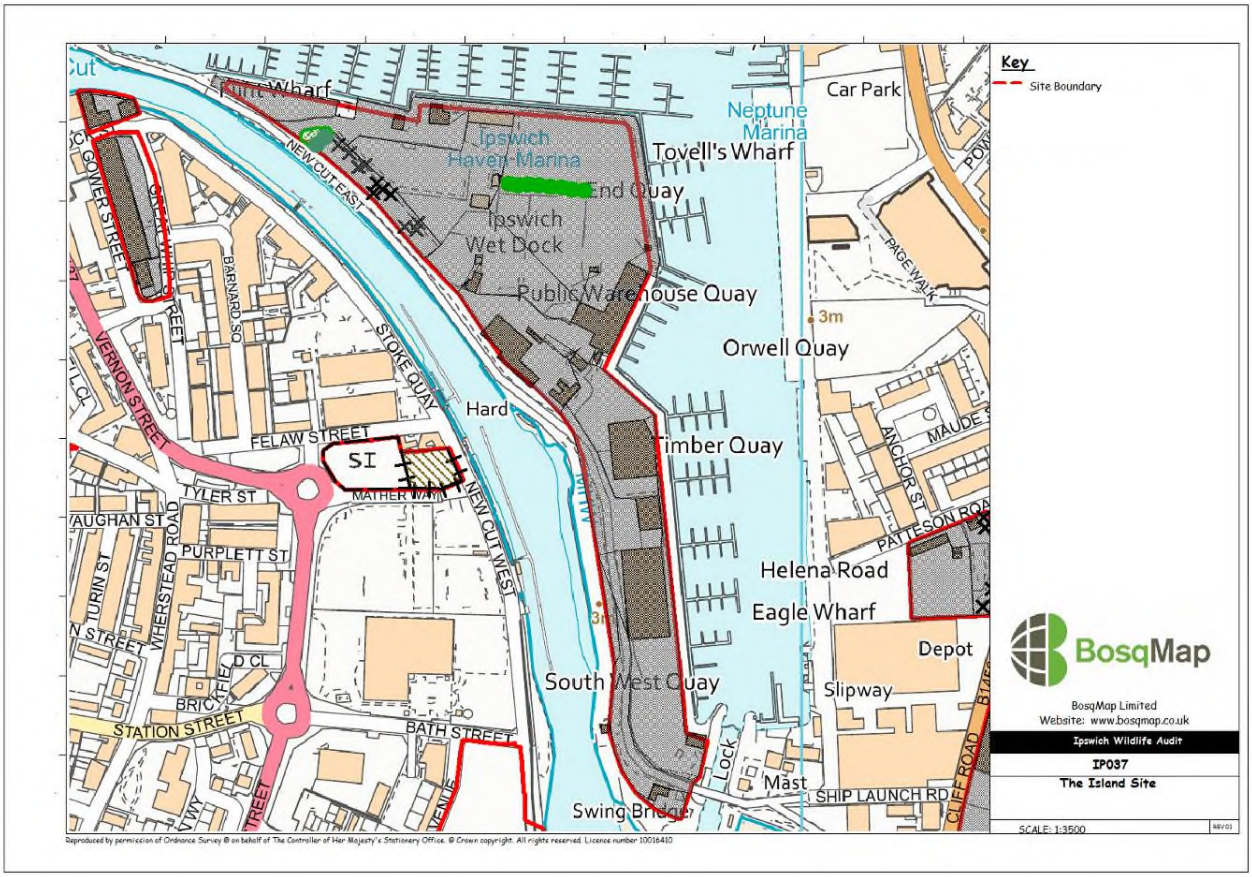
Further detailed bat surveys will be required on the building as well as potentially detailed invertebrate surveys. Nesting swifts are also protected under the same legislation as all nesting birds, so care should be taken to avoid demolition of buildings during the bird breeding season, unless it can 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 new development should retain as much of the existing habitat of interest as possible and integrate it within a landscaping scheme, this would be difficult given the current proposals. The Priority habitat which would be lost could potentially be replicated within the existing footprint through the provision of a green roof on an office, leisure or retail buildings. Green roofs can work as part of sustainable drainage options but also be designed to support wildflowers, grasses and sedums and in turn, these can benefit both foraging invertebrates and birds.

Site name: The Island Site

Site ref: IP037
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 16924 34664
Area: 6 hectares
Date: 28th July 2019
Recorder: A Looser
Weather conditions: Hot and sunny, 26°C
Ranking: 5
Biodiversity value: Low

Map:



Photos:

Gravel being colonised by ephemeral short perennial vegetation

Building with bat and swift potential

Habitat type(s):

Hard standing, buildings, ephemeral short perennial, conifer trees, scattered broadleaved tree, dense scrub

Subsidiary habitats:

-

Site description:

This site is part of the Ipswich Haven Marina. It is situated on an island in the River Orwell County Wildlife Site (CWS) and is approx. 1.3km north of the Orwell Estuary Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The majority of the site is hard standing which is used for car parking and the storage of boats. There are also various buildings including a restaurant, boat sales and boat engineering. The western part of the site was fenced off and includes derelict buildings. This area was only viewed from a distance. There is limited vegetation except around the margins, apart from a tall leylandii hedge in the northern part of the site.

Protected species seen or known:

Species recorded in the area include:
Common seal
Common porpoise
Otter
Brown long-eared bat
Common pipistrelle bat
Soprano pipistrelle bat
Daubenton's bat
Natterer's bat
Noctule bat

Protected species potential:
-

Priority habitats present:
River (adjacent to site)

Priority species seen or known:
Species in the area include:
Cinnabar moth
Hedgehog
BoCC Red List birds include herring gull, house sparrow and starling
BoCC Amber List birds include swift (Suffolk Character Species)

Priority species potential:
Swifts (Suffolk Character Species)

Connectivity:
This site is very well connected via the river corridor.

Structural diversity:
This site has poor structural diversity being largely hard standing and buildings.

Flora:
The nature of the site means the flora is limited. However, where there are areas of bare ground around the margins there is a good diversity of plants typical of these habitats including wall barley, red fescue, rat tailed fescue, annual beard grass and fern grass which is often found in urban areas in artificial habitats such as cracks in walls or pavements. Other herbs include mugwort, Canadian fleabane, dove's-foot cranesbill, cut leaved cranesbill, common storksbill, scentless mayweed, groundsel, greater plantain, white clover, black medick, perennial sow thistle, bristly ox tongue, spear thistle, poppy, fat hen, petty spurge, prickly lettuce and common chickweed.

There is a small area of scrub including cotoneaster, some species of which can be invasive, with a couple of eucalyptus trees.

Avifauna:
Although the site has limited foraging and nesting opportunities for many bird species, the roofs of the buildings do support nesting gulls including herring gull (Priority Species) which was seen during the visit. Some of the buildings have the potential to support nesting swifts. This site also supports a population of feral pigeons which provide food for Peregrine Falcons nesting adjacent to the site. Other overwintering birds may utilize this site.

Invertebrates:
The majority of the site is sub-optimal for invertebrates, however the diversity of plant species around the margins provides good nectar sources for a range of common species. Large white and small white butterflies were seen during the visit and other common species will be present during the year.

Herpetofauna:
There is currently no suitable habitat for this group.

Mammals:
The majority of the site is sub-optimal for mammals, however some of the buildings have the potential to support bat roosts. Cetaceans including grey seal and common porpoise have been recorded adjacent to the site. Otters have been recorded close to the site, although there are currently high levels of disturbance.

Comments and recommendations:
This site has been allocated for mixed use development to include residential housing at a very high density on 70% of the site, amenity open space on at least 15% and the remainder to be existing and new leisure and employment relating to the marina.

The buildings should be assessed for their bat potential prior to any demolition.

Nesting swifts are also protected under the same legislation as all nesting birds, so care should be taken to avoid work to the buildings 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 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'.

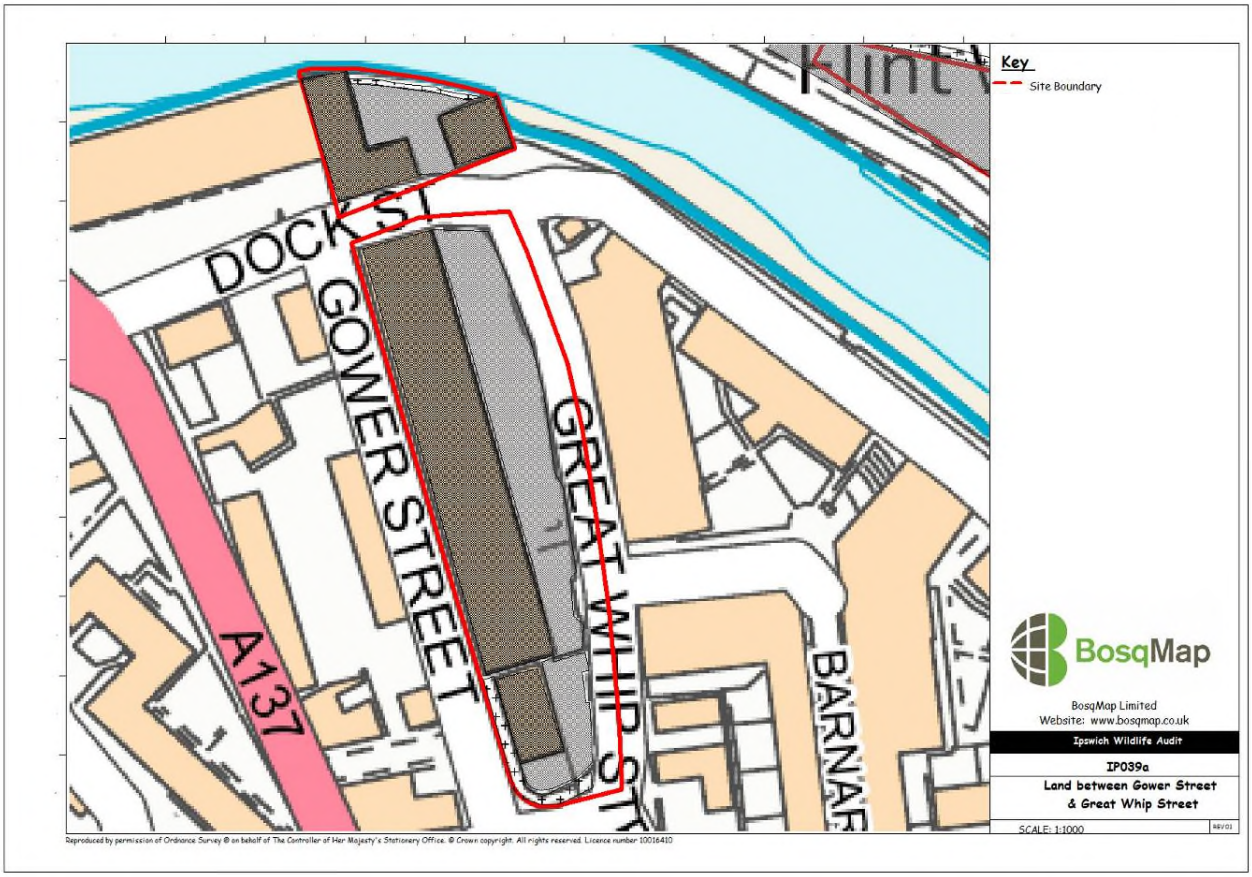
This site is located next to the River Orwell CWS and any lighting scheme should be designed to prevent light spillage into this area. Bats are particularly sensitive to increased light levels, so it is important to maintain dark corridors to support local ecological networks.

This site 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.

Site name: Land between Gower Street and Great Whip Street

Site ref: IP039a
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 16461 43852
Area: 0.48 hectares
Date: 5th August 2019
Recorder: A Looser
Weather conditions: Hot and sunny, 25°C
Ranking: 6
Biodiversity value: Low

Map:



Photos:

Looking north along Great Whip Street

Habitat type(s):

Hard standing, buildings, amenity grassland, ephemeral short perennial

Subsidiary habitats:

-

Site description:

This is a long narrow site situated between Gower Street and Great Whip Street. It comprises industrial buildings with hard standing. The majority of the site is used for car workshops including repairs. There is a small strip of amenity grassland behind the buildings at the southern end of the site.

Protected species seen or known:

-

Protected species potential:

-

Priority habitats present:

-

Priority species seen or known:

House sparrow

Priority species potential:

-

Connectivity:
The site is very isolated, being surrounded by roads, houses and other industrial units. The River Orwell CWS lies less than 50m from the site but there is currently no direct connectivity between them.

Structural diversity:
The structural diversity is very poor.

Flora:
The flora is limited to the margins of the site. A few common species were noted around the southern end of the site including rye grass and false oat with mallow, violet spp, dove's-foot cranesbill, dandelion, bristly ox-tongue, ribwort plantain, redshank, creeping thistle and nettle. Occasional buddleia bushes have started to colonise.

Avifauna:
The site is largely unsuitable for this group, however some house sparrows were seen during the visit (Priority Species). The roof of the building is likely to be used by gulls for nesting.

Invertebrates:
The habitat is sub-optimal for this group, although the buddleia provides nectar sources for common species.

Herpetofauna:
There is no suitable habitat for this group.

Mammals:
There is no suitable habitat for this group.

Comments and recommendations:
This site is proposed for housing at a high density.

Japanese Knotweed has been recorded adjacent 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.

The northern end of the site is located next to the River Orwell CWS. There is an opportunity to create additional stepping-stone habitat by siting any greenspace provision adjacent to the river (north of Dock Street).

Rain gardens as a sustainable drainage option for residential areas are most effective when larger in size and slow down run-off from downpiped or paved areas. They require 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. They can provide important stepping stone habitat in urban areas.

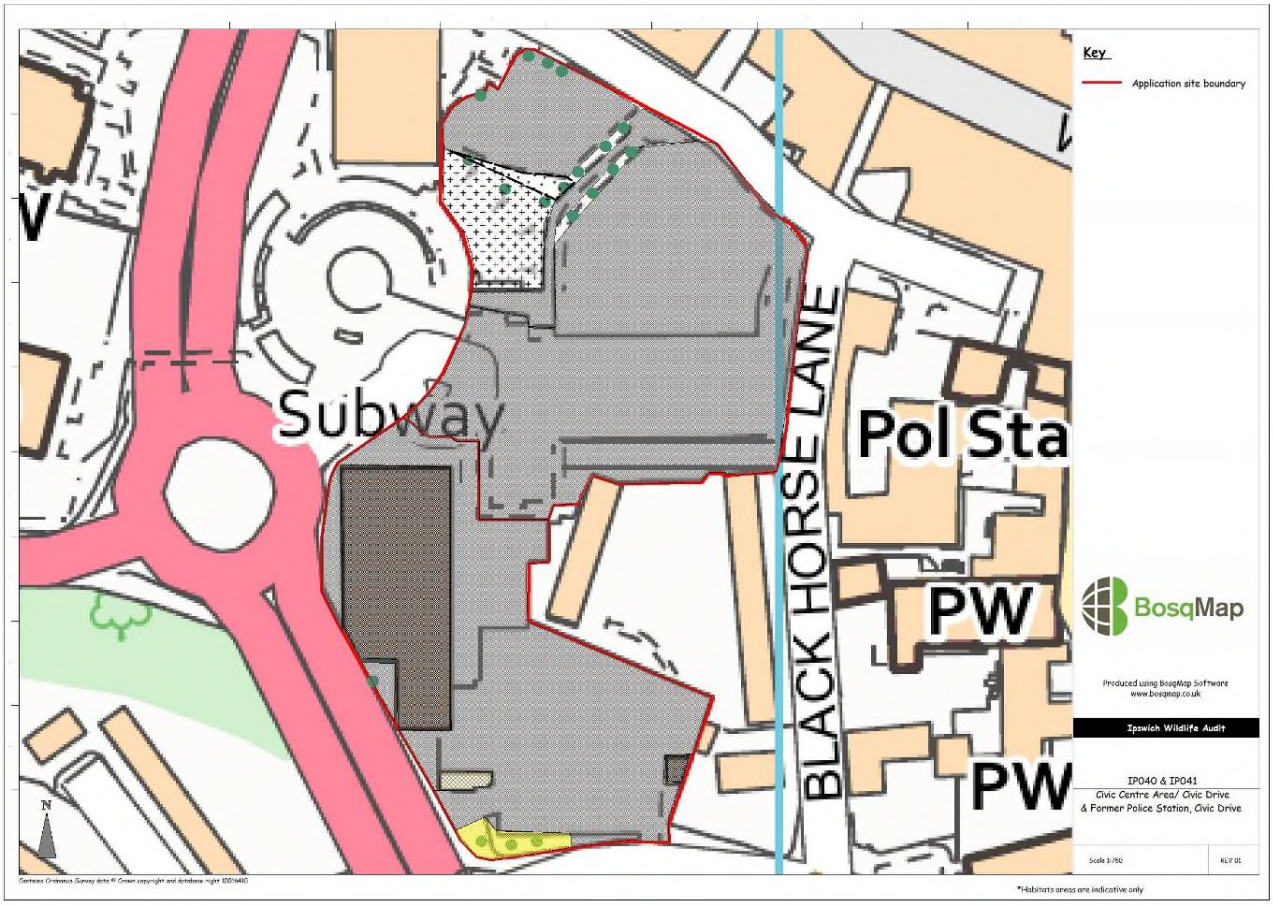
Holes in fences for hedgehog should be part of new housing proposals, to deliver landscape permeability for this wide-ranging, declining species.

It is unknown whether houses or flats are proposed for this site. 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 can 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: Civic Centre Area/Civic Drive

Site ref: IP040
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 15958 44683
Area: 0.76 hectares
Date: 25th July 2019
Recorder: J Crighton
Weather conditions: Clear sky, no wind, *ca.* 30°C
Ranking: 5
Biodiversity value: Low

Map:



IP040 is the top site in the above map, the bottom site is IP041

Photos:

Corsican pine near the Wolsey Theatre

Avenue of sycamore

Habitat type(s):

Hard standing, broad-leaved scattered trees, coniferous scattered trees

Subsidiary habitats:

-

Site description:

This site lies between Black Horse Lane and Civic Drive and is currently split into three areas, on two different levels, used for car parking. The north of the site supports some mature trees and backs the Wolsey Theatre. It is within the Anglo-saxon and medieval core and the Area of Archaeological Importance and adjacent to the Central Conservation Area.

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:
This site has poor connectivity due to its isolated location in a built-up area.

Structural diversity:
This site generally has very poor structural diversity as the majority is hard standing. However, the mature trees and bank sloping down to the spiral carpark offer small-scale microhabitats.

Flora:
The flora on this site is very limited with an avenue of sycamore lining the public footpath leading to the lower-level car park, and some Coriscan pine and Italian alder around the northern boundary and within the car park adjacent to the Wolsey Theatre.

Avifauna:
It was a sub-optimal time of year for recording this group. It is possible that some birds may nest in the mature trees but in general the area is lacking in suitable habitat and is heavily disturbed by activity, noise and light.

Invertebrates:
There are currently very limited opportunities for this group.

Herpetofauna:
There are currently no opportunities for this group on this site.

Mammals:
Hedgehogs have been recorded in the locality but are unlikely to use this site due to a lack of suitable habitat.

Comments and recommendations:
This is a small site proposed to accommodate 59 dwellings at high density (90dph) on 90% of the site, with the remainder being used for retail, restaurant and theatre related uses. It is located in a built-up area of the Town, so the opportunities for enhancement are limited. However, a landscaping scheme should include low-maintenance nectar and berry producing shrubs and perennial plants to provide some benefit for birds and invertebrates.

Rain gardens should also be incorporated into the landscape design as part of a sustainable drainage scheme. They are most effective when larger in size and slow down run-off from down-piped or paved areas. They require free-draining soils in trenches and can be planted with nectar producing species, which can be non-native as long as they are not invasive. They can provide important stepping-stone habitat in urban areas.

There is also the opportunity to include swift boxes. 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 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'. Bat boxes can be also integrated into new buildings, or durable boxes placed on trees where there is a low risk of interference.