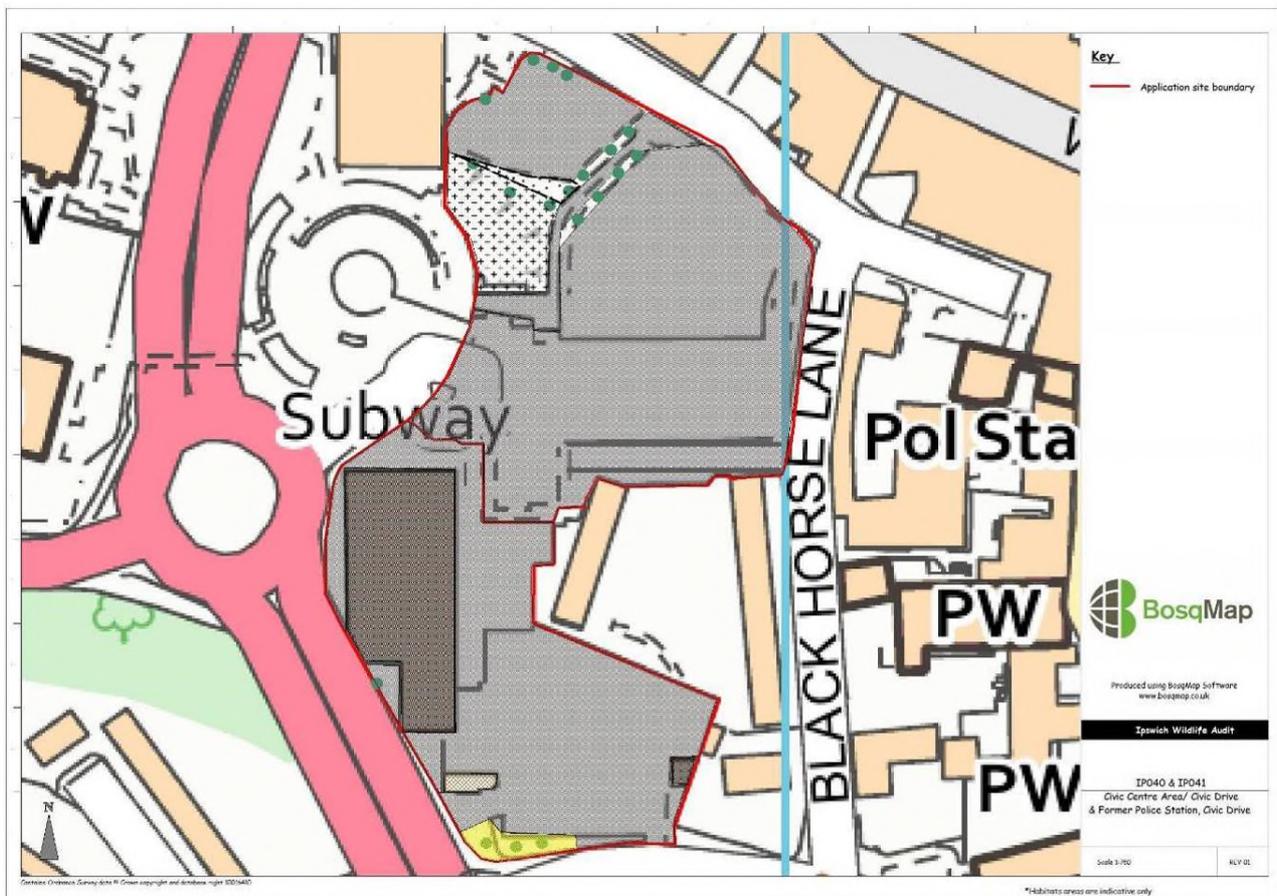


Site name: Former Police Station, Civic Drive

Site ref: IP041
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 15936 44597
Area: 0.55 hectares
Date: 25th July 2019
Recorder: J Crighton
Weather conditions: Clear sky, no wind, ca. 30°C
Ranking: 6
Biodiversity value: Low

Map:



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

Photos:



IP041 Car park and former County Court

Habitat type(s):

Hard standing, broad-leaved scattered trees, raised beds with introduced shrub

Subsidiary habitats:

-

Site description:

This site lies east of Civic Drive, on the corner with Elm Road. It consists of the former County Court building and associated car park. The site is hard standing for the most part, but there are a few raised beds in the south western corner of the site with some ornamental planting and planted trees. 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, and lack of vegetation.

Structural diversity:

This site has very poor structural diversity as there are very limited habitat opportunities.

Flora:

This site has very limited botanical interest with a mature ash in raised bed outside the former entrance to the County Court and some silver birch within a raised bed on the corner between Civic Drive and Elm Street. Some ornamental planting of non-native species is present in another raised bed and a wall in the north-eastern section of the car park has some ivy growth.

Avifauna:

It was a sub-optimal time of year for recording this group. It is possible that some birds may nest in the disused building 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 46 dwellings at high density (90dph) located in a built-up area of the Town, so the opportunities for enhancement are limited. However, a landscaping scheme could include low-maintenance nectar and berry producing shrubs and perennial plants to provide some benefit for birds and invertebrates. Rain gardens could 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

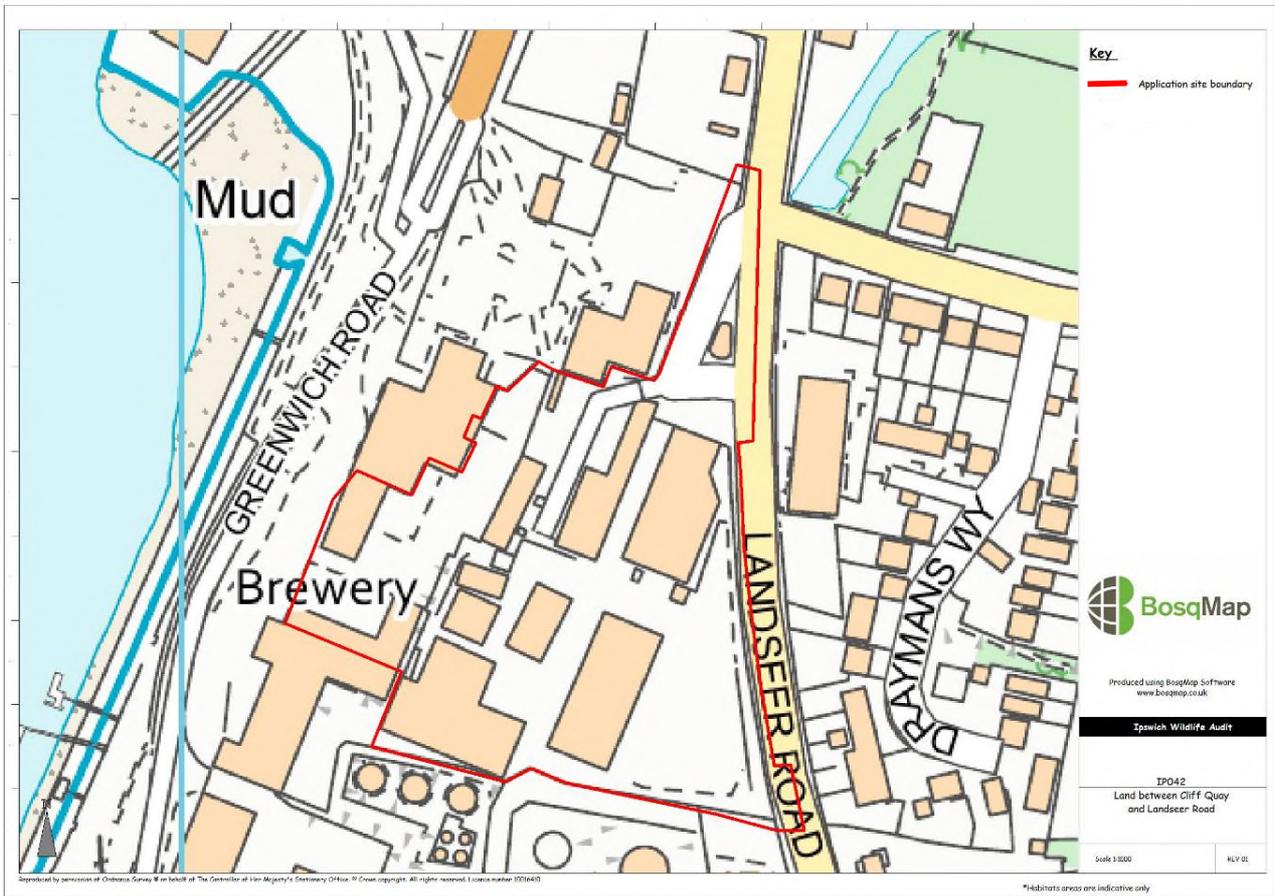
are not invasive. They can provide important stepping-stone habitat in urban areas.

There is also the opportunity to include swift and bat 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 can be integrated into taller new buildings using 'swift bricks' or 'swift blocks'. Externally mounted boxes should 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.

Site name: Land between Cliff Quay and Landseer Road

Site ref: IP042
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 17117 43139
Area: 1.77 hectares
Written by: J Crighton
Date written: 30th August 2019
Recorder: Not Surveyed
Weather conditions: N/A
Ranking: 6 (based on the available information)
Biodiversity value: Low

Map:



Habitat type(s):

Hard standing, buildings, mature trees/scrub

Subsidiary habitats:

-

Site description:

It was not possible to access this site, but a preliminary assessment has been made from known records and available imagery.

This site contains a number of vacant industrial buildings. It is located west of Landseer Road, with its eastern boundary being the docks access road along the River Orwell. Directly south of the site there is a water treatment works plant and to the north is the old Brewery Tap Freehouse and some other small business premises.

In the western-most section of the site, adjacent to The Brewery Tap, there appears to be a number of mature trees and scrub.

Protected species seen or known:

Records in the surrounding area include:

- Badger
- Brown long-eared bat
- Common pipistrelle bat
- Soprano pipistrelle bat
- Daubenton's bat
- Noctule bat
- Serotine bat
- Common lizard
- Slow worm

Protected species potential:

-

Priority habitats present:

-

Priority species seen or known:

Records in the surrounding area include:

- Hedgehog
- Common toad
- Stag beetle
- 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:

Swift nesting in building (Suffolk Character Species)

Connectivity:

This site is part of a wider number of buildings and has little biodiversity value. However, if improved for biodiversity, it could have some connectivity to habitats to the south via the water treatment plant.

Structural diversity:

From the information available this site has relatively poor structural diversity. However, the walls and roofs of the buildings within the site offer potential habitat for some niche botanical groups, birds and possibly bats.

Flora:

Unknown

Avifauna:

The Brewery Tap, as an older building, could support nesting swifts. It is likely that feral pigeons, often associated with industrial buildings and town centres, will nest in the buildings. Gulls may also use the roofs of the buildings for perching and nesting. The trees and scrub could also provide some nesting opportunities.

Invertebrates:

The site appears sub-optimal for this group.

Herpetofauna:

Although there are records within the surrounding area, there are currently no opportunities for this group within this site.

Mammals:

The buildings within the site and the surrounding area, particularly The Brewery Tap, which is an old brick building could support roosting bats. It is also possible that the trees in the west of the site contain features which could support roosting bats.

Comments and recommendations:

This site is primarily proposed for residential development with an indicative capacity of 222 dwellings. And the secondary use would be for commercial and employment purposes.

Although this site is currently of low wildlife value, there is a potential risk that buildings could support bats and consequently an internal inspection by a suitably qualified ecologist is recommended, which will also encompass nesting birds. 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. An assessment of likely presence of invasive plant species should also be undertaken.

The site is located next to the River Orwell 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 is relatively small for the indicative housing capacity suggested, so the opportunities for enhancement are limited. However, any landscaping scheme should include low-maintenance nectar and berry producing shrubs and perennial plants to provide some benefit for birds and invertebrates.

Careful planning and design should integrate the requirement for sustainable drainage systems with

the creation of new wildlife habitat. Such places can also create aesthetically pleasing features which can also be integrated into landscaping schemes. In the residential area this could include the provision of a rain garden, which 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 listed as invasive. They can provide important stepping-stone habitat in urban areas.

The commercial and employment buildings could offer the potential to include green roofs and/or living walls. 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. And 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. Climbers, such as ivy, are trained on wires or trellis or adapted planters can be used for other species. Green walls provide cover for birds such as house sparrow and shelter and foraging habitat for invertebrates. Both of these options can provide important stepping-stone habitat in urban areas.

There is also the opportunity to provide enhancement for individual species:

Swifts are a 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'.

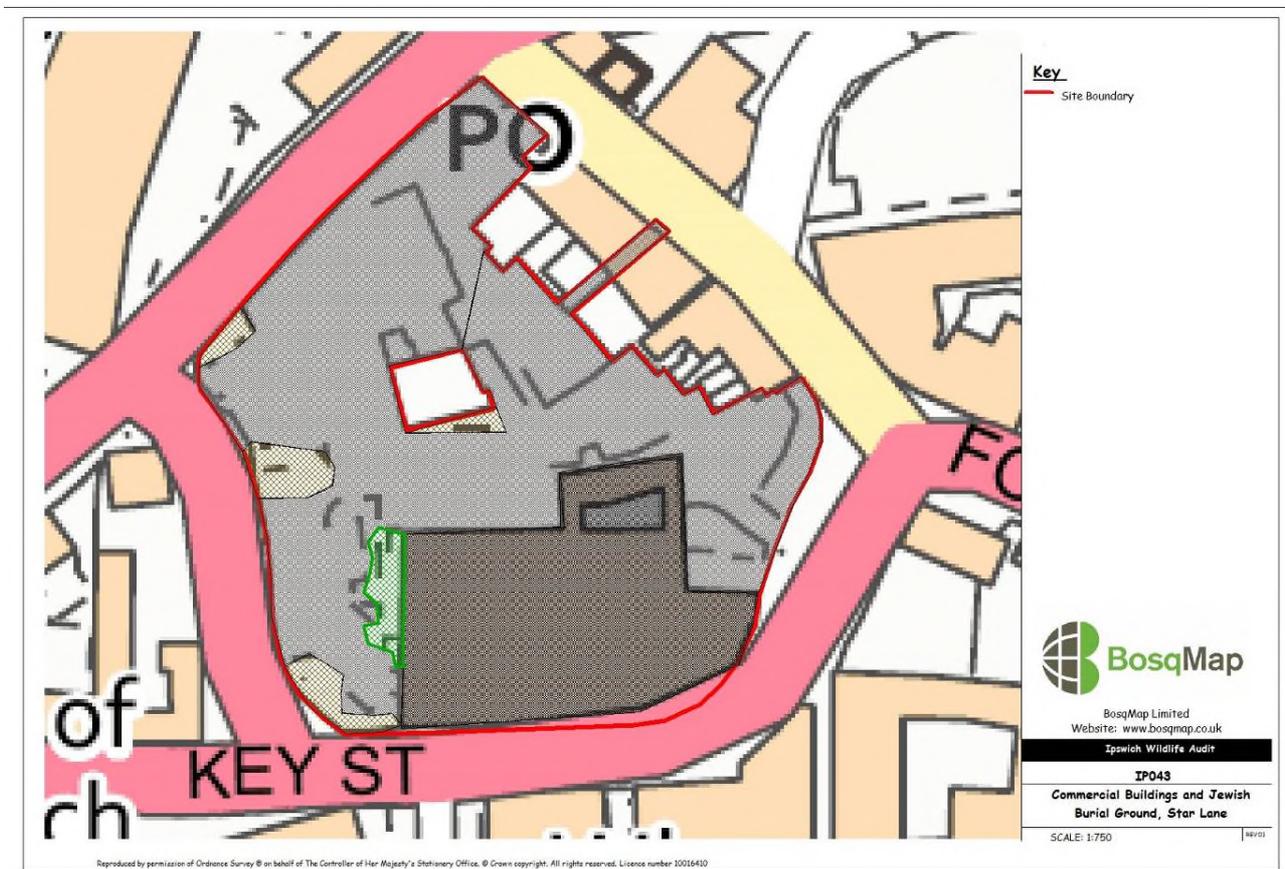
Bat boxes should also be integrated into new buildings, or durable boxes placed on trees where there is a low risk of interference.

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

Site name: Commercial Buildings and Jewish Burial Ground, Star Lane

Site ref: IP043
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 16734 44171
Area: 0.7 hectares
Date: 2nd August 2019
Recorder: J Crighton
Weather conditions: Bright with moderate wind, ca. 80% cloud cover, 21°C
Ranking: 6
Biodiversity value: Low

Map:



Photos:



IPO43 Car park



IPO43 building in the south of the site

Habitat type(s):

Buildings, hard standing, introduced shrub, scattered scrub

Subsidiary habitats:

Wall surfaces

Site description:

This site is located on land between Key Street and Salhouse Street to the south, Slade Street to the west, Star Lane to the north and portions of Key Street to the east. It is currently used as a car park and car wash facility and is thus mainly laid with concrete and brick paving. A large boarded up brick building is present in the south of the site, adjacent to Key Street, with a smaller historic timber framed building to the rear of this building. The site is partly within the Central Conservation Area, contains Grade II listed buildings and adjoins others including Grade II 54-58 Fore Street to the north-east, the Grade II Old Custom House to the south-west and the complex of highly graded buildings at Isaac Lord to the south-east.

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 is isolated being surrounded by busy roads within a heavily built-up area.

Structural diversity:

Structural diversity is limited being mostly buildings and hard standing. The small areas of introduced shrub and scattered scrub offer some height differences and the walls and roofs could offer an additional substrate for growth, however, nothing has currently colonised this niche habitat.

Flora:

The majority of the site is comprised of hard standing, however there are some areas with ornamental planting that have been left unmanaged and some forbs have colonised areas. Typical early coloniser species such as bristly ox-tongue, creeping thistle, hedge woundwort, green alkanet, Canadian fleabane, prickly lettuce and barren brome are present amongst the non-native species.

There are also a few areas of dense scrub with young ash, dogwood, elder, buddleia, cotoneaster and clematis with some ivy and bittersweet (indicating damp conditions).

Additionally, cracks in the paving and concrete have given rise to fern grass, lesser trefoil, petty spurge and knotgrass.

Avifauna:

It was a sub-optimal time of year for recording this group. However, common garden birds may use the vegetated areas of this site for foraging and it is likely that feral pigeons, often associated with industrial buildings and town centres, will nest in the buildings. Gulls may also use the roofs of the buildings for perching and nesting.

Invertebrates:

The site is currently sub-optimal for this group. However, some brash piles were noted on site and a common blue butterfly, associated with the buddleia was seen during the survey. Stag beetles have also been recorded nearby.

Herpetofauna:

There are no opportunities for this group within this site.

Mammals:

The presence of several listed buildings in the area, and older buildings within the site itself could indicate the potential for roosting bats.

The site may also be visited by hedgehogs and there are historical records in the area.

Comments and recommendations:

Proposals for the sites include 45 dwellings on 80% of the site with a high density of 95dph. The remainder of the site is proposed for employment use including offices, research and development and light industrial uses suitable for residential areas.

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

As this area will remain highly built-up the options for net gain are limited but could include utilising some of the available space such as by the installation of green roofs. These 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. They provide important stepping-stone habitat within urban areas.

In addition, any proposed landscaping should include low-maintenance nectar and berry producing shrubs and perennial plants to provide some benefit for birds and invertebrates.

In addition to this, action can be taken for individual species such as swifts, bats and hedgehogs.

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 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'.

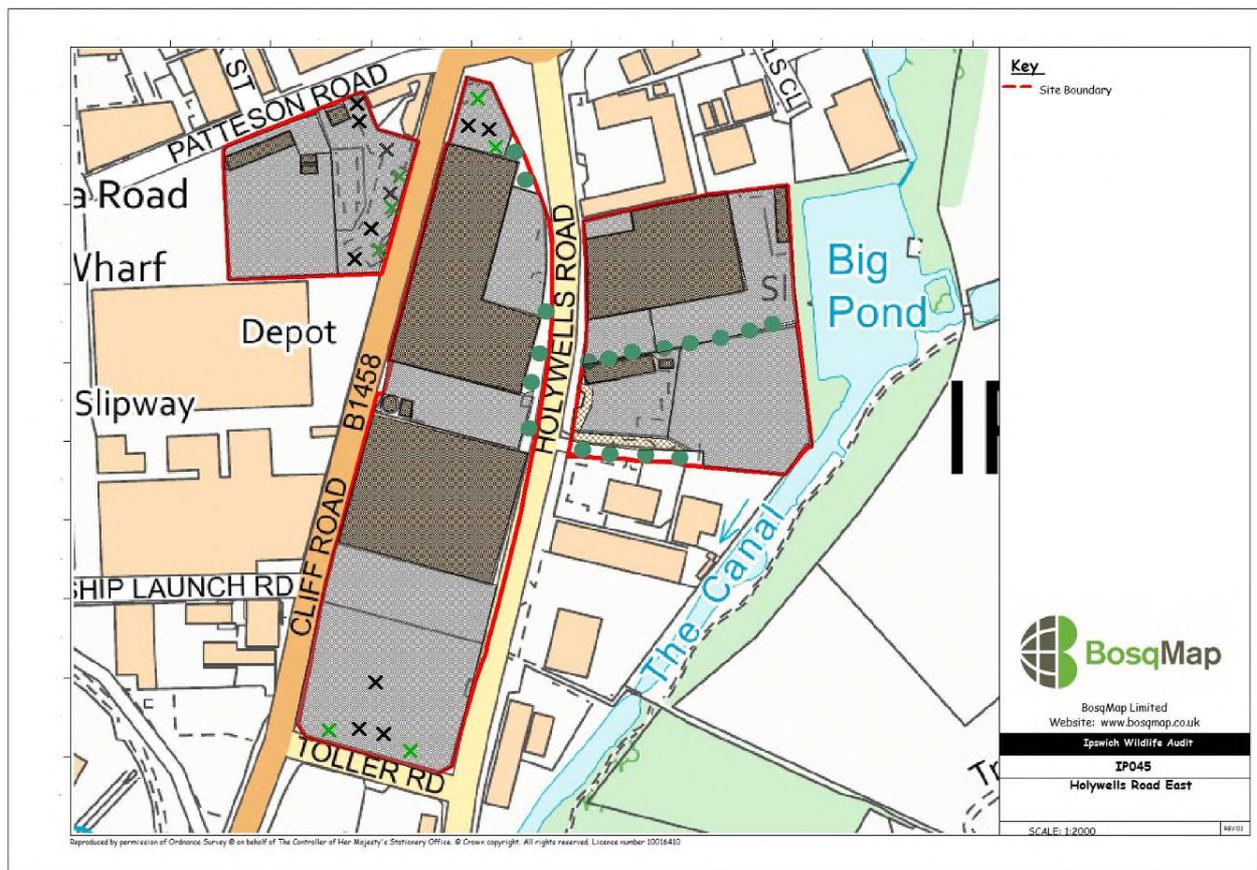
Bat boxes should also be integrated into new buildings, or durable boxes can be placed on trees or existing buildings where there is a low risk of interference.

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

Site name: Holywells Road West

Site ref: IP045
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 17178 43465
Area: 2.05 hectares
Date: 28th July 2019
Recorder: A Looser
Weather conditions: Hot and sunny, 26°C
Ranking: 6
Biodiversity value: Low

Map:



Photos:



View north across site showing ephemeral short perennial vegetation coming up through cracks in the pavement

Habitat type(s):

Hard standing, buildings, ephemeral short perennial, scattered scrub

Subsidiary habitats:

-

Site description:

This site is located between Holywells Road and Cliff Lane. It is currently used by a freight forwarding service. The majority of the site is hard standing with industrial buildings. The area of hard standing at the northern end of the site is less well used and has been colonised by short vegetation and occasional buddleia bushes.

Protected species seen or known:

-

Protected species potential:

-

Priority habitats present:

-

Priority species seen or known:

-

Priority species potential:

Herring gull

Connectivity:

This site is in a built-up area of the town and is surrounded by roads and other industrial buildings, therefore connectivity is very poor. Holywells Park CWS and the River Orwell CWS are both in close proximity to this site but there is no direct connectivity between them.

Structural diversity:

The structural diversity is poor.

Flora:

The nature of the site means that the flora is very limited. A few plants are coming up in the cracks in the hard standing with species typical of heavily disturbed ground including wall barley, Canadian fleabane, bristly ox-tongue and perennial sow thistle.

Avifauna:

There are very few opportunities for this group, however gulls may nest on the roof of the buildings.

Invertebrates:

The majority of the site is sub-optimal for this group, although the plants beginning to colonise the site, particularly buddleia provide some foraging opportunities for common species. Small white and gatekeeper butterflies were seen during the visit.

Herpetofauna:

There is currently no suitable habitat for this group and due to the site's isolation there is a very low risk that they could colonise from the surrounding area.

Mammals:

The habitat provides very few opportunities for this group, although there are numerous hedgehog records in the area.

Comments and recommendations:

We have no information regarding proposals for site IP045.

As this site is located close to Holywells Park CWS and is east of the River Orwell CWS, there is an opportunity to create small-scale stepping-stone habitats which will in turn contribute to the wider ecological network. The built density on this site is high, but the planting of individual trees and other landscaped areas to enhance the street scene will also provide additional microhabitat.

In addition, careful planning and design can integrate the requirement for sustainable drainage systems with the creation of new wildlife habitat. Such places can also create aesthetically pleasing features which can also be integrated into landscaping schemes. Green roofs on buildings such as offices 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. They can provide important stepping stone habitat in urban areas. Rain gardens 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 should be integrated into new taller 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'.