FOREST HEATH WILDLIFE AUDIT
Proposed site allocations
2015

Project no.	*Report*	*Date*
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Sensitive ecological data may has been removed from these audit reports

1.0 INTRODUCTION

SWT Trading Ltd: Ecological Consultants, the wholly owned company of Suffolk Wildlife Trust (SWT), was commissioned by Forest Heath District Council in 2015 to carry out a Wildlife Audit of proposed development sites within the District. An initial list of 202 sites was drawn up by the Council which was subsequently amended.

Surveys commenced in May 2015 and continued until autumn 2015. The survey protocol conformed to Extended Phase 1 and the information was presented as individual site reports using a standardised reporting form including a Phase 1 map and photographs. The presence, or likely presence, of Biodiversity Action Plan habitats and species and also protected species was recorded. Information was also provided under various broad taxonomic groups, including flora, avifauna, invertebrates, herpetofauna and mammals. In addition, the structural diversity each habitat and the connectivity of sites within the overall ecological network across the Borough was assessed. Recommendations were provided for further survey work.

2.0 OBJECTIVES

The aim of the surveys was:

- To undertake an Extended Phase 1 habitat survey for all the identified sites during the 2012 or 2013 survey seasons;
- To provide information and a description of the wildlife interest for each site;
- To map specified habitat types, using standard colour codes for each site including a breakdown of habitat types within it;
- To list species including protected species or evidence of their presence, BAP species and habitats, remark on biodiversity and appraise the nature conservation value;
- For those sites with previous survey data available, to take these findings into account;
- To rank sites in terms of wildlife value with which to evaluate sites;
- To provide an electronic photographic record of the sites;
- To provide a written report of results and recommendations for any necessary compliance or requirements for further survey.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

In order to achieve the overall aims of the project the following tasks were undertaken:

- Existing digital information for each site was collated using data provided by Suffolk Biological Records Centre and from 1:10,000 maps and aerial photographs.
- Each site was surveyed and a record made of its conservation value, with the exception of those sites identified as small gardens or where no access could be obtained.

- Photographs were taken of relevant features within the sites, both geotagged and digital high quality images.
- Criteria and a ranking system were used to evaluate sites.
- Comments were made on habitats/species of wildlife interest.
- Ecological issues were highlighted.
- Recommendations for further surveys were provided as appropriate.
- The sites were mapped with Phase 1 colour codes using BosqMap software.

3.1 Criteria for site evaluation

At each site the following was recorded:

- **Location:** Site name, number and grid reference;
- **Size:** the size was noted in hectares (ha);
- **Survey details:** Date, surveyor, weather conditions;
- **Phase 1 map and photos;**
- **Status**: Designation, ranking and overall wildlife value;
- **Habitat type:** distinct, dominant habitat types were briefly detailed;
- **Subsidiary habitat:** this included additional habitats of particular note such as dead wood;
- **Site description:** a detailed account of the site;
- **Connectivity:** if a site linked to other green corridors, this was noted and described in detail where relevant. The juxtaposition of other proposed sites was also considered;
- **Structural diversity:** the differing vegetation structure (height) providing a variation in niche potential for a wide range of taxa was described for each site if relevant;
- **Protected species:** these were noted if recorded, or if previously recorded;
- **Protected species potential:** this was noted if the habitat was deemed suitable for named protected species;
- **Priority species:** these were noted if seen, or if previously recorded. NB: if the species is a 'protected species' and a 'priority species', then it was only listed under protected species;
- **Priority species potential**: this was noted if the habitat was deemed suitable for priority species;
- **Priority habitats:** these were noted if present;
- **Flora, avifauna, herpetofauna, mammals, invertebrates etc:** species seen or recorded were noted and habitat which offered potential for specific taxa was noted;
- **Comments and recommendations:** overall impressions of each site were noted and further survey work was recommended where relevant;
- **References:** these were included when it was appropriate to reference other surveys.

Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) species and habitats: In 2012 the 'UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework' succeeded the UK BAP and 'Conserving Biodiversity – the UK Approach'. This was the result of a change in strategic thinking following the publication of the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD's) 'Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020' and its 20 'Aichi

targets', at Nagoya, Japan in October 2010 and the launch of the new EU Biodiversity Strategy (EUBS) in May 2011. Much of the work previously carried out under the UK BAP is now focussed at a country level via the creation of biodiversity strategies. However, the UK BAP lists of priority species and habitats remain important and valuable reference sources. Notably, they have been used to help draw up statutory lists of priorities which in turn inform the local plans which have been produced for those priority species and habitats occurring in Suffolk (Suffolk Local Biodiversity Action Plans). In addition, several other habitats and species that are important with a Suffolk context have been identified and termed 'Suffolk Character Plans'.

Protected species: species protected by law under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended), The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2010) (as amended) and the Protection of Badgers Act (1992).

3.2 System of site ranking

A system of ranking each site from the information gathered during surveys was established, using a simple numbering method. Numbers 1-6 were used (1 = high, 6 = low).

1 Statutory designation e.g. SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) scheduled under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended).
2 Non-statutory designation e.g. County Wildlife Site (CWS). CWSs are sites regarded as important in a county/regional context.
3 Non-statutory designation e.g. Local Wildlife Site (LWS), priority species and habitats (except those that are locally common e.g. song thrush) and/or species protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended).
4 No designation but clearly of value due to size, connectivity, species diversity, potential for priority and protected species and locally common priority and protected species.
5 No designation but has some natural capital: is in character with the area (e.g. woodland), provides limited connectivity.
6 No designation and of no conservation value.

Site Ranking 1: Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs): the most important sites for wildlife within a national context. The criteria used to assess such sites have been developed by English Nature (now Natural England).

Site Ranking 2: County Wildlife Sites (CWSs): these sites have a high priority for protection. Although there is currently no statutory protection, all of Suffolk's local authorities have included a policy in their local plans to protect CWSs from development. The criteria used to assess CWSs have been developed by Suffolk Wildlife Trust, Suffolk County Council, Natural England and Suffolk Biological Records Centre (SBRC) (The County Wildlife Site panel). The information is available on the Suffolk Biodiversity Partnership website: http://www.suffolkbiodiversity.org/wildlife-sites.aspx accessed 23/02/16.

Site Ranking 3: sites which do not fulfil the criteria for SSSI or CWS status but have a high conservation value. In some districts these are designated as 'Local Wildlife Sites' when they

are situated within urban areas. These sites comprise the best examples of different habitats or are important for a particular species and are assessed of the following criteria:

- Non-recreatability. The sites must have some degree of naturalness.
- Diversity and presence of indicator species. Sites that are less diverse than CWSs will be included. For example, grassland that is not a remnant of old meadow but has a good number of grass and herb species. Areas dominated by amenity grassland will not be included.
- Rarity. Sites that contain habitats, plants and animals that are rare within the town but may be common throughout the county are included here.
- Potential value. These sites may have greater value once appropriate conservation management work is carried out. Some sites that could benefit from habitat creation are included, but only those that already have some conservation value.
- Size. There is no minimum size but sites that do not have a great diversity of species or habitats and contain no rare species are unlikely to be included if they are less than 0.25 hectares.
- Woodland. Normally such sites are secondary woodland as all ancient woods are designated as CWSs. The exceptions are small sites that may contain remnants of ancient woodland within woods of more recent origin. All secondary woodlands with a reasonably diverse ground flora or containing some old woodland indicator species are included. Woodland strips and shelter belts are not usually included unless they fulfil the criteria of having a reasonably diverse ground flora. Any sites containing exceptionally old trees are included because of their wildlife value.
- Scrub. Scrub is particularly important for breeding birds and invertebrates, particularly when it is adjacent to grassland and mature trees.
- Grassland. Areas of grassland of some diversity that do not qualify as CWSs are included. These may represent recently established grasslands and areas of amenity grassland where soil type and management favour a more species-rich sward. Freshwater. Freshwater sites can include rivers, streams, ditches and ponds. Sites which contain a reasonable variety of aquatic or marginal plants are included, as are those with good populations of amphibians.
- Created habitats. Some sites which have developed from former arable or industrial use have a high diversity of species or are important for a particular species.
- Species. Sites are included if they provide important habitat for one or more of the following groups: invertebrates, amphibians and reptiles, birds and mammals. This includes priority species and habitats (except those that are locally common e.g. song thrush) and/or species protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended). Note: where species are of sufficient rarity or where there are exceptional populations, sites may be designated as CWSs or SSSIs.

Site Ranking 4 Other Sites of Nature Conservation Interest: sites which are less important for wildlife but still retain a degree of naturalness. Locally common priority species such as song thrush may be present and also locally common protected species such as reptiles. However, this ranking applies only in cases of low numbers of a single species and not significant populations of one or more species (see LWS and CWSs). In addition, these sites often provide valuable stepping stones and wildlife corridors along which species can travel between sites.

Site Ranking 5: Areas that have limited value for wildlife:
These may include arable fields or regularly mown amenity grassland with some features of wildlife value, such as some boundary hedgerows or rough grass margins.

Site Ranking 6: Areas that have no or very limited value for wildlife: These may include built areas, large arable fields, other disturbed ground or regularly mown amenity grassland with no other semi-natural features.

3.3 Biodiversity value

Linked to the ranking system is a broad approach to describing whether a site was of high, medium or low biodiversity value:

1-2 High conservation value: These sites include designated sites such as SSSIs and CWSs. It may also include undesignated sites where it is recommended that they should be assessed by the CWS Panel as to whether they meet the criteria for designation.

3-4 Medium conservation value: These are undesignated sites which have a known wildlife value and contribute to the overall ecological network.

5-6 Low conservation value: These sites have limited wildlife value. However, a change in future management or additional enhancement may result in an increase in ecological value and a change in site ranking.

4 SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

4.1 Site coverage and distribution

Although the original site list included 202 sites, a number of sites were subsequently removed from the list by FHDC. The list was subsequently modified to exclude sites which represented small gardens or groups of small gardens combined together. Access was obtained to most sites.

The final numbers of sites visited are as follows:

Beck Row	23
Brandon	18
Exning	5
Kentford	11
Lakenheath	19
Mildenhall	27
Newmarket	19
Red Lodge	18
West Row	21

4.2 Gardens proposed as potential site allocations (not surveyed)

Where small gardens or groups of small were proposed as potential development sites, these were not surveyed. Instead, a statement has been prepared below to encompass the range of ecological features likely to be found in gardens within the Forest Heath district. The sub-headings broadly relate to those used within the site surveys.

The following sites fall into this category of unsurveyed garden(s):
Beck Row: BR/04
Brandon B/02, B/03, B,04, B/05, B/07, B/16, B/25
Exning: E/07, E/09
Lakenheath: L/03, L/06, L/10
Mildenhall: M/03, M/04, M/05, M/06, M/07, M31
Newmarket: N/07
Red Lodge: RL/01, partial RL/02, RL03
West Row: partial WR/17, WR/20, WR/32

4.2.1 Site description for gardens:

This statement relates to a range of gardens of varying size and composition associated with residential buildings within the audit area. Whilst each site is different, some of these gardens are likely to contain remnants or small areas of valuable habitat which have intrinsic wildlife value and others may be managed to encourage wildlife. Mature or established sites provide nesting, feeding, breeding, over-wintering and refuge opportunities for a wide range of species. Some will contain features which enhance the wildlife value of the garden further such as ponds, or incorporate specific micro-habitats such as insect 'homes' for bees or ladybirds, bird boxes or log piles which have been installed to encourage wildlife. Others contain features of which certain species or groups will utilize, such as raised paving slabs, compost heaps or grass piles, which, although not specifically installed for wildlife, will provide refuges.

4.2.2 Habitat type(s) in gardens:

Residential gardens may contain elements or remnants of a number of habitats including grassland (many of which are of sandy or chalky soil and of Breckland character), scrub, hedgerow, ponds, secondary woodland and orchard.

4.2.3 Subsidiary habitats in gardens:

Residential gardens may contain numerous features of this type: Deadwood, individual mature trees, native herbs and grasses and additional features found in species-rich wildlife gardens such as compost areas, grass heaps, and insect-attracting plants.

4.2.4 Protected species seen or known:

The garden sites within the remit of this audit have not been surveyed individually. However, a number of protected species have been recorded within the survey area of the audit and therefore have the potential for being present in the gardens highlighted, as detailed below.

4.2.5 Protected species potential:
Slow-worm
Grass snake
Common lizard
Great crested newt

Water vole

4.2.6 Priority habitats present:
Features of small remnants of the following priority habitats may potentially be present:
Lowland Heathland & Acid Grassland
Hedgerows
Ponds
Traditional orchards

4.2.7 Priority species seen or known:
Whilst the garden sites within the remit of this audit have not been surveyed individually, some of the species recorded within the parishes covered will have been present within the garden sites and others will have the potential for being present, as detailed below.

4.2.8 Priority species potential:
The species with potential to be found within or associated with the garden sites include the following, although this list is not exhaustive:

Birds: Swift, Song thrush, Starling, Dunnock, House sparrow, Bullfinch, Spotted flycatcher.

Mammals: Hedgehog, Soprano pipistrelle bat, Brown long-eared bat.

Herpetofauna: Common toad, Common frog, Smooth newt, great crested newt, common lizard, slow worm and grass snake.

Invertebrates: Garden tiger butterfly, Wall butterfly, Small emerald moth, White ermine moth, Large garden bumblebee, Red-shanked carder bee.

Scarce or uncommon plants (not priority species but of interest): Common cudweed

4.2.9 Connectivity:
Whilst each of the garden sites may be individually quite isolated from each other, the potential wildlife value of a garden increases significantly if it is adjacent to a wildlife-rich site or habitat functioning as a corridor connecting it to other areas of semi-natural habitat. Similarly, the close proximity of a wildlife-rich garden can increase the likelihood of a site maintaining viable populations, particularly of the more mobile species.

4.2.10 Structural diversity:
A range in structural diversity across garden sites is provided by grasses, herbs, shrubs, climbing plants and trees, offering opportunities for members of all species group. Further diversity is provided on a smaller, topographical scale by other features and micro-habitats,

such as deadwood, long grass, ant hills, paving slabs, compost heaps and grass piles.

4.2.11 Flora:
A wide diversity of flora can be found in gardens, from mosses, lichens and fungi to fully mature native trees. These offer feeding, breeding and over-wintering opportunities for a large number of species, particularly in gardens which are adjacent to wildlife-rich sites. Many native grasses and herbaceous species, such as ox-eye daisy, germander speedwell, common knapweed, field scabious, white campion, common cat's ear and meadow buttercup will spread easily from adjacent sites and thrive in a garden setting. On garden sites on Breckland soil, these could also include more specialized native species such as viper's-bugloss and common cudweed. Other common non-native garden species present in gardens will also attract invertebrates such as bees and butterflies and add to the overall wildlife value of these sites.

Many native species of shrub and tree are commonly present in gardens and will provide additional wildlife value. The light soil present in many parts of the audit area will be particularly suitable for species that are common to Breckland such as silver birch and gorse but will also include other common native species such as blackthorn, holly, hawthorn, ivy, oak, hazel, elder, field maple and bramble.

4.2.12 Avifauna:
Mature trees and dense native shrubs, particularly in the form of a mixed native hedge, can provide good roosting and nesting sites for this group. Species such as holly, ivy, bramble and hawthorn provide a valuable source of food for fruit-eating species, longer areas of grass and lawn provide opportunities for ground feeders and a good invertebrate population, encouraged through features such as those discussed below, will be beneficial for insect-eating birds.

4.2.13 Invertebrates:
Mature trees, dense scrub, deadwood, herbs and grasses can all provide opportunities for this group. Many species of invertebrate may over-winter in a garden, making particular use of compost heaps, grass heaps, log piles, dense grassland and dead stems/flower heads. The addition of man-made features for invertebrates will increase the potential for this group.

4.2.14 Herpetofauna:

A wildlife-friendly garden can provide good feeding, breeding and over-wintering opportunities for this group and their presence is increased if the garden has good connectivity to other areas of suitable semi-natural habitat.

Garden ponds or damp areas can provide breeding and feeding sites for amphibians, whilst long vegetation on pond edges, log piles, paving slabs and undisturbed areas, beneath sheds or water butts for example, will be valuable terrestrial or over-wintering sites.

Reptiles will also benefit from these refuge or hibernation sites. Garden features such as grass piles or compost heaps can also be important refuge or breeding sites. Stone features

such as paving slabs and brick walls, or log piles and compost heaps in a sunny site, can be used as basking areas.

4.2.15 Mammals:
Nesting opportunities for bats can be present in gardens in the form of dense scrub (mature ivy on trees, for example), in holes or fissures in trees and in potential nesting sites in the buildings themselves.

Gardens can be valuable feeding, shelter and over-wintering habitats for hedgehogs and overgrown gardens can provide an important overwintering resource in the form of suitable habitat for hibernation (which can be a limiting factor). Permeability of boundary features is very important for retaining the local hedgehog population.

Small mammals such as common species of mouse, vole and shrew may be present and larger mammals such rabbit, fox, and deer will also visit gardens to feed, particularly if connected to other natural habitat. .

4.2.16 Comments and recommendations:
Garden sites can be a valuable resource for a wide range of species. They can contain a good diversity of common species as well as providing opportunities for some less common species, particularly those that require the characteristics of Breckland habitat.

Gardens can provide an essential link between valuable open spaces or wildlife-rich habitat, reducing the risk of fragmentation of habitat on a wider countryside scale and providing opportunities for species, particularly mobile species, to maintain viable populations.

4.3 Constraints to the surveys undertaken for the Wildlife Audit

This survey represents a snapshot in time and should be considered as an initial assessment of the habitats and the potential species which they may support. Every effort has been made to date to provide an accurate assessment of the current situation but no liability can be assumed for omissions or changes after the survey has taken place. In particular, no detailed surveys have been made for invasive or protected species, or specific botanical or faunal groups.

Appendix 1 Catalogue of surveyed sites

Beck Row

Code	Site Name	Ranking	Biodiversity Value
BR01	Lamble Close	3	Medium
BR02	Land adjacent to RAF Mildenhall	5	Low
BR03	Land adjacent to Smoke House Inn, Skeltons Drove	3	Medium
BR05	Land off The Grove	4	Medium
BR06	Land south of Rookery Drove	4	Medium
BR08	Land to the north of Wilde Street	4	Medium
BR09	Land at corner of Wilde Street/Aspal Lane	4	Medium
BR10	Land adjacent to and south of caravan park on Aspal Lane	3	Medium
BR11	Land between Aspal Lane and Wildmere Lane	3	Medium
BR12	Land adjacent to Beck Lodge Farm, St Johns Street	4	Medium
BR13	Land West of Aspal Hall Road	2	High
BR15	Land south of St John's Street	6	Low
BR17	Land East of Skeltons Drove	5	Low
BR18	Former coal yard, Wilde Street	5	Low
BR19	Land adjacent to Moss Edge Farm and west of the A1101	4	Medium
BR21	Aspal Nursery, Aspal Lane	4	Medium
BR23	Land at White Gables, Stocks Corner	4	Medium
BR24	Land between Wildmere Lane and Holmsey Green	4	Medium
BR25	Land adjacent to Wilde Street Farm	4	Medium
BR26	Land East of Aspal Lane	5	Low
BR27	Land adjacent to Beck Lodge Farm	5	Low
BR28	Land at junction of Aspal Lane and Johns Street	4	Medium
BR29	Scrap Yard, Skeltons Drove	6	Low

Brandon

Code	Site Name	Ranking	Biodiversity Value
B01	Land off Fengate Drove	6	Low
B06	Land off School Lane	5	Low
B09	Land at Station Way	6	Low
B10	Land south-west of Station Way	4	Medium
B11	Land north of Gas House Drove	4	Medium
B12	Land off Manor Road	2	High
B13	Omar Homes	6	Low
B14	Land off Green Road	2	High
B15	Riverside Lodge off High Street	4	Medium
B18	Land south River Little Ouse and west of High Street	4	Medium
B19	Land south Railway line including Lignacite Site	3	Medium
B20	Land at Brandon Cottage, Bury Road	4	Medium
B21	Land north of Gas House Drove (small block)	5	Low
B23	Land off Bury Road	1	High
B24	Land west of Bury Road	1	High
B27	Land off London Road	1	High
B28	Land at Abbotts Court, North of Victoria Avenue	4	Medium
B17/B12 combined	Land to the west of Brandon	2	High

Exning

Code	Site Name	Ranking	Biodiversity Value
E02	Land off The Drift/Burwell Road	5	Low
E03	Land to the rear of Laceys Lane (includes Frogmore)	5	Low
E05	Land south of Burwell Road	6	Low
E06	South of Burwell Road	5	Low
E08	Land to rear of York Villas, North End Road	5	Low

Kentford

Code	Site Name	Ranking	Biodiversity Value
K01	Land east of Moulton Road	5	Low
K02	Meddler Stud	4	Medium/low
K03	Land north of A14	6	Low
K04	Land north of Bury Road	5	Low
K05	South and east of Flint House, Bury Road (near Village Hall)	4	Medium
K06	Site opposite 1 to 4 Bury Road	4	Medium
K09	Fothergills, Gazeley Road	5	Low
K13	Land to rear of Flint House	6	Low
K14	Land east of Gazeley Road	6	Low
K16	Land to the rear of Cock Public House	4	Medium
K17	Land between Bury Road and A14	5	Low

Lakenheath

Code	Site Name	Ranking	Biodiversity Value
L04	Land north of Station Road	5	Low
L07	3 Cemetery Road	4	Medium
L11	East of The Mallards	5	Low
L12	Land north of Burrow Drive and Briscoe Way	5	Low
L13	Rabbithill Covert, Station Road	5	Low
L14	Land off Maids Cross Way	5	Low
L15	Land off Covey Way and Maids Cross Hill	3	Medium
L18	Near Broom Road, off Eriswell Drive	5	Low
L19	Land north-east of South Road	5	Low (CWS)
L22	Land south of Broom Road	4	Medium (CWS)
L25	Land east of Eriswell Road and south of South Road	4	Medium (CWS)
L26	Land west of Eriswell Road	4	Medium
L27	Land south of Broom Road	5	Low (CWS)
L28	Middle Covert, land south of Station Road	4	Medium
L29	Matthews Nursery	4	Medium
L35	Land off Briscoe Way	5	Low
L36	North Lakenheath	4	Medium
L37	Land north of Cemetery	6	Low
L38	Land to north of Maids Cross Hill	6	Low

Mildenhall

Code	Site Name	Ranking	Biodiversity Value
M01	South of Gonville Close	2	High
M09	Land South of College Heath Road	5	Low
M10	Land off Finchley Avenue	5	Low
M11	Land adjacent to College Heath Road	2	High

M12	Woodlands Park off Brandon Road	4	Medium
M13	Land between the River Lark and Worlington Road	5	Low (Lark)
M14	Former builders yard north of Worlington Road	6	Low
M15	Land south of Lark Road/Raven Close	5	Low
M16	Land north of Brandon Road	1	High
M17	Land north of Thetford Road	1	High
M18	Land south of Lark Road	4	Medium
M19	Land west of Mildenhall, south of West Row Road	4	Medium
M20	Land south of Pine Trees Avenue	5	Low
M21	Land west of Miles Hawk Way	6	Low
M22	Land south of Mildenhall to River Lark (including Jubilee Field and site M44)	4	Medium
M23	Land east of Mildenhall to A1065 and Fiveways Roundabout	1	High
M24	Land north of Mildenhall, east of the A1101 (including Airfield landing lights)	1	High
M25	Precinct	6	Low
M26	Land south of Bury Road and east of A11	3	Medium
M27	Site adjacent to Parkers Mill	5	Low
M28	Land at 54 Kingsway	5	Low
M29	Land south of Worlington Road and adjacent to former dairy site.	5	Low
M30	The old railway station site	4	Medium
M33	Land to west of Folly Road	4	Medium
M40	Land west of Industrial Estate	6	Low
M41	Land at Meadow View Cottage	5	Low
M42	Rose Forge, south of Worlington Road	4	Medium

Newmarket

Code	Site Name	Ranking	Biodiversity Value
N03	Former Gas Works, Exning Road	6	Low
N05	Land West of Fordham Road (A12)	5	Low
N08	Allotments Studlands Park	4	Medium
N09	Brickfield Stud, Exning Road	5 (4)	Low (Tree Belt)
N10	Land at Balaton Stables, Snailwell Road	5	Low
N11	Land at Black Bear Lane and Rowley Drive Junction	4	Medium
N12	Coronation Stables, Station Approach	6	Low
N13	Land off Brickfields Avenue	4	Medium
N14	Land east of Newmarket, south of A14 (Hatchfield Farm)	4	Medium
N15	Old Newmarket Station site car park	6	Low
N18	George Lambton playing fields	5	Low
N20	Grassland off Leaders Way and Sefton Way	5	Low
N21	Land south of Exning Road and adjacent to Hamilton Road	5	Low
N24	Site off Wellington Street	6	Low
N26	East of Palace Street	6	Low
N27	Market Place	6	Low
N29	North of the High Street	6	Low
N30	Site on Depot Road	6	Low
N31	Former Scaltback Middle School Site	6	Low

Red Lodge

Code	Site Name	Ranking	Biodiversity Value
RL02	Land to rear 14 – 16 Turnpike Road	-	
RL03	Land off Turnpike Road Phase 2 (Red Lodge Masterplan)	-	
RL04	Coopers Yard and Cafe	5	Low
RL05	Land adjoining Public House, Turnpike Road and Turnpike Lane	4	Medium
RL06	Land adjoining Twins Belt, land east of Red Lodge	4/5	Medium/Low
RL07	The White Star Stables, Warren Road	5	Low
RL08	Land to rear 4 to14B Turnpike Lane	4	Medium
RL09	Land at Greenhays Farm	4	Medium
RL10	Land west of Elderberry Road, Kings Warren	5	Low
RL11	Land east of Turnpike Road	1 (6)	High/low
RL12	Land east of Warren Road	5	Low
RL13	Land west of Newmarket Road	6	Low
RL15	Land north and east of Red Lodge, either side of A11	Variable	
RL16	Employment land north of Hundred Acre Way	5	Low
RL18	Land south of The Carrops	4	Medium
RL19	Land south of Green Lane	3	Medium
RL20	Land north of Elderberry Road	5	Low
RL21	Land north-east of Bilberry Close	4	Medium

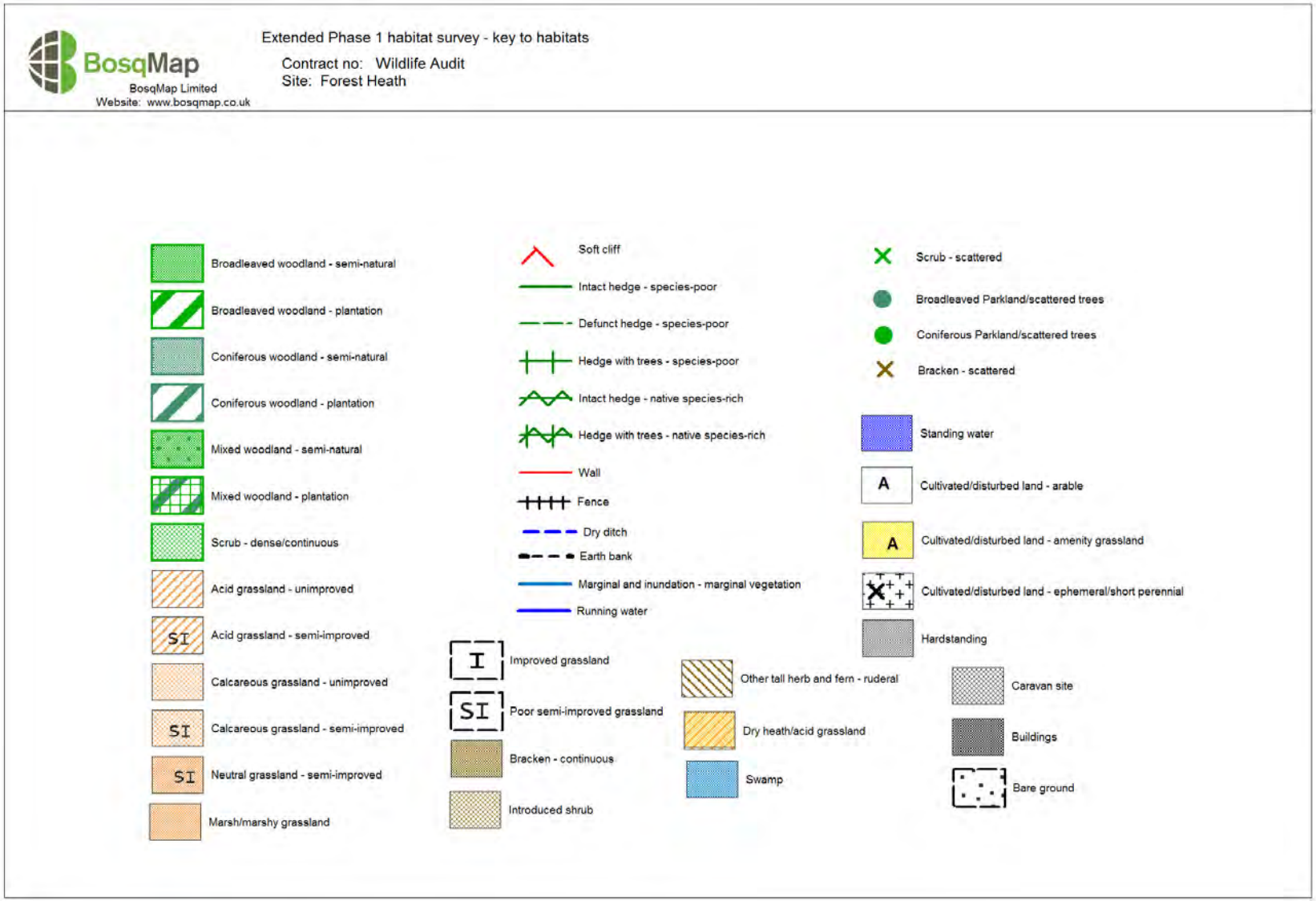
West Row

Code	Site Name	Ranking	Biodiversity Value
WR01	Land south of Chapel Road	5	Low
WR02	Land off Pott Hall Lane	4	Medium
WR03	Land north of The Green	6	Low
WR04	Land at the junction of Jarman's Lane and Beeches Road	4	Medium
WR06	Land north of Mildenhall Road	5	Low
WR07	Land east of Beeches Road	6	Low
WR09	Land south of Manor Farm Road	6	Low
WR10	Land off Chapel Road	6	Low
WR11	Land off Parker's Drove	5	Low
WR12	Land adjacent to Park Garden, Friday Street	5	Low
WR13	Land behind St Peter's Church, Church Lane	5	Low
WR14	Off Friday Street, behind Williams Way	5	Low
WR15	Popes Farm, Church Lane	5	Low
WR16	Land to north of Ferry Lane	6	Low
WR19	Land at junction of Mildenhall Road and Jarman's Lane	5	Low
WR21	Land east of Pott Hall Road	6	Low
WR23	Land off Friday Street	6	Low
WR25	Land off Pott Hall Road	4	Medium
WR26	Land off Parkers Drove	5	Low
WR27	Land south-west of Jarman's Lane	5	Low
WR33	Land at Popes Farm	5	Low

Unsurveyed sites due to lack of access:

Brandon: B/08 (under construction)
Beck Row: BR/20
Kentford: K10
Mildenhall: M/43
Newmarket: N/32
Red Lodge: RL/03

Key to phase 1 Maps

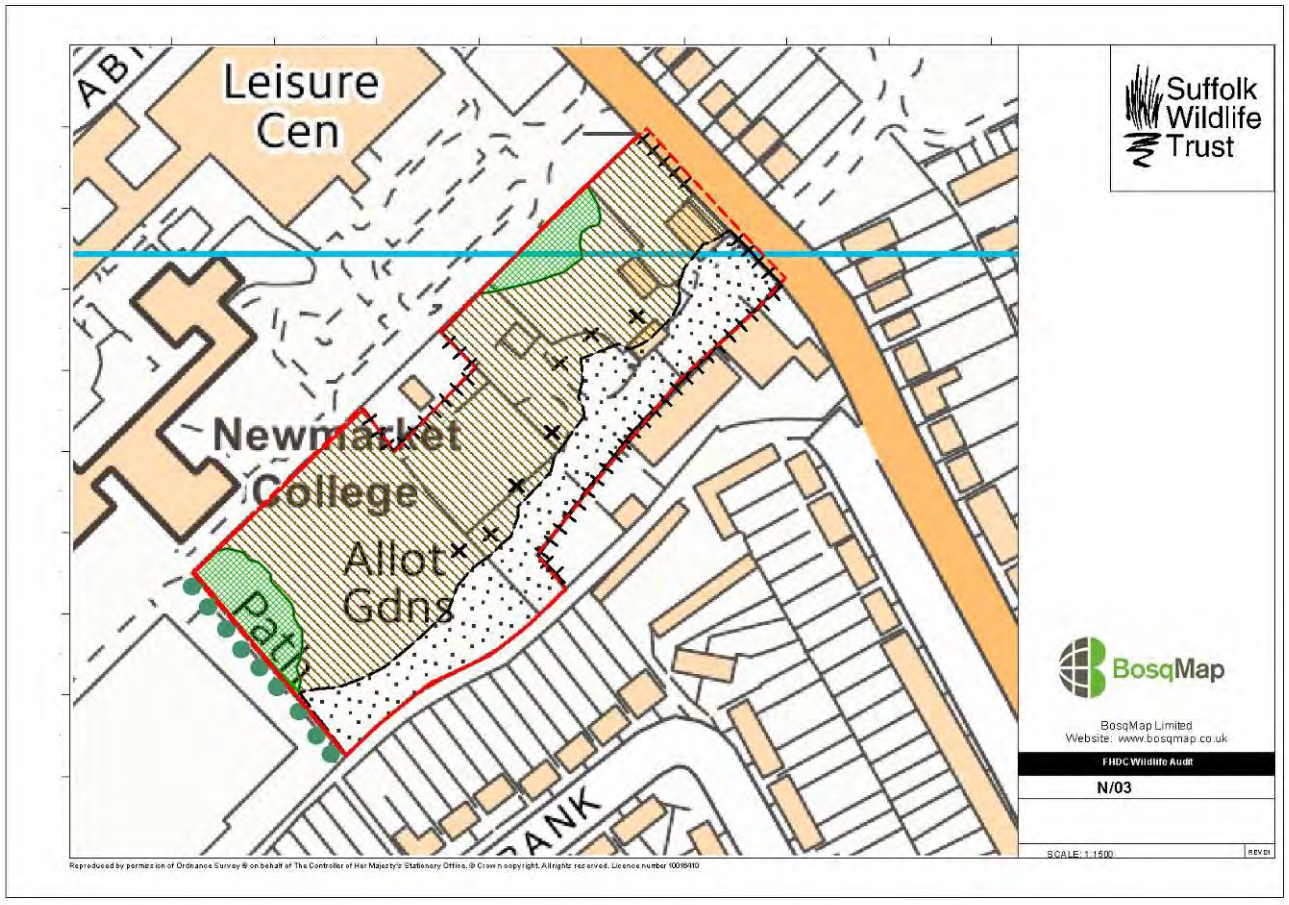


Sensitive ecological data may has been removed from these audit reports

Site name — N/03 Former Gas Works, Exning Road

FHDC Ref: N/03
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TL 63781 63941
Area: 1.6 hectares
Date: 15 September 2015
Recorder: A Sherwood
Weather conditions: Dry, warm, overcast with sunny periods
Ranking: 6
Biodiversity value: Low

Map:



Photos:

Site cleared with bare ground and re-colonising vegetation looking northwest towards Exning Road

New wall being constructed along the southwest boundary

Wall along the southwest boundary with tall ruderal vegetation and dense scrub in corner

Tall ruderal vegetation and bare ground looking northeast towards Exning Road

Habitat type(s):
Bare ground, tall ruderal vegetation

Subsidiary habitats:
Ephemeral short perennial

Site description:
The site is located off Exning Road in Newmarket. The site is surrounded by residential development with industrial buildings along the south-east boundary. Residential development is also present on the north-east boundary, on the other side of Exning Road. Newmarket College lies adjacent to the site along the north-east boundary. The south-west boundary comprises an existing wall with a line of beech trees adjacent to this off site. The site was the subject of previous ecological surveys in 2010 and 2011 and the site has been cleared since these investigations took place. The site originally comprised two buildings, trees and scrub associated with the former gas works. Structures associated with these gas works are still present on the site but fenced off from the remainder of the site. The site now has planning permission for a supermarket and initial investigations have started with archaeological digs already under way. Building materials and site offices are also present on site.

Protected species seen or known:
Common pipistrelle (recorded in 2011 roosting in now demolished properties on site)

Protected species potential:
-

Priority habitats present:
-

Priority species seen or known:
-

Priority species potential:
-

Connectivity:
The site has limited connectivity being surrounded by walls and located in an urban area.

Structural diversity:
Structural diversity is now limited as a result of clearance works.

Flora:
The site has recently been cleared and archaeological investigations were under way on the site. There were significant areas of bare disturbed ground and heaps of soil as a result of investigations on site. Some areas of the site have been re-colonised by tall ruderal vegetation such as common nettle with frequent creeping thistle and common ragwort. Other species characteristic of disturbed soils included sun spurge, fat hen, Canadian fleabane, mugwort, greater plantain, cleavers, red dead-nettle and green nightshade. A number of garden escapes were noted during the survey and golden rod, tansy, lupin and buddleia was also recorded along with goat's-rue, horseradish, and black medick. Grasses have begun to re-colonise small areas, dominated by common couch. Sycamore saplings were also present.

In the south-west corner was a dense area of bramble scrub and there were small patches along the existing walls and in the fenced gas works area.

Avifauna:
No birds of note were recorded during the survey and the previous ecology surveys only recorded common species of bird. The dense area of scrub in the southwest corner of the site has some potential to support common birds nesting in spring and summer.

Invertebrates:
The site is only likely to support a limited range of common and widespread species due to its recent site clearance and on-going works.

Herpetofauna:
The site has no potential for common reptiles. The previous ecology report considered this group unlikely due to the enclosed and isolated nature of the site; some limited checks did not reveal any reptiles.

The site has no potential for great crested newts or other amphibians and was ruled out in the previous ecology report due to lack of waterbodies on or adjacent to the site.

Mammals:
The site was subjected to bat surveys prior to the demolishment of the two buildings on site. There were three small, occasionally used common pipistrelle summer roosts in one of the buildings. The buildings have now been demolished and the trees on site removed. There are now no habitats on site that could support roosting bats. However, a condition of the planning consent is that new bat roosting opportunities (in the form of boxes) are incorporated in to the new building. This will provide enhanced bat roosting opportunities on the site.

The site is currently unsuitable for other protected or Priority mammal species.

Comments and recommendations:
The site is of low ecological value and has already been cleared in preparation for development of a new supermarket (under planning permission F/2011/0712/FUL).

The dense scrub should be removed outside the main bird-nesting season (March to August inclusive) or preceded by a nesting bird check by a suitably qualified ecologist prior to removal.

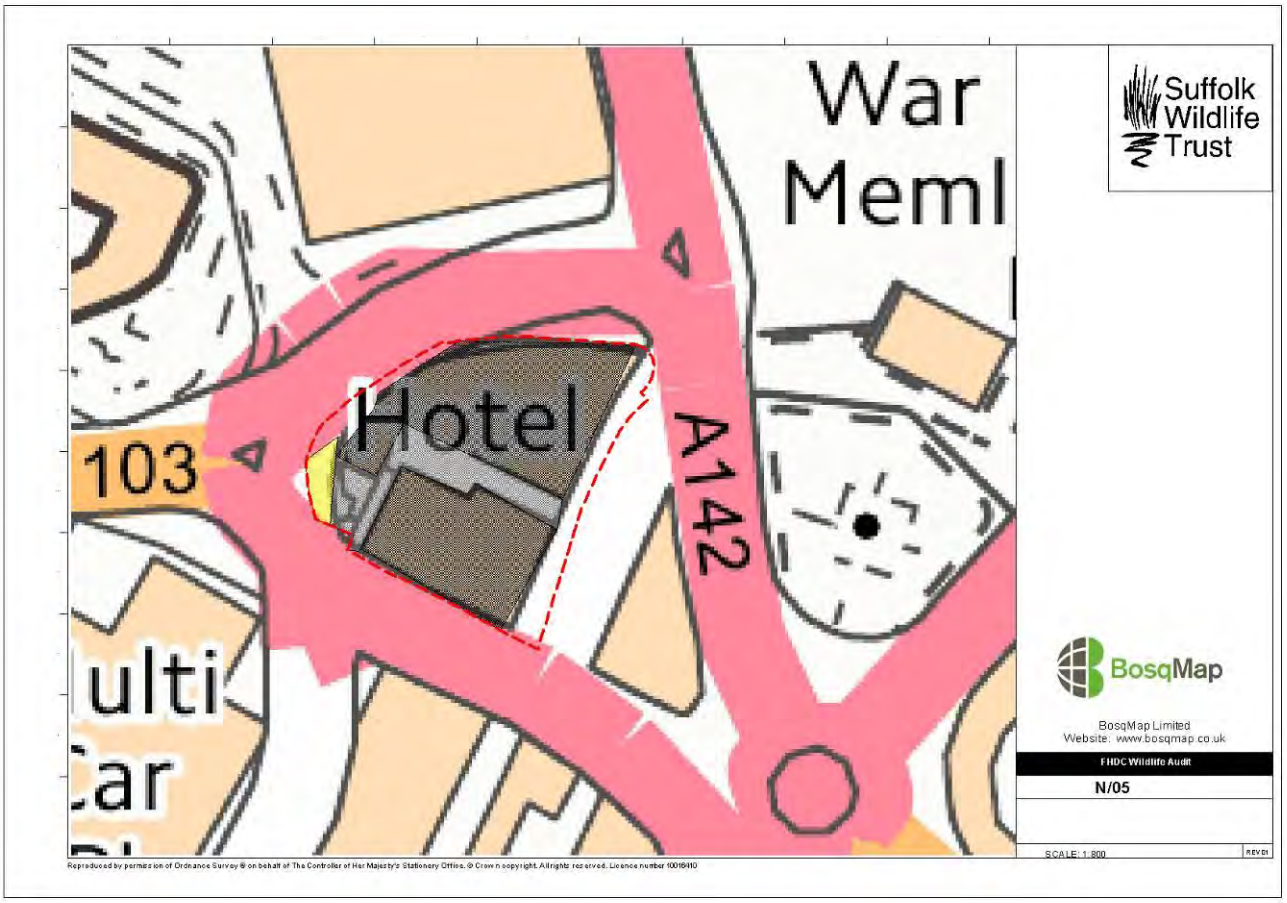
References:
Delta-Simons. (2010). Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey - Land at Exning Road, Newmarket.

FPCR. (2011). Bat Report – Land at Exning Road, Newmarket.

Site name — N/05 Land West of Fordham Road (A142)

FHDC Ref: N/05
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TL 64506 63616
Area: 0.2 hectares
Date: 15 September 2015
Recorder: A Sherwood
Weather conditions: Dry, warm, overcast with sunny periods
Ranking: 6
Biodiversity value: Low

Map:



Photos:

Modern brick building, currently a hotel, looking south along Fred Archer Way

Brick built older building with pitched roofs

View of buildings on site along Exeter Road

Habitat type(s):
Buildings

Subsidiary habitats:
Amenity planting

Site description:
The site is located on the main roundabout junction of Fordham Road (A142), Fred Archer Way (B1103) and Exeter Road. It is surrounded by roads, associated car parking areas and delivery access roads. The majority of the site comprises a modern brick built hotel. Also within the site boundary is an Victorian brick built building with pitched, tiled roofs of varying aspects. There is also a small area at the front of the hotel with landscape planting.

Protected species seen or known:
-

Protected species potential:
Bats

Priority habitats present:
-

Priority species seen or known:
-

Priority species potential:
-

Connectivity:
The site is located on a busy roundabout and junction and comprises buildings and car parking delivery areas. It does not have any significant green infrastructure to connect the site to the wider countryside.

Structural diversity:
The site has very limited structural diversity.

Flora:
The only plants on the site were associated with a very small area of landscape planting at the entrance steps to the hotel. This comprised Himalayan birch trees *(Betula utilis var. jacquemontii*) and New Zealand flax plants.

Avifauna:
The site does not have habitat that could support nesting birds other than the potential for house martins or swifts to nest under the eaves of the old building.

Invertebrates:
The site does not have habitat that could support significant populations of even the commonest species of invertebrates.

Herpetofauna:
There is no habitat on site that could support reptiles or amphibians.

Mammals:
Bats could potentially roost in the Victorian building if there are access points into the roof spaces or under any loose tiles. The hotel building has negligible potential for roosting bats.

Otherwise there is no potential habitat on site for protected or Priority mammal species.

Comments and recommendations:
The site is of low ecological value with no green habitat, although the Victorian building could offer potential for roosting bats.

Should the Victorian building be re-developed or demolished then a survey to assess the potential for roosting bats should be undertaken. This should include an internal inspection of the roof spaces and / or further surveys to determine presence/absence of roosting bats.

Site name N/08 Allotments Studlands Park

FHDC Ref: N/08
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TL 63061 65797
Area: 1.5 hectares
Date: 17 August 2015
Recorder: A Sherwood
Weather conditions: Dry, warm, overcast
Ranking: 4
Biodiversity value: Medium

Map:

Photos:

Eastern boundary looking north along Nimbus Way

View through first section of site looking west

Community orchard

Skateboard park in central section of site looking east

Third compartment of the site looking west towards the drain (Newmarket Watercourse) and embankment

Drain (Newmarket Watercourse) at south- western edge of the site looking north from road. Note Himalayan Balsam

Bug hotel (Target Note 1)

The area west of the drain (Newmarket Watercourse) was inaccessible

Habitat type(s):

Poor semi-improved grassland, semi-improved grassland, scrub, trees, hedgerows

Subsidiary habitats:

Tall ruderal, orchard

Site description:
The site lies adjacent to the A14 on the northern edge of Newmarket and is accessed off Nimbus Way. The site is divided into three compartments with a small area of the third compartment divided by a drain (the Newmarket Watercourse). The site appears to be managed as a community green space with mown pathways around the site, a community orchard known as 'the guarded orchard', a bug hotel in one corner (Target Note 1) and a skateboard park in the centre compartment adjacent to Hyperion Way (Target Note 5). The third compartment is more overgrown. The section beyond the drain to the west was inaccessible. OS maps suggest that the site was formerly allotments. Outside the site along the southern boundary is an area of mown amenity grassland with scattered trees, a pavilion and a children's play area. There is a large embankment between the A14 and the site along the northern boundary.

Protected species seen or known:
-

Protected species potential:
Grass snake, common lizard, otter (associated with the watercourse)

Priority habitats present:
Orchard

Priority species seen or known:
-

Priority species potential:
Hedgehog

Connectivity:
The site is connected both east and west to open grassland, trees and scrub. Connectivity is limited to the south due to the presence of residential development and to the north by the A14 dual carriageway.

Structural diversity:
The site has a good range of structural diversity with trees, grassland and scrub all present across the site.

Flora:
The site comprises three distinct compartments that are managed in different ways. The compartment to the east appears to be used and managed as a community wildlife area with mown pathways around the area and a community orchard with apples, plums and cherries (Target Note 4). The grassland is dominated by false oat-grass. Other species include frequent creeping bent and locally frequent wild carrot and common nettle. Cock's-foot, hedge bedstraw and common ragwort were recorded occasionally. There was a small patch of ground-elder (Target Note 2), which can be locally invasive and some tansy on the eastern side of this compartment. Other species recorded rarely in the sward included spear thistle, teasel, common toadflax, horseradish and rough chervil.

The eastern section of the large embankment beyond the northern boundary of the site comprised semi-improved neutral grassland (Target Note 3) with areas of dense bramble scrub. Species here included frequent red fescue, occasional yarrow, creeping thistle and common knapweed. Lady's bedstraw, colt's-foot, red bartsia, hedge bedstraw and borage were recorded rarely. Hemlock was also present on

the embankment.

Scrub comprised bramble, small wild plum (species unknown) trees and hawthorn that are also present in the overgrown hedgerow (row of trees) along the southern boundary and forming the boundaries between the compartments. In addition the in-site boundaries had Scot's pine trees.

Compartment two, with the skateboard park, comprised bare ground on the skateboard jumps and areas of improved grassland along the pathway and areas of poor-semi-improved grass, tall ruderal and dense scrub around the boundaries and on the embankments.

A line of tall Leylandii was present between the A14 and the large embankment (off-site).

The third compartment comprised scattered scrub and semi-improved neutral grassland with frequent false oat-grass, locally frequent red fescue, creeping thistle, black medick and creeping cinquefoil, occasionally occurring mugwort and ribwort plantain, and rarely occurring tall fescue, black horehound, barren brome, bird's-foot trefoil, meadow vetchling and teasel. The area is rapidly being taken over by scrub.

The outgrown hedgerows, depicted as rows of trees on the map, were dominated by wild plum (2 x species unknown) (Target Note 6). Hawthorn and bramble scrub was also present in places (Target Note 7).

There was a small broad-leaved woodland area adjacent to the site boundary in the eastern corner that comprised willow and ash.

Scattered trees included cherry and Scot's pine.

Tall ruderal vegetation comprised abundant common nettle and frequent hemlock.

The drain (Newmarket Watercourse) could not be accessed but there was no evidence of any aquatic vegetation as viewed from the road. Himalayan balsam (Target Note 8) was present in the drain.

Avifauna:
Only common species were recorded during the survey. These included woodpigeon and blackbird. August is not an ideal month to record bird species and it is likely that a whole range of common birds utilise this site for nesting purposes in the small trees and dense scrub. Ground nesting birds are unlikely to use the site due to the high levels of disturbance.

Invertebrates:
Grasshoppers and bees were recorded on site. Only large white butterfly was noted but it is likely that the site supports a number of common butterfly species and other invertebrate species.

Herpetofauna:
The site could support reptiles. The grassland and scrub provide ideal habitat for them, although some parts of the site are disturbed by human activity.

The only waterbody on site was a steep sided drain that bisects the site at the western end. It was considered to be unsuitable for great crested newts. It was not possible to see if water was present, although it is understood that it is often only seasonally wet.

Mammals:

There were no features on site that were considered likely to support roosting bats. The trees were all young or overgrown shrubs. Bats are likely to forage over the area.

The only waterbody on site was a drain that bisected the site at the western end. It was not possible to see if water was present, but if so, it was shallow and therefore unlikely to support water vole. Otters could use the drain as a commuting corridor but the watercourse was narrow at this point with high steep banks.

Small mammals including hedgehog are highly likely to be present in the diverse habitats across the site.

Comments and recommendations:

The site comprises a mosaic of different habitats and therefore provides opportunities for a range of wildlife. It also provides a wildlife corridor. The site is currently used as an amenity resource (with the exception of the western end) and this along with the area south of the site provides a varied and well-used amenity area for the large residential area to the south and east.

Should development be proposed at this site a detailed survey for reptiles should be undertaken and mitigation measures identified accordingly. Due to the likely presence of hedgehog the impacts upon this species should also be assessed. No vegetation clearance or tree felling or cutting back should take until the surveys are complete and mitigation undertaken as appropriate.

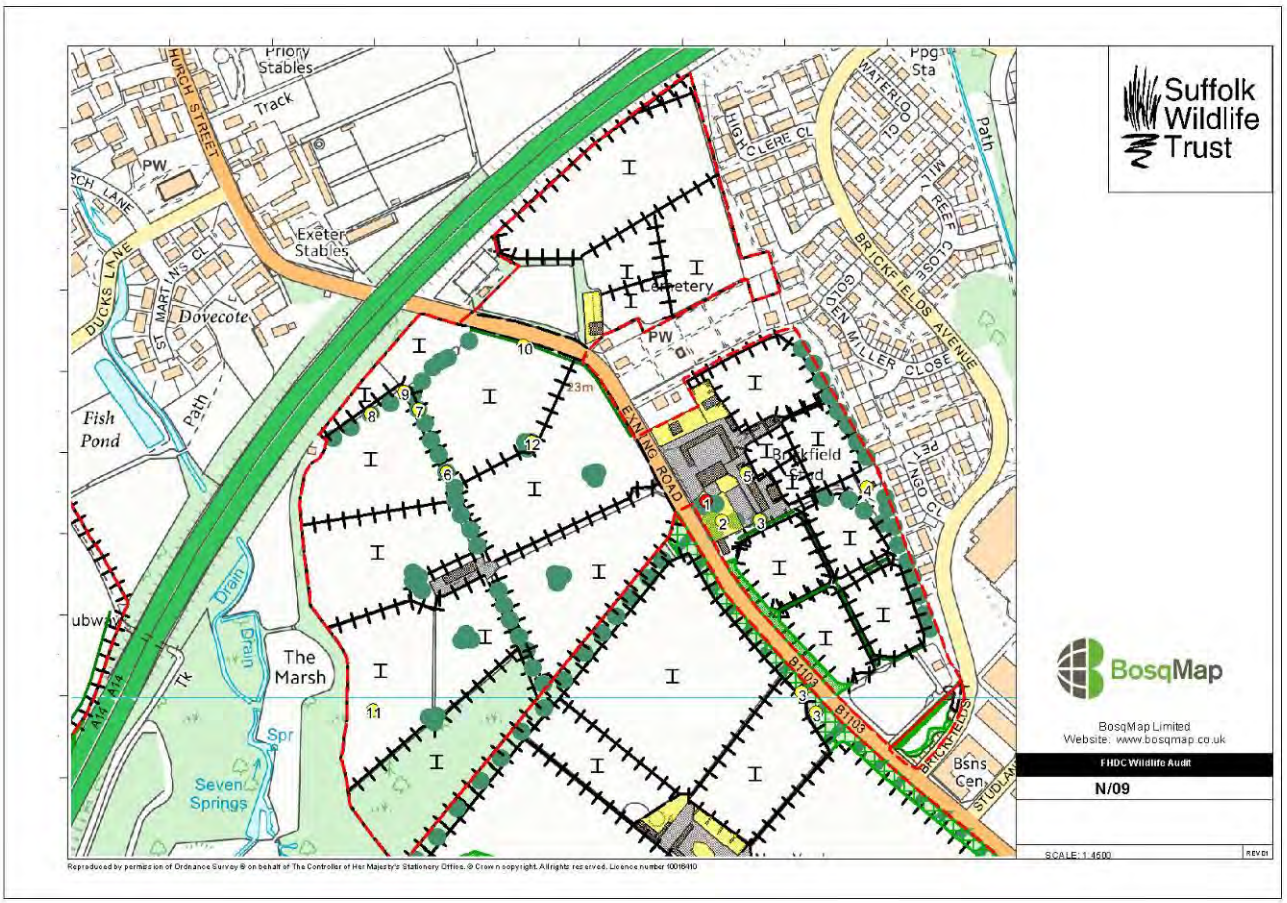
Notwithstanding the above, vegetation (trees, shrubs, scrub) clearance should be undertaken outside the main bird nesting season (March to August inclusive) or preceded by a nesting bird check undertaken by a suitably qualified ecologist.

Himalayan balsam, a non-native invasive species, is listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended). If development proceeds at this site, measures should be put in place to deal with this species in accordance with published best practice guidance.

Site name — N/09 Brickfield Stud, Exning Road

FHDC Ref: N/09
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TL 62523 65250
Area: 18.2 hectares
Date: 1 September 2015
Recorder: A Sherwood
Weather conditions: Dry, warm, overcast with sunny periods
Ranking: 5 (4 for the tree belt through the centre of the site)
Biodiversity value: Low (medium for the tree belt through the centre of the site)

Map:



Photos:

Amenity grassland and assorted trees at front of main buildings off Exning Road looking south-east. A small dry man-made pond is also present (Target Note 1)

Main building and car parking area

Poor semi-improved grassland pastures on north-east side of B1103

Hedge-lined walkway looking north-east

Old stable block (Target Note 4)

Mature acacia tree with potential for roosting bats Target Note 3

Examples of other buildings on site with potential for roosting bats (Target Note 5)

Improved pastures in the north-west of the site adjacent to the A14

Improved grass pastures southwest of B1103 looking south-west

Line of mature trees looking west

South-east site boundary –horse walk (off site) looking south-west

Habitat type(s):
Improved grassland, tree belts, species-poor intact hedgerows

Subsidiary habitats:
-

Site description:
The site is located in the north of the town, bisected by the Exning Road (B1103). The area to the north-east of the road comprises numerous buildings of Brickfield Stud with a number of double-fenced horse paddocks and stable blocks with car parking, quadrangles and yards. There was also an old tennis court and a short curved low wall in the amenity grassland south-east of the house. A number of mature amenity trees (broad-leaved and coniferous) were present in this part of the site and along the roadside boundary. The paddocks here had tall species-poor hedgerows between the double fences and some also had trees.

South-west of the Exning Road are a number of fenced paddocks with small circular groups of broad-leaved trees in them, also fenced. There was one stable block located in the centre of this area. A mature line of trees is also present running northwest/southeast forming a 'T' with trees running west and east at the northern end.

All the grassland was improved, although the paddocks near Brickfield Stud and north of the cemetery had begun to develop a more diverse mix of species.

Some of the site could not be accessed and included the area at the north-west of the cemetery and the south-east corner at the junction of Exning Road and Brickfields Stud. The agent reported that these areas were not their property.

Parts of the site have been subject to various planning applications, with the area to the west of Exning Road subject to a proposal for a change of use to football pitches (reference F/2013/0060/FUL) and part of the area to the east of Exning Road subject to a proposal for the erection of stud owners house and modular stable block (reference F/2013/0130/FUL). Ecological survey reports (agb Environmental Ltd, 2012 and Greenwillows Associates Ltd, 2011) have been carried out in support of both of these applications.

Protected species seen or known:

Protected species potential:
Bats, common lizard

Priority habitats present:
-

Priority species seen or known:
-

Priority species potential:

Brown hare

Connectivity:
The site has good connectivity via the tall tree belts and hedgerows around the fields and in particular leading to the A14 embankment and Seven Springs in the south-west.

Structural diversity:
There is limited structural diversity since the grasslands are either grazed or cut, although the hedgerows and tree belts offer some structural diversity.

Flora:
The pasture fields north-east of the Exning Road were dominated by improved grassland. The fields had not been grazed recently but had been cut. Perennial rye-grass was frequent in the sward along with white clover. A number of other forbs and other grasses were also present including frequent creeping bent and yarrow, locally frequent ribwort plantain, occasional black medick, and rarely red clover, cock's-foot and broad-leaved plantain, suggesting that the grassland is becoming more diverse.

The pasture fields in the north-west corner of the site could not be accessed (due to lack of ownership details) but they appeared to have similar characteristics to the grassland described above with species such as yarrow prominent in the sward.

The fields to the south-west of the Exning Road were all improved and dominated by perennial rye-grass with few forbs present.

The species-poor hedgerows comprised a mix of English elm, wych elm, sycamore, blackthorn, hawthorn, wild plum species, dog-rose and privet. The hedgerows along a walkway behind the farm buildings showed evidence of old management but these had been left to grow and had formed an arch.

The tree belts comprised a range of tree species such as sycamore, beech, copper beech, silver birch, Scot's pine, lime, ash and horse chestnut. Shrub species included hazel, field maple, hawthorn, elder dog-rose and lilac. Snowberry was also present as understorey cover in places.

Avifauna:
No birds of note were recorded during the survey. The mature trees and hedgerows across the site provide suitable nesting and foraging habitat for a range of bird species.

Invertebrates:
The site is unlikely to support a diverse range of invertebrate species but common and widespread species associated with mature trees and hedgerows will almost certainly be present.

Herpetofauna:
There was one man-made pond on the site located in the amenity grassland around the main house (Target Note 1). It had a plastic liner and was dry. Creeping bent was present in the pond. No other waterbodies were recorded on the site. There are a number of drains in Seven Springs to the south-west of the site boundary. Otherwise there are no known ponds within 500m of the site that could support breeding great crested newt. The improved grassland is sub-optimal terrestrial habitat for great crested newts but the hedgerows and tree belts and adjacent woodland offers suitable habitat. The grassland is grazed by horses or cut regularly and therefore given the current management it is thought unlikely that great crested newts would be present.

The site is considered unlikely to support significant populations of reptiles although it is possible that reptiles could utilise some of the habitats around the paddocks northeast and northwest of the Exning Road. Low flint walls and the semi-circular wall in the amenity grassland (Target Note 2) were also present around the farm buildings and these may provide basking and sheltering habitat.

Mammals:

The numerous buildings on site have the potential to support roosting bats (Target Note 4 and also Target Note 5 which refers to the numerous buildings in this vicinity). Many have slate and pan-tiled roofs and obvious roof voids/attics, the main building had been recently re-roofed and it was reported (Matthew Taylor *pers. comm.)* that traces of bat droppings were recorded. There was also an old garage block with a flat roof but with wooden soffits/barge boards that may offer some potential. Assuming that there are openings into these spaces then bats could be present in almost any of the buildings on site. Many of the mature trees on site could also support roosting bats if they possess suitable features such as cracks, fissures, rot holes or woodpecker holes. One mature acacia tree (Target Note 3) located around the farm buildings at Brickfield Stud had splits and cracks and has the potential to support roosting bats. The tree belts provide ideal foraging and commuting habitat to areas off-site, particularly towards the south-west and the woodland and marshy area around Seven Springs.

There were no waterbodies on or immediately adjacent to the site that could support otter or water vole. However, Seven Springs on the south-west boundary of the site does have a number of drains that could support both otters and water voles.

Rabbits were noted on site and some holes in one of the small round copses on site were attributed to this species (Target Note 12).

Comments and recommendations:

The site generally comprises a number of improved grass paddocks with fences around them of low ecological value. The tree belts, mature trees and hedgerows are of higher ecological value and provide connectivity to the wider environment. The site has the potential to support roosting bats in the numerous buildings and mature trees.

Should the site be developed then further surveys and assessments are required to establish the status of bats, and reptiles across the site before any clearance/demolishment/renovation works are carried out. The information gathered would be used to inform what mitigation measures can be put in place to ensure that these protected species, where present, are accommodated in any development design.

Vegetation (trees, shrubs, scrub) clearance should be undertaken outside the main bird nesting season (March to August inclusive) or preceded by a nesting bird check undertaken by a suitably qualified ecologist.

It is recommended that snowberry, although not listed under Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended), should be removed to prevent it spreading as it is highly invasive.

References:

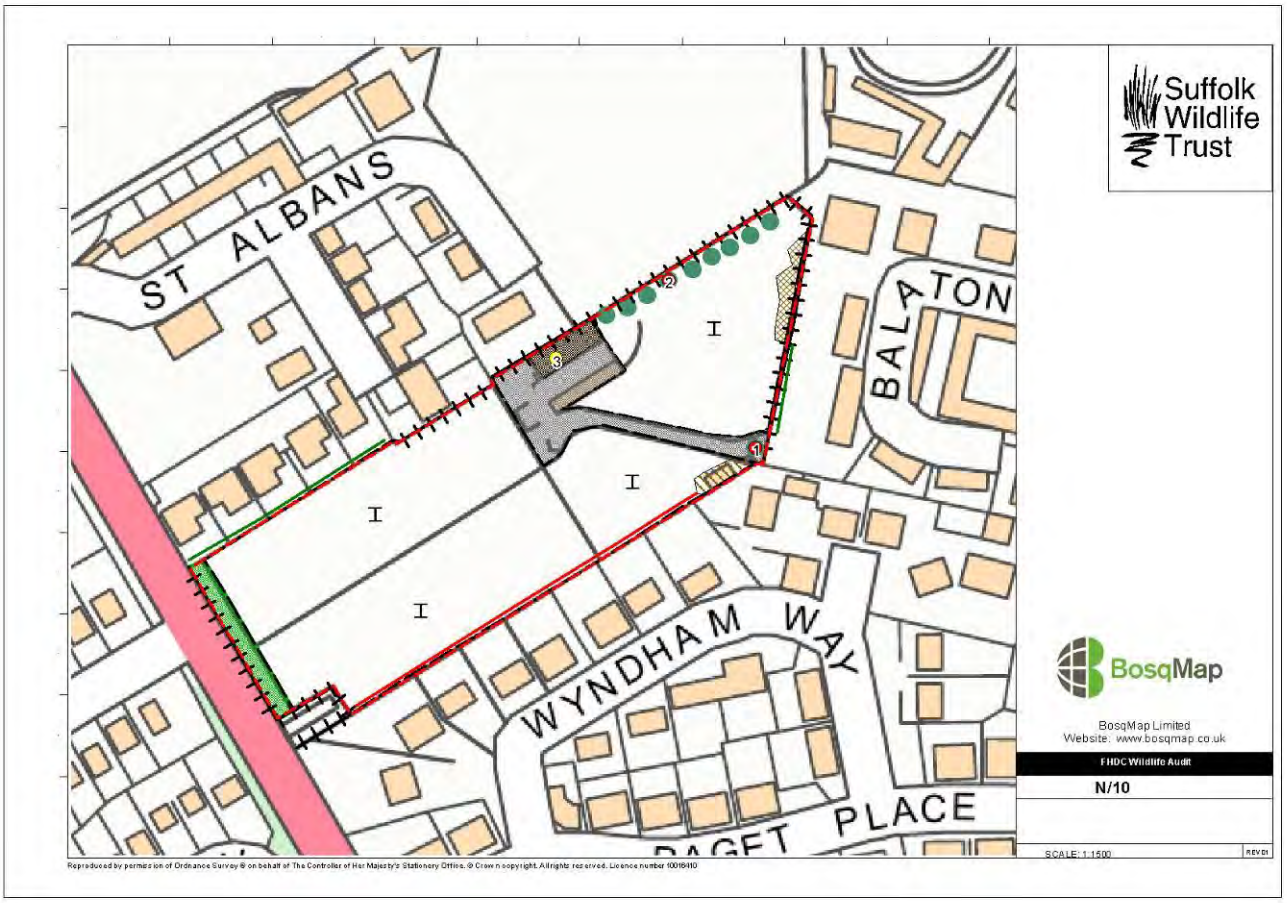
agb Environmental Ltd. (2012). Extended Phase 1 Habitat Report - Brickfield Stud.

Greenwillows Associates Ltd. (2011). Ecological Assessment – Brickfield Stud Start up Yards.

Site name N/10 Land at Balaton Stables, Snailwell Road

FHDC Ref: N/10
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TL 64278 64713
Area: 1.48 hectares
Date: 17 August 2015
Recorder: A Sherwood
Weather conditions: Dry, warm, overcast
Ranking: 5
Biodiversity value: Low

Map:



Sensitive ecological data may has been removed from these audit reports

Photos:

Southern boundary looking northeast

Tall mature trees on western boundary

Old stable block, looking west

Gable end of stable block covered in ivy

Belt of trees along western boundary and A142, looking north

Habitat type(s):
Improved/species-poor improved grassland

Subsidiary habitats:
Scrub, scattered mature trees, broad-leaved woodland

Site description:
The site is located adjacent to the main Fordham Road (A142) into Newmarket. The access is currently off a residential area on Balaton Place. The site comprises grass paddocks, probably horse paddocks, surrounded by residential development to the north, east and south. There is an old stable block on site, along with an area of concreted hard standing where a building used to be and a yard area. A hard surfaced track divides the site into two sections leading from the stable block to a dead end on the south-east corner of the site boundary. There is a narrow belt of broad-leaved trees adjacent to the main road and a small electricity sub-station in the south-west corner of the site.

Protected species seen or known:
-

Protected species potential:
Bats

Priority habitats present:
-

Priority species seen or known:
-

Priority species potential:
Hedgehog

Connectivity:
The site is isolated and surrounded by residential development on three sides with the busy Fordham Road (A142) abutting the remaining side. However, the site is connected to other areas of open grassland in the north-west corner where there are also hedgerows.

Structural diversity:
The majority of the site has poor structural diversity with grassland dominating the area. The narrow belt of trees along the Fordham Road and a small area of scrub around the stable block add to the structural diversity, although overall it is limited.

Flora:
The site comprises regularly managed poor semi-improved grassland that has been allowed to develop from what was probably improved grassland originally. Species include frequent perennial rye-grass and Yorkshire-fog with occasional false oat-grass and ribwort plantain. Other species included tall fescue, red fescue, dandelion and creeping buttercup. Black medick was also locally frequent in the sward.

The trees on site included a mature walnut tree (Target Note 1) and a line of mixed mature trees including *Cupressus* sp., red *Prunus* sp., copper beech with some elder shrubs beneath (Target Note 2).

Part of the northern boundary, adjacent to new residential development, comprised laurel and *Photinia* hedging. The eastern boundary comprised a range of introduced shrubs adjacent to the fence such as cotoneaster sp., laurel, forsythia and spindle tree. In addition there were some native shrubs including hazel and hornbeam.

There was a small clump of small mixed wild *Prunus* sp. trees on the walled eastern boundary. Further north along the same boundary, where an old building once stood, was an area of tall ruderal vegetation dominated by nettles with a laburnum and elder shrubs.

The narrow belt of trees along the western boundary adjacent to the Fordham Road was dominated by sycamore with white poplar and walnut trees also present. The understorey comprised dense ivy, which was covering the trunks of many of the trees, and bramble.

Avifauna:
No birds of note were recorded during the survey.

Invertebrates:
The species-poor habitats on and adjacent to the site do not support a wide range of invertebrate species, although common species may be present.

Herpetofauna:
The site is isolated and the likely past history of horse grazing suggests that the site is sub-optimal for common reptiles.

There are no ponds on or adjacent to the site and therefore no habitat that could support breeding great

crested newts or other amphibians. There is limited suitable terrestrial habitat other than the narrow woodland belt and very small areas of scrub and tall ruderal vegetation. It is considered highly unlikely that great crested newts would be present.

Mammals:

The stable block and some of the trees may have features that could support roosting bats (Target Note 3). It was not possible to access the stable block but the brick building has a tiled roof and ivy growing over one of the gable ends.

Hedgehogs have been recorded within 100m of the site and it is possible that they may be present on site.

Comments and recommendations:

The site is currently supports habitats that are common and widespread being improved/poor semi-improved grassland. It is recommended that the stable block and trees on the site are surveyed for bats if the site is proposed for development.

Due to the likely presence of hedgehog the impacts upon this species should also be assessed. No vegetation clearance or tree felling or cutting back should take until the surveys are complete and mitigation undertaken as appropriate.

Notwithstanding the above, any removal of scrub and trees should avoid the bird nesting season (March to August inclusive).

Site name — N/11 Land at Black Bear Lane and Rowley Drive Junction

FHDC Ref: N/11
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TL 63778 63246
Area: 3.3 hectares
Date: 18 September 2015
Recorder: A Sherwood
Weather conditions: Dry, warm, overcast and breezy
Ranking: 4
Biodiversity value: Medium

Map:

Photos:

Poor semi-improved grassland with scattered scrub looking south

Habitats on site with potential to support common reptiles

Avenue of trees along main access, looking north

Area of hard standing with colonising vegetation looking north-east towards Fitzroy Stables

Poor semi-improved grassland and line of trees along eastern boundary adjacent to Black Bear Lane looking north-west

Species-poor hedgerow along the northern boundary of the site


Buildings on site along the High Street looking north-east and the old stable block looking south-west


Derelict buildings on site looking south-west

Habitat type(s):

Poor semi-improved grassland, scattered trees, scrub

Subsidiary habitats:

Ephemeral short perennial, tall ruderal, amenity grassland

Site description:

The site lies off Rowley Drive with part of the site fronting the High Street (the former Holland House stables and stud buildings). The site is now derelict. It abuts Fitzroy Stables and Black Bear Lane on the eastern boundary. To the north lies Rowley Drive and an adjacent minor road known as The Rows. To the west there is residential development and the High Street abuts the southern boundary. The site comprises former grazing paddocks, mature trees and the buildings associated with the former stud including stable blocks and houses all of which are derelict and in a state of disrepair with scaffolding all around them.

The site has a complex planning history, most recently with refusals under planning application numbers F/2013/0102/FUL; F/2012/0216/FUL; F/2012/0218/LBC and F/2012/0217/CAC.

Protected species seen or known:
Bats (2013 – roosting brown long-eared and *Myotis* sp., also common and soprano pipistrelle activity)

Protected species potential:
-

Priority habitats present:
-

Priority species seen or known:
House sparrow

Priority species potential:
Hedgehog

Connectivity:
The site is located in the heart of Newmarket with significant areas of residential development around it. Connectivity to the wider environment is limited to the rows of mature trees on site that form corridors and links to the countryside, these are particularly important for bats.

Structural diversity:
The structural diversity on site is excellent with a mosaic of tall rough grassland, scattered and dense patches of bramble scrub, areas of bare ground/hard landscaping and mature trees.

Flora:
The poor semi-improved grassland was dominated by grasses such as abundant false-oat-grass and common couch with frequent cock's-foot, creeping bent, red fescue and Yorkshire-fog. There were numerous forbs in the grassland most of which were occasional or rare throughout and included hedge bedstraw, rosebay willowherb, common ragwort, common nettle, great mullein, common cat's-ear, black medick, red clover, creeping cinquefoil, yarrow and ladies bedstraw. Common knapweed and ribwort plantain were frequent or even locally abundant in places. Of interest was the appearance of hare's-foot clover. Ground elder and Russian comfrey was also present.

Avifauna:
A number of common bird species were observed during the survey and these included blackbird, robin rook, blue tit and house sparrow. There are likely to be more species using the habitats on site and nesting in the spring and summer in the scrub or trees.

Invertebrates:
The site is highly likely to support a range of invertebrate species but overall these are likely to be common and widespread species. Ant hills were recorded suggesting that this site has been abandoned for a while. Only large white butterfly and a silver Y moth were noted during the survey.

Herpetofauna:
The site has highly suitable habitat for common reptiles such as common lizard and slow worm. The site was subjected to a reptile survey in 2012 by WSP but none were found. Given the location of the site, this might not be surprising, since the site presumably was managed as grazing pasture.

Mammals:

The site was the subject of detailed bat surveys in 2012 by WSP and a number of activity surveys, dawn swarming /dusk emergence surveys were undertaken on the buildings and some trees. The results of these surveys confirmed the presence of bat roosts in two buildings (the old stable block (Target Note 1) and one of the houses (Target Note 2) near the High Street. The roosts were confirmed as summer roosts for brown long-eared bats and a *Myotis* species (thought likely to be whiskered or Brandt's bats). Activity from two other bat species (common pipistrelle and soprano pipistrelle) was also recorded on the site. The overall conclusion was the site did not support any maternity roosts and the roosting bats were most likely to be non-breeding females and male bats. One tree was assessed as having high potential for roosting bats with a further two having moderate bat roost potential. All three trees were subsequently downgraded after a reassessment.

The poor semi-improved grassland and scrub provide excellent foraging habitat for bats and the trees provide corridors for them to forage further afield. Most of the foraging activity from the WSP surveys tended to be restricted to the old courtyard between the buildings and the mature trees in the north-east corner of the site. Only common pipistrelle bats were foraging on the main areas across the site.

The site provides suitable habitat for hedgehog and there is a 2014 record within 200m.

Comments and recommendations:

The site is of medium ecological value with good-sized areas of poor semi-improved grassland, scrub and mature trees. There are known bat roosts in two of the buildings with other buildings rated as having high potential. Recommendations were provided by WSP for undertaking the proposed refurbishment works to the buildings under a European Protected Species licence.

No reptiles were found in a survey conducted in 2012 by WSP.

No works appear to have been undertaken since the surveys carried out in 2012, with updated reports in 2013. Depending on the time that elapses between the previous surveys and works beginning, further assessments may be required. Due to the likely presence of hedgehog the impacts upon this species should also be assessed. No vegetation clearance or tree felling or cutting back should take until are complete and mitigation undertaken as appropriate.

Notwithstanding the above, any vegetation (trees, shrubs, scrub) clearance should be undertaken outside the main bird nesting season (March to August inclusive) or preceded by a nesting bird check undertaken by a suitably qualified ecologist. It should also be noted that birds could nest in the derelict buildings where there are entry points through broken windows for example. The buildings should also be checked immediately before any works are carried out to check for nesting birds or alternatively the buildings should be proofed over the winter to ensure birds cannot gain access to the buildings to nest.

References:

WSP. (Feb 2013). Extended Phase 1 Survey - 196-198 and 218-222 High Street, Newmarket.

WSP. (Feb 2013). Bat Emergence and Activity Survey - 196-198 and 218-222 High Street, Newmarket.

WSP. (Feb 2013). Reptile Survey - 196-198 and 218-222 High Street, Newmarket.

Site name — N/12 Coronation Stables, Station Approach

FHDC Ref: N/12
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TL 64313 62764
Area: 0.5 hectares
Date: 18 September 2015
Recorder: A Sherwood
Weather conditions: Dry, warm, overcast
Ranking: 6
Biodiversity value: Low

Map:

Photos:

Three-storey brick building, part of a stable block/tack room etc.

Trees along access drive with modern brick and galvanised steel barn

Typical brick built stable block with amenity grassland

South boundary of site behind stable block with amenity grassland and species-poor non-native hedgerow

Garden associated with the house on the site

House and car parking area

Habitat type(s):
Amenity grassland, trees

Subsidiary habitats:
Introduced shrubs

Site description:
The site is located off Station Approach. It essentially comprises numerous single storey brick stable blocks all with tiled roofs. There is also a house and garden and a brick three-story building and some more modern galvanised buildings. The site forms parts of Tattershall's racehorse auction area. The site was exceptionally well maintained with mown amenity grassland areas, pathways around the stable blocks and occasional small areas of typical garden shrubs. There was a line of trees along the access drive onto the site.

Protected species seen or known:
-

Protected species potential:
Bats

Priority habitats present:
-

Priority species seen or known:
-

Priority species potential:
-

Connectivity:
There are a number of mature trees both on the site and immediately adjacent to the site boundary, some of which form tree lines that provide some connectivity. Otherwise the site is intensively managed with regularly cut grassland associated with the racing establishment, surrounded by residential development on the south and eastern boundaries.

Structural diversity:
Structural diversity is limited.

Flora:
The regularly mown grassland was typically dominated by perennial rye-grass.

The trees within the site boundary comprised a row of horse chestnut trees. Other trees associated with the garden of the house included weeping willow, weeping birch and false acacia.

Introduced shrubs in the small planting areas comprised cotoneaster sp., laurel, variegated *Eunomys* sp. *Wisteria* sp. and *Hydrangea petiolaris*.

There were two short sections of species-poor hedgerow on site. One was dominated by privet and one comprised garden privet and a non-native shrub species, possibly *Escallonia*.

Avifauna:
No birds of note were recorded. The site offers limited opportunities for nesting birds.

Invertebrates:
The site is intensively managed with limited habitats for invertebrates.

Herpetofauna:
There are no habitats suitable on the site that could support reptiles or great crested newts.

Mammals:
The site has limited opportunities for protected or Priority mammals other than the possibility that bats could roost in some of the buildings. The buildings are well maintained and there were no obvious places where bats could enter, except possibly the air vents on top of the stable blocks and the wooden soffits/bargeboards if there are gaps. The stables do not have roof voids but are lined. Overall, the stables and barns are considered to have negligible potential for roosting bats. It was not possible to assess the main house or the three-storey building on site.

Comments and recommendations:
The site is currently of low ecological value. However, in any future development proposal the main house and three-storey buildings should be assessed for the potential to support roosting bats.

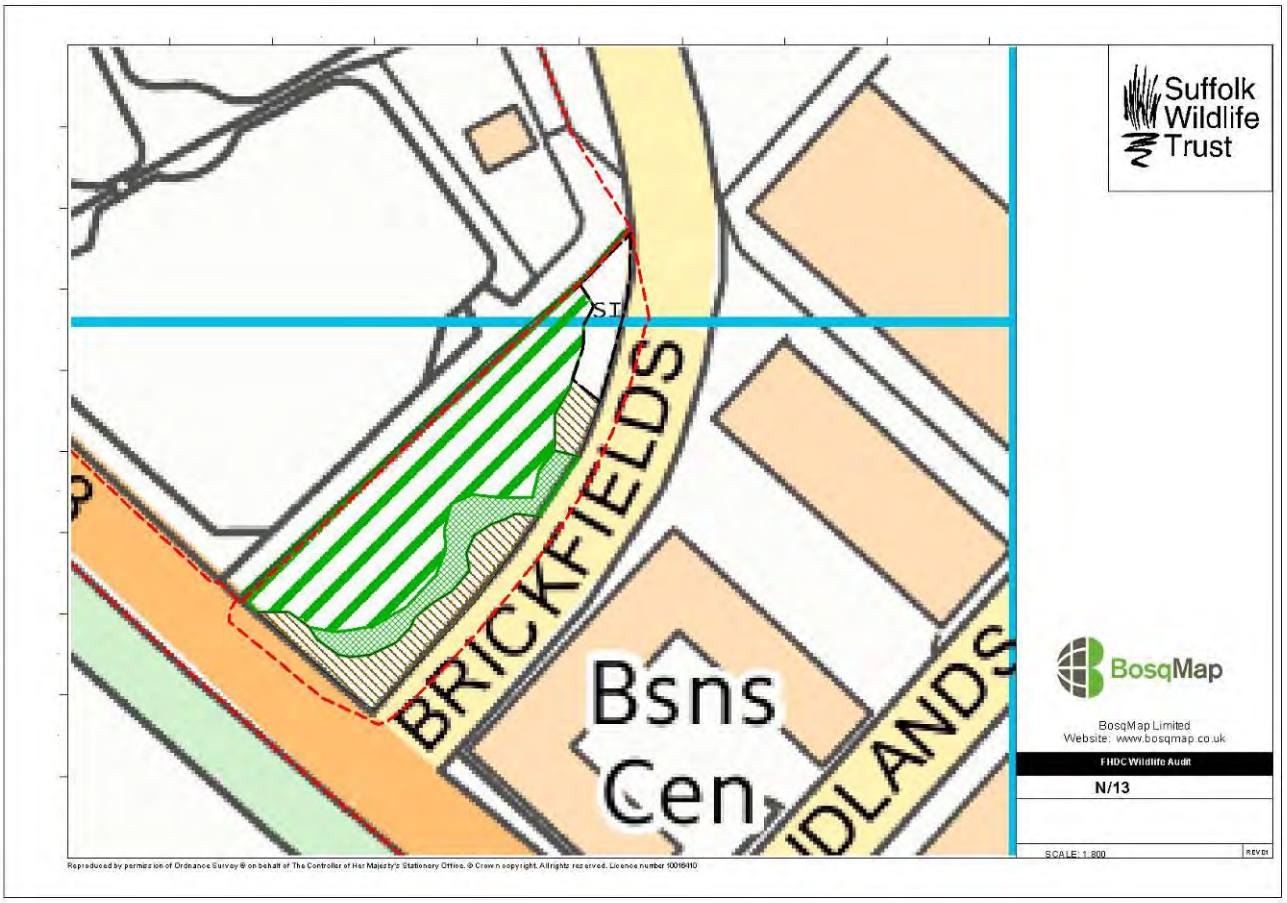
Vegetation (trees, shrubs, scrub) clearance should be undertaken outside the main bird nesting season (March to August inclusive) or preceded by a nesting bird check undertaken by a suitably qualified ecologist.

False acacia is commonly grown in gardens, but it is listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended) as a species which should be prevented from spreading in the wild. If development proceeds at this site, measures should be put in place to ensure that construction activities do not result in the further spread of this species.

Site name — N/13 Land off Brickfields Avenue

FHDC Ref: N/13
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TL 62900 64968
Area: 0.2 hectares
Date: 15 September 2015
Recorder: A Sherwood
Weather conditions: Dry, warm, overcast with sunny periods
Ranking: 4
Biodiversity value: Medium

Map:



Photos:

View looking northeast towards site N/13 bordered by Brickfields Avenue

Tall ruderal vegetation and species-poor grassland surrounding young woodland looking north along Exning Road

North-west boundary adjacent to access road to a private residential property

Habitat type(s):
Plantation broad-leaved woodland, dense scrub

Subsidiary habitats:
Tall ruderal, poor semi-improved grassland

Site description:
This small site is located on the junction of Exning Road and Brickfields Avenue. Industrial units of Studlands Park are also present in the immediate vicinity of the site to the south-east across Brickfields Avenue. The site is triangular in shape and bounded on two sides by roads. The third boundary comprises an access track to a private residential dwelling. Beyond this are the grazed pastures of Brickfield Stud. Around the site boundary along Brickfields Avenue there is a line of low concrete bollards. The site comprises an area of young trees/dense scrub and an area of tall ruderal vegetation with species-poor grassland and recently cut bramble scrub.

Protected species seen or known:
-

Protected species potential:
Bats (foraging),

Priority habitats present:
-

Priority species seen or known:
-

Priority species potential:
Hedgehog, white letter hairstreak butterfly

Connectivity:
The site is isolated on two sides by built environment, however there is connectivity north-westwards where the site joins site N/09.

Structural diversity:
There is good structural diversity but overall the site is limited because of its small size.

Flora:
The site comprised an area of dense scrub /young trees with species such as poplar (probably planted), sycamore and elm all present. There was dense scrub beneath the trees that include bramble, privet, dog-rose and hawthorn. Crab apple was also present. In addition snowberry was also recorded.

The tall ruderal vegetation was dominated by common nettle with occasional hemlock, while the species-poor grassland was dominated by false oat-grass with occasional white dead nettle and cow parsley. Horseradish was also recorded, along with a dense patch of ground elder.

There was a tall species-poor hedgerow along the northern boundary, along the access drive to the residential property to the north. This was dominated by privet.

Some bramble scrub had recently been cleared.

Avifauna:
No birds of note were recorded during the visit. Some common bird species may nest in the scrub areas beneath the trees and in the trees themselves.

Invertebrates:
The site will support a small range of common and widespread species. However, there are a number of records of white letter hairstreak butterfly in the locality and given the presence of elm on site, this Priority Species may be also present.

Herpetofauna:
Due to its small size and the relatively isolated nature of the site the site is considered highly unlikely to support reptiles or amphibians, although there is suitable habitat present for them.

Mammals:

All of the trees on site were young and had negligible potential to support roosting bats, although the site is likely provide some foraging habitat for bats.

The site may support hedgehogs and there is a 2015 record within 600m. The site could provide an important hibernation resource.

Comments and recommendations:

The site is of low ecological value, comprising small areas of species-poor common and widespread habitats.

Due to the likely presence of hedgehog the impacts upon this species should be assessed. No vegetation clearance or tree felling or cutting back should take until this assessment is complete and mitigation undertaken as appropriate. Consideration should also to be given to the likely presence of white letter hairstreak which might include retention of some of the elm as part of any landscaping proposals.

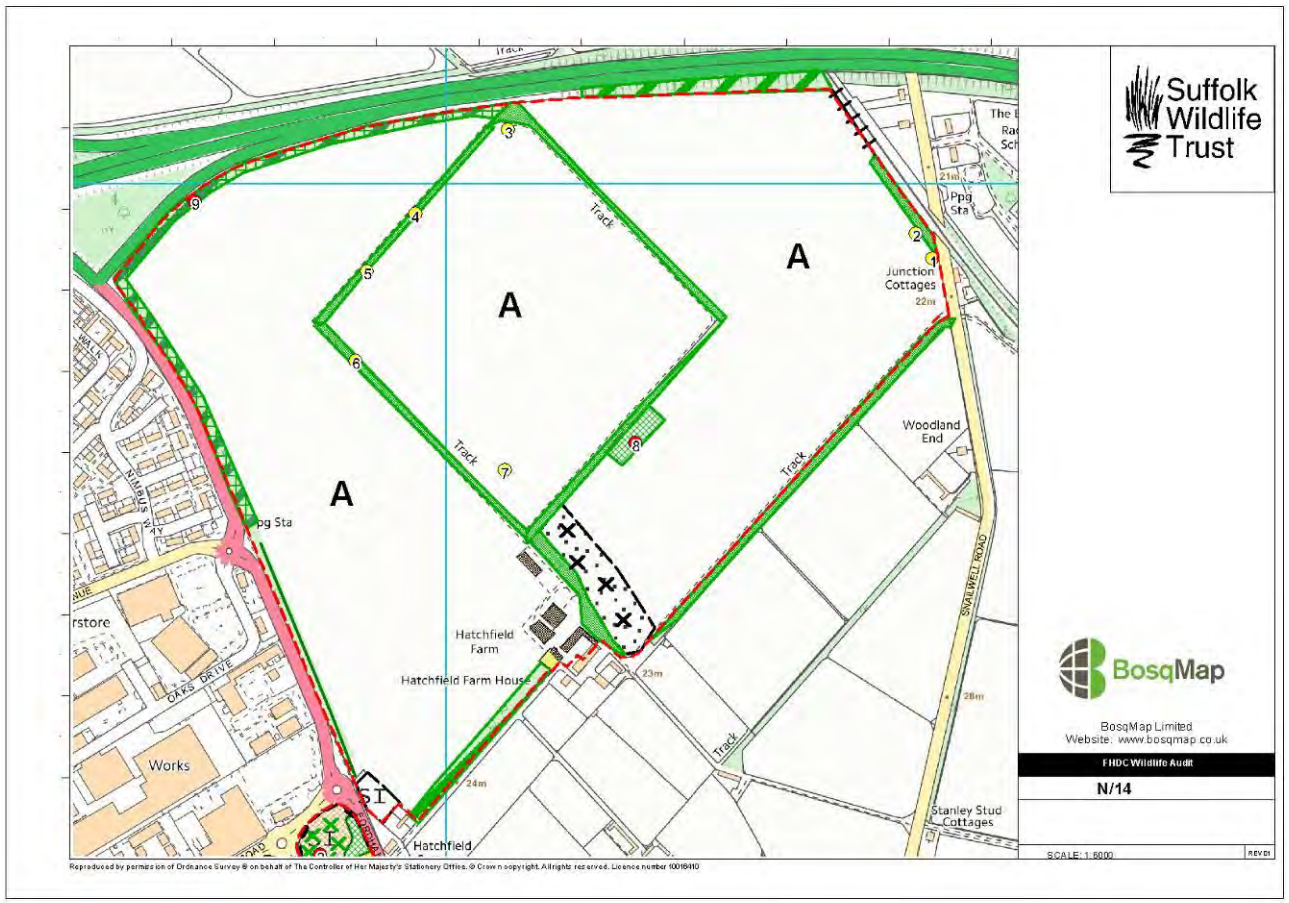
Notwithstanding the above, vegetation (trees, shrubs, scrub) clearance should be undertaken outside the main bird nesting season (March to August inclusive) or preceded by a nesting bird check undertaken by a suitably qualified ecologist.

It is recommended that snowberry, although not listed under Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended), should be removed to prevent it spreading as it is highly invasive.

Site name — N/14 Land East of Newmarket, South of A14 (Hatchfield Farm)

FHDC Ref: N/14
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TL 641101 65773
Area: 64.7 hectares
Date: 28 August 2015
Recorder: A Sherwood
Weather conditions: Dry, warm, overcast with sunny periods
Ranking: 4
Biodiversity value: Medium

Map:



Sensitive ecological data may has been removed from these audit reports

Photos:

Trees and mown amenity grassland around farm buildings

Disturbed land north-east of farm buildings and south-east field boundary

Pill box in woodland belt on north-eastern boundary adjacent to Snailwell Road (Target Note 1)

Tree belts around middle field looking north-east

Typical farm buildings

Farm house on site

Pre 18th Century brick and flint barn

Habitat type(s):
Arable

Subsidiary habitats:
Woodland tree belts, hedgerows, poor semi-improved calcareous grassland, scrub

Site description:
The A14 dual carriageway forms the northern boundary of the site with Fordham Road abutting the western boundary. The south-east boundary abuts grass paddocks and the far north-east corner of the site abuts Snailwell Road. The site comprises three large arable fields, two L-shaped fields and one square field with tall woodland shelterbelts around it. There are access tracks and narrow grassy field margins around parts of the site. The remaining field boundaries comprise a mixture off woodland tree belts and unmanaged hedgerows together with a range of farm buildings and hard standing areas. Access to the site is via a tree-lined avenue off Fordham Road.

The site has been the subject of significant ecological surveys and assessments (under planning applications F/2009/0713/ESO (Appeal Dismissed) and DC/13/0408/OUT (called in by the Secretary of State)) including a full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) prepared in 2009 followed by a public inquiry. A number of ecological surveys, including Extended Phase 1 habitat surveys, field margin flora, bats, reptiles and great crested newts have all been undertaken, and repeated where necessary, since 2007. Consultancies who have been involved in this work have included WSP Environmental, AMEC Earth and Environmental Ltd, URS, Cambridge Ecology and more latterly Wardell Armstrong LLP. An Environmental Report prepared by Wardell Armstrong LLP in 2013 referred to additional updated surveys carried out in 2012 on a smaller application site. This report was updated in February 2015, with the most recent surveys being undertaken in 2014. These included, breeding bird surveys, reptile surveys and botanical surveys.

Protected species seen or known:
Bats, common lizard

Protected species potential:
-

Priority habitats present:
Arable field margins

Priority species seen or known:
Brown hare, hedgehog, lapwing, skylark, song thrush, starling, house sparrow, small heath

Priority species potential:
-

Connectivity:
The site is connected to the wider environment eastwards via the A14 embankment vegetation and to the south via grassland. The A14 is a significant barrier northwards and the built environment to the west further limits connectivity. The hedgerows and tree belts around the site boundary provide additional connections.

Structural diversity:

Limited to small areas of scrub, poor semi-improved grassland and trees around the farm buildings and field boundaries. The majority of the site is under arable cultivation and is regularly disturbed as a result.

Flora:

Much of the site was under arable cultivation, although in 2007 part of the site was used for hay. Arable weed flora recorded was mainly associated with the western field that had a crop of beet. Species included field pansy; wall speedwell; field speedwell; sun spurge; knotgrass; small nettle; groundsel; fat hen; prickly lettuce; sow-thistle sp; field forget-me-not and scarlet pimpernel. All are common species. Previous surveys had recorded cat mint, corn spurrey and fine-leaved fumitory and the latter two species were recorded in 2 of 16 margins in surveys undertaken in 2013. No records of cat-mint or corn spurrey were recorded during this survey, although some small, non-flowering fumitory plants were recorded along the western boundary. These could not be identified to species due to their small size and lack of flowering parts.

The woodland belts around the middle field were largely dominated by beech with occasional sycamore, English elm, wych elm and rarely pedunculate oak, ash, Scot's pine, fir species and horse chestnut. Snowberry and privet were common under and adjacent to the tree belts and where managed by siding up forming 'hedgerows' alongside the tree belts. Mahonia, hazel, hawthorn and elder were recorded in these belts.

The tree belt alongside the A14 comprised young trees and shrubs and areas of more mature wooded areas, these included Scot's pine, Norway maple, sycamore, beech, pedunculate oak and ash with hawthorn, hazel, dog-rose, plum species, dogwood and bramble.

The hedgerow along the western boundary comprised frequent hazel and hawthorn with bramble and beech. Wild clematis was also present.

The short section of hedgerow beside Snailwell Road was dominated by hawthorn. In the south-east corner of the site, near the farm buildings, there was a short section of hedgerow dominated by Cyprus species.

Scattered trees around the farm buildings included mature pedunculate oak, ash, silver birch and sycamore.

Poor semi-improved grassland was recorded along the tracks where these were adjacent to tree belts. Species included frequent perennial rye-grass; creeping bent and false-oat-grass and occasional cock's-foot and ribwort plantain. Smaller cat's-tail; self-heal; germander speedwell; red bartsia; cow parsley; yarrow; common nettle; hogweed and common mugwort were all recorded rarely. Some of the tracks had hard surfaces and grasses had begun to colonise these.

Poor semi-improved grassland was also present in a small area in the southwest corner of the site. The grassland was dominated by false-oat-grass with frequent creeping thistle and occasional common mugwort.

Semi-improved calcareous grassland had developed under the areas where tree and shrub planting had been undertaken along the western section of the A14 and partially alongside Fordham Road (Target Note 9). Species here included abundant false oat-grass, locally frequent red fescue and creeping

cinquefoil, occasional cock's-foot and common mugwort; wild carrot and common toadflax, and rare wild parsnip; ploughman's spikenard; common knapweed; perforated St John's-wort; lady's bedstraw; great mullein; mignonette; rough chervil; Canadian fleabane and hedge bedstraw.

The disturbed area north-east of the farm buildings was being used as a manure collection area and a range of common annual arable weed flora had had colonised the area. Species mainly included fat hen; knotgrass; groundsel; sowthistle and field speedwell.

The off-set area (Target Note 8) was an unused area with scrub and poor semi-improved grassland. The boundary adjacent to the tree-lined access comprised silver birch trees with hazel and hawthorn. In addition there were a number of non-native *Viburnum* species.

Avifauna:

The breeding bird survey in 2011 recorded 44 bird species within the site. Eleven of these were confirmed breeding on the site. Six species are included on the Red List of Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) and included lapwing, skylark, song thrush, house sparrow, starling and fieldfare. Fieldfare is protected under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended). Fieldfares are winter visitors to the UK and are widespread.

Further surveys undertaken in 2014 only recorded common and widespread species but skylarks were identified as holding territory in both 2011 and 2014.

Only a few common species were recorded during this walk-over survey. Buzzards were heard overhead and long tailed-tits were also heard in the woodland belts. Blackbirds and jackdaws were also recorded.

Invertebrates:

There is limited habitat and structural diversity across the site and it is unlikely that the site supports significant invertebrate interest. Common and widespread species are most likely to be present in the areas of scrub and grassland across the site. White-letter hairstreak, noted in the biological records, was considered unlikely to be present in the 2013 report due to lack of elm on the site. Some elm species were recorded during this survey but were in isolated pockets and therefore probably unlikely to support this species.

Herpetofauna:

A low population of common lizard was recorded in 2008 and a further assessment of the habitats in 2011 concluded that the most suitable habitats for reptiles were restricted to the field margins and boundaries. There is one offset area of poor semi-improved grassland and scrub associated with the central field along its southeast boundary that could support common reptiles (Target Note 8). No reptiles were recorded in the western part of the site in 2014 (the area subject to planning application DC/13/0408/OUT), however common lizard were observed in the wider site.

Two ponds are located 450m and 480m northwest and southwest of the site respectively. In the ecology report 2014 it was concluded that significant barriers to dispersal were present (A14, Fordham Road and industrial estate) and great crested newts were unlikely to be present on site given that there are no ponds or waterbodies on or immediately adjacent to the site boundaries. The closest ponds to the site are two garden ponds, located at Hatchfield Cottages, near the access to Hatchfield Farm approximately 65m from the site boundary at their closest point. These ponds were sampled by Cambridge Ecology in 2011 but no evidence of great crested newts was found. It therefore appears highly unlikely that they are present on the site.

Mammals:

The site has been the subject of significant bat surveys and assessments. Six bat roosts were confirmed in the farm buildings (Target Note 10). In addition a number of commuting and foraging routes were identified and in total eight species of bat were recorded foraging within the site and the wider Hatchfield Farm holdings, some of which will use the tree lines for commuting and foraging purposes. Two trees in the north-east boundary were identified as having high bat roosting potential in 2011 but no bat roosts were found. In 2013 a further four trees were identified as having bat roost potential. These included trees with thick coverings of ivy and one with woodpecker holes. A range of additional surveys were undertaken in 2013 and bat roosts were confirmed in a number of buildings and in a mature horse chestnut tree to the rear of one of the buildings.

A small, low brick built 'pill box' type structure (Target Note 1) was found in the woodland belt in the north-east part of the site adjacent to Snailwell Road. This does not appear to have been considered in any surveys undertaken to date but there is a possibility that bats could utilise this feature.

Comments and recommendations:

The site has been the subject of numerous ecological surveys, has had an Environmental Impact Assessment undertaken, been through a public inquiry and had a number of updated surveys to insure that the data is as up to date as possible. The latest environmental report was produced in 2015 for a smaller application area. Over the period of seven years there has been little change in the ecological status of the site or the predicted impacts of the development on the ecological receptors. The site comprises three large arable fields and is generally of low conservation status other than the presence of a small population of fine-leaved fumitory confirmed as present in 2014.

A suite of mitigation and enhancement measures have been identified as part of the planning applications proposed at this site. Dependent on the nature and scale of any development which comes forward suitable mitigation and enhancement measures must be implemented.

The structure recorded in the woodland belt on the north-east boundary adjacent to Snailwell Road requires further assessment with respect to bats.

Vegetation (trees, shrubs, scrub) clearance should be undertaken outside the main bird nesting season (March to August inclusive) or preceded by a nesting bird check undertaken by a suitably qualified ecologist.

It is recommended that snowberry, although not listed under Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended), should be removed to prevent it spreading as it is highly invasive.

References:

Wardell Armstrong LLP. (2013) (updated February 2015). Environmental Report (Ecology and Nature Conservation Chapter) – Land at Hatchfield Farm.

WSP Environmental UK. (2009). Environmental Statement (Ecology and Nature Conservation Chapter) – Hatchfield Farm, Newmarket.

WSP Environmental UK. (January 2008). Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey – Hatchfield Farm.

WSP Environmental UK. (January 2008). Day Time Bat Assessment – Hatchfield Farm.

WSP Environmental UK. (June 2008). Reptile Survey – Hatchfield Farm.

Site name — N/15 Old Newmarket Station Site Car Park

FHDC Ref: N/15
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TL 64399 62721
Area: 0.5 hectares
Date: 18 September 2015
Recorder: A Sherwood
Weather conditions: Dry, warm, overcast
Ranking: 6
Biodiversity value: Low

Map:

Photos:

Hard standing at Newmarket old station looking north-east

Hard standing at Newmarket old station looking south-west. The old station building is outside the site boundary

Amenity grassland and trees along the north-east boundary by Green Road

Habitat type(s):
Amenity grassland, amenity trees

Subsidiary habitats:
-

Site description:
The site is located off of Green Road. It comprises the former car park/yard for the old Newmarket Station building that is now used by small businesses. The majority of the site comprises hard landscaped parking areas and the site is currently used as a lorry park and car parking for the small business units. It is fenced all round, with brick pillars at the gate entrance. There is a narrow mown grass verge with amenity trees along the fence besides the roadside boundary. At the south-west end of the site is a low embankment with garden shrubs. The site is bounded by Green Road along the north-east boundary, residential development on the west and eastern boundaries and the railway line along the south-west boundary.

Protected species seen or known:
-

Protected species potential:
None within the site boundary but bats could be present in the adjacent station building

Priority habitats present:
-

Priority species seen or known:
-

Priority species potential:
-

Connectivity:
The site has very limited connectivity to the wider environment due to its location in an urban situation with limited green infrastructure, although the railway line may provide some limited connectivity along its length where accessible.

Structural diversity:
Limited to short mown grassland and a few small amenity trees.

Flora:
The small area of grassland was regularly mown and comprised typical species such as perennial rye-grass; ribwort plantain; red fescue; daisy; white clover and yarrow. Violets were also recorded.

The amenity trees comprised red *Prunus* sp., laburnum and ash.

The shrubs along the fence at the western end of the site comprised garden species including forsythia and lilac.

Avifauna:
There are limited opportunities for nesting birds on this site other than in the small trees and shrubs. Feral pigeons were noted on grassland outside the site boundary at the western end of the site.

Invertebrates:
The site is unlikely to support a wide range of invertebrates since the green infrastructure is limited in extent. Those present are likely to be widespread and common species only.

Herpetofauna:
There is no suitable habitat on site that could support reptiles or great crested newts.

Mammals:
Moles were present in the grass verge beyond the site boundary, otherwise the site has no potential for protected or Priority mammal species. The old brick built station building with its pitched roofs adjacent to the site boundary may have potential to support roosting bats.

Comments and recommendations:
The site is currently of low ecological value, comprising hard landscaped parking areas for lorries and business users, with limited green infrastructure.

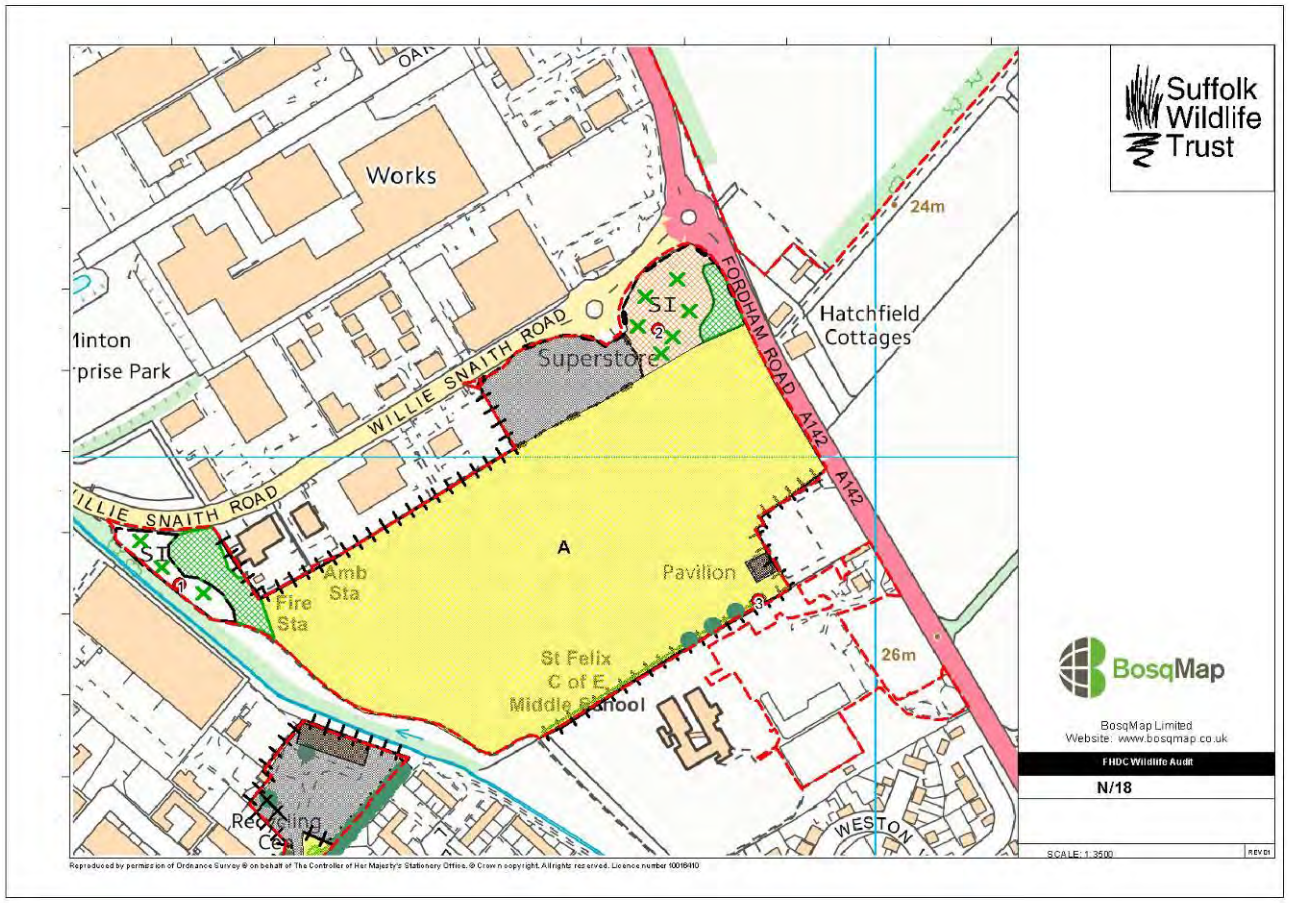
The adjacent station building has the potential to support roosting bats. It is recommended that this building is surveyed for bats, and an assessment made of the likely impacts of any development on any roosts present, as part of any proposal for this site.

Vegetation (trees, shrubs, scrub) clearance should be undertaken outside the main bird nesting season (March to August inclusive) or preceded by a nesting bird check undertaken by a suitably qualified ecologist.

Site name — N/18 George Lambton Playing Fields

FHDC Ref: N/18
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TL 63750 64937
Area: 9.4 hectares
Date: 17 August 2015
Recorder: A Sherwood
Weather conditions: Dry, warm, overcast
Ranking: 5
Biodiversity value: Low

Map:



Sensitive ecological data may has been removed from these audit reports

Photos:

Area of hard standing adjacent to Willie Snaith Road

Amenity grassland used for recreational purposes, looking south

Poor semi-improved grassland and dense scrub in north-western corner of the site, looking south

Skate park in south-west corner of the site (Target Note 2), looking east

Flat roofed building (pavilion) in south-east corner of the site (Target Note 4), looking north-west

Hedgerows on the southern and eastern boundaries of the site

Poor semi-improved calcareous grassland in north-east corner of the site, looking north

Habitat type(s):
Amenity grassland

Subsidiary habitats:
Poor semi-improved grassland, dense scrub, species-poor intact hedgerows

Site description:
The site lies on the inner edge of Newmarket off Fordham Road (A142) and Willie Snaith Road within adjacent to an industrial area of the town. Access is off Willie Snaith Road and there is already a hammerhead turning on the site. Beyond this is an area of bare ground which appears to have been used in the past for parking.

The bulk of the site comprises mown amenity grassland that is used as a recreational area and is large enough to hold six football pitches. There is a pavilion type building in the south-east corner of the site, adjacent to St Felix C of E Middle School and also a skateboard park located in the southern corner of the site. Part of the northern boundary abuts industrial/office units the remainder lies adjacent to Willie Snaith Road.

The southern and western boundaries comprise species-poor hedgerows. The eastern one is a regularly managed feature adjacent to the A142. Mature trees were adjacent to the southern boundary hedgerow near the pavilion.

The western boundary abuts an area of planted trees and a well-used cycleway. Adjacent to this is a drain (the Newmarket Watercourse) that has water present.

In the north-east corner of the site works were in progress to construct a cycleway off Fordham Road

and this cuts off the corner of the site.

The site was the subject of a planning application (reference F/2011/0541/HYB) for a mixed use development, with an ecological assessment being undertaken by Campbell Reith Hill LLP (2011). The application was refused.

Protected species seen or known:
-

Protected species potential:
-

Priority habitats present:
-

Priority species seen or known:
-

Priority species potential:
Hedgehog

Connectivity:
The site is isolated from other areas of semi-natural habitat other than the stream (the Newmarket Watercourse) along the western boundary.

Structural diversity:
Structural diversity is limited to the scrub and semi-improved grassland areas with the majority of the site short amenity grassland.

Flora:
There was a Cotoneaster sp. bush in the corner of the area of the bare area adjacent to a path and Willie Snaith Road. It is likely to have been planted as part of a landscaping scheme. It is not thought to be one of the five Cotoneaster species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended).

The mown amenity grassland supports a limited number of species and is largely grass dominated. Species included perennial rye-grass; common bent and cock's-foot. At the western end of the amenity grassland the sward was less grassy and species such as yarrow; common cat's-ear; smooth hawk's-beard and black medick were frequent. Common mouse-ear and daisy were also present.

The poor semi-improved grassland in the north-west of the site (Target Note 1) comprised abundant false-oat-grass, occasional tall fescue and rose-bay willowherb, and rare cock's-foot and perforated St John's-wort. Tall ruderal species were present, with frequent hemlock and locally dominant common nettle. Hawthorn and dog-rose were scattered throughout.

The poor semi-improved calcareous grassland in the north-east of the site was dominated mainly by coarse grasses such as false oat grass, rough meadow grass, smooth meadow grass, cock's foot grass and common couch grass (Target Note 2). Red fescue was also present in places. Occasional tall ruderal species such as common nettle and hemlock were also recorded. Other species included

frequent perforated St John's-wort, occasionally occurring common mallow; common mugwort; ribwort plantain and wild carrot, and rarely occurring Lady's bedstraw; mignonette; black medick; field scabious; ox-eye daisy; white dead nettle; red bartsia; common ragwort; wild onion; blue fleabane; and greater knapweed. Scattered scrub was also present and included dog-rose and bramble.

The dense scrub in the north-west of the site was dominated by bramble.

The southern hedgerow was dominated by tall wild plum trees. At the western end were a number of mature sycamore trees off site but with branches hanging over the site boundary. The roadside hedgerow was dominated by hawthorn with occasional privet.

Avifauna:
Rooks and jackdaws were feeding on the amenity grassland during the survey.

Other than that, only chaffinches were noted during the survey in the scattered scrub although August is a sub-optimal time to survey for birds.

The site is considered likely to support a limited number of common and widespread species and most will be associated with the scrub and hedgerows on site.

Invertebrates:
Invertebrates are generally restricted to the poor semi-improved grassland areas where numerous grasshoppers were heard and an occasional common blue and large white butterfly were spotted. A treble bar moth was recorded on dead knapweed heads.

Herpetofauna:
There is limited suitable habitat on the site that could support reptiles. The location and past history of the area with its industrial land use, roads and the sites amenity grassland suggest that they are unlikely to be present.

There were no waterbodies on the site but there is a narrow stream nearby along the western boundary. This stream is considered unsuitable for breeding great crested newts. Suitable terrestrial habitat is present but restricted to the north-west and north-east areas of scrub and grassland. The sites location and history of development and urban nature of the surrounding area suggest that it is highly unlikely that great crested newts would be present.

Mammals:
Rabbits were recorded in one corner of the site and evidence of burrowing was present in the amenity grassland.

Mature trees (off site) along the hedgerow on the southern boundary (Target Note 3) could have features that might support roosting bats.

Bats are highly likely to commute along the stream and forage around the trees along the western boundary of the site, although there are lighting columns along the cycle path. There were no features on site that could support roosting bats. The building in the south-east corner was of brick construction, with a flat roof and weather boarding along the top of the building and around a feature on the roof. The building appeared to be in good condition.

The stream is too narrow to support otter and is unsuitable for water vole due to its shaded nature, shallow water and lack of foraging areas.

Otherwise there are limited opportunities for mammals due to the extensive area of regularly managed amenity grassland, although hedgehogs could be present in some areas and they are recorded 500m to the south-east (2014).

Comments and recommendations:

The site is surrounded by urban development with only the wetland corridor and trees adjacent to the site offering any significant semi-natural habitat. The grassland area in the north-east of the site has a reasonable range of species and some are characteristic of calcareous grassland however, the area is small and isolated.

The remainder of the site is regularly managed amenity grassland and is clearly a well-used recreational area.

The mature trees off site could support roosting bats if there are suitable features present. Should overhanging branches need to be removed from the trees along the southern boundary then a full assessment for their potential to support roosting bats should be undertaken. Due to the likely presence of hedgehog the impacts upon this species should also be assessed. No vegetation clearance or tree felling or cutting back should take until the surveys are complete and mitigation undertaken as appropriate.

Notwithstanding the above, vegetation (trees, shrubs, scrub) clearance should be undertaken outside the main bird nesting season (March to August inclusive) or preceded by a nesting bird check undertaken by a suitably qualified ecologist.

As a precautionary measure the Cotoneaster bush should be removed from the site.

References:

Campbell Reith Hill LLP. (2011). Preliminary Ecological Assessment – George Lambton Playing Fields Site, Fordham Road, Newmarket.

Site name — N/20 Grassland off Leaders Way and Sefton way

FHDC Ref: N/20
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TL 63010 63900
Area: 2.2 hectares
Date: 28 August 2015
Recorder: A Sherwood
Weather conditions: Dry, warm, overcast with sunny periods
Ranking: 5
Biodiversity value: Low

Map:

Sensitive ecological data may has been removed from these audit reports

Photos:

Access road with Scot's Pine woodland belt along south-east boundary, looking south-west towards Hamilton Road

Trees along southern and south-east boundaries

Wooden shed with potential entry point for roosting bats. Access inside not available

South-west boundary, amenity grassland and north-east woodland boundary

Roadside hedgerow

Habitat type(s):
Amenity grassland, broad-leaved woodland, plantation coniferous woodland

Subsidiary habitats:
Species-poor managed hedgerow, bare ground

Site description:
The site is located off Hamilton Road and comprises part of the Newmarket racing stud exercise grounds. The site is largely dominated by regularly cut amenity grassland and a horse walk comprising bare ground. Broad-leaved and coniferous woodland belts are also present that lie adjacent to the residential developments of Sefton Way/Leaders's Way to the north-east and Drinkwater Close and Philip's Close to the south-east. The grounds are open to the public after 1pm each day and numerous dog walkers were using the site. There were many access points from various back gardens into and through the woodland belts.

Protected species seen or known:
-

Protected species potential:
-

Priority habitats present:
-

Priority species seen or known:
-

Priority species potential:
Hedgehog

Connectivity:
The site has limited connectivity.

Structural diversity:
Structural diversity is limited due to the regular management of the site and its habitats. Understorey vegetation in the woodland belts had also been cut down recently.

Flora:
The grassland was regularly cut and highly improved, the sward dominated by perennial rye-grass with only occasional broad-leaved forbs, such as white clover, present.

The woodland along the access road comprised Scot's pine trees, many of which had a covering of ivy on them, along with an occasional sycamore and ash tree. The shrub layer comprised privet; *Prunus* sp.; hawthorn; dog-rose and elder, some of which had been cut back and left in situ.

The broad-leaved woodland belt along the north-east boundary comprised mainly sycamore with an occasional mature horse chestnut tree and walnut. The understorey comprised tall ruderal vegetation including common nettle and hemlock. At the north-east end a small open area was present with tall ruderal vegetation including creeping thistle, hemlock and nettles. Adjacent to this was a sided up mature hedgerow dominated by hawthorn with occasional privet and dogwood.

The woodland belt along the south-west boundary comprised frequent beech, cherry and sycamore. The shrub layer comprised frequent privet with some bramble and dog-rose. Ground flora comprised black horehound along the edges and occasional hemlock under the trees.

The roadside hedgerow was dominated by hawthorn and regularly managed.

Avifauna:
A few bird species were heard in the trees and hedgerow along the woodland belt. Wood pigeon was noted. September is sub-optimal for conducting bird surveys. It is highly likely that common bird species will nest in the dense hedgerow and trees during the spring and summer.

Invertebrates:
The site is unlikely to support a significant range of invertebrate species due to the current management regime. Only large white butterfly was noted.

Herpetofauna:
The site is unlikely to support reptiles due to the current management regime.

The woodlands could provide suitable terrestrial habitat for great crested newts but there are no known water bodies within 500m of the site which could provide breeding habitat. Also the isolated nature of the site suggests that it is highly unlikely that this species would be present on site.

Mammals:

It is possible that bats could roost in some of the trees on the site, especially those that had a covering of ivy on them. Any trees with holes, splits or cracks could provide suitable roosting habitat and gardens of residential properties provide suitable foraging habitat for bat species. The shed on the site initially appears to have low potential for roosting bats but this could not be confirmed due to lack of access to the building. There is a potential entry hole in the gable end of the building.

Parts of the site are suitable for hedgehog and this species has been recorded within 140m to the north – east.

Comments and recommendations:

The site is of low ecological value with only common, widespread and species-poor habitats present.

Depending on the nature of any development proposed at the site, and if the woodland belts or any trees are to be removed, an assessment to identify any potential bat roosting sites would be required. An internal inspection of the shed should be undertaken to identify if the building has any potential for roosting bats. Due to the likely presence of hedgehog the impacts upon this species should also be assessed. No vegetation clearance or tree felling or cutting back should take until the surveys are complete and mitigation undertaken as appropriate.

Notwithstanding the above, vegetation (trees, shrubs, scrub) clearance should be undertaken outside the main bird nesting season (March to August inclusive) or preceded by a nesting bird check undertaken by a suitably qualified ecologist.

Site name — N/21 Land South of Exning Road and adjacent to Hamilton Road

FHDC Ref: N/21
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TL 62680 64842
Area: 20.5 hectares
Date: 10 September 2015
Recorder: A Sherwood
Weather conditions: Dry, warm, overcast with sunny periods
Ranking: 5
Biodiversity value: Low

Map:

Photos:

Stables at Pine Wood Stud

Fenced horse paddocks with improved grassland

Woodland belt dominated by elm adjacent to Exning Road (B1103)

Horse walk adjacent to a line of mature beech trees, looking north-west

Hedgerow between paddocks, looking north-west

Buildings and tree with potential for roosting bats

Habitat type(s):
Improved grassland, woodland belts

Subsidiary habitats:
Species-poor native hedgerows, poor semi-improved grassland

Site description:
The site lies off Hamilton Road and is currently an active horse stud. Hamilton Road forms the south-east boundary of the site and Exning Road (B1103) forms the north-east boundary. Further studs (Brickfield Stud site N/09, Charnwood Stables and Hamilton Stables) adjoin the north-west, south-east and south-west boundaries respectively. In addition, there are industrial units along part of the south-east boundary. There are a number of stables and some mobile homes on site.

The site is surrounded by mature tree belts with a hedgerow and scattered trees along the Hamilton Road. All the paddocks are fenced and there are also hedgerows along some of these fenced boundaries. The grassland is improved, with the exception of one paddock where a number of broad-leaved species have begun to colonise.

At the request of the stud some paddocks were not accessed due to the presence of horse. This is not thought to have affected the results of this survey.

Protected species seen or known:

Protected species potential:
Bats

Priority habitats present:
-

Priority species seen or known:
-

Priority species potential:
Hedgehog, white letter hairstreak

Connectivity:
The mature tree belts are the main connecting features, particularly along the south-west boundary where they link to semi-natural habitats associated with Seven Springs and blocks of woodland.

Structural diversity:
There is limited structural diversity within the fields as these are grazed and intensively managed. Structural diversity is generally restricted to the mature trees belts and the hedgerows that link to these tree belts.

Flora:
All of the horse grazed paddocks are grazed and intensively managed creating a uniform sward height. Most were dominated by perennial rye-grass and white clover although occasional forbs were recorded such as locally frequent yarrow, occasional false-oat-grass, and rarely occurring smooth hawk's-beard;

cock's-foot and creeping thistle. Generally these were rare in the sward. One paddock was more floristically rich and additional species included red clover, red fescue, field scabious and germander speedwell, but all were rare in the sward.

The woodland belts comprised mature horse chestnut trees along the north-west boundary with occasional sycamore and Scot's pine. The south-west boundary comprised a horse walk with broadleaved woodland with a line of mature beech trees and a wide grass verge alongside. Other tree belts comprised locally dominant English elm along with Scot's pine and sycamore. The understorey was generally sparse under all of the woodland belts but generally comprised hawthorn; elder; dog-rose and privet.

The hedgerows comprised hawthorn, dominant along the access road, with sycamore; dog-rose; privet; elder and blackthorn in varying amounts. Occasional hawthorn shrubs had been allowed to mature in some of the hedgerows and these had developed into small trees.

In one paddock there was a woodland feature that indicated the presence of a pond. On inspection, no pond was found and the low area now comprised a mix of poor semi-improved grassland and tall ruderal vegetation. The surrounding vegetation comprised sycamore trees with hawthorn and elder.

Avifauna:
The only bird species identified were green woodpeckers, great tits, jackdaws, long tailed tits and rooks, the latter were feeding in the grassland.

Invertebrates:
The improved grassland is unlikely to have significant invertebrate interest. Green-veined white butterfly was observed during the survey. It is possible that due to the presence of elm in the woodland belt adjacent to the road that white letter hairstreak could be present. It is known that colonies often focus on small clumps of elm trees.

Herpetofauna:
The site is unlikely to support reptiles due to the intensive management regime currently employed on site.

The pond shown on the OS map does not exist and there are no known waterbodies within 500m of the site and therefore no habitat for breeding great crested newts. The terrestrial habitat is generally sub-optimal for them, although the woodland belts could provide some potential habitat. Overall, it is considered unlikely that great crested newt would be present.

Mammals:
There are a number of buildings on site but most are unlikely to support roosting bats. One of the stable blocks however (Target Note 1), had a pitched roof with pan tiles, weather-boarding and air vents and it is possible bats could roost under the tiles or, if access into the roof void was present, then in the building itself.

There are a number of mature trees in the woodland belts and some may provide suitable features for roosting bats such as cracks, crevices, holes, dense ivy etc. One of the trees in the woodland belt along the south-west boundary was noted for its woodpecker holes (Target Note 2).

Muntjac deer were reported as present by the site manager.

The site may also support hedgehog.

Comments and recommendations:

The site is of low ecological value with the areas of interest confined to the peripheral woodland belts and the hedgerows that cross the site.

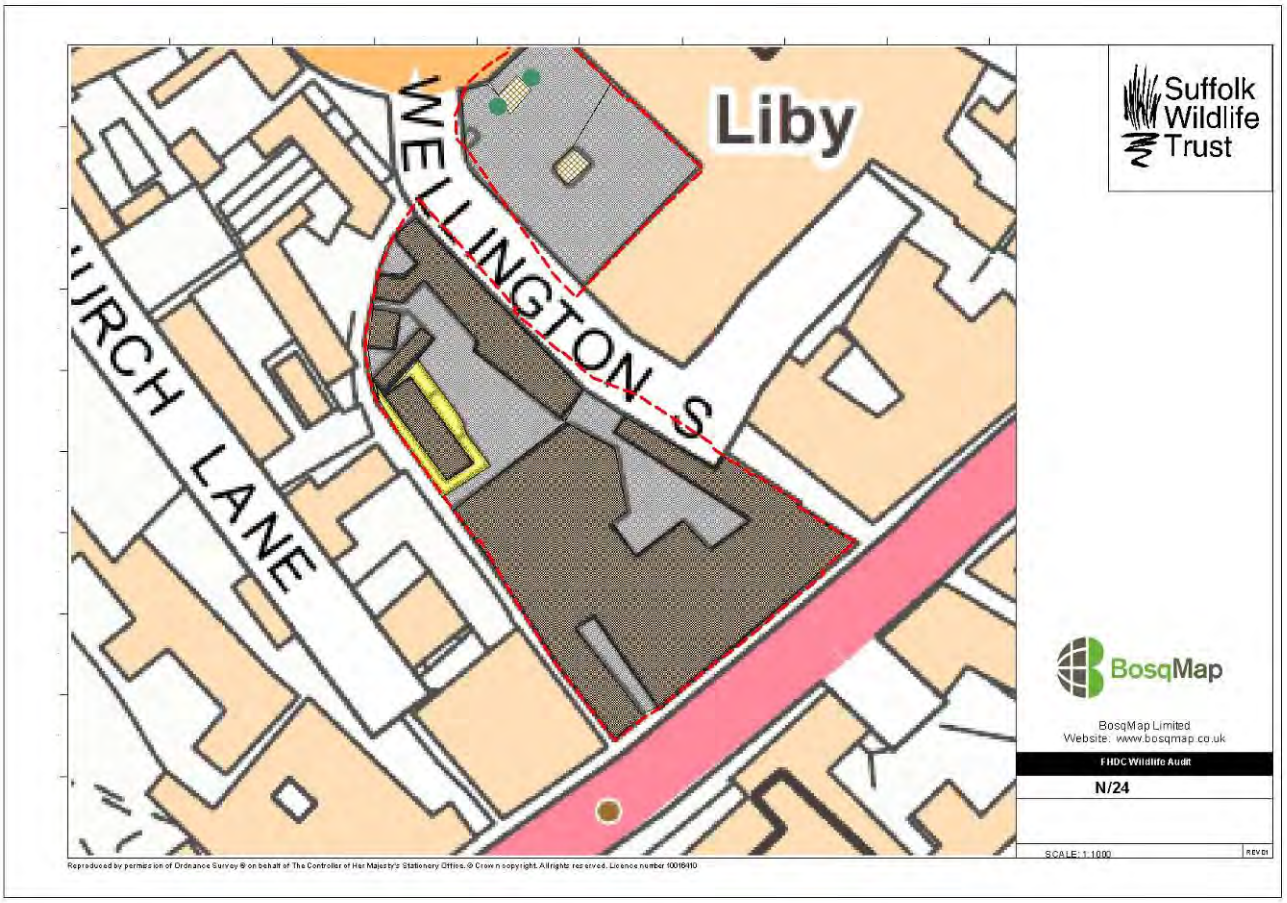
All trees and buildings on site should be subject to assessment to determine their potential for roosting bats.

Vegetation (trees, shrubs, scrub) clearance should be undertaken outside the main bird nesting season (March to August inclusive) or preceded by a nesting bird check undertaken by a suitably qualified ecologist.

Site name N/24 Site off Wellington Street, North of the High Street

FHDC Ref: N/24
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TL 64274 63360
Area: 0.6 hectares
Date: 15 September 2015
Recorder: A Sherwood
Weather conditions: Dry, warm, overcast with sunny periods
Ranking: 6
Biodiversity value: Low

Map:



Photos:

Street view along Wellington Street, looking south-east towards High Street

Residential houses within site boundary, looking north-east

Rear view of older buildings along Wellington Street

Habitat type(s):
Buildings

Subsidiary habitats:
-

Site description:
The site is located on Wellington Street in the middle of Newmarket. It comprises a number of older historic buildings and more modern brick built buildings used as retail units. In addition there is a row of terraced modern brick build houses with small gardens. The site comprises hard landscaped areas for parking and deliveries.

Protected species seen or known:
-

Protected species potential:
Bats

Priority habitats present:
-

Priority species seen or known:
-

Priority species potential:
Swift

Connectivity:
The site is industrial/commercial in the town centre with no green infrastructure and therefore no connectivity.

Structural diversity:
None.

Flora:
There are very small gardens to the rear and front of the residential dwellings within the site boundary. Access was not available to view these gardens but they are highly unlikely to support anything of significant ecological value.

Avifauna:
The buildings are in constant use and there does not appear to be any opportunities for nesting birds inside the buildings. There was no evidence of any nesting birds, such as house martins, under the eaves but there is some potential for them, although the site is disturbed.

Invertebrates:
There is no potential for terrestrial invertebrates.

Herpetofauna:
There is no potential for reptiles.

Mammals:
Bats could potentially roost in any of the roof spaces or soffits/bargeboards where access is available. Most of the buildings had pitched tiled roofs that may provide opportunities for roosting bats.

Comments and recommendations:
The site is of low ecological value being comprised of buildings used as retail units and associated car parking and hard landscaping with no green infrastructure.

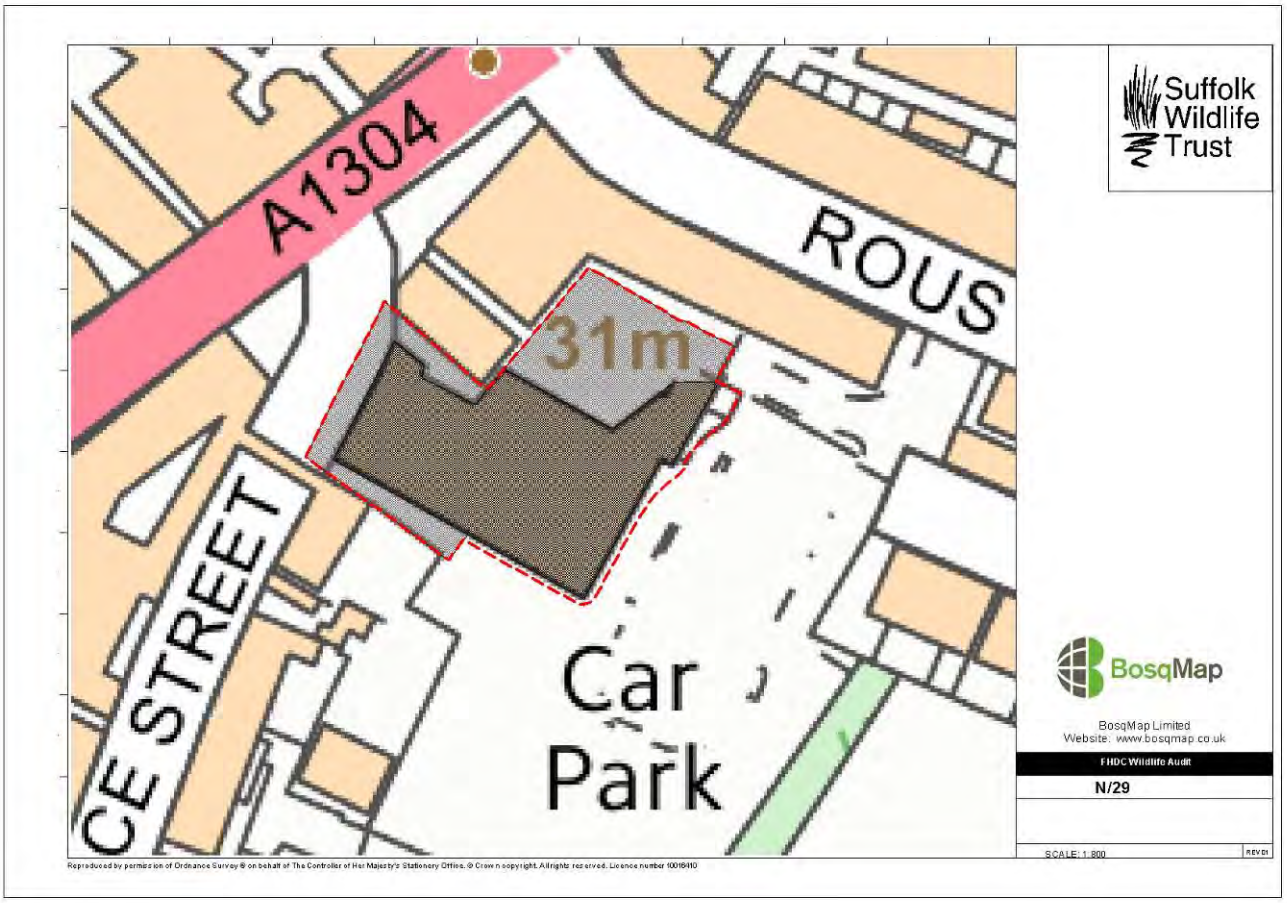
The many and varied roofs could support roosting bats if access features such as loose tiles, holes in soffits, barge boards etc. are present. It is recommended that all of the buildings on site are subjected to surveys for bats prior to any works being carried out.

Vegetation (trees, shrubs, scrub) clearance should be undertaken outside the main bird nesting season (March to August inclusive) or preceded by a nesting bird check undertaken by a suitably qualified ecologist.

Site name — N/26 East of Palace Street

FHDC Ref: N/26
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TL 64525 63438
Area: 0.26 hectares
Date: 15 September 2015
Recorder: A Sherwood
Weather conditions: Dry, warm, overcast with sunny periods
Ranking: 6
Biodiversity value: Low

Map:



Photos:

Access via Rous Road car park

Modern brick built buildings on site (rear of the site)

View of buildings from High Street

Habitat type(s):
Buildings

Subsidiary habitats:
-

Site description:
The site is located off the High Street with the main access off of the car park on Rous Road. The site comprises a large modern brick built building that is currently used as a retail unit with associated hard landscaped areas for car parking and deliveries. There are two small alleyways off the High Street, to the east and west of the main building, one of these leads to Rous Road car park.

Protected species seen or known:
-

Protected species potential:
Bats

Priority habitats present:
-

Priority species seen or known:
-

Priority species potential:
-

Connectivity:
The site is located on the High Street and is surrounded by urban development, retail units, car parking and the residential houses along Rous Road. There is no green infrastructure on site and limited green infrastructure along the road network other than a few street trees in and along the access to Rous Road car park.

Structural diversity:
None.

Flora:
Limited to a few weeds in the car parking area, these included buddleia and herb Robert growing on a raised gangway at the back of adjacent buildings.

Avifauna:
Feral pigeons were roosting on a ledge above the gangway on the adjacent buildings. Otherwise there are no habitats that can support roosting or nesting birds unless there is potential on the roof itself. This could not be viewed during this survey but there appeared to be flat areas where birds could potentially nest.

Invertebrates:
There were no habitats on site that could support significant populations of even common invertebrates. The buddleia may attract common butterfly species.

Herpetofauna:
There was no habitat that could support reptiles or amphibians.

Mammals:
Bats are the only mammals that could be found on site. There is a tiled roof on the buildings, although this looked in good condition and may not have suitable openings for bats to seek shelter.

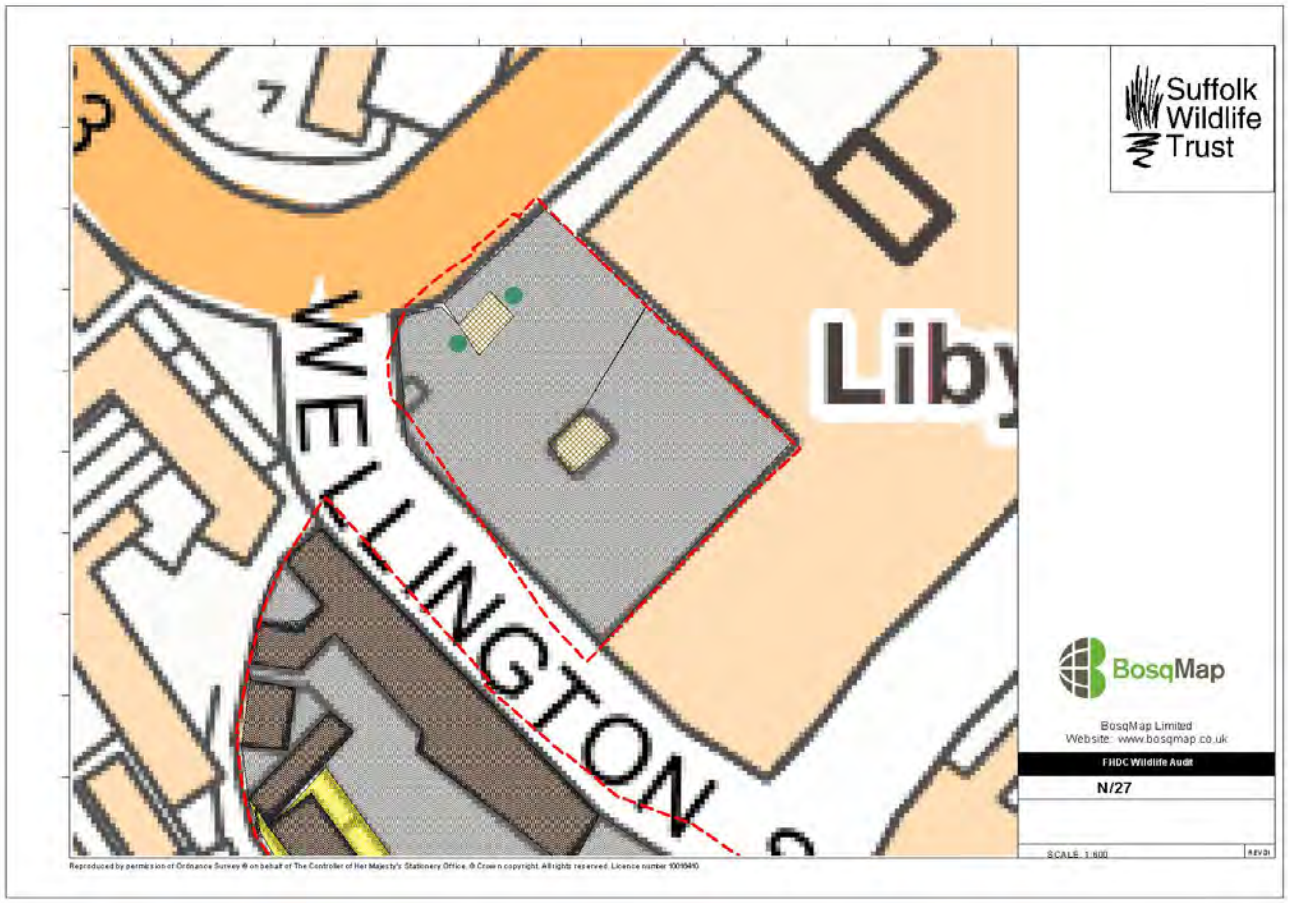
Comments and recommendations:
The site is of low ecological value being a modern brick built building with car parking at the rear of the site. The roof space should be inspected to assess the potential for roosting bats ahead of development proposals.

Birds, such as pigeons could nest on the roof ledges. These areas, if they are to be affected by any proposed works, should be proofed in winter (outside the main bird nesting period) to prevent birds alighting and potentially nesting.

Site name N/27 Market Place

FHDC Ref: N/27
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TL64249 63440
Area: 0.2 hectares
Date: 15 September 2015
Recorder: A Sherwood
Weather conditions: Dry, warm, overcast with sunny periods
Ranking: 6
Biodiversity value: Low

Map:



Photos

Market square, looking east

Amenity trees and landscape planting in the market square

Amenity tree and landscape planting in centre of the Market Square, looking north

Habitat type(s):
Amenity trees, introduced shrubs

Subsidiary habitats:
-

Site description:
The site is the current market square in Newmarket, off of Wellington Street. It comprises an area of hard landscaped car park that is used by stallholders twice a week on market days. Buildings, housing, shops and other amenities surround the Market Square.

Protected species seen or known:
-

Protected species potential:
-

Priority habitats present:
-

Priority species seen or known:
-

Priority species potential:
-

Connectivity:
None.

Structural diversity:
Limited to three young amenity trees and landscaping planted with annual bedding plants.

Flora:
The site comprises a car park with only three amenity trees (*Aesculus* sp. and *Tilia* sp.) and associated landscaping with annual plants and *Berberis* sp.

Avifauna:
The site is unlikely to support birds other than feral pigeons. Common bird species may use the trees as song posts or temporary perches.

Invertebrates:
There is no habitat that could support populations of invertebrates. Bees may visit some of the annual flowers depending on what species are planted.

Herpetofauna:
There is no suitable habitat for this group.

Mammals:
There are no suitable habitats for mammals.

Comments and recommendations:
The site has low ecological value.

Vegetation (trees, shrubs, scrub) clearance should be undertaken outside the main bird nesting season (March to August inclusive) or preceded by a nesting bird check undertaken by a suitably qualified ecologist.

Site name — N/29 North of the High Street (adjacent to site N/11)

FHDC Ref: N/29
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TL 63810 63059
Area: 0.1 hectares
Date: 18 September 2015
Recorder: A Sherwood
Weather conditions: Dry, warm, overcast & breezy
Ranking: 6
Biodiversity value: Low

Map:

Photos:

Site of previous building, looking north

Site of previous building, looking east

Habitat type(s):
Bare ground (rubble), ephemeral short perennial, tall ruderal

Subsidiary habitats:
-

Site description:
The site is located off the High Street. The site was boarded up along the High Street and access was only available via site N/11. There was a wall along the western and northern boundaries. There was no boundary along the eastern side adjacent to site N/11. Only the base of the previous building was present and this had been colonised by ephemeral short perennial species, tree saplings and garden escapes.

Protected species seen or known:
-

Protected species potential:
-

Priority habitats present:
-

Priority species seen or known:
-

Priority species potential:
-

Connectivity:
The site is located off the High Street and was the site of an industrial building until recently. It is now open to the wider environment northwards, via site N/11, but overall it is sited in an urban area with limited connectivity.

Structural diversity:
Structural diversity is limited to the stony gravelly substrate with colonising tree saplings, garden escapes and ephemeral short perennial type vegetation.

Flora:
The flora was generally sparse across the site and comprised abundant silver birch saplings and buddleia bushes. Other species included Canadian fleabane, smooth hawk's-beard, hedge bedstraw and blue fleabane.

Avifauna:
No birds of note were recorded during the survey. The site is very small but now contiguous with site N/11 which has significant bird nesting opportunities. However, there is limited nesting habitat available within the curtilage of this site.

Invertebrates:
The site is very small and until recently had a building that covered most of the site. Therefore it is unlikely that significant populations of invertebrates have developed in the time since the building was demolished.

Herpetofauna:
The site is very small and until recently had a building on it that covered much of the site. The adjacent site (site N/11) has extensive areas of suitable habitat for reptiles but this area was surveyed in 2012 by WSP and no reptiles were found. Therefore it is highly unlikely that reptiles are present on this site.

Mammals:
There are no features that could support roosting bats on this site. Previous bat surveys conducted by WSP in 2012 covered an area that included this site and the adjacent site N/11. It is assumed that since the building on this site has been demolished, no bat roosts were confirmed.

There is no habitat that could support any other mammal species.

Comments and recommendations:
This small site has been the subject of previous ecology surveys with respect to bats. The previous building has been demolished and vegetation has begun to colonise the site. The site is currently of low ecological value.

The site lies adjacent to site N/11 with no boundary between them, the ecological value of the site could therefore increase over time and further ecological surveys may be required if it remains undeveloped.

References:
WSP. (Feb 2013). Extended Phase 1 Survey - 196-198 and 218-222 High Street, Newmarket.

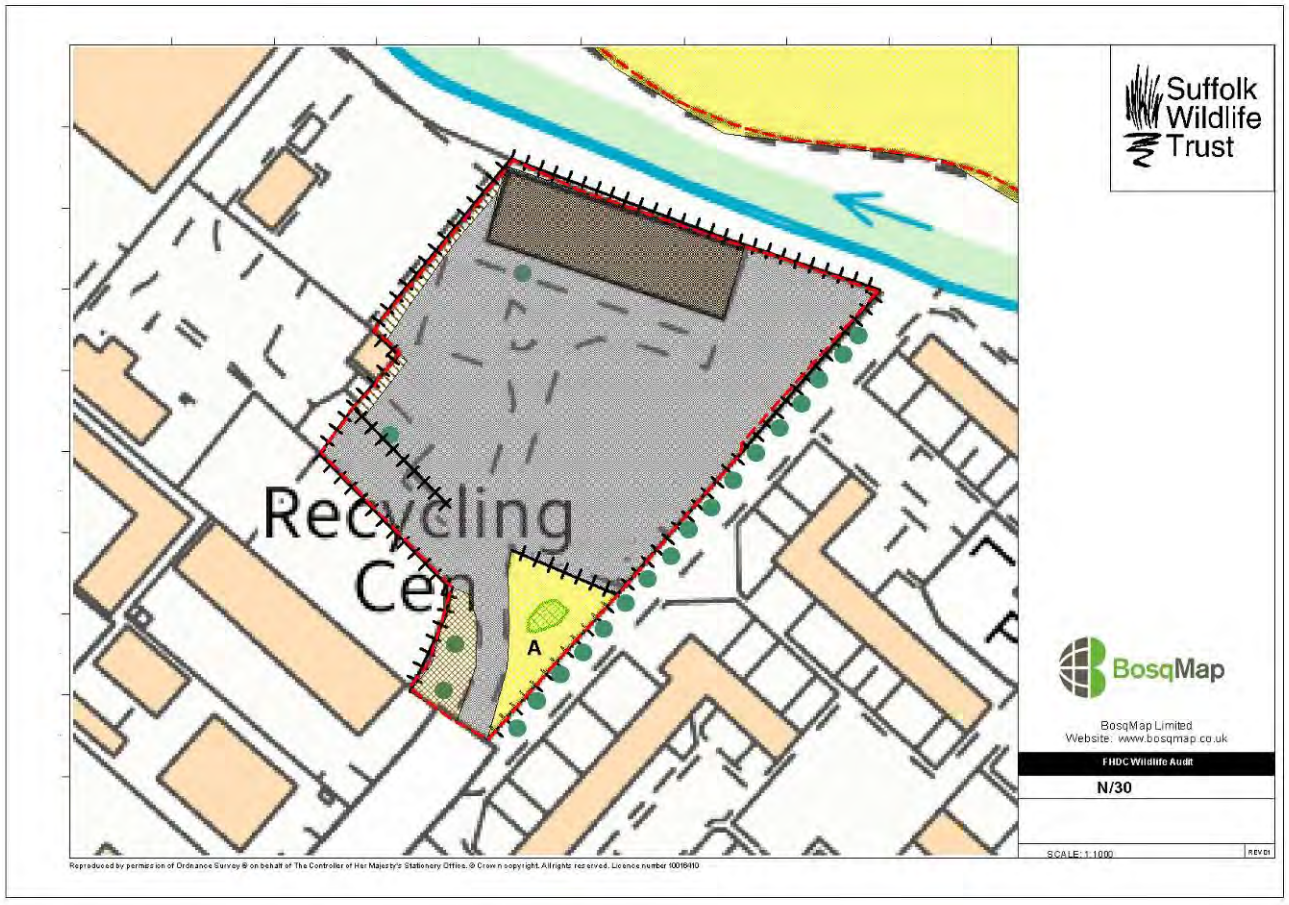
WSP. (Feb 2013). Bat Emergence and Activity Survey - 196-198 and 218-222 High Street, Newmarket.

WSP. (Feb 2013). Reptile Survey - 196-198 and 218-222 High Street, Newmarket.

Site name — N/30 Site on Depot Road

FHDC Ref: N/30
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TL 63563 64746
Area: 0.8 hectares
Date: 15 September 2015
Recorder: A Sherwood
Weather conditions: Dry, warm, overcast with sunny periods
Ranking: 6
Biodiversity value: Low

Map:



Photos:

Looking north-west across car parking area

Access road (Depot Road) leading to site

Stream (the Newmarket Watercourse) adjacent to site along the northern boundary

Amenity grassland and amenity trees/shrubs along the eastern boundary, looking north-west

Habitat type(s):
Hard landscaping/bare ground, buildings

Subsidiary habitats:
Amenity grassland, tall ruderal, introduced shrubs

Site description:
The site is located on Depot Road, with industrial units to the west and south, residential development to the east and a stream (the Newmarket Watercourse) to the north. The site is an industrial site with one long building divided into industrial units. The majority of the site comprises concrete roads and car parking areas and the site is fenced all around the boundary. A small amount of scrub/tall ruderal vegetation and the occasional scrub tree are present on site, particularly along the western boundary. The access road has areas of mown amenity grassland and planted areas of introduced shrubs.

Protected species seen or known:
-

Protected species potential:
-

Priority habitats present:
-

Priority species seen or known:
-

Priority species potential:
-

Connectivity:
The site itself has virtually no green infrastructure but does border a stream that had dense scrub and trees along its length and provides limited connectivity to green areas west and eastward and open areas of amenity grassland, playing fields and scattered trees to the north.

Structural diversity:
None.

Flora:
The flora on this site was restricted to small areas of bramble scrub, tall ruderal weedy vegetation and shrubs species such as elder. Ivy covers some areas of the fence.

Adjacent to the site along the eastern boundary, beneath alongside a public footpath, was a line of London plane and lime trees with amenity grassland.

The stream along the northern boundary was narrow and mostly dry with only occasional wet patches due to recent heavy rain and was heavily shaded. The banks were dominated by dense bramble scrub with hawthorn behind the site building. The stream further east outside the site boundary, even in the

more open areas, was dry with only occasional reed-canary grass present.

Some of the disturbed areas of the amenity grassland outside the main site comprised false-oat-grass, yarrow, ribwort plantain, common mugwort, perforated St John's-wort and Canadian fleabane.

Along the access road to the site is a line of elm trees. The landscaped flowerbeds comprised dense low growing shrubs including a *Cotoneaster* sp. and young specimen amenity trees.

Avifauna:
There were no habitats within the main site boundary that could support nesting birds but habitats are present immediately adjacent, in the dense scrub along the stream, for a variety of common bird species.

Invertebrates:
The site has limited areas of suitable habitat for invertebrates.

Herpetofauna:
The site is highly unlikely to support common reptiles or amphibians due to its industrial nature and lack of green infrastructure.

Mammals:
The buildings on site are considered unlikely to provide opportunities for roosting bats. The buildings were typical industrial units comprising single storey, corrugated metal construction with skylights. They were well used.

No other mammal species are considered likely to utilise the site, although the adjacent stream area could be suitable for hedgehogs.

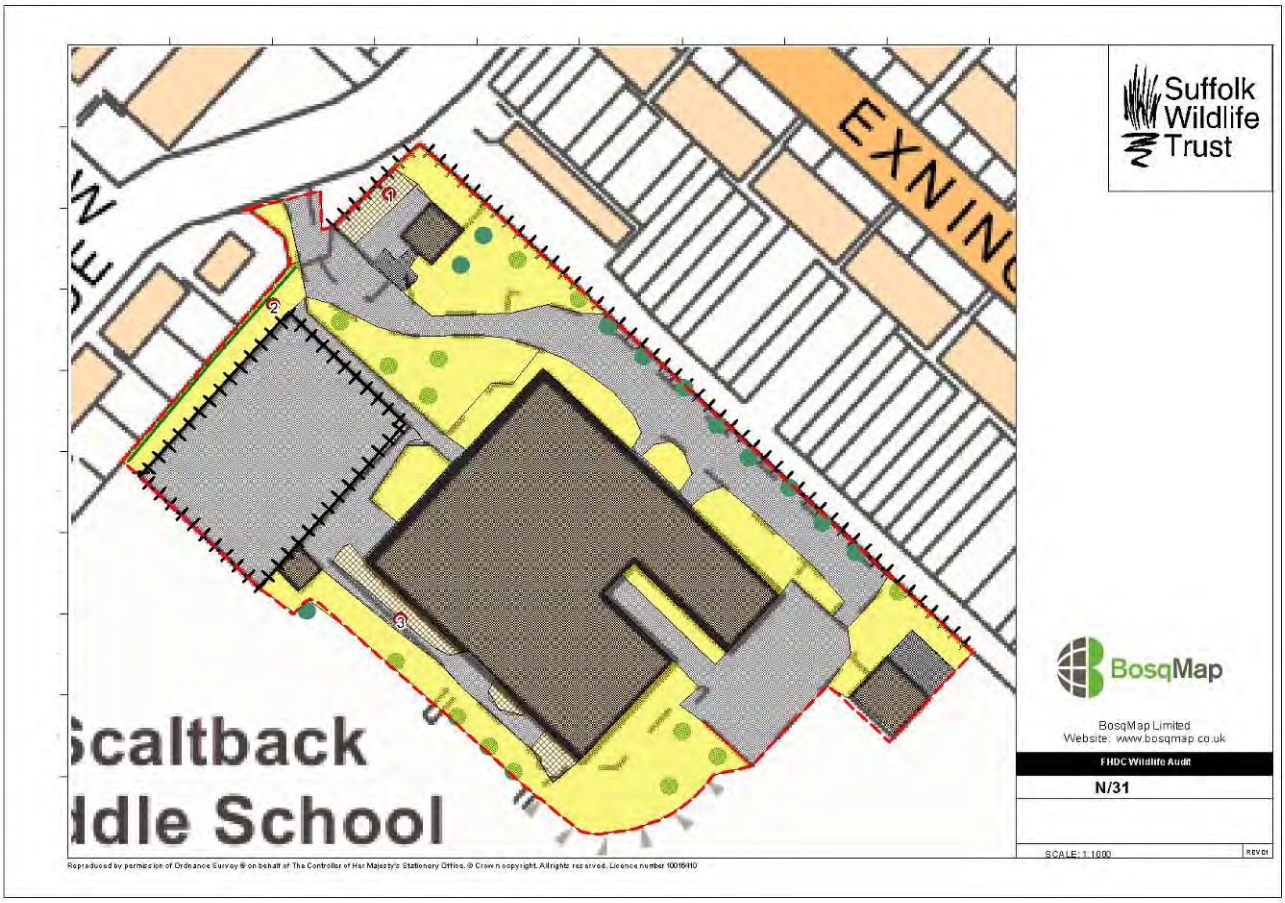
Comments and recommendations:
The site is of negligible ecological value.

Some species of Cotoneaster are listed under Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended), as a precaution the Cotoneaster sp. should be removed from this site if this area is redeveloped.

Site name — N/31 Former Scaltback Middle School Site

FHDC Ref: N/31
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TL 63350 64375
Area: 1.47 hectares
Date: 15 September 2015
Recorder: A Sherwood
Weather conditions: Dry, warm, overcast with sunny periods
Ranking: 6
Biodiversity value: Low

Map:



Sensitive ecological data may has been removed from these audit reports

Photos:

Scaltback Middle school buildings, looking south-east

Tennis courts, amenity grassland, scattered trees and access roads

Hedgerow along north-west boundary, looking south-west

Trees, landscape planting and school buildings, looking north-west along western boundary

Newmarket Rugby Football Club pavilion, looking north-west

Avenue of trees along access road to sports fields, looking north-west

Habitat type(s):
Amenity grassland, scattered trees

Subsidiary habitats:
Introduced shrubs

Site description:
The site is located off Exning Road/Elizabeth Avenue. The site comprises a flat-roofed brick and wood clad derelict building, the former Scaltback Middle School, associated access roads, pathways, tennis courts, sports hall, storage outbuildings and a separate sports pavilion currently used by Newmarket Rugby club. There is also a small empty bungalow and small garden area. The site is surrounded by sports playing fields on two sides, with residential development and associated gardens along Elizabeth Avenue and Exning Road. The majority of the grounds are managed as amenity mown grassland with some landscape planting adjacent to the main school buildings, scattered trees and an avenue of trees along the main drive into the school.

Protected species seen or known:
-

Protected species potential:
Bats

Priority habitats present:
-

Priority species seen or known:
Hedgehog

Priority species potential:
-

Connectivity:
The site is generally surrounded by residential development and mown amenity grassland. There is a species-poor hedgerow along the northern boundary and the scattered trees offer some limited connectivity via residential gardens and street trees to the wider environment.

Structural diversity:
There is little structural diversity since the grassland is regularly mown, although the trees and the hedgerow offer some limited diversity.

Flora:
The site comprised regularly mown amenity grassland of low ecological value.

The old garden of the bungalow (Target Note 1) had developed into an area of dense scrub, with garden shrubs such as forsythia, Laurustinus sp, mahonia and lilac present. There was also a strip of poor semi-improved grassland dominated by false oat-grass.

The landscape planting comprised a typical range of introduced garden shrubs such as Japanese rose

(Target Note 2 and Target Note 3), mahonia, *Berberis* sp, *Bergenia* sp, *Sumach*, hardy geraniums and *Cistus* sp.

The regularly managed hedgerow along the northern boundary was species-poor and was dominated by hawthorn with occasional elder.

Trees on site included a range of amenity trees such as red maples and ornamental chestnuts. Native trees included sycamore, young oak, whitebeam, lime, field maple and Scot's pine.

Avifauna:
Rooks were recorded foraging on the grassland areas and a green woodpecker was heard. Otherwise there were no notable species recorded during the survey. It is likely that some species could nest in the trees and common songbird species could nest in the species-poor hedgerow along the northern boundary.

Invertebrates:
The site provided limited opportunities for invertebrates since the majority of it is intensively managed. Although there are oak trees on site, a species known to support significant numbers of invertebrate species, these were young and not developed enough to provide the resource required for many invertebrate species. However, the number of trees on site and the hawthorn hedgerow will support a range of common and widespread species.

Herpetofauna:
The site has no suitable habitat for reptiles or amphibians, the majority being mown amenity grassland, adjacent playing fields, access roads and paths.

Mammals:
The only likely features on site that could support mammals are the trees where the larger specimens could provide holes and crevices for roosting bats. Most of the trees have negligible potential being young specimens. The building appears to have negligible potential for roosting bats. It has a flat tin roof and aerial photographs shows it has some skylights, although the wood cladding and wooden soffits could support roosting bats if there were no gaps observed that would allow entry.

The security staff reported seeing hedgehogs on site.

Otherwise there is limited opportunity for protected or Priority mammal species.

Comments and recommendations:
The site is of low ecological value with only amenity grassland, a few small areas of landscape planting and scattered, mostly young and well managed trees and a species-poor hedgerow.

It is recommended that a further detailed assessment of the trees is undertaken to determine the potential for roosting bats.

Vegetation (trees, shrubs, scrub) clearance should be undertaken outside the main bird nesting season (March to August inclusive) or preceded by a nesting bird check undertaken by a suitably qualified ecologist.

Japanese rose (*Rosa rugosa*) is present on the site. This species is commonly grown in gardens, but it is listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended) as a species which should be prevented from spreading in the wild. If development proceeds at this site measures should be put in place to ensure that construction activities do not result in the further spread of this species.