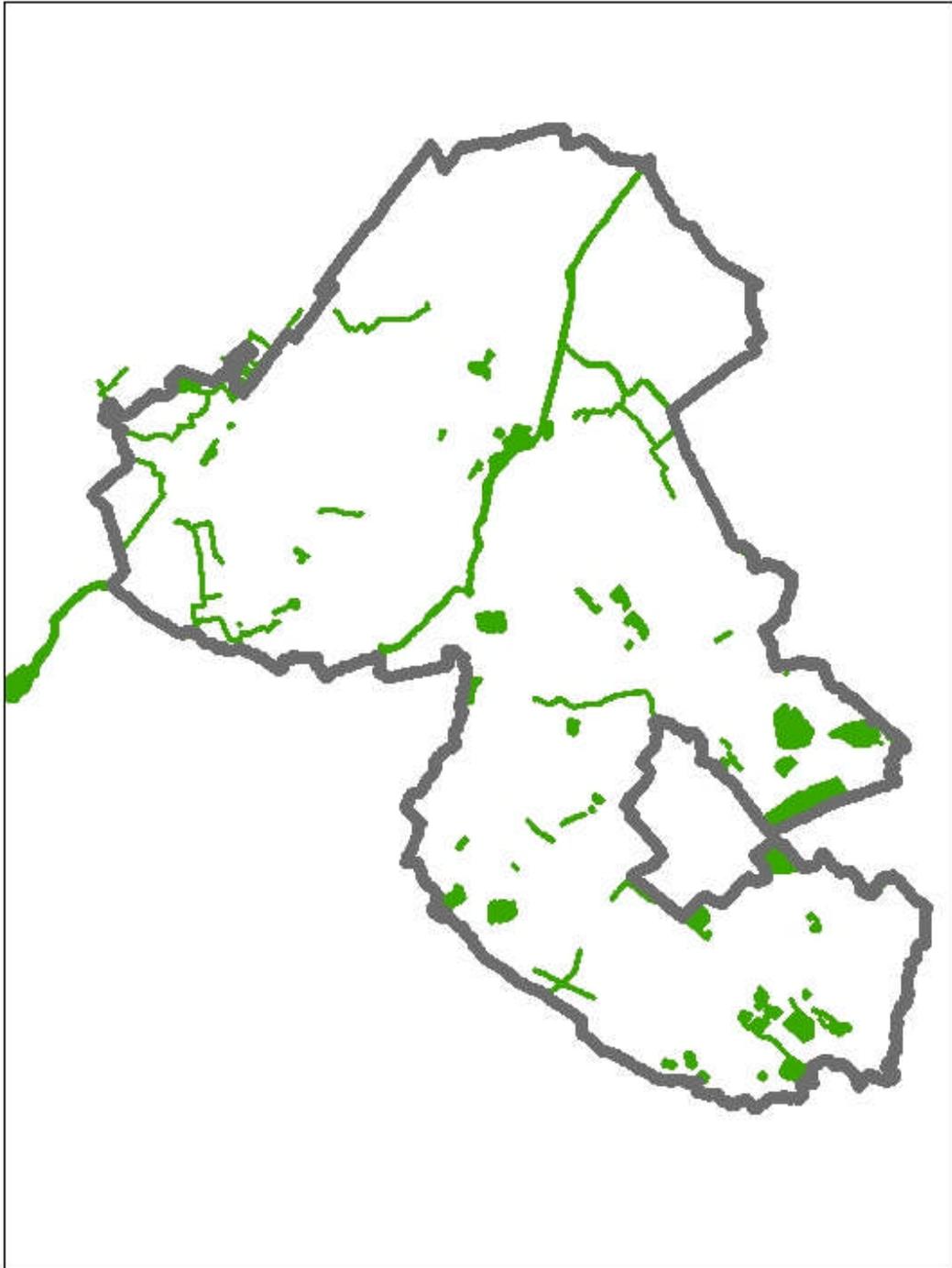


## EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY WILDLIFE SITES



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# **East Cambridgeshire District County Wildlife Sites Supplementary Planning Document**

**June 2010**

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NORTHAMPTONSHIRE & PETERBOROUGH LTD and EAST  
CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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## 1 Introduction

- 1.1 The *East Cambridgeshire District Council (ECDC) County Wildlife Sites Supplementary Planning Document* has been produced to update the *East Cambridgeshire District County Wildlife Sites Register 2005* so that it can be adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) to the East Cambridgeshire Local Development Framework (LDF).
- 1.2 On the 20<sup>th</sup> October 2009 East Cambridgeshire District Council adopted its Core Strategy Development Plan Document as part of its LDF. The adoption of the Core Strategy means that most of the policies in the *East Cambridgeshire District Local Plan 2000* have been superceded. The *East Cambridgeshire District County Wildlife Sites Register 2005* had been adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance to the *East Cambridgeshire District Local Plan 2000*, linked to Policy 56–Wildlife Protection. On adoption of the Core Strategy, Policy 56 of the Local Plan was replaced by Policy CS6 – Environment, and Policy EN6 - Biodiversity and Geology. As a result it has been necessary to update this document to supplement the new policies that the Core Strategy has introduced.

### 1.3 Project Aims and Background

- 1.3.1. The aim of this project is to update the *East Cambridgeshire County Wildlife Sites Register 2005* and adopt the updated version as SPD to the East Cambridgeshire Local Development Framework. The study is intended to assist the Council in meeting its obligations under *Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation*, which requires that local plan policies should be based on up to date information about the environmental characteristics of their areas, including relevant biodiversity and geological resources. *The ECDC County Wildlife Sites SPD* provides detailed background information, which supports Policy CS6 and Policy EN6 of the *East Cambridgeshire District Council Core Strategy DPD*, and ensures that these policies are based on up to date information about the environmental characteristics of the area, including relevant biodiversity and geological sources. Development proposals on County Wildlife Sites will be assessed against Policy CS6 and Policy EN6.
- 1.3.2. The *East Cambridgeshire District County Wildlife Sites Register 2005* completed a full re- survey of 74 out of the 78 County Wildlife Sites (CWS) located in the District of East Cambridgeshire, at that time, in order to provide updated information for the East Cambridgeshire Local Development Framework. These sites were originally identified through the Cambridgeshire County Habitat Survey undertaken between 1992 and 1997. However, by 2005 changes had occurred to some sites, both through changes to land use and changes in management. There was therefore a need to review both the status and boundaries of sites to ensure that the Local Development Framework would be based on reliable and up-to-date information. A number of new sites were also surveyed. The only sites not surveyed were the four main river sites, The River Lark and associated habitat, the Little River Ouse, the River Cam and the River Great Ouse. The criteria for such river sites were in the process of being reviewed.
- 1.3.3. In addition, to inform the 2005 project, a limited review of the County Wildlife Site Selection Criteria was undertaken. The CWS selection criteria were developed during the 1990's and are substantially based on Guidelines for Selection of Biological SSSIs published by the Nature Conservancy Council (succeeded by English Nature, now Natural England) in 1989. It is necessary to update the criteria from time to time to reflect increased scientific knowledge and the changing status of species and habitats within the country and county.
- 1.3.4. By 2005, the original criteria were 10 years old and in need of updating in several areas, based on new information that has become available. The main focus of this work was a review of Nationally Scarce and County Rare vascular plant lists, as well as the development of new criteria for veteran trees. Both existing CWS and a limited number of potential new CWS were assessed against these revised criteria (*County Wildlife Sites Selection Criteria, Version 4.2, 2005*).

- 1.3.5. The 2005 project did not aim to undertake a full review of all the County Wildlife Site Selection Criteria, or to assess all sites against all the criteria. Sites were mainly assessed against the habitat and vascular plant criteria (section 1-6 of the Selection Criteria), with only a handful of sites assessed against the fauna criteria. The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biological Records Centre is in the process of collating biological records for a wide range of taxonomic groups. As this work proceeds it will become possible to assess more sites, particularly against the lower plant and fauna criteria (sections 7– 11 of the Selection Criteria). This is likely to result in the identification of new County Wildlife Sites as well as existing sites qualifying under multiple criteria.
- 1.3.6. The CWS criteria have been updated since 2005. The latest update, *County Wildlife Sites Selection Guidelines, Version 5, 2009*, is attached as an annex to this document. (It should be noted that all sites in this document have been assessed against *County Wildlife Selection Criteria, Version 4.2* but that the updated selection criteria are attached as an Appendix as these are the criteria that will be used to assess County Wildlife Sites in the District in the future.)
- 1.3.7. The list of current approved CWS is prepared and maintained by the Wildlife Trust and shared with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biological Records Centre (CPBRC) in conjunction with the CWS Panel. The CWS Register is updated at least annually. CWS Panel members are:
- Cambridge City Council
  - Cambridgeshire County Council
  - ECDC
  - Environment Agency
  - Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group
  - Fenland District Council
  - Forestry Commission
  - Huntingdonshire District Council
  - Natural England
  - Peterborough City Council
  - South Cambridgeshire District Council

## **2 METHODOLOGY**

### **2.1 Field Survey**

- 2.1.1 In the four years prior to 2005 22 County Wildlife Sites had been surveyed, leaving 56 sites to re-survey in the 2005 field season. The main objectives of the surveys were the verification of the qualifying criteria for each site (each site to be assessed as to whether they still qualified under the updated CWS selection criteria) and the checking and if necessary amendment of site boundaries. Finally, the surveys provided an opportunity to review management practices for the sites.
- 2.1.2 The field survey was carried out during the period May to July 2005 with survey work timetabled so that sites were visited at the optimum time for their botanical interest, i.e. woodlands surveyed in May and grassland sites in July. All owners were initially contacted by letter to request access permission and explain the purpose of the survey. This was then followed by a courtesy phone call confirming arrangements close to the time of visit.
- 2.1.3 When on site the surveyor explored the site to determine and map visually distinct plant communities and habitat types. The habitat classification scheme employed was essentially the NCC Phase 1 scheme with individual communities being further identified within the broad habitats defined in that system. The National Vegetation Classification (NVC) was also employed for those habitats for which an NVC community is relevant in the CWS criteria or where it seemed possible that a site might qualify as a CWS under an NVC habitat criterion. A physical description was written

for the habitats and vegetation communities within each site. Detailed vascular plant species lists were compiled for each distinct habitat/community and an estimate of abundance for each species present was made using the standard DAFOR scale (Dominant, Abundant, Frequent, Occasional, Rare). In addition to the standard Phase 2 data recorded, other information was gathered about each site including, notes on current management, other features of interest e.g. for fauna, casual observations of animals and potential interest for other groups requiring further data collection / collation.

## **2.2 Assessment of Sites**

- 2.2.1. Following the field survey and data collation all sites were objectively assessed against the *Cambridgeshire County Wildlife Selection Criteria Version 4.2*. The initial assessment was carried out by the field surveyor and then reviewed by the Wildlife Trust's Conservation Manager.
- 2.2.2. The only sites not surveyed were the four main river sites, The River Lark and associated habitat, the Little River Ouse, the River Cam and the River Great Ouse. The criteria for such river sites were in the process of being reviewed. It was therefore considered more appropriate to wait for the publication of these newly revised criteria before undertaking a new survey of these sites. These four river sites have not been surveyed since then. It was also not possible to fully survey four other sites due to access permission being refused by the landowner. For these sites, analysis of the most recent aerial photos supplemented, where possible, by general observations from nearby public rights of way were used to assess whether the sites were likely to remain intact and still of CWS status. The precautionary principle was used in this assessment and unless there was clear, unequivocal evidence for the site no longer being of CWS status, the sites were assumed to still qualify as CWS.
- 2.2.3. Information provided by local experts/societies or derived from other surveys and other sources allowed a number of new sites to be considered for CWS status.

## **2.3 Output Format**

- 2.3.1. The output of the survey consists of a site report sheet and map for each CWS. The report consists of a description of the site and its vegetation units and communities, concentrating on those habitats for which it qualifies as a CWS. A summary of key species found on each site is given in the text, presented as a summary picture of both typical and unusual flora found on the CWS rather than a comprehensive species list.
- 2.3.2. The assessment section of each site report states whether the site qualifies as a CWS and provides the specific criteria under which it qualifies, referenced to the *Cambridgeshire County Wildlife Selection Criteria Version 4.2*.
- 2.3.3. All major habitats recorded at each site are listed in the Habitat Information section and where NVC habitats have been determined these are also listed.
- 2.3.4. The Council receives an updated GIS layer of CWS annually from the CPBRC. This contains details of site boundaries and a description of each site.

### **3. RESULTS**

#### **3.1 Summary Statistics**

- 3.1.1. A total of 78 County Wildlife Sites were identified from the 1990's County Habitat Survey and included on the East Cambridgeshire District County Wildlife Sites Register in February 1997. These covered an area of 1711.93 ha (excluding the drains and the River Great Ouse)
- 3.1.2. The 2005 project reviewed these 78 County Wildlife Sites and using new biological information that had become available since the previous report, assessed a number of potential new sites against the County Wildlife Sites criteria.
- 3.1.3. Access permission was denied by two landowners, preventing access to four sites. However, although these sites could not be surveyed they were viewed from public rights of way and each of them appeared to support the key habitats for which they were previously selected as County Wildlife Sites. They were therefore retained as County Wildlife Sites.
- 3.1.4. Three sites no longer met the criteria for selection as County Wildlife Sites and were therefore deleted from the register. These are Gravel Pit Plantation fields (land use change from arable to stud); Greenlanes Grassland (land use change to housing) and Isleham Station disused railway (scrub invasion and decline in quality of grassland).
- 3.1.5. However, six new sites that meet the selection criteria for County Wildlife Sites were added to the register. These are Brinkley Hall veteran trees; Broad Piece; Cheveley Park stud veteran trees; Chippenham Avenue Fields; Guppy's Pond and Hinton Hedges and Kingfisher's Bridge Wetland. Four of these sites were selected based on new biological information that has become available since the last survey and two were selected as a result of both the revision of the criteria and new biological information.
- 3.1.6. Three of these six sites (Broad Piece, Cheveley Park Stud veteran trees; and Chippenham Avenue Fields) were "proposed County Wildlife Sites" pending formal consultation with the site owners in line with national recommended best practice for selection of non-statutory nature conservation sites when the 2005 Register was published. They have since been confirmed as CWS. The other three sites (Brinkley Hall veteran trees, Guppy's Pond and Hinton Hedges and Kingfisher's Bridge) were confirmed as County Wildlife Sites, with the landowners having been formally consulted on the selection.
- 3.1.7. In addition to the identification of new sites and de-selection of other sites, several sites had their boundaries amended based on the most up-to-date survey information. Boundary extensions were necessary at the following sites: Burwell Disused Railway; Angel Drove drains; The Limekilns; Lucy Wood and adjacent hedgerows; Wentworth pollard willows; and Beald Drove pollard willows. Boundary reductions occurred at Burwell Brick Pit; Ely Beet Pits; and Links Golf Course.
- 3.1.8. In the period 2006-2009, no new sites were selected, no sites were lost to development or no sites had their boundaries amended.
- 3.1.9. On the 12<sup>th</sup> Feb 2009 Ely Pits and Meadows was designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest. The designation of Ely Pits and Meadows SSSI ensures that the nationally important wildlife and geology of the area will be fully recognised and taken into account in the future management and uses of the site. Ely Beet Pits CWS and Roswell Pits and Adjacent Areas CWS have been deleted from the CWS Register as of March 2010 as the areas they cover are now part of the Ely Pits and Meadows SSSI. Some of the area covered by River Great Ouse CWS has been reduced for the same reason.

- 3.1.10. As of March 2010 a new CWS 'The Bury Meadow' is to be designated. The site qualifies as it supports more than 0.05 ha of NVC community MG5 (unimproved neutral grassland) and has 8 or more neutral grassland indicator species present in frequent numbers. The site is one of a series of meadows adjacent to the Bury Road ancient drove way between Witcham and Wardy Hill.
- 3.1.11. As it stands the total number of CWS in East Cambridgeshire is 80 covering an area of 1537.18ha. This area excludes the river sites (Great Ouse, Little Ouse, Lark and Cam), they are not considered to have an area for this analysis and so were not included in the area calculations.

## EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNTY WILDLIFE SITES REGISTER – MARCH 2010

Site No.	Site Name	Grid Reference	Date Last Surveyed	Parish
7442	Ashley B1085 RSV	TL7062	2005	Ashley
7359	Mill Road Hedgerows	TL698627	2005	Ashley
7445	Track West of Lower Windmill	TL717617	2005	Ashley
7063	Bottisham Park	TL5461	2005	Bottisham
7050	Heath Road / Street Way Green Lanes	TL5758	2005	Bottisham
7515	Brinkley Hall Veteran Trees	TL628549	2005	Brinkley
7243	Brinkley Wood	TL615554	2005	Brinkley
7052	St George's Churchyard	TL581567	2005	Brinkley
7280	Bushy Grove	TL652549	2005	Burrough Green
7086	Burwell Brick Pit	TL577689	2007	Burwell
7083	Burwell Disused Railway	TL5765	2005	Burwell
7088	Spring Close	TL587660	2007	Burwell
7087	Pauline's Swamp	TL584657	2009	Burwell
7514	Cheveley Park Stud Veteran Trees	TL672614	2005	Cheveley
733 8/2	Warren Hill and Adjacent Areas	TL6563	2005	Cheveley
7516	Chippenham Avenue Fields	TL662674	2005	Chippenham
7364	Chippenham Park	TL6669	2005	Chippenham
7422	Freckenham Road RSV	TL6671	2005	Chippenham
7379	Havacre Meadows and Deal Nook	TL6870	2005	Chippenham
7048	Byall Fen Pumping Station Drains	TL5085	2005	Downham
7293	Great Widgham Wood	TL667552	2005	Dullingham
7281	Little Widgham Wood	TL663550	2005	Dullingham
7283	Parish Boundary Hedgerow	TL6556	2005	Dullingham
7119	Angel Drove Drains	TL5379	2005	Ely
7176	Beald Drove Pollard Willows	TL524808	2005	Ely
7226	Black Wing Drains	TL5981	2005	Ely
7192	Chettisham Meadows	TL5483	2005	Ely
7197	Ely Cemetery	TL547808	2005	Ely
7223	Middle Fen Bank Pollard Willows	TL579816	2005	Ely
7227	River Lark and Associated Habitat	TL68		Ely
7003/1	Aldreth Ponds	TL444731	2005	Haddenham
7012	Fen Side Pollard Willows	TL462738	2005	Haddenham
7025	Guppy's Pond and Hinton Hedges	TL467761	2005	Haddenham
7002	Haddenham Engine / Adventurers' Head Drainage System	TL4273	2005	Hadden ham
7017/3	River Great Ouse	TL37		Haddenham
7403	Isleham Railway Cutting	TL6372	2005	Isleham
7372	Chippenham Gravel Pit	TL685688	2005	Kennett
7374	Halfmoon Plantation Pit	TL6968	2005	Ken nett
7376	Kennett Churchyard	TL699683	2005	Ken nett
7447	Kennett Restored Gravel Pit	TL706684	2005	Kennett
7429	Great Wood	TL704549	2005	Kirtling
7301	Lucy Wood and Adjacent Features	TL6856	2005	Kirtling

Site No.	Site Name	Grid Reference	Date Last Surveyed	Parish
7427	Little Ouse River	TL68		Littleport
7056	Anglesey Abbey	TL5262	2005	Lode
7105/2	River Cam	TL45		Lode
7060	Swaffham Poor's Fen	TL532643	2005	Lode
7034	Mepal Gravel Pits	TL4283	2005	Mepal
7038	River Close Parkland	TL44081 1	2005	Mepal
7035	Sutton & Mepal Pumping Station Drains	TL4382	2005	Mepal
7335	Old Rectory Meadows	TL643673	2005	Snailwell
7330/2	Snailwell Grasslands and Woods	TL6367	2005	Snailwell
7360	The Limekilns and Adjacent Areas	TL6665	2005	Snailwell
7142	Broad Piece	TL581743	2005	Soham
7382	East Fen Common and The Wash	TL6073	2005	Soham
7140	Mere Side Grasslands	TL586737	2005	Soham
7154	Qua Fen Common	TL5974	2005	Soham
7149	Soham Cemetery	TL599723	2005	Soham
7284	Basefield Wood	TL651570	2005	Stetchworth
7285	Combers Wood	TL652578	2008	Stetchworth
7286	Great Chitlings Wood	TL654573	2005	Stetchworth
7287	Little Chitlings Wood	TL655576	2009	Stetchworth
7274	Marmers Wood	TL645573	2005	Stetchworth
7290	Pickmore Wood	TL652581	2008	Stetchworth
7036	Hundred Foot Bank Swamp and Ditch	TL432801	2005	Sutton (E)
7005	Old Bedford Low Bank Drains	TL4178	2005	Sutton (E)
7064/1	Cow Bridge Pollard Willows	TL554633	2005	Swaffham Bulbeck
7079	Beacon Course Green Lane	TL5962	2005	Swaffham Prior
7077	Driest Droveaway	TL562649	2005	Swaffham Prior
7078/2	July Course Grasslands	TL6062	2005	Swaffham Prior
7076	Swaffham Prior Meadow	TL567645	2005	Swaffham Prior
7028	Wentworth Pollard Willows	TL479777	2005	Wentworth
7249	Ladies Grove and Hay Wood	TL624556	2005	Westley Waterless
7517	Kingfishers Bridge Wetland	TL544732	2005	Wicken
7133	New River and Monks Lode	TL5970	2005	Wicken
7288	Charcoals Wood	TL658575	2005	Woodditton
7295	Ditton Park Wood	TL668569	2005	Woodditton
7460	Links Golf Course	TL6261	2005	Woodditton
7297	Wood South of Parsonage Farm	TL670582	2005	Woodditton
72 89/2	Woodditton Kirtling Road RSV	TL6657	2005	Woodditton
	The Bury Meadow		2010	Wicham

**Total Number of Sites** 80  
**Total Area of Sites (ha)** 1537.18ha

Site No. 7442

**COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET**NAME: **Ashley B1085 RSV**

File code: E/11.7.05

Parish(es): Ashley

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref.: TL7062

**Habitat information****Code** *Habitat type*

B22 Grassland: neutral, semi-improved

B31 Grassland: calcareous, unimproved

B6 Grassland: poor semi-improved

J232 Boundaries, hedge with trees, species-poor

**Site Area**

0.27 ha

**Site description**

A verge on the south-west side of the B1085 from TL704,630 to 709,625 with areas of unimproved calcareous grassland in places, extensive stretches of semi-improved neutral grassland with strong calcareous influences, and areas of poor semi-improved grassland. The opposite verge is similar in nature, but is in Suffolk.

The calcareous grassland, on a broad and sloping section of verge, has good quantities of grassland indicators amongst a finer sward of Red Fescue *Festuca rubra* and Yellow Oat-grass *Trisetum flavescens*. Indicator species found are Salad Burnet *Sanguisorba minor ssp. minor*, Greater Knapweed *Centaurea scabiosa*, Common Restharrow *Ononis repens*, Glaucous Sedge *Carex flacca*, Quaking Grass *Briza media* and Field Scabious *Knautia arvensis* along with many other grassland indicators. These include Lady's Bedstraw *Galium verum*, Black Knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, Bird's-foot Trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, Cowslip *Primula veris*, Dwarf Thistle *Cirsium acaule*, Perforate St John's-wort *Hypericum perforatum*, Rough Hawkbit *Leontodon hispidus*, Agrimony *Agrimonia eupatoria* and Hoary Plantain *Plantago media*. However, several species recorded in the previous survey were not observed on this occasion; Fairy Flax *Linum catharticum*, Small Scabious *Scabiosa columbaria* and Hairy Oat-grass *Helictotrichon pubescens*. Fairy Flax may have been missed due to the timing of the survey, but the absence of the other two species and an apparent increase in False Oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* suggests that the verge may be declining in interest and requires urgent management. The majority of the verge is under normal verge management, a yearly cut without removal of cuttings.

The semi-improved grassland areas of the verge, on thicker soils, have a sward dominated by fewer grass species, especially Red Fescue and a greater abundance of coarse grasses including False Oat-grass. They do however, still have a good range of indicator species, including Black Knapweed, Field Scabious, Lady's Bedstraw, Hoary Plantain and Agrimony. Other areas of the verge grade into poorer quality grassland, extreme sections of which contain little except Common Couch *Elytrigia repens*. The verge is backed by a low, frequently managed, hedge of mainly Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* and Privet *Ligustrum vulgare*. However, other species are also present with Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, Dogwood *Cornus sanguinea*, Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*, Elder *Sambucus nigra* and Dog Rose *Rosa*

*canina*. There are also scattered standards with Common Lime *Tilia platyphyllos*, Scots Pine *Pinus sylvestris* and Sycamore.

**Site assessment**

The site qualifies because the calcareous grassland supports at least six strong calcareous grassland indicator species in frequent numbers and the semi-improved neutral sward contains at least eight neutral grassland indicator species in frequent numbers.

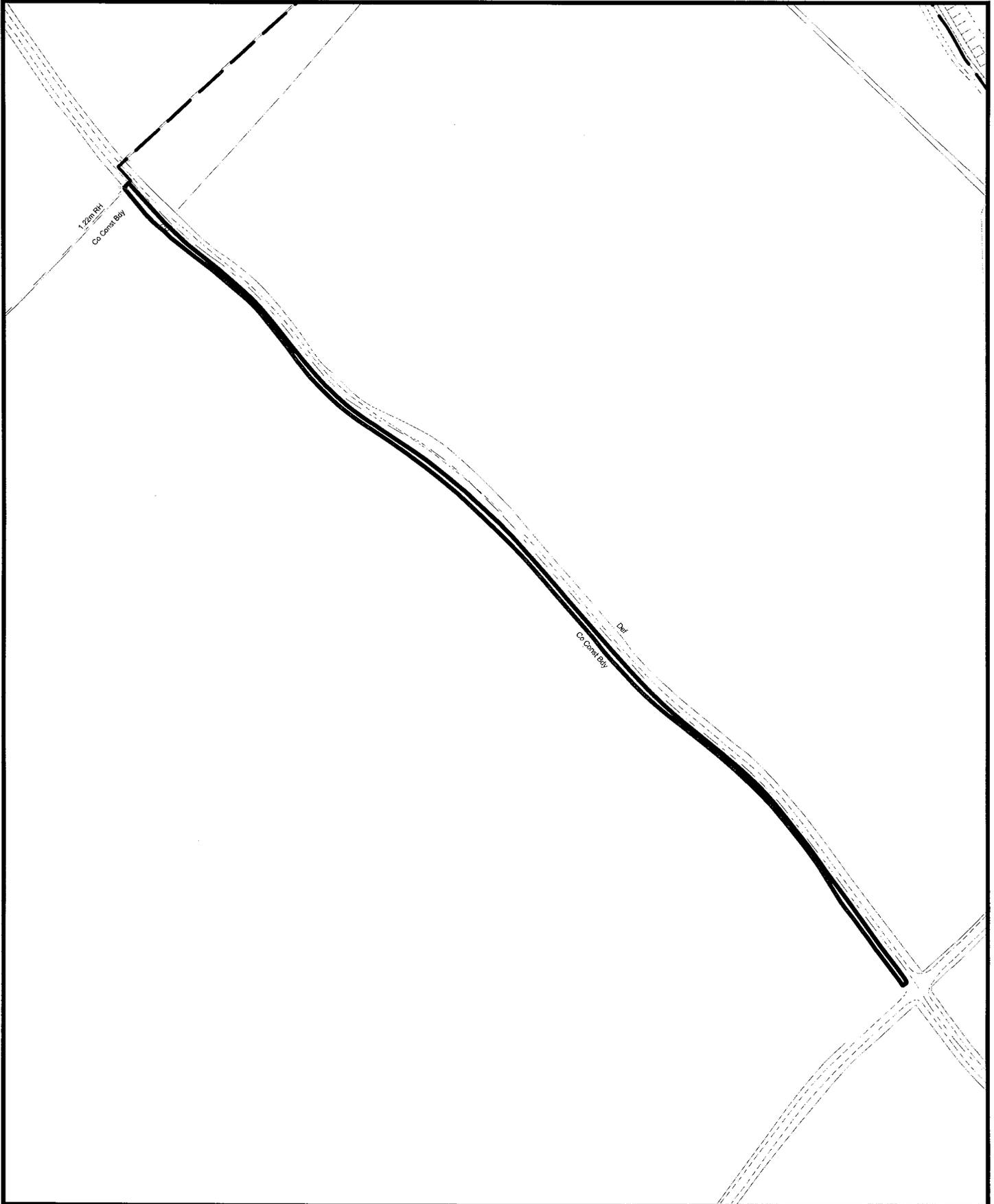
**Site status**

County Wildlife Site  
Protected roadside verge  
former Site of Natural History Interest

**Surveyor**

Martin Baker  
11/07/2005

# Ashley B1085 RSV



Grid Ref: TL707627  
Scale:1:3500  
Plot Date:22/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust for CCC

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Site No. 7359

## COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET

NAME: **Mill Road hedgerows**

File code: E/8.6.05

Parish(es): Ashley

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref: TL698627

### Habitat information

#### *Code Habitat type*

B22 Grassland: neutral, semi-improved

B6 Grassland: poor semi-improved

J211 Boundaries, intact hedge, species-rich

#### *Site area*

0.52 ha

### Site description

A Species-rich hedgerow three metres tall by two metres broad for most of its length along the south and east sides of Mill Road. It is in regular (probably yearly) management but the density of the hedge allows it to flower and fruit. It is dominated for stretches by Wild Privet *Ligustrum vulgare*, or Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, but many other trees and shrubs are present in varying abundance including frequent Elder *Sambucus nigra*, occasional Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, Purging Buckthorn *Rhamnus cathartica*, Dog Rose *Rosa canina*, Field Maple *Acer campestre* and Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* and locally frequent Dogwood *Cornus sanguinea*. Though the majority of the 2-3m wide verge is False Oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* dominated and of little botanical note, there are areas with a much more varied sward of semi-improved neutral type, which adds to the value of the site as a whole. Species such as Black Knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, Agrimony *Agrimonia eupatoria*, Field Scabious *Knautia arvensis*, Greater Knapweed *Centaurea scabiosa* and Yellow Oat-grass *Trisetum flavescens* are locally found in some quantity. The hedge is matched on the north and west side of Mill Road by another of the same or yet more impressive structure and dimensions, which, however, is in Suffolk.

### Site assessment

The hedgerow is of CWS standard because it consists of more than 500m of hedge containing more than 5 woody species and greater than 2 metres wide that is allowed to flower and fruit.

### Site status

County Wildlife Site

### Surveyor

Emma Ogden

08/06/2005

# Mill Road Hedgerows



Grid Ref: TL698627  
Scale: 1:5000  
Plot Date: 22/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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Site No. 7445

**COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET**NAME: **Track west of Lower Windmill**

File code: E/15.7.03

Parish(es): Ashley

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref.: TL717617

**Habitat information****Code** *Habitat type*

B31 Grassland: calcareous, unimproved

J21 Boundaries, intact hedge

**Site Area**

0.11 ha

**Site description**

A short length of trackway (public footpath) from the minor road to an overgrown orchard, with species-rich calcareous grassland along its verges and on the central track where unworn by walkers and vehicles. The grass matrix is dominated by False Oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* with abundant / frequent Red Fescue *Festuca rubra* and Yellow Oat-grass *Trisetum flavescens*. Cocksfoot *Dactylis glomerata* and Timothy *Phleum pratense* are occasional and Crested Hair-grass *Koeleria macrantha* rare. The herb species are fairly generally distributed with frequent species including Greater Knapweed *Centaurea scabiosa*, Sainfoin *Onobrychis viciifolia*, Common Restharrow *Ononis repens* and Burnet Saxifrage *Pimpinella saxifraga*. Occasional to rare are Agrimony *Agrimonia eupatoria*, Black Knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, Wild Basil *Clinopodium vulgare*, Small Scabious *Scabiosa columbaria*, Bladder Champion *Silene vulgaris*, Wild Parsnip *Pastinaca sativa* and Dark Mullein *Verbascum nigrum*. The road triangle is less diverse but includes a several chalk grassland species that can cope with some regular rough cutting; Hoary Plantain *Plantago media*, Bird's-foot Trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, Agrimony, Lady's Bedstraw *Galium verum*, Burnet Saxifrage and Black Knapweed. Harebell *Campanula rotundifolia*, Hairy Oat-grass *Helictotrichon pubescens* and Meadow Vetchling *Lathyrus pratensis* recorded during the previous survey were not seen on this occasion.

A hedge, situated on the north of the trackway only, is dominated by Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*. Privet *Ligustrum vulgare*, Spindle *Euonymus europaeus*, Buckthorn *Rhamnus cathartica* and Dog Rose *Rosa canina* are also present. At the west end of the track Ivy *Hedera helix* dominates and spreads partly into the grassland. The lack of a hedge on the south side of the track is actually very beneficial for the chalk grassland flora, maintaining an open sunny environment.

**Site assessment**

The site qualifies as CWS because it supports frequent numbers of at least 6 strong calcareous grassland indicator species.

**Site status**

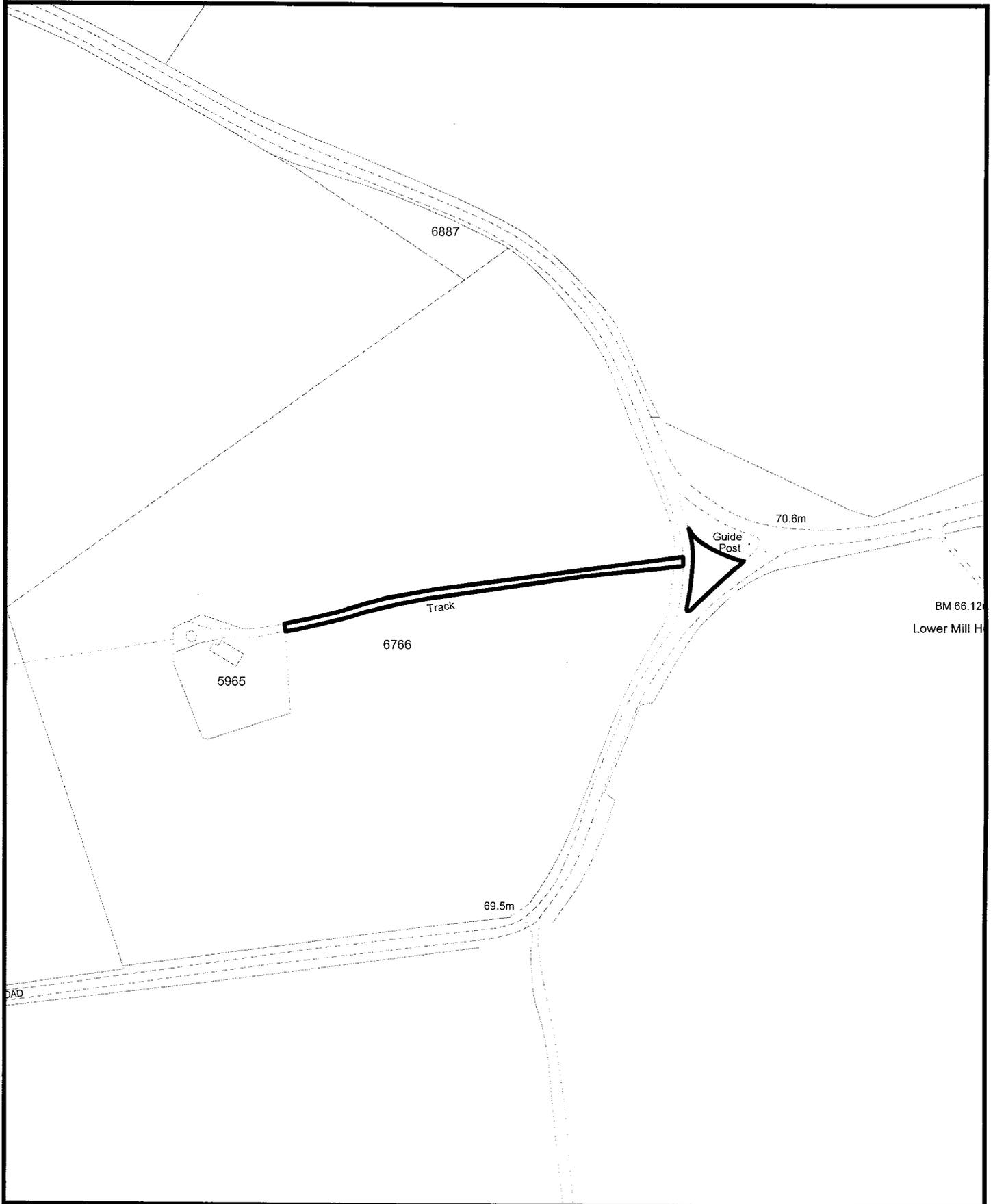
County Wildlife Site

**Surveyor**

Sharon Brown

15/07/2003

# Track West of Lower Windmill



Grid Ref: TL717617  
Scale:1:2500  
Plot Date:22/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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Site No. 7063

**COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET****NAME:** Bottisham Park

File code: E/1.6.04

Parish(es): Bottisham  
Swaffham Bulbeck

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref.: TL5461

**Habitat information****Code** *Habitat type*

A112	Woodland: broadleaved, plantation
A122	Woodland: coniferous, plantation
A132	Woodland: mixed, plantation
A31	Parkland/scattered trees: broad-leaved
B22	Grassland: neutral, semi-improved
B6	Grassland: poor semi-improved
B4	Grassland: improved
C31	Tall herb and fern: other, tall ruderal
G2	Open water: running water
J21	Boundaries, intact hedge
J26	Boundaries, dry ditch

**Site Area**

61.38 ha

**Site description**

A large park with extensive areas of broadleaved plantation and broadleaved parkland over neutral grassland. Close to the hall are some small areas of species-rich neutral grassland but the majority of the grassland in the park is relatively improved. The small meadow area in front of the Hall is by far the most species-rich area of grassland and represents a remnant of old unimproved grassland. It also gives an indication of what much of the Park grasslands may have looked like at some time in the past, though the Erect Brome *Bromus erectus* has become more dominant due to less intensive management over a period of years. Other than Erect Brome, Red Fescue *Festuca rubra* was the next most abundant grass, with Rough Meadow Grass *Poa trivialis* and Cocksfoot *Dactylis glomerata*. False-oat Grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* and Perennial Rye-grass *Lolium perenne* were less frequent. 12 species indicative of old grassland were recorded. Erect Brome was abundant, while Salad Burnet *Sanguisorba minor*, Black Knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, and Cowslip *Primula veris* occurred frequently. Other indicator species were generally occasional to locally frequent, including Lady's Bedstraw *Galium verum*, Agrimony *Agrimonia eupatoria*, Hoary Plantain *Plantago media*, Bird's-foot Trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, Dwarf Thistle *Cirsium acaule*, Hairy Violet *Viola hirta* and Bugle *Ajuga reptans*, while the final indicator species recorded, Meadow Vetchling *Lathyrus pratensis*, was only encountered rarely. The lawn south-east of the hall and lawns and verges north-west of the hall both contain semi-improved neutral grassland with a variety of grassland indicator species amongst a regularly mown lawn. These include Lady's Bedstraw, Black Knapweed, Cowslip, Dwarf Thistle, and a little Hairy Violet, Agrimony, Hoary Plantain, Rough Hawkbit *Leontodon hispidus* and Mouse-ear Hawkweed *Pilosella officinarum*. In addition there is Creeping Cinquefoil *Potentilla reptans*, Self Heal *Prunella vulgaris*, Bugle, Ground Ivy *Glechoma hederacea*, Ribwort Plantain *Plantago lanceolata*, Germander Speedwell *Veronica chamaedrys* and Yarrow *Achillea millefolium*.

The parkland contains a large number of over-mature and veteran trees with a concentration of Oak *Quercus robur* trees close to Scot's Garden Wood and Beech *Fagus sylvatica* close to the hall. As well as Beech and Oak, which make up the majority of the veteran trees there are also the occasional Horse Chestnut *Aesculus hippocastanum*, Common Lime *Tilia platyphyllos* and one very old Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*. In the nineteenth century Bottisham Hall was the home of Leonard Jenyns, a naturalist who made many records of the flora and fauna of the park and its environs. More recently the park has been visited by a number of naturalists in the mid seventies and several botanists in the early nineties. These visits have confirmed the continued existence of two locally rare plant species, Fly Orchid *Ophrys insectifera* in the woodland edge beyond the south-east lawn and Small Teasel *Dipsacus pilosus* close to the moat. The Nationally Scarce species Stinking Hellebore *Helleborus foetidus* occurs in what is no doubt a non-native population. This large site with a good variety of different habitats has resulted in a good list of birds recorded over the years but recent or quantitative data are lacking.

**Site assessment**

The site qualifies because it supports populations of vascular plant species which are rare in the county and because the parkland contains 5 or more veteran trees in association with other semi-natural habitat. The meadow area in front of the Hall is of County Wildlife Site quality in it's own right, qualifying for selection due to the presence of frequent numbers of at least 8 neutral grassland indicator species.

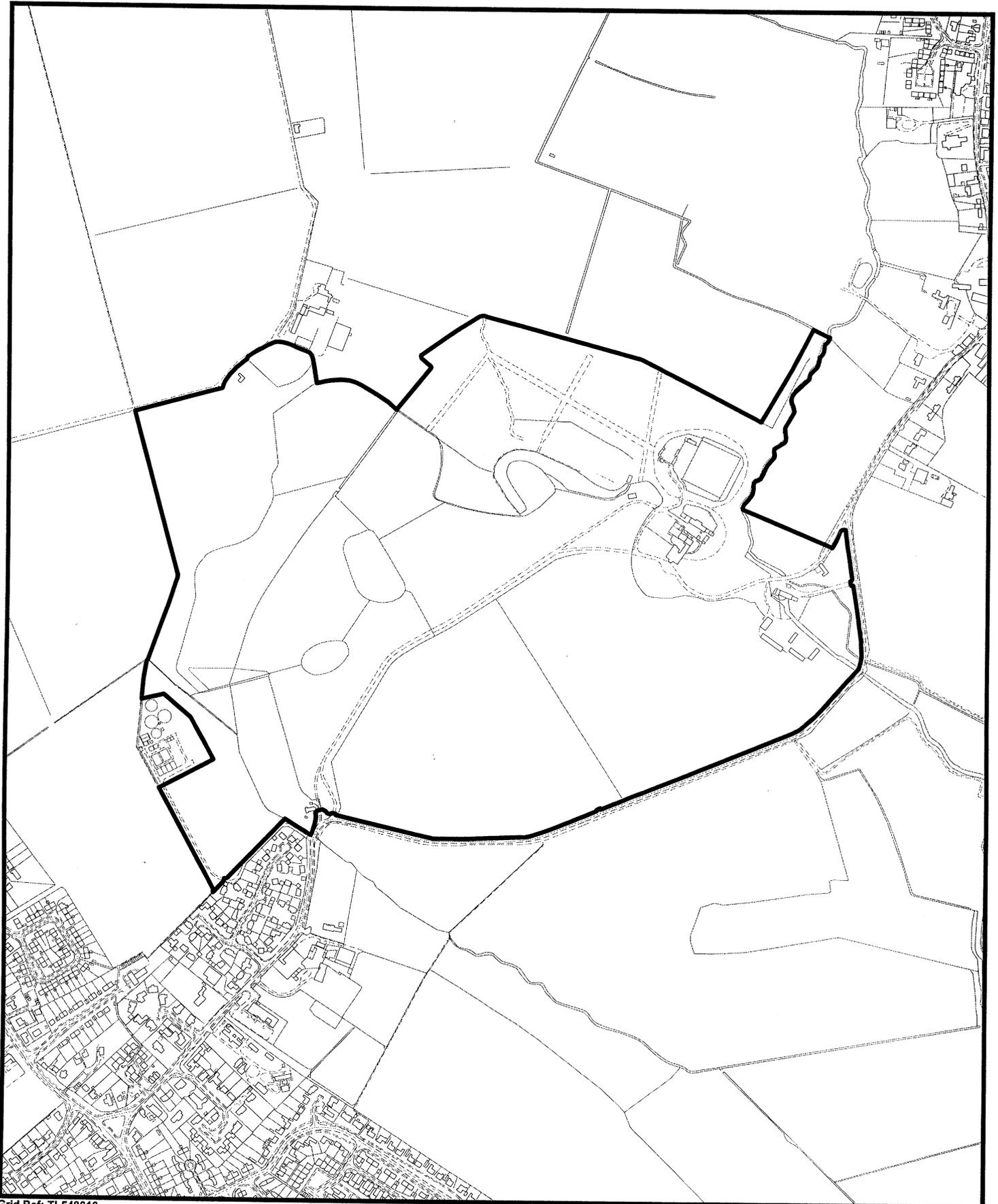
**Site status**

County Wildlife Site  
former Site of Natural History Interest  
Invertebrate Site Register

**Surveyor**

Martin Baker  
11/12/02001 & 01/06/2004

# Bottisham Park



Grid Ref: TL548616  
Scale: 1:7500  
Plot Date: 22/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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Site No. 7050

**COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET**NAME: **Heath Road/Street Way green lanes**

File code: E/06.7.04

Parish(es): Bottisham  
Swaffham Bulbeck  
Burrough Green  
Westley Waterless

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref.: TL5758

**Habitat information****Code Habitat type**B22 Grassland: neutral, semi-improved  
B32 Grassland: calcareous, semi-improved  
J21 Boundaries, intact hedge  
J22 Boundaries, defunct hedge  
J4 Bare ground  
CG03 Bromus erectus grassland**Site Area**

7.02 ha

**Site description**

Two long green lanes supporting neutral grassland of a distinctly calcareous influence. The site comprises Heath Road between TL561592 and TL585580, and Street Way between TL566582 and TL579599. The turf varies considerably, reflecting the different management processes affecting it. For much of the lanes the sward is rank and un-grazed and probably cut only once a year; in other areas the sward is grazed by tethered horses; in some small areas the turf is low and compact and grazed by rabbits. These latter areas tend to be the most species-rich, together with those areas with a stronger calcareous influence such as the higher ground towards the south-west end of Street Way.

The neutral to chalky grassland of the south-west and north-west lanes is dominated by False Oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* with abundant to occasional Red Fescue *Festuca rubra*, Timothy *Phleum pratense* and Creeping Bent *Agrostis stolonifera* and Yellow Oat Grass *Trisetum flavescens*. Crested Dog's Tail *Cynosurus cristatus* is rare, though Upright Brome *Bromopsis erecta* is locally abundant along the south-west arm of the site. There is a wide range of herbs with abundant / frequent species including Black Knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, Greater Knapweed *Centaurea scabiosa*, Lady's Bedstraw *Galium verum* and Common Restharrow *Ononis repens*. Other species include Agrimony *Agrimonia eupatoria*, Welled Thistle *Carduus acanthoides*, Wild Basil *Clinopodium vulgare*, Perforate St. John's-wort *Hypericum perforatum*, Field Scabious *Knautia arvensis*, Bird's-foot Trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, Marjoram *Origanum vulgare*, Knapweed Broomrape *Orobanche elatior*, Salad Burnet *Sanguisorba minor* and Bladder Campion *Silene vulgare*. A few species are confined to the SW section including Glaucous Sedge *Carex flacca*, Fairy Flax *Linum catharticum*, Hoary Plantain *Plantago media* and of particular interest a possible example of Sickle Medick *Medicago falcata*. Strawberry Clover *Trifolium fragiferum* was found only on Heath Road west of the A11, in the shorter grass created by passage of farm vehicles. In many stretches seedling and suckering Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa* and even Buckthorn *Rhamnus cathartica* is encroaching onto the lanes. Sprawling Dewberry *Rubus caesius*, Hedge Bedstraw *Galium mollugo* and Field

Bindweed *Convolvulus arvensis* can be locally frequent. The disturbed grassland section on Street Way (lane crossroads to the A11) is a rougher form of the False-oat Grass sward with tall herbs predominating. These include Wild Parsnip *Pastinaca sativa*, Nettle *Urtica dioica*, Mugwort *Artemisia vulgaris*, Cow Parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris*, Curled Dock *Rumex crispus* and some scrub encroachment.

Most of the hedgerows here are tall and wide and there are long lengths where there is mature scrub over the original verge. Although Hawthorn predominates, the abundance and size of the Buckthorn is particularly impressive. There are some very mature specimens on the NE track. Blackthorn is only frequent and Elder *Sambucus nigra* and Wild Privet *Ligustrum vulgare* occasional with rare Crab Apple *Malus sylvestris*, a *Prunus sp.* and Dog Rose *Rosa canina*. Associated flora is occasional / rare but includes Upright Hedge Parsley *Torilis japonica*, White Bryony *Bryonia dioica*, Black Horehound *Ballota nigra*, Nettle and Hedge Bedstraw. A line of mature Beech is found along part of the NE track, which continues for a stretch west of the A11. The north end of the NE track has a young Hawthorn hedge, about 3 metres high, on its east side only. The hedges west of the A11 are dominated by Hawthorn with frequent Blackthorn and Dog Rose. Buckthorn becomes rare here as are Elder and Dogwood *Cornus sanguinea*. Associated flora is minimal as with the flailing the grassland reaches to the hedge. Rather, there is seeding and suckering of hedge species into the grassland. Blackthorn, Elder and Bramble can increase in relative abundance as on the NE track west of the A11.

**Site assessment**

The site qualifies as CWS because it supports frequent numbers of at least 8 neutral grassland indicator species. The calcareous grassland areas support frequent numbers of at least 6 strong calcareous grassland indicator species. It also supports at least 0.05ha of CG3 Upright Brome grassland as a number of smaller areas.

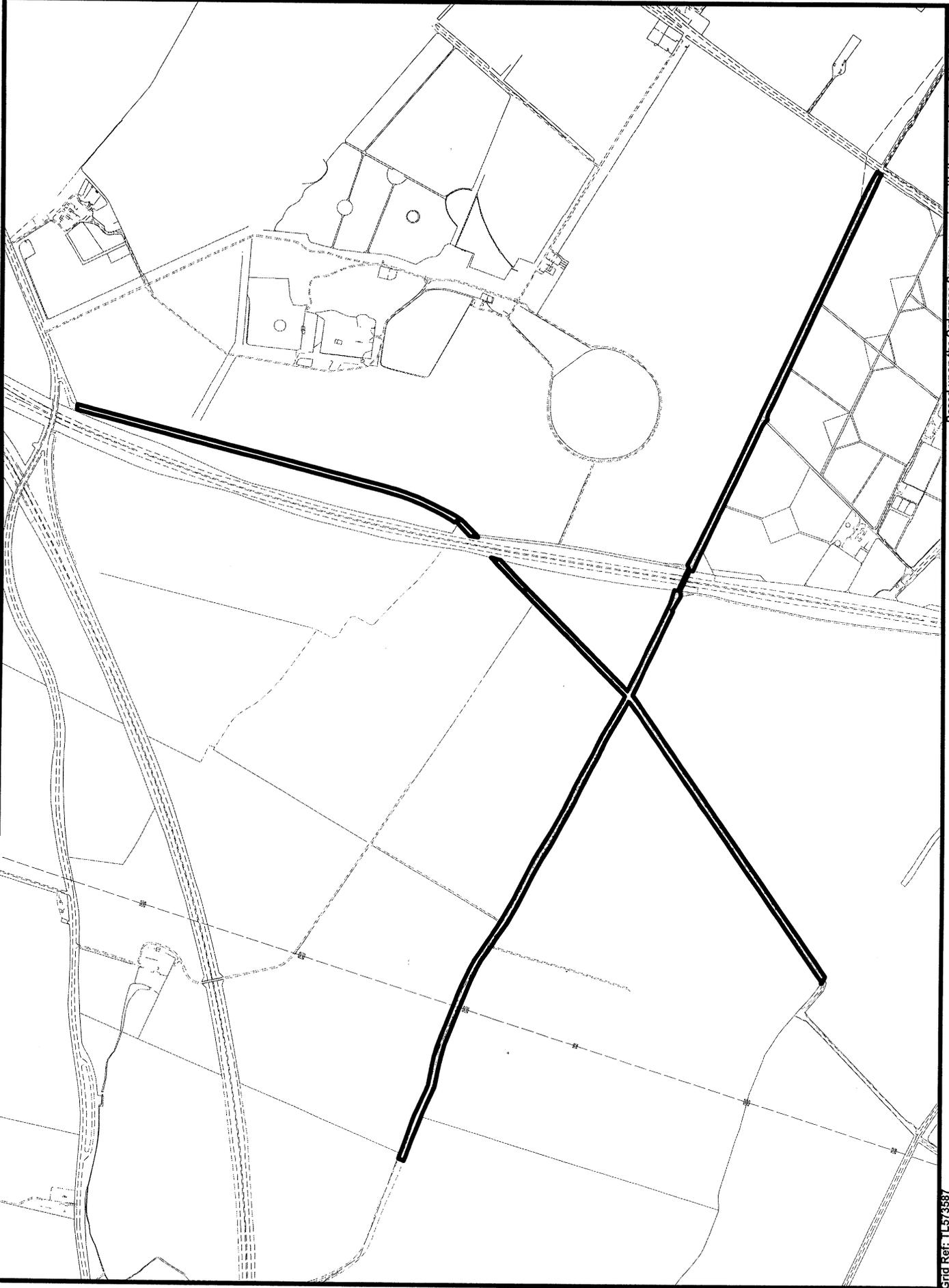
**Site status**

County Wildlife Site  
former Site of Natural History Interest

**Surveyor**

Sharon Brown  
26/06/2004 & 06/07/2004

**Heath Road / Street Way green lanes**



Grid Ref: TL573587  
Scale: 1:12500  
Plot Date: 22/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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Site No. 7515

**COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET**NAME: **Brinkley Hall veteran trees**

File code: E/NEW/29.1.02

Parish(es): Brinkley

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref.: TL628549

**Habitat information*****Code* *Habitat type***

A31 Parkland/scattered trees: broad-leaved

B6 Grassland: poor semi-improved

G111 Open water: standing, eutrophic, small ponds

***Site Area***

6.13 ha

**Site description**

The site comprises the two fields associated with Brinkley Hall that contain half a dozen veteran trees. Five of these are Horse Chestnut *Aesculus hippocastanum*, four of which form part of an avenue and the final tree and the most impressive is an English Oak *Quercus robur*. All the trees have significant deadwood features including crown loss, bark fluxes, tears and scars, hollowing and standing dead wood. The fields within which the trees are located were classified during the Phase 1 Survey as species-poor semi-improved grassland, but could do with a further survey. There is a small pond in the western field and a ditch along its northern boundary.

**Site assessment**

The site qualifies as a County Wildlife Site by virtue of having 5 or more veteran trees in association with other semi-natural habitat.

**Site status**

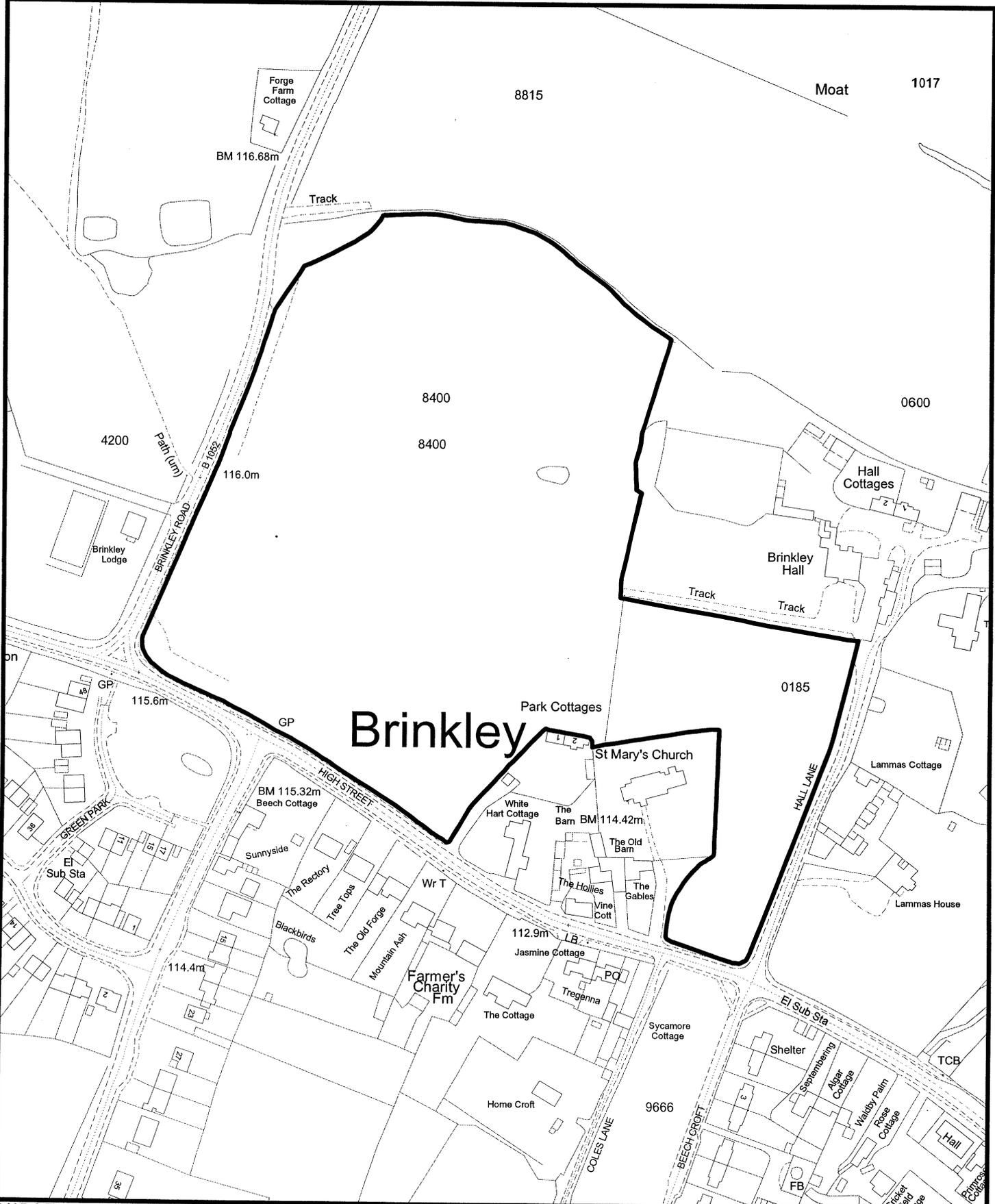
County Wildlife Site

**Surveyor**

Pete Stroh

29/01/2002

# Brinkley Hall Veteran Trees



Grid Ref: TL628549  
 Scale: 1:2500  
 Plot Date: 22/7/2005  
 By: Wildlife Trust  
 for CCC

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Site No. 7243

**COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET**NAME: **Brinkley Wood**

File code: E/12.05.05

Parish(es): Brinkley

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref: TL615554

**Habitat information****Code** *Habitat type*

A111 Woodland: broadleaved, semi-natural

**Site Area**

7.45 ha

**Site description**

A semi-natural ancient woodland with a canopy of mature Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and English Oak *Quercus robur* over neglected Hazel *Corylus avellana* coppice, which is at its densest at the western end of the wood. The canopy is generally open and many of the Ash have been singled from old coppice stools. The very occasional Hornbeam *Carpinus betulus* and Horse Chestnut *Aesculus hippocastanum* tree is also present. The Hazel is dense in patches, though elsewhere the shrub layer becomes more sparse. Other species found within the shrub layer include Field Maple *Acer campestre*, which is frequent and Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, Midland Hawthorn *Crataegus laevigata* and elms *Ulmus* sp. Spindle *Euonymus europaeus* recorded in 1993 was not observed on this occasion. Although the majority of the wood is semi-natural three large glades have been clear-felled and replanted with native broadleaves, mainly a mixture of Ash and Oak. Overall the wood contains a good quantity of dead wood, both as standing timber, but mostly as fallen timber and branches.

Dog's Mercury *Mercurialis perennis* is the most abundant species in the ground flora, being found throughout most of the wood. In patches it becomes co-dominant with other species including Wood Meadow-grass *Poa nemoralis* and Bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*. Patches of Ramsons *Allium ursinum* are locally frequent, while other ancient woodland indicator species are rare including Wood Sedge *Carex sylvatica*, Hairy St John's-wort *Hypericum hirsutum* and the Oxlip *Primula elatior* (Nationally Scarce species). Stinging Nettle *Urtica dioica* is frequent in the ground flora and in places locally abundant, while other species include Wood False-brome *Brachypodium sylvaticum*, Tufted Hair-grass *Deschampsia cespitosa*, Wood Avens *Geum urbanum*, Lesser Celandine *Ranunculus ficaria*, Lord's and Ladies *Arum maculatum*, Common Figwort *Scrophularia nodosa*, Garlic Mustard *Alliaria petiolata*, Lesser Burdock *Arctium minus* and Ground Ivy *Glechoma hederacea*. Enchanter's Nightshade *Circaea lutetiana* and Pendulous Sedge *Carex pendula* were not recorded on this occasion. The ground flora of the replanted glades comprises coarse grasses, nettle thistles, docks, bramble and willowherbs.

The wood is used for game bird rearing and there is a large pen at the eastern end of the wood. What appears to be an old disused outlier badger sett is present close to the southern edge of the wood. The wood is isolated and surrounded by arable fields. However, 6 metre grass margins have been put next to the wood on the east, south and west sides and the field to the north has a 20 metre uncultivated buffer. A large English Oak (over 200 years old) is present by the drain at the south-western corner of the wood.

**Site assessment**

The site qualifies as CWS because it is a woodland listed in the Cambridgeshire Inventory of Ancient Woodland which retains more than 25% semi-natural cover and because it supports a population of a Nationally Scarce vascular plant species (Oxlip *Primula elatior*).

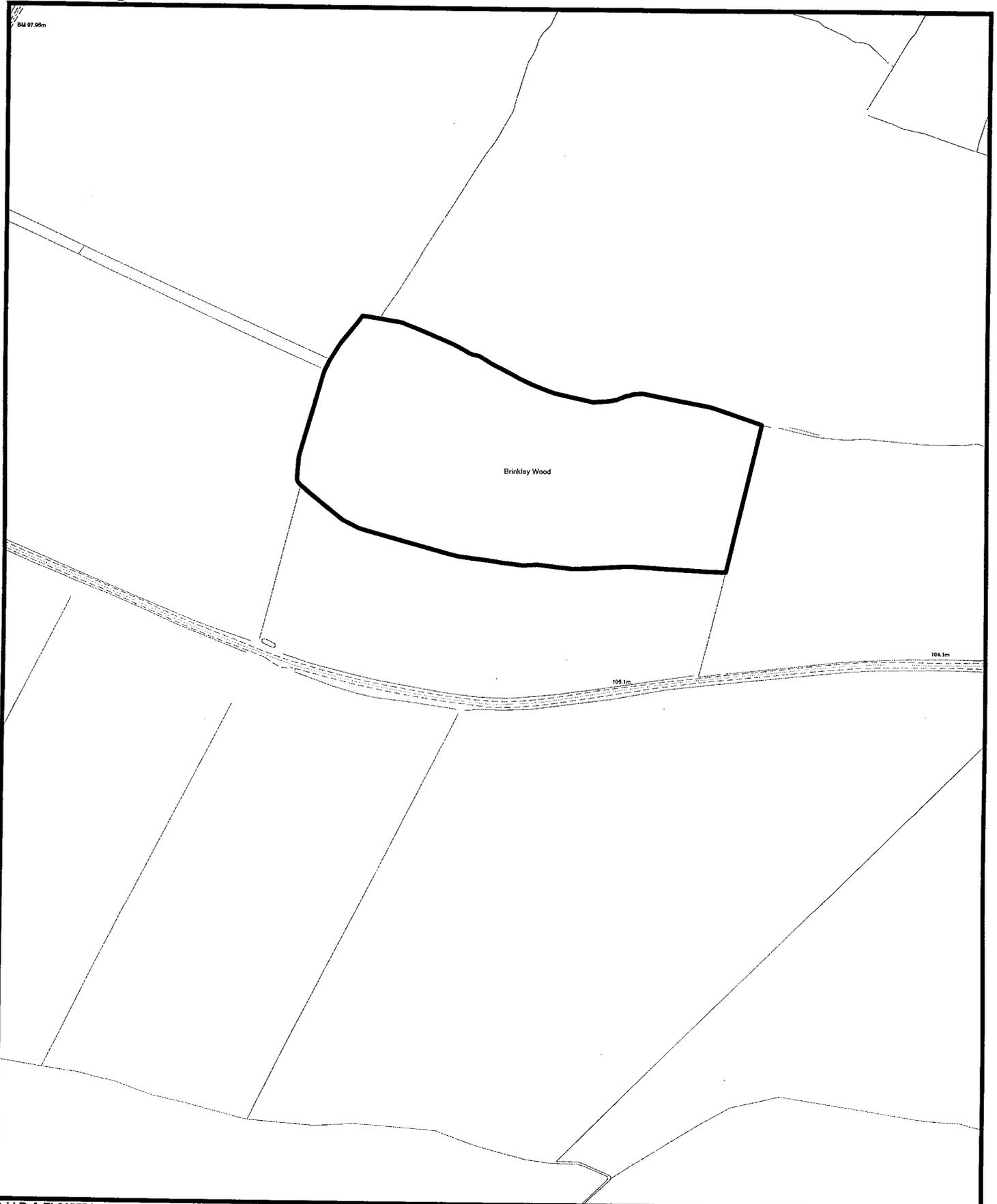
**Site status**

Ancient Woodland Inventory / former Site of Natural History Interest / County Wildlife Site

**Surveyor**

Martin Baker  
12/05/2005

# Brinkley Wood



Grid Ref: TL615554  
Scale: 1:5000  
Plot Date: 22/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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Site No. 7052

**COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET**NAME: **St George's Churchyard**

File code: E/14.7.05

Parish(es): Brinkley

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref: TL581567

**Habitat information****Code Habitat type**

A112 Woodland: broadleaved, plantation

A122 Woodland: coniferous, plantation

B22 Grassland: neutral, semi-improved

J21 Boundaries, intact hedge

**Site area**

1.40 ha

**Site description**

A large churchyard with three distinct areas; the main part of the churchyard contains a fine forb-rich sward over a light sandy/chalky soil. The sward comprises of abundant Lady's bedstraw *Galium verum* and Ribwort Plantain *Plantago lanceolata*, frequent Red Fescue *Festuca rubra*, Sheep's Sorrel *Rumex acetosella* and Common Sorrel *Rumex acetosa*, Hoary Plantain *Plantago media*, Yarrow *Achillea millefolium*, Agrimony *Agrimonia eupatoria*, Wild Basil *Clinopodium vulgare*, Germander Speedwell *Veronica chamaedrys* and Black Knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, locally abundant Mouse-ear Hawkweed *Pilosella officinarum*, locally frequent Yorkshire Fog *Holcus lanatus* and Field Wood Rush *Luzula campestris*, occasional Creeping Bent *Agrostis stolonifera*, Cat's Ear *Hypochaeris radicata*, Ox-eye Daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare* and Common Century *Centaureum erythraea*. At the time of survey the sward was very short and heavily rabbit grazed, bare and scuffed patches were frequent. The majority of the graves are situated in the north-eastern corner of the main grave yard where the vegetation is considerably taller and supports locally frequent Greater Knapweed *Centaurea scabiosa* and False Oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius*. The main part of the churchyard is bounded to north and west by mature Scot's Pine *Pinus sylvestris* and to the south by a species poor hedgerow of Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* and Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa* (1.5m height x 1m width).

Separated from the main part of the yard by a line of European Larch *Larix decidua* trees with some Hawthorn and Blackthorn scrub is a small extension area. This area contains a mosaic of rank tussocky grassland and short, fine, heavily rabbit grazed turf with locally frequent bare patches. False Oat-grass dominates the ranker grassland. The species present in the extension are much the same as in the main part of the churchyard but with some species present at higher frequency, eg. locally abundant Wild Basil and Greater Knapweed, frequent Agrimony, abundant to frequent Lady's Bedstraw, locally abundant Hedge Bedstraw *Galium mollugo*, locally frequent Field Scabious *Knautia arvensis* occasional Wild Parsnip *Pastinaca sativa* and Hop Trefoil *Trifolium campestre*. A number of Hawthorn bushes have self seeded, growing throughout the extension area and range from very small bushes up to 5ft tall x 5ft wide. An area of fairly dense Blackthorn scrub is starting to encroach on the grassland, growing out from the hedgerow at the south-east corner of the site. Lines of mature Beech *Fagus sylvatica* to c.8m tall form the northern and eastern boundaries of this extension area.

The extreme north-western part of the churchyard is occupied by a mature broadleaved plantation of predominantly Beech with occasional Scots Pine.

**Site assessment**

The churchyard qualifies as CWS because it supports frequent numbers of at least eight neutral grassland indicator species.

**Site status**

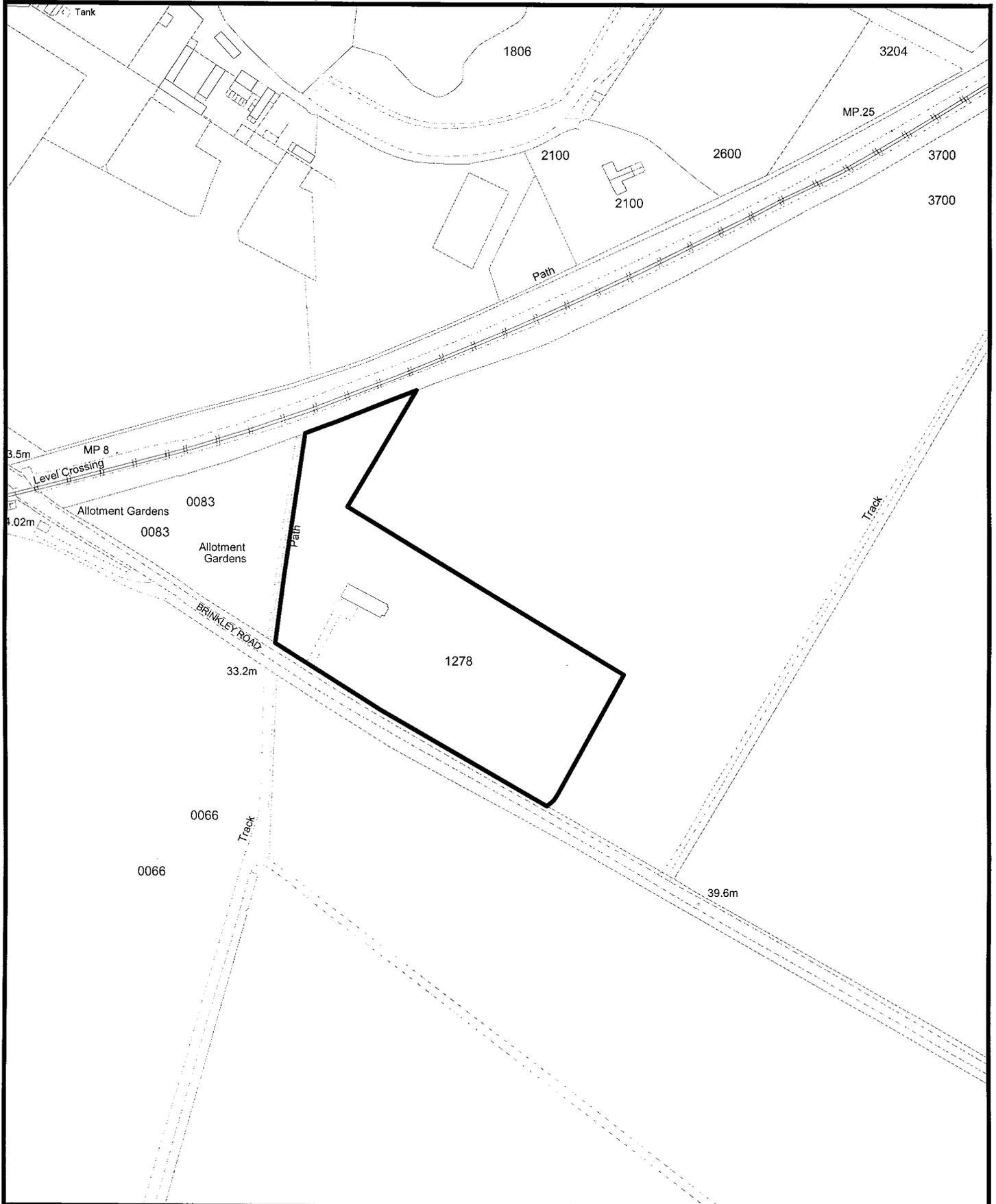
County Wildlife Site

**Surveyor**

Emma Ogden

14/07/2005

# St George's Churchyard



Grid Ref: TL581567  
Scale: 1:2500  
Plot Date: 21/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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Site No. 7280

**COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET**NAME: **Bushy Grove**

File code: E/25.5.05

Parish(es): Burrough Green

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref: TL652549

**Habitat information****Code** *Habitat type*

A111 Woodland: broadleaved, semi-natural

**Site area**

3.48 ha

**Note**

Access permission was not granted by the landowner for the 2005 survey. It was therefore only possible to observe the site at a distance; a public right of way passes the southwest corner of the woodland. From this viewpoint the woodland appeared to have maintained a similar structure to that seen in the 1994 survey. Therefore the results of the previous survey are likely to still present a good picture of the site, as detailed in the description below.

**Site description**

A small, mainly semi-natural broadleaved woodland with a canopy dominated by Oak *Quercus robur*, Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and Elm *Ulmus sp.*; Beech *Fagus sylvatica* is also present. Some old coppice stools are present. The well developed shrub layer comprises frequent Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, Field Maple *Acer campestre*, Elder *Sambucus nigra*. The ground flora consists largely of coarse grasses and common weed species. In addition Oxlip *Primula elatior* (Nationally Scarce species), Bluebells *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, Wood Melick *Melica uniflora*, Dog's Mercury *Mercurialis perennis*, Lords-and-Ladies *Arum maculatum*, Garlic Mustard *Alliaria petiolata* have been recorded. The wood is used for game bird rearing.

**Site assessment**

The site qualifies as CWS because it supports a population of a Nationally Scarce vascular plant species (Oxlip *Primula elatior*).

**Site status**

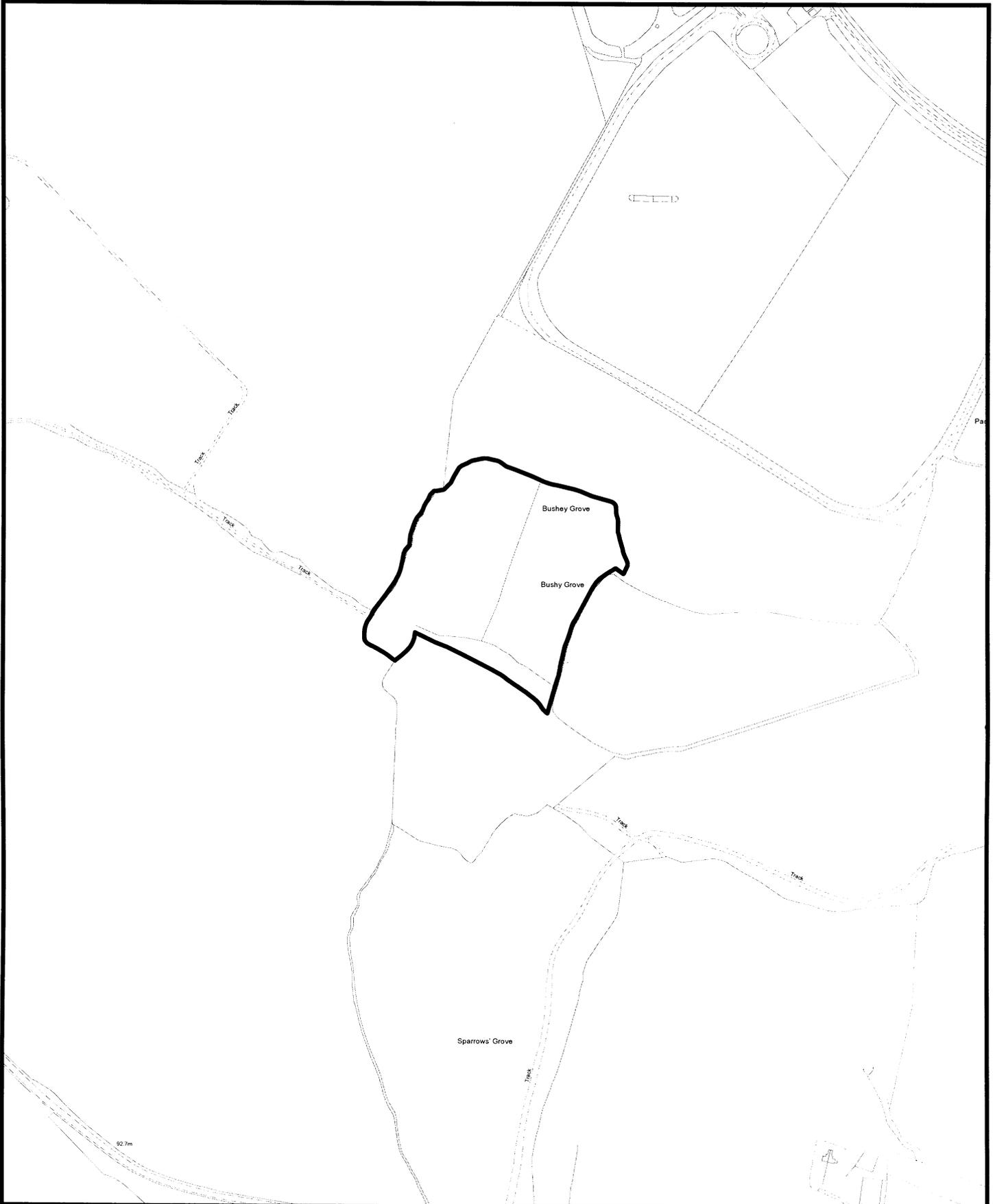
County Wildlife Site

**Surveyor**

Alastair Ross

25/05/2005

# Bushy Grove



Grid Ref: TL652549  
Scale: 1:5000  
Plot Date: 21/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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Site No. 7086

**COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET**NAME: **Burwell Brick Pit**

File code: E/08.06.05

Parish(es): Burwell

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref: TL577689

**Habitat information****Code** *Habitat type*

A21	Scrub: dense/continuous
A22	Scrub: scattered
B22	Grassland: neutral, semi-improved
B3	Grassland: calcareous
F1	Swamp
F12	Swamp: Tall Fen vegetation
G1	Open water: standing water
J4	Bare ground

**Site Area**

14.35 ha

**Site description**

A disused brick pit comprising an area several hectares in extent containing a large lake thickly fringed with reed swamp, dried out water bodies, and expanses of rough grassland in places colonised by areas of scattered and dense scrub. The large areas of swamp of the NVC Lesser Reed-mace *Typha angustifolia* community (S13) recorded in 1996 and for which the site was previously selected as a Wildlife Site, appeared to be much reduced in extent. Small patches remain, however, the apparent drying out of much of the site has resulted in Common Reed *Phragmites australis* and Wood Small-reed *Calamagrostis epigejos* now dominating. Common Reed dominates the narrow marginal fringe to the lake. The water quality in the lake remains good. A large patch of Long-stalked Yellow Sedge *Carex viridula ssp. brachyrrhyncha* is found immediately north of the lake. The shallow open water area to the west of the site is also being colonised by Common Reed and Common Reed-mace *Typha latifolia*. An area to the south of this linear water body has both Common Reed and Lesser Pond Sedge *Carex acutiformis*, though the later appears to be suffering drought stress as this area progressively dries out. Other wetland plants recorded in low numbers included Greater Pond Sedge *Typha latifolia*, Gipsywort *Lycopus europaeus*, Common Spike Rush *Eleocharis palustris*, Hemp Agrimony *Eupatoria cannabinum*, Common Fleabane *Pulicaria dysenterica*, Purple Loosestrife *Lythrum salicaria*, Blunt-flowered Rush *Juncus subnodulosus*, Jointed Rush *Juncus articulatus* and Common Comfrey *Symphytum officinale*. Large areas in the centre of the site, to the west and north of the lake, support a drying out swamp community that appears to be transitional between several NVC communities, including S4 Common Reed swamp and S25 Common Reed – Hemp Agrimony tall-herb fen.

The majority of the grassland, on moderate slopes toward the site perimeter and on flatter ground adjacent to the water bodies, is dominated by Wood Small-reed and Common Reed *Phragmites australis* in a coarse and unmanaged sward. In places the sward becomes more open with chalky clay soil exposed and there is a range of grassland forbs, most of which indicate calcareous conditions and recent disturbance. They include

Yellow-wort *Blackstonia perfoliata*, Ox-eye Daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare* and Glaucous Sedge *Carex flacca*, as well as Wild Carrot *Daucus carota*, Fairy Flax *Linum catharticum*, Hoary Ragwort *Senecio erucifolius*, Mouse-ear Hawkweed *Pilosella officinarum*, Blue Fleabane *Erigeron acer* and Black Medick *Medicago lupulina*. Other notable plants recorded include Common Spotted Orchid *Dactylorhiza fuchsii*. However, some of the notable species previously recorded were not observed during the current survey, including Kidney Vetch *Anthyllis vulneraria*, Meadow Rue *Thalictrum flavum* and Burnet Saxifrage *Pimpinella saxifraga*. The failure to record all these species should not be taken as definitive proof of their absence. However, the apparent absence or rarity of so many species previously recorded, coupled with the evidence of less bare ground observed between the aerial photographs of 1998 and 2003, suggests that natural successional processes and the increased dominance of Wood Small-reed may have resulted in significant changes.

Areas of scrub are dominated by Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* with much Dog Rose *Rosa canina* as well as Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, Buckthorn *Rhamnus catharticus*, Alder Buckthorn *Frangula alnus* and some willow species including Crack Willow *Salix fragilis*, Grey Sallow *Salix cinerea* and the hybrid *Salix x ehrhartiana*.

The site boundaries have been amended to exclude the buildings and disturbed ground at the south end of the site.

#### **Site assessment**

The site qualifies as CWS under the Habitat Mosaic criteria, because it is a site greater than 10 ha that supports naturally regenerating grasslands, scrub, marshy grassland, swamp and open water, several of which (the S4 Common Reed swamp community, the S13 Lesser Reed-mace swamp community, the S25 Common Reed – Hemp Agrimony tall herb fen community and the naturally regenerating grasslands) are approaching County Wildlife Site standard in their own right.

However, the site no longer qualifies by virtue of containing at least 0.05 ha of a good example of the NVC Lesser Reed-mace swamp community (S13).

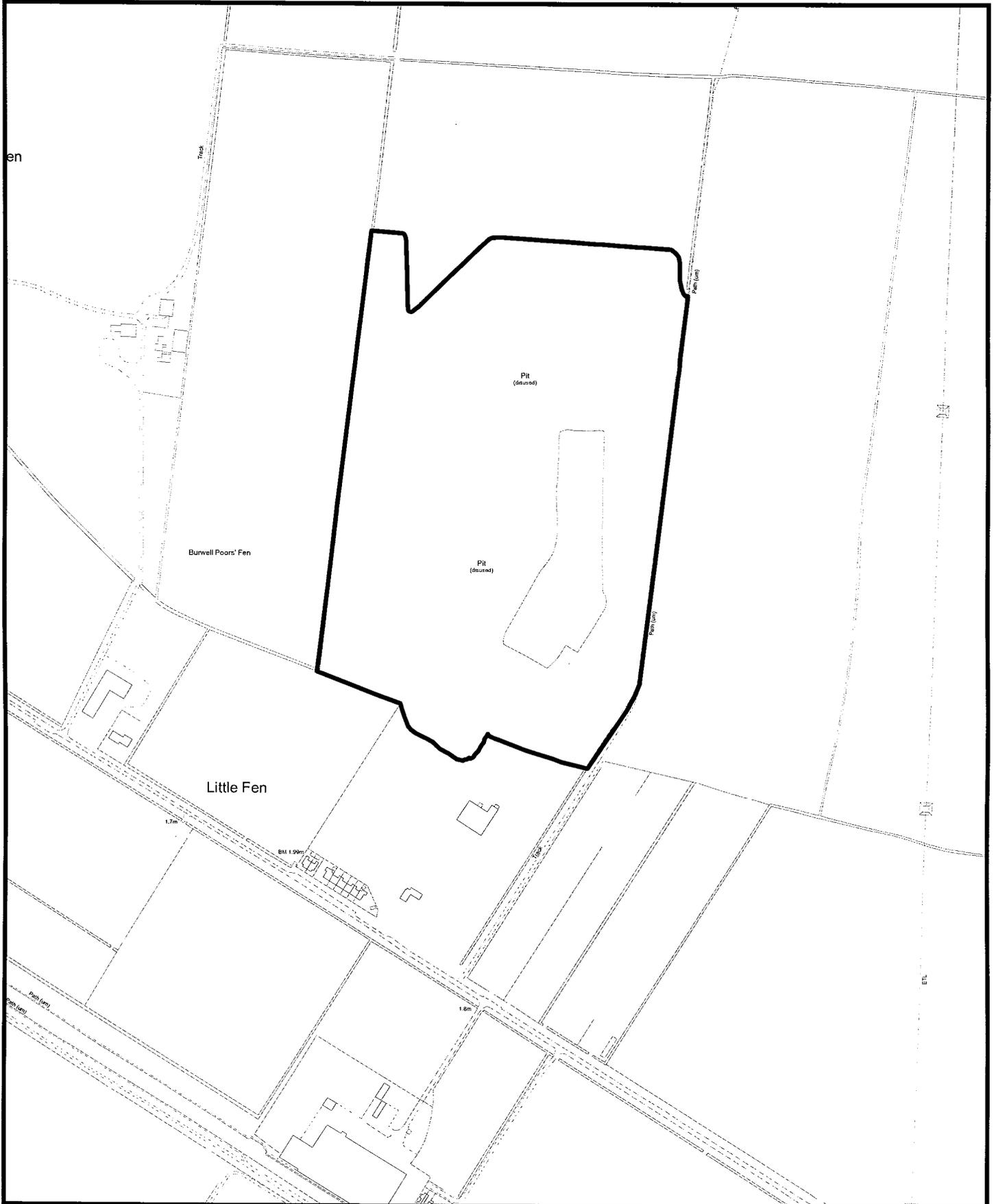
#### **Site status**

County Wildlife Site  
former Site of Natural History Interest

#### **Surveyor**

Martin Baker  
08/06/2005 & 05/07/2005 & 2007

# Burwell Brick Pit



Grid Ref: TL577689  
Scale: 1:5000  
Plot Date: 22/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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Site No. 7083

**COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET**NAME: **Burwell Disused Railway**

File code: E/5.7.05

Parish(es): Burwell  
Swaffham Prior

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref: TL5765

**Habitat information****Code** *Habitat type*

A22 Scrub: scattered

B31 Grassland: calcareous, unimproved

CG03 *Bromus erectus* grassland**Site Area**

2.23 ha

**Site description**

The banks and verges of this dismantled railway, which cuts through the Devil's Dyke SSSI, support large areas of species rich unimproved calcareous grassland of the NVC CG3 Upright Brome community. The majority of the site is a cutting whose banks rise to their highest point, several metres tall, where the site intersects the Devil's Ditch, but at the eastern end the track is above the adjacent land.

The sward is mostly dominated by Upright Brome *Bromopsis erecta* and characterised by frequent numbers of many strong calcareous indicator plants such as Kidney Vetch *Anthyllis vulneraria*, Horseshoe Vetch *Hippocrepis comosa*, Sainfoin *Onobrychis viciifolia*, Greater Knapweed *Centaurea scabiosa*, Field Scabious *Knautia arvensis*, Harebell *Campanula rotundifolia*, Rough Hawkbit *Leontodon hispidus*, Quaking Grass *Briza media*, Crested Hair-grass *Koeleria macrantha*, Meadow Oat Grass *Helictotrichon pratense* and Sheep's Fescue *Festuca ovina*. Other species which are locally frequent or occasional include Salad Burnet *Sanguisorba minor*, Wild Thyme *Thymus polytrichus*, Common Rockrose *Helianthemum nummularia*, Glaucous Sedge *Carex flacca*, Dwarf Thistle *Cirsium acaule*, Wild Basil *Clinopodium vulgare* and Common Milkwort *Polygala vulgaris*. Rare species are Small Scabious *Scabiosa columbaria*, Fairy Flax *Linum catharticum*, Marjoram *Origanum vulgare*, Tor Grass *Brachypodium pinnatum* and Pyramidal Orchid *Anacamptis pyramidalis*. In total this site supports at least 39 grassland indicator plants, of which 24 are strong. Some of the other typical species are Black Knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, Bird's-foot Trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, Lady's Bedstraw *Galium verum*, Ox-eye Daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare*, Cowslip *Primula veris*, Perforate St John's-wort *Hypericum perforatum*, Agrimony *Agrimonia eupatoria* and Hoary Plantain *Plantago lanceolata*. Species recorded during the previous survey but not seen on this occasion were Mouse-ear Hawkweed *Pilosella officinarum*.

Towards the edges of the site the grassland becomes taller and coarser, perhaps affected by agricultural spray drift, though a number of the taller grassland indicator species such as Greater Knapweed, Field Scabious and sprawling species such as Meadow Vetchling *Lathyrus pratensis* still occur. West of the Devil's Dyke, the southern half of the track and cutting slope have a coarser grass sward as a result of the shading by the boundary hedgerow.

Vegetation now covers all of the former track bed except for 2 wheel lines where farm vehicles travel down the centre of the track. Kidney Vetch and Horseshoe Vetch are particularly prominent along the track bed. The Kidney Vetch is the larval food plant of the Small Blue butterfly and Horseshoe Vetch is the larval food plant of the Chalk-hill Blue butterfly. Both these species are nationally declining this site supports one of the few remaining colonies of both in Cambridgeshire. The grassland is managed by annual cutting in autumn / winter, though some additional cutting is undertaken in small areas by local volunteers to maintain suitable conditions for the butterfly species. Towards the eastern end of the track bed a small population of Spanish Catchfly *Silene otites*, a Nationally Rare plant, is found.

Scattered scrub occurs throughout the site including Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, Dogwood *Cornus sanguinea*, Privet *Ligustrum vulgare*, and Roses *Rosa sp.* While these are frequent in patches they are kept in check by the annual mowing regime. A hedgerow of similar species borders the southern boundary west of the Devil's Dyke, and a few bushes (possibly the remains of a hedge), occur towards the far eastern end.

The easternmost section, 100m in length, is heavily shaded by trees, mainly Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, growing on the embankment and an adjacent poplar plantation.

**Site assessment**

The site qualifies because it contains at least 0.05 ha of the NVC Upright Brome grassland community (CG3) and supports a population of a Nationally Rare vascular plant species (current status to be confirmed). Additionally it qualifies because it supports frequent numbers of at least 6 strong and at least 16 strong or weak calcareous grassland indicator species. The site also qualifies because it supports one of the five largest colonies in the county of the nationally declining Small Blue and Chalk-hill Blue butterflies.

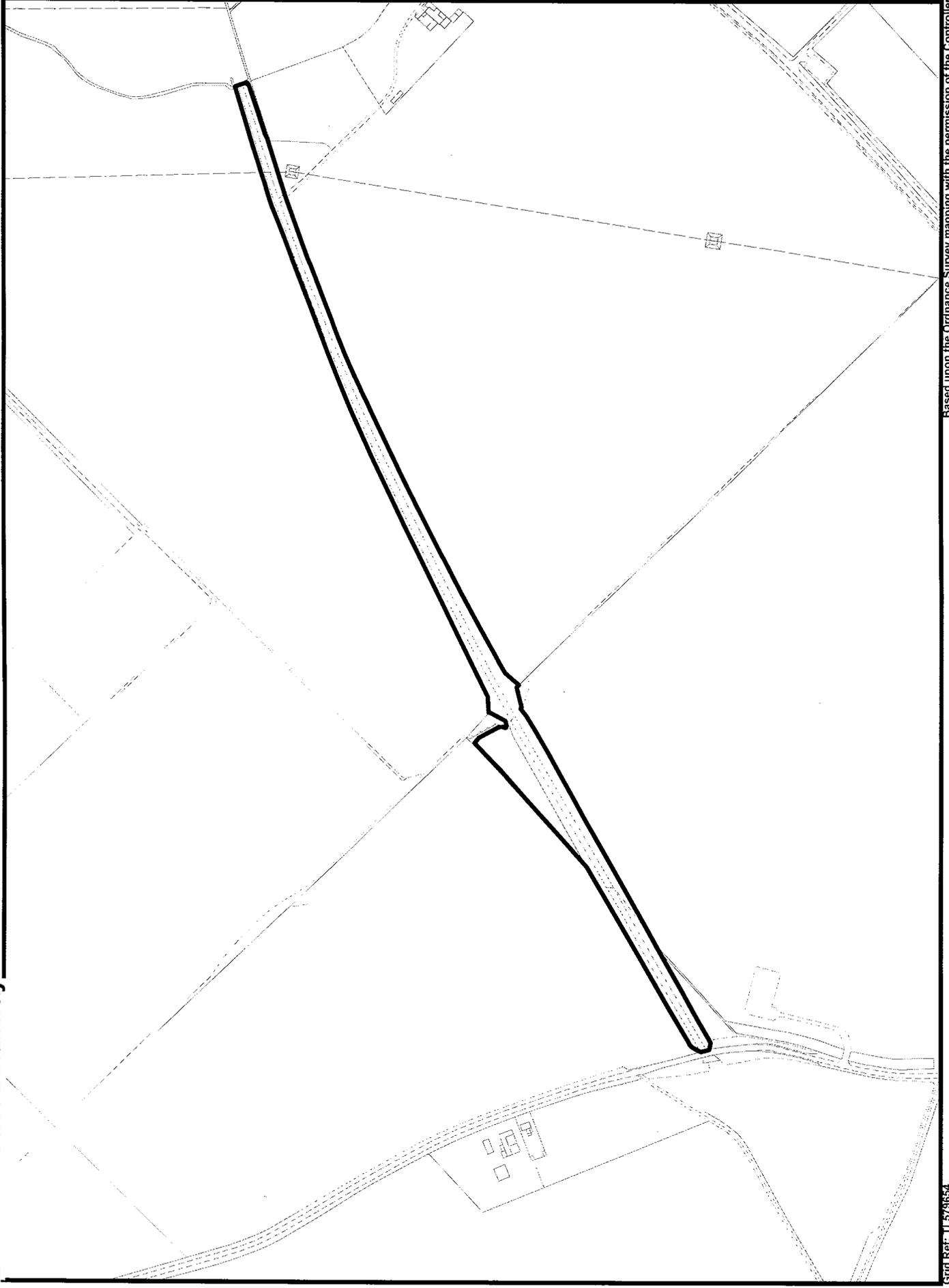
**Site status**

County Wildlife Site  
former Site of Natural History Interest

**Surveyor**

Martin Baker  
05/07/2005

# Burwell Disused Railway



Grid Ref: TL579654  
Scale: 1:5000  
Plot Date: 22/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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Site No. 7088

**COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET**

NAME: **Spring Close**  
 File code: E/19.7.03  
 Parish(es): Burwell  
 County: Cambridgeshire  
 Grid ref.: TL587660

**Habitat information**

<i>Code</i>	<i>Habitat type</i>
A21	Scrub: dense/continuous
A22	Scrub: scattered
B22	Grassland: neutral, semi-improved
B5	Grassland: marsh/marshy grassland
B6	Grassland: poor semi-improved
G2	Open water: running water
J21	Boundaries, intact hedge
J23	Boundaries, hedge with trees

**Site Area**

5.11 ha

**Site description**

The site includes an area of neutral and slightly calcareous grassland on the earthworks of Burwell Castle. It is bounded largely by mature hedgerows with trees and used for informal recreation. The flatter parts of the site are regularly mown and dominated by a coarse species-poor turf. The embankments are less frequently mown and include patches of species-rich turf with good numbers of calcareous and neutral grassland indicators, where they have not been taken over by dense blocks of Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* and Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa* scrub. The Species-rich grassland areas support abundant Erect Brome *Bromopsis erecta*, Yellow Oat-grass *Trisetum flavescens* and Sheep's Fescue *Festuca ovina*, with frequent False Oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* and Cocksfoot *Dactylis glomerata*. Within this sward Black Knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, Lady's Bedstraw *Galium verum*, Bird's-foot Trefoil *Lotus corniculatus* and Glaucous Sedge *Carex flacca* were frequent, but other species including, Quaking Grass *Briza media*, Small Scabious *Scabiosa columbaria*, Ox-eye Daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare*, Hoary Plantain *Plantago media*, Rough Hawkbit *Leontodon hispidus*, Cowslip *Primula veris*, Common Sorrel *Rumex acetosa* and Wild Clary *Salvia verbenaca*, only occasional to rare. A small paddock in the north-west corner, used for horse-grazing, is badly over-grazed with 85% bare earth.

Dwarf Thistle *Cirsium acaule* and Salad Burnet *Sanguisorba minor*, both recorded during the previous survey were not observed on this occasion. This together with the extent of scrub and state of the other habitats indicate that this site has declined in interest and is in need of enhanced conservation management.

Spring water was flowing from five points at the headwater at the east of the CWS, at the time of survey. There are some low steep banks around which there has been some erosion from trampling. Immediately below the spring the stream is very over-shaded, running 8-10cm deep over chalky alluvium, as it winds its way around the south and west edges of the CWS. The marsh lies in the old moat of the 'castle' and along the edge of the stream where it is shaded. The open marsh holds abundant Greater Reed-mace *Typha latifolia*, Hairy Willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum* and Reed Canary-grass *Phalaris arundinacea*. Occasional /

rare are Hairy Sedge *Carex hirta*, Field Horsetail *Equisetum arvense*, Fool's Water-cress *Apium nodiflorum*, Lesser Pond Sedge *Carex acutiformis*, Blunt-flowered Rush *Juncus subnodulosus*, Bulbous Rush *Juncus bulbosus* and Hard Rush *Juncus inflexus*. The shaded stream-side marsh is co-dominated by Fool's Water-cress, Brooklime *Veronica beccabunga* and Floating Sweet-grass *Glyceria fluitans* with Hairy Willowherb frequent, Hairy Bitter-cress *Cardamine hirsuta* occasional and Marsh Marigold *Caltha palustris* rare.

**Site assessment**

The site qualifies because it supports frequent numbers of at least 8 neutral grassland indicator species.

**Site status**

County Wildlife Site  
former Site of Natural History Interest

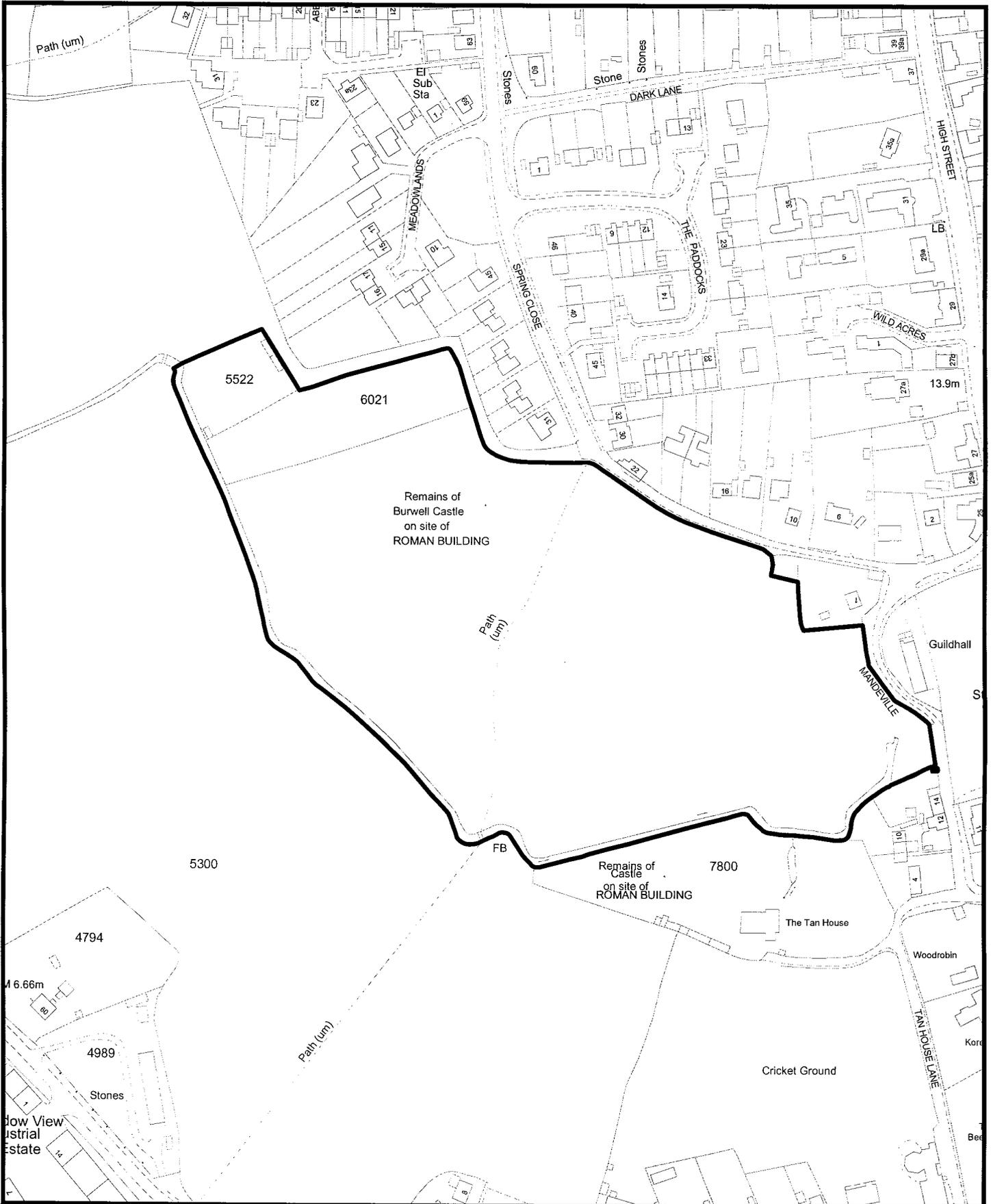
**Surveyor**

Sharon Brown

19/07/2003

Also surveyed 2007

# Spring Close



Grid Ref: TL587660  
 Scale: 1:2500  
 Plot Date: 22/7/2005  
 By: Wildlife Trust  
 for CCC

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Site No. 7087

**COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET**NAME: **Paulines Swamp**

File code: E/20.5.03

Parish(es): Burwell

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref.: TL584657

**Habitat information**

<i>Code</i>	<i>Habitat type</i>
A111	Woodland: broadleaved, semi-natural
B22	Grassland: neutral, semi-improved
B6	Grassland: poor semi-improved
B5	Grassland: marsh/marshy grassland
G1	Open water: standing water
J232	Boundaries, hedge with trees, species-poor
J262	Boundaries, seasonally wet ditch
MI27	Filipendula ulmaria-Angelica sylvestris mire

**Site Area**

1.50 ha

**Site description**

This small meadow comprises several habitats that all merge gradually into one another and all of which are of some interest, with the fen meadow of the NVC *Filipendula ulmaria* - *Angelica sylvestris* community (M27) particularly notable.

The grassland while all of similar type may be divided in two by the level of grazing. The north and west of the meadow is the area normally available to the ponies and geese when the electric fencing is complete. The grass matrix holds abundant / frequent False Oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius*, Red Fescue *Festuca rubra*, Cocksfoot *Dactylis glomerata* and Yorkshire Fog *Holcus lanatus*. The herbs which are low growing or can resist heavy grazing are most prominent in the fenced area; Self Heal *Prunella vulgaris*, Hairy Sedge *Carex hirta*, Common Mouse-ear *Cerastium fontanum* and Meadow Buttercup *Ranunculus acris*. On the east of the meadow Black Knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, Lady's Bedstraw *Galium verum*, Tufted Vetch *Vicia cracca* and Meadow Vetchling *Lathyrus pratensis* are frequent and are partly over grown with Spear Thistle *Cirsium vulgare* and Bramble *Rubus fruticosus*. Rare species of interest include Sorrel *Rumex acetosa*, Cowslip *Primula veris* and Bugle *Ajuga reptans*.

The marsh covers the SE of the field and the ditch, the latter being most species-rich probably because there is a constant flow of water here, while the main marsh is summer dry and generally un-grazed. Along the ditch species include abundant Lesser Pond Sedge *Carex acutiformis*, Blunt-flowered Rush *Juncus subnodulosus*, Water Mint *Mentha aquatica* and Fool's Water-cress *Apium nodiflorum*. In the marsh Meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*, Hairy Willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum* and Cleavers *Galium aparine* are abundant. Other species present include frequent Marsh Thistle *Cirsium palustre* and occasional / rare Black Sedge *Carex nigra*, Hard Rush *Juncus inflexus*, Water Mint, Fen Bedstraw *Galium uliginosum*, Water Figwort *Scrophularia auriculata*, Water-cress *Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum* and Yellow Flag *Iris pseudacorus*.

There are two ponds; one is a shallow pond used by the geese, thus without vegetation and with silty water, while the other is a deep square dug pond with opaque water. The banks are steep leaving only a narrow vegetated edge with Lesser Pond Sedge, Meadowsweet, Bittersweet *Solanum dulcamara* and Yellow Flag. There are also some planted Iris sp. On the east side is a small zone of Goat Willow *Salix caprea* and Hairy Willowherb which may cover what was previously also a pond. The Stonewort *Chara sp.* previously recorded were not present due to the change (decline) in habitat quality of the ponds.

There are gappy hedges, reasonably species rich but leggy, with occasional standards around the site. Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, Elder *Sambucus nigra*, Hazel *Corylus avellana*, Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and Field Maple *Acer campestre* are the most frequent species. The disused railway line at the southern end of the site is now covered in woodland and scrub comprising similar species to the hedgerows..

**Site assessment**

The site meets criteria for selection as a CWS because it contains at least 0.25 ha of the NVC Meadowsweet - Wild Angelica mire community (M27). It also has a pond with beds of Stoneworts.

**Site status**

County Wildlife Site

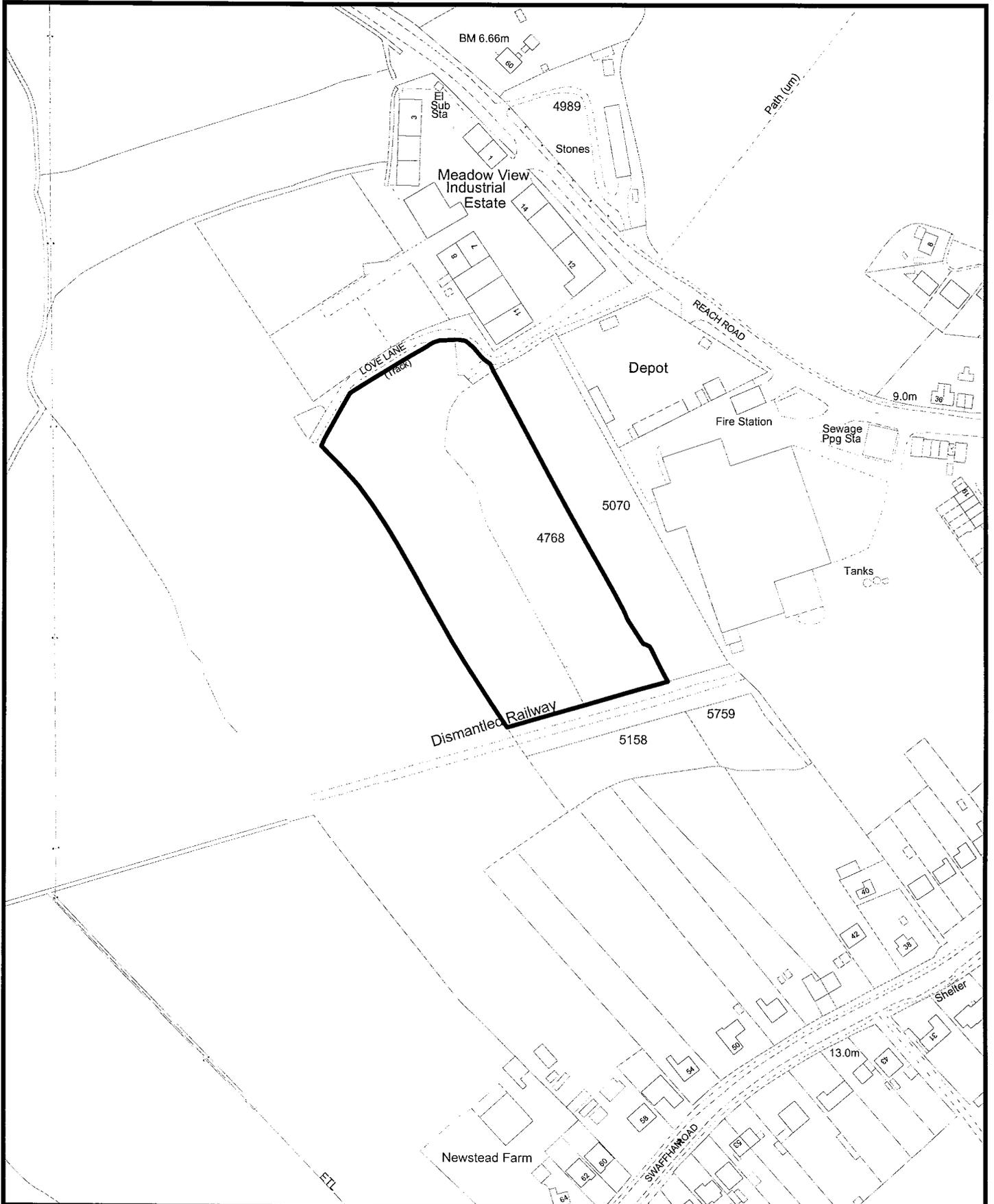
**Surveyor**

Sharon Brown

20/05/2003

Also surveyed in 2009

# The Swamp



Grid Ref: TL584657  
Scale: 1:2500  
Plot Date: 22/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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Site No. 7514

## COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET

NAME: **Cheveley Park Stud veteran trees**

File code: E/NEW/14.2.02

Parish(es): Cheveley

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref.: TL672614

### Habitat information

#### *Code* *Habitat type*

A31 Parkland/scattered trees: broad-leaved  
B6 Grassland: poor semi-improved  
B42 Grassland: improved/reseeded, lowland  
G11 Open water: standing, eutrophic

#### *Site Area*

6.70 ha

### Site description

A group of veteran trees and associated habitat features within Cheveley Park Stud. Much of the woodland and avenues of trees are of more recent origin, but some of avenues contain old English Oaks *Quercus robur* and Common Lime *Tilia platyphyllos*, with significant amounts of dead wood, scars and hollowing. Several outlying veteran trees occur in two of the paddocks and include both English Oak *Quercus robur* and Beech *Fagus sylvatica*. Associated habitats include woodland belts, ponds and improved / semi-improved grassland. Further survey of these associated habitats is required.

### Site assessment

This site is proposed as a County Wildlife Site because it contains more than 5 veteran trees in association with other semi-natural habitat.

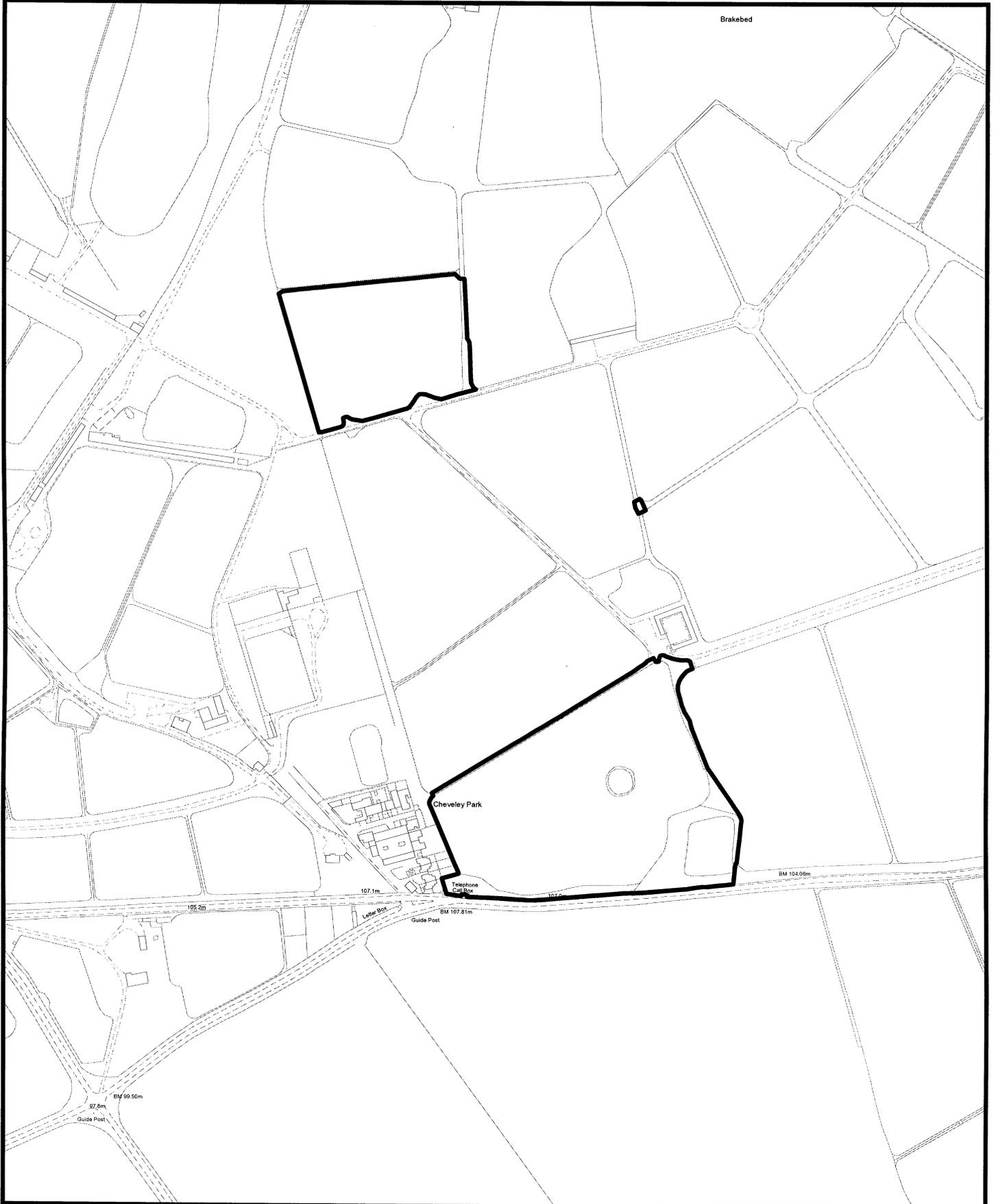
### Site status

County Wildlife Site

### Surveyor

Pete Stroh  
14/02/2002

# Cheveley Park Stud Veteran Trees



Grid Ref: TL672614  
Scale: 1:5000  
Plot Date: 22/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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Site No. 7338/2

**COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET**NAME: **Warren Hill and adjacent areas**

File code: E/11.7.05

Parish(es): Cheveley

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref: TL6563

**Habitat information****Code** *Habitat type*

A112 Woodland: broadleaved, plantation

A132 Woodland: mixed, plantation

A31 Parkland/scattered trees: broad-leaved

B22 Grassland: neutral, semi-improved

B31 Grassland: calcareous, unimproved

B32 Grassland: calcareous, semi-improved

B6 Grassland: poor semi-improved

CG03a *Bromus erectus* grassland: Typical subcommunityCG03c *Bromus erectus* grassland: *Knautia arvensis*-*Bellis perennis*MG05 *Cynosurus cristatus*-*Centaurea nigra* grassland**Site area**

139.94 ha

**Site description**

A large expanse of unenclosed neutral and calcareous grassland used for racehorse training. A typical calcareous grassland flora occurs over extensive areas of the site, generally as mosaic of unimproved grassland with more improved and disturbed grasslands. The main calcareous grassland communities present are CG3a and CG3c (as determined by English Nature survey in the late eighties). The site is managed by frequent mowing.

The eastern side of Long Hill together with the areas directly south and east of Warrenhill Plantation are the most botanically rich parts of the site. Typical flora in these areas comprises abundant Upright Brome *Bromopsis erecta*, frequent Red Fescue *Festuca rubra* agg., Smaller Catstail *Phleum bertolonii*, Common Bent *Agrostis capillaris*, Creeping Bent *Agrostis stolonifera* Lady's Bedstraw *Galium verum*, Common Knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, Clover *Trifolium repens*, Red Clover *Trifolium pratense*, Restharrow *Ononis repens*, Ribwort Plantain *Plantago lanceolata*, Salad Burnet *Sanguisorba minor*, Yarrow *Achillea millefolium*. More occasional species include Greater Knapweed *Centaurea scabiosa*, Agrimony *Agrimonia eupatoria*, Rough Hawkbit *Leontodon hispidus*, Wild Carrot *Daucus carota*, Dwarf Thistle *Cirsium acaule*, Hoary Plantain *Plantago media*, Fairy Flax *Linum catharticum*, Dropwort *Filipendula vulgaris*, Toadflax *Linaria vulgaris*, Wild Mignonette *Reseda lutea*.

Surveys in the 1980s indicate some areas on the site supported species typical of more acidic conditions, the county rarity Heather *Calluna vulgaris* was one such species recorded. No such areas or species were observed in the current survey. Historically, The Warren Hill Reservoir at TL662635 has supported a floristically diverse chalk grassland on its capping which is managed by mowing. Species recorded in this area from surveys conducted in the 1980's include Kidney Vetch *Anthyllis vulneraria*, Quaking Grass *Briza media*, Autumn Gentian *Gentianella amarella*, Pyramidal Orchid *Anacamptis pyramidalis*, Self Heal

*Polygala vulgaris* and the county rarity Bloody Cranesbill *Geranium sanguineum*. This reservoir area is presently entirely fenced off, and therefore access was not possible during the current survey.

**Site assessment**

The site qualifies as CWS because it supports at least 0.05ha of CG3 Upright Brome grassland; because it supports frequent numbers of at least six strong calcareous grassland indicator species; because it supports a population of a Nationally Scarce vascular plant species and because it supports a population of a vascular plant species rare in the county (Bloody Cranesbill *Geranium sanguineum*).

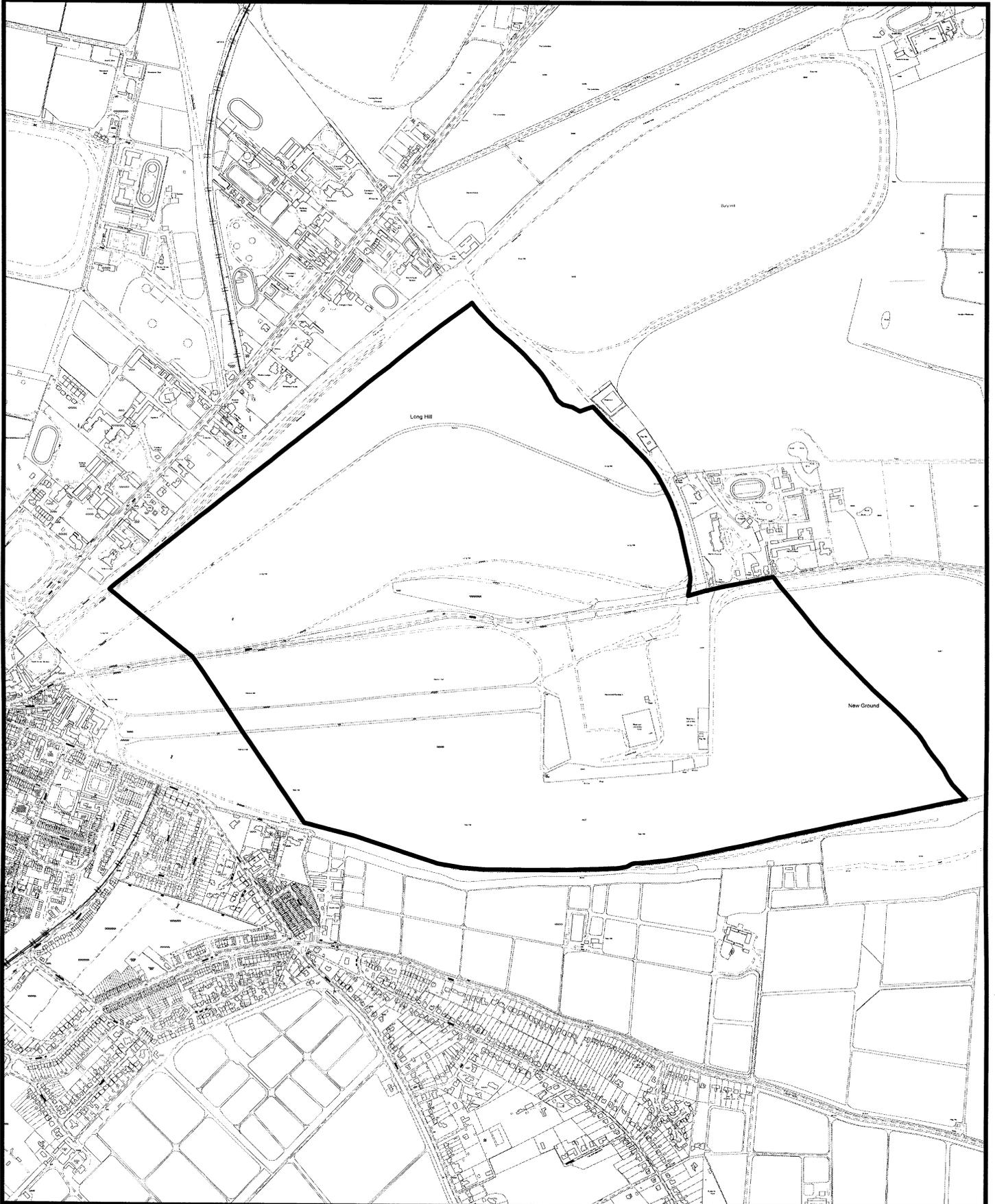
**Site status**

County Wildlife Site  
former Site of Natural History Interest  
EN Grassland Inventory

**Surveyors**

Alastair Ross  
Emma Ogden  
11/07/2005

# Warren Hill and Adjacent Areas



Grid Ref: TL6563  
Scale: 1:12000  
Plot Date: 21/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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Site No. 7516

## COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET

NAME: **Chippenham Avenue Fields**

File code: E/NEW/26.8.01

Parish(es): Chippenham

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref.: TL662674

### Habitat information

#### *Code* *Habitat type*

J1 Cultivated/disturbed land

#### *Site Area*

26.77 ha

### Site description

Two arable fields south of Coachroad plantation and Hundred Acre plantation, Chippenham. Grass-poly *Lythrum hyssopifolia* (Nationally Rare vascular plant species) is found in about half a dozen hollows in the two fields, mostly in the north-western field.

### Site assessment

The site qualifies as a County Wildlife Site because it supports a population of a Nationally Rare vascular plant species (Grass-poly *Lythrum hyssopifolia*).

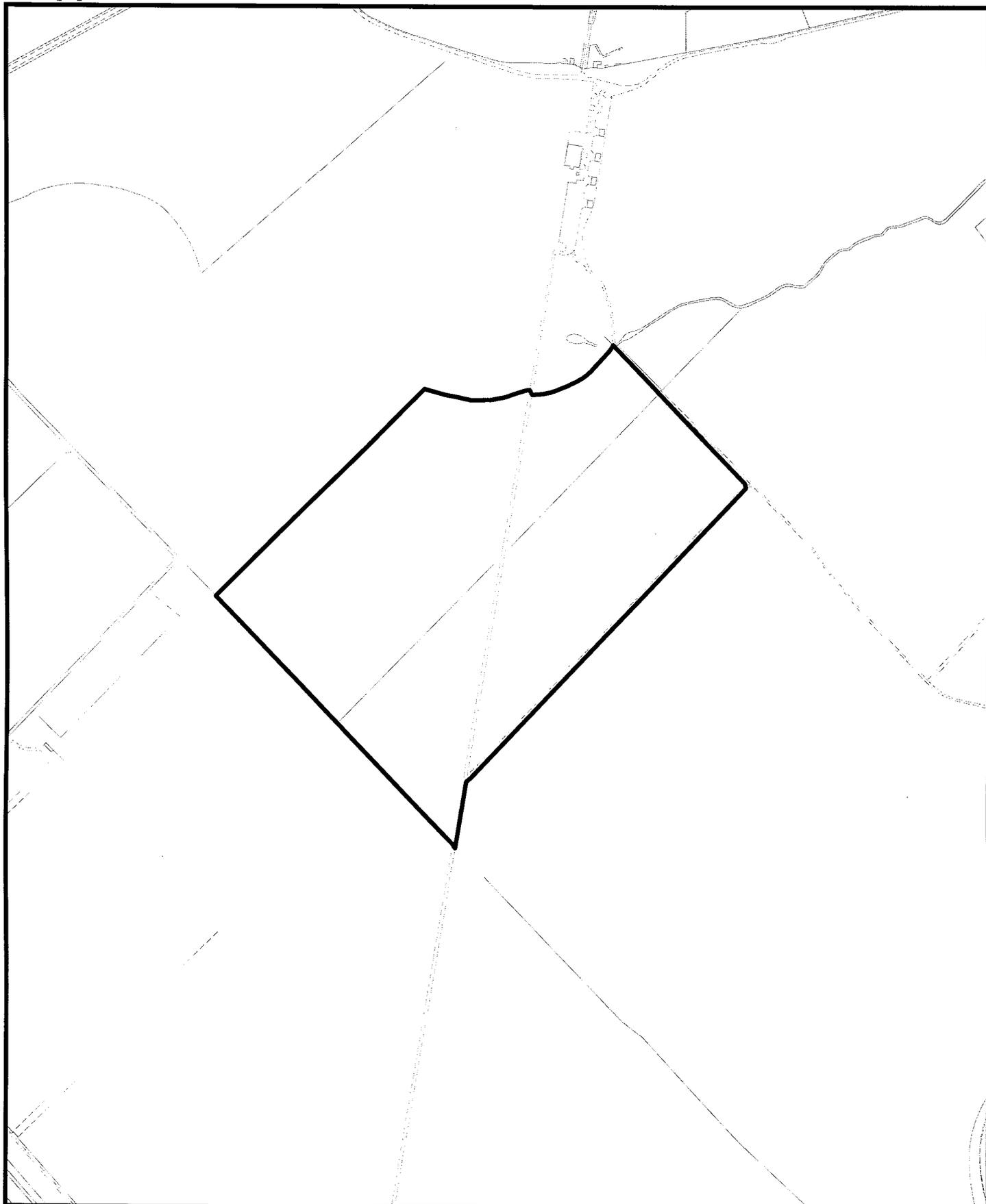
### Site status

County Wildlife Site

### Surveyors

Cambridge Flora Group  
26/08/2001 & 31/08/2001

# Chippenham Avenue Fields



Grid Ref: TL662674  
Scale: 1:7500  
Plot Date: 22/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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Site No. 7364

**COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET**NAME: **Chippenham Park**

File code: E/15.6.05

Parish(es): Chippenham

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref: TL6669

**Habitat information****Code** *Habitat type*

- A112 Woodland: broadleaved, plantation  
 A122 Woodland: coniferous, plantation  
 A3 Parkland/scattered trees  
 B21 Grassland: neutral, unimproved  
 B22 Grassland: neutral, semi-improved  
 B6 Grassland: poor semi-improved  
 G1 Open water: standing water  
 J11 Cultivated/disturbed land: arable  
 J12 Cultivated/disturbed land: amenity grassland  
 MG05b *Cynosurus cristatus*-*Centaurea nigra* grassland

**Site area**

165.54 ha

**Site description**

A large site, over one and a half square kilometres in extent, of diverse habitat and community types, surrounding Chippenham Hall. The majority of the area is grassland or parkland, the grassland containing considerable expanses of unimproved and semi-improved neutral quality, resembling the Lady's Bedstraw *Galium verum* sub-community of the NVC Crested Dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus* – Black Knapweed *Centaurea nigra* grassland community (MG5). The sward is partly cut to improve views from the house, and otherwise lightly cattle grazed. It varies in quality over short distances, with the best areas having a fine sward with much Red Fescue *Festuca rubra* agg., Yellow Oat-grass *Trisetum flavescens*, Hairy Oat-grass *Helictotrichon pubescens* and Crested Hair-grass *Koeleria macrantha*, and a good range of forbs among which Lady's Bedstraw is prominent, and Dwarf Thistle *Cirsium acaule*, Bird's-foot Trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, Cowslip *Primula veris*, Agrimony *Agrimonia eupatoria* and Salad Burnet *Sanguisorba minor* ssp. *minor* present in good quantity.

The formal garden lawn associated with the house includes areas of more species-rich, semi-improved neutral grassland, some of which has been left to grow as "wildflower meadow". Grass species include Red Fescue, Yellow Oat Grass and Yorkshire Fog *Holcus lanatus*. Herb species indicative of old grasslands include Dwarf Thistle, Cowslip, Lady's Bedstraw, Ox-eye Daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare*, Common Sorrel *Rumex acetosa* and Field Wood-rush *Luzula campestris*. Other species include Germander Speedwell *Veronica chamaedrys*, Self Heal *Prunella vulgaris*, Yarrow *Achillea millefolium*, Black Medick *Medicago lupulina* and Daisy *Bellis perennis*.

Around the park's perimeter much planting, especially of Scot's Pine *Pinus sylvestris*, has occurred and some of the more species-rich areas of rough grassland occur in this perimeter belt. The south-eastern boundary in particular had a good range of species with Crested Hair-grass, Yellow Oat-grass, Spiked Sedge

*Carex spicata*, Lady's Bedstraw, Bird's-foot Trefoil, Common Restharrow *Ononis repens* and Wild Parsnip *Pastinaca sativa* all at least locally frequent to occasional. While some of these species have colonised the neighbouring species-poor, semi-improved grassland field, most are only present at the edge, where the ground is more uneven and chalky and sandy Breckland soils become exposed. Much of this more species-rich grassland will therefore be in danger of becoming shaded out as the planted Scot's Pine and self-sown Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* grow. The areas of exposed Breckland soils, particularly those on the undulating ground affected by rabbits, have some potential for typical Breckland invertebrate species and may be worthy of further specialist surveys.

However, large areas of grassland within the Park are of much lower interest for wildlife, having undergone some degree of agricultural improvement. Poorer areas have abundant Perennial Rye-grass *Lolium perenne* or coarse grasses with fewer herbs. The two large fields towards the south-east boundary and the parkland grasslands in the centre of the site fall into this category, except for very localised patches, mainly towards the south-east park boundary (see above). The cricket pitch is also species-poor, semi-improved grassland, with patches of finer grasses including Red Fescue and Yellow Oat Grass with Common Sorrel, Self Heal, Red Clover *Trifolium pratense* and Creeping Buttercup *Ranunculus repens* in a sea of coarser grassland dominated by False Oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius*, Cock's-foot *Dactylis glomerata* and Yorkshire Fog. The fields to the north of the House are used as horse paddocks and the vegetation comprises species poor semi-improved grassland.

During the previous survey in 1996 the grassland was the focus of much invertebrate activity, with butterflies, crickets/grasshoppers and damselflies present in numbers. The wet weather during the current survey resulted in less activity being observed during the current survey.

There are a large number of mature parkland trees dotted about the open habitats of the site, but a concentration of about ten old and over mature trees is found over several hectares of more species-rich grassland directly south of the Hall. These include Limes *Tilia sp*, English Oak *Quercus robur*, Beech *Fagus sylvatica* and Horse Chestnut *Aesculus hippocastanum*. Also of note also are impressive lines of Common Lime *Tilia x vulgaris*, one and a half kilometres of them in total, which are multi-stemmed (some may have been bundle planted) but very large, crossing areas of arable and species-poor semi-improved grassland. There appears to be a programme of replacement planting and therefore a good range of age classes. The value of the parkland trees for wildlife could increase dramatically if many of the mature parkland trees are allowed to become over-mature and dead-wood is not removed. For invertebrate species associated with dead-wood, there is a lack of nectar sources for the adults within the park itself; areas of species-rich grassland and tall herbs such as Hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium* being important. In spite of the general lack of suitable nectar sources, some important invertebrate populations may still be present and could use nectar sources outside the park, for example on nearby road verges. Further detailed invertebrate surveys would be required to assess the value of these veteran trees.

The long narrow lake which forms a major feature in the centre of Chippenham Park, known as "the Canal", though not outstanding for its aquatic flora, has good water quality and a range of emergent plants such as Mare's Tail *Hippuris vulgaris*, Purple-loosestrife *Lythrum salicaria*, Yellow Iris *Iris pseudacorus*, Reed-Canary-grass *Phalaris arundinacea* etc. A survey in 1994 found a wider range of aquatic plants here, including Curled Pondweed *Potamogeton crispus*, Water-milfoil *Myriophyllum sp*, and Rigid Hornwort *Ceratophyllum demersum*, and recorded various aquatic species for other linear water bodies in the park. *Potamogeton natans* was found in quantity in the linear pond at TL661 690. Approximately twenty Crack Willow *Salix fragilis* pollards line the east bank of the canal.

The attractive gardens located near the House just west of the canal have a number of water-filled ditches containing a good variety of aquatic flora. Species present include, Greater Pond Sedge *Carex riparia*, Greater Bulrush *Typha latifolia*, Yellow Iris *Iris pseudacorus*, Water Mint *Mentha aquatica*, Mare's Tail *Hippuris vulgaris* Greater Spearwort *Ranunculus lingua*, White Water-lily *Nymphaea alba*, Purple Loosestrife *Lythrum salicaria*, Water Crowfoot *Ranunculus spp*, Watercress *Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum* and Marsh Bedstraw *Galium palustre*. A grass snake was observed in one of the ditches during the current survey.

The woodlands are all of plantation origin, some of largely mixed broadleaved composition, some dominated by conifers. They have typical recent secondary woodland shrubs and ground flora.

Overall the site appears to have declined in interest since the last survey in 1996, with the areas of species-rich grassland appearing to have suffered the most.

**Site assessment**

Chippenham Park qualifies as a CWS because it contains more than 0.05 ha of the NVC Common Knapweed - Crested Dog's-tail grassland community and pasture woodland with more than five mature and overmature trees per hectare. The grassland also meets species richness criteria, with frequent numbers of eight neutral grassland indicators. The grassland and parkland form the core of the site, but extensive areas of other semi-natural habitats and notable features add to their interest. Chippenham Park is also of obvious historical importance.

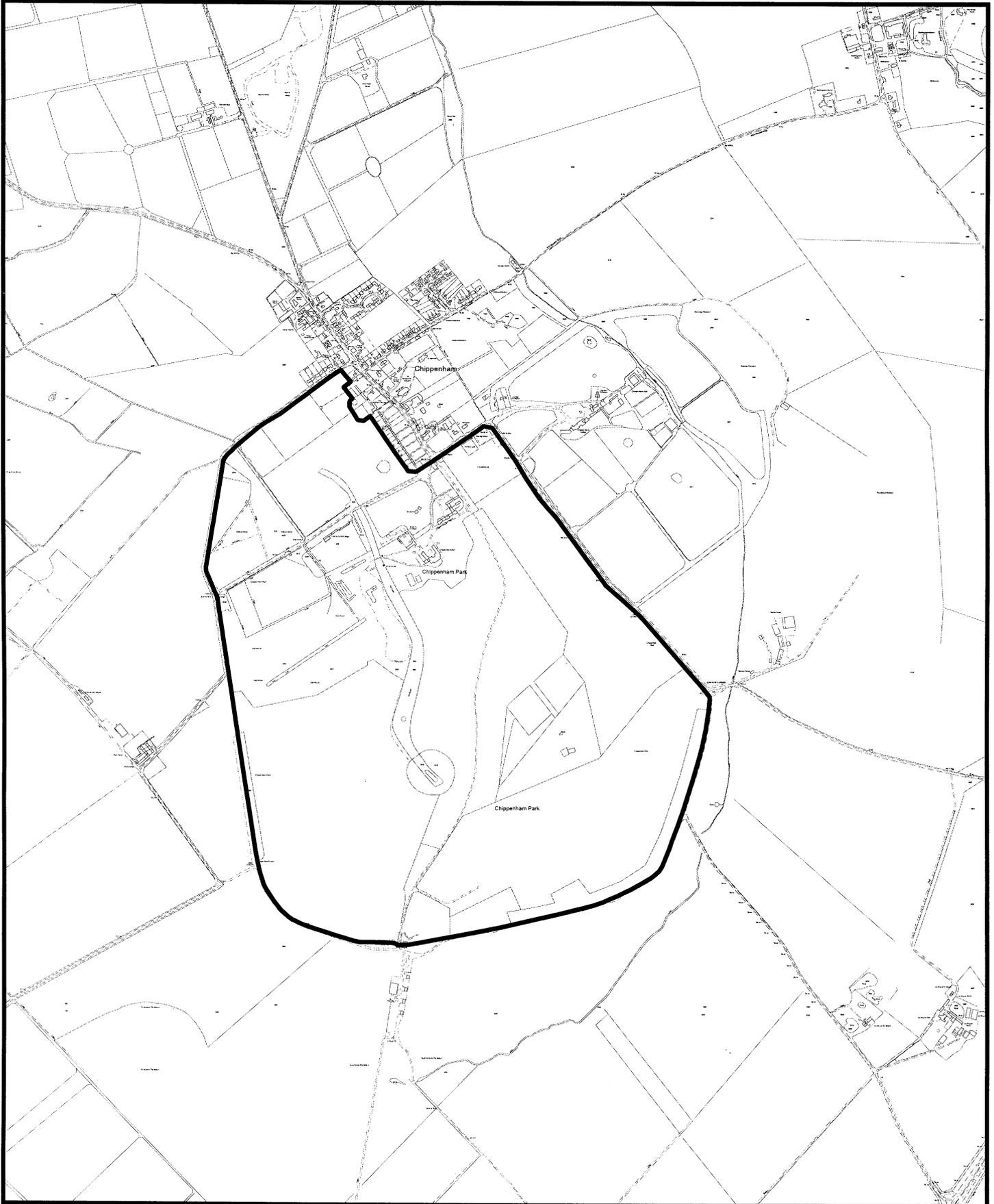
**Site status**

County Wildlife Site  
former Site of Natural History Interest  
Ancient Monument  
Invertebrate Site Register

**Surveyors**

Alastair Ross, Emma Ogden, Martin Baker, Sharon Brown  
15/06/2005

# Chippenham Park



Grid Ref: TL6669  
Scale:1:15000  
Plot Date:21/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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Site No. 7422

**COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET**NAME: **Freckenham Road RSV**

File code: E/11.7.05

Parish(es): Chippenham

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref.: TL6671

**Habitat information****Code** *Habitat type*

J21 Boundaries, intact hedge

J22 Boundaries, defunct hedge

**Site Area**

0.23 ha

**Site description**

Verges on both sides of the minor road from Chippenham to Freckenham. The verges support a number of species typical of Breckland base-rich sandy soils. In recent years the verges have become more overgrown and dominated by tall, coarse grassland such as False Oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius*, Cocksfoot *Dactylis glomerata* and Rough Meadow Grass *Poa trivialis*. The hedgerows that back most of both sides of the verge are also beginning to encroach upon the grassland. The hedgerows are composed of mainly Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, but also Privet *Ligustrum vulgare*, Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, Field Maple *Acer campestre*, Hazel *Corylus avellana*, Wayfaring Tree *Viburnum lantana* and Dog Rose *Rosa canina*. Hedgerow and wayside plants also make up a significant component of the flora, to the detriment of the Breckland grassland and bare ground species, with Common Mallow *Malva sylvestris*, Hedgerow Crane's-bill *Geranium pyrenaicum*, White Champion *Silene alba*, Field Bindweed *Convolvulus arvensis*, Dove's-foot Crane's-bill *Geranium molle* and Herb Robert *Geranium robertianum*. Disturbed ground species include Sterile Brome *Anisantha sterilis*, Wild Mignonette *Reseda lutea* and Common Poppy *Papaver rhoeas*.

It is, however, the grasslands for which this road verge is notable. Where finer grasses such as Yellow Oat-grass *Trisetum flavescens* increase in frequency the sward becomes richer and with small patches of bare ground, typical Breckland species and other grassland species increase in abundance. Species found include Sand Lucerne *Medicago sativa ssp. varia*, Viper's Bugloss *Echium vulgare*, Greater Knapweed *Centaurea scabiosa*, Lady's Bedstraw *Galium verum*, Bladder Champion *Silene vulgaris*, Wild Clary *Salvia verbenaca*, Hare's-foot Clover *Trifolium arvense*, Common Sorrel *Rumex acetosa*, Ribwort Plantain *Plantago lanceolata*, Biting Stonecrop *Sedum acre*, Smooth Hawk's-beard *Crepis capillaris* and Creeping Cinquefoil *Potentilla reptans*. The Nationally Scarce species Sickie Medick *Medicago sativa ssp. falcata* occurs at various points along the verge, together with Sand Lucerne.

Many of the lower growing Breckland specialities were not seen during the current survey, including the Nationally Rare species Spanish Catchfly *Silene otites* and the Nationally scarce Bur Medick *Medicago minima*. However, Spanish Catchfly has been recorded in the recent past and since the site was selected as a County Wildlife Site, in several different locations along the verge. These and other species not seen during the current survey, Sheep's Sorrel *Rumex acetosella*, Field Mouse-ear *Cerastium arvense* and Hound's-tongue *Cynoglossum officinale*, are likely to still be present and re-appear given appropriate management.

**Site assessment**

The site qualifies as CWS because it supports populations of Nationally Rare (Spanish Catchfly *Silene otites*) and Nationally Scarce (Sickle Medick *Medicago sativa ssp. Falcata*) vascular plant species.

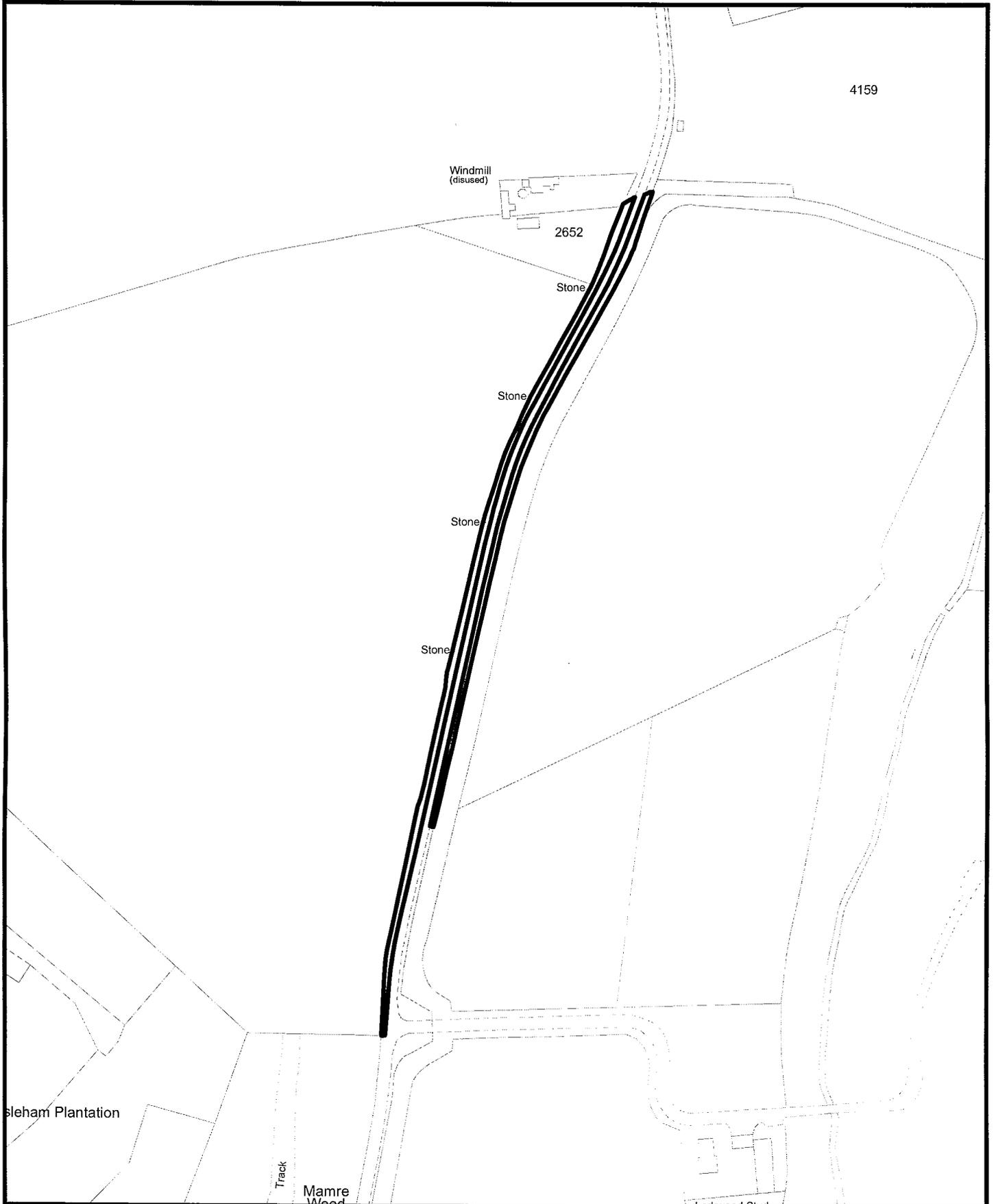
**Site status**

County Wildlife Site  
Protected roadside verge

**Surveyor**

Martin Baker  
11/07/2005

# Freckenham Road RSV



Grid Ref: TL662713  
Scale: 1:2500  
Plot Date: 22/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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Site No. 7379

**COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET**NAME: **Havacre Meadows and Deal Nook**

File code: E/16.6.05

Parish(es): Chippenham

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref: TL6870

**Habitat information****Code** *Habitat type*

A111 Woodland: broadleaved, semi-natural  
 A112 Woodland: broadleaved, plantation  
 B22 Grassland: neutral, semi-improved  
 B6 Grassland: poor semi-improved  
 G2 Open water: running water  
 WO06 *Alnus glutinosa-Urtica dioica* woodland

**Site Area**

14.31 ha

**Site description**

Grasslands and semi-natural woodland, which stretch alongside the River Kennett for well over a kilometre. The grassland, divided into two fields called Havacre Meadow west and east, is semi-improved and predominantly fairly species poor but the banks of old earthworks in the west field and a small bank along the boundary of the eastern one support a more diverse sward of neutral type with calcareous influences. In the richest areas fine grasses such as Red Fescue *Festuca rubra* are frequent and forbs such as Lady's Bedstraw *Galium verum*, Dwarf Thistle *Cirsium acaule* and Mouse-ear Hawkweed *Pilosella officinarum* are found in small numbers. Other species previously recorded (in 1996) but not seen during this survey include; Birds Foot Trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, Field Woodrush *Luzula campestris*, Hoary Plantain *Plantago media* Small Scabious *Scabiosa columbaria* and Field Scabious *Knautia arvensis*.

Both fields are moderately grazed by cattle and the sward is dense and has been flattened forming a mat on the ground. Patches of Creeping Thistle *Cirsium arvense* and Nettle *Urtica dioica* show areas of nutrient enrichment. It is likely that the dominance of these grasses has limited the growth of the calcareous forbs, which previously grew more frequently on the earth works.

In Havacre Meadow west, there are several mature and semi-mature broadleaved trees, including some large specimens of Grey Poplar *Populus canescens* and several Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* as well as more recently planted trees including a row of Lime *Tilia* sp. In Havacre Meadow east alongside the River Kennet, a small woodland of large Grey Poplar (40 - 70 cm diameter at breast height), probably of plantation origin, houses a rookery.

The River Kennett is four metres wide and approx 20cm deep or less with clear water flowing over gravel and silt. The river could only be accessed from the meadows at certain points where Water Crowfoot *Ranunculus* subgenus *Batrachium* was locally frequent. Species previously recorded include; Water Cress *Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum*, Water forget-me-knot *Myosotis scorpioides*, Blue Water Speedwell *Veronica anagallis-aquatica*, Water Mint *Mentha aquatica* and Marsh Yellow Cress *Rorippa palustris* which were all present in some quantity as was the moss *Fontinalis antipyretica*. The river has fairly steep banks

with tall herb vegetation and is lined for most of its length adjacent to the grassland with continuous tall ruderal, scrub and trees including Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, Elder *Sambucus nigra*, Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, Ash, Grey Poplar and Crack Willow *Salix fragilis*. Hemlock *Conium maculatum* is abundant along the riverbank in Havacre Meadow west.

The southern part of the site consists largely of semi-natural and unmanaged Willow carr known as Deal Nook which has large mature White Willow *Salix alba* and Crack Willow *Salix fragilis* as the canopy dominant, a patchy under storey of Elder, Hawthorn, Goat Willow *Salix caprea* and Grey Willow *Salix cinerea* and a field layer dominated by Nettle *Urtica dioica* and Rough Meadow Grass *Poa trivialis* with frequent Ground Ivy *Glechoma hederacea*, Cleavers *Galium aparine* and Meadow Sweet *Filipendula ulmaria*. Hemlock and Creeping Thistle are locally abundant in areas with little canopy. It conforms to the NVC *Alnus glutinosa* - *Urtica dioica* community (W6). An unusual feature of the woodland is the local abundance of Crab Apple *Malus sylvestris*. Dense areas of scrub are also found, dominated by *Prunus spinosa* or *Crataegus monogyna* where several warblers and a Nightingale were heard at the time of the previous survey. The Redlodge bypass bisects the woodland.

The very small area of unimproved, unmanaged grassland near the southern end of the site recorded during the 1996 survey was not found during this survey. It is likely that this has been lost to scrub invasion and none of the species previously recorded were found (Wild Parsnip *Pastinaca sativa*, Cowslip *Primula veris*, Black Knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, Lady's Bedstraw *Galium verum* and Lesser Celandine *Ranunculus ficaria*). The River, which is heavily shaded at this southern end of the site, was very low or dry when the survey was carried out. Water-crow Foot was seen in one place.

**Site assessment**

The site qualifies as a CWS because it is over 10ha in size and contains semi-improved grassland, woodland, scrub and open water in close association. The willow carr of the NVC Alder - Stinging Nettle woodland community (W6), qualifies as a CWS in its own right.

**Site status**

County Wildlife Site

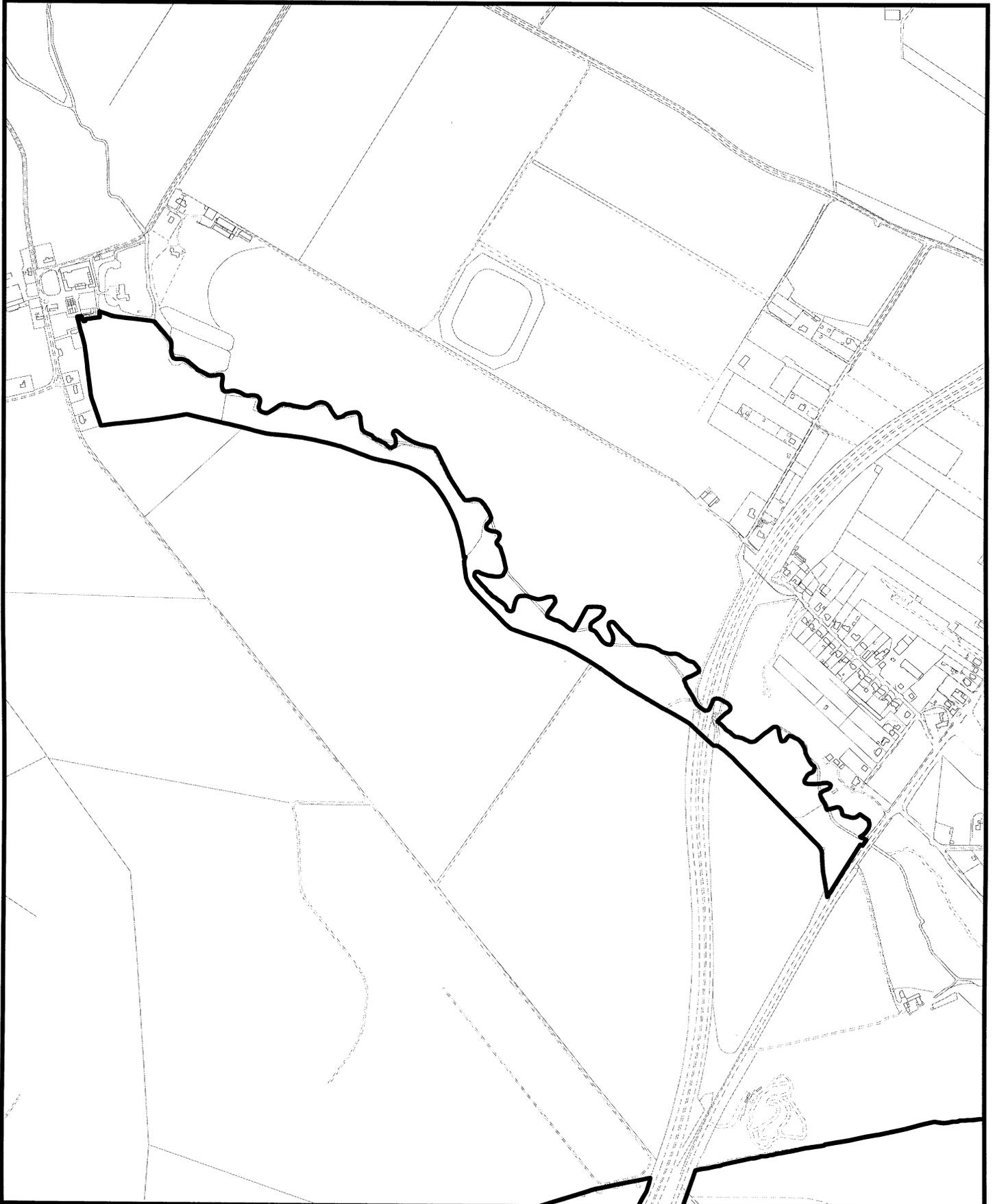
Former Site of Natural History Interest

**Surveyor**

Emma Ogden

16/06/2005

# Havacre Meadows and Deal Nook



Grid Ref: TL688701  
Scale: 1:10000  
Plot Date: 22/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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Site No. 7048

## COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET

NAME: **Byall Fen Pumping Station Drains**

File code: E/8.7.05

Parish(es): Downham  
Coveney

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref.: TL5085

### Habitat information

#### **Code** **Habitat type**

F2 Marginal/inundation

G2 Open water: running water

### Site description

Large drains varying from 20m wide at the pumping station to 5m wide at most sample points further to the east.

The drain at sample point TL483 856 (bridge) is approximately 13m wide with low steep banks. Marginal vegetation is limited to a narrow, more or less continuous band of Common Reed *Phragmites australis*. Submerged vegetation includes Fennel Pondweed *Potamogeton pectinatus*, Hairlike Pondweed *Potamogeton trichoides* (Nationally Scarce species), Starwort *Callitriche* sp., Nuttal's Pondweed *Elodea nuttallii*, Spiked Water Milfoil *Myriophyllum spicatum* and Rigid Hornwort *Ceratophyllum demersum*. Floating species were few in number but included; frequent Filamentous Algae, Arrowhead *Sagittaria sagittifolia* and occasional Common Duckweed *Lemna Minor* and Yellow Water-lily *Nuphar lutea*. This part of the drain is approximately twice as wide as the rest of the system and contains much clearer water and a greater diversity and abundance of species.

The drain at sample point TL496851 (bridge over Adventurer's Drove) is approximately 6m wide with steep banks. The water, approximately 1.5-2m deep contains murky, slow flowing water. Marginal vegetation consists of a narrow band of frequent Common Reed and occasional Reed Canary Grass *Phalaris arundinacea*. The banks consist of Common Reed, Nettle *Urtica dioica*, Field Bindweed *Convolvulus arvensis* and Cleavers *Galium aparine* and piles of dead aquatic vegetation alongside the banks provide evidence of recent drain clearance. Submerged and floating vegetation includes occasional Common Duck Weed, Nuttal's Pondweed and Starwort.

The drain at sample point TL489851 (bridge over Byall Fen Drove) is approximately 8m wide, 2m deep with low, shallow banks. Floating species include patches of Common Duck Weed and rare Arrowhead whilst the submerged layer is more diverse containing Starwort, Rigid Hornwort, Nuttal's Pondweed, Canadian Pondweed *Elodea Canadensis*, Shining Pondweed *Potamogeton lucens* and a large amount of Filamentous Algae. Marginal vegetation is limited to a narrow belt of Common Reed.

The drain at sample point TL500854 (by bridge) is approximately 5m wide with steep banks c.1m high and the water is quite clear. Marginal vegetation is a narrow band of Common Reed with abundant Hemlock *Conium maculatum*. Occasional Yellow Water-lily and patches of Common Duckweed float on the surface whilst Nuttal's Pondweed was the only submerged species recorded. A hundred metres east of this point,

species recorded include; locally frequent Lesser Pond Sedge *Carex acutiformis*, Common Reedmace *Typha latifolia*, and occasional Reed Canary Grass and Reed Sweet-grass *Glyceria maxima*. To the west of the bridge, marginal species include locally abundant Reed Canary-grass and dominant Common Reed. A sluice gate close to the bridge has resulted in Common Duckweed dominating the surface layer over a c5m stretch. A filamentous alga is abundant and other species include frequent Fennel Pondweed, occasional Nuttall's Pondweed, Spiked Water Milfoil, Common Duckweed and rare Water-crowfoot *Ranunculus circinatus*.

The drain at sample point at TL518858, is approximately 6m wide, with steep high banks over 3m in height and a water depth of approximately 1m. Marginal vegetation is rather sparse with Common Reed dominant, frequent Reed Canary Grass, locally frequent Lesser and Greater Pond Sedge and on the banks, Hemlock *Conium maculatum* is frequent. Close by at the bridge at TL519859 the water is quite clear and submerged and emergent vegetation includes abundant Nuttall's Pondweed and Filamentous algae with occasional Yellow Water-lily and Arrowhead. Species recorded during the 1996 survey, but not found on this occasion include Fennel Pondweed, Starwort, Water Crow-foot and Pink Water Speedwell *Veronica catenata*.

The drain at sample point TL509854 (bridge), is 4-5 m wide with 2m high steep banks with marginal vegetation dominated by Phragmites australis and with locally frequent Greater and Lesser Pond Sedge, Rosebay Willowherb, occasional Soft Rush *Juncus effuses*. Submerged and floating vegetation includes, Nuttall's Pondweed, Yellow Water Lily, Spiked Water Milfoil, Common Duckweed and frequent Filamentous algae.

Overall this drainage system appears to have declined in quality in terms of both species diversity and abundance since the last survey in 1996. This may be due to the fact that the drains have been fairly recently cleared (shown by vegetation debris on the banks) although in areas where submerged vegetation was fairly dense, species diversity was still generally poor.

**Site assessment**

The drain qualifies as CWS because it supports more than five species of submerged, floating and emergent vegetation per 20m stretch and because it supports a population of a Nationally Scarce vascular plant species (Hairlike Pondweed *Potamogeton trichoides*).

**Site status**

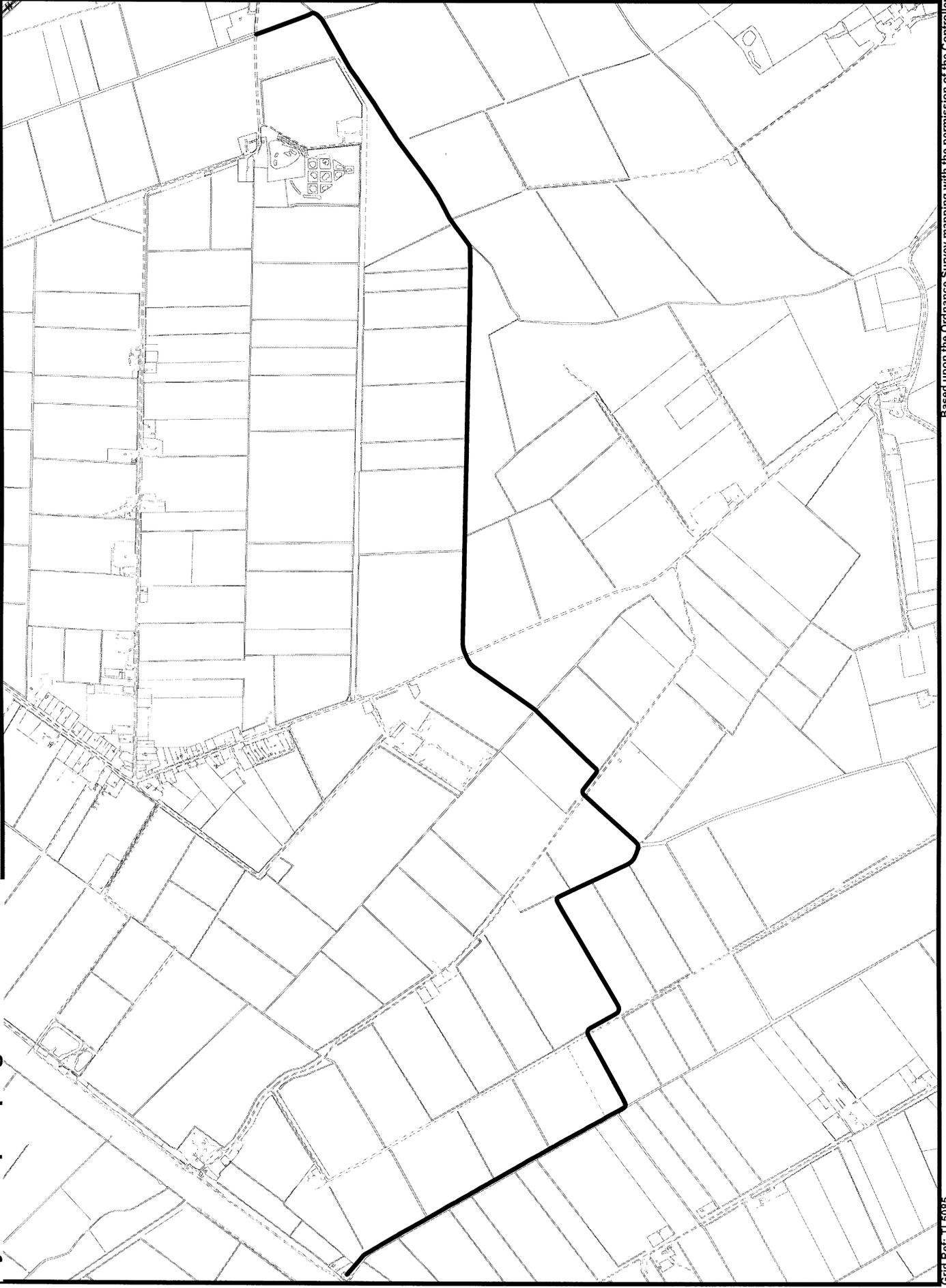
County Wildlife Site

**Surveyor**

Emma Ogden

08/07/2005

# Byall Fen pumping station drains



Grid Ref: TL5085

Scale: 1:15000

Plot Date: 22/7/2005

By: Wildlife Trust for CCC

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Site No. 7293

**COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET**NAME: **Great Widgham Wood**

File code: E/25.5.05

Parish(es): Dullingham

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref: TL667552

**Habitat information****Code** *Habitat type*

A112 Woodland: broadleaved, plantation

A122 Woodland: coniferous, plantation

A132 Woodland: mixed, plantation

A3 Parkland/scattered trees

B22 Grassland: neutral, semi-improved

B5 Grassland: marsh/marshy grassland

C31 Tall herb and fern: other, tall ruderal

G2 Open water: running water

J22 Boundaries, defunct hedge

**Site area**

36.19 ha

**Note**

Access permission was not granted by the landowner for the 2005 survey. It was therefore only possible to observe the site at a distance; a public right of way passes around the northeast corner of the woodland. From these viewpoints the woodland appeared to have maintained a similar structure to that seen in the 1994 survey. Therefore the results of that survey are likely to still present a good picture of the site, as detailed in the site description below.

**Site description**

An ancient woodland site completely converted to plantation several decades ago, both broadleaved and coniferous stands. Tree species include Norway Spruce *Picea abies*, Scot's Pine *Pinus sylvestris*, Larch *Larix decidua*, Beech *Fagus sylvatica*, Oak *Quercus robur*, Elm *Ulmus spp.* Shrub species present include Hazel *Corylus avellana*, Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, Field Maple *Acer campestre*. The wood retains a large number of the shrub and herbaceous species characteristic of ancient woodland; indicator species present include Pendulous Sedge *Carex pendula*, Wood Sedge *Carex sylvatica* and Crab Apple *Malus sylvestris*. The Nationally Scarce Oxlip *Primula elatior* is also present. The main rides support a neutral and marshy grassland flora with such species as Wild Bail *Clinopodium vulgare*, Meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria* and many rushes and sedges. The rides are locally quite disturbed by the passage of vehicles and machinery. At the eastern end of the site is an area of rank damp neutral grassland with scattered trees and scrub; species present in this area include Field Scabious *Knautia arvensis*, Common Knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, Meadow vetchling *Lathyrus pratensis*, Hairy St John's Wort *Hypericum perforatum*, Pendulous Sedge *Carex pendula*, Common Valerian *Valeriana officinalis*, Bugle *Ajuga reptans*, and Crosswort *Cruciata laevipes*.

**Site assessment**

The site qualifies as CWS because it supports a population of a Nationally Scarce vascular plant species (Oxlip *Primula elatior*). Further survey may indicate that it additionally qualifies under woodland or grassland criteria.

**Site status**

County Wildlife Site  
Ancient Woodland Inventory  
former Site of Natural History Interest

**Surveyor**

Alastair Ross  
25/05/2005

# Great Widgham Wood



Grid Ref: TL667552  
Scale: 1:7000  
Plot Date: 21/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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Site No. 7281

## COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET

NAME: **Little Widgham Wood**

File code: E/25.5.05

Parish(es): Dullingham

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref: TL663550

### Habitat information

#### **Code** *Habitat type*

A112 Woodland: broadleaved, plantation

A122 Woodland: coniferous, plantation

A132 Woodland: mixed, plantation

B5 Grassland: marsh/marshy grassland

#### **Site area**

17.62 ha

#### **Note**

Access permission was not granted by the landowner for the 2005 survey. It was therefore only possible to observe the site at a distance; a public right of way passes through the southwest corner of the woodland and then follows the southern perimeter of the woodland. From these viewpoints the woodland appeared to have maintained a similar structure to that seen in the 1994 survey. Therefore the results of that survey are likely to still present a good picture of the site, as detailed in the site description below. Despite the greatly restricted access on this site visit, Oxlips *Primula elatior* were observed along the north side of the ride that separates Little Widgeham Wood and Out Wood.

#### **Site description**

An ancient woodland site largely converted to plantation several decades ago, a mixture of coniferous and broadleaved stands. Tree species include Norway Spruce *Picea abies*, Oak *Quercus robur*, Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and Cherry *Prunus avium*. The shrub layer includes Hazel *Corylus avellana*, Field Maple *Acer campestre* and Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*.

The wood retains a large number of the shrub and herbaceous species characteristic of ancient woodland including Pendulous Sedge *Carex pendula*, Wood Sedge *Carex sylvatica*, Hairy Wood-rush *Luzula pilosa*, Bluebells *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, Broad-leaved Helleborine *Epipactis helleborine* and Hairy St John's Wort *Hypericum hirsutum*. The Nationally Scarce species Oxlip *Primula elatior* is also present. The main rides support a neutral and marshy grassland flora with such species as Common Fleabane *Pulicaria dysenterica*, Water avens *Geum rivale* Ragged Robin *Lychnis flos-cuculi*, Common Spotted Orchid *Dactylorhiza fuchsii*, Meadow vetchling *Lathyrus pratensis* and Creeping Jenny *Lysimachia nummularia*. The wood is adjacent to Out and Plunder Woods SSSI and was part of the SSSI before being denotified following its conversion to plantation.

#### **Site assessment**

The site qualifies as CWS because it supports a population of a Nationally Scarce vascular plant species (Oxlip *Primula elatior*) and because it is a woodland listed in the Cambridgeshire Inventory of Ancient Woodland which is over 75% replanted and supports at least 40 woodland plants.

**Site status**

County Wildlife Site

Ancient Woodland Inventory

former Site of Natural History Interest

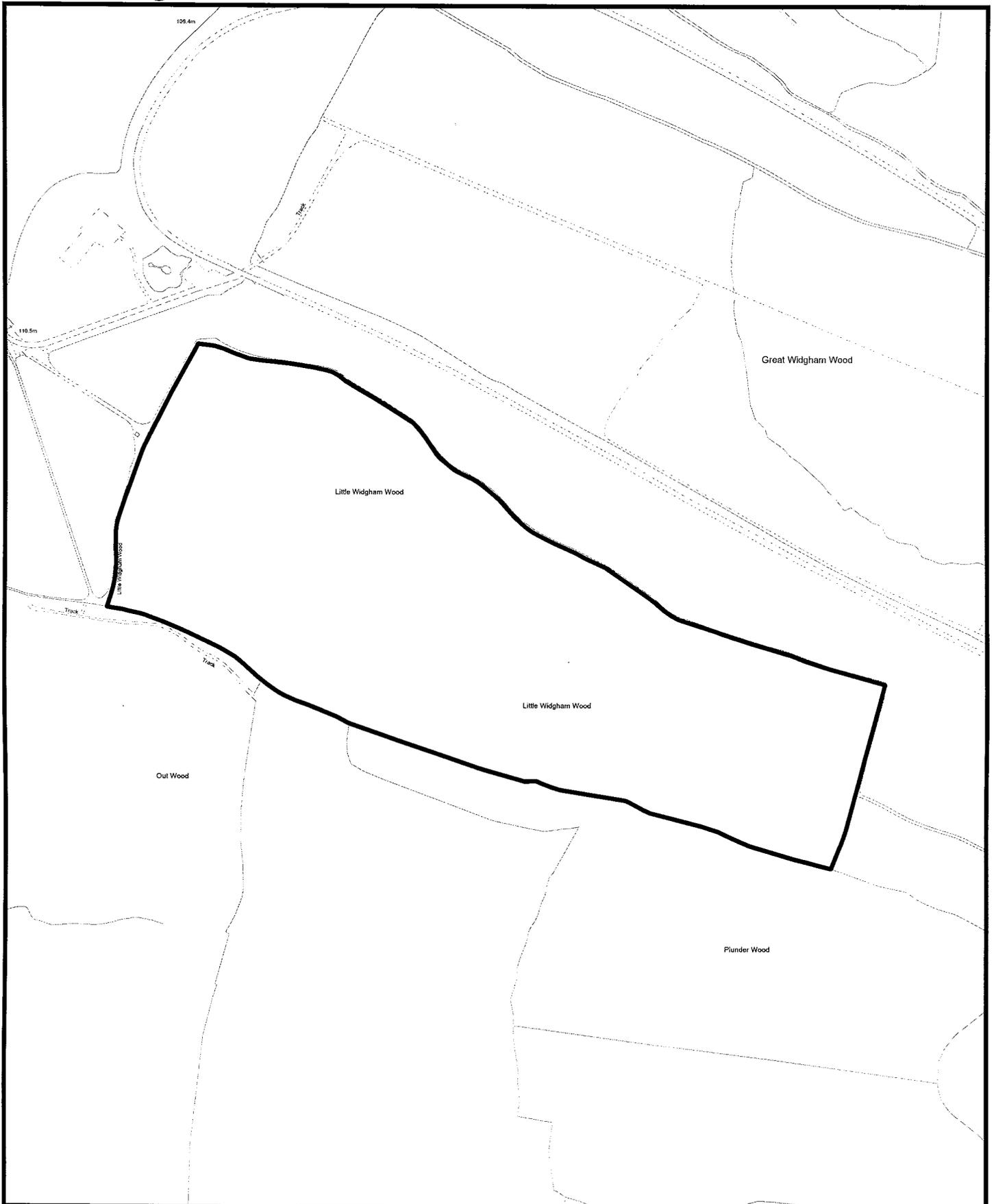
De-scheduled SSSI

**Surveyor**

Alastair Ross

25/05/2005

# Little Widgham Wood



Grid Ref: TL663550  
Scale: 1:5000  
Plot Date: 21/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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Site No. 7283

**COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET**NAME: **Parish Boundary Hedgerow**

File code: E/20.5.05

Parish(es): Dullingham  
Stetchworth

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref: TL6556

**Habitat information****Code** *Habitat type*J21 Boundaries, intact hedge  
J22 Boundaries, defunct hedge  
J23 Boundaries, hedge with trees  
J262 Boundaries, seasonally wet ditch**Site area**

1.36 ha

**Site description**

This site is approximately 4km long and forms part of the parish boundary between Dullingham and Stetchworth. The hedgerow connects four ancient woodland sites: Marmer's Wood, Basefield Wood, Ten Wood SSSI and Great Widgham Wood. The structure of the hedgerow varies from section to section but generally it is over 2m wide and in height usually 2-3m, although in parts it reaches 5m tall. Management of the hedgerow varies along its length but extensive sections are allowed to flower and fruit. Shrub species common in the hedgerow include Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, Field Maple *Acer campestre*, Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, Hazel *Corylus avellana*. Other woody species present are Wayfaring Tree *Viburnum lantana*, Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*, Dogwood *Cornus sanguinea*, Guelder-rose *Viburnum opulus*, Oak *Quercus robur*, Dog Rose *Rosa canina* agg., Holly *Ilex aquifolium*, Whitebeam *Sorbus aria*, Beech *Fagus sylvatica*.

The grassy track running beside the hedgerow has margins largely dominated by coarse grassland of False Oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* and a central path of shorter, trampled grassland with Perennial Ryegrass *Lolium perenne* and Crested Dogstail *Cynosurus cristatus* frequent. Other species include Greater Plantain *Plantago major*, Bird's Foot Trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, Pendulous Sedge *Carex pendula*, Red Bartsia *Odontites verna*, Wood Sedge *Carex sylvatica*, Common Knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, Cocks Foot *Dactylis glomerata*, Red Fescue *Festuca rubra* agg., Wild Basil *Clinopodium vulgare*, Perforate St John's Wort *Hypericum perforatum*, Hoary Ragwort *Senecio erucifolius*, Blue Fleabane *Erigeron acer*, Dog's Mercury *Mercurialis perennis*, Hairy St John's Wort *Hypericum hirsutum*, Tufted Vetch *Vicia cracca*.

For just over half the length of the site there is a recently planted hedge that runs along the southwestern side of the footpath (that follows the Parish Boundary Hedgerow). It is 2-4m wide and comprises a mix of frequent Hazel *Corylus avellana*, Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*, with occasional Dogwood *Cornus sanguinea*, Oak *Quercus robur* and Brambles *Rubus fruticosus* agg. This hedge serves to screen the stud paddocks from the pathway; it is not included within the County Wildlife Site.

**Site assessment**

The site qualifies as CWS because it supports at least 500m of hedgerow more than 2m in width, with at least 5 woody species and which is allowed to flower and fruit.

**Site status**

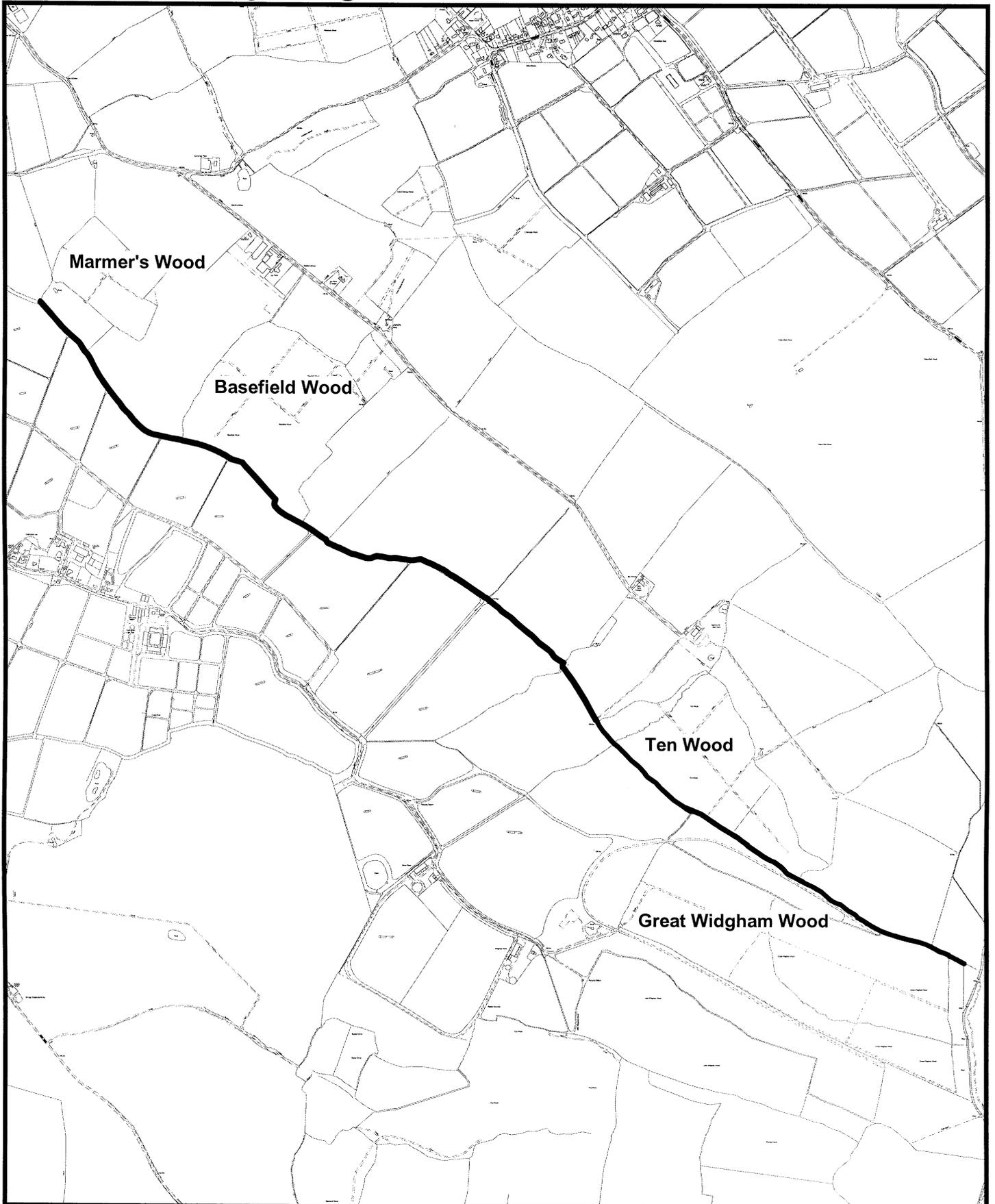
County Wildlife Site

**Surveyor**

Alastair Ross

20/05/2005

# Parish Boundary Hedgerow



Grid Ref: TL6556  
Scale:1:16000  
Plot Date:21/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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Site No. 7119

**COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET**NAME: **Angel Drove drains**

File code: E/19.7.05

Parish(es): Ely

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref: TL5379

**Habitat information****Code** *Habitat type*

C31 Tall herb and fern: other, tall ruderal

J221 Boundaries, defunct hedge, species-rich

J261 Boundaries, permanently wet ditch

**Site Area**

1.37 ha

**Site description**

The site comprises two minor drains backed by hedgerows and a contiguous area of waste ground. The short drain to north-east of the playing field has a tall straggly hedgerow along its north-eastern bank top. The south-western bank is dominated by tall herb vegetation, Bramble *Rubus fruticosus* and coarse grassland. The ditch bottom is full of emergent vegetation; frequent species include Hairy Willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum*, Common Figwort *Scrophularia nodosa*, Water-cress *Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum* and the former county rarity Greater Horsetail *Equisetum telmateia*. The longer drain, running from north-east to south-west, lies beside a tall, bushy, rather gappy hedgerow that is allowed to flower and fruit. The height varies from 2m to 8m tall and width from 1m to over 2m. The ditch flora was quite patchy, due to the shading from the adjacent hedgerow, but where light increased, Greater Water Plantain *Alisma plantago-aquatica*, Fool's Water-cress *Apium nodiflorum*, Greater Pond Sedge *Carex riparia*, Branched Bur-reed *Sparganium erectum*, Greater Reed-mace *Typha latifolia* and Common Duckweed *Lemna minor*. Occurred with Gipsywort *Lycopus europaeus*, Hemp Agrimony *Eupatoria cannabinum*, Hairy Willowherb, Butterbur *Petasites hybridus*, Hard Rush *Juncus inflexus* and Marsh Ragwort *Senecio aquaticus*. Greater Horsetail is scattered at the base of the north-eastern part of the hedgerow.

The hedgerow, although very over grown, is mature, species-rich and allowed to flower and fruit. Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* was the dominant species, but Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, Crab Apple *Malus sylvestris*, Field Maple *Acer campestre*, Midland Hawthorn *Crataegus laevigata*, Grey Sallow *Salix cinerea* and Elder *Sambucus nigra* were all recorded. Adjacent to the car park additional species included Hazel *Corylus avellana* and Privet *Ligustrum vulgare*, though the present of ornamental species, suggests that this section may be of more recent origin.

The area of waste ground is bordered to the west by a continuation of both drains and the associated hedgerow. On the other sides it is bordered by the school playing fields, housing and a car park. The vegetation is dominated by tall herb vegetation with significant areas dominated by Greater Horsetail. Other species include a patch of Lesser Pond Sedge *Carex acutiformis*, Common Reed *Phragmites australis*, and significant areas of Hairy Willowherb and Nettle *Urtica dioica*. Patches of Bramble and Elder scrub also occur, with a row of Poplars along the northern boundary and a hedgerow along the southern boundary adjacent to the car park. The underlying geomorphology, soils and hydrology of this area may be of interest as tall herb vegetation more usually associated with swamps and mires occurs on a slope.

**Site assessment**

The site is a borderline CWS, though has been included because it supports a species-rich hedgerow with more than 5 woody species that is allowed to flower and fruit. The associated ditch and tall herb communities have been included in the site boundary as complementary habitat and because of the urban context of the site.

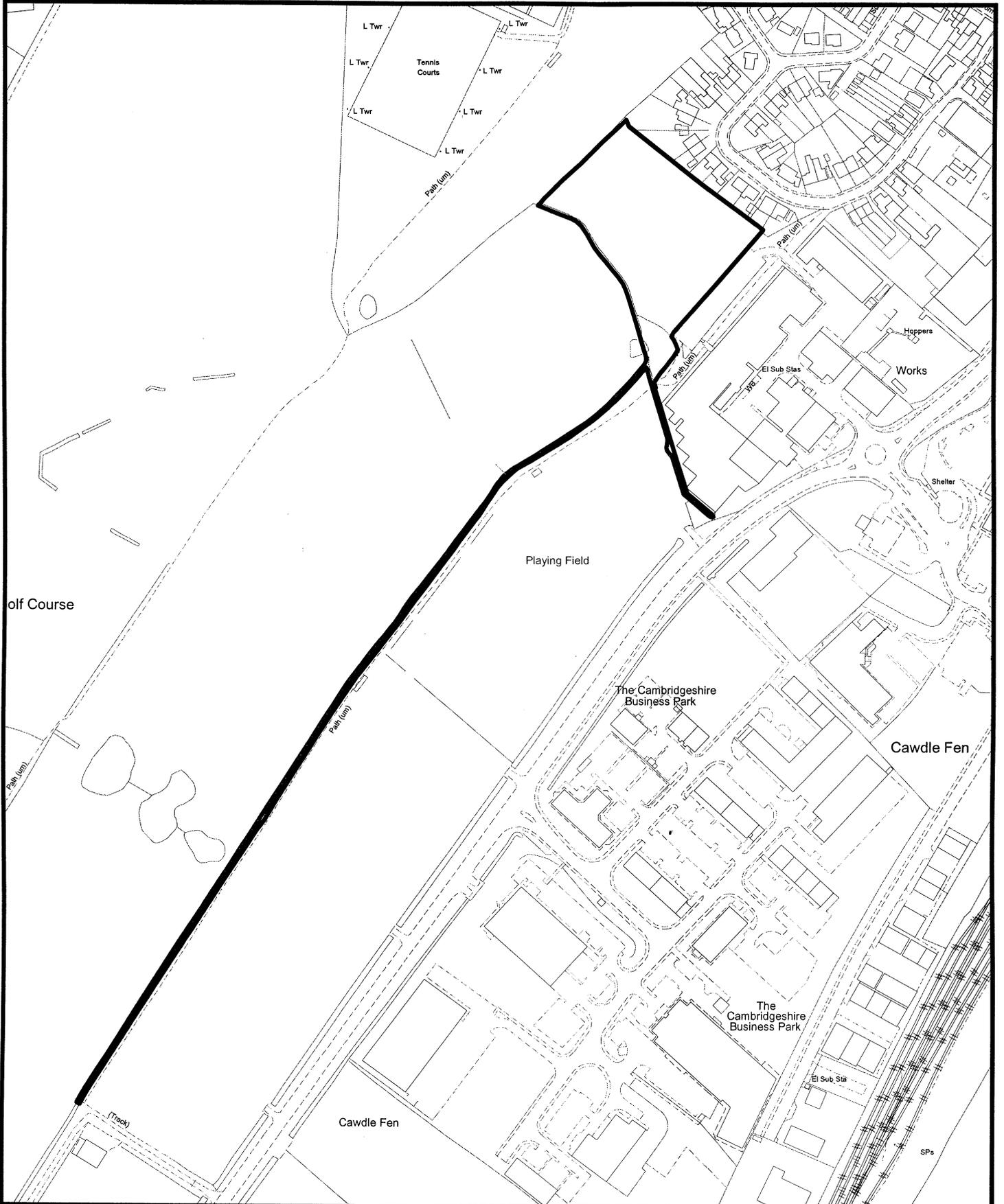
**Site status**

County Wildlife Site  
former Site of Natural History Interest

**Surveyor**

Martin Baker  
19/07/2005

# Angel Drove drains



Grid Ref: TL539805  
Scale: 1:3500  
Plot Date: 20/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust for CCC

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Site No. 7176

**COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET****NAME:** Beald Drove pollard willows**File code:** E/24.05.05**Parish(es):** Ely / Witchford**County:** Cambridgeshire**Grid ref.:** TL524808**Habitat information****Code** *Habitat type*

B6	Grassland: poor semi-improved
J21	Boundaries, intact hedge
J22	Boundaries, defunct hedge
J23	Boundaries, hedge with trees
J261	Boundaries, permanently wet ditch
J262	Boundaries, seasonally wet ditch

**Site Area**

0.91 ha

**Site description**

A short section of Beald Drove green lane, bounded by hedgerows on both sides enclosing a track and ditch. The lane supports coarse, species-poor grassland with few indicators of species-rich grassland remaining. Of those that do occur, Black Knapweed *Centaurea nigra* is locally frequent particularly towards the western end of the track, while Hoary Ragwort *Senecio erucifolius* and Meadow Vetchling *Lathyrus pratensis* are rare. The dominant species along the track are tall grasses including Rough Meadow Grass *Poa trivialis*, Cock's-foot *Dactylis glomerata*, False Oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* and Meadow Foxtail *Alopecurus pratensis*. Herbs are generally limited to the occasional Creeping Buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, White Clover *Trifolium repens*, Hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium*, Field Bindweed *Convolvulus arvensis*, Docks *Rumex sp.*, Hemlock *Conium maculatum* and species of disturbed ground such as Greater Plantain *Plantago major*, Groundsel *Senecio vulgaris* and Shepherd's Purse *Capsella bursa-pastoris*.

Along the eastern side of the lane runs a permanently flooded drain at the base of a hedgerow. The drain is generally about 1m wide and rather shaded in many sections by the hedgerow; in these sections vegetation is sparse. Where the drain is more open, species include Reed Sweet-grass *Glyceria maxima*, Water Forget-me-not *Myosotis scorpioides*, Common Duckweed *Lemna minor*, Branched Bur-reed *Sparganium erectum*, Water Starwort *Callitriche sp.*, Fool's Water-cress *Apium nodiflorum*, Water Cress *Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum*, Hard Rush *Juncus inflexus* and False Fox Sedge *Carex otrubae*. The ditch bank is dominated by tall, coarse vegetation with Stinging Nettle *Urtica dioica* and Cow Parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris* abundant.

The hedgerow varies considerably in height but in places reaches 2-3 metres and is 1-2 metres wide. It is largely dominated by Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, but does contain a variety of other species. Scattered along the northern section are approximately 10 mature pollard White Willow *Salix alba* and Crack Willow *Salix fragilis* trees. The trees show no signs of recent management and have many broken limbs and holes and much dead wood in the crown. A few trees are very substantial in size. As well as the willows there are also two Alder *Alnus glutinosa*. The hedgerow also contains Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Crataegus x macrocarpa*, Elder *Sambucus nigra*, Elm *Ulmus sp.*, English Oak *Quercus robur*, Dog Rose *Rosa canina* and Bramble *Rubus fruticosus*.

**Site assessment**

The site qualifies as CWS because it contains at least 5 mature pollard willows in association with other semi-natural features.

The site boundary has been extended slightly at the southern end to include an area of grassland with frequent Black Knapweed and a thick adjacent hedgerow and to align it with the neighbouring field boundary.

**Site status**

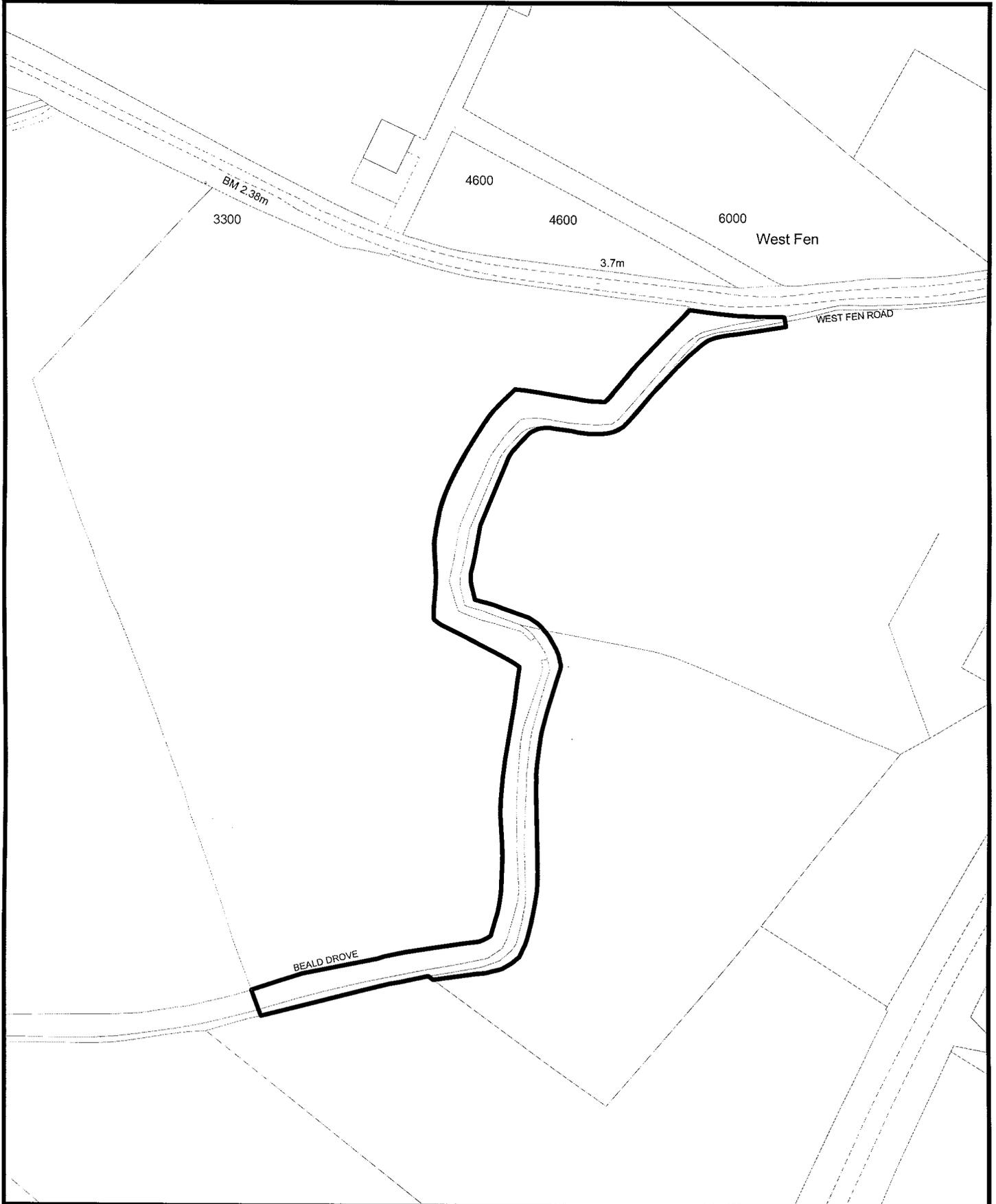
County Wildlife Site

**Surveyor**

Martin Baker

24/05/2005

# Beald Drove Pollard Willows



Grid Ref: TL524808  
Scale: 1:2500  
Plot Date: 22/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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Site No. 7226

**COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET**NAME: **Black Wing Drains**

File code: E/8.7.05

Parish(es): Ely  
Soham

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref: TL5981

**Habitat information****Code** *Habitat type*

F2 Marginal/inundation

G2 Open water: running water

**Site description**

An extensive fen drainage system comprising several main drains 4-8m wide. Much of the system appeared to have been cleaned not long before the time of survey, with large heaps of aquatic vegetation dumped on the banks at regular intervals. Thirteen sample locations were visited with the aim of presenting a fair representation of flora and habitat present along the drainage system. The DAFOR system was used to estimate abundance of species present.

Sample point 1 at TL61514,78714. The water channel is 6m wide, water clear with a depth of approximately 1m. Due to recent cleansing work the channel was almost entirely devoid of vegetation, the only plants present being submerged Mare's Tail *Hippuris vulgaris* (O) and Spiked Water Milfoil *Myriophyllum spicatum* (R). Marginal vegetation comprises dominant Common Reed *Phragmites australis*. The banks are 5m high very steep sided with a flora consisting of Common Reed *Phragmites australis* (A), Hemlock *Conium maculatum* (F), False Oat Grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* (O), Nettles *Urtica dioica* (O), Cow Parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris* (O), Creeping Thistle *Cirsium arvense* (O).

Sample point 2 at TL61612,718501. The water channel is 6m wide, water clear with a depth of approximately 1m. Channel and marginal vegetation sparse and limited to Common Reed *Phragmites australis* (F), Fennel Pondweed *Potamogeton pectinatus* (F) and Tapegrass *Vallisneria spiralis* (O). Banks as sample point 1

Sample point 3 at TL61722,78287. The water channel is 6m wide, water clear with a depth of approximately 1m. Channel and marginal vegetation sparse and limited to Common Reed *Phragmites australis* (F), Fennel Pondweed *Potamogeton pectinatus* (F) and Greater Pond Sedge *Carex riparia* (R). Banks are 2.5-5m high with a flora that includes Common Reed *Phragmites australis* (A), Nettles *Urtica dioica* (F), Creeping Thistle *Cirsium arvense* (F), Hemp Agrimony *Eupatorium cannabinum* (O), False Oat Grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* (O), Common Couch *Elytrigia repens* (O), Hemlock *Conium maculatum* (O).

Sample point 4 at TL61351,79048 by bridge. The water channel is 6m wide, water clear with a depth of approximately 1m. Due to recent cleansing work the channel was almost entirely devoid of vegetation, the only plants present being submerged Mare's Tail *Hippuris vulgaris* (O) and Fringed Water-lily *Nymphoides peltata* (R). There is no marginal vegetation remaining in standing water, the Common Reed *Phragmites australis* (A) is restricted to the banks; other bank flora includes Hemlock *Conium maculatum* (O), False Oat Grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* (O), Nettles *Urtica dioica* (F).

Sample point 5 at TL6283,79265 by bridge. The water channel is 6m wide, with very murky silty water of unknown depth. The channel is very sterile with only occasional submerged Mare's Tail *Hippuris vulgaris* in the water. There is no marginal vegetation remaining in standing water, the Common Reed *Phragmites australis* (D) is restricted to the banks; other bank flora includes occasional Hemlock *Conium maculatum*; the banks are 2m high and very steep (almost vertical).

Sample point 6 at TL61436,79436 by bridge. The water channel is 6m wide, with very turbid water of unknown depth. Recent management work means the channel is currently very sterile with virtually no aquatic vegetation remaining. A heap of recently cleared vegetation that had been dumped on the banks indicated that the channel previously had the following flora: Mare's Tail *Hippuris vulgaris* (F), Perfoliate Pondweed *Potamogeton perfoliatus* (O), Tapegrass *Vallisneria spiralis* (R), Fringed Water-lily *Nymphoides peltata* (R). Marginal vegetation comprises Branched Bur-reed *Sparganium erectum* (R), Greater Bulrush *Typha latifolia* (R). Bank vegetation includes Common Reed *Phragmites australis* (F), False Oat Grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* (F), and Rosebay Willowherb *Chamerion angustifolium* (O).

Sample point 7 at TL61016,80263 at road bridge. The water channel is 7m wide, with moderately turbid water approximately 1m deep. Water channel vegetation consists of submerged *Hippuris vulgaris* (R), Fringed Water-lily *Nymphoides peltata* (R), Perfoliate Pondweed *Potamogeton perfoliatus* (O), Fennel Pondweed *Potamogeton pectinatus* (O). Marginal vegetation comprises narrow fringe of Common Reed *Phragmites australis* (F), Reed Canary-grass *Phalaris arundinacea*, (O), Branched Bur-reed *Sparganium erectum* (O), Water Dock *Rumex hydrolapathum*. The banks are 2-3m high with 70° slopes. Bank vegetation includes Common Reed *Phragmites australis* (O), False Oat Grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* (F), Nettles *Urtica dioica* (F), Creeping Thistle *Cirsium arvense* (F), Cleavers *Galium aparine* (F).

Sample point 8 by main road at TL61816,80603. The water channel is 6-7m wide, with very turbid water of unknown depth. Water channel is virtually devoid of vegetation limited to Mare's Tail *Hippuris vulgaris* (R), Fringed Water-lily *Nymphoides peltata* (R). Marginal vegetation comprises narrow fringe of Common Reed *Phragmites australis* (F) and also Lesser Pond Sedge *Carex acutiformis* (O), Floating Sweet-grass *Glyceria fluitans* (O), Water Dock *Rumex hydrolapathum* (R), Water Forget-me-not *Myosotis scorpioides* (R). The banks are 2-3m high with 60° slopes. Bank vegetation includes Common Reed *Phragmites australis* (A), Hemlock *Conium maculatum* (O), False Oat Grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* (F), Nettles *Urtica dioica* (F), Cow Parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris* (O), Great Willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum*

Sample point 9 by main road at TL60278, 31403. The water channel is 6-7m wide, the water has very sparse aquatic flora, restricted to submerged Mare's Tail *Hippuris vulgaris* (O), Fringed Water-lily *Nymphoides peltata* (O) and Perfoliate Pondweed *Potamogeton perfoliatus* (O). There is a very narrow fringe of emergent on both banks, vegetation comprises Common Reed *Phragmites australis* (F), Branched Bur-reed *Sparganium erectum* (O), Greater Bulrush *Typha latifolia*. Banks are 2m high with slopes of 50°. East bank has recently been cleared of vegetation and is dominated by a short grass sward. West bank flora includes Common Reed *Phragmites australis* (F), False Oat Grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* (F), Nettles *Urtica dioica* (F) and Hedge Bindweed *Calystegia sepium* (F).

Sample point 10 at TL59655,81906. The water channel is 6m wide, with very turbid water of unknown depth. Recent management work means the channel is currently very sterile with virtually no aquatic vegetation remaining. A heap of recently cleared vegetation that had been dumped on the banks indicated that the channel previously had the following flora: Perfoliate Pondweed *Potamogeton perfoliatus* (O), Fennel Pondweed *Potamogeton pectinatus* (F), Fringed Water-lily *Nymphoides peltata* (F), Water Starwort *Callitriche spp.*, Water Violet *Hottonia palustris* (R). Almost no emergent vegetation actually in water. The steep banks are 2-3m, their flora includes Common Reed *Phragmites australis* (D), False Oat Grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* (O), Hedge Bindweed *Calystegia sepium* (O), Cleavers *Galium aparine* (O).

Sample point 11, observing eastern main drain from TL59619,81930. The water channel is approximately 8m wide. Flora and banks as per sample 10.

Sample point 12 at TL59021,81761. The water channel is 4-5m wide, clear water that is approximately 1m deep. Water channel vegetation comprises, Fringed Water-lily *Nymphoides peltata* (A), Curled Pondweed *Potamogeton crispus*, Common Duckweed *Lemna minor* (O), Tapegrass *Vallisneria spiralis* (O), Canadian Waterweed *Elodea canadensis* (R), Water Starwort *Callitriche spp.* Marginal vegetation includes Common Reed *Phragmites australis* (A) and Greater Pond Sedge *Carex riparia* (F). The banks are 2m high with slopes of 45° and flora comprising Common Reed *Phragmites australis* (A), Hemlock *Conium maculatum* (F), Nettles *Urtica dioica* (F), Creeping Thistle *Cirsium arvense* (F), Hedge Bindweed *Calystegia sepium* (F).

Sample point 13 at TL58719,81689 near bridge. The water channel is 3m wide with clear water that is approximately 1m deep. Water channel vegetation comprises, Fringed Water-lily *Nymphoides peltata* (F), Rigid Hornwort *Ceratophyllum demersum* (O), Common Duckweed *Lemna minor* (F), Tapegrass *Vallisneria spiralis* (O), Canadian Waterweed *Elodea canadensis* (R), Water Starwort *Callitriche spp.*, Reed Sweet-grass *Glyceria maxima* (O), Fennel Pondweed *Potamogeton pectinatus* (R). The marginal vegetation consists of frequent Common Reed *Phragmites australis*. The banks are 4m high with slopes of 45° and flora comprising Common Reed *Phragmites australis* (A), Hemlock *Conium maculatum* (F), Great Willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum* (O), Nettles *Urtica dioica* (O), Creeping Thistle *Cirsium arvense* (F), Hedge Bindweed *Calystegia sepium* (O), Black Horehound *Ballota nigra* (O).

**Site assessment**

The site qualifies as CWS because it supports at least 5 submerged, floating and emergent species per 20m stretch; because it supports a Nationally Scarce vascular plant species (Fringed Water-lily *Nymphoides peltata*); and because it supports three or more species of pondweed (*Potamogeton spp.*).

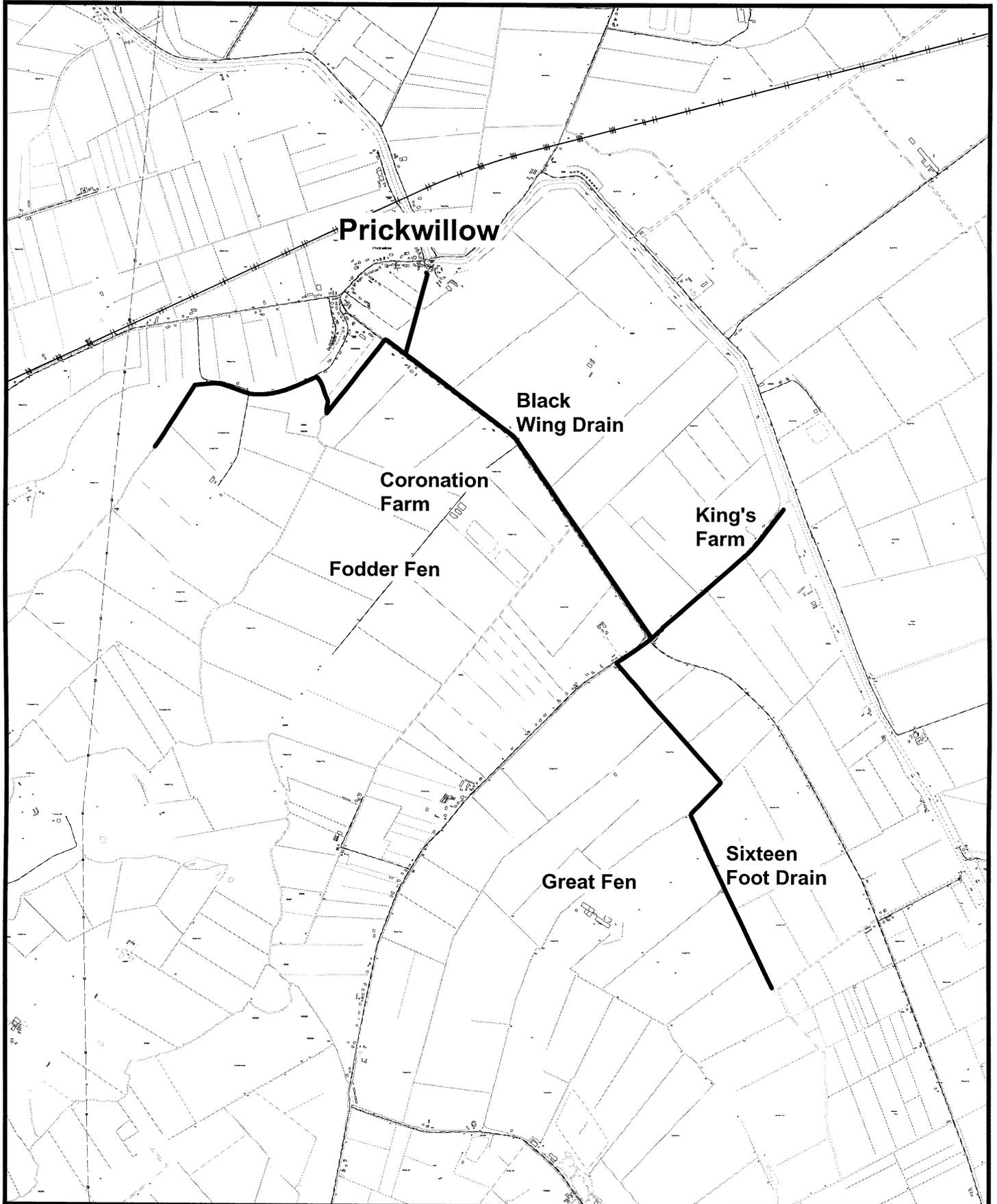
**Site status**

County Wildlife Site

**Surveyor**

Alastair Ross  
08/07/2005

# Black Wing Drains



TL5981  
Scale:1:30000  
Plot Date:21/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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Site No. 7192

**COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET**NAME: **Chettisham Meadows**

File code: E/28.5.03

Parish(es): Ely  
Downham

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref.: TL5483

**Habitat information**

<i>Code</i>	<i>Habitat type</i>
B22	Grassland: neutral, semi-improved
B6	Grassland: poor semi-improved
G1	Open water: standing water
J21	Boundaries, intact hedge
J22	Boundaries, defunct hedge
J26	Boundaries, dry ditch
J261	Boundaries, permanently wet ditch

**Site Area**

28.18 ha

**Site description**

A complex of small pastures and meadows with adjoining droves. All the grassland within the site has been improved to a greater or lesser degree but some interest remains or has been re-established in some fields (see below). Ridge and furrow markings are evident in parts of some fields. Many of the fields are surrounded by tall, broad, completely unmanaged hedgerows with Bramble *Rubus fruticosus* abundant; some of these boundary features are up to 10m wide. Frequent species include Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, Field Maple *Acer campestre*, Elms *Ulmus sp.* and Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*. Most, if not all, of these hedgerows are allowed to flower and fruit. Hedgerows in the south-eastern part of the site contain at least 5 old White Willow *Salix alba* pollards. Other mature trees in the hedgerows include English Oak *Quercus robur*, Field Maple, Ash and un-pollarded White Willow and Crack Willow *Salix fragilis*. Several of the fields contain ponds; Great Crested Newts have been recorded from two of these ponds and may well be using others. Some of the fields have had hay from the nearby Chettisham Meadow SSSI spread over them; this has resulted in the establishment of some of the species from the SSSI. Of particular interest is the small, triangular meadow in the north-eastern extreme of the site; in this field Green-winged Orchid *Orchis morio*, Adder's-tongue *Ophioglossum vulgatum*, Rough Hawkbit *Leontodon hispidus*, Cowslip *Primula veris*, Hoary Ragwort *Senecio erucifolius*, Black Knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, Ox-eye Daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare* and Common Sorrel *Rumex acetosa* have been recorded. This field was ploughed once, several decades ago, but before and since has been permanent grassland. Species of interest in other fields include Pepper Saxifrage *Silvaum silaus*, Burnet Saxifrage *Pimpinella saxifraga*, Cuckoo-flower *Cardamine pratensis*, Meadow Vetchling *Lathyrus pratensis*, Field Wood-rush *Luzula campestris*, Lesser Stitchwort *Stellaria graminea*, Black Knapweed, Ox-eye Daisy and Common Sorrel as well as a good range of grasses, including Meadow Barley *Hordeum secalinum* and Yellow Oat-grass *Trisetum flavescens*. Mousetail *Myosurus minimus*, an uncommon plant in the county, has been recorded from field entrances on some of the fields. Whilst the droves generally support species-poor, semi-improved grassland a small area with a short, species-rich sward occurs close to the triangular meadow. Frequent grasses include Red Fescue *Festuca rubra agg.*, False-oat grass *Arrhenatherum elatius*, Cock's-foot *Dactylis glomerata* and Yorkshire

Fog *Holcus lanatus*. Grassland indicator species recorded include Black Knapweed, Meadow Vetchling, Ox-eye Daisy, Lady's Bedstraw *Galium verum*, Common Fleabane *Pulicaria dysenterica* and Bird's-foot Trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*.

The field system is managed under a traditional regime, with 11 fields being managed for hay with aftermath grazing and 5 being managed as pasture. Many of the fields could be enhanced and restored to a more species-rich condition, with proactive conservation management.

**Site assessment**

This site is a good example of an intact village field system. It qualifies as CWS on the extent, structure and species complement of its hedgerows. Additionally it has at least five mature pollard willows in association with other semi-natural features. It also qualifies under the habitat mosaic criteria and may qualify under the Great Crested Newt criteria.

**Site status**

County Wildlife Site

GCN Site

former Site of Natural History Interest

**Surveyor**

Martin Baker

28/05/03 & 12/06/03

# Chettisham Meadows



Grid Ref: TL540835  
Scale: 1:6000  
Plot Date: 22/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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Site No. 7197

**COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET**NAME: **Ely Cemetery**

File code: E/24.05.05

Parish(es): Ely

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref: TL547808

**Habitat information****Code** *Habitat type*

A33 Parkland/scattered trees: mixed

B21 Grassland: neutral, unimproved

B22 Grassland: neutral, semi-improved

B6 Grassland: poor semi-improved

J22 Boundaries, defunct hedge

MG05 *Cynosurus cristatus-Centaurea nigra* grassland**Site Area**

5.58 ha

**Site description**

The cemetery is largely occupied by short mown, semi-improved neutral grassland. Over much of the area this grassland is quite species-rich, with neutral grassland indicator species well represented. Frequent species include Mouse-ear Hawkweed *Pilosella officinarum*, Ox-eye Daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare*, Hoary Plantain *Plantago media*, Black Knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, Rough Hawkbit *Leontodon hispidus*, Field Woodrush *Luzula campestris*, Common Sorrel *Rumex acetosa*, Bird's-foot Trefoil *Lotus corniculatus* and Burnet Saxifrage *Pimpinella saxifraga*. Other grassland indicators present at lower frequency include Lady's Bedstraw *Galium verum*, Quaking Grass *Briza media*, Field Scabious *Knautia arvensis* and Cowslip *Primula veris*. Two species recorded in 1996, but not seen on this occasion were Cuckoo-flower *Cardamine pratensis* and Devil's-bit Scabious *Succisa pratensis*. Small areas have a virtually unimproved sward, particularly in the north-east of the cemetery and the block immediately south-west of the Chapel. This sward appears to be of the MG5 community although quadrat samples were not taken. These areas have been left un-mown by the cemetery manager to allow the flowers to seed.

Around the margins of the cemetery the grassland is generally less species-rich. Scattered broadleaved and conifer trees occur, in particular close to the margins of the cemetery and close to the main entrance. The south-western and south-eastern boundaries have a narrow belt of mature broadleaved mixed plantation and there is a Holly *Ilex aquifolium* hedge along part of the eastern boundary. A wide range of tree and shrub species have been planted or have self-sown, including Yew *Taxus baccata*, Hazel *Corylus avellana*, Holly, Elder *Sambucus nigra*, Beech *Fagus sylvatica*, Hornbeam *Carpinus betulus*, Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*. The ground flora is also varied with a mixture of tall, coarse grassland and a woodland edge flora. Species include Bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, Herb Robert *Geranium robertianum*, Wood Avens *Geum urbanum*, Lord's and Ladies *Arum maculatum*, Ground Ivy *Glechoma hederacea*, Garlic Mustard *Alliaria petiolata*, and Yellow Pimpernel *Lysimachia nemorum*.

**Site assessment**

The site qualifies as CWS because it supports frequent numbers of at least 8 neutral grassland indicator species. Additionally it supports at least 0.05ha of MG5 Crested Dog's-tail - Black Knapweed grassland.

**Site status**

County Wildlife Site

**Surveyor**

Martin Baker

24/05/2005



Site No. 7223

## COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET

NAME: **Middle Fen Bank pollard willows**

File code: E/17.6.05

Parish(es): Ely

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref: TL579816

### Habitat information

#### *Code Habitat type*

A31 Parkland/scattered trees: broad-leaved

J26 Boundaries, dry ditch

#### *Site area*

0.31 ha

### Site description

A line of approximately 36 White Willow *Salix alba* pollards along the course of a small dry drain. There are at least as many unpollarded willows interspersed with the pollards; some of these have been coppiced in the past. The pollards vary considerably in age and size. Standing and fallen dead wood, rot holes and splits are all frequent; some fallen timber has been left on the ground. Some pollards show signs of having been recently managed. Amongst the trees are occasional Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* and Elder *Sambucus nigra*. The flora in the drain comprises mainly frequent Reeds *Phragmites australis*, Nettles *Urtica dioica* and Cleavers *Galium aparine*. The drain approximates the former course of the River Great Ouse; Middle Fen Bank runs roughly parallel to the drain about 100m to south.

### Site assessment

The site qualifies as CWS because it has more than 20 mature pollard willows.

### Site status

County Wildlife Site

### Surveyor

Alastair Ross

17/06/2005

# Middle Fen Bank Pollard Willows



Grid Ref: TL579816  
Scale: 1:5000  
Plot Date: 21/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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Site No. 7227

**COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET**NAME: **River Lark and associated habitat**

File code: E/1994

Parish(es): Ely  
Soham  
Isleham

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref: TL68

**Habitat information****Code** *Habitat type*

A111 Woodland: broadleaved, semi-natural  
A22 Scrub: scattered  
A31 Parkland/scattered trees: broad-leaved  
B22 Grassland: neutral, semi-improved  
B6 Grassland: poor semi-improved  
F1 Swamp  
F2 Marginal/inundation  
G1 Open water: standing water  
G2 Open water: running water  
J261 Boundaries, permanently wet ditch  
J262 Boundaries, seasonally wet ditch

**Site area**

85.55 ha

**Site description**

The site comprises the River Lark in Cambridgeshire. The river has generally good water quality. The large majority of the river is embanked on the western side enclosing a narrow band of washland. The washland is generally dominated by swamp vegetation in the narrower parts of the wash. North of Isleham the wide area of washland is common land. This area supports seasonally inundated tussocky grassland but is of limited botanical interest due to past attempts at improvement. To the south of the Little Wash is an area of osier bed which contains a good variety of *Salix* species. The common was said to have some importance for overwintering and breeding ducks and waders but recent data is lacking. The eastern side boundary follows the county boundary along the middle of the river channel. The western site boundary follows the drain on the western side of the minor road along the western side of the embankment in order to include the considerable numbers of pollard willows that line sections of this drain.

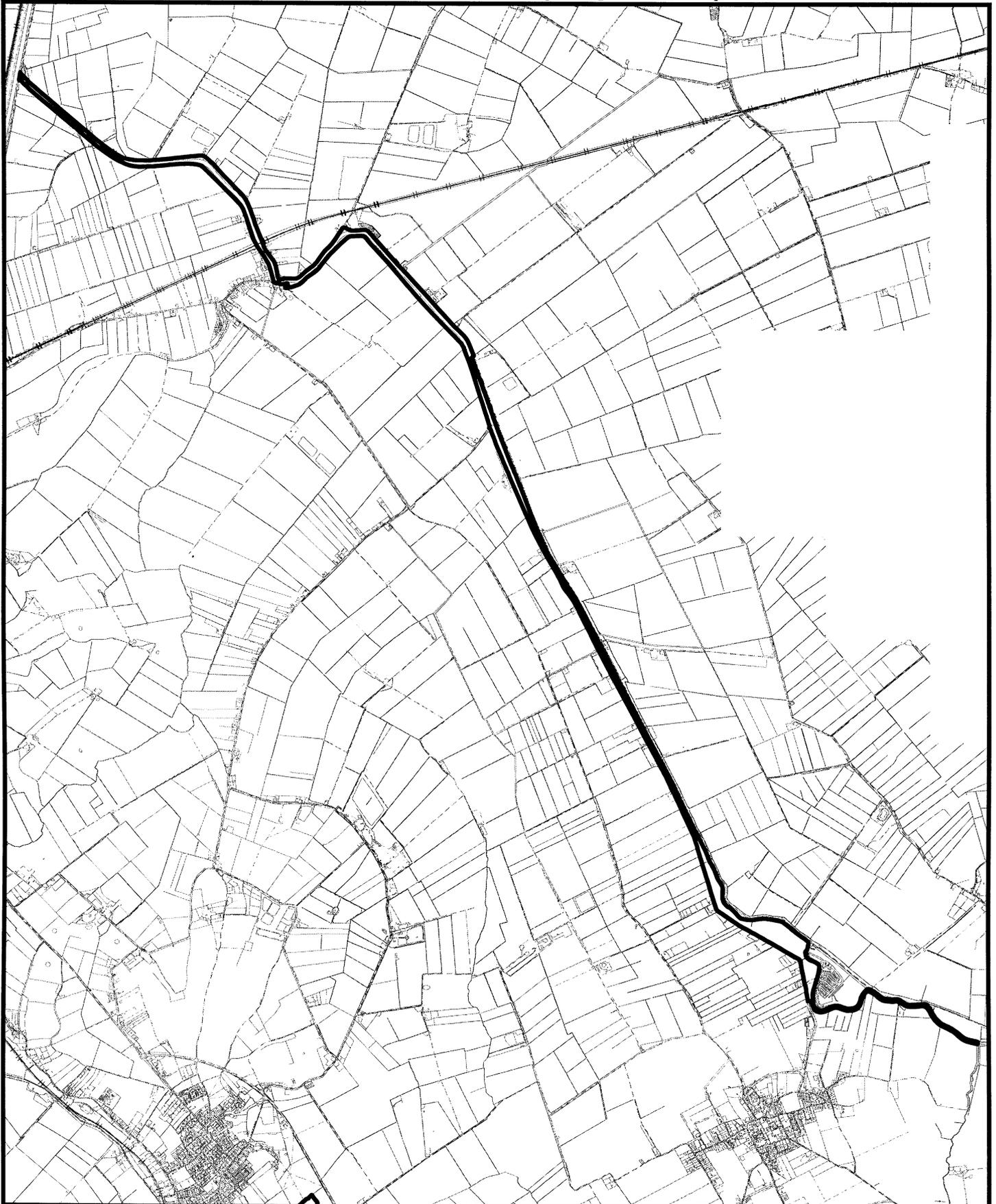
**Site assessment**

The site qualifies as a CWS because it is a major river not grossly modified by canalisation or poor water quality.

**Site status**

County Wildlife Site  
former Site of Natural History Interest  
Common land

# River Lark and associated habitat (Map 1 of 5)



Grid Ref: TL68  
Scale: 1:50000  
Plot Date: 22/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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# River Lark and associated habitat (Map 2 of 5)



Scale: 1:12500  
Plot Date: 22/7/2005  
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for CCC

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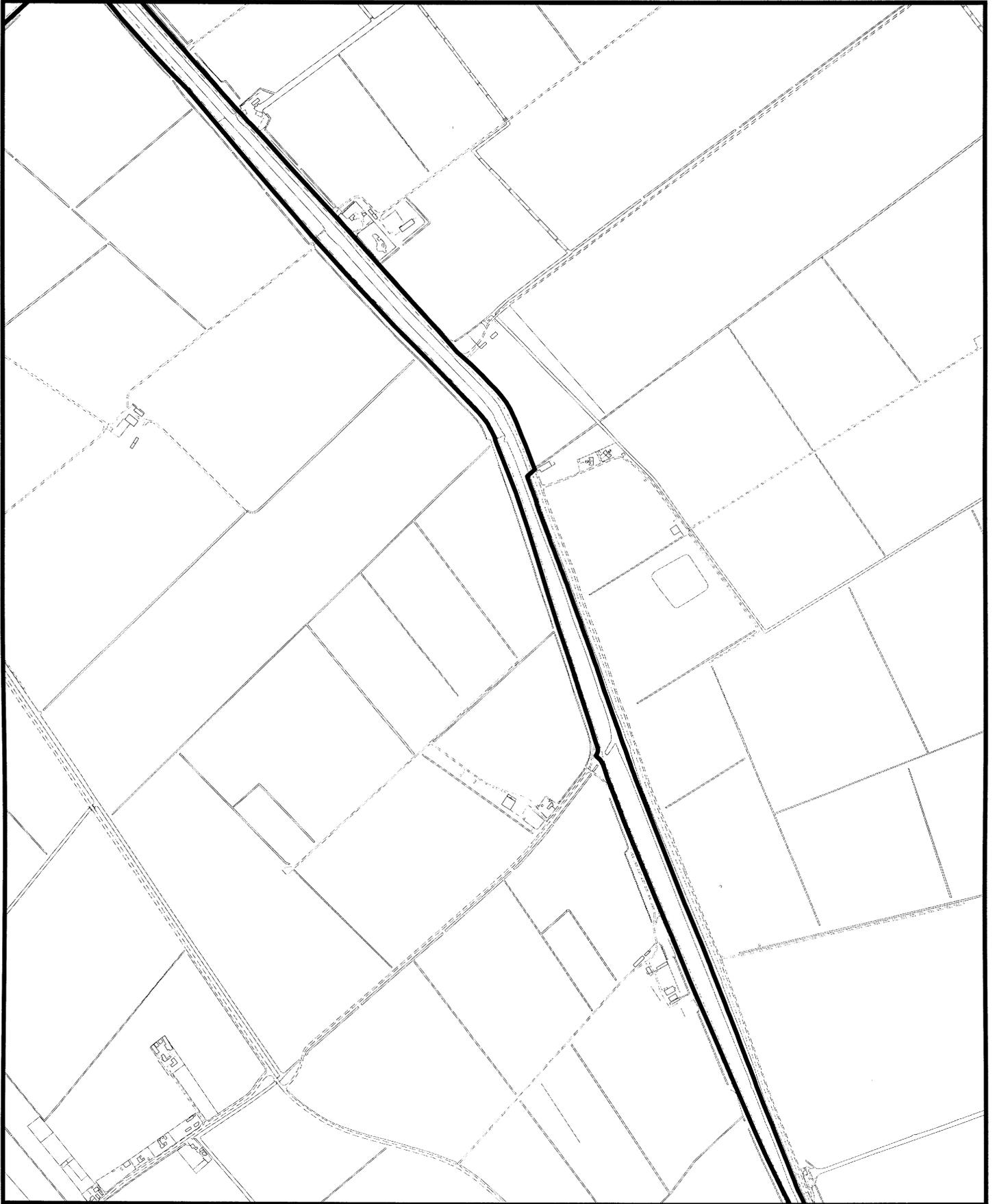
## River Lark and associated habitat (Map 3 of 5)



Scale:1:12500  
Plot Date:22/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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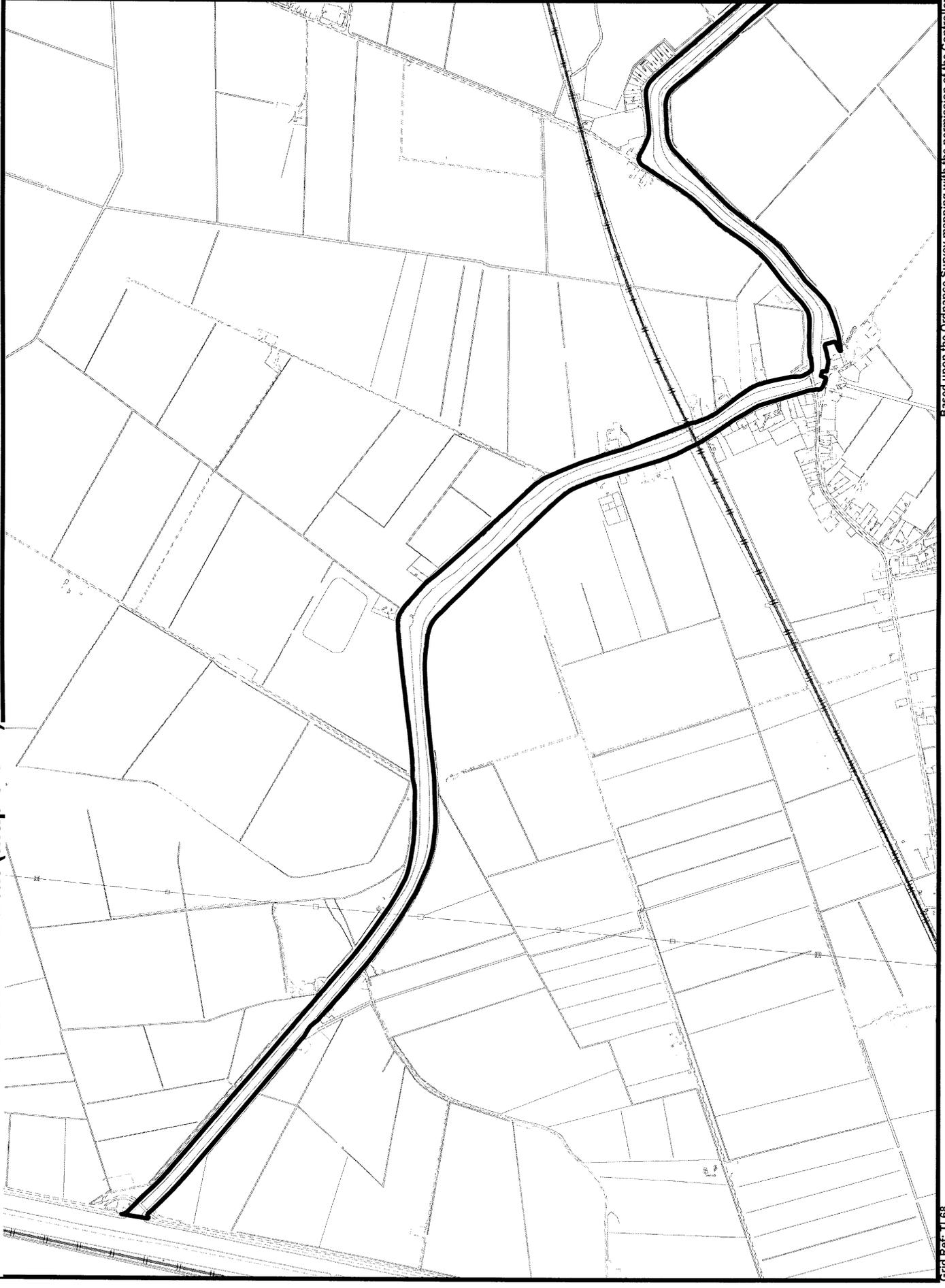
# River Lark and associated habitat (Map 4 of 5)



Scale:1:12500  
Plot Date:22/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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# River Lark and associated habitat (Map 5 of 5)



Grid Ref: TL88  
Scale: 1:15000  
Plot Date: 22/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust for CCC

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Site No. 7003/1

**COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET**NAME: **Aldreth Ponds**

File code: E/27.05.05

Parish(es): Haddenham

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref: TL444731

**Habitat information****Code Habitat type**

A22 Scrub: scattered

A31 Parkland/scattered trees: broad-leaved

C31 Tall herb and fern: other, tall ruderal

F1 Swamp

G1 Open water: standing water

F2 Marginal/inundation

**Site Area**

0.25 ha

**Site description**

A small sunken area containing ponds largely dominated by swamp vegetation and with many mature pollarded White Willows *Salix alba* growing both in the water and around the pond edges. The banks of the site are dominated by tall ruderal vegetation of Nettle *Urtica dioica*, Cow Parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris*, Cleavers *Galium aparine*, and Bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg., and grasses including Rough Meadow Grass *Poa trivialis*, and Meadow Foxtail *Alopecurus pratensis*. Frequent scattered scrub grows around the pond and consists of Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, Elder *Sambucus nigra* and small bushes of Crack Willow *Salix fragilis* and White Willow *Salix alba*. There is little open water visible in the ponds due to the dominance of Reed Sweet Grass *Glyceria maxima*, which covers much of the ponds area. Overhanging trees and shrubs also considerably shades the ponds. Other species recorded at the pond margins include Fool's Watercress *Apium nodiflorum*, Celery Leaved Buttercup *Ranunculus sceleratus*, Reed Canary-Grass *Phalaris arundinacea* and Branched Bur-reed *Sparganium erectum*. Dominating the entire site is approximately twenty pollarded White Willows. The trees vary from large and mature to small and relatively young specimens; none appear to have been managed recently although some are now disintegrating and 'self-pollarding'.

**Site assessment**

The site qualifies as CWS because it supports at least 5 mature pollard willows in association with other semi-natural features.

**Site status**

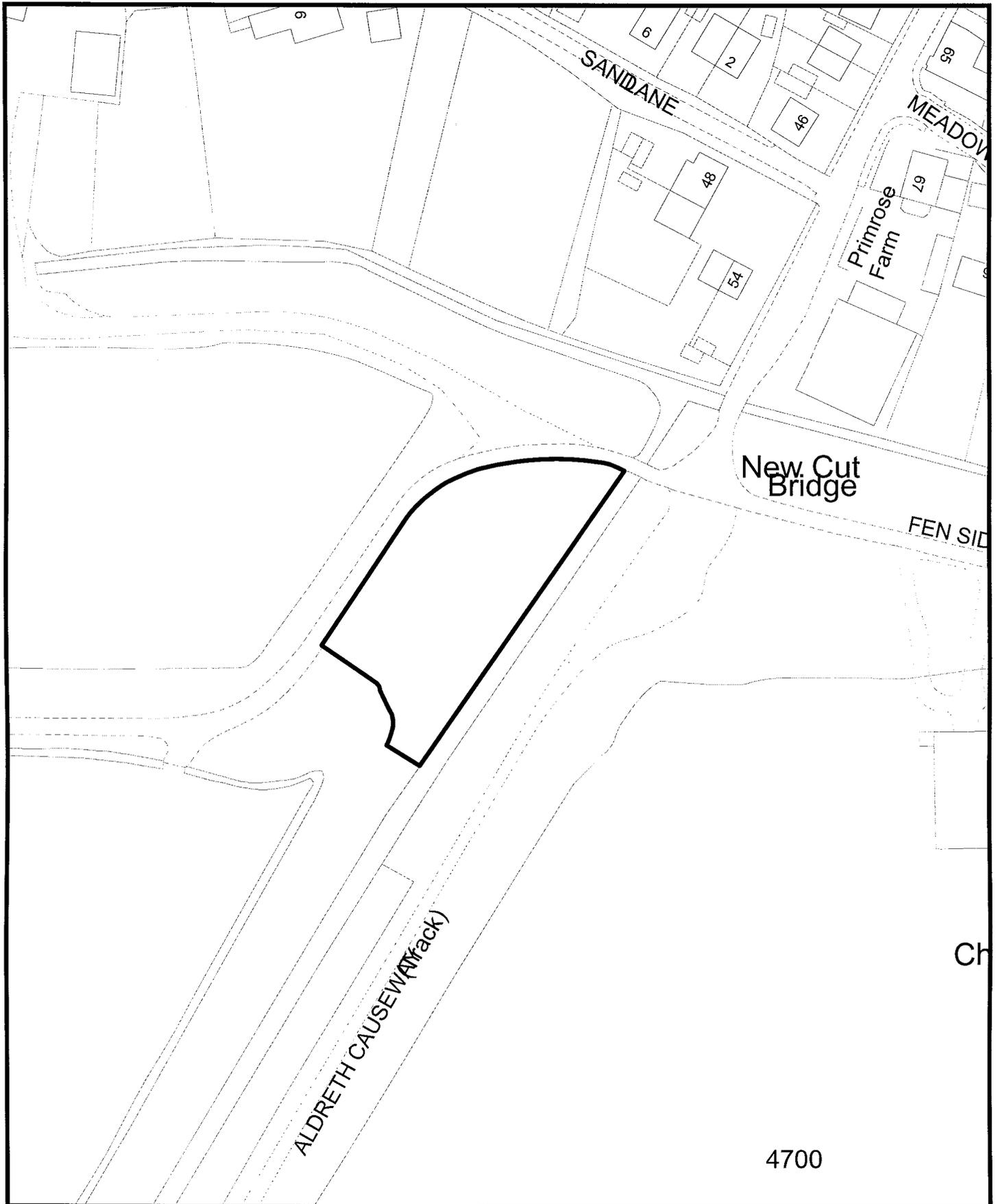
County Wildlife Site

**Surveyor**

Emma Ogden

27/05/05

# Aldreth Ponds



Grid Ref: TL444731  
Scale: 1:1250  
Plot Date: 22/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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Site No. 7012

**COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET**NAME: **Fen Side Pollard Willows**

File code: E/1.7.05

Parish(es): Haddenham

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref: TL462738

**Habitat information****Code Habitat type**

A31 Parkland/scattered trees: broad-leaved

B6 Grassland: poor semi-improved

J261 Boundaries, permanently wet ditch

J231 Boundaries, hedge with trees, species-rich

J232 Boundaries, hedge with trees, species-poor

**Site area**

9.09 ha

**Site description**

There are 26 White Willow *Salix alba* and Crack Willow *Salix fragilis* pollards on this site, lining a ditch along Fen Side. Irregularly spaced, they are pollarded at about two metres' height where they may have a diameter of two metres. They have not been recently pollarded, many individuals having suffered collapse or splitting off of boughs. In between these Willows grow patches of scrub; Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, Elder *Sambucus nigra*, and Bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg. The ditch is dominated by Reed-sweet Grass *Glyceria maxima* and a thick covering of green algae. Fen Side itself, though up to 15 m wide, grassy and incorporating an embankment, is of little botanical interest. However, the hedgerow which flanks the southern side of the track is of much greater interest; often four metres tall by three wide, unmanaged with Field Maple *Acer campestre*, Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, Elm *Ulmus* sp., Hawthorn and White Willow. At the eastern end of the site the track diverges around two sides of a semi-improved grassland field surrounded by impressive overgrown hedges. On three sides these hedges are developing into strips of scrub and woodland up to twelve metres wide with shrubs to ten metres in height and young mature trees. Species include frequent Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, Field Maple *Acer campestre*, Elm *Ulmus* sp., and Hawthorn and Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*. There are several standing dead Ivy *Hedera helix* covered Elms. The fourth, southern hedge is Elm dominated and only 1-2m wide. The grassland is cattle grazed and has undergone improvement. The grassland had been recently cut at the time of survey and this may account for the fact that Lady's Bedstraw *Galium verum* was not found when during the 1996 survey it was seen in abundance. Species present in the field include abundant False-oat Grass *Arrhenatherum elatius*, frequent Cock's Foot *Dactylis glomerata*, Yorkshire Fog *Holcus lanatus*, occasional Common Sorrel *Rumex acetosa*, Meadow Fox-tail *Alopecurus pratensis*, Small-leaved Timothy *Phleum pratense* and locally frequent Couch Grass *Elytrigia repens*. The principal interest of the site is the pollard willows, but the hedges are also of great value for wildlife and the association of the hedges with the semi-improved grassland of the track and field form a valuable unit as a single site.

**Site assessment**

This site meets CWS criteria because it contains more than 20 mature pollard willows. The association of the pollards and hedges with the grassland of track and field forms a valuable unit as a single site.

**Site status**

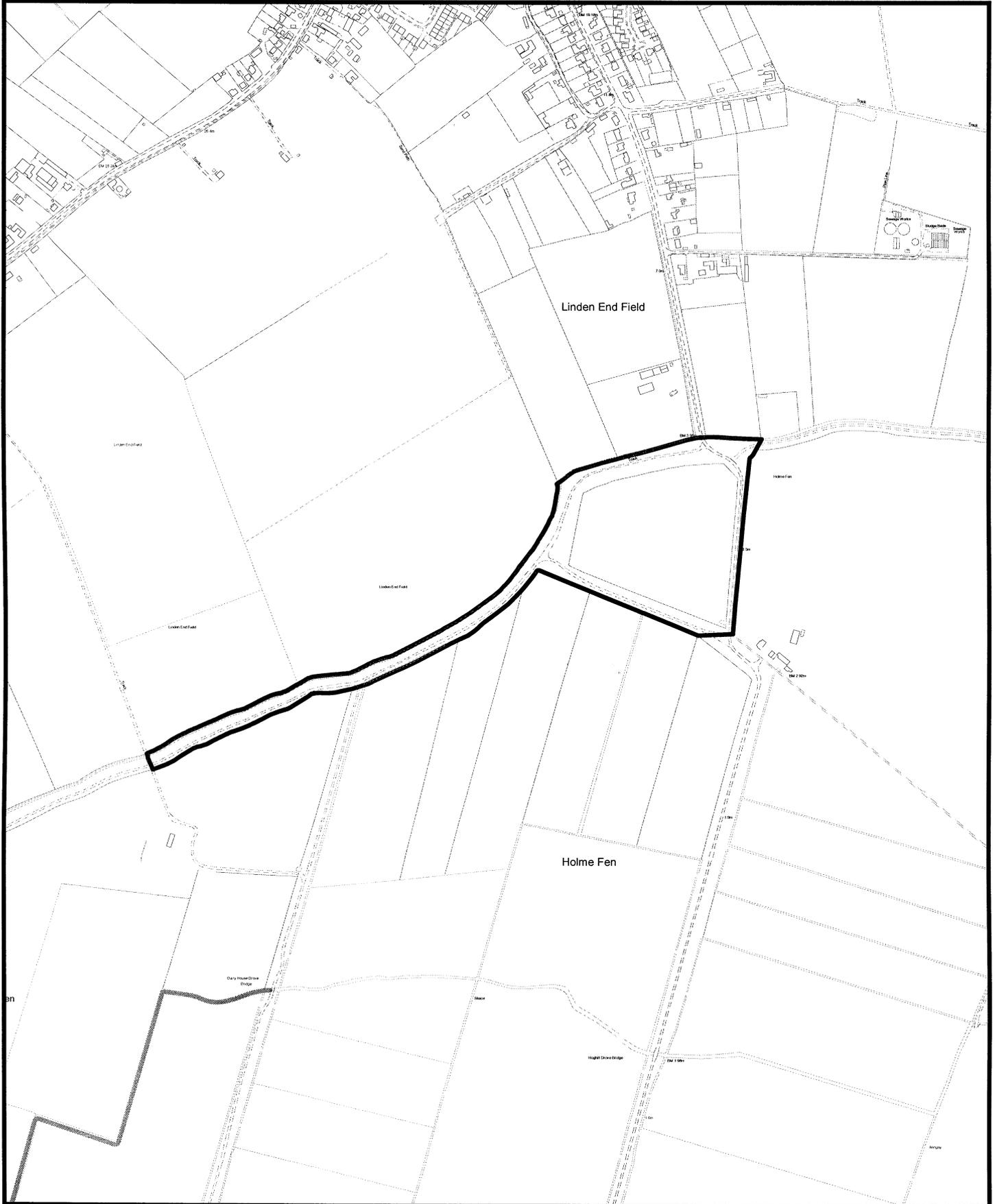
County Wildlife Site

**Surveyor**

Emma Ogden

01/07/2005

# Fen Side Pollard Willows



Grid Ref: TL462738  
Scale: 1:8000  
Plot Date: 21/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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Site No. 7025

**COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET**NAME: **Guppy's Pond and Hinton Hedges**

File code: E/22.5.03

Parish(es): Haddenham

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref.: TL467761

**Habitat information****Code** *Habitat type*

A111 Woodland: broadleaved, semi-natural

A22 Scrub: scattered

C31 Tall herb and fern: other, tall ruderal

G1 Open water: standing water

J21 Boundaries, intact hedge

J23 Boundaries, hedge with trees

B6 Grassland: poor semi-improved

**Site Area**

5.94 ha

**Site description**

The site comprises a large pond (former brick pit), a mature hedgerow and copse along a green lane and mature hedgerows surrounding a species-poor improved grassland. The pond is largely open water with steep banks and surrounded by hedgerows. White Water Lily *Nymphaea alba* is frequent but the marginal vegetation is limited to a narrow fringe with occasional Yellow Flag *Iris pseudacorus*, Lesser Reed-mace *Typha angustifolia*, Greater Reed-mace *Typha latifolia*, Branched Bur-reed *Sparganium erectum*, Hairy Willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum*, Purple Loosestrife *Lythrum salicaria*, Water Mint *Mentha aquatica* and Water Dock *Rumex hydrolapathum*. At the western end of the pond and along the inflow ditch there is a small reedbed dominated by Common Reed *Phragmites australis*. East of the pond and continuing along the southern edge of the green lane is a small elm copse (Wych Elm *Ulmus glabra*) with occasional Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* and Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*. The ground flora is dominated by Cow Parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris* with frequent Nettle *Urtica dioica* and occasional Ground Ivy *Glechoma hederacea*, Ivy *Hedera helix*, Garlic Mustard *Alliaria petiolata*, Lord's & Ladies *Arum maculatum* and Herb Robert *Geranium robertianum*. The hedgerows along the green lane are also dominated by Wych Elm with frequent Hawthorn and occasional Field Maple *Acer campestre*, Blackthorn and Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*. They are mature on the south side and intermittent on the north side, but support a strong population of the White-letter Hairstreak butterfly, particularly along the south side. Within the elm copse along the south of the lane are two old fish ponds. These are completely shaded and dominated by Duckweed *Lemna minor*, though Lesser Celandine *Ranunculus ficaria* and Brooklime *Veronica beccabunga* are present at the margins. The green lane is dominated by coarse grasses such as Cocksfoot *Dactylis glomerata*, Rough Meadow Grass *Poa trivialis*, False Oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius*, Common Couch *Elytrigia repens* and Sterile Brome *Bromus sterilis* as well as Cow Parsley. Other species present include Creeping Buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, Ground Ivy, Hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium*, Cleavers *Galium aparine* while Germander Speedwell *Veronica chamaedrys*, Hoary Ragwort *Senecio erucifolius* and Common Vetch *Vicia sativa* were rare. The meadow is species-poor semi-improved neutral grassland sloping gently from south to north. It is surrounded by hedgerows and with a small elm copse in the north-east corner. The hedgerows along the eastern and western boundaries are of a similar species mix to the green lane though while the eastern

hedgerow is mature and thick that along the western boundary is gappy. A row of Lombardy Poplar occurs along the southern boundary. The grassland is dominated by Meadow Foxtail *Alopecurus pratensis*, with abundant Sweet Vernal Grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum* and Rough Meadow Grass. Other grasses present include Cocksfoot, Soft Brome *Bromus mollis*, Couch Grass, Perennial Rye Grass *Lolium perenne* and a small patch of Red Fescue *Festuca rubra* west of the elm copse. Few herbs are present with Creeping Buttercup being most frequent and occasional patches of Cuckooflower *Cardamine pratensis*, Meadow Buttercup *Ranunculus acris* and Hairy Sedge *Carex hirta* along a wet flush near the top of the slope. Common Mouse-ear *Cerastium fontanum* and Creeping Thistle *Cirsium arvense* are occasional. In the north-east of the field behind the elm copse is a marshy area dominated by grasses but with frequent Creeping Buttercup, Creeping Jenny *Lysimachia nummularia* and patches of False Fox-sedge *Carex otrubae*, Soft Rush *Juncus effusus* and Hard Rush *Juncus inflexus*. Cuckooflower, Brooklime, Germander Speedwell, Ground Ivy and Common Mouse-ear are occasional.

**Site assessment**

The site is proposed as a County Wildlife Site because it supports a breeding population of the nationally scarce White-letter Hairstreak butterfly. In addition 17 species of dragonfly have been recorded from the pond and while breeding has not been confirmed it is highly likely that at least 12 species regularly breed.

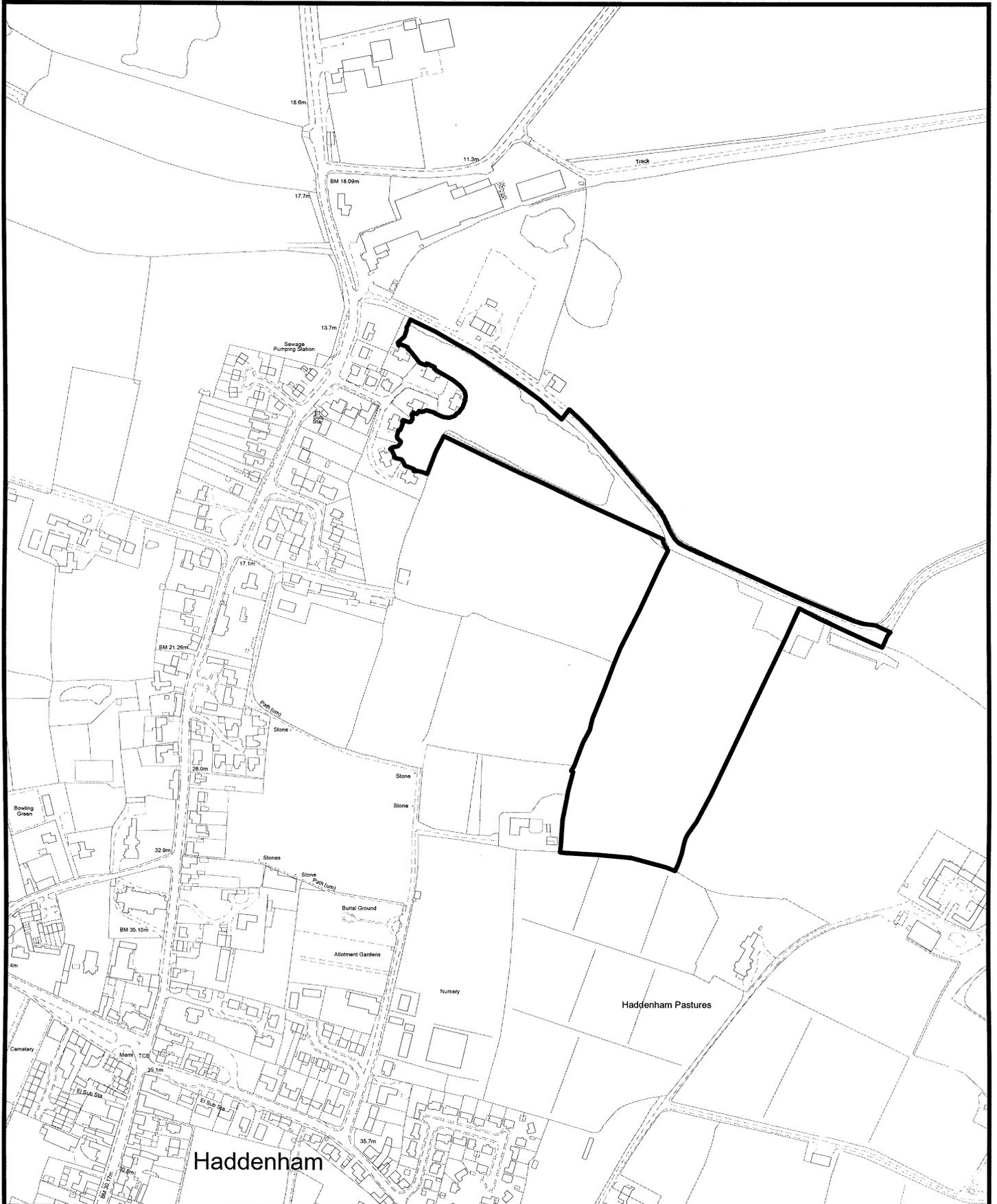
**Site status**

County Wildlife Site  
former Site of Natural History Interest

**Surveyor**

Martin Baker  
22/05/2003

# Guppy's Pond & Hinton Hedges



Grid Ref: TL467761  
Scale: 1:5000  
Plot Date: 22/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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Site No. 7002

**COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET**NAME: **Haddenham Engine/Adventurer's Head Drainage System**

File code: E/29.6.05

Parish(es): Haddenham

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref.: TL4273

**Habitat information****Code** *Habitat type*

G2 Open water: running water

F2 Marginal/inundation

**Site description**

An extensive drainage system supporting a species-rich submerged, floating and emergent flora, including some Nationally scarce plant species (Hairlike Pondweed *Potamogeton trichoides* and Whorled Water Milfoil *Myriophyllum verticillatum*). Twelve sample locations were visited with the aim of presenting a fair representation of flora and habitat present along the drainage system. The DAFOR system was used to estimate abundance of species present.

Sample point 1 at TL43400,76045; water channel is 2-3m wide, water depth approx. 1m. Watercourse channel choked with emergent vegetation, Reed Sweet-Grass *Glyceria maxima* (A), Lesser Bulrush *Typha angustifolia* (F). Watercourse margins also fringed with Greater Pond Sedge *Carex riparia* (O), Branched Bur-reed *Sparganium erectum* (R), Reed Canary-grass *Phalaris arundinacea* (O), Floating Sweet-Grass *Glyceria fluitans* (R). Other species present include Ivy-leaved Duckweed *Lemna trisulca* (O), Fool's Watercress *Apium nodiflorum* (O), Watercress *Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum* (O), Water Forget-me-not *Myosotis scorpioides* (O), Lesser Water Parsnip *Berula erecta* (R). Banks 2-5m high, slope of 45°, with abundant coarse grasses, Hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium* (F), Field Bindweed *Convolvulus arvensis* (F), Brambles *Rubus fruticosus* agg. (O), Common Mallow *Malva sylvestris* (O), Greater Stitchwort *Stellaria holostea* (R).

Sample point 2 at TL43294,76704 20m stretch just south of Galls Fen Bridge; water channel 3m wide and approximately 1m deep. Water plants present include Reed Sweet-Grass *Glyceria maxima* (O), Greater Bulrush *Typha latifolia* (O), Greater Pond Sedge *Carex riparia* (F), Lesser Water Parsnip *Berula erecta* (F), Reed Canary-grass *Phalaris arundinacea* (O), Floating Sweet-Grass *Glyceria fluitans* (O), Watercress *Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum* (O), Water Forget-me-not *Myosotis scorpioides* (O), Ivy-leaved Duckweed *Lemna trisulca* (O), Common Duckweed *Lemna minor* Great Water Parsnip *Sium latifolium* (R), Yellow Water-lily *Nuphar lutea* (R). Banks, 45° slope, covered in Brambles *Rubus fruticosus* agg. (F), Couch Grass *Elytrigia repens* (F), Hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium* (F), Cleavers *Galium aparine* (F), Comfrey *Symphytum officinale* (O), Common Toadflax *Linaria vulgaris* (O), Soft Rush *Juncus effusus* (O), Purple Loosestrife *Lythrum salicaria* (O), Meadow Rue *Thalictrum flavum* (R), White campion *Salix alba* (R), Hemlock *Conium maculatum* (R), Mugwort *Artemisia vulgaris* (R), Common Mallow *Malva sylvestris* (R), Black Horehound *Ballota nigra* (R).

Sample point 3 at TL43294, 76704 20m stretch just north of Galls Fen Bridge; water channel and bank details as per Sample point 2. Aquatic vegetation present includes Shining Pondweed *Potamogeton lucens* (A), Lesser Pond Sedge *Carex acutiformis* (F), Greater Pond Sedge *Carex riparia* (F), Reed Sweet-Grass

*Glyceria maxima* (F), Water-plantain *Alisma plantago-aquatica* (F), Watercress *Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum* (F) Fool's Watercress *Apium nodiflorum* (O), Yellow Water-lily *Nuphar lutea* (O), Water Forget-me-not *Myosotis scorpioides* (O), Ivy-leaved Duckweed *Lemna trisulca* (O). Water is very clear but with significant filamentous algae present.

Sample point 4 at TL43263,76899. Watercourse 3m wide and water approximately 1m deep. Water channel with frequent clumps of Greater Bulrush *Typha latifolia*, and Branched Bur-reed *Sparganium erectum*; abundant Water-plantain *Alisma plantago-aquatica* in areas of open water. Other species present include Water Forget-me-not *Myosotis scorpioides* (O), Great Water Parsnip *Sium latifolium* (O), and frequent filamentous algae. The water margins are fringed by Greater Pond Sedge *Carex riparia* (A), Lesser Pond Sedge *Carex acutiformis* (A), Reed Canary-grass *Phalaris arundinacea* (F), Fine-leaved Water Dropwort *Oenanthe aquatica* (R), Flowering Rush *Butomus umbellatus* (R). Bank vegetation comprises False Oat Grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* (A), Reed Canary-grass *Phalaris arundinacea* (F), Nettles *Urtica dioica* (F), Marsh Bedstraw *Galium palustre* (LF), Field Bindweed *Convolvulus arvensis* (O), and Soft Rush *Juncus effusus* (O).

Sample point 5 at TL42612,76779. Watercourse 3m wide with clear water approximately 1m deep. Channel and marginal vegetation comprises Common Reed *Phragmites australis* (A), Reed Canary-grass *Phalaris arundinacea* (F), Greater Pond Sedge *Carex riparia* (F), Lesser Pond Sedge *Carex acutiformis* (F), Reed Sweet-grass *Glyceria maxima* (O), Broad-leaved Pondweed *Potamogeton natans* (F), Lesser Water Parsnip *Berula erecta* (F) and Arrowhead *Sagittaria sagittifolia* (O). Bank vegetation comprises False Oat Grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* (A), Nettles *Urtica dioica* (F), Hemlock *Conium maculatum* (F) Comfrey *Symphytum officinale* (O), Hoary Willowherb *Epilobium parviflorum* (O).

Sample point 6 at TL41986,77297. Watercourse 4m wide with water up to 2m deep. Floating and submerged plants present include Fennel Pondweed *Potamogeton pectinatus* (A), Broad-leaved Pondweed *Potamogeton natans* (F), Common Water Starwort *Callitriche stagnalis* (O), Fan-leaved Water Crowfoot *Ranunculus trichophyllus* (R). Marginal species comprise Reed Canary-grass *Phalaris arundinacea* (F), Greater Bulrush *Typha latifolia* (F), Branched Bur-reed *Sparganium erectum* (F), Greater Pond Sedge *Carex riparia* (F), Water Dock *Rumex hydrolapathum* (R). Ditch banks are 1-2m in height with False Oat Grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* (F), Hemlock *Conium maculatum* (F), Couch Grass *Elytrigia repens* (F), Comfrey *Symphytum officinale* (F) and Charlock *Sinapis arvensis* (F).

Sample point 7 at TL42819,75894. Watercourse 4m wide with water approximately 1.5m deep. Channel and marginal vegetation comprises Broad-leaved Pondweed *Potamogeton natans* (F), Reed Sweet-grass *Glyceria maxima* (LF), Branched Bur-reed *Sparganium erectum* (F), Greater Pond Sedge *Carex riparia* (F), Reed Canary-grass *Phalaris arundinacea* (O), Water-Plantain *Alisma Plantago-aquatica* (O), Fennel Pondweed *Potamogeton pectinatus* (O), Common Duckweed *Lemna minor* (O), Flowering Rush *Butomus umbellatus* (R). Bank vegetation comprises False Oat Grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* (A), Nettles *Urtica dioica* (F), Field Bindweed *Convolvulus arvensis* (F), Hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium* (F), Hemlock *Conium maculatum* (LF).

Sample point 8 at TL42869,75241. Watercourse 4m wide, water  $\geq$  1m depth. Channel and marginal vegetation comprises Reed Sweet-grass *Glyceria maxima* (F), Lesser Pond Sedge *Carex acutiformis* (F), Arrowhead *Sagittaria sagittifolia* (F), Common Duckweed *Lemna minor* (F), Branched Bur-reed *Sparganium erectum* (O), Broad-leaved Pondweed *Potamogeton natans* (O), Reed Canary-grass *Phalaris arundinacea* (O), Water-plantain *Alisma plantago-aquatica* (O), Canadian Waterweed *Elodea canadensis* (O) Flowering Rush *Butomus umbellatus* (R), the Nationally Scarce Hairlike Pondweed *Potamogeton trichoides* (R), Greater Bulrush *Typha latifolia* (R), Marsh Bedstraw *Galium palustre* (R). Banks 2m high west bank, and 0.5m on east side. Bank vegetation comprises False Oat Grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* (F), Hemlock *Conium maculatum* (F), Field Bindweed *Convolvulus arvensis* (F), Creeping Thistle *Cirsium arvense* (O), Nettles *Urtica dioica* (O), Cleavers *Galium aparine* (O), Mugwort *Artemisia vulgaris* (O), Common Mallow *Malva sylvestris* (O), Common Poppy *Papaver rhoeas* (O).

Sample point 9 at TL42941,74242. Drain 6m wide with water depth approximately 1m. Channel and marginal vegetation comprises Reed Sweet-grass *Glyceria maxima* (F), Common Duckweed *Lemna minor* (O), Curled Pondweed *Potamogeton crispus* (O), Hairlike Pondweed *Potamogeton trichoides* (O), Canadian Waterweed *Elodea canadensis* (O), Canary Reed-grass *Phalaris arundinacea* (O), Yellow Water-lily *Nuphar lutea* (O), Branched Bur-reed *Sparganium erectum* (O), Thread-leaved Water Crowfoot *Ranunculus trichophyllus* (O). Banks as per sample point 8.

Sample point 10 at TL42723,73176. Drain 6m wide with water depth approximately 1m. Channel and marginal vegetation comprises Yellow Water-lily *Nuphar lutea* (F), Reed Canary-grass *Phalaris arundinacea* (F), Lesser Pond Sedge *Carex acutiformis* (F), frequent filamentous algae, Hairlike Pondweed *Potamogeton trichoides* (F), Reed Sweet-grass *Glyceria maxima* (O), Various-leaved Water Starwort *Callitriche platycarpa* (O), Yellow Iris *Iris pseudacorus* (R), Marsh Foxtail *Alopecurus geniculatus* (R). Banks 2m high, 30° slope with vegetation that includes False Oat Grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* (A), Nettles *Urtica dioica* (F), Cleavers *Galium aparine* (F), Common Mallow *Malva sylvestris* (O), Hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium* (O), Broadleaved Dock *Rumex obtusifolius* (R), Amphibious bistort *Persicaria amphibia* (R).

Sample 11 at TL44529,72833. Drain 4m wide with water depth approximately 1m. Channel and marginal vegetation comprises Common Duckweed *Lemna minor* (A), Reed Sweet-grass *Glyceria maxima* (F), Reed Canary-grass *Phalaris arundinacea* (F), Hairlike Pondweed *Potamogeton trichoides* (O), Rigid Hornwort *Ceratophyllum demersum* (O), Floating Sweet-grass *Glyceria fluitans* (R), Round-leaved Crowfoot *Ranunculus omiophyllus* (R), Water Starwort *Callitriche spp.* (R). The ditch banks are 2-4m in height with a 50° slope nutrient enriched and very species poor; vegetation consisting of Nettles *Urtica dioica* (A), False Oat Grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* (F), Hemlock *Conium maculatum* (O).

Sample 12 at TL45271,73038. Drain 4m wide with water depth approximately 1m. Channel and marginal vegetation comprises Common Duckweed *Lemna Minor* (A), Reed Sweet-Grass *Glyceria maxima* (A), Common Water Starwort *Callitriche stagnalis* (F), Rigid Hornwort *Ceratophyllum demersum* (O). Banks are 2-5m in height with 30° slope and the vegetation comprises False Oat Grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* (F), Nettles *Urtica dioica* (F), Creeping Thistle *Cirsium arvense* (F) and Teasel *Dipsacus fullonum* (O).

#### Site assessment

The site qualifies as CWS because it supports at least 5 submerged, floating and emergent species per 20m stretch; because it supports populations of Nationally Scarce vascular plant species (Hairlike Pondweed *Potamogeton trichoides* and Whorled Water Milfoil *Myriophyllum verticillatum*): and also because supports three or more species of Pondweed (*Potamogeton spp.*).

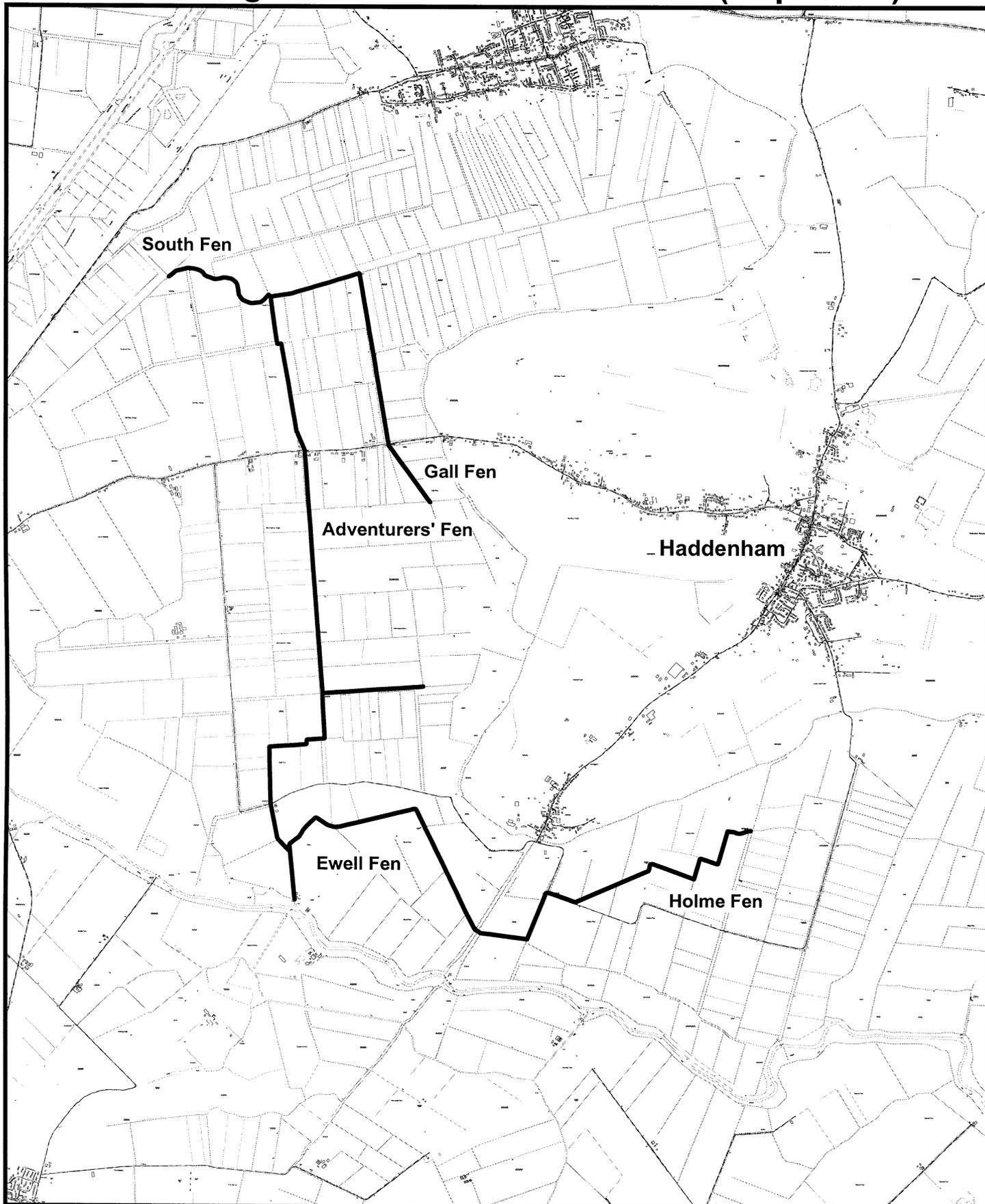
#### Site status

County Wildlife Site

#### Surveyors

Alastair Ross, Emma Ogden, and Sharon Brown  
29/06/2005

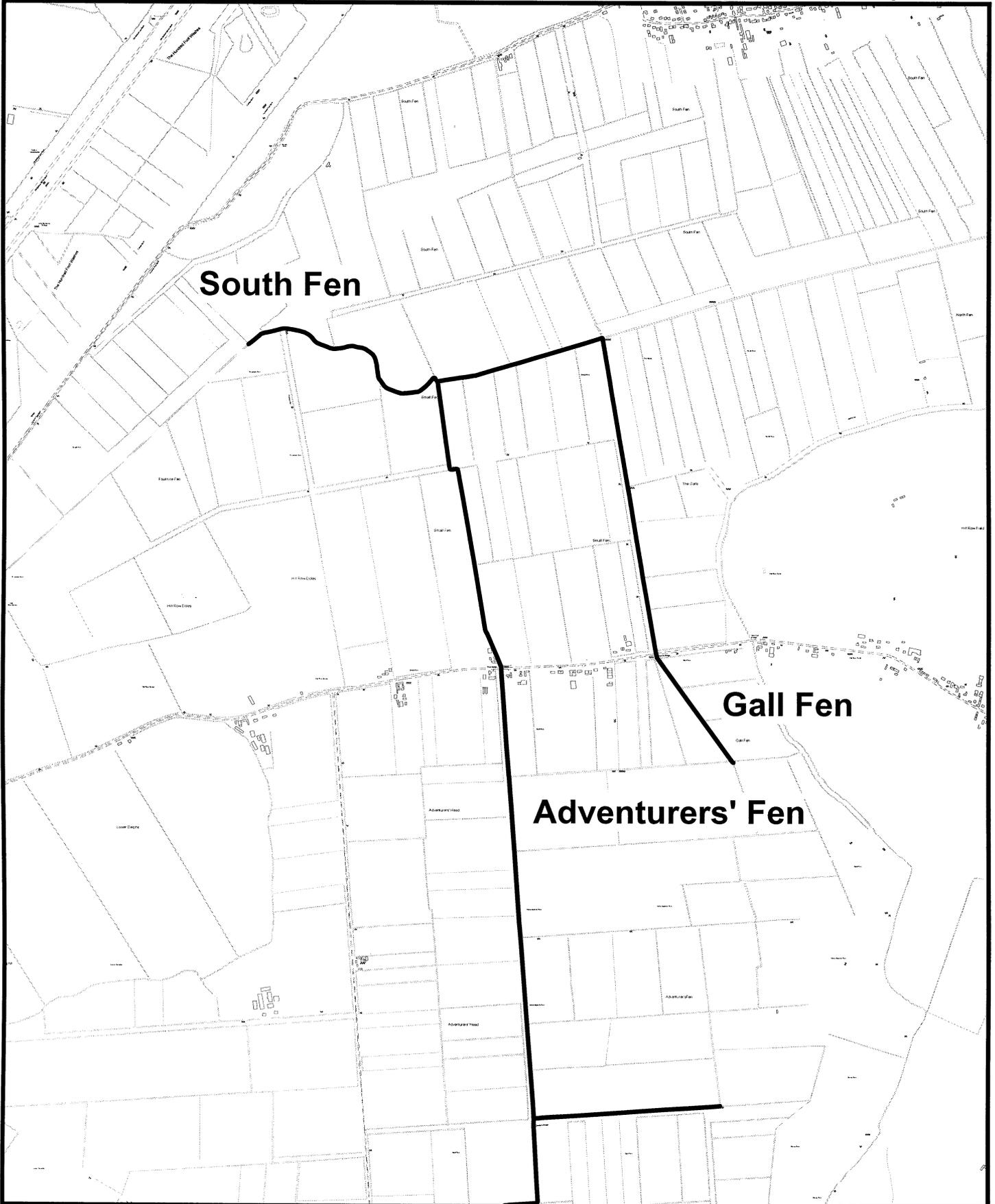
# Haddenham Engine Adventurer's Head Drain (Map 1 of 3)



Grid Ref: TL4273  
Scale: 1:37000  
Plot Date: 21/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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# Haddenham Engine Adventurer's Head Drain (Map 2 of 3)



Grid Ref: TL4273  
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Plot Date: 21/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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Site No. 7017/3

**COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET**NAME: **River Great Ouse (ECDC)**

File code: E/1996

Parish(es): Haddenham, Wilburton, Stretham, Thetford, Wicken, Soham, Ely, Littleport

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref.: TL37

**Habitat information****Code** *Habitat type*

A111	Woodland: broadleaved, semi-natural
A22	Scrub: scattered
A3	Parkland/scattered trees
B22	Grassland: neutral, semi-improved
B5	Grassland: marsh/marshy grassland
B6	Grassland: poor semi-improved
C31	Tall herb and fern: other, tall ruderal
F1	Swamp
F2	Marginal/inundation
G1	Open water: standing water
G2	Open water: running water
J261	Boundaries, permanently wet ditch
J12	Cultivated/disturbed land: amenity grassland

**Site description**

The River Great Ouse is a major lowland river with generally moderate to good water quality. The channel is relatively unmodified and supports a wide variety of submerged, floating, marginal and wetbank species. Typical species include Greater Pond Sedge *Carex riparia*, Lesser Pond Sedge *Carex acutiformis*, Yellow Flag *Iris pseudacorus*, Branched Bur-reed *Sparganium erectum*, Purple Loosestrife *Lythrum salicaria*, Common Reed *Phragmites australis*, Water Plantain *Alisma plantago-aquatica*, Arrowhead *Sagittaria sagittifolia*, Flowering-rush *Butomus umbellatus*, Mare's Tail *Hippuris vulgaris*, Unbranched Bur-reed *Sparganium emersum*, Yellow Water Lily *Nuphar lutea* and several Pondweeds *Potamogeton* species. The Nationally Scarce species Fringed Water-lily *Nymphoides peltata* occurs in good quantity in some locations. Submerged vegetation includes Spiked Water-milfoil *Myriophyllum spicatum*, Rigid Hornwort *Ceratophyllum demersum* and *Elodea* species. In East Cambridgeshire the entire length is embanked so providing a normally narrow bank of washland along both banks. The washes and the embankments themselves are normally cattle grazed and dominated variously by swamp and inundation grasslands in the lowlying areas and coarse, species-poor grassland in drier areas. In a limited number of places the embankments diverge to include some extensive areas of washland. The most significant area occurs as the river passes Ely. Here the embankments encompass broad areas of inundation grassland, reed and sedge swamp communities and coarse rush and grass pasture on both sides of the river. Typical plant species include Tubular Water-dropwort *Oenanthe fistulosa*, Marsh Ragwort *Senecio aquaticus*, Common Meadow-Rue *Thalictrum flavum*, Yellow Loosestrife *Lysimachia vulgaris*, Pulicaria dysenterica, Common Reed *Phragmites australis*, Greater Pond Sedge *Carex riparia*, Reed Sweet Grass *Glyceria maxima*, Tufted Hair Grass *Deschampsia cespitosa*, Yorkshire Fog *Holcus lanatus*, Soft Rush *Juncus effusus*, Marsh Fox-tail *Alopecurus geniculatus*, Creeping Bent *Agrostis stolonifera*. This area also has particular importance for breeding waders. The washlands are very close to the disused pits at Roswell Pits and Ely Beet Factory

settling ponds. Along most stretches the site boundaries follow the outer edge of the flood embankments. From Littleport south to Queen Adelaide the western boundary follows the railway line.

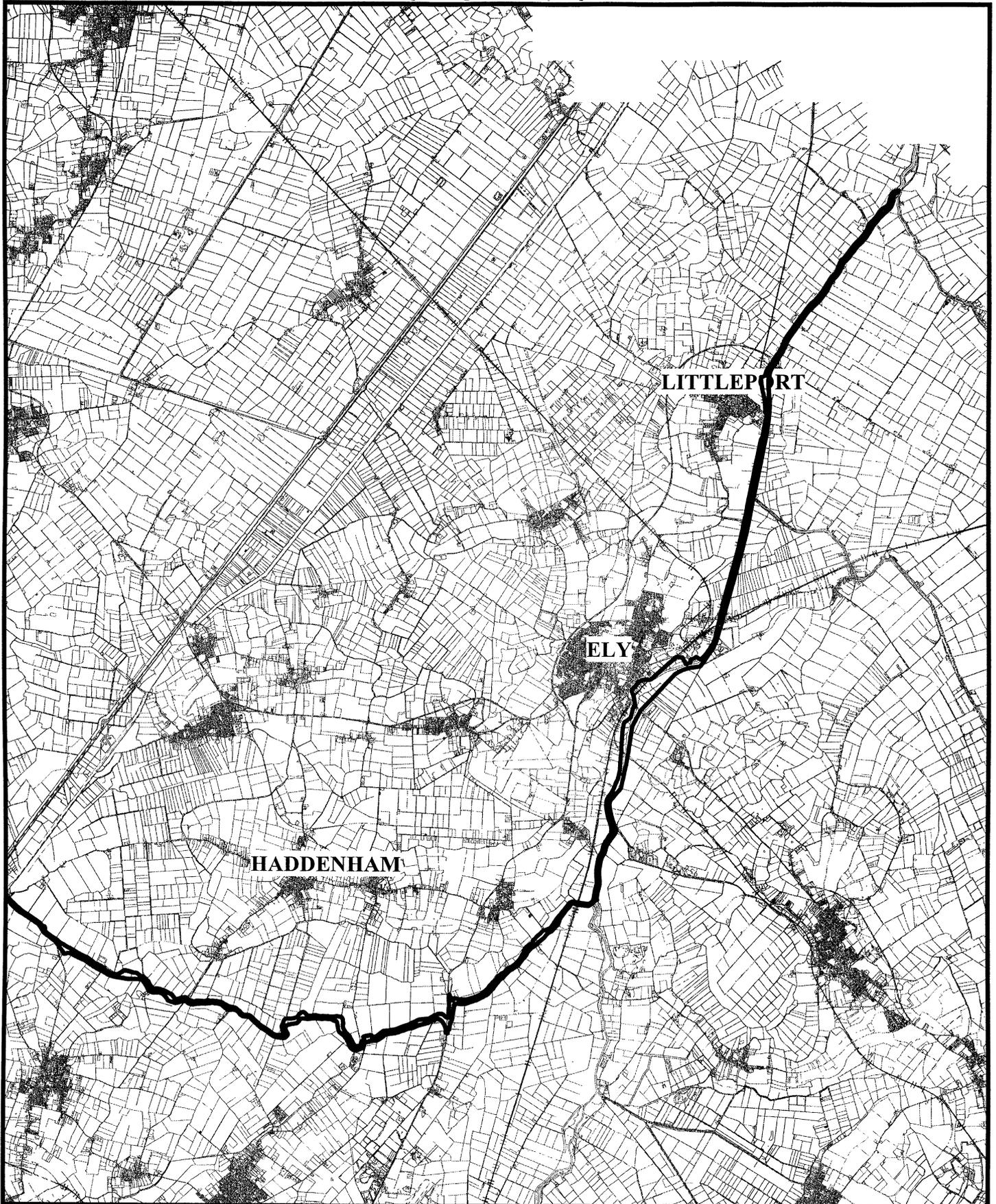
**Site assessment**

The site qualifies because it is a major river not grossly modified by canalisation or poor water quality. Additionally it qualifies because it supports at least 0.5ha of S6 Greater Pond-sedge swamp and 0.5ha of S4 Common Reed swamp; because it supports at least 0.05ha of MG13 Creeping Bent - Marsh Foxtail grassland; because it supports a population of a Nationally Scarce vascular plant species. Various stretches of the river qualify as CWS under the bird criteria.

**Site status**

County Wildlife Site  
former Site of Natural History Interest  
Main River

# River Great Ouse - ECDC (Map 1 of 7)



Grid Ref: TL37  
Scale: 1:125000  
Plot Date: 22/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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# River Great Ouse - East Cambs (Map 2 of 7)



Grid Ref: TL37

Scale: 1:25000

Plot Date: 22/7/2005

By: Wildlife Trust

for CCC

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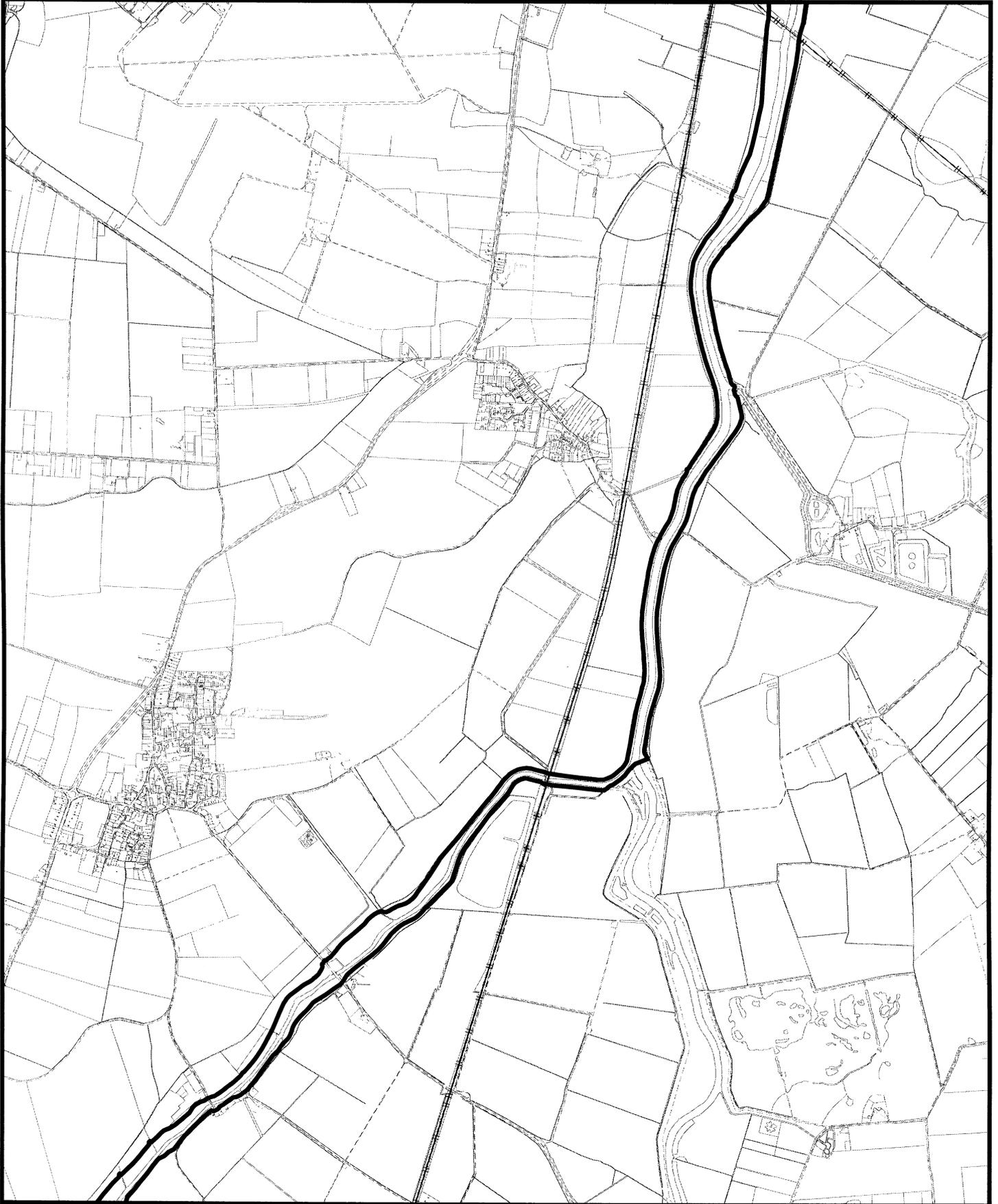
**River Great Ouse - East Cambs (Map 3 of 7)**



Scale: 1:25000  
Plot Date: 22/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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# River Great Ouse - ECDC (Map 4 of 7)



Grid Ref: TL37  
Scale: 1:25000  
Plot Date: 22/7/2005  
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for CCC

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# River Great Ouse - ECDC (Map 5 of 7)



Scale:1:25000  
Plot Date:22/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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# River Great Ouse - ECDC (Map 6 of 7)



Grid Ref: TL37  
Scale:1:25000  
Plot Date:22/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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# River Great Ouse - ECDC (Map 7 of 7)



Grid Ref: TL37  
Scale:1:25000  
Plot Date:22/7/2005  
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for CCC

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Site No. 7403

**COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET**NAME: **Isleham Railway Cutting**

File code: E/16.7.03

Parish(es): Isleham

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref.: TL6372

**Habitat information****Code** *Habitat type*

B31 Grassland: calcareous, unimproved

J212 Boundaries, intact hedge, species-poor

**Site Area**

1.14 ha

**Site description**

This species rich calcareous grassland on the verges and banks of a dismantled railway is unmanaged with a tall, rather coarse sward. False Oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* is abundant. However, it retains a very good range of calcareous grassland indicator species including frequent numbers of Field Scabious *Knautia arvensis*, Salad Burnet *Sanguisorba minor ssp. minor*, Marjoram *Origanum vulgare*, Greater Knapweed *Centaurea scabiosa*, Black Knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, Perforate St John's-wort *Hypericum perforatum*, Lady's Bedstraw *Galium verum* and Agrimony *Agrimonia eupatoria*. Other indicator species recorded included Small Scabious *Scabiosa columbaria*, Wild Basil *Clinopodium vulgare*, Burnet Saxifrage *Pimpinella saxifraga*, Wild Parsnip *Pastinaca sativa*, Ox-eye Daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare*, Rough Hawkbit *Leontodon hispidus*, Hoary Plantain *Plantago media* and Bladder Campion *Silene vulgare*. Mouse-ear Hawkweed *Pilosella officinarum* was not recorded during the current survey.

The gravelled track at the centre is flanked by verges between one and three metres wide, and sections of the site form a cutting with two metre tall banks. The unmanaged hedges have spread to several metres wide in places and are encroaching onto and shading the species-rich grassland. They are dominated by Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* and Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa* with other species such as Dogwood *Cornus sanguinea*, Privet *Ligustrum vulgare*, Elder *Sambucus nigra* and Dog Rose *Rosa canina* occurring only rarely. Elsewhere, the hedges are thin or absent allowing a more substantial area of grassland to develop on the verges and banks. During the 2003 visit there were "clouds" of Common Blue butterflies. The caterpillar food plant was not present on the cutting itself, but was present in the adjacent field which has been sown with a wildflower mix in the 1990s. Other species recorded were Small / Essex Skipper, Large Skipper, Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper, Small White and Large White. Management of this site is becoming urgent to prevent a further decline in grassland indicator species, possibly resulting in loss of CWS status.

**Site assessment**

This site meets CWS criteria because it supports frequent numbers of at least six strong calcareous grassland indicator species.

**Site status**

County Wildlife Site

**Surveyor**

Martin Baker

10/07/02 &amp; 16/07/03

# Isleham Railway Cutting

# Isleham Field



Grid Ref: TL638727

Scale: 1:2500

Plot Date: 22/7/2005

By: Wildlife Trust

for CCC

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Site No. 7372

**COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET**NAME: **Chippenham Gravel Pit**

File code: E/2.6.04

Parish(es): Kennett  
Chippenham

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref.: TL685688

**Habitat information****Code** *Habitat type*

- A112 Woodland: broadleaved, plantation  
 A122 Woodland: coniferous, plantation  
 A31 Parkland/scattered trees: broad-leaved  
 A32 Parkland/scattered trees: coniferous  
 B22 Grassland: neutral, semi-improved  
 C31 Tall herb and fern: other, tall ruderal  
 J13 Cultivated/disturbed land: ephemeral/short perennial  
 J21 Boundaries, intact hedge  
 J261 Boundaries, permanently wet ditch  
 J4 Bare ground

**Site Area**

21.86 ha

**Site description**

This site is a partially in-filled former gravel pit now used for motorcycle scrambling and other activities. Over recent years considerable disturbance and development has occurred, with earthworks created and moved and areas of tarmac laid. However, considerable areas of interest remain throughout the site. The majority of the site is occupied by semi-improved grassland with areas of ruderal vegetation and bare ground. Some parts of the site hold wet or damp ground with willows such as White Willow *Salix alba*, Grey Sallow *Salix cinerea* and Osier *Salix viminalis* locally frequent. The western boundary of the site is a belt of broadleaved plantation. The pit has long been known as a site for plant species associated with disturbed sandy ground of which the most interesting recorded in the recent past are; the Nationally Scarce species Bearded Fescue *Vulpia ciliata* ssp. *Ambigua*, Fine-leaved Fumitory *Fumaria parviflora* and Bur Medick *Medicago minima*. Other interesting species include the County Rarities Smooth Cat's-ear *Hypochaeris glabra*, Small Cudweed *Filago minima* and Clustered Clover *Trifolium glomeratum*. Other characteristic species recently recorded include Viper's Bugloss *Echium vulgare*, Bur Chervil *Anthriscus caucalis*, Common Stork's-bill *Erodium cicutarium*, Spotted Medick *Medicago arabica*, Sheep's Sorrel *Rumex acetosella*, Thyme-leaved Sandwort *Arenaria serpyllifolia*, Rat's-tail Fescue *Vulpia myuros*, Squirrel-tail Fescue *Vulpia bromoides*, Dense Silky-bent *Apera interrupta*, Long-stalked Crane's-bill *Geranium columbinum* and Dropwort *Filipendula vulgaris*, as well as two uncommon plants of disturbed ground, Cornfield Knotgrass *Polygonum rurivagum* and Tall Rocket *Sisymbrium altissimum*. In the past the site has also been notable for its population of the Nationally Rare Smooth Rupturewort *Herniaria glabra*, which was last recorded in 1990. Changes in the level of use of the site over the past two decades have resulted in varying quantities of these species being recorded in different years. Although smooth Rupturewort has not been recorded recently, it could still be present or re-colonise given suitable sympathetic management.. The

pit is a Grade C site in the Invertebrate Site Register principally for its Coleopteran and Hemipteran fauna but again recent data is lacking.

**Site assessment**

The site qualifies because it supports populations of Nationally Scarce vascular plant species (Bearded Fescue *Vulpia ciliata ssp. Ambigua*, Fine-leaved Fumitory *Fumaria parviflora* and Bur Medick *Medicago minima*) and County Rare vascular plant species (Smooth Cat's-ear *Hypochaeris glabra*, Small Cudweed *Filago minima* and Clustered Clover *Trifolium glomeratum*). It also qualifies because it is a Grade C site in the JNCC Invertebrate Site Register.

**Site status**

County Wildlife Site  
former Site of Natural History Interest  
Invertebrate Site Register

**Surveyors**

Bob Ellis & Robin Stevenson on behalf of The Landscape Partnership  
02/06/2004

Site visited by Martin Baker in 2004 as part of the planning application for which the above survey was undertaken.

# Chippenham Gravel Pit



Grid Ref: TL685688  
Scale: 1:7500  
Plot Date: 22/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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Site No. 7374

**COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET**NAME: **Halfmoon Plantation Pit**

File code: E/12.5.01

Parish(es): Kennett

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref.: TL6968

**Habitat information****Code** *Habitat type*

A111	Woodland: broadleaved, semi-natural
A112	Woodland: broadleaved, plantation
A22	Scrub: scattered
B22	Grassland: neutral, semi-improved
B6	Grassland: poor semi-improved
I21	Rock & waste: artificial exposure, quarry
I22	Rock & waste: artificial exposure, spoil heap
J11	Cultivated/disturbed land: arable
J13	Cultivated/disturbed land: ephemeral/short perennial
J4	Bare ground

**Site Area**

87.36 ha

**Site description**

This very large and complex site, formerly part of Kennett Heath, has had a history of different land uses including mineral extraction, and on parts of it landfill, conversion to arable and natural regeneration. The intermittent disturbance of soils in this area of Breckland sands and chalk allows a wide range of interesting plants to flourish, including the Nationally Rare Smooth Rupturewort *Herniaria glabra*, recorded for the first time in 24 years in 2005, the Nationally Scarce Bearded Fescue *Vulpia ciliata* *ssp. ambigua* and Bur Medick *Medicago minima*, and Small Cudweed *Filago minima*, Bird's-foot *Ornithopus perpusillus* and Rough Clover *Trifolium scabrum* (the last three rare in Cambridgeshire). Other species include Dense Silky-bent *Apera interrupta* and Drooping Brome *Anisantha tectorum*, while more common species include Viper's Bugloss *Echium vulgare*, Common Centaury *Centaurium erythraea*, Bird's-foot Trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, Common Cudweed *Filago vulgaris*, Procumbent Pearlwort *Sagina procumbens* and Biting Stonecrop *Sedum acre*. In the past other notable species have been recorded, including the Nationally Scarce Wall Bedstraw *Galium parisiense*. If the right conditions are maintained, it is likely that these and other interesting species will continue to occur.

The site offers a continuum from artificial arable and working quarry to semi-natural habitats which have succeeded from artificial origins. The largest areas are occupied by working or recently abandoned quarry and arable, with substantial areas of semi-natural rough grassland and smaller blocks of semi-natural woodland and scrub. Planted woodland is a minor element of the site. The many vehicle access tracks are notable for concentrations of interesting plants on their verges. New and recently abandoned pits are largely bare sandy ground with flints and lumps of chalk with scattered regeneration of ephemeral plants. These pits are used as a breeding site by waders, including the Little Ringed Plover (*Charadrius dubius*), a bird listed on Schedule 1 Part I of the Wildlife and Countryside Act. The edges of the pits support some of the most interesting plants. The areas of rough grassland are unmanaged, and dominated by grasses, including much

Common Couch *Elytrigia repens* and Sterile Brome *Anisantha sterilis*. Herbs are mostly ruderals such as Mugwort *Artemisia vulgaris*, Common Ragwort *Senecio jacobaea* and Docks *Rumex spp.*, with some Small-flowered Crane's-bill *Geranium pusillum*, Spotted Medick *Medicago arabica* and Early Forget-me-not *Myosotis ramosissima*, but plants of more established grassland are beginning to take hold: Creeping Buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, Ribwort Plantain *Plantago lanceolata* and Creeping Cinquefoil *Potentilla reptans*. Crickets, grasshoppers and butterflies were present in large numbers at the time of the 2001 survey. Invertebrate survey work in 2000 and 2001 has shown that the site supports a rich fauna with several characteristic Breckland species present; beetles are well represented in the record lists to date. Small blocks of semi-natural woodland are dominated by Willows, including Crack Willow *Salix fragilis*, White Willow *Salix alba*, Grey Sallow *Salix cinerea*, Goat Willow *Salix caprea* and Osier *Salix viminalis* in varying proportion over a Nettle *Urtica dioica* dominated ground flora. There is some management for game birds. One woodland strip is dominated by Elm *Ulmus sp.*. Scrub includes a small area of Common Gorse *Ulex europaeus* over a patchy, low and probably rabbit-grazed sward and another of Bramble *Rubus fruticosus* amongst Bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* and ruderals. A line of mature English Oak *Quercus robur* along a central track is a notable feature. Water features on the site are few (although large areas of the western part of the site can flood after periods of heavy rainfall): there is one damp hollow with Common Reed *Phragmites australis*, Bramble and Nettle, and the River Kennett, which forms the boundary of part of the site, is dry for part of most years.

A brief visit in 2005 confirmed that the habitats were as described above and also confirmed the location of the Smooth Rupturewort.

#### **Site assessment**

The site qualifies as a CWS because it supports populations of Nationally Rare (Smooth Rupturewort *Herniaria glabra*) and Nationally Scarce vascular plant species (Scarce Bearded Fescue *Vulpia ciliata ssp. ambigua* and Bur Medick *Medicago minima*, and Small Cudweed *Filago minima*, Bird's-foot *Ornithopus perpusillus* and Rough Clover *Trifolium scabrum*) and vascular plant species which are rare in the county. Evaluation of the invertebrate fauna would earn this site at least a C grade in the Invertebrate Site Register.

#### **Site status**

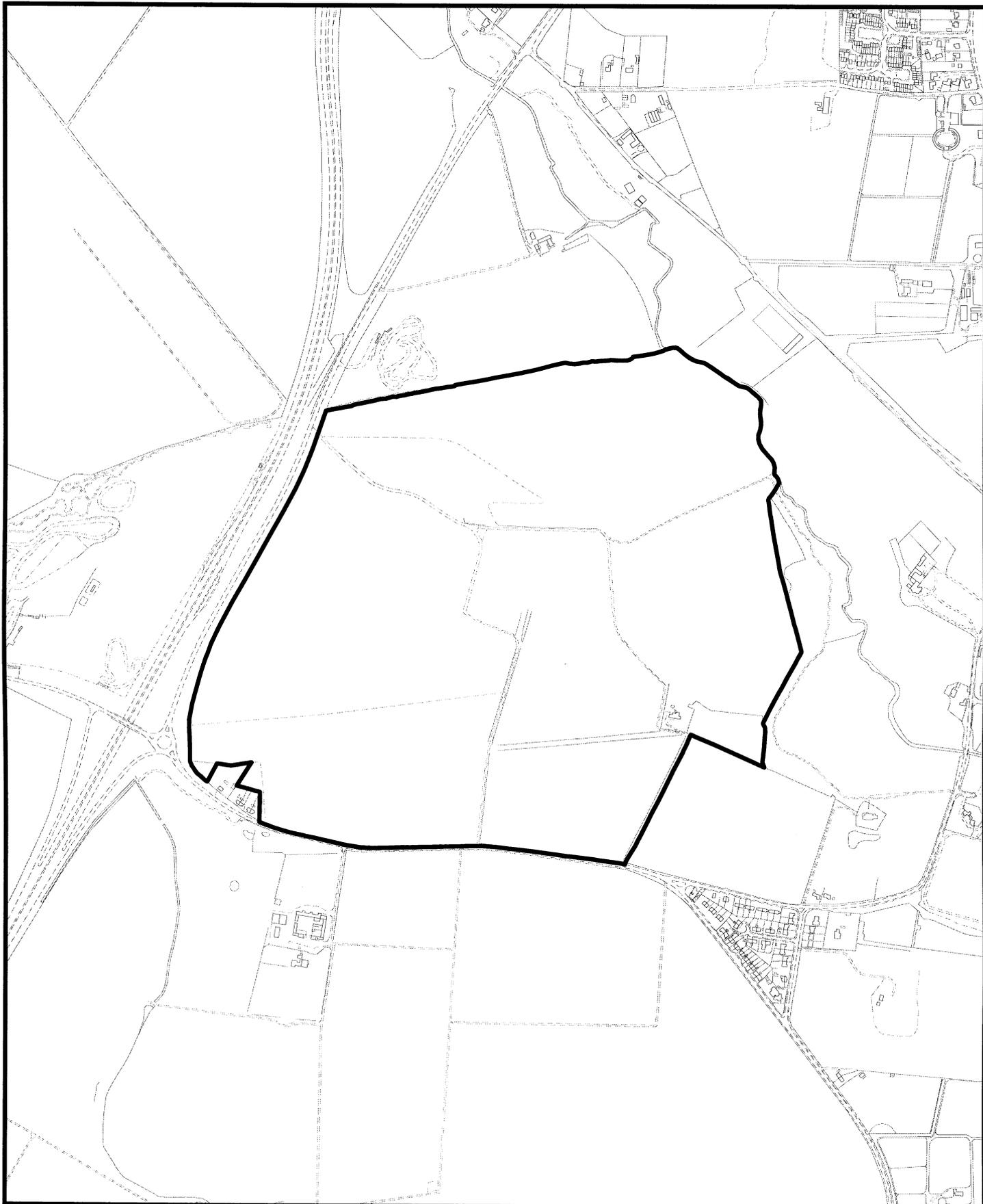
County Wildlife Site  
former Site of Natural History Interest

#### **Surveyors**

Nick Millar, Chris Gerrard, Brian Eversham  
12/05/2001

Martin Baker  
17/06/2005

# Halfmoon Plantation Pit



Grid Ref: TL690686  
Scale:1:10000  
Plot Date:22/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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Site No. 7376

**COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET**NAME: **Kennett Churchyard**

File code: E/8.6.05

Parish(es): Kennett

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref: TL699683

**Habitat information****Code Habitat type**

B21 Grassland: neutral, unimproved

J25 Boundaries, wall

**Site area**

0.22 ha

**Site description**

This churchyard consists of a small but valuable area of species-rich unimproved neutral grassland, between and covering many of the densely packed graves. The site is regularly cut and the turf is fine-textured with the most species rich area being across the southern half of the churchyard. This area is rich in herbs such as abundant Ox-eye Daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare*, frequent Ribwort Plantain *Plantago lanceolata*, Black Knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, Cowslip *Primula veris*, Birds-foot-trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, Lady's Bedstraw *Galium verum*, occasional Burnet Saxifrage *Pimpinella saxifraga*, Common Sorrel *Rumex acetosa*, Self heal *Prunella vulgaris*, Common Mouse-ear *Cerastium fontanum*, Black Medick *Medicago lupulina* and Mouse-ear Hawkweed *Pilosella officinarum*. Red Fescue *Festuca rubra* is locally frequent around the gravestones. The northern half of the site is less species rich and herbs are less abundant than in the southern section. False-oat Grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* is frequent with frequent Ribwort Plantain, Creeping Buttercup *Ranunculus repens* and Meadow Buttercup *Ranunculus acris* and occasional Black Knapweed, Lady's Bedstraw and Birds-foot-trefoil but few other herbs. A number of mature Lime *Tilia sp.* and Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* trees grow around the edge of the churchyard and flint-faced walls bound the whole site.

**Site assessment**

The site qualifies as CWS because it supports frequent numbers of at least eight neutral grassland indicator species.

**Site status**

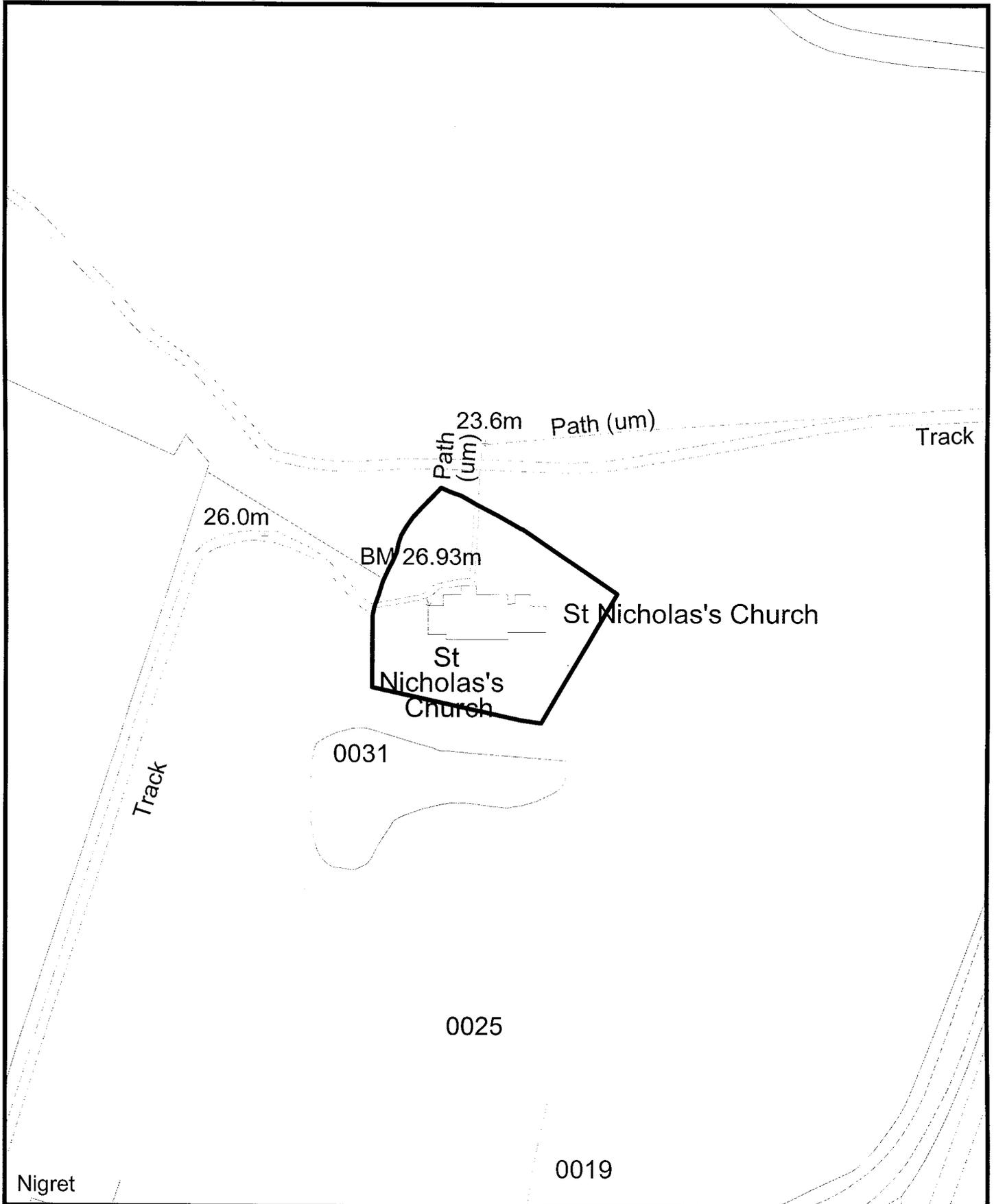
County Wildlife Site

**Surveyor**

Emma Ogden

08/06/2005

# Kennett Churchyard



Grid Ref: TL699683  
Scale: 1:1250  
Plot Date: 22/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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Site No. 7447

**COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET**NAME: **Kennett Restored Gravel Pit**

File code: E/18.7.05

Parish(es): Kennett

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref: TL706684

**Habitat information****Code Habitat type**

- A111 Woodland: broadleaved, semi-natural
- A31 Parkland/scattered trees: broad-leaved
- A22 Scrub: scattered
- B22 Grassland: neutral, semi-improved
- G2 Open water: running water
- J11 Cultivated/disturbed land: arable
- J232 Boundaries, hedge with trees, species-poor

**Site area**

20.89 ha

**Site description**

After mineral extraction, this extensive site has been restored to a small area of arable land and an extensive area of grassland containing a high percentage of tall ruderal species. The site also encompasses some scattered scrub and small patches of Elm *Ulmus* sp. dominated woodland, lines of trees and a short stretch of hedgerow. The River Kennett forms the site's southern boundary. The site is particularly notable for its light soils, with the sandy and calcareous influences typical of the Breckland area, which support interesting plant communities and rare species. Rare plants previously recorded (in 1996) but not found during this survey include Bur Medick *Medicago minima* and Dense Flowered Fumitory *Fumaria densiflora*, both Nationally Scarce, and Birds Foot *Ornithopus perpusillus* which is rare in Cambridgeshire. Hoary Cinquefoil *Potentilla argentea* another Cambridgeshire rarity was recorded during this survey in the small field south of the Elm woodland (TL70875 68304).

A large area at the north end of the site is covered in unmanaged rough grassland dominated mostly by coarse grasses, forming a closed sward in some places but in others poorly vegetated and revealing patches of sandy soil with flints. Grasses include much False Oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* and Red Fescue *Festuca rubra*, and a good range of forbs includes Field Scabious *Knautia arvensis*, Perforate St John's-wort *Hypericum perforatum*, Birds Foot-trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, Dark Mullein *Verbascum nigrum*, Wild Mignonette *Reseda lutea*, Creeping Cinquefoil *Potentilla reptans*, Wild Carrot *Daucus carota*, Biting Stone Crop *Sedum acre*, Wild Parsnip *Pastinaca sativa*, Common Mallow *Malva sylvestris* and Common Ragwort *Senecio jacobaea*. The grassland is dotted with clumps of shrubs, mainly Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, Dog Rose *Rosa Canina*, Bramble sp. *Rubus fruticosus* agg., and a large area of Hemlock *Conium maculatum* growing to 2m tall.

The land behind the Kennett Cottages contains semi-improved grassland, which is used as horse paddocks and is closely grazed. Species recorded include Frequent False Oat-grass and occasional Cock's Foot *Dactylis glomerata*, Common Bent *Agrostis tenuis*, Red Fescue, Creeping Cinquefoil, Yarrow *Achillea*

*millefolium*, Black Medick *Medicago lupulina*, White Clover *Trifolium repens* and Creeping Buttercup *Ranunculus repens*.

Much of the large field west of Herringswell Road consists of coarse grasses and tall ruderal species including False Oat-grass, Creeping Bent *Agrostis stolonifera*, Barren Brome *Bromus sterilis*, Creeping Thistle *Cirsium arvense*, Broad Leaved-dock *Rumex obtusifolius*, Hemlock, and locally frequent Teasel *Dipsacus fullonum*. Around the boundary of this field to the north and west is slightly higher and much sandier soils which support a very different suite of species including; frequent Viper's-bugloss *Echium vulgare*, Wild Mignonette, Scentsless Mayweed *Tripleurospermum maritimum*, locally frequent Yorkshire Fog and Barren Brome *Bromus sterilis*, occasional Mugwort *Artemisia vulgaris*, Rough Chervil *Chaerophyllum temulentum*, White Champion *Silene alba* and rare Cudweed *Filago* sp.

The River Kennett, which forms the southern boundary of the site was completely dry at the time of survey. The river is lined with trees, including Field Maple *Acer campestre*, Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* and Elder *Sambucus nigra* shrub. The northern boundary of the site, which follows the road, consists of lines of large mature Pedunculate Oak *Quercus robur* with bramble and Hawthorn scrub beneath combined with open areas with no boundary between the site and the road.

East of Herringswell Road is a small area of young Elm woodland. The canopy grows up to 6m height but is generally 4m or less. A high percentage of sucker re-growth makes the understorey dense with a field layer of Nettle *Urtica dioica*, Ground Ivy *Glechoma hederacea* and Bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*. A small glade contains frequent Viper's Bugloss, Ribwort Plantain *Plantago lanceolata* and occasional Common Century *Centaureum erythraea*. A line of fine mature Pedunculate Oak *Quercus robur* along the road is interspersed with other trees, which provide cover for numerous Lords and Ladies *Arum maculatum*.

The small field immediately south of the woodland contains semi-improved grassland on sandy soils and is closely rabbit grazed. Species recorded include frequent False Oat-grass and Red Fescue, occasional Yarrow, Cock's Foot, Ground Ivy, Ragwort, Wild Parsnip, Hop Trefoil *Trifolium campestre*, Vipers Bugloss, Ribwort Plantain, locally frequent Biting Stonecrop and locally abundant Mouse-ear Hawkweed *Pilosella officinarum*. Towards the centre of this field is a large patch (c.10m x 15m) of dominant Hairy Sedge *Carex hirta*, frequent Bird's Foot Trefoil and occasional Wild Parsnip. The far eastern section of this field is dominated by Bracken, Bramble and Ragwort. To the south of this field is a horse paddock of semi-improved grassland on sandy soils. Species composition changes across the site ranging from Small-leaved Timothy *Phleum bertolonii*, Perennial Rye Grass *Lolium perenne*, Cock's Foot, False Oat-grass, Ground Ivy *Glechoma hederacea* and White Champion *Silene alba* to Sheep's Sorrel *Rumex acetosella*, Vipers Bugloss, Mouse-ear Hawkweed and Hop Trefoil. Forming the boundary between the two fields is a young, planted Cypresses *Cupressus* sp. hedge.

Large numbers of crickets, grasshoppers and butterflies and Burnet Moths were observed during the survey, particularly in the rank grassland areas of the site.

#### Site assessment

The site qualifies as a CWS because there are records indicating that the site supports populations of Nationally Scarce vascular plant species (Bur Medick *Medicago minima* and Dense Flowered Fumitory *Fumaria densiflora*) and vascular plant species rare in Cambridgeshire (Birds Foot *Ornithopus perpusillus* and Hoary Cinquefoil *Potentilla argentea*).

#### Site status

County Wildlife Site  
Former Site of Natural History Interest

#### Surveyor

Emma Ogden  
18/07/2005



Site No. 7429

**COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET**

NAME: **Great Wood**  
 File code: E/29.04.05  
 Parish(es): Kirtling  
 County: Cambridgeshire  
 Grid ref: TL704549

**Habitat information****Code** *Habitat type*

A111 Woodland: broadleaved, semi-natural  
 A112 Woodland: broadleaved, plantation

**Site Area**

8.23 ha

**Site description**

A broadleaved woodland on an ancient woodland site. The wood was confirmed as predominantly semi-natural by a brief visit in 1994 but a full survey was not possible and further survey was recommended.

This wood remains predominantly broadleaved with a good range of 29 woodland plants including 6 ancient woodland indicator species. At least half of the wood (the south-western half) was replanted in the past with a mixture of Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*, Beech *Fagus sylvatica*, Western Hemlock *Tsuga heterophylla* and Douglas Fir *Pseudotsuga menziesii*. Most of the conifers have been removed, leaving large amounts of Sycamore, some of which is still obviously in straight lines. The occasional Beech survives, but it is Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* that has re-grown from coppice stools and as self sown standards that is now co-dominant with the Sycamore. The canopy is open and below this the understorey is sparse and mainly composed of self-sown Sycamore and Ash, with one plant of Redcurrent *Ribes rubrum*. There is one very old English Oak *Quercus robur* standard on the southern boundary of the wood. There are quite extensive amounts of small and medium sized dead wood, much of it probably resulting from past thinning operations and removal of conifers.

The northern half of the wood retains a more semi-natural structure with some large old coppice stools of Ash, as well as Ash and Sycamore standards among the canopy. English Oak is only found very rarely. The understorey is better developed and more diverse with Hazel *Corylus avellana*, Field Maple *Acer campestre*, Common Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa* and Elm *Ulmus sp.* In the north-east of the wood, there are quite extensive patches of Snowberry *Symphoricarpos albus*.

The ground flora is similar throughout the wood. Dog's Mercury *Mercurialis perennis* is the most abundant species with Wood Meadow-grass *Poa nemoralis* locally abundant, particularly in the more open southern half of the wood. Ground Ivy *Glechoma hederacea*, Lesser Celandine *Ranunculus ficaria*, Wood Dock *Rumex sanguineus*, Tufted Hair-grass *Deschampsia cespitosa* and Bramble *Rubus fruticosus* are occasional with Lord's & Ladies *Arum maculatum*, Wood False-brome *Brachypodium sylvaticum* and Stinging Nettle *Urtica dioica* very occasional. The Nationally Scarce species Oxlip *Primula elatior* occurs in several areas of the wood, usually as single or a few plants, though in a couple of areas as more extensive patches. Other ancient woodland indicator species recorded in the wood include Wood Speedwell *Veronica Montana*, Early Purple Orchid *Orchis mascula*, Hairy St John's-wort *Hypericum hirsutum*, Wood Sedge *Carex sylvatica* and Pendulous Sedge *Carex pendula*, this latter species occurring in quite extensive patches. Other typical

woodland ground flora are limited in occurrence with Bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* only present along the western edge of the wood and Figwort *Scrophularia nodosa*, Red Campion *Silene dioica*, Honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum* and Lesser Burdock *Arctium minus* all rare.

An old Pheasant pen is present in the centre of the wood with two feeders in the north and east of the wood. The wood is divided by two main cross paths and a series of ditches that are mostly dry. There is little evidence of active management and with this the woodland will continue to revert to a more semi-natural state.

**Site assessment**

The site qualifies as CWS because it is a woodland listed in the Cambridgeshire Inventory of Ancient Woodland which retains more than 25% semi-natural cover and because it supports a population of a Nationally Scarce vascular plant species (Oxlip *Primula elatior*).

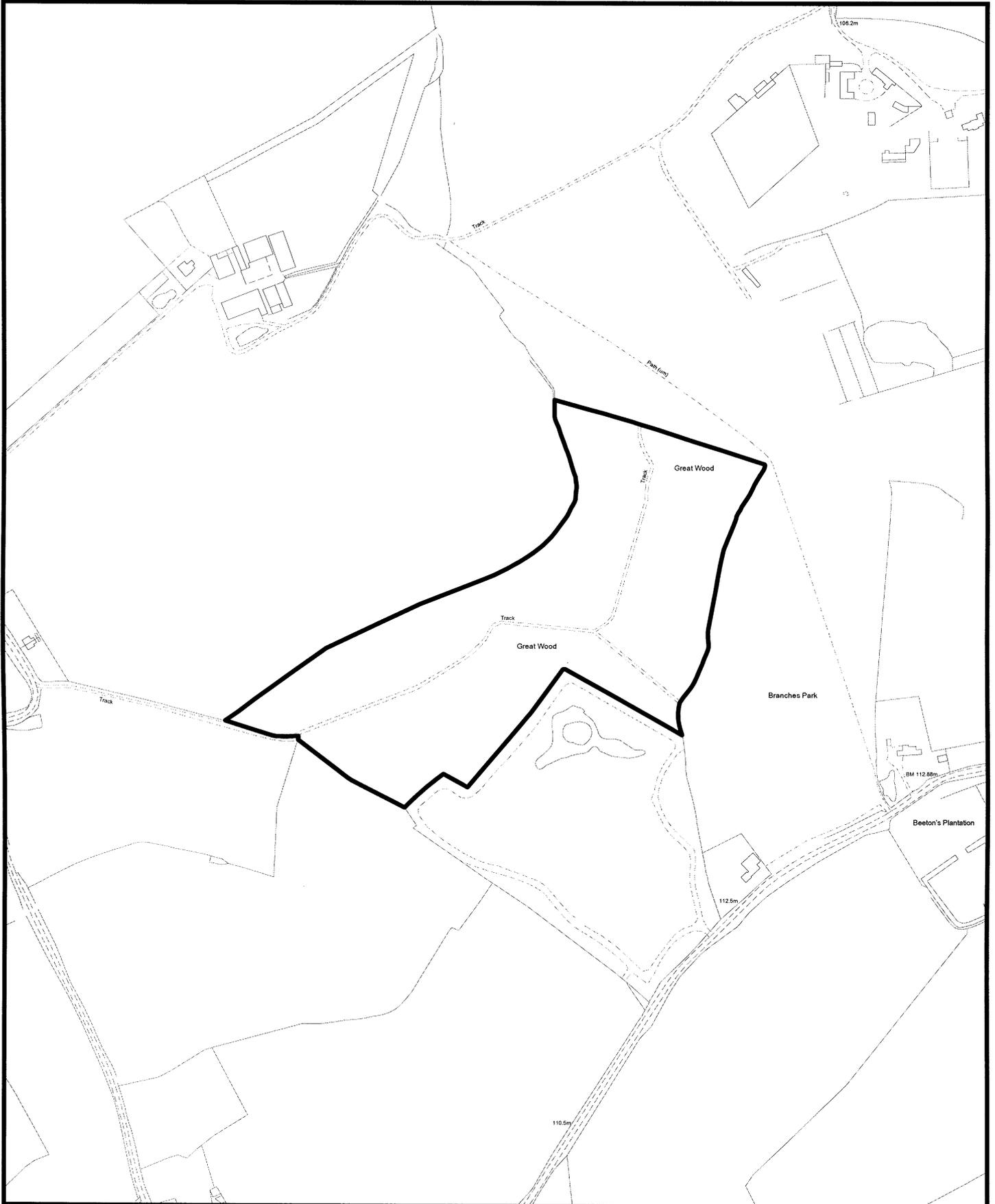
**Site status**

former Site of Natural History Interest  
Ancient Woodland Inventory  
County Wildlife Site

**Surveyor**

Martin Baker  
29/04/2005

# Great Wood



Grid Ref: TL704549  
Scale: 1:5000  
Plot Date: 22/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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Site No. 7301

**COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET**NAME: **Lucy Wood and adjacent hedgerows**

File code: E/08.06.05

Parish(es): Kirtling

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref.: TL6856

**Habitat information****Code** *Habitat type*

A111	Woodland: broadleaved, semi-natural
A112	Woodland: broadleaved, plantation
A122	Woodland: coniferous, plantation
A132	Woodland: mixed, plantation
B22	Grassland: neutral, semi-improved
B6	Grassland: poor semi-improved
J21	Boundaries, intact hedge
J22	Boundaries, defunct hedge
J23	Boundaries, hedge with trees
J261	Boundaries, permanently wet ditch
J262	Boundaries, seasonally wet ditch

**Site Area**

22.58 ha

**Site description**

Lucy Wood is a semi-natural woodland with a small area of conifer plantation in the south of the wood and a couple of small patches in the heart of the wood. Small areas have also been planted with broadleaved species, particularly along the southern boundary. The wood slopes gently up hill to the south and is bounded by a deep ditch along its northern boundary. The semi-natural canopy is largely of English Oak *Quercus robur* and Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* standards over an Ash sub-canopy and a sparse to moderate shrub layer. The shrub layer includes Hazel *Corylus avellana* coppice with Field Maple *Acer campestre*, Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, Elm *Ulmus sp.*, Dogwood *Cornus sanguinea*, Midland Hawthorn *Crataegus laevigata*, Spindle *Euonymus europaeus* and Silver Birch *Betula pendula* in the shrub layer. The ground flora is varied with different species dominating in different parts of the wood. Dog's Mercury *Mercurialis perennis* is the most abundant species, particularly higher up the slopes. Bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* becomes frequent in the north-west corner and is only occasionally found elsewhere. Wild Garlic *Allium ursinum* however, is locally abundant particularly on the lower slopes towards the north of the wood. Oxlip *Primula elatior* (Nationally Scarce species), occurs sporadically throughout the wood, but in low numbers. One area of the locally rare species, Wood Spurge *Euphorbia amygdaloides*, was present in an open, naturally regenerating glade just to the south of the main ride, at its eastern end. Other species include Pendulous Sedge *Carex pendula*, Wood Sedge *Carex sylvatica*, Bugle *Ajuga reptans*, Hairy St John's-wort *Hypericum hirsutum*, Wood Dock *Rumex sanguineus*, Wood Meadow-grass *Poa nemoralis*, Ground Ivy *Glechoma hederacea*, Lord's and Ladies *Arum maculatum* and Common Dog Violet *Viola riviniana*. Wood Melick *Melica uniflora* was found mainly associated with the wood banks along the southern and western boundaries. Herb Paris *Paris quadrifolia*, Water Avens *Geum rivale*, Sanicle *Sanicula europaea*, Twayblade *Listera ovata*, Early Purple Orchid *Orchis mascula*, and Nettle-leaved Bellflower *Campanula trachelium*, recorded during previous surveys, were not observed on this occasion. This may relate to changes in

management with less open space and increased shading along the woodland ride and ditches, or may merely be due to their rarity within the wood giving a high chance of a brief survey missing them.

On the south-western and western sides are areas of broadleaved plantation which have been planted adjacent to the ancient woodland part of the site as a buffer zone. The wood contains a good quantity of both fallen and standing deadwood with good potential for invertebrate species. However, the lack of flowering species along the open grassy ride may limit the potential for deadwood invertebrate fauna. There are two large pheasant pens within the wood, one in the far west and one in the centre-east of the wood.

A broad green lane runs along the northern side of the wood and then turns to run north-west away from the wood for about 1 Km. In the section close to the wood the ground has been heavily disturbed and supports a mixture of tall grassland, ruderal vegetation, ephemeral/short perennial vegetation and woodland species. The hedgerow is tall, overgrown and leggy in places. Tree and shrub species include Hazel, Hawthorn, Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, Field Maple, Ash, Sycamore and Buckthorn *Rhamnus cathartica*. The woodland and woodland edge ground flora includes Dog's Mercury, Bugle, Greater Stitchwort *Stellaria holostea*, Ground Ivy, Herb Robert *Geranium robertianum*, Hedge woundwort *Stachys sylvestris* and Lesser Burdock *Arctium minus*. Pendulous Sedge is locally dominant along the ride edges in the section adjacent to the wood and ditches and in the wetter areas by the ditch Meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria* and Angelica *Angelica sylvestris* also occur. Away from the wood the lane is bordered by broad, unmanaged, overgrown hedgerows with rank grass verges, formerly heavily invaded with Bramble *Rubus fruticosus*. Substantial clearance of the invading scrub and bramble took place in the mid 1990's along some stretches of the lane, which remain grassy today. In some sections, particularly the southern hedgerow, it is rather gappy and defunct. Hedgerow species include those previously mentioned as well as Elder *Sambucus nigra*, Goat Willow *Salix caprea*, Grey Sallow *Salix cinerea*, Crack Willow *Salix fragilis*, Wayfaring Tree *Viburnum lantana*, Sycamore and English Oak.

A significant section of the northern hedgerow has been replanted with Scots Pine *Pinus sylvestris*, Cypress *Cupressus sp* and Beech *Fagus sylvatica*. Neither Spindle *Euonymus europaeus* or Privet *Ligustrum vulgare*, recorded in previous surveys were seen on this occasion. A few woodland and woodland edge ground flora are found including Dog's Mercury, Ground Ivy, Greater Stitchwort, Hairy St John's-wort, Wood False-brome *Brachypodium sylvaticum* and Yellow Archangel *Lamiastrum galeobdolon*. The grassland verge's are largely rank and unmanaged with False Oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius*, Cocksfoot *Dactylis glomerata*, Rough Meadow Grass *Poa trivialis* and Meadow Foxtail *Alopecurus pratensis* abundant. Other species include frequent Yellow Oat-grass *Trisetum flavescens*, Black Knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, Yorkshire Fog *Holcus lanatus*, Perforate St John's-wort *Hypericum perforatum*, Ribwort Plantain *Plantago lanceolata* and Creeping Buttercup *Ranunculus repens*. Less abundant species include Bird's-foot Trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, Hoary Ragwort *Senecio erucifolius*, Agrimony *Agrimonia eupatoria*, Field Scabious *Knautia arvensis*, Ox-eye Daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare*, Hedge Bedstraw *Galium mollugo* and Hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium*. Bramble and Stinging Nettle *Urtica dioica* patches remain frequent to locally abundant.

To the west of the wood extends a c.300m length of hedgerow beside a narrow, heavily used track along the side of an arable field. This then dog-legs and continues for approximately a further 300 metres, with an uncropped 6 metre arable field margin adjacent to the hedgerow on the eastern side. The hedgerow is 4-5m tall, bushy and lightly managed. Species include Hazel, Field Maple, Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Dog Rose *Rosa canina*, English Oak, Dogwood, Grey Sallow and Crack Willow. A woodland ground flora persists at the base of the hedgerow with a narrow grassy verge, dominated by tall wayside plants such as Stinging Nettle, Cow Parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris*, Hogweed and Bramble. The woodland and woodland edge ground flora species include Dog's Mercury, Ground Ivy, Honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum*, Ivy *Hedera helix*, Yellow Archangel, Greater Stitchwort, Hairy St John's-wort and frequent Greater Burnet *Pimpinella major*. A few grassland species occur in a generally tall sward, including locally frequent Black Knapweed and Field Scabious, and occasional / rare Agrimony, Perforate St John's-wort, Meadow Vetchling *Lathyrus pratensis*, Wild Basil *Clinopodium vulgare*, Germander Speedwell *Veronica chamaedrys* and Field Horsetail *Equisetum arvense*. In damper areas Meadowsweet and Water Mint *Mentha aquatica* also occur.

**Site assessment**

The site qualifies as CWS because it is a woodland listed in the Cambridgeshire Inventory of Ancient Woodland which retains more than 25% semi-natural cover. Additionally it qualifies because it supports populations of a Nationally Scarce vascular plant species (Oxlip *Primula elatior*) and a vascular plant species rare in the county (Wood Spurge *Euphorbia amygdaloides*); because it contains more than 500m of hedgerow which is more than 2m wide, with at least 5 woody species and which is allowed to flower and fruit.

It is proposed that the County Wildlife Site boundary be extended to include all the hedgerow along the western arm, as far as the boundary of Sixpenny Wood, in recognition of the value of the mature hedgerow, that is greater than 2 metres wide, with at least 5 woody species and which is allowed to flower and fruit.

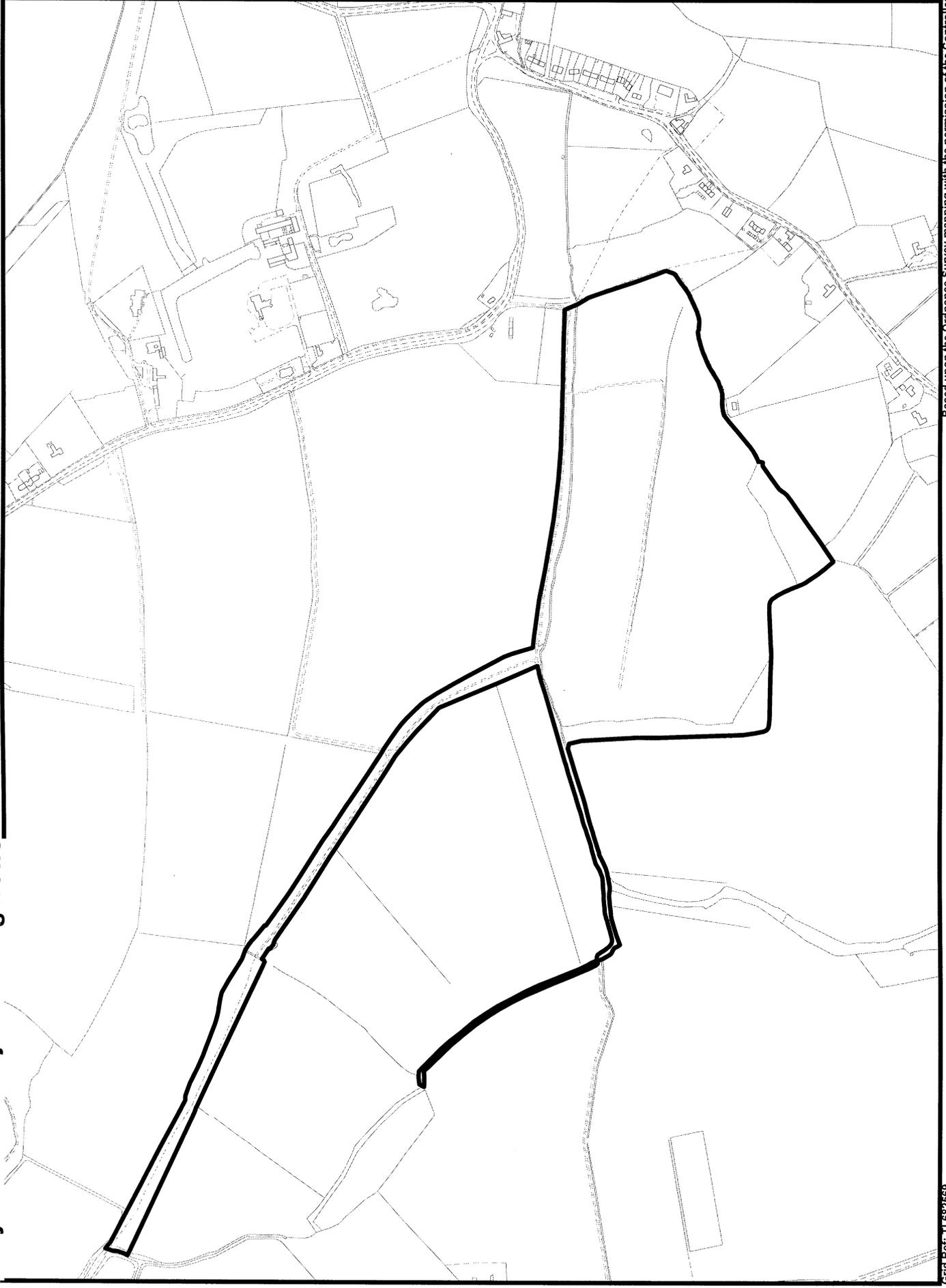
**Site status**

County Wildlife Site  
former Site of Natural History Interest

**Surveyor**

Martin Baker  
08/06/2005

# Lucy Wood and adjacent hedgerows



Grid Ref: TL682569  
Scale: 1:7500  
Plot Date: 22/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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Site No. 7427

**COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET**NAME: **Little Ouse River**

File code: E/1994

Parish(es): Littleport

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref: TL68

**Habitat information****Code** *Habitat type*

A31 Parkland/scattered trees: broad-leaved

B22 Grassland: neutral, semi-improved

F2 Marginal/inundation

G2 Open water: running water

J261 Boundaries, permanently wet ditch

**Site area**

20.27 ha

**Site description**

The site comprises the short length of the Little Ouse River in Cambridgeshire. The water quality of the Cambridgeshire stretch of this river is generally good. The river flood embankments enclose a narrow strip of wash land on both sides of the river, the north-eastern side is in Norfolk. The embankments are dominated by coarse species-poor grassland and tall herb vegetation. The washes themselves are also largely of coarse grassland with some areas of reed and tall wetland herb vegetation. Typical species of the wash land and the river banks include Hairy Willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum*, Reed Sweet-grass *Glyceria maxima*, Hemp Agrimony *Eupatorium cannabinum*, Yellow Flag *Iris pseudacorus*, Lysimachia vulgaris and Meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*. The south-western site boundary follows the outer, i.e. south-western side of the flood embankment.

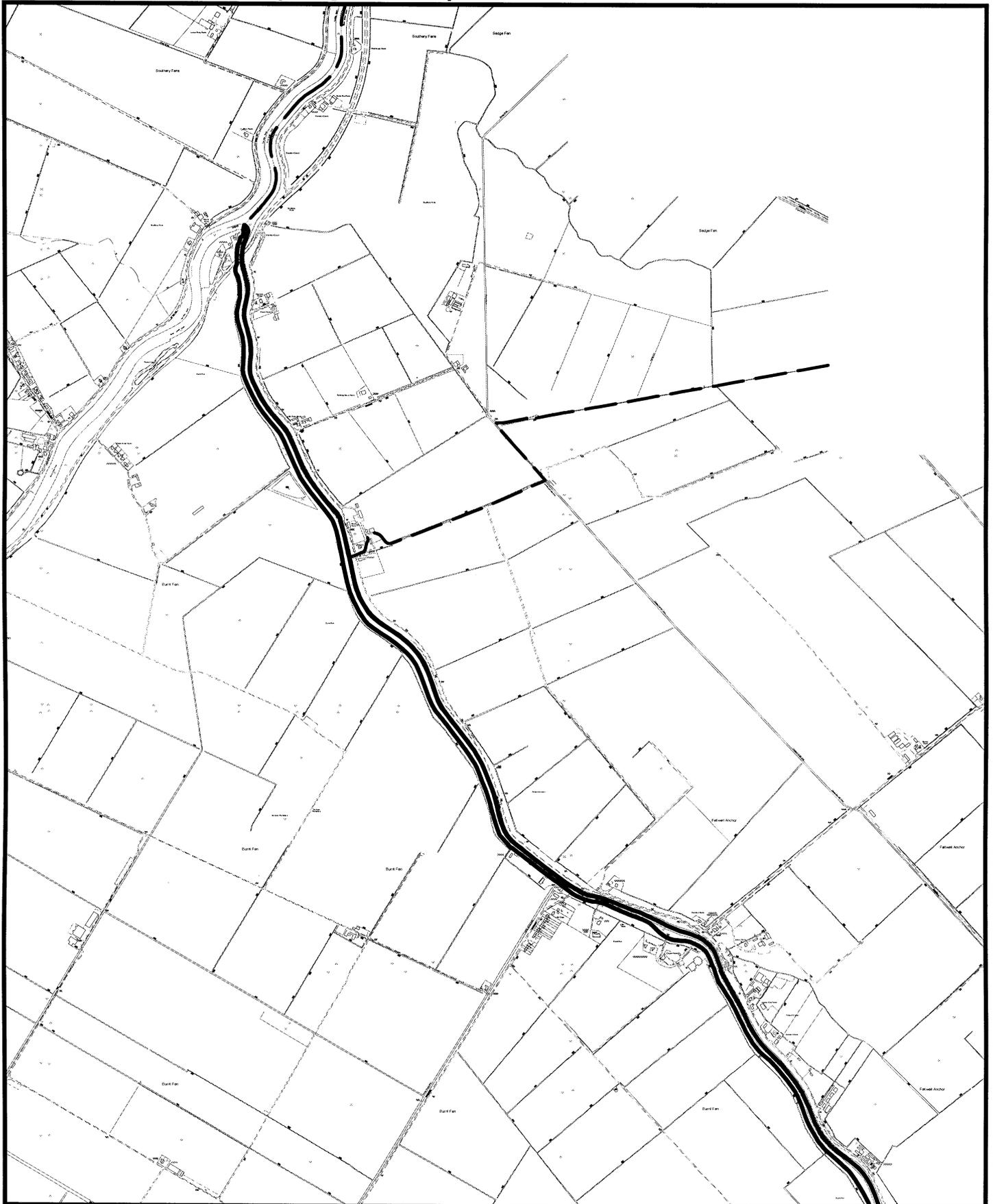
**Site assessment**

The site qualifies as CWS because it is a major river not grossly modified through canalisation or poor water quality.

**Site status**

County Wildlife Site

# Little Ouse River (Map 1 of 2)



Grid Ref: TL68  
Scale: 1:20000  
Plot Date: 20/9/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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# Little Ouse River (Map 2 of 2)



Grid Ref: TL68  
Scale: 1:20000  
Plot Date: 20/9/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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Site No. 7056

**COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET**NAME: **Anglesey Abbey**

File code: E/17.6.05

Parish(es): Lode

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref: TL5262

**Habitat information****Code Habitat type**

- A112 Woodland: broadleaved, plantation
- A122 Woodland: coniferous, plantation
- A132 Woodland: mixed, plantation
- A21 Scrub: dense/continuous
- A22 Scrub: scattered
- A31 Parkland/scattered trees: broad-leaved
- A32 Parkland/scattered trees: coniferous
- B22 Grassland: neutral, semi-improved
- B32 Grassland: calcareous, semi-improved
- B6 Grassland: poor semi-improved
- C31 Tall herb and fern: other, tall ruderal
- G1 Open water: standing water
- G2 Open water: running water
- J12 Cultivated/disturbed land: amenity grassland
- J21 Boundaries, intact hedge
- J261 Boundaries, permanently wet ditch
- J262 Boundaries, seasonally wet ditch

**Site area**

48.42 ha

**Site description**

The grounds of Anglesey Abbey contain a wide variety of semi-natural and more artificial habitats with a wide variety of exotic and native species. Wildflower meadows and lawns with scattered trees, plantation belts, plantation woodland and shrubberies occupy much of the site in relatively informal arrangements. Formal gardens and lawns occupy the area close to the house.

Habitats of particular wildlife interest include species-rich neutral grassland on and around the fishpond earthworks. This wildflower meadow comprises of abundant False Oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius*, frequent Upright Brome *Bromopsis erecta*, Common Bent *Agrostis capillaris*, Yorkshire Fog *Holcus lanatus*, Hairy Oat-grass *Helictotrichon pubescens*, Crested Dogs Tail *Cynosurus cristatus*, Red Fescue *Festuca rubra*, Black Knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, Ribwort Plantain *Plantago lanceolata*, Birds Foot Trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, Cowslip *Primula veris*, Common Sorrel *Rumex acetosa*, Broad-leaved Plantain *Plantago major*, Black Medick *Medicago lupulina*, Yellow Rattle *Rhinanthus minor* Lady's Bedstraw *Galium verum*, Ox-eye Daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare*, Hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium*, locally frequent Rough Hawkbit *Leontodon hispidus* and occasional Dwarf Thistle *Cirsium acaule*, Bee Orchid *Ophrys apifera* and Bugle *Ajuga reptans*. The broad, deep and dry 'ditch' to the north of the meadow contains, in addition to the above

named species, Meadow Sweet *Filipendula ulmaria*, Field Scabious *Knautia arvensis* and locally frequent Silverweed *Potentilla anserina*.

Species recorded during the 1996 survey in the fishpond area, but not seen during this survey include; Salad Burnet *Sanguisorba minor ssp. minor*, Burnet-saxifrage *Pimpinella saxifraga*, Lesser Hawkbit *Leontodon saxatilis*, Glaucous Sedge *Carex flacca*, Agrimony *Agrimonia eupatoria*, and Field Woodrush *Luzula campestris*. The grassland is managed by mosaic mowing; this type of mowing regime has been implemented to benefit invertebrates, hares, small mammals and birds by ensuring that there is always some areas of long grass available for shelter and as a source of food. This regime of cutting different sections of grassland at different times of the year also encourages a wider range of plants to survive and prosper.

To the west of the fishponds is a large area of species-rich neutral grassland with scattered trees, divided into two distinct sections by a broad grassland walk (known as 'Coronation Avenue') lined with mature Horse Chestnut *Aesculus hippocastanum* trees. This Wildflower meadow, with a distinctly calcareous influence, contains a diverse range of species with the abundance of certain species varying from one area to the other. The grassland as a whole contains abundant to frequent Upright Brome, False Oat-grass, Yorkshire Fog, Red Fescue, Common Bent, Crested Dogs Tail, Ox-eye Daisy, Birds-foot Trefoil, Agrimony, Lady's Bedstraw, locally abundant Yellow Rattle *Rhinanthus minor* and occasional Hairy Oat-grass, Quaking Grass *Briza media*, and occasional Dwarf Thistle *Cirsium acaule*, Bee Orchid and Fairy Flax *Linum catharticum*. Low numbers of orchids grow in discrete patches in the meadows, these include, Common Twayblade *Listera ovata*, Common Spotted Orchid *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* and White Helleborine *Cephalanthera damasonium*. The grassland contains many young, planted, exotic broadleaved trees and is also cut by mosaic mowing for hay. There are a number of mown pathways weaving throughout this area to enable visitors to walk through the Meadow. This area is known to have been arable land prior to the Second World War.

There are several other large areas of neutral grassland around the site with a similar (although less species rich) range of grasses and forbs as those found in the wildflower meadows, which also contain a mixture of young to mature trees.

The western boundary of the site comprises of broad-leaved plantation and dense scrub, which receives few visitors and little management. Species composition varies throughout the woodland but generally comprises of a canopy of locally dominant Beech *Fagus sylvatica* and Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, frequent Alder *Alnus glutinosa* and Lime *Tilia* sp, with an understorey of Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, Elder *Sambucus nigra* and Elm *Ulmus* sp whilst Nettle *Urtica dioica* frequently dominates the ground layer growing to 2m in height, Ivy *Hedera helix* dominates where nettle is absent. A pond is located within a clearing surrounded by Goat Willow *Salix caprea*, Dog Rose *Rosa canina* and Hawthorn scrub over peaty soils. At the time of survey there was no standing water but was boggy underfoot. The basin of the pond is dominated by Spike Rush *Eleocharis* sp. with frequent Water Mint *Mentha aquatica*, Hoary Willow Herb *Epilobium hirsutum* and occasional Tufted Hair Grass *Deschampsia cespitosa*. During the 1996 survey the following species were recorded which were not found during the current survey due to the absence of water in the pond; beds of Stonewort *Charophyte* sp., Mare's Tail *Hippuris vulgaris*, Crowfoot sp *Ranunculus subgenus Batrachium*, Common Plantain *Alisma plantago-aquatica*, Pondweed *Potamogeton* sp. and Pink Water-speedwell *Veronica catenata*. It is not clear whether this pond is seasonally wet or not but the 1996 survey was conducted at the same time of year as the current survey, indicating that the pond has declined significantly in species richness and value for wildlife since then.

Across the grounds of the Abbey are a number of small broadleaved and coniferous plantations of both native and non-native origin. These are generally of fairly low botanical value but may provide habitat for nesting birds and small mammals. One area of Beech plantation (in the south-eastern area of the site) has been developed as an educational walk for children with areas of dead wood, bird boxes and feeders. There are also a number of manicured lawns across the site interspersed with more natural habitat. These lawns (Pilgrims Lawn, Temple Lawn, Coronation Avenue and East Lawn) are fairly species poor and cut very short, however the grass verges bordering these areas generally contain a rich suite of grasses and herbs similar to that found in the wildflower meadows.

The large pond at the northern end of the site has no submerged or floating vegetation. Marginal vegetation consists of occasional Meadow Sweet, Lesser Pond Sedge *Carex acutiformis*, Yellow Flag Iris *Iris pseudacorus* and Water Mint, but much of the bank is bare. The pond is bordered to the west by mature Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* and Ash trees and to the north-east by two unpollarded Willows. The steep grass bank on the eastern side of the pond comprises Lady's Bedstraw, Yarrow *Achillea millefolium*, Red Fescue, Rough Hawkbit and Violet.

The Abbey grounds are a Grade C ISR site mainly on the strength of deadwood Diptera records. Many of the rarer species are associated with elm and following Dutch Elm Disease the majority of the trees were removed from the site. Recent data on this aspect of the site's interest is lacking. The site supports a wide range of breeding birds; further evaluation is required to determine if it qualifies as CWS under the bird criteria.

Garden Staff at Anglesey Abbey have been involved in monitoring the plants, birds and invertebrates in the Abbey grounds throughout the seasons since 2004. This has involved both professionals and volunteers and will be a valuable source of information in the future.

**Site assessment**

The site qualifies as CWS because it contains grassland that supports frequent numbers of at least 3 strong neutral grassland indicators; measured against the calcareous grassland criteria the grassland supports frequent numbers of at least six strong calcareous indicator species. Additionally it qualifies because it is a Grade C site in the JNCC Invertebrate Site Register. The site no longer contains beds of Stoneworts.

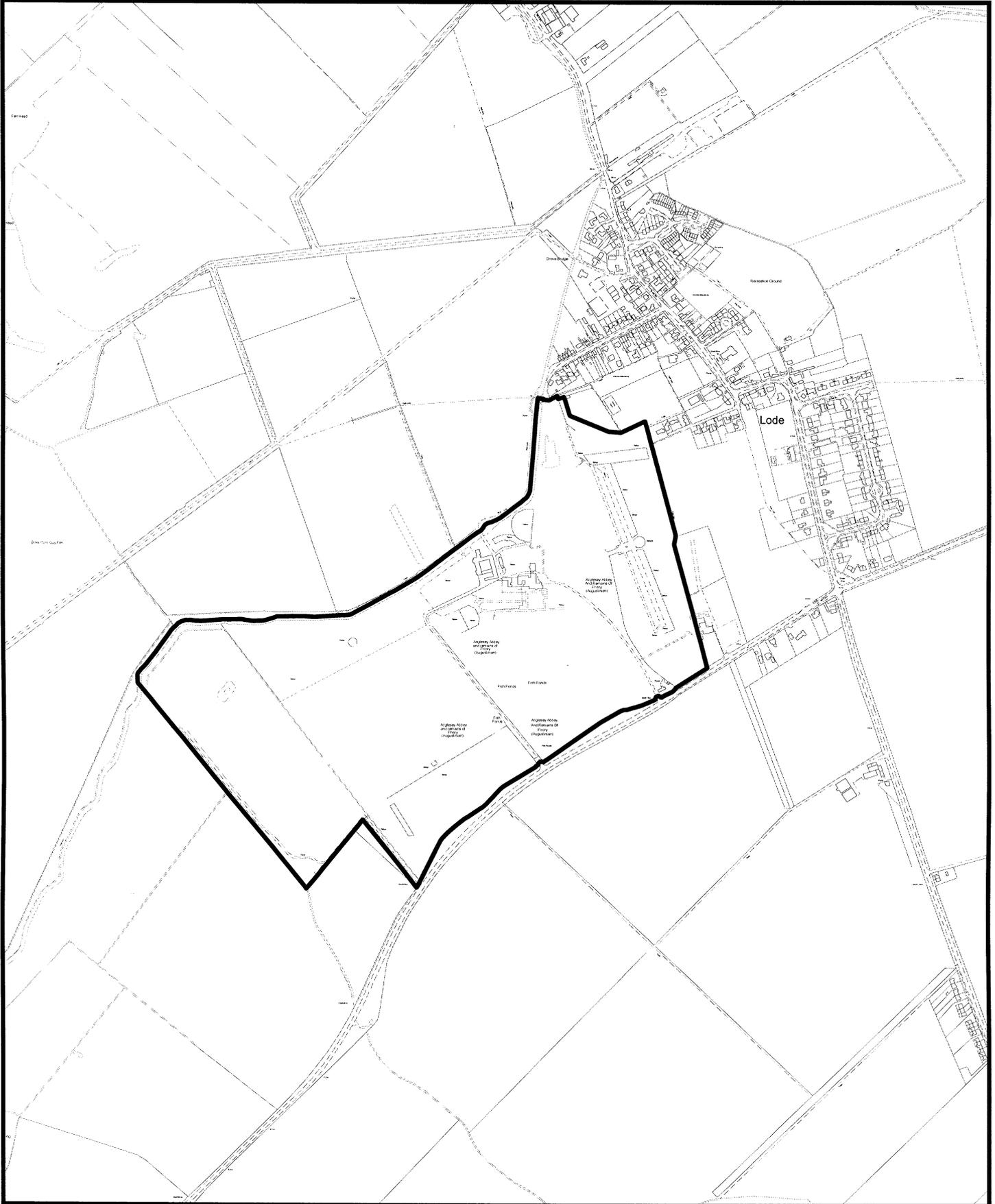
**Site status**

County Wildlife Site  
former Site of Natural History Interest  
National Trust  
Invertebrate Site Register

**Surveyor**

Emma Ogden  
17/06/2005

# Anglesey Abbey



Grid Ref: TL529621  
Scale:1:10000  
Plot Date:21/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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Site No. 7105/2

## COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET

NAME: **River Cam (ECDC)**

File code: E/1994

Parish(es): Lode, Swaffham Bulbeck, Swaffham Prior, Wicken

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref.: TL57

### Habitat information

#### *Code* *Habitat type*

A111	Woodland: broadleaved, semi-natural
A22	Scrub: scattered
A31	Parkland/scattered trees: broad-leaved
B22	Grassland: neutral, semi-improved
B5	Grassland: marsh/marshy grassland
B6	Grassland: poor semi-improved
C31	Tall herb and fern: other, tall ruderal
F1	Swamp
F2	Marginal/inundation
G1	Open water: standing water
G2	Open water: running water
J12	Cultivated/disturbed land: amenity grassland
J261	Boundaries, permanently wet ditch

#### *Site area*

56.04 ha

### Site description

The River Cam is a major river with generally moderate to good water quality and a relatively unmodified channel. It supports a wide range of submerged, floating, marginal and wetbank vegetation. The section of the river within East Cambridgeshire District has embankments enclosing a generally narrow strip of washland on both sides of the river. The vegetation on the majority of the washland and embankments is species-poor semi-improved grassland; there is some inundation grassland and swamp in lower lying areas. The washes are grazed by cattle. The site includes Commissioners' Pit (also known as Upware South Pit) at TL538708. This is a small flooded disused chalk pit now largely occupied by swamp and woodland vegetation. Part of the pit is a Geological SSSI. A wide range of Odonata have been recorded at the pit and the adjacent stretch of river although breeding status has yet to be established for many of the species. The CWS also includes two large swampy fields immediately to south of the pit. The river and the extensive areas of washland at Wicken and Swaffham Prior are included within the Cam Washes SSSI and are not part of the County Wildlife Site.

### Site assessment

The site qualifies as CWS because it is a major river not grossly modified by canalisation or poor water quality.

### Site status

County Wildlife Site

# River Cam - East Cambs (Map 1 of 2)



Scale:1:15000  
Plot Date:22/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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## River Cam - East Cambs (Map 2 of 2)



Scale:1:15000  
Plot Date:22/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
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Site No. 7060

## COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET

NAME: **Swaffham Poor's Fen**

File code: E/26.7.05

Parish(es): Lode

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref: TL532643

### Habitat information

#### **Code** *Habitat type*

A111 Woodland: broadleaved, semi-natural

A21 Scrub: dense/continuous

C3 Tall herb and fern: other tall herb or fern

J261 Boundaries, permanently wet ditch

WO06 *Alnus glutinosa-Urtica dioica* woodland

#### **Site area**

4.60 ha

#### **Note**

Access permission was not granted by the landowner for the 2005 survey. It was therefore only possible to assess this site from the most recent aerial photos (2004), which appeared to show that the habitats on site were still as previously described.

#### **Site description**

An area of broadleaved woodland and scrub that has developed on an abandoned fen. The north-eastern part of the site is occupied by mature White Willow *Salix alba* woodland with a ground flora of Nettle *Urtica dioica*, Cleavers *Galium aparine* and Ground Ivy *Glechoma hederacea*. The central part of the site is the least heavily invaded by woodland and contains some open areas of dried out swamp/tall herb fen with Bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg., Bittersweet *Solanum dulcamara*, Ground Elder *Aegopodium podagraria*, Meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria* and Wild Angelica *Angelica sylvestris*. The south-western part of the site is largely occupied by dense Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* scrub with scattered large, mature White Willow *Salix alba* and Crack Willow *Salix fragilis*. The wood is surrounded and divided by flooded ditches. The site requires further survey.

#### **Site assessment**

The site qualifies as CWS because it contains more than 0.5ha of W6 Alder - Stinging Nettle woodland.

#### **Site status**

County Wildlife Site

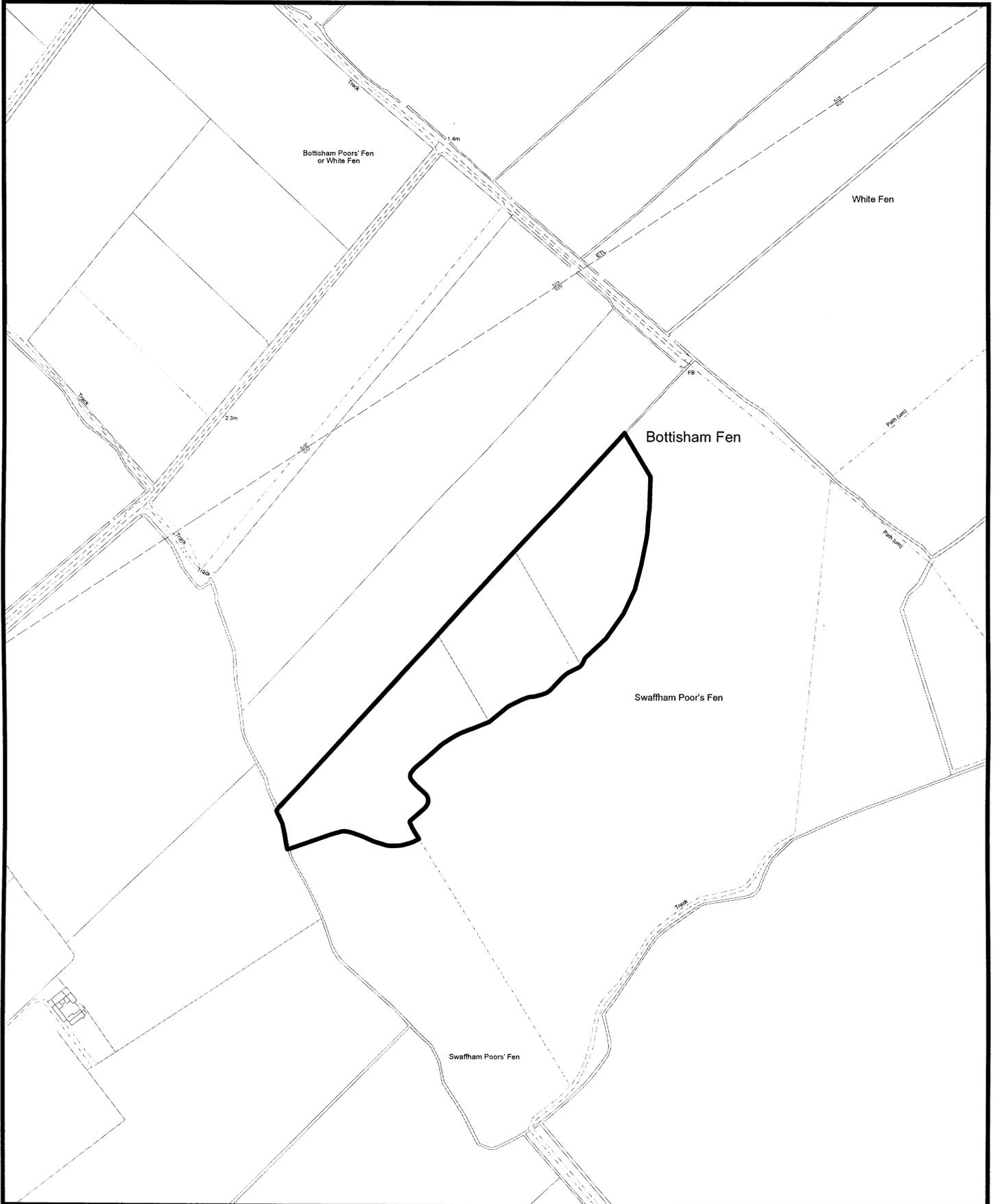
former Site of Natural History Interest

#### **Surveyor**

Martin Baker

26/07/2005

# Swaffham Poor's Fen



Grid Ref: TL532643  
Scale: 1:5000  
Plot Date: 22/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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Site No. 7034

**COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET**NAME: **Mepal gravel pits**

File code: E/6.7.05

Parish(es): Mepal

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref: TL4283

**Habitat information****Code** *Habitat type*

- A111 Woodland: broadleaved, semi-natural
- A112 Woodland: broadleaved, plantation
- A31 Parkland/scattered trees: broad-leaved
- B4 Grassland: improved
- B6 Grassland: poor semi-improved
- C31 Tall herb and fern: other, tall ruderal
- F1 Swamp
- F2 Marginal/inundation
- G1 Open water: standing water
- I22 Rock & waste: artificial exposure, spoil heap
- J12 Cultivated/disturbed land: amenity grassland
- J13 Cultivated/disturbed land: ephemeral/short perennial
- J4 Bare ground

**Site area**

34.92 ha

**Site description**

The site comprises two flooded gravel pits on either side of Ireton's Way, A142. The largest pit is on the eastern side of the road. This pit holds notably clear water of apparently high quality, the lake is used for fly fishing purposes. Submerged and floating vegetation includes frequent Hairlike Pondweed *Potamogeton trichoides* (Nationally Scarce species) with occasional Fennel Pondweed *Potamogeton pectinatus*, Curled Pondweed *Potamogeton crispus*, Canadian Waterweed *Elodea Canadensis*, Spiked Water Milfoil *Myriophyllum spicatum*, Rigid Hornwort *Ceratophyllum demersum*, Fan-leaved Water crowfoot *Ranunculus circinatus* and White Water-lily *Nymphaea alba*. Marginal vegetation is relatively sparse along the southwestern bank which is kept clear for angling and access purposes. Species present along this shore include Common Reed *Phragmites australis*, Greater Bulrush *Typha latifolia*, Branched Bur-reed *Sparganium erectum*, Hard Rush *Juncus inflexus*, Purple Loosestrife *Lythrum salicaria*, Water Mint *Mentha aquatica*, Hemp Agrimony *Eupatorium cannabinum*, Great Willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum*, Hoary Willowherb *Epilobium parviflorum*, Floating Sweet-grass *Glyceria fluitans*. The narrow strip of land between the southwestern shore and the road is occupied largely by a rather open shelterbelt with trees and shrubs of variable age; species include Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, Grey Willow *Salix cinerea*, White Willow *Salix alba*, Goat Willow *Salix caprea*, Osier *Salix viminalis*, Field Maple *Acer campestre*, Silver Birch *Betula pendula*, Aspen *Populus tremula*, Grey Poplar *Populus x canescens*, Gorse *Ulex europaeus*, Broom *Cytisus scoparius*. Many of the trees are planted but some trees and shrubs appear to be the result of natural colonisation. Interspersed amongst the trees and shrubs are patches of tall herb vegetation, Bramble *Rubus Fruticosus* agg., small areas of grassland and ephemeral vegetation on sandy ground. Species include Cocksfoot *Dactylis glomerata*, Yorkshire Fog *Holcus lanatus*, False Oat Grass *Arrhenatherum elatius*, Red

Fescue *Festuca rubra* agg., Common Storksbill *Erodium cicutarium*, Viper's Bugloss *Echium vulgare*, Perforate St John's Wort *Hypericum perforatum*, Black Medick *Medicago lupulina*, Hemlock *Conium maculatum*, White campion *Silene alba*.

The eastern shore has a fringe of Common Reed *Phragmites australis* dominant in places. Behind this emergent vegetation the lake is fringed by frequent White Willow *Salix alba*, Goat Willow *Salix caprea* and occasional Crack Willow *Salix fragilis*. The northern side of the pit has a steep bank generally dominated by dense Willow scrub, species include frequent White Willow *Salix alba*, Goat Willow *Salix caprea*, Grey Willow *Salix cinerea*, Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, Elder *Sambucus nigra* and occasional Osier *Salix viminalis*; frequent mature Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* is situated along the northwestern corner of the lake. A fairly well developed fringe of Common Reed *Phragmites australis* has been allowed to develop along the northern shore. Bird species observed on the lake during the survey included Canada Geese, Cormorants, Snipe and Mute Swans.

On the western side of the main road (A142) is a smaller pit that also holds clear water. This lake is used for a number of recreational purposes including sailing, canoeing and angling. Submerged vegetation appears to be very sparse and floating vegetation is almost entirely absent; such species include Canadian Waterweed *Elodea canadensis* and Perfoliate Pondweed *Potamogeton perfoliatus*. A narrow intermittent fringe of marginal vegetation is present along the majority of the shore, particularly along the western and southeastern sides of the lake. Flora includes Common Reed *Phragmites australis*, Gipsywort *Lycopus europaeus*, Great Willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum*, Water Figwort *Scrophularia auriculata*, Purple Loosestrife *Lythrum salicaria*, Hemp Agrimony *Eupatorium cannabinum*, Jointed Rush *Juncus articulatus*, Brookweed *Samolus valerandi*, Water Forget-me-not *Myosotis scorpioides*, Galingale *Cyperus longus* (probably introduced). In the southwestern corner of the lake Lesser Bulrush *Typha angustifolia* is locally abundant. The western side of the lake is backed by steep banks dominated by mature White Willow *Salix alba* and Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*. At the southeast corner of the lake is an area well used for outdoor activities. Habitats include disturbed and species-poor grassland, bare ground and ephemeral vegetation on sandy soil, a large sand heap, a small area of Willow/Birch woodland on damp ground. A small part of the shoreline here is composed of an unvegetated sand and gravel beach. Casual observations by occupiers and old records in the Trust files suggest that these pits had/have some ornithological (species include Great Crested Grebe, Cormorants and Kingfishers) and amphibian interest; further investigation is required to quantify this.

#### Site assessment

The site qualifies because it contains a water body supporting at least three species of pondweed (*Potamogeton* spp.) and because it supports a population of a Nationally Scarce vascular plant species (Hairlike Pondweed *Potamogeton trichoides*).

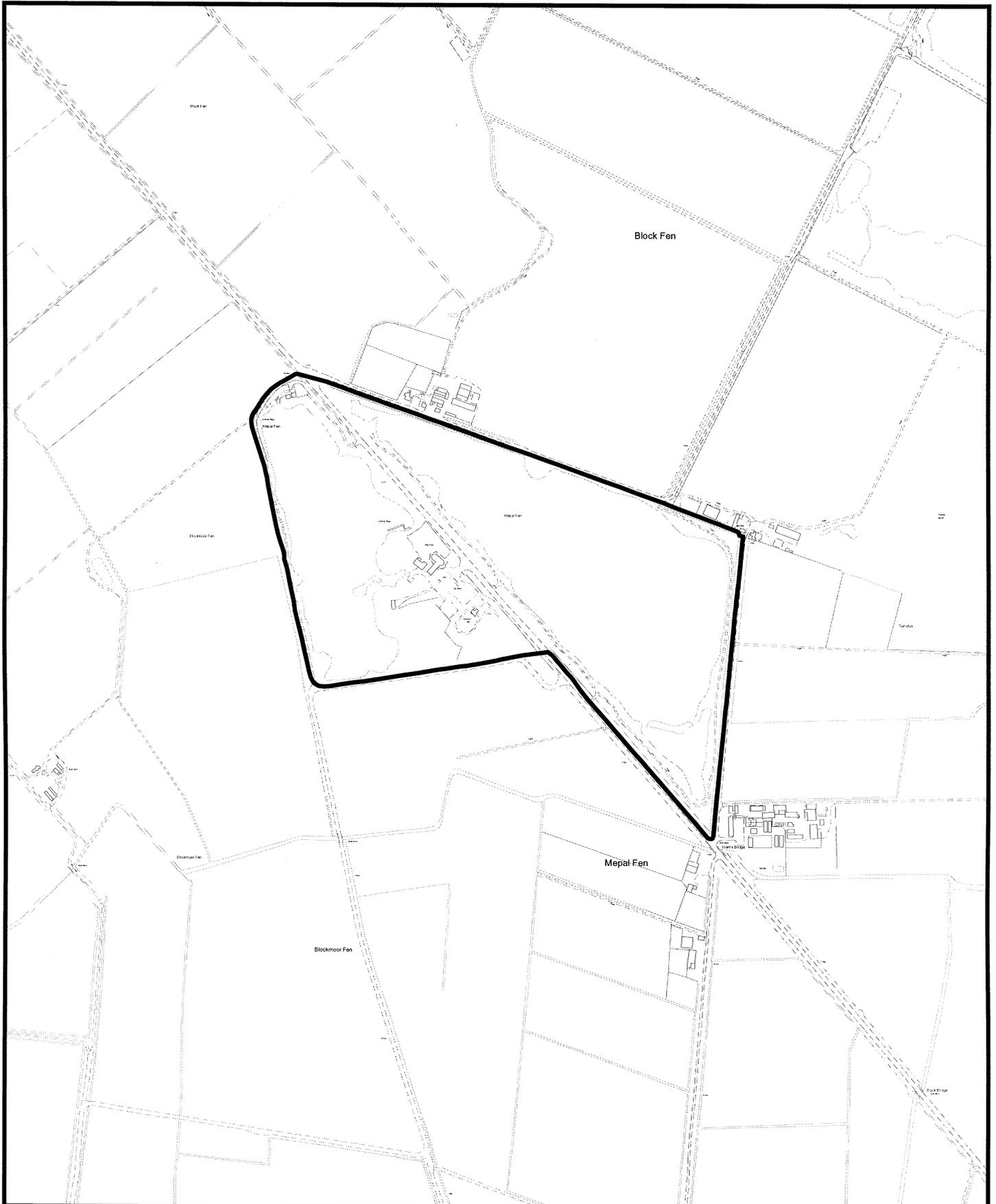
#### Site status

County Wildlife Site  
former Site of Natural History Interest

#### Surveyor

Alastair Ross  
06/07/2005

# Mepal Gravel Pits



Grid Ref: TL4283  
Scale: 1:9000  
Plot Date: 25/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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Site No. 7038

**COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET**NAME: **River Close Parkland**

File code: E/16.6.05

Parish(es): Mepal

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref: TL440811

**Habitat information****Code Habitat type**

A31 Parkland/scattered trees: broad-leaved

B6 Grassland: poor semi-improved

**Site area**

1.23 ha

**Site description**

A small area containing a concentrated cluster of Small-leaved Elm *Ulmus minor*. Very large veteran pollards line the River Close pathway, and mature pollards are located in the adjacent field to the east. The trees by the pathway have circumferences (at breast height) averaging 5m, one double stemmed specimen exceeds 6m. The trees have not been pollarded for a considerable time; some have hollows, dead wood and epicormic growth. The thirty or so mature trees in the neighbouring field are a mix of pollards and standards. There are also approximately thirty younger trees that have been planted on the site, mainly Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and also some Lime *Tilia spp.* and Oak *Quercus robur*; these younger trees average 6m in height. The field is cattle grazed poor semi-improved grassland with locally abundant Wall Barley *Hordeum murinum*, frequent Spear Thistle *Cirsium vulgare* and Creeping Thistle *Cirsium arvense*, and occasional Brambles *Rubus fruticosus agg.* The site has recent records for the Nationally Scarce butterfly *Strymonidia w-album*. The trees are the subject of a Tree Preservation Order.

**Site assessment**

The site qualifies as CWS because it contains an area of pasture woodland with an average of more than 5 mature and over mature trees per hectare.

**Site status**

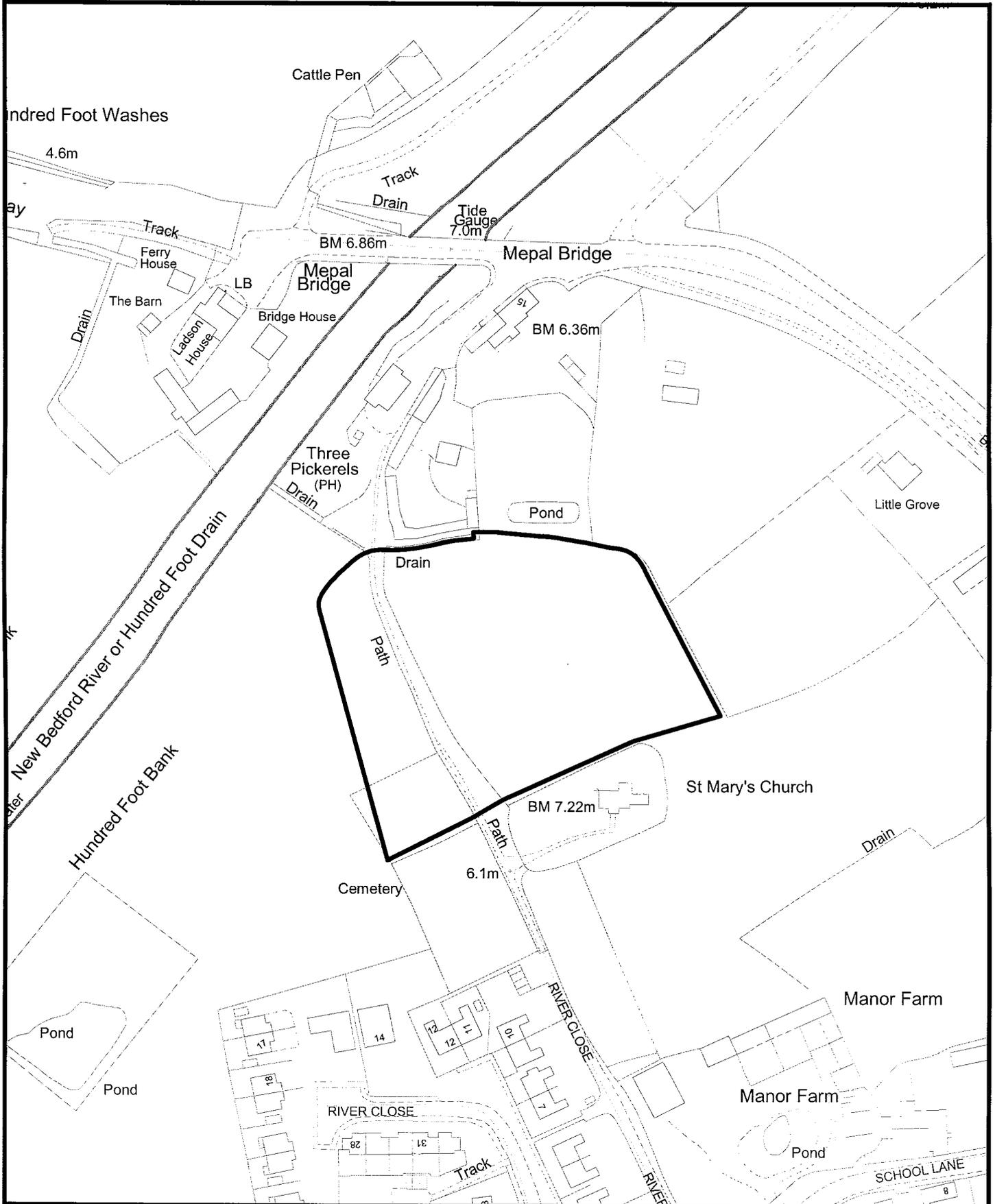
County Wildlife Site

**Surveyor**

Alastair Ross

16/06/2005

# River Close Parkland



Grid Ref: TL440811  
 Scale: 1:2000  
 Plot Date: 21/7/2005  
 By: Wildlife Trust  
 for CCC

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Site No. 7035

**COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET**NAME: **Sutton & Mepal Pumping Station Drains**

File code: E/07.07.05

Parish(es): Mepal  
SuttonE  
Chatteris

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref.: TL4382

**Habitat information****Code** *Habitat type*

A31 Parkland/scattered trees: broad-leaved

F2 Marginal/inundation

G2 Open water: running water

**Site description**

A large fen drain system extending from Ferry Burrows in the west to Welches Dam in the northeast and pumped via Sutton & Mepal Pumping Station into the Ouse Washes Counter Drain. The individual drains varying considerably in size; Crooked Drain, Hammond's Eau and the main drain running parallel to the Ouse Washes are up to 6m wide; drains at Witcham Meadlands/Pingle Drove are generally less than 2m wide. The drains were sampled for vascular plants at 24 locations. The water in most sections was noticeably clear and contained frequent or abundant floating and submerged vegetation. Species of particular note include Flat stalked Pondweed *Potamogeton friesii*, Greater Bladderwort *Utricularia vulgaris*, Water Violet *Hottonia palustris*, River Water Dropwort *Oenanthe fluviatilis*, charophyte species and the Nationally Scarce species Whorled Water Milfoil *Myriophyllum verticillatum* and Great Water Parsnip *Sium latifolium*.

Other typical species include Common Reed *Phragmites australis*, Greater Bulrush *Typha latifolia*, Branched Bur-reed *Sparganium erectum*, Reed Canary-grass *Phalaris arundinacea*, Reed Sweet-grass *Glyceria maxima*, Floating Sweet-grass *Glyceria fluitans*, Spiked Water Milfoil *Myriophyllum spicatum*, Rigid Hornwort *Ceratophyllum demersum*, Fan-leaved Water Crowfoot *Ranunculus circinatus*, Mare's Tail *Hippuris vulgaris*, Water-plantain *Alisma plantago-aquatica*, Curled Pondweed *Potamogeton crispus*, Broad-leaved Pondweed *Potamogeton natans*, Shining Pondweed *Potamogeton lucens*, Fennel pondweed *Potamogeton pectinatus*, Perfoliate Pondweed *Potamogeton perfoliatus*, Common Water Starwort *Callitriche stagnalis*, Arrowhead *Sagittaria sagittifolia*, Yellow Water-lily *Nuphar lutea*, Watercress *Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum*, Canadian Waterweed *Elodea canadensis*, Water Forget-me-not *Myosotis scorpioides*, Greater Pond Sedge *Carex riparia*, Jointed Rush *Juncus articulatus*.

Some parts of this drain system are trial sites for an ADAS research project into the effects of drain maintenance regimes on drain flora. The drain at TL454844 runs beside a farm track from Cooper's Farm lined with trees and shrubs on both sides. Pollarded and unpollarded mature White Willow *Salix alba* are frequent, especially along the southwestern side together with occasional Crack Willow *Salix fragilis*. A reasonable quantity of standing and fallen dead timber remains in-situ and splits and holes are also quite frequent. Large, overmature boles are rare. Altogether it is estimated that there are approximately 30 mature pollards and a further 20 younger pollards in the group.

**Site assessment**

The site qualifies as CWS because it contains at least 5 species of submerged, floating and emergent vascular plant per 20 metre stretch; because it supports populations of Nationally Scarce vascular plant species (Whorled Water Milfoil *Myriophyllum verticillatum* and Great Water Parsnip *Sium latifolium*); because it supports three or more species of pondweed (*Potamogeton spp.*); and because it supports at least 20 mature pollard willows.

**Site status**

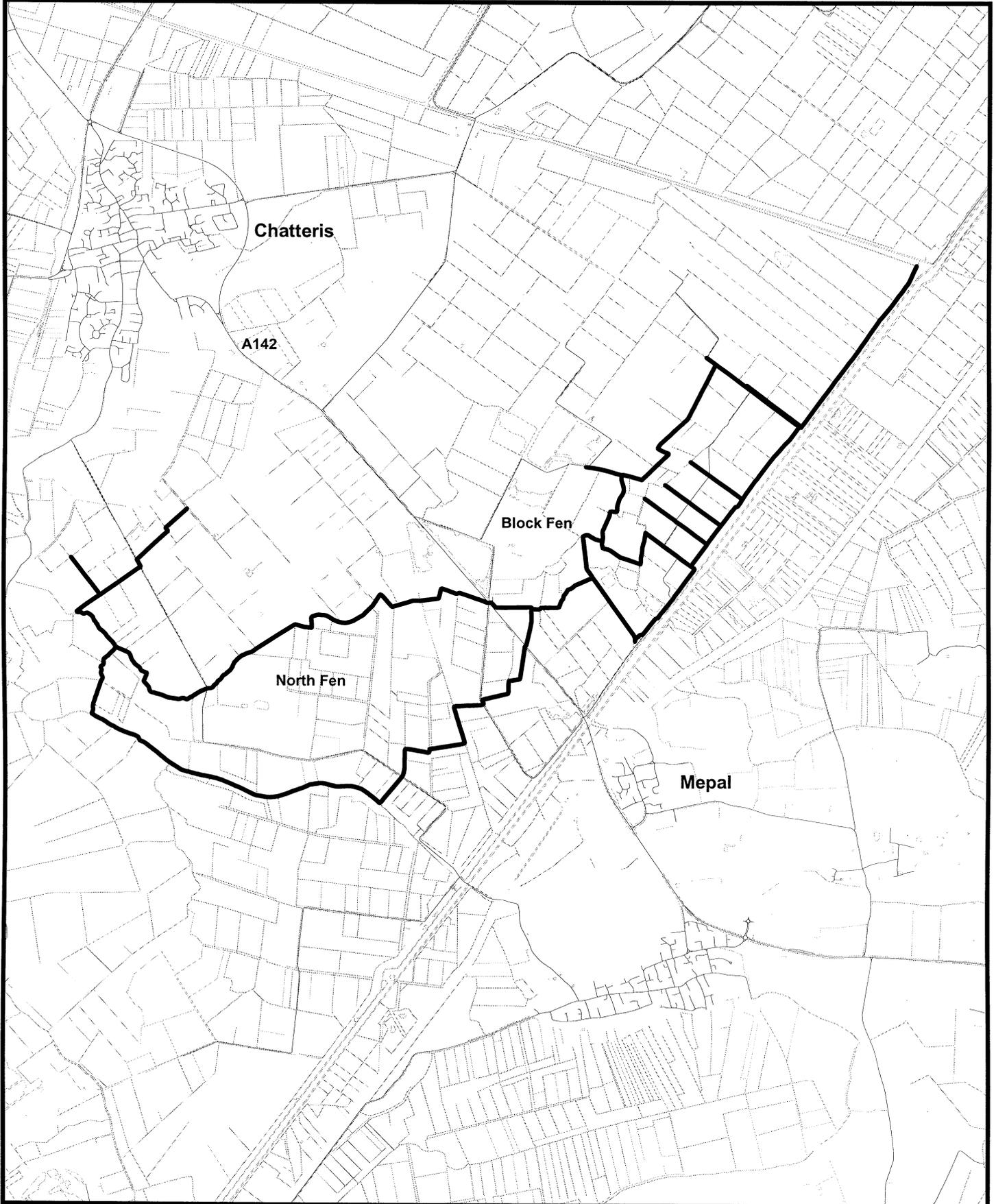
County Wildlife Site

**Surveyor**

Alastair Ross

07/07/2005

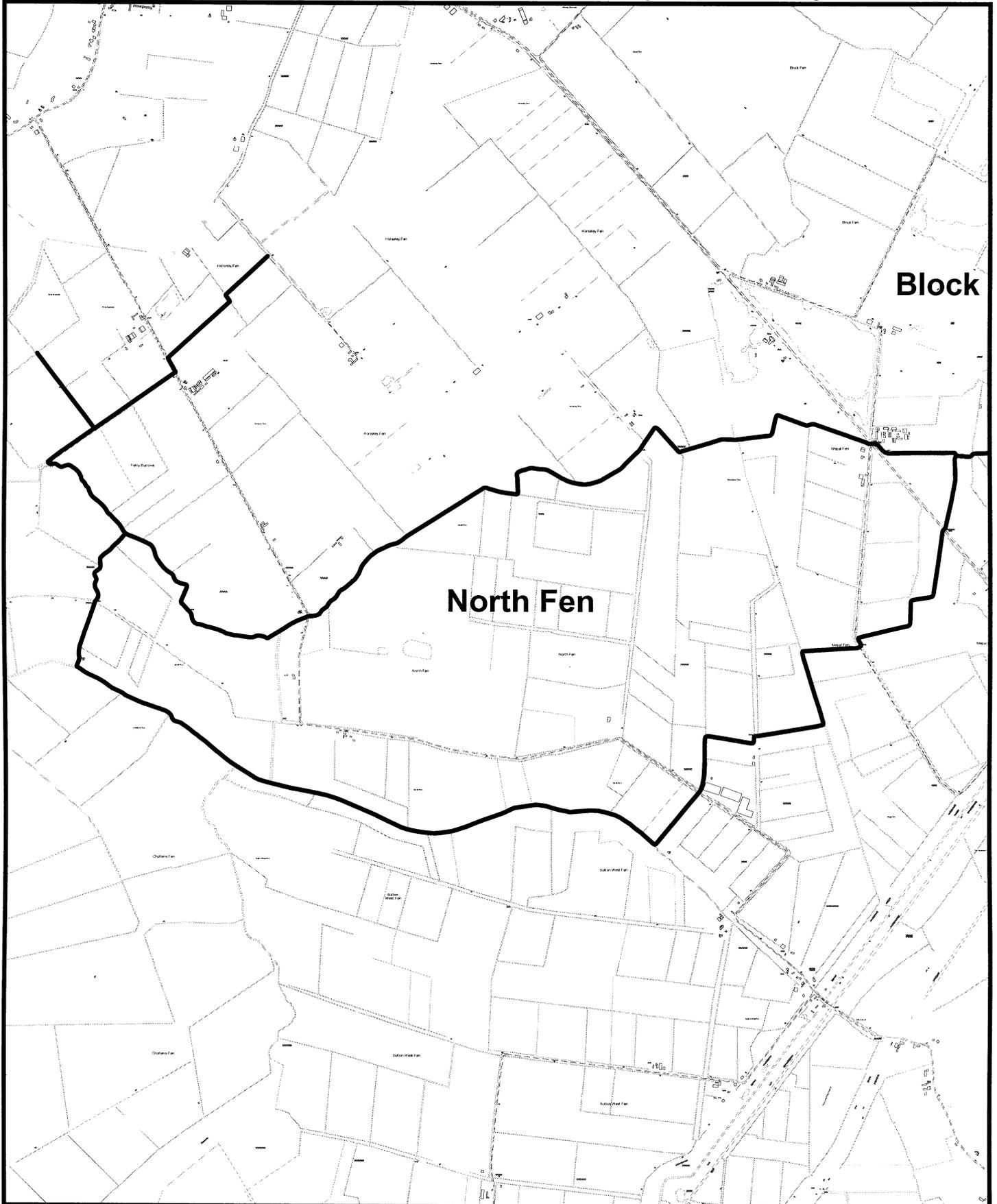
# Sutton & Mepal Pumping Station Drains (Map 1 of 3)



Grid Ref: TL4382  
Scale: 1:50000  
Plot Date: 21/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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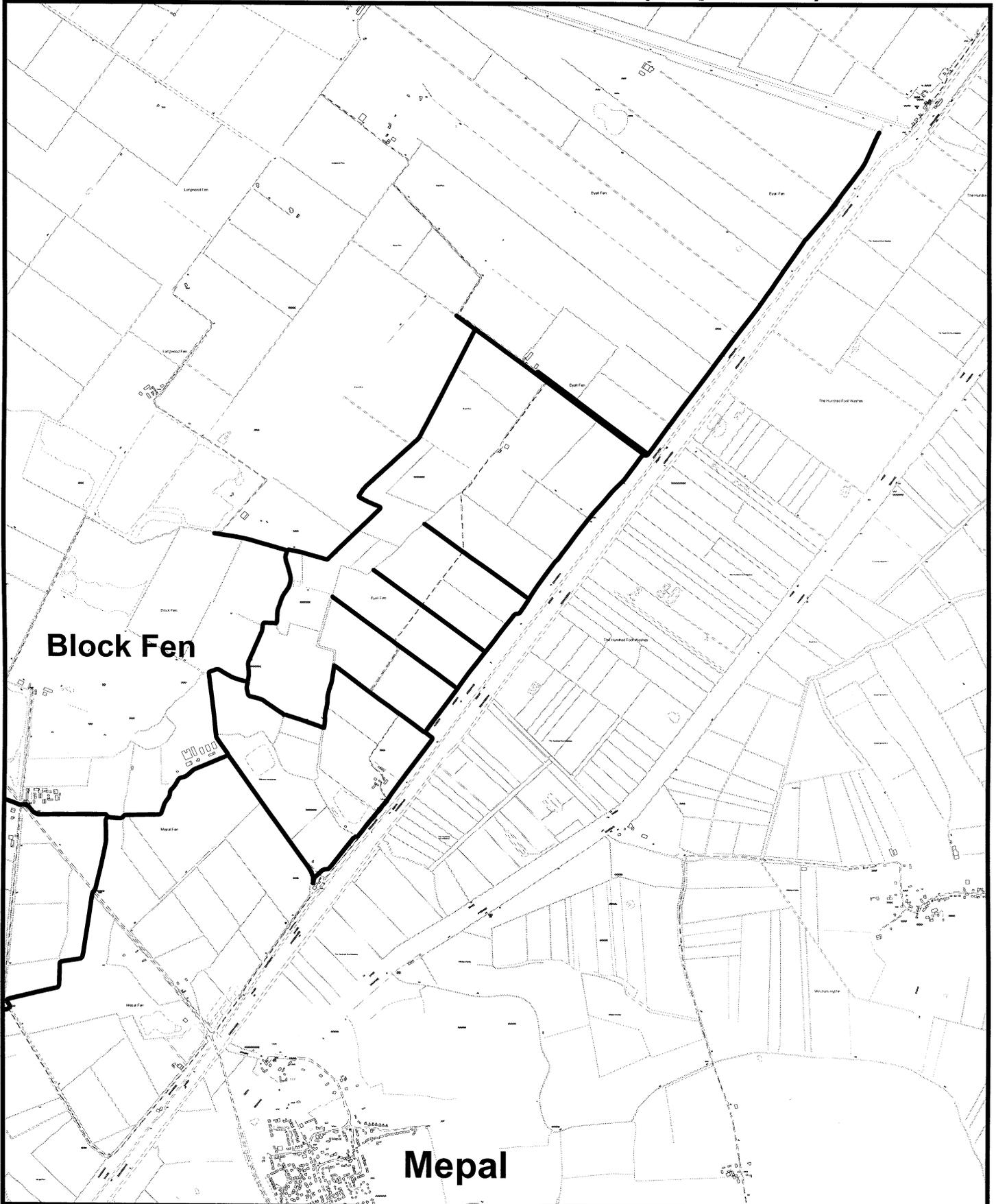
# Sutton & Mepal Pumping Station Drains (Map 2 of 3)



Grid Ref: TL4382  
Scale: 1:25000  
Plot Date: 21/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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# Sutton & Mepal Pumping Station Drains (Map 3 of 3)



Grid Ref: TL4382  
Scale: 1:25000  
Plot Date: 21/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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Site No. 7335

**COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET**NAME: **Old Rectory Meadows**

File code: E/03.6.03

Parish(es): Snailwell

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref.: TL643673

**Habitat information****Code Habitat type**

A31 Parkland/scattered trees: broad-leaved

B22 Grassland: neutral, semi-improved

**Site Area**

1.09 ha

**Site description**

Two small meadows associated with the Old Rectory. The meadows slope gently from SE to NW. The upper meadow has a more calcareous influence and is consequently more species-rich, though grassland indicator species occur in both meadows. Until recently the meadows have been unmanaged and neglected but since 2002 they have been managed by a mixture of hay cutting, horse grazing and topping.

False Oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* is the most abundant grass with Cocksfoot *Dactylis glomerata* and Rough Meadow Grass *Poa trivialis* frequent. However there are patches where finer grasses become more frequent including Red Fescue *Festuca rubra* and Yellow Oat-grass *Trisetum flavescens*. Sweet Vernal Grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum* and Meadow Foxtail *Alopecurus pratensis* are occasional while towards the top of the field there is a small patch of Crested Hair-grass *Koeleria macrantha* (outside the grazing compartment in the SE corner) and Sheep's Fescue *Festuca ovina* in the top paddock. Of the herbs typical grassland indicators include frequent to locally frequent Common Sorrel *Rumex acetosa*, Bird's-foot Trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, Lady's Bedstraw *Galium verum*, Ox-eye Daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare*, Black Knapweed *Centaurea nigra* and Cowslip *Primula veris*. These are most frequent outside the grazing paddocks though patches still occur in both paddocks, with Cowslip the main species present in the lower paddock. Other indicator species present are Wild Parsnip *Pastinaca sativa*, Field Wood-rush *Luzula campestris* and Hoary Plantain *Plantago media* (all occasional) and Common Restharrow *Ononis repens* (rare), while other herbs include frequent Creeping Buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, Yarrow *Achillea millefolium*, Germander Speedwell *Veronica chamaedrys*, Black Medick *Medicago lupulina* and Ribwort Plantain *Plantago lanceolata*; occasional Red Clover *Trifolium pratense*, Creeping Cinquefoil *Potentilla reptans* and Ground Ivy *Glechoma hederacea* and rare False Fox Sedge *Carex otrubae* and Common Mouse-ear *Cerastium fontanum*.

**Site assessment**

The site qualifies as CWS because it supports frequent numbers of at least 8 neutral grassland indicator species.

**Site status**

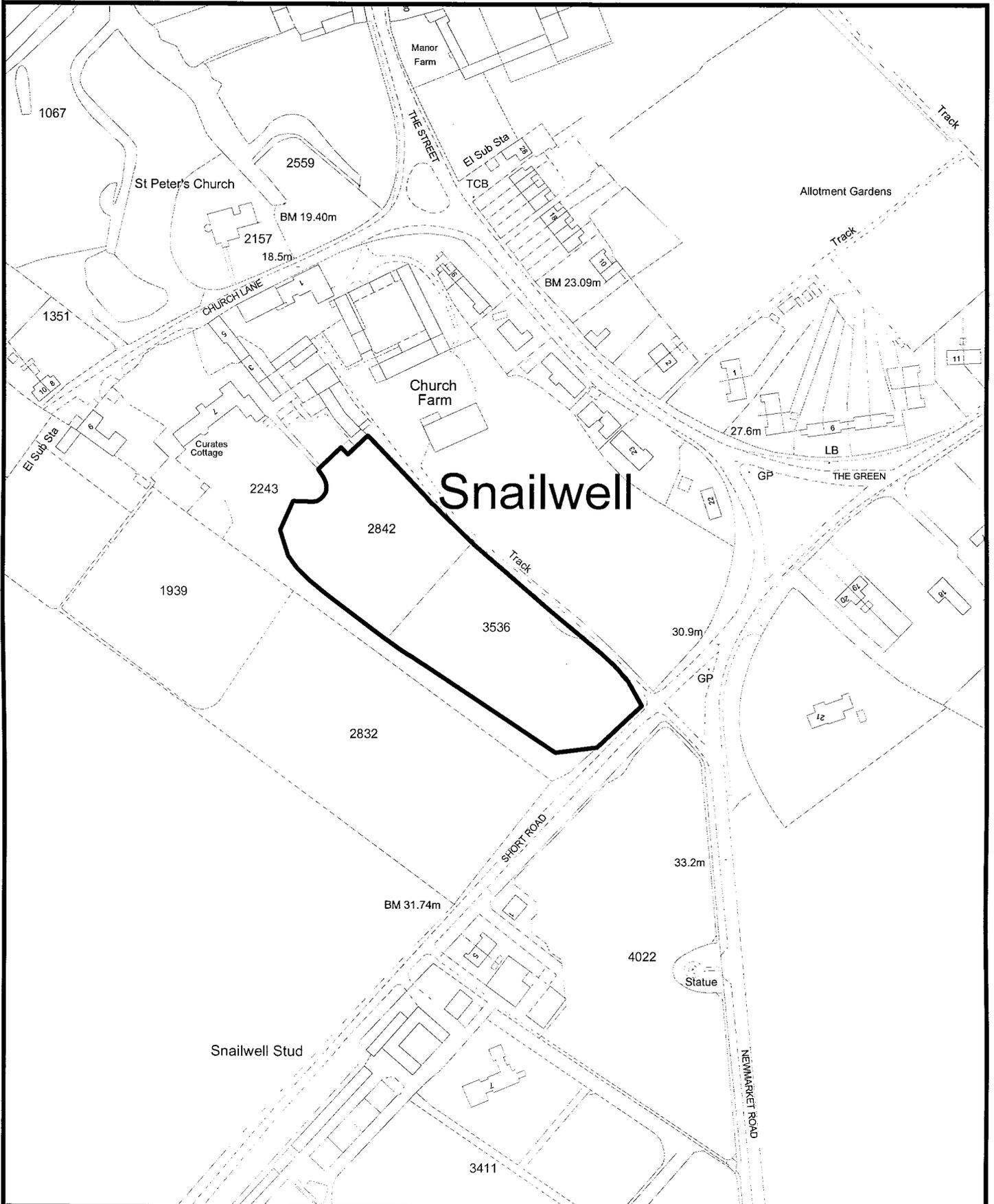
County Wildlife Site

**Surveyor**

Martin Baker

03/06/2003

# Old Rectory Meadows



Grid Ref: TL643673  
Scale: 1:2500  
Plot Date: 22/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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Site No. 7330/2

**COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET**NAME: **Snailwell Grasslands and Woods**

File code: E/08.7.03

Parish(es): Snailwell

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref.: TL6367

**Habitat information****Code Habitat type**

- A111 Woodland: broadleaved, semi-natural  
 A112 Woodland: broadleaved, plantation  
 B5 Grassland: marsh/marshy grassland  
 B6 Grassland: poor semi-improved  
 C31 Tall herb and fern: other, tall ruderal  
 G1 Open water: standing water  
 G2 Open water: running water  
 J222 Boundaries, defunct hedge, species-poor  
 WO06 *Alnus glutinosa-Urtica dioica* woodland  
 MI22 *Juncus subnodulosus-Cirsium palustre* fen-meadow

**Site Area**

17.18 ha

**Site description**

A large and complex site which encompasses a wide range of semi-natural habitat surrounding but not including Snailwell Meadows SSSI. The habitats include fen meadow of the NVC *Juncus subnodulosus - Cirsium palustre* mire community (M22), wet woodland of the NVC *Alnus glutinosa - Urtica dioica* community (W6), and the source and upper reaches of a chalk stream which forms one of the tributaries of the River Snail.

Two fields, southwest of the railway line, contain a mosaic of M22 mire, swamp communities on a drying substrate and dense tall herb vegetation with semi-improved grassland. The mire appears to have been unmanaged for a long time, with dense litter choking the new growth. The southern marsh is a complex zone within which there are also drier spots with a wet grassland habitat and a wetter area in the southern half, grading into a large ephemeral pool. The marsh has various sub-zones where single species are dominant almost to exclusion: Common Reed *Phragmites australis*, Reed Canary-grass *Phalaris arundinacea* and small areas of Reed Sweet-grass *Glyceria maxima* and Greater Reed-mace *Typha latifolia*. Where the species diversity increases there is abundant Water Mint *Mentha aquatica* and Creeping Thistle *Cirsium arvense*. Frequent / occasional species include Tufted Hair-grass *Deschampsia caespitosa*, Yorkshire Fog *Holcus lanatus*, Blunt-flowered Rush *Juncus subnodulosus*, Hard Rush *Juncus inflexus*, Brown Sedge *Carex disticha*, Hairy Sedge *Carex hirta*, Common Figwort *Scrophularia nodosa*, Branched Bur-reed *Sparganium erectum*, Square-stalked St John's-wort *Hypericum tetrapterum*, Fen Bedstraw *Galium uliginosum* and Stinging Nettle *Urtica dioica*. The large, shallow ephemeral pool, in effect a low-lying area of the marsh zone, has Water Mint dominant with frequent Blue Water-speedwell *Veronica anagallis-aquatica*, Creeping Buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, Blunt-flowered Rush and rare Celery-leaved Buttercup *Ranunculus sceleratus*, Brooklime *Veronica beccabunga*, Fen Bedstraw and Water Figwort. The grassland area is semi-improved largely due to overgrazing. Creeping Thistle and Stinging Nettle are abundant in the drier areas

with frequent / occasional Common Ragwort *Senecio jacobaea*, Common Mouse-ear *Cerastium fontanum*, Self Heal *Prunella vulgaris*, Black Medick *Medicago lupulina*, White Clover *Trifolium repens*, Lesser Trefoil *Trifolium dubium*, Yorkshire Fog *Holcus lanatus* and Creeping Bent *Agrostis stolonifera*. The many damp hollows throughout the meadow have a marsh flora similar to that described above, with additional species including Marsh Foxtail *Alopecurus geniculatus*, Marsh Thistle *Cirsium palustre* and Silverweed *Potentilla anserina*.

The 3m wide ditch that flows through the site and under the railway line in a north-easterly direction, whilst smelling from waste drainage, has about 15cm of clear water running over gravel and alluvium. The banks are very steep with a tall herb vegetation dominated by Nettle, Hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium* and Creeping Thistle with occasional Brooklime and Blue Water-speedwell along the edge.

North-east of the railway is another area of marsh, areas of wet woodland, plantation, a small lake and a small stream. The northern marsh contains a good range of species generally distributed throughout, although many are only of rare occurrence due to encroaching Grey Sallow *Salix cinerea* scrub and some disturbance from the poplar plantation. Frequent species include Greater Reed-mace, Common Reed, Blunt-flowered Rush and Hard Rush. Occasional / rare species include Tufted Hair-grass, Yorkshire Fog, Purple Loosestrife *Lythrum salicaria*, Greater Bird's-foot Trefoil *Lotus pedunculatus*, Fen Bedstraw, Square-stalked St John's-wort, Marsh Thistle, Meadow Vetchling *Lathyrus pratensis*, Tufted Vetch *Vicia cracca*, Hemp Agrimony *Eupatorium cannabinum*, Brown Sedge, Meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria* and Hairy Willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum*.

South-east of the stream is a small lake about 30cm deep with clear water and not suffering from summer drought. The slight draw-down observed is probably related to seasonal water-table fluctuation. As the lake has been dug in what was presumably once marsh / marshy grassland (adjacent habitats) the water-table is naturally high. Rigid Hornwort *Ceratophyllum demersum* and Amphibious Bistort *Persicaria amphibia* are abundant in the open water. Emergent and edge species include Water Mint, Water Forget-me-not *Myosotis scorpioides*, Greater Reed-mace, Branched Bur-reed and Yellow Flag *Iris pseudacorus*.

The Railway embankment and sidings have an area along the whole of the south edge of the plantation, which has been used to dump rubbish and rubble in a vast mound about 7m high. An intermittent tall herb and ruderal vegetation with Sallow scrub covers this mound. Species of particular interest are locally abundant Dittander, and occasional Great Mullein *Verbascum thapsus* and Common Storks-bill *Erodium cicutarium*.

The whole of the western side suffers, for at least a width of 20m, from dust from the adjacent crushing plant, though the poplars act to reduce the penetration of the dust across the CWS. On the southern boundary rubbish and rubble from the dump on the railway sidings, are falling through the post and wire fence.

The Alder *Alnus glutinosa* carr is one of the highlights of the site despite the fact that over-shading reduces ground flora diversity and its drier SE end has abundant Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* and other planted trees. The Alder is mainly from coppice of about 60 years growth. It lies over very wet, peaty ground in which the remains of a moat and fish ponds may be defined. The understorey is of scattered Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* and Elder *Sambucus nigra*. Ground flora species of interest include locally abundant Redcurrant *Ribes rubrum* and Creeping Jenny *Lysimachia nummularia*. Shading scramblers; Bramble *Rubus fruticosus*, Ivy *Hedera helix*, Bittersweet *Solanum dulcamara* and Stinging Nettle are abundant.

The Poplar hybrid *Populus x canadensis* plantation covers a large area between the industrial estate and the ditch. The older planting is in the NW half. There is little understorey except two stands of Elder and some scattered Hawthorn. The ground flora is poor but reflects the adjacent marshy grassland with abundant Water Mint and occasional Fen Bedstraw, Tufted Hair-grass, Marsh Thistle and Gipsywort *Lycopus europaeus*. However, Stinging Nettle, Creeping Thistle, Cleavers *Galium aparine* and Ground Ivy *Glechoma hederacea* are co-dominant, as is Hemlock *Conium maculatum* in patches. The Nationally Scarce species Dittander *Lepidium latifolium* occurs in a large patch adjacent to the railway.

The CWS stream on the east of the alder carr has about 15cm of clear spring water running over chalky alluvium. Next to the woodland the banks are mostly very over-shaded by Alder, willows *Salix sp.* and Elder. Where the stream is open Water Mint is abundant with rare Fool's Water-cress *Apium nodiflorum*. In the stream along the meadow north of the SSSI a variety of species are abundant / frequent including Reed Canary-grass, Hemp Agrimony, Fool's Water-cress and Water Forget-me-not.

**Site assessment**

The site qualifies as a CWS because it forms a habitat mosaic more than ten hectares in size which contains three or more of the listed habitats in close association: marshy grassland, woodland, open water and semi-improved grassland. The marshy grassland contains more than 0.05 ha of a good example of the NVC M22 Blunt-flowered Rush - Marsh Thistle community and therefore qualifies as CWS in its own right. The woodland contains approximately 0.5 ha of the NVC Alder - Stinging Nettle community. The other habitats included within the boundary are integral to the site and add to both its interest and the interest of the adjacent SSSI.

**Site status**

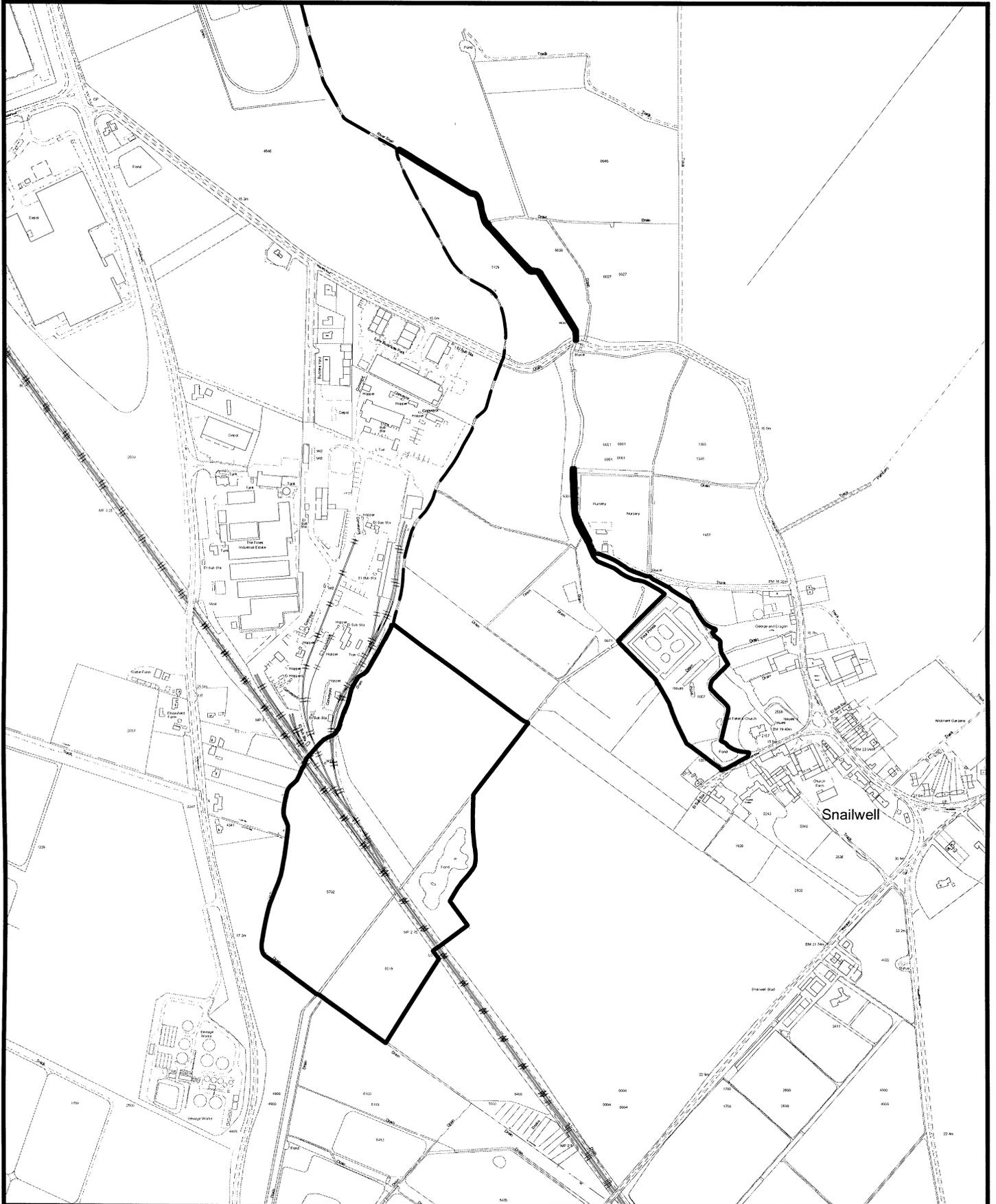
County Wildlife Site

**Surveyor**

Sharon Brown

08/07/2003

# Snailwell Grasslands and Woods



Grid Ref: TL637675  
Scale: 1:8000  
Plot Date: 20/9/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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Site No. 7360

**COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET**NAME: **The Limekilns and adjacent areas**

File code: E/12.7.05

Parish(es): Snailwell  
Chippenham

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref: TL6665

**Habitat information****Code Habitat type**

A112 Woodland: broadleaved, plantation

A31 Parkland/scattered trees: broad-leaved

A32 Parkland/scattered trees: coniferous

B21 Grassland: neutral, unimproved

B22 Grassland: neutral, semi-improved

B31 Grassland: calcareous, unimproved

B32 Grassland: calcareous, semi-improved

J21 Boundaries, intact hedge

J22 Boundaries, defunct hedge

CG03c *Bromus erectus* grassland: *Knautia arvensis*-*Bellis perennis*MG05b *Cynosurus cristatus*-*Centaurea nigra* grassland: *Galium verum***Site area**

283.09 ha

**Site description**

A very extensive area of open grassland over chalk soils which is used for racehorse training purposes by the Jockey Club. This site contains the largest area of chalk grassland in the county and probably constitutes the largest area of dry semi-natural grassland in the county. Unimproved calcareous and mesotrophic grassland is present over extensive areas. Parts of the site were surveyed in detail by English Nature in the late eighties and the following NVC communities identified; CG3c (*Bromus erectus* grassland, *Knautia arvensis* - *Bellis perennis* subcommunity) and MG5b (*Cynosurus cristatus* - *Centaurea nigra* grassland, *Galium verum* subcommunity). The site is managed by frequent mowing, most of the grassland being kept at a sward height of approximately 15cm.

The calcareous grassland, present over extensive areas is very species rich. The sward comprises abundant Upright Brome *Bromopsis erecta* together with frequent Red Fescue *Festuca rubra* agg., and Common Bent *Agrostis capillaris*. Grasses more occasional include Creeping Bent *Agrostis stolonifera*, Smaller Catstail *Phleum bertolonii*, Sweet Vernal Grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, Cocksfoot *Dactylis glomerata*, Yorkshire Fog *Holcus lanatus*, False Oat-Grass *Arrhenatherum elatius*, Downy Oat-Grass *Helictotrichon pratense*, Crested Hair-grass *Koeleria macrantha*, Briza media *Quaking Grass*. Forbs present include frequent Lady's Bedstraw *Galium verum*, Field Scabious *Knautia arvensis*, Greater Knapweed *Centaurea scabiosa*, Common Knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, Ribwort Plantain *Plantago lanceolata*, Restharrow *Ononis repens*, Salad Burnet *Sanguisorba minor*, Yarrow *Achillea millefolium*, Clover *Trifolium repens*, Red Clover *Trifolium pratense*. Other more occasional forbs include Kidney Vetch *Anthyllis vulneraria*, Bird's Foot Trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, Hoary Plantain *Plantago media*, Fairy Flax *Linum catharticum*, Squinancywort *Asperula*

*cynanchica* Agrimony *Agrimonia eupatoria*, Toadflax *Linaria vulgaris*, Harebell *Campanula rotundifolia*, Common Vetch *Vicia sativa*, Dwarf Thistle *Cirsium acaule*, Sainfoin *Onobrychis viciifolia*, Rough Hawkbit *Leontodon hispidus*, Rock Rose *Helianthemum nummularium*, Black Medick *Medicago lupulina*, Perforate St John's Wort *Hypericum perforatum*, Germander Speedwell *Veronica chamaedrys*, Cowslip *Primula veris*, Thyme *Thymus polytrichus*, and Small Scabious *Scabiosa columbaria*. Three small areas are especially species rich, one in the extreme south-east corner of the site, the second is located just east of One Mile Plantation, and the third is situated in the far south-west corner.

Some parts of the site are occupied by semi-improved calcareous and mesotrophic swards which nevertheless support good numbers of calcareous and neutral grassland indicator species.

Historical records (English Nature Grassland Inventory) indicate the site also supports a population of the locally rare species Cyprus Spurge *Euphorbia cyparissias*. However, the current survey found no evidence of the species on the site.

#### **Site assessment**

The site qualifies as CWS because it supports at least 0.05ha of CG3 Upright Brome grassland and 0.05ha of MG5 Crested Dog's-tail - Black Knapweed grassland. It also qualifies by supporting frequent numbers of six or more strong calcareous grassland indicator species. Additionally it supports a vascular plant species which is rare in the county.

#### **Note**

Following the findings of this year's survey it is proposed the existing site boundary on the south-eastern part of the site be extended up to the hedgerow boundary with the main road. A large proportion of this grassland area is currently being sensitively managed to benefit skylarks and meadow pipits nesting in the area; unlike the rest of the site the grass is left uncut from April through to August. Additionally, despite semi-improvement the sward in this area displays a good number of neutral to calcareous grassland indicator species. Discussions are required with the landowners before the boundary is finalised.

#### **Site status**

County Wildlife Site

#### **Surveyors**

Alastair Ross

Emma Ogden

12/07/2005



Site No. 7142

## COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET

**NAME:** Broad Piece

File code: E/30.09.05

Parish(es): Soham

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref.: TL581,743

### Habitat information

#### **Code** *Habitat type*

A112	Broadleaved plantation
A21	Scrub: dense/continuous
A22	Scrub: scattered
B22	Neutral grassland: semi-improved
B6	Grassland: poor semi-improved
C31	Tall herb and fern: other, tall ruderal
F1	Swamp
G1	Open water: standing water
J21	Boundaries, intact hedge
J22	Boundaries, defunct hedge
J23	Boundaries, hedge with trees
J262	Boundaries, seasonally wet ditch
S4	<i>Phragmites australis</i> swamp and reedbeds
S7	<i>Carex acutiformis</i> swamp

### **Site area**

5.72 ha

### **Site description**

An area of Common Land comprising an intricate and diverse mosaic of habitats, that includes two types of fen, wet woodland, scrub, hedgerows, drains, and species rich grassland.

The very western extreme of the site is an area of scrub, with frequent Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, Brambles *Rubus fruticosus* agg, and occasional Crack Willow *Salix fragilis*, Elder *Sambucus nigra* and Elm *Ulmus* sp.

To the north of the Hatchery is a stand (approximately 90m by 50m) of S4 Common Reed *Phragmites australis* swamp. Common Reed dominates this area, with frequent Creeping Thistle *Cirsium arvense*, and occasional Crack Willow and Grey Willow *Salix cinerea*. Adjacent to the swamp is tall mesotrophic grassland (to the north) and to the east a small stand of abundant Lesser Pond Sedge *Carex acutiformis* surrounded by frequent Crack Willow and occasional White Willow *Salix alba* and Alder *Alnus glutinosa*.

Directly adjacent to Broad Piece road at TL5804,7448 is a small strip (approximately 80 long by 20m wide) of quite species rich neutral grassland. Species present include frequent Tufted Hair Grass *Deschampsia cespitosa*, Red Fescue *Festuca rubra* agg., Common Knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, Hairy Sedge *Carex hirta*, Ribwort Plantain *Plantago lanceolata*, Wild Angelica *Angelica sylvestris*. Occasional species include Self

Heal *Prunella vulgaris*, Ground Ivy *Glechoma hederacea*, Hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium*, Oxeye Daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare*, Cow Parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris*, and Yarrow *Achillea millefolium*.

Immediately to the south of this grassland is a stand of S7 Lesser Pond Sedge *Carex acutiformis* swamp, an area approximately 40m by 40m. There is abundant Lesser Pond Sedge, frequent Greater Pond Sedge, Wild Angelica, and Great Willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum*; also present is occasional Common Reed *Phragmites australis* and Amphibious Bistort *Persicaria amphibia*.

Directly southeast of the large electricity pylon is a small area of wet woodland with abundant Grey Willow *Salix cinerea*, occasional Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and rare Goat Willow *Salix caprea*. The ground flora consists of frequent Lesser Pond Sedge *Carex acutiformis*, with occasional Greater Pond Sedge *Carex riparia* and Common Reed *Phragmites australis*. The whole area is damp with occasional pools of standing water, and appears to be periodically flooded by water from the drain which runs directly behind the area. This drain bisects the southern half of the site. The drain is 1.5m wide with water approximately 0.3m deep. Species present include frequent Greater Bulrush *Typha latifolia*, Lesser Pond Sedge, and occasional Watercress *Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum* Greater Pond Sedge, Amphibious bistort *Persicaria amphibia*, Purple Loosestrife *Lythrum salicaria*, Yellow Flag *Iris pseudacorus*, and Hard Rush *Juncus inflexus*.

Centred around TL5825,7427 is another patch of more species rich neutral grassland. Species include abundant False Oat Grass *Arrhenatherum elatius*, locally frequent Tufted Hair Grass and Common Knapweed, and occasional Red Fescue, Wild Carrot *Daucus carota*, Yarrow, and Ox-eye daisy. This area of grassland has recently been planted with five rows of young broadleaved trees (approximately 3-4m high); species planted include Ash, Grew Willow, Alder, Goat Willow, Rowan *Sorbus aucuparia* and Dogwood *Cornus sanguinea*.

An enclosed rectangular field at the south side of the site is used for horse grazing. The vegetation comprises poor semi-improved grassland with frequent scattered tall ruderals. Species present include frequent Red Fescue *Festuca rubra* agg, Yorkshire Fog *Holcus lanatus*, Self Heal *Prunella vulgaris*, Creeping Cinquefoil *Potentilla reptans*, Creeping Thistle *Cirsium arvense*, Teasel *Dipsacus fullonum*. At time of survey the sward was closely cropped with an average height of 2-3cm. Dense hedgerows/scrub borders the grassland more or less around its whole perimeter. The hedge appears unmanaged, approximately 4-5m high, species present include frequent Hawthorn, Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, Brambles *Rubus fruticosus* agg., Dog Rose *Rosa canina* agg., and occasional Elder.

#### **Site assessment**

The site qualifies as CWS because it is a site at least 0.1 ha in extent which has a combination of two or more fen types (in this case S4 Common Reed, and S7 Lesser Pond Sedge).

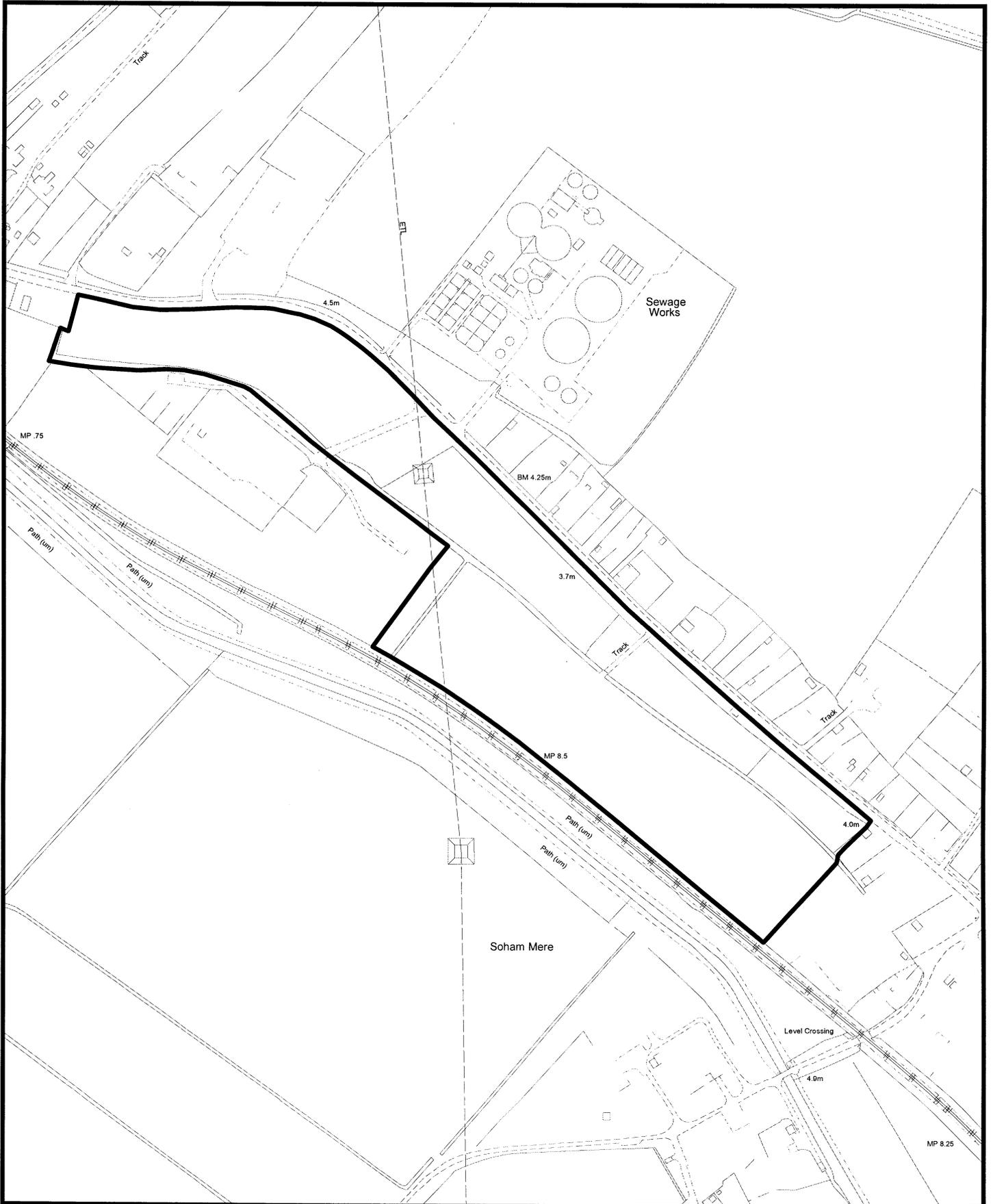
#### **Site status**

County Wildlife Site

#### **Surveyor**

Alastair Ross  
29/09/2005

# Broad Piece



Grid Ref: TL581743  
Scale: 1:3500  
Plot Date: 3/10/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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Site No. 7382

**COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET**NAME: **East Fen Common and The Wash**

File code: E/23.6.03

Parish(es): Soham

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref.: TL6073

**Habitat information****Code** *Habitat type*

A22 Scrub: scattered

B21 Grassland: neutral, unimproved

B22 Grassland: neutral, semi-improved

C3 Tall herb and fern: other tall herb or fern

F1 Swamp

G1 Open water: standing water

G2 Open water: running water

MG05 *Cynosurus cristatus-Centaurea nigra* grasslandMG13 *Agrostis stolonifera-Alopecurus geniculatus* grassland**Site Area**

26.77 ha

**Site description**

The common is a large open area of grassland crossed by a number of dry and wet ditches, track and roads. The site is largely occupied by semi-improved neutral grassland but a number of relatively unimproved communities are also present. In several parts of the common, particularly the southern half, the ground is uneven and the low hillocks support a fine, short turf with calcareous influences. In this sward species include Red Fescue *Festuca rubra* agg., Creeping Bent *Agrostis stolonifera*, Glaucous Sedge *Carex flacca*, Dwarf Thistle *Cirsium acaule*, Quaking Grass *Briza media*, Rough Hawkbit *Leontodon hispidus*, Bird's-foot Trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, Mouse-ear Hawkweed *Pilosella officinarum*, Cowslip *Primula veris*, Agrimony *Agrimonia eupatoria* and Bee Orchid *Ophrys apifera*. A similar turf is to be found on the banks of several of the ditches that cross the common.

Lower lying parts of the common support small areas of MG13 inundation grassland characterised by abundant Marsh Foxtail *Alopecurus geniculatus* and Creeping Bent with Sweet Vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, Creeping Buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, Meadow Buttercup *Ranunculus acris*, Tubular Water-dropwort *Oenanthe fistulosa*, Brown Sedge *Carex disticha*, Hairy Sedge *Carex hirta*, Lesser Stitchwort *Stellaria graminea*, Hard Rush *Juncus inflexus*, Pink Water-speedwell *Veronica catenata*, Marsh Bedstraw *Galium palustre* and Silverweed *Potentilla anserina*.

Much of the grassland has however, been improved and very few species of interest survive. The grasses Meadow Barley *Hordeum secalinum* and Yellow Oat-grass *Trisetum flavescens* remain frequent but herb species including Common Sorrel *Rumex acetosa*, Lady's Bedstraw, Cowslip, Agrimony and Black Knapweed *Centaurea nigra* are scarce.

Several species recorded during the mid 1990s were not recorded during this most recent survey, including, Common Milkwort *Polygala vulgaris*, Adder's-tongue *Ophioglossum vulgatum*, Meadow Saxifrage

*Saxifraga granulata*, Distant Sedge *Carex distans*, Field Wood-rush *Luzula campestris* and Ox-eye Daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare*.

At the southern end of the common is a short track called The Wash, with grassland fields to both sides. The grassland itself is improved or semi-improved, though the mature hedgerows, over 5 metres tall and in places up to 4 metres wide, contain at least six large mature pollarded White Willow *Salix alba*, three fewer than in the mid-1990's.

Other habitats present on the site include sedge swamp, willow scrub, tall herb vegetation locally dominated by Hairy Willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum* and Stinging Nettle *Urtica dioica*. The western boundary of the common is formed by Soham Lode. This watercourse is separated from the common by a steep embankment over 2m high which is dominated by coarse species-poor grassland and tall herb vegetation. There is little aquatic or marginal vegetation, with only Reed Canary Grass *Phalaris arundinacea*, Gipsywort *Lycopus europaeus*, Meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria* and Hairy Willowherb present. Otters have recently been recorded using this section of the Soham Lode and Water Voles are present on the Lode downstream.

The main part of the common has been encroached upon by a number of private houses and gardens; these are excluded from the site. A number of young planted trees are present in this part of the common. The common is grazed by tethered horses and other stock. Reports from earlier survey work suggest that the site has supporting breeding waders in the past but the deteriorating habitat conditions make this unlikely today.

#### **Site assessment**

The site qualifies as CWS because it supports at least 0.05ha of MG5 Crested Dog's-tail - Black Knapweed grassland. Additionally, it supports frequent numbers of at least 3 strong neutral grassland indicator species and has at least 5 mature willow pollards.

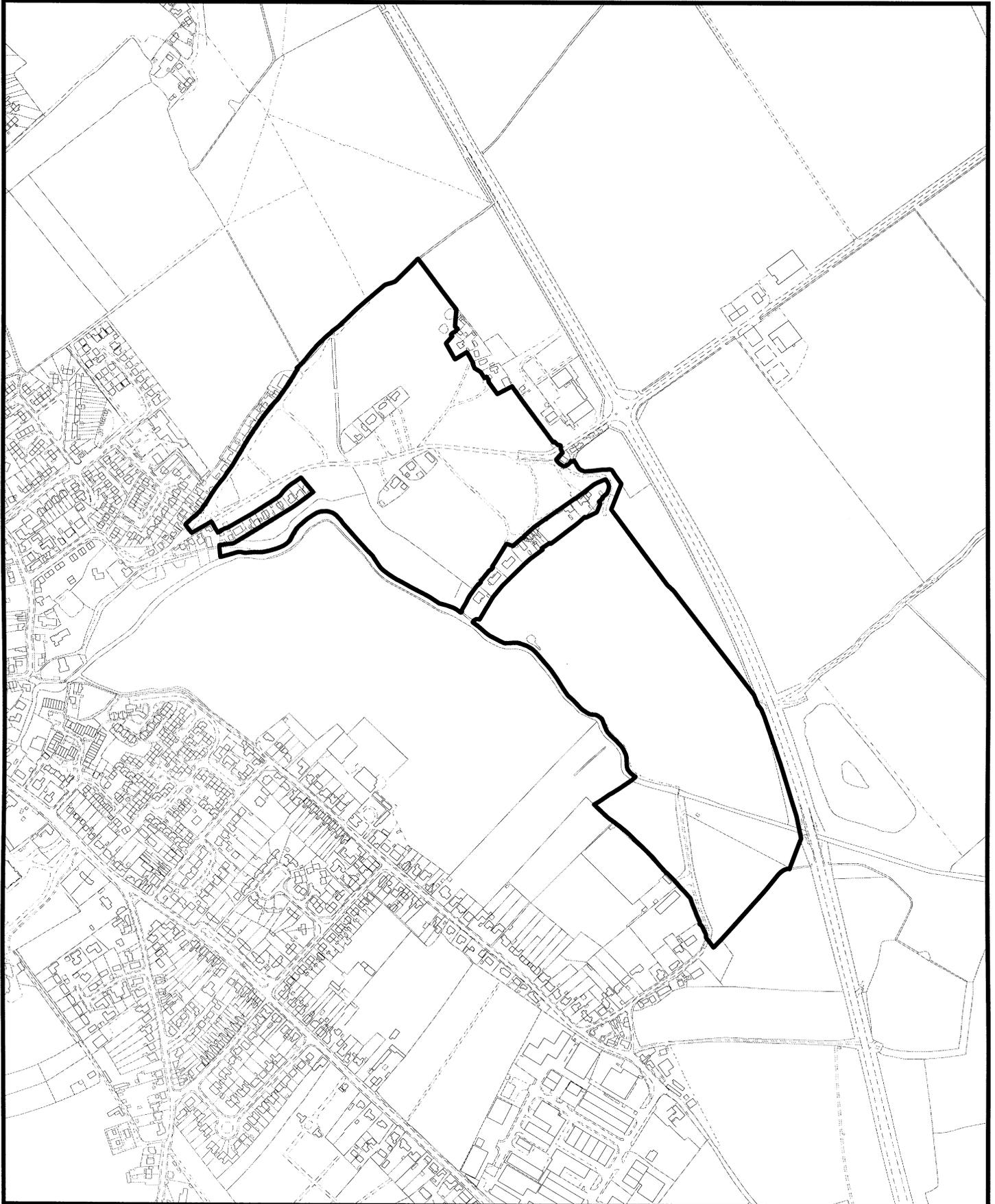
#### **Site status**

County Wildlife Site  
former Site of Natural History Interest  
Common land

#### **Surveyor**

Martin Baker  
10/07/2002  
Sharon Brown  
23/06/03

# East Fen Common and the Wash



Grid Ref: TL603732  
Scale: 1:7500  
Plot Date: 22/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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Site No. 7140

**COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET**NAME: **Mere Side Grasslands**

File code: E/3.6.03

Parish(es): Soham

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref.: TL586737

**Habitat information****Code** *Habitat type*

A21	Scrub: dense/continuous
A22	Scrub: scattered
B21	Grassland: neutral, unimproved
B22	Grassland: neutral, semi-improved
B6	Grassland: poor semi-improved
F1	Swamp
F2	Marginal/inundation
G1	Open water: standing water
G2	Open water: running water
J212	Boundaries, intact hedge, species-poor
J261	Boundaries, permanently wet ditch
J262	Boundaries, seasonally wet ditch

**Site Area**

5.39 ha

**Site description**

The site comprises three small fields crossed by ditches and with damp depressions and ponds. The two western fields have Soham Lode as their western boundary and are connected to the eastern field by a crossing over the railway. Most of the grassland is of semi-improved quality, though the southern field west of the railway is unimproved species-rich grassland with good quantities of several grassland indicator species. These include Black Knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, Agrimony *Agrimonia eupatoria*, Spiny Restharrow *Ononis spinosa*, Bird's-foot Trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, Common Fleabane *Pulicaria dysenterica*, Meadow Vetchling *Lathyrus pratensis*, Ox-eye Daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare*, Hoary Plantain *Senecio erucifolius*, Brown Sedge *Carex disticha*, Glaucous Sedge *Carex flacca*, Hairy Sedge *Carex hirta*, Round-fruited Rush *Juncus compressus*, Hoary Plantain *Plantago media* and Cowslip *Primula veris*. Meadow Rue *Thalictrum flavum* is also present in the NW corner. There are four ponds in this field, one of which has been used to dump various organic material, and the other three overtaken to a greater or lesser extent by Common Reed *Phragmites australis* with a range of other wetland plants such as Lesser Reedmace *Typha angustifolia*, Yellow Flag *Iris pseudacorus*, Creeping Jenny *Lysimachia nummularia*, Common Fleabane, Marsh Bedstraw *Galium palustre*, Water Forget-me-not *Myosotis scorpioides* and Water Mint. Reed and Sedge Warblers were breeding here at time of the survey.

In the northern-most field some grassland interest remains, especially on the banks of small ditches, some of which are wet and support a good variety of aquatic plants, including Creeping Jenny, Common Fleabane, Cuckoo-flower *Cardamine pratensis*, Field Horsetail *Equisetum arvense*, Marsh Horsetail *Equisetum palustre*, Yellow Flag, Jointed Rush *Juncus articulatus* and Greater Pond Sedge *Carex riparia*. Other grassland indicator species include Bird's-foot Trefoil, Black Knapweed, Glaucous Sedge, Cowslip, Spiny

Restharrow, Rough Hawkbit *Leontodon hispidus*, Common Sorrel *Rumex acetosa* and Yellow Oat-grass *Trisetum flavescens*. A small area is separated from the rest of the field by a ditch. Ant hills are present in this area and the uneven nature of the ground has prevented it from being cut, consequently this area is dominated by coarse grasses. Towards the southern end of the field Creeping Thistle has become locally abundant. Dense scrub and hedgerows dominated by Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* and Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa* form the eastern boundary of both the western fields.

East of the railway is a horse-grazed paddock, that has recently been sub-divided. Part comprises tall grassland that has recently been fenced off from the rest of the field and a pond. This large pond and surrounding vegetation, is valuable for its marginal plant communities. The main grassland area has suffered some disturbance but still supports an interesting range of wet and dry grassland species. Grassland indicator species present include Meadow Barley *Hordeum secalinum*, Glaucous Sedge, Hairy Sedge, Black Knapweed, Lady's Bedstraw, Meadow Vetchling, Ox-eye Daisy, Bird's-foot Trefoil and Common Fleabane, though most occur only rarely.

**Site assessment**

The site qualifies as CWS because it supports frequent numbers of at least eight neutral grassland indicator species. The site's character and interest as a low-lying riverside grassland is enhanced by several ponds, ditches and dense and scattered scrub, including mature hedges.

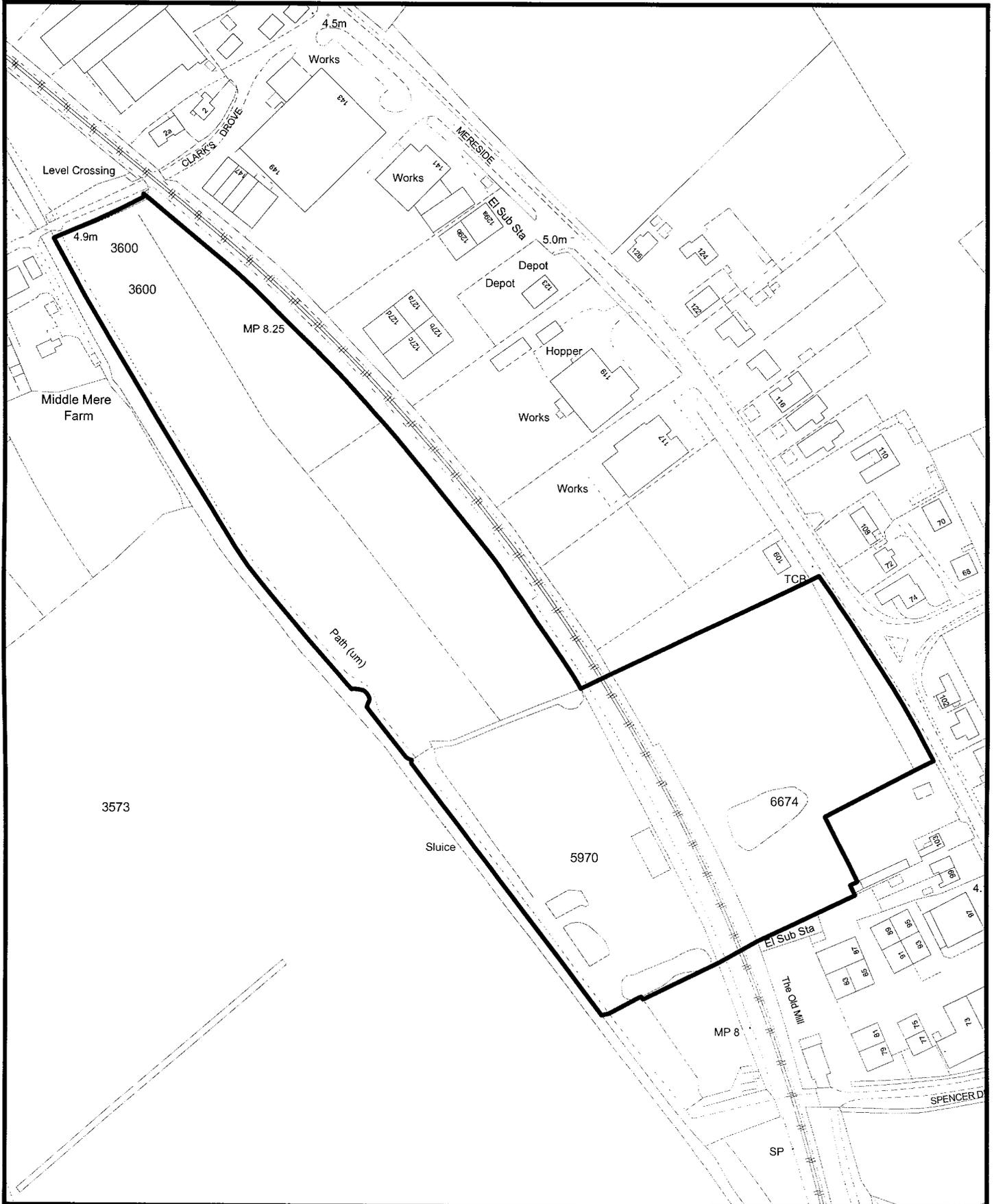
**Site status**

County Wildlife Site  
former Site of Natural History Interest

**Surveyor**

Martin Baker  
10/07/2002 & 03/06/03

# Mere Side Grasslands



Grid Ref: TL586737  
 Scale: 1:2500  
 Plot Date: 22/7/2005  
 By: Wildlife Trust  
 for CCC

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Site No. 7154

## COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET

NAME: **Qua Fen Common**

File code: E/23.6.03

Parish(es): Soham

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref.: TL5974

### Habitat information

#### **Code** *Habitat type*

- A112 Woodland: broadleaved, plantation
- B21 Grassland: neutral, unimproved
- B22 Grassland: neutral, semi-improved
- B6 Grassland: poor semi-improved
- F21 Marginal/inundation: marginal
- G1 Open water: standing water
- J212 Boundaries, intact hedge, species-poor
- J261 Boundaries, permanently wet ditch
- MG05 *Cynosurus cristatus-Centaurea nigra* grassland

#### **Site Area**

20.07 ha

### Site description

This site, which is common land, consists of large areas of semi-improved and unimproved neutral grassland crossed by ditches and with a number of ponds, ranging from seasonally wet to permanently water filled. The site was grazed by cattle and horses throughout the summer, though in recent years grazing has been replaced by cutting or no management resulting in a decline in the most species-rich areas of grassland.

The patches of unimproved grassland, found east of Bushel Lane, is of the NVC *Centaurea nigra* - *Cynosurus cristatus* community (MG5) and has a rich variety of grasses including Red Fescue *Festuca rubra*, Crested Dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus*, Yellow Oat-grass *Trisetum flavescens*, Quaking Grass *Briza media*, Meadow Barley *Hordeum secalinum*, Erect Brome *Bromus erectus*, and Yorkshire Fog *Holcus lanatus*. A broad range of herbs include Spiny Restharrow *Ononis spinosa*, Lady's Bedstraw *Galium verum*, Bird's-foot Trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, Glaucous Sedge *Carex flacca*, Rough Hawkbit *Leontodon hispidus*, Hoary Plantain *Plantago media*, Hairy Sedge *Carex hirta*, Common Sorrel *Rumex acetosa* and Self Heal *Prunella vulgaris*.

In other parts of the site, small areas of species-rich grassland remain, particularly on ditch banks. These are similar, if slightly less species-rich, to those already described. However, most of the site is now species-poor semi-improved grassland dominated by coarse grasses such as Cocksfoot *Dactylis glomerata*, Meadow Foxtail *Alopecurus pratensis*, Yorkshire Fog and Common Couch *Elytrigia repens* with few herbs such as, Creeping Buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, Meadow Buttercup *Ranunculus acris*, Creeping Cinquefoil *Potentilla reptans*, Common Mouse-ear *Cerastium fontanum*, Hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium*, Cow Parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris* and patches of Creeping Thistle *Cirsium arvense*. In damper areas Tufted Hair-grass *Deschampsia cespitosa*, Marsh Foxtail *Alopecurus geniculatus* and False-fox Sedge *Carex otrubae* occur.

Ponds west of Bushel Lane are linked by a system of wet ditches. Two of the ponds contain areas of open water and support large populations of ducks; another has large beds of Hard Rush *Juncus inflexus*. Some of the ditches are species-rich with such emergent plants as Celery-leaved Buttercup *Ranunculus sceleratus*, Brooklime *Veronica beccabunga*, False Fox-sedge, Fool's Water-cress *Apium nodiflorum* and Gipsy-wort *Lycopus europaeus*. Other ponds on the site have very low water levels or are seasonal but have an interesting array of aquatic plants, with the most species-rich of these at the southern end of the site. Around these ponds are also a zone of marshy vegetation increasing the species-richness. Species found include, Tubular Water-dropwort *Oenanthe fistulosa*, Water-cress *Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum*, Thread-leaved Water-crowfoot *Ranunculus trichophyllus*, Water Starworts *Callitriche sp.*, Floating Sweet-grass *Glyceria fluitans*, Pink Water-speedwell *Veronica catenata*, Water-violet *Hottonia palustris*, Blunt-flowered Rush *Juncus subnodulosus*, Common Spike-rush *Eleocharis palustris*, Bulbous Rush *Juncus bulbosus*, Greater Pond Sedge *Carex riparia*, Celery-leaved Buttercup and Marsh Foxtail. The site has few boundary features except garden fences and hedges, but one semi-natural Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* hedge in the far south of the site is tall and allowed to fruit. In places there are small areas of recently planted broadleaved trees. Earth banks have been created around some margins of the common to deter travellers and these support ruderal communities.

**Site assessment**

The site qualifies as CWS because it contains at least 0.05 ha of the NVC Common Knapweed - Crested Dog's-tail grassland community, and also supports frequent numbers of at least three strong neutral grassland indicators. The interest of this common with its substantial areas of unimproved grassland is enhanced by its floristically rich ponds and ditches and the mature boundary hedgerows.

**Site status**

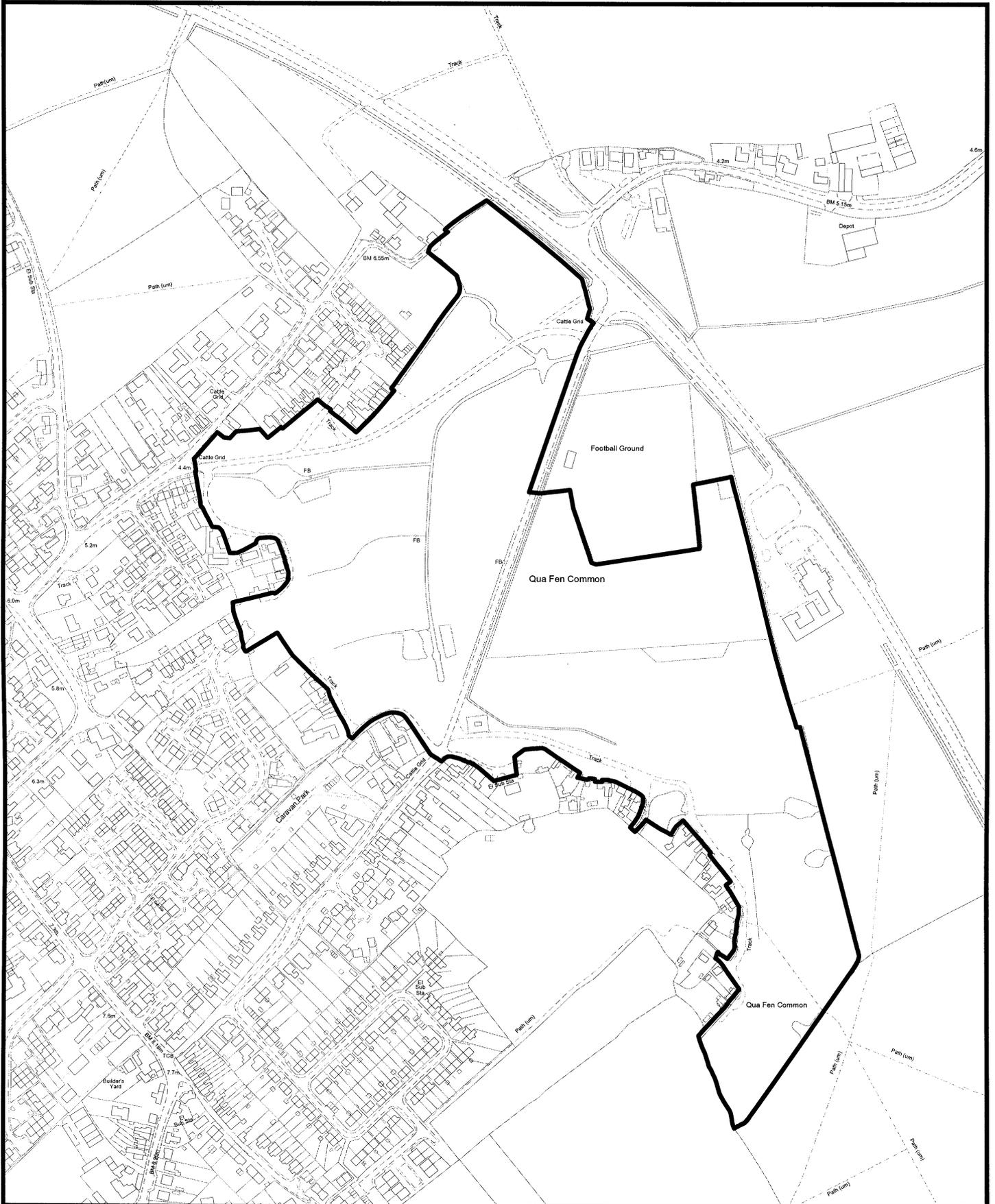
County Wildlife Site  
former Site of Natural History Interest  
Common land

**Surveyor**

Martin Baker  
10/07/2002

Sharon Brown  
17/06/03 & 23/06/03

# Qua Fen Common



Grid Ref: TL597741  
Scale: 1:5000  
Plot Date: 22/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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Site No. 7149

**COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET**NAME: **Soham Cemetery**

File code: E/17.6.05

Parish(es): Soham

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref: TL599723

**Habitat information****Code** *Habitat type*

A31 Parkland/scattered trees: broad-leaved

A32 Parkland/scattered trees: coniferous

B22 Grassland: neutral, semi-improved

J21 Boundaries, intact hedge

J25 Boundaries, wall

**Site area**

2.53 ha

**Site description**

A large cemetery containing short mown neutral grassland. At time of survey the grass had been recently cut with a sward height of 3-4cm. The distribution of forb species is somewhat patchy but in places they dominate the grass component of the sward. Frequent species include Mouse-ear Hawkweed *Pilosella officinarum*, Daisy *Bellis perennis*, Creeping Cinquefoil *Potentilla reptans*, Germander Speedwell *Veronica chamaedrys*, Self Heal *Prunella vulgaris*, Hoary Plantain *Plantago media*, Ground Ivy *Glechoma hederacea* and Yarrow *Achillea millefolium*. Other forbs present at lower frequencies include, Bird's Foot Trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, Lady's Bedstraw *Galium verum*, Ribwort Plantain *Plantago lanceolata*, Rough Hawkbit *Leontodon hispidus*, Common Knapweed *Centaurea nigra*. Other forbs that have been noted in past surveys include Hairy Sedge *Carex hirta*, Wild Parsnip *Pastinaca sativa*, Salad Burnet *Sanguisorba minor*, Cowslip *Primula veris*, Field Scabious *Knautia arvensis*, and Ox-eye Daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare*; there was no evidence of these species on this visit despite an extensive search. It is possible that an intensive cutting regime has resulted in the gradual disappearance of these species over the last decade.

The cemetery contains frequent scattered conifer and broadleaved trees. Most frequent is Yew *Taxus baccata*; other tree species include Common Lime *Tilia x europaea*, Beech *Fagus sylvatica*, Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and Silver Birch *Betula pendula*. The site is bounded by stone walls to northeast and northwest and to southwest by a low wall with scattered shrubs. On the southeast side is a recent extension to the cemetery which contains species-poor grassland; this part of the cemetery is not included in the site.

**Site assessment**

The site historically has qualified as CWS because it supports frequent numbers of at least 8 neutral grassland indicator species. This survey only managed to find 6 such species and as such the site does not meet the qualifying criteria. However, it should be noted the sward height was particularly short at the time of survey potentially hindering observations, it is possible the site has deteriorated in botanical interest in recent years. A less intensive cutting regime should be considered for the site, and a reappraisal then made of the qualifying status.

**Site status**

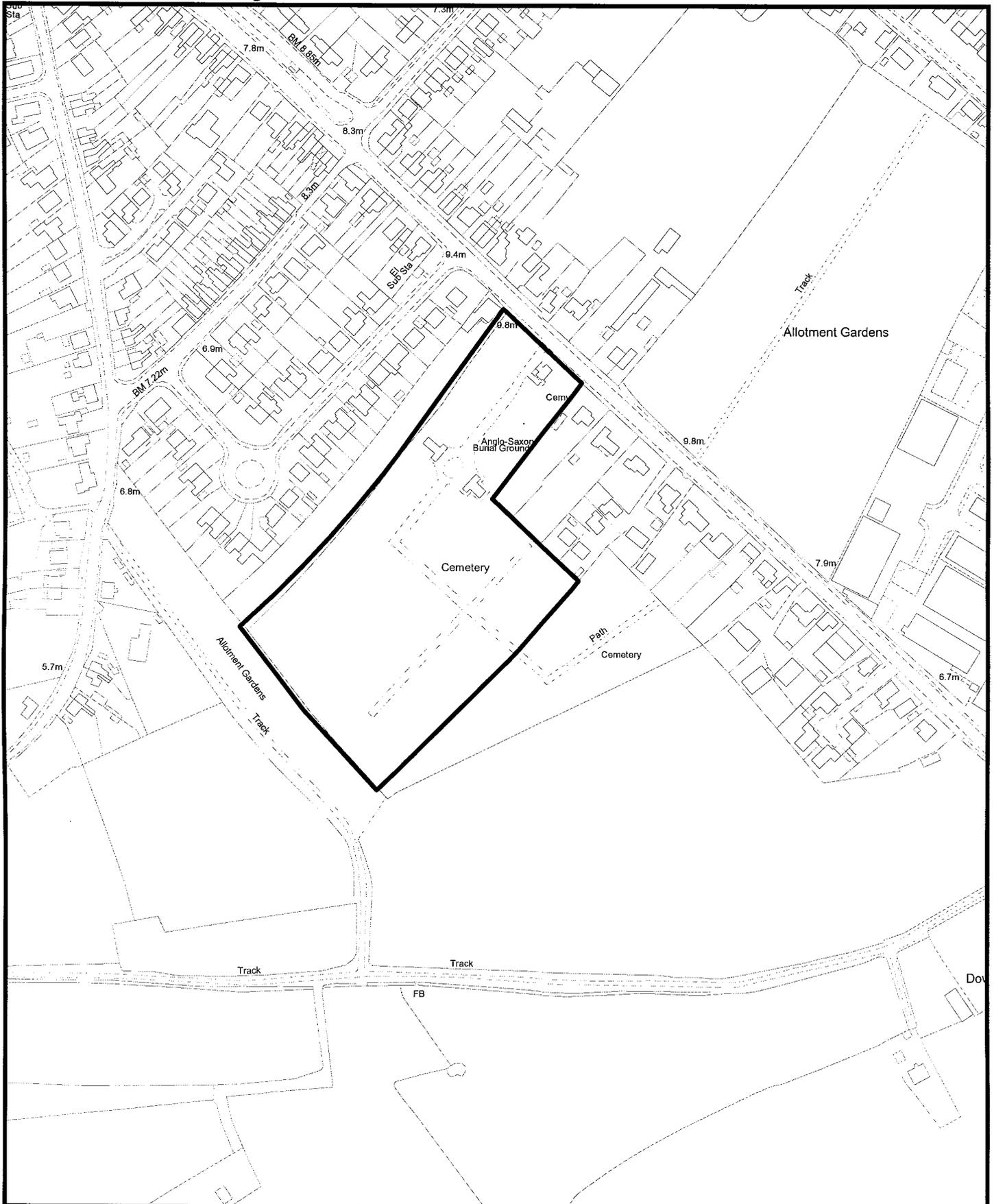
County Wildlife Site, currently in unfavourable condition.

**Surveyor**

Alastair Ross

17/06/2005

# Soham Cemetery



Grid Ref: TL599723  
Scale: 1:3000  
Plot Date: 21/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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Site No. 7284

**COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET**NAME: **Basefield Wood**

File code: E/17.5.05

Parish(es): Stetchworth

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref: TL651570

**Habitat information****Code** *Habitat type*

A111 Woodland: broadleaved, semi-natural

A112 Woodland: broadleaved, plantation

A122 Woodland: coniferous, plantation

A132 Woodland: mixed, plantation

J262 Boundaries, seasonally wet ditch

**Site area**

20.99 ha

**Site description**

An ancient woodland site with approximately one third semi-natural cover remaining. The semi-natural woodland which occupies the southern section of the wood is dominated by Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and Pedunculate Oak *Quercus Robur* standards over old Hazel *Corylus avellana* coppice. Occasional Field Maple standards and old coppice grow throughout this section along with occasional Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* scrub. The ground flora is fairly diverse; Dogs Mercury *Mercurialis perennis* is abundant with locally frequent Bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* and Ramsons *Allium ursinum* and occasional Wood Avens *Geum urbanum*, Ground Ivy *Glechoma hederacea*, Tufted Hair Grass *Deschampsia cespitosa* and Wood Sedge *Carex sylvatica* and rare Common Spotted Orchid *Orchis mascula* and Common Dog Violet *Viola riviniana*. Dead wood is scattered throughout this section of woodland and there are no signs of recent management; coppicing appears to have ceased some years ago as much of the Hazel coppice is now over 10ft tall.

The remainder of the wood is occupied by both old and recent plantation of various types generally involving Norway Spruce *Picea abies*, Pedunculate Oak and Ash in varying proportions. The most northerly section of the wood is comprised of Norway Spruce plantation of some age with occasional Oak standards. There is no understorey but the ground flora consists of abundant Dogs Mercury, frequent Nettle and occasional Pendulous Sedge *Carex pendula*. A line of young recently planted Oaks stand along the north and western boundaries of this section of wood. To the east of this Spruce plantation is a similar sized area of old Oak plantation with approximately 20% Norway Spruce and considerable Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* regeneration. Other woody species present include occasional Hazel, Silver Birch *Betula pendula*, Ash, and Goat Willow *Salix caprea* with occasional patches of dense Bramble *Rubus fruticosus*. The ground layer comprises of abundant Dogs Mercury and frequent Tufted Hair Grass.

An area of Young, fairly recently planted Oak plantation grows in the eastern section of the wood. This is approximately 10-15 years old and is covered in dense Bramble scrub. Other species contributing to the scrub layer include Goat Willow, Hazel, Dog Rose *Rosa canina* and Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*. In the more open areas ground flora consists of; Tufted Hair Grass, Bugle *Ajuga reptans*, Yorkshire Fog *Holcus lanatus*, Wood Sedge, Creeping Thistle *Cirsium palustre* and Hairy St John's -wort *Hypericum hirsutum*. Around the

entrance of the wood (NE of site) is mixed plantation dominated by a canopy of Norway Spruce and Scots Pine with an understorey of frequent Sycamore and occasional Elder. Ground flora consists of abundant Nettle *Urtica dioica* and frequent Bramble *Rubus fruticosus* whilst in the more shaded areas Dogs Mercury is frequent.

The nationally scarce species Oxlip *Primula elatior* grows in small numbers along the grass rides throughout the site. These grass rides and tracks are generally species rich varying in composition throughout the woodland. Species recorded include; frequent Wood Sedge, Silver Weed *Potentilla anserina* occasional Cock's Foot *Dactylis glomerata*, Meadow foxtail *Alopecurus pratensis*, Wood Dock *Rumex sanguineus*, Creeping Cinquefoil *Potentilla reptans*, Ground Ivy *Hedera helix*, Bugle, Creeping Thistle *Cirsium arvense* and rare Hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium* and Meadow Sweet *Filipendula ulmaria*.

**Site assessment**

The site qualifies as CWS because it is woodland listed in the Cambridgeshire Inventory of Ancient Woodlands, which retains more than 25% semi-natural cover. Additionally it qualifies because it supports a population of a Nationally Scarce vascular plant species (Oxlip *Primula elatior*).

**Site status**

County Wildlife Site

Ancient Woodland Inventory

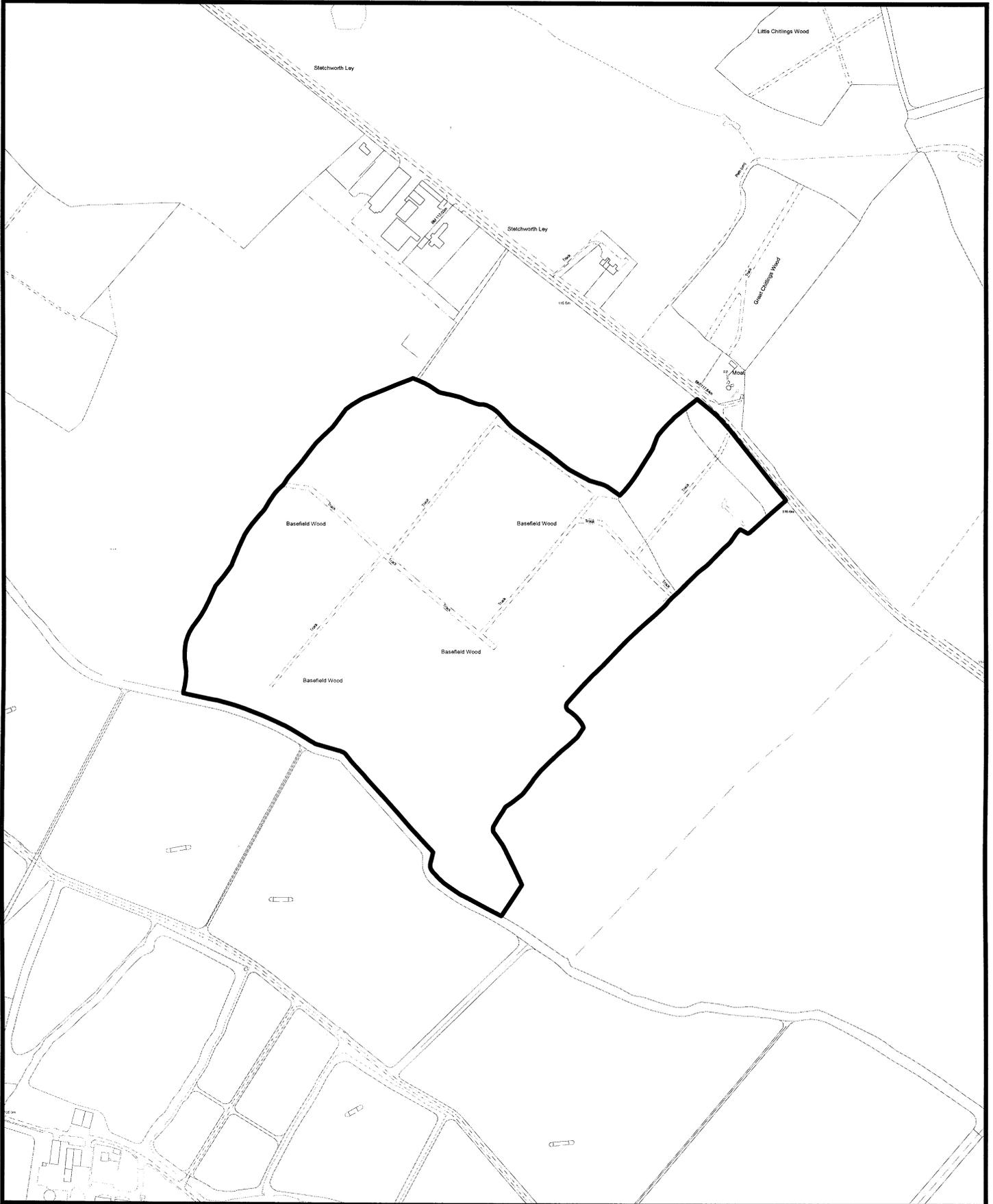
Former Site of Natural History Interest

**Surveyor**

Emma Ogden

17/05/2005

# Basefield Wood



Grid Ref: TL651570  
Scale: 1:6000  
Plot Date: 21/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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**SITE NAME:** Combers Wood  
**Site code:** 7285  
**Grid ref:** TL652578  
**Date of survey:** 25/04/08  
**Surveyors:** Steve Hartley, Rachel Pateman, Christa Perry

### Habitat information

<b>Code</b>	<b>Habitat type</b>
A1.1.1	Woodland: broadleaved, semi-natural

**Size** 4 ha

### Site description

A small semi-natural ancient woodland supporting a diverse ground flora. Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and Pedunculate Oak *Quercus robur* standards dominate forming a close canopy. The shrub layer is dominated by abandoned Hazel *Corylus avellana* coppice with some old coppiced Field Maple *Acer campestre*. Other species include the ancient woodland indicators Spindle *Euonymus europaeus* and Midland Hawthorn *Crataegus laevigata*. Abundant Bramble *Rubus fruticosus* forms occasional thickets. A number of young Pedunculate Oaks have been planted.

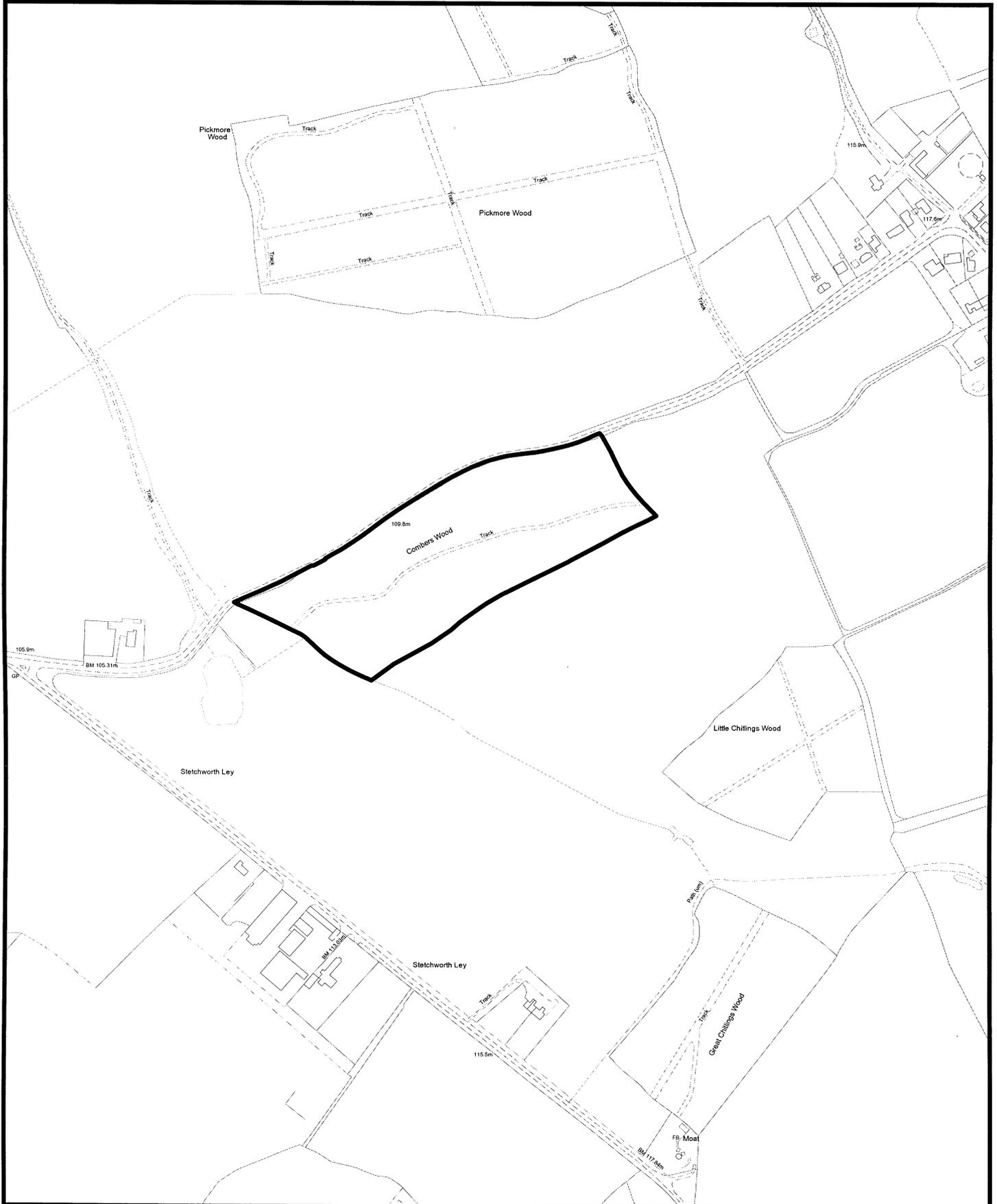
Dog's Mercury *Mercurialis perennis* dominates the ground flora with Bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* frequent in the wetter parts of the site. The main floral diversity lies on the lengthwise ride where species include frequent Wood Sedge *Carex sylvatica* and several other ancient woodland indicators in low numbers, as well as abundant Lords-and-Ladies *Arum maculatum* and a range of other woodland plants. The Nationally Scarce Oxlip *Primula elatior* grows in frequent numbers along the woodland track and is occasional throughout the wood where the canopy is more open.

The wood contains good amounts of dead wood and has been used for game rearing in the past. Evidence of fallow deer were seen during the survey.

### Site assessment

The site qualifies as a CWS because it is a woodland listed in the Cambridgeshire Inventory of Ancient Woodlands which retains more than 25% semi-natural cover. Additionally it qualifies because it supports a population of a Nationally Scarce vascular plant species.

# Combers Wood



Grid Ref: TL652578  
Scale: 1:5000  
Plot Date: 21/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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Site No. 7286

**COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET**NAME: **Great Chitlings Wood**

File code: E/17.5.05

Parish(es): Stetchworth

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref: TL654573

**Habitat information****Code** *Habitat type*

A112 Woodland: broadleaved, plantation

**Site area**

2.47 ha

**Site description**

A small woodland dominated by planted Pedunculate Oak *Quercus robur*; the trees have average diameters of 12 inches at breast height. There are also a small number of Norway Spruce *Picea abies*, Scot's Pine *Pinus sylvestris*, and Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*; there is evidence of recent felling of the spruce. The shrub layer comprises of occasional Rhododendron *Rhododendron ponticum* and Field Maple *Acer campestre*. The woodland is managed for game bird rearing; the wood is enclosed on all sides by a 5-6m tall Leyland Cypress (*x Cupressocyparis leylandii*) hedge.

The woodland has a single ride, 8-10m in width dominated by grasses; the Northern end of the ride has a small cluster of Oxlip *Primula elatior* (Nationally Scarce species). The species is found in sporadic patches throughout the wood. An almost dry pond is located near the centre of the wood.

Ground flora under the tree canopy comprises mainly of a mix of Pendulous Sedge *Carex pendula*, Nettles *Urtica dioica*, Dog's Mercury *Mercurialis perennis* and Brambles *Rubus fruticosus* agg. Other species present include Bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, Red Campion *Silene dioica*, Wood Sage *Teucrium scorodonia*, Hedge Woundwort *Stachys sylvatica*, Wood Speedwell *Veronica montana*, Hairy St John's Wort *Hypericum hirsutum*, Wood Sedge *Carex sylvatica*, Remote Sedge *Carex remota*, False Fox Sedge *Carex otrubae*, Soft rush *Juncus effusus*.

**Site assessment**

The site qualifies as CWS because it supports a population of a Nationally Scarce vascular plant species (Oxlip *Primula elatior*).

**Site status**

County Wildlife Site

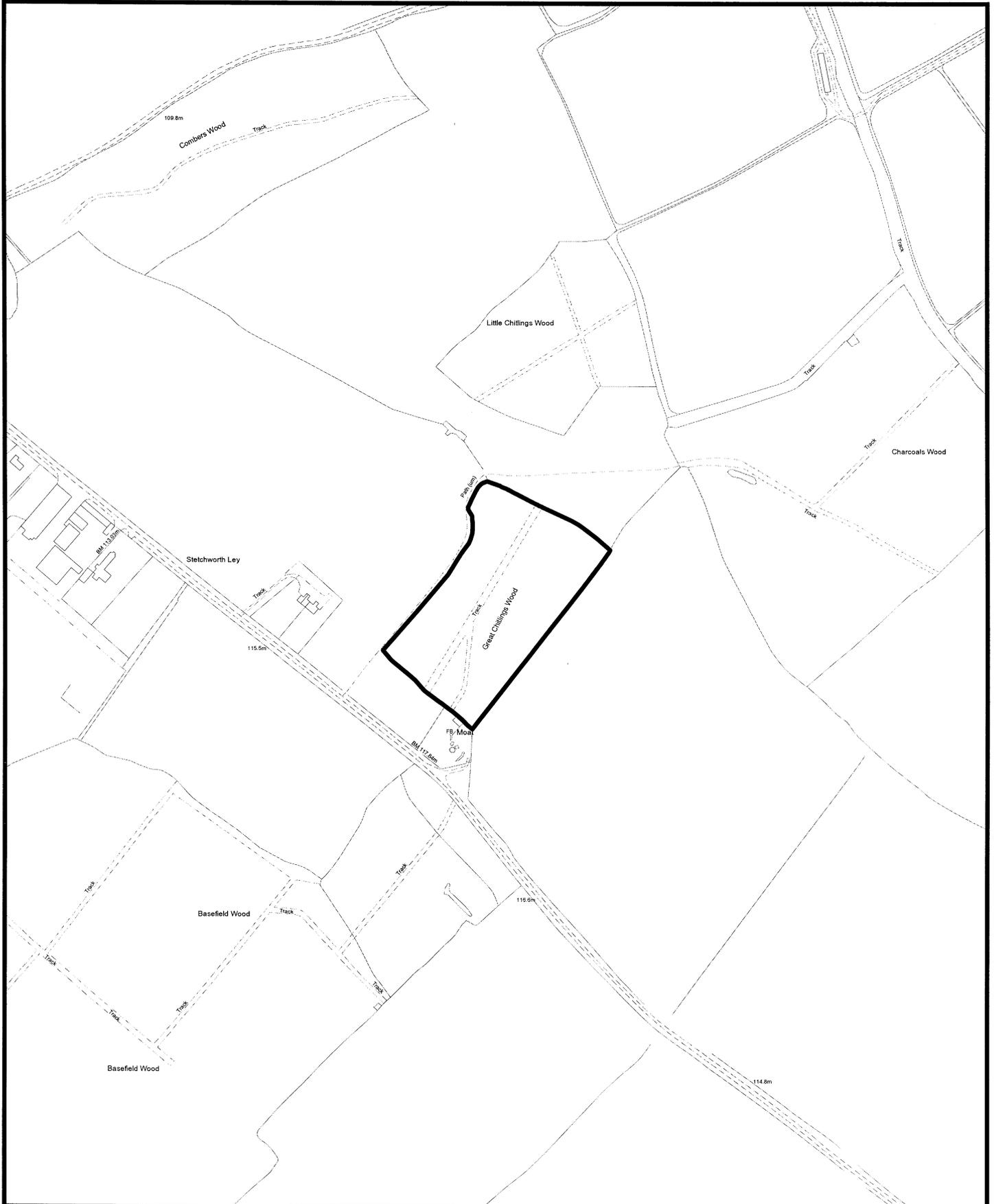
former Site of Natural History Interest

**Surveyor**

Alastair Ross

17/05/2005

# Great Chitlings Wood



Grid Ref: TL654573  
Scale: 1:5000  
Plot Date: 21/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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Site No. 7287

**COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET**NAME: **Little Chitlings Wood**

File code: E/17.05.05

Parish(es): Stetchworth

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref: TL655576

**Habitat information****Code** *Habitat type*

A111 Woodland: broadleaved, semi-natural

**Site area**

2.40 ha

**Site description**

A small ancient semi-natural woodland with a 50:50 mix of coppice and standards. Mature Oak *Quercus robur* dominates the canopy together with frequent Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*; there are many standards up to 1m in diameter (at breast height). The ash coppice has been neglected for some time with stems averaging 25-40cm diameter at breast height.

The shrub layer is dominated by Hazel *Corylus avellana* coppice, with occasional Field Maple *Acer campestre*, Elder *Sambucus nigra*, Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, Cherry *Prunus avium*, Rhododendron *Rhododendron ponticum* and Box *Buxus sempervirens*.

The ground flora is dominated by Dog's Mercury *Mercurialis perennis* which carpets the woodland floor throughout. Other species present include Oxlip *Primula elatior* (Nationally Scarce species), Bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, nettles *Urtica dioica*, and Ground Ivy *Glechoma hederacea*.

**Site assessment**

The site qualifies as CWS because it is a woodland listed in the Cambridgeshire Inventory of Ancient Woodland which retains more than 25% semi-natural cover. Additionally it qualifies because it supports a population of a Nationally Scarce vascular plant species (Oxlip *Primula elatior*).

**Site status**

County Wildlife Site

Ancient Woodland Inventory

former Site of Natural History Interest

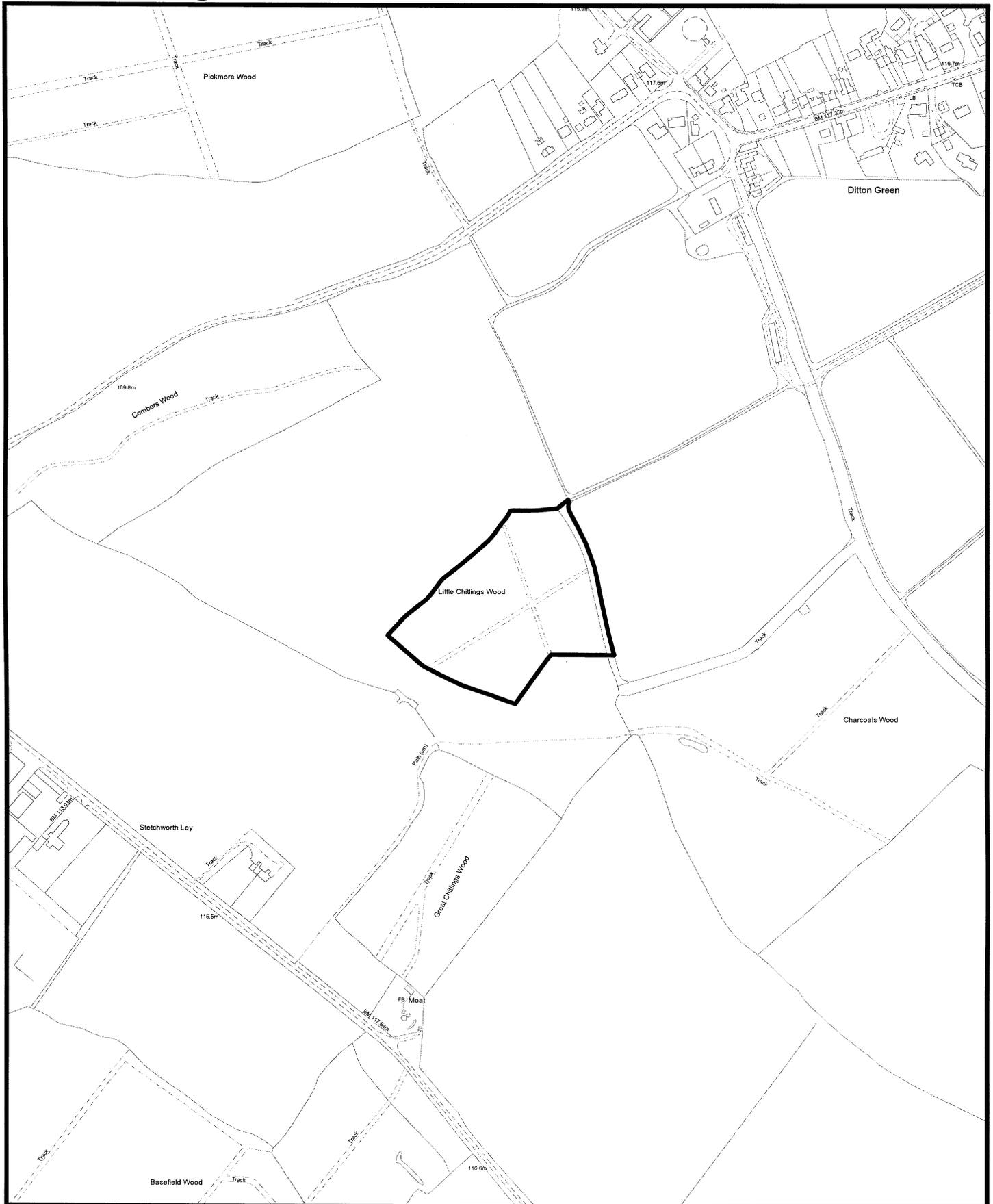
**Surveyor**

Alastair Ross

17/05/2005

Also surveyed in 2009

# Little Chitlings Wood



Grid Ref: TL655576  
Scale: 1:5000  
Plot Date: 21/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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Site No. 7274

## COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET

NAME: **Marmer's Wood**

File code: E/18.5.05

Parish(es): Stetchworth

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref: TL645573

### Habitat information

#### **Code** *Habitat type*

A111 Woodland: broadleaved, semi-natural

A122 Woodland: coniferous, plantation

A4 Recently felled woodland

B22 Grassland: neutral, semi-improved

J261 Boundaries, permanently wet ditch

J262 Boundaries, seasonally wet ditch

#### **Site area**

9.62 ha

#### **Site description**

A largely semi-natural broadleaved woodland the majority of which is on an ancient woodland site. The canopy comprises mainly of Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and Oak *Quercus robur* standards, together with frequent old Ash coppice (stems averaging 20-40cm diameter at breast height). The southernmost compartment has been planted with Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*, whilst the easternmost compartment is dominated by planted conifers (a mix of Scot's Pine *Pinus sylvestris*, Norway Spruce *Picea abies* and Larch *Larix decidua*). Several open glades have recently been planted with Oak *Quercus robur*. The wood is used for game bird rearing.

The wood has a dense shrub layer a mix of frequent Hazel *Corylus avellana* coppice together with more occasional Field Maple *Acer campestre*, Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* and Elder *Sambucus nigra*.

The ground flora throughout much of the woodland comprises abundant Dog's Mercury *Mercurialis perennis*, frequent Nettles *Urtica dioica* and Ground Ivy *Glechoma hederacea*. Also present are occasional Bluebells *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, Wood Millet *Milium effusum*, Wood Melick *Melica uniflora*, Pendulous Sedge *Carex pendula*, Wood Sedge *Carex sylvatica*. Ramsons *Allium ursinum* is locally abundant in the southern-most area of the wood. The nationally scarce Oxlip *Primula elatior* is present in the northernmost compartment.

The north-eastern compartment was clearfelled in 1994. A decade on, this is now an area of scrub-woodland, approximately 70% scrub and 30% neutral grassland, with trees up to 6m height. This area comprises frequent Hazel *Corylus avellana*, Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, Field Maple *Acer campestre*, young Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, and frequent Brambles *Rubus fruticosus* agg.; occasional Oak *Quercus robur* has been recently planted.

**Site assessment**

The site qualifies as CWS because it is a woodland included in the Cambridgeshire Inventory of Ancient Woodland which retains more than 25% semi-natural cover. Additionally it qualifies because it supports a population of a Nationally Scarce vascular plant species (Oxlip *Primula elatior*).

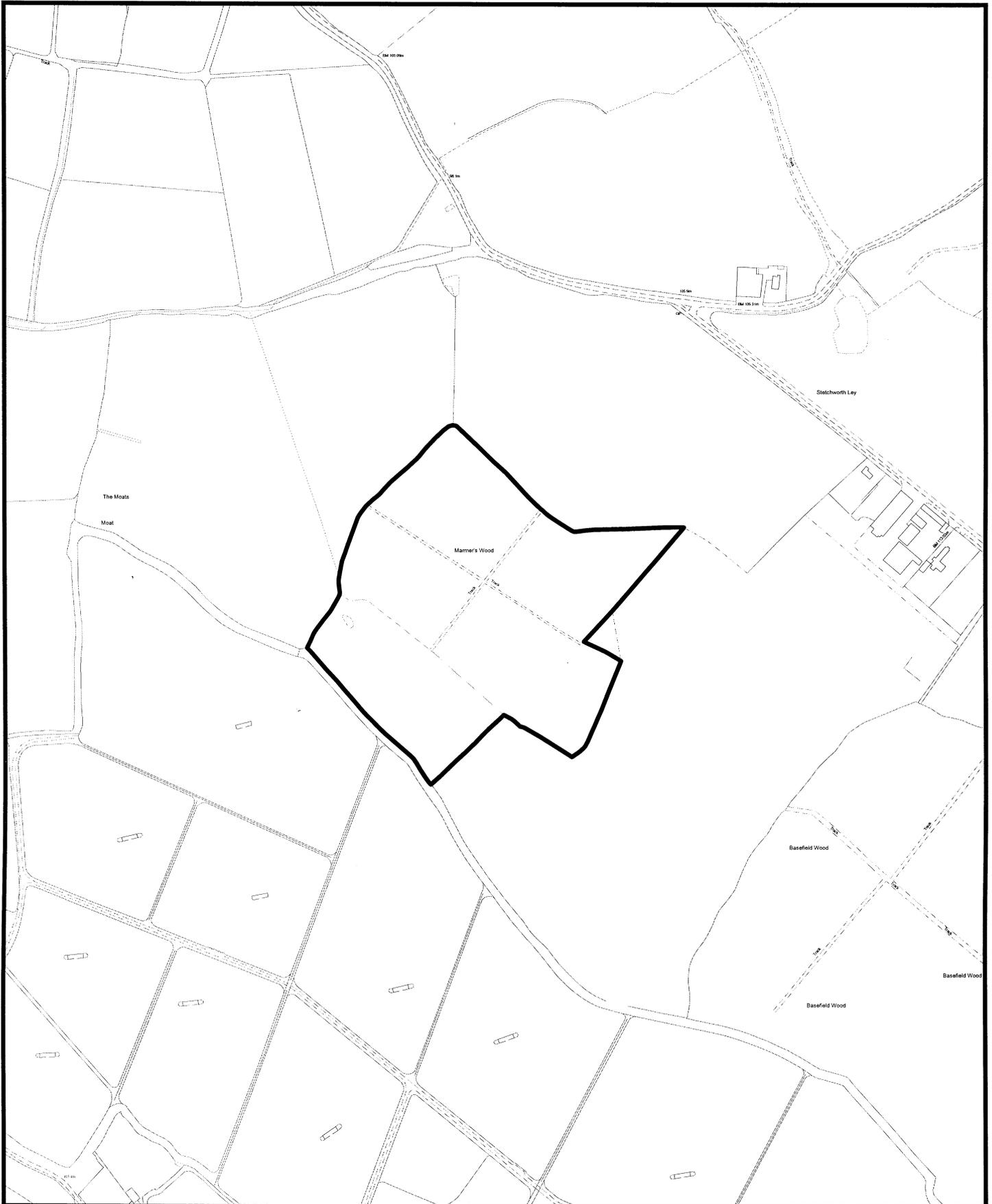
**Site status**

County Wildlife Site  
Ancient Woodland Inventory  
former Site of Natural History Interest

**Surveyor**

Alastair Ross  
18/05/2005

# Marmer's Wood



Grid Ref: TL645573  
Scale: 1:6000  
Plot Date: 25/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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**SITE NAME:** Pickmore Wood  
**Site code:** 7290  
**Grid ref:** TL652581  
**Date of survey:** 25/04/08  
**Surveyors:** Steve Hartley, Rachel Pateman, Christa Perry

#### Habitat information

<b>Code</b>	<b>Habitat type</b>
A1.1.1	Woodland: broadleaved, semi-natural
A1.2.2	Woodland: coniferous, plantation
A1.3.2	Woodland: mixed, plantation
J2.6.2	Boundaries: seasonally wet ditch

**Size** 10.9ha

#### Site description

The majority of this wood is on an ancient woodland site with approximately 45% area of semi-natural cover and the remaining 55% as predominantly conifer and mixed plantation.

The northern half of the main woodland block is broad-leaved semi-natural woodland of scattered Oak *Quercus robur* and Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* standards over old coppice of Hazel *Corylus avellana* and Field Maple *Acer campestre*. Occasional Beech *Fagus sylvatica* standards grow in the canopy with Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa* and the ancient woodland indicator Spindle *Euonymus europaeus* in the understorey. The ground flora is dominated by Dog's Mercury *Mercurialis perennis* and Bramble *Rubus fruticosus*, but includes the Nationally Scarce Oxlip *Primula elatior*. An extension to the north of the ancient woodland abuts the Devil's Ditch SSSI and supports mixed plantation comprising several conifer species with Ash standards and a sparse understorey of Hazel, Ash, Elder *Sambucus nigra* and Bramble. The ground flora includes Nettle *Urtica dioica*, Dog's Mercury, Bugle *Ajuga reptans*, and the ancient woodland indicators Wood Sedge *Carex sylvatica* and Pendulous Sedge *Carex pendula*,

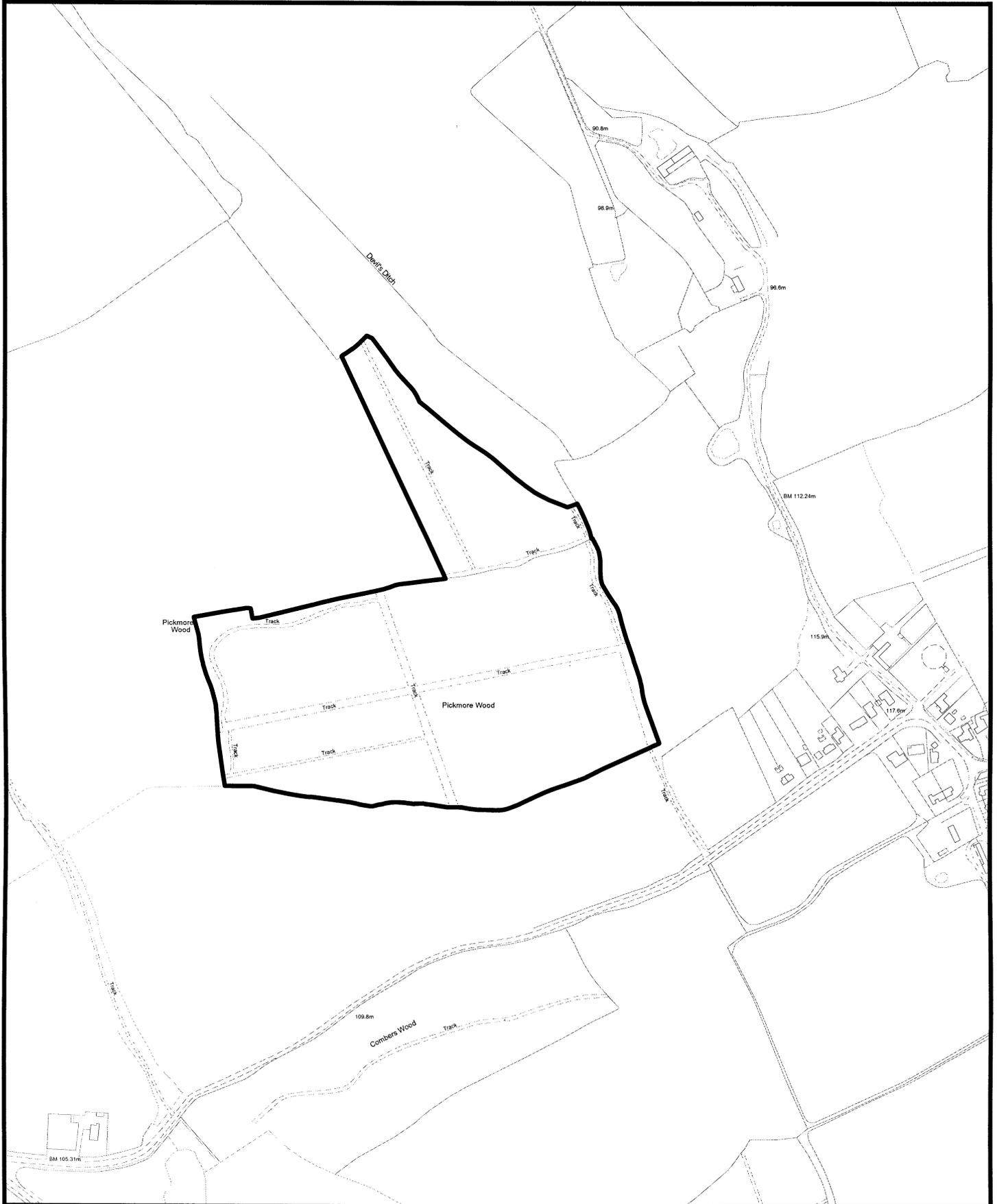
The southern section of the wood consists of mixed plantation dominated by Norway Spruce with occasional Cypress *Cupressus sp.* and Scot's Pine *Pinus sylvestica* and some local planting of Oak. There is naturally regenerated Ash, Silver Birch *Betula pendula*, Blackthorn and patches of Hazel coppice. In the most densely planted areas there is no understorey due to overshadowing, but where there is a more open canopy woodland ground flora persists including Oxlip, Dog's Mercury, Pendulous Sedge and Wood Sedge.

The wide grass rides throughout the woodland are generally species rich. The central east-west ride is of particular note. Species recorded include Oxlip, Bugle, Cuckooflower *Cardamine pratensis*, and the ancient woodland indicator Nettle-leaved Bellflower *Campanula trachelium*.

#### Site assessment

The site qualifies as a CWS because it is a woodland listed in the Cambridgeshire Inventory of Ancient Woodlands which retains more than 25% semi-natural cover. Additionally it qualifies because it supports a population of a Nationally Scarce vascular plant species.

# Pickmore Wood



Grid Ref: TL652581  
Scale: 1:5000  
Plot Date: 21/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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Site No. 7036

## COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET

NAME: **Hundred Foot Bank Swamp and Ditch**

File code: E/5.7.05

Parish(es): Sutton (E)

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref: TL432801

### Habitat information

#### **Code** *Habitat type*

A22 Scrub: scattered  
 A31 Parkland/scattered trees: broad-leaved  
 B6 Grassland: Poor semi-improved  
 C31 Tall herb and fern: other, tall ruderal  
 F1 Swamp  
 F2 Marginal/inundation  
 G1 Open water: standing water  
 J21 Boundaries: intact hedge

#### **Site area**

12.17 ha

#### **Site description**

The site comprises a large field of semi-improved grassland that lies adjacent to the Ouse Washes SSSI. Separating the field from the Hundred Foot Bank is a broad drain approximately eight metres wide. The central path of the drain is generally clear but the margins support a rich vegetation of emergent, submerged and marginal flora. Four sample points were taken;

At TL 4300 7986 emergent species include frequent Un-branched Bur-reed *Sparganium erectum*, Greater Pond Sedge *Carex riparia*, Lesser Pond Sedge *Carex acutiformis* and Great Reedmace *Typha latifolia*. Marginal species include occasional Marsh Bedstraw *Galium palustre*, Water Mint *Mentha aquatica* and Water Forget-Me-Knot *Myosotis scorpioides* whilst Yellow Water-lily *Nuphar lutea* was the only floating plant.

At TL 4309 8001 the one metre margins of vegetation comprise of emergent species including abundant Un-branched Bur-reed, frequent Great Reedmace, Greater and Lesser Pond Sedge, occasional Mare's Tail *Hippuris vulgaris* and rare Fine Leaved Water-dropwort *Oenanthe aquatica*. A very small amount of Common Duckweed *Lemna minor* floats on the surface. Marginal species recorded include locally frequent False Fox-Sedge *Carex otrubae*, Reed Canary-grass *Phalaris arundinacea*, Water Mint, Marsh Bedstraw and rare Purple Loosestrife *Lythrum salicaria*.

At 4314 8009 margins comprise of emergents including abundant Un-branched Bur-reed and occasional Great Reedmace, marginal species including occasional Reed Canary-grass *Phalaris arundinacea*, Water Mint, Bittersweet *Solanum dulcamara* and Common Water-plantain *Alisma plantago-aquatica*.

At TL4326 8026 locally abundant Lesser Reedmace *Typha angustifolia* forms much of the emergent and marginal vegetation along the banks of the drain with occasional Un -Branched Bur- reed, Fine leaved Water-dropwort and Common Water Plantain. Occasional Common Duckweed and Common Pond Weed

*Potamogeton natans* float on the surface with submerged Shining Pondweed *Potamogeton lucens* beneath. Species previously recorded in the drain (in 1996) but not seen during this survey include; Fool's Water – cress *Apium nodiflorum*, Water Violet *Hottonia palustris*, Yellow Pimpernel *Lysimachia nummularium*, Water Fern *Azolla filiculoides*, Pink Water Speedwell *Veronica catenata*, Water–cress *Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum* and Rigid Hornwort *Ceratophyllum demersum*.

The field of semi-improved grassland is species poor consisting of frequent Perennial Rye Grass *Lolium perenne*, Small-leaved Timothy *Phleum Bertolonii*, Cocks Foot *Dactylis glomerata*, Creeping Bent *Agrostis stolonifera*, Yorkshire Fog *Holcus lanatus*, Rough Meadow-grass *Poa trivialis*, Red Clover *Trifolium pratense*, White Clover *Trifolium repens*, occasional Meadow Barley *Hordeum secalinum*, Meadow Buttercup *Ranunculus acris*, Creeping Buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, Creeping Thistle *Cirsium arvense*, Dandelion *Taraxacum officinale*, Common Nettle *Urtica dioica* and rare Ragwort *Senecio jacobaea*. At the extreme southern end of the field is a very small area of parkland containing approximately ten large mature Pedunculate Oak *Quercus robur* and *Quercus sp.* Some of which have large holes, hollows, splits and missing bark.

Alongside the drain, two distinct areas (7m wide) of swamp and inundation vegetation encroach into the field, formed where the drain regularly overflows. Un-branched Bur-reed dominates in one area with frequent Greater and Lesser Pond Sedge, which have been closely grazed by horses. On the margins of this area Water Forget-me-knot and Water Mint grows in amongst the grassland. A second area of inundation contains dominant Lesser Reedmace, extending approximately two metres into the field from the bank. Species found in amongst these reeds include Pink Water Speedwell, Fine Leaved Water-dropwort, Water Mint, Bittersweet and Reed Canary Grass. Abundant Un Branched Bur-reed encircles the Lesser Reedmace within the field and around this is a large area of poached (and heavily grazed) land which is dominated by Fools Water–cress, frequent Creeping Bent, occasional Fine Leaved Water-dropwort, Mare's Tail and Pink Water Speedwell.

Hedgerows form the southern and eastern boundaries to the site. The most northerly of these hedgerows is intact but species poor dominated by Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa* and is 3-4 metres tall by 2-3 metres wide. The eastern boundary consists of a more species rich hedgerow with occasional trees and is approximately 5-6 metres tall by 3 metres wide. Species recorded include; frequent Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, Blackthorn, Dog Rose *Rosa canina*, Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* occasional Elder *Sambucus nigra*, Field Maple *Acer campestre* and Dog Wood *Cornus sanguinea*. The Hedgerow forming the southern boundary to the site is species poor, dominated by Elm *Ulmus sp* trees.

#### **Site assessment**

The site qualifies as CWS because it contains a drain with at least 10 submerged, floating, emergent and wet bank species per 20m stretch.

#### **Site status**

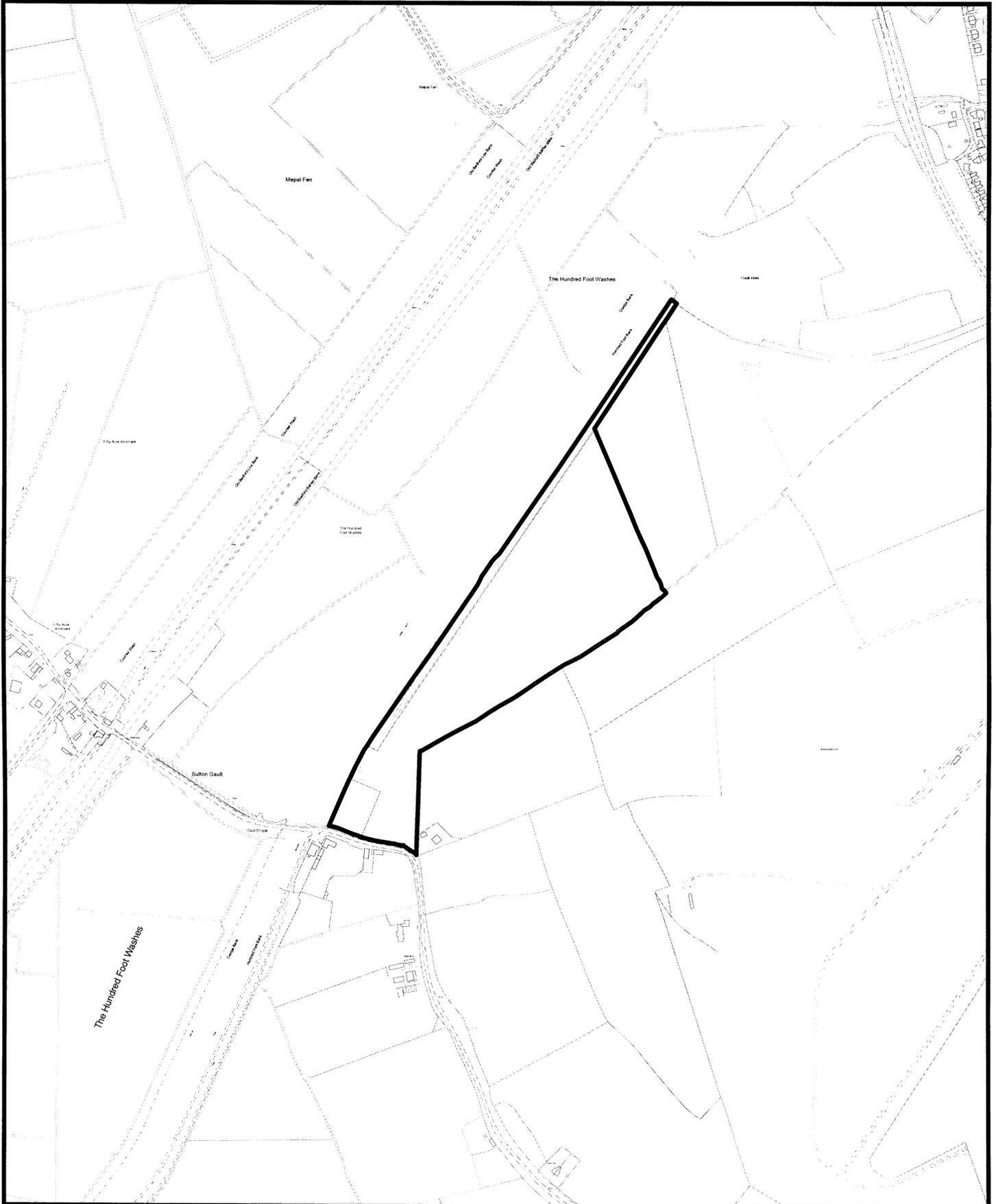
County Wildlife Site

#### **Surveyor**

Emma Ogden

05/07/2005

# Hundred Foot Bank Swamp and Ditch



Grid Ref: TL432801  
Scale: 1:8500  
Plot Date: 21/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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Site No. 7005

**COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET**NAME: **Old Bedford Low Bank Drains**

File code: E/4.7.05

Parish(es): Sutton (E)

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref: TL4178

**Habitat information****Code** *Habitat type*

F21 Marginal/inundation: marginal

J261 Boundaries, permanently wet ditch

**Site description**

A number of drains extending for several kilometres that support a species-rich submerged, floating and emergent flora, including a Nationally scarce plant species (Whorled Water Milfoil *Myriophyllum verticillatum*). Thirteen sample locations were visited with the aim of presenting a fair representation of flora and habitat present along the drainage system. The DAFOR system was used to estimate abundance of species present.

Sample 1 at TL40337,79765. Water channel 2m wide and choked up with dense stands of Common Reed *Phragmites australis* (D) which also dominates the bank margins. No other emergent or aquatic flora is present. The banks are approximately 2m in height and the flora comprises Common Reed *Phragmites australis* (A), Hedge Bindweed *Calystegia sepium* (F), Hemlock *Conium maculatum* (O), Hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium* (O), Cleavers *Galium aparine* (O), False Oat Grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* (O), Creeping Thistle *Cirsium arvense* (O), Mugwort *Artemisia vulgaris* (O), Common Mallow *Malva sylvestris* (O), Black Horehound *Ballota nigra* (O), Common Poppy *Papaver rhoeas* (O), and White Campion *Silene alba* (R). The water channel continues choked up with emergent vegetation until the intersection with the main drain at TL440752,79630; at this point (Sample 2) the drain widens to 5m and the water surface becomes 95% clear of vegetation.

Sample 2 at the drain junction TL440752,79630. The channel and marginal vegetation comprises Sweet Floating-grass *Glyceria fluitans* (R), Sweet Reed-grass *Glyceria maxima* (O), Common Duckweed *Lemna Minor* (O), Rigid Hornwort *Ceratophyllum demersum* (O), Canadian Waterweed *Elodea canadensis* (O), Common Starwort *Callitriche stagnalis* (O), Purple Loosestrife *Lythrum salicaria* (O), Branched Bur-reed *Sparganium erectum* (R), Soft Rush *Juncus effusus* (R), Water-plantain *Alisma plantago-aquatica* (R), Common Reed *Phragmites australis* (R). The drain banks are 1.5-2m high and there vegetation comprises largely False Oat Grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* (A) and Hemlock *Conium maculatum* (O).

Sample 3 at TL440927,79585, junction with northern drain. Water channel 5m wide with clear water approximately 0.8m deep. Very sparse marginal emergent vegetation, limited to occasional Reed Sweet-grass *Glyceria maxima*. Other species present in the drain are Water-plantain *Alisma plantago-aquatica* (O), Arrowhead *Sagittaria sagittifolia* (O), Floating Sweet-grass *Glyceria fluitans* (O), Common Starwort *Callitriche stagnalis*, Purple Loosestrife *Lythrum salicaria* (O), Common Duckweed *Lemna minor* (O), Whorled Water Milfoil *Myriophyllum verticillatum* (O), Broad-leaved Pondweed *Potamogeton natans* (R), Watercress *Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum* (R), Branched Bur-reed *Sparganium erectum* (R), Water Speedwell *Veronica anagallis-aquatica* (R), Tapegrass *Vallisneria spiralis* (R). Banks are 2m high and steep sided (60°+) covered with Perennial Rye Grass *Lolium perenne* (F), Hemlock *Conium maculatum* (F),

Common Poppy *Papaver rhoeas* (F), Common Mallow *Malva Sylvestris* (F) False Oat Grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* (O).

Sample 4 at TL40967,79402 adjacent to main road. Water channel 5m wide with clear water approximately 1m deep. Channel and marginal vegetation comprises Greater Bulrush *Typha latifolia* (O), Reed Sweet-grass *Glyceria maxima* (O), Floating Sweet-grass *Glyceria fluitans* (O), Common Starwort *Callitriche stagnalis* (A), Arrowhead *Sagittaria sagittifolia* (O), Whorled Water Milfoil *Myriophyllum verticillatum* (O). Drain banks 2m high and steep with a flora including False Oat Grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* (A), Hemlock *Conium maculatum* (F), Scentless Mayweed *Tripleurospermum inodorum* (F), *Creeping Thistle* *Cirsium arvense* (O).

Sample 5 at TL41367,78399. Channel 2.5m wide water approximately 0.5m deep; water clear but with strong red/brown iron colouration. Little emergent vegetation along this stretch of drain. Drain vegetation comprises Branched Bur-reed *Sparganium erectum* (O), Floating Sweet-grass *Glyceria fluitans* (O), Reed Sweet-grass *Glyceria maxima* (O), Celery-leaved Buttercup *Ranunculus sceleratus* (F), Common Starwort *Callitriche stagnalis* (O), Broad-leaved Pondweed *Potamogeton natans* (O), Marsh Foxtail *Alopecurus geniculatus* (R), Soft Rush *Juncus effusus* (R). Banks are 1.5m high steep sided (70°) the flora includes False Oat Grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* (A), Teasel *Dipsacus fullonum* (F), Nettles *Urtica dioica* (O) Great Willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum* (O), *Creeping Thistle* *Cirsium arvense* (O), Ragwort *Senecio jacobaea* (O), Prickly Sow-thistle *Sonchus asper* (O).

Sample 6 at TL41171,78131 just north of track and culvert pipe. Channel 2.5m wide, the water murky and coloured iron red/brown. Very little emergent vegetation, floristically this is a rather sterile section of drain. Vegetation comprises Floating Sweet-grass *Glyceria fluitans* (O), Reed Sweet-grass *Glyceria maxima* (R), Celery-leaved Buttercup *Ranunculus sceleratus* (R), Common Starwort *Callitriche stagnalis* (R), Broad-leaved Pondweed *Potamogeton natans* (O), Soft Rush *Juncus effusus* (R). The banks are virtually identical to sample 5.

Sample 7 just south of TL41157,68104 where an earth bund has been constructed damming the drain, this has had the effect of raising the water level on the south side by approximately 1m. Water channel is 2m wide. The drain banks are 0.5m high, the east bank has a good cover of marginal vegetation with abundant Greater Pond Sedge *Carex riparia*, and occasional Soft Rush *Juncus effusus*. The west bank has recently been cut very short entirely removing any pre-existing emergent vegetation. The channel flora comprises Broad-leaved Pondweed *Potamogeton natans* (A), Water Plantain *Alisma plantago-aquatica* (A), Watercress *Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum* (O).

Sample 8 bridge at TL40904,77756. Banks managed as per Sample 7. Channel and marginal vegetation comprises Floating Sweet-grass *Glyceria fluitans* (F), Reed Sweet-grass *Glyceria maxima* (F), Great Willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum* (F), Branched Bur-reed *Sparganium erectum* (R), Broad-leaved Pondweed *Potamogeton natans* (O), Fennel Pondweed *Potamogeton pectinatus* (O).

Sample 9 at TL40701,77482. Channel 2.5m wide, only middle 1m clear of vegetation. Good cover of emergent vegetation on east bank, vegetation on west bank completely cut back. Channel and marginal vegetation comprises Floating Sweet-grass *Glyceria fluitans* (F), Reed Sweet-grass *Glyceria maxima* (A), Branched Bur-reed *Sparganium erectum* (O), Greater Pond Sedge *Carex riparia* (F), Broad-leaved Pondweed *Potamogeton natans* (F), Soft Rush *Juncus effusus* (O).

Sample 10 at TL40501,77220 junction with west drain. Channel 3m wide with clear water. Banks same as samples 8 and 9. Channel and marginal vegetation comprises Floating Sweet-grass *Glyceria fluitans* (F), Branched Bur-reed *Sparganium erectum* (F), Greater Pond Sedge *Carex riparia* (F), Soft Rush *Juncus effusus* (F), Jointed Rush *Juncus articulatus* (O), Whorled Water Milfoil *Myriophyllum verticillatum* (A), Broad-leaved Pondweed *Potamogeton natans* (O).

Sample 11 at TL40331,76987. Channel 3m wide with clear water. Banks managed as samples 8-10, except bottom 50cm of west bank has been left uncut. Channel and marginal vegetation comprises Floating Sweet-

grass *Glyceria fluitans* (F), Reed Sweet-grass *Glyceria maxima* (O), Branched Bur-reed *Sparganium erectum* (O), Jointed Rush *Juncus articulatus* (O), Water-plantain *Alisma plantago-aquatica* (R), Broad-leaved Pondweed *Potamogeton natans* (R).

Sample 12 at TL40299,76940 junction with west ditch. Channel 3m wide with clear water. Channel and marginal vegetation comprises Reed Sweet-grass *Glyceria maxima* (A), Floating Sweet-grass *Glyceria fluitans* (F), Spiked Water Milfoil *Myriophyllum spicatum* (A), Water Violet *Hottonia palustris* (F), Broad-leaved Pondweed *Potamogeton natans* (R), Soft Rush *Juncus effusus* (O). From this sample point southwards the drain becomes increasingly choked with dense emergent vegetation.

Sample 13 at TL40122,76707. Channel 2m wide with clear water. Channel and marginal vegetation comprises Greater Bulrush *Typha latifolia* (F), Reed Sweet-grass *Glyceria maxima* (F), Branched Bur-reed *Sparganium erectum* (F), Floating Sweet-grass *Glyceria fluitans* (F). Banks 2m high, steep, flora consists of False Oat Grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* (A), Hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium* (F), Cocksfoot *Dactylis glomerata* (O) and Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* (O).

**Site assessment**

The site qualifies as CWS because it supports at least 5 submerged, floating and emergent species per 20m stretch and because it supports populations of a Nationally Scarce vascular plant species (Whorled Water Milfoil *Myriophyllum verticillatum*).

**Site status**

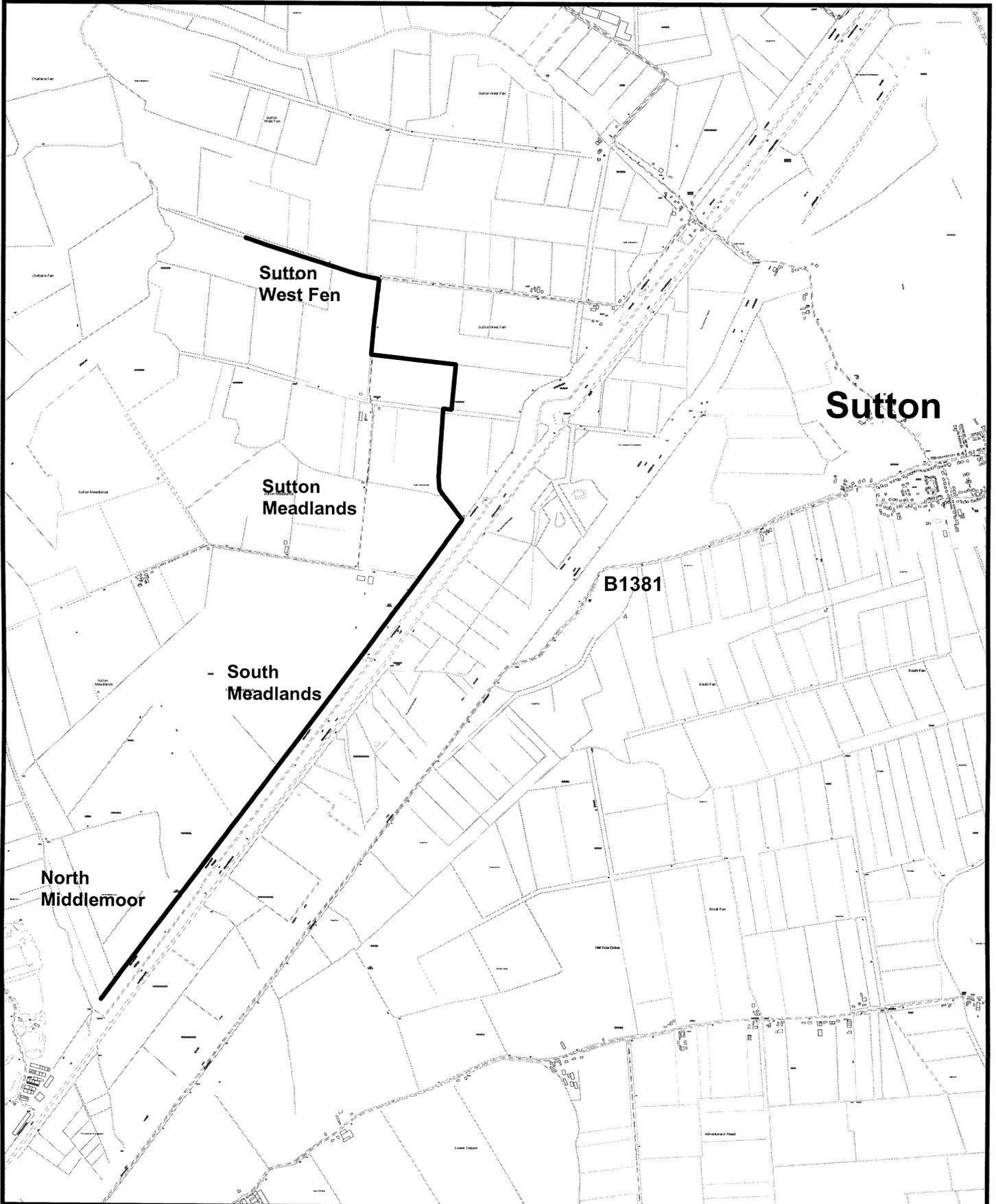
County Wildlife Site

**Surveyor**

Alastair Ross

04/07/2005

# Old Bedford Low Bank Drains



Grid Ref: TL4178  
Scale: 1:25000  
Plot Date: 21/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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Site No. 7064/1

**COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET**NAME: **Cow Bridge Pollard Willows**

File code: E/8.6.05

Parish(es): Swaffham Bulbeck

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref: TL554633

**Habitat information****Code Habitat type**

A31 Parkland/scattered trees: broad-leaved

J261 Boundaries, permanently wet ditch

**Site area**

0.22 ha

**Site description**

A line of eighteen large mature Crack Willow *Salix fragilis* pollards running beside the extreme south-eastern end of Swaffham Bulbeck Lode. The pollards are approximately 1m diameter at breast height, and are pollarded at 3m above ground level. The trunks are swathed in Ivy *Hedera helix* and all trees appeared healthy. A number of young Crack Willows intersperse with the old pollards, growing close to the waters edge. Other shrub species include; Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, Elder *Sambucus nigra* and Dog Rose *Rosa canina*. Nettle *Urtica dioica* dominates the ground layer with occasional Rosebay Willowherb *Chamerion angustifolium*, Cleavers *Galium aparine* and Common Comfrey *Symphytum officinale*.

The lode itself has been recently cleared and contains little vegetation except for the margins where Reed Canary Grass was frequent. This was also true of the adjacent lode where Reed Canary Grass *Phalaris arundinacea* dominated the margins and Cow Parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris* and Nettle dominated the 2m high steep banks. The last survey conducted in 1996 found a wider range of species present in the adjacent lode including Watercress *Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum*, Meadow Sweet *Filipendula ulmaria*, Hemp Agrimony *Eupatorium cannabinum*, Greater Pond Sedge *Carex riparia*, Great Willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum*, Gypsywort *Lycopus europaeus*, Fools Watercress *Apium nodiflorum*, Brooklime *Veronica beccabunga*.

**Site assessment**

The site qualifies as CWS because it supports at least 5 mature pollard willows in association with another semi-natural feature.

**Site status**

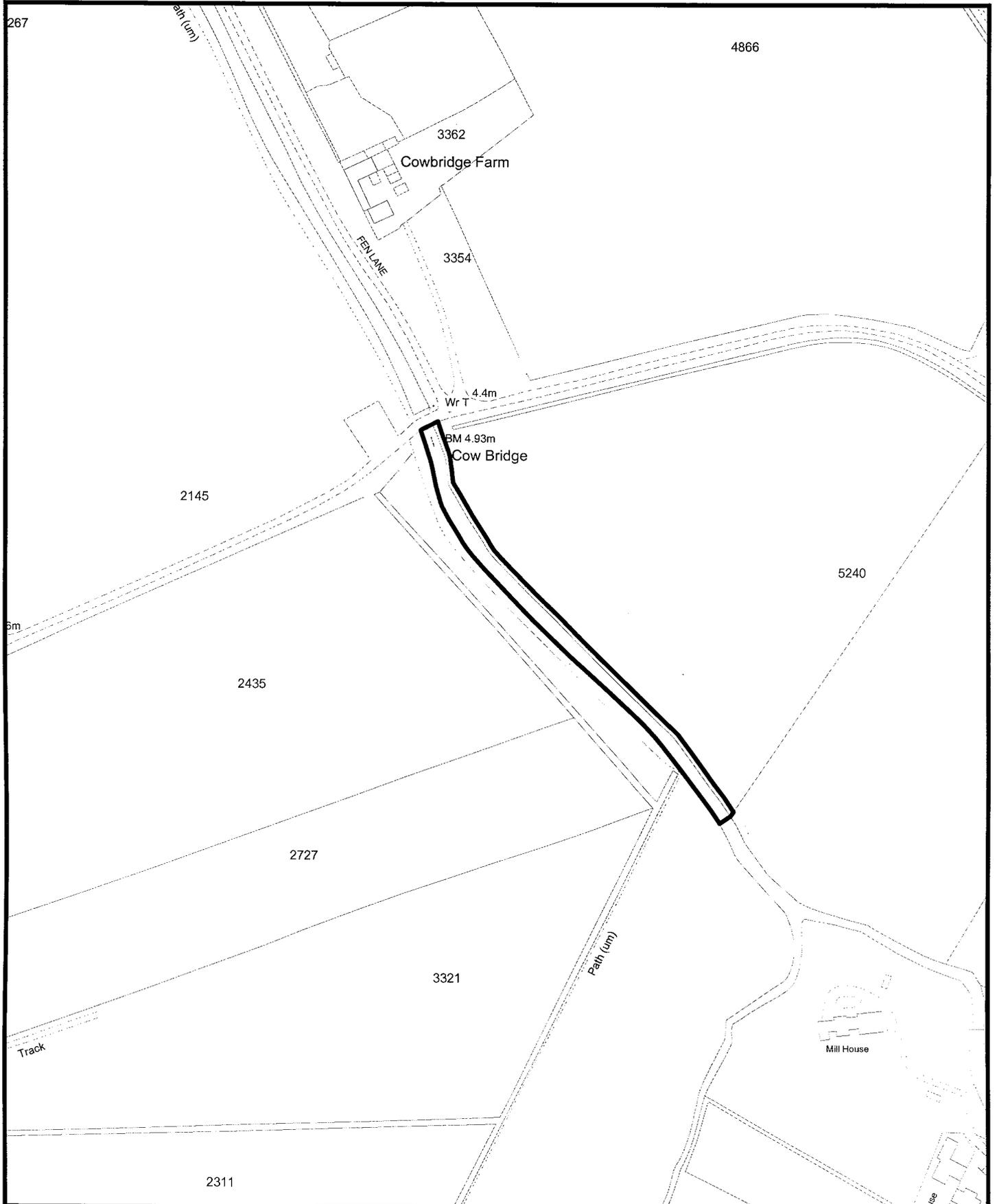
County Wildlife Site

**Surveyor**

Emma Ogden

08/06/2005

# Cow Bridge Pollard Willows



Grid Ref: TL554633  
Scale: 1:2500  
Plot Date: 22/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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Site No. 7079

**COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET**NAME: **Beacon Course Green Lane**

File code: E/15.7.05

Parish(es): Swaffham Prior

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref.: TL5962

**Habitat information****Code Habitat type**

A21 Scrub: dense/continuous

B31 Grassland: calcareous, unimproved

B32 Grassland: calcareous, semi-improved

CG03 *Bromus erectus* grassland**Site area**

2.10 ha

**Site description**

This length of green lane, which runs alongside the Beacon Course racetrack, is gradually losing ground to dense unmanaged scrub invading from both sides. The grassland, which remains, is however of great interest, resembling the NVC Upright Brome *Bromopsis erecta* calcareous grassland community (CG3) but having affinities with Upright Brome-Tor Grass *Bromopsis erecta* - *Brachypodium pinnatum* grassland (CG5). Upright Brome is dominant but Tor Grass is often frequent in a species rich sward supporting at least 24 indicator plants, 16 of them strong. Among these, are; frequent Black Knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, Hedge Bedstraw *Galium mollugo*, Lady's Bedstraw *Galium verum* and Ribwort Plantain *Plantago lanceolata*, Occasional Creeping Bent *Agrostis stolonifera*, Small-leaved Timothy *Phleum bertolonii*, Yarrow *Achillea millefolium*, Greater Knapweed *Centaurea scabiosa*, Dwarf Thistle *Cirsium acaule*, Wild Carrot *Daucus carota*, Perforate St John's Wort *Hypericum perforatum*, Kidney Vetch *Anthyllis vulneraria*, Field Scabious *Knautia arvensis*, Restharrow *Ononis repens*, Small Scabious *Scabiosa columbaria*, Dwarf Thistle *Cirsium acaule*, Wild Thyme *Thymus polytrichus*, Sainfoin *Onobrychis viciifolia* and Wild Parsnip *Pastinaca sativa* and rare Dropwort *Filipendula vulgaris*, Autumn Gentian *Gentianella amarella*, Fairy Flax *Linum catharticum* and Common Eyebright *Euphrasia nemorosa*.

The grassland in the more open areas ranges from closely rabbit grazed up to 0.5m tall. The unmanaged scrub grades from the three to six metre height of mature shrubs down to small invading suckers and seedlings and consists of abundant Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* and Wild Privet *Ligustrum vulgare* with some Purging Buckthorn *Rhamnus catharticus*. A narrow worn path reveals fine soil in places. The grassland is one to five metres wide for most of its length, but in places, large patches of dense scrub have grown over the pathway and there are no calcareous grassland species in these areas due to overshadowing. At the south-west extremity of the site it gradually disappears under dense scrub.

The site is suffering from scrub invasion which has increased significantly since the last survey in 1996, some areas of the green lane have already been lost to this scrub and this will further encroach in the future if left unmanaged will a resultant loss of calcareous indicator species.

**Site assessment**

The site meets criteria for selection as a CWS because it contains at least 0.05 ha of the NVC Upright Brome calcareous grassland community (CG3). It also supports frequent numbers of at least sixteen calcareous grassland indicator species, at least six of them strong.

**Site status**

County Wildlife Site

**Surveyor**

Emma Ogden

15/07/2005

# Beacon Course Green Lane



TL5962  
Scale:1:7500  
Plot Date:21/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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Site No. 7077

**COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET**NAME: **Driest Drove**

File code: E/6.7.03

Parish(es): Swaffham Prior

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref.: TL562649

**Habitat information****Code** *Habitat type*

A3	Parkland/scattered trees
A22	Scrub: scattered
B22	Grassland: neutral, semi-improved
B32	Grassland: calcareous, semi-improved
B6	Grassland: poor semi-improved
J22	Boundaries, defunct hedge
CG03	<i>Bromus erectus</i> grassland

**Site Area**

1.21 ha

**Site description**

A drove way about 800m long, 10m wide and bounded by dry ditches on both sides. The southern part of the drove is lined by a regularly trimmed hedgerow along the eastern side. The majority of the species-rich grassland along this section of the drove is to be found in the verges, though some species also occur in the more regularly mown centre of the track. The ditch / track banks are largely dominated by mesotrophic grassland with small areas of NVC Community CG3 *Bromopsis erecta* grassland also present. The sward texture varies from coarse to fine. Frequent species include Erect Brome *Bromopsis erecta*, Sheep's Fescue *Festuca ovina*, Rough Hawkbit *Leontodon hispidus*, Hoary Plantain *Plantago media*, Field Scabious *Knautia arvensis*, Hairy Violet *Viola hirta*, Black Knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, Small Scabious *Scabiosa columbaria*, Wild Basil *Clinopodium vulgare*, Ox-eye Daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare* and Lady's Bedstraw *Galium verum*. Other indicator species present are Burnet Saxifrage *Pimpinella saxifraga*, Bird's-foot Trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, Glaucous Sedge *Carex flacca*, Spiny Restharrow *Ononis repens*, Bladder Campion *Silene vulgare*, Yellow Oat Grass *Trisetum flavescens*, Agrimony *Agrimonia eupatoria* and Meadow Vetchling *Lathyrus pratensis*. The grassland on the western verge is similar but coarser in places and rather less diverse with *Elytrigia repens* locally frequent, particularly where the drove is backed by a line of trees. To the north-west the grassland along both verges and ditchbanks becomes coarser though still contains numerous indicator species. Greater Knapweed *Centaurea scabiosa* and Common Milkwort *Polygala vulgaris*, both previously recorded, were not observed during the most recent survey.

Tall herb vegetation is locally frequent with species such as Hedge Bedstraw *Galium mollugo*, Field Bindweed *Convolvulus arvensis* and Dewberry *Rubus caesius* present. The hedgerow along the eastern side of the drove is formed of widely spaced shrubs only half a metre tall; this appears to be due to regular severe cutting. The hedge is dominated by Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* and Dogwood *Cornus sanguinea*, though other species are also present including Privet *Ligustrum vulgare*, Buckthorn *Rhamnus cathartica*, English Oak *Quercus robur*, Guelder Rose *Viburnum opulus*, Grey Sallow *Salix cinerea* and Dog Rose *Rosa canina*. Along the western side is a line of trees. The drove is managed by mowing and is used as a vehicle track.

**Site assessment**

The site qualifies as CWS because it contains frequent numbers of at least 6 strong calcareous grassland indicator species and frequent numbers of at least 8 neutral grassland indicator species.

**Site status**

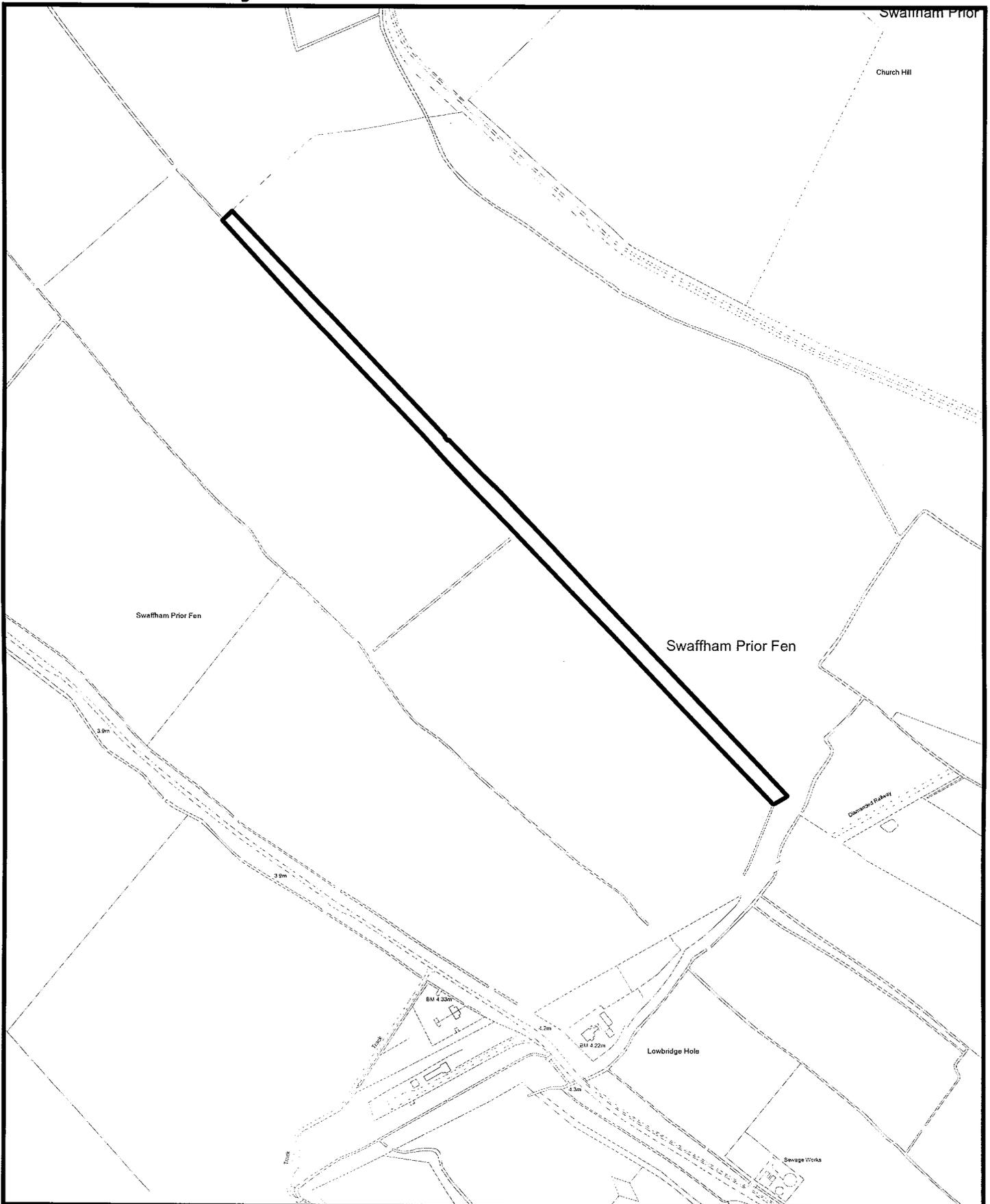
County Wildlife Site

**Surveyor**

Sharon Brown

06/07/2003

# Driest Drove



Grid Ref: TL562649  
Scale: 1:5000  
Plot Date: 22/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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Site No. 7078/2

**COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET**NAME: **July Course Grasslands**

File code: E/13.7.05

Parish(es): Swaffham Prior  
Stetchworth

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref: TL6062

**Habitat information****Code** *Habitat type*

B21 Grassland: neutral, unimproved

B31 Grassland: calcareous, unimproved

B32 Grassland: calcareous, semi-improved

CG05a *Bromus erectus-Brachypodium pinnatum* grassland: TypicalMG05 *Cynosurus cristatus-Centaurea nigra* grassland**Site area**

26.84 ha

**Site description**

The site comprises two large areas of mown grassland to the north-east and south-west of the July Course at Newmarket Racecourse. The site was surveyed and classified by English Nature in 1989 at which time it was described as composing largely of a mosaic of MG5, CG5a and semi-improved grassland. The site borders the Devils Dyke along its northern edge. The current survey indicates that the site still supports this mosaic of grassland habitats.

**The north-east area**

A strip of semi-improved grassland (c.5m wide) parallel to the northern side of the racetrack is composed of frequent Perennial Rye Grass *Lolium perenne*, Creeping Bent *Agrostis stolonifera*, Red Fescue *Festuca rubra* agg., occasional Small-leaved Timothy *Phleum bertolonii*, White Clover *Trifolium repens*, Germander Speedwell *Veronica chamaedrys* and Ribwort Plantain *Plantago lanceolata*. Species diversity is also low along three grass tracks running parallel to the course, formed where vehicles have driven. The majority of the north-east area consists of a patchwork of CG05a and MG05 grassland varying from species rich through to fairly species poor. In areas of high diversity and abundance, species recorded include for example (at TL 60965 62215) abundant Upright Brome *Bromus erectus* and Tor Grass *Brachypodium pinnatum*, frequent Sheep's Fescue *Festuca ovina*, Lady's Bedstraw *Galium verum*, Salad Burnet *Sanguisorba minor*, Black Knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, occasional Common Rock Rose *Helianthemum nummularium*, Birds-foot Trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, Restharow *Ononis repens*, Dropwort *Filipendula vulgaris*, rare Sainfoin *Onobrychis viciifolia* and Cowslip *Primula veris*. In other areas Agrimony *Agrimonia eupatoria* was found in low numbers. The species composition varies slightly across the site, for example at TL 60265 62752 a species rich area of Upright Brome, Tor Grass and Sheep's Fescue grassland contains Frequent Lady's Bedstraw, Salad Burnet *Sanguisorba minor* and Yarrow *Achillea millefolium*, occasional Black Knapweed and Red Clover *Trifolium pratense* and rare Cowslip, Dropwort *Filipendula vulgaris* and Squinancywort *Asperula cynanchica*. A small number of Clustered Bellflower *Campanula glomerata* were found towards the centre of the north-east area.

The patches of MG05 grassland did not contain Crested Dog's-tail but numerous other species indicative of this type were recorded including; frequent to occasional Black Knapweed, Red Fescue, Bird's foot Trefoil, Ribwort Plantain, Red Clover *Trifolium pratense*, Lady's Bedstraw and Salad Burnet.

***The south-west area***

Along the southern boundary of the site, a strip of species rich grassland dominates with abundant Upright Brome, frequent Tor Grass, Sheep's Fescue and Red Fescue (with an average sword height of 10-15cm) and a herb rich layer consisting of abundant Lady's Bedstraw locally abundant to frequent Black Knapweed, locally frequent Squinancywort, occasional Birds-foot-trefoil, Fairy Flax *Linum catharticum* and rare Cowslip, Agrimony, Self Heal *Prunella vulgaris*, Toadflax *Linaria vulgaris*, Wild Thyme *Thymus polytrichus*, Mouse-ear Hawkweed *Pilosella officinarum*, Harebell *Campanula rotundifolia* and Greater Knapweed *Centaurea scabiosa*. The majority of the rest of the south -west area consists of a grass sword cut to an average height of 5-6cm. Upright Brome, Tor Grass and Sheep's Fescue dominate with diverse but low numbers of forbs, including; frequent Black Knapweed, Ribwort Plantain, Hoary Plantain *Plantago media*, occasional Meadow-rue *Thalictrum flavum*, Birds-foot Trefoil, Selfheal, Salad Burnet, Field Scabious *Knautia arvensis*, Cowslip, Wild Parsnip *Pastinaca sativa*, Greater Knapweed *Centaurea scabiosa*, Dropwort, Agrimony, Daisy *Bellis perennis*, Wild Thyme *Thymus polytrichus* and rare Common Vetch *Vicia Sativa*, Common Rock Rose, Sainfoin, Restharrow and Clustered Bellflower. The far northern section of this area is very species poor, with 99% cover of Upright Brome, average sword height 5-7cm. The few forbs present in low numbers include Yarrow, Sainfoin, Hoary Plantain, Restharrow and Lady's Bedstraw.

**Site assessment**

The site qualifies because it supports at least 0.05ha of CG5 Upright Brome -Tor-grass grassland and at least 0.05ha of MG5 Crested Dog's-tail - Black Knapweed grassland.

**Site status**

County Wildlife Site  
EN Grassland Inventory

**Surveyor**

Emma Ogden, Alastair Ross  
13/07/2005



Site No. 7076

**COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET**NAME: **Swaffham Prior Meadow**

File code: E/11.6.03

Parish(es): Swaffham Prior

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref.: TL567645

**Habitat information****Code** *Habitat type*

B22 Grassland: neutral, semi-improved

B5 Grassland: marsh/marshy grassland

J231 Boundaries, hedge with trees, species-rich

J261 Boundaries, permanently wet ditch

MI27 *Filipendula ulmaria*-*Angelica sylvestris* mire**Site Area**

3.10 ha

**Site description**

The site consists of a single wet meadow, that was formerly much wetter, but has suffered as a result of drainage of the neighbouring fields. The meadow is surrounded by boundary hedgerows with occasional standard trees and ditches, with the hedgerows on the north-west and south-east boundaries being particularly thick. The meadow slopes gently to the north and north-west and increases in wetness towards the north. A shallow ditch runs through the marshy area along the north-eastern half of the meadow, though this dries out considerable in the summer months. Two ponds, one completely silted, occur towards the northern boundary. The transition from dryer meadow to wetter marsh is a fine example of a natural ecotone.

The dryer, tall grassland towards the south-east of the meadow is dominated by False Oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius*, Cocksfoot *Dactylis glomerata* and Yorkshire Fog *Holcus lanatus*, with occasional Rough Meadow Grass *Poa trivialis* and few herbs. Sorrel *Rumex acetosa*, Creeping Buttercup *Ranunculus repens* and Meadow Buttercup *Ranunculus acris* occur with Field Horsetail *Equisetum arvense*, Creeping Thistle *Cirsium arvense* and in a large depression, Nettles *Urtica dioica*. Towards the western end, species diversity increases slightly with Crested Dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus*, Red Fescue *Festuca rubra*, Red Clover *Trifolium pratense*, Ribwort Plantain *Plantago lanceolata*, Black Knapweed *Centaurea nigra* and Cowslip *Primula veris*. As the grassland becomes wetter, Tufted Hair-grass *Deschampsia cespitosa* increases with Brown Sedge *Carex disticha*, Hard Rush *Juncus inflexus* and in the wettest areas Black Sedge *Carex nigra*, Meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria* and Marsh Thistle *Cirsium palustre*. These grade into the species-rich marsh / mire community.

The wettest areas of the marsh are a good example of the NVC M27 *Filipendula ulmaria* – *Angelica sylvestris* community and are in the north-west of the site with the marsh decreasing in wetness towards the south-east. In the wettest areas, Meadowsweet is dominant with frequent Lesser Pond Sedge *Carex acutiformis* and large patches of Meadow Rue *Thalictrum flavum*, together with a frequent scatter of Marsh Marigold *Caltha palustris*, Yellow Loosestrife *Lysimachia vulgaris*, Field Horsetail *Equisetum arvense*, Blunt-flowered Rush *Juncus subnodulosus*, Marsh Thistle and Fen Bedstraw *Galium uliginosum*. Other species include Wild Angelica *Angelica sylvestris*, Marsh Horsetail *Equisetum palustre*, Hairy Willowherb

and Figwort *Scrophularia nodosa*. On the slightly higher ground Tufted Vetch *Vicia cracca*, Black Knapweed and Cow Parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris* are found. The ditch through the marsh was dominated by Greater Reed-mace *Typha latifolia* and Yellow Flag *Iris pseudacorus*.

The large pond has a range of typical wetland plants including Greater Pond Sedge *Carex riparia*, Reed Sweet-grass *Glyceria maxima*, Yellow Flag, Water Mint *Mentha aquatica* and a small patch of Common Reed *Phragmites australis* in one corner. Less common are Purple Loosestrife *Lythrum salicaria*, Greater Bird's-foot Trefoil *Lotus pedunculatus* and three plants of Greater Spearwort *Ranunculus lingua*. Crack Willow *Salix fragilis*, Grey Sallow *Salix cinerea*, Osier *Salix viminalis* and Dewberry *Rubus caesius* scrub occurs around much of the pond. The smaller pond is silted up allowing Reed Canary Grass *Phalaris arundinacea*, Fool's Water-cress *Apium nodiflorum* and Creeping Jenny *Lysimachia nummularia* to flourish.

The hedgerows are thick and bushy, though in places have become tall and leggy and are in need of management. There are also a number of small gaps. Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* is dominant with frequent Grey Sallow, and other species, including Elder *Sambucus nigra* and Buckthorn *Rhamnus cathartica* much less common. A section next to the marsh holds Alder *Alnus glutinosa*, Grey Sallow and Elm *Ulmus sp.* which has some Dutch Elm disease. Mature trees include Field Maple *Acer campestre*, Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*, White Willow *Salix alba* and *Populus candicans*, which supports a population of Mistletoe *Viscum album*. Several scrambling plants are also present including Hop *Humulus lupulus*, while Dewberry and Cleavers dominate the gaps in the hedgerow.

**Site assessment**

This site is a CWS because it supports at least 0.25 ha of a good example of the NVC Meadowsweet - Wild Angelica mire community (M27). In addition, it supports frequent numbers of at least 3 strong neutral grassland indicator species.

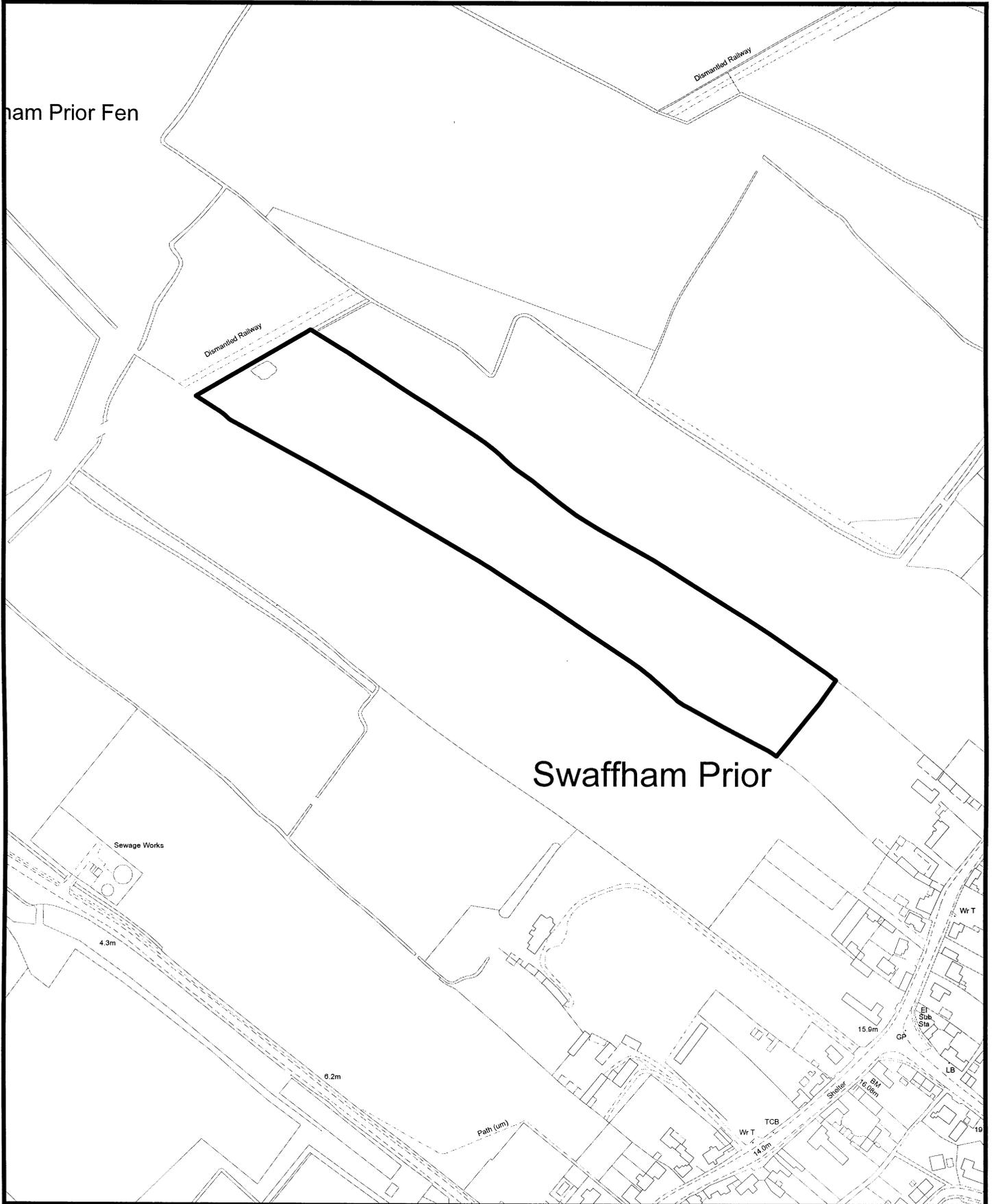
**Site status**

County Wildlife Site  
former Site of Natural History Interest

**Surveyor**

Sharon Brown  
11/06/2003

# Swaffham Prior Meadow



Grid Ref: TL567645  
Scale: 1:3500  
Plot Date: 22/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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Site No. 7028

## COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET

NAME: **Wentworth Pollard Willows**

File code: E/16.6.05

Parish(es): Wentworth

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref: TL479777

### Habitat information

#### *Code Habitat type*

A31 Parkland/scattered trees: broad-leaved

J261 Boundaries, permanently wet ditch

#### *Site area*

0.75 ha

### Site description

A line of pollarded and unpollarded White Willows *Salix alba* following the course of Grunty Fen Catchwater. In total there are approximately one hundred pollarded trees, a quarter of which are large mature specimens. A significant proportion of the old trees have split trunks, dropped branches, standing dead timber etc. No management is apparent apart from the removal of branches interfering with the flow of the ditch or with cultivation in the arable fields; significant time has elapsed since any pollarding has been undertaken. Interspersed with the willows are frequent shrubs and occasional trees; species include Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, Elder *Sambucus nigra*, Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, Dog-Rose *Rosa canina* agg., Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, Oak *Quercus robur*, Crack Willow *Salix fragilis*, Elm *Ulmus spp.*, The pollard willows follow a minor drain which has steep banks dominated by coarse species-poor grassland. The ditch is approximately one metre wide with very little water; emergent and submerged vegetation is very sparse. Species include Reed Canary-grass *Phalaris arundinacea*, Fool's Watercress *Apium nodiflorum*, Watercress *Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum*, False-Fox Sedge *Carex otrubae*, Common Duckweed *Lemna minor*, Pink Water Speedwell *Veronica catenata*, and Water Plantain *Alisma plantago-aquatica*.

### Site assessment

The site qualifies as CWS because it supports at least 5 mature pollard willows in association with other semi-natural features.

### Note

Following the findings of this year's survey it is proposed the eastern limit of the site be extended from the existing TL487,776 to TL4931,7763; adding approximately 30 more pollard willows to the site. Discussions are required with landowners before the boundary is finalised.

### Site status

County Wildlife Site

### Surveyor

Alastair Ross

16/06/2005

# Wentworth Pollard Willows



Grid Ref: TL478777

Scale: 1:10000

Plot Date: 25/7/2005

By: Wildlife Trust

for CCC

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Site No. 7249

**COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET**NAME: **Ladies Grove and Hay Wood**

File code: E/12.05.05

Parish(es): Westley Waterless

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref: TL624556

**Habitat information****Code** *Habitat type*

A111 Woodland: broadleaved, semi-natural

A112 Woodland: broadleaved, plantation

J261 Boundaries, permanently wet ditch

**Site Area**

11.05 ha

**Site description**

The site comprises two ancient woodlands, Ladies Grove and Hay Wood, linked by an area of broadleaved plantation. Hay Wood is largely semi-natural but has significant areas replanted with native broadleaves, mainly Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*. The semi-natural areas consist of an English Oak *Quercus robur* and Ash canopy, with many of the Ash having grown from former coppice. A large Oak is present at the south-west corner of the wood, while occasional Horse Chestnut *Aesculus hippocastanum* are also present. The understorey is dominated by Hazel *Corylus avellana*, with Field Maple *Acer campestre* and Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* frequent and Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa* occasional. Other shrubs including Goat Willow *Salix caprea*, Elder *Sambucus nigra* and Redcurrant *Ribes rubrum* are rare and Spindle *Euonymus europaeus* was only recorded from the western edge of the wood. Dogwood *Cornus sanguinea* and Crab Apple *Malus sylvestris* seen during the previous survey were not recorded. The ground flora is an interesting mix with Bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* abundant in many areas but Oxlip *Primula elatior* (Nationally Scarce species) also locally abundant, particularly but not exclusively in the glades. Wood Sedge *Carex sylvatica* and Meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria* are also locally frequent in some of the glades. Elsewhere Dog's Mercury *Mercurialis perennis* is locally frequent. Other species present include Pendulous Sedge *Carex pendula*, Bugle *Ajuga reptans*, Wood Avens *Geum urbanum*, Lesser Celandine *Ranunculus ficaria*, Ground Ivy *Glechoma hederacea*, Greater Stitchwort *Stellaria holostea*, Lord's and Ladies *Arum maculatum* and Enchanter's Nightshade *Circaea lutetiana*. The northern boundary of Hay Wood is marked by a ditch and wood bank. There are good quantities of standing and fallen dead wood.

Ladies Grove is also largely an ancient semi-natural woodland with a similar structure and species to Hay Wood. Like Hay Wood, areas have been replanted with Ash. A small stand of Hornbeam *Carpinus betulus* coppice is present towards the northern boundary. Of the ground flora, Bluebell is the most abundant species with smaller patches of Dog's Mercury and occasional Oxlip, Ramsons *Allium ursinum* and Male Fern *Dryopteris filix-mas* present in the eastern half of the wood. Occasional patches of Nettle *Urtica dioica* also occur. A large pheasant pen is present in the south-east of Ladies Grove, partially in a glade and partially in an area of broadleaved woodland.

The two ancient woodlands are linked by a block of broadleaved plantation with Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*, Ash and English Oak. The native shrub layer is sparse, with Hazel, Hawthorn, Blackthorn and Field Maple. The ground flora contains occasional Tufted Hair-grass *Deschampsia cespitosa*, Wood

False-brome *Brachypodium sylvaticum* and Dog's Mercury. Oxlip have spread about 10-15 metres into the plantation from Hay Wood, and less far from Ladies Grove. Bluebell have spread a little further, though the plantation wood is marked by fewer woodland species, especially those indicative of ancient woodland.

A buffer zone, comprising a 6 metre grass margin is present around the whole wood.

**Site assessment**

The site qualifies as CWS because it is a woodland listed in the Cambridgeshire Inventory of Ancient Woodlands which retains more than 25% semi-natural cover. Additionally it qualifies because it supports a population of a Nationally Scarce vascular plant species (Oxlip *Primula elatior*).

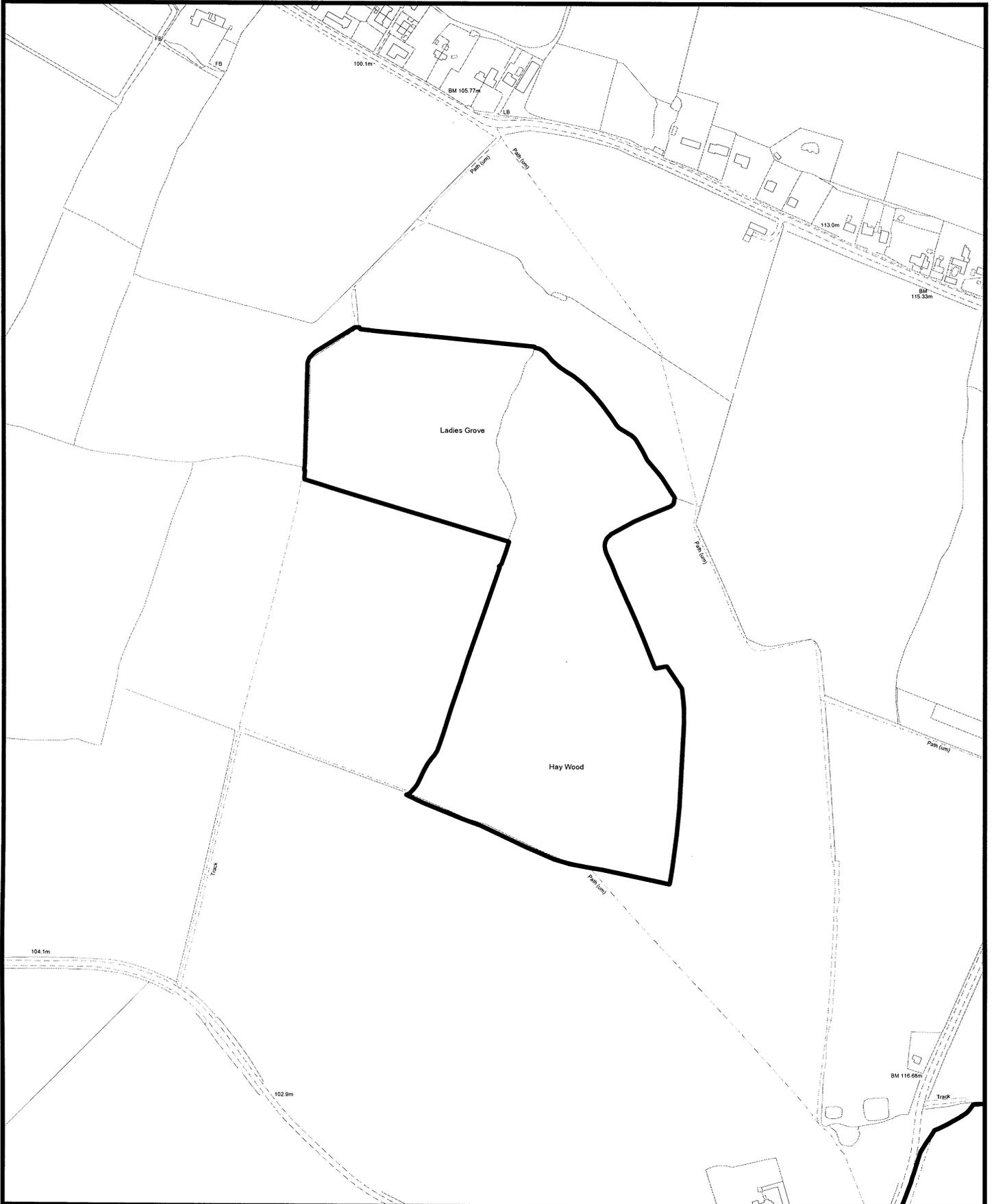
**Site status**

County Wildlife Site  
Ancient Woodland Inventory  
former Site of Natural History Interest

**Surveyor**

Martin Baker  
12/05/2005

# Ladies Grove and Hay Wood



Grid Ref: TL624556  
Scale: 1:5000  
Plot Date: 22/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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Site No. 7517

**COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET**NAME: **Kingfisher's Bridge Wetland**

File code: E/NEW/6.12.02

Parish(es): Wicken

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref.: TL544732

**Habitat information****Code** *Habitat type*

F1	Swamp
F2	Marginal/inundation
B52	Grassland: marshy, lowland
G1	Open water: standing water
A21	Scrub: dense/continuous
I2	Rock: artificial exposure
J4	Bare ground

**Site area**

62.42 ha

**Site description**

The Kingfisher's Bridge wetland was created from former arable land in 1995, adjacent to the Cam Washes SSSI. A series of lakes, islands and shallow scrapes were created, utilising the natural variation in soil and topography and linked by a network of ditches providing a water control system. Water is sourced through seepage from the River Cam, rainfall and chalk springs that have been intercepted by the ditch system. The deeper excavations support open water while in the more shallow areas Common Reed beds have developed. Marsh Harrier and Bearded Tit have both successfully bred in the reed beds. Seasonally flooded scrape areas have also been created to attract waders and water birds and Redshank, Snipe and Lapwing have bred. In other areas, wet fen meadows have been created and an English Nature Species Recovery Project for the Nationally Rare Water Germander *Teucrium scordium* successfully implemented. On higher ground areas of bare chalk have been allowed to colonise naturally, after top soil stripping, and several bare ground species have colonised including Venus's-looking glass *Legousia hybrida* and Grey Field Speedwell *Veronica polita*. These areas have also been favoured by breeding Lapwing. Two bare exposed chalk faces have been colonised by Sand Martins, after burrows were drilled. Soil banks around the boundary of the site have been created and planted with a variety of native shrubs such as Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa* and Buckthorn *Rhamnus cathartica*. A belt of Poplars *Populus sp.* have also been planted on the boundary with the Cam Washes.

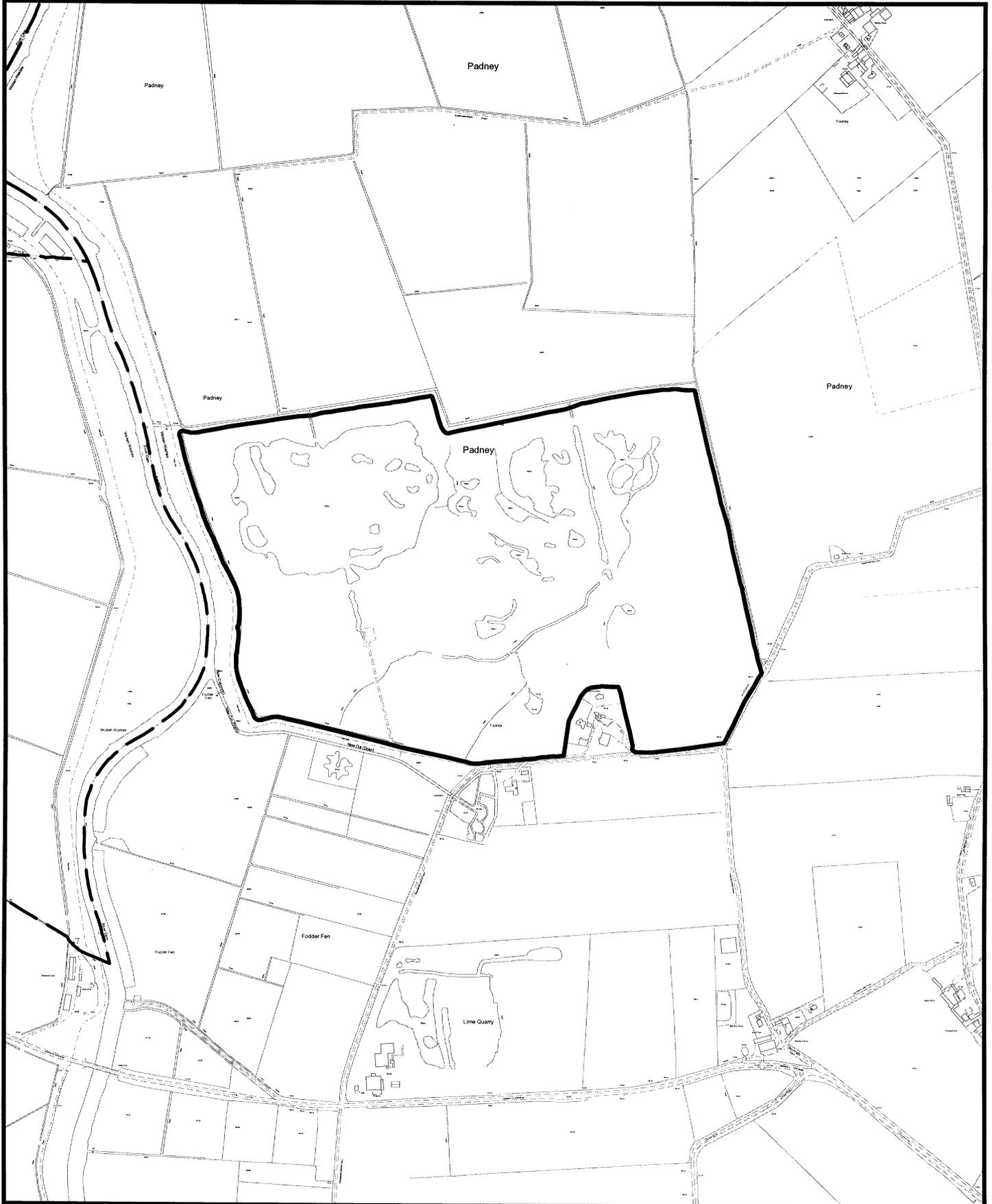
**Site assessment**

The Site qualifies as a CWS because it supports a population of a Nationally Rare vascular plant species (Water Germander *Teucrium scordium*). In addition it supports more than 0.5 ha of S4 Common Reed swamp. The site also qualifies under the bird breeding criteria by virtue of supporting breeding bird species that are rare in the county and by supporting wet meadows with more than 3 species of breeding wader. It is also likely to qualify under the criteria for the range of breeding birds.

**Site status**

County Wildlife Site

# Kingfisher's Bridge Wetland



Grid Ref: TL544732  
Scale: 1:10000  
Plot Date: 20/9/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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Site No. 7133

**COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET**NAME: **New River and Monk's Lode**

File code: E/18.7.05

Parish(es): Wicken  
Fordham  
Burwell

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref.: TL5970

**Habitat information**

<i>Code</i>	<i>Habitat type</i>
F2	Marginal/inundation
G2	Open water: running water

**Site description**

The site comprises approximately six kilometres of main drain extending from the county boundary near Fordham to a section of Monk's Lode adjacent to Wicken Fen NNR. Eight sample locations were visited with the aim of presenting a fair representation of flora and habitat present along the drainage system. The DAFOR system was used to estimate abundance of species present.

Sample point 1 at TL60893,69561 just south of road bridge; water channel is 2-2.5m wide, water is very clear with a depth of approximately 0.4m. The watercourse has a good fringe of emergent vegetation with Branched Bur-reed *Sparganium erectum* (F), Reed Canary-grass *Phalaris arundinacea* (F); other aquatic plants present include River Water Crowfoot *Ranunculus fluitans* (F), Fool's Watercress *Apium nodiflorum* (O), Water Speedwell *Veronica anagallis-aquatica* (O), Common Duckweed *Lemna minor* (O), Water Starwort *Callitriche spp.* (O), Watercress *Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum* (R). The banks are 2-3m high with a 45° slope with flora that includes Reed Canary-grass *Phalaris arundinacea* (F), False Oat Grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* (F), Nettles *Urtica dioica* (F), Meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria* (O), Hemp Agrimony *Eupatorium cannabinum* (O), Mugwort *Artemisia vulgaris* (O), Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* (O).

Sample point 2 at TL60411,70431; water channel is 2-2.5m wide, water is very clear with a depth of approximately 0.4m. The watercourse has a good fringe of marginal vegetation on both sides. Channel and marginal vegetation comprises Reed Canary-grass *Phalaris arundinacea* (A), Branched Bur-reed *Sparganium erectum* (O), Greater Pond Sedge *Carex riparia* (O), Floating Sweet-grass *Glyceria fluitans* (O) Fool's Watercress *Apium nodiflorum* (F), Water Speedwell *Veronica anagallis-aquatica* (F), Common Duckweed *Lemna minor* (F), Water Starwort *Callitriche spp.* (R), Water forget-me-not *Myosotis scorpioides* (R). The banks are 2-4m high with a 70° slope with flora that includes Reed Canary-grass *Phalaris arundinacea* (O), False Oat Grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* (F), Common Knapweed *Centaurea nigra* (O), Field Horsetail *Equisetum arvense* (O), Creeping Thistle *Cirsium arvense* (O), Meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria* (O), Hedge Bedstraw *Galium mollugo* (O), Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* (O).

Sample point 3 from footbridge at TL60411,70431; water channel is 3m wide, water is very clear with a depth of approximately 0.4m. Channel and marginal vegetation comprises Reed Canary-grass *Phalaris arundinacea* (F), Floating Sweet-grass *Glyceria fluitans* (O) Fool's Watercress *Apium nodiflorum* (O), Mare's Tail *Hippuris vulgaris* (F), Greater Bulrush *Typha latifolia* (R), Water Speedwell *Veronica anagallis-aquatica* (R), Common Duckweed *Lemna minor* (O), Common Water Starwort *Callitriche stagnalis* (O),

Water Figwort *Scrophularia auriculata* (R). The banks are 3m high with a 70° slope with flora that includes Reed Canary-grass *Phalaris arundinacea* (A), Meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria* (O), Great Willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum* (O), Hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium*. Note, between sample points 3 and 4 the channel becomes choked by dominant Common Reed *Phragmites australis* with no other aquatic vegetation.

Sample point 4 at TL59444,70271; water channel is 2.5m wide, water is clear with a depth of approximately 0.3m. Channel and marginal vegetation comprises Branched Bur-reed *Sparganium erectum* (A), Floating Sweet-grass *Glyceria fluitans* (O), Reed Canary-grass *Phalaris arundinacea* (O), Fool's Watercress *Apium nodiflorum* (O), Water-plantain *Alisma plantago-aquatica* (O). The banks are 2m high with a 80° slope with flora that includes Reed Canary-grass *Phalaris arundinacea* (O), False Oat Grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* (F), Common Couch *Elytrigia repens* (F), Hedge Bedstraw *Galium mollugo* (O), Nettles *Urtica dioica* (O), Field Bindweed *Convolvulus arvensis* (O).

Dense stands of Common Reed *Phragmites australis* starts again at TL59363,70239 and continues to TL59235,70115, this section is very species poor. Between the footbridge at TL591,702 and TL58910,70034 the channel is 2-3m wide with frequent Common Reed *Phragmites australis* (F), Branched Bur-reed *Sparganium erectum* (F) with little else except rare Fool's Water cress *Apium nodiflorum* and Greater Pond Sedge *Carex riparia*. The north bank along this stretch is covered with abundant Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* scrub while the south bank comprises largely False Oat Grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* and Hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium*.

Sample point 5 at TL59444,70271; water channel is 2.5m wide. Channel and marginal vegetation comprises Common Reed *Phragmites australis* (A), Branched Bur-reed *Sparganium erectum* (O), Reed Canary-grass *Phalaris arundinacea* (O). The banks are 2-3m high with a 50° slope with flora that includes Common Reed *Phragmites australis* (O), False Oat Grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* (F), Great Willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum* (LF), Hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium* (F) and Meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria* (R). Observations from this sample point suggest a similar pattern of channel and bank vegetation continuing for a significant distance in the direction of Hundred Acre Farm.

Between Samples 2 and 5 is a strip of grassland (5-6m wide) immediately adjacent to the north side of the drain; this is currently used as a path. The tall uncut sward contains frequent patches of semi-improved/neglected MG5 grassland; species present include Crested Dog's Tail *Cynosurus cristatus* (F), Red Fescue *Festuca rubra* agg., Common Knapweed *Centaurea nigra* (O/LF), Lady's Bedstraw *Galium verum*, Hedge Bedstraw *Galium mollugo* (O). A patch of abundant Upright Brome *Bromopsis erecta* is situated close to Sample point 2.

Sample point 6 at TL58165,69906; water channel is 3m wide, water is very clear with a depth of approximately 0.5m. The watercourse has a good fringe of marginal vegetation on both sides. Channel and marginal vegetation comprises Common Reed *Phragmites australis* (A), Reed Canary-grass *Phalaris arundinacea* (R), Branched Bur-reed *Sparganium erectum* (R), Floating Sweet-grass *Glyceria fluitans* (O) Fool's Watercress *Apium nodiflorum* (O), Arrowhead *Sagittaria sagittifolia* (O), Perfoliate Pondweed *Potamogeton perfoliatus* (R), Canadian Waterweed *Elodea canadensis* (F). The banks are 0.5m-1m high with 45° slopes. Flora on the north bank comprises Common Reed *Phragmites australis* (D), Sharp-flowered Rush *Juncus acutiflorus* (O). The south bank vegetation includes Common Reed *Phragmites australis* (A), False Oat Grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* (F), and Yorkshire Fog *Holcus lanatus* (O).

Sample point 7 at TL57145,70168 just north of footbridge; water channel is 4m wide, water is clear with a depth of approximately 0.5m. Channel and marginal vegetation comprises Common Reed *Phragmites australis* (F), Greater Pond Sedge *Carex riparia* (F), Reed Sweet-grass *Glyceria maxima* (F), Shining Pondweed *Potamogeton lucens* (O), Yellow Water-lily *Nuphar lutea* (O), Tapegrass *Vallisneria spiralis* (F), Arrowhead *Sagittaria sagittifolia* (R), Canadian Waterweed *Elodea canadensis* (R), Watercress *Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum* (R), Meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria* (R). The banks 2m high with 50° slopes, their flora includes Common Reed *Phragmites australis* (F), False Oat Grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* (F), Cow Parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris* (O), Nettles *Urtica dioica* (O), Cocksfoot *Dactylis glomerata* (O).

Sample point 8 at TL56842, 69955 from south bank; water channel is 4-5m wide, water is clear with a depth of approximately 0.6m. Channel and marginal vegetation comprises Common Reed *Phragmites australis* (A) Yellow Water-lily *Nuphar lutea* (F), Tapegrass *Vallisneria spiralis* (F), Shining Pondweed *Potamogeton lucens* (O), Watercress *Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum* (R). The banks are 1-2m high with 80° slopes whose flora includes Common Reed *Phragmites australis* (A), Reed Canary-grass *Phalaris arundinacea* (O), Meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria* (O), Hard Rush *Juncus inflexus* (O), Hemp Agrimony *Eupatorium cannabinum* (O), Field Bindweed *Convolvulus arvensis* (O), Hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium* (O).

**Site assessment**

The site has historically qualified as CWS because it supports more than 10 submerged, floating, emergent and wet bank species per 20m stretch. Both the western and eastern ends of the site (2km stretches at both ends) are well managed and continue to display a good flora that meets the qualifying criteria. However, this current survey suggests significant length of the middle section of the site would no longer qualify under these criteria. A large part of this length of the watercourse is currently very species poor; these stretches have become overgrown with Reeds and would benefit from management to thin some of the dense stands of emergent vegetation that have accumulated in the channel.

**Site status**

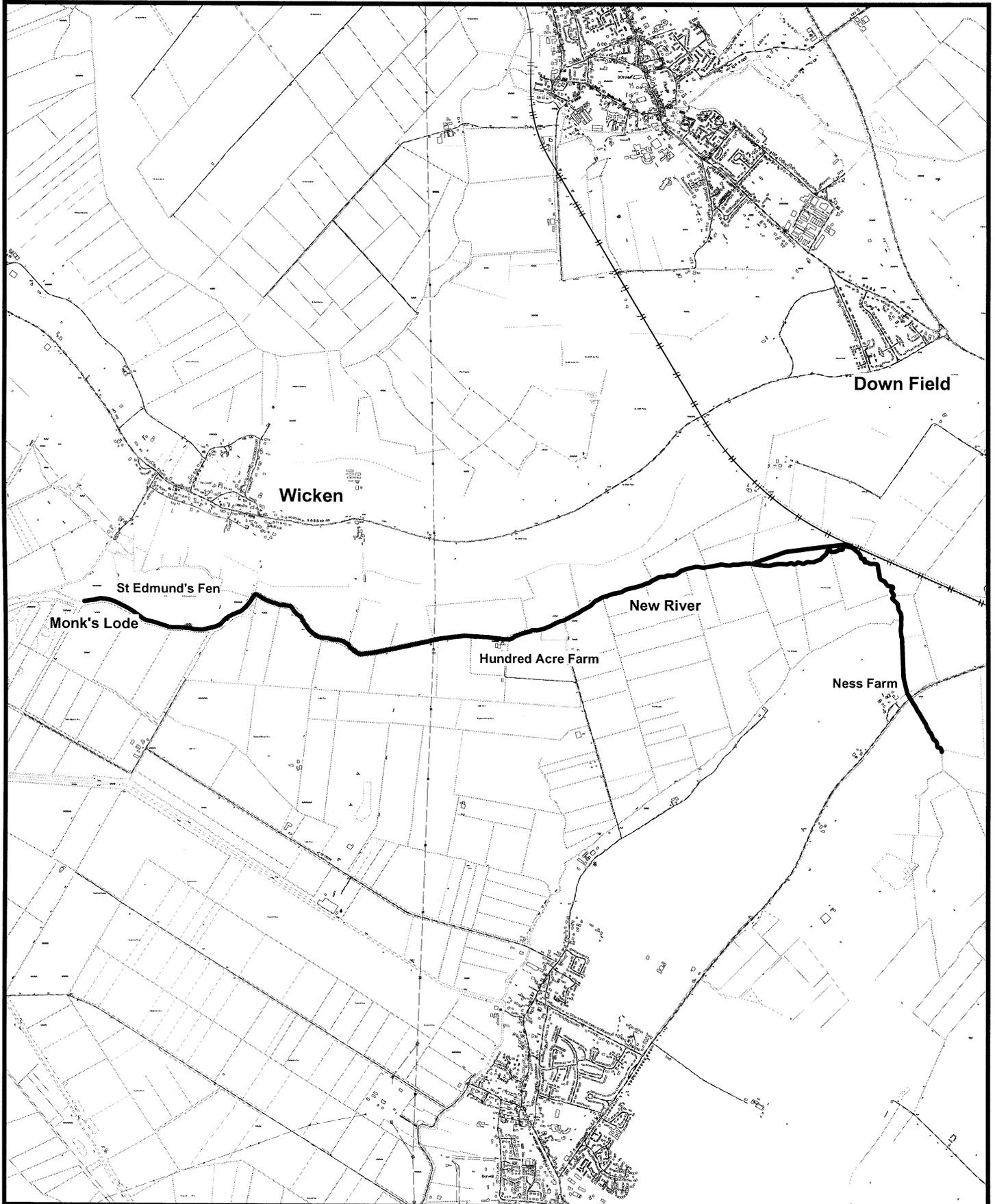
County Wildlife Site

**Surveyor**

Alastair Ross

18/07/2005

# New River & Monk's Lode



Grid Ref: TL5970  
Scale: 1:30000  
Plot Date: 21/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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Site No. 7288

**COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET**NAME: **Charcoals Wood**

File code: E/17.5.05

Parish(es): Woodditton

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref: TL658575

**Habitat information****Code** *Habitat type*

A111 Woodland: broadleaved, semi-natural

B22 Grassland: neutral, semi-improved

J21 Boundaries, intact hedge

J22 Boundaries, defunct hedge

J262 Boundaries, seasonally wet ditch

**Site area**

7.85 ha

**Site description**

A small Oak-Ash ancient woodland exhibiting good semi-natural character; much of the canopy comprises of mature Oak *Quercus robur* and Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* standards, together with frequent old Ash coppice. The coppice has been neglected for some time with stems averaging 25-40cm in diameter. Throughout the woodland there is evidence of natural regeneration of the Ash. A couple of small glades in the woodland have been recently planted with Oak. Frequent young sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* are becoming well established in the West and South corners of the wood. The wood is used for game bird rearing.

The under-storey comprises of frequent Hazel *Corylus avellana* coppice together with occasional Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, Field Maple *Acer campestre* and Elder *Sambucus nigra*. Rhododendron *Rhododendron ponticum* absent from most of the woodland dominates the far western corner of the woodland, growing to 20 feet high in places.

The ground flora is dominated by Dog's mercury *Mercurialis perennis* in most areas of the woodland. Bluebells *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* are locally frequent, mainly in the far eastern and far northern limits of the woodland. Other species present include Oxlip *Primula elatior* (Nationally Scarce species) Ramsons *Allium ursinum*, Yellow Archangel *Lamiastrum galeobdolon*, Pendulous Sedge *Carex pendula*, Wood Sedge *Carex sylvatica*, Hairy St John's Wort *Hypericum hirsutum*, Nettles *Urtica dioica*, Brambles *Rubus fruticosus* agg., Herb Bennett *Geum urbanum*, and False Brome *Brachypodium sylvaticum*. The locally rare species Yellow Pimpernel *Lysimachia nemorum* was recorded during survey in the early eighties but recent records are lacking.

Along the northern and eastern sides the wood is bordered by green lanes and these are included in the CWS. The lanes are dominated by rather coarse grassland with a number of neutral grassland indicator species present including Field Scabious *Knautia arvensis*, Common Knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, and Bird's Foot Trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*.

**Site assessment**

The site qualifies as CWS because it is a woodland listed in the Cambridgeshire Inventory of Ancient Woodlands which retains more than 25% semi-natural cover. Additionally it qualifies because it supports a population of a Nationally Scarce vascular plant species (Oxlip *Primula elatior*).

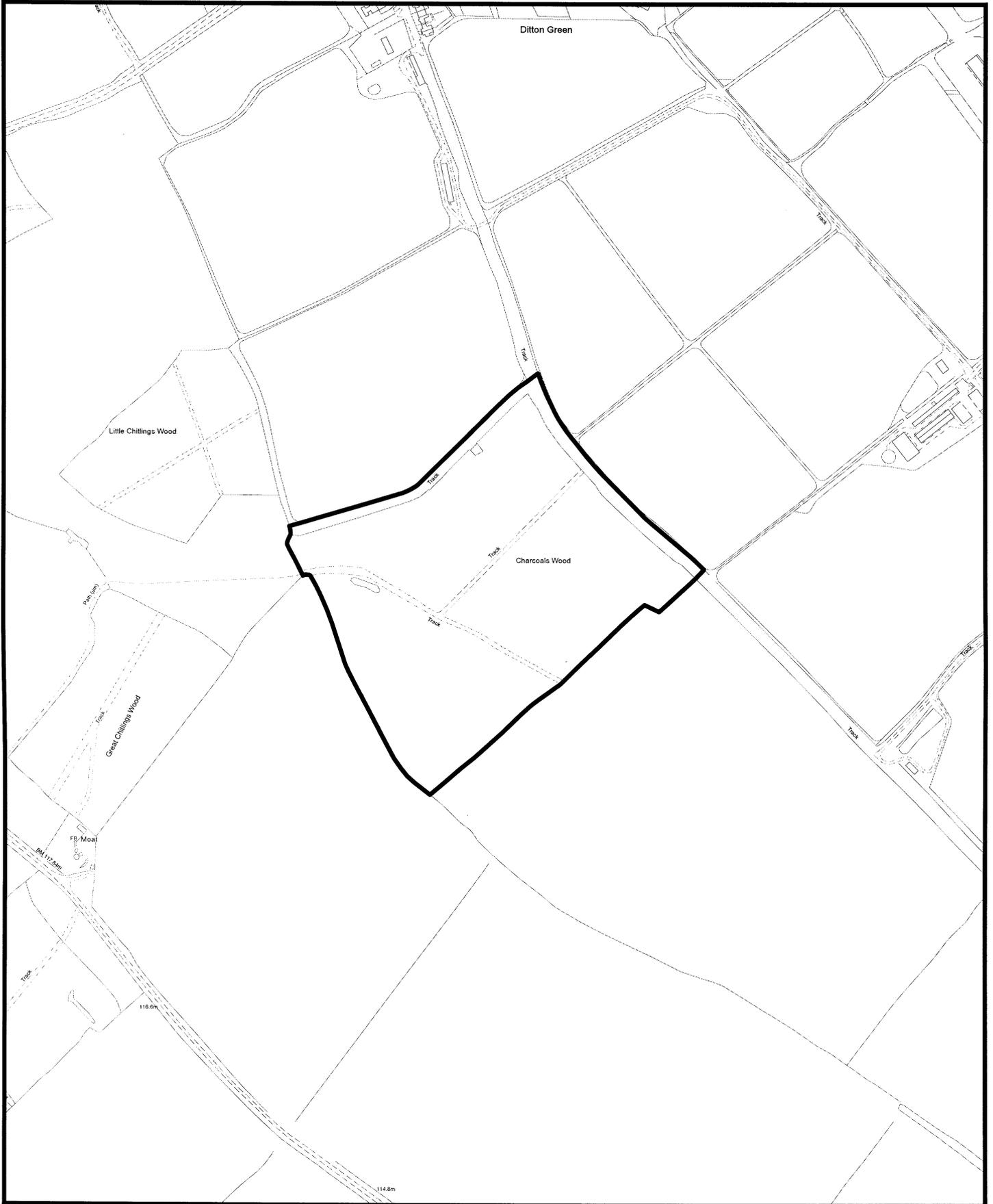
**Site status**

County Wildlife Site  
former Site of Natural History Interest  
Ancient Woodland Inventory  
De-scheduled SSSI

**Surveyor**

Alastair Ross  
17/05/2005

# Charcoals Wood



Grid Ref: TL658575  
Scale: 1:5000  
Plot Date: 21/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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Site No. 7295

**COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET**NAME: **Ditton Park Wood**

File code: E/3.5.05

Parish(es): Woodditton

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref: TL668569

**Habitat information****Code** *Habitat type*

A112 Woodland: broadleaved, plantation

B22 Grassland: neutral, semi-improved

G1 Open water: standing water

J262 Boundaries, seasonally wet ditch

**Site area**

73.76 ha

**Site description**

A large ancient woodland largely replanted in the fifties with broadleaved and coniferous trees; species including Pedunculate Oak *Quercus robur*, Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, Beech *Fagus sylvatica*, Norway Maple *Acer platanoides*, Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*, Cherry *Prunus avium*, Western Red Cedar *Thuja plicata*, and Norway Spruce *Picea abies*. In recent years the vast majority of the planted exotic conifer trees have been cleared, creating a broadleaved plantation woodland that with continued good management practice will take on an attractive semi-natural appearance in coming decades.

Despite the large-scale planting the woodland retains a relatively good native shrub layer, especially along the ride margins. Shrub species include Hazel *Corylus avellana* (there are occasional patches of fine Hazel coppice), Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, Field Maple *Acer campestre*, Wayfaring-tree *Viburnum lanata*, Goat Willow *Salix caprea*, and Grey Willow *Salix cinerea*. In several locations within the wood there are also some moderate sized patches of Silver Birch *Betula pendula*.

The majority of the ancient woodland flora survives on the wide grassy rides, plantation margins and paths whilst the ground flora of the denser plantation blocks is far more limited. There are recent records of at least 60 woodland plants of which 20 are ancient woodland indicator species. Species include Pendulous Sedge *Carex pendula* Wood Sedge *Carex sylvatica* Hairy Woodrush *Luzula pilosa*, Bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*, Ramsons *Allium ursinum*, Wood Anemone *Anemone nemorosa*, Yellow Archangel *Lamium galeobdolon*, Bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, Dog's Mercury *Mercurialis perennis* Honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum*, Creeping Jenny *Lysimachia nummularia*, Early Purple Orchid *Orchis mascula*, Wood Sorrel *Oxalis acetosella*, Giant Fescue *Festuca gigantea*, Water Avens *Geum rivale*, Wood Speedwell *Veronica montana*, Bush Vetch *Vicia sepium*, Wood Dog Violet *Viola reichenbachiana*. Of particular note is the occurrence of the Nationally Scarce species Oxlip *Primula elatior* and the County rarities Opposite Leaved Golden Saxifrage *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium* and Wood Spurge *Euphorbia amygdaloides*. The rides also support a number of grassland indicator species such as Agrimony *Agrimonia eupatoria*, Common Knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, Common Centaury *Centaureum erythraea*, Lesser Stitchwort *Stellaria graminea* and Devil's-bit Scabious *Succisa pratensis*.

The wood contains two small ponds, both with abundant tadpoles present. The ponds have a good diversity of flora between them, species including Greater Pond Sedge *Carex riparia*, Greater Bulrush *Typha latifolia*, Broad-leaved Pondweed *Potamogeton natans*, Starworts *Callitriche* spp. Meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*, Floating Sweet Grass *Glyceria fluitans*, Water Mint *Mentha aquatica*, Great Willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum*, False Fox Sedge *Carex otrubae*, Golden-leaved Opposite Saxifrage *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*.

The wood is a site of secondary importance in the NCC Bryophyte Register of Cambridgeshire. Prior to replanting the wood was a noted locality for Diptera; further survey would be required to determine if any of this interest remains. The wood is adjacent to part of the Woodditton Kirtling Road RSV which is also a County Wildlife Site. The Nationally Scarce species Crested Cow-wheat *Melampyrum cristatum* has been recently recorded growing on this verge at the margin of the wood.

#### **Site assessment**

The site qualifies as CWS on the following grounds: it is a woodland listed in the Cambridgeshire Inventory of Ancient Woodland which is more than 75% replanted and which supports more than 10 ancient woodland indicator species, it also supports more than 40 woodland plants; it is a Grade C site in the JNCC Invertebrate Site Register: it supports a population of a Nationally Scarce vascular plant species (Oxlip *Primula elatior*); it supports populations of vascular plant species which are rare in the County (Opposite Leaved Golden Saxifrage *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium* and Wood Spurge *Euphorbia amygdaloides*).

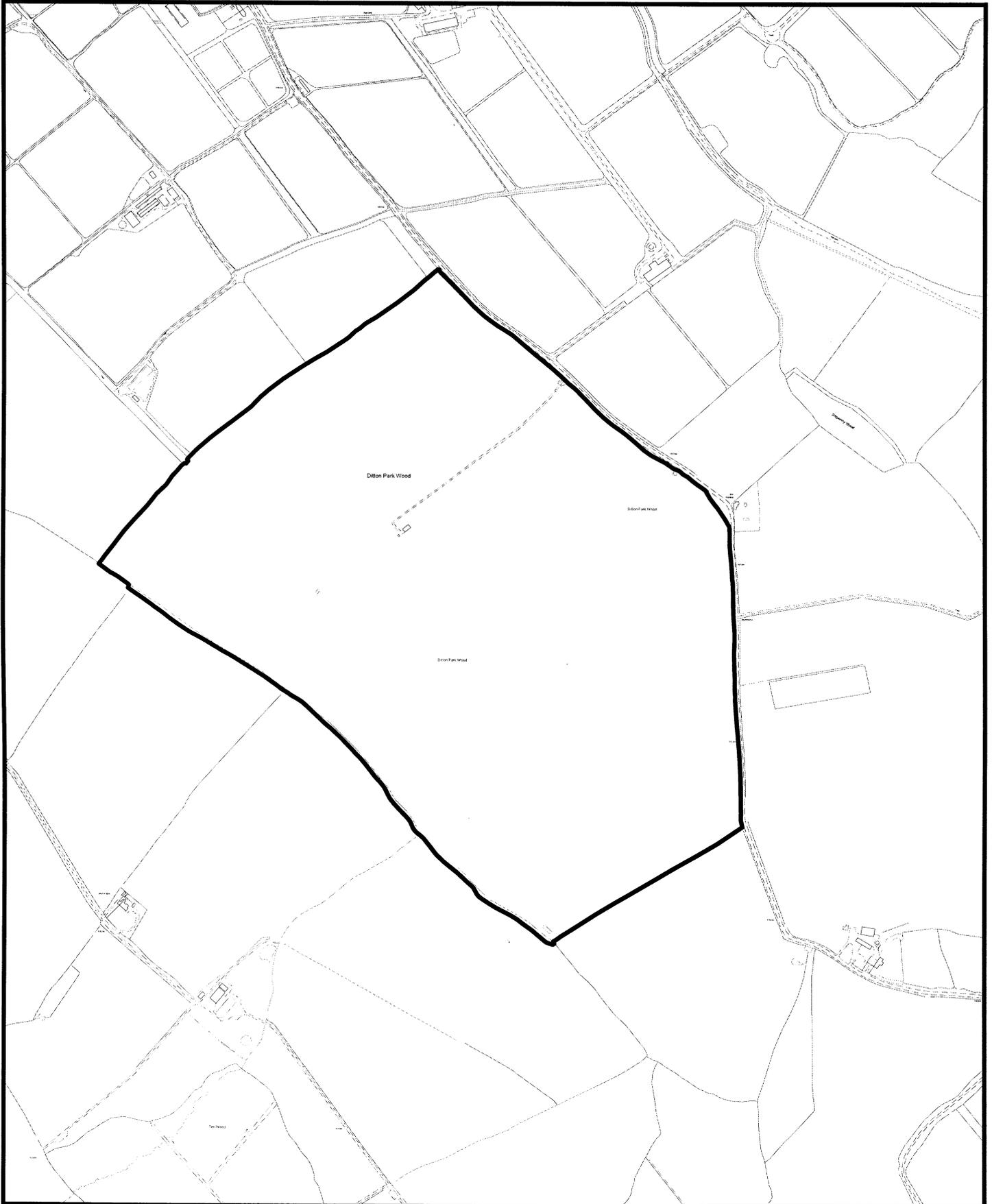
#### **Site status**

County Wildlife Site  
former Site of Natural History Interest  
Ancient Woodland Inventory  
De-scheduled SSSI  
Invertebrate Site Register

#### **Surveyors**

Alastair Ross & Emma Ogden  
03/05/2005

# Ditton Park Wood



Grid Ref: TL668569  
Scale: 1:9000  
Plot Date: 25/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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Site No. 7460

**COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET**NAME: **Links Golf Course**

File code: E/28.6.2005

Parish(es): Woodditton

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref: TL6261

**Habitat information****Code** *Habitat type*

A132	Woodland: mixed, plantation
A31	Parkland/scattered trees: broad-leaved
A32	Parkland/scattered trees: coniferous
A21	Scrub: dense/continuous
B32	Grassland: calcareous, semi-improved
B6	Grassland: poor semi-improved
J22	Boundaries, defunct hedge

**Site Area**

67.37 ha

**Site description**

A large area of calcareous grassland used as a golf course and as a training ground for the National Hunt. The golf course is generally more species-rich than the surrounding gallops, though the edge of the gallops adjacent to the Devil's Dyke are more species-rich in patches.

Within the golf course, the tees and greens support improved grassland but in the less heavily managed semi-rough and rough areas calcareous and neutral grassland indicator species are locally frequent. These include Erect Brome *Bromopsis erecta*, Quaking Grass *Briza media*, Crested Hair-grass *Koeleria macrantha*, Yellow Oat-grass *Trisetum flavescens*, Lady's Bedstraw *Galium verum*, Bird's-foot Trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, Common Restharrow *Ononis repens*, Dwarf Thistle *Cirsium arvense*, Salad Burnet *Sanguisorba minor*, Wild Thyme *Thymus polytrichus* and Mouse-ear Hawkweed *Pilosella officinalis*. Less common, but still found regularly are Greater Knapweed *Centaurea scabiosa*, Black Knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, Hairy Violet *Viola hirta*, Common Rockrose *Helianthemum nummularia*, Wild Parsnip *Pastinaca sativa*, Common Sorrel *Rumex acetosa*, Ox-eye Daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare*, Cowslip *Primula veris*, Agrimony *Agrimonia eupatoria*, Meadow Vetchling *Lathyrus pratensis* and Hoary Plantain *Plantago media*. Species found only rarely include Small Scabious *Scabiosa columbaria* Kidney Vetch *Anthyllis vulneraria* and Common Centaury *Centaureum erythraea*. Good numbers of butterflies were seen including Meadow Brown, Small Heath and Common Blue. Scattered throughout the golf course are small blocks of scrub and mixed plantation, which increase the diversity of habitats on the site particularly for birds and invertebrates. However, in places the scrub, mainly Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, is invading some of the more species-rich areas of rough grassland and is in need of management.

The gallops are regularly mown to a height of about 10-15 centimetres and comprise a range of grass species with scattered chalk grassland herbs. Grasses include frequent Erect Brome, Yellow Oat-grass, Crested Hair-grass, Small Timothy *Phleum bertolonii*, Creeping Bent *Agrostis stolonifera*, Yorkshire Fog *Holcus lanatus*, Cocksfoot *Dactylis glomerata* and Rough Meadow Grass *Poa trivialis*. Hairy Oat-grass

*Helictotrichon pubescens*, False Oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* and Perennial Rye-grass *Lolium perenne* are also present. The herbs mainly comprise Common Restharrow, Lady's Bedstraw and Salad Burnet, with Field Scabious *Knautia arvensis*, Greater Knapweed, Black Knapweed, Dwarf Thistle, Wild Basil *Clinopodium vulgare*, Bird's-foot Trefoil, Agrimony, Cowslip, Common Sorrel, Rough Hawkbit *Leontodon hispidus*, Germander Speedwell *Veronica chamaedrys* and Red Clover *Trifolium pratense* less frequent.

The site directly abuts the Devil's Ditch SSSI and a narrow strip along the edge of the Dyke is more species-rich. In addition to all the species listed above, many of which are more frequent along the Dyke edge, Common Rockrose, Wild Thyme, Hairy Violet, Quaking Grass, Mouse-ear Hawkweed and Hoary Plantain are also found.

In the far southern corner of the site, in a triangle formed from the Devil's Dyke and the Cambridge to Newmarket railway, there is an area of un-mown grassland that is heavily rabbit grazed. The sward is a mixture of very open grassland where rabbit grazing is most intense and patchy, tussocky grassland elsewhere. Ragwort *Senecio jacobaea* has become abundant over much of this area, with other tall ruderal species such as Creeping Thistle *Cirsium arvense* and Spear Thistle *Cirsium vulgare* also present. Within the patches of short turf, Mouse-ear Hawkweed and Black Medick *Medicago lupulina* are locally frequent with Wild Thyme, Wild Parsnip, Germander Speedwell, Ribwort Plantain, Yarrow and Field Scabious, Common Centaury and Lady's Bedstraw also occurring. The taller, tussocky grass areas include Red Fescue *Festuca rubra*, Yorkshire Fog and False Oat-grass. Skylark are probably breeding in this area.

The 2005 survey was more comprehensive than the 1994 survey and has resulted in a revision to the County Wildlife Site boundaries to exclude areas of the gallops that are species-poor re-sown grassland dominated by Perennial Rye Grass.

**Site assessment**

The site qualifies as CWS because it supports frequent numbers of at least 6 strong calcareous grassland indicator species.

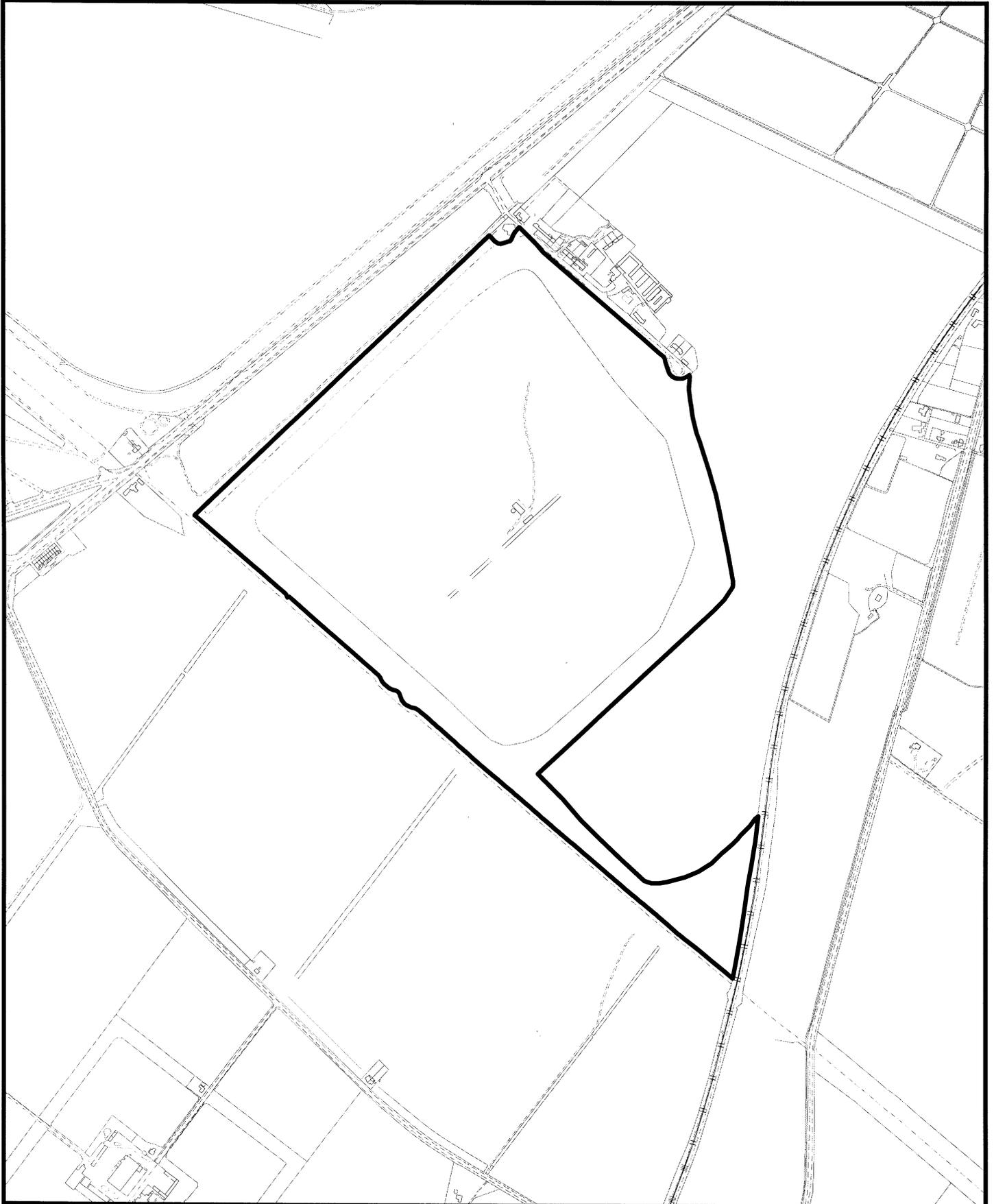
**Site status**

County Wildlife Site

**Surveyor**

Martin Baker  
28/06/2005

# Links Golf Course



Grid Ref: TL626615  
Scale: 1:10000  
Plot Date: 22/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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Site No. 7297

**COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET**NAME: **Wood South of Parsonage Farm**

File code: E/24.4.02

Parish(es): Woodditton

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref.: TL670582

**Habitat information****Code** *Habitat type*

A112 Woodland: broadleaved, plantation

A132 Woodland: mixed, plantation

G1 Open water: standing water

J21 Boundaries, intact hedge

**Site Area**

3.21 ha

**Site description**

The site is a long standing secondary woodland that has suffered a high level of disturbance in the past, having been used as a brickyard. Much of the wood is dominated by broadleaved trees, in particular Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*, Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* with frequent Field Maple *Acer campestre*, Silver Birch *Betula pendula* and Beech *Fagus sylvatica*. There are small blocks of mixed plantation at the southern corners of the wood where Scot's Pine *Pinus sylvestris* is also frequent. The northern third of the wood has been severely thinned in recent years, largely retaining a canopy of Ash. In the middle and south of the wood a dense shrub layer is found limiting the ground flora. Species include frequent Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* and Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, with Hazel *Corylus avellana*, Wayfaring Tree *Viburnum lantana*, Privet *Ligustrum vulgare* and in damper areas Sallow *Salix caprea*, less common. In less disturbed parts of the site on the eastern boundary and towards the south of the wood the ground flora species include Oxlip *Primula elatior* (Nationally Scarce species), Pendulous Sedge *Carex pendula*, Twayblade *Listera ovata*, Hairy St John's-wort *Hypericum hirsutum*, Figwort *Scrophularia nodosa*, Ground Ivy *Glechoma hederacea*, Ramsons *Allium ursinum* and Herb Robert *Geranium robertianum*. Along the grassy rides a few plants of Cowslip *Primula veris* occur with other species of more open conditions. In the centre of the wood is a shaded pond, which is apparently a result of former brick clay extraction. The wood is managed for game bird rearing and is being managed to restore it to native broadleaved species through the Woodland Grant Scheme.

**Site assessment**

The site qualifies as CWS because it supports a population of a Nationally Scarce vascular plant species (Oxlip *Primula elatior*).

**Site status**

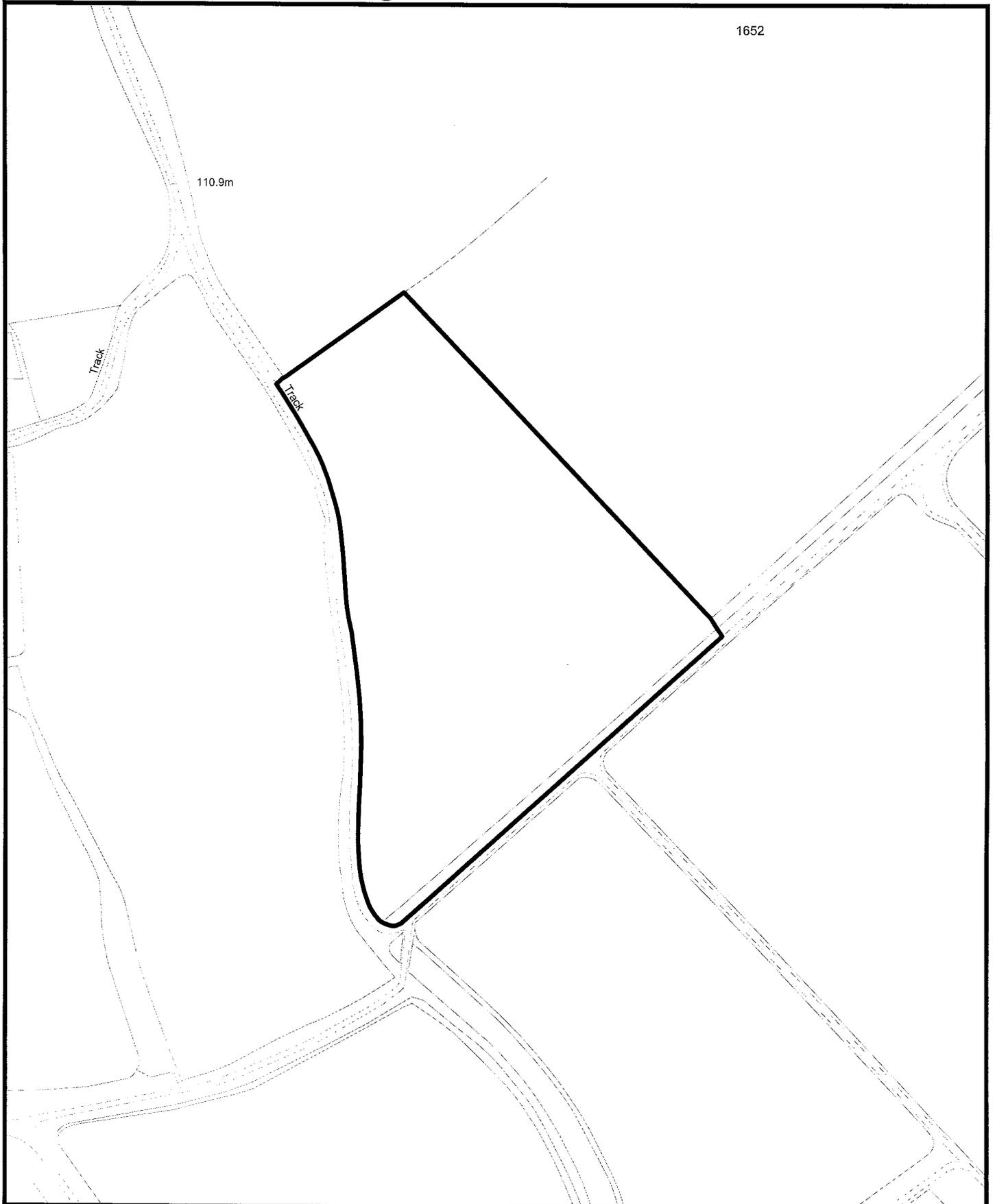
County Wildlife Site

**Surveyor**

Martin Baker

24/04/2002

# Wood South of Parsonage Farm



Grid Ref: TL670582  
Scale: 1:2500  
Plot Date: 22/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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Site No. 7289/2

**COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE FULL RECORD SHEET**Site Name: **Woodditton Kirtling Road RSV**

File code: E/3.6.03

Parish(es): Woodditton

County: Cambridgeshire

Grid ref.: TL6657

**Habitat information****Code** *Habitat type*

B22 Grassland: neutral, semi-improved

J21 Boundaries, intact hedge

J262 Boundaries, seasonally wet ditch

**Site Area**

0.61 ha

**Site description**

This site consists of narrow grass verges on the Woodditton to Kirtling road. For the majority of its length only the verge on the southwestern side of the road is included but along one section the verges and hedgerows on both sides of the road are included (see site boundary map for details).

The verges support a typical woodland edge flora with species including, Bugle *Ajuga reptans*, Lords & Ladies *Arum maculatum*, Wood False-brome *Brachypodium sylvaticum*, Hedge Bedstraw *Galium mollugo*, Herb Robert *Geranium robertianum*, Wood Avens *Geum urbanum*, Dog's mercury *Mercurialis perennis* and Greater Stitchwort *Stellaria holostea*. Along the Ditton Park Wood section the ancient woodland indicator species Yellow Archangel *Galeobdolon luteum* and Pendulous Sedge *Carex pendula* are present, while the nationally scarce Oxlip *Primula elatior* is present on the SW verge at the southern end of the CWS paddock. Other ancient woodland indicator species present include Wood Dock *Rumex sanguineus*. Several ancient woodland indicator species recorded in the past were not recorded in the latest surveys including Wood Anemone *Anemone nemorosa*, Water Avens *Geum rivale* and Greater Burnet *Pimpinella major*. Much of the verge is coarse grassland and herbs with Meadow Foxtail *Alopecurus pratensis* and False Oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius*, Cow Parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris*, Hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium*, Nettle *Urtica dioica*, Field Bindweed *Convolvulus arvensis*, Ground Ivy *Glechoma hederacea* and Creeping Buttercup *Ranunculus repens* frequent. A few grassland indicator species occur occasionally or rarely along the road verge including Glaucous Sedge *Carex flacca*, Black Knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, Greater Knapweed *Centaurea scabiosa*, Burnet Saxifrage *Pimpinella saxifraga* and Cowslip *Primula veris*.

The grassland flora along the hedge bases in the paddocks is also dominated by coarse grasses such as Meadow Foxtail, False Oat-grass, Cocksfoot *Dactylis glomerata* and Rough Meadow Grass *Poa trivialis*. However 5 grassland indicator species were recorded including Agrimony *Agrimonia eupatoria*, Black Knapweed, Meadow Vetchling *Lathyrus pratensis*, Cowslip and Yellow Oat Grass *Trisetum flavescens*. The Nationally Scarce species Crested Cow-wheat *Melampyrum cristatum* is present in the hedge base of the NE paddock.

The verge is backed by diverse, well maintained hedgerows. Species include Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, Field Maple *Acer campestre*, Hazel *Corylus avellana*, English Oak *Quercus robur* trees, Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, Wayfaring Tree *Viburnum lantana*, Dogwood *Cornus sanguinea*, Blackthorn *Prunus*

*spinosa*, Dog Rose *Rosa canina* and Bramble *Rubus fruticosus*. The southern part of the site abuts Ditton Park Wood CWS.

**Site assessment**

The site qualifies as CWS because it supports populations of Nationally Scarce vascular plant species (Oxlip *Primula elatior*).

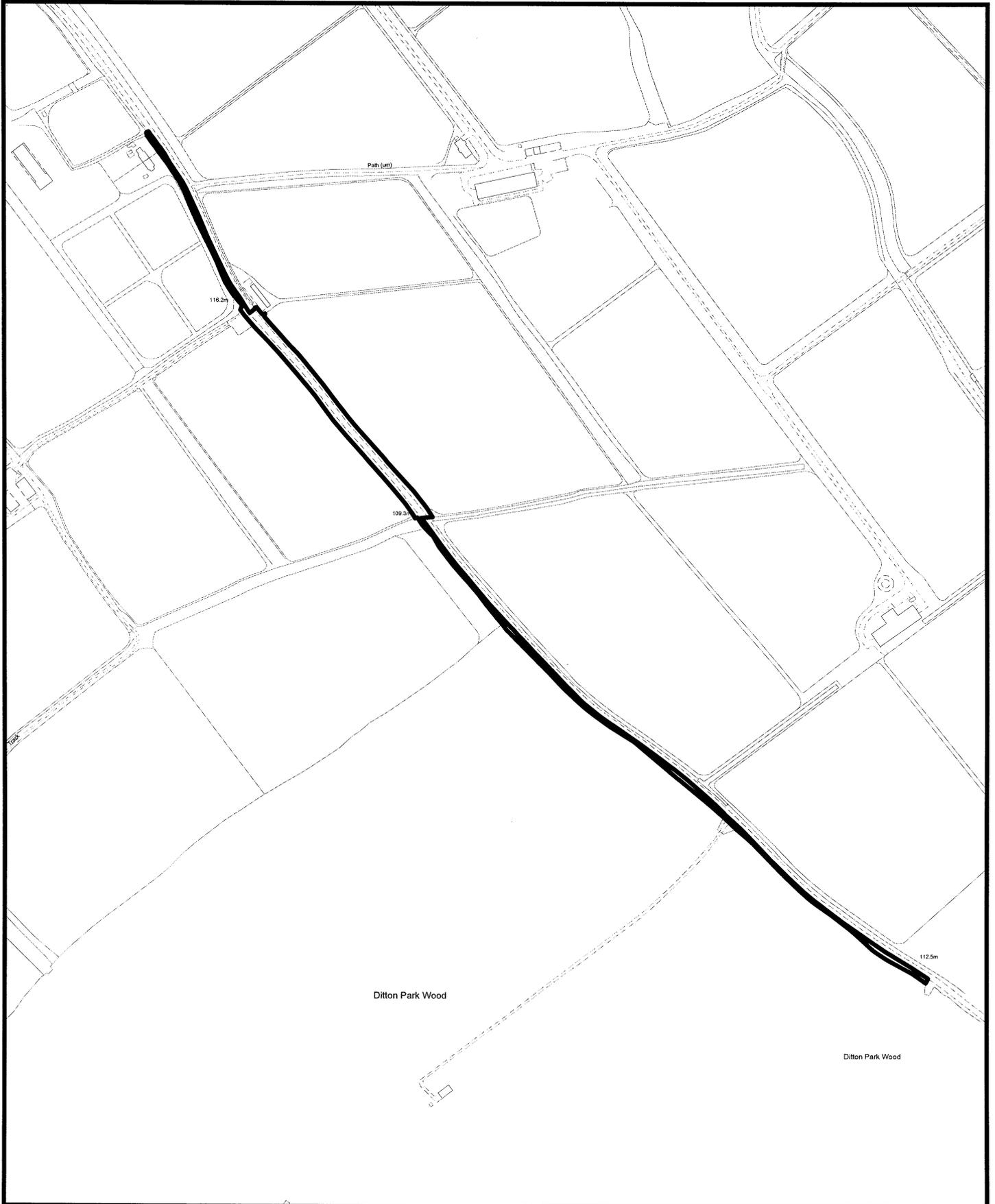
**Site status**

County Wildlife Site  
Protected roadside verge  
former Site of Natural History Interest

**Surveyor**

Mike Jones (Road verge)  
Martin Baker (Hedgerow & Crested Cow-wheat)  
03/06/2003

# Woodditton Kirtling Road RSV



Grid Ref: TL667576  
Scale: 1:5000  
Plot Date: 22/7/2005  
By: Wildlife Trust  
for CCC

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**SITE NAME:** The Bury Meadow  
**Parish(es):** Witcham  
**Grid ref:** TL 474 803  
**Date of survey:** 15/06/09  
**Surveyor(s):** Martin Baker

### Habitat information

<b>Code</b>	<b>Habitat type</b>
J2.3.1	Hedgerows, species-rich with trees
B2.1	Grassland, neutral, unimproved
B2.2	Grassland, neutral, semi-improved
B6	Grassland, poor semi-improved
G1.1	Standing water, eutrophic, pond

**Site area:** 2.03ha

### Site description

This is one of a series of meadows adjacent to the Bury Road ancient drove way between Witcham and Wardy Hill. It is a typical neutral grassland meadow on the clay soils of the Isle of Ely. A survey in 1983 noted that at least two of the meadows contained species-rich grassland, though it would appear that this is now the only species-rich meadow remaining.

The meadow can be divided into two discrete areas with the northern and eastern areas unimproved neutral grassland and the south-western area is semi-improved grassland.

The unimproved grassland contain a variety of grass species including Sweet Vernal Grass, Yellow Oat-grass, Meadow Barley, Red Fescue as well as Meadow Foxtail, Yorkshire Fog and Rough Meadow-grass. In damper areas, Tufted Hair-grass becomes abundant. A wide range of typical grassland indicator species are present with Agrimony, Black Knapweed, Lady's Bedstraw, Meadow Vetchling, Bird's-foot Trefoil, Cowslip, Common Sorrel, Lesser Stitchwort, Hairy Sedge and Glaucous Sedge all frequent. Other indicator species present include Cuckoo-flower, Hoary Plantain, Field Rush and Ox-eye Daisy. In the far north-western corner is an area where Pepper Saxifrage becomes locally frequent, in an area which at one time was a separate meadow.

The south-western part of the field was once a medieval dwelling or settlement, hence the more disturbed ground which is dominated by False Oat-grass with Cock's-foot also frequent and ruderal species such as Cow Parsley, Hogweed, Creeping Thistle, Curled Dock and Stinging Nettle present throughout the sward.

The meadows are surrounded by mature hedgerows. The main species are Hawthorn and Blackthorn, but with elm and bramble also present. In places these are thick, particularly along the northern boundary and in places they have grown out into the meadow. The eastern boundary hedge contains a number of mature trees including a stag's-headed Ash. The western hedge is much thinner and has several gaps. The southern hedge that forms the boundary along Bury Road is over-mature and is becoming a line of trees. However, several mature trees including Ash, Oak and Elm are present. A remnant hedge with a couple of mature, dead trees, partially divides the north-west corner from the rest of the field, indicating this was once a separate field.

Towards the northern boundary, several trees including willows, alders and native black poplars have been recently planted, in what is one of the most species-rich areas of grassland.

A pond is present along the western boundary and is shared with the adjacent field. The pond has few aquatic plant species but there is an area of Reed Sweet-grass. A dew pond is present to the south of the main meadow, but was dry at the time of the survey, with significant Tufted Hair-grass present. A further dried out pond was present along the line of the remnant hedgerow.

A wide range of fauna have been recorded from this field and the adjacent drove. The BAP priority species White-spotted Pinion Moth has been recorded from the elms in the Bury Road hedgerows (southern boundary hedge). Other moth species recorded were Cock's-foot Moth, Dark Strawberry, Blood-vein, Red Twin-spot Carpet, Common Carpet, Green Carpet, Latticed Heath, Rustic Shoulder-knot and Small Yellow Underwing. Other species recorded include Wasp Beetle *Clytus arietus*, a Forest Bug nymph *Pentatoma rufipes* and Lime Nail Gall Mite *Eriophyes tiliae*. Azure Damselfly and Blue-tailed Damselfly were recorded around the ponds

Several bird species have also been recorded with the following species definitely or possibly breeding in the surrounding hedgerows and trees; Great Spotted Woodpecker, Great tit, Willow Warbler, Whitethroat, Chiffchaff, Blackcap and Starling. Other species recorded include Green Woodpecker, Rook, Common Pheasant, Barn Owl, Tawny Owl, Kestrel and Buzzard, some of these flying over or beyond the field.

#### **Site assessment**

The site qualifies as it supports more than 0.05 ha of NVC community MG5 (unimproved neutral grassland) and has 8 or more neutral grassland indicator species present in frequent numbers.

# The Bury Meadow CWS

TL474803

County Wildlife Site boundary

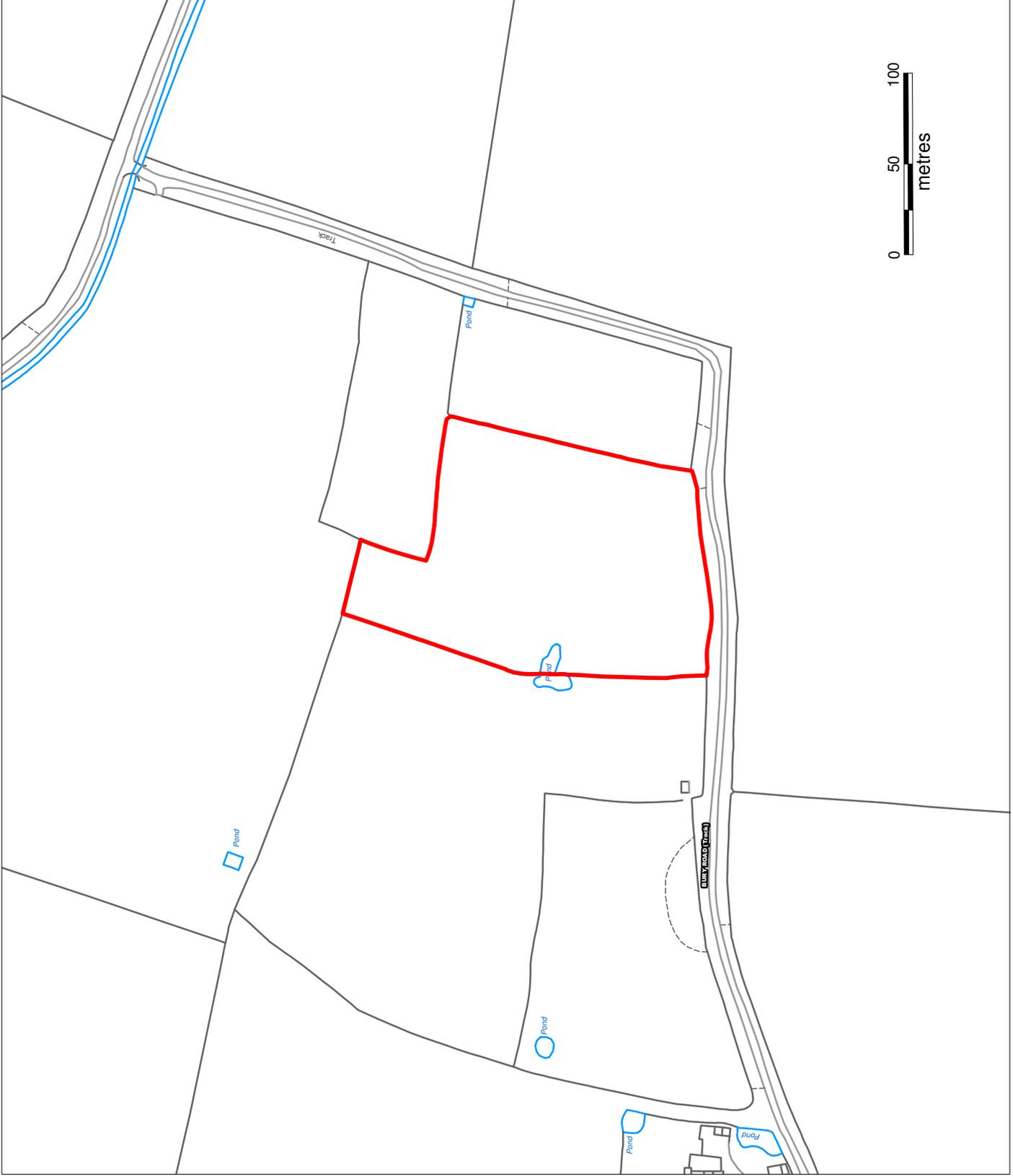


Scale 1:3000

Produced by CPBRC on 1st April 2010

**CPBRC**  
CAMBRIDGESHIRE & PETERBOROUGH  
BIOLOGICAL RECORDS CENTRE

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## **Annex**

The following pages contain the criteria for the selection of County Wildlife Sites version 5 revised in 2009.

# **Cambridgeshire and Peterborough County Wildlife Sites**

## **Selection Guidelines**

**VERSION 5**

January 2009

**CAMBRIDGESHIRE & PETERBOROUGH  
COUNTY WILDLIFE SITES PANEL**

## **CAMBRIDGESHIRE & PETERBOROUGH COUNTY WILDLIFE SITES PANEL**

is a sub-group of the CWS Group that operates under the umbrella of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biodiversity Partnership. The panel includes suitably qualified and experienced representatives from The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire & Peterborough; Natural England; The Environment Agency; Cambridgeshire County Council; Peterborough City Council; South Cambridgeshire District Council; Huntingdonshire District Council; East Cambridgeshire District Council; Fenland District Council; Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biological Records Centre and many amateur recorders and recording groups. Its aim is to agree the basis for site selection, reviewing and amending them as necessary based on the best available biological information concerning the county.

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## INTRODUCTION

The Selection Criteria are substantially based on *Guidelines for selection of biological SSSIs* published by the Nature Conservancy Council (succeeded by English Nature) in 1989. Appropriate modifications have been made to accommodate the aim of selecting a lower tier of sites, i.e. those sites of county and regional rather than national importance. The initial draft has been altered to reflect the views of the numerous authorities consulted during the preparation of the Criteria and to incorporate the increased knowledge of the County's habitat resource gained by the Phase 1 Habitat Survey (1992-97) and other survey work in the past decade. From time to time it will be necessary to update or modify the criteria to reflect increased scientific knowledge and the changing status of species and habitats within the country and the county.

The Criteria seek to apply concrete definitions and local thresholds to standard concepts of ecological evaluation such as diversity, rarity, size and typicalness. It should not be supposed that the selection of County Wildlife Sites is then a simple matter of rigid comparison between the site and the Criteria. The number of variables that go to make up the ecological value of a site is large and diverse in quality. Best professional judgment must be employed in the assessment of the merits of each individual site. The Criteria help to ensure that subjectivity in assessment is minimised and that a consistent approach to CWS selection is maintained. In some cases sites that do not meet the letter of the Criteria may be proposed for CWS status and, conversely, sites that do qualify on paper will not be proposed. A site will not be de-selected if it has suffered willful neglect or malicious damage and there is the potential to restore ecological features that would enable qualification against the Criteria.

For a number of less well known taxonomic groups, such as invertebrates, Stoneworts, lichens and fungi, the Criteria are either not well developed or are completely lacking. In many cases it will be necessary to select sites using the knowledge and data of local experts in these groups. It is hoped that as the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Biological Records Centre builds up its database of biological information for the county, sufficient information will be available to develop Criteria to encompass these groups in a suitably detailed and rigorous way.

The Local Site System in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is operated by the County Wildlife Sites Group. The CWS Group is affiliated to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biodiversity Partnership but operates under its own aim and objectives and is funded separately.

A handbook has been produced which is designed to be a complete guide to how the County Wildlife Site system operates. It is aimed at people who work with this system of non-statutory sites such as land owners and managers, local government officers and officers within statutory agencies and should be read in conjunction with the CWS Criteria.

## CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF COUNTY WILDLIFE SITES

Unless stated otherwise all uses of the term 'Cambridgeshire' refer to the current administrative county of Cambridgeshire.

### 1) WOODLAND, TREES and HEDGES

*Appendix 2A - woodland/hedgerow plants and ancient woodland indicators*

*Appendix 2B - guidelines for assessing veteran trees*

*Appendix 2C - fruit and nut species included in traditional orchards in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough*

*Appendix 2D- rare or scarce fruit varieties and varieties of local significance*

*Appendix 2E - local traditional management practices*

- a) **All ancient semi-natural woodlands** included in Cambridgeshire Inventory of Ancient Woodlands which retain over 25% semi-natural cover.
- b) **Ancient woodlands over 75% replanted** included in Cambridge Inventory of Ancient Woodlands and containing one of the following:
  - i) more than 10 ancient woodland indicator species
  - ii) more than 40 woodland plants.
- c) **Ancient semi-natural woods under 2 ha** with one of the following:
  - i) more than 5 ancient woodland indicator species
  - ii) more than 30 woodland plants
  - iii) good example of NVC W8 (ash - field maple - dog's mercury woodland)
  - iv) good example of NVC W10 (pedunculate oak - bracken - bramble woodland).
- d) **Good examples of the following wet woodlands which are more than 0.5ha. in size:**
  - i) NVC W1 (grey willow - marsh bedstraw)
  - ii) NVC W2 (grey willow - downy birch - common reed)
  - iii) NVC W6 (alder - stinging nettle).
- e) **Areas of scrub more than 0.5ha in extent** with NVC W21 (common hawthorn - ivy) with more than 8 woody species.
- f) **Hedges:** hedgerow systems at least 500m. in length and more than 2m. in width, with 5 or more woody species, and with at least part of the hedgerow allowed to flower and fruit. (Normal hedgerow management of coppicing or laying may mean that at least part of the system will not be at the optimum size or condition for wildlife at all times).
- g) **Pasture woodland and Parkland** with either:
  - (i) an average of more than 5 mature trees per hectare
  - (ii) groups of 5-19 **veteran trees** when in association with other semi-natural features such as grassland, hedgerows or woodlands
  - (iii) groups of 20 or more **veteran trees**, even in an arable setting.

- h) **Pollard willows:**
- i) groups of 5-19 mature pollard willows when in association with other semi-natural features such as grassland, ditches and rivers
  - ii) groups of 20 or more mature pollard willows, even in an arable setting.

i) **Traditional Orchards:**

**Traditional orchards will be selected as CWS if they contain**

1. A group of 5 or more top fruit<sup>1</sup> or nut trees<sup>2</sup> (see appendix 2c for a list of species).

**AND satisfy two or more of the following**

**Biological criteria**

2. Contain at least **20% of veteran trees** as defined in *Cambridgeshire and Peterborough CWS Selection Criteria Appendix 2b - Guidelines for assessing Veteran Trees*.
3. The presence of a nationally rare or scarce species or species rare in the county,
4. Associated natural or semi-natural habitat, within or adjacent to the site (e.g. woodland, unimproved grassland, ponds, hedgerows)

**Cultural and aesthetic criteria**

5. The presence of rare or scarce fruit varieties, or of varieties of local significance<sup>3</sup>.
6. Continuing traditional orchard management practices that are sympathetic with biodiversity objectives and reflect local cultural traditions. See appendix 2e for examples of local traditional orchard management practices.

Some sites, even if not accessible to the public, can be important visually or be reservoirs for wildlife in an intensively managed landscape. People's contact with wildlife and wildlife habitats in their home and work environments is important for promoting quality of life and well-being. Educational use and community involvement in management may also be important.

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<sup>1</sup> Any fruit that grows or hangs from a tree.

<sup>2</sup> A tree that bears edible nuts.

<sup>3</sup> Conserving genetic diversity is important as a social and economic resource and to preserve particular varieties that are now not common. See list in appendix 2d.

## 2) GRASSLANDS

### *Appendix 3 - Cambridgeshire grassland indicators*

- a) **Neutral grasslands** supporting at least 0.05 ha. (either in a block or as a number of smaller areas) of one or more of the following NVC communities:
  - i) MG4 (meadow foxtail - greater burnet flood meadow)
  - ii) MG5 (crested dog's-tail - common knapweed meadow and pasture)
  - iii) MG8 (crested dog's-tail - marsh marigold flood pasture)
  - iv) MG11 (red fescue - creeping bent - silverweed inundation pasture)
  - v) MG13 (creeping bent - marsh foxtail inundation grassland).
  
- b) **Calcareous grasslands** supporting at least 0.05 ha. (either in a block or as a number of smaller areas) of one or more of the following NVC communities:
  - i) CG2 (sheep's fescue - meadow oat-grass grassland)
  - ii) CG3 (upright brome grassland)
  - iii) CG4 (tor grass grassland)
  - iv) CG5 (upright brome - tor grass grassland)
  - v) CG7 (sheep's fescue - mouse-ear hawkweed - wild thyme grassland).
  
- c) Sites supporting frequent numbers of either:
  - three or more strong neutral grassland indicator species**
  - six or more strong calcareous grassland indicator species.**
  
- d) Sites supporting frequent numbers of either:
  - eight or more neutral grassland indicator species (strong and weak)**
  - sixteen or more calcareous grassland indicator species (strong and weak).**
  
- e) Sites supporting frequent numbers of **more than 50 grassland species.**
  
- f) **Acidic grasslands** supporting at least 0.05 ha. (either in a block or as a number of smaller areas) of NVC U1 (sheep's fescue - common bent - sheep's sorrel grassland).

### 3) FENS, SWAMPS AND MARSHES

- a) Good examples of **topogenous fens supporting at least 0.05 ha.** (either in a block or as a number of smaller areas) of the following NVC communities:
  - i) S24 (common reed - milk parsley tall herb fen)
  - ii) S2 (saw sedge swamp and sedge beds)
  - iii) S3 (tussock sedge swamp)
  - iv) S13 (lesser reed-mace swamp)
  - v) S20 (grey club-rush swamp).
  
- b) Good examples of **topogenous fens supporting at least 0.5 ha.** (either in a block or as a number of smaller areas) of the following NVC communities:
  - i) S25 (common reed - hemp agrimony tall herb fen)
  - ii) S26 (common reed - stinging nettle tall herb fen)
  - iii) S4 (common reed swamp and reed-beds)
  - iv) S5 (reed sweet-grass swamp)
  - v) S6 (greater pond-sedge swamp)
  - vi) S7 (lesser pond-sedge swamp).
  
- c) Good examples of **soligenous fens supporting NVC M13** (black bog-rush - blunt flowered rush).
  
- d) Good examples of **fen meadow** supporting at least 0.05 ha. (either in a block or as a number of smaller areas) of the following NVC communities:
  - i) M22 (blunt-flowered rush - marsh thistle fen meadow)
  - ii) M24 (purple moor-grass - meadow thistle fen meadow).
  
- e) Good examples of **fen meadow** supporting at least 0.25 ha. of NVC community M27 (meadowsweet - wild angelica mire).
  
- f) **Continuous area of fen** of any category over 2.5 ha which is not appreciably degraded.
  
- g) Sites at least 0.5 ha in extent containing well developed **vegetation mosaics** which represent hydrosereal zonation.
  
- h) Sites at least 0.1 ha in extent which have a **combination of two or more fen types.**
  
- i) Chalk or limestone grasslands containing **flushes, seepages or springs** which are not appreciably degraded.

#### 4) FRESHWATER HABITATS

##### *Appendix 4 - Classification of standing water types 10A and 10B*

- a) All **major rivers** together with adjacent semi-natural habitat (grassland, marsh, swamp, scrub, trees and woodland) unless the river has been grossly modified through canalization and/or poor water quality.
- b) **Type 10A standing water bodies** with one of the following:
  - i) 5 submerged and floating species
  - ii) 15 submerged, floating and emergent species.(most ponds and gravel pits will fall into this vegetation type).
- c) **Type 10B standing water bodies** with one of the following:
  - i) 3 submerged and floating species
  - ii) 10 submerged, floating and emergent species
  - iii) beds of stoneworts.(this type of community occurs in strongly calcareous water bodies, especially in flooded brickpits, chalkpits and in the chalk lodes).
- d) Any water body with **three or more species of pondweed** (*Potamogeton spp.*)
- e) **Ditches** with at least 5 submerged, floating and emergent species per 20m or at least 10 submerged, floating, emergent and wetbank species per 20m. (Normal ditch management will affect the apparent quality of a ditch, which is likely to reach its optimum state two to three years after slubbing out. This variation should be borne in mind when selecting sites.)

#### 5) HABITAT MOSAICS

- a) Sites of more than 10ha. in size which **support three or more of the following habitat features in close association:**
  - unimproved/semi-improved grassland
  - 'interesting' ruderal communities
  - mature trees
  - woodland (ancient and recent)
  - scrub
  - hedgerows
  - marshy grassland
  - swamp
  - open water including rivers, streams, ditches, ponds, pits and lakes.

At least one habitat feature should either be of or closely approaching County Wildlife Site status in its own right. (Many of these sites will be of value for birds and/or invertebrates, and may qualify under these criteria if sufficient data are available for evaluation).

## 6) VASCULAR PLANTS

*Appendix 5A - Nationally rare vascular plants found in Cambridgeshire*

*Appendix 5B - Nationally scarce vascular plants found in old Cambridgeshire*

*Appendix 5C - Nationally scarce vascular plants found in Huntingdon and Peterborough Districts*

*Appendix 5D - Vascular plants rare in old Cambridgeshire*

*Appendix 5E - Vascular plants rare in Huntingdon and Peterborough Districts*

- a) Sites supporting populations of **nationally rare** or **nationally scarce species**.
- b) Locations supporting populations of **species which occur in three or fewer sites in the county**. (A site is taken here as an area of a one kilometre square centred on the population).

(Lists of locally rare species have been prepared for old Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire/Peterborough, but the basis for selecting the species differs in each. Until such time as the selection method is harmonised, all sites containing populations of rare species listed for either/both of the two vice-counties should be considered for County Wildlife Site status).

## 7) NON-VASCULAR PLANTS

- a) Sites supporting populations of **nationally rare** or **nationally scarce species**.
- b) Sites listed as **important** in the Bryophyte Site Registers (NCC 1985) for Huntingdonshire and Cambridgeshire.

## 8) MAMMALS

- a) Proven **otter breeding holt** (to include the surrounding 1 ha of land or 200m of river bank).
- b) **Breeding roosts of the following bats:**
  - i) Natterer's bat
  - ii) Daubenton's bat
  - iii) Brandt's bat
  - iv) Serotine bat
  - v) Noctule bat
  - vi) Leisler's bat
  - vii) Whiskered bat
  - viii) Barbastelle batAll sites to include any nearby land regularly used for feeding.
- c) Sites containing confirmed breeding populations of the **common dormouse**.

## 9) BIRDS

*Appendix 6A - Estimated national numbers of birds breeding and wintering in Britain species relevant to Cambridgeshire*

*Appendix 6B - Breeding bird indices*

*Appendix 6C - Rare breeding birds in Cambridgeshire*

In all cases a site should have qualified for four out of the last five years.

- a) A site which regularly contains **0.5% or more of the total British non-breeding population** of any species during any period (e.g. wintering, non-breeding summer, moulting, passage).
- b) A site which supports a **range of breeding birds** with a value equal to or exceeding the following indices:
  - i) Lowland damp grassland - 11
  - ii) Lowland fen without open water - 13
  - iii) Lowland open water and margins - 24
  - iv) Scrub - 10
  - v) Woodland - 26.
- c) Breeding sites of a **county rarity**.
- d) The five largest colonies of **breeding colonial seabirds, sand martins or herons**, provided the colony contains more than ten pairs.
- e) Wet meadows containing more than three species and/or six pairs of **breeding wader**.
- f) Localities with one of the following recorded in the last five years:
  - i) 50 breeding species
  - ii) 60 wintering species
  - iii) 100 passage species.

## 10) AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES

*Appendix 7 - Scoring system for the selection of sites with assemblages of amphibians*

Sites identified under this schedule should exclude gardens, swimming pools and any known introduced populations.

- a) Sites supporting populations of **adder**.
- b) Sites containing water bodies where more than **50 individual great crested newts** can be counted at night or bottle-trapped during the breeding season.
- c) Sites supporting good or exceptional populations of **palmate newt**.
- d) Sites supporting at least **three amphibian species** and a minimum score of 6 using the table in Appendix 7.

- e) Ponds and lakes supporting **common toads** where more than 500 individuals can be counted in the water or where more than 2500 are estimated to breed.

## 11) INVERTEBRATES

*Appendix 8A -Nationally scarce and nationally declining species of butterflies occurring in Cambridgeshire*

*Appendix 8B -Nationally rare and nationally scarce species of dragonfly occurring in Cambridgeshire*

*Appendix 8C - Beetles indicative of continuity of saproxylic habitats, and the method of calculation of the index of ecological continuity*

### 1. Butterflies

- a) Sites supporting populations of **nationally rare or scarce species**.
- b) Sites supporting one of the five strongest populations in the county of **nationally declining species**.

### 2. Dragonflies

- a) All sites supporting populations of **nationally rare species**.
- b) Sites supporting one of the five strongest populations of **nationally scarce species**.
- c) Any site supporting **twelve or more species**.

**For sections 1 and 2 above all records should have been made within 5 years of the selection date. Only confirmed breeding records should be considered. Recent deliberate introductions should not be included.**

### 3. Saproxylic beetles

- a) Sites with an **ecological continuity index greater than 8** should be considered for inclusion. Records should be post-1945.

### 4. Water beetles

- a) Any site supporting **more than 35 species** should be considered for inclusion.

### 5. White-clawed Crayfish

- a) Any site supporting **White-clawed Crayfish** should be considered for inclusion.

11) INVERTEBRATES CONTINUED

6. **General**

- a) Any site with an **invertebrate index exceeding 500** (calculated as summation of nationally rare = 100 and nationally scarce = 50) should be considered for inclusion. Records should have been made since 1980.
- b) Any site with an A, B or C grading in the JNCC **Invertebrate Site Register**.
- c) Any site supporting significant populations of **Red Data Book or nationally scarce species**. (Butterflies and dragonflies are dealt with under sections 1 and 2 above).

7. **Further advice**

- a) Invertebrate data needs to be interpreted carefully, not least because, more than in most groups, the apparent interest of a site can be greatly influenced by recording effort. Also, a site may score highly on a miscellany of species without these collectively indicating a site or habitat of very high quality. Specialist advice should be sought from the Wildlife Trust for all prospective sites.

## APPENDIX 1

### TECHNIQUES TO ENSURE SURVEY CONFORMS TO NVC REQUIREMENTS

- 1) Within a site identify the boundaries of areas that are structurally and floristically homogeneous. This may include vertical boundaries as well as horizontal (eg. in woodland there may be a woodland canopy, tall woodland field layer and short woodland field layer.)
- 2) Within in each homogeneous area take random samples of the following size:
  - a) Woodland canopy and shrub layer            50x50m  
Sparse scrub
  - b) Dense scrub    10x10m  
Tall woodland field layer  
Species poor herbaceous vegetation
  - c) Short woodland field layer                    4x4m  
Tall herbaceous vegetation  
Heaths  
Open vegetation
  - d) Short herbaceous vegetation                2x2m  
Dwarf shrub heaths

All samples should be square where possible

Linear vegetation

Linear aquatic vegetation	10m strip
Wall vegetation	10m strip
Hedgerow woody vegetation	30m strip
Hedgerow field layer	10m strip

- 3) Within each sample record on the recording form each species present together with its dominance code using:

Code	% cover
10	91-100
9	76-90
8	51-75
7	34-50
6	26-33
5	11-25
4	4-10
3	<4 many individuals
2	<4 several individuals
1	<4 few individuals

- 4) Repeat up to 5 times within the homogeneous area
- 5) As an addition record any species which occur in the area but have not appeared within the samples.

## APPENDIX 2A

### WOODLAND/HEDGEROW PLANTS AND ANCIENT WOODLAND INDICATORS

#### Ancient woodland indicators

*Woody species for determining scrub and hedgerow value*

Nomenclature follows New Flora of the British Isles 1st Edition C.A.Stace CUP 1991

<i>Acer campestre</i>	<i>field maple</i>	<i>Epilobium montanum</i>	broad-leaved willowherb
<i>Adoxa moschatellina</i>	moschatel	<b>Epipactis helleborine</b>	<b>broad-leaved helleborine</b>
<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	bugle	<b>Epipactis purpurata</b>	<b>violet helleborine</b>
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	hedge garlic	<b>Euonymus europaeus</b>	<b>spindle</b>
<b>Allium ursinum</b>	<b>ramsons</b>	<b>Euphorbia amygdaloides</b>	<b>wood spurge</b>
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	alder	<i>Euphorbia lathyris</i>	caper spurge
<b>Anemone nemorosa</b>	<b>wood anemone</b>	<i>Festuca gigantea</i>	giant fescue
<i>Aquilegia vulgaris</i>	columbine	<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	meadowsweet
<i>Arctium minus</i>	burdock	<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	wild strawberry
<i>Arum maculatum</i>	cuckoo-pint	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	<i>ash</i>
<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>	lady fern	<i>Frangula alnus</i>	alder buckthorn
<i>Atropa belladonna</i>	deadly nightshade	<b>Gagea lutea</b>	<b>yellow star-of-bethlehem</b>
<i>Betula pendula</i>	silver birch	<b>Galium odoratum</b>	<b>sweet woodruff</b>
<i>Blechnum spicant</i>	hard fern	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	herb robert
<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>	wood false-brome	<b>Geum rivale</b>	<b>water avens</b>
<i>Bromopsis ramosus</i>	hairy brome	<i>Geum urbanum</i>	wood avens
<b>Calamagrostis canescens</b>	<b>purple small-reed</b>	<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	ground ivy
<i>Calamagrostis epigejos</i>	wood small-reed	<i>Hedera helix</i>	ivy
<b>Campanula trachelium</b>	<b>nettle-leaved bellflower</b>	<b>Helleborus foetidus</b>	<b>stinking hellebore</b>
<i>Cardamine flexuosa</i>	wavy bittercress	<i>Helleborus viridis</i>	green hellebore
<b>Carex pallescens</b>	<b>pale sedge</b>	<b>Hordelymus europaeus</b>	<b>wood barley</b>
<b>Carex pendula</b>	<b>pendulous sedge</b>	<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	bluebell
<b>Carex remota</b>	<b>remote sedge</b>	<b>Hypericum hirsutum</b>	<b>hairy St. John's-wort</b>
<b>Carex sylvatica</b>	<b>wood sedge</b>	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	holly
<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	hornbeam	<i>Iris foetidissima</i>	stinking iris
<i>Chrysosplenium oppositifolium</i>	opposite-leaved golden-saxifrage	<b>Lamium galeobdolon</b>	<b>yellow archangel</b>
<i>Circaea lutetiana</i>	enchanter's nightshade	<i>Lapsana communis</i>	nipplewort
<i>Clematis vitalba</i>	traveller's joy	<i>Lathraea squamaria</i>	toothwort
<b>Conopodium majus</b>	<b>pignut</b>	<b>Lathyrus linifolius</b>	<b>bitter vetch</b>
<b>Convallaria majalis</b>	<b>lily-of-the-valley</b>	<b>Lathyrus sylvestris</b>	<b>narrow-leaved everlasting pea</b>
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	<i>dogwood</i>	<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	<i>privet</i>
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	<i>hazel</i>	<i>Lithospermum officinale</i>	common gromwell
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	<i>common hawthorn</i>	<i>Listera ovata</i>	common twayblade
<b>Crataegus laevigata</b>	<b>midland hawthorn</b>	<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	honeysuckle
<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i>	common spotted orchid	<b>Luzula pilosa</b>	<b>hairy woodrush</b>
<i>Daphne laureola</i>	spurge laurel	<b>Luzula sylvatica</b>	<b>great woodrush</b>
<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>	tufted hair-grass	<i>Lychnis flos-cuculi</i>	ragged-robin
<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	foxglove		
<i>Dipsacus pilosus</i>	small teasel		
<b>Dryopteris affinis</b>	<b>scaly male-fern</b>		
<i>Dryopteris carthusiana</i>	narrow buckler-fern		
<i>Dryopteris dilatata</i>	broad-leaved buckler-fern		
<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>	male fern		
<b>Elymus caninus</b>	<b>bearded couch</b>		

## APPENDIX 2A CONTINUED

### Ancient woodland indicators

*Woody species for determining scrub and hedgerow value*

<b>Lysimachia nemorum</b>	<b>yellow pimpernel</b>	Stachys sylvatica	hedge woundwort
Lysimachia nummularia	creeping jenny	Stellaria holostea	greater stitchwort
<b>Malus sylvestris</b>	<b>crab apple</b>	Tamus communis	black bryony
<b>Melampyrum cristatum</b>	<b>crested cow-wheat</b>	Teucrium scorodonia	wood sage
<b>Melampyrum pratense</b>	<b>common cow-wheat</b>	<b>Tilia cordata</b>	<b>small-leaved lime</b>
<b>Melica uniflora</b>	<b>wood melick</b>	Ulmus sp.	elm species
<b>Melica nutans</b>	<b>mountain melick</b>	Ulmus glabra	wych elm
Mercurialis perennis	dog's mercury	Ulmus minor	small-leaved elm
<b>Milium effusum</b>	<b>wood millet</b>	Veronica chamaedrys	germander
<b>Moehringia trinervia</b>	<b>three-veined sandwort</b>		speedwell
Neottia nidus-avis	bird's-nest orchid	<b>Veronica montana</b>	<b>wood speedwell</b>
<b>Ophrys insectifera</b>	<b>fly orchid</b>	<i>Viburnum lantana</i>	<i>wayfaring tree</i>
<b>Orchis mascula</b>	<b>early purple orchid</b>	<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	<i>guelder rose</i>
<b>Oxalis acetosella</b>	<b>wood-sorrel</b>	Vicia sepium	bush vetch
<b>Paris quadrifolia</b>	<b>herb paris</b>	Viola odorata	sweet violet
<b>Pimpinella major</b>	<b>greater burnet-saxifrage</b>	<b>Viola reichenbachiana</b>	<b>early dog-violet</b>
	<b>greater butterfly orchid</b>	Viola riviniana	common dog-violet
<b>Platanthera chlorantha</b>	wood meadow-grass		
Poa nemoralis	polypody		
Polypodium vulgare	<i>aspen</i>		
<i>Populus tremula</i>	barren strawberry		
Potentilla sterilis	<b>oxlip</b>		
<b>Primula elatior</b>	<b>primrose</b>		
<b>Primula vulgaris</b>	self heal		
Prunella vulgaris	wild cherry		
Prunus avium	cherry plum		
Prunus cerasifera	<i>blackthorn</i>		
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	bracken		
Pteridium aquilinum	<b>wild pear</b>		
<b>Pyrus pyraeaster</b>	<i>pedunculate oak</i>		
<i>Quercus robur</i>	<b>sessile oak</b>		
<b>Quercus petraea</b>	<b>goldilocks</b>		
<b>Ranunculus auricomus</b>	lesser celandine		
Ranunculus ficaria	<i>purging buckthorn</i>		
<i>Rhamnus catharticus</i>	redcurrant		
Ribes rubrum	gooseberry		
Ribes uva-crispa	dewberry		
Rubus caesius	bramble		
Rubus fruticosus agg.	raspberry		
Rubus idaeus	wood dock		
Rumex sanguineus	<i>goat willow</i>		
<i>Salix caprea</i>	<i>grey willow</i>		
<i>Salix cinerea</i>	<i>elder</i>		
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	sanicle		
Sanicula europaea	common figwort		
Scrophularia nodosa	<b>orpine</b>		
<b>Sedum telephium</b>	red campion		
Silene dioica	<b>wild service tree</b>		
<b>Sorbus torminalis</b>			

## APPENDIX 2B

### GUIDELINES FOR ASSESSING VETERAN TREES

These guidelines are intended to assist in the identification of trees that could be considered as 'veteran', whether they are native or non-native, singular or in groups. These guidelines will be useful when considering wood pasture and hedgerow county wildlife sites.

Veteran trees are important features in the English landscape and for a host of wildlife. The holes and hollows are suitable sites for roosting bats and nesting birds. Hundreds of different fungi, lichens and invertebrates depend on ancient trees. Rotten wood is an extremely valuable habitat especially if it is still standing.

The term '*veteran tree*' is not one of precise definition, but encompasses trees defined by three guiding principles (Read, H. English Nature 2000)

1. Trees of interest, biologically, aesthetically or culturally because of their age, size or condition (some of these are obvious others are not)
2. Trees in an ancient stage of their life
3. Trees that are old relative to others of the same species.

**NB** Girth is not a reliable criterion as different species and individuals have different life spans and growth rates. Age is also not an absolute indicator. It is the features of a tree which should and be used to assess if it is veteran or not. The more features the tree displays the stronger the indication it is veteran.

Features indicative of high value are shown in the table below (English Nature 2000):

Hollows	hollow areas on trunks or main branches (>150mm)
Holes	small holes in trunk or branches (<150mm)
Water pockets	water filled tree pools on tree or roots
Rot	Red, brown or white
Deadwood	large amounts of deadwood in crown or on ground
Bark	sap stains, loose old thick bark
Broken branch stubs	live branches which have broken with shattered ends
Splits in trunk or branch	wood fibre separation
Runs or sap/other stains	wet exudes from the surface of the bark, wounds or holes
Bore exit holes	from insect tunnelling with dry powdery residues
<b><i>Species which may be associated with veteran trees</i></b>	
Fungi	bracket fungi, toadstools with cap and stalk, skin like covering
Invertebrates	beetles, hoverflies, spiders, millipedes etc
Birds	large birds occupying cavities or nesting birds
Mammals	bats, rodents
Reptiles	snakes or lizards under loose bark
Plants and epiphytes	lichens, ferns, ivy, moss etc

## APPENDIX 2C

### FRUIT AND NUT SPECIES INCLUDED IN TRADITIONAL ORCHARDS IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH

Malus – encompassing all varieties of apple

Pyrus – encompassing all varieties of pear

Prunus – encompassing all varieties of edible, cultivated prunus; plum, gage, quetsche, damson, myrobalan, cherries and hybrids thereof.

Also

quince

medlar

black mulberry

apricot

peaches

walnut

hazelnut - encompassing all varieties of hazel, filbert, cob and hybrids thereof

## APPENDIX 2D

### LIST OF RARE OR SCARCE FRUIT VARIETIES AND VARIETIES OF LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE

The lists below contain the varieties and tree types of those varieties that are important in terms of top fruit conservation in Cambridgeshire. Tree types as well as varieties because:

- Any veteran tree that is not one of the listed exceptions is of interest. In reality, most veterans are one of a handful of known varieties and fruit identification will usually exclude the tree as a CWS criterion. However, if the tree cannot be identified, then it should be preserved if possible - at least until propagation material has been taken and successfully propagated.
- Clonal variety becomes more and more prevalent as time passes and more and more propagation is carried out. Mature trees of the listed varieties may often be closer to the original source than the clones present in the National Fruit Collection today. This is especially true of old trees close to the original source.
- It is desirable to exclude new plantings of local varieties as a CWS criterion - most of these will (usually) arise from a single clone held in the National Fruit Collection.

Varieties that are rare or are of local significance fall into 4 categories:

**1. Any veteran fruit tree that cannot be identified by East of England Apples and Orchards Project (EEAOP), National Fruit Collections (NFC), Royal Horticultural Society RHS, or an organisation of similar standing.**

**Note:** The majority of veteran fruit trees in Cambridgeshire will be of the following types and are readily identifiable.

Malus	Pyrus	Prunus
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bramley's Seedling</li> <li>• Newton Wonder</li> <li>• Blenheim Orange</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conference</li> <li>• William's (aka Barton)</li> <li>• Comice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Myrobalan</li> </ul>

**2. Any named and verified top fruit variety that does not appear in the National Fruit Collections**

"Named" being the name known to the orchard owners

"Verified" being agreed to match a varietal description by one of the organisations mentioned in 1.

**3. Any mature trees of the following varieties**

Malus	Prunus
Barnack Beauty Chiver's Delight Cockett's Red Cottenham Seedling Emneth Early Green Harvey Histon Favourite Hunter's Majestic Huntingdon Codlin Jolly Miller* Lord Peckover Lady Hollendale Morley's Seedling Murfitt's Seedling New Rock Pippin Perfection * Red Victoria St Everard Thoday's Quarrenden Wayside	Willingham Gage* Cambridge Gage Wallis's Wonder*

*\*These varieties are not currently held in the National Fruit Collections and have only been recorded in specific orchards in Cambs. They are of great local significance and considerably at risk until further propagation and distribution has occurred.*

#### 4. Any of the 'Lost' Cambridgeshire apple varieties

There are more than 20 named varieties of apple documented as having Cambridgeshire origins. Some of these 'lost' varieties were last recorded just over fifty years ago, so it's quite likely that old trees still survive. If any of these names below are mentioned by orchard owners PLEASE CONTACT EEAOP IMMEDIATELY.

Area	Name	Description
<b>Chatteris</b>	<b>Mrs. Ward</b>	In existence 1884. First recorded 1872. Scarlet Nonpareil x ?. Raised by Lawrence, nurseryman, Size: small. Shape: intermediate, truncate-conic, convex, not ribbed. Skin: yellow or orange, flushed deep scarlet, occasional russet patches. Flesh: firm, pale yellow. Flavour: sub-acid. Season: mid – very late.
<b>Cottenham area</b>	<b>John Norman</b>	Last recorded 1946. Similar I shape to the Berkshire variety Charles Ross but duller in colour. Eye more open with long sepals and a thick short stalk.
	<b>Queenholme Seedling</b>	Exhibited 1898 RHS from Cottenham (only record). Size: medium. Shape: rectangular to truncate-conic, convex, ribbed. Skin: pale greenish yellow, flushed pale red. Flesh: dry. Season: very late.
<b>Histon area</b>	<b>Colwell</b>	Grown locally and only mentioned once in 1936. No description.
	<b>Histon Cropper</b>	First described in 1919 and raised by John Chivers of Histon. Last recorded in 1947 Size: large. Shape conic, convex, not ribbed. Skin: green flushed red. Season mid.
	<b>Barton</b>	In existence 1946. Resembles a Worcester Pearmain. Size medium. Shape: inter mediate, truncate conic ribbed and convex. Season: mid., Skin: green flushed and striped red.
<b>Huntingdon</b>	<b>Woodley's Favourite</b>	Exhibited 1888 RHS from Huntingdon. First recorded 1883. Size: large. Shape: intermediate, rectangular, convex, ribbed. Skin: greenish yellow Season: mid.
<b>Peterborough area</b>	<b>Jenny Brewster</b>	Exhibited at RHS in 1894 (only record). Possibly raised by Rev. Brewster.
	<b>Orton Favourite</b>	Exhibited 1894 RHS from Orton Longville (only record). Size: :large. Skin: red. Season: early – mid.
	<b>Paston</b>	Exhibited 1905 RHS (only record) from P/borough Season: mid.
	<b>Leyden Pippin</b>	Exhibited 1883 RHS (only record) from P/borough Size: medium. Shape: conic, ribbed on body. Skin green flushed with bronze. Flavour: sweet.

	<b>Scarlet Russet</b>	Exhibited 1883 RHS from Orton Hall near Peterborough. First recorded 1831. Size: small. Shape: conical. Skin: yellow with russet, flushed red. Flesh: firm. Flavour: sweet. Season: mid.
	<b>Triumph</b>	Exhibited 1904 RHS (only record) from Peterborough.
	<b>Wadlow Pride</b>	Exhibited 1902. Only record. Season: mid.
	<b>Pinder's Seedling</b>	Exhibited 1900 RHS. Only record. Season: mid.
<b>Wisbech area</b>	<b>James Kirk</b>	Catalogued 1949. Award of Merit RHS 1905. Exhibited by Cross of Wisbech. Size: medium. Shape: truncate-conic, convex. Skin: greenish yellow striped red. Flesh: crisp. Flavour: acid. Season: late.
	<b>Lord Kitchener</b>	Exhibited 1899 RHS from Wisbech (only record). Size: large. Season: early.
	<b>Scarlet Beauty</b>	Exhibited at 1906 RHS from Wisbech (only record). No description.
<b>Cambridge</b>	<b>Haggerstone Pippin</b>	A late season dessert apple raised by Mr Haggerstone in about 1805 from the seed of an American apple variety
<b>Cambridgeshire</b>	<b>Turbanks</b>	Exhibited 1883 RHS from Cambridgeshire (only record). No description.

Local fruit identification contacts Email [info@eeaop.org.uk](mailto:info@eeaop.org.uk) or [orchardbob@gmail.com](mailto:orchardbob@gmail.com)

## APPENDIX 2E

### LOCAL TRADITIONAL MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Local traditional management practices include the following:

- Growing soft<sup>4</sup> fruit, vegetables or flowers between the trees, as long as this practice is not detrimental to the trees.
- Continuing any cultural practice (e.g. cultivation programme) that has fostered the existence of a nationally rare or scarce or county rare species as listed within the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Traditional Orchards Biodiversity Action Plan.
- Pruning and training techniques that are considered traditional to the county, including the creation and maintenance of open centre trees with a short trunk.

<sup>4</sup> fruit that grows on bushes, such as gooseberry and currant.

## APPENDIX 3

### CAMBRIDGESHIRE GRASSLAND INDICATORS

Nomenclature follows *New Flora of the British Isles* 1st Edition C.A.Stace CUP 1991

\*signifies a strong indicator

#### Neutral Grassland

Achillea ptarmica\*  
Agrimonia eupatoria  
Ajuga reptans  
Alchemilla filicaulis ssp. vestita\*  
  
Briza media\*  
  
Bromus commutatus\*  
  
Caltha palustris\*  
  
Cardamine pratensis  
Carex caryophyllea\*  
Carex disticha\*  
  
Carex flacca\*  
Carex hirta  
Carex nigra\*  
Carex panicea\*  
Carex spicata\*  
  
Centaurea nigra  
  
Centaurium erythraea  
Cirsium acaule\*  
  
Conopodium majus  
Dactylorhiza fuchsii\*  
Dactylorhiza incarnata\*  
Danthonia decumbens\*  
Eleocharis palustris

Man Orchid  
Sneezewort  
Agrimony  
Bugle  
Lady's-mantle  
Pyramidal Orchid  
Kidney Vetch  
Squinancywort  
Purple Milk-vetch  
Yellow-wort  
Tor Grass  
Quaking Grass  
Upright Brome  
Meadow Brome  
Great Pignut  
Marsh-marigold  
Clustered Bellflower  
Harebell  
Cuckooflower  
Spring Sedge  
Brown Sedge  
Rare Spring Sedge  
Glaucous Sedge  
Hairy Sedge  
Common Sedge  
Carnation Sedge  
Spiked Sedge  
Carline Thistle  
Black Knapweed  
Greater Knapweed  
Common Centaury  
Dwarf Thistle  
Woolly Thistle  
Basil-thyme  
Wild Basil  
Pignut  
Common Spotted Orchid  
Early Marsh Orchid  
Heath Grass  
Common Spike-rush

#### Calcareous Grassland

Aceras anthropophorum\*  
  
Agrimonia eupatoria  
  
Anacamptis pyramidalis\*  
Anthyllis vulneraria\*  
Asperula cynanchica\*  
Astragalus danicus\*  
Blackstonia perfoliata\*  
Brachypodium pinnatum\*  
Briza media\*  
Bromopsis erecta\*  
  
Bunium bulbocastanum\*  
  
Campanula glomerata\*  
Campanula rotundifolia\*  
  
Carex caryophyllea\*  
  
Carex ericetorum\*  
Carex flacca\*  
  
Carlina vulgaris\*  
Centaurea nigra  
Centaurea scabiosa\*  
Centaurium erythraea  
Cirsium acaule\*  
Cirsium eriophorum\*  
Clinopodium acinos\*  
Clinopodium vulgare\*  
  
Dactylorhiza fuchsii\*

APPENDIX 3 CONTINUED

**Neutral Grassland**

Euphrasia nemorosa\*  
  
Filipendula vulgaris\*  
Fritillaria meleagris\*  
Galium uliginosum\*  
Galium verum  
Genista tinctoria\*  
  
Geranium pratense  
  
Helictotrichon pratense\*  
Helictotrichon pubescens\*  
  
Hordeum secalinum  
  
Hypericum tetrapterum  
  
Juncus compressus  
Knautia arvensis\*  
Koeleria macrantha\*  
Lathyrus nissolia\*  
Lathyrus pratensis  
Leontodon hispidus\*  
Leontodon saxatilis\*  
Leucanthemum vulgare  
Linum catharticum\*  
  
Lotus corniculatus  
Lotus pedunculatus  
Luzula campestris  
Lychnis flos-cuculi\*  
Lysimachia nummularia  
Oenanthe fistulosa\*  
Oenanthe lachenalii\*  
Oenanthe silaifolia\*  
  
Ononis repens\*  
Ononis spinosa\*  
Ophioglossum vulgatum\*  
Orchis morio\*

Eyebright  
Chalk Eyebright  
Sheep's Fescue  
Dropwort  
Fritillary  
Fen Bedstraw  
Lady's Bedstraw  
Dyer's Greenweed  
Autumn Gentian  
Meadow Crane's-bill  
Fragrant Orchid  
Common Rock-rose  
Meadow Oat-grass  
Downy Oat-grass  
Lizard Orchid  
Horseshoe Vetch  
Meadow Barley  
Perforate St. John's-wort  
Square-stemmed St. John's-wort  
Spotted Cat's-ear  
Ploughman's-spikenard  
Round-fruited Rush  
Field Scabious  
Crested Hair-grass  
Grass Vetchling  
Meadow Vetchling  
Rough Hawkbit  
Lesser Hawkbit  
Oxeye Daisy  
Fairy Flax  
Perennial Flax  
Bird's-foot-trefoil  
Greater Bird's-foot Trefoil  
Field Woodrush  
Ragged-Robin  
Creeping-Jenny  
Tubular Water-dropwort  
Parsley Water-dropwort  
Narrow-leaved Water-dropwort  
Sainfoin  
Common Restharrow  
Spiny Restharrow  
Adder's-tongue Fern  
Green-winged Orchid

**Calcareous Grassland**

Euphrasia nemorosa\*  
Euphrasia pseudokernerii\*  
Festuca ovina\*  
Filipendula vulgaris\*  
  
Galium verum  
Genista tinctoria\*  
Gentianella amarella\*  
  
Gymnadenia conopsea\*  
Helianthemum nummularium\*  
Helictotrichon pratense\*  
Helictotrichon pubescens\*  
Himantoglossum hircinum\*  
Hippocrepis comosa\*  
  
Hypericum perforatum  
  
Hypochaeris maculata\*  
Inula conyzae\*  
  
Knautia arvensis\*  
Koeleria macrantha\*  
  
Leontodon hispidus\*  
Leontodon saxatilis\*  
Leucanthemum vulgare  
Linum catharticum\*  
Linum perenne\*  
Lotus corniculatus  
  
Onobrychis viciifolia\*  
Ononis repens\*  
Ononis spinosa\*

APPENDIX 3 CONTINUED

**Neutral Grassland**

Pimpinella saxifraga  
 Plantago media  
 Polygala vulgaris\*  
 Potentilla erecta\*  
 Potentilla sterilis\*  
 Primula veris  
 Primula vulgaris  
 Pulicaria dysenterica  
  
 Ranunculus auricomus  
 Ranunculus ficaria  
 Ranunculus flammula\*  
 Rhinanthus minor\*  
 Rumex acetosa  
 Sanguisorba minor ssp. minor\*  
 Sanguisorba officinalis\*  
 Saxifraga granulata\*  
  
 Senecio aquaticus\*  
 Senecio erucifolius  
 Serratula tinctoria\*  
  
 Silaum silaus\*  
  
 Stachys officinalis\*  
 Stellaria graminea  
 Succisa pratensis\*  
  
 Thalictrum flavum\*  
  
 Trifolium fragiferum  
 Trifolium ochroleucon\*  
 Triglochin palustris\*  
 Trisetum flavescens  
 Valeriana dioica\*  
 Viola canina\*  
 Viola hirta\*

Marjoram  
 Knapweed Broomrape  
 Wild Parsnip  
 Hawkweed Ox-tongue  
 Mouse-ear Hawkweed  
 Burnet-saxifrage  
 Hoary Plantain  
 Common Milkwort  
 Tormentil  
 Barren Strawberry  
 Cowslip  
 Primrose  
 Common Fleabane  
 Pasqueflower  
 Goldilocks Buttercup  
 Lesser Celandine  
 Lesser Spearwort  
 Yellow Rattle  
 Common Sorrel  
 Salad Burnet  
 Great Burnet  
 Meadow Saxifrage  
 Small Scabious  
 Marsh Ragwort  
 Hoary Ragwort  
 Saw-wort  
 Moon Carrot  
 Pepper-saxifrage  
 Bladder Champion  
 Betony  
 Lesser Stitchwort  
 Devil's-bit Scabious  
 Field Fleawort  
 Common Meadow-rue  
 Lesser Meadow-rue  
 Bastard Toadflax  
 Wild Thyme  
 Large Thyme  
 Strawberry Clover  
 Sulphur Clover  
 Marsh Arrow-grass  
 Yellow Oat-grass  
 Marsh Valerian  
 Heath Dog-violet  
 Hairy Violet

**Calcareous Grassland**

Origanum vulgare\*  
 Orobanche elatior\*  
 Pastinaca sativa  
 Picris hieracioides\*  
 Pilosella officinarum\*  
 Pimpinella saxifraga  
 Plantago media  
 Polygala vulgaris\*  
  
 Primula veris  
  
 Pulsatilla vulgaris\*  
  
 Rhinanthus minor\*  
  
 Sanguisorba minor ssp. minor\*  
  
 Scabiosa columbaria\*  
  
 Senecio erucifolius  
 Serratula tinctoria\*  
 Seseli libanotis\*  
  
 Silene vulgaris  
 Stachys officinalis\*  
  
 Succisa pratensis\*  
 Tephrosia integrifolia\*  
  
 Thalictrum minus\*  
 Thesium humifusum\*  
 Thymus polytrichus\*  
 Thymus pulegioides\*  
  
 Viola hirta\*

## APPENDIX 4

### CLASSIFICATION OF STANDING WATER TYPES 10A AND 10B - SUBMERGED AND FLOATING VEGETATION

Nomenclature follows *New Flora of the British Isles* 1st Edition C.A.Stace CUP 1991

	10A	10B	
Potamogeton natans		III	
Potamogeton perfoliatus	II		
Potamogeton obtusifolius	II		
Potamogeton berchtoldii	III		
Callitriche stagnalis	II		
Elodea canadensis	IV*		
Nuphar lutea	II		
Lemna minor	IV		
Lemna trisulca		II	
Elodea nuttallii		III	
Potamogeton lucens			II
Sparganium emersum		II	II
Persicaria amphibia	III	II	
Enteromorpha spp.	II		
Myriophyllum spicatum	III	III	
Potamogeton crispus		III	
Potamogeton pectinatus	III	IV	
Potamogeton pusillus		II	III
Chara spp.	II	IV	
Av. number of species per site (submerged and floating)	10	6	
Av. number of species per site (submerged, floating and emergent)	22	15	

#### KEY

##### Constancy classes

V = 80-100%

IV = 60-80%

III = 40-60%

II = 20-40%

\* = cover value high

## APPENDIX 5A

### NATIONALLY RARE VASCULAR PLANTS FOUND IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Species are those listed on the JNCC website from an analysis by Chris Cheffings and based on information from the *New Atlas of the British and Irish Flora*. C.D. Preston, D.A. Pearman & T.D. Dines. Oxford University Press 2002

Nomenclature follows *New Flora of the British Isles* 1st Edition C.A.Stace CUP 1991

Records are 1970 and later. Data provided by G.Crompton, D.Wells, N Millar and T.C.E.Wells.

Ajuga chamaepitys (Vulnerable)\*  
Alisma gramineum (Critically Endangered)+\*  
Arabis glabra (Vulnerable)  
Bromus interruptus (Extinct in the wild)\*  
Bunium bulbocastanum (Nationally Rare)  
Centaurea cyanus (Endangered)  
Chenopodium vulvaria (Vulnerable)+  
Cirsium tuberosum (Vulnerable)\*  
Dianthus armeria (Vulnerable)  
Dryopteris cristata (Nationally Rare)\*  
Filago lutescens (Vulnerable)+  
Filago pyramidata (Endangered)+  
Herniaria glabra (Nationally Rare)  
Himantoglossum hircinum (Vulnerable)+  
Hypochaeris maculata (Vulnerable)  
Luzula pallidula (Vulnerable)  
Lythrum hyssopifolia (Vulnerable)+  
Melampyrum cristatum (Nationally Rare)  
Muscari neglectum (Vulnerable)  
Phleum phleoides (Nationally Rare)  
Selinum carvifolia (Vulnerable)+  
Senecio paludosus (Critically Endangered)+  
Seseli libanotis (Vulnerable)  
Silene otites (Nationally Rare)  
Stratiotes aloides (Nationally Rare)\*(Present as garden escape)  
Teucrium scordium (Vulnerable)+  
Veronica spicata ssp. Spicata (Vulnerable)+  
Viola canina ssp. montana (Endangered)  
Viola persicifolia (Endangered)+

#### KEY

\* Thought to be extinct in Cambridgeshire

+ Listed on Schedule 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

## APPENDIX 5B

### NATIONALLY SCARCE VASCULAR PLANTS FOUND IN OLD CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Species are those listed on the JNCC website from an analysis by Chris Cheffings and based on information from the *New Atlas of the British and Irish Flora*. C.D. Preston, D.A. Pearman & T.D. Dines. Oxford University Press 2002

Records are 1970 and later. Data provided by G.Crompton and D.Wells.

Nomenclature follows *New Flora of the British Isles* 1st Edition C.A.Stace CUP 1991

Aceras anthropophorum	Silene conica
Aconitum napellus	Sium latifolium
Adiantum capillus-veneris	Sonchus palustris
Arum italicum ssp. neglectum	Tephrosia integrifolia ssp. integrifolia
Bupleurum tenuissimum	Thelypteris palustris
Carex appropinquata	Thesium humifusum
Carex ericetorum	Torilis arvensis
Clinopodium calamintha	Trifolium glomeratum
Cuscuta europaea	Trifolium ochroleucon
Dactylorhiza traunsteineri	Verbascum pulverulentum
Dianthus deltoides	Vicia parviflora
Epipactis phyllanthes	Vulpia ciliata ssp. ambigua
Euphrasia pseudokernerii	
Fumaria parviflora	
Fumaria vaillantii	
Galeopsis angustifolia	
Galium parisiense	
Helleborus foetidus	
Hordelymus europaeus	
Iberis amara	
Lathyrus aphaca	
Lathyrus palustris	
Lepidium latifolium	
Linum perenne	
Marrubium vulgare	
Medicago minima	
Medicago sativa ssp. falcata	
Minuartia hybrida	
Nymphoides peltata	
Oenanthe silaifolia	
Persicaria laxiflora	
Peucedanum palustre	
Potamogeton coloratus	
Potamogeton compressus	
Potentilla neumanniana	
Primula elatior	
Pulsatilla vulgaris	

## APPENDIX 5C

### NATIONALLY SCARCE VASCULAR PLANTS FOUND IN HUNTINGDON AND PETERBOROUGH DISTRICTS

Species are those listed on the JNCC website from an analysis by Chris Cheffings and based on information from the *New Atlas of the British and Irish Flora*. C.D. Preston, D.A. Pearman & T.D. Dines. Oxford University Press 2002

Records are 1970 and later. Data provided by T.C.E.Wells.

Nomenclature follows *New Flora of the British Isles* 1st Edition C.A.Stace CUP 1991

Aceras anthropophorum  
Carex ericetorum  
Cuscuta europaea  
Dactylorhiza traunsteineri  
Fritillaria meleagris  
Galeopsis angustifolia  
Helleborus foetidus  
Hordelymus europaeus  
Lathyrus palustris  
Marrubium vulgare  
Medicago minima  
Medicago polymorpha  
Minuartia hybrida  
Nymphoides peltata  
Oenanthe silaifolia  
Ornithogalum pyrenaicum  
Peucedanum palustre  
Potamogeton coloratus  
Potamogeton compressus  
Primula elatior  
Pulsatilla vulgaris  
Sium latifolium  
Sonchus palustris  
Torilis arvensis  
Trifolium ochroleucon  
Vicia parviflora

## APPENDIX 5D

### VASCULAR PLANTS RARE IN OLD CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Species recorded in 3 or fewer sites in the old county and which have been present at the site for 5 years or more since 1970. Nationally Rare and Scarce species not included.

Data originally provided by G.Crompton and D.Wells, updated by N.Millar 2005.

Nomenclature follows *New Flora of the British Isles* 1st Edition C.A.Stace CUP 1991

Adoxa moschatellina	Epilobium obscurum
Agrostis canina	Epipactis palustris
Agrostis vinealis	Euphorbia amygdaloides
Allium oleraceum	Euphorbia cyparissias
Anagallis arvensis ssp. caerulea	Festuca brevipila
Aphanes inexpectata	Filago minima
Aster tripolium	Fumaria muralis ssp. boraei
Atriplex littoralis	Galium mollugo ssp. erectum
Atriplex portulacoides	Galium odoratum
Blysmus compressus	Galium saxatile
Bromus racemosus	Galium tricornutum
Calluna vulgaris	Geranium sanguineum
Cardamine amara	Glaux maritima
Carex arenaria	Gnaphalium sylvaticum
Carex lasiocarpa	Helleborus viridis
Carex ovalis	Hieracium cheriense
Carex pulicaris	Hieracium diaphanum
Carex vesicaria	Hieracium grandidens
Carex viridula ssp. viridula	Hieracium maculatum
Catabrosa aquatica	Hieracium oblongum
Ceratophyllum submersum	Hieracium rigens
Chrysosplenium oppositifolium	Hieracium salticola
Cirsium dissectum	Hieracium scotostictum
Cladium mariscus	Hieracium umbellatum
Cochlearia anglica	Hypericum humifusum
Coeloglossum viride	Hypericum maculatum ssp.
Convallaria majalis	obtusiusculum
Cuscuta epithymum	Hypericum pulchrum
Dactylorhiza incarnata ssp. ochroleuca	Hypochaeris glabra
Dactylorhiza incarnata ssp. pulchella	Juncus bulbosus
Deschampsia flexuosa	Juncus gerardii
Dipsacus pilosus	Juniperus communis
Dryopteris affinis ssp. affinis	Limonium vulgare
Dryopteris affinis ssp. borrieri	Luzula sylvatica
Dryopteris carthusiana	Lysimachia nemorum
Eleocharis quinqueflora	Menyanthes trifoliata
Elytrigia atherica	

## APPENDIX 5D CONTINUED

Myosotis discolor  
Myrica gale  
Nardus stricta  
Ophrys insectifera  
Ornithopus perpusillus  
Parapholis strigosa  
Parnassia palustris  
Pedicularis palustris  
Persicaria bistorta  
Persicaria minor  
Phleum arenarium  
Pinguicula vulgaris  
Plantago maritima  
Potamogeton alpinus  
Potamogeton gramineus  
Potamogeton praelongus  
Potentilla argentea  
Puccinellia distans  
Puccinellia maritima  
Quercus petraea  
Ranunculus sardous  
Rosa micrantha  
Rubus anglocandicans  
Rubus britannicus  
Rubus cardiophyllus  
Rubus criniger  
Rubus flexuosus  
Rubus insectifolius  
Rubus lindleianus  
Rubus nemorosus  
Rubus pedemontanus  
Rubus polyanthemus  
Rubus proiactus  
Rubus pruinosis  
Rubus pyramidalis  
Rubus rufescens  
Sagina apetala ssp. apetala  
Sagina maritima  
Sagina nodosa  
Salicornia ramosissima  
Salix aurita  
Salix myrsinifolia  
Salix repens  
Sambucus ebulus  
Schoenus nigricans  
Seriphidium maritimum  
Sorbus torminalis  
Sparganium natans  
Spergularia marina  
Spergularia media  
Spiranthes spiralis  
Stellaria uliginosa  
Suaeda maritima  
Teucrium scorodonia  
Tilia cordata  
Trifolium scabrum  
Trifolium striatum  
Trifolium subterraneum  
Valerianella carinata  
Vicia lathyroides  
Viola canina ssp. canina  
Viola canina ssp. montana

## APPENDIX 5E

### VASCULAR PLANTS RARE IN HUNTINGDON AND PETERBOROUGH DISTRICTS

Species recorded in 5 or fewer tetrads. Nationally Rare and Scarce species not included.

Data provided by T.C.E.Wells.

Nomenclature follows *New Flora of the British Isles* 1st Edition C.A.Stace CUP 1991

NAME	NUMBER OF TETRADS	NAME	NUMBER OF TETRADS
<i>Agrimonia procera</i>	3	<i>Danthonia decumbens</i>	5
<i>Aira caryophyllea</i>	3	<i>Diplotaxis tenuifolia</i>	3
<i>Alchemilla filicaulis</i> ssp. <i>vestita</i>	2	<i>Dryopteris carthusiana</i>	5
<i>Alopecurus aequalis</i>	5	<i>Dryopteris affinis</i> ssp. <i>affinis</i>	3
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i> ssp. <i>coerulea</i>	2	<i>Eleogiton fluitans</i>	1
<i>Anagallis tenella</i>	3	<i>Epilobium palustre</i>	2
<i>Antennaria dioica</i>	1	<i>Epilobium roseum</i>	1
<i>Anthriscus caucalis</i>	2	<i>Epipactis helleborine</i>	1
<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>	5	<i>Epipactis purpurata</i>	2
<i>Apium graveolens</i>	2	<i>Erica tetralix</i>	3
<i>Apium inundatum</i>	1	<i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i>	1
<i>Asperula cynanchica</i>	3	<i>Euphorbia platyphyllos</i>	5
<i>Asplenium trichomanes</i>	4	<i>Festuca lemanii/brevipila</i>	2
<i>Baldellia ranunculoides</i>	2	<i>Frangula alnus</i>	3
<i>Bidens cernua</i>	3	<i>Gagea lutea</i>	1
<i>Blechnum spicant</i>	4	<i>Galium mollugo</i> ssp. <i>erectum</i>	3
<i>Blysmus compressus</i>	1	<i>Galium odoratum</i>	2
<i>Campanula latifolia</i>	1	<i>Genista tinctoria</i>	5
<i>Carex binervis</i>	4	<i>Geranium columbinum</i>	3
<i>Carex divulsa</i>	2	<i>Geranium lucidum</i>	5
<i>Carex echinata</i>	1	<i>Glyceria declinata</i>	1
<i>Carex hostiana</i>	2	<i>Gnaphalium sylvaticum</i>	2
<i>Carex lasiocarpa</i>	1	<i>Gymnadenia conopsea</i>	4
<i>Carex pilulifera</i>	3	<i>Helleborus viridis</i>	3
<i>Carex pulicaris</i>	2	<i>Hieracium umbellatum</i>	3
<i>Carex rostrata</i>	2	<i>Hippocrepis comosa</i>	5
<i>Carex viridula</i> ssp. <i>viridula</i>	1	<i>Hydrocharis morsus-ranae</i>	3
<i>Catabrosa aquatica</i>	2	<i>Hypericum pulchrum</i>	1
<i>Ceratocarpus claviculata</i>	1	<i>Juncus bulbosus</i>	1
<i>Ceratophyllum submersum</i>	1	<i>Lathraea squamaria</i>	1
<i>Ceterach officinarum</i>	5	<i>Lepidium campestre</i>	4
<i>Cirsium dissectum</i>	2	<i>Luzula sylvatica</i>	5
<i>Cladium mariscus</i>	3	<i>Lysimachia nemorum</i>	2
<i>Clinopodium acinos</i>	3	<i>Lythrum portula</i>	1
<i>Clinopodium ascendens</i>	3	<i>Melica nutans</i>	4
<i>Coeloglossum viride</i>	1	<i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i>	1
<i>Convallaria majalis</i>	2	<i>Molinia caerulea</i>	4
<i>Cuscuta epithimum</i>	3		

## APPENDIX 5E CONTINUED

NAME	NUMBER OF TETRADS	NAME	NUMBER OF TETRADS
Montia fontana	1	Triglochin palustris	4
Mycelis muralis	2	Utricularia vulgaris	2
Myosotis sylvatica	4	Vaccinium myrtillus	1
Myosurus minimus	1	Veronica montana	4
Myrica gale	3	Veronica scutellata	4
Myriophyllum alterniflorum	2	Viola canina	5
Neottia nidus-avis	4	Viscum album	3
Nepeta cataria	4		
Oenanthe fluviatilis	3		
Onobrychis viciifolia	5		
Ophrys insectifera	2		
Parapholis strigosa	1		
Paris quadrifolia	3		
Pedicularis palustris	1		
Persicaria laxiflora	4		
Petroselinum segetum	1		
Pinguicula vulgaris	1		
Poa humilis	3		
Polygala serpyllifolia	1		
Potamogeton friesii	4		
Potamogeton gramineus	1		
Potamogeton praelongus	1		
Potentilla anglica	1		
Potentilla argentea	1		
Potentilla palustris	1		
Quercus petraea	2		
Ranunculus hederaceus	1		
Ranunculus lingua	3		
Ranunculus parviflorus	1		
Ranunculus sardous	2		
Salix pentandra	1		
Salix repens	2		
Salvia verbenaca	1		
Sambucus ebulus	3		
Scandix pecten-veneris	3		
Schoenus nigricans	1		
Scleranthus annuus	4		
Sedum telephium	3		
Serratula tinctoria	4		
Spergularia rubra	1		
Stellaria neglecta	1		
Stellaria uliginosa	5		
Teucrium scorodonia	2		
Trifolium arvense	5		
Trifolium micranthum	2		
Trifolium striatum	2		

## APPENDIX 6A

### ESTIMATED NATIONAL NUMBERS OF BIRDS BREEDING AND WINTERING IN BRITAIN - SPECIES RELEVANT TO CAMBRIDGESHIRE

	Breeding pairs	Wintering individuals
Little Grebe	9-14K	8K+
Great Crested Grebe	3-3.4K	5-15K
Red-necked Grebe	0-1k	100-170
Slavonian Grebe	70-80	400
Black-necked Grebe	<20	100
Cormorant	6.2K	15-20K
Bittern	47-51	50-150
Grey Heron	3.5-8.5K	25K
Mute Swan	3.1K	18K
Bewicks Swan	-	5K
Whooper Swan	0-1	4.5K
Greylag Goose	600-1000	100K
Canada Goose	10K	40K
Shelduck	15K	75K
Wigeon	300-500	200K
Gadwall	260	4K
Teal	3.5-6K	100K
Mallard	40K	500K
Pintail	16-41	25K
Garganey	<55	-
Shoveler	500	9K
Pochard	200	50K
Tufted Duck	1.5-2K	60K
Goldeneye	>40	15K
Red-breasted Merganser	1-2K	10K
Marsh Harrier	20-23	?
Hen Harrier	400	750
Montagu's Harrier	1-3	-
Sparrowhawk	15-20K	75-130K
Kestrel	30-40K	75K
Hobby	1K	-
Grey Partridge	100-200K	?
Water Rail	1.5-3K	?
Moorhen	200K	1M
Coot	40-80K	150K
Oystercatcher	33-43K	280K
Stone Curlew	150	-
Little Ringed Plover	475	-
Ringed Plover	8600	23K
Golden Plover	23K	200K
Lapwing	180K	1M

## APPENDIX 6B

### BREEDING BIRD INDICES

This list covers only those species which have bred or are likely to breed in Cambridgeshire; other species can be used from the relevant list if they occur.

	INDEX	A	B	C	D	E
Little Grebe	2.5		*	*		
Great Crested Grebe	3			*		
Bittern	5		*	*		
Grey Heron	3			*	*	
Mute Swan	3	*		*		
Shelduck	2	*		*		
Gadwall	4	*	*	*		
Teal	3	*	*	*		
Garganey	5	*	*	*		
Shoveler	4		*	*	*	
Pochard	4				*	
Tufted Duck	3			*		
Marsh Harrier	5	*	*	*		
Montagu's Harrier	6		*	*		
Sparrowhawk	2					*
Hobby	4					*
Quail	5	*				
Water Rail	3		*	*		
Woodcock	2					*
Lapwing	1		*			
Avocet	4			*		
Ruff	5	*				
Little Ringed Plover	4			*		
Ringed Plover	3			*		
Snipe	2	*	*	*		
Black-tailed Godwit	5	*				
Curlew	2	*				
Redshank	2	*		*		
Common Tern	3			*		
Turtle Dove	1.5				*	
Stock Dove	1					*
Cuckoo	2	*	*	*	*	*
Tawny Owl	2					*
Long-eared Owl	3				*	*
Short-eared Owl	3		*			
Nightjar	3				*	*
Green Woodpecker	2					*
Greater Spotted Woodpecker	2					*
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	3					*
Kingfisher	3			*		
Yellow Wagtail	1	*		*		
Grey Wagtail	2			*		
Tree Pipit	1.5				*	*

## APPENDIX 6B CONTINUED

	INDEX	A	B	C	D	E
Nightingale	3				*	*
Redstart	1					*
Whinchat	2	*	*		*	
Stonechat	2				*	
Cetti's Warbler	4		*	*		
Grasshopper Warbler	2	*	*	*	*	
Whitethroat	2				*	
Lesser Whitethroat	2				*	
Garden Warbler	1					*
Blackcap	1				*	*
Wood Warbler	2					*
Chiffchaff	1					*
Goldcrest	1					*
Savi's Warbler	5		*	*		
Sedge Warbler	1	*	*	*		
Reed Warbler	2		*	*		
Marsh Warbler	5		*	*		
Spotted Flycatcher	1					*
Pied Flycatcher	2					*
Long-tailed Tit	1					*
Marsh Tit	1					*
Willow Tit	2					*
Coal Tit	1					*
Red-backed Shrike	5				*	
Bearded Tit	4		*	*		
Nuthatch	2					*
Tree Creeper	1					*
Reed Bunting	1	*		*		
Linnets	1				*	
Golden Oriole	5					*
Jay	1					*
Siskin	2					*
Redpoll	1					*
Index		11	13	24	10	26

### KEY

- A - Lowland Damp Grassland
- B - Lowland Fen Without Water
- C - Lowland Open Water and Margins
- D - Scrub
- E - Woodland

\* indicates which species are relevant for that habitat

## **APPENDIX 6C**

### **RARE BREEDING BIRDS IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

Garganey  
Pochard  
Marsh Harrier  
Hobby  
Quail  
Stone Curlew  
Black-tailed Godwit  
Long-eared Owl  
Short-eared Owl  
Tree Pipit  
Grey Wagtail  
Black Redstart  
Redstart  
Wheatear  
Cetti's Warbler  
Wood Warbler  
Pied Flycatcher  
Bearded Tit  
Nuthatch  
Golden Oriole  
Hawfinch

## APPENDIX 7

### SCORING SYSTEM FOR THE SELECTION OF SITES WITH ASSEMBLAGES OF AMPHIBIANS

		<i>Low Population</i>	<i>Good Population</i>	<i>Exceptional Population</i>
		Score 1	Score 2	Score 3
<b>Great Crested Newt</b>	Seen or netted during the day	<5	5-50	>50
	Counted or bottle trapped at night	<10	10-100	>100
<b>Smooth Newt</b>	Netted in day	<10	10-100	>100
	Counted at night			
<b>Palmate Newt</b>	Netted in day	<10	10-100	>100
	Counted at night			
<b>Common Toad</b>	Estimated	<500	500-5000	>5000
	Counted	<100	100-1000	>1000
<b>Common Frog</b>	Spawn clumps counted	<50	50-100	>500

Scores must be for breeding sites observed during the breeding season. Daytime netting should be made during a 15-minute period for sites with less than 50m of water's edge, for 30 minutes for sites with 50-100m and so on. To compute the total score for a site, add the scores for individual species and add one point for four species present and two points for five species.

## **APPENDIX 8A**

### **NATIONALLY SCARCE AND NATIONALLY DECLINING SPECIES OF BUTTERFLY OCCURRING IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

#### **Nationally scarce**

Black Hairstreak  
Brown Hairstreak  
White-letter Hairstreak

#### **Nationally declining**

Brown Argus  
Chalk-hill Blue  
Dingy Skipper  
Green Hairstreak  
Grizzled Skipper  
Marbled White  
Purple Hairstreak  
Small Blue  
White Admiral

The species listed above are those known or likely to occur in Cambridgeshire. Should other nationally rare, scarce or declining species occur these will also be eligible.

## **APPENDIX 8B**

### **NATIONALLY RARE AND NATIONALLY SCARCE SPECIES OF DRAGONFLY OCCURRING IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

#### **Nationally rare**

*Libellula fulva* (Scarce Chaser)

#### **Nationally scarce**

*Brachytron pratense* (Hairy Dragonfly)

*Coenagrion pulchellum* (Variable Damselfly)

The species listed above are those known or likely to occur in Cambridgeshire. Should other nationally rare or scarce species occur these will also be eligible.

## APPENDIX 8C

### BEETLES INDICATIVE OF CONTINUITY OF SAPROXYLIC HABITATS, AND THE METHOD OF CALCULATION OF THE INDEX OF ECOLOGICAL CONTINUITY

From Harding P. and Rose F., *Pasture Woodlands in Lowland Britain*, Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, 1986. and K.N.A Alexander, *The development of an Index of Ecological Continuity for deadwood associated beetles*. In R.C.Welch, ed. *Insect indicators of ancient woodland* (East Region Regional News). Antenna, 12, 69-71

#### KEY

Habitat indicator: H1 strong; H2 good; H3 weak (after Harding and Rose, 1986)  
Rarity: R1 Red Data Book; R2 rare or very local (notable); R3 local (using Hyman 1986)

To calculate the Index of Ecological Continuity: score 3 for H1 species, score 2 for H2 and 1 for H3 and then add the scores.

<u>Carabidae</u>			Q. xanthopus	H3	R3
			Q. scitus	H3	R2
Calosoma inquisitor	H3	R2	Tachysuda gracilis	H1	R1
			Euryusa optabilis	H2	R1
			E. sinuata	H2	R1
<u>Histeridae</u>					
Plegaderus dissectus	H2	R2	<u>Pselaphidae</u>		
Abraeus granulum	H1	R2	Plectophloeus nitidus	H1	R1
Aeletes atomarius	H1	R1	Euplectus brunneus	H1(a)	R1
			E. punctatus	H1	R2
<u>Ptiliidae</u>			E. nanus	H1	R3
			Trichonyx sulcicollis	H2	R1
Ptenidium gressneri	H2	R1	Batrisodes delaporti	H1	R1
P. turgidum	H2	R2	B. venustus	H2	R1
Micridium halidaii	H1	R1	B. buqueti	H1	R1
Ptinella limbata	H2	R1	Bibloporus minutus	H2	R1
<u>Scydmaenidae</u>			<u>Lucanidae</u>		
Eutheia formicetorum	H1	R1	Sinodendron cylindricum	H3	R3
E. linearis	H1	R1			
Stenichus godarti	H1	R2			
S. bicolor	H3	R3	<u>Scarabaeidae</u>		
Euconnus pragensis	H1	R1	Gnorimus variabilis	H1	R1
Microscydus minimus	H1	R1			
Scydmaenus rufus	H3	R2			
			<u>Scirtidae</u>		
<u>Staphylinidae</u>			Prionocyphon serricornis	H2	R1
Phyllodrepa nigra	H1	R1			
Xantholinus angularis	H3	R2			
Velleius dilatatus	H1	R1			
Quedius ventralis	H3	R2			
Q. microps	H3	R2			
Q. aetolicus	H3	R2			
Q. maurus	H3	R3			

## APPENDIX 8C CONTINUED

<u>Buprestidae</u>			Gastrallus immarginatus	H1	R1
			Xyletinus longitarsus	H3	R2
Agrilus pannonicus	H2(b)	R1	Dorcatoma flavicornis	H3	R2
			D. chrysomelina	H2	R3
			D. dresdensis	H2	R1
<u>Elateridae</u>			D. serra	H2	R2
			Anitys rubens	H1	R2
Lacon querceus	H1	R1			
Ampedus rufipennis	H1	R1			
A. cinnabarinus	H1	R1	<u>Ptinidae</u>		
A. pomonae	H1	R3			
A. pomorum	H3	R2	Ptinus subpilosus	H2	R2
A. elongulatus	H3	R2	P. palliatus	H3	R3
A. cardinalis	H1	R1			
A. nigerrimus	H1	R1	<u>Lyctidae</u>		
A. ruficeps	H1	R1			
Ischnodes sanguinicollis	H2	R2	Lyctus brunneus	H3	R3
Procaerus tibialis	H1	R1			
Megapenthes lugens	H1	R1			
Limoniscus violaceus	H1	R1	<u>Peltidae</u>		
Stenagostus villosus	H3	R3			
Selatosomus bipustulatus	H3	R2	Thymalus limbatus	H3	R2
Elater ferrugineus	H1	R1			
<u>Throscidae</u>			<u>Phloiophilidae</u>		
Trixagus brevicollis	H1	R1	Phloiophilus edwardsi	H3	R2
<u>Eucnemidae</u>			<u>Cleridae</u>		
Melasis buprestoides	H3	R2	Tillus elongatus	H3	R2
Eucnemis capucina	H1	R1	Opilo mollis	H3	R2
Dirhagus pygmaeus	H3	R1	Thanasimus formicarius	H3	R3
			Korynetes caeruleus	H3	R2
<u>Gantheridae</u>			<u>Melyridae</u>		
Malthodes brevicollis	H1	R1			
M. crassicornis	H2	R1	Hypebaeus flavipes	H1	R1
			Aplocnemus pini	H3	R2
			A. nigricornis	H3	R2
<u>Lycidae</u>			<u>Lymexylidae</u>		
Pyropterus nigroruber	H2	R1			
Platycis minutus	H3	R2	Hylecoetus dermestoides	H3	R2
P. cosnardi	H1	R1	Lymexylon navale	H1	R1
<u>Dermestidae</u>					
Ctesias serra	H3	R2			
Trinodes hirtus	H1	R1			
Globicornis nigripes	H2	R1			
<u>Anobiidae</u>					
Xestobium rufovillosum	H3	R3			

## APPENDIX 8C CONTINUED

### Nitidulidae

Carpophilus sexpustulatus	H3	R3
Epuraea angustula	H3	R2

### Rhizophagidae

Rhizophagus nitidulus	H3	R2
R. oblongicollis	H1	R1

### Cucujidae

Uleiota planata	H1(b)	R1
Pediacus depressus	H2	R2
P. dermestoides	H3	R3
Laemophloeus monilis	H1(a)	R1
Notolaemus unifasciatus	H2	R1

### Silvanidae

Silvanus bidentatus	H2	R1
S. unidentatus	H3	R3

### Cryptophagidae

Cryptophagus micaceus	H1	R1
Atomaria lohsei	H1	R1

### Biphyllidae

Biphyllus lunatus	H3	R3
Diplocoelus fagi	H2	R2

### Erotylidae

Tritoma bipustulata	H3	R2
Triplax aenea	H3	R3
T. russica	H3	R3
T. lacordairii	H3	R1
T. scutellaris	H3	R1

### Cerylonidae

Cerylon fagi	H3	R2
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### Endomychidae

Symbiotes latus	H3	R2
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### Lathrididae

Lathridius consimilis	H1	R2
Enicmus rugosus	H2	R1
E. brevicornis	H2	R2
Dienerella separanda	H2	R3
Corticaria alleni	H1	R2
C. fagi	H1	R1
C. longicollis	H1	R2

### Cisidae

Cis coluber	H2	R1
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### Mycetophagidae

Pseudotriphyllus suturalis	H3	R3
Triphyllus bicolor	H3	R3
Mycetophagus piceus	H3	R2
M. atomarius	H3	R3

### Colydiidae

Synchita humeralis	H3	R2
S. separanda	H1	R1
Cicones variegatus	H2	R2
Bitoma crenata	H3	R3
Colydium elongatum	H1	R1
Teredus cylindricus	H1	R1
Oxyaemus cylindricus	H2(a)	R1
O. variolosus	H2(a)	R1

### Tenebrionidae

Prionychus melanarius	H1	R1
P. ater	H3	R2
Pseudocistela ceramboides	H2	R2
Mycetochara humeralis	H3	R2
Eledona agricola	H3	R2
Corticeus unicolor	H2	R1

## APPENDIX 8C CONTINUED

<u>Tetratomidae</u>			Grammotera ustulata	H1	R1
			G. variegata	H3	R2
Tetratoma fungorum	H3	R3	Leptura scutellata	H1	R2
T. desmaresti	H3	R2	Strangalia revestita	H2	R1
T. ancora	H3	R2	S. aurulenta	H3	R2
			S. quadrifasciata	H3	R2
			Phymatodes testaceus	H3	R3
<u>Pyrochroidae</u>			Pyrrhidium sanguineum	H1	R1
			Mesosa nebulosa	H2	R1
Pyrochroa coccinea	H3	R2	Saperda scalaris	H3	R2
<u>Melandryidae</u>			<u>Chrysomelidae</u>		
Hallomenus binotatus	H3	R2	Cryptocephalus querceti	H1(c)	R1
Orchesia undulata	H3	R3			
Anisoxya fuscula	H3	R1	<u>Anthribidae</u>		
Abdera quadrifasciata	H1	R2	Platyrhinus resinosus	H3	R2
A. biflexuosa	H3	R2	Tropiderea sepicola	H1	R1
Phloiotrya vaudoueri	H2	R2	T. niveirostris	H3	R1
Hypulus quercinus	H2	R1	Platystomos albinus	H3	R2
Melandrya barbata	H1	R1			
M. caraboides	H3	R2	<u>Curculionidae</u>		
Conopalpus testaceus	H3	R2	Cossonus parallelepipedus	H3	R2
<u>Scraptiidae</u>			Dryophthorus corticalis	H1	R1
Scraptia dubia	H1(a)	R2	Pentarthrum huttoni	H3	R2
S. fuscula	H1	R2	Mesites tardii	H3	R2
S. testacea	H1	R2	Phloeophagus truncorum	H1	R2
Anaspis schilskyana	H1(a)	R1	Trachodes hispidus	H3	R2
<u>Mordellidae</u>			<u>Scolytidae</u>		
Tomoxia biguttata	H1	R1	Ernoporus fagi	H3	R2
Mordella villosa	H3	R2	E. caucasicus	H1(a)	R1
M. aculeata	H3	R2	Xyloterus domesticus	H3	R3
			X. signatus	H3	R1
<u>Oedemeridae</u>			X. lineatus	H3	R2
Ischnomera caerulea	H3	R2	Xyleborus dispar	H3	R1
I. sanguinicollis	H1	R2	X. dryographus	H3	R2
I. cinerascens	H1	R1	X. saxeseni	H3	R3
<u>Aderidae</u>			<u>Platypodidae</u>		
Aderus oculatus	H3	R2	Platypus cylindrus	H3	R1
A. brevicornis	H1(a)	R1			
<u>Cerambycidae</u>					
Prionus coriarius	H3	R2			