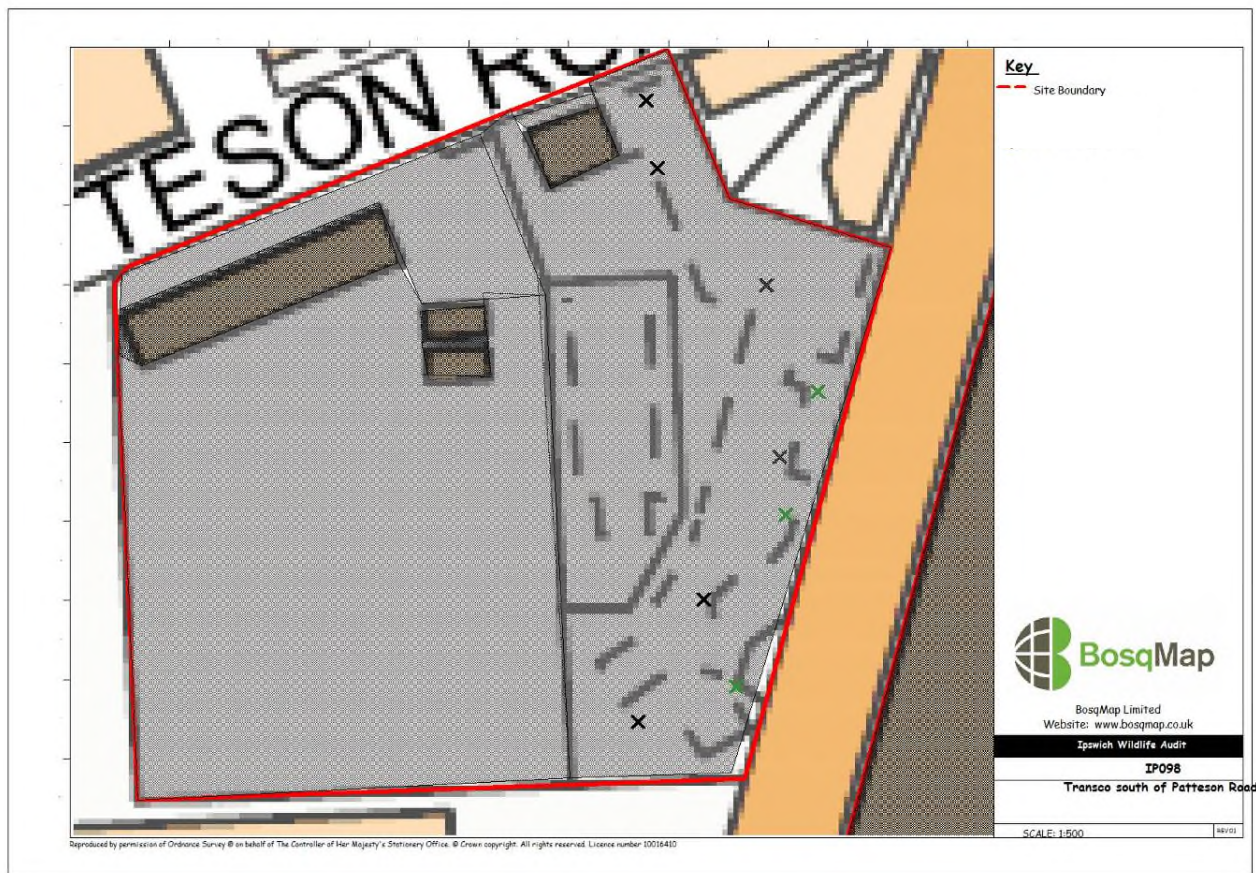


Site name: Transco south of Patteson Road

Site ref: IP098
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 17130 43572
Area: 0.57 hectares
Date: 28th July 2019
Recorder: A Looser
Weather conditions: Hot and sunny, 27°C
Ranking: 6 (based on assessment from boundaries)
Biodiversity value: Low

Map:



Photos:



View from Cliff Road

Habitat type(s):

Hard standing, buildings, ephemeral short perennial, scattered scrub

Subsidiary habitats:

-

Site description:

This site is located to the south of Patteson Road, west of Cliff Lane. It is located approximately 80m east of the River Orwell CWS. This site was fenced off and could only be assessed from the boundaries. It has formerly been used for industrial purposes, although it appears to be currently disused and vegetation is colonising the site.

Protected species seen or known:

Species in the area include:

Common pipistrelle bat

Soprano pipistrelle bat

Brown long eared bat

Daubenton's bat

Noctule bat

Serotine bat

Common lizard

Grass snake

Slow worm

Great Crested Newt

Badger

Protected species potential:

-

Priority habitats present:

-

Priority species seen or known:

Hedgehog

Stag beetle

Common toad

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

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

Priority species potential:

-

Connectivity:

This is a small site in a built-up area of the Town. Although it is only approximately 80m from the River Orwell CWS there is currently no direct connectivity.

Structural diversity:

The structural diversity is moderate at the current time but will improve if the site continues to be abandoned.

Flora:

The flora is limited due to the nature of this site. The plants noted from the boundaries which have started to colonise are typical of brownfield habitats including false oat grass, wild carrot, weld, poppy and ivy, with occasional buddleia bushes.

Avifauna:

This site is currently sub-optimal for this group, although the plants will provide some foraging opportunities for them. The scattered scrub may also provide limited nesting opportunities for common species.

Invertebrates:

The habitat is sub-optimal for this group, although the plants will provide nectar sources for common species.

Herpetofauna:

The habitat currently has low suitability for this group.

Mammals:

The habitat is largely sub-optimal for this group, although common small mammal species such as mice, voles and shrews are likely to be present.

Comments and recommendations:

This site is proposed for housing at high density.

Japanese Knotweed has been recorded approx. 200m east of the site. This species is listed as invasive on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Although no evidence was seen during the survey, this site was not accessed and this assessment does not constitute an invasive species survey. Further monitoring of this species is required to ensure it has not spread and colonised the site.

This site is very small and located in a built-up area of the Town, so the opportunities for enhancement are limited. However, any landscaping scheme should include low-maintenance nectar and berry producing shrubs and perennial plants to provide some benefit for birds and invertebrates.

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

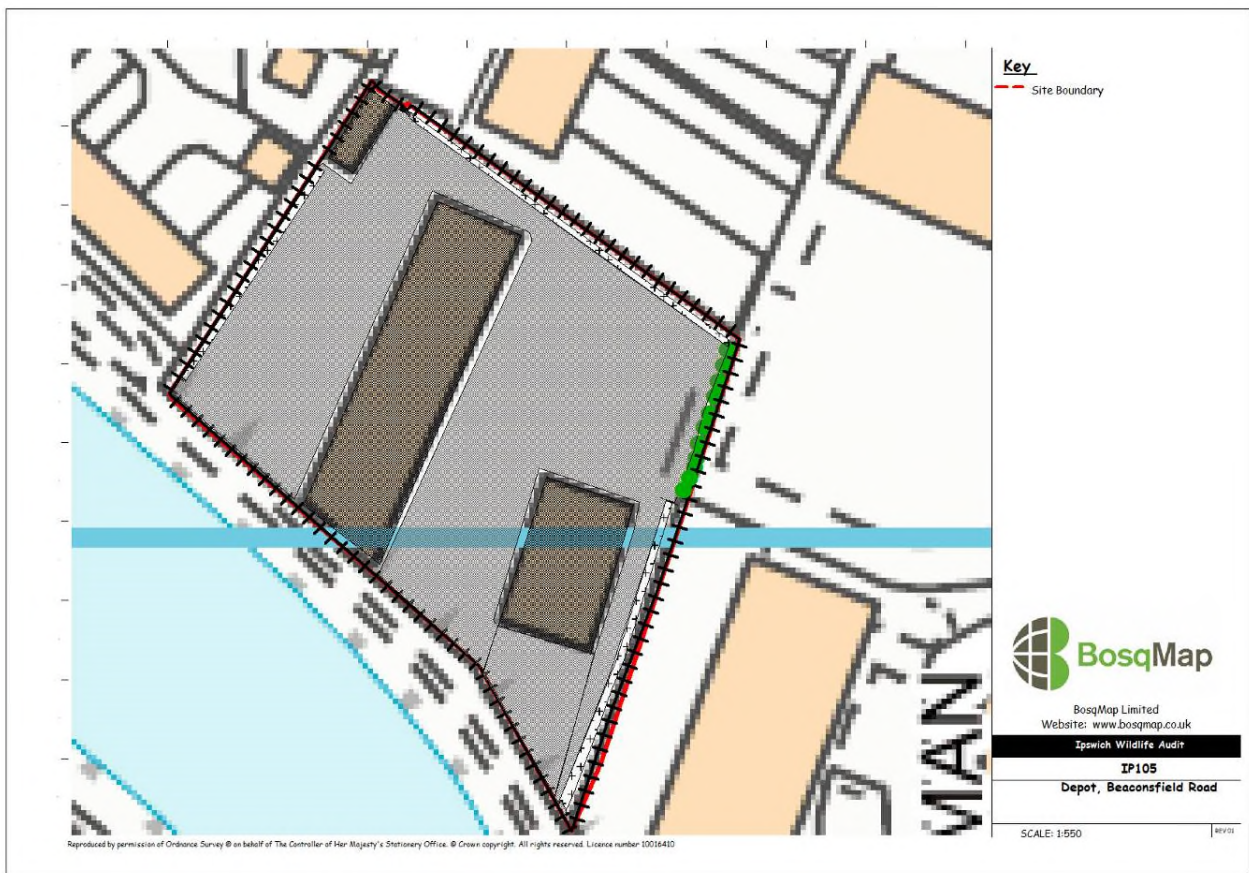
It is unknown whether the proposals are for houses or flats. Swifts are a declining migratory species that are almost totally dependent on holes and crevices in buildings for nesting but leave no mess. Swift boxes should be integrated into taller new buildings such as flats using 'swift bricks' or 'swift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

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

Site name: Depot, Beaconsfield Road

Site ref: IP105
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 14902 45011
Area: 0.33 hectares
Date: 25th July 2019
Recorder: A Looser
Weather conditions: Hot and sunny, 27°C
Ranking: 6
Biodiversity value: Low

Map:



Photos:



View south-west across site

Habitat type(s):

Hard standing, buildings, ephemeral short perennial, scattered coniferous trees

Subsidiary habitats:

-

Site description:

This site is currently a depot, situated at the southern end of Beaconsfield Road. The majority of the site is hard standing with buildings. The River Gipping lies adjacent to the site on the south-western side. There is a short stretch of leylandii hedge along the north-eastern edge. The margins are rough with ephemeral short perennial vegetation coming through.

Protected species seen or known:

Species recorded in the surrounding area include:

Common pipistrelle bat

Soprano pipistrelle bat

Daubenton's bat

Natterer's bat

Noctule bat

Grass snake

Slow worm

Protected species potential:

-

Priority habitats present:

-

Priority species seen or known:

Species recorded in the surrounding area include:

Hedgehog

Stag beetle

Common toad

BoCC Red List bird species including herring gull (seen), house sparrow and starling

BoCC Amber List birds including swift (Suffolk Character Species)

Priority species potential:

-

Connectivity:

The site is adjacent to the River Gipping which represents a good wildlife corridor on the western boundary. The gardens also provide a degree of connectivity. Otherwise it is surrounded by roads and residential housing.

Structural diversity:

The structural diversity is poor.

Flora:

Due to the nature of the site the flora is limited. However, the narrow margins have some diversity with barren brome and false oat grasses, Canadian fleabane, perennial sow thistle, smooth hawk's-beard, greater celandine, coltsfoot, prickly lettuce, rosebay willowherb, hedge bindweed, dove's-foot cranesbill, yarrow, poppy and nettle.

There is some scattered scrub also around the margins including buddleia, privet, elder, hops, bramble, dog rose and honeysuckle.

Avifauna:

The habitats on site are sub-optimal for this group. However, the roofs of the buildings provide roosting and nesting opportunities for gulls and herring gull (Priority species) was seen during the visit. Swifts (Suffolk Character Species) were also seen feeding overhead although there is not thought to be any nesting opportunities for this species. The scrub and leylandii hedge will provide some habitat for other common bird species.

Invertebrates:

Although much of the habitat is unsuitable for invertebrates, the edges provide a nectar source for common species. Green veined white, small white and small skipper butterflies were noted during the visit as well as a brown hawker dragonfly.

Herpetofauna:

Slow worm has been recorded adjacent to the site but the habitat is largely unsuitable for this group. However due to the proximity of the river corridor small numbers of slow worm could be present in

the narrow, vegetated margins if there is access beneath the fence. There is no suitable habitat for amphibians.

Mammals:

The habitat is sub-optimal for this group. However, a dead hedgehog was seen in Beaconsfield Road close to the site entrance and they are likely to navigate through the site to get between the river corridor and the gardens surrounding the site. Bats will use the adjacent river corridor for foraging and commuting.

Comments and recommendations:

This site is proposed for medium density housing development.

To reduce impacts upon slow worm, it is recommended that the margins of the site are cut short ahead of construction commencing.

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

There is an opportunity to strengthen the local ecological network by creation of new habitat adjacent to this feature. New habitat should use native planting such as a new hedge incorporating berry-producing scrubs such as hawthorn and dogwood. Alternatively, a nectar rich wildflower strip could be sown, although this would require a higher degree of maintenance to retain its biodiversity value.

Given the proximity of the river corridor, holes in fences for hedgehog should be part of this new housing proposal, to maintain landscape permeability for this wide-ranging, declining species.

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

Site name: Jupiter Road/Reading Road

Site ref: IP109
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 18679 45135
Area: 0.49 hectares
Date: 29th July 2019
Recorder: J Crighton
Weather conditions: Warm, clear skies with moderate breeze, *ca.* 24°C
Ranking: 4
Biodiversity value: Medium

Map:



Photos:



Looking south across the site from the northern-most point



East of the road through the site



West of the road running through site



Looking north up the road running through site

Habitat type(s):

Poor semi-improved grassland, ephemeral short perennial, scattered scrub, dense continuous scrub

Subsidiary habitats:

Deadwood, rubble and brash piles,

Site description:

This site is a relatively small, narrow area between the residential dwellings and gardens fronting Jupiter Road to the east and Reading Road to the west. The Drift, which is a minor dead-end road, runs through the centre of the site from Woodbridge Road and terminates at the gates to a small urban park, currently used as a sports pitch, north of the site.

The site once contained a number of garages which have now been demolished and has become overgrown with vegetation. There are some small business units south of the site and several sections fenced off with closed-boarding, so access was not possible. The two visible sections, in the north east and north west of the site are fenced off, so all assessment was carried out from the road.

Protected species seen or known:

Records in the surrounding area include:

Badger
Common pipistrelle bat
Soprano pipistrelle bat
Noctule bat
Serotine bat
Slow worm

Protected species potential:

-

Priority habitats present:

-

Priority species seen or known:

Records in the surrounding area include:

Hedgehog
Common toad
Stag beetle
Swift (Suffolk Character Species)

BoCC Red list birds include house sparrow, linnet, song thrush and starling. Amber List birds include Dunnock.

Priority species potential:

Cinnabar moth

Connectivity:

This site is directly south of a small urban park surrounded by trees, and the rest of the site is bounded by residential gardens so connectivity is moderate within the local community but does not extend to any significant green spaces or wildlife corridors.

Structural diversity:

The site has moderate structural diversity with areas of bare ground, tall forbs and grasses as well as patchy scrub and small sections of hedgerow. Additional subsidiary habitat features are provided by man-made features such as rubble piles, deadwood and brash.

Flora:

The area in the east of the site, which is currently fenced, contains a mix of species generally associated with undisturbed urban sites, such as Canadian fleabane, mugwort, smooth hawksbeard wall barley, cow parsley, hedge mustard, ragwort, creeping thistle, spear thistle, nettle, broad-leaved dock, weld, black horehound and evening primrose but also contained a mix of grasses and herbs that indicate the historic use of the greenspace was once as amenity grassland. These species include Yorkshire fog and false oat grasses, dove's foot and cut-leaved crane's bill, greater and ribwort plantain, dandelion and yarrow. Some more interesting species are present which are likely to have self-seeded here including tansy, corn marigold, feverfew, lesser stitchwort and dittander (Nationally scarce).

The western area of the site, also fenced, is dominated by plants typical of disturbed ground such as fat hen and good King Henry, with some common mallow, common poppy, mugwort, groundsel, prickly lettuce, knotgrass and field pansy. There is also evidence of garden escapes including sunflower, larkspur and soapwort.

Throughout the area there is some patchy scrub including bramble and blackthorn with some young sycamore. A small section of gappy hedge runs along the south western edge of The Drift which contains mainly privet with horse chestnut, holly and laurel. One area, as shown on the map, was viewed through the fence and appeared to be covered with dense scrub with similar species to the above.

Avifauna:

It was a sub-optimal time of year for recording this group. This site and the surrounding garden vegetation is likely to support a small number of nesting birds and also offers good foraging opportunities.

Invertebrates:

This site could offer potential habitat for stag beetles (Priority Species) in the scrub habitats on the boundaries, if there is any subterranean deadwood suitable for supporting their larvae. The fallen deadwood and brash piles within the site are likely to support a good range of insects and the flowering plants will attract bees, hoverflies and butterflies. Large white, red admiral and gatekeeper butterflies were noted on site during the survey. Cinnabar moth caterpillars (Priority Species) feed exclusively on ragwort and so the presence of ragwort within the sward means this moth may be present.

Herpetofauna:

This site has the potential to support reptiles particularly slow worm albeit it is surrounded by roads and housing. The wood and rubble piles within the habitats, along with a range of sward heights, offer excellent basking and refuge opportunities. The rich insect community would allow for good foraging also.

Mammals:

The tall dense vegetation as well as brash piles on site could offer foraging, refuge and hibernation opportunities for hedgehogs, mice, voles and shrews. Fox and muntjac deer are also likely to use this site.

It is also possible that commuting and foraging bats would use this site due to the invertebrate populations.

Comments and recommendations:

This site has had planning permission approved for 13 dwellings, which is awaiting a Section 106 Agreement for renewal.

Due to the potential for reptiles on site it is recommended that a precautionary method of site clearance is undertaken. If reptiles are found to be present, mitigation for this group ahead of any

further vegetation clearance will be required. In addition, clearance of woody vegetation should take place outside of the bird nesting season (March-August inclusive) unless immediately preceded by a nesting bird check undertaken by a suitably qualified ecologist.

This site is very small so the opportunities for enhancement are limited. However, any landscaping scheme should include low-maintenance nectar and berry producing shrubs and perennial plants to provide some benefit for birds and invertebrates.

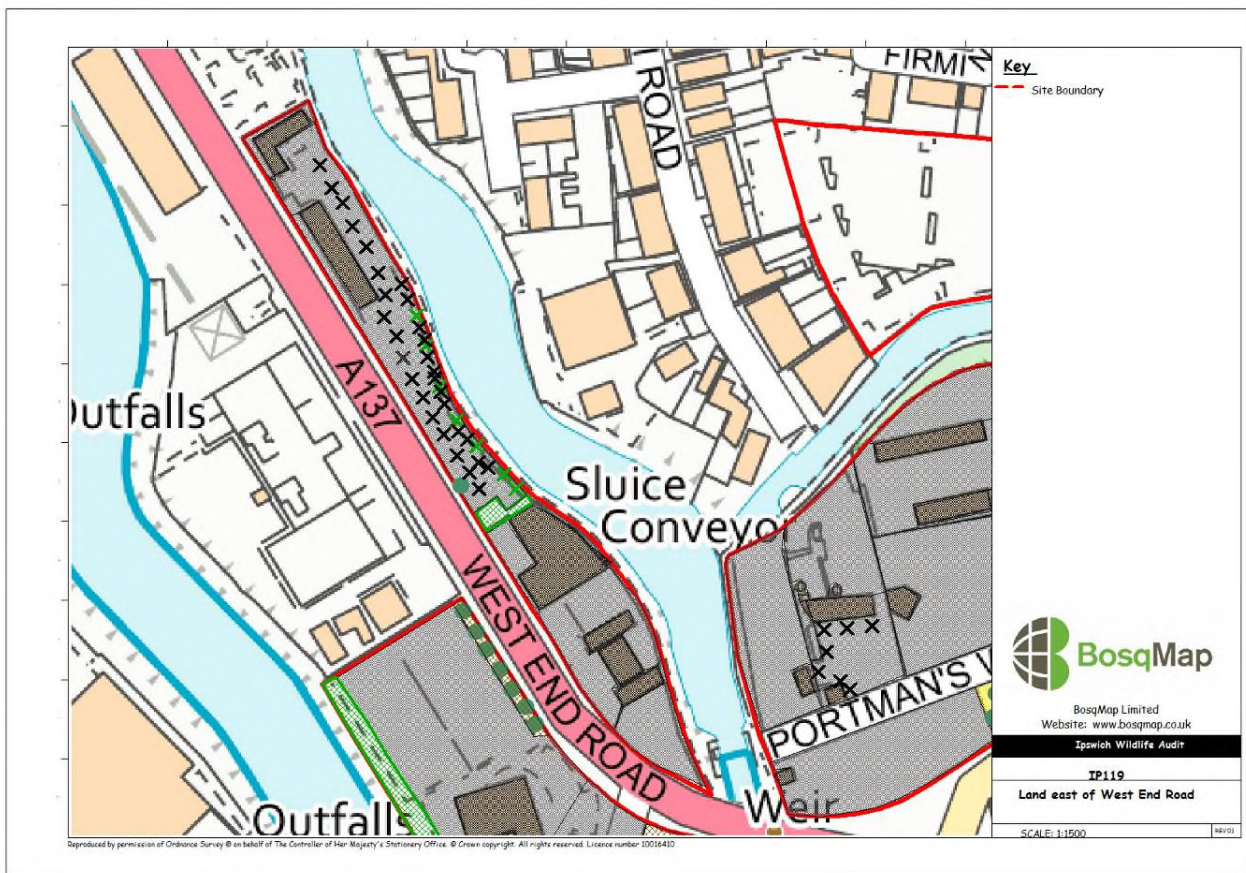
As this site is within an existing residential area, holes in fences for hedgehog should be part of this housing proposal, to deliver landscape permeability for this wide-ranging, declining species.

Although a declining species, this area of the county is a stronghold for stag beetles which can often be found in relatively small garden habitats around Ipswich. A habitat pile, created by burying stumps in an upright position, rather like a cluster of organ-pipes, should be constructed within a corner of greenspace to benefit this species.

Site name: Land east of West End Road

Site ref: IP119
Site status: No wildlife designation
Grid ref: TM 15615 44382
Area: 0.61 hectares
Date: 25th July 2019
Recorder: A Looser
Weather conditions: Hot and sunny, 26°C
Ranking: 5
Biodiversity value: Low

Map:



Photos:



View across vacant land showing colonising vegetation

Habitat type(s):

Hard standing, buildings, ephemeral short perennial, tall ruderal, dense scrub, scattered scrub, scattered trees

Subsidiary habitats:

Roof voids

Site description:

This site is long and narrow and is situated on the eastern side of West End Road. The eastern boundary is marked by the River Gipping. The site is currently occupied by car sales and MOT centre. The northern part of the site is vacant land with derelict buildings, surrounded by fencing which is being colonised by vegetation. This part was viewed from the boundaries only. There is a hedgerow/scrub belt along the edge of the river.

Protected species seen or known:

Species recorded in the area include:

Otter

Water vole

Common pipistrelle bat

Soprano pipistrelle bat

Daubentons bat

Natterer's bat

Noctule bat

Grass snake

Slow worm

Protected species potential:

-

Priority habitats present:

River (adjacent to site)

Priority species seen or known:

Records in the area include:

Hedgehog

Stag beetle

Common toad

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

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

Priority species potential:

Cinnabar moth

Connectivity:

This site has good connectivity due to its location adjacent to the River Gipping which represents an important wildlife corridor through the Town.

Structural diversity:

The majority of the site has poor structural diversity, being largely hard standing and buildings. However, the northern part of the site is slightly better with low growing vegetation and scrub.

Flora:

The flora in the southern part of the site is limited to some sycamore, ivy and buddleia along the eastern boundary.

The plants coming up through the cracks in the hard standing in the vacant site were only viewed from the boundaries but a good diversity of typical plants were recorded including occasional false oat grass with Canadian fleabane, perforate St john's-wort, prickly lettuce, wild carrot, red dead nettle, mugwort, ragwort, fine leaved ragwort, bristly ox-tongue, dove's-foot cranesbill, mallow, poppy, great mullein, curled dock, weld, rosebay willowherb, toadflax and dittander (a Nationally Scarce but locally common species).

The scrub and trees along the river corridor includes sycamore, blackthorn, plum, elder, dog rose and bramble with occasional buddleia bushes.

Avifauna:

The trees and shrubs along the river corridor provide nesting, roosting and foraging opportunities for a range of common bird species. Due to its location next to the river the shrubs could be important temporary resting areas for migrant small birds.

Invertebrates:

Although in general the site is sub-optimal for invertebrates, the diversity of plants colonising the area of vacant land provides some habitat for a range of invertebrates. Small white, gatekeeper and peacock butterflies were seen as well as numerous bee species. Other species will be present during the year and the presence of ragwort amongst the sward means that cinnabar moths could be present (Priority Species). Stag beetles have been recorded in the area and the area with trees along the eastern boundary provides potential habitat for them if there is any subterranean deadwood present.

Herpetofauna:

The habitats are sub-optimal for this group, although due to the presence of the river corridor they could start to colonise the site if the habitat continues to improve.

Mammals:

The site is sub-optimal for mammals. Bats are likely to forage along the river corridor and may roost in the disused buildings on site, so any development would need to be informed by a bat survey prior to works. Otters have been recorded adjacent to the site in 2013. Otters are highly mobile species, so the river corridor is likely to be regularly used for commuting and foraging.

Comments and recommendations:

This site is proposed for medium density housing on 45% of the site, with secondary uses on 40% for leisure and 15% for employment.

As there are derelict buildings with bat potential a bat survey should be carried out before any works commence. If the site is left for any significant period of time so that the northern part of the site becomes more vegetated, then a reptile survey should also be undertaken. However, woody vegetation clearance must take place outside bird nesting season (March – end of August inclusive), unless immediately preceded by a nesting bird check undertaken by a suitably qualified ecologist.

Japanese knotweed has been recorded approx. 150m north of the site. This species is listed as invasive on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Although no evidence was found on site during the survey, this site assessment does not constitute an invasive species survey and further monitoring of this species is required to ensure it has not spread and colonised the site.

This site is located adjacent to the River Gipping. There is an opportunity to strengthen the local ecological network by creation of new habitat adjacent to this feature. New habitat should use native planting local to the area such as a new hedge adjacent to the river or nectar rich wildflower areas. Any greenspace should be located adjacent to the river corridor.

Due to the proximity of the river, the lighting scheme should be designed to prevent light spillage into this area. Bats are particularly sensitive to increased light levels, so it is important to maintain dark corridors to support local ecological networks.

In addition, action can also be taken for individual species including stag beetles, hedgehogs and eels.

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

A stag beetle habitat pile, created by burying stumps in an upright position, rather like a cluster of organ-pipes, should be constructed within a corner of the allocated greenspace.

At this location there is also an opportunity for off-site enhancement to benefit eels, as since the mid-1980s there has been a significant decline in their populations. An important contributing factor to this decline is thought to be the addition of water control structures such as weirs and gauging stations, which present a barrier to the natural migration of eels and elvers. A potential solution to the problem is the installation of a suitable 'eel pass' to the obstruction. Detailed information can be found in the "Elver and eel passes; A guide to the design and implementation of passage solutions at weirs, tidal gates and sluices" (Gregory *et al*, 2017).

References:

Gregory, J. *et al* (2017). *Elver and eel passes; A guide to the design and implantation of passage solutions at weirs, tidal gates and sluices. The Eel Manual – GEHO0211BTMV-E-E*. Bristol, Environment Agency