

Castle Point Borough Local Wildlife Sites (LoWS) Register 2023



Client
Castle Point Borough Council

Date:
May 2023



About us

Place Services is a leading public sector provider of integrated environmental assessment, planning, design and management services. Our combination of specialist skills and experience means that we are uniquely qualified to help meet the requirements of the planning process.

Our Natural Environment Team has expertise of arboriculture, biodiversity, countryside management and ecology. This multidisciplinary approach brings together a wide range of experience, whether it is for large complex briefs or small discrete projects. We aim to help our clients protect and improve the natural environment through their planning, regulatory or land management activities. This approach ensures that not only our clients will fulfil their legal duties towards the natural environment, but they do so in a way that brings positive benefits to wildlife and people.

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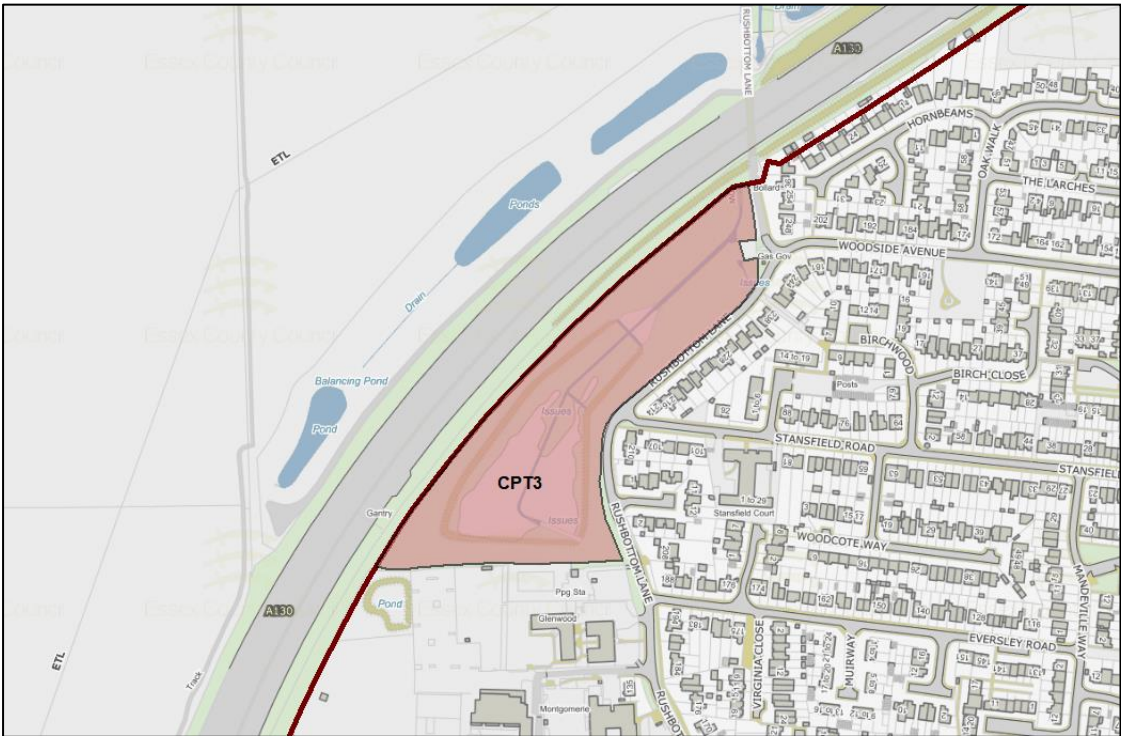
VAT number: GB 104 2528 13

Important information

Identification of land within this report as a Local Wildlife Site does not confer any right of public access to the Site, above and beyond any Public Rights of Way that may exist. The vast majority of the Sites are in private ownership and this should be respected at all times.

Whilst every attempt has been made to ensure accurate mapping of the site boundaries, the accompanying maps should be considered as being illustrative only.

Castle Point Local Wildlife Site Descriptions

<p>Site reference: CPT3</p> <p>Site name: Rushbottom Lane Flood Pound</p>	<p>Grid ref. (approx. centre of site): TQ766894</p> <p>Site area: 3.3 ha</p>
<p>LoWS Selection Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HC28 Small-component Mosaics 	
<p>Boundary Map</p>  <p>Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. ©Crown Copyright. Licence number LA100019602</p> <p>The map shows the site boundary (red line) and the site area (shaded red). The site is located adjacent to the A130 road and the Rushbottom Lane Flood Pound. The map also shows surrounding residential areas and roads such as Stansfield Road, Woodside Avenue, and Birch Close.</p>	
<p>Site Description</p> <p>This is a very varied site containing both marshy and dry grassland with scattered scrub, marshy grassland being poorly represented in the Borough. It lies on the western boundary of the Borough, adjacent to the A130.</p> <p>The grassland is species-rich with a good mix of sedges, rushes, grasses and herbs, including Black Sedge (<i>Carex nigra</i>), which is rare in south Essex. Other characteristic species include Meadow Foxtail (<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>), Crested Dog's-tail (<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>), Agrimony (<i>Agrimonia eupatoria</i>), False Fox-sedge (<i>Carex otrubae</i>), Meadow Barley (<i>Hordeum secalinum</i>), Grass Vetchling (<i>Lathyrus nissolia</i>), Hard Rush (<i>Juncus inflexus</i>) and meadow-grasses (<i>Poa</i> spp.).</p>	
<p>Site Selection Rationale</p> <p>HC28 - The combination of marshy and dry grassland with scattered and dense scrub forms a habitat of nature conservation significance, particularly in a peri-urban context.</p> <p>Priority Habitats</p> <p>None</p>	
<p>Ownership and Access</p> <p>The site is owned by Anglian Water Services and managed for operational purposes. There is no public access.</p>	

Condition Statement

Grassland – Moderate
Scrub – Moderate

Management Issues

Scrub encroachment is a constant threat on this site, although it is believed that some management occurs to maintain the site's function.

Review Schedule

Site selected: 1992 (M1)

Site Reviewed: 1994 (M1), 2002 (CP3), 2007 (CP3), 2012 (CPT3)

2023: No change

Site reference: CPT4

Site name: West Canvey Marshes

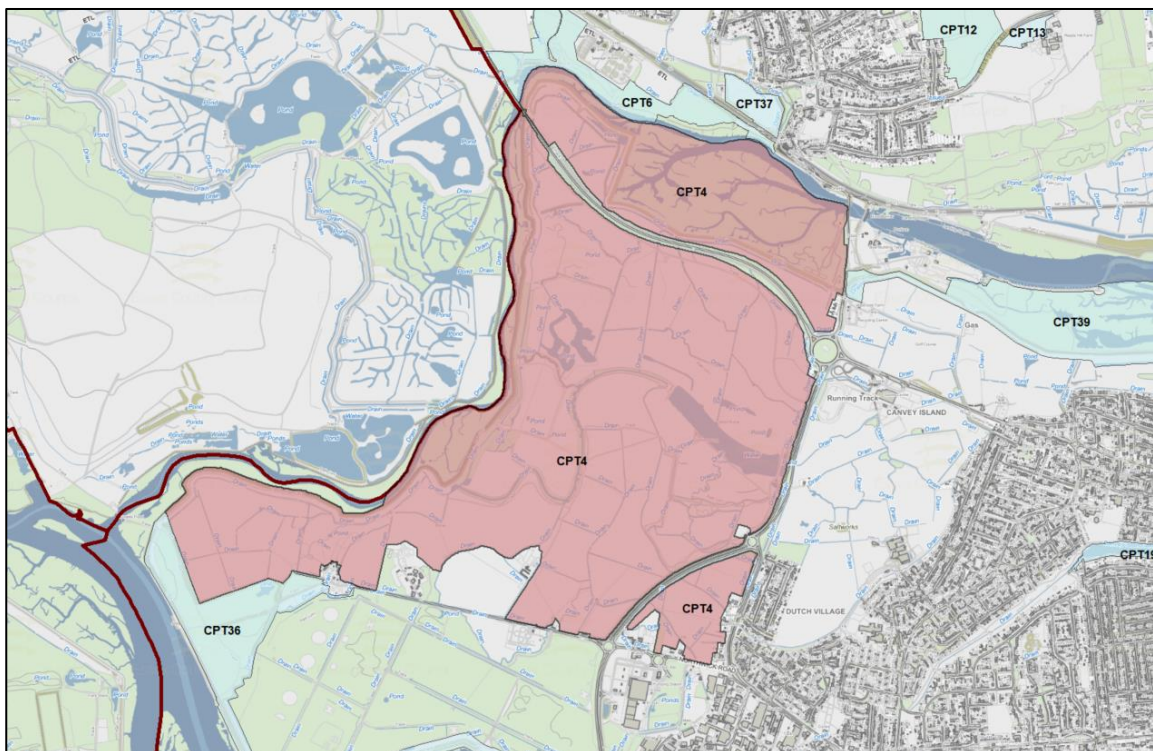
Grid ref. (approx. centre of site): TQ768848

Site area: 347.4ha

LoWS Selection Criteria:

- HC20 Coastal Grazing Marsh
- HC23 Saltmarsh and Mudflats
- SC1 Vascular Plants
- SC16 Hotspots for Reptile Diversity

Boundary Map



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Site Description

West Canvey Marshes is a very extensive area of grazing-marsh, ditches, scattered scrub and inter-tidal habitats.

The sea wall, which is grazed at times, supports a distinctive community of coastal grassland plants including the Nationally Scarce species Sea Barley (*Hordeum marinum*), Slender Hare's-ear (*Bupleurum tenuissimum*), and, in large quantities, Sea Clover (*Trifolium squamosum*). Species of more local significance include Corn Parsley (*Petroselinum segetum*), Narrow-leaved Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus glaber*) and Hard-grass (*Parapholis strigosa*). Where there is no grazing pressure, this community becomes dominated by Sea Couch (*Elytrigia atherica*), Common Couch (*Elytrigia repens*) and Cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*).

The associated borrow dykes contain Fennel-leaved Pondweed (*Potamogeton pectinatus*), Thread-leaved Water Crowfoot (*Ranunculus trichophyllus*) and, as they dry during the summer, the Nationally Scarce Saltmarsh Goosefoot (*Chenopodium chenopodioides*), amongst a flora typical of saltmarsh. This latter species occurs elsewhere on the site alongside ditches and the main fleet, as does Wild Celery (*Apium graveolens*). The Nationally Scarce Curved Hard-grass (*Parapholis incurva*) has been found in one location on the fringes of a tidal basin.

The main grasslands of the marshes are relatively species-poor but support a distinctive community of grasses that is widespread on the older coastal grasslands of Essex, which includes Meadow Barley (*Hordeum secalinum*), Smaller Cat's-tail (*Phleum bertolonii*), Yellow Oat-grass (*Trisetum flavescens*),

Crested Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*). The quality of the grassland varies from field to field and species diversity also responds to changes in management regime. The more interesting herbaceous species include Hairy Buttercup (*Ranunculus sardous*), Grass Vetchling (*Lathyrus nissolia*), Narrow-leaved Bird's-foot-trefoil, Corky-fruited Water Dropwort (*Oenanthe pimpinelloides*) and a small quantity of Hairy Vetchling (*Lathyrus hirsutus*) in one location. Some fields retain the uneven topography inherited from the saltmarshes from which they were originally claimed.

The Site also includes sections of saltmarsh and mudflat in East Haven Creek that are not within a SSSI. The saltmarsh is typical of the area, being dominated by Sea Saltmarsh-grass (*Puccinellia maritima*) and Sea Purslane (*Atriplex portulacoides*), with Sea Couch on higher ground and scattered Common Sea Lavender (*Limonium vulgare*) and Sea Aster (*Aster tripolium*) among a few other herbaceous species.

Further habitat diversity is provided in the form of scattered scrub along field boundaries and on the folding of the sea wall. A significant part of the site is now accessible, using paths and hides installed by the RSPB.

The Site supports Common Lizard, Adder and Slow Worm and a good population of Water Vole, while a variety of coastal and wetland bird species breed including Avocet and Lapwing.

Site Selection Rationale

HC20 – Although the correspondence of individual fields to the Priority Habitat description varies, the site as a whole is one of the most significant remaining grazing marsh habitat units in the county, with potential for further restoration.

HC23 – Inter-tidal habitats in East Haven Creek satisfy this criterion.

SC1 – The populations of Sea Clover and Saltmarsh Goosefoot are significant enough to trigger the Vascular Plants criterion.

SC16 – The presence of three reptile species meets the requirements of this criterion.

Priority Habitats

Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh

Coastal Saltmarsh

Intertidal mudflats

Ownership and Access

The majority of the site is owned and managed by the RSPB, with a network of paths accessible from the car park off the roundabout at the junction between Canvey Road and Roscommon Way. Other parts of the site can be viewed from the public footpath that runs along the seawall.

Condition Statement

Grassland – Moderate to Good

Saltmarsh – Good

Mudflats – Good

Management Issues

The majority of the site is under the favourable management of the RSPB, although the success of grassland management is variable. Fields to the south and west are under private ownership and are not managed for nature conservation outcomes, with a generally more intensive approach. At the southern end, improved water retention and management would benefit the habitat. There remain threats from development and infrastructure improvements.

Review Schedule

Site selected: 1992 (G2 and C3)

Site Reviewed: 1994 (G2 and C3), 2002 (CP4), 2007 (CP4), 2012 (CPT4), 2019 (CPT4)

2023: No significant change, minor re-mapping of boundaries for greater accuracy

Site reference: CPT5

Site name: Canvey Village Marsh

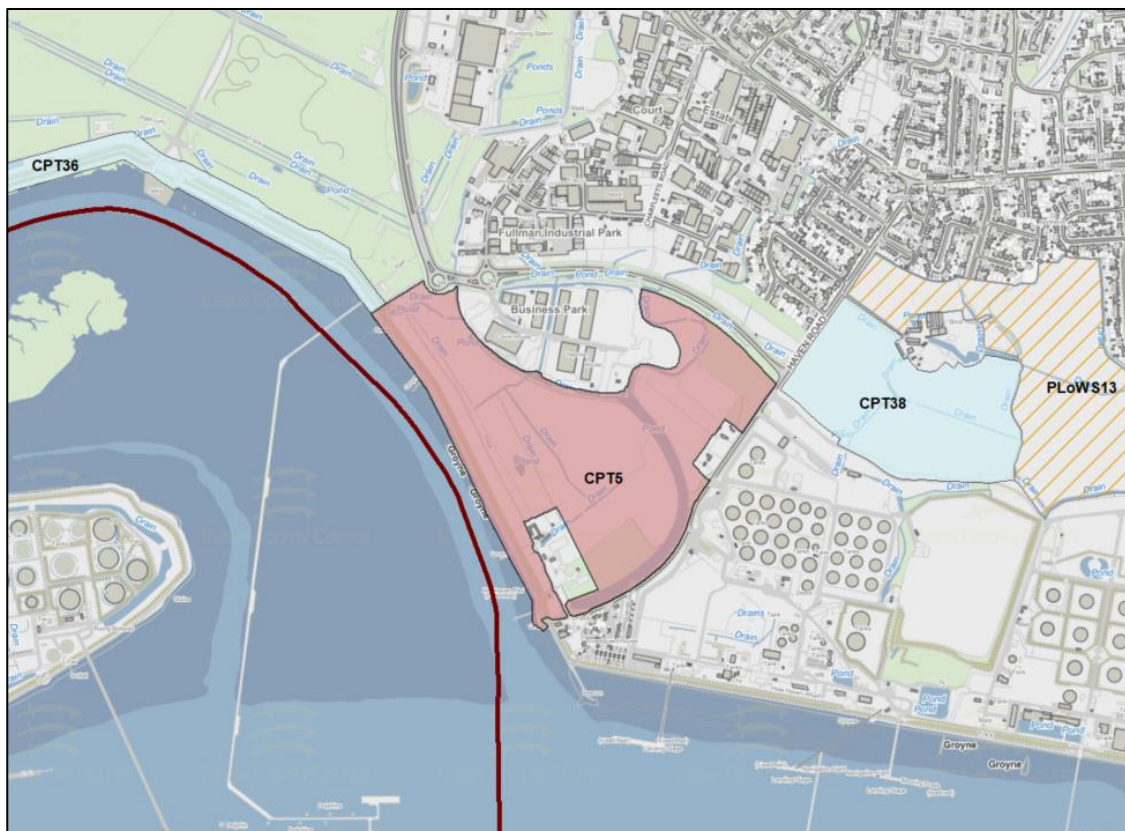
Grid ref. (approx. centre of site): TQ772826

Site area: 28.5ha

LoWS Selection Criteria:

- HC15 Reedbeds
- HC20 Coastal Grazing Marsh
- SC12 Breeding Water Vole Colonies
- SC18 Invertebrates listed as Species of Principal Importance in England

Boundary Map



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Site Description

This site consists of the remains of an old grazing marsh system, representing a scarce and declining Essex habitat, of which Canvey Island supports a significant amount. The fields that make up the Site are variously cattle- or horse-grazed, cut for hay or under no current management, each of these resulting in grasslands of different character. Although of considerable significance in its own right, this Site also provides an extension to the adjacent Canvey Wick SSSI and links it to the Brickhouse Farm Marsh LoWS to the east. This is particularly important for the maintenance of invertebrate populations at a landscape scale.

The sea wall is high and, on its inner face, grassy with a good diversity of flowering species, including the Nationally Scarce Slender Hare's-ear (*Bupleurum tenuissimum*), which also occurs in the adjacent fields. Other species include Autumn Hawkbit (*Scorzoneroides autumnalis*), Corn Parsley (*Sison segetum*) and Wild Carrot (*Daucus carota*). Outside of the sea wall, is a strip of upper saltmarsh vegetation that includes Golden Samphire (*Inula crithmoides*), Sea Wormwood (*Artemisia maritima*), Grass-leaved Orache (*Atriplex laciniata*), Sea Beet (*Beta vulgaris*) and Sea Couch (*Elytrigia atherica*).

The grazed fields have the best diversity of plant species, with typical coastal grassland species such as Meadow Barley (*Hordeum secalinum*), Crested Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*), Timothy (*Phleum pratense*) and Creeping Bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*) combined with Narrow-leaved Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus glaber*), Hairy

Buttercup (*Ranunculus sardous*), Autumn Hawkbit, Corn Parsley, Grass Vetchling (*Lathyrus nissolia*) and the Nationally Scarce Sea Clover (*Trifolium squamosum*). Some of the fields retain their original, uneven topography with shallow wet pools and low ways.

A main drainage channel runs through the middle of the marsh, much of which is dominated by a pure stand of Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*), of which there are few within the District. To the west, the ditch banks exhibits a flora more typical of saltmarsh indicating a brackish nature, with Common Saltmarsh (*Puccinellia maritima*), Greater Sea Spurrey (*Spergularia marina*), Saltmarsh Rush (*Juncus gerardii*) and Sea Aster (*Aster tripolium*). In this area the England BAP Priority Species beetle *Anisodactylus poeciloides* has been recorded. Water Voles are present on the ditches of the marsh and the smaller brackish ditches support a range of nationally significant water beetles including *Agabus conspersus*.

The site supports the Priority Species Shril Carder Bee (*Bombus sylvarum*) and Brown-banded Carder Bee (*Bombus humilis*) as well as the Nationally Scarce mining bee *Colletes halophilus*. Adders are also present, and the Site has the potential to support bird species of conservation significance, but there is a lack of recent records.

Site Selection Rationale

HC15 – The reedbed habitat is large enough to be significant in a county context.

HC20 – The site supports a floral assemblage that is characteristic of Essex grazing marshes and the site retains elements of its original topography.

SC12 – There are recent records of Water Vole along the ditches of the site.

SC18 - There are records of three invertebrate Priority Species from the site.

Priority Habitats

Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh Reedbed

Ownership and Access

The site is believed to be in private ownership but can be viewed from Roscommon Way and the public footpath that runs along the seawall. A public footpath crosses the western end of the site, from the seawall to Roscommon Way.

Condition Statement

Moderate

Management Issues

The site is not managed for nature conservation outcomes and, while its overall character is being retained, some management practices have a negative impact on diversity, including under- and over-grazing and hay cutting. The site may be threatened by further impacts from development, although there is also likely to be some habitat creation and management in compensation for recent losses.

Review Schedule

Site selected: 1992 (G18)

Site Reviewed: 1994 (G18), 2002 (CP5), 2007 (CP5), 2012 (CPT5), 2019 (CPT5)

2023: small area re-added, as not affected by adjacent development.

Site reference: CPT6

Site name: Benfleet Creek North

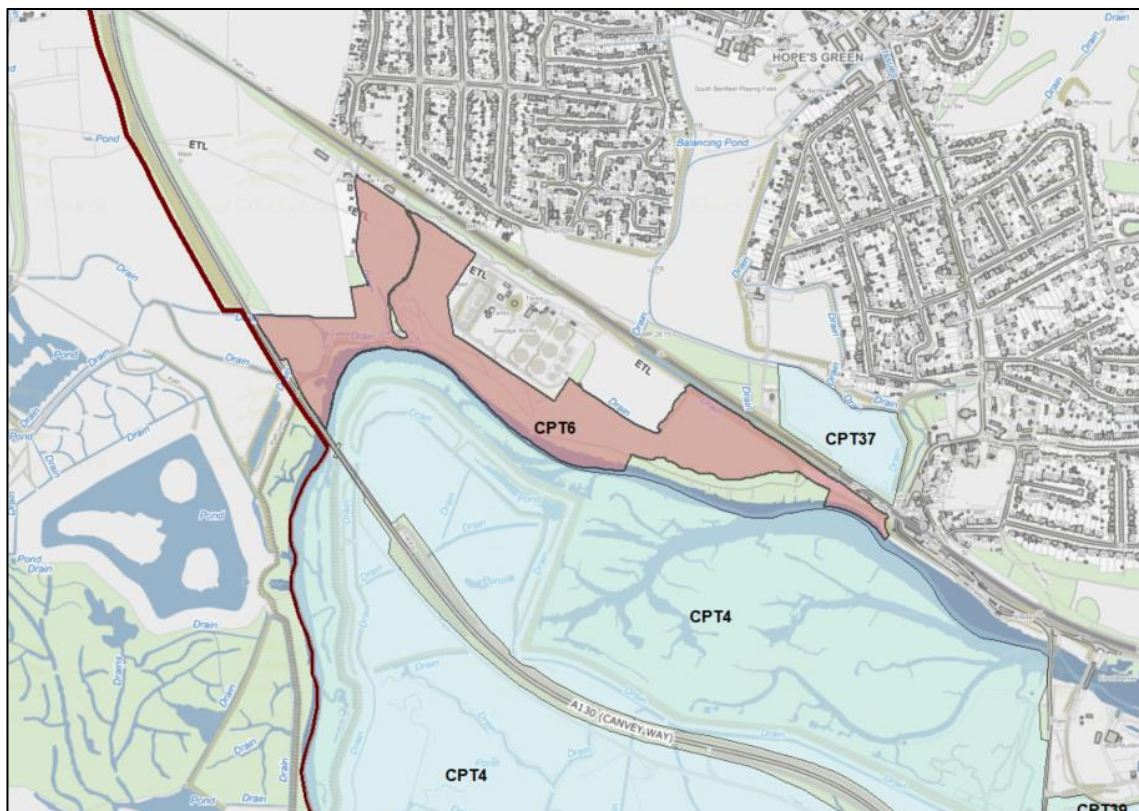
Grid ref. (approx. centre of site): TQ769862

Site area: 16.7ha

LoWS Selection Criteria:

- HC20 Coastal Grazing Marsh
- HC23 Saltmarsh and Mudflats
- HC28 Small Component Mosaics
- SC16 Hotspots for Reptile Diversity

Boundary Map



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Site Description

This site supports a mosaic of grassland, scrub and intertidal habitats within a fairly small area, but with a combined conservation value of some significance.

The majority of the site consists of rough grassland dominated by False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) with Black Horehound (*Ballota nigra*), Fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*), Hemlock (*Conium maculatum*) and Large Bindweed (*Calystegia sepium*), which also supports a good population of the Essex Red Data List species, Hairy Vetchling (*Lathyrus hirsutus*). This habitat supports Common Lizard, Grass Snake and Slow Worm.

There is scattered scrub in the eastern half of the site, but to the west of the sewage works, the scrub is dense, bisected by a regularly used motorbike scrambling track. Typical species are Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), Bullace (*Prunus domestica*), Elder (*Sambucus nigra*), willow (*Salix* sp.) and Apple (*Malus domestica*). The motorbike activity maintains open bare ground habitat, that is sparsely vegetated at the edges.

The site includes a fringe of saltmarsh and mudflats along East Haven Creek that supports plant communities that are typical of the area, being dominated by Sea Saltmarsh-grass (*Puccinellia maritima*) and Sea Purslane (*Atriplex portulacoides*), with scattered Common Sea Lavender (*Limonium vulgare*), Sea Plantain (*Plantago*

maritima), English Scurvygrass (*Cochlearia anglica*) and Sea Aster (*Aster tripolium*), and Sea Couch (*Elytrigia atherica*) and Sea Beet (*Beta maritima*) on higher ground.

At the western end is a modest remnant of lightly cattle grazed coastal grazing marsh, including a short section of sea wall, borrow dykes and ditches that support Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) and Sea Club-rush (*Bolboschoenus maritimus*). The grassland here is typical of remnant grazing marsh, including Meadow Barley (*Hordeum secalinum*), Crested Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*), timothy (*Phleum* sp.) and Yellow Oat-grass (*Trisetum flavescens*) with Grass Vetchling (*Lathyrus nissolia*), Agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*), Meadow Vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*) and Hairy Vetchling.

Site Selection Rationale

HC20 – The habitat at the western end is a remnant of the grazing marsh habitat that originally stretched from the creek north to the higher ground of South Benfleet, beyond the current railway line.

HC23 – Outside of the seawall, the intertidal habitats meet the requirements of this criterion.

HC28 – The scrub and rough grassland habitats combine with the coastal habitats to create a mosaic of habitats of significance to biodiversity.

SC16 – Three species of reptile have been recorded from the site.

Priority Habitats

Coastal Saltmarsh

Intertidal Mudflats

Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh

Ownership and Access

Parts of the site are owned by Anglian Water Services, while other parts are in private ownership, but there is a public footpath running west to east along or adjacent to the seawall.

Condition Statement

Grazing marsh – Poor

Grassland – Poor

Scrub – Poor

Saltmarsh – Good

Mudflats – Good

Management Issues

The Site is suffering from a lack of management, with the majority of the grassland now dominated by coarse grass species and scrub, offering a less diverse ecological resource. The motorbike activity provides some open habitat, but the intensity of their use limits the establishment of bare ground plant or invertebrate communities.

Review Schedule

Site selected: 1992 (G4)

Site Reviewed: 1994 (G4), 2002 (CP6 Benfleet Sewage Works, extended), 2007 (CP6 Benfleet Sewage Works), 2012 (CPT6 Benfleet Sewage Works)

2023: Renamed, additional intertidal habitat added, boundary re-mapped

Site reference: CPT7

Site name: North Benfleet Hall Wood

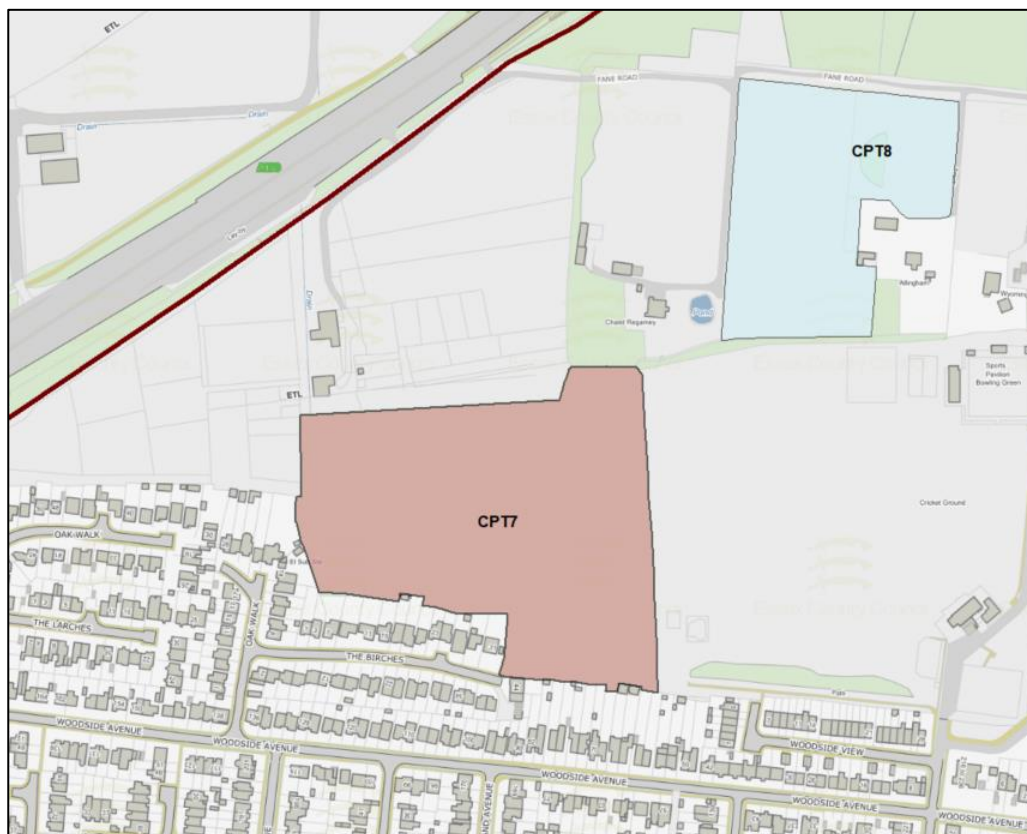
Grid ref. (approx. centre of site): TQ772896

Site area: 3.6ha

LoWS Selection Criteria:

- HC2 Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

Boundary Map



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Site Description

The canopy of this old secondary wood is typified by relatively young Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) with Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Elm (*Ulmus* sp.), Crab Apple (*Malus sylvestris*) and abundant Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) scrub underneath.

A variety of plant species indicative of continuous woodland cover over a long period of time are present including Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*), Spurge Laurel (*Daphne laureola*), Hairy-brome (*Bromopsis ramosa*) and Wood Sedge (*Carex sylvatica*). The ground flora more typically includes Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), Cow Parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*), Wood Avens (*Geum urbanum*), False Brome (*Brachypodium sylvaticum*), Wood Dock (*Rumex sanguineus*), Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*), Common Cleavers (*Galium aparine*), Red Campion (*Silene dioica*) and Greater Stitchwort (*Stellaria holostea*).

The site supports a population of Southern Wood Ants (*Formica rufa*).

Site Selection Rationale

HC2 - Evidence suggests that this wood is not ancient, but it conforms to the Priority Habitat definition.

Priority Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Ownership and Access

This site is owned by Castle Point Borough Council and managed by a local conservation group, with open public access from the adjacent playing field.

Condition Statement

Moderate

Management Issues

There has been some encroachment into the wood by adjoining properties and there is no evidence of any recent management activity.

Review Schedule

Site selected: 1992 (W1)

Site Reviewed: 1994 (W1), 2002 (CP7), 2007 (CP7), 2012 (CPT7)

2023: no significant change

Site reference: CPT8

Site name: Fane Road Meadows

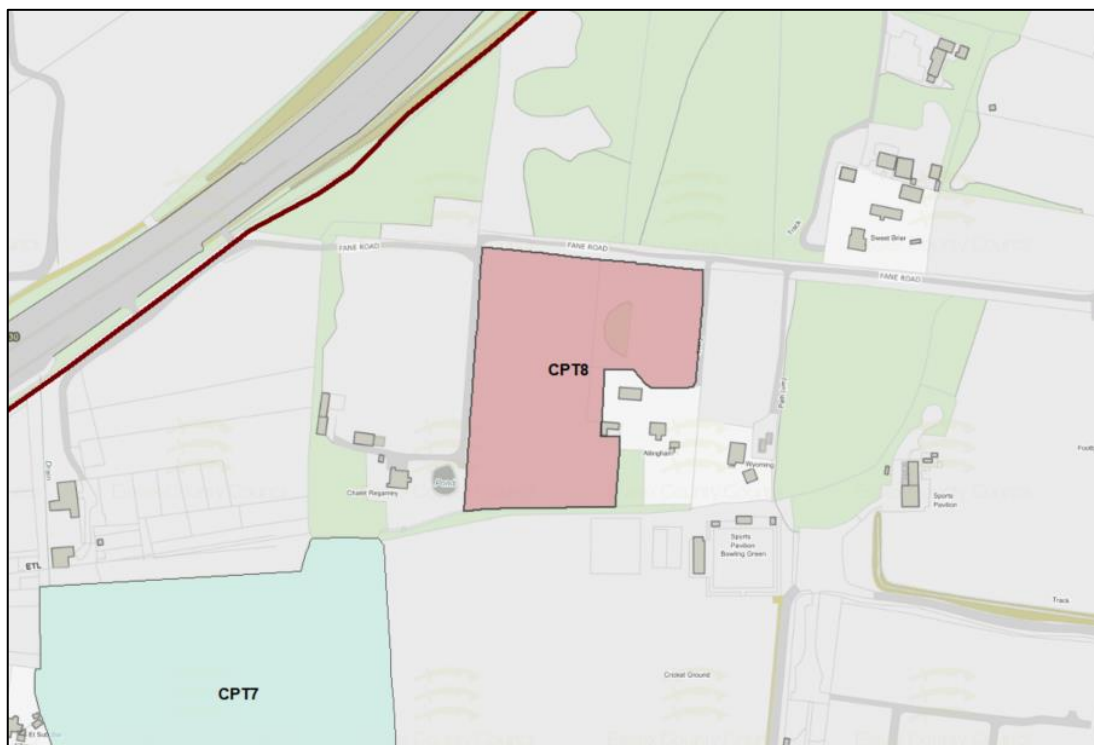
Grid ref. (approx. centre of site): TQ775898

Site area: 2.0ha

LoWS Selection Criteria:

- HC9 Lowland Meadows

Boundary Map



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Site Description

These two old meadows support a rich grassland flora, being of importance as surviving examples of a now rare and still declining grassland type in the county.

The grass sward includes Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), Crested Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*), Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Meadow Barley (*Hordeum secalinum*), Meadow Foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*), Tufted Hair-grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*) and Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*).

Also present are Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra* agg.), Agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*), Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), Meadow Buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*), Oxeye Daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*), Common Sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*), Red Bartsia (*Odontites verna*), Wild Carrot (*Daucus carota*), Hoary Ragwort (*Jacobaea erucifolia*), Fleabane (*Pulicaria dysenterica*) and the Essex Red List species Devil's-bit Scabious (*Succisa pratensis*). Pepper Saxifrage (*Silene silaus*) and Green-winged Orchid (*Orchis morio*), both indicative of unimproved grassland and also on the Essex Red List, are understood to be present.

Site Selection Rationale

HC9 – The community present matches the NVC MG5 *Cynosurus cristatus* – *Centaurea nigra* grassland type, which qualifies it as the Lowland Meadows Priority Habitat.

Priority Habitats

Lowland Meadows

Ownership and Access

The site is under private ownership and there is no public access, although it can be viewed from the road to the north.

Condition Statement

Moderate

Management Issues

The western meadow had not been managed, with some scrub invasion as a result. The eastern meadow had been horse-grazed.

Review Schedule

Site selected: 1992 (G5)

Site Reviewed: 1994 (G5), 2002 (CP8), 2007 (CP8, reduced), 2012 (CPT8)

2023: boundary remapped, minor decrease

Site reference: CPT9

Site name: Kents Hill Wood

Grid ref. (approx. centre of site): TQ780879

Site area: 1.4ha

LoWS Selection Criteria:

- HC2 Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

Boundary Map



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Site Description

This old, secondary woodland has a canopy dominated by Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Wild Cherry (*Prunus avium*) and Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) with Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and coppiced Hornbeam in the understorey.

The ground flora includes Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*), Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*), Wood Meadow-grass (*Poa nemoralis*) and Giant Fescue (*Festuca gigantea*). Common Ivy (*Hedera helix*) and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) are both dominant in some areas.

The western edge is damp, with Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*), Great Willowherb (*Epilobium hirsutum*) and Bittersweet (*Solanum dulcamara*).

Site Selection Rationale

HC2 – This site isn't included in the Ancient Woodland Inventory, although some indicators are present, but it is shown on mid-19th Century maps and matches the description for Priority habitat woodland.

Priority Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Ownership and Access

The site is in private ownership, with no public access. The wood can be viewed from the adjacent roads.

Condition Statement

Moderate

Management Issues

A lack of appropriate management will lead to a gradual decline in time. The northwest block was cleared in association with a refused planning application, but the felled trees are growing back, and the habitat should recover. Several non-native and potentially invasive species are present, including Three-cornered Leek (*Allium triquetrum*), Spotted Deadnettle (*Lamium maculatum*) and Cherry Laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*) and garden rubbish continues to be fly-tipped on the eastern edge.

Review Schedule

Site selected: 1992 (W16)

Site Reviewed: 1994 (W16), 2002 (CP9), 2007 (CP9), 2012 (CPT9), 2019 (CPT9), extended
2023: no change

Site reference: CPT10

Site name: Coombe Wood

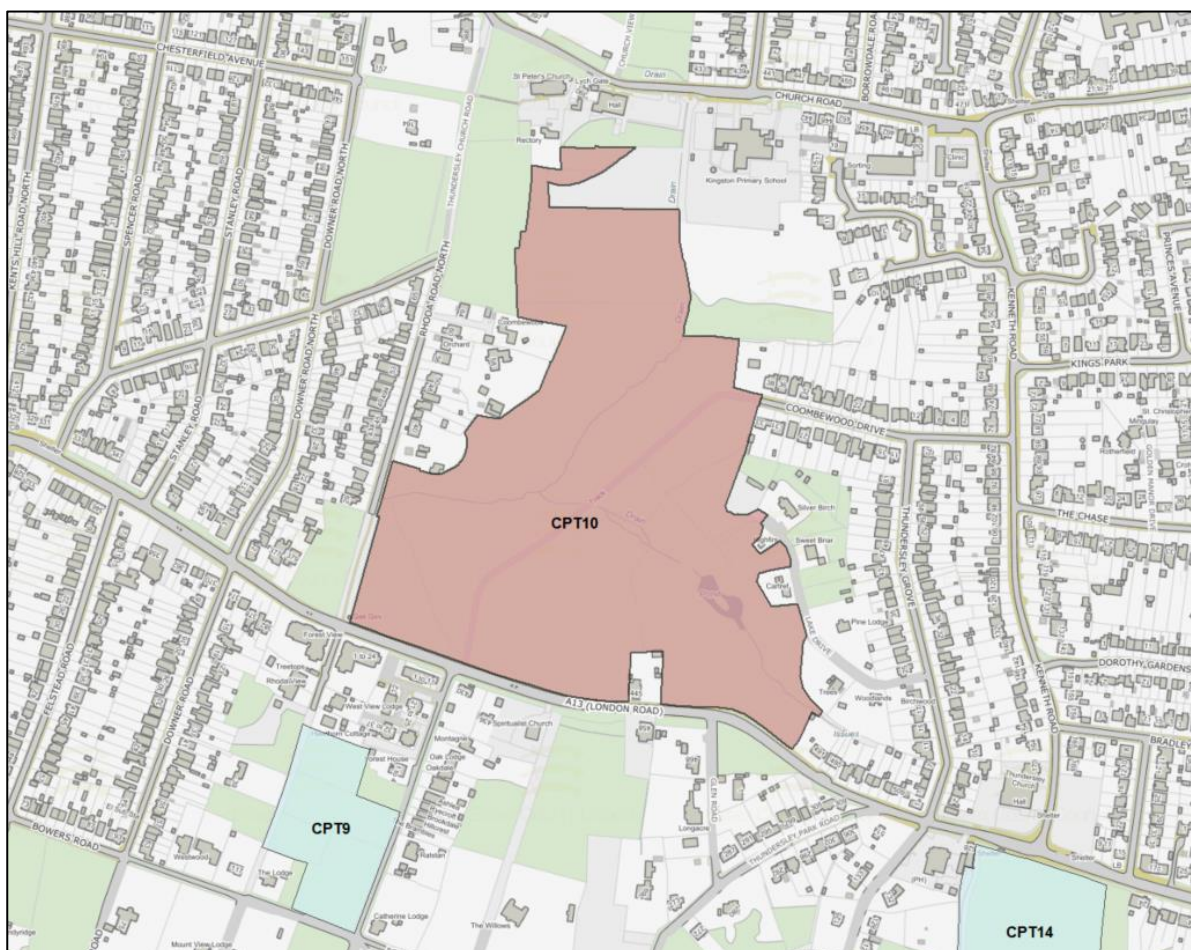
Grid ref. (approx. centre of site): TQ783883

Site area: 11.9ha

LoWS Selection Criteria:

- HC1 Ancient Woodland Sites
- HC2 Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

Boundary Map



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Site Description

The majority of this site is ancient woodland, but it also includes sections of mature secondary woodland, in the southwest corner beyond a prominent wood bank and to the northwest of the stream. During its history, the ancient part has been heavily modified by planting, with Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) arriving in this way. There is historical evidence that conifers were planted during the 19th century, but none now remains.

The canopy is dominated by Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) with Wild Cherry (*Prunus avium*) and coppiced Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and Sweet Chestnut. The understorey also contains Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Midland Hawthorn (*Crataegus laevigata*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*) and elm (*Ulmus* sp.) with small quantities of Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and Buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*).

The ground flora is rich, with many ancient woodland indicator species, including Soft Shield-fern (*Polystichum setiferum*), Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemoralis*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Yellow Archangel (*Galeobdolon luteum*), Spurge Laurel (*Daphne laureola*), Bush Vetch (*Vicia sepium*), Sanicle (*Sanicula europaea*), Wood Melick (*Melica uniflora*), Wood Sedge (*Carex sylvatica*), Hairy-brome (*Bromopsis ramosa*), Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*), Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*), Hart's-tongue (*Asplenium scolopendrium*),

Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*) and Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*). There are older records of Hairy Wood-rush (*Luzula pilosa*) and Goldilocks Buttercup (*Ranunculus auricomus*), the latter being very scarce in southeast Essex.

An artificially created pond no longer holds water but supports a dense mixed stand of Yellow Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*) and Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*).

In the secondary woodland, there are fewer standards and the northernmost section has more Ash, with Pedunculate Oak restricted to the northern edge. The understorey is predominantly Hawthorn, and the ground flora includes Common Ivy (*Hedera helix*), Cow Parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*), False-brome (*Brachypodium sylvaticum*), Wood Avens (*Geum urbanum*) and sparse Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) alongside Bluebell, Wood Melick and Dog's Mercury spreading from the Ancient section.

The plateau adjacent to London Road, where the majority of Sweet Chestnut are located, is more open, the ground flora dominated by Creeping Soft-grass (*Holcus mollis*) with scattered Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*), Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) and a hawkweed (*Hieracium sabaudum*). An outcrop of Bagshot sands and gravels is responsible for this variation.

Site Selection Rationale

HC1 – The central part of the wood is included within the Ancient Woodland Inventory.

HC2 – Those parts not considered to be ancient match the definition for Priority habitat woodland.

Priority Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Ownership and Access

The site is within the ownership of several private individuals, but it has been designated as a Village Green, and so public access is protected. There are also public rights of way that cross the wood.

Condition Statement

Moderate

Management Issues

There are minor impacts from public use, the most significant of which is the dumping of garden rubbish at the back of adjacent properties. The lack of ongoing conservation management is likely to lead to a deterioration of condition at some point. There are several non-native species that could become invasive, including Three-cornered Leek (*Allium triquetrum*), Spotted Deadnettle (*Lamium maculatum*), Cherry Laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*), Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*) and Japanese Spindle (*Euonymus japonicus*).

Review Schedule

Site selected: 1992 (W3)

Site Reviewed: 1994 (W3), 2002 (CP10), 2007 (CP10), 2012 (CPT10), 2019 (CPT10), extended 2023: boundary re-mapped for accuracy

Site reference: CPT11

Site name: Mount Road Wood

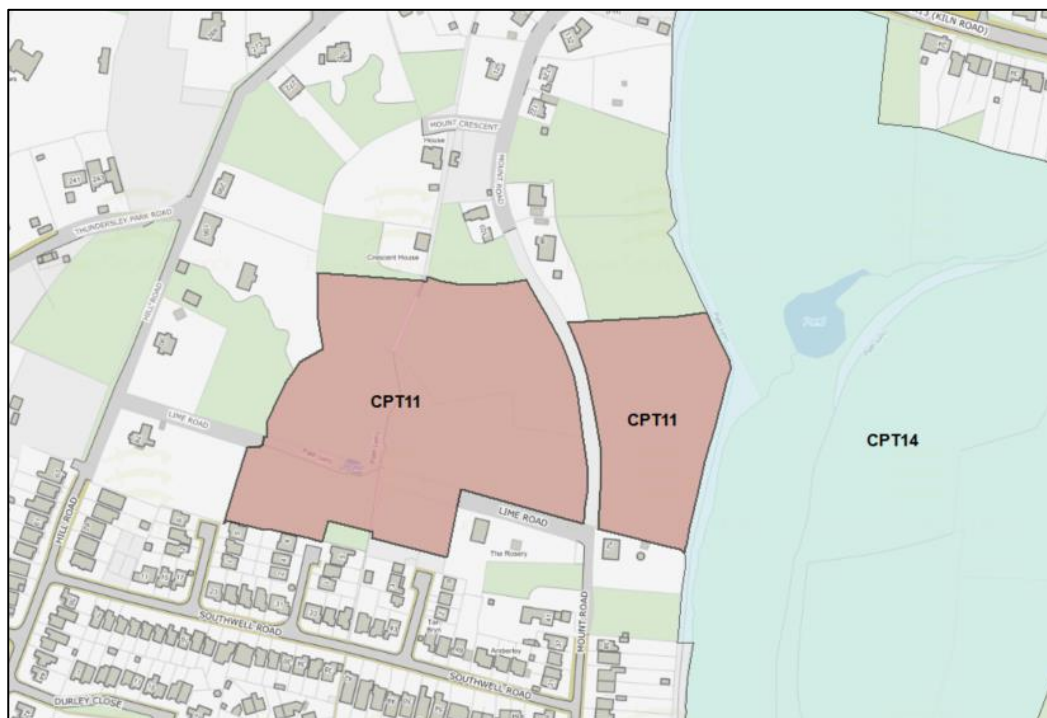
Grid ref. (approx. centre of site): TQ785877

Site area: 3.8ha

LoWS Selection Criteria:

- HC2 Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

Boundary Map



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Site Description

This plotland wood, originating naturally through abandonment prior to the Second World War, has a canopy made up of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Wild Cherry (*Prunus avium*), with an understorey of Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Holly (*Ilex europaeus*), elm (*Ulmus* sp.) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*).

The ground flora is unremarkable but shows some of the species typical of more established secondary woodland including Male Fern (*Dryopteris filix-mas*), Herb Robert (*Geranium robertianum*), Red Campion (*Silene dioica*), Lords and Ladies (*Arum maculatum*), Common Dog-violet (*Viola riviniana*), Lesser Celandine (*Ficaria verna*) and Wood Avens (*Geum urbanum*). Soft Shield-fern (*Polystichum setiferum*), Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*), Wood Melick (*Melica uniflora*) and Sanicle (*Sanicula europaea*), all ancient woodland indicators, are also present and may either be associated with a remnant of older woodland shown on 19th Century maps, or colonists from nearby ancient woodland.

Site Selection Rationale

HC2 – The site is not included in the Ancient Woodland Inventory but satisfies the definition of woodland Priority habitat.

Priority Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Ownership and Access

Ownership is unknown, but it is assumed to be private, with no public access. The site can be viewed from the public rights of way that cross the site or are adjacent to it.

Condition Statement

Moderate

Management Issues

There is no evidence of any management in recent years. Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) is dominant in the understorey in places and may have a negative impact on ground flora if not controlled. Non-native species such as Spanish Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides hispanicus*), Cherry Laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*) and Wilson's Honeysuckle (*Lonicera nitida*) are also present.

Review Schedule

Site selected: 1992

Site Reviewed: 1994 (W4), 2002 (CP11), 2007 (CP11), 2012 (CPT11)

2023: no change

Site reference: CPT12

Site name: Vicarage Hill

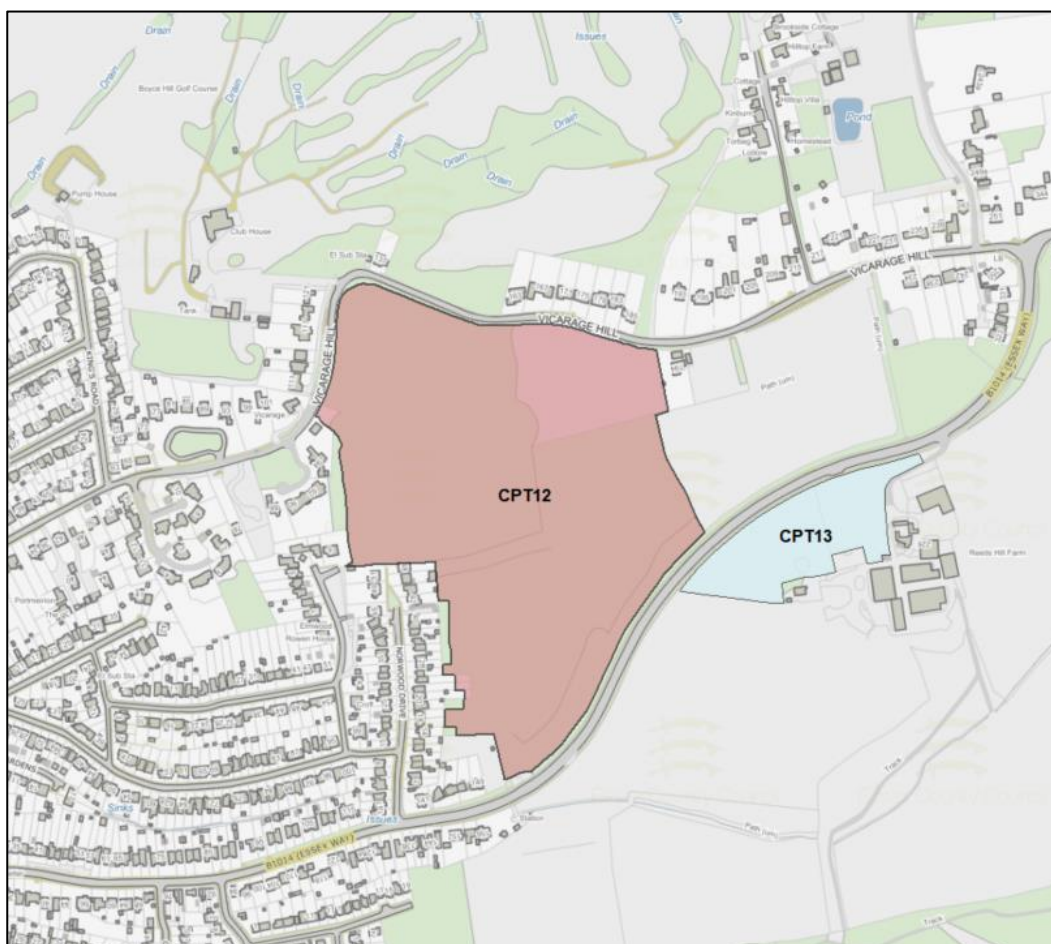
Grid ref. (approx. centre of site): TQ784864

Site area: 11.6ha

LoWS Selection Criteria:

- HC2 Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites
- HC11 Other Neutral Grassland

Boundary Map



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Site Description

This site comprises extensive grassland on the southern slope of the hill, which is in the process of invasion by scrub, combined with secondary woodland and a horse-grazed pasture. The Site's location means that it is also a good point of connection between the Benfleet and Southend Marshes SSSI to the south and, through Boyce Hill Golf Course, Thundersley Glen and adjoining LoWS to the north.

The majority of the site consists of grassland that has largely been invaded by scrub and young woodland through a lack of recent management. The remaining grassland is dominated by coarse grass species, particularly Tall Fescue (*Schedonorus arundinaceus*), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), and False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), but a good diversity of finer grass species remains, including Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), Meadow Barley (*Hordeum secalinum*), Crested Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*), Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*) and Yellow Oat-grass (*Trisetum flavescens*). Other species include Prickly Sedge (*Carex muricata* ssp. *pairae*), Meadow Vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*), Agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*), Meadow Buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*), Wild Carrot (*Daucus carota*), Red Bartsia (*Odontites vernus*), Hairy Tare (*Vicia hirsuta*), Common Centaury (*Centaurea erythraea*), Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra* agg.), Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*) and Oxeye Daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*). The status of a small population of Pale Flax (*Linum bienne*), an Essex Red List species, is now uncertain.

The horse-grazed pasture adjacent to Vicarage Hill road is similar, but with a more open sward that includes Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*), Common Centaury and Musk Mallow (*Malva moschata*).

The secondary woodland comprises a canopy of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) and Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) with an understorey of Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*). Although the woodland is relatively young, it does contain some very large Pedunculate Oaks and a group of large Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) that predate it. The ground flora includes Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Creeping Soft-grass (*Holcus mollis*) and Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*).

Site Selection Rationale

HC2 - Documentary evidence precludes the possibility of the woodland being ancient, but it does conform to woodland Priority habitat.

HC11 – The grassland is not a good match for the NVC MG5 community that would constitute Lowland Meadows Priority habitat, but it is of clear significance in the local context.

Priority Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Ownership and Access

The Site is believed to be in private ownership, with no public access, but it can be viewed from Essex Way, to the south.

Condition Statement

Grassland – Poor as grassland, moderate as scrub habitat

Woodland – Moderate

Management Issues

The density of the scrub is now a significant problem, but the site could be restored by its clearance followed by appropriate ongoing management.

Review Schedule

Site selected: 1992 (G7)

Site Reviewed: 1994 (G7), 2002 (CP12), 2007 (CP12), 2012 (CPT12)

2023: area lost to cultivation removed

Site reference: CPT13

Site name: Reeds Hill Pasture

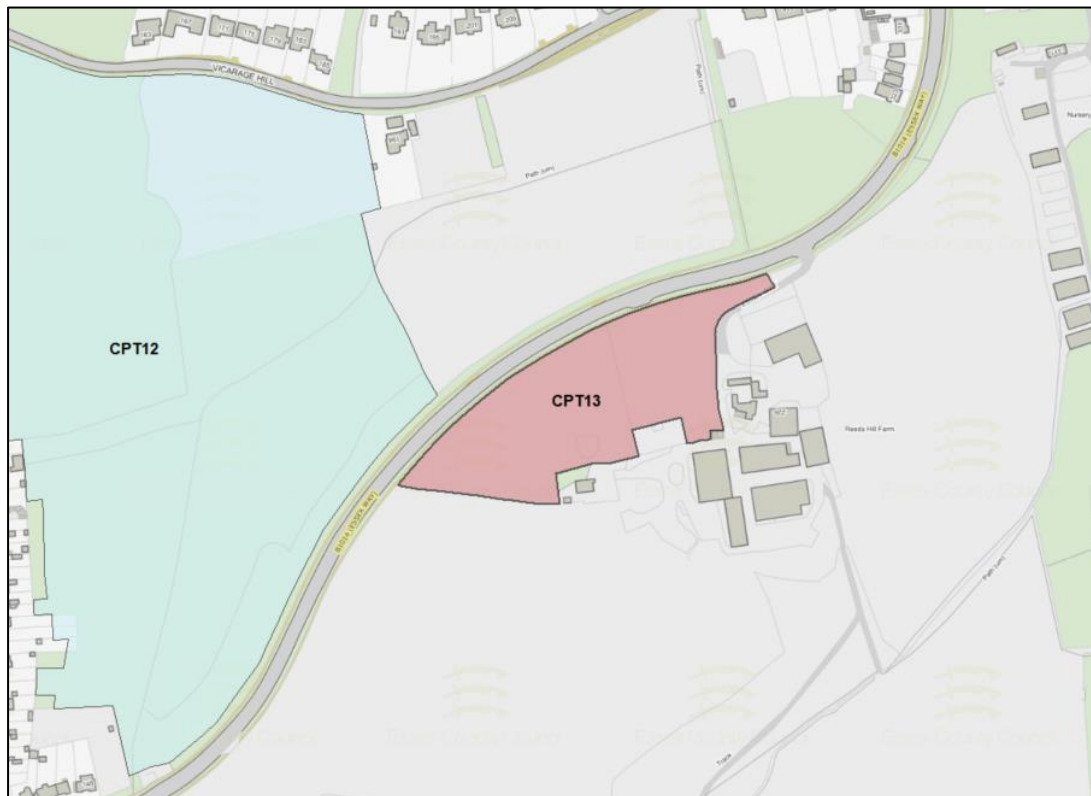
Grid ref. (approx. centre of site): TQ787864

Site area: 1.6ha

LoWS Selection Criteria:

- HC9 Lowland Meadows
- HC11 Other Neutral Grassland

Boundary Map



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Site Description

This site consists of two pastures associated with Reeds Hill Farm that appear to have largely escaped agricultural improvement due to their sloping aspect.

The larger, western pasture has a sward that includes Crested Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*), Timothy (*Phleum pratense*), Meadow Barley (*Hordeum secalinum*), Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), Meadow Fox-tail (*Alopecurus pratensis*) and Yellow Oat-grass (*Trisetum flavescens*). Flowers are not abundant but it does contain Field Wood-rush (*Luzula campestris*), Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra* agg.), Burnet Saxifrage (*Pimpinella saxifraga*), Common Vetch (*Vicia sativa*), Meadow Buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*) and Self Heal (*Prunella vulgaris*).

The eastern pasture shows some signs of agricultural improvement, in the presence of White Clover (*Trifolium repens*) and Perennial Rye-grass (*Lolium perenne*), but still retains a reasonable diversity of herbaceous species, including Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*) and small quantities of Agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*).

Site Selection Rationale

HC9 - The community in the western pasture is consistent with the Lowland Meadows Priority habitat.

HC11 - Although the eastern pasture shows limited signs of improvement, and so cannot be considered Priority habitat, it retains a reasonable diversity of species that suggests a long history as grassland.

Priority Habitats

Lowland Meadows

Ownership and Access

The Site is privately owned, with no public access, but it can be viewed from Essex Way to the north.

Condition Statement

Moderate

Management Issues

The fields are currently grazed, which adequately maintains the community.

Review Schedule

Site selected: 1992 (G8)

Site Reviewed: 1994 (G8, enlarged), 2002 (CP13), 2007 (CP13), 2012 (CPT13)

2023: no change

Site reference: CPT14

Site name: Thundersley Glen

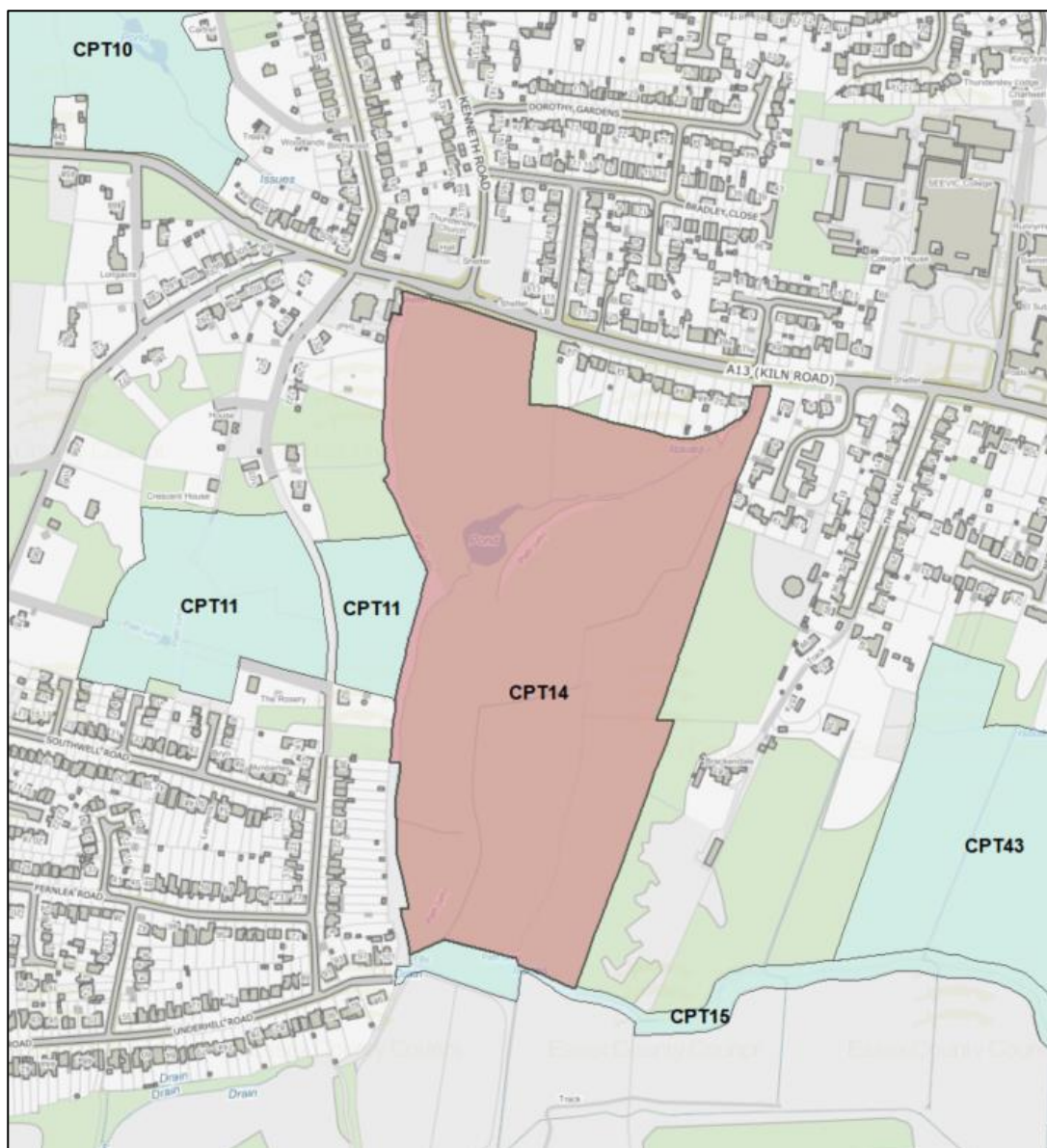
Grid ref. (approx. centre of site): TQ788876

Site area: 13.3ha

LoWS Selection Criteria:

- HC1 Ancient Woodland Sites
- HC2 Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites
- HC13 Lowland Dry Acid Grassland

Boundary Map



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Site Description

Thundersley Glen occupies the western end of the site of Jervis Wood, a very large ancient wood that was virtually destroyed in the early 19th Century. A small patch of Jervis Wood still remains in the south-west corner of the Site, as do several ancient hedges, derived from the wood and the lane on the western edge. Most of the fields resulting from the clearance were abandoned in the early 20th Century and today the site mainly comprises secondary woodland with a small area of acid grassland.

The main tree species are Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*), with occasional Sweet Chestnut

(*Castanea sativa*). The understorey includes Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and some Alder Buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*) with widespread young growth of Hornbeam and Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*).

Within the woodland is a varied ground flora, including several ancient woodland plants such as, Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Wood Melick (*Melica uniflora*), Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*), Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*), Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*), Wood Sedge (*Carex sylvatica*), Black Currant (*Ribes nigrum*), Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*), Wood Meadow-grass (*Poa nemoralis*), Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), Hairy St. John's-wort (*Hypericum hirsutum*) and Sanicle (*Sanicula europaea*). Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*) is present along the western edge. Also prominent, particularly in the secondary woodland areas, are False Brome (*Brachypodium sylvaticum*), Greater Stitchwort (*Stellaria holostea*) and Wood Avens (*Geum urbanum*), with abundant Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) where the canopy is more open.

On a steeper slope in the central part of the site, there is a more open area supporting acid grassland comprised of Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Sheep's Fescue (*Festuca ovina*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Wavy Hair-grass (*Deschampsia flexuosa*), Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*), Wood Sage (*Teucrium scorodonia*), Irregular-toothed Hawkweed (*Hieracium lepiduloides*) and patches of the acid grassland moss *Polytrichum formosum*. Betony (*Betonica officinalis*) and Heath Wood-rush (*Luzula multiflora*) may still be present.

A well-vegetated, large pond contains Bulrush (*Typha latifolia*), Narrow-leaved Bulrush (*Typha angustifolia*), Floating Sweet-grass (*Glyceria fluitans*), Yellow Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*) and abundant duckweeds (*Lemna* spp.). The margins support dense stands of Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*) and Giant Horsetail (*Equisetum telmateia*).

The remaining open grassland to the south area retains some diversity despite being frequently mown, with species such as Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Common Bird's-foot Trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), Lesser Stitchwort (*Stellaria graminea*) and Bulbous Buttercup (*Ranunculus bulbosus*).

Site Selection Rationale

HC1 – A small part of the Site is a well-documented fragment of ancient woodland, although it has not been included in the Ancient Woodland Inventory.

HC2 – The remaining woodland matches the description of woodland Priority habitat.

HC13 – Although the acid grassland is beneath a canopy of oaks and so within the woodland, it is significant enough in a local context to warrant individual consideration.

Priority Habitats

Lowland Dry Acid Grassland

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Ownership and Access

Thundersley Glen is managed by Castle Point Borough Council as a public open space and has a public right of way along its western and southern boundaries.

Condition Statement

Acid Grassland - Moderate

Ancient Woodland – Moderate

Secondary woodland – Moderate

Pond – Moderate

Management Issues

Grassland habitat has been lost due to a lack of management, and the spread of a dense understorey threatens the remaining acid grassland habitat. The non-native species Cherry laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*), Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*), Variegated Reed Canary-grass (*Phalaris arundinacea* var. *picta*) and

Wilson's Honeysuckle (*Lonicera nitida*) are present and have the potential to adversely affect the Site's conservation value.

Review Schedule

Site selected: 1992 (W5)

Site Reviewed: 1994 (W5), 2002 (CP14), 2007 (CP14), 2012 (CPT14)

2023: small section moved to CPT15

Site reference: CPT15

Site name: Jervis Wood Lane

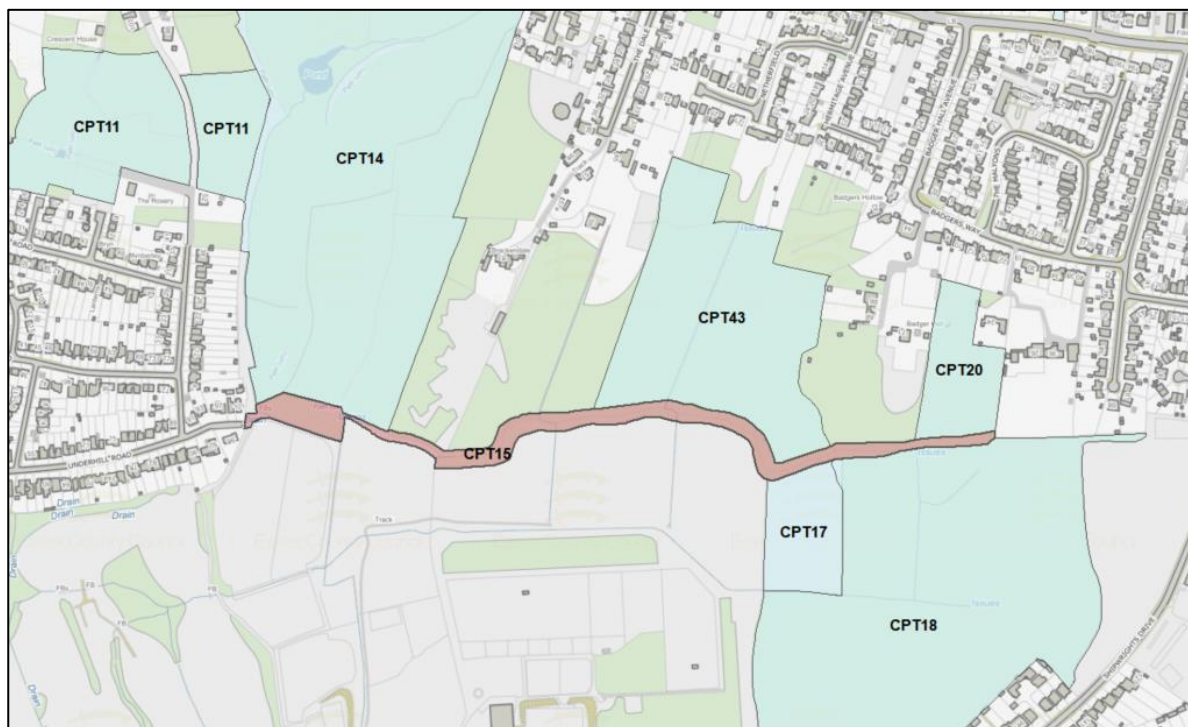
Grid ref. (approx. centre of site): TQ790873

Site area: 1.7ha

LoWS Selection Criteria:

- HC8 Hedgerows and Green Lanes

Boundary Map



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Site Description

This site is derived from an ancient lane formed from the southern boundary of the Jervis Wood, a large ancient woodland largely destroyed in the early 19th Century. Besides its antiquity and its woodland plant communities, the site's importance lies in its position as a woodland corridor linking the Thundersley Glen, Shipwrights Wood, Badger Hall Wood, and Coopers Wood LoWS.

The canopy is principally composed of large standards of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) with some Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) with an understorey including Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*), Sallow (*Salix cinerea*) and Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*).

Its ancient origin is demonstrated by the presence of Wild Service Tree (*Sorbus torminalis*) and an exceptionally rich flora for such a lane, containing many ancient woodland indicator species. These include Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*), Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), Sanicle (*Sanicula europaea*), Wood Melick (*Melica uniflora*), Wood Speedwell (*Veronica montana*), Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*), Spurge Laurel (*Daphne laureola*), Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*), Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*), Wood Sedge (*Carex sylvatica*), Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) and Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*).

Site Selection Rationale

HC8 - The site is best viewed as a green lane, with evidence that it derives from the ghost outline of an Ancient Wood and providing a valuable habitat connection.

Priority Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Ownership and Access

This lane is believed to be owned by Castle Point Borough Council and it serves as a public right of way, giving open access.

Condition Statement

Moderate

Management Issues

The non-native Cherry Laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*) is present.

Review Schedule

Site selected: 1994 (W19)

Site Reviewed: 2002 (CP15), 2007 (CP15), 2012 (CPT15)

2023: small addition, moved from CPT14

Site reference: CPT16

Site name: The Chase Paddocks

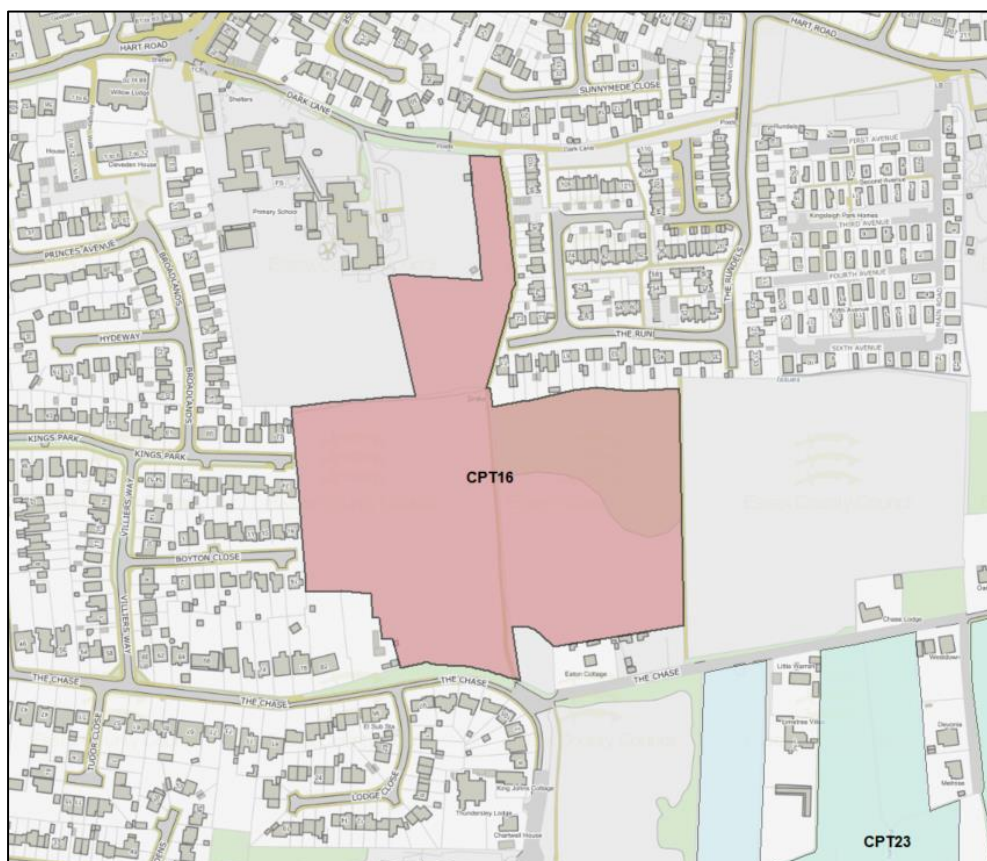
Grid ref. (approx. centre of site): TQ792884

Site area: 5.0ha

LoWS Selection Criteria:

- HC9 Lowland Meadows
- HC11 Other Neutral Grassland

Boundary Map



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Site Description

This site comprises a series of predominantly horse-grazed pastures that appear to have escaped agricultural improvement and so support a diverse floral assemblage.

The sward comprises a wide variety of grasses including Crested Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*), Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), Smaller Cat's-tail (*Phleum bertolonii*), Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Tufted Hair-grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*), Timothy (*Phleum pratensis*), Meadow Brome (*Bromus racemosus*) and Meadow Foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*).

Other species include Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), Meadow Buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*), Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Red Bartsia (*Odontites vernus*), Oxeye Daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*), Common Sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*), Autumn Hawkbit (*Scorzoneroides autumnalis*), Selfheal (*Prunella vulgaris*), Lesser Stitchwort (*Stellaria graminea*), Prickly Sedge (*Carex muricata* ssp. *pairae*) and Hairy Sedge (*Carex hirta*). There are large patches of Sneezewort (*Achillea ptarmica*) and smaller quantities of Common Eyebright (*Euphrasia nemorosa*), which are Essex Red Data List species indicative of unimproved grassland. Other such indicators have also been recorded, including Heath Grass (*Danthonia decumbens*) and Pepper Saxifrage (*Silaum silaus*).

The northern end of the eastern pasture contains scattered Pedunculate Oaks (*Quercus robur*) and these add to the conservation significance of the Site, as do the large oaks within the boundary hedges.

Site Selection Rationale

HC9 – The grass community is a good match for the MG5 type that qualifies the Site under the Lowland Meadows Priority habitat.

HC11 – The northern part of the eastern pasture has too many oak trees to be considered as Priority habitat but is part of the same habitat unit and still provides value to biodiversity in conjunction with the better grassland.

Priority Habitats

Lowland Meadows

Ownership and Access

The site is privately owned with no public access, but it can be viewed from the footpath linking Dark lane and The Chase.

Condition Statement

West pastures – Moderate

East pastures – Poor

Management Issues

Current management is not aimed at nature conservation outcomes. The level of horse-grazing varies, which can result in over-grazing at times, and under-grazing at others. The frequency of coarser grass species such as False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) and Cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*) is higher than is desirable in those areas that are under-grazed.

Review Schedule

Site selected: 1992 (G9)

Site Reviewed: 1994 (G9, enlarged), 2002 (CP16), 2007 (CP16), 2012 (CPT16)

2019: No change

Site reference: CPT17

Site name: Shipwrights Meadow

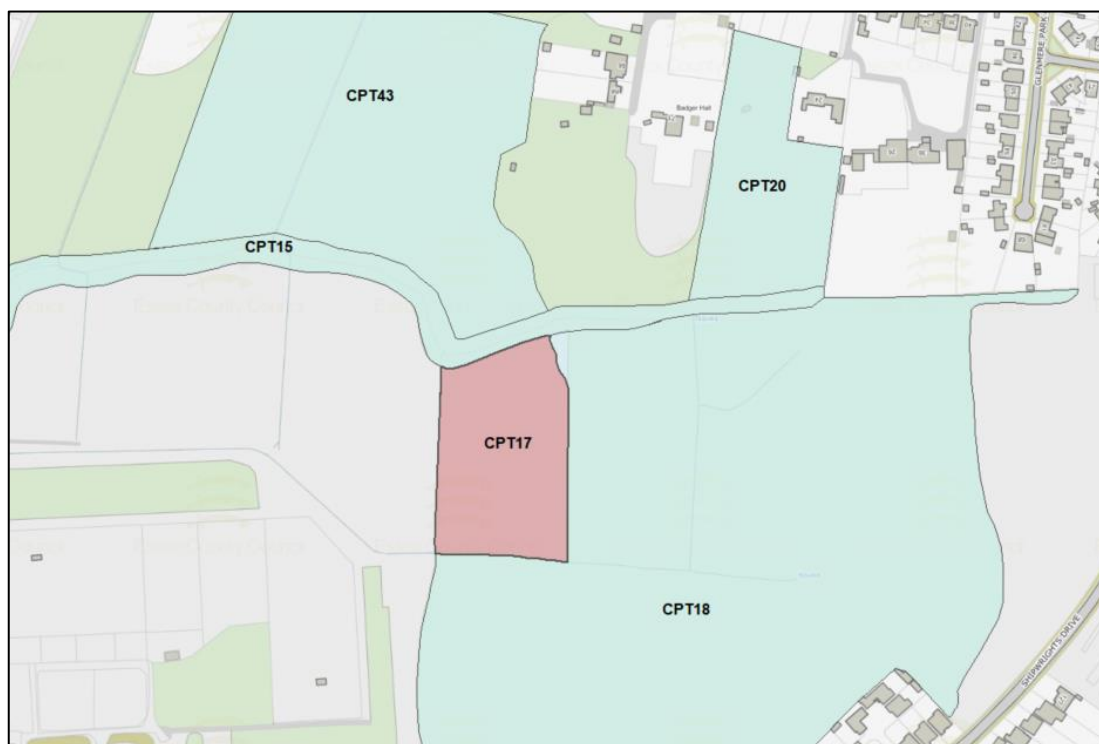
Grid ref. (approx. centre of site): TQ792872

Site area: 1.2ha

LoWS Selection Criteria:

- HC9 Lowland Meadows
- HC11 Other Neutral Grasslands

Boundary Map



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Site Description

This meadow supports varied grassland communities as a result of its physical characteristics and management history. In essence it is a good match for the Lowland Meadows MG5 community, but there are sections on the lower slope to the south where damp conditions favour a community more typical of an MG9 poorly drained permanent pasture. The western boundary is formed by an old hedge.

The meadow sward consists of Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Smooth Meadow-grass (*Poa pratensis*), Meadow Foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*), Soft-brome (*Bromus hordeaceus*) and Creeping Bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*) with localised patches of Tall Fescue (*Schedonorus arundinaceus*), False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) and Cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*).

Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*) is abundant with Meadow Buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*), Agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*), Fleabane (*Pulicaria dysenterica*), Meadow Vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*), Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), Wild Carrot (*Daucus carota*), Common Vetch (*Vicia sativa*), Common Sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*), Hairy St John's-wort (*Hypericum hirsutum*), Smooth Tare (*Vicia tetrasperma*), Lesser Stitchwort (*Stellaria graminea*), Glaucous Sedge (*Carex flacca*), Grass Vetchling (*Lathyrus nissolia*), Musk Mallow (*Malva moschata*), Red Bartsia (*Odontites vernus*), Fairy Flax (*Linum catharticum*) and Hoary Ragwort (*Jacobaea erucifolia*).

In the damper areas Fen Bedstraw (*Galium uliginosum*), an Essex Red Data List species that is rare and declining within the county, is the most significant species present. Other species in these areas include: Greater Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus pedunculatus*), Marsh Thistle (*Cirsium palustre*) and Ragged Robin (*Lychnis flos-cuculi*).

Site Selection Rationale

HC9 – The meadow predominantly supports an MG5 community and so qualifies as Priority habitat.
HC11 – This criterion is used to recognise the diversity of the sward and include the areas, including the damp grassland, that form part of the ecological unit, but do not represent Priority habitat.

Priority Habitats

Lowland Meadows

Ownership and Access

The site is owned and managed by Castle Point Borough Council, with open public access from the public right of way on its western edge.

Condition Statement

Moderate

Management Issues

The spread of scrub, including Bramble, is a constant threat on this site and the spread of the adjacent woodland canopy along the southern edge is already excessively shading the damp grassland.

Review Schedule

Site selected: 1992 (G11)

Site Reviewed: 1994 (G11), 2002 (CP17), 2007 (CP17), 2012 (CPT17)

2023: no change

Site reference: CPT18

Site name: Shipwrights Wood

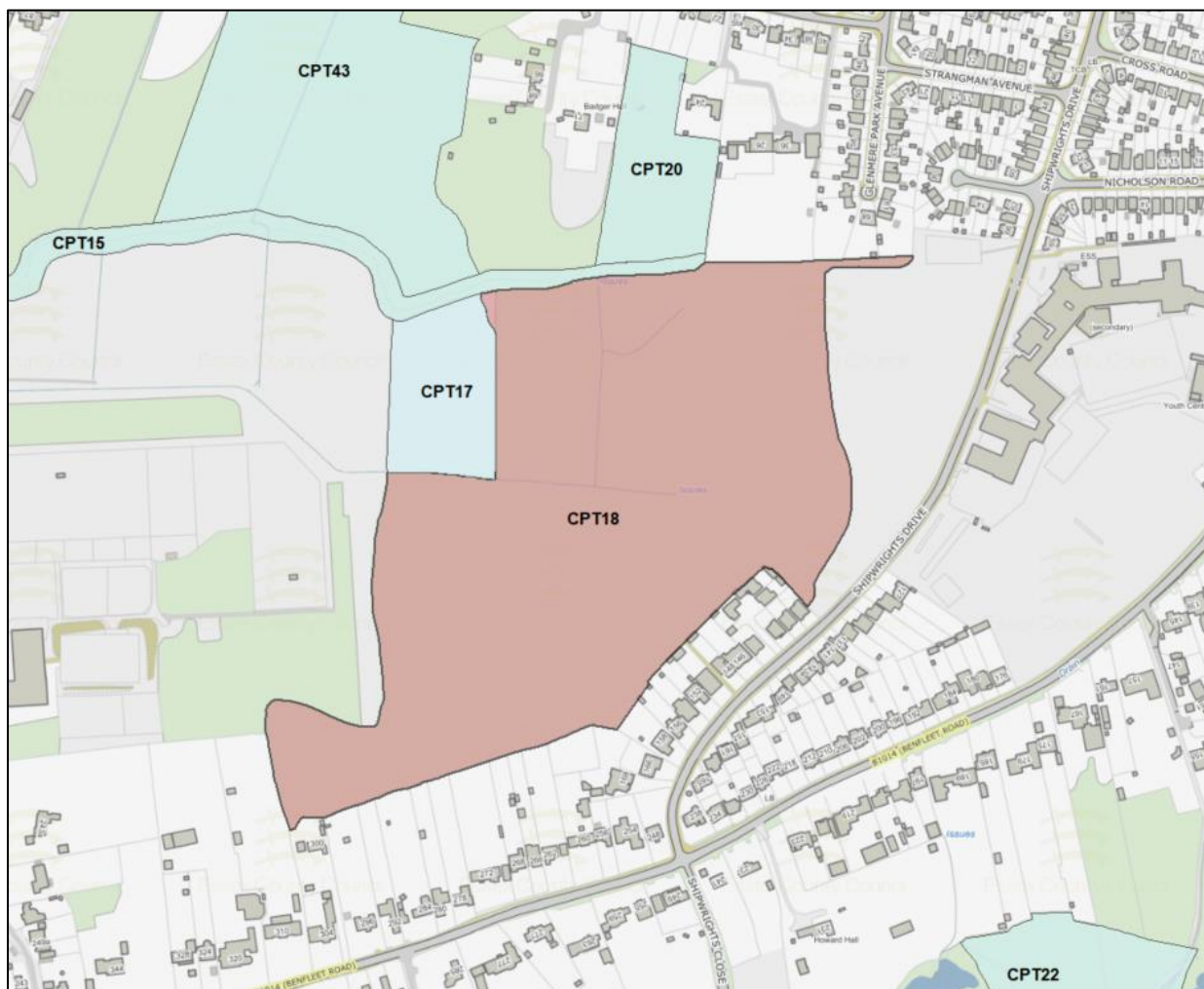
Grid ref. (approx. centre of site): TQ794871

Site area: 12.3ha

LoWS Selection Criteria:

- HC1 Ancient Woodland Sites
- HC2 Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-Ancient Sites

Boundary Map



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Site Description

This site comprises two Ancient Woodland blocks: Shipwrights Wood and Jervis Wood East (the remnant of a much larger woodland largely destroyed in the early 19th Century), with a smaller area of mature secondary woodland.

Both ancient woods lie on steep valley slopes and landslips, with Shipwrights Wood extending south to Benfleet Road until the early 20th Century. Their canopy is complex, but comprises mainly Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice, with lesser amounts of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), coppiced Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*), Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Wild Cherry (*Prunus avium*) and Aspen (*Populus tremula*). The understorey includes Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Midland Hawthorn (*Crataegus laevigata*).

The ground flora is also varied, including a good range of ancient woodland plants, with Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) abundant, along with Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*), Wood Melick (*Melica uniflora*), Yellow

Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*), Wood Sedge (*Carex sylvatica*), Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), Wood Speedwell (*Veronica montana*), Hart's-tongue (*Asplenium scolopendrium*), Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*) and Enchanter's-nightshade (*Circaea lutetiana*). Swampy areas support Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*), Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*), Wavy Bittercress (*Cardamine flexuosa*) and Giant Horsetail (*Equisetum telmateia*).

The recent woodland in the north-western section forms a natural extension to the Ancient Wood canopy. The western section comprises a dense stand of Hawthorn, with occasional Pedunculate Oak, Ash and birch. The eastern section is a more mature wood of Ash and Oak, with some Hornbeam and a varied shrub layer that includes Hazel, Dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*) and Hawthorn. The unusually swampy ground conditions support Giant Horsetail and Pendulous Sedge in abundance, with Lesser Celandine (*Ficaria verna*), Sanicle (*Sanicula europaea*) and Bluebell amongst a varied flora that includes many ancient woodland indicators colonising from Shipwrights Wood itself.

Site Selection Rationale

HC1 – The majority of the site is included in the Ancient Woodland Inventory, which is supported by the abundance of indicator species.

HC2 – The more recent woodland matches the woodland Priority habitat.

Priority Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Ownership and Access

The site is owned and managed by Castle Point Borough Council as public open space and is also crossed by a public right of way.

Condition Statement

Moderate

Management Issues

The non-native, invasive Cherry Laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*) is widespread. Parts of the wood are heavily used by the local community, with a negative impact on ground flora.

Review Schedule

Site selected: 1992 (W6 and W6b)

Site Reviewed: 1994 (W6 and W20), 2002 (CP18), 2007 (CP18), 2012 (CPT18)

2023: boundary re-mapped

Site reference: CPT19

Site name: The Lake, Canvey

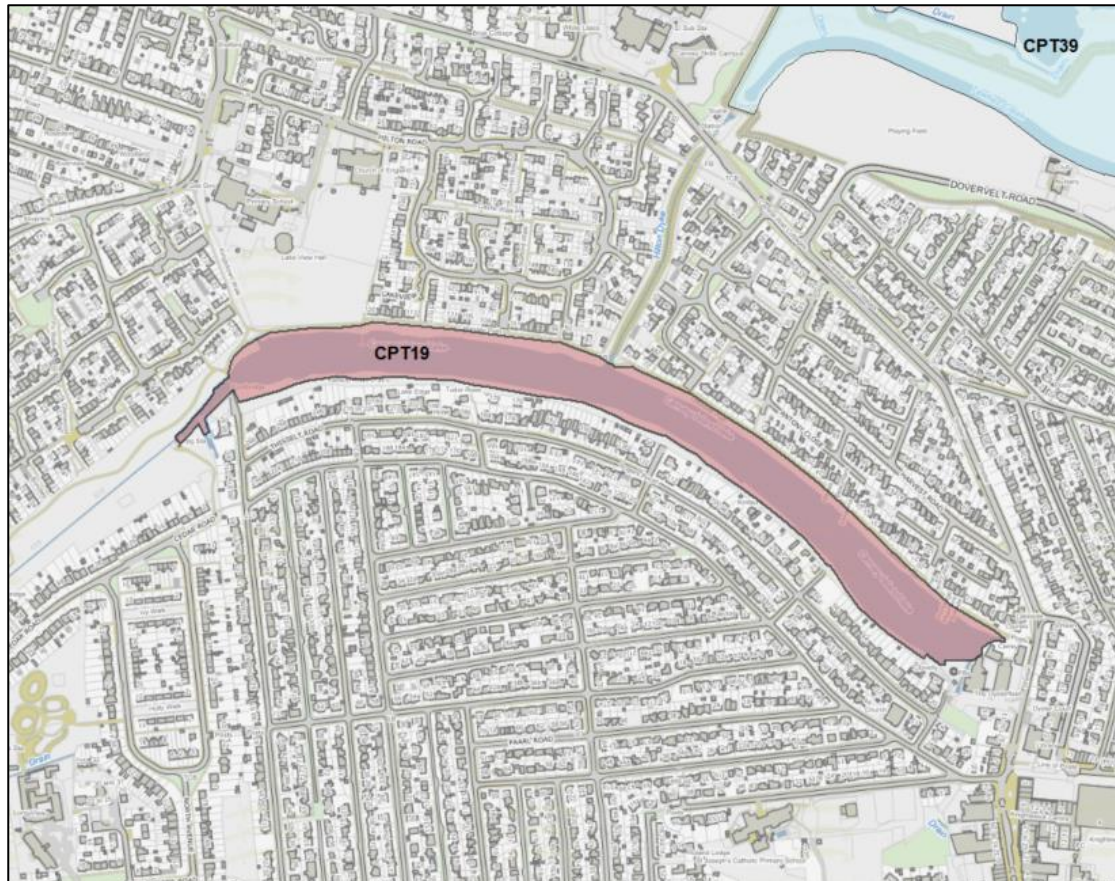
Grid ref. (approx. centre of site): TQ794840

Site area: 6.3ha

LoWS Selection Criteria:

- HC11 Other Neutral Grassland
- HC15 Reedbeds
- HC16 Lakes and Reservoirs

Boundary Map



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Site Description

The lake is the largest body of open water in Castle Point and is the remaining section of the island's main drainage channel, which was once part of what is now Smallings Creek.

This site supports the largest pure stand of Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) in the borough with Sea Club-rush (*Bolboschoenus maritimus*) and Great Willowherb (*Epilobium hirsutum*) also represented in the emergent vegetation. Within the reedbeds are a series of grassy islands supporting Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*).

Marginal flora reflects the brackish nature of the lake and its origin as a grazing marsh fleet, with Sea Aster (*Aster tripolium*), Common Saltmarsh-grass (*Puccinellia maritima*), Saltmarsh Rush (*Juncus gerardii*), Wild Celery (*Apium graveolens*), Sea Beet (*Beta maritima*), Meadow Barley (*Hordeum secalinum*) and small quantities of the Nationally Scarce Sea Clover (*Trifolium squamosum*).

Site Selection Rationale

HC11 – This criterion is used to include some of the grassland habitat around the margins of the lake, which supports species characteristic of its grazing marsh origins

HC15 – A significant part of the site represents this Priority Habitat.

HC16 – This criterion is used to include the whole of the water body within which the reedbed Priority habitat exists.

Priority Habitats

Reedbed

Ownership and Access

The land around the lake is owned and managed by Canvey Island Town Council as a public open space.

Condition Statement

Good

Management Issues

The site receives extensive use in the form of fishing, feeding the ducks and general public access and amenity, with consequent problems of litter, disturbance and trampling.

Review Schedule

Site selected: 2002 (CP19)

Site Reviewed: 2007 (CP19), 2012 (CPT19)

2023: marginal grassland included

Site reference: CPT20

Site name: Coopers Wood

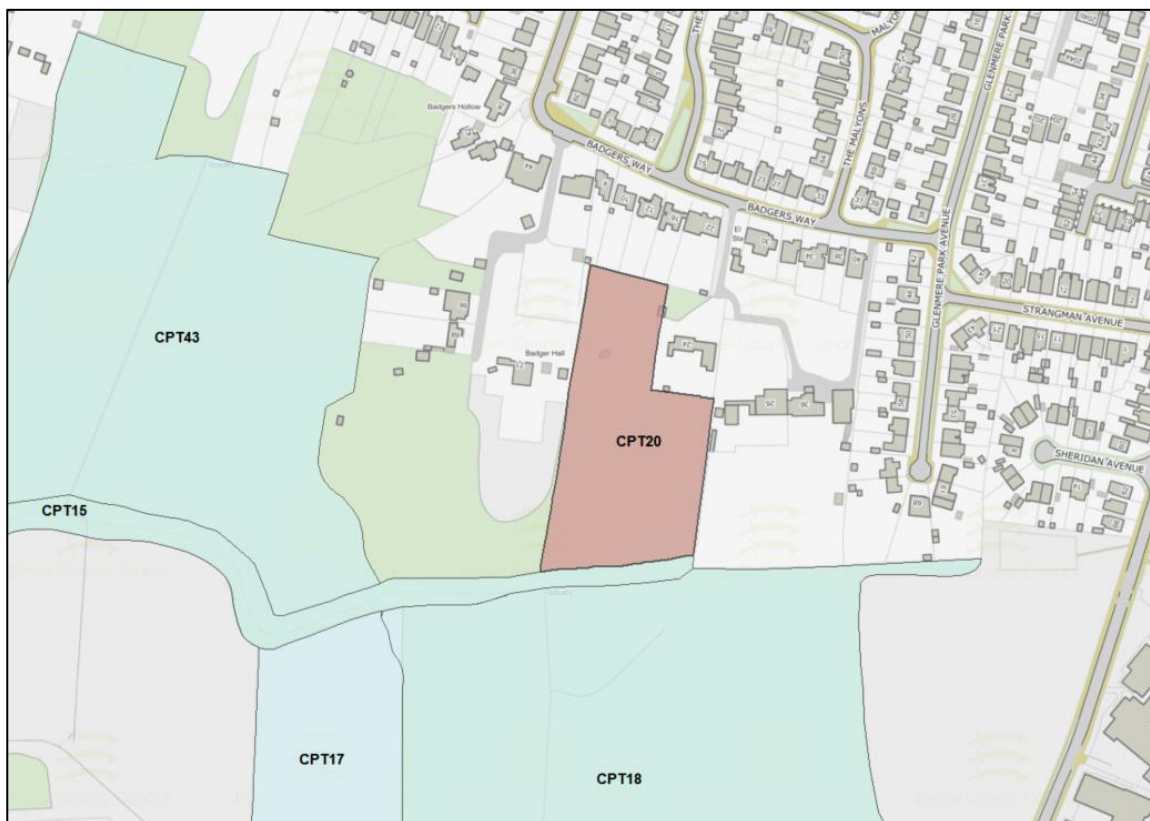
Grid ref. (approx. centre of site): TQ794874

Site area: 1.2ha

LoWS Selection Criteria:

- HC2 Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-Ancient Sites

Boundary Map



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Site Description

This site comprises a block of mature secondary woodland on the site of the ancient Jervis Wood, which forms part of a wider complex of woodland LoWS.

The woodland canopy is mainly Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*), with lesser amounts of Aspen (*Populus tremula*) and Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) in the understorey.

The varied ground flora includes Male Fern (*Dryopteris filix-mas*), Giant Horsetail (*Equisetum telmateia*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*) amongst Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*).

Site Selection Rationale

HC2 - Although documentary evidence shows that it is not ancient, it has a good structure and benefits from the presence of adjacent ancient blocks.

Priority Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Ownership and Access

The site is privately owned, with no public access.

Condition Statement

Moderate

Management Issues

A glade in the woodland that supported acid grassland, with species such as Devil's-bit Scabious (*Succisa pratensis*), Goldenrod (*Solidago virgaurea*), Mouse-ear Hawkweed (*Pilosella officinarum*), Tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*) and Trailing St. John's-wort (*Hypericum humifusum*) has been lost to scrub encroachment but could be restored.

Review Schedule

Site selected: 1994 (W21 Badgers Way Wood)

Site Reviewed: 2002 (CP20 Coopers Wood), 2007 (CP20), 2012 (CPT20)

2023: No change

Site reference: CPT21

Site name: Thundersley Great Common Wood

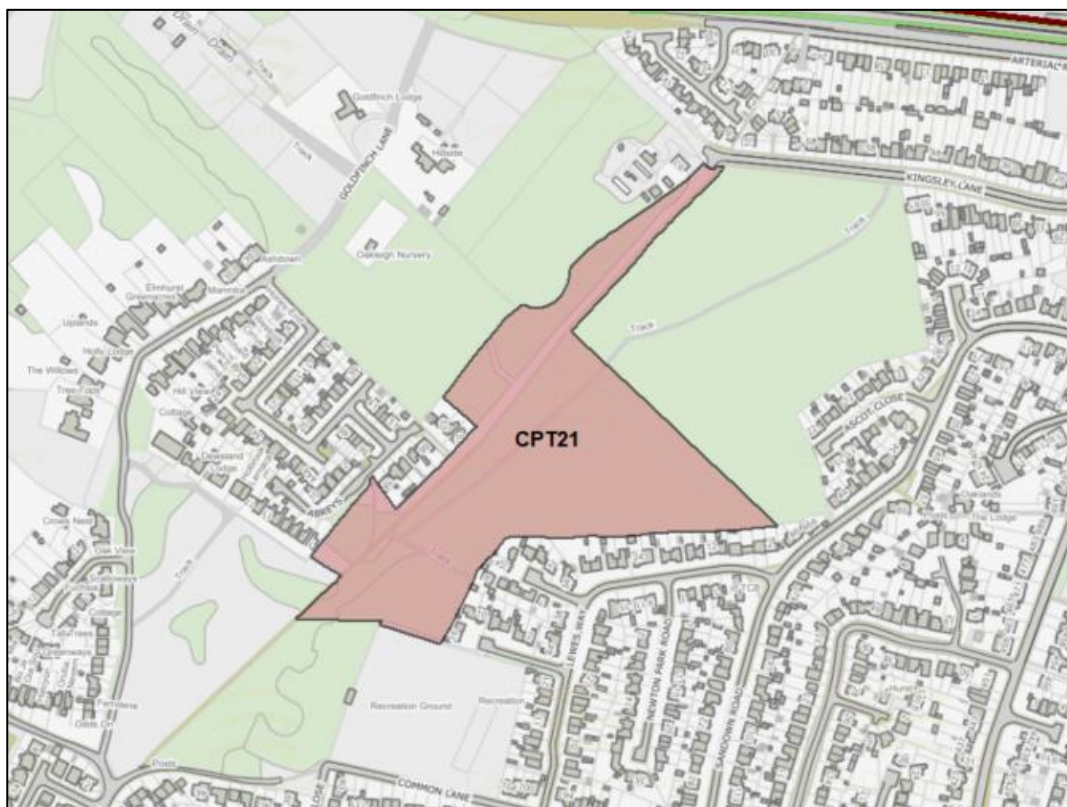
Grid ref. (approx. centre of site): TQ795893

Site area: 5.0ha

LoWS Selection Criteria:

- HC2 Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

Boundary Map



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Site Description

This Site comprises the woodland that separates the two sections of the Thundersley Great Common SSSI, including a small section of grassland in the southwest. The species composition and character of the woodland suggest that there is an ancient influence. The bank features to the northwest and southeast of the site are considered to represent the boundaries of long-lost adjacent ancient woodlands and support large coppiced Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and a particularly noteworthy Wild Service-tree (*Sorbus torminalis*). Some sections of wood are depicted within the common on the 1777 map of Essex produced by Chapman and André and later maps suggest a scattering of trees that would not have been unusual on a common of this nature.

The woodland is composed of Pedunculate and Sessile Oak (*Quercus petraea*) standards with Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*), Wild Service-tree, Hornbeam coppice and an understorey that includes Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Aspen (*Populus tremula*), Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) and birch (*Betula* sp.).

The ground flora reflects the acidic, sandy nature of the soil, although it is generally quite poor, with Wood Sage (*Teucrium scorodonia*), Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*), Creeping Soft-grass (*Holcus mollis*), Greater Stitchwort (*Stellaria holostea*), False Brome (*Brachypodium sylvaticum*) and Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*) as typical components. It also includes ancient woodland indicators such as Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Common Cow-wheat (*Melampyrum pratense*), Black Currant (*Ribes nigrum*), Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*), Hairy-brome (*Bromopsis ramosa*), Wood Meadow-grass (*Poa nemoralis*) and Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*). Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*) occurs close to the western boundary ditch.

In the southwest corner is a small section of acid grassland containing Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Heath Wood-rush (*Luzula multiflora*), Meadow Buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*), Common Cat's-ear (*Hypochaeris radicata*) and Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra* agg.).

Site Selection Rationale

HC2 - The woodland is not included in the Ancient Woodland Inventory, but its community matches the NVC W10 type, which is included within the definition of woodland Priority Habitat.

Priority Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Ownership and Access

The site is owned and managed by Castle Point Borough Council as a public open space.

Condition Statement

Woodland – Moderate
Grassland – Poor

Management Issues

There has been no management of the site in the recent past, and the invasive, non-native Cherry Laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*) and Spanish Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides hispanica*) are present. The small grassland area has also not been managed and shows an increase in coarser grass species such as False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) and Cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*).

Review Schedule

Site selected: 1992 (W7)

Site Reviewed: 1994 (W7), 2002 (CP21), 2007 (CP21), 2012 (CPT21)

2023: boundary re-mapped

Site reference: CPT22

Site name: Nine Acre Wood

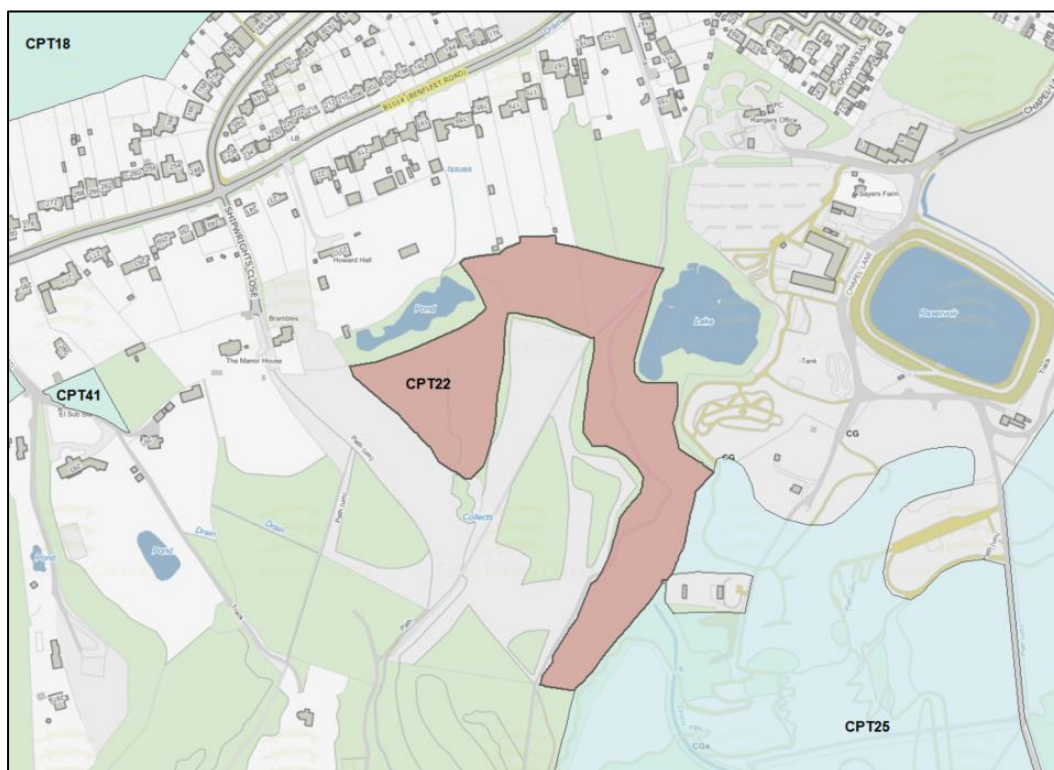
Grid ref. (approx. centre of site): TQ798866

Site area: 4.6ha

LoWS Selection Criteria:

- HC1 Ancient Woodland Sites
- HC2 Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-Ancient Sites

Boundary Map



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Site Description

This predominantly Ancient woodland has changed little since the mid-19th Century at least, although a section at the northern end of the western arm has been cleared to form part of a garden. There are also some small areas of more recent, mature woodland to the north and east.

The canopy throughout the west and central areas is typified by Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) with Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) with an understorey of Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*).

The western section is bisected by a stream, which forms an extensive swampy area at its southern end within which poplars (*Populus* sp.) have been planted. Many of the standards in this area are dead or dying and the understorey is made up of willow (*Salix* sp.) scrub with abundant Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*) and Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*). The central section supports a ground flora that includes Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*).

The eastern arm has fewer canopy trees, of Ash and Oak, and hence a more open and varied structure. Elm (*Ulmus* sp.) is abundant and the understorey includes Hazel, Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and Field Maple (*Acer campestre*). The ground flora is poor, with Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*), Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*) dominating large sections. Bluebell and Yellow Archangel are also present in this section.

Soft Shield Fern (*Polystichum setiferum*), an Essex Red Data List species, has been recorded from this site, but not recently.

Site Selection Rationale

HC1 – The majority of the site is included in the Ancient Woodland Inventory.

HC2 – Small patches of more recent woodland meet the woodland Priority Habitat description and form a natural extension to the Ancient Woodland.

Priority Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Ownership and Access

The eastern part of the site forms part of Hadleigh Castle Country Park with open access, but the western and central areas are in private ownership with no public access.

Condition Statement

Western – Moderate

Eastern – Good

Management Issues

The western section is an extension to the garden of the property to the north and its management reflects that. There is fly-tipping of garden waste on the northern edge from the adjacent properties. Ash Dieback is having an impact on the canopy, in which Ash is a key component.

Review Schedule

Site selected: 1992 (W8)

Site Reviewed: 1994 (W8), 2002 (CP22), 2007 (CP22), 2012 (CPT22)

2023: no change

Site reference: CPT23

Site name: Thundersley Plotlands

Grid ref. (approx. centre of site): TQ795882

Site area: 10.8ha

LoWS Selection Criteria:

- HC2 Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-Ancient Sites
- HC28 Small-component Mosaics
- HC31 Urban Sites

Boundary Map



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Site Description

This Site represents the last remaining blocks of old plotland habitat within urban Thundersley, comprising a mosaic of grassland, woodland and scrub that provides a significant Green Space resource to the local population. Until the early 20th Century the whole area was open fields associated with Thundersley Lodge, but by the 1920s it had been divided up into plotland strips, the structure of which are still visible now. After the war many of these plots had been used for housing, but others had been abandoned and were developing woodland habitats. In the last 20 years, the pressure for development in the areas has increased again, following the post-war urbanisation of Thundersley and several blocks have been lost.

The Site has developed a characteristic suite of habitats and species with conservation interest in their own right, as well as serving as a stepping-stone between the Daws Heath woodlands to the east and the LoWS complex to the south of Kiln Road.

Woodland areas are generally dominated by Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), with lesser amounts of Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and birch (*Betula* spp.) with Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) in the understorey. A few much older boundary ditch and bank features support larger oaks with coppiced Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and are a remnant of long-cleared woodland shown in 18th Century maps. Younger blocks of woodland are typically a mixture of oak and Hawthorn, but also contain a wide variety of other trees and shrubs including Aspen (*Populus tremula*), birch (*Betula* sp.), Wild Cherry (*Prunus avium*), elm (*Ulmus* sp.), Bullace (*Prunus domestica*) and Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*).

The woodland ground flora is generally poor with a high proportion of Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and Cow Parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*) alongside Herb Robert (*Geranium robertianum*), Red Campion (*Silene dioica*), False Brome (*Brachypodium sylvaticum*) and Wood Avens (*Geum urbanum*). However, more interesting species do occur in some areas including Wood Melick (*Melica uniflora*), Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*), Bush Vetch (*Vicia sepium*) and Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*).

Grassland habitats differ across the site, but are principally variants of the MG5 Lowland Meadow community and their grass swards are typified by Sweet Vernal Grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Crested Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Timothy (*Phleum pratense*), Meadow Fox-tail (*Alopecurus pratensis*), bents (*Agrostis* spp.), with under-managed areas dominated by Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) and Cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*). Typical herbaceous species include Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Meadow Buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*), Grass Vetchling (*Lathyrus nissolia*), Meadow Vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*), Oxeye Daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*) and Common Cat's-ear (*Hypochaeris radicata*).

Site Selection Rationale

HC2 – Some of the more mature woodland blocks meet the woodland Priority habitat description.

HC28 – This criterion is used to define the boundaries of the site, taking in the grassland and scrubby woodland habitats that combine to create a significant resource for biodiversity.

Priority Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Ownership and Access

All parts of the Site are under the private ownership of various individuals, with no public right of access. Parts can be viewed from adjacent public roads.

Condition Statement

Woodland – Poor to Moderate

Grassland – Poor to Moderate

Management Issues

The Site continues to be threatened by residential development. The dumping of garden rubbish continues to cause a problem and has resulted in the establishment of non-native species that could be invasive, including Three-cornered Leek (*Allium triquetrum*), Spanish Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides hispanica*) and Spotted Deadnettle (*Lamium maculatum*).

Review Schedule

Site selected: 1992 (M3 and M4)

Site Reviewed: 1994 (M3 and M4), 2002 (CP23 enlarged), 2007 (CP23), 2012 (CPT23), 2019 (CPT23), reduced

2023: Over-grazed horse paddocks at northern end removed

Site reference: CPT24

Site name: West Wood

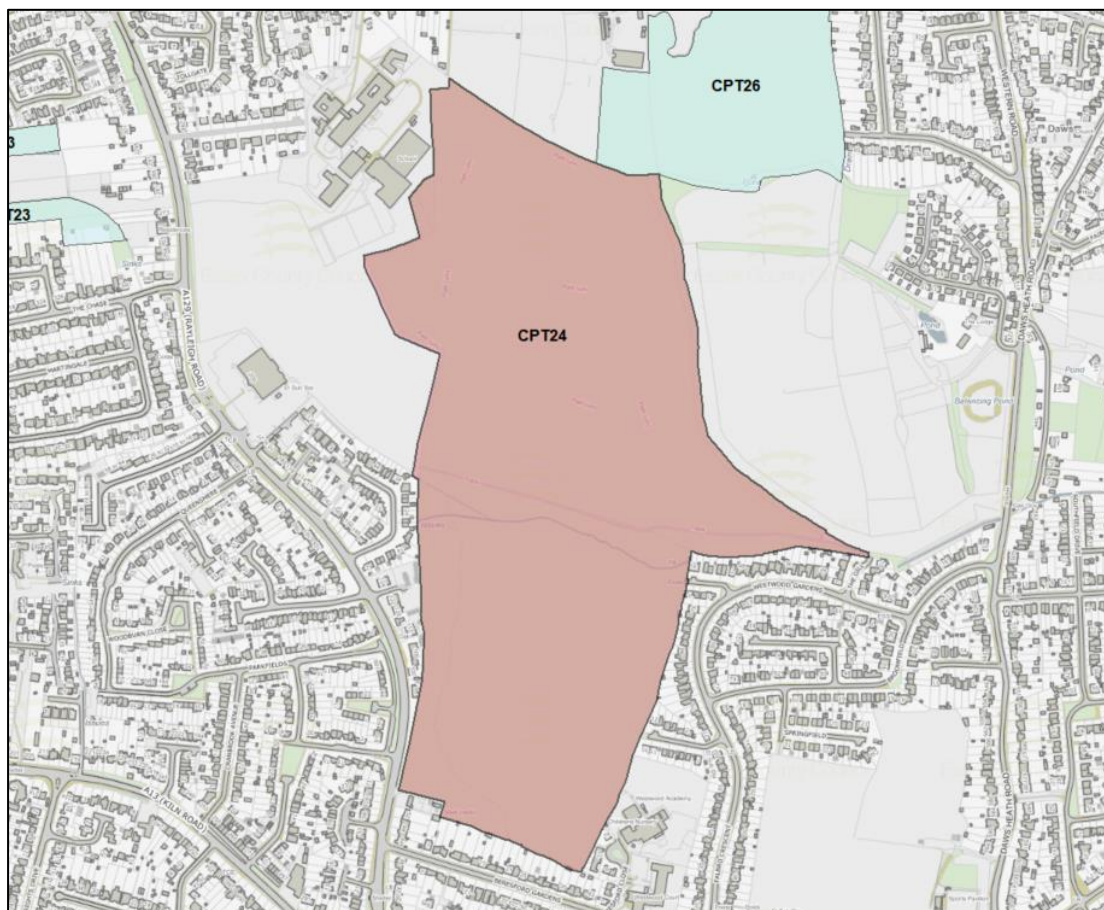
Grid ref. (approx. centre of site): TQ805881

Site area: 33.2 ha

LoWS Selection Criteria:

- HC1 Ancient Woodland Sites

Boundary Map



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Site Description

This Ancient Wood is bisected by Prittle Brook, with plateaus rising to north and south, and is little changed since the Middle Ages. To the north of Prittle Brook, all standards were removed during the Second World War and so those now present are all younger.

The canopy is dominated by Pedunculate and Sessile Oak (*Quercus robur* and *Q. petraea*) with Downy and Silver Birch (*Betula pubescens* and *B. pendula*) and coppiced Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*). Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*) is also present with an abundance of Wild Service-tree (*Sorbus torminalis*) and the understorey includes Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*). There is a single very large Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) to the south of Prittle Brook.

The ground flora is varied including the Essex Red Data List species Common Cow-wheat (*Melampyrum pratense*), Woodruff (*Galium odoratum*) and Great Wood-rush (*Luzula sylvatica*) as well as many other species that are indicative of ancient woodland, including Wood Melick (*Melica uniflora*), Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*), Hairy-brome (*Bromopsis ramosa*), Wood Sedge (*Carex sylvatica*), Wood Meadow-grass (*Poa nemoralis*) and Black Currant (*Ribes nigrum*), Giant Fescue (*Festuca gigantea*), Hairy Wood-rush (*Luzula pilosa*), Bush Vetch (*Vicia sepium*) and Slender St John's-wort (*Hypericum pulchrum*). Other species present

include Enchanter's Nightshade (*Circaea lutetiana*), Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*), Male Fern (*Dryopteris filix-mas*), Creeping Soft-grass (*Holcus mollis*) and Wood Dock (*Rumex sanguineus*).

The site supports a population of Southern Wood Ant (*Formic rufa*), an Essex Red List species.

Site Selection Rationale

HC1 – The whole of the site is included in the Ancient Woodland Inventory, which is supported by the diversity of indicator species.

Priority Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Ownership and Access

The Site is owned by Castle Point Borough Council and managed as a public open space by Castle Point Wildlife Group, a registered charity.

Condition Statement

Good

Management Issues

The site is subject to regular management. Several non-native species are present including Variegated Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon* subsp. *argentatum*), which is listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), a pink-sorrel (*Oxalis* sp.), Slender Rush (*Juncus tenuis*) and Cherry Laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*).

Review Schedule

Site selected: 1992 (W9)

Site Reviewed: 1994 (W9), 2002 (CP24), 2007 (CP24), 2012 (CPT24)

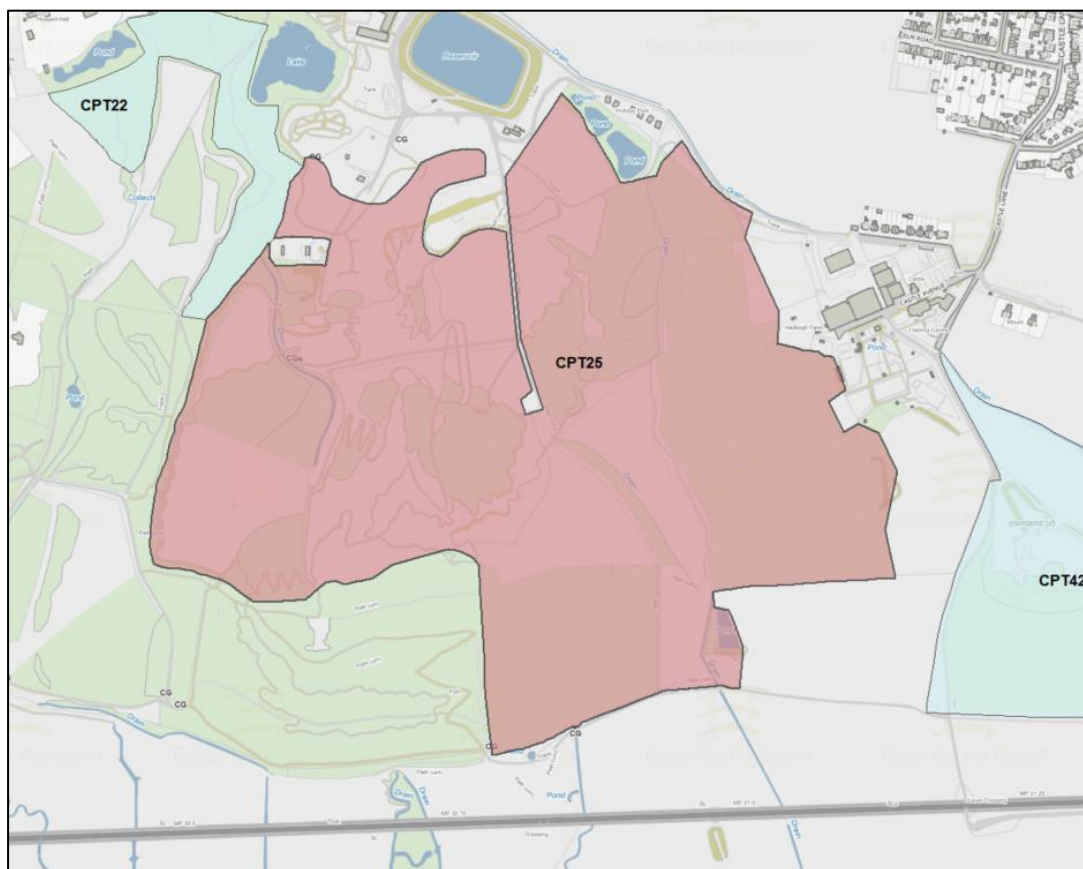
2023: boundary re-mapped

Site reference: CPT25	Grid ref. (approx. centre of site): TQ802862
Site name: Castle Farm	Site area: 53.4ha

LoWS Selection Criteria:

- HC9 Lowland Meadows
- HC13 Heathland and Acid Grassland
- HC28 Small-component Mosaics
- SC16 Hotspots for Reptile Diversity
- SC19 Important invertebrate Assemblages

Boundary Map



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Site Description

This site is made up of a complex mosaic of acid grassland, neutral grassland, woodland and scrub, which make up an old landscape that escaped systematic agricultural improvement because of its topography, centred on the three adjacent hills: Sandpit, Adders and Round Hills. Landslips and other exposures of bare sand are important ecological features of the landscape. To the south and west is the Benfleet and Hadleigh Marshes SSSI, to which this Site forms a valuable extension.

The summits and steeper slopes of the hills support a typically species poor acid grassland community characterised by the dominance of Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*) with Crested Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*), Grey Sedge (*Carex divulsa*), Heath Speedwell (*Veronica officinalis*) and Autumn Hawkbit (*Scorzoneroide autumnalis*).

Between the hills the grassland community is more neutral with additional species such as Agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*), Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra* agg.), Meadow Barley (*Hordeum secalinum*) and

Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*). Waxcaps, fungi indicative of undisturbed old grassland, are also present.

There are two areas of more species-rich grassland with a greater abundance of species associated with the Lowland Meadows Priority Habitat. One is a small field cut for hay and referred to as the 'Bee Field' along the western boundary. The other is located at the southern end of the area known as the 'Venue'. Species present include Meadow Barley, Oxeye Daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*), Common Centaury (*Centaureum erythraea*), Grass Vetchling (*Lathyrus nissolia*), Meadow Vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*), Common Bird's-foot-trefoil, Spiny Restharrow (*Ononis spinosa*), and the Essex Red List species Small-flowered Buttercup (*Ranunculus parviflora*).

Within the grassland is a range of scrub, largely scattered Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), but including pure stands of Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*). There are also a significant number of mature trees including lime (*Tilia* sp.), Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*).

The woodland is all secondary and dominated by Pedunculate Oak with Ash, Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and Hawthorn. The block in the northeast corner of the site is the oldest, dating from the early 19th Century, with a generally poor ground flora that does include Giant Fescue (*Festuca gigantea*) and Giant Horsetail (*Equisetum telmateia*).

The site is known to support an assemblage of invertebrates believed to be of regional or national significance, including Brown-banded Carder Bee (*Bombus humilis*), Shril Carder Bee (*Bombus sylvarum*), Red-shanked Carder Bee (*Bombus ruderarius*) and the fly *Dorycera gramineum* all of which are Priority species. The site supports at least 23 Nationally Scarce Species and the Red Data Book mining bee *Lasioglossum pauperatum*. The presence of the Nationally Scarce jewel beetle *Agrilus sinuatus* highlights the importance of Hawthorn scrub, as its larvae develop under the bark of branches of old specimens.

Adders Hill is known to support Adder, and Common Lizard and Slow Worms have been recorded in the southern meadow. All three species are likely to be present throughout the site.

Site Selection Rationale

HC9 – The lower grasslands and particularly the southernmost field are akin to the mesotrophic community specified in the Lowland Meadows Priority Habitat.

HC13 – The summits and steeper slopes of the hills support a community that matches the acid grassland Priority habitat description.

HC28 – This criterion defines the boundaries of the site, taking in scrub, woodland and grassland habitat that wouldn't satisfy any other criterion, but that forms part of the overall diversity of the site.

SC16 – The presence of populations of at least three reptile species allow the use of this criterion.

SC19 – Recent survey works has revealed the continued presence of a range of species of raised conservation status.

Priority Habitats

Lowland Meadows

Lowland Dry Acid Grassland

Ownership and Access

Essex County Council manage the western section as a country park and mountain bike venue. The Salvation Army manage the eastern section as a rare breeds centre and commercial farm. Most of the area is openly accessible including a number of public rights of way.

Condition Statement

Acid grassland – Moderate

Lowland Meadows – Moderate to Good

Other neutral grassland – Poor to Good

Scrub – Moderate

Woodland – Poor to moderate

Management Issues

Both landowners manage the site with nature conservation outcomes in mind through the Countryside Stewardship scheme. Grassland areas are subject to scrub encroachment and invasion by undesirable species such as Creeping Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) and Hemlock (*Conium maculatum*).

Review Schedule

Site selected: 1992 (G12b)

Site Reviewed: 1994 (G20 including Hadleigh Castle), 2002 (CP25 including Hadleigh Castle), 2007 (CP25 including Hadleigh Castle), 2012 (CPT25)

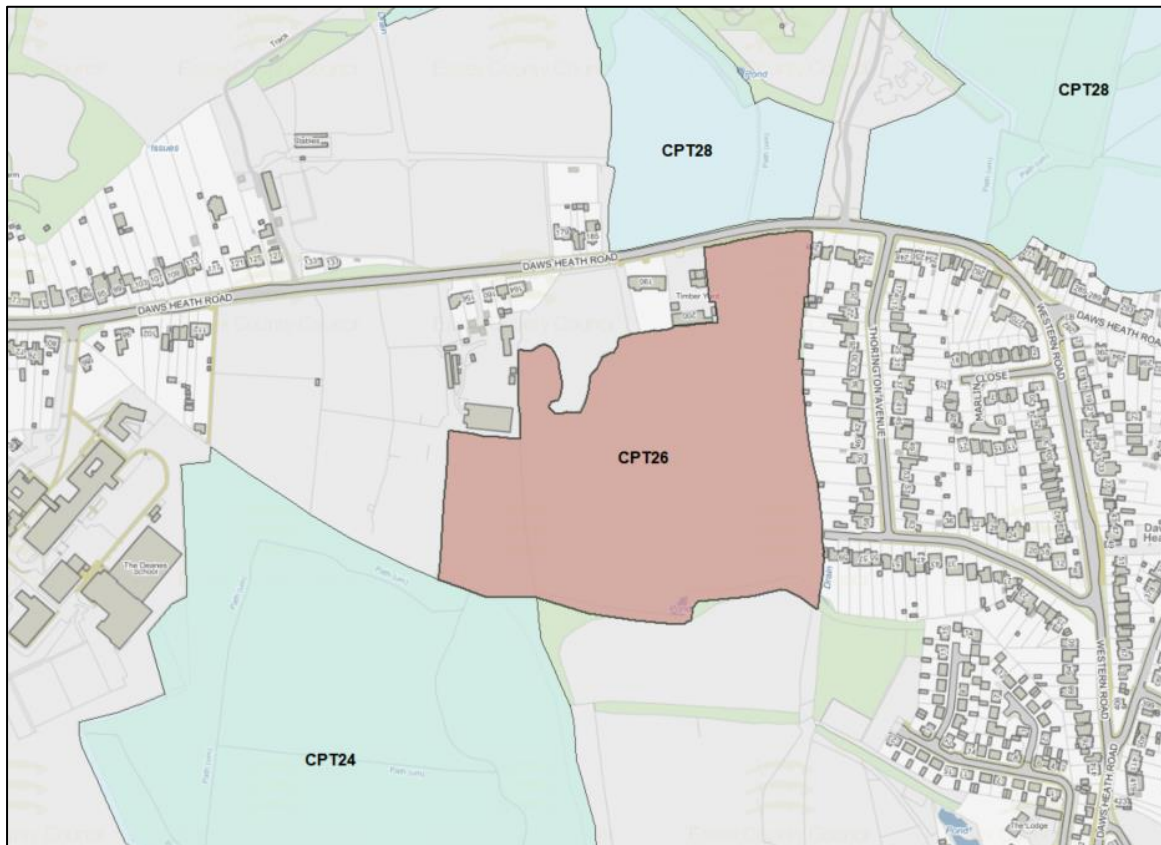
2023: no change

Site reference: CPT26	Grid ref. (approx. centre of site): TQ807886
Site name: Cottage Plantation and Rag Wood	Site area: 7.1ha

LoWS Selection Criteria:

- HC1 Ancient Woodland Sites

Boundary Map



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Site Description

This Site is made up of two distinct woodlands that have both been heavily modified during their history, but both are considered to be Ancient.

Cottage Plantation may have its origins as part of the ancient West Wood (CPT24), but at some stage it has been re-planted with Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*). The only Pedunculate Oaks (*Quercus robur*) remaining are close to the southern and eastern boundaries where there is also Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and Wild Cherry (*Prunus avium*). The chestnut is a mixture of coppice and standards with Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*). At the northern end of the site, adjacent to the timber yard, Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) coppice and standards are included.

The ground flora is generally dominated by Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*), Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) and Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*), but also includes a number of ancient woodland indicators such as Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Hairy Wood-rush (*Luzula pilosa*), Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*), Wood Melick (*Melica uniflora*), Hairy-brome (*Bromopsis ramosa*), Wood Spurge (*Euphorbia amygdaloides*), Black Currant (*Ribes nigrum*) and, scattered throughout, the Essex Red Data List species Common Cow-wheat (*Melampyrum pratense*). Tufted Hair-grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*) and Wood Aven (*Geum urbanum*) are also present.

Rag Wood is an area of old, secondary, coppiced Sessile Oak (*Quercus petraea*) woodland within which numerous small gravel pits have been dug. Common Cow-wheat is present within a generally poor ground flora.

The site supports a population of Southern Wood Ant (*Formic rufa*), an Essex Red List species.

Site Selection Rationale

HC1 – The majority of both woods are included in the Ancient Woodland Inventory, with only narrow fringes to the north and south that are not.

Priority Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Ownership and Access

Cottage Plantation is owned and managed by Essex Wildlife Trust, with open access via a network of permissive paths. Rag Plantation is privately owned with no public access but can be viewed from the adjacent woodlands.

Condition Statement

Good

Management Issues

Cottage Plantation is actively managed for nature conservation outcomes.

Review Schedule

Site selected: 1992 (W10)

Site Reviewed: 1994 (W10), 2002 (CP26), 2007 (CP26), 2012 (CPT26)

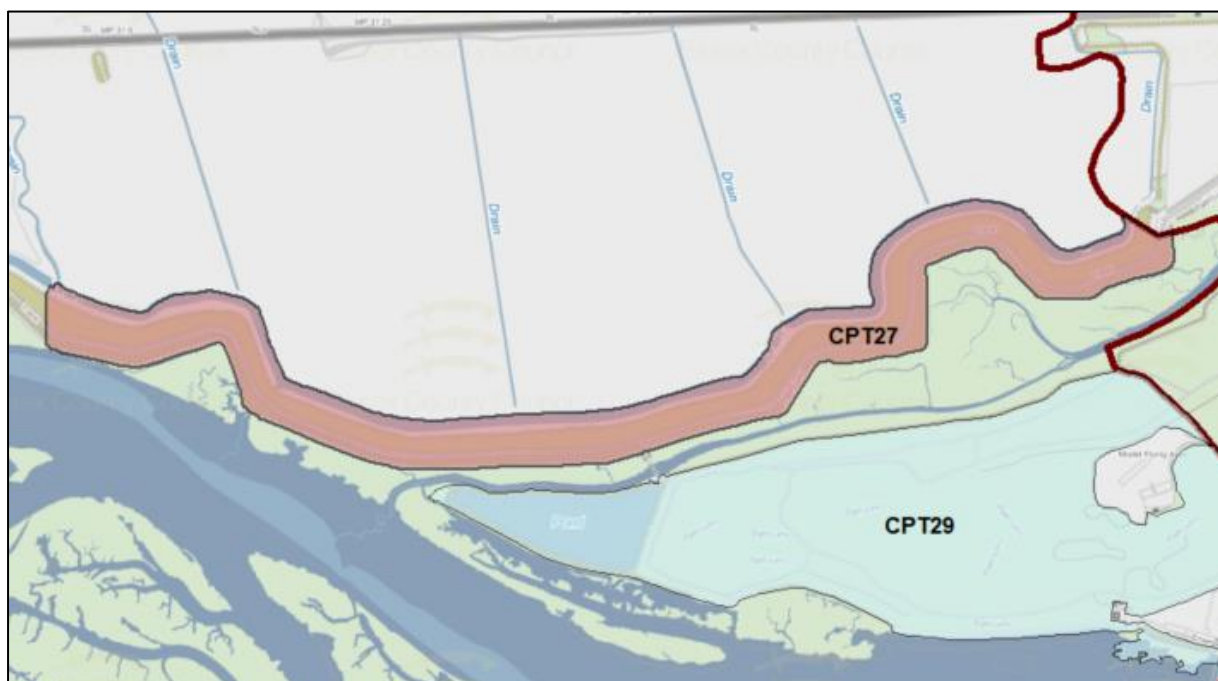
2023: boundary re-mapped

Site reference: CPT27	Grid ref. (approx. centre of site): TQ813852
Site name: Hadleigh Marsh Borrow Dyke and Sea Wall	Site area: 15.9ha

LoWS Selection Criteria:

- HC11 Other Neutral Grassland
- HC15 Reedbeds

Boundary Map



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Site Description

The grassland on this stretch of sea wall is diverse and probably old, although it has more recently become overly dominated by coarse grasses and weedy herbs.

Where the sward is more open, there is a good diversity of grasses, including Crested Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*), Timothy (*Phleum pratense*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Creeping Bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*) and Soft-brome (*Bromus hordeaceus*). Other noteworthy plant species include Knotted Hedge-parsley (*Torilis nodosa*), Grass Vetchling (*Lathyrus nissolia*), Narrow-leaved Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus glaber*), Meadow Vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*), Hop Trefoil (*Trifolium campestre*) and the Nationally Vulnerable Slender Hare's-ear (*Bupleurum tenuissimum*). The most diverse section is the folding adjacent to the borrow dyke where there is an abundance of Sea Clover (*Trifolium squamosum*) and some Divided Sedge (*Carex divisa*) in scattered patches, both of which are Nationally Scarce.

A significant proportion of the borrow dyke is dominated by stands of Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*), interspersed with open water and patches of Sea Club-rush (*Bolboschoenus maritimus*). The borrow dykes supports a population of Water Voles, a significant number of Reed Warbler pairs, and several pairs of Reed Bunting. The Red List species, Linnet, also occurs and may breed.

Site Selection Rationale

HC11 – The plant species present indicate a long history as grassland and are typical of old sea walls around the Essex coast, although the community doesn't fit any England BAP habitat definition.

HC15 – The quantity of reed growing in the borrow dykes justifies the use of the criterion, even if it is dispersed over a considerable linear distance.

Priority Habitats

Reedbed

Ownership and Access

The land is believed to be owned by the Salvation Army, but access is possible via the public footpath that runs along the top of the seawall.

Condition Statement

Moderate

Management Issues

The frequency of more robust, competitive species appears to be increasing with some areas dominated by Sea Couch (*Elytrigia atherica*), Common Couch (*Elytrigia repens*), Cow Parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*) and Black Mustard (*Brassica nigra*), with non-native species such as Fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*), Greek Dock (*Rumex cristatus*) and Broad-leaved Everlasting-pea (*Lathyrus latifolius*). There is also scattered scrub including Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), apple (*Malus* sp.), rose (*Rosa* agg.) and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.)

Review Schedule

Site selected: 1992 (C2)

Site Reviewed: 1994 (C2), 2002 (CP27), 2007 (demoted to PLoWS6), 2012 (CPT27)

2023 – re-mapped to match adjacent SSSI boundary

Site reference: CPT28

Site name: Little Haven/Tile Wood Complex

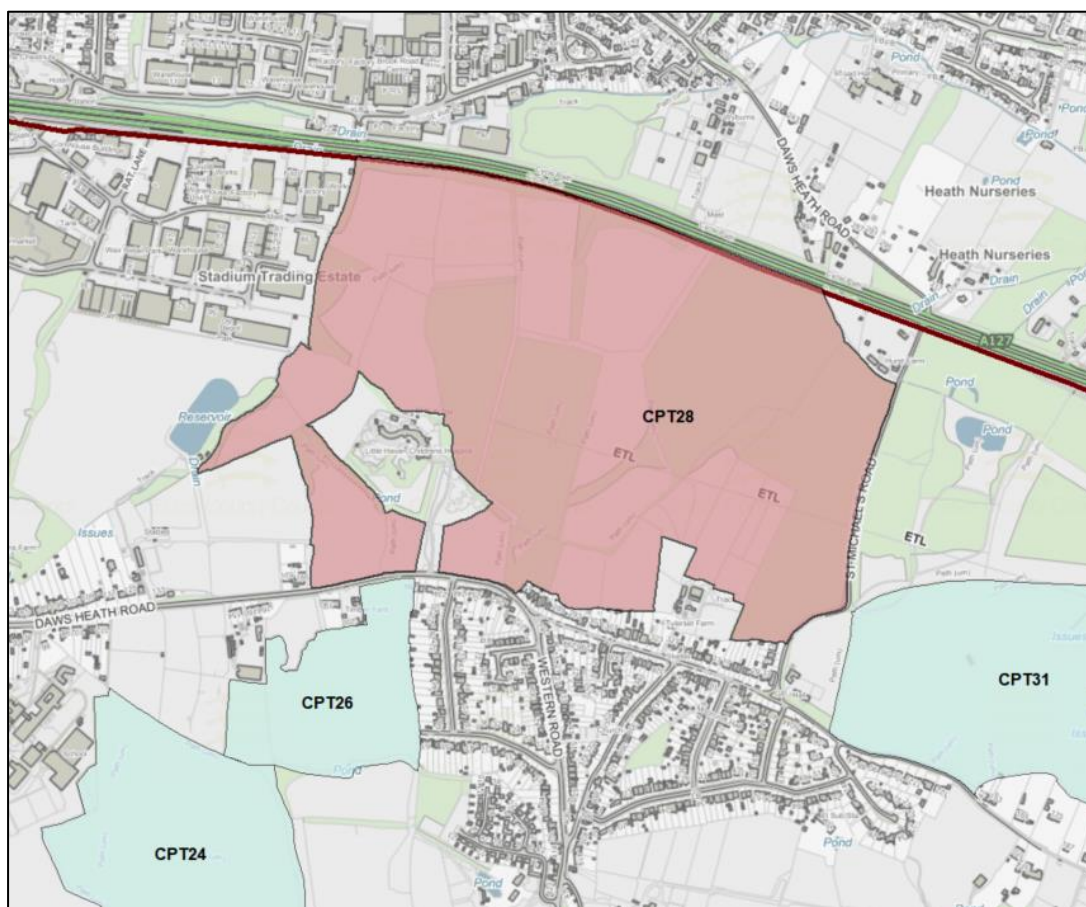
Grid ref. (approx. centre of site): TQ812892

Site area: 55.4ha

LoWS Selection Criteria:

- HC1 Ancient Woodland Sites
- HC2 Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites
- HC13 Heathland and Acid Grassland
- HC11 Other Neutral Grasslands
- SC18 Invertebrates listed as Species of Principal Importance in England

Boundary Map



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Site Description

This large site comprises a mosaic of Ancient woodlands, hedgerows, hay meadows and rough grassland. The majority comprises a nature reserve managed by Essex Wildlife Trust. The key sections are described below.

Starvelarks Wood is documented as an old plantation, although it is probably at least in part derived from an ancient woodland site. The canopy is dominated by Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), with lesser amounts of Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), and Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) as a small stand of Plateau Alderwood, a scarce woodland type. The ground flora of the wood includes a good number of ancient woodland species including Midland Hawthorn (*Crataegus laevigata*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Wood Melick (*Melica uniflora*), Great Wood-rush (*Luzula sylvatica*), Wild Service Tree (*Sorbus torminalis*), Common Cow-wheat (*Melampyrum pratense*), Wood Spurge (*Euphorbia amygdaloides*), Wood Forget-me-not (*Myosotis sylvatica*), Wood Meadow-grass (*Poa nemoralis*) and Yellow Archangel (*Galeobdolon luteum*). The eastern section is crossed by overhead cables, resulting in an area of permanently early stage coppice that supports a flora akin

to lowland heath, including Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), Heath Speedwell (*Veronica officinalis*) and the ERDL species Heath Milkwort (*Polygala serpyllifolia*).

Although not clearly documented as an ancient wood, Tile Wood West has nonetheless been wooded for some time, being apparently a plantation on the site of the Ancient Tilehurst Wood. This wood contains the largest area of Plateau Alderwood (a scarce woodland type) in south Essex, whilst the remainder of the canopy comprises Ash over Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), with scattered Sweet Chestnut, Sessile Oak (*Quercus petraea*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*). The flora is rich in ancient woodland species, including Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*), Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*), Midland Hawthorn (*Crataegus laevigata*), Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), Bluebell, Wood Melick, Three-nerved Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervis*) and Wood Meadow-grass. Other characteristic species include Creeping Soft-grass (*Holcus mollis*) and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.).

Tile Wood East is one of the earliest recorded woods in southeast Essex, being mentioned in Anglo-Saxon times, although the ground flora in parts is very poor. The tree species are predominately Sessile Oak, Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and Sweet Chestnut, with some Wild Service. The ground flora in the northern half of the wood includes a number of ancient woodland plants, including Wood Anemone, Wood Melick, Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*), Common Cow-wheat, Bluebell and Hairy Wood-rush (*Luzula pilosa*). The wood is crossed by overhead cables, resulting in an area of permanently early stage coppice.

The site supports a thriving population of the England BAP Priority butterfly Heath Fritillary (*Mellicta athalia*), which extends east along the pylon rides to Pound Wood (CPT32). Southern Wood Ant (*Formic rufa*), an Essex Red List species, is also present in the woodlands.

Between and around the woods are a series of meadows that are derived from agriculturally improved swards, although the flora is gradually diversifying under less intensive management and some re-seeding. These small meadows are divided up by good hedgerows and woodland strips, preserving a landscape that has changed little since the 19th Century, but typically support a low diversity of herbaceous species. Their sward typically consists of Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*) and less frequently Timothy (*Phleum pratense*), Crested Dog's-tail and the Essex Red List species Velvet Bent (*Agrostis canina*) and Brown Bent (*Agrostis vinealis*).

The distribution and frequency of other species varies between the meadows, but they include Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Common Sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*), Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), Tufted Vetch (*Vicia cracca*), Meadow Buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*), Agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*), Corky-fruited Water-dropwort (*Oenanthe pimpinelloides*), Hoary Ragwort (*Jacobaea erucifolia*), Meadow Vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*) and Grass Vetchling (*Lathyrus nissolia*). Drier sections also include Autumn Hawkbit (*Scorzoneroides autumnalis*), Trailing St John's-wort (*Hypericum humifusum*) and Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*). Damper meadows at the western end of the site include Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Creeping Bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*), Wild Angelica (*Angelica sylvestris*), Greater Bird's-foot Trefoil (*Lotus uliginosus*), Marsh Thistle (*Cirsium palustris*) and Soft-rush (*Juncus effusus*).

The horse-grazed pastures to the north of Tylersset Farm (outside of the nature reserve) are similar in character.

Site Selection Rationale

HC1 – Tile Wood East is included in the Ancient Woodland Inventory, which is supported by the diversity of indicator species present.

HC2 – None of the other woodlands are included in the Ancient Woodland Inventory, although they are clearly very old and match the woodland Priority habitat description.

HC9 - Some of the meadows, including those at the western end and possibly those north of Tylersset Farm, appear to be older and correspond to the acidic extreme of the Lowland Meadows Priority habitat.

HC11 – The other grasslands are known not to be old, or to correspond to Priority habitat community type but provide a valuable conservation resource in the context of the overall site and so are included here.

SC18 – The population of Heath Fritillary present on the Site is important at a county and regional level

Priority Habitats

Lowland Meadows
Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Ownership and Access

The majority of the land is privately owned, but managed by Essex Wildlife Trust and is accessible via a public right of way and a network of permissive paths.

Condition Statement

Woodland – Good
Grassland – Poor to Moderate

Management Issues

The site is actively managed for nature conservation outcomes.

Review Schedule

Site selected: 1992 (in part; W11, W12)

Site Reviewed: 1994 (in part; G19, W11, W12, W22), 2002 (CP28), 2007 (CP28), 2012 (CPT28), 2019 (CPT28)

2023: No change

Site reference: CPT29

Site name: Two Tree Island West

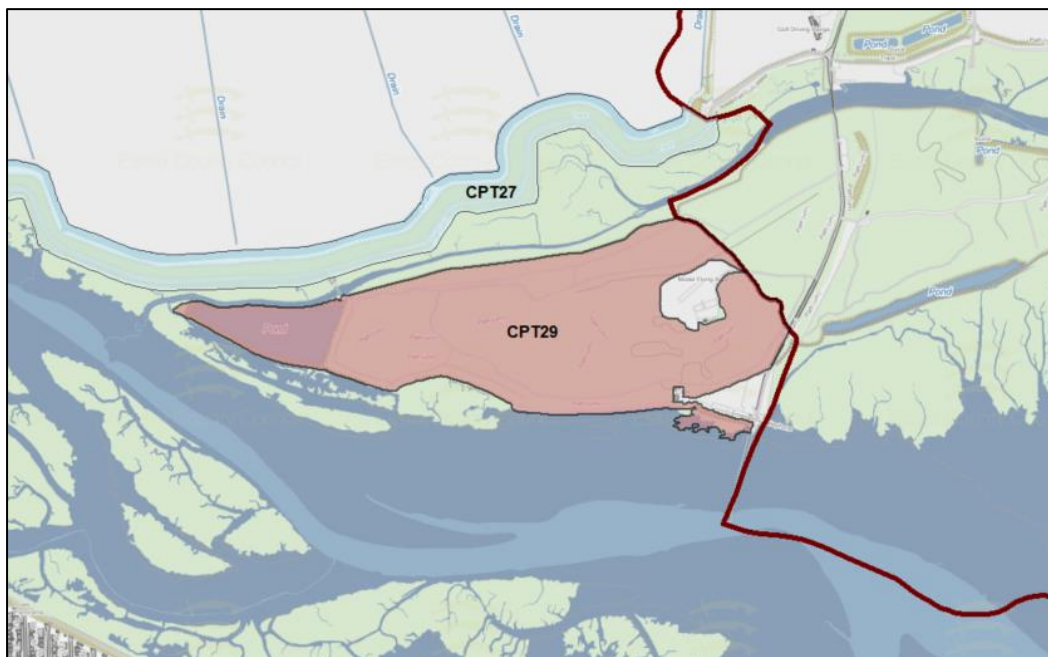
Grid ref. (approx. centre of site): TQ818849

Site area: 28.9ha

LoWS Selection Criteria:

- HC24 Saline Lagoons and Borrow Dyke Habitat
- HC27 Post-industrial Sites
- SC1 Vascular Plants
- SC5 Notable Bird Species
- SC16 Hotspots for Reptile Diversity
- SC18 Invertebrates listed as Species of Principal Importance in England
- SC19 Important Invertebrate Assemblages

Boundary Map



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Site Description

This Site includes all of the island that is within Castle Point Borough (excluding car parks, etc.), with the remainder of the western half identified as LoWS 'So1 Two Tree Island West' in Southend Borough and the eastern half lying within the Benfleet and Southend Marshes SSSI.

The majority of the Site comprises rough grassland, scrub and young trees on former land fill. The grassland is primarily dominated by coarse species; particularly False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), but with Tall Fescue (*Schedonorus arundinaceus*) and Sea Couch (*Elytrigia atherica*) dominant in some areas. Within this are more open swards in which grasses such as Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Soft-brome (*Bromus hordeaceus*), and Rough Meadow-grass (*Poa trivialis*) are more prominent, and this community supports a large population of the ERDL species Pyramidal Orchid (*Anacamptis pyramidalis*).

On path edges and sparser substrates, Fern-grass (*Catapodium rigidum*), Red Bartsia (*Odontites vernus*), Narrow-leaved Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus tenuis*) and Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*) are more abundant. Along the southern edge of the island is a more diverse community including Crested Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*), Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*), Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), the Nationally Scarce Yellow Vetchling (*Lathyrus aphaca*), and the Essex Red List species Yellow-rattle (*Rhinanthus minor*).

Good breeding populations of birds occur on the site including Red List species such as Skylark, Grasshopper Warbler, Linnet, and Cuckoo as well as Stonechat, which is a scarce breeding bird in Essex. The scattered

scrub provides appropriate habitat to support an extremely high density of Common Whitethroat. Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) is the most frequent component with apple (*Malus* sp.), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and scattered trees of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), willows (*Salix* spp.) and poplars (*Populus* sp.).

The lagoon at the western end of the island shows some of the characteristics associated with the definition of the England BAP Priority Habitat Saline Lagoons. It supports a modest diversity of invertebrates including the isopod *Idotea chelipes*, and the molluscs *Ventrosia ventrosa* and *Cerastoderma glaucum*, all of which are considered to be saline lagoon specialists, and five further species that are often associated with the habitat. The lagoon also supports breeding Common Terns, Black-headed Gulls, Redshank, Oystercatcher and Avocet, the last of which receives special protection under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). The lagoon is also used as a high tide roost by waders from the adjoining inter-tidal habitats, particularly during the autumn and winter.

The Site supports populations of Common Lizard, Adder and Slow Worm. Amongst the diverse invertebrate assemblage found on the Site are the Priority species *Dorycera gramineum*, and Brown-banded and Shril Carder Bees (*Bombus humilis* and *B. sylvarum*) together with a significant number of nationally rare and scarce species.

Site Selection Rationale

HC24 – Species records show that the lagoon supports several species considered to be saline lagoon specialists.

HC27 – The island's history as a landfill site justifies the use of the Post-industrial Sites criterion, which is supported by the habitats and species present.

SC5 – The breeding population of Avocet is significant in a county context and the use of this criterion is supported by the presence of other notable breeding species such as Skylark, Linnet and Grasshopper Warbler

SC16 – The presence of populations of three reptile species triggers the application of this criterion.

SC18 – Three invertebrate Priority species are known to be present.

SC19 – The overall assemblage of nationally rare and scarce invertebrates suggests a site of at least regional importance.

Priority Habitats

Saline Lagoons

Open Mosaic Habitats on Previously Developed Land

Ownership and Access

The site is owned by Castle Point Borough Council and managed by Essex Wildlife Trust as a nature reserve, with open access via a network of paths.

Condition Statement

Open mosaic habitat – Moderate

Saline Lagoon – Moderate

Management Issues

The site is popular with the local community, which has an impact on habitats and species. The frequency of scrub and coarser tall herbs such as Hemlock (*Conium maculatum*), and the non-native Greek Dock (*Rumex cristatus*) and Goat's-rue (*Galega officinalis*) appears to be increasing, which has an impact on structural diversity, reducing the extent of open mosaic habitats.

Review Schedule

Site selected: 1992 (C4)

Site Reviewed: 1994 (C4), 2002 (CP29), 2007 (CP29), 2012 (CPT29)

2023: model aircraft field removed

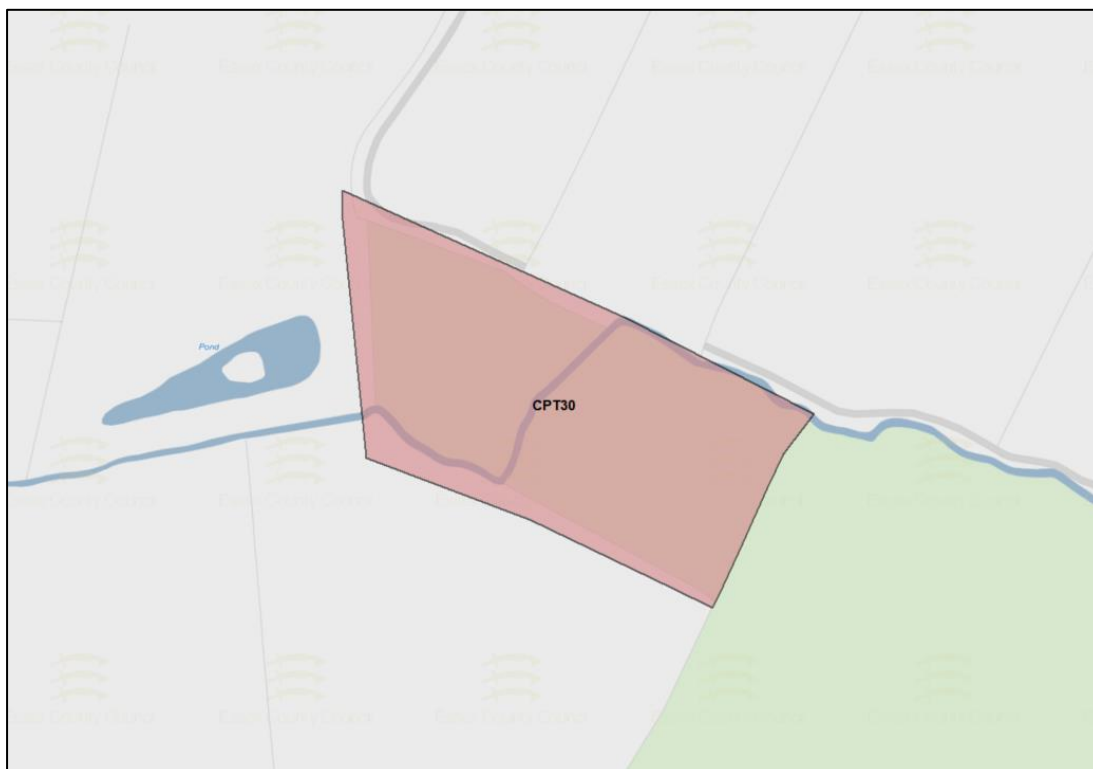
Site reference: CPT30
Site name: Coxall Wood

Grid ref. (approx. centre of site): TQ816881
Site area: 1.0ha

LoWS Selection Criteria:

- HC1 Ancient Woodland Sites

Boundary Map



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Site Description

This is the last remaining fragment of the Ancient Coxall Wood, most of which had been lost by the start of the 19th Century. It lies adjacent to the Great Wood and Dodd's Grove Hadleigh SSSI and forms a small ecological extension to that habitat. It is crossed by Prittle Brook.

The canopy consists of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) with an understorey of Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*). The ground flora is relatively poor with Wood Melick (*Melica uniflora*), Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and Common Ivy (*Hedera helix*) abundant with Creeping Soft-grass (*Holcus mollis*) in places. A number of ancient woodland indicators remain including Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*), Wood Meadow-grass (*Poa nemoralis*), Wood Sedge (*Carex sylvatica*), Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*) and Giant Fescue (*Festuca gigantea*).

Site Selection Rationale

HC1 - The site is included in the Ancient Woodland Inventory.

Priority Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Ownership and Access

The site is in private ownership with no public access but can be viewed from the adjacent public footpath.

Condition Statement

Moderate

Management Issues

There is currently no management, which may negatively affect the condition of the wood in the long-term.

Review Schedule

Site selected: 1994 (W23)

Site Reviewed: 2002 (CP30), 2007 (CP30), 2012 (CPT30), 2019 (CPT30)

2023: no change

Site reference: CPT31

Site name: Pound Wood

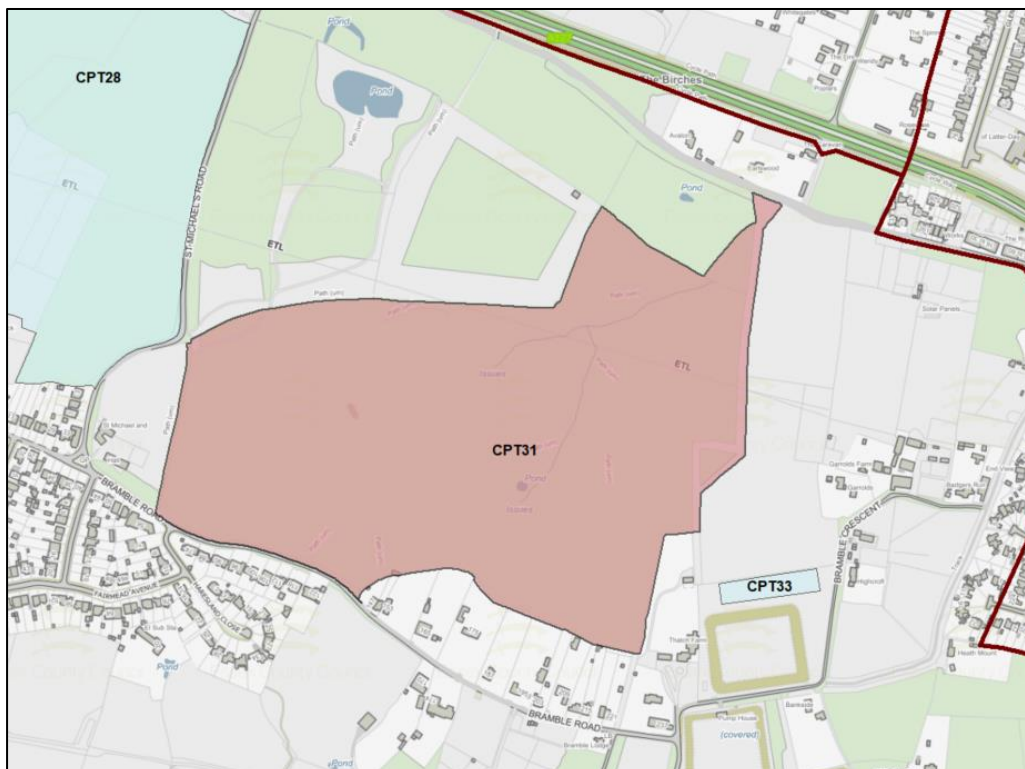
Grid ref. (approx. centre of site): TQ820887

Site area: 23.4ha

LoWS Selection Criteria:

- HC1 Ancient Woodland Sites
- HC2 Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites
- SC7 Dormouse
- SC18 Invertebrates listed as Species of Principal Importance in England

Boundary Map



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Site Description

This site largely corresponds to an Essex Wildlife Trust nature reserve, consisting of ancient woodland with a small area of old secondary woodland in the southwest corner. The eastern edge of the Site is marked by an abandoned lane, which provides a good woodland edge habitat, with the Garrold's Meadow SSSI beyond.

The canopy of the wood is predominantly made up of Sessile and Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus petraea* and *Q. robur*) with Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) and Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice and some Wild Service-tree (*Sorbus torminalis*). The understorey consists of Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Midland Hawthorn (*Crataegus laevigata*), Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*) and Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*).

The ground flora includes a number of ancient woodland indicators, including Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Common Cow-wheat (*Melampyrum pratense*), Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*), Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*), Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*), Wood Sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*), Hairy Wood-rush (*Luzula pilosa*), Wood Spurge (*Euphorbia amygdaloides*), Yellow Pimpernel (*Lysimachia nemorum*), Wood Meadow-grass (*Poa nemoralis*) and an abundance of Wood Melick (*Melica uniflora*). Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*), Tufted Hair-grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*) and Greater Stitchwort (*Stellaria holostea*) are also prominent.

The site is notable for a strong population of the Priority butterfly species Heath Fritillary (*Mellicta athalia*), and for its small population of Dormouse. Southern Wood Ant (*Formica rufa*), an Essex Red List species, is also present.

Site Selection Rationale

HC1 – The majority of the site is included within the Ancient Woodland Inventory.
HC2 – The more recent, mature woodland meets the definition of Priority habitat.
SC7 – The presence of a recorded Dormouse population allows the use of this criterion.
SC18 – The population of Heath Fritillary is sufficient to justify this criterion.

Priority Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Ownership and Access

The site is owned and managed by Essex Wildlife Trust, with public access via a public right of way and a network of permissive paths.

Condition Statement

Good

Management Issues

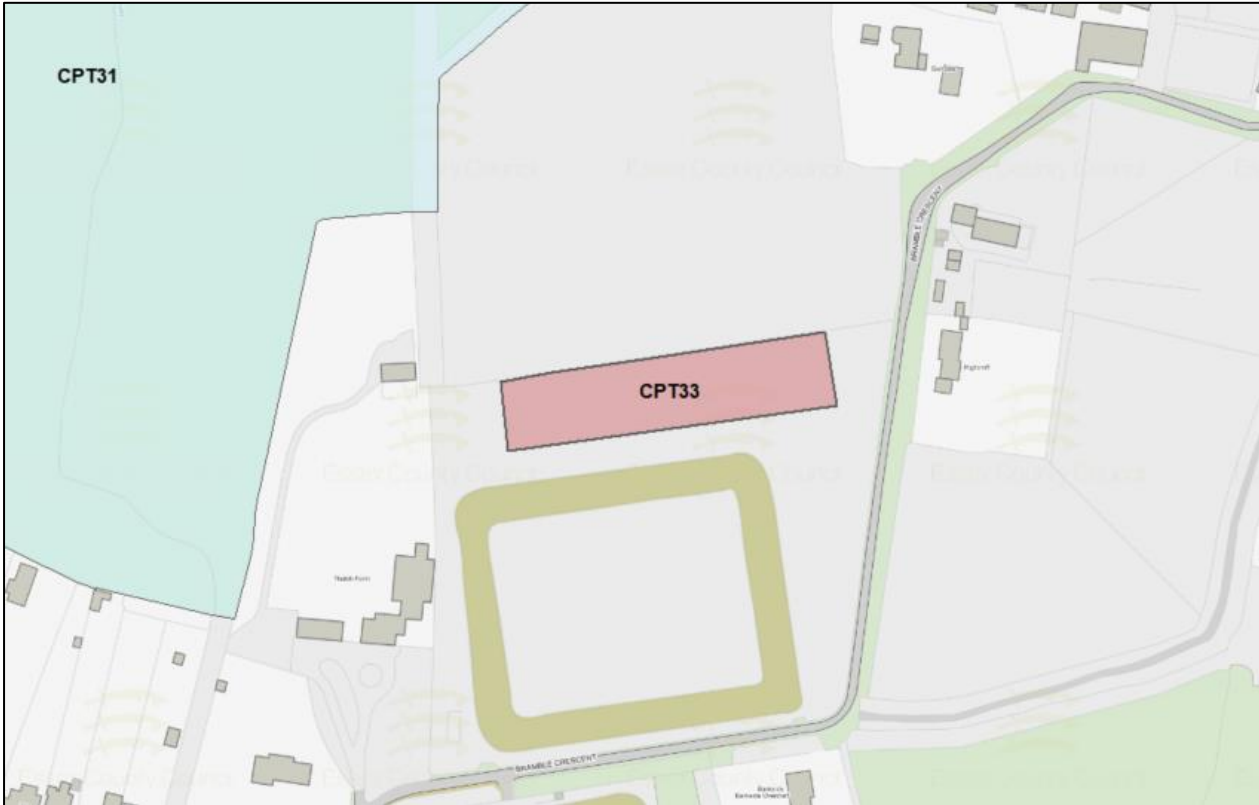
The invasive, non-native species Cherry Laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*) is widespread in the southern half of the wood.

Review Schedule

Site selected: 1992 (W14)

Site Reviewed: 1994 (W14 and W25), 2002 (CP31), 2007 (CP31), 2012 (CPT31)

2023: No change

Site reference: CPT33 Site name: Oakwood Reservoir	Grid ref. (approx. centre of site): TQ823885 Site area: 0.3ha
LoWS Selection Criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HC13 Heathland and Acid Grassland 	
Boundary Map  <p>Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. ©Crown Copyright. Licence number LA100019602</p>	
Site Description <p>This site consists of a strip of unimproved acid grassland associated with an otherwise closely managed, covered reservoir and is immediately to the south of the Garrold's Meadow SSSI.</p> <p>The sward comprises abundant Common Bent (<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>), Sweet Vernal-grass (<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>) and some Red Fescue (<i>Festuca rubra</i>), with other species including much Common Knapweed (<i>Centaurea nigra</i>), Common Cat's-ear (<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>), Mouse-ear-hawkweed (<i>Pilosella officinalis</i>), Heath Grass (<i>Danthonia decumbens</i>) and, most notably, Common Milkwort (<i>Polygala vulgaris</i>), an Essex Red List species. Common Cow-wheat (<i>Melampyrum pratense</i>) is present along the northern edge.</p> <p>Green-winged Orchids (<i>Anacamptis morio</i>) were translocated to the site in 2020 and still persist in small numbers.</p>	
Site Selection Rationale <p>HC13 – The community present is a good match for the acid grassland Priority habitat.</p>	
Priority Habitats (Habitats of Principal Importance in England) <p>Lowland Dry Acid Grassland</p>	
Ownership and Access <p>The site is owned and managed by Essex and Suffolk Water as part of their operational site, with no public access.</p>	

Condition Statement

Moderate

Management Issues

The site is managed with the conservation of its habitats and species in mind.

Review Schedule

Site selected: 1992 (G15)

Site Reviewed: 1994 (G15), 2002 (CP33), 2007 (CP33), 2012 (CPT33)

2023: no change

Site reference: CPT34

Site name: Belfairs Park Wood

Grid ref. (approx. centre of site): TQ825879

Site area: 15.3ha

LoWS Selection Criteria:

- HC1 Ancient Woodland Sites

Boundary Map



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Site Description

This site is made up of two Ancient Woods, Great Birches Wood and, in the southern corner connected to the Great Wood and Dodd's Grove SSSI, Goldingsley Grove. Just before the Second World War, three golf holes were cleared through the woodland when it became part of Belfairs Park.

The canopy is dominated by Pedunculate and Sessile Oak (*Quercus robur* and *Q. petraea*) and Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), with Wild Service-tree (*Sorbus torminalis*), birch (*Betula* sp.) and Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*). The understorey includes Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Midland Hawthorn (*Crataegus laevigata*) with many young, as-yet uncoppiced Hornbeams.

The ground flora is sparse in places partly due to the dense shade of Hornbeams, but partly because of heavy trampling pressure. It includes a range of Ancient Woodland indicator species: Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Wood Melick (*Melica uniflora*), Hairy Wood-rush (*Luzula pilosa*), Wood Spurge (*Euphorbia amygdaloides*), Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*), Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*), Three-nerved Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*), Bush Vetch (*Vicia sepium*), Wood Sedge (*Carex sylvatica*), Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), Wood Meadow-grass (*Poa nemoralis*) and the Essex Red List species Common Cow-wheat (*Melampyrum pratense*) and Southern Wood-rush (*Luzula forsteri*).

A few more open, grassier areas have a flora indicative of the light, acid sandy soils, typified by Wavy Hair-grass (*Deschampsia flexuosa*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*) and Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*).

Site Selection Rationale

HC1 – Apart from a few marginal areas, the whole site is included in the Ancient Woodland Inventory.

Priority Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Ownership and Access

The site is managed by Essex Wildlife Trust as a park, with open public access.

Condition Statement

Good

Management Issues

Trampling has a negative impact in places and the non-native Wilson's Honeysuckle (*Lonicera nitida*) is present.

Review Schedule

Site selected: 1992 (W15)

Site Reviewed: 1994 (W15), 2002 (CP34), 2007 (CP34), 2012 (CPT34)

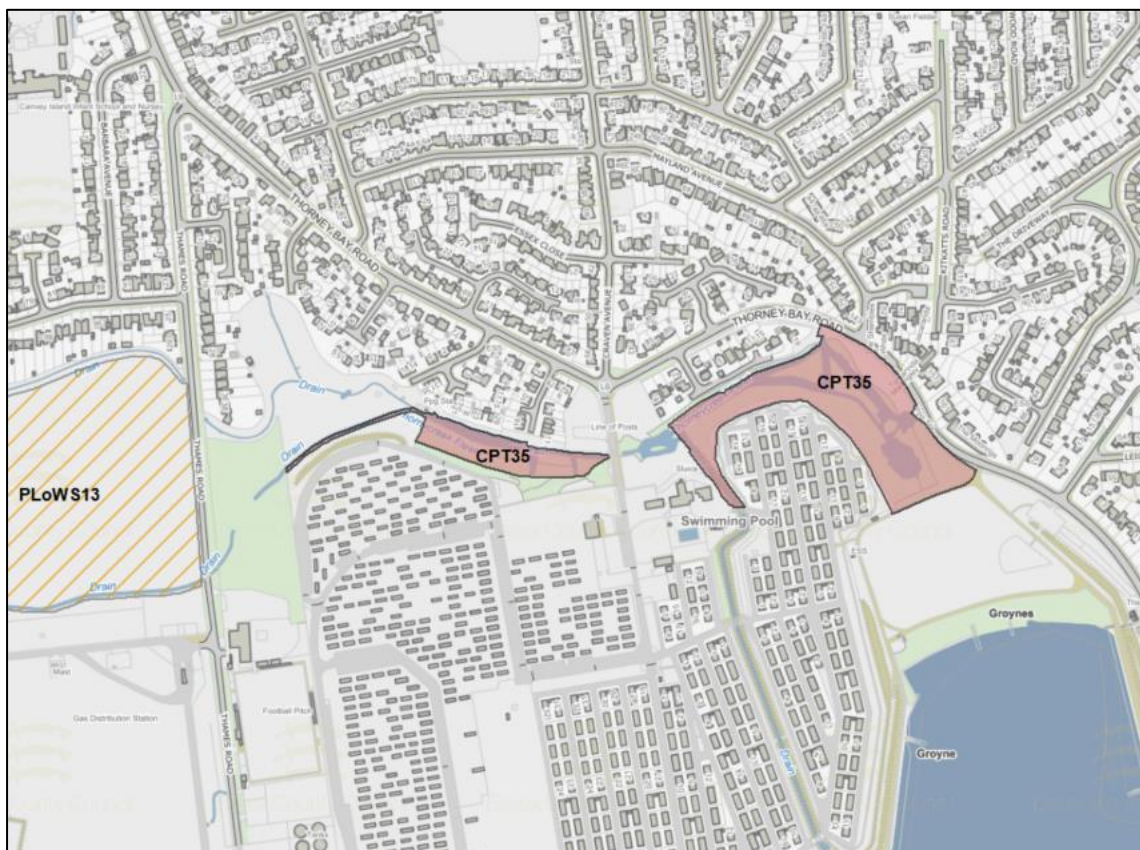
2023: boundary re-mapped

Site reference: CPT35	Grid ref. (approx. centre of site): TQ792827
Site name: Thorneycreek Fleet	Site area: 2.6ha

LoWS Selection Criteria:

- HC15 Reedbeds

Boundary Map



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Site Description

This Site largely consists of a wet reedbed, with associated marginal grassland and scrub. It is derived from one of the original main fleets draining Canvey Island prior to its reclamation.

As is typical of the habitat type, there are few other plant species within the reedbed, a small quantity of Great Willowherb (*Epilobium hirsutum*) occupying some of the drier margins. Between the eastern edge of the fleet and Thorney Bay Road is an area of essentially unimproved rough grassland that supports a reasonable diversity of herbaceous species, despite being largely dominated by False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) and couch grass (*Elytrigia* spp.). More interesting species include Meadow Vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*), Grass Vetchling (*Lathyrus nissolia*), Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra* agg.), Oxeye Daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*), Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), Agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*) and, on the cut verge, Strawberry Clover (*Trifolium fragiferum*).

Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and Bullace (*Prunus domestica*) form dense thickets and other locally dominant species include Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and Hedge Bedstraw (*Galium album*).

Site Selection Rationale

HC15 – The habitat present is a good match for the Priority habitat definition.

Priority Habitats

Reedbed

Ownership and Access
Ownership is unknown, but the character of the site means that safe access is not possible anyway. It can be viewed from Thorney Bay Road.
Condition Statement
Moderate
Management Issues
There is currently no conservation management of the site and the non-native species Greek Dock (<i>Rumex cristatus</i>) and Goat's-rue (<i>Galega officinalis</i>) are locally abundant. The open marginal habitats are likely to be lost without some control of scrub and coarse grasses.
Review Schedule
Site selected: 2007 (CP35) Site Reviewed: 2012 (CPT35), 2019 (CPT35) 2023: boundaries re-mapped

Site reference: CPT36

Site name: Northwick Farm and Sea Wall

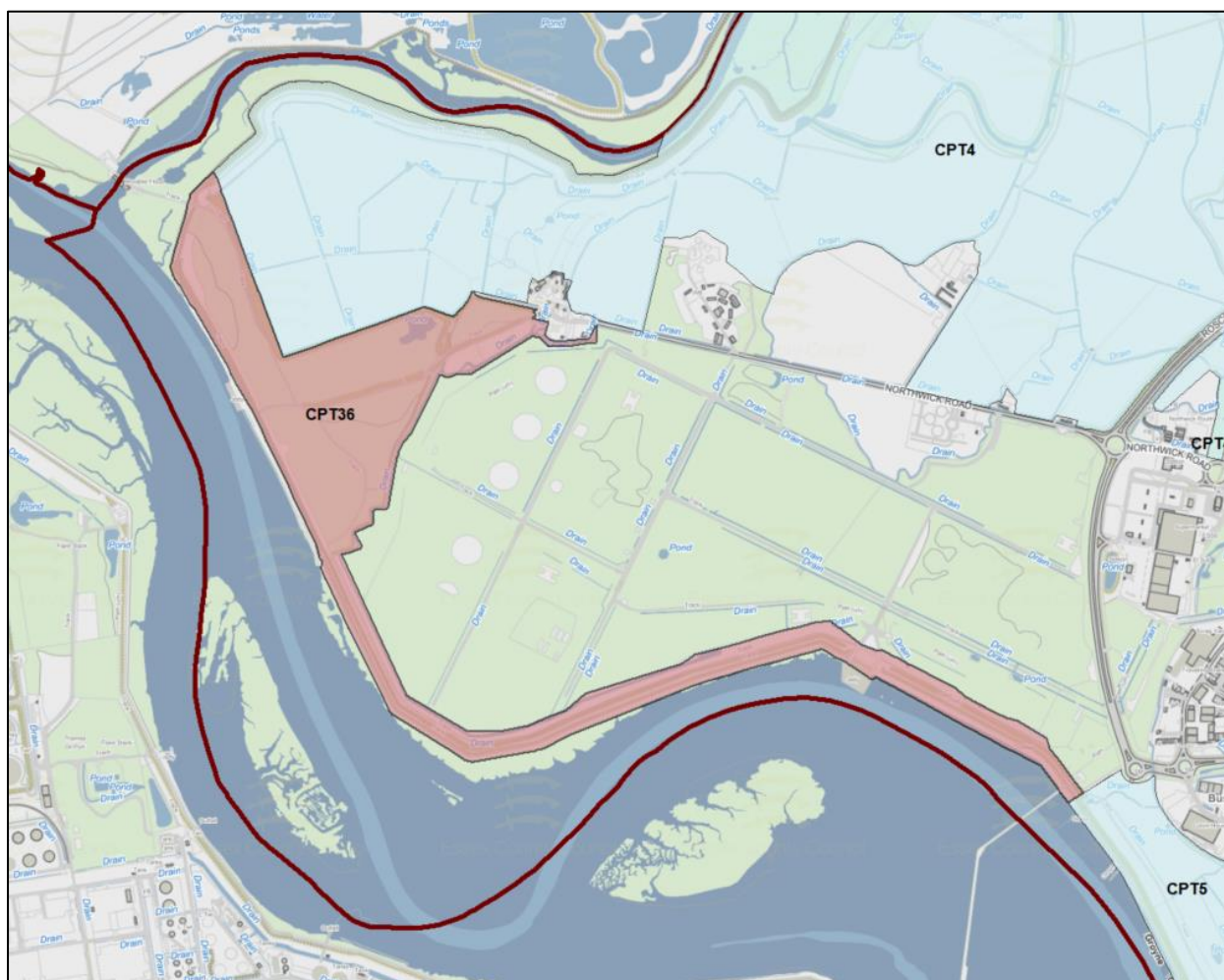
Grid ref. (approx. centre of site): TQ754836

Site area: 33.4ha

LoWS Selection Criteria:

- HC11 Other neutral grassland
- HC15 Reedbeds
- HC27 Post-industrial Sites
- SC18 Invertebrates listed as Species of Principal Importance in England
- SC19 Important Invertebrate Assemblages

Boundary Map



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Site Description

This Site is made up of a former landfill site at Northwick Farm and the adjacent sea wall, which runs alongside the Canvey Wick SSSI and it provides a valuable extension to the habitats there. It forms part of a complex of important conservation sites covering most of West Canvey, with links to others in Basildon District and Thurrock.

The topography of the former landfill site is complex, with raised banks and plateaus interspersed with hollows and wet or damp depressions. The vegetation is predominantly made up of scrub and tall ruderal communities, with a small extent of more open sward adjacent to paths and tracks, or where the substrate is poor. The scrub includes Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.). Prominent tall ruderal species include Hemlock (*Conium maculatum*), Black Mustard (*Brassica nigra*), Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and Teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*) with Common Mallow

(*Malva sylvestris*). The Essex Red List species Vervain (*Verbena officinalis*) is present in some quantity. The Priority Species Brown-banded and Shril Carder Bees (*Bombus humilis* and *B. sylvarum*) are present on the site along with the Red Data Book ground beetle *Scybalicus oblongiusculus*.

In the northeast corner of the Site, a large depression contains a permanently wet, saline habitat that supports a stand of Sea Club-rush (*Bolboschoenus maritimus*). This has been found to support a range of rare and scarce invertebrates including the Red Data Book horseflies *Hybomitra expollicata*, *Haematopota bigotii* and *H. grandis*, and the Priority Species *Anisodactylus poeciloides*.

The eastern boundary of the site is formed from a ditch system with fringes of Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*).

The sea wall extending south and east from the landfill site is largely dominated by Sea Couch (*Elytrigia atherica*), but the sward character varies throughout, and a good diversity of herbaceous species is present including Grass Vetchling (*Lathyrus nissolia*) and Tufted Vetch (*Vicia cracca*) and the Nationally Scarce Slender Hare's-ear (*Bupleurum tenuissimum*). The Nationally Scarce Divided Sedge (*Carex divisa*) occurs in scattered patches and the borrow dyke along the western half of the sea wall is dominated by Common Reed.

Site Selection Rationale

HC11 – The seawall community is typical of the Essex coast, but does not match any grassland Priority habitat type.

HC15 - The borrow dyke and ditches support enough Common Reed to justify the reedbed criterion

HC27 - The history of the site and the habitats it supports, together with the significance of the invertebrates so far recorded, qualify this Site under the Post-industrial Sites criterion.

SC18 - The presence of Brown-banded and Shril Carder Bees, and *Anisodactylus poeciloides* justifies the application of this criterion.

SC19 - Survey records demonstrate the presence of a significant invertebrate assemblage.

Priority Habitats

Reedbed

Open Mosaic Habitats on Previously Developed Land

Ownership and Access

The former landfill site is understood to be in private ownership with no public access, but it can be viewed from the footpath that runs along the top of the seawall for the whole length of the site.

Condition Statement

Grassland – Moderate

Open mosaic habitat – Moderate

Scrub – Moderate

Management Issues

The former landfill site area does not receive any conservation management, and so the more open areas are likely to be lost to the spread of scrub over time. There is an active track through the site to the adjacent flood barrier. The cutting regime of the seawall could be better, with coarser species generally dominating under the current system to the detriment of overall diversity.

Review Schedule

Site selected: 2007 (PLoWS2 part only)

Site Reviewed: 2012 (CPT36), 2019 (CPT36)

2023: boundary remapped

Site reference: CPT37

Site name: Benfleet Marsh

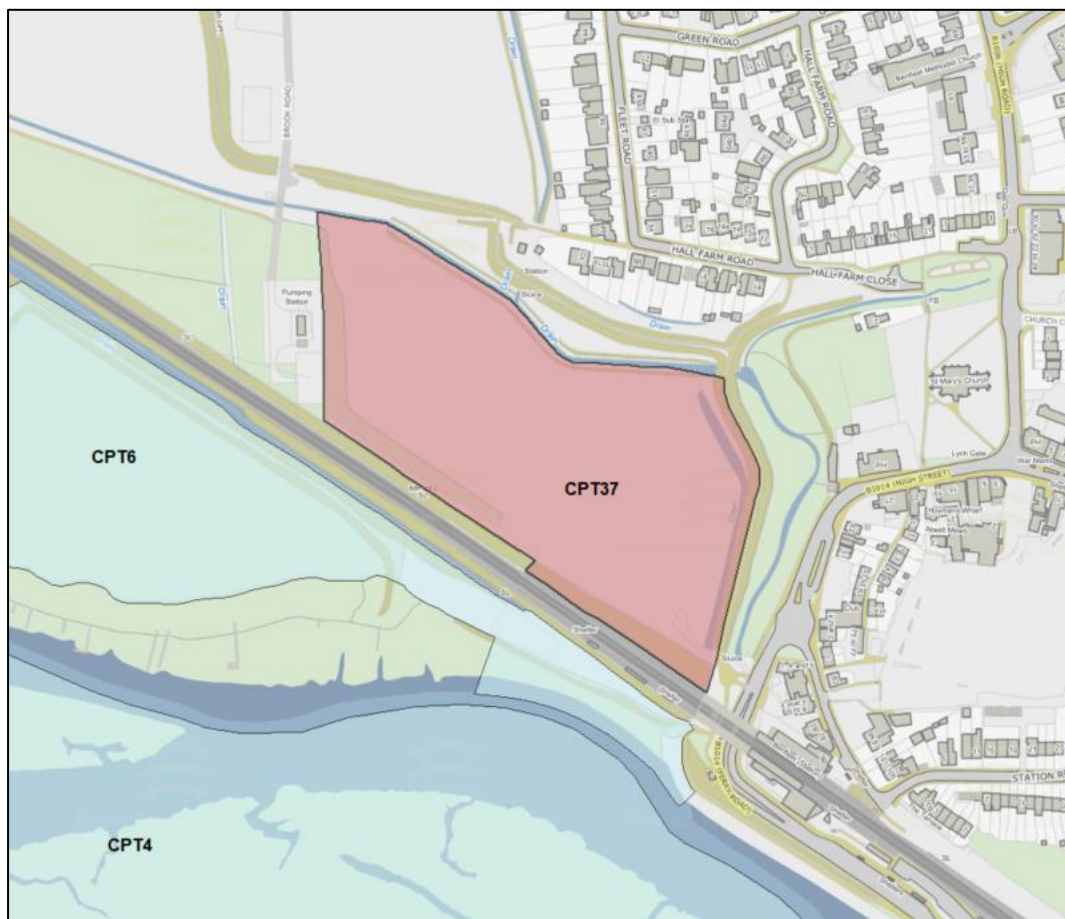
Grid ref. (approx. centre of site): TQ775861

Site area: 3.8ha

LoWS Selection Criteria:

- HC20 Coastal Grazing Marsh

Boundary Map



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Site Description

This field is a surviving part of Benfleet Marsh, crossed by the Southend mainline railway in the mid-19th Century and largely lost to housing by the 1960s. The rest of the Benfleet Marsh, including what is now Hope's Green, is open space managed as playing fields, and has lost its original character, but this Site has escaped, probably because of its tendency to be wet.

The grass sward includes Creeping Bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*), cat's-tail (*Phleum* sp.) and Meadow Barley (*Hordeum secalinum*). In the lower, wetter areas that remain from the original saltmarsh topography before its reclamation are Marsh Foxtail (*Alopecurus geniculatus*), Strawberry Clover (*Trifolium fragiferum*), Hairy Buttercup (*Ranunculus sardous*), Blinks (*Montia fontana*) and the Nationally Scarce Divided Sedge (*Carex divisa*).

Marginal, drier areas support Agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*), Meadow Vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*), Grass Vetchling (*Lathyrus nissolia*), Autumn Hawkbit (*Scorzoneroides autumnalis*), Meadow Buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*), Fleabane (*Pulicaria dysenterica*), Hoary Ragwort (*Jacobaea erucifolia*) and Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*).

The eastern edge of the site is marked by a Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) and Sea Club-rush (*Bolboschoenus maritimus*) dominated ditch within which is a small population of Water Voles. Common Lizards are present.

Site Selection Rationale

HC20 – The plant species present represent a typical grazing marsh community, which reflects the origins of the site and shows a lack of significant agricultural improvement.

Priority Habitats

Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh

Ownership and Access

The Site is owned by Castle Point Borough Council and is maintained as public open space.

Condition Statement

Poor

Management Issues

The grassland is not managed for nature conservation outcomes with cuts too frequent, poorly timed and the cuttings left behind.

Review Schedule

Site selected: 2007 (PLoWS3)

Site Reviewed: 2012 (CPT37)

2023: no change

Site reference: CPT38

Site name: Brick House Farm Marsh

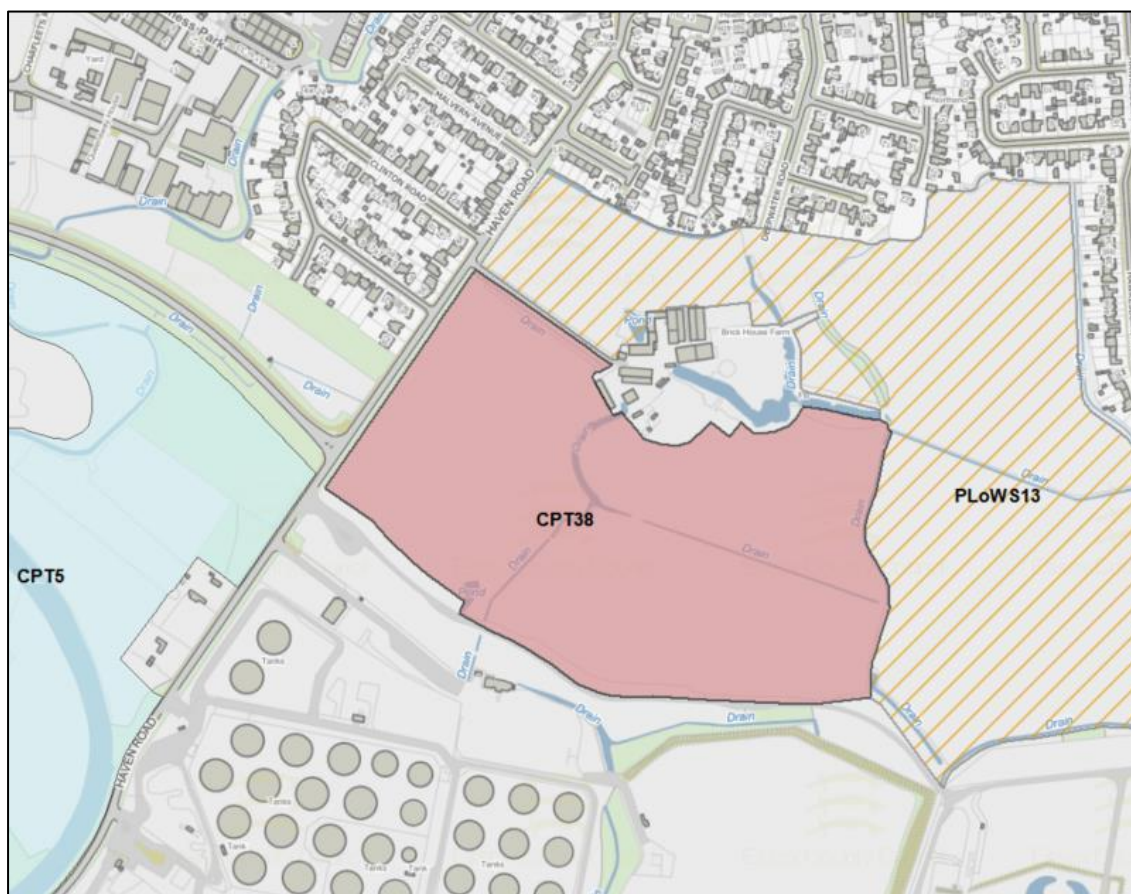
Grid ref. (approx. centre of site): TQ780827

Site area: 12.7ha

LoWS Selection Criteria:

- HC20 Coastal Grazing Marsh
- SC1 Vascular Plants

Boundary Map



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Site Description

This site represents a surviving area of the coastal grazing marsh habitat that would have once covered Canvey Island. Although managed by hay cutting and horse grazing, the fields retain elements of their original topography, with seasonally wet low ways, which become fleets in wet years.

The grasses in the fields include Crested Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*), Meadow Barley (*Hordeum secalinum*), Meadow Foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*) and car's-tail (*Phleum* sp.), which are typical of the characteristic grazing marsh grass community. Herbaceous species are not frequent, but include Common Vetch (*Vicia sativa*), Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), Red Clover (*Trifolium pratense*) and the Nationally Scarce Sea Clover (*Trifolium squamosum*), which is locally abundant.

The low ways and the margins of the fleets support Saltmarsh Rush (*Juncus gerardii*), Sea Club-rush (*Bolboschoenus maritimus*) and Marsh Foxtail (*Alopecurus geniculatus*), while the fleet contains an abundance of a water crowfoot (*Ranunculus* sp.).

Site Selection Rationale

HC20 - The location, topography and plant communities present combine to illustrate the value of the site as a relatively unimproved area of coastal grazing marsh.

SC1 – The presence of a significant population of Sea Clover, which is Nationally Scarce, justifies the plant criterion.

Priority Habitats

Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh

Ownership and Access

The site is in private ownership with no public access but can be viewed from Haven Road.

Condition Statement

Moderate

Management Issues

The Site is not managed for nature conservation outcomes and some areas have a higher frequency of coarser grasses such as Common Couch (*Elytrigia repens*) and Tall Fescue (*Schedonorus arundinaceus*) than is desirable.

Review Schedule

Site selected: 2012 (CPT38)

Site Reviewed: 2019 (CPT38) expanded to include whole habitat unit

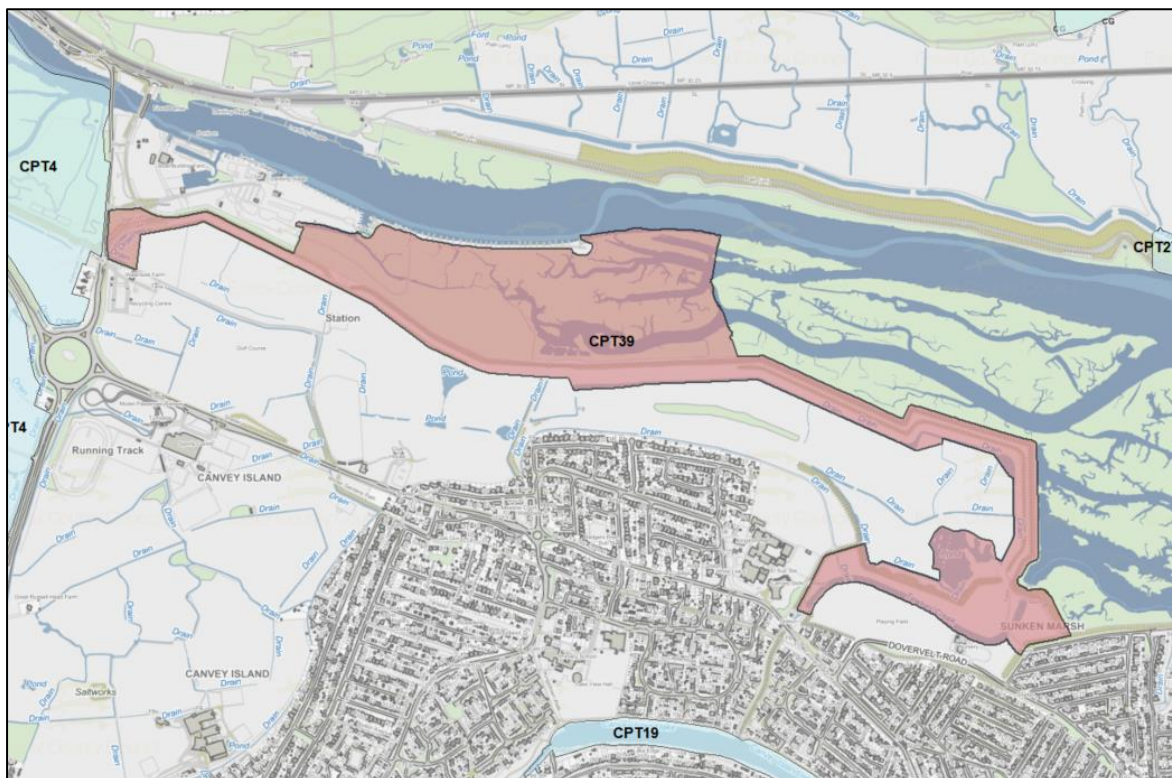
2023: reduced to original extent

Site reference: CPT39	Grid ref. (approx. centre of site): TQ792849
Site name: Benfleet Creek and Sea Wall	Site area: 44.3ha

LoWS Selection Criteria:

- HC11 Other Neutral Grassland
- HC23 Saltmarsh and Mudflats
- HC27 Post-industrial Sites

Boundary Map



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Site Description

This site is made up of approximately 2.7km of sea wall grassland, with adjacent scrub, saltmarsh, brackish fleets and a tidal lagoon, which serve as an extension to the Benfleet and Southend Marshes SSSI to the east. The site includes an area of public open space aimed at encouraging outdoor recreational activity in young people.

The sea wall supports grasses such as Crested Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*), Timothy (*Phleum pratense*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Yellow Oat-grass (*Trisetum flavescens*), Meadow Barley (*Hordeum secalinum*), Rough Meadow-grass (*Poa trivialis*), Cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*) and Tall Fescue (*Schedonorus arundinaceus*). More significant herbaceous species include Grass Vetchling (*Lathyrus nissolia*), Salsify (*Tragopogon porrifolius*), Common Vetch (*Vicia sativa*), Narrow-leaved Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus glaber*) and the Nationally Scarce Sea Clover (*Trifolium squamosum*), which is locally abundant. Pyramidal Orchid (*Anacamptis pyramidalis*) is also present.

The borrow dyke and swale (artificially lined in places) that forms the inland boundary of the site for much of its length supports a saltmarsh plant community that includes Common Saltmarsh-grass (*Puccinellia maritima*), Sea Purslane (*Atriplex portulacoides*), Sea Arrowgrass (*Triglochin maritima*), Sea Plantain (*Plantago maritima*), Common Sea-lavender (*Limonium vulgare*), Greater Sea-spurrey (*Spergularia marina*) and Saltmarsh Rush (*Juncus gerardii*) with small stands of Sea Club-rush (*Bolboschoenus maritimus*) and Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*).

The saltmarsh on Benfleet Creek is typical of mid to upper marsh, being dominated by Sea Purslane and Common Saltmarsh-grass with English Scurvygrass (*Cochlearia anglica*), Sea Aster (*Aster tripolium*) and, on higher ground, Sea Couch (*Elytrigia atherica*).

To the west of the saltmarsh, outside of the sea wall, is an area of rough grassland and scrub on land reclaimed from saltmarsh in the 1970s or '80s. It is dominated by False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), Sea Couch and Common Couch (*Elytrigia repens*) with Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Apple (*Malus* sp.), rose (*Rosa* sp.) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) scrub forming dense thickets in places. More open areas support a more diverse plant community including Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra* agg.), Narrow-leaved Bird's-foot-trefoil, Red Bartsia (*Odontites vernus*), Meadow Vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*), Creeping Cinquefoil (*Potentilla reptans*) and Red Valerian (*Centranthus rubra*).

At the southeastern end of the site, Tewkes Creek is a tidal lagoon, isolated from the sea when the sea walls were rebuilt after the 1953 flood, but more recently reconnected by a sluice. It is now managed to flood at high tide, but retains water at low tide, creating conditions that may support species characteristic of saline lagoons. Its margins support a low to mid saltmarsh plant community with species such as Sea Purslane, Sea Aster, Lesser Sea Spurrey (*Spergularia media*) and Common Saltmarsh-grass, with Red Fescue and Sea Couch beyond. To the north of the creek is an area of rough grass recently planted with trees and beyond that is a brackish lagoon created when the golf course was built in the 1980s, which supports stands of Common Reed and Sea Club-rush.

Site Selection Rationale

HC11 – The plant species present on the sea wall indicate a long history as grassland, and although the community doesn't fit any Priority habitat definition, it is typical of old sea walls around the Essex coast.

HC23 – All inter-tidal habitats are selected using this criterion.

HC27 – The rough ground outside the sea wall is effectively post-industrial through having been land-filled.

Priority Habitats

Coastal Saltmarsh

Intertidal Mudflats

Ownership and Access

Ownership of the site is unknown. Public access is possible along the public footpath on the top of the seawall and around Tewkes Creek.

Condition Statement

Grassland –

Saltmarsh – Good

Mudflats – Good

Management Issues

The cutting of the seawall takes place at unfavourable times in some years.

Review Schedule

Site selected: 1992 (C1 part only)

Site Reviewed: 1994 (C1 part only), 2002 (removed), 2012 (reselected as CPT39)

2023: boundary re-mapped

Site reference: CPT40

Site name: Thundersley Brickfields

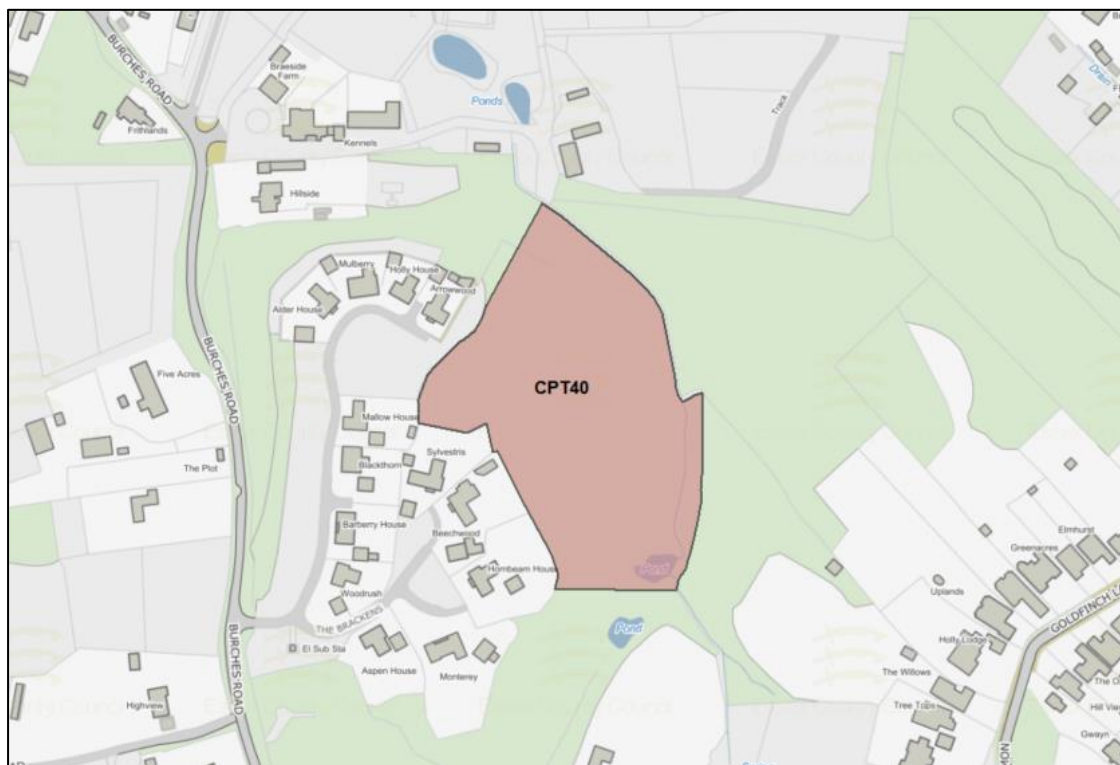
Grid ref. (approx. centre of site): TQ789895

Site area: 4.8ha

LoWS Selection Criteria:

- HC2 Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-Ancient Sites

Boundary Map



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Site Description

This site consists of a streamside woodland that is likely to be of Ancient origin, together with the adjacent more recent mature woodland that developed naturally around a former brick pit to the west.

The woodland largely consists of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) with an understorey of Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*). Along the eastern edge of the site is a thin strip of apparently ancient streamside woodland which includes some coppiced Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*). The stream banks support some ancient woodland indicator species, including Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*), Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*) and Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*).

Site Selection Rationale

HC2 – There is no conclusive evidence that the streamside woodland is Ancient, although 18th Century maps show a large block of woodland in the area. However, it meets the woodland Priority habitat description.

Priority Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Ownership and Access

The site is privately owned with no public access.

Condition Statement

Moderate

Management Issues

There is no active management of the woodland, which will lead to a decline in quality at some point.

Review Schedule

Site selected: 2012 (CPT40)

Site Reviewed: 2023: developed open mosaic habitat removed

Site reference: CPT41

Site name: Wall Wood

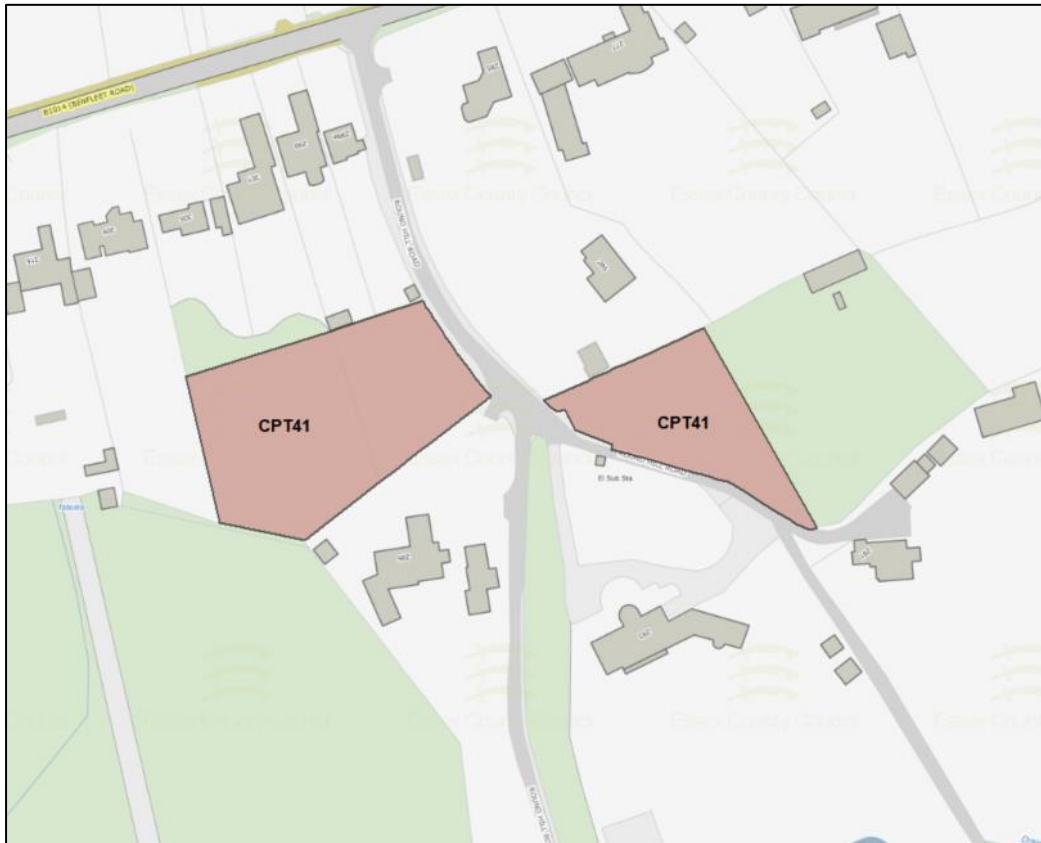
Grid ref. (approx. centre of site): TQ792866

Site area: 0.6ha

LoWS Selection Criteria:

- HC1 Ancient Woodland Sites

Boundary Map



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Site Description

This site consists of two remaining fragments of a much larger ancient woodland block of the same name, although their ecological value is now limited.

The canopy comprises mainly Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) with some Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*). Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*), Aspen (*Populus tremula*) and Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) make up the understorey.

The ground flora is generally sparse but does contain the ancient woodland indicators Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*).

Site Selection Rationale

HC1 – These small patches of woodland are not included in the Ancient Woodland Inventory due to their small size, but they are consistently shown on old maps.

Priority Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Ownership and Access

Both sections of the Site are in private ownership with no public access.

Condition Statement

Moderate

Management Issues

Without positive woodland management the ground flora will decline, but garden creep and development pressure are probably more relevant.

Review Schedule

Site selected: 2002 (As part of CP22)

Site Reviewed: 2007 (part of CP22), 2012 (CPT41)

2023: boundary re-mapped

Site reference: CPT42

Site name: Hadleigh Castle Grasslands

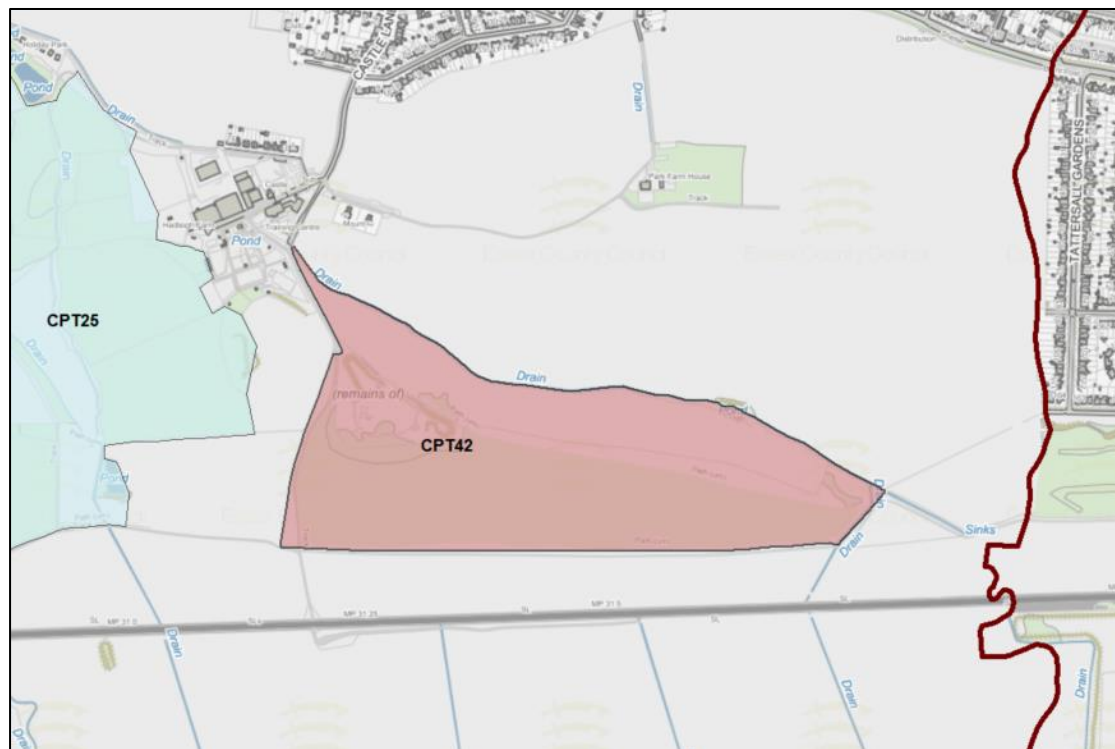
Grid ref. (approx. centre of site): TQ813860

Site area: 25.6ha

LoWS Selection Criteria:

- HC9 Lowland Meadows
- SC1 Vascular Plants
- SC18 Invertebrates listed as Species of Principal Importance in England
- SC19 Important Invertebrate Assemblages

Boundary Map



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Site Description

This site includes the enclosed grassland in the grounds of the castle itself and the pastures on either slope of the ridge extending eastward from it. It formed an integral part of the Hadleigh Marsh and Downs landscape until it became somewhat isolated, first by the railway and then by the drainage and ploughing of the grazing marsh to the south, which came around 1980.

Where management is suitable, the grassland around the ruined castle is largely unimproved, although some areas are frequently mown for amenity purposes and other areas have become overgrown with scrub or coarse grasses. Grass species include Meadow Barley (*Hordeum secalinum*), Timothy (*Phleum pratense*), Yellow Oat-grass (*Trisetum flavescens*), and Crested Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*) with Prickly Sedge (*Carex muricata* ssp *pairae*). As the grassland has an acidic influence, the diversity of herbaceous species is not high, but they include Mouse-eared Hawkweed (*Pilosella officinalis*), Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra* agg.), Red Clover (*Trifolium pratense*) and the Nationally Endangered and Priority species Deptford Pink (*Dianthus armeria*).

The castle walls support a distinctive range of plant species including Thyme-leaved Sandwort (*Arenaria serpyllifolia*), Hart's-tongue (*Asplenium scolopendrium*), Pellitory-of-the-wall (*Parietaria judaica*), Annual Wall-rocket (*Diplotaxis muralis*), the Essex Red List Flattened Meadow-grass (*Poa compressa*) and the Nationally Scarce Lesser Calamint (*Clinopodium calamintha*).

The pastures beyond the castle enclosure are variable, the southern slope supporting the best unimproved grassland community. Punctuating the grass is scattered Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), rose (*Rosa* agg.) and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) scrub and occasional Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) trees. The scrub is particularly dense lower on the southern slope. Significant plant species include Meadow Vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*), Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), Grass Vetchling (*Lathyrus nissolia*), Agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*), Spiny Restharrow (*Ononis spinosa*) and the Essex Red List species Pale Flax (*Linum bienne*), Fiddle Dock (*Rumex pulcher*) and Hairy Vetchling (*Lathyrus hirsutus*).

The Site supports a range of nationally significant invertebrates, although systematic surveys have not been completed. These include the RDB2 longhorn beetle *Gracilia minuta*, the RDB3 mining bee *Lasioglossum pauperatum*, the Nationally Scarce weevil *Rhinocyllus conicus*, and the Priority bumblebee species Shrill Carder and Brown-banded Carder (*Bombus sylvarum* and *B. humilis*). Adder is also present.

Site Selection Rationale

HC9 - The site is unimproved, with several key species indicative of a long grassland history present and is a match for the Lowland Meadows Priority habitat.

SC1 - The plant criterion is used because of the assemblage of Essex Red List species, but particularly for Deptford Pink and Lesser Calamint

SC18 – The site supports two Priority bumblebee species, at least.

SC19 – Survey data shows that the site supports an assemblage that is at least county level significance.

Priority Habitats

Lowland Meadows

Ownership and Access

The site is owned and managed by Essex County Council with open public access.

Condition Statement

Poor to Moderate

Management Issues

The site is subject to heavy public use, leading to trampling of grassland habitat around the castle and damage to the plant communities on the castle walls. The wider site is not being managed for nature conservation outcomes resulting in an increase in scrub through formerly species rich grassland.

Review Schedule

Site selected: 1992 (G12c)

Site Reviewed: 1994 (part of G20), 2002 (part of CP25), 2007 (part of CP25), 2012

2023: no change

Site reference: CPT43

Site name: Badger Hall Woods

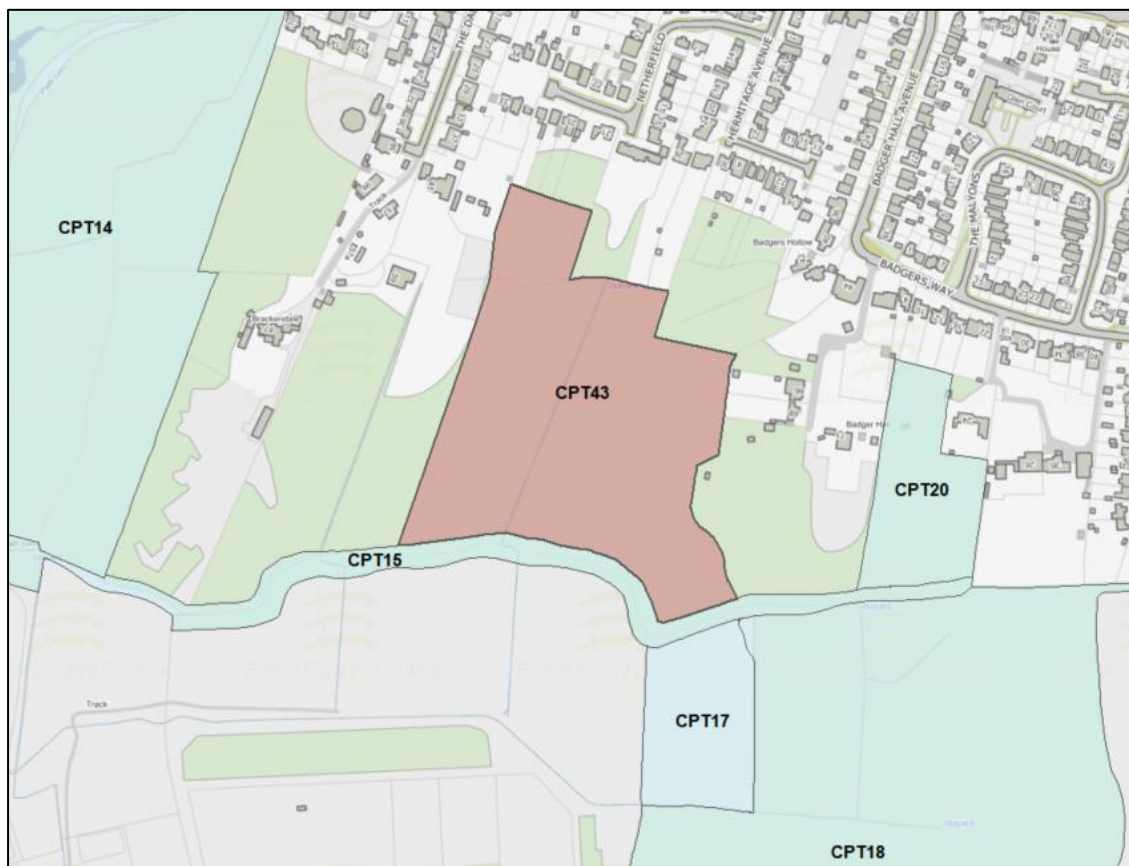
Grid ref. (approx. centre of site): TQ792874

Site area: 5.1ha

LoWS Selection Criteria:

- HC2 Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

Boundary Map



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Site Description

This site is made up of a block of secondary woodland dating from the late 19th Century on the site of the long-lost, Ancient Jervis Wood. Its eastern edge occupies a steep valley slope that holds a number of very large Pedunculate Oaks (*Quercus robur*) that may have survived the grubbing out of Jervis Wood in the early 19th Century.

The canopy is made up of Pedunculate Oak and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) with some Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*) and coppiced Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*). The understorey comprises Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), elm (*Ulmus* sp.) and Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*). Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) is spreading from the northeast.

Much of the ground flora is dominated by Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) with Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) where the canopy is more open. A number of ancient woodland indicators are present including Giant Fescue (*Festuca gigantea*), Hairy-brome (*Bromopsis ramosa*), Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*), Wood Sedge (*Carex sylvatica*), Sanicle (*Sanicula europaea*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*).

Wetter areas in the northern central part of the site support an abundance of Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*) with Giant Horsetail (*Equisetum telmateia*) and Angelica (*Angelica sylvestris*).

Site Selection Rationale

HC2 – The site's history is well-documented and clearly rules out the possibility of ancient status, but it does conform to the woodland Priority habitat definition and provides a valuable extension to the connected ancient woodlands.

Priority Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Ownership and Access

The Site is in private ownership with no public access but can be viewed from CPT15 Jervis Wood Lane to which runs along its southern boundary.

Condition Statement

Moderate

Management Issues

The encroachment of adjacent gardens is the primary threat to the site, although the structure of the wood will decline in quality without positive management. The non-native Indian Balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) is present, although it is not currently having a significant impact.

Review Schedule

Site selected: 2007 (PLoWS4)

Site Reviewed: 2012 (CPT43)

2023: area of garden encroachment removed

Site reference: CPT44

Site name: Poors Lane

Grid ref. (approx. centre of site): TQ816878

Site area: 1.0ha

LoWS Selection Criteria:

- HC1 Ancient Woodland Sites
- HC2 Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

Boundary Map



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Site Description

This site comprises the old or ancient woodland habitat along Poors Lane that falls outside the boundary of the adjacent Great Wood and Dodd's Grove SSSI, with a more recent triangular area of secondary woodland to its north.

The habitat is a natural extension of the SSSI, with the same Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standard with coppiced Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) structure. Wood Melick (*Melica uniflora*) is abundant in the ground flora.

Site Selection Rationale

HC1 – Much of the lane is included in the Ancient Woodland Inventory and map evidence suggests that it has always been wooded.

HC2 – The area to the north of the lane was open in the mid-19th Century and so is clearly more recent but it meets the woodland Priority habitat description.

Priority Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Ownership and Access

The lane is a public right of way and managed as part of the SSSI. The triangular area to the north is in private ownership with no public access.

Condition Statement

Moderate

Management Issues

The Site is susceptible to the pressures of recreation and access associated with its urban location.

Review Schedule

Site selected: 2019

Site Reviewed: 2023: no change

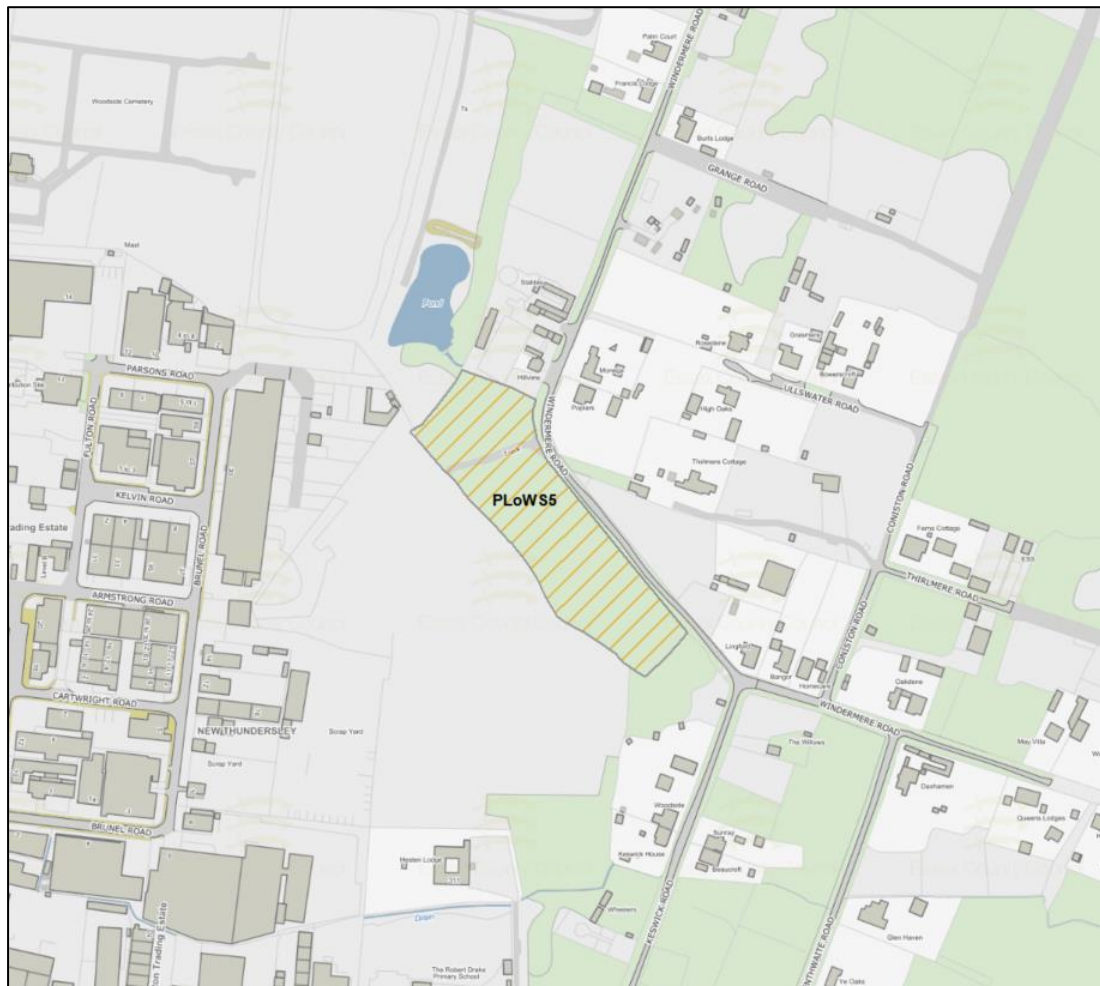
Site reference: PLoWS 5

Site name: Windermere Road Woodland

Grid ref. (approx. centre of site): TQ780893

Site area: 1.3ha

Boundary Map



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Site Description

This Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) woodland, although clearly recent in origin shows some interest, with Sanicle (*Sanicula europaea*), Wood Sedge (*Carex sylvatica*) and Hairy-brome (*Bromopsis ramosa*) in the ground flora.

Summary of Potential Interest:

With positive conservation management to create a more diverse structure, and with more maturity, this woodland could develop to meet the Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland Priority Habitat description and so satisfy LoWS selection criteria.

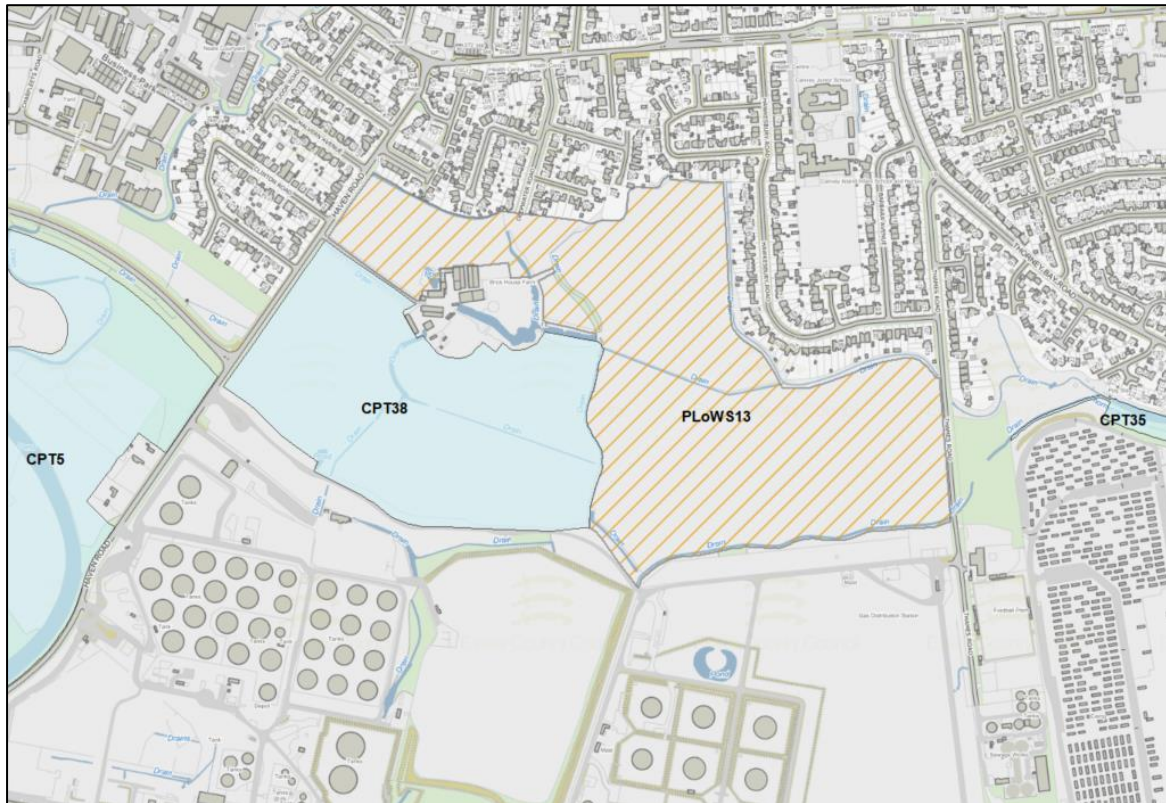
Site reference: PLoWS13

Site name: Brick House Farm Marsh Extension

Grid ref. (approx. centre of site): TQ783827

Site area: 20.5ha

Boundary Map



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Site Description

The site comprises of a series of fields around Brick House Farm that have not retained their original grazing marsh character, having been levelled in the past. They form part of the same habitat unit as the CPT38 Brick House Farm Local Wildlife Site.

The fields are more or less flat and support a moderately diverse grassland habitat including Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), cat's-tail (*Phleum* sp.), Agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*), Wild Carrot (*Daucus carota*), Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), Red Clover (*Trifolium pratense*), Hawkweed Oxtongue (*Picris hieracioides*) and Hoary Ragwort (*Jacobaea erucifolia*). There is no evidence that they have been systematically improved agriculturally.

Summary of Potential Interest:

The site provides one of very few opportunities in the Borough to restore coastal grazing marsh habitat, as an extension to the adjacent LoWS. A more favourable management regime, including some enhancement, could see the fields qualify under grassland habitat criterion.



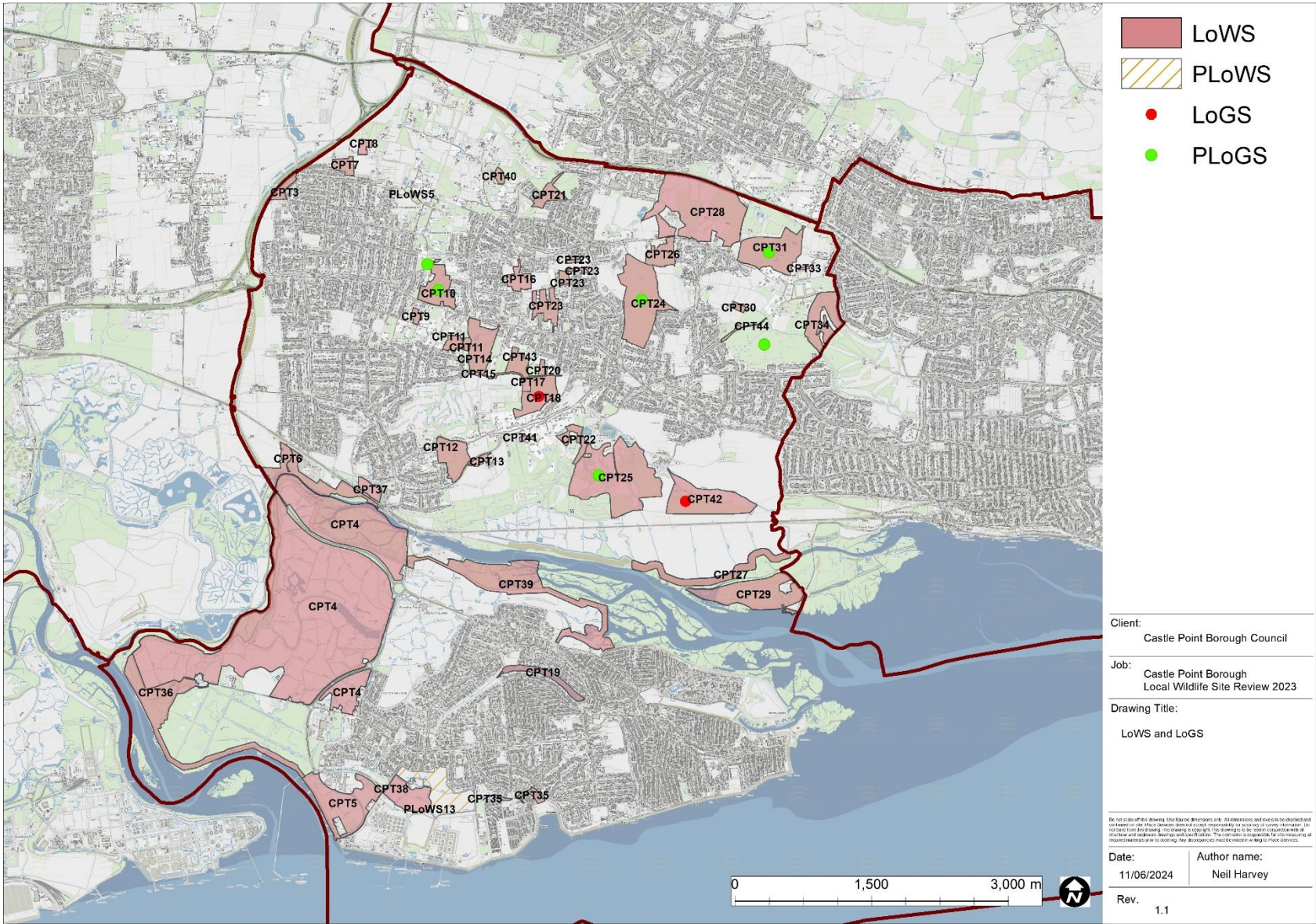
Local Geological Sites

There are three geological sites identified by GeoEssex as meeting one or more of the current GeoEssex selection criteria, as shown in the table below with a brief description of their value. All three coincide with LoWS.

PLACE	SITE NAME	Geol site designations	Existing Notified RIGS?	Earth Science Conservation Classification	Site assessment score	Wildlife or other designations (existing SSSIs and LoWS)	SITE CATEGORY	GRID REF	Vulnerability (High, medium, or low)	Site in need of periodic maintenance?	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SITE For a full description of each site please refer to the Essex Field Club's website or the LoGS site records (citations).
Hadleigh	Hadleigh Country Park	LoGS (third batch - proposed)		ED	27	LoWS	Bagshot Sand (includes 'Bagshot Pebble Bed')	TQ799868	Low		Fine undulating landscape of London Clay, Claygate Beds and Bagshot Sand. Temporary exposures of Bagshot Sand. Site of BGS 1973 Hadleigh borehole. Section in Bagshot Sand created in 2016. LoWS CPT25.
Hadleigh	Hadleigh Castle Landslip	LoGS (first batch)		IA	24	LoWS	Landslip	TQ810860			The most impressive London Clay landslip in Essex. The severe effects on the castle can be clearly seen. LoWS CPT42.
Hadleigh	Shipwrights Wood	LoGS (first batch)		IA	15	LoWS	Landslip	TQ795871			Steep slopes of London Clay, Claygate Beds and Bagshot Sand with landslips. Best woodland in Essex for natural landforms. LoWS CPT18.



Appendix 1 Map of Castle Point LoWS



Place Services

Essex County Council
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