

Castle Point Local Wildlife Sites Review 2023

**Client**

Castle Point Borough Council

Date:

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Author(s)

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Essex County Council

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Contents

Contents

1. Introduction	5
2. Methodology	7
3. Results	8
4. Local Geological Sites	11

Appendices

1. Map of Castle Point LoWS 2023
2. LoWS selection criteria 2016

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2023) includes at Paragraph 180 reference to the need for planning policies and decisions to protect and enhance sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils. The NPPF also states that plans should identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats including locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity.
- 1.2. Within Essex, sites identified as having nature conservation at a county level are known as Local Wildlife Sites (LoWS). Although they do not receive any statutory protection, it is expected that LoWS will be protected from significant harm within the planning system, and there are usually Local Plan Policies to that effect. Many LoWS are designated on the basis of the Priority Habitats that they contain, and so additional weight should be given to the need for their protection as a key contribution to the maintenance of biodiversity in England.
- 1.3. With the advent of Local Nature Recovery Strategies, as a requirement of the Environment Act 2021, LoWS and the ecological networks of which they are a part serve a more proactive and positive role within the conservation of biodiversity. Such locally designated sites of nature conservation value should form the core of a Nature Recovery Network, providing the focus for action to restore, enhance and recreate natural habitats throughout the landscape and available to all local communities. This should include measures to:
 - Improve the quality of LoWS, by improving their management, for nature conservation outcomes
 - Increase the area of existing LoWS, by create new habitats to buffer them and improve their resilience
 - Better connect LoWS in the landscape, to facilitate the movement of species and so improve their ability to respond to environmental change (including climate change)
 - Create new high-quality habitats in the right locations so that they rapidly achieve the condition needed to be designated as LoWS
- 1.4. Since their original identification in the late 1980s and early 1990s, Essex LoWS have typically been selected as part of borough, district or unitary authority 'reviews' commissioned by the relevant local authority. In line with national guidance on Local Sites, areas which have been designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) for the same features cannot be designated as Local Wildlife Sites. Since 2010, Essex LoWS Selection Criteria have been published to guide the designation of LoWS, the most recent version having been prepared in 2016.
- 1.5. The LoWS network is an inclusive one, meaning that any site that objectively satisfies one or more of the published selection criteria should be considered as a LoWS and afforded appropriate consideration, whether or not formal designation has been completed.
- 1.6. Sites that cannot be demonstrated to meet any of the selection criteria, but where it is felt that additional survey data or a change in condition could allow designation are identified as Potential LoWS (PLoWS). Such sites are worthy of particular attention if any development is proposed that might affect them, to provide a definitive assessment of whether they meet any LoWS selection criteria or not, or if there is any other ecological significance that should be considered.
- 1.7. This report has been prepared by Place Services on behalf of Castle Point Borough Council as part of their work to prepare a new development plan. It details the methodology followed during a review of the LoWS within the Borough carried out during 2023, which updates the evidence base required to support the emerging Local Plan and future development management decisions.
- 1.8. Identification of land as a Local Wildlife Site within this report 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. Guidance on accessibility is provided within each site description.

- 1.9. Whilst reasonable effort has been made to ensure accurate mapping of the site boundaries, the accompanying Local Wildlife Site maps should be considered as being illustrative only and, if necessary, they should be interpreted on site by a suitably qualified ecologist with reference to the LOWS Selection Criteria.

2. Methodology

- 2.1. Local Wildlife Sites (then referred to as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation) were first identified in Castle Point in 1992 by Essex Wildlife Trust, as part of a county-wide process. Subsequently, the LoWS were reviewed regularly, in 1997, 2002, 2007 and 2012. In 2019 a partial review of those sites affected by emerging Local Plan allocations was completed covering 12 LoWS and 4 Potential LoWS (PLoWS). At examination, the Inspector did not accept the results of the review, as they had not been ratified by the Essex Local Sites Partnership, which was not functioning at the time.
- 2.2. This review has considered all of the District's designated Local Wildlife Sites taking into account the results of the 2019 review as a starting point. Each of the 41 sites and four PLoWS was visited by a suitably qualified ecologist and information was collected on the habitats present, and their condition. The sites were then assessed against the current Essex Local Wildlife Site Selection Criteria (see Appendix 2 for a summary of selection criteria).
- 2.3. Any existing sites considered to not meet any of the published criteria for which they were selected, with reference to the previous site descriptions, are recommended for deletion from the LoWS register. Boundaries have been remapped where parts of sites no longer meet criteria, or where additional qualifying habitat has been identified. Site descriptions in the register have been reviewed and adjusted as necessary to reflect any changes within the sites and to provide as full a description of the habitats present as possible. Candidate sites considered to meet one or more criteria are proposed for inclusion in the register.
- 2.4. Site numbering has been maintained to avoid confusion between review documents. As a result, the site numbers are non-sequential, with gaps where sites have previously been removed from the system.
- 2.5. As part of the assessment of every site, the habitats present have been mapped according to the UK Habitats Classification, which underpins the Statutory Metric used for the calculation of biodiversity net gain. The condition assessment criteria set out in the Statutory Metric have been used to assess the condition of each of the habitats on each of the sites. In some cases not all criteria could be fully assessed during the site visits and the habitat mapping has been simplified on larger, more complicated sites. The condition assessments should be considered to be provisional, pending any future, more detailed assessment.
- 2.6. The site descriptions also highlight any management issues that were identified during the site visits, either as a result of current inappropriate management methods, lack of management, or through the use of the sites for activities other than delivering nature conservation outcomes.

3. Results

Summary

3.1. As a result of this review, the following changes are proposed:

- 16 sites have been increased by a total of 16.7 hectares
- 14 sites have been reduced by a total of 30.3 hectares
- 1 new site has been proposed
- 4 Potential LoWS have been deleted
- 1 Potential LOWS has been added

3.2. Overall, there are now 41 Sites with a total area of 875.6 hectares, a net increase of one sites and a net loss of 13.6ha since the last ratified review in 2012. The percentage of the Borough covered by LoWS designation is now 19.4%.

3.3. Full details of all LoWS and PLoWS are included within the accompanying Castle Point LoWS Register 2023.

Changes to existing Local Wildlife Sites

3.4. The following table of previously designated LoWS includes a brief summary of the reasons for proposed changes, if any, applied as a result of the current assessment.

Table 1. Changes to LoWS at this review

LoWS No.	LoWS Name	Change in area (ha)	Reasons for change
CPT3	Rushbottom Lane Flood Pound	0.0	No change
CPT4	West Canvey Marshes	-3.3	Boundary re-mapped in relation to Borough boundary and SSSI
CPT5	Canvey Village Marsh	0.4	Boundary re-mapped; small area unaffected by adjacent development re-added
CPT6	Benfleet Creek North	4.2	Boundary re-mapped; additional intertidal and scrub habitats added; name change from Benfleet Sewage Works
CPT7	North Benfleet Hall Wood	0.0	Boundary re-mapped for accuracy; garden encroachment removed
CPT8	Fane Road Meadows	-0.1	Boundary re-mapped for accuracy; garden area removed
CPT9	Kents Hill Wood	0.0	No change
CPT10	Coombe Wood	0.0	Boundary re-mapped for accuracy in relation to adjacent gardens
CPT11	Mount Road Wood	0.0	No change
CPT12	Vicarage Hill	-4.6	Arable land and garden encroachment removed; small eastern scrub area removed
CPT13	Reeds Hill Pasture	0.0	Boundary re-mapped for accuracy
CPT14	Thundersley Glen	-0.3	Green lane section moved to CPT15
CPT15	Jervis Wood Lane	0.4	Green Lane section moved from CPT14; Minor boundary changes
CPT16	The Chase Paddocks	-0.1	Garden section removed
CPT17	Shipwrights Meadow	0.0	No change
CPT18	Shipwrights Wood	0.2	Boundary re-mapped for accuracy
CPT19	The Lake, Canvey	1.8	Remapped to include marginal grassland
CPT20	Coopers Wood	0.0	No change

CPT21	Thundersley Great Common Wood	0.0	Boundary re-mapped for accuracy
CPT22	Nine Acre Wood	0.0	No change
CPT23	Thundersley Plotland	-1.1	Horse pastures removed due to evidence of decline in quality; boundary remapped
CPT24	West Wood	0.1	Boundary re-mapped for accuracy
CPT25	Castle Farm	0.0	No change
CPT26	Cottage Plantation	0.2	Boundary re-mapped for accuracy
CPT27	Hadleigh Marsh Borrow Dyke and Sea Wall	4.4	Re-mapped to match adjacent SSSI boundary
CPT28	Little Haven/Tile Wood Complex	0.0	No change
CPT29	Two Tree Island West	-1.5	Model aircraft area removed; minor boundary changes
CPT30	Coxall Wood	0.2	Boundary re-mapped for accuracy
CPT31	Pound Wood	0.0	No change
CPT33	Oakwood Reservoir	0.2	Minor increase to take in whole grassland unit
CPT34	Belfairs Park Wood	-0.1	Boundary re-mapped for accuracy
CPT35	Thorneycreek Fleet	0.2	Boundary re-mapped for accuracy
CPT36	Northwick Farm and Sea Wall	-0.2	Boundary re-mapped for accuracy
CPT37	Benfleet Marsh	0.0	Boundary re-mapped for accuracy
CPT38	Brick House Farm Marsh	-20.8	Revert to 2012 boundary with minor changes; remainder added to PLoWS list
CPT39	Benfleet Creek and Seawall	2.0	Boundary re-mapped for accuracy
CPT40	Thundersley Brickfields	-3.2	Developed area removed; woodland habitat retained
CPT41	Wall Wood	-0.1	Boundary re-mapped to match old woodland area
CPT42	Hadleigh Castle Grasslands	0.0	No change
CPT43	Badger Hall Woods	-0.8	Area incorporated into garden management removed

- 3.5. Most of the changes to the existing LoWS are as the result of more accurately mapping boundaries, which is a function of more accurate base maps and more readily available aerial photos, which remove some of the judgement when placing a boundary line on the map. Additional intertidal habitat has been added and where appropriate, boundaries have been more accurately joined with adjacent SSSIs and the Borough's administrative boundary.
- 3.6. At CPT7 North Benfleet Hall Wood and CPT12 Vicarage Hill, small areas have been removed from the LoWS as there has been encroachment of the adjacent private gardens. In some cases, boundaries have moved to more accurately reflect areas of sites in private ownership that are functionally part of the managed garden space, such as CPT10 Coombe Wood and CPT16 The Chase Paddocks. At CPT43, a change relates to the extension of more formal garden management into a previously semi-natural wooded area.
- 3.7. Only one site, CPT40 Thundersley Brickfields, has been significantly reduced due to consented development. Here, residential units have been constructed within the old pit and works part of the site, resulting in the loss of open mosaic habitat but leaving an area of semi-natural woodland. CPT12 Vicarage Hill has been reduced in size significantly as part of it has been agriculturally cultivated.
- 3.8. At CPT23 Thundersley Plotland, an area of horse-grazed grassland has been removed as evidence shows that the quality of the grassland sward has declined through continued intensive use. At CPT29 Two Tree Island West, an area of frequently mown grass around the model aircraft runway has been removed, although this land use has been in existence for a considerable length of time.

- 3.9. An extension to CPT38 Brickhouse Farm Marsh that was proposed during the 2019 review has been removed and made into a PLoWS, as although it has significant value for the restoration of grazing marsh habitat, the current selection criteria do not adequately reflect that value.

Deleted Sites

- 3.10. No LoWS are proposed to be deleted in full as part of this review.

New Local Wildlife Sites

- 3.11. The following new site was identified during the 2019 review as meeting one or more of the current selection criteria, but is technically proposed as new here.

Table 2. LoWS new at this review

Site code	Site name	Area (ha)
CPT44	Poors lane	1.0

- 3.12. This site is made up of Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland Priority Habitat connected to, but outside of, the Great Wood and Dodd's Grove SSSI. It includes the ancient lane connecting Hadleigh and Eastwood, with associated woodland cover.

Potential LoWS

- 3.13. The following table of previously identified PLoWS includes a brief summary of the changes, if any, applied as a result of the current assessment.

Table 3. Potential LoWS

PLoWS No.	PLoWS Name	Change and reasons
PLoWS5	Windermere Road Wood	No change
PLoWS8	Grasmere Road Pastures	Deleted; grassland and woodland habitats no longer considered likely to meet LoWS criteria
PLoWS10	Braeside Farm Pastures	Deleted; no evidence of LoWS criteria being met and land use unlikely to change
PLoWS11	St Michael's Road Fields	Deleted; although managed for nature conservation outcomes, the habitats are not considered to be of nature conservation value at a county level
PLoWS12	Canvey Heights Country Park	Deleted, habitats not considered to be of nature conservation value at a county level; site management not enhancing biodiversity
PLoWS13	Brick House Farm Marsh Extension	Added; some value in grassland habitat, which could be enhanced by favourable management

- 3.14. Four PLoWS have been removed from the network as it is felt that they are not likely to meet any of the selection criteria in the foreseeable future given the current land use.

4. Local Geological Sites

- 4.1. GeoEssex has kindly provided details of the sites of geological interest in Castle Point Borough that have already been assessed as meeting the relevant selection criteria and have been ratified as Local Geological Sites (LoGS).
- 4.2. There are two LoGS already designated, both of which coincide with LoWS. These sites, included in Table 4 below with a brief description of their value, should be referenced along with LoWS as 'locally designated sites' or within the emerging Castle Point Plan.

Table 4. Castle Point Local Geological Sites

Place	Site name	Grid reference	Brief description of site
Hadleigh	Hadleigh Castle 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	TQ795871	Steep slopes of London Clay, Claygate Beds and Bagshot Sand with landslips. Best woodland in Essex for natural landforms. LoWS CPT18.

- 4.3. A further six sites have been identified as Potential LoGS (PLoGS) on the basis that they meet the necessary selection criteria but have not yet been ratified by a Local Sites Partnership. These sites are listed in Table 5.

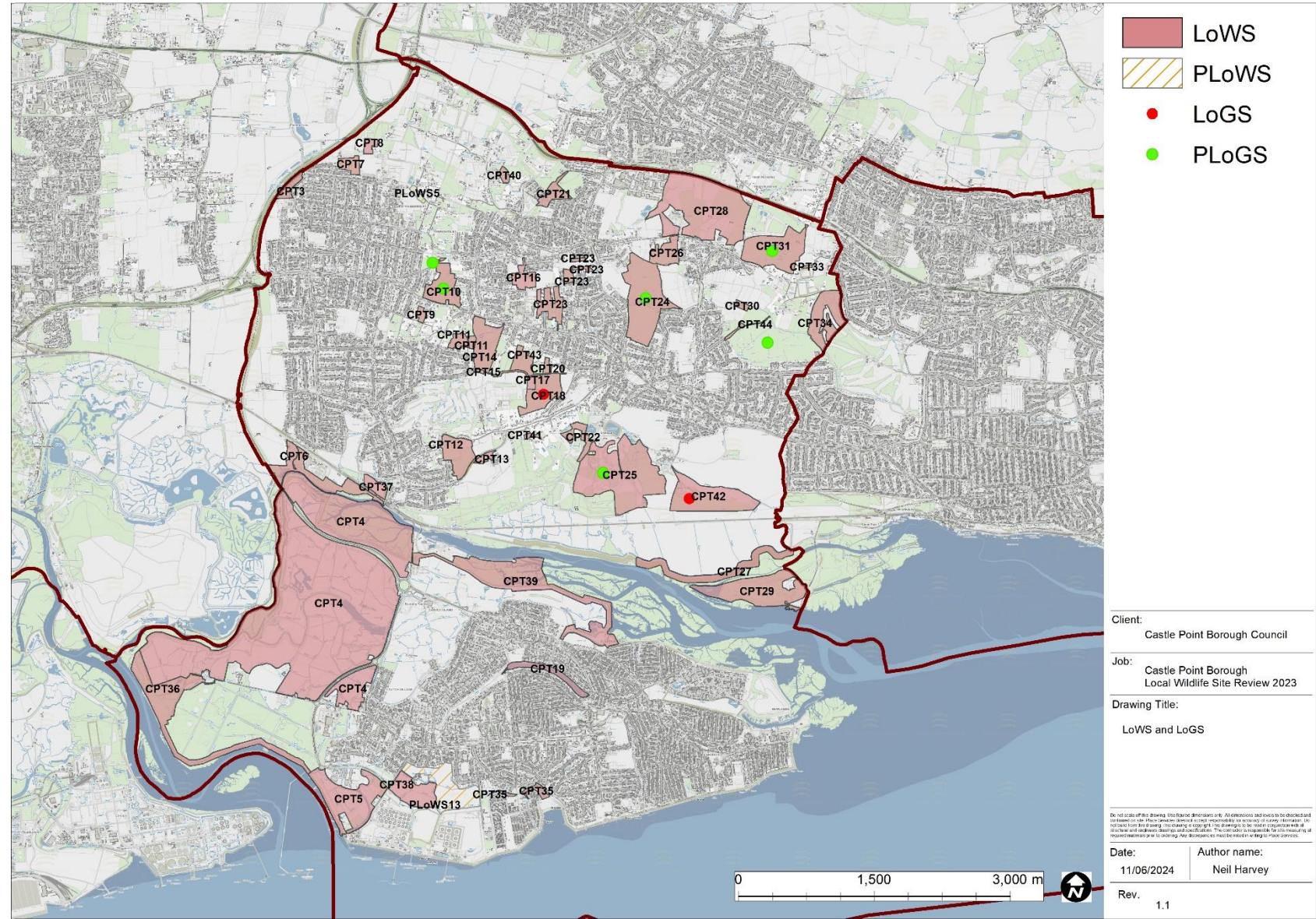
Table 5. Potential LoGS

Place	Site name	Grid reference	Brief description of site
Daws Heath	Pound Wood Nature Reserve	TQ816888	Complex of sands and gravels over London Clay with visible influence on the variation of woodland types. LoWS CPT31
Daws Heath	West Wood	TQ805880	Stream valley cutting through Bagshot Sands to Claygate Beds with shallow, historic pits into Daws Heath Gravel. LoWS CPT24
Hadleigh	Hadleigh Great Wood	TQ820876	Woodland on the valley slope, with sequential deposits from bottom to top marking the progressive shallowing of the London Clay Sea. Biological SSSI
Hadleigh	Hadleigh Park	TQ799868	Complete valley slope with exposures of Bagshot Sand and rotational land slips. A geological trail has been produced. LoWS CPT25 and CPT27

Thundersley	Coombe Wood	TQ783883	Layers of Claygate Beds revealed along the stream banks. Bagshot Sands on the highest ground. LoWS CPT10
Thundersley	St Peter's Church	TQ782887	Location of two sarsen stones



Appendix 1 Map of Castle Point LoWS and LoGS



Client:	Castle Point Borough Council
Job:	Castle Point Borough Local Wildlife Site Review 2023
Drawing Title:	LoWS and LoGS
Date:	11/05/2024
Author name:	Neil Harvey
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Appendix 2 LoWS selection criteria (from ELSP, 2016)

Habitat criteria:

Habitat Criterion 1 (HC1) – Ancient Woodland Sites

“All sites considered to be ancient woodland shall be eligible for selection.”

Habitat Criterion 2 (HC2) – Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

“All significant areas of non-ancient Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland will be eligible for selection.”

Habitat Criterion 3 (HC3) – Other Priority Habitat Woodland Types on Non-ancient Sites

“Any area of Lowland Beech and Yew woodland (e.g. NVC type W15) or Wet Woodland, as defined in the Habitats of Principal Importance in England descriptions, will be eligible for selection.”

Habitat Criterion 4 (HC4) – Wood-pasture and Parkland

“Any remnant area of mature parkland and/or wood-pasture, preferably with veteran trees and/or a semi-natural ground flora will be eligible for selection, together with any more recent parkland sites that support inherent ecological interest and whose ecological value is not compromised by amenity use or other primary functions”.

Habitat Criterion 5 (HC5) – Woody Scrub

“Stands of woody scrub that support exceptional diversity, uncommon shrub assemblages, and/or which provide a valuable component of a site’s ecological value will be eligible for selection”.

Habitat Criterion 6 (HC6) – Veteran Trees

“Veteran trees known or suspected to be of specific nature conservation interest, for example supporting significant invertebrate assemblages, and/or epiphytic bryophytes and lichens, will be eligible for selection, even in the absence of other associated semi-natural habitat. The tree or tree group should encompass a sufficient area with appropriate habitat conditions for the associated species interest to be maintained”.

Habitat Criterion 7 (HC7) – Old Orchards

“All traditional orchards will be eligible for selection, particularly those that have retained mature fruit trees.”

Habitat Criterion 8 (HC8) – Hedgerows and Green Lanes

“Hedgerows and green lanes shall be eligible for selection if they are assessed as having significant ecological value in terms of:

- *their intrinsic flora and fauna*
- *a defined ecological function in the landscape”*

Habitat Criterion 9 (HC9) – Lowland Meadows

“All old, largely unimproved grasslands identifiable as falling within the definition of the NVC MG5 Lowland Meadow vegetation type will be eligible for selection.”

Habitat Criterion 10 (HC10) – River Floodplain

“Significant areas of river floodplain grassland should be considered for selection, especially those areas still subject to seasonal inundation. The role of such grasslands as wildlife corridors should also be considered”.

Habitat Criterion 11 (HC11) – Other Neutral Grasslands

“Unimproved or semi-improved¹² pastures or meadows that do not clearly fit criterion HC9 shall be eligible for selection if they support features that indicate long continuity as grassland or support notable populations of invertebrates. Special consideration should be given to sites listed in the Grassland Inventory for Essex and to sites supporting plants listed in Appendix⁴”.

Habitat Criterion 12 (HC12) – Lowland Calcareous Grassland

“All areas of grassland supporting assemblages of typical chalk grassland species included in Appendix 5 should be considered for selection.”

Habitat Criterion 13 (HC13) – Heathland and Acid Grassland

“Any site supporting characteristic heathland or acid grassland vegetation, including deteriorated sites with the potential for restoration shall be eligible for selection”.

Habitat Criterion 14 (HC14) – Lowland Fen Vegetation

“Significant areas of lowland fen vegetation¹⁴, or such habitat known to support notable species, will be eligible for selection. Usually such sites will include the associated water body or source of groundwater, if applicable.”

Habitat Criterion 15 (HC15) – Reedbeds

*“All significant stands of Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) will be eligible for selection.”*

Habitat Criterion 16 (HC16) – Lakes and Reservoirs

“Lake and reservoir LoWS identified on the basis of Mosaic Habitat or Species Criteria should be of sufficient size and habitat quality to maintain the seasonal or resident population of that species. Where a seasonal species utilises several water bodies during the course of its stay, all such bodies should be selected”.

Habitat Criterion 17 (HC17) – Ponds

“Pond LoWS identified on the basis of Species Criteria should be of sufficient size and habitat quality to maintain the population of that species at a sustainable level.”

Habitat Criterion 18 (HC18) – Rivers

“Where a section of river, stream, canal or borrow dyke is designated via Species Selection Criteria, a minimum 500 metre section of that water course shall be designated (250 metres upstream and downstream of a positive sample site or 250 metres upstream and downstream of the end points of a cluster of records from the same population). The Site shall be deemed to extend at least 2 metres away from the top of the bank into the adjacent habitat.”

Habitat Criterion 19 (HC19) – Extended Riverine Habitat

“Where two designated sections of watercourse are separated by no more than 1000 metres of undesignated water, the intervening section may be included within one large site, if it is deemed that the central section has the potential to be restored to good condition or realistically colonised by the species concerned”.

Habitat Criterion 20 (HC20) – Complex Riverine Habitats

“Sections of river that support a suite of natural features, leading to a complex riverine habitat structure will be eligible for selection.”

Habitat Criterion 21 (HC21) – Coastal Grazing Marsh

“All areas of coastal grazing marsh shall be eligible for selection”.

Habitat Criterion 22 (HC22) – Tidal Transition Zones

“All sites exhibiting an unrestricted upper saltmarsh to grassland transition will be eligible for selection”.

Habitat Criterion 23 (HC23) – Saltmarsh and Mudflats

“All areas of saltmarsh and other intertidal habitats outside of SSSIs will be considered for selection. Newly created habitats within managed retreat zones can be considered once they have acquired a typical flora and use by other coastal wildlife is demonstrated”.

Habitat Criterion 24 (HC24) – Saline Lagoons and Borrow Dyke Habitats

“Sections of borrow dyke and tidal or semi-tidal brackish or saline lagoons known to support a flora and fauna characteristic of saline lagoon conditions will be eligible for selection”.

Habitat Criterion 25 (HC25) – Sand Dune and Shingle Beach Vegetation

“All areas of sand dune and shingle habitat exhibiting a characteristic land form and flora will be eligible for selection”.

Habitat Criterion 26 (HC26) – Maritime Cliffs and Slopes

“Maritime Cliffs and Slopes identified on account of one or more significant species or groups of species should be of sufficient extent, either in isolation or as a clearly recognisable chain of inter-related sites, should be of sufficient extent to include habitat capable of supporting sustainable populations of the species concerned.”

Habitat Criterion 27 (HC27) – Post-industrial Sites

“Brownfield/post-industrial sites or derelict buildings/structures of high nature conservation value will be eligible for selection if they are known to support notable species or where it can be demonstrated they provide the habitat qualities necessary to support such species. The site may include sections of land that might not otherwise qualify for selection, if they provide one or more of the ecological requirements of the notable species”.

Habitat Criterion 28 (HC28) – Small-Component Mosaics

“A site comprising two or more sub-habitats, each of which just fails to be selected as a Site within its own main habitat criterion group or on species grounds, will be eligible for selection”.

Habitat Criterion 29 (HC29) – Habitat Extension Mosaics

“Where a site that would not on its own qualify for consideration as a LoWS provides a significant and clearly identifiable extension to the habitat of an adjacent LoWS, then the habitat extension area should be added to the LoWS”.

Habitat Criterion 30 (HC30) – Wildlife Corridors

“Where two or more LoWS are physically linked by additional habitat of a type that would allow the dispersal and interchange of species within each site, then these corridors should be included within the LoWS.”

Habitat Criterion 31 (HC31) – Accessible Natural Greenspace 57

“A site that comes close to qualifying under other selection criteria can be eligible for selection based upon its amenity, cultural and/or education value close to a centre of population.”

Species criteria:

Species Criterion 1 (SC1) – Vascular Plants

“Sites supporting significant populations of ‘notable’ vascular plants will be eligible for selection”.

Species Criterion 2 (SC2) – Bryophytes

“Sites supporting significant populations of ‘notable’ bryophytes will be eligible for selection”.

Species Criterion 3 (SC3) – Lichens

“Sites supporting significant populations of ‘notable’ lichens will be eligible for selection”.

Species Criterion 4 (SC4) – Fungi

“Sites supporting significant populations of ‘notable’ fungi will be eligible for selection”.

Species Criterion 5 (SC5) – Notable Bird Species

“Discrete habitat areas known to support significant populations of notable bird species, whether breeding or over-wintering, will be eligible for selection.”

Species Criterion 6 (SC6) – Exceptional Populations of Common Bird Species

“Discrete habitat areas that regularly support exceptional breeding, feeding, roosting/resting or over-wintering populations of relatively commonplace species will be considered for selection”.

Species Criterion 7 (SC7) – Dormouse

“All sites confirmed as supporting populations of Dormouse will be eligible for selection. Sites should include all adjoining areas of suitable Dormouse habitat and important movement corridors (HC30)”.

Species Criterion 8 (SC8) – Barbastelle (and other Annex II) bats

“All sites containing a maternity roost of Barbastelle bats (or other Annex II bat species should they be recorded in Essex in the future) will be eligible for selection.”

Species Criterion 9 (SC9) – Other Bat Breeding Colonies

“All sites, except dwelling houses, regularly supporting breeding colonies of four or more bat species, or an exceptional breeding roost or colony of one or more species, will be eligible for selection”.

Species Criterion 10 (SC10) – Bat Hibernation Sites

“All sites, except dwelling houses, supporting exceptional numbers of hibernating bats of one or more species will be eligible for selection”.

Species Criterion 11 (SC11) – Protection of Otter Holts

“A confirmed, natural or artificial, well established and regularly used otter holt, including an appropriate buffer zone of up to 250 metres up and down stream, will be eligible for selection”.

Species Criterion 12 (SC12) – Breeding Water Vole Colonies

“Any watercourse or wetland system supporting a viable breeding population of Water Vole will be eligible for selection”.

Species Criterion 13 (SC13) - Hotspots for Amphibian Diversity

“Any water body, other than a garden pond, known to support significant populations of three or more species of breeding amphibian will be eligible for selection.”

Species Criterion 14 (SC14) - Palmate Newts

“Any water body, other than a garden pond, known to support a breeding population of Palmate Newt will be eligible for selection.”

Species Criterion 15 (SC15) - Great Crested Newts

“Any water body, other than a garden pond, known to support an exceptional breeding population of Great Crested Newts will be eligible for selection.”

Species Criterion 16 (SC16) - Hotspots for Reptile Diversity

“Any site supporting significant populations of three or more reptile species will be eligible for selection”.

Species Criterion 17 (SC17) – White-clawed Crayfish

“All populations of White-clawed crayfish will be eligible for selection. Any designated Site should include suitable buffering both upstream and downstream”.

Species Criterion 18 (SC18) – Invertebrates listed as Species of Principal Importance in England

“All significant populations of terrestrial and freshwater aquatic invertebrates listed as Species of Principal Importance in England will be eligible for selection.”

Species Criteria 19 (SC19) – Important invertebrate assemblages

“Significant populations of notable invertebrate species, and/or important invertebrate assemblages (i.e. unusual or uncommon assemblages, or exceptional diversity) will be eligible for selection. In deciding the significance of a species, reference should be made to any available Essex Red Data List, national Red Data Book or “Review”.

Species Criteria 20 (SC20) – Notable ‘flagship’ macro-invertebrates

“Exceptional populations or high species diversity of non-notable macro-invertebrates (e.g. dragonflies, damselflies and butterflies) will be eligible for selection”.

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