

Supplementary Statement of Case

**Areas of Major Change on the Edge of
Cambridge Matters**

Cambridge City Local Plan EiP 2014/15

Prepared on behalf of the Wildlife Trust

March 2015



**Bedfordshire
Cambridgeshire
Northamptonshire**

Summary of Wildlife Trust Objection

1. The Wildlife Trust objects to the land-use allocation in Policy 15 for development of employment uses and an Urban Country Park on land selected as City Wildlife Sites and which forms part of an important ecological corridor through east Cambridge linking the chalk lands to the south-east with the river Cam, on the grounds that the allocation will result in the loss of significant areas of wildlife habitats and biodiversity in the Cambridge context.
2. The City Council has failed to follow its own planning policies with respect to nature conservation sites (policy 69) or the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (paragraphs 109 & 118) in making this allocation. Further they have failed to follow key aspects of their own Nature Conservation Strategy (2006), Open Space & Recreation Strategy (2011) or Environment Policy Statement (2014), which seek to protect, conserve and enhance biodiversity.
3. The area subject to Policy 15 comprises three City Wildlife Sites; Norman Cement Pits, Coldham's Lane Old Landfill Site and CU Officer Training Corps Pit. Brief descriptions of each of these are included below with the most recent 2005 City Wildlife Site survey reports included at Appendix 1.
4. The Norman Cement Pits comprises two large disused chalk pits (quarried for the cement industry) with patches of marginal vegetation and adjoining areas of planted and self-sown scrub and trees, dry open calcareous grassland, damp grassland and tall herb vegetation. The pits are flooded and used for angling (by Cherry Hinton Angling Club), the deep clear water contains a variety of fish species that include carp, perch, tench, bream and roach. Due to the deep water (8 to 10 metres) and steep sided nature of the pits marginal vegetation is generally limited to no more than a narrow fringe. The mix of habitats on the terrestrial land surrounding the pits is an example of open mosaic habitat on previously developed land, including calcareous soils and cliffs, with a range of grassland and shrub species providing nectar and food plants and is likely to be of value for invertebrates. Kingfishers breed on site, usually in the banks between the two pits. Breeding waterbirds are limited by the lack of suitable fringing habitats or islands, but the site becomes more important at times of hard winter weather, when the deep water does not freeze over completely. In the last such period of weather a bittern was regularly present for the duration of the cold spell.
5. The Coldham's Lane Old Landfill site was at the time of the 2005 survey and until 2013 an area of open mosaic habitats on previously developed land, a habitat recognised as a UK priority habitat since 2010. The site comprised approximately 50% open grassland and bare ground and 50% scattered and dense scrub and would have been important for a wide range of breeding and wintering birds as well as invertebrate groups, as well as some protected species such as common lizard. The northern boundary is lined by a historic hedgerow, shown on the first edition OS maps of the Cherry Hinton area. The site was the 3rd largest area of mixed and species-rich scrub in Cambridge City.
6. The CU Officer Training Corps Pit (TA Pit) is a disused chalk pit covering 8.11ha, of which 3.9ha is a steep-sided lake with the remainder consisting of blocks of scrub and diverse chalk grassland. Eight strong and five weak calcareous grassland indicator species were recorded in 2005, and it was one of the most species-rich areas of grassland in Cambridge outside of the Cherry Hinton Chalk Pits SSSI. The mix of open water, open species-rich grassland and scrub also provide an area of open mosaic habitat on previously developed land likely to be valuable for invertebrates and birds. The calcareous grassland and open mosaic habitats are both UK priority habitats.

7. Across the three sites a range of Birds of Conservation Concern are likely to be using (or previously would have used) the sites for breeding, feeding or wintering. These include red list species such as bittern, skylark, song thrush, starling, house sparrow, linnets and yellowhammer and amber list species such as kingfisher, house martin, meadow pipit, mistle thrush, bullfinch and reed bunting.
8. Unfortunately, no formal surveys were allowed on the former landfill sites prior to their clearance, and there only appear to be ad hoc / anecdotal records from the lake sites. Looking at the former landfill sites in isolation, while no formal bird surveys had been undertaken prior to site clearance, the mix of habitats would have supported a range of breeding red and amber list species, as well as more common species. The extent of habitat at 8.93 Ha could have supported in excess of 125 breeding pairs of various species (taking average densities of 1500 birds per Km² recorded for urban breeding bird populations in Bristol, Baker et al 2010).
9. Other City Wildlife Sites are immediately adjacent to or close to the site in particular Cherry Hinton Brook which forms the southern boundary. Cherry Hinton Brook is a chalk stream (another national priority habitat) currently being restored through the work of the City Council and Friends of Cherry Hinton Brook. The channel has been narrowed to increase water flow and maintain a self-cleansing gravel bed and scrub has been cleared to increase light to favour aquatic plants, invertebrates and fish. The works will also benefit the population of water voles, a species protected under the Wildlife & Countryside Act (1981 as amended), which is currently recovering along the Brook. If the Country Park proposals include new access routes across the Brook, there is the potential for adverse impacts on the water vole population, as well as potential impacts on the quality of the brook.
10. The Policy 15 land-use allocation for Urban Country Park and business uses has been made by the City Council without fully assessing the ecological value of the sites in light of changes to national nature conservation policy and priorities or attempting to gather up-to-date information to assess the implications of the proposals on the significant nature conservation importance of the land being allocated for development.
11. The Policy 15 allocation endorses and enshrines within the Local Plan the destruction of the Coldham's Lane Old Landfill City Wildlife Site in March 2013 by the current owners. This site was up until that point a species-rich brownfield site, comprising open mosaic habitats recognised as a national priority habitat [NERC Act (2006)]. It was the third largest area of mixed grassland and scrub habitats in Cambridge and the site clearance work was the largest extent of habitat destruction in Cambridge within the last 15 years. The destruction of this 8.93 Ha site represents the loss of 3.5% of the land selected as County or City Wildlife Sites in Cambridge, while the loss of the 4.9 Ha of scrub habitats represents 9.37% of the scrub and woodland habitat selected as County or City Wildlife Site within Cambridge. The aerial photos (see Appendix 2) show the nature of the site and the extent of semi-natural habitats that had developed.
12. Policy 15, bullet (g) fails to make provision for the enhancement of biodiversity or restoration of the recently destroyed habitats and merely talks about providing appropriate mitigation for sites of local nature conservation importance. The Wildlife Trust contends that if this policy allocation is to remain, it needs to firstly seek to avoid damaging allocations, secondly to mitigate any outstanding adverse impacts, and finally to provide full compensation for the habitat and biodiversity losses that have occurred when a significant part of the site was destroyed in March 2013. At present the policy wording fails to meet the standards set by the NPPF paragraph 109 or 118 and will inevitably result in the loss of biodiversity within the area. The wording of Policy 15 is also inconsistent with the policy wording and supporting text for Policy 69.

13. The mitigation that the policy does refer to is highly unlikely to be successful and may not be feasible. There is very little evidence supporting the delivery of positive biodiversity outcomes through mitigation measures adopted as a result of the planning system. Most mitigation schemes do not continue for the long-term. The existing employment and leisure centre development along Coldham's Lane between the landfill sites is a prime example where mitigation provision agreed during the planning process has not been delivered. An area was meant to be set aside and managed for chalk grassland and bare chalk habitats to support an important population of bees and wasps. However, the City Council has failed to ensure that the mitigation scheme is being implemented. Elsewhere within Cambridge over the past 10 years two City Wildlife Sites have been lost or de-selected in spite of the inclusion of mitigation measures at the time of planning applications affecting them, including Church End Hedgerow (the other side of Coldham's Lane) and Kings Hedges Triangle.
14. It is the experience of the Wildlife Trust that mitigation measures are only implemented if site owners and developers are fully committed to their environmental responsibilities and there is a commercial or reputational imperative for action, or they are implemented by a third party with a specific nature conservation remit. The commitment of the current owners must be seriously questioned based on their actions to date. Not only did they completely clear the vegetation on a City Wildlife Site without undertaking any ecological surveys (potentially committing a wildlife crime against common lizards and other protected species in the process), but a representative of the Anderson Group was quoted in the Cambridge Evening News of 6th April 2013 as stating *"the site had no special protection, was a fenced degraded piece of land and that their site clearance was routine maintenance, which had been undertaken every year"* (see Appendix 3 for full text of press article). The site is clearly shown as a City Wildlife Site in the current Local Plan and analysis of aerial photos (see Appendix 2) coupled with observations of local residents (including myself) can clearly refute the suggestion that the habitat destruction was routine maintenance, as very little if any management had been undertaken between the Wildlife Trust survey of 2005 and site clearance in 2013. Indeed the only management observed by Wildlife Trust surveyors at the time of the 2005 survey was the cutting of narrow paths to provide access to landfill gas monitoring stations.
15. The uses proposed through Policy 15 including builders yards and other employment allocations on the old landfill sites (including the City Wildlife Site), coupled with the intensification of recreational uses implicit in the Urban Country Park proposal with open public access, swimming, cycling & BMX trails to name a few will result in a loss of biodiversity under the current site allocation and policy wording. This will be as a result of both the direct loss of habitats and the indirect impacts of recreational disturbance, on for example breeding and wintering birds.
16. The proposals for formal recreational activities around the lakes are misguided and fail to acknowledge the significant environmental and safety constraints of open public access. At present the lakes are a relatively undisturbed wildlife haven, with breeding sites for kingfisher and a range of wetland birds as well as birds associated with scrub and trees. The lakes are perhaps most important for birds at times of hard weather, because the deep water (at least 8 to 10 metres deep) rarely completely freezes. A wintering bittern was present during the last period of hard winter in 2011. The large areas of bare chalk and cliff faces as well as the mosaic of bare chalky ground, grassland, scrub and trees are also likely to be highly valuable for some invertebrate groups. The Urban Country Park proposal would open the lakes up to significant human disturbance. The paths around the edges are narrow and there is no effective way of zoning to create undisturbed refuge areas, other than completely closing some areas to public access. However, the demands of the users of the Urban Country Park will almost certainly

include circular paths all the way around both lakes. Uses such as swimming, boating (even safety boats) and public access routes around both lakes will make the lakes far less attractive to the range of birds that currently use them at various times of year, as they will be significantly more intrusive and noisy than the current low key angling club use of the site. Surfaced paths and other infrastructure are also likely to result in the direct loss of habitats. Should the Urban Country Park and intensity of recreational uses result in a significant decline in wildlife interest to the extent that the Norman Cement Pits are de-selected as a City Wildlife Site, this would result in the loss of a further 7% of the area of Local Wildlife Site. The Policy 15 land use allocations therefore have the potential to result in the loss of 10% of the area of land selected as Local Wildlife Sites.

17. The safety risks appear to have been underestimated in the desire to open up the area as an Urban Country Park. The lakes comprise deep water (at least 8 to 10 metres deep), with steep sides. Swimming in such an environment is inherently dangerous. The Wildlife Trust has direct experience of the consequences of a young adult dying on one of our sites through swimming in deep water during a hot day and would not wish for any future site owner / manager to face this experience. The lakes are wholly inappropriate for swimming, one of the main uses desired through the public consultation undertaken by Cambridge Lakes.
18. The economic feasibility of the whole venture must also be seriously called into question. Full time staffing and lifeguards (if swimming is included) for an Urban Country Park will be expensive. We would expect the annual revenue costs of an Urban Country Park to be at least £100k per year, using the experience from other sites around Cambridge. While a large housing development with or without other employment sites might be able to support this, it is hard to see how the available land (without environmental constraints) could deliver sufficient commercial revenues to fund the park in the long-term. The alternative is to include significant revenue raising recreational pursuits within the proposal, which would be contrary to what the Cambridge Lakes group are proposing and would inevitably result in the further erosion of the special natural environment of the lakes and other nearby sites and further loss of biodiversity contrary to national and local planning policies.
19. The sites included in Policy 15 also form part of a green / ecological corridor linking the chalk-lands to the south-east of Cambridge with the River Cam corridor and has been identified as a key area for protection and enhancement in the Cambridge Nature Conservation Strategy (2006) (see Appendix 4). This ecological network supports a range of priority habitats and species and it links the two main ecological networks through Cambridge City (the Gog Magog Hills and the River Cam & floodplain). This ecological network comprises Cherry Hinton Brook, Cherry Hinton Hall, the lakes and former landfill sites off Coldham's Lane and the Local Nature Reserves at Barnwell. This and other ecological networks across Cambridge need to be formally recognised within Local Plan policies, supporting text and proposals maps in line with paragraph 117 (and paragraphs 109 & 114) of the NPPF.
20. The Wildlife Trust therefore contends that the Urban Country Park and employment allocations are unsound as they are not consistent with national policy (paragraphs 109, 114, 117 and 118 of the NPPF), are not positively prepared and will not be effective as currently worded. They are also contrary to policies elsewhere within the Local Plan including policy 69.
21. Should Policy 15 be retained, then the policy wording and the supporting text must be amended to ensure that the developments result in the enhancement of biodiversity and not just mitigation with the inevitable losses this implies.

22. The Wildlife Trust suggests the following amendments to bullet point (g) should be revised as follows: *“recognises existing sites of local nature conservation importance within and surrounding the site and where development is proposed provides for appropriate mitigation, **compensation and enhancement measures to ensure a net gain in biodiversity**”.*
23. In addition, Policy 15 should clearly state that the Coldham’s Lane Old Landfill Site City Wildlife Site should be fully restored to wildlife habitats as part of the Urban Country Park creation. Any development should be limited to the other old landfill site to the west of the existing David Lloyd centre, hotel and car showroom development.
24. Finally, there is no mention of the need to protect and enhance biodiversity within policy 13 *“the Areas of Major Change”* and the supporting text. As more than one of these, including the sites south of Coldham’s Lane and Cambridge north-east include areas of nature conservation importance this omission is a serious flaw and should be rectified with a new bullet point recognising the contribution these allocations should make towards biodiversity conservation and enhancement.

References

Birds of Conservation Concern 3; RSPB (2009)
Philip J. Baker , Rebecca L. Thomas , Stuart E. Newson , Victoria Thompson & Nick R.D. Paling (2010). Habitat associations and breeding bird community composition within the city of Bristol, UK, Bird Study, 57:2, 183-196
Cambridge Nature Conservation Strategy; Cambridge City Council & The Wildlife Trust BCN (2006)
Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy; Cambridgeshire Horizons (2011)
Section 40 & 41 List NERC Act (2006); Natural England (2007)

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Appendix 1: City Wildlife Site Survey Reports 2005

SITE RECORD SHEET

SITE NAME: Norman Cement Pits

(formerly the two sites named Blue Circle-Norman Cement, and Norman Cement Pit East)

Site code: H4.3 / J4.2

Grid ref: TL481571

Date of survey: 14.09.05

Surveyor: Alastair Ross

Habitat information

Code	Habitat type
A111	Woodland: broadleaved, semi-natural
A112	Woodland: broadleaved, plantation
A21	Scrub: dense/continuous
A22	Scrub: scattered
B4	Improved grassland
B6	Grassland: poor semi-improved
C31	Tall herb and fern: other, tall ruderal
F1	Swamp
G1	Open water: standing water
J21	Boundaries, intact hedge
J22	Boundaries, defunct hedge
J23	Boundaries, hedge with trees
J13	Ephemeral/short perennial
S4	<i>Phragmites australis</i> swamp and reedbeds
W21	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i> - <i>Hedera helix</i> scrub
W24	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> - <i>Holcus lanatus</i> underscrub

Site area

18.25 ha

Site description

The site comprises two large disused chalk pits (quarried for the cement industry) with adjoining areas of scrub and woodland, grassland and tall herb vegetation. The pits are flooded and used for angling (by Cherry Hinton Angling Club), the deep clear water contains a variety of fish species that include Carp, Perch, Tench, Bream and Roach.

Historically the pits have been selected as two separate Wildlife Sites known as Blue Circle – Norman Cement (Site code H4.3) and Norman Cement Pit – East (Site Code J4.2). With the sites being located immediately adjacent to each other it is considered more appropriate that they are treated as a single ecological unit; it is therefore proposed that their boundaries are unified to form one large City Wildlife Site named Norman Cement Pits.

The western pit

The north-west corner of this pit has a good fringe of emergent vegetation on both sides of the lake, with abundant Common Reed *Phragmites australis* present, stands with a width of up to 10m from the shore (this fringe has an average width of 4-5m). Other aquatic species include Lesser Pond Sedge *Carex acutiformis* (F), Greater Bulrush *Typha latifolia* (O), Yellow Flag *Iris pseudacorus* (O), Amphibious bistort *Persicaria amphibia* (O), Yellow Water-lily *Nuphar lutea* (R) and White Water-lily *Nymphaea alba* (R). Behind the emergent vegetation is a grassy strip 3-8m wide used as a path, this is poor semi-improved grassland. A line of tall Weeping Willow *Salix babylonica* forms the site border on the NW side of the pit. Bramble scrub forms the understorey below these trees with frequent Brambles *Rubus fruticosus* agg, Dewberry *Rubus caesius*, occasional Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, Dog Rose *Rosa canina* agg and Wild Privet *Ligustrum vulgare* (R). In the very north-western corner of the site is a small area of broad-leaved woodland comprising Alder *Alnus glutinosa* (F), Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* (O), Norway Maple *Acer platinoides* (O) and Hawthorn (F).

The northern shore of the lake has a narrow fringe (average width of 3m) of emergent vegetation, mainly Common Reed (A) and Greater Bulrush (O); this vegetation becomes more sporadic on the eastern side of this shore. The waters' edge is bordered by frequent broadleaved trees and scrub. Species present include Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* (F), Crack Willow *Salix fragilis* (O), Sycamore (O), Field Maple *Acer campestre* (O), mature Lombardy Poplar *Populus nigra var italica* (LF) Hawthorn (F), Brambles (F), Dewberry *Rubus caesius* (O) and Field Horsetail *Equisetum arvense* (F). The northern boundary of the site comprises a species poor hedgerow (approximately 2m wide by 5m high) with abundant Hawthorn and occasional Wild Privet and *Cotoneaster* sp.

The north-east corner of the pit has very sparse emergent vegetation (occasional Common Reed and Greater Bulrush), the banks here are steep and covered in dense Willow scrub. Species include Grey Willow *Salix cinerea* (F), Crack Willow (O), Dog Rose *Rosa canina* agg. (F), Hawthorn (F), Dogwood *Cornus sanguinea* (O) and Buckthorn *Rhamnus cathartica* (O).

The eastern shore-line has virtually no emergent vegetation, the chalk banks are almost vertical and approximately 4m high. The vegetation on the top of the banks consists of a mosaic of grassland, disturbed ground, and scrub. Around grid reference TL47943,57351 there is a small area of disturbed ground with some interesting calcicole species, that include Burnet Saxifrage *Pimpinella saxifraga* (R), Yellow-wort *Blackstonia perfoliata* (O), Wild Basil *Clinopodium vulgare* (O) and Common Centaury *Centaureum erythraea* (O). To the east of this ground is an area that comprises of planted trees and self sown scrub; these species include Oak *Quercus robur* (O), Field Maple *Acer campestre* (O), Wayfaring-tree *Viburnum lanata* (O), Silver Birch *Betula pendula* (LF), Hazel *Corylus avellana* (R), and White Poplar *Populus alba* (O). The southern two thirds of the eastern shore is dominated by continuous Hawthorn scrub which is bisected by a 3m wide grassy ride. Species present in this area include Hawthorn (A), Wild Privet (F), Dog Rose (F), Ivy *Hedera helix* (O/LF), Teasel *Dipsacus fullonum* (O), Ground Ivy *Glechoma hederacea* (F), Perforate St John's Wort *Hypericum perforatum* (O), Blackwort (O), Common Centaury (R) and Nettles *Urtica dioica* (O). A Green Woodpecker was observed in this scrub during the survey. The eastern

boundary of the site comprises a very dense continuous hedgerow (up to 6m wide and 4-5m high) dominated by Hawthorn.

The south-eastern edge of the pit is fringed by frequent Crack Willow and occasional Alder. Behind this tree line is an 8m wide strip of scrub, comprising Brambles (A), Hawthorn (F), Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa* (O), Travellers Joy *Clematis vitalba* (O), Nettles (F), and Great Willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum* (O).

The south-western shore has sparse emergent vegetation mainly limited to planted vegetation around angling platforms. Immediately adjacent to the shore is a 5m wide strip of scrub, comprising Brambles (A), Hawthorn (O), Cherry *Prunus avium* (R), Field Maple (O), Hedge Bindweed *Calystegia sepium* (F), Mugwort *Artemisia vulgaris* (F), Creeping Thistle *Cirsium arvense* (O), Hedge Woundwort *Stachys sylvatica* (O), White Dead Nettle *Lamium album* (O) and Common Mallow *Malva sylvestris* (O). Behind this scrub is a 3m wide grassy ride, of short mown improved grassland.

On the south side of the ride is another strip of scrub, this one approximately 6m wide which includes frequent planted trees. Species present include Bramble (F), Hawthorn (O), Blackthorn (O), Dewberry (O), Rowan *Sorbus aucuparia* (O), Silver Birch (O/LF), Alder (O/LF), Common Lime *Tilia x europaea* (O) and Horse Chestnut *Aesculus hippocastanum* (R).

The eastern pit

The western edge of the pit has a sparse fringe of emergent vegetation with occasional Greater Pond Sedge *Carex riparia* and Greater Bulrush *Typha latifolia*. Along the bank is a line of semi-mature Lombardy Poplar *Populus nigra var italica*. Below the trees is a scrub understorey with abundant Brambles *Rubus fruticosus* agg, and frequent Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*.

The banks of the southwest corner of the pit (Grid Ref: TL4804,5705) are covered in dense continuous scrub (4-5m high), species present include Hawthorn (A), Blackthorn (O), Brambles (F), Walnut *Juglans regia* (R). Numerous Song Thrush were observed in this scrub area.

The southern shore has a fringe of emergent vegetation averaging 2m width, with frequent Greater Bulrush and Reed Canary Grass present, together with more occasional Greater Pond Sedge, Common Reed *Phragmites australis*, and Hard Rush *Juncus inflexus*. Behind this emergent vegetation is a 5m wide strip of semi-improved grassland with tall ruderals. Species present in this strip include False Oat Grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* (F), Perennial Rye Grass *Lolium perenne* (F), Couch *Elytrigia repens* (O), Rosebay Willowherb *Chamerion angustifolium* (O), Great Willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum* (O), Mugwort *Artemisia vulgaris* (O), Nettles *Urtica dioica* (O), Meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria* (R) and Wild Carrot *Daucus carota* (R). To the south of this strip, forming the southern site boundary is a long continuous strip of scrub; species include Brambles (F), Hawthorn (O), Grey Willow *Salix cinerea* (R), Elder *Sambucus nigra* (R), Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* (R), Spindle *Euonymus europaeus* (R) and Guelder-rose *Viburnum opulus* (O).

Adjacent to the extreme south-east corner of the pit is an area of damp grassland with scattered trees, that appears to periodically flood with high lake water levels. At the time of survey the grassland was approximately 0.2m above the current water level of the pit. This area of ground has locally frequent Jointed Rush *Juncus articulatus* together with Hard Rush *Juncus inflexus* (O), Greater Pond Sedge (O), Field Horsetail *Equisetum arvense* (F), Tufted Hair Grass *Deschampsia cespitosa* (O), Creeping Bent *Agrostis stolonifera* (O) Ash (F), Hawthorn (F), and Yellow-wort *Blackstonia perfoliata* (LF)

The ground adjacent to the eastern side of the pit is a mosaic of bare ground, ruderals, small patches of short (rabbit grazed) grassland and scattered scrub. Species present include Yellow-wort (F), Field Horsetail (F), Creeping Bent (O), Red Fescue *Festuca rubra agg.* (O), Cocksfoot *Dactylis glomerata* (O), Glaucous Sedge *Carex flacca* (R), Wild Carrot (R), Teasel (O), Mugwort (O), Creeping Thistle (O), Hawthorn (O), Brambles (O), Dog Rose (O), Ash (R), and Grey Willow (R).

The north-east corner of the site is an area of largely bare ground (approximately 50% of the area) together with frequent scattered Hawthorn scrub and frequent recently planted trees (mainly Elm *Ulmus sp.*)

The north side of the pit has virtually no emergent vegetation along its edge, this is limited to a small stand of Common Reed at the very northwest corner of the lake. The banks are very steep (>80°) and approximately 4m high. The land to the north of the shore is a mosaic of scattered scrub (planted and self sown), bare disturbed ground, and small patches of short (heavily rabbit grazed) grassland. Species present include Hawthorn (A), Silver Birch *Betula pendula* (O), Dogwood *Cornus sanguinea* (O), Dog Rose *Rosa canina agg.* (O), Ash (O), Spindle *Euonymus europaeus* (R), Scots Pine *Pinus sylvestris* (R), Wild Privet (R), Blackthorn (R), False Oat Grass (F), Cocksfoot (O), Red Fescue (O), Creeping Bent (O), Yellow-wort (O), Ribbed Plantain *Plantago lanceolata* (F), Ivy *Hedera helix* (O/LF), Ground Ivy *Glechoma hederacea* (F), Perforate St John's-wort *Hypericum perforatum* (R), Common Centaury *Centaureum erythraea* (R), Wild Basil *Clinopodium vulgare* (R). The northern boundary of the site is marked by a long line of Lombardy Poplar trees (each approximately 10m in height).

Site assessment

This site qualifies as a City Wildlife Site for scrub (under criterion 2.6) having blocks of scrub over 0.5ha in area with four or more woody species. It also qualifies under criterion 2.18 as a habitat mosaic; a site over 1ha in size with a mix of scrub, hedgerows, woodland, open water swamp, semi-improved grassland and ruderal communities and which by virtue of its "Position in an ecological unit" (2.39-2.40) and "Potential value" (2.42-2.45), is judged to score highly against the supplementary criteria.

Site status

City Wildlife Site

SITE SPECIES LIST – VASCULAR PLANTS

Note: Due to delayed permission for site access, the survey was conducted at a sub-optimal time for botanical recording, July or early August would have been the optimum time for this type of survey; as such some plant species are likely to have been undetected on this visit. It is therefore very possible that further species are present on the site, in addition to those listed in the tables below. Access permission was refused for the 1998 survey.

The western pit

Scientific name	Common name	Abundance (Sept 2005)
<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	Horse Chestnut	R
<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	Ground Elder	O
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple	O
<i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway Maple	R
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore	R
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	O
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Common Bent	O
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	Creeping Bent	R
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Alder	O/LF
<i>Angelica sylvestris</i>	Wild Angelica	R
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow Parsley	O
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	False Oat-grass	O
<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	Mugwort	O
<i>Ballota nigra</i>	Black Horehound	O
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy	R
<i>Betula pendula</i>	Silver Birch	O
<i>Blackstonia perfoliata</i>	Yellow Wort	O
<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	Hedge Bindweed	O
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Shepherd's-purse	R
<i>Carex acutiformis</i>	Lesser Pond Sedge	O/LF
<i>Centaureum erythraea</i>	Common Centaury	O
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common Mouse-ear	R
<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>	Rosebay Willowherb	R
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle	O
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear Thistle	R
<i>Clematis vitalba</i>	Traveller's Joy	O
<i>Clinopodium vulgare</i>	Wild Basil	R
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Field Bindweed	R
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	Dogwood	R
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	R
<i>Cotoneaster sp.</i>	a Cotoneaster	R
<i>x Cupressocyparis leylandii</i>	Leyland Cypress	R/LF
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	F
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock's-foot	O/LF
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild Carrot	R
<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Teasel	R
<i>Elytrigia repens</i>	Common Couch	R

<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Great Willowherb	O
<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	Field Horsetail	R/LF
<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	Spindle	R
<i>Festuca rubra</i> agg.	Red Fescue	R
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash	O/LF
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers	O
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Ground-ivy	O
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy	O
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed	O
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire Fog	O
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Perforate St John's Wort	R
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Yellow Flag	O
<i>Juncus inflexus</i>	Hard Rush	R
<i>Lamium album</i>	White Dead-nettle	O
<i>Lamium purpureum</i>	Red Dead-nettle	R
<i>Larix decidua</i>	European Larch	R
<i>Leontodon autumnalis</i>	Autumn Hawkbit	R
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Oxeye Daisy	R
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	Wild Privet	O
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial Rye-grass	O/LF
<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Common Mallow	R
<i>Matricaria recutita</i>	Scented Mayweed	R
<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	Black Medick	R
<i>Nuphar lutea</i>	Yellow Water-lily	R
<i>Nymphaea alba</i>	White Water-lily	R
<i>Pentaglottis sempervirens</i>	Green Alkanet	R
<i>Persicaria amphibia</i>	Amphibious Bistort	O
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common Reed	A
<i>Picris echioides</i>	Bristly Oxtongue	O
<i>Pimpinella saxifraga</i>	Burnet Saxifrage	R
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain	O
<i>Plantago major</i>	Greater Plantain	R
<i>Poa annua</i>	Annual Meadow-grass species	R
<i>Populus alba</i>	White Poplar	R
<i>Populus nigra</i> var <i>italica</i>	Lombardy Poplar	O/LF
<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	Creeping Cinquefoil	O
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Self-heal	R
<i>Prunus avium</i>	Wild Cherry	R
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn	O
<i>Quercus robur</i>	Pedunculate Oak	R
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup	O
<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i>	Buckthorn	R
<i>Rosa canina</i> agg.	Dog Rose	F
<i>Rosa canina</i> agg.	Dog Rose	F
<i>Rubus caesius</i>	Dewberry	O
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	Bramble	F
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Dock	O
<i>Salix babylonica</i>	Weeping Willow	O
<i>Salix cinerea</i>	Grey Willow	O

<i>Salix fragilis</i>	Crack Willow	O
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder	R
<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Common Ragwort	R
<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	Groundsel	R
<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	Bittersweet	O
<i>Solanum nigrum</i>	Black Nightshade	R
<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Prickly Sow-thistle	R
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Rowan	R
<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	Hedge Woundwort	R
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg.	Dandelion	R
<i>Tilia x europaea</i>	Common Lime	R
<i>Torilis japonica</i>	Upright Hedge-Parsley	O
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover	R
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	O
<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	Coltsfoot	O
<i>Typha latifolia</i>	Greater Bulrush	O
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Stinging Nettle	O/LF
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Germander Speedwell	R
<i>Veronica serpyllifolia</i>	Thyme-leaved Speedwell	R
<i>Viburnum lanata</i>	Wayfaring Tree	R

The eastern pit species list

Scientific name	Common name	Abundance (Sept 2005)
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple	R
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	R
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Common Bent	O
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	Creeping Bent	O
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow Parsley	O
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	False Oat-grass	O/LF
<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	Mugwort	O
<i>Asparagus officinalis</i>	Asparagus	R
<i>Ballota nigra</i>	Black Horehound	O
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy	O
<i>Betula pendula</i>	Silver Birch	O
<i>Blackstonia perfoliata</i>	Yellow Wort	O/LF
<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	Hedge Bindweed	O
<i>Carex flacca</i>	Glaucous Sedge	R
<i>Carex riparia</i>	Greater Pond Sedge	O
<i>Centaureum erythraea</i>	Common Centaury	R
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common Mouse-ear	R
<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>	Rosebay Willowherb	O/LF
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle	O
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear Thistle	O
<i>Clematis vitalba</i>	Traveller's Joy	O
<i>Clinopodium vulgare</i>	Wild Basil	R
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Field Bindweed	R
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	Dogwood	R
<i>Cotoneaster</i> sp.	a Cotoneaster	R

<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	F
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock's-foot	O
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild Carrot	R
<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>	Tufted Hair Grass	R
<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Teasel	O
<i>Elytrigia repens</i>	Common Couch	O
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Great Willowherb	O
<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	Field Horsetail	F
<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	Spindle	R
<i>Festuca rubra</i> agg.	Red Fescue	O
<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	Meadowsweet	R
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash	O/LF
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers	O
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Ground-ivy	O/LF
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy	O/LF
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed	O
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire Fog	O
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Perforate St John's Wort	R
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Yellow Flag	R
<i>Juglans regia</i>	Walnut	R
<i>Juncus articulatus</i>	Jointed Rush	O/LF
<i>Juncus inflexus</i>	Hard Rush	O
<i>Lamium album</i>	White Dead-nettle	O
<i>Leontodon autumnalis</i>	Autumn Hawkbit	O
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Oxeye Daisy	R
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	Wild Privet	R
<i>Linum catharticum</i>	Fairy Flax	R
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial Rye-grass	F
<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Common Mallow	O
<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	Black Medick	R
<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	Water Mint	R
<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	Reed Canary Grass	F
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common Reed	O
<i>Picris echioides</i>	Bristly Oxtongue	O
<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Scots Pine	R
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain	F
<i>Plantago major</i>	Greater Plantain	R
<i>Poa annua</i>	Annual Meadow-grass	R
<i>Populus nigra</i> var <i>italica</i>	Lombardy Poplar	O/LF
<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	Creeping Cinquefoil	R
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Self-heal	R
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn	O
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup	R
<i>Rosa canina</i> agg.	Dog Rose	F
<i>Rubus caesius</i>	Dewberry	O
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	Bramble	F
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Curled Dock	R
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Dock	R
<i>Salix cinerea</i>	Grey Willow	R

<i>Salix fragilis</i>	Crack Willow	R
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder	R
<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Common Ragwort	O
<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	Bittersweet	R
<i>Solidago canadensis</i>	Canadian Goldenrod	R
<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Prickly Sow-thistle	R
<i>Torilis japonica</i>	Upright Hedge-Parsley	O
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	R
<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	Coltsfoot	O
<i>Typha latifolia</i>	Greater Bulrush	F
<i>Ulmus sp.</i>	Elm	R
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Stinging Nettle	O
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Germander Speedwell	R
<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	Guelder-rose	O

Where:

D	Dominant
A	Abundant
F	Frequent
O	Occasional
R	Rare
L	Locally

Botanical scientific nomenclature follows *New Flora of the British Isles*, 2nd Edition, C.A.Stace, CUP, 1997

SITE RECORD SHEET

SITE NAME: Coldham's Lane Old Landfill Sites

(formerly known as the three sites Blue Circle Old Landfill, Blue Circle Oldest Landfill, and Coldham's Lane Hedgerow)

Site code: J4.5 / J4.6 / J4.8

Grid ref: TL485572

Date of survey: 15/09/2005

Surveyor: Alastair Ross

Habitat information

Code	Habitat type
A21	Scrub: dense/continuous
A22	Scrub: scattered
B22	Neutral grassland: semi-improved
B6	Poor semi-improved grassland
C31	Tall herb and fern: tall ruderal
J13	Ephemeral/short perennial
J21	Boundaries, intact hedge
J22	Boundaries, defunct hedge
J4	Bare ground
W21	<i>Crataegus monogyna-Hedera helix</i> scrub
W24	<i>Rubus fruticosus-Holcus lanatus</i> underscrub

Site Area

8.91 ha

Site description

Two old landfill sites that now form a green space comprising largely scrub, poor semi-improved grassland together with tall ruderal vegetation. Historically the old landfill sites have been selected as two separate Wildlife Sites known as Blue Circle Old Landfill (Site code J4.5) and Blue Circle Oldest Landfill (Site Code J4.6). With the sites being located immediately adjacent to each other it is considered more appropriate that they are treated as a single ecological unit; it is therefore proposed that their boundaries are unified to form one large City Wildlife Site named Coldham's Lane Old Landfill Sites. A third site, formerly known as Coldham's Lane Hedgerow (Site J4.8) which adjoins the northern perimeter of Blue Circle Old Landfill has also been incorporated into the new site boundary.

The two old landfill sites are divided by a 6m wide tarmac cycleway track that runs east-west linking a local housing estate with the new sports centre development.

North of the track is the landfill formerly known as Blue Circle Old Landfill an area of approximately 4.4 ha. Dense continuous scrub makes up approximately 50% of this area; a mix of two NVC community types, W21 with frequent Hawthorn, and W24 a more Bramble dominated underscrub. The scrub comprises of a diverse mix of woody species that include

Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, Elder *Sambucus nigra*, Dogwood *Cornus sanguinea*, Grey Willow *Salix cinerea*, Field Maple *Acer Campestre*, Spindle *Euonymus europaeus*, Wild Privet *Ligustrum vulgare*, Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*. Other typical scrub species present include frequent Brambles *Rubus fruticosus* agg., Dog Rose *Rosa canina* agg., Dewberry *Rubus caesius*. Such a wide diversity of spinose plants with fruits makes this scrub a very attractive habitat for birds and small mammal species.

The scrub located on the northern side of the old landfill has the greatest diversity of plant species, together with a good mix of both open and dense scrub areas, and is thought particularly valuable for birds. Historic restrictions on site access means that bird records are not currently available for the site. It is recommended that a breeding bird survey be conducted at the earliest available opportunity to scientifically assess bird populations on the site. Given the intricate mosaic of scrub and rough grassland there is potential for interesting invertebrate populations on the site, and this should also be investigated.

The north-east boundary consists of a hedgerow (formerly known as Coldham's Lane Hedgerow City Wildlife Site). The hedgerow appears on pre-enclosure maps of Cherry Hinton. The northwest end of the hedgerow has been grubbed-out in order to widen the road junction, causing the loss of the two large Field Maple stools mentioned in the 1998 report for the site. The hedgerow is now 125m long, it is 5-10m high and over 5m wide, merging into the scrub behind; the hedgerow appears unmanaged. The shrubs are largely Blackthorn and an Elm *Ulmus* sp., but a wide range of other species are still present, including Hazel, Hawthorn, Ash, Elder and Sycamore. The ground flora is now largely Ivy *Hedera helix*, but a patch of Dog's Mercury *Mercurialis perennis* remains.

The remainder of the northern landfill site comprises a mosaic of species poor neutral grassland, dominated in places by stands of tall ruderal species (i.e. Nettles, Thistles, Hogweed, Docks), and smaller areas of disturbed/bare ground with a wide variety of waste ground plant species. The site boundary consists of a high metal fence around the whole perimeter. The site appears unmanaged except for the cutting of narrow pathways through the vegetation, to allow access to landfill environmental monitoring points.

South of the cycle track is the second old landfill site, formerly known as Blue Circle Oldest Landfill (J4.6), an area of approximately 4.4ha. The site is enclosed by high metal fencing around the whole perimeter. The northern and eastern boundaries of the site have tall/wide hedgerows (approx 5m high by 4m wide) comprising a mixture of abundant Hawthorn, with occasional Ash, Blackthorn, Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*, and Field Maple. A line of trees forms the southern boundary, with frequent Ash, Sycamore and Field Maple present.

Dense continuous scrub makes up approximately 60% of this southern site; a mix of two NVC community types, W21 with frequent Hawthorn, and W24 a more Bramble dominated underscrub. The scrub comprises of a diverse mix of woody species that include Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Elder *Sambucus nigra*, Field Maple *Acer Campestre*, Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, and Wild Privet *Ligustrum vulgare*. Other scrub species present include frequent Brambles *Rubus fruticosus* agg., Dog Rose *Rosa canina* agg., Dewberry *Rubus caesius*. As per the northern old landfill, historic restrictions on site access means that bird and invertebrate records are not currently available for the site, studies to gather such information should be conducted when possible.

The remainder of this southern site comprises of a mosaic of largely species poor neutral grassland with scattered tall ruderal species and occasional Brambles. There are small patches of more species rich grassland, with herb species including Hairy Sedge *Carex hirta*, Common Centaury *Centaureum erythraea*, Perforate St John's Wort *Hypericum perforatum*, Wild Mignonette *Reseda lutea*, and Wild Carrot *Daucus carota*. There are also small areas of disturbed/bare ground with a wide variety of waste ground plant species. The

site appears unmanaged except for the cutting of narrow pathways through the vegetation, to allow access to landfill environmental monitoring points.

Site assessment

This site qualifies as a City Wildlife Site for scrub (under criterion 2.6) with a strong diversity of woody scrub indicator species present in significant numbers. It qualifies under criterion 2.9 for hedgerows. It further qualifies under criterion 2.18 as a habitat mosaic; a site over 1ha in size with a mix of scrub, semi-improved grassland and ruderal communities and which by virtue of its “Position in an ecological unit” (2.39-2.40), “Human value” in the form of use for recreation by children and dog walkers (2.41), and “Potential value” (2.42-2.45), is judged to score highly against the supplementary criteria.

Site status

City Wildlife Site

SPECIES LISTS

Note: Due to delayed permission for site access, the survey was conducted at a sub-optimal time for botanical recording, July or early August would have been the optimum time for this type of survey; as such some plant species are likely to have been undetected on this visit. It is therefore very possible that further species are present on the site, in addition to those listed in the tables below. Access permission was refused for the 1998 survey.

Northern old landfill site (Blue Circle Old Landfill, J4.5)

Grassland / Disturbed Ground

Scientific name	Common name	Abundance (Sept 2005)
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Common Bent	O
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	Creeping Bent	O
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	Scarlet Pimpernel	R
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow Parsley	O
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	False Oat-grass	A
<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	Mugwort	R
<i>Atriplex patula</i>	Common Orache	O/LF
<i>Ballota nigra</i>	Black Horehound	O
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy	O
<i>Buddleja davidii</i>	Buddleja	R
<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	Hedge Bindweed	R
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Shepherd's-purse	O
<i>Centaureum erythraea</i>	Common Centaury	R
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common Mouse-ear	R
<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>	Rosebay Willowherb	R
<i>Chenopodium album</i>	Fat-hen	O/LF
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle	F
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear Thistle	F
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Field Bindweed	R
<i>Corydalis lutea</i>	Yellow Corydalis	R
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock's-foot	O
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild Carrot	R
<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Teasel	F
<i>Epilobium montanum</i>	Broad-leaved Willowherb	R
<i>Euphorbia cyparissias</i>	Cyprus Spurge	R
<i>Euphorbia helioscopia</i>	Sun Spurge	R
<i>Festuca rubra agg.</i>	Red Fescue	O
<i>Fallopia japonica</i>	Japanese Knotweed	R
<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	Meadowsweet	R
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers	O
<i>Geranium pyrenaicum</i>	Hedgerow Crane's-bill	R
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Ground-ivy	O/LF
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy	O
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed	O/LA
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire Fog	O
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Perforate St John's Wort	F
<i>Juncus inflexus</i>	Hard Rush	R
<i>Kickxia elatine</i>	Sharp-leaved Fluellen	R
<i>Lamium album</i>	White Dead-nettle	O

<i>Lamium purpureum</i>	Red Dead-nettle	R
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Oxeye Daisy	O
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial Rye-grass	O
<i>Malva neglecta</i>	Dwarf Mallow	R
<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Common Mallow	R
<i>Matricaria recutita</i>	Scented Mayweed	F
<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	Black Medick	R
<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	Reed Canary Grass	R
<i>Picris echioides</i>	Bristly Oxtongue	F
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain	F
<i>Plantago major</i>	Greater Plantain	R
<i>Poa sp</i>	Meadow-grass species	O
<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	Creeping Cinquefoil	O
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Self-heal	R
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup	R
<i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i>	Bramble	O
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Dock	F
<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	Groundsel	O
<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Common Ragwort	O
<i>Silene latifolia</i>	White Champion	R
<i>Solanum nigrum</i>	Black Nightshade	R
<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Prickly Sow-thistle	O
<i>Taraxacum officinale agg.</i>	Dandelion	O
<i>Torilis japonica</i>	Upright Hedge-Parsley	O
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	O
<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	Coltsfoot	R
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Stinging Nettle	F
<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	Great Mullein	O
<i>Verbascum nigrum</i>	Dark Mullein	R
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Germander Speedwell	R
<i>Veronica serpyllifolia</i>	Thyme-leaved Speedwell	O

Scrub / Scattered trees

Scientific name	Common name	Abundance (Sept 2005)	Status
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple	R	WS
<i>Clematis vitalba</i>	Traveller's Joy	O	
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	Dogwood	R	WS
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	A	WS
<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	Spindle	R	WS
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash	R	WS
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy	R	
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	Wild Privet	R	WS
<i>Malus domestica agg.</i>	Apple	O	
<i>Populus nigra var italica</i>	Lombardy Poplar	R	
<i>Prunus avium</i>	Wild Cherry	R	
<i>Malus domestica agg.</i>	Apple	O	
<i>Populus nigra var italica</i>	Lombardy Poplar	R	
<i>Prunus avium</i>	Wild Cherry	R	
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn	F	WS
<i>Rosa canina agg.</i>	Dog Rose	F	
<i>Rubus caesius</i>	Dewberry	O	

<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	Bramble	A	
<i>Salix alba</i>	White Willow	R	
<i>Salix cinerea</i>	Grey Willow	O	WS
<i>Salix fragilis</i>	Crack Willow	R	
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder	O/LF	WS
<i>Ulmus</i> sp.	Elm	R	

Coldham's Lane Hedgerow (J4.8)

Old hedgerow on Coldham's Lane

Scientific name	Common name	Abundance		Status
		1998	2005	
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple	o		WS
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore	r		
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow Parsley	r		
<i>Arum maculatum</i>	Lords-and-Ladies	lf		WP
<i>Ballota nigra</i>	Black Horehound	o		
<i>Clematis vitalba</i>	Traveller's-joy	o		WP
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	Dogwood	r		WS
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	r	o	WS
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	r	r	WS
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash	r		WS
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy		f-la	WP
<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>	Dog's Mercury	lf	lf	WP
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn	f	lf	WS
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	Bramble	o		WP
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder	o		WS
<i>Ulmus glabra</i>	Wych Elm	o		WP
<i>Ulmus glabra</i> x <i>minor</i>	Huntingdon Elm	o		WP
<i>Ulmus minor</i>	Small-leaved Elm	f		WP
<i>Ulmus</i> sp.	an Elm		f	WP

New hedgerow running southwest from Coldham's Lane

Scientific name	Common name	Abundance		Status
		1998	2005	
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple	f		WS
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	f		WS
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	Bramble	f		WP

Fauna

Scientific name	Common name	Abundance		Status
		1998	2005	
<i>Pholidoptera griseoptera</i>	Dark Bush-cricket		1	

Southern old landfill site (Blue Circle Oldest Landfill, J4.6)

Grassland / Disturbed Ground

Scientific name	Common name	Abundance (Sept 2005)
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	R
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Common Bent	O
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	Creeping Bent	O
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow Parsley	O
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	False Oat-grass	A
<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	Mugwort	R
<i>Atriplex patula</i>	Common Orache	O
<i>Ballota nigra</i>	Black Horehound	O
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy	O
<i>Buddleja davidii</i>	Buddleja	R
<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	Hedge Bindweed	O
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Shepherd's-purse	R
<i>Carex hirta</i>	Hairy Sedge	R
<i>Centaurium erythraea</i>	Common Centaury	R
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common Mouse-ear	R
<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>	Rosebay Willowherb	R
<i>Chenopodium album</i>	Fat-hen	O
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle	F
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear Thistle	F
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Field Bindweed	O
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock's-foot	O
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild Carrot	R
<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Teasel	O
<i>Euphorbia helioscopia</i>	Sun Spurge	R
<i>Festuca rubra agg.</i>	Red Fescue	O
<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	Meadowsweet	R
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Fennel	O
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers	O
<i>Geranium pyrenaicum</i>	Hedgerow Crane's-bill	R
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Ground-ivy	O/LF
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy	R
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed	O
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire Fog	O
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Perforate St John's Wort	O
<i>Juncus inflexus</i>	Hard Rush	R
<i>Lamium album</i>	White Dead-nettle	O
<i>Lamium purpureum</i>	Red Dead-nettle	R
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Oxeye Daisy	O
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial Rye-grass	O
<i>Malva neglecta</i>	Dwarf Mallow	R
<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Common Mallow	O
<i>Matricaria discoidea</i>	Pineappleweed	R
<i>Matricaria recutita</i>	Scented Mayweed	R
<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	Black Medick	R
<i>Melilotus officinalis</i>	Ribbed Melilot	R
<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	Reed Canary Grass	R

<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common Reed	R
<i>Picris echinoides</i>	Bristly Oxtongue	F
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain	O/LF
<i>Plantago major</i>	Greater Plantain	R
<i>Poa sp</i>	Meadow-grass species	O
<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	Creeping Cinquefoil	O
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Self-heal	R
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup	R
<i>Reseda lutea</i>	Wild Mignonette	R
<i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i>	Bramble	A
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Curled Dock	R
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Dock	F
<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	Groundsel	O
<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Common Ragwort	R
<i>Silene latifolia</i>	White Campion	R
<i>Solanum nigrum</i>	Black Nightshade	R
<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Prickly Sow-thistle	R
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Smooth Sow-thistle	R
<i>Taraxacum officinale agg.</i>	Dandelion	O
<i>Torilis japonica</i>	Upright Hedge-Parsley	O
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	O
<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	Coltsfoot	O
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Stinging Nettle	F
<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	Great Mullein	O
<i>Verbascum nigrum</i>	Dark Mullein	R
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Germander Speedwell	R
<i>Veronica serpyllifolia</i>	Thyme-leaved Speedwell	R

Scrub / Scattered trees

Scientific name	Common name	Abundance (Sept 2005)	Status
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple	O/LF	WS
<i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway Maple	R	
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore	O/LF	
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Alder	R	
<i>Betula pendula</i>	Silver Birch	R	
<i>Clematis vitalba</i>	Traveller's Joy	O	
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	A	WS
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Copper Beach	R	
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash	O/LF	WS
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy	R	
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	Wild Privet	R	WS
<i>Malus domestica agg.</i>	Apple	O	
<i>Populus nigra var italica</i>	Lombardy Poplar	O	
<i>Prunus avium</i>	Wild Cherry	R	
<i>Prunus domestica</i>	Plum	R	
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn	O	WS
<i>Rosa canina agg.</i>	Dog Rose	F	
<i>Rubus caesius</i>	Dewberry	O	
<i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i>	Bramble	A	
<i>Salix fragilis</i>	Crack Willow	R	
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder	O	WS

Where:

D Dominant
A Abundant
F Frequent
O Occasional
R Rare
L Locally

WP Woodland plant used for determining woodland value
WS Woody species used for determining scrub or hedgerow value

Botanical scientific nomenclature follows Stace CA (1997) *New Flora of the British Isles*, (2nd ed.) CUP.

SITE RECORD SHEET

SITE NAME: CU Officer Training Corps Pit (formerly known as Territorial Army Pit)
Site code: H4.2
Grid ref: TL477576
Date of survey: 11/10/05
Surveyor : Steve Hartley

Habitat information

Code	Habitat type
A2.1	Scrub: dense / continuous
A2.2	Scrub: scattered
B2.2	Grassland: neutral, semi-improved
B3.2	Grassland: calcareous, semi-improved
F2.1	Marginal/inundation: marginal
G1	Open water: standing water

Site area:

8.11 ha

Site description

A disused chalk pit covering 8.11ha, of which 3.9ha is a steep-sided lake with the remainder consisting of blocks of scrub and highly diverse chalk grassland.

To the south of the lake is an area used as an assault course (by Cambridge University Officer Training Corps), with a strip leading down to a jetty. It is mown twelve times a year, and also severely rabbit-grazed in places, resulting in chalk grassland of very high diversity. At the time of the survey the sward height was 2-5cm. The sward consists of over 80% forbs, with 8 strong and 5 weak chalk grassland indicator species, some of which are also neutral grassland indicators. Species include Greater Knapweed *Centaurea scabiosa*, Rough Hawkbit *Leontodon hispidus*, Lesser Hawkbit *Leontodon saxatilis*, Fairy Flax *Linum catharticum*, and Common Bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*. This habitat extends to parts of the track verges on the west side of the site.

Other grassland areas on the south side of the site and along the western track verges are less frequently mown and at the time of the survey varied in height between 10cm and 1m. They consist of a less diverse semi-improved sward dominated by coarser species such as Wild Carrot *Daucus carota*, False Oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius*, Cock's-foot *Dactylis glomerata*, and Perennial Rye-grass *Lolium perenne*, with scattered Bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg, and occasional indicator species such as Common Bird's-foot-trefoil. This ranker vegetation grades into dense scrub on the western boundary of the site and around the banks of the lake, although on the southern lake bank especially the change from short-mown and rabbit-grazed chalk grassland to tall scrub is abrupt. The scrub consists mostly of 5-6m tall Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* with occasional taller Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*; the ground flora includes Black Horehound *Ballota nigra*.

The larger block of scrub on the eastern side of the site is more diverse, but lacks the taller Ash. Hawthorn is the most abundant woody species, but Dogwood *Cornus sanguinea*, Elder

Sambucus nigra and Wild Privet *Ligustrum vulgare* are also frequent. This scrub block is cut through by a track, the verges of which are mown 3 or 4 times a year and moderately rabbit-grazed. On these verges, Wild Basil *Clinopodium vulgare* and Perforate St-John's Wort *Hypericum perforatum* have reached abundant levels. The scrub along the track is cut back every 18 months.

On the northern side of the site is an area of short-mown grassland, which at the time of the survey had a sward height of 2-5cm. The sward consists mostly of lawn species such as Perennial Rye-grass and Daisy *Bellis perennis*, but the indicator species Mouse-ear Hawkweed *Pilosella officinarum*, Common Knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, and Oxeye Daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare* are frequent in places.

The steep banks of the lake permit little room for marginal vegetation. There are small areas where the banks are less steep, such as around the southern jetty. Where possible, Great Willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum* and Common Reed *Phragmites australis* are frequent. No submerged and floating vegetation was readily apparent in the lake. The island in the middle appeared covered in scrub similar to that on the western and eastern sides of the site.

In 1988, Stripe-winged Grasshopper *Stenobothrus lineatus* was recorded in the 100m square lying mostly over the north-west corner of the site. This is 1 of only 2 records for the species in Cambridgeshire.

Site assessment

The site qualifies as a City Wildlife Site for calcareous grassland (criterion 2.10b), and also for neutral grassland (2.10a) and scrub (2.6).

SPECIES LISTS

Scrub and grassland on eastern side of flooded pit

Scientific name	Common name	Abundance		Status
		1998	2005	
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	o	f	
<i>Arctium minus</i>	Lesser Burdock	lf		WP
<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	Mugwort	o		
<i>Ballota nigra</i>	Black Horehound	lf		
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy	f		
<i>Blackstonia perfoliata</i>	Yellow-wort	o		CG*
<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Common Knapweed	lf		NG/CG
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common Mouse-ear	o	lf	
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle	lf		
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear Thistle	o		
<i>Clinopodium vulgare</i>	Wild Basil	f	f-la	CG*
<i>Conium maculatum</i>	Hemlock	r		
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	Dogwood	f		WS
<i>Cotoneaster sp.</i>	a cotoneaster	r		
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	f	f-la	WS
<i>Crepis capillaris</i>	Smooth Hawk's-beard	o		
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock's-foot	f		
<i>Daucus carota carota</i>	Wild Carrot	o		
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers	o		
<i>Geranium molle</i>	Dove's-foot Crane's-bill	lf		
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Ground-ivy	lf		WP
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy	f		WP
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed	o		
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Perforate St. John's-wort	f	f-la	CG
<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Cat's-ear	o		
<i>Inula conyzae</i>	Ploughman's-spikenard	o		CG*
<i>Knautia arvensis</i>	Field Scabious	o		NG*/CG*
<i>Lamium album</i>	White Dead-nettle	o		
<i>Lapsana communis</i>	Nipplewort	r		WP
<i>Leontodon saxatilis</i>	Lesser Hawkbit	o		NG*/CG*
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Oxeye Daisy	o	o	NG/CG
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	Wild Privet	p	f	WS
<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>	Common Toadflax	r		
<i>Mahonia sp.</i>	a mahonia	r		
<i>Medicago arabica</i>	Spotted Medick	lf		
<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	Black Medick	o		
<i>Melilotus officinalis</i>	Ribbed Melilot	r		
<i>Pastinaca sativa</i>	Wild Parsnip	f	o	CG
<i>Picris echioides</i>	Bristly Oxtongue	lf		
<i>Pilosella officinarum</i>	Mouse-ear-hawkweed	r		CG*
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain	o		
<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	Creeping Cinquefoil	f	f	
<i>Primula veris</i>	Cowslip	lf		NG/CG
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Selfheal	lf		WP
<i>Rosa canina</i> agg.	Dog Rose	p	o	
<i>Rubus caesius</i>	Dewberry		o-lf	WP
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	Bramble	p	f	WP

<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder	f	WS
<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	Bladder Campion	o	CG
<i>Sorbus aria</i>	Common Whitebeam	o	
<i>Stellaria media</i>	Common Chickweed	lf	
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	f	
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common Nettle	la	
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Germander Speedwell	o-lf	WP
<i>Viola odorata</i>	Sweet Violet	la	WP

Southern grassland areas (assault course), frequently mown

Scientific name	Common name	Abundance		Status
		1998	2005	
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	f	f	
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy	o	la	
<i>Carduus crispus</i>	Wetted Thistle	r		
<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Common Knapweed	o	f-la	NG/CG
<i>Centaurea scabiosa</i>	Greater Knapweed	o	o-lf	CG*
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common Mouse-ear	lf		
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear Thistle	o		
<i>Clinopodium vulgare</i>	Wild Basil	r		CG*
<i>Crepis capillaris</i>	Smooth Hawk's-beard	o	o	
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock's-foot	f		
<i>Daucus carota carota</i>	Wild Carrot	f		
<i>Festuca rubra</i> agg.	Red Fescue	f		
<i>Festuca</i> sp.	a fescue	a		
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Ground-ivy	o	f-la	WP
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Perforate St. John's-wort	r		CG
<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Cat's-ear	o	r	
<i>Inula conyzae</i>	Ploughman's-spikenard	o		CG*
<i>Knautia arvensis</i>	Field Scabious	o		NG*/CG*
<i>Lamium album</i>	White Dead-nettle	o		
<i>Leontodon hispidus</i>	Rough Hawkbit	lf		NG*/CG*
<i>Leontodon saxatilis</i>	Lesser Hawkbit	la		NG*/CG*
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Oxeye Daisy	o	f	NG/CG
<i>Linum catharticum</i>	Fairy Flax	lf		NG*/CG*
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial Rye-grass	a		
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Common Bird's-foot-trefoil	lf		NG/CG
<i>Medicago arabica</i>	Spotted Medick	o		
<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	Black Medick	f		
<i>Pastinaca sativa</i>	Wild Parsnip	o	f	CG
<i>Picris echioides</i>	Bristly Oxtongue	o		
<i>Pilosella officinarum</i>	Mouse-ear-hawkweed	o		CG*
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain	f	f	
<i>Plantago major</i>	Greater Plantain	o		
<i>Poa</i> sp.	a meadow-grass	f		
<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	Creeping Cinquefoil	o	f	
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Selfheal	o	lf	WP
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup	f		
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Dock	lf		
<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Common Ragwort	o	o-lf	
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	Dandelion	o		
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover	o		

<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	f	
<i>Verbascum pulverulentum</i>	Hoary Mullein	o	
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Germander Speedwell	lf	WP
<i>Viola odorata</i>	Sweet Violet	la	WP

Southern grassland areas, infrequently mown

Scientific name	Common name	Abundance		Status
		1998	2005	
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	o	f	
<i>Agrostis sp.</i>	a bent-grass	f		
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow Parsley		f	
<i>Armoracia rusticana</i>	Horse-radish		r	
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	False Oat-grass	a	f	
<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Common Knapweed	f	f	NG/CG
<i>Centaurea scabiosa</i>	Greater Knapweed	o		CG*
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle		o	
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn		o	WS
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock's-foot	a	f	
<i>Daucus carota carota</i>	Wild Carrot		f	
<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	Field Horsetail		lf	
<i>Festuca rubra</i> agg.	Red Fescue		f	
<i>Festuca sp.</i>	a fescue	f		
<i>Geranium sp.</i>	an exotic crane's-bill		o	
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Ground-ivy		f	WP
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy		lf	WP
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed	f	o	
<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Cat's-ear	o		
<i>Knautia arvensis</i>	Field Scabious	o		NG*/CG*
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Oxeye Daisy	o		NG/CG
<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>	Common Toadflax		o	
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial Rye-grass		f	
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Common Bird's-foot-trefoil	lf		NG/CG
<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Common Mallow		o	
<i>Pastinaca sativa</i>	Wild Parsnip	f		CG
<i>Picris echinoides</i>	Bristly Oxtongue		r	
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain	o	f	
<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	Creeping Cinquefoil	o	o	
<i>Rosa canina</i> agg.	Dog Rose	o		
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Curled Dock		r	
<i>Salix alba</i>	White Willow		r	
<i>Senecio erucifolius</i>	Hoary Ragwort		o	
<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Common Ragwort	o		
<i>Silene latifolia</i>	White Champion		r	
<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	Bladder Champion		r	CG
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg.	Dandelion		o	
<i>Tragopogon pratensis</i>	Goat's-beard	o		
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover	o	o	
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common Nettle		lf	
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Germander Speedwell		lf	WP
<i>Vicia sativa</i>	Common Vetch	r		

Flooded pit margins

Scientific name	Common name	Abundance		Status
		1998	2005	
<i>Buddleja davidii</i>	Butterfly-bush	r		
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle	lf		
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Great Willowherb	f		
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Soft Rush			
<i>Juncus inflexus</i>	Hard Rush	o		
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	Wild Privet	o		WS
<i>Lycopus europaeus</i>	Gypsywort	o-lf		
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common Reed	lf	f	
<i>Rosa canina</i> agg.	Dog Rose	r		
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	Bramble	o		WP
<i>Salix alba</i>	White Willow	o	o	
<i>Salix cinerea</i>	Grey Willow	o		WP
<i>Salix</i> sp.	a willow	o		
<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	Colt's-foot	f		
<i>Typha latifolia</i>	Bulrush	o	lf	
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common Nettle	o		

Northern grassland areas

Scientific name	Common name	Abundance		Status
		1998	2005	
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	f		
<i>Arctium minus</i>	Lesser Burdock	lf		WP
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy	f	f	
<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Common Knapweed	o	f	NG/CG
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common Mouse-ear	o		
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear Thistle	o		
<i>Clematis vitalba</i>	Traveller's Joy			WP
<i>Clinopodium vulgare</i>	Wild Basil	o		CG*
<i>Crepis capillaris</i>	Smooth Hawk's-beard	o	r	
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild Carrot	lf		
<i>Festuca rubra</i> agg.	Red Fescue		f	
<i>Festuca</i> sp.	a fescue	a		
<i>Geranium molle</i>	Dove's-foot Crane's-bill	la		
<i>Geranium pyrenaicum</i>	Hedgerow Crane's-bill	o		
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Ground-ivy	o	la	WP
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed			
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Perforate St. John's-wort	o	r	CG
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Soft Rush	o		
<i>Lamium album</i>	White Dead-nettle	o		
<i>Leontodon saxatilis</i>	Lesser Hawkbit	r		NG*/CG*
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Oxeye Daisy	o	lf	NG/CG
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial Rye-grass	a	f	
<i>Lycopus europaeus</i>	Gypsywort	o		
<i>Malva neglecta</i>	Dwarf Mallow	o		
<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Common Mallow	o		
<i>Medicago arabica</i>	Spotted Medick	o	f-la	
<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	Black Medick	o		
<i>Pastinaca sativa</i>	Wild Parsnip	la	f	CG
<i>Picris echioides</i>	Bristly Oxtongue	o		
<i>Pilosella officinarum</i>	Mouse-ear-hawkweed	lf		CG*

<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain	o	f	
<i>Poa sp.</i>	a meadow-grass	a		
<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	Creeping Cinquefoil	f	o-lf	
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Selfheal	o	f	WP
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup	o	lf	
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	Bramble			WP
<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Common Ragwort	o	f	
<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	Bladder Champion	r		CG
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg.	Dandelion	o	o	
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover	f		
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	f	f	
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Germander Speedwell	lf	o-la	WP
<i>Vicia sativa</i>	Common Vetch	r		
<i>Viola odorata</i>	Sweet Violet		lf	WP

Scrub around western and southern lake banks and on western boundary

Scientific name	Common name	Abundance		Status
		1998 2005		
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore		r	
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow		o	
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow Parsley		f	
<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	Mugwort		o	
<i>Ballota nigra</i>	Black Horehound	o	la	
<i>Berberis sp.</i>	an exotic barberry		r	
<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	Hedge Bindweed	o		
<i>Calystegia silvatica</i>	Large Bindweed		o	
<i>Clematis vitalba</i>	Traveller's-joy		o	
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	Dogwood	o		WS
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	f	f	WS
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock's-foot		f	
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Great Willowherb		r	
<i>Fallopia japonica</i>	Japanese Knotweed		lf	
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash	o	o	WS
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers		o	
<i>Geranium molle</i>	Dove's-foot Crane's-bill		lf	
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy		o	
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed	o		
<i>Lamium album</i>	White Dead-nettle	o	o	
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	Wild Privet	o	o	WS
<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Common Mallow		o	
<i>Picris echioides</i>	Bristly Oxtongue		r	
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain		o	
<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	Creeping Cinquefoil		o	
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Selfheal		f	
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn		o	
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup		lf	
<i>Ribes sp.</i>	a currant		r	
<i>Rosa canina</i> agg.	Dog Rose	o	o	
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	Bramble	f	f	WP
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Dock		o	
<i>Salix alba</i>	White Willow	o		
<i>Salix cinerea</i>	Grey Willow	o		WS
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder	f	o	WS

<i>Sorbus aria</i>	Common Whitebeam	o
<i>Stellaria media</i>	Common Chickweed	lf
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg.	Dandelion	o
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover	o
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common Nettle	o la

Where:

a	abundant
f	frequent
o	occasional
r	rare
l	locally
p	present

NG	Weak indicator species, neutral grassland
CG	Weak indicator species, calcareous grassland
NG/CG	Weak indicator species, neutral and calcareous grassland
NG*	Strong indicator species, neutral grassland
CG*	Strong indicator species, calcareous grassland
NG*/CG*	Strong indicator species, neutral and calcareous grassland

WP	Woodland plant used for determining woodland value
WS	Woody species for determining scrub or hedgerow value

Botanical scientific nomenclature follows Stace CA (1997) *New Flora of the British Isles* (2nd ed.) CUP.

Fauna, for entire site

<i>Scientific name</i>	Common name	Abundance	
		1998	2005
	anthills		4
<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	Long-tailed Tit	p	
<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	Kingfisher	b	
<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Meadow Pipit	p	
<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Grey Heron		p*
<i>Branta canadensis</i>	Canada Goose		5
<i>Esox lucius</i>	Pike		p*
<i>Muntiacus reevesi</i>	Muntjac		p*
<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	Rabbit		frequent holes
<i>Perca fluviatilis</i>	Perch		p*
<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	Bullfinch	p	
<i>Sorex araneus</i>	Common Shrew	p	
<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	Turtle Dove		1
<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	Redwing	p	

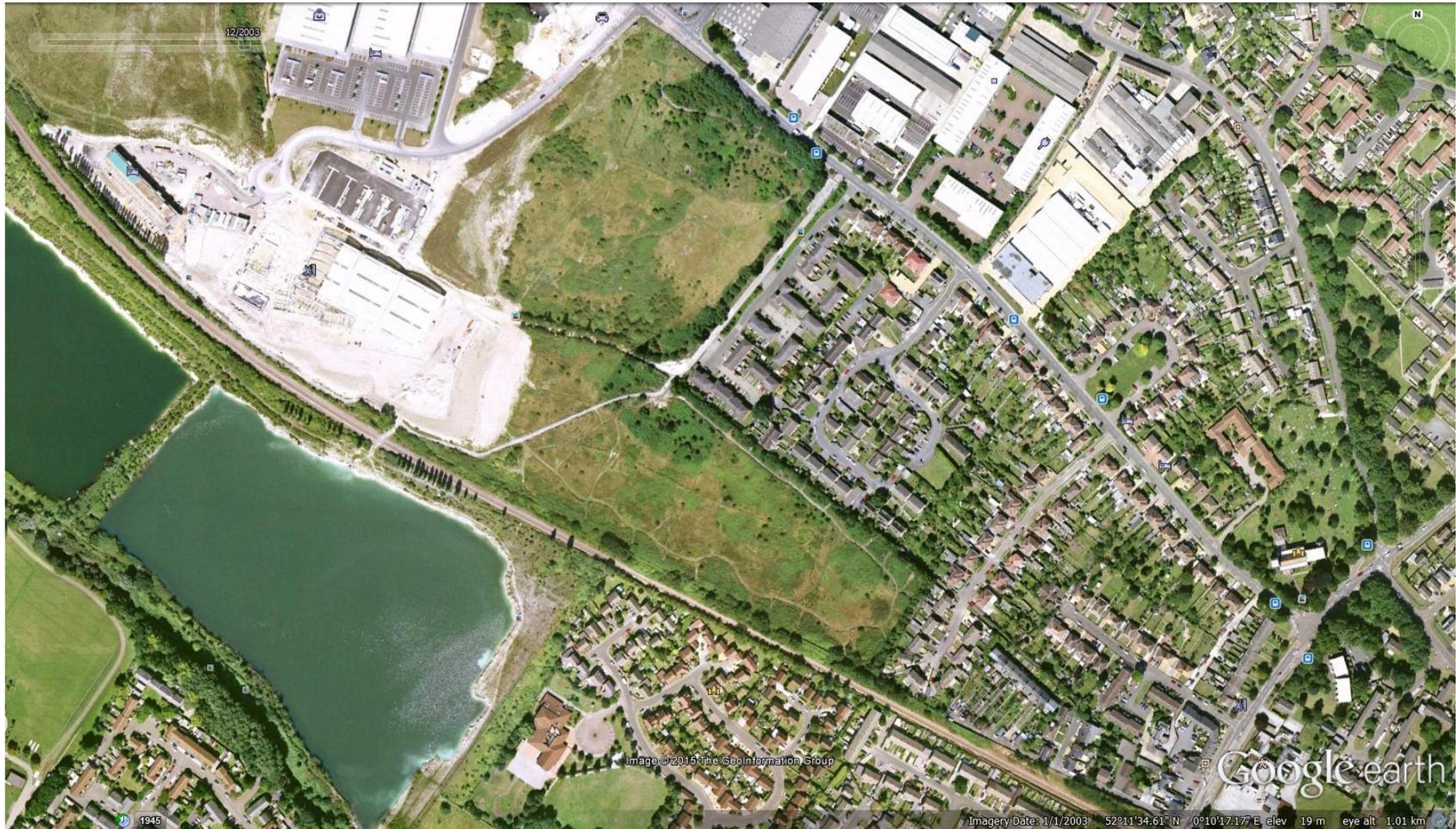
p	present
b	probable breeding
*	reported by OTC staff

Appendix 2 – Aerial Photos (Google maps)

December 2000



December 2003



October 2008



Appendix 3 – Cambridge Evening News Article 6th April 2013

CAMBRIDGE EVENING NEWS – Saturday 6th April 2013

Trust fears "destruction" at Cambridge wildlife haven

Written by NICK KOSTOV



Martin Baker of the Wildlife Trust

THE Wildlife Trust has launched a scathing attack against the owners of a site in the city which they say has been met with "destruction".

The trust said the site off Coldham's Lane was rich in insects and breeding birds and had become a wildlife haven with patches of grassland and scrub.

But Anderson Group, which acquired the site last year, said the criticism was wildly off the mark.

The land behind the David Lloyd gym in Cambridge was a landfill site in the 1960s but Martin Baker, conservation manager at the Wildlife Trust Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire and Northamptonshire, who lives locally, said that although it remains fenced off and privately owned, it was an important part of the city's natural landscape.

He told the News he had been left devastated by the destruction when he drove past last week.

He said: "I looked through a fence and a JCB had been at work removing 20 acres of prime wildlife habitat. No landowner should clear a site of vegetation without knowing what was there, particularly when it was likely to harbour protected species such as common lizards and breeding birds."

He said the site forms part of a wildlife corridor through the east of Cambridge, linking the Cherry Hinton chalk pits to Coldham's Common and onwards to the River Cam, and that it has been identified by the Trust as "an important wildlife sanctuary".

Although Mr Baker admitted that being a sanctuary would not protect the site from legally being developed, he argued it did carry some weight in the planning system.

Anderson Group said the site had no special protection and it had made no secret of its wish to develop the land.

The group is in talks with the city council and hope to have plans in place for public consultation early next year.

Andrew Jay, a consultant for Anderson Group, said the destruction Mr Baker described was the result of routine maintenance.

He said: "Scrub hedges have been cut, as they are every year, and the rubbish which was a health and safety risk was taken away in skips."

"For the last 40 years it has been a fenced-up degraded piece of land and we see a real opportunity for enhancement rather than degradation."

He added that it was an enormous site and the plan was to develop only a small part of it and open the rest up as park land.

He said: "The site has been fenced up and we want to open it up."

"It is better to develop those sites first rather than developing pristine land in the outskirts of town."

Appendix 4 – Extracts from Cambridge Nature Conservation Strategy (2006)

6.3 CITY WILDLIFE SITES (CITYWS)

Key Issues

6.3.1 Cambridge City, is a compact urban district and thus has many fewer SSSI and CountyWS than other areas. CityWS, though not as ecologically rich, do however form a key component of an ecological network in the city. They have a similar status to County Wildlife Sites and the same issues apply.

Objectives

6.3.2 Ensure all City Wildlife Sites owned and managed by Cambridge City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council are maintained or brought into a favourable condition by 2016.

6.3.3 Ensure half of all privately owned City Wildlife Sites are in a favourable condition by 2016.

6.12 GREEN CORRIDORS

Key Issues

6.12.1 Green corridors through the city and out into the surrounding countryside form an essential component of the city's ecological network. While there is a debate in ecological circles about whether and how different species use Green Corridors, they do help to provide links between habitats for some more mobile species and they will, if well designed, act as valuable habitats in their own right. Green Corridors should therefore be viewed as part of the overall network of habitats throughout the city. Their main role should be seen as providing high quality habitats in which wildlife can nest, shelter and feed, though this role will be enhanced if there is a high degree of interconnectivity between them and other areas of habitat.

6.12.2 Green Corridors have a dual purpose, to provide areas of habitat through an area of intensive land use, whether that be urban or agricultural, and to provide access routes for people. There is, however, an inherent contradiction between these two functions. Increased human access and disturbance will limit the numbers of species using a Green Corridor and its value as part of an ecological network. The function and design of any Green Corridor therefore needs to be carefully considered.

6.12.3 One example concerns the use of lighting which could contribute to the increasing fragmentation of habitats in the city for some species such as bats and moths. Safety concerns are increasingly giving rise to demands for improved lighting. However, lighting results in sub-urbanisation of the corridors, extra light pollution and adverse impacts on the value of the corridors as habitats for wildlife. Such sub-urbanisation should be resisted in Green Corridors that are of high value to wildlife. Where possible a better option may be to provide and promote alternative well-lit and safe evening routes rather than light up Green Corridor. The recent example of the proposed cycle path improvements, including lighting along Hobson's Brook, is a good example. There is no need for lighting along this route, which has a rural feel, when there is already a well-lit route parallel along Trumpington Road, and the proposed Cambridgeshire Guided Bus route will provide a second well-lit parallel route within a few years. There is a balance to be struck, between providing

habitats that wildlife can use and providing access for people. It will not always be possible to provide for both in each and every Green Corridor. Where a Green Corridor or open space is required for both wildlife and access by people, and lighting is deemed essential, the type of lights can be critical. Low pressure Sodium monochromatic lights produce light wavelengths that are outside those perceived by most animals and therefore preferable to the increasingly used high pressure full spectrum lights.

6.12.4 The following principles should be used to guide the design and management of Green Corridors.

- A network of Green Corridors should provide a high degree of connectivity between habitats within and beyond the city.
- Green Corridors should be as wide as possible to maximise their benefits for wildlife.
- Green Corridors should include high quality habitats that can support a diverse range of species, whether or not they also function as a migration corridor.
- The function of each Green Corridor, whether it be a natural environment corridor, a sustainable transport (walking, riding & cycling) corridor, or both, should be identified, to inform detailed management decisions.

6.12.5 Cambridge is fortunate in already having a good network of Green Corridors. However, the quality of these could be enhanced, particularly for biodiversity, although some could also be enhanced as sustainable transport routes. Significant management is required to maximise the habitat potential of the existing Green Corridors for wildlife. Some of the Green Corridors are incomplete and would benefit from the creation of new links.

6.12.6 Elsewhere there are opportunities to create new links through the city and beyond, particularly associated with each of the urban extensions to the south, east and north-west of the city.

6.12.7 The proposed network of Green Corridors is shown on Figure 9. This is based on that published in the Green Infrastructure Strategy for the Cambridge Sub-Region, but also includes additional suggestions within the city.

Objectives

6.12.8 Protect, enhance and create the identified network of Green Corridors, both through the City and between the City and surrounding countryside, as an integral part of the City's ecological network and as sustainable transport routes for people.

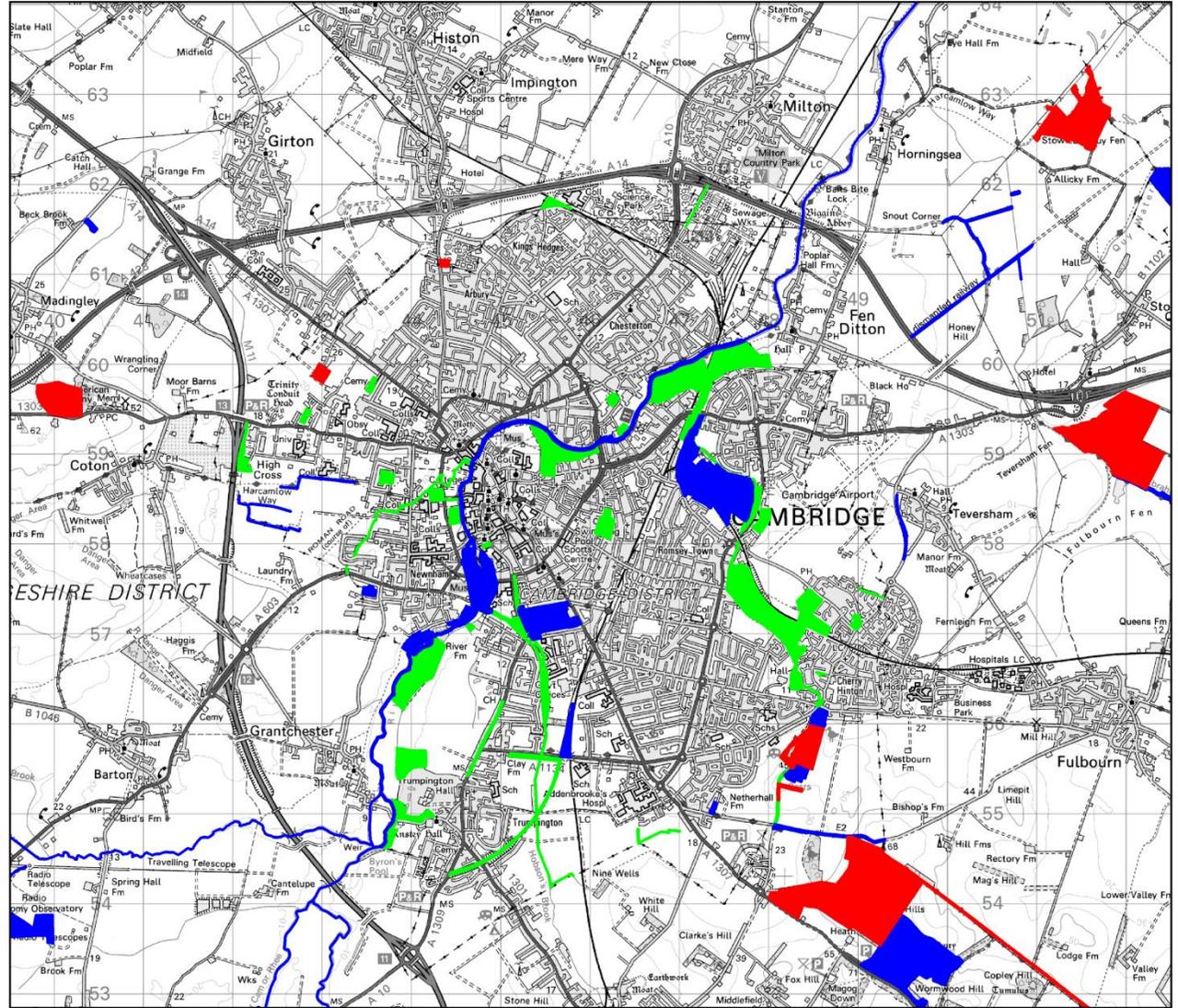
Actions:

GC1. Protect and enhance the existing Green Corridors listed below through relevant planning documents and policies and through implementation of integrated management plans.

Existing links¹:

- 4 & 6 River Cam corridor
- C9 Hobson's Conduit & Vicar's Brook to River Cam
- C10 Cherry Hinton Brook & Coldham's Brook

DESIGNATED NATURE CONSERVATION SITES

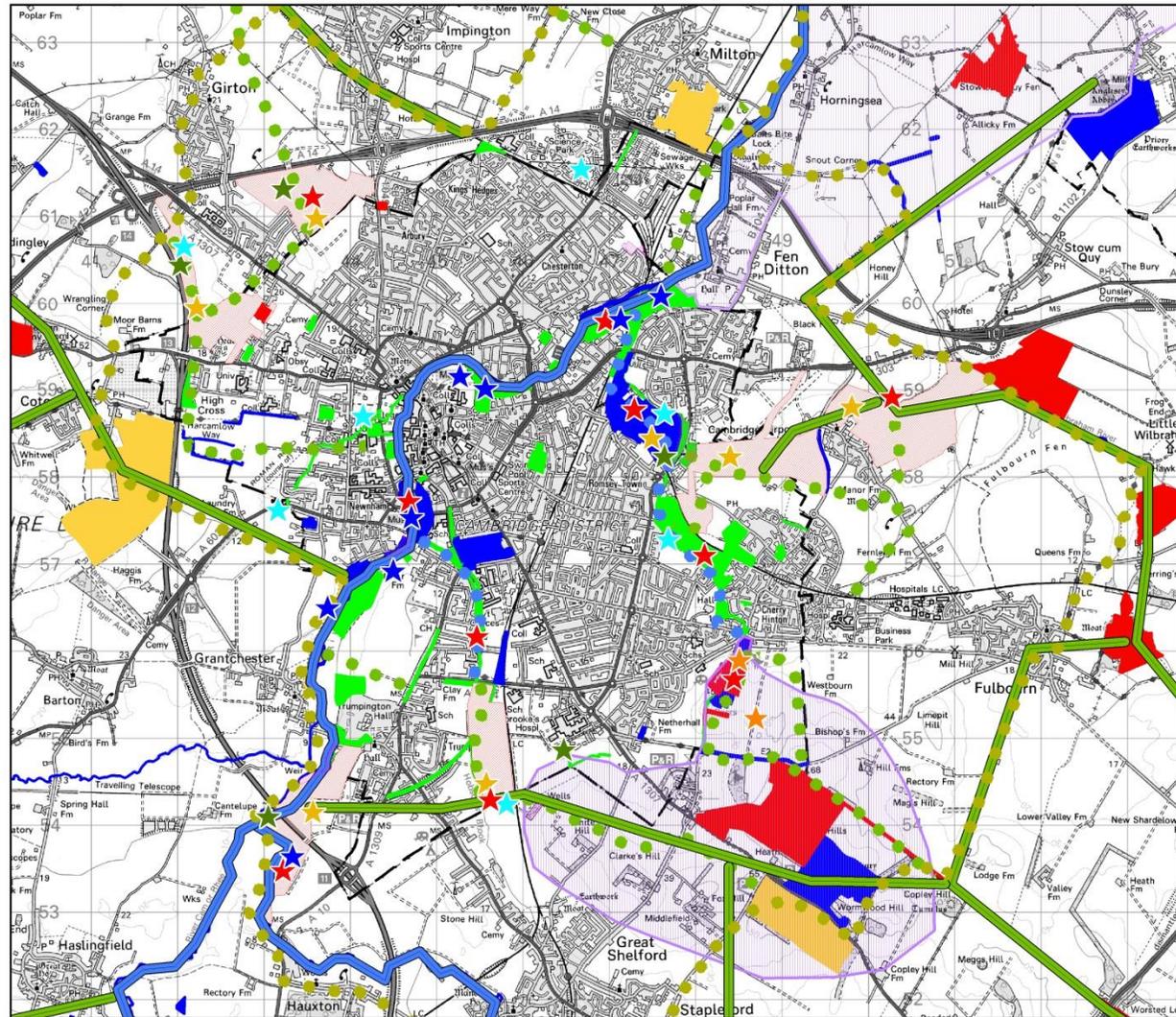


Key:

- SSSI
- SSSI
- County Wildlife Site
- County Wildlife Site
- City Wildlife Site
- City Wildlife Site

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OVERALL SPATIAL VISION



Key:

- ★ Chalk Grassland Sites
- ★ Wet Grassland Sites
- ★ Potential Local Nature Reserves
- ★ Neutral Grassland
- ★ Drainage Ditch Sites
- ★ Woodland Sites
- Other Strategic Open Space
- SSSI
- County Wildlife Sites
- County Wildlife Sites
- City Wildlife Sites
- City Wildlife Sites
- Local Nature Reserve
- Sub Regional Strategy - Green Corridor Enhancement
- Sub Regional Strategy - New Green Corridor
- Cambridge Orbital Recreation Route
- City Scale New Green Corridor
- City Scale Green Corridor Enhancement
- Proposed New Strategic Open Space
- Wicken Fen & Gog Magog Countryside Project
- District Boundary

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