



# South Kesteven District Council

## Local Wildlife Sites Review

Summary Report

### Report for South Kesteven District Council

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# Executive Summary

The Ecology Consultancy was commissioned by South Kesteven District Council (SKDC) to carry out a review of 208 existing Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCIs) and two additional sites (Langtoft Former Gravel Pits and Grantham Allotments, Harrowby) put forward by South Kesteven District Council during 2014-2016. The results were used to identify those sites that qualify for designation as Local Wildlife Sites.

Each site was surveyed to identify plant species present and to collect data about a range of other habitat features as defined by the Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership (GLNP) (2006) in its guidance for the selection of Local Wildlife Sites for the historic county of Lincolnshire. Incidental faunal records were also collected during each survey. The information gathered was then used to evaluate each site against the Local Wildlife Site selection criteria and to make recommendations as to which sites should be considered by the Local Wildlife Sites Panel for designation.

Broad habitat types were recorded during the survey including woodland, grassland, water, quarry, meadow, swamp, marsh and fen. LWS surveys were also used to identify and map Lincolnshire BAP habitats. The Lincolnshire BAP identifies the priorities for habitat and species conservation and enhancement within Greater Lincolnshire and sets targets for achievement. The condition of LWSs provides a measure of BAP achievements at local and national levels.

Of the original list of 210 sites scheduled for survey;

- Thirteen sites were de-selected from the review process.
- Two sites (Row Wood & Ringstone Woods and Stainby Warren & Gunby Dale) were split into separate sites and each was assessed separately.
- One site was added (Irnham Hall Grounds)
- Fifty-two sites could not be assessed; 20 of these were sites where it was not possible to determine the landowner or to view the sites from public land and 32 of the sites were owned by nine landowners who refused to give permission for surveyors to access the sites. These sites will remain SNCIs. Access to the additional site, Langtoft Former Gravel Pits was denied and this site will therefore remain without a designation.

Of the 148 sites surveyed, a total of 92 were evaluated as satisfying the requirements for Local Wildlife Sites on one or more selection criteria. These sites are therefore selected for designation as Local Wildlife Sites. A total of 53 sites did not meet the criteria and were rejected by the Local Wildlife Sites Panel. These sites will no longer be designated as wildlife sites. An

additional site was surveyed, Grantham Allotments, Harrowby and rejected by the LWS panel, this site will therefore remain without a designation. Two sites; Dartmouth Marsh and Irnham Meadow, were deferred for the Panel to revisit at a later date. These sites will remain SNCIs.

Survey information was also used to determine whether or not the original boundaries were still appropriate and of the 92 sites selected for designation, 17 sites were subject to boundary revisions one had a change of name and four sites were merged into the boundaries of adjacent sites.

# 1 Introduction

## **BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The Ecology Consultancy was commissioned by South Kesteven District Council to carry out a review of existing Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCIs) and additional sites during 2014, 2015 and 2016. A total of 208 existing sites and two additional sites were initially scheduled for survey.
- 1.2 The purpose of the review was to inform the emerging Local Development Framework by assessing the sites against the guidelines for the selection of Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) in Lincolnshire (Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership, 2013). These have been prepared by the Biodiversity Partnership in response to guidance produced by DEFRA on Local Sites – Guidance on their Identification, Selection and Management (DEFRA 2006). The aim of this guidance and the selection criteria for Lincolnshire is to make the selection of Local Wildlife Sites more consistent and robust by basing it on up-to-date survey information and defined criteria.
- 1.3 This report provides an overview of the sites surveyed, the habitats and noteworthy species recorded and evaluation of sites that do and do not currently qualify as Local Wildlife Sites. The full survey information, including a recording form, BAP habitat map and species list for each site is available separately.

## **THE PROJECT BRIEF**

- 1.4 The study originally called for a review of some 208 Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI) in the South Kesteven District and 2 additional Local Wildlife Sites—see listed in Table 1.1. Thirteen of the existing SNCI sites were later removed from the list as the sites were de-selected for survey/review - see Table 1.2. This gave a total of 197 sites scheduled for survey between 2014 and 2016. Of the total 197 sites, two sites (Row Wood & Ringstone Woods and Stainby Warren & Gunby Dale) were split into separate sites and were assessed separately, increasing the total sites to survey to 199. Irnham Hall Grounds (a section of Irnham Park which was not included in the Irnham Park survey visit) was also added to the list of sites to survey bringing the total to 200 sites scheduled for survey.
- 1.5 The process of designating sites as Local Wildlife Sites in Lincolnshire is intended to be a four stage process. Of these, the first three stages are within the scope of this project.

The first stage required direct field surveys of each site to describe the habitats present and to generate an inventory of vascular plant species present along with incidental records of other plants, fungi and animals. Second, data was provided to Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership (GLNP) to allow them to evaluate each site against the criteria for the selection of Local Wildlife Sites and identify those sites that satisfy one or more criteria. Third, for each site a portfolio of documentation was prepared for submission to the Wildlife Sites Review Group, including a site record sheet with an account of the habitats and other noteworthy features, a species list, and a site description (See Appendix 6). A GIS layer showing the boundaries of all sites surveyed and any suggested boundary modifications was also produced as part of this work package.

- 1.6 All of the information gathered was submitted to South Kesteven District Council and a Wildlife Sites Review Group (the equivalent of what is now the Local Wildlife Sites Panel). The Local Wildlife Sites Panel used this information to assess each site against the selection criteria for Local Wildlife Sites and then make a recommendation as to whether or not they should be designated as a non-statutory Local Wildlife Site (LWS). Landowners/managers will be informed of the Local Wildlife Sites Panel's recommendation by the Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership (GLNP).
- 1.7 The GLNP Steering Group (SG) considers the recommendations of the Panel and is the final arbiter on LWS selection. Sites are only selected (or de-selected) once the recommendation has been endorsed by the GLNP SG.

**Table 1.1:** Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI) and additional LWS sites provided by South Kesteven District Council (SKDC)

Site	Broad habitat type	Grid Reference
Abney Wood	Woodland	SK979362
Alma Park	Grassland	SK941370
Alma Wood	Woodland	SK943372
Aunby Green Lane	Grassland	TF010152
Aunby Valley	Water	TF017151
Auster Wood	Woodland	TF072198
Aveling Barford's Industrial Site	Grassland	SK921344
Banthorpe Wood	Woodland	TF068119
Barber's Hill Pit	Grassland	TF032136
Barkstone BR Site	Grassland	SK911424
Barrowby Grassland	Grassland	SK875365

**Table 1.1: Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI) and additional LWS sites provided by South Kesteven District Council (SKDC)**

Site	Broad habitat type	Grid Reference
Bassingthorpe Spoil Bank & Thickets	Grassland	SK953282
Baston Common Sand and Gravel Pits	Water	TF132143
Battlebourn Head	Woodland	SK943200
Beacon Hill	Grassland	SK989208
Beaumont Wood	Woodland	SK956217
Bitchfield Road Verge	Grassland/Woodland	SK986289
Bitchfield Wood	Woodland	SK990278
Bitchneaves Wood	Woodland	TF011236
Black Spring Farm (verge)	Verge/hedge	SK992212
Boothby Great Wood	Woodland	SK957311
Boothby Little Wood	Woodland	SK980313
Bourne "Wildlife Park"	Grassland/Woodland	TF094195
Bourne Station	Grassland	TF094195
Bourne Wood	Woodland	TF078222
Braceborough Great Wood	Woodland	TF067139
Braceborough Little Wood	Woodland	TF067133
Braceby Meadow	Grassland	TF018353
Breache's Wood	Woodland	TF045245
Broadlands Plantation	Grassland	SK930272
Bulby Hall Wood	Woodland	TF045267
Burton Coggles Embankment	Grassland	SK970261
Bush Lees	Woodland	TF040169
Bytham Plantation Cutting	Woodland	TF025178
Cabbagehill Wood	Woodland	SK989198
Callan's Lane Wood	Woodland	TF061266
Careby Wood	Woodland	TF036157
Carlby Hawes	Grassland/Woodland	TF054148
Castle Bytham Earthworks	Grassland	SK990186
Castle Bytham Station	Grassland	SK987182
Castle Quarry	Grassland	SK986433
Castledike Wood	Woodland	TF008143
Catbury Wood	Woodland	TF037258
Caythorpe Old Quarry	Grassland	SK948481
Church Lane Meadows	Grassland	SK982438
Cliff Wood	Woodland	SK841344



**Table 1.1: Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI) and additional LWS sites provided by South Kesteven District Council (SKDC)**

Site	Broad habitat type	Grid Reference
Cocked Hat Plantation, Stoke Rochford	Woodland	SK902285
Cockle Holt	Woodland	SK942260
Colley Holts	Woodland	SK998275
Corby Pasture Farm Wood	Woodland	TF008262
Counter Drain	Water	TF167192
Creeton Quarry	Quarry	SK998206
Danes Hill	Grassland	TF029150
Dartmouth Marsh	Grassland	TF003164
Dartmouth Point	Grassland	TF004164
Denton Reservoir	Grassland	SK870336
Dobbin's Wood	Dismantled Railway	TF043182
Dobbin's Wood Dismantled Railway	Woodland	TF046179
Docksight Wood	Woodland	TF012156
Dodsey Wood	Woodland	SK974232
Dovecote Pasture	Grassland	TF069169
Duncombe Farm Cutting	Grassland	TF001177
East Field	Semi-improved neutral grassland	TF139104
East Glen Valley	Calcareous grassland, neutral grassland	TF059172
Easton Park	Grassland	SK930262
Easton Wood	Woodland	SK947249
Edenham Grassland	Grassland	TF065217
Elliott's Wood	Woodland	SK969224
Far Old Park Wood	Woodland	TF004274
Field by Denton Reservoir	Grassland	SK872338
Folkingham Castle Field	Grassland	TF074336
Frieston Floods	Water	SK942477
Frieston Ironstone Lakes	Water	SK940471
Fulbeck Airfield	Grassland	SK898511
Fulbeck Grassland	Grassland	SK957504
Glebe Farm Road Verge	Grassland	SK995179
Glen Valley, Corby Glen	Grassland	SK994246
Gonerby Tunnel	Water	SK894375
Gorse Hill	Woodland	TF004223
Gorse Lawn	Grassland	SK927361

**Table 1.1: Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI) and additional LWS sites provided by South Kesteven District Council (SKDC)**

Site	Broad habitat type	Grid Reference
Grantham - Harrowby Road Allotments and Adjacent Land	Unknown (additional site)	SK924353
Grantham BR SKn4	Grassland	SK925337
Grantham Canal and Canal Bank	Grassland	SK842353
Grantham House Grounds	Grassland	SK917361
Great Osgrove Wood (Long Wood)	Woodland	SK970244
Great Ponton BR Site	Grassland	SK942290
Great Ponton Railway Cutting	Water	SK933302
Griff's Plantation	Woodland	SK949332
Grimsthorpe Park	Woodland	TF033210
Grindlepits Spinney	Woodland	TF042082
Gunboro' Wood	Woodland	TF069232
Gunboro' Wood Road Verge	Grassland	TF061232
Gunby/Stainby Meadow	Grassland	SK910224
Guthram Gowt (River Glen)	Water	TF172224
Guthram Pit	Grassland	TF169226
Harlaxton Clays Wood	Woodland	SK871348
Harlaxton Wood	Woodland	SK896325
Herricho Wood	Woodland	SK966227
Heydour Southings	Woodland	TF016378
Heydour Warren	Woodland	SK989401
High Wood	Woodland	SK967252
Holywell Big Quarry	Grassland	SK989159
Holywell Hill	Grassland	TF007161
Holywell Wood	woodland	SK988151
Home Farm Plantation, Stoke Rochford Park	Woodland	SK915287
Home Wood & Pell's Wood	Woodland	TF040186
Honington BR Site	Grassland	SK942438
Honington Grassland	Grassland	SK952430
Honington Paddocks	Grassland	SK933430
Howitt's Gorse	Woodland	SK997150
Hungerton Road Verge	Grassland	SK866302
Hurn Wood, Ropsley	Woodland	SK989333
Hurn Wood, Syston	Woodland	SK909415
Ingoldsby Wood	Woodland	SK991301
Irnham Meadow	Grassland	TF007261

**Table 1.1: Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI) and additional LWS sites provided by South Kesteven District Council (SKDC)**

Site	Broad habitat type	Grid Reference
Irnham Park	Woodland	TF019261
Irnham Verge	Grassland	TF014266
Keisby Wood	Woodland	TF052296
Kirkby Underwood Verges	Grassland	TF076284
Langtoft, Former Gravel Works	Unknown (additional site)	TF116116
Leach Farm Fields	Grassland	SK963190
Lenton Pasture	Woodland	TF043316
Lincolnshire Gate Hedge	Grassland	SK996147
Little Haw Wood	Woodland	SK969178
Little Osgrove Wood	Woodland	SK963238
Little Ponton Quarry	Grassland	SK931325
Little Warren, Aunby	Grassland	TF011139
Lodge Farm Woodland	Woodland	TF005165
Londonthorpe Meadow	Grassland	SK950381
Londonthorpe Wood	Woodland	SK944377
Long Bennington Grassland	Grassland	SK804460
Lordship Close	Grassland	TF026304
Lower Farm, Skillington	Water	SK898250
Lownd Wood	Woodland	SK974269
Manthorpe Road Burial Ground	Grassland	SK919379
Marston Sewage Works South Extension	Woodland	SK901426
Mickley Wood	Grassland	SK947208
Mill Lane Verges	Grassland	SK904189
Mill Ponds, Holywell	Woodland	TF005160
Minnetts Wood	Woodland	SK942415
Monk's Wood	Grassland	TF041148
New Plantation, Braceborough	Woodland	TF067136
New Wood	Woodland	TF009256
Newell Wood	Woodland	TF006145
Nightingale Plantation	Woodland	TF010376
Norwood	Woodland	TF032250
Old Lime Kilns, Ancaster	Woodland	SK981444
Old Park Wood Track Verge	Grassland	TF007265
Old Park Wood, Bassingthorpe	Woodland	SK956275
Old Park Wood, Irnham	Woodland	TF011267
Osgodby Coppice	Grassland	TF000280

**Table 1.1: Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI) and additional LWS sites provided by South Kesteven District Council (SKDC)**

Site	Broad habitat type	Grid Reference
Paper Mill Farm Pit	Quarry	SK925338
Park Wood, Thurlby	Grassland	TF102161
Parsonage Wood	Grassland	SK980320
Part of Lincolnshire Gate Scrubs	Woodland	TF000149
Pasture at Greatford	Grassland	TF088120
Pasture Farm Track	Grassland	SK899287
Pasture Holt	Woodland	SK948262
Pasture Wood	Woodland	TF063259
Pattinson's Holt	Woodland	TF002151
Pillowsyke Holt	Grassland	SK997167
Ponton Great Wood	Water	SK949304
Ponton Park Wood	Woodland	SK940319
Priory Farm, Stamford	Woodland	TF045073
Protection Woods	Woodland	SK918481
Railway Embankment South of Careby	Grassland/ marsh	TF026155
Ringstone Wood and Row Wood	Woodland	TF079260
River Glen, Carlby	Water	TF033143
River Welland, Borough Fen	Water	TF190083
Ropsley Rise Wood	Grassland	SK968349
Saltersford Valley	Grassland	SK926327
Scoth Farm Pasture	Grassland	TF068225
Scullar Wood	Woodland	TF063254
Sempringham Priory and Fish Ponds	Woodland	TF104324
Sewstern Lane	Grassland	SK841389
Shillingthorpe Hall Grounds	Woodland	TF071116
Sleight's Wood	Woodland	SK958262
South Wood, Irnham	Woodland	TF020253
Spring Wood, Edenham	Woodland	TF065240
Stainby Warren and Gunby Dale	Grassland/woodland	SK918220
Stainfield Verges	Grassland	TF080254
Stamford Canal	Woodland	TF132098
Stamford Cemetery	Woodland	TF132098
Stamford Meadows	Woodland	TF025065
Stock Springs	Woodland	SK912274
Stocken Hall Hedge	Grassland	SK958182

**Table 1.1: Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI) and additional LWS sites provided by South Kesteven District Council (SKDC)**

Site	Broad habitat type	Grid Reference
Stoke Park Wood	Woodland	SK948277
Stoke Rochford Park	Woodland/grassland/water	SK919283
Stonepit Wood	Grassland	TF048190
Stroxton Stream	Water	SK905312
Stubber Hill Plantation	Woodland	SK867486
Stubton Hall Woodland	Woodland	SK876491
Swinstead Hall	Woodland	TF020222
Swinstead Scrub	Woodland	TF004218
Syston Park and Lake	Water	SK936409
Tallington Lakes	Water	TF101095
Temple Wood	Woodland	TF055287
The Clay Bank	Quarry/Grassland	SK923340
The Heath	Woodland/ heath	TF012144
Thorny Wood	Woodland	TF069257
Twyford Wood	Woodland	SK947229
Uffington New Wood	Woodland	TF069100
Water Lane Field, Woolsthorpe	Woodland	SK924242
Wicker Holt	Woodland	TF024153
Willoughby Heath	Water	SK970429
Wood in South Witham	Woodland	SK915192
Wood near Pasture Farm	Woodland	SK938292
Woodland Waters	Water	SK974437
Woodlands Farm	Meadow/ Arable/ Grassland/ Woodland	TF009240
Woolsthorpe Disused Railway, West	Grassland	SK900242

**Table 1.2:** Sites subsequently de-selected from survey/review

Site	Broad nature of the site	Reason for de-selection (if known)
Barkstone BR Site	Grassland	Cost implications of gaining access through National Rail. This site is owned by National Rail and is still being managed as grassland/ scrub by the virtue of railway embankment control. It is least likely to be developed and more than likely still qualifies.
Bourne Station	Grassland	GLNP deselected this site in 2015 following the development of housing on the site. A section of this site overlapped with Bourne Wildlife Park and this is still accounted for in Bourne Wildlife Park's SNCI designation.
Burton Coggles Embankment	Grassland	Cost implications of gaining access through National Rail. This site is owned by National Rail and is still being managed as grassland/ scrub by the virtue of railway embankment control. It is least likely to be developed and more than likely still qualifies.
Danes Hill	Grassland	Cost implications of gaining access through National Rail. This site is owned by National Rail and is still being managed as grassland/ scrub by the virtue of railway embankment control. It is least likely to be developed and more than likely still qualifies.
East Field	Semi-improved neutral grassland	East Field was rejected as a LWS and deselected as a SNCI following survey in 2004.
East Glen Valley	Calcareous grassland, neutral grassland	East Glen Valley has Local Wildlife site status having been selected in 2010.
Frieston Floods	Water	An aerial study in 2015 found that it is most likely now arable land and was therefore deselected from review.
Grantham BR SKn4	Grassland	Grantham BR SKn4 overlaps The Clay Bank, which also overlaps with Paper Mill Pit. Access to Grantham BR SKn4 was being investigated by The Ecology Consultancy but at some point during this process, the landowner cleared the adjacent Paper Mill Pit site. There was some ambiguity over landowners of Grantham BR SKn4 and therefore this site was put on hold during the Paper Mill Pit on-going enforcement investigation.
Great Ponton Railway Cutting	Water	Cost implications of gaining access through National Rail. This site is owned by National Rail and is still being managed as grassland/ scrub by the virtue of railway embankment control. It is least likely to be

**Table 1.2:** Sites subsequently de-selected from survey/review

Site	Broad nature of the site	Reason for de-selection (if known)
		developed and more than likely still qualifies.
Paper Mill Farm Pit	Quarry	Access to this site was being investigated. At some point during this time, the landowner cleared the site, which restricted the ability to survey the site. Investigations are ongoing into extensive excavation works that have taken place.
Railway Embankment South of Careby	Grassland, marsh	Cost implications of gaining access through National Rail. This site is owned by National Rail and is still being managed as grassland/ scrub by the virtue of railway embankment control. It is least likely to be developed and more than likely still qualifies.
Saltersford Valley	Grassland	Saltersford Valley overlaps The Clay Bank, which also overlaps with Paper Mill Pit. Access to Saltersford Valley was being investigated by The Ecology Consultancy but at some point during this process, the landowner cleared the adjacent Paper Mill Pit site. There was some ambiguity over landowners of Saltersford Valley and therefore this site was put on hold during the Paper Mill Pit on-going enforcement investigation.
The Clay Bank	Grassland	Access to the site was being investigated. At some point during this time, the landowner cleared part of this site known as Paper Mill Pit, which restricted the ability to survey the site. Investigations are ongoing into extensive excavation works that have taken place.

## 2 Methodology

### **IDENTIFYING LANDOWNERS AND SEEKING ACCESS PERMISSIONS**

- 2.1 The Ecology Consultancy used a variety of methods to identify landowners/occupiers in order to seek access permission for survey purposes.
- 2.2 At the beginning of the project the existing Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI) citations were checked for ownership details and letters (see Appendix 1 for an example) were sent to addresses, where provided.
- 2.3 Sites were also identified on Google Earth and nearby houses were contacted in an attempt to identify landowners/occupiers. The initial contact was mostly via letter, covering the relevant background information, enclosing a map of the area and outlining the purpose of the survey. Other contact details were used where available, including phone numbers and email addresses. Phone numbers were found using resources such as online directories (e.g. yell.co.uk).
- 2.4 The Ecology Consultancy requested that Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership (GLNP) undertake a mailing to 52 landowners, the details for which they hold but which could not be released to TEC for data protection reasons. This was undertaken in mid-June 2015. The mailing requested permission to survey a total of 63 sites as some landowners were thought to hold more than one site.
- 2.5 South Kesteven District Council subsequently followed up on sites for which the land owner had been identified but who had denied access permission for survey purposes. This was undertaken by way of a joint letter with The Ecology Consultancy which explained the reasons for seeking access and the implications for the site. The Council also interrogated their planning database for any additional information on sites that might provide possible leads on the owner/occupier.
- 2.6 Land registry searches were carried out on all sites with unconfirmed ownership details and letters were sent to the registered owner (s) address where provided by the search. Where necessary, contact details of the registered owner were searched for via Google search engine. Potential landowners/occupiers were contacted via telephone, letters and emails as previously.



2.7 In summary, the following approaches were used to identify owner/occupiers of each site and to seek access permission:

- Existing site citations: letter/email/phone calls to any contacts listed
- Google Earth/OS maps and online searches: nearby properties identified with letters/emails/phone calls to potential owner/occupiers
- GLNP mailing to 52 owner/occupiers
- SKDC follow-up on all sites with denied access
- Interrogation of planning applications database for further leads
- Land registry searches of all sites with unconfirmed ownership details

## **SURVEY METHODOLOGY**

2.8 Sites were divided into their broad habitat types (e.g. woodland, grassland, wetland) and efforts were made to ensure all sites were surveyed at the most appropriate time of year for the species likely to be present, in particular criteria species. This meant that, wherever possible, woodland sites were surveyed between April and June, followed by grassland and wetland sites up until September.

2.9 Within the confines imposed by broad habitat type and access permissions to the sites, site visits were scheduled in such a way as to minimise travel time and to maximise time on site.

2.10 Sites without access permission were not surveyed. This included those where access had been expressly denied or where confirmation had not been received. Where access to only part of a site had been granted, this was surveyed if it was likely to allow an informed judgement on the overall quality of the site (for example, where it represented the majority of the site or where the remainder of the site could be viewed from permitted or publically accessible areas).

2.11 The field surveys were undertaken following protocols outlined in the guidelines for the selection of Local Wildlife Sites (Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership, 2013). A structured walk was carried out through each site, with the BAP and non-BAP habitats and other features being recorded on a standard LWS survey form (see Appendix 2). A list of vascular plant species identifiable at the time of the survey was also compiled, using the Botanical Society of the British Isles (BSBI) recording card for South Lincolnshire. Incidental records of bryophytes (mosses and liverworts), fungi, invertebrates, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals were made where appropriate; however, detailed surveys of these groups were beyond the scope of the

project. A base map was annotated to show current site boundaries, any suggested changes to the boundary and Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) habitats alongside a number of non-BAP habitats (See Appendix 3) and point features of interest (e.g. badger setts).

- 2.12 Sites were surveyed as a whole if they were relatively small and homogeneous in terms of their habitat structure or land use. Larger and/or more complex sites were split into multiple recording units allowing the Panel to assess each subsite on its own merits and prevent the unnecessary inclusion of areas of low wildlife interest where they do not add value to the site as a whole. A record sheet, species list and habitat map was produced for each sub-section.
- 2.13 The surveyor recorded any relevant information obtained from the owner/manager. This included past and present management, future intentions, and changes in vegetation structure and flora and fauna. If this information was not available, then the surveyor inferred management issues from site condition and other evidence while on site. This enabled the Panel to decide the conservation management status of the site. Some data on management schemes such as Higher Level Stewardship (HLS), Entry Level Stewardship (ELS) and English Woodland Grant Scheme (EWGS) was obtained via MAGIC ([www.magic.com](http://www.magic.com)) but this was often not fully up to date or specific to the particular land parcel involved and was thus not relied upon.

### **PANEL MEETINGS**

- 2.14 Following completion of site surveys, the data was submitted to GLNP in advance of the LWS Panel meetings. Hand-drawn habitat maps provided by the surveyor which showed Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan habitats and selected non-BAP habitats, were also provided and the information was digitised by GLNP.
- 2.15 To calculate the criteria scores for each site, GLNP ran the criteria species lists through Recorder 6 software (GLNP's ecological records database) which was then queried against LWS conditions and scoring species' lists using Structured Query Language (SQL). This was then fed into GLNP's Access based Local Sites database from which they were able to extract custom reports, including the pre-Panel scoring reports.
- 2.16 The portfolio for each site including the pre-Panel scoring reports was then submitted to the LWS Panel for consideration. The Panel's decisions are based on the guidelines for the selection of Local Wildlife Sites (Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership, 2013), and impartial use of professional judgement. Selection criteria (Appendix 4) were used to

inform these decisions with one or more usually required for the site to maintain its designated status and go forward as a LWS.

- 2.17 Sites that the Panel considered to be of substantive nature conservation value, but fail to satisfy any of the habitat criteria, were recommended for selection using one of the supplementary features criteria (See Appendix 4).
- 2.18 The Panel considered the original boundary of the sites, together with the information provided by the surveyor in deciding whether or not boundary changes were required for any site. If the majority of the area within the boundary proposed by the surveyor was found to support good quality habitat, then selection of the entire area as an LWS was likely to be acceptable.
- 2.19 Sites were rejected by the Panel for reasons including failure to satisfy the selection criteria, the presence of significant populations of non-native species or the inclusion of large areas of land with little wildlife interest.
- 2.20 Site owners/managers were informed, by GLNP, of the outcome of the Panel assessment, and were given the opportunity to make observations on factors relating directly to the application of the selection criteria.
- 2.21 The LWS Panel meetings were held on the 4 February 2015, 15 December 2015, 12th January 2016, 13 December 2016 and 11 January 2017.

## **CONSTRAINTS**

### *Timings*

- 2.22 In most cases, the survey was confined to a single visit. The plant lists were therefore not treated as comprehensive, but rather as a representative list of species evident at the time of survey. Timing of the survey was considered a particular constraint for habitats with species that flower early in the season and then disappear (e.g. some woodland ground flora species); however this was minimised, wherever possible, by the appropriate scheduling of site visits.
- 2.23 Obtaining access permission for some sites proved to be a lengthy process and as a result a small number of sites could not be surveyed until October. This is outside the normal survey season (May-September) for surveying vascular plants and thus some species may have been missed. However, in these rare instances, it was felt that the data gathered was sufficiently robust to allow consideration at the Panel meetings.

2.24 Surveys of some of the grassland sites were constrained by hay cuts having recently taken place or the sward being closely grazed. As such some species may have been missed.

### Access

2.25 Of the total 200 sites selected for survey, 52 sites could not be assessed. These included 20 sites where it was not possible to determine the landowner or to view the sites from public land (see Table 2.1) and a further 32 sites owned by nine landowners who refused to give permission for surveyors to access the sites (see Table 2.2).

**Table 2.1: Sites with unconfirmed landowners**

Site	Broad habitat type
Baston Common Sand and Gravel Pits	Water
Battlebourn Head	Woodland
Beaumont Wood	Woodland
Bourne "Wildlife Park"	Grassland/Woodland
Bush Lees	Woodland
Carlby Hawes	Grassland/Woodland
Dovecote Pasture	Grassland
Gorse Lawn	Grassland
Holywell Big Quarry	Grassland
Honington BR Site	Grassland
Howitt's Gorse	Woodland
Hurn Wood, Syston	Woodland
Kirkby Underwood Verges	Grassland
Minnetts Wood	Woodland
River Welland, Borough Fen	Water
River Glen, Carlby	Water
Sewstern Lane	Grassland
Tallington Lakes	Water
Woodland Waters	Water
Woolsthorpe Disused Railway, West	Grassland

**Table 2.1:** Sites where access was denied by landowners

Site	Broad habitat type
Bitchfield Wood	Woodland
Broadlands Plantation	Grassland
Castle Quarry	Grassland
Castledike Wood	Woodland
Church Lane Meadows	Grassland
Cockle Holt	Woodland
Colley Holts	Woodland
Easton Park	Grassland
Easton Wood	Woodland
Fulbeck Airfield	Grassland
Great Osgrove Wood (Long Wood)	Woodland
Great Ponton BR Site	Grassland
Heydour Southings	Woodland
Heydour Warren	Woodland
High Wood	Woodland
Holywell Wood	Woodland
Langtoft, Former Gravel Works	Grassland
Lincolnshire Gate Hedge	Grassland
Little Osgrove Wood	Woodland
Little Warren, Aunby	Grassland
Lower Farm, Skillington	Water
Lownd Wood	Woodland
Newell Wood	Woodland
Part of Lincolnshire Gate Scrubs	Woodland
Pasture Holt	Woodland
Pattinson's Holt	Woodland
Row Wood	Woodland
Sleight's Wood	Woodland
Stubber Hill Plantation	Woodland
Swinstead Hall	Woodland
The Heath	Woodland/heath
Uffington New Wood	Woodland

## 3 Results

- 3.1 The remaining 148 sites were surveyed between 2014 and 2016. The site, broad habitat type, current status, criteria under which they qualify and the Local Wildlife Site (LWS) Panel comments are given in Table 3.1 below.

**Table 3.1: Summary of sites surveyed 2014-2016**

Site	Broad habitat type	Current status	Selection Criteria*	LWS Panel comments <sup>1</sup> (if provided)
Abney Wood	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>	WD1, WD3a, WD4a	An area of ancient woodland so qualifies under WD1. Also achieves qualifying scores for WD3a and WD4a. Condition adequate. unknown management - stewardship doesn't relate to specific options for this site.
Alma Park	Grassland	<b>Selected</b>	NG1, Sup2	<p>The site qualifies for NG1 based on the 2016 survey information. In addition to the already selected LWS another area to the south was surveyed in 2016, named as 'Compartment 2 extension', with grid reference SK941366. Although this southern area did not qualify for any criteria independently, it was still noted as being a nice area of grassland posing wildlife interest for diversity in invertebrates and birds. Due to its proximity with a larger network of LWSs in that area and being an extension of Alma Park it was selected under Sup2 criteria and the boundary of Alma park modified to incorporate this southern extension. Condition of the site including the extension is still poor and management not clear.</p> <p>The southern extension is an area of neutral and rank grassland dotted with many isolated hawthorn bushes, on a north and west-facing slope overlooking Alma Park Industrial Estate.</p> <p>Dominant grasses throughout the majority of the site were coarse and tufted grasses of fescue grasses, false oat-grass, meadow foxtail and tufted hair-grass; tall ruderals of hogweed, marsh thistle, creeping thistle and common nettle were frequent.</p> <p>The south-western section of the site was dominated by mature gorse, bramble and hawthorn scrub. Here a warbler (probably grasshopper warbler) was heard).</p> <p>An old boundary on the eastern side featured many mature ash trees. Mature ash and hawthorn also formed the southern boundary.</p> <p>Two wet flushes cross the site; one in the centre of the site and a second close to the northern boundary. The central flush formed a small stream section where watercress and reed sweet-grass were recorded; soft and hard rush were frequent.</p> <p>The site supported a good diversity of birds and invertebrates.</p>

**Table 3.1: Summary of sites surveyed 2014-2016**

Site	Broad habitat type	Current status	Selection Criteria*	LWS Panel comments <sup>1</sup> (if provided)
				<p>It is not known whether the grassland is managed.</p> <p>The grassland would benefit from either a grazing regime or a regular cutting once or twice a year in order to curtail the spread of ruderal vegetation throughout the site</p>
Alma Wood Northern area	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>	WD3a, WD4a	<p>A resurvey of the northern section of the site in 2016 found that there were enough recorded indicator species to qualify for both WD3a and WD4a - the two criteria the site just missed out on in 2015 and was subsequently deferred for resurvey. The southern section of the site was not surveyed due to unconfirmed landowners, the southern section will therefore remain an SNCI. As a result the northern section of the site was selected as an LWS. The site was agreed to be in a good condition due to its botanical richness and variation; however, due to surveyor's notes indicating the encroachment of brambles and sycamore seedlings, as well as the presence of rhododendron, the Panel decided that the lack of intervention on site warranted a negative conservation management status.</p>
Aunby Green Lane	Grassland	<b>Rejected</b>		<p>Site scored poorly. A Panel member suggested it was likely to become even further degraded in future due to cereal crops on either side.</p>
Aunby Valley	Water	<b>Selected</b>	CG1, WD3b	<p>One of the strengths noted for this site was its diversity in habitat, qualifying for CG1 and WD3b. It also offered a stream that has been modified to create numerous fishing pools, which in turn has created marshy and wet woodland habitat. As a result there were numerous indicator species recorded for FW2 and WD4a; however, it didn't quite qualify for the selection criteria of either.</p> <p>Being longer, linear and bordering with Docksight Wood to the north it also offers good connectivity habitat across the landscape.</p> <p>Condition of the site was determined to be good; however, a lack of management of the calcareous grassland, the main qualifying feature, means that it is becoming dominated with aggressive grasses. This resulted in an agreed negative conservation management status.</p>



**Table 3.1: Summary of sites surveyed 2014-2016**

Site	Broad habitat type	Current status	Selection Criteria*	LWS Panel comments <sup>1</sup> (if provided)
Auster Wood	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>	NG1, WD1, WD1a, WD2a, WD3a, WD3b, WD4a, We2	Condition adequate, positive conservation management status.
Aveling Barford's Industrial Site	Grassland	<b>Selected</b>	BM1, CG1, NG1	A brownfield site which qualifies for BM1 as well as NG1 and CG1. Slightly revised boundary approved by Panel. Japanese knotweed is present on site and scrub control is needed. Condition agreed to be poor and management negative.
Banthorpe Wood	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>	WD3b	<p>The site qualified for its woodland features (WD3b) but lacked species indicators for any other woodland category. This would most likely be a result of factors impeding vegetation regrowth and ground flora to flourish, deer grazing being noted as a severe issue.</p> <p>The structural diversity and age range of trees in the woodland granted a good condition status. Condition management status was agreed to be currently negative as deer grazing is preventing an understory developing and halting newer regrowth.</p>
Barber's Hill Pit	Grassland	<b>Rejected</b>		Most of the site is now arable land and the pit has since been infilled. There is not sufficient botanical interest and it was therefore rejected by the Panel. To be deselected as an SNCI.
Barrowby Grassland	Grassland	<b>Selected</b>	NG1	<p>This is an interesting grassland site that qualified for NG1 criteria.</p> <p>The site was determined to be in a good condition as a result of there being several less common recordings typical of this habitat. It is under HLS<sup>2</sup> until 2021 to restore species rich grassland, and meadow cutting/aftermath grazing is likely to be conducted - positive condition management status.</p>
Bassingthorpe Spoil Bank & Thickets	Grassland	<b>Rejected</b>		This site was considered to be of little value. It is noted as being more settled and in a 'less disturbed' condition than in 1977; however, it still hasn't developed botanical richness or diversity. The area of woodland within the boundary on the northern side of the railway was not surveyed as access

**Table 3.1: Summary of sites surveyed 2014-2016**

Site	Broad habitat type	Current status	Selection Criteria*	LWS Panel comments <sup>1</sup> (if provided)
				was not possible. The site was therefore rejected and is to be deselected as an SNCI.
Beacon Hill	Grassland	<b>Rejected</b>		A member of the Panel explained the site had previously been designated as calcareous grassland but has scrubbed over now and doesn't have a great deal of interest left. Panel agreed to reject site.
Bitchfield Road Verge	Grassland/Woodland	<b>Rejected</b>		Very overgrown and unmanaged. This site does not score well.
Bitchneaves Wood	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>	WD1a, WD3a, WD4a	Majority of site is plantation on ancient woodland. A member of the Panel observed the high scores it achieved were because of the underlying ancient flora. Condition adequate. Site believed to have received EWGS <sup>3</sup> support. The site is assessed as being in a positive conservation management status.
Black Spring Farm (verge)	Verge/hedge	<b>Selected</b>	CG1	The original SNCI boundary is further south but surveyors felt this wasn't botanically interesting and have instead proposed a boundary for a site slightly further north. It was agreed the boundary needed to be much narrower and the Panel questioned whether the east side should be included due to its narrow width. A member of the Panel noted a verge, the eastern side had a good scattering of species. Condition adequate, management negative.
Boothby Great Wood	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>	WD2a, WD3a, WD3b, WD4a, NG1, We2, WD1a	The site qualifies for numerous selection criteria.
Boothby Little Wood	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>	NG1, WD1, WD1a, WD2a, WD3a, WD4a	A member of the Panel explained the site had been replanted with a lot of conifers. There are well managed rides. ASNW <sup>5</sup> and PAWS <sup>6</sup> so qualifies for WD1 and WD1A criteria. Also scores for WD2a, WD3a, WD4a and NG1. Condition adequate, management status negative as no evidence obtained to meet positive criteria.

**Table 3.1: Summary of sites surveyed 2014-2016**

Site	Broad habitat type	Current status	Selection Criteria*	LWS Panel comments <sup>1</sup> (if provided)
Bourne Wood Compartment 1	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>	WD1, WD1a, WD3b, WD4a	<p>This is an extremely well scoring site throughout compartments 1-7. They all appear on the ancient woodland inventory and qualify strongly on WD3a, WD3b and WD4a criteria. Some variation between compartments beyond their woodland features does occur, notably several sites score well for NG1 but only compartment 5 meets the threshold to be designated as such. Compartment 3 and 7 both have a notable wetland species community and qualify on We2 as well.</p> <p>A low level of intervention was deemed by the Panel and the surveyors input to be appropriate in maintaining an undisturbed and excellent example of ancient woodland, across all compartments of Bourne Wood. It is as such assessed as being in a good condition and a positive state of condition management.</p>
Bourne Wood Compartment 2	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>	WD1, WD1a, WD3a, WD3b, WD4a	<p>This is an extremely well scoring site throughout compartments 1-7. They all appear on the ancient woodland inventory and qualify strongly on WD3a, WD3b and WD4a criteria. Some variation between compartments beyond their woodland features does occur, notably several sites score well for NG1 but only compartment 5 meets the threshold to be designated as such. Compartment 3 and 7 both have a notable wetland species community and qualify on We2 as well.</p> <p>A low level of intervention was deemed by the Panel and the surveyors input to be appropriate in maintaining an undisturbed and excellent example of ancient woodland, across all compartments of Bourne Wood. It is as such assessed as being in a good condition and a positive state of condition management.</p>
Bourne Wood Compartment 3	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>	WD1, WD1a, WD3a, WD3b, WD4a, We2	<p>This is an extremely well scoring site throughout compartments 1-7. They all appear on the ancient woodland inventory and qualify strongly on WD3a, WD3b and WD4a criteria. Some variation between compartments beyond their woodland features does occur, notably several sites score well for NG1 but only compartment 5 meets the threshold to be designated as such. Compartment 3 and 7 both have a notable wetland species community and qualify on We2 as well.</p>

**Table 3.1: Summary of sites surveyed 2014-2016**

Site	Broad habitat type	Current status	Selection Criteria*	LWS Panel comments <sup>1</sup> (if provided)
				A low level of intervention was deemed by the Panel and the surveyors input to be appropriate in maintaining an undisturbed and excellent example of ancient woodland, across all compartments of Bourne Wood. It is as such assessed as being in a good condition and a positive state of condition management.
Bourne Wood Compartment 4	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>	WD1, WD1a, WD3a, WD4a	<p>This is an extremely well scoring site throughout compartments 1-7. They all appear on the ancient woodland inventory and qualify strongly on WD3a, WD3b and WD4a criteria. Some variation between compartments beyond their woodland features does occur, notably several sites score well for NG1 but only compartment 5 meets the threshold to be designated as such. Compartment 3 and 7 both have a notable wetland species community and qualify on We2 as well.</p> <p>A low level of intervention was deemed by the Panel and the surveyors input to be appropriate in maintaining an undisturbed and excellent example of ancient woodland, across all compartments of Bourne Wood. It is as such assessed as being in a good condition and a positive state of condition management.</p>
Bourne Wood Compartment 5	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>	NG1, WD1, WD1a, WD3a, WD3b, WD4a	<p>This is an extremely well scoring site throughout compartments 1-7. They all appear on the ancient woodland inventory and qualify strongly on WD3a, WD3b and WD4a criteria. Some variation between compartments beyond their woodland features does occur, notably several sites score well for NG1 but only compartment 5 meets the threshold to be designated as such. Compartment 3 and 7 both have a notable wetland species community and qualify on We2 as well.</p> <p>A low level of intervention was deemed by the Panel and the surveyors input to be appropriate in maintaining an undisturbed and excellent example of ancient woodland, across all compartments of Bourne Wood. It is as such assessed as being in a good condition and a positive state of condition management.</p>

**Table 3.1: Summary of sites surveyed 2014-2016**

Site	Broad habitat type	Current status	Selection Criteria*	LWS Panel comments <sup>1</sup> (if provided)
Bourne Wood Compartment 6	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>	WD1, WD1a, WD3a, WD3b, WD4a	<p>This is an extremely well scoring site throughout compartments 1-7. They all appear on the ancient woodland inventory and qualify strongly on WD3a, WD3b and WD4a criteria. Some variation between compartments beyond their woodland features does occur, notably several sites score well for NG1 but only compartment 5 meets the threshold to be designated as such. Compartment 3 and 7 both have a notable wetland species community and qualify on We2 as well.</p> <p>A low level of intervention was deemed by the Panel and the surveyors input to be appropriate in maintaining an undisturbed and excellent example of ancient woodland, across all compartments of Bourne Wood. It is as such assessed as being in a good condition and a positive state of condition management.</p>
Bourne Wood Compartment 7	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>	WD1, WD1a, WD3a, WD3b, WD4a, We2	<p>This is an extremely well scoring site throughout compartments 1-7. They all appear on the ancient woodland inventory and qualify strongly on WD3a, WD3b and WD4a criteria. Some variation between compartments beyond their woodland features does occur, notably several sites score well for NG1 but only compartment 5 meets the threshold to be designated as such. Compartment 3 and 7 both have a notable wetland species community and qualify on We2 as well.</p> <p>A low level of intervention was deemed by the Panel and the surveyors input to be appropriate in maintaining an undisturbed and excellent example of ancient woodland, across all compartments of Bourne Wood. It is as such assessed as being in a good condition and a positive state of condition management.</p>
Braceborough Great Wood	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>	NG1, WD1a, WD2a, WD3a, WD4a	<p>Site scores well. A member of the Panel noted that wood spurge occurs at the site. Condition adequate, management negative for now pending further enquiries.</p>

**Table 3.1: Summary of sites surveyed 2014-2016**

Site	Broad habitat type	Current status	Selection Criteria*	LWS Panel comments <sup>1</sup> (if provided)
Braceborough Little Wood	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>	WD1a, WD2a, WD3a, WD4a	A member of the Panel had looked at the site several years ago and found it similarly rich. Condition adequate, management status negative for now pending further enquiries.
Braceby Meadow	Grassland	<b>Rejected</b>		Now managed as woodland rather than meadow. Site lost.
Breache's Wood	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>	WD1a, WD3a, WD4a	All PAWS <sup>6</sup> so qualified on WD1a. Boundary needs tweaking to include boundary ditches. Condition is adequate, management negative pending further enquiries.
Bulby Hall Wood	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>	WD1, WD1a, WD3b, WD4a	A member of the Panel noted the site is currently used for paintballing and use has been made of the moated areas, some of which are quite deep. Condition adequate, positive conservation management state.
Bytham Plantation Cutting	Woodland	<b>Rejected</b>		This site does not exhibit anything of note floristically, beyond the limestone cutting feature. The Panel decided to reject, and deselect as an SNCI.
Cabbagehill Wood	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>	WD1a, WD2a, WD3a, WD3b, WD4a	Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS <sup>6</sup> ) so qualified for WD1a. Scores very highly also for other criteria. Condition adequate. Management status negative for now pending enquiries for further information.
Callan's Lane Wood	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>	NG1, WD1, WD1a, WD2a, WD3a, WD3b, WD4a, We2	Condition good, management status negative pending further enquiries.
Careby Wood	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>	NG1, WD1, WD1a, WD2a, WD3a, WD4a, We2	A member of the Panel mentioned the site is one of only two in the county where Yellow Star of Bethlehem has been recorded. An ecologist from TEC ecologist confirmed it wasn't recorded during the 2015 survey; however, thought it to be confined to the western corner. Condition is adequate, management status negative for now pending further enquiries.

**Table 3.1: Summary of sites surveyed 2014-2016**

Site	Broad habitat type	Current status	Selection Criteria*	LWS Panel comments <sup>1</sup> (if provided)
Castle Bytham Earthworks	Grassland	<b>Selected</b>	CG1	<p>Small south-eastern section of site not surveyed as ownership not known; however, it appears to be private residence and surrounding grassland. TEC ecologist to knock on door and see if access permission can be obtained to survey that area. Remainder of site to be selected in the interim. Condition is good and there is HLS<sup>2</sup> on the site with relevant options so management status is positive.</p> <p>Update: The Ecology Consultancy did not manage to access the site in 2016. The small south-eastern section will remain an SNCI. Remainder of the site was selected.</p>
Castle Bytham Station	Grassland	<b>Selected</b>	CG1, NG1	<p>This is a good example of a cutting through limestone, which exhibits a good diversity of grassland flora. The site qualified on both NG1 and CG1 criteria.</p> <p>The woodland aspects of the site are not of much note, but the open areas and grasslands are in a good condition, The Panel decided that due to a lack of suitable management, and signs of encroaching vegetation, the site is in a negative status of condition management, and the grassland features are likely to be threatened by succession.</p>
Catbury Wood	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>	WD1a, WD2a, WD3a, WD4a	<p>TEC ecologist noted that the very small woodland replanting with strips of oak and conifers seemed inappropriate. It scored well but much of that was to do with the ditches around the edge. TEC ecologist suggested condition status should be upgraded to adequate given that it has been planted with 50 per cent oak. Positive conservation management state.</p>
Caythorpe Old Quarry	Grassland	<b>Rejected</b>		<p>The surveyor's notes highlight the lack of ecological interest remaining on the site and that its condition is lost. Aerial photography assessed by the Panel helped to demonstrate the extent of this with all of the site apart from the small area of remaining quarry now being arable land.</p> <p>The decision was therefore taken to reject the site and deselect as a SNCI.</p>
Cliff Wood	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>	WD1a, WD3a, WD4a	<p>This site meets the selection criteria for WD3a and WD4a, as well as appearing on the ancient woodlands inventory as a PAWS<sup>6</sup>. The woodland floor is relatively species-poor throughout most of the site with brambles and nettles being frequent, and copious amounts of dead and lopped wood</p>

**Table 3.1: Summary of sites surveyed 2014-2016**

Site	Broad habitat type	Current status	Selection Criteria*	LWS Panel comments <sup>1</sup> (if provided)
				scattered. The Panel agreed with the surveyor's assessment that the woodland is in a poor condition, and that a continuation of timber extraction practices meant that it has a negative conservation management state.
Cocked Hat Plantation, Stoke Rochford	Woodland	<b>Rejected</b>		This site comprises mainly of woodland; however, it did not meet criteria for woodland features or species indicators. There is a small area of grazing marsh on the northern boundary which accounted for a few of the neutral grassland species recorded; however, again it failed to meet this criteria. The decision to reject the site was therefore made by the Panel, and de-selection as an SNCI.
Corby Pasture Farm Wood	Woodland	<b>Rejected</b>		Panel noted it was probably looked at as an SNCI because it was near a large area of good woodland. It is a very small site, however, and doesn't score well.
Counter Drain	Water	<b>Rejected</b>		The area surveyed by TEC in 2016 was the remainder listed as an SNCI in the database, the issue arising being that most of this was covered by a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), and the area which was surveyed by a member of the Panel in 2014 was subsequently selected as Counter Drain South Ditch and Bank LWS. The decision was made to tidy up the designations and deselect this area as an SNCI.
Creeton Quarry	Quarry	<b>Rejected</b>		Active quarry at present but would be worth re-visiting in the future. The site has great potential. Decision to reject.
Dartmouth Marsh	Grassland	<b>Deferred (remain as SNCI in interim)</b>		Area of species-poor rich pasture. A Panel member considers it may be invertebrate interest. Panel initially inclined to reject it but decision taken for LWS Panel to revisit at later date. The site will remain an SNCI until a further survey has been undertaken.
Dartmouth Point	Grassland	<b>Selected</b>	Sup4	Botanical interest of the site is found around the quarry, but it misses out on CG1 selection criteria by one indicator species. It is noted to provide very good habitat for bees and wasps. These two factors were coupled by the Panel to select the site based on Sup4.



**Table 3.1: Summary of sites surveyed 2014-2016**

Site	Broad habitat type	Current status	Selection Criteria*	LWS Panel comments <sup>1</sup> (if provided)
				Boundary was also reassessed by the Panel whom concluded that it wasn't currently justifiable. It will therefore be redrawn to cover just the quarry and a suitable buffer surrounding it.
Denton Reservoir	Grassland	<b>Selected</b>	We2	A member of the Panel noted Denton Reservoir was good for bats. Site qualifies for We2 so approved by Panel. Agreed that non-intervention was an appropriate form of positive management. Condition is good.
Dobbin's Wood Dismantled Railway	Dismantled Railway	<b>Selected</b>	WD3a, WD4a	TEC ecologist described the site as a rough trackway bordered by grass, hedgerow and scrub. The site qualified mostly on woodland species.  The Panel felt that based on species it would make sense to add to Dobbin's Wood site and change name to reflect this. Assessed as being in a positive conservation management state.
Dobbin's Wood	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>	WD1a, WD2a, WD3a, WD4a	Large area that is not PAWS <sup>6</sup> but site surveyed as a whole. The Ecology Consultancy ecologist noted most of the site is a Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS) but there is an area that isn't, which although not being surveyed separately and not being as ecologically rich as the rest of the site still exhibits enough interesting species to be included within the same designation.  The Panel felt that based on species it would make sense to add to Dobbin's Wood Dismantled Railway site and change name to reflect this. Condition is adequate, positive conservation management state.
Docksight Wood - Northern	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>	WD1, WD3b	Qualifying on woodland features WD3b, there is still plenty of potential for increased structural and species diversity. The site is relatively open in canopy, and sycamore seedlings are present throughout. In the southern section trees are actively being planted to fill in the woodland.
Docksight Wood - Southern	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>	WD3b	Qualifying on woodland features WD3b, there is still plenty of potential for increased structural and species diversity. The site is relatively open in canopy, and sycamore seedlings are present throughout. In the southern section trees are actively being planted to fill in the woodland.

**Table 3.1: Summary of sites surveyed 2014-2016**

Site	Broad habitat type	Current status	Selection Criteria*	LWS Panel comments <sup>1</sup> (if provided)
Dodsey Wood	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>	WD1, WD4a	Appearing on the ancient woodland inventory this site qualified as WD1, it also scored strongly for wet woodland indicators and met the WD4a criteria. It is also in close proximity to Herricho and Elliott's ancient woodlands, forming a network across the landscape. There is a connected patch of planted woodland outside the northern boundary that wasn't included in the survey area. The original SSCI citations were looked at by the Panel and these do not suggest that it existed at that time. The Panel did not feel it appropriate to propose investigating an extension to the site boundary at this time. The woodland was considered by the Panel to be in a good condition due to the species diversity and areas with an abundance of certain ancient woodland indicator species, but due to a lack of management for wildlife and the encroachment of brambles and nettles it is in a negative conservation management state.
Duncombe Farm Cutting	Grassland	<b>Rejected</b>		This area of the cutting on which Castle Bytham Station also lies is not of great ecological interest. The woodland is described as being in a poor condition by the surveyor and any grassland, for which Castle Bytham Station is noted for, has been lost here. As such the Panel decided to reject this site, and deselect as an SSCI.
Edenham Grassland	Grassland	<b>Rejected</b>		Pond of value but the site was being grazed by cattle and there were hardly any additional plant in the grassland which appeared to be improved. Scores low.
Elliott's Wood	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>	WD1, WD3a, WD3b, WD4a	An excellent example of remaining ancient woodland. It is well connected to other areas of ecological significance by hedgerows which criss-cross the surrounding arable fields. It is in close proximity to Herricho and Dodsey ancient woodlands. Due to the species and structural diversity it qualified for all woodland criteria. Bramble here was noted by the surveyor as being locally dominant, as opposed to encroaching and widely dominant as in Dodsey Wood. As such the Panel deduced that the site is in a good condition and the limited management intervention is positive.

**Table 3.1: Summary of sites surveyed 2014-2016**

Site	Broad habitat type	Current status	Selection Criteria*	LWS Panel comments <sup>1</sup> (if provided)
Far Old Park Wood	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>	NG1, WD1, WD1a, WD2a, WD3a, WD4a	Woodland of high quality and in good condition. Site has received English Woodland Grant Scheme (EWGS <sup>3</sup> ) support and is in a positive conservation management state.
Field by Denton Reservoir	Grassland	<b>Rejected</b>		Did not meet any criteria.
Folkingham Castle Field	Grassland	<b>Rejected</b>		The site is being sheep-grazed and contains earthworks. Scores poorly.
Frieston Ironstone Lakes	Water	<b>Selected</b>	FW2, We2	The principal importance of this site is the two lakes, and the freshwater and wetland species that these support. It therefore qualifies under FW2 and We2 criteria. The surrounding grassland, however, is species-poor, due to intensive grazing by sheep, cattle and horses. It was discussed if the site boundary should be amended to exclude these and just contain the lakes. It was decided by the Panel that it would be logical to maintain the current boundary, in which the grazed fields could be considered a buffer for the lakes and their botanically rich banks/margins. The lakes are in a good condition at present and are managed for fishing. The Panel deduced that the continuation of practices that have resulted in the current condition of the lakes can only be positive, and maintain this standard.
Fulbeck Grassland	Grassland	<b>Rejected</b>		Although being a relic ridge and furrow, as well as boasting grassland and a pond, nothing of note was highlighted in the 2016 survey. Not qualifying for any selection criteria the Panel decided to reject this as a LWS.
Glebe Farm Road Verge	Grassland	<b>Selected</b>	CG1	Site lies adjacent to Castle Bytham Road Verges. The Panel observed the site achieved good scores considering its size. The site qualifies under CG1. The Panel suggested it be added to the existing Castle Bytham Road Verges LWS which was agreed. Site rejected as a new site. Boundary of Glebe Farm Road Verges amended to include Castle Bytham Road Verges.

**Table 3.1: Summary of sites surveyed 2014-2016**

Site	Broad habitat type	Current status	Selection Criteria*	LWS Panel comments <sup>1</sup> (if provided)
Glen Valley, Corby Glen	Grassland	<b>Rejected</b>		Now under arable cultivation.
Gonerby Tunnel	Water	<b>Rejected</b>		With an undergrowth dominated by bramble; this site presented little ecological significance. As such, the Panel decided to reject it as a LWS.
Gorse Hill	Woodland	<b>Rejected</b>		Not a particularly good site and generally scores quite low.
Grantham Canal and Canal Bank Non-urban Section	Grassland	<b>Selected</b>	FW2, We2	The ecological interest of the canal depreciates at around Harlaxton Bridge onwards towards Grantham, which may be due to increased levels of pollution. The Panel and surveyor agreed that a LWS designation shouldn't extend beyond this and that the separate urban section should be removed entirely as it scored inadequately against LWS criteria.  Selected with a redrawn boundary.
Grantham Canal and Canal Bank Urban Section	Grassland	<b>Rejected</b>		Did not meet any criteria.
Grantham Allotment Land, Harroby Road	Grassland	<b>Rejected</b>		Comprising neglected allotments and species-poor grazed fields, this site presented little evidence of ecological significance. The Panel decided to reject it as an LWS.
Grantham House Grounds River Section	Grassland	<b>Rejected</b>		After subdividing the site and reassessing the river there was still insufficient evidence to justify LWS designation. It was decided to reject all subdivisions of it as LWS.

**Table 3.1: Summary of sites surveyed 2014-2016**

Site	Broad habitat type	Current status	Selection Criteria*	LWS Panel comments <sup>1</sup> (if provided)
Grantham House Grounds Fields	Grassland	<b>Rejected</b>		After subdividing the site and reassessing the river there was still insufficient evidence to justify LWS designation. It was decided to reject all subdivisions of it as LWS.
Griff's Plantation	Woodland	<b>Rejected</b>		This is an actively managed plantation, and did not meet any LWS selection criteria in the 2016 survey. As such the Panel decided to reject it as a LWS and deselect it as a SNCI.
Grimsthorpe Park Compartment 1	Woodland	<b>Rejected</b>		Did not meet any criteria.
Grimsthorpe Park Compartment 2		<b>Selected</b>	WD3a, WD4a	A larger area of woodland to the north of Grimsthorpe Park, it met criteria for both WD3a and WD4a.  Select and incorporate into the new Grimsthorpe Park LWS.
Grimsthorpe Park Compartment 3		<b>Selected</b>	WD5	Supporting numerous veteran trees and BAP quality parkland the Panel decided this compartment fits the WD5 criteria. Select and incorporate into the new Grimsthorpe Park LWS.  Under HLS <sup>2</sup> to maintain wood pasture and parkland - positive conservation management status.
Grimsthorpe Park Compartment 4		<b>Selected</b>	WD5	Supporting numerous veteran trees and BAP quality parkland the Panel decided this compartment fits the WD5 criteria. Select and incorporate into the new Grimsthorpe Park LWS. Under HLS <sup>2</sup> to maintain wood pasture and parkland - positive conservation management status.
Grimsthorpe Park Compartment 5		<b>Selected</b>	Mos1, WD5	Supporting numerous veteran trees and BAP quality parkland the Panel decided this compartment fits the WD5 criteria. The site also scores within one or two species of fresh water, wetland and wet woodland habitats. It

**Table 3.1: Summary of sites surveyed 2014-2016**

Site	Broad habitat type	Current status	Selection Criteria*	LWS Panel comments <sup>1</sup> (if provided)
				therefore provides an excellent mosaic and satisfies Mos1. Select and incorporate into the new Grimsthorpe Park LWS.  Under HLS <sup>2</sup> to maintain wood pasture and parkland - positive conservation management status.
Grimsthorpe Park Compartment 6		<b>Selected</b>	FW2	Including the lake and the swampy/wet woodland mosaic to its north this compartment satisfies the FW2 criteria, and narrowly misses We2. Select and incorporate into the new Grimsthorpe Park LWS.
Grimsthorpe Park Compartment 7		<b>Rejected</b>		Did not meet any criteria.
Grimsthorpe Park Compartment 8		<b>Selected</b>	We2	Most of this compartment is woodland, which did not score well against any criteria. A small area in the north west bordering compartment 5 exhibits a mosaic of swamp, and wetland habitat. It was here that the surveyor identified the botanical value of the site existed, accounting for the qualification under We2 criteria. The Panel decided to select this triangle of the site including the pond, and incorporate it into the boundary of Grimsthorpe Park LWS. The rest of the compartment was rejected.
Grimsthorpe Park Compartment 9		<b>Rejected</b>		Compartment 9 included a quarry and chalk grassland that was already part of Scottlethorpe Grassland LWS. The surveyor confirmed that there were no other interesting areas of grassland on site and therefore discounting the area of LWS from the survey results would result in the remainder of the compartment not meeting any selection criteria.  The Panel agreed that this was satisfactory evidence to reject the remainder of the compartment.
Grimsthorpe Park Compartment 10		<b>Selected</b>	CG1, NG1	This compartment covered the majority of Scottlethorpe Grassland LWS, with additional areas. This survey information was therefore use to reassess the designation of this existing LWS. It highlighted that the chalk grassland was greater in extent than Scottlethorpe LWS covered, and therefore the Panel agreed to expand its boundary to incorporate this. An area of

**Table 3.1: Summary of sites surveyed 2014-2016**

Site	Broad habitat type	Current status	Selection Criteria*	LWS Panel comments <sup>1</sup> (if provided)
				woodland to the south, however, was not of interest and was not included in the redrawing of this LWS. Under HLS <sup>2</sup> to maintain species-rich grassland - positive conservation management status.
Grimsthorpe Park Compartment 11		<b>Selected</b>	NG1	The grassland of this compartment was noted by the surveyor as being ecologically similar throughout, qualifying for NG1. It is not the chalk grassland found in Compartment 10 / Scottlethorpe Grassland LWS but formed a nice continuation of similar habitat to form a larger site. It was agreed to incorporate the grassland element of Compartment 11 into the Scottlethorpe Grassland LWS designation, and discount all of the woodland (which didn't score well) except an area sandwiched between the two amalgamated grasslands to limit fragmentation of the designation. Under HLS <sup>2</sup> to maintain species-rich grassland and restore wood pasture and parkland - positive conservation management status.
Grimsthorpe Park Compartment 12		<b>Rejected</b>		Did not meet any criteria.
Grimsthorpe Park Compartment 13		<b>Rejected</b>		Did not meet any criteria.
Grimsthorpe Park Compartment 14		<b>Selected</b>	WD5	Hosting numerous veteran trees, supporting a wealth of fungi and invertebrates, the Panel were satisfied that this compartment qualified as parkland under WD5. Due to its isolation from the rest of the surveyed areas of Grimsthorpe Park SNCI, it was agreed to designate it as a separate LWS called Grimsthorpe Park South Parkland. Under HLS <sup>2</sup> to maintain wood pasture and parkland - positive conservation management status.
Grimsthorpe Park Compartment 15		<b>Rejected</b>		Did not meet any criteria.

**Table 3.1: Summary of sites surveyed 2014-2016**

Site	Broad habitat type	Current status	Selection Criteria*	LWS Panel comments <sup>1</sup> (if provided)
Grimsthorpe Park Compartment 16		<b>Rejected</b>		Did not meet any criteria.
Grimsthorpe Park Compartment 17		<b>Rejected</b>		Did not meet any criteria.
Grimsthorpe Park Compartment 18		<b>Rejected</b>		Did not meet any criteria.
Grimsthorpe Park Compartment 19		<b>Rejected</b>		Did not meet any criteria.
Grindlepits Spinney	Woodland	<b>Rejected</b>		This is a small and isolated site which is homogenous in nature. Only two scoring species were recorded. The Panel decided to reject it as a LWS.
Gunboro' Wood	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>	WD1a, WD3a, WD3b, WD4a, We2	The separate survey of the west compartment that is not listed on the ancient woodland inventory showed that it justified being selected as a LWS as part of the larger Gunboro' woodland. The Panel agreed to therefore select it all as a LWS.
Gunboro' Wood Road Verge	Grassland	<b>Rejected</b>		Did not meet any criteria.
Gunby Dale		Rejected		ELS4, EWGS3, HLS2



**Table 3.1: Summary of sites surveyed 2014-2016**

Site	Broad habitat type	Current status	Selection Criteria*	LWS Panel comments <sup>1</sup> (if provided)
Gunby/Stainby Meadow	Grassland	<b>Rejected</b>		As detailed by the surveyor, the species-rich grassland of the past has been lost and replaced with arable cropping. The site therefore exhibits little ecological interest. The Panel decided to reject it as a LWS.
Guthram Gowt (River Glen)	Water	<b>Selected</b>	FW2, We2	Scoring strongly for both FW2 and We2 this site borders several other LWSs along the entirety of its southern boundary. The surveyor noted the site comprises of a mosaic of grazing marsh and reedbed habitats too, although sufficient evidence was not presented to assess it against these LWS criteria. The Panel agreed that it is in a good condition and with active management for wildlife it is in a positive conservation management state.
Guthram Pit	Grassland	<b>Rejected</b>		This is a small woodland site, very uniform in nature. It presented very little evidence of ecological interest, and as such the Panel decided to reject it as a LWS.
Harlaxton Clays Wood	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>	WD1	
Harlaxton Wood	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>	WD3a, WD3b, WD4a, WD1, WD1a	
Herrichio Wood	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>	WD1, WD4a	
Holywell Hill	Grassland	<b>Selected</b>	CG1	Very highly grazed at time of survey. Used to be a SSSI. Qualifies for CG1 criteria. Condition adequate. Site in stewardship with relevant option so management status is positive.
Home Farm Plantation, Stoke Rochford Park	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>	Sup2	The Panel agreed that due to it bordering Stoke Rochford Park, which was selected as a LWS, its larger size and it scoring moderately well, albeit not

**Table 3.1: Summary of sites surveyed 2014-2016**

Site	Broad habitat type	Current status	Selection Criteria*	LWS Panel comments <sup>1</sup> (if provided)
				qualifying for woodland LWS criteria, that it should be selected under Sup2 and incorporated into the wider Stoke Rochford Park designation
Home Wood & Pell's Wood	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>	WD1a, WD2a, WD3a, WD4a, We2	A Panel member noted the site was extremely important for bats - barbastelles and Leisler's bats with the former more common than the latter. Condition is adequate, positive conservation management state.
Honington Grassland	Grassland	<b>Rejected</b>		The survey comments for Honington Grassland brought to the Panel's attention several fields on its northern boundary that appear as if they may be ecologically significant / worth investigating in the future. There would be added value in this as Honington Camp SSSI is becoming increasingly isolated surrounded by arable land.
Honington Paddocks	Grassland	<b>Rejected</b>		This site does not qualify for any selection criteria.
Hungerton Road Verge	Grassland	<b>Rejected</b>		This site does not qualify for any selection criteria.
Hurn Wood, Ropsley	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>	WD2a, WD3a, WD4a	Scores very highly. Condition adequate, management negative.
Ingoldsby Wood	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>	NG1, WD1, WD1a, WD2a, WD3a, WD4a, We2	Majority of site either ASNW <sup>5</sup> or PAWS <sup>6</sup> so qualifies under WD1 and WD1a. Small western section not ancient woodland but contains a large patch of early purple orchid. TEC ecologist states that the area was obviously not part of the woodland and should be included. A lot of planting of conifers, particularly in the central area. Panel member observed a site like this would usually require splitting into at least two subsites but not warranted here as the majority is ancient Condition adequate. It was felt that current

**Table 3.1: Summary of sites surveyed 2014-2016**

Site	Broad habitat type	Current status	Selection Criteria*	LWS Panel comments <sup>1</sup> (if provided)
				management was appropriate but as there is currently no evidence the management status is negative for now.
Irnham Hall Grounds Compartment 1	Grassland	<b>Selected</b>	Sup2	
Irnham Hall Grounds Compartment 2	Grassland	<b>Selected</b>	NG1	
Irnham Meadow	Grassland	<b>Deferred (remain as SNCI in interim)</b>		With the recent hay cut in mind, the Panel agreed that the survey information presented probably wasn't reflective of the ecological interest of the site. A member of the Panel also noted in the surveyor's comments of several 'unidentified sedges' mentioned which may well have been additional scoring species. A follow up survey is to be undertaken by Panel to confirm whether this sites meets LWS criteria. The site will remain an SNCI until a further survey has been undertaken.
Irnham Park	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>	NG1, WD4a	<p>TEC ecologist noted that the site surveyor had said the narrow northern strip was definitely worth including within the site. Large area of original SNCI now under arable production so much smaller site boundary proposed. Eastern areas around house were not surveyed and Panel felt it was not possible to select such a large area without a survey. Irnham Hall Ground surveyed separately in 2016.</p> <p>Condition adequate. Large areas of site in HLS - with relevant HK15 option so management status positive.</p> <p>Panel decided to merge Irnham Park and Irnham verge to create a new site named Irnham Park and Verge.</p>

**Table 3.1: Summary of sites surveyed 2014-2016**

Site	Broad habitat type	Current status	Selection Criteria*	LWS Panel comments <sup>1</sup> (if provided)
Irnham Verge	Grassland	<b>Selected</b>	NG1, WD4a	<p>TEC ecologist noted that the site surveyor had said the narrow northern strip was definitely worth including within the site. Large area of original SNCI now under arable production so much smaller site boundary proposed. Eastern areas around house were not surveyed and Panel felt it was not possible to select such a large area without a survey. Irnham Hall Ground surveyed separately in 2016.</p> <p>Condition adequate. Large areas of site in HLS - with relevant HK15 option so management status positive.</p> <p>Panel decided to merge Irnham Park and Irnham verge to create a new site named Irnham Park and Verge.</p>
Keisby Wood	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>	WD2a, WD3a, WD3b, WD4a	<p>This is a very strongly scoring area of woodland, with many ancient woodland indicator species, qualifying for WD2a, despite not featuring on the ancient woodland inventory. It borders the very large Temple Wood. It is an excellent example of well looked after woodland, and the Panel had no problems deducing from the survey notes that it is in a good condition and a positive condition management state.</p>
Leach Farm Fields Field 1	Grassland	<b>Selected</b>	NG1	<p>This site was deferred as it was felt that it was too large to survey in one go, and that a small area of lowland meadow was carrying the whole site, in terms of ecological value.</p> <p>After a resurvey the Panel were happy that it had been subdivided appropriately, with the results of which showing that all the fields, except field 3, qualified for NG1 criteria. Field A (the lowland meadow) did score strongest, but the new surveys prove that the site possesses ecological value across all compartments.</p> <p>Field 3 was the smallest subsite, which may in part justify it just missing out on NG1, but it was selected to be incorporated into the LWS designation as a supplementary habitat to the rest of the site (Sup2).</p> <p>The Panel were confident that the site is in a good condition, and being under HLS<sup>2</sup> it is positively managed.</p>

**Table 3.1: Summary of sites surveyed 2014-2016**

Site		Broad habitat type	Current status	Selection Criteria*	LWS Panel comments <sup>1</sup> (if provided)
Leach Fields Field 2	Farm		<b>Selected</b>	NG1	<p>This site was initially deferred as it was felt that it was too large to survey as one unit, and that a small area of lowland meadow was carrying the whole site, in terms of ecological value.</p> <p>After a resurvey the Panel were happy that it had been subdivided appropriately, with the results of which showing that all the fields, except field 3, qualified for NG1 criteria. Field A (the lowland meadow) did score strongest, but the new surveys prove that the site possesses ecological value across all compartments.</p> <p>Field 3 was the smallest subsite, which may in part justify it just missing out on NG1, but it was selected to be incorporated into the LWS designation as a supplementary habitat to the rest of the site (Sup2).</p> <p>The Panel were confident that the site is in a good condition, and being under HLS<sup>2</sup> it is positively managed.</p>
Leach Fields Field 3	Farm		<b>Selected</b>	Sup2	<p>This site was deferred initially as it was felt that it was too large to survey as one unit, and that a small area of lowland meadow was carrying the whole site, in terms of ecological value.</p> <p>After a resurvey the Panel were happy that it had been subdivided appropriately, with the results of which showing that all the fields, except field 3, qualified for NG1 criteria. Field A (the lowland meadow) did score strongest, but the new surveys prove that the site possesses ecological value across all compartments.</p> <p>Field 3 was the smallest subsite, which may in part justify it just missing out on NG1, but it was selected to be incorporated into the LWS designation as a supplementary habitat to the rest of the site (Sup2).</p> <p>The Panel were confident that the site is in a good condition, and being under HLS<sup>2</sup> it is positively managed.</p>
Leach Fields	Farm		<b>Selected</b>	NG1	<p>This site was deferred initially as it was felt that it was too large to survey as one unit, and that a small area of lowland meadow was carrying the whole site, in terms of ecological value.</p>

**Table 3.1: Summary of sites surveyed 2014-2016**

Site	Broad habitat type	Current status	Selection Criteria*	LWS Panel comments <sup>1</sup> (if provided)
Field 4				<p>After a resurvey the Panel were happy that it had been subdivided appropriately, with the results of which showing that all the fields, except field 3, qualified for NG1 criteria. Field A (the lowland meadow) did score strongest, but the new surveys prove that the site possesses ecological value across all compartments.</p> <p>Field 3 was the smallest subsite, which may in part justify it just missing out on NG1, but it was selected to be incorporated into the LWS designation as a supplementary habitat to the rest of the site (Sup2).</p> <p>The Panel were confident that the site is in a good condition, and being under HLS<sup>2</sup> it is positively managed.</p>
Leach Farm Fields Field 5		<b>Selected</b>	NG1	<p>This site was deferred initially as it was felt that it was too large to survey as one unit, and that a small area of lowland meadow was carrying the whole site, in terms of ecological value.</p> <p>After a resurvey the Panel were happy that it had been subdivided appropriately, with the results of which showing that all the fields, except field 3, qualified for NG1 criteria. Field A (the lowland meadow) did score strongest, but the new surveys prove that the site possesses ecological value across all compartments.</p> <p>Field 3 was the smallest subsite, which may in part justify it just missing out on NG1, but it was selected to be incorporated into the LWS designation as a supplementary habitat to the rest of the site (Sup2).</p> <p>The Panel were confident that the site is in a good condition, and being under HLS it is positively managed.</p>
Leach Farm Fields Field 6		<b>Selected</b>	NG1	<p>This site was deferred initially as it was felt that it was too large to survey as one unit, and that a small area of lowland meadow was carrying the whole site, in terms of ecological value.</p> <p>After a resurvey the Panel were happy that it had been subdivided appropriately, with the results of which showing that all the fields, except field 3, qualified for NG1 criteria. Field A (the lowland meadow) did score</p>

**Table 3.1: Summary of sites surveyed 2014-2016**

Site	Broad habitat type	Current status	Selection Criteria*	LWS Panel comments <sup>1</sup> (if provided)
				<p>strongest, but the new surveys prove that the site possesses ecological value across all compartments.</p> <p>Field 3 was the smallest subsite, which may in part justify it just missing out on NG1, but it was selected to be incorporated into the LWS designation as a supplementary habitat to the rest of the site (Sup2).</p> <p>The Panel were confident that the site is in a good condition, and being under HLS<sup>2</sup> it is positively managed.</p>
Leach Fields Field 7	Farm	<b>Selected</b>	NG1	<p>This site was deferred initially as it was felt that it was too large to survey as one unit, and that a small area of lowland meadow was carrying the whole site, in terms of ecological value.</p> <p>After a resurvey the Panel were happy that it had been subdivided appropriately, with the results of which showing that all the fields, except field 3, qualified for NG1 criteria. Field A (the lowland meadow) did score strongest, but the new surveys prove that the site possesses ecological value across all compartments.</p> <p>Field 3 was the smallest subsite, which may in part justify it just missing out on NG1, but it was selected to be incorporated into the LWS designation as a supplementary habitat to the rest of the site (Sup2).</p> <p>The Panel were confident that the site is in a good condition, and being under HLS<sup>2</sup> it is positively managed.</p>
Leach Fields Field 8	Farm	<b>Selected</b>	NG1	<p>This site was deferred initially as it was felt that it was too large to survey as one unit, and that a small area of lowland meadow was carrying the whole site, in terms of ecological value.</p> <p>After a resurvey the Panel were happy that it had been subdivided appropriately, with the results of which showing that all the fields, except field 3, qualified for NG1 criteria. Field A (the lowland meadow) did score strongest, but the new surveys prove that the site possesses ecological value across all compartments.</p>

**Table 3.1: Summary of sites surveyed 2014-2016**

Site	Broad habitat type	Current status	Selection Criteria*	LWS Panel comments <sup>1</sup> (if provided)
				<p>Field 3 was the smallest subsite, which may in part justify it just missing out on NG1, but it was selected to be incorporated into the LWS designation as a supplementary habitat to the rest of the site (Sup2).</p> <p>The Panel were confident that the site is in a good condition, and being under HLS<sup>2</sup> it is positively managed.</p>
Leach Farm Fields Field A		<b>Selected</b>	NG1	<p>This site was deferred initially as it was felt that it was too large to survey as one unit, and that a small area of lowland meadow was carrying the whole site, in terms of ecological value.</p> <p>After a resurvey the Panel were happy that it had been subdivided appropriately, with the results of which showing that all the fields, except field 3, qualified for NG1 criteria. Field A (the lowland meadow) did score strongest, but the new surveys prove that the site possesses ecological value across all compartments.</p> <p>Field 3 was the smallest subsite, which may in part justify it just missing out on NG1, but it was selected to be incorporated into the LWS designation as a supplementary habitat to the rest of the site (Sup2).</p> <p>The Panel were confident that the site is in a good condition, and being under HLS<sup>2</sup> it is positively managed.</p>
Lenton Pasture (Woodland)	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>	WD3b, WD4a	<p>This woodland site qualified strongly for its woodland features, and possessing four ponds it exhibited an abundance of wet woodland indicator species. It met both WD3b and WD4a criteria and was therefore selected as an LWS by the Panel.</p> <p>One of the four ponds was noted by the surveyor as being over shaded by tree canopy and therefore supporting no emergent vegetation. A Panel member noted that this could be argued as being ecologically valuable as it provides habitat diversity alongside the three vegetation-rich ponds.</p> <p>The lack of intervention was therefore agreed to be appropriate and the site in a positive conservation management status.</p>



**Table 3.1: Summary of sites surveyed 2014-2016**

Site	Broad habitat type	Current status	Selection Criteria*	LWS Panel comments <sup>1</sup> (if provided)
Little Haw Wood	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>		
Little Ponton Quarry – Arable field	Grassland	<b>Rejected</b>		This subsite is largely arable fields, it holds little ecological value itself. The Panel decided to reject this as a LWS and to deselect it as a SNCI.
Little Ponton Quarry – Quarry	Grassland	<b>Selected</b>	CG1	This compartment of the site scored extremely high for CG1 and was therefore agreed to be selected as a LWS. The Panel also agreed with the surveyor's comments in that the hostile conditions of the site, and the slow rate of natural regeneration, meant that no intervention was appropriate, and that the site is in a good condition and under positive conservation management.
Lodge Farm Woodland	Woodland	<b>Rejected</b>		The original citation was for a grassland site. Scores generally low.
Londonthorpe Meadow	Grassland	<b>Selected</b>	CG1, NG1, We2	<p>Despite being surveyed and selected as an LWS in 2015 this site was once again surveyed in 2016 for completeness alongside Londonthorpe Wood. This time it qualified for NG1 (as before) but now also for We2. Evidence from this survey didn't meet the CG1 criteria as in 2015.</p> <p>The Panel agreed that different conditions that year, and a different survey date may be responsible for the swing from calcareous grassland species to wetland ones and that this is further evidence for the species diversity of the site. We2 was therefore agreed to be added to the site's qualifying selection criteria, and CG1 would be retained.</p>
Londonthorpe Wood Compartment 1	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>	WD3b, WD4a	<p>Having been surveyed in four compartments, the Panel agreed to divide Londonthorpe Wood into two different LWSs (Londonthorpe Wood and Londonthorpe Scrubs)</p> <p>Londonthorpe Wood comprises of compartment 1 and 2 of the 2016 survey. These both qualified for the woodland features (WD3b) and had wet</p>

**Table 3.1: Summary of sites surveyed 2014-2016**

Site	Broad habitat type	Current status	Selection Criteria*	LWS Panel comments <sup>1</sup> (if provided)
				woodland habitat (WD4a). These compartments are made up almost entirely of woodland.
Londonthorpe Wood Compartment 2	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>	WD3b, WD4a	Having been surveyed in four compartments, the Panel agreed to divide Londonthorpe Wood into two different LWSs (Londonthorpe Wood and Londonthorpe Scrubs)  Londonthorpe Wood comprises of compartment 1 and 2 of the 2016 survey. These both qualified for the woodland features (WD3b) and had wet woodland habitat (WD4a). These compartments are made up almost entirely of woodland.
Londonthorpe Wood Compartment 3	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>	NG1	Having been surveyed in four compartments, the Panel agreed to divide Londonthorpe Wood into two different LWSs (Londonthorpe Wood and Londonthorpe Scrubs)  Londonthorpe Scrubs comprises of compartment 3 and 4 of the 2016 survey. These both qualified for their grassland, with compartment 3 meeting NG1 selection criteria, and compartment 4 meeting NG1 and CG1.  This area was therefore differentiated from the rest of Londonthorpe Wood, as the woodland here is more patchy and a much newer plantation. It therefore did not qualify for any woodland criteria, although being close to WD4a.
Londonthorpe Wood Compartment 4	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>	NG1, CG1	Having been surveyed in four compartments, the Panel agreed to divide Londonthorpe Wood into two different LWSs (Londonthorpe Wood and Londonthorpe Scrubs)  Londonthorpe Scrubs comprises of compartment 3 and 4 of the 2016 survey. These both qualified for their grassland, with compartment 3 meeting NG1 selection criteria, and compartment 4 meeting NG1 and CG1.  This area was therefore differentiated from the rest of Londonthorpe Wood, as the woodland here is a lot more patchy and a much newer plantation. It

**Table 3.1: Summary of sites surveyed 2014-2016**

Site	Broad habitat type	Current status	Selection Criteria*	LWS Panel comments <sup>1</sup> (if provided)
				therefore didn't qualify for any woodland criteria, although being close to WD4a.
Long Bennington Grassland	Grassland	<b>Rejected</b>		The grassland is overgrazed by horses. Little significant interest was reported in the 2016 survey. The Panel therefore decided to reject this as a LWS and deselect as a SNCI.
Lordship Close	Grassland	<b>Rejected</b>		Although old earthworks suggested it might be a reasonable site it was floristically uninteresting. Scores poor.
Manthorpe Road Burial Ground	Grassland	<b>Rejected</b>		This site is mown regularly, and to a very short length. As such it did not meet any of the selection criteria. The Panel expressed disappointment as they felt it had the potential to be a diverse site, and the species that were recorded showed its promise. But management is very unlikely to change and it was therefore agreed to be rejected as a LWS.
Marston Sewage Works South Extension	Grassland	<b>Selected</b>	Mos1, Sup2, Sup5	<p>This area surveyed in 2016 is the remainder of the original SNCI, and a proposed extension to the northern area that was previously progressed to LWS status.</p> <p>Although the site did not meet any individual habitat criteria, the Panel discussed its value as supplementary habitat to the rest of Marston Sewage Works LWS, and the wider environment, with significance as being a large inland wetland habitat for birds. As such it was selected under Sup2 criteria.</p> <p>The Panel expressed that the area was good for bats, providing enough feeding and nesting habitat to self-sustain a population. With this information, as well as scoring over 50% for both freshwater and wetland indicator species, the site also qualified for Sup5.</p> <p>Being 3 indicator species off FW2 and We2 the area qualified under Mos1 criteria.</p>

**Table 3.1: Summary of sites surveyed 2014-2016**

Site	Broad habitat type	Current status	Selection Criteria*	LWS Panel comments <sup>1</sup> (if provided)
				The Panel also agreed on a name change for the whole site to Marston Grassland and Marsh, to represent the habitats present in the original and new LWS compartments.
Mickley Wood	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>	Mos1, WD1	<p>This is a nice area of woodland which forms a stepping stone between two other much larger areas of woodland, Twyford cLWS and Morkery LWS.</p> <p>It appears on the ancient woodland inventory and as such qualifies for WD1. The flora here also went to an extent to support this, although not exhibiting enough indicator species in the survey to meet any other criteria, it was very close to WD2a, WD3a, WD3b and WD4a.</p> <p>There is a diversity in woodland here and a good abundance of veteran trees. The surveyor also noted that there were many deer in the area, which could be limiting the ground flora growth, and being accountable for the near misses in several of the criteria thresholds. However these do qualify it for Mos1.</p> <p>Despite the deer, the Panel felt there was active management in the woodland, including some tree clearance and native replanting. This has resulted in a good condition of woodland and therefore a positive conservation management status.</p>
Mill Lane Verges	Grassland	<b>Selected</b>	NG1	Some debate about selection of this site but on balance it was felt that based on the scoring species list it should be approved. Site scores for NG1. Condition adequate, management status negative.
Mill Ponds, Holywell	Water	<b>Selected</b>	Mos1, Sup2	This site comprises two ponds separated by a stone bridge. It did not score for any habitat criteria individually but was extremely close to both wet woodland (WD4a) and wetland (We2), being 2 and 1 indicator species off respectively. This qualifies it for Mos1. To the east Mill Ponds, Holywell borders Holywell Hill LWS. There is also an area of SSSI grassland sandwiched between. The Panel therefore discussed the site's value as supplementary habitat to these bordering sites. It was proposed and agreed

**Table 3.1: Summary of sites surveyed 2014-2016**

Site	Broad habitat type	Current status	Selection Criteria*	LWS Panel comments <sup>1</sup> (if provided)
				to select this area under Sup2, and add it as an extension to Holywell Hill LWS, creating a new site named Holywell Hill and Mill Ponds.
Monk's Wood	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>	WD1, WD3a, WD3b, WD4a	Part of a network of woodland habitat, in close proximity to Careby Wood LWS, it is a nice example of existing ancient woodland in Lincolnshire. Appearing on the ancient woodland inventory the 2016 survey discovered enough indicator species to support this under LWS criteria. Beyond this it also qualified for all other woodland criteria: WD3a, WD3b, and WD4a. The surveyor noted that in areas bramble is locally frequent, and as such the woodland appeared to be "a little neglected". There is no active management in evidence, but the Panel felt that with areas carpeted by ancient species indicators, and well developed canopy, understory and ground flora layers, the woodland is in a good condition, and that the undisturbed habitat was a desirable outcome of the lack of intervention here. As such it is to be selected as a LWS in a positive conservation management state.
New Plantation, Braceborough	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>	WD2a, WD3a, WD4a	Scores well. Condition adequate, management negative for now pending further enquiries.
New Wood	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>	WD3a, WD3b, WD4a	Achieves qualifying scores for three criteria. Boundary needs a few tweaks. Condition is good, positive conservation management state.
Nightingale Plantation	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>	WD2a, WD3a, WD4a	Historic hazel coppice, carp ponds and game pens. Rides being maintained by herbicide. Condition adequate, management status negative.
Norwood	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>	NG1, WD1, WD1a, WD2a, WD3a, WD3b, WD4a, We2	Almost all ancient woodland/plantation on ancient woodland. TEC ecologist confirmed the central section is densely coniferous. Despite large site not being split into subsites TEC ecologist confirmed the interest was throughout. Condition is good, positive conservation management state.

**Table 3.1: Summary of sites surveyed 2014-2016**

Site	Broad habitat type	Current status	Selection Criteria*	LWS Panel comments <sup>1</sup> (if provided)
Old Lime Kilns, Ancaster	Grassland	<b>Rejected</b>		Site scored poorly, surveyor's assessment was that site has been lost.
Old Park Wood Track Verge	Grassland	<b>Rejected</b>		A member of the Panel observed it was quite a long site for not producing very high scores. A member of the Panel noted it could potentially be selected at a later date if there was ever the opportunity to survey the area of land between the verge and SSSI. Decision to reject.
Old Park Wood, Bassingthorpe	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>	WD1, WD3b	This woodland appears on the ancient woodland inventory, it also qualifies for LWS selection on its woodland features (WD3b). It does score moderately well for other woodland criteria, and is two away from meeting WD4a. It is therefore arguably a valuable and diverse habitat. Deadwood is left in situ, and there is a diversity of bryophytes, fungi and lichens.
Old Park Wood, Irnham	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>	WD1, WD2a, WD3a, WD3b, WD4a	A member of the Panel observed it is rare to see such a complete area of ASNW <sup>5</sup> and of a fairly large size too. Condition is good, positive conservation management state.
Osgodby Coppice	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>	WD1, WD2a, WD3a, WD3b, WD4a	Ancient woodland site that also scores on a number of other criteria. Condition good, positive conservation management state.
Park Wood, Thurlby	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>	WD1, WD3b	This woodland appears on the ancient woodland inventory, it also qualifies for LWS selection on its woodland features (WD3b). It does score moderately well for other woodland criteria despite not meeting them, although it is noted by the surveyor that the survey may have been limited by being late in the year and having restricted access to some areas. As such the survey could easily be an under-representation of its ecological value. The Panel agreed with the surveyors notes that the site is in a good condition, and is in a state of positive conservation management, indirectly from being utilised, but not overused, for game shooting.

**Table 3.1: Summary of sites surveyed 2014-2016**

Site	Broad habitat type	Current status	Selection Criteria*	LWS Panel comments <sup>1</sup> (if provided)
Parsonage Wood	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>	WD1, WD3a, WD4a	<p>This site appears on the ancient woodland inventory and in the 2016 survey exhibits the indicator species to back this up under the LWS selection criteria.</p> <p>It also meets the threshold to be selected for WD3a and WD4a criteria, although missing out on woodland features (WD3b) by one.</p> <p>The woodland has a good diversity in ground flora, scrub, and canopy layers. There is also minimal to no intervention resulting in an undisturbed habitat with no pressing conservational concerns. The Panel agreed that it is in a good condition and in a positive conservation management state.</p>
Pasture at Greatford	Grassland	<b>Rejected</b>		<p>This is of limited diversity and the grassland is mown regularly for amenity use. It does not score well against any LWS criteria. Reject as a LWS and deselect as a SNCI.</p>
Pasture Farm Track	Grassland	<b>Rejected</b>		<p>The surveyor noted the reduction of species diversity between the original SNCI and 2016 LWS surveys. It does not meet the threshold for any LWS criteria. Reject as a LWS and deselect as a SNCI.</p>
Pasture Wood	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>	NG1, WD1, WD1a, WD2a, WD3a, WD4a, We2	<p>A good site that scores highly. Condition adequate, management status negative for now pending further enquiries.</p>
Pillowsyke Holt	Woodland	<b>Rejected</b>		<p>With a very open canopy and management for game use the site is dominated by ruderal species, and as such has limited ecological value. It does not meet any LWS criteria thresholds. Reject as a LWS and deselect as a SNCI.</p>
Ponton Great Wood	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>	WD1a, WD3a, WD4a	<p>Appearing in the ancient woodland inventory as a PAWS<sup>6</sup>, the 2016 LWS survey uncovered seven out of eight ancient woodland indicator species required to meet WD2a ancient woodland LWS selection criteria.</p> <p>The site also scores very strongly for WD3a and WD4a, and as such is to be selected as a LWS.</p>

**Table 3.1: Summary of sites surveyed 2014-2016**

Site	Broad habitat type	Current status	Selection Criteria*	LWS Panel comments <sup>1</sup> (if provided)
Ponton Park Wood (also known as Woodhook Wood)	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>	WD1, WD1a, WD3a, WD4a	<p>This site is a mosaic of ASNW<sup>5</sup> and PAWS<sup>6</sup>, with wide sunny rides managed throughout.</p> <p>Survey data from 2016 show that it qualifies strongly for WD3a and WD4a selection criteria. As well as being a single indicator species off of CG1. It also has many ancient woodland indicators, meeting LWS criteria for ancient woodland.</p> <p>The rides lend to structural and habitat diversity, allowing grassland plants to flourish. There is also some management of the scrub layer throughout the woodland, which the Panel agree is maintaining a good condition, and therefore is in a positive conservation management state.</p>
Priory Farm, Stamford	Grassland	<b>Selected</b>	FW2, We2	<p>The river banks of this site are species-rich, meeting FW2 and We2 criteria. There are sections however that are becoming dominated by Himalayan balsam.</p> <p>The areas of grassland are previous pastoral farmland, and are species poor at present. The site has recently been accepted into HLS<sup>2</sup> and a regime of grazing by sheep is now being employed, with fertiliser usage stopped. The Panel agreed that these are positive steps in creating a wildlife-rich site beyond that of the river banks and agreed it to be in a positive conservation management state despite a poor current condition.</p>
Protection Woods Eastern	Woodland	<b>Rejected</b>		Neither the Eastern nor the Western compartments surveyed in 2016 met any selection criteria, and did not offer any suggestion that an amalgamation of the subsections' survey information could provide an argument for LWS selection. As such it is to be rejected as a LWS and deselected as a SNCI.
Protection Woods Western		<b>Rejected</b>		Neither the Eastern nor the Western compartments surveyed in 2016 met any selection criteria, and did not offer any suggestion that an amalgamation of the subsections' survey information could provide an argument for LWS selection. As such it is to be rejected as a LWS and deselected as a SNCI.



**Table 3.1: Summary of sites surveyed 2014-2016**

Site	Broad habitat type	Current status	Selection Criteria*	LWS Panel comments <sup>1</sup> (if provided)
Ringstone Wood	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>	WD1, WD1a, WD2a, WD3a, WD3b, WD4a	A strongly scoring ancient woodland site, the Panel unquestionably agreed to select it as a LWS.
Ropsley Rise Wood	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>		
Scoth Farm Pasture	Grassland	<b>Rejected</b>		The site has been taken out of HLS <sup>2</sup> and improved. The landowner didn't know it was designated as an SNCI. Site scores very poorly, decision to reject.
Scullar Wood	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>	WD1, WD1a	A site with relatively low scores; however, it passes on ancient woodland criteria. Condition poor, management negative for now pending further enquiries.
Sempringham Priory and Fish Ponds	Grassland	<b>Rejected</b>		Did not meet any criteria.
Shillingthorpe Hall Grounds	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>	WD3b	Although not qualifying via woodland indicator species it did meet the criteria for woodland features. The Panel agreed it select it as a LWS for WD3b criteria.
South Wood, Irnham	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>	WD1, WD3a, WD3b, WD4a	All ancient woodland. Condition good, positive conservation management state.
Spring Wood, Edenham	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>		Scores well. Star Sedge recorded - surveyors asked to double check the record. Condition is adequate, management negative for now pending further enquiries.
Stainby Warren	Woodland	Selected	WD3b	ELS4, EWGS3, HLS2

**Table 3.1: Summary of sites surveyed 2014-2016**

Site	Broad habitat type	Current status	Selection Criteria*	LWS Panel comments <sup>1</sup> (if provided)
Stainfield Verges	Grassland	<b>Rejected</b>		Did not meet any criteria.
Stamford Canal	Water	<b>Selected</b>	FW2, We2	A small mill stream that scores well for both wet criteria. A Panel member suggested it was better known as Deeping Mill Stream rather than Stamford Canal and the Panel agreed the site name should be changed. Condition is adequate, management negative.
Stamford Cemetery	Grassland	<b>Selected</b>	CG1	Clarity was made about the extent of the survey, which did include an area beyond the north eastern boundary of the SNCI designation, including an area of woodland. A Panel member queried including this in a LWS designation which the Panel agreed upon. Ultimately the site qualified under CG1. It is also important as it is one of few places hosting Sulphur Clover, which a Panel member noted would benefit from an earlier cut.
Stamford Meadows	Grassland	<b>Selected</b>	NG1, We2	TEC ecologist said much of the site used to be grazed but is now mown. A member of the Panel noted it would have been useful for the site to have been divided up so it could be assessed how the interest relates to the whole length. Another member of the Panel noted the site was good for noctule bats and a further member of the Panel added that white-legged damselfly had started to appear at the site. A member of the Panel questioned whether the whole site could be justified but another member of the Panel noted the site was pretty similar across its length. Condition is adequate. Around half of the site is under ELS <sup>4</sup> with relevant option codes so management status positive.
Stock Springs	Woodland	<b>Rejected</b>		Did not meet any criteria.
Stocken Hall Hedge	Woodland	<b>Rejected</b>		Panel agreed to reject as site has been lost.

**Table 3.1: Summary of sites surveyed 2014-2016**

Site	Broad habitat type	Current status	Selection Criteria*	LWS Panel comments <sup>1</sup> (if provided)
Stoke Park Wood	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>	NG1, WD1, WD1a, WD3a, WD4a	A good example of ancient woodland qualifying additionally under WD3a and WD4a criteria. It also boasts a neutral grassland community which is supported by the presence of wide sunny rides crisscrossing the woodland. The Panel agreed to select the site as a LWS.
Stoke Rochford Park Compartment 1	Woodland/grassland/water	<b>Selected</b>	CG1, FW2, NG1, WD4a, We2	The central compartment of Stoke Rochford Park, it strongly met a multitude of selection criteria and as such the Panel happily agreed for it to be incorporated into a LWS. Under HLS <sup>2</sup> to maintain wood pasture and parkland, and maintenance of grassland - positive conservation management status.
Stoke Rochford Park Compartment 2		<b>Selected</b>	WD5	Hosting numerous veteran trees and parkland BAP habitat, the Panel agreed that this compartment meets WD5 criteria and therefore should be selected as part of Stock Rochford Park LWS. Under HLS <sup>2</sup> to maintain wood pasture and parkland, and maintenance of grassland - positive conservation management status.
Stoke Rochford Park Compartment 3		<b>Selected</b>	WD4a	Qualifying for wet woodland selection criteria, the Panel agreed to incorporate this compartment into the Stoke Rochford Park LWS. Under HLS <sup>2</sup> to maintain wood pasture and parkland, maintenance of grassland, and protection of infield trees – positive conservation management status.
Stoke Rochford Park Compartment 4		<b>Selected</b>	CG1, NG1	Hosting the majority of the well-managed golf course, this compartment boasted an abundance of grassland species, qualifying for both NG1 and CG1. The Panel agreed to incorporate it into the Stoke Rochford Park LWS. Only a small area in the south west of this compartment is under HLS <sup>2</sup> for the protection of infield trees.
Stoke Rochford Park Compartment 5		<b>Rejected</b>		Most of this compartment is woodland on the periphery of Stoke Rochford Park. It did not score well enough to meet any criteria and as such the Panel agreed to reject it as a LWS.
Stonepit Wood	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>	WD1a, WD4a	Ancient woodland replanted with ash and oak. TEC ecologist said a strip running along the southern part of the site was grassy with clumps of scrub. Condition is good, positive conservation management state.

**Table 3.1: Summary of sites surveyed 2014-2016**

Site	Broad habitat type	Current status	Selection Criteria*	LWS Panel comments <sup>1</sup> (if provided)
Stroxtan Stream	Water	<b>Rejected</b>		This small section of stream failed to qualify under any LWS selection criteria and therefore the Panel agreed that it should not be progressed in its current state. The Panel also agreed that the original SNCI designation seemed somewhat confused, and that the boundary of the site/designation of this small section was not particularly logical or defensible.
Stubton Hall Woodland	Woodland	<b>Rejected</b>		
Swinstead Scrub	Woodland	<b>Rejected</b>		TEC ecologist noted the woodland failed to meet the criteria its location between The Drift and a SSSI means it has potential to become better than it is now. It does not currently qualify on its own merit. The Panel felt the only decision could be to reject the site based on low scores.
Syston Park and Lake	Water	<b>Rejected</b>		Did not meet any criteria.
Temple Wood Compartment 1	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>	WD4a, We2	Qualifying for its wet woodland and wetland species, the Panel agreed to select this as part of Temple Wood LWS.
Temple Wood Compartment 2		<b>Selected</b>	WD3a, WD4a, We2	Strongly scoring, select as part of Temple Wood LWS.
Temple Wood Compartment 3		<b>Selected</b>	WD1, WD1a, WD2a, WD3a, WD3b, WD4a, We2	Strongly scoring, select as part of Temple Wood LWS.
Temple Wood Compartment 4		<b>Selected</b>	NG1, WD1, WD3a, WD3b, WD4a, We2	Strongly scoring, select as part of Temple Wood LWS.

**Table 3.1: Summary of sites surveyed 2014-2016**

Site	Broad habitat type	Current status	Selection Criteria*	LWS Panel comments <sup>1</sup> (if provided)
Temple Wood Compartment 5		<b>Selected</b>	WD1, WD1a, WD2a, WD3a, WD4a, We2	Strongly scoring, select as part of Temple Wood LWS.
Thorny Wood	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>	NG1, WD3a, WD3b, WD4a, We2	Qualifies for a number of criteria. Condition adequate, management negative for now pending further enquiries.
Twyford Wood Compartment 1	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>	WD1, WD2a, WD3a, WD3b, WD4a	Strongly scoring, select as part of Twyford Wood LWS.
Twyford Wood Compartment 2	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>	NG1, WD1, WD2a, WD3a, WD3b, WD4a, We2	Strongly scoring, select as part of Twyford Wood LWS.
Twyford Wood Compartment 3	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>	CG1, NG1, WD1a	Strongly scoring, select as part of Twyford Wood LWS.
Twyford Wood Compartment 4	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>	WD1, WD2a, WD3a, WD3b, WD4a	Strongly scoring, select as part of Twyford Wood LWS.
Twyford Wood Compartment 5	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>	Mos1, WD1	Providing a mosaic of grassland along the edges of the runways and ancient woodland, the Panel agreed to select as part of Twyford Wood LWS.

**Table 3.1: Summary of sites surveyed 2014-2016**

Site	Broad habitat type	Current status	Selection Criteria*	LWS Panel comments <sup>1</sup> (if provided)
Water Lane Field, Woolsthorpe	Grassland	<b>Rejected</b>		Did not meet any criteria.
Wicker Holt	Woodland	<b>Selected</b>	WD1, WD3b	The Ecology Consultant ecologist explained the site was incredibly difficult to get into, being both unmanaged and on the side of a steep-sided valley. Some evidence of old rides. Qualifies as ancient woodland. Condition is adequate, management status negative.
Willoughby Heath	Grassland	<b>Rejected</b>		Site completely lost.
Wood in South Witham	Woodland	<b>Rejected</b>		Did not meet any criteria.
Wood near Pasture Farm	Woodland	<b>Rejected</b>		Did not meet any criteria.
Woodlands Farm Arable and Semi-improved Grassland	Arable and Semi-improved Grassland	<b>Rejected</b>		Did not meet any criteria.
Woodlands Farm Meadow	Meadow	<b>Selected</b>	CG1, NG1	Select as a LWS Woodlands Farm Meadow. Under HLS <sup>2</sup> to maintain species-rich grassland - positive conservation management status.
Woodlands Farm Woodland	Woodland	<b>Rejected</b>		Did not meet any criteria.

<sup>1</sup> Information extracted from Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership's comments and decisions documents provided following each Panel meeting throughout the project.

<sup>2</sup> Higher Level Stewardship Scheme (HLS)

<sup>3</sup> English Woodland Grant Scheme (EWGS)

<sup>4</sup> Entry Level Stewardship Scheme (ELS)

<sup>5</sup> Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW)

<sup>6</sup> Planted Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS)

\*See Appendix 4 for selection criteria definitions

## 4 Conclusion

- 4.1 Of the 148 sites surveyed including those with boundary changes and sites prior to merges, a total of 92 were evaluated as satisfying the requirements for Local Wildlife Sites on one or more selection criteria. These sites are therefore selected for designation as Local Wildlife Sites; see Table 3.1 for these sites.
- 4.2 A total of 53 of the original SNCI sites were rejected by the Local Wildlife Sites Panel, and will therefore not be surveyed further and will be de-selected. An additional single site was surveyed, Grantham Allotments, Harrowby and rejected by the LWS panel. GLNP will notify landowners of the Panel's decision.
- 4.3 Decisions regarding two sites were deferred until further surveys could be undertaken. These were; Dartmouth Marsh and Irnham Meadow. These two sites will remain Sites of Nature Conservation Importance until such a time as further surveys can be carried out.
- 4.4 It was decided to alter the boundaries of 17 sites and change the name of one selected site (revised site boundaries and sub-compartment boundaries are shown on the accompanying GIS layer). The details are given in Table 3.1 in the Results section but in summary, these amendments were as follows:
- In addition to the already selected Alma Park LWS another area to the south, named as 'Compartment 2 extension' (OS Grid reference SK941366), was surveyed in 2016. Although this southern area did not qualify for any criteria independently, it was still noted as being a high quality area of grassland posing wildlife interest for diversity in invertebrates and birds. Due to its proximity to a larger network of LWSs in that area and it being an extension of Alma Park it was selected under Sup2 criteria and the boundary of Alma Park was modified to incorporate this southern extension. The revised site boundary is shown on the GIS layer.
  - The northern section only of Alma Wood was surveyed in 2016 and selected by the LWS panel. The boundary was re-drawn for Alma Wood to exclude the southern section of the site. The revised site boundary is shown on the GIS layer. The southern section of the site was not surveyed due to unconfirmed landowners, the southern section will therefore remain an SNCI.



- Aveling Barford's Industrial Site boundary was slightly revised by the LWS Panel. The boundary was extended slightly east and west and the southern boundary of the original SNCI was extended south as far as the northern boundary of Paper Mill Farm Pit. The revised site boundary is shown on the GIS layer.
- Black Spring Farm (verge) boundary was originally further south but surveyors felt this was not of any botanical interest and a narrower boundary set slightly to the north was proposed instead. The revised site boundary is shown on the GIS layer.
- Breache's Wood boundary was slightly adjusted to include boundary ditches. The revised site boundary is shown on the GIS layer.
- The Ecology Consultancy did not manage to access a small south eastern section of Castle Bytham Earthworks because contact could not be made with the landowners. The small south-eastern section will remain an SNCI. Remainder of the site was selected by the LWS panel. The revised site boundary is shown in the GIS layer.
- Dartmouth Point boundary was considered by the Panel to be unjustifiably large. The boundary was redrawn to include only the quarry and a suitable buffer. The revised site boundary is shown on the GIS layer.
- The ecological interest of Grantham Canal and Canal Bank depreciates from Harlaxton Bridge onwards towards Grantham. This may be due to increased levels of pollution. It was therefore agreed that the LWS designation need not extend beyond Harlaxton Bridge. The separate urban section which runs from Harlaxton Bridge to Earlesfield Lane in Grantham at grid reference SK905350 was de-selected entirely as it scored inadequately against LWS criteria and the boundary has been adjusted. The revised site boundary is shown on the accompanying GIS layer.
- Only certain compartments of Grimsthorpe Park have been selected for designation and the boundary has been redrawn to show this. These were Compartments 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 8. Compartments 10 and 11 were incorporated into Scottlethorpe Grassland LWS. Compartment 14 is now a standalone compartment re-named Grimsthorpe Park South Parkland. The remaining Compartments 1, 7, 9, 12 and 13 were rejected by the Local Wildlife Sites Panel and will therefore be de-selected. Revised site boundaries are shown on the accompanying GIS layer.
- Little Ponton Quarry was surveyed in two compartments; arable field and quarry. The quarry compartment was selected and the arable field compartment rejected.

The boundary of Little Ponton Quarry was therefore redrawn. The revised site boundary is shown on the accompanying GIS layer.

- Having surveyed Londonthorpe Wood in four compartments, the Panel agreed to divide Londonthorpe Wood into two separate LWSs; Londonthorpe Wood and Londonthorpe Scrubs. The boundary drawn for Londonthorpe Wood comprised of Compartments 1 and 2. The boundary drawn for Londonthorpe Scrubs comprised of Compartments 3 and 4. The revised site boundaries and compartments are shown on the accompanying GIS layer.
- The area of Marston Sewage Works surveyed in 2016 is the remainder of the original SNCI, and a proposed extension to the northern area that was previously progressed to LWS status. Although the site did not meet any individual habitat criteria, the Panel discussed its value as supplementary habitat to the rest of Marston Sewage Works LWS, and the wider environment, with significance as being a large inland wetland habitat for birds. As such it was selected under Sup2 criteria. The Panel also agreed on a name change for the whole site to Marston Grassland and Marsh, to represent the habitats present in the original and new LWS compartments. The revised site boundary is shown on the accompanying GIS layer.
- Mill Ponds, Holywell comprises two ponds separated by a stone bridge. It did not score for any habitat criteria individually but was extremely close to meeting criteria for wet woodland (WD4a) and wetland (We2), being two and one indicator species off respectively and as such it qualifies as Mos1. To the east, this site borders Holywell Hill LWS. There is also an area of SSSI grassland sandwiched between Mill Ponds, Holywell and Holywell Hills LWS. The Panel therefore discussed the site's value as supplementary habitat to these bordering sites. The area was therefore selected under Sup2 and Mos1, and added as an extension to Holywell Hill LWS, creating a new site named Holywell Hill and Mill Ponds. The revised site boundary is shown on the accompanying GIS layer.
- The Panel agreed New Wood required minor amendments to its boundary, extending the boundary slightly further south up to a track and incorporating a strip of grassland on the woodland's edge. The revised site boundary is shown on the accompanying GIS layer.
- The Panel suggested changing the name of Stamford Canal to the better known Deeping Mill Stream.

- The Panel agreed Stamford Cemetery boundary required amending to include an area beyond the north-eastern boundary of the SNCI designation, including an area of woodland. The revised site boundary is shown on the accompanying GIS layer.
- Stoke Rochford Park was separated into five compartments. Compartments 1-4 were selected and Compartment 5 did not score well enough to meet any of the criteria. As such it was rejected as a LWS. The Stoke Rochford Park boundary was redrawn to exclude Compartment 5. The revised site boundary is shown on the accompanying GIS layer.
- Woodlands Farm was separated into 3 compartments; arable and semi-improved grassland, meadow and woodland. Meadow was the only compartment selected and therefore the boundary was redrawn around this compartment and the site was renamed Woodlands Farm Meadow. The revised site boundary is shown on the accompanying GIS layer.

4.5 During the Panel meeting decisions were also made to merge eight selected sites. The details are given in Table 3.1 in the Results section but in summary, the merged sites were as follows:

- The Panel felt that based on species it would make sense to merge Dobbin's Wood Dismantled Railway with Dobbin's Wood site and change the name to Dobbin's Wood and Dismantled Railway to reflect this. The revised site boundary is shown on the accompanying GIS layer.
- Glebe Farm Road Verge was selected as an extension of Castle Bytham Road Verge by the LWS Panel.
- The Panel agreed that due to Home Farm Plantation bordering the qualifying Stoke Rochford Park, and on account of its large size and moderate scores (albeit not qualifying for woodland LWS criteria), it should be selected under Sup2 and be merged with the wider Stoke Rochford Park designation. The revised site boundary is shown on the accompanying GIS layer.
- The Panel recommended merging Irnham Park and Irnham Verge and re-naming the new, larger site as Irnham Park and Verge. The revised site boundary is shown on the accompanying GIS layer.

4.6 A single new site was identified for survey and subsequently selected by the Panel and two other sites were deferred for further survey work by the Panel at a later date. The details are given in Table 3.1 in the Results section but in summary, the site creation and deferred sites were as follows:

- A section of Irnham Park previously not surveyed alongside other parts of the site was surveyed in 2016 as two compartments. Both compartments were selected by the Local Wildlife Sites Panel and the area renamed as Irnham Hall Grounds. The revised site boundary is shown on the accompanying GIS layer.
- Due to a recent hay cut immediately prior to survey, the Panel agreed that the survey information presented for Irnham Meadow was unlikely to reflect the true ecological interest of the site. A member of the Panel also noted in the surveyor's comments that several sedges present could not be identified to species level as a result of the cut and that these had the potential to be additional scoring species. A follow up survey by the Panel is required to confirm whether this site meets LWS criteria. The site will remain an SNCI until a follow up survey has been undertaken.
- A Panel member considered that Dartmouth Marsh may be of invertebrate interest. The Panel were initially inclined to reject it but the decision was taken for the Panel to revisit at a later date. The site will remain an SNCI until a follow up survey has been undertaken.

# References

DEFRA (2006). Local Sites: Guidance on their Identification, Protection and Management.  
<http://archive.defra.gov.uk/rural/documents/protected/localsites.pdf>

GLNP (2013) Local Wildlife Site Guidelines for Greater Lincolnshire (3rd edition)  
<http://www.glnp.org.uk/our-publications/biodiversity/index.php>.

## Appendix 1: Example letter

[date]

### Local Wildlife Site monitoring

Dear [Name]

The Ecology Consultancy are assessing current Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI) across the District on behalf of South Kesteven District Council with a view to updating the information held about them by the Council and Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership (GLNP). Most of the sites were last surveyed in the 1980s/90s even though national guidance requires monitoring every 5-10 years, so are in need of review.

In this round of review SNCIs will be updated as Local Wildlife Sites (LWS; the new term for sites with this level of recognition), in line with the rest of the county. These sites are non-statutory but are used to recognise wildlife rich areas in the planning system: The GLNP website ([www.glnp.org.uk](http://www.glnp.org.uk)) has more information on these sites. LWS selection does not restrict the way you choose to manage your land, nor does it bestow any additional public access; it simply provides recognition of the wildlife value of the land.

One of the sites we have been asked to assess is [SITE NAME], which we understand you own or manage. Please see the previous citation and location map enclosed. We would appreciate it if you would have a look and confirm whether you do own/manage the site by completing the enclosed form and returning it using the stamped, addressed envelope or by contacting us on the details provided at the bottom of the letter.


When conducting surveys we always try to follow any instructions or advice given, such as informing of arrival/departure, minimising disturbance to crops or livestock and avoiding hazards. Surveys usually take place between April-October (in line with the peak flowering period of the site's interest) and we can visit at a time that is convenient for you. In most cases the survey can be completed in a few hours on a single visit. The survey will focus on recording botanical data plus any other species and habitat features that we see. Existing data on the site is held by the Lincolnshire Environmental Records Centre (LERC) and the data obtained is available for you to use (e.g. when applying for countryside stewardship grants and schemes). The new data will also be held in this way.

The data will be used by the LWS Panel (a working group of the GLNP) to assess the sites against the LWS criteria. **The sites will remain designated as an SNCI if the criteria are met or if access is not possible**, but the designation will be removed if the site is found to not meet the LWS criteria. You will be informed of the decision and given the opportunity to make observations on the process. In addition, an updated citation similar to the one enclosed with this letter will be sent to you and species lists made available on request. South Kesteven District Council will then decide whether to keep the site within their Local Plan.

If you would like to discuss the project or the survey, or to arrange a convenient date please do not hesitate to contact give me or my colleagues - contact details below.

## Appendix 2: Example survey form



<b>Site name</b>				<b>Grid reference(s)</b>				 <b>Local Wildlife Site</b> Last updated <b>survey form</b> April 2013	
<b>Subsite name</b>				<b>Date</b>					
<b>Surveyor(s)</b>				<b>Start</b>	<b>End</b>	<b>Duration</b>			
<b>Survey type:</b>				Baseline	1st monitoring	2nd monitoring	Full resurvey		
<b>Habitat (M = main, A = additional)</b>									
Ancient woodland – mature / regrowth <sup>1</sup>			Parkland			River / Canal			
Semi-natural woodland <sup>1</sup>			Wood-pasture			Drain / Ditch / Stream			
Wet woodland / Carr <sup>1</sup>			Orchard			Spring / Flush			
Native plantation – on ancient / new <sup>1</sup>			Bracken			Blow well / Chalk stream			
Non-native plantation – on ancient / new <sup>1</sup>			Sand dune			Pond / Lake / Reservoir / Pit			
Scrub – scattered / dense			Saline lagoon			Marsh / Fen			
Species-rich hedgerows – ancient / new			Saltmarsh			Reedbed / Linear reedbed – ( % reed)			
Neutral grassland – unimp. / semi-imp			Mudflat			Grazing marsh – coastal / floodplain <sup>2</sup>			
Calcareous grassland – unimp. / semi-imp			Arable			Coarse or rank grassland			
Acid grassland – unimp. / semi-imp			Ruderal			Improved grassland			
Heathland – ( % heather species)			Active quarrying						
Acid peatland			Brownfield mosaic <sup>3</sup>						
<b>Other site type (Please tick)</b>									
Churchyard / Cemetery		Garden / Allotment / Park / Greenspace				Lowland meadow			
Road verge		Previously developed land / Disused quarry				Managed arable field margins			
<b>Additional habitat features (Please tick or enter details)</b>									
Veteran trees		Seasonally wet / damp areas				Anthills			
Pollarded trees		Areas with frequent / prolonged flooding				Ridge and furrow			
Coppiced trees		Abundant nectar sources				Rock outcrops			
Fruit/nut trees		m apart		Earthworks / hummocky ground				Steep slopes	
Non-planted trees - scattered / dense			Exposed faces / cliffs / cuttings				South-facing slopes		
Planted trees - scattered / other			Standing / fallen dead wood				Bare ground		
Tussocky vegetation			Open access / common land				Structural diversity		
Dry ditches – shallow / deep			Right of way / permissive path				Educational potential		
Species-poor / patchy hedgerows									
Bryophytes: Diverse / abundant / dense			Lichens: Diverse / abundant			Fungi: Diverse / abundant			
<b>Veteran tree features (Please tick)</b>									
Large girth / apical die-back / trunk hollowing				Limb loss / cavities / water pockets					
Accumulation of dead and dysfunctional woody tissue				Loose bark / wounds / scars / tears / sap runs / rot sites					
Live stubs / shattered branch ends / lightning strikes				Fungal colonisation / epiphytic higher or lower plants					
<b>Notes (Include aspect, rare/notable/most frequent/invasive/planted species with grid refs if possible)</b>									
<b>Condition status (Please tick)</b>		Good		Adequate		Poor		Lost	
Details:									

Evidence of management/non-management (Please tick)				
Non-intervention		Grazing by rabbits	Frequent short mowing	
Scrub encroachment		Other grazing	Game keeping	
Scrub removal		No grazing	Fertiliser / pesticide / herbicide use	
Coppicing / selective felling		Poached ground	Recent / long-term drainage	
Planting (trees) - native / non-native		Controlled burning	Off-road vehicle damage	
Planting (other) - native/non-native		Ride mowing	Fly tipping / pollution / fires	
Large-scale clearance / bulldozing		Silage / hay cutting	Invasive species - mgnt / non-mgnt	
Grazing by cattle / sheep / horses		Cutting and non-removal		
Management comments and evidence (with grid references if applicable)				
Conservation management plan		Advice being followed		
		WGS / EWGS	ELS / HLS / OELS / CSS	
Management status (Please tick)		Survey constraints (Please tick)		
Appropriate (for the majority/whole of the site)		Early survey	Vegetation cut /grazed	
Appropriate (for the main interest of the site only)		Late survey	Terrain / Vegetation	
Inappropriate		Short visit	Public use / Dogs	
None - Appropriate / Inappropriate		Weather	Livestock / Game	
1. Woodland criterion checklist (Please tick)				
Undisturbed, mature, shady broadleaved habitat		Full age range within native tree species		
Veteran trees- ancient / prematurely aged		Frequent standing / fallen dead wood		
Pollarded trees- recent / historic		<b>Habitat diversity:</b>	Glades / grassy areas	
Coppiced trees- recent / historic			Wide / sunny rides	
Diverse / abundant lichen community			Narrow / shady rides	
Diverse / abundant bryophyte community			Running water	
Diverse / abundant fungi community			Standing water / wetland / wet flushes	
Large populations of one or more native ground flora species (please specify):				
No more than small amounts of non-native plants (all layers inc. seedlings, e.g. sycamore, rhododendron)				
No more than moderate amounts of native invasive/undesirable native species (e.g. bracken, nettles)				
2. Grazing marsh criterion checklist (Please tick)				
Low intensity grazing regime		Periodic freshwater flooding - hollows / scrapes / other		
Holds surface water in the winter months		Areas of reedbed as part of the habitat mosaic		
Within an extensive block larger than 10ha		Permanent water-filled ponds		
Variation in sward height or structure inc. tussocks		Complex margins of wetland habitats inc. emergent veg.		
Brackish or freshwater drainage ditches holding water for most of the year including variety of depths and widths				
<b>Evidence of long-term presence of permanent pasture:</b>	Historic ridge and furrow / rills / remnant deserted villages / salterns / other relevant historic earthworks / remnant hedgebanks / anthills / humps and hollows			
3. Brownfield criterion checklist (Please tick)				
Loose substrate or bare ground ( %)		<b>Activities that will maintain the bare substrate:</b>	Rabbit activity	
Variation in sward height and structure inc. tussocks			Quarrying / industry	
South-facing / other aspect - slopes / banks / cliffs			Human leisure activities	
Unmanaged areas of dead and dying plant matter		<b>Community:</b>	Inundation	
Areas of scrub ( %)			Annual colonisers	
Ephemeral wet or damp areas			Ruderal colonisers	
Permanent ponds / pools / wetlands			Lichen	
		Heathland	Flower-rich grassland	
			Sparse, short grassland	
<b>Variation in topography and substrate:</b>	Humps / hollows / depressions / broken-up concrete / broken-up tarmac Piles/mounds of: Rubble / gravel / sand / ash / soil / slag / spoil / brick			

## Appendix 3: Lincolnshire BAP and selected non BAP habitats

### Simplified Lincolnshire BAP habitat descriptions (GLNP, 2013)

Habitat name	Description (of habitat considered to be of BAP quality)	Key points
Coastal habitats		
Coastal saltmarsh	<p>The development of saltmarsh vegetation is dependent on the presence of intertidal mudflats.</p> <p>Saltmarsh vegetation consists of a limited number of halophytic species adapted to regular immersion by the tides. A natural saltmarsh system shows a clear zonation according to the frequency of inundation.</p>	<p>The lower limit of saltmarsh is defined as the lower limit of pioneer saltmarsh vegetation (but excluding seagrass beds) and the upper limit as one metre above the level of highest astronomical tides to take in transitional zones.</p> <p>Sites still displaying a full range of zonation are particularly valuable for nature conservation.</p>
Coastal sand dunes	<p>Sand dune vegetation forms a number of zones. Embryonic and mobile dunes support very few species, the most characteristic being marram grass. Semi-fixed dunes have marram present with an increasing number of other species. Fixed dune grassland forms largely closed swards, the surface is stabilised and some soil formation takes place. Acid dune grassland or dune heaths may develop on dunes acidified by leaching.</p>	<p>Fixed dunes and dune heath are particularly threatened and regarded as priorities under the EC Habitats Directive.</p> <p>Acid dunes heavily grazed by rabbits may support lichen communities.</p>
Saline lagoons	<p>Natural or artificial bodies of saline water partially separated from the sea, and retain a proportion of their saltwater at low tide. Can contain a variety of substrata, often soft sediments which in turn may support tasselweeds and stoneworts as well as filamentous green and brown algae. In addition saline lagoons contain invertebrates rarely found elsewhere.</p>	<p>The presence of certain indigenous and specialist plants and animals make this habitat important to the UK's overall biodiversity.</p>
Urban habitats		
Open mosaic habitats on previously developed land	<p>Mosaics of bare ground with early pioneer communities; or more established open grasslands with areas of bare ground, scrub and patches of other habitats. Of nature conservation value if: species-rich; structural diversity; bare ground present over extended period of time; last remaining example of habitat formerly present; presence of BAP priority/Red list species; exceptional assemblage of key species groups.</p>	<p>Concentrated in urban, urban-fringe, and large-scale former industrial landscapes.</p> <p>Must show spatial variation.</p> <p>&gt;0.25ha</p>
Trees and woodland habitats		

### Simplified Lincolnshire BAP habitat descriptions (GLNP, 2013)

Habitat name	Description (of habitat considered to be of BAP quality)	Key points
Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	Woodland where at least 80% of the canopy comprises species that are suited to the site and are within their natural range, taking into account both history and future climate change.	Includes most semi-natural woodland as well as ancient woodland.
Traditional orchards	Habitat structure rather than vegetation types, topography or soils is the defining feature of this habitat. Open-grown trees set in herbaceous vegetation. The trees are or were grown for fruit and nut production, usually achieved through grafting and pruning.	Should be managed in a low intensity way. Grazing or cutting of the herbaceous vegetation are integral to traditional orchard management.
Wet woodland	Occurs on poorly drained or seasonally wet soils, usually with alder, birch and willows as the predominant tree species. Found on floodplains, as successional habitat on fens, mires and bogs, along streams and flushes, and in peaty hollows. Boundary with dry land woodland may be sharp or gradual.	Predominantly alder/birch/willow woodland on waterlogged soils with marsh indicator species in ground flora.
Wood-pasture and parkland	Product of historic land management systems; large, open-grown or high forest trees (often pollards) at various densities, in a matrix of grazed grassland, heathland, and/or woodland floras.	Long established tradition of grazing, allowing the survival of multiple generations of trees, characteristically with some veteran trees or shrubs.
Heathland and peatland habitats		
Lowland dry acid grassland	Typically occurs on nutrient-poor, generally free-draining soils overlying acid rocks or superficial deposits such as sands and gravels. Often forms a mosaic with dwarf shrub heath. Can range from relatively species-poor to species rich.	Include occurrences on roadside verges. Includes NVC U1 to U4.
Lowland heathland	Areas of heathland in good condition should consist of an ericaceous layer of varying heights and structures, plus some or all of the following additional features: scattered trees and scrub; bracken; bare ground; acid grassland; lichens; gorse; wet heaths; bogs and open waters.	>25 % dwarf shrub cover = heathland; <25% = acid grassland. Dynamic habitat, changes with successional stages. Presence and numbers of characteristic birds, reptiles, invertebrates, vascular plants, bryophytes and lichens are important indicators of habitat quality.
Lowland raised bog	Peatland ecosystems where the accumulation of peat has formed an elevated, gently curving dome.	Sphagnum mosses are the principle peat forming species and their dominance in the living layer gives a characteristically spongy surface.

### Simplified Lincolnshire BAP habitat descriptions (GLNP, 2013)

Habitat name	Description (of habitat considered to be of BAP quality)	Key points
Purple moor grass and rush pastures	Species rich fen-meadow and rush pasture. Often found in a mosaic with other habitats such as wet heath, dry grassland, swamp and scrub. Abundant purple moor grass and rushes, usually sharp-flowered rush.	Key associated species include wavy St. John's-wort, whorled caraway, meadow thistle, marsh hawksbeard, and greater and lesser butterfly orchids.
Rivers and wetland habitats		
Eutrophic standing waters	Highly productive because nutrients are plentiful either naturally or as a result of artificial enrichment, characterised by having dense, long-term populations of algae in mid-summer, often making the water green. Their beds are covered by dark, anaerobic mud, rich in organic matter. In their natural state eutrophic waters have high biodiversity. Potamogeton pectinatus and Lyriophyllum spicatum are characteristics throughout the UK. The rare Alisma gramineum is occasionally present.	Excludes small pools, field ponds and brackish waters. Excludes heavily artificially enriched waters where planktonic and filamentous algae increase rapidly at the expense of other aquatic organisms.
Ponds	Permanent and seasonal standing water bodies up to 2ha which meet one or more of the following: international importance; support species of high conservation importance; support key species assemblages; high ecological quality (top PSYM category); other important pond types with limited geographic distribution e.g. duneslack ponds.	Quality standing open water up to 2ha in size that is not a functional element of another habitat type.
Lowland fens	Peatlands that receive water and nutrients from the soil, rock and groundwater as well as from rainfall. 'Poor fens' occur where the water is derived from base-poor rock are often associated with heathland, and are characterised by a high proportion of bog mosses. 'Rich fens' are fed by mineral-rich calcareous waters.	Dominated by typical marsh and swamp plant species.
Reedbeds	Dominated by stands of Phragmites australis where the water table is at or above ground level for most of the year. Small areas of wet grassland and carr woodland may be associated with them.	Include linear stands of reeds too if capable of supporting associated roosting and breeding birds such as Cetti's warbler, bearded tit and bittern.
Rivers	Natural and near-natural running waters that satisfy at least one of the following: headwaters; SACs; chalk rivers; active shingle rivers; SSSIs; supports a BAP priority European protected species; has high hydromorphological/ecological status.	Quality natural and near-natural running waters or those that support priority species. Exclude reaches that are heavily degraded with little scope for improvement and those that are heavily canalised.
Farmland and grassland habitats		

### Simplified Lincolnshire BAP habitat descriptions (GLNP, 2013)

Habitat name	Description (of habitat considered to be of BAP quality)	Key points
Arable field margins	<p>Four main types – please specify which is present.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cultivated low input margins (including headlands and habitat for annual arable plants). Not sprayed with insecticides or herbicides (except for control of injurious weeds).</li> <li>2. Those sown to provide seeds for wild birds. Cereals and/or small seeded broad leaved plants or grasses which are allowed to set seed and remain in place over winter. Does not include areas sown with maize.</li> <li>3. Those sown as pollen and nectar sources for invertebrates. Agricultural legumes allowed to flower.</li> <li>4. Permanent grass strips with mixtures of tussocky and fine leaved grasses. Created by sowing or natural regeneration. Includes beetle banks.</li> </ol>	Herbaceous strips or blocks managed specifically for the benefit of wildlife.
Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh	Periodically inundated pasture, or meadow with ditches that maintain the water levels, containing standing brackish or freshwater. Generally grazed and/or cut for hay or silage. Typically dominated by common grasses of neutral soils; ditches are rich in plants and invertebrates. Particularly important for breeding waders such as snipe, curlew and lapwing, as well as wintering wildfowl.	Defining features are more hydrological and topographical than botanical. Complex habitat with many elements including: grassland, drainage ditches, emergent ditch-side vegetation, fen and reedbed.
Hedgerows	Any boundary line of trees or shrubs over 20m long and less than 5m wide, and where any gaps are less than 20m wide. Climbers such as honeysuckle and bramble are integral to many hedgerows but require other woody plants to be present to form a distinct woody boundary feature.	All hedgerows consisting predominantly of at least one woody UK native species.
Lowland calcareous grassland	Grasslands on shallow, lime-rich soil, generally overlying limestone rocks, including chalk. Covers a range of plant communities in which lime-loving plants are characteristic. Also support diverse invertebrate fauna. A small amount of associated scrub and herbs characteristic of acid soils are acceptable.	NVC CG1 To CG9. Include occurrences on roadside verges.
Lowland meadows	Unimproved neutral grassland grazed or cut for hay, generally found in an agricultural setting but can also be found in recreational sites, churchyards, roadside verges etc. May be seasonally flooded.	Meadows and pastures associated with low input nutrient regimes.

### Selected non BAP habitat categories (GLNP, 2013)

Habitat name
Grassland and marsh
Woodland and scrub
Open water
Heathland
Swamp, marginal and inundation
Cultivated/disturbed land
Tall herb and fern
Mire
Bare ground
Rock exposure and waste
Built-up areas



## Appendix 4: Explanation of selection codes

Quick reference- Greater Lincolnshire LWS criteria (GLNP, 2013)

WD1	All ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW) listed in Natural England's Ancient Woodland Inventory <sup>18</sup>
WD1a	All plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS) listed in Natural England's Ancient Woodland Inventory <sup>18</sup>
WD2a	Woodland that does not appear in the Ancient Woodland Inventory, but has characteristics of ancient semi-natural woodland and a minimum species index score of eight using Table 3 (See Table 3, Local Wildlife Site Guidelines for Greater Lincolnshire (3rd edition) GLNP, 2013)
WD3a	Woodland with a combined minimum species index score of 15 using Tables 3 and 4 (See Table 3 and 4, Local Wildlife Site Guidelines for Greater Lincolnshire (3rd edition) GLNP, 2013)
WD3b	Woodland with a minimum woodland features index score of six using Table 6 (See Table 6, Local Wildlife Site Guidelines for Greater Lincolnshire (3rd edition) GLNP, 2013)
WD4a	Wet woodland with a combined minimum species index score of 15 using Tables 3, 4 and 5 (See Table 3, 4 and 5, Local Wildlife Site Guidelines for Greater Lincolnshire (3rd edition) GLNP, 2013)
WD5	Parkland or wood-pasture at least 1ha in extent that supports at least one veteran tree
WD6	Traditional orchard with at least five standard fruit and/or nut trees with crown edges no more than 20m apart
NG1	Neutral grassland at least 0.1ha in extent, or linear areas at least 50m long, with a minimum species index score of eight using Table 7 (See Table 7, Local Wildlife Site Guidelines for Greater Lincolnshire (3rd edition) GLNP, 2013).

CG1	Calcareous grassland at least 0.1ha in extent, or linear areas at least 50m long, with a minimum species index score of eight using Table 8 (See Table 8, Local Wildlife Site Guidelines for Greater Lincolnshire (3rd edition) GLNP, 2013).
HE1	Heathland at least 0.1ha in extent, or linear areas at least 50m long, with at least 25% ground cover of heather species <sup>19</sup>
HE2	Acid grassland and heathland at least 0.1ha in extent, or linear areas at least 50m long, with a minimum species index score of eight using Table 9 (See Table 9, Local Wildlife Site Guidelines for Greater Lincolnshire (3rd edition) GLNP, 2013).
AP1	Acid peatland with a minimum species index score of five using Table 10 (See Table 10, Local Wildlife Site Guidelines for Greater Lincolnshire (3rd edition) GLNP, 2013).
AP2	Buffer land where sympathetic management of water levels and water quality is essential for the well-being of adjacent acid peatland
FW1	Running or standing water with a minimum Community Conservation Index (CCI) score of 15
FW2	Running or standing water with a minimum species index score of 10 using Table 11 (See Table 11, Local Wildlife Site Guidelines for Greater Lincolnshire (3rd edition) GLNP, 2013).
FW3	Running or standing water with a Community Conservation Index (CCI) score of 10-14 and a minimum species index score of six using Table 11 (See Table 11, Local Wildlife Site Guidelines for Greater Lincolnshire (3rd edition) GLNP, 2013).
We1	Wet reedbeds at least 0.5ha in extent where the vegetated element comprises at least 90% common reed <i>Phragmites australis</i>
We2	Wetland at least 0.5ha in extent with a minimum species index score of eight using Table 12 (See Table 12, Local Wildlife Site Guidelines for Greater Lincolnshire (3rd edition) GLNP, 2013).

We3	Wetland at least 0.5ha in extent with a minimum Community Conservation Index (CCI) score of 15
We4	Wetland at least 0.5ha in extent with a Community Conservation Index (CCI) score of 10-14 and a minimum species index score of five using Table 12 (See Table 12, Local Wildlife Site Guidelines for Greater Lincolnshire (3rd edition) GLNP, 2013).
GM1	Grassland at least 2ha in extent that is subject to a low intensity grazing regime <sup>20</sup> and holds surface water in the winter months <sup>21</sup> and supports a breeding bird population that scores a minimum bird index score of 13 using Table 13 (a) (See Table 13 (a), Local Wildlife Site Guidelines for Greater Lincolnshire (3rd edition) GLNP, 2013).
GM2	Grassland at least 2ha in extent that is subject to a low intensity grazing regime <sup>20</sup> and holds surface water in the winter months <sup>21</sup> and supports a wintering/passage bird population that satisfies the threshold count for at least two of the species listed in Table 13 (b) (See Table 13 (b), Local Wildlife Site Guidelines for Greater Lincolnshire (3rd edition) GLNP, 2013).
GM3	Grassland at least 2ha in extent that is subject to a low intensity grazing regime <sup>20</sup> and holds surface water in the winter months <sup>21</sup> and supports a minimum grazing marsh features index score of five using Table 14 (See Table 14, Local Wildlife Site Guidelines for Greater Lincolnshire (3rd edition) GLNP, 2013).
Co1	All BAP quality saltmarsh at least 0.5ha in extent, or linear riversides at least 50m long
Co2	All BAP quality mudflats at least 0.5ha in extent, or linear riversides at least 50m long
Co3	All BAP quality coastal sand dunes and dune grassland at least 0.5ha in extent
SL1	All BAP quality saline lagoons
BM1	Brownfield mosaic at least 0.25ha in extent with loose substrate or bare ground and at least two of the early successional communities <sup>22</sup> in Table 15 and a

	minimum brownfield features index score of four using Table 16 (See Table 15 and 16, Local Wildlife Site Guidelines for Greater Lincolnshire (3rd edition) GLNP, 2013).
Mos1	Areas at least 0.25ha in extent that support a combination of two or more individual habitats, each with a species index score that is no more than three points below the qualifying threshold
Sup1	Areas at least 0.1ha in extent that satisfy any criterion threshold, using a combination of the species index score from that criterion and a notable plant species index score using Table 17 (See Table 17, Local Wildlife Site Guidelines for Greater Lincolnshire (3rd edition) GLNP, 2013).
Sup2	Areas that add to the wildlife value of adjacent land of at least LWS quality
Sup3	Linear features that connect, and therefore add to the wildlife value of, adjacent land of at least LWS quality
Sup4	Areas at least 0.1ha in extent with a species index score within 50% of any criterion threshold and a suite of additional habitat features <sup>23</sup>
Sup5	Areas at least 0.1ha in extent with a species index score within 50% of any criterion threshold and a self-sustaining population of a species (or suite of species) of conservation value

<sup>18</sup> Ancient Woodland Inventory datasets can be viewed on the MAGIC website at: <http://magic.defra.gov.uk/>.

<sup>19</sup> These are *Erica cinerea*, *Erica tetralix* and *Calluna vulgaris*.

<sup>20</sup> This is defined as low input grazing over a long period, with relatively few livestock. It should achieve a sward height of roughly 2-10cm by October/November.

<sup>21</sup> November to May.

<sup>22</sup> At least one early successional community should be flower-rich (see Table 15, Local Wildlife Site Guidelines for Greater Lincolnshire (3rd edition) GLNP, 2013).

<sup>23</sup> From the survey form (see Appendix 2).



## Appendix 5: Plant species list

Plant species list scientific names compiled from Phase 1 habitat survey's carried out during 2014 – 2016.

Please note that this plant species list was generated as part of a Phase 1 habitat survey, does not constitute a full botanical survey and should be read in conjunction with the species lists created for each site.

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field maple
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow
<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	Horse chestnut
<i>Agrimonia eupatoria</i>	Agrimony
<i>Agrimonia eupatoria</i>	Common agrimony
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Common bent
<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	Bugle
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic mustard
<i>Allium ursinum</i>	Ramsons
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Alder
<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>	Meadow foxtail
<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>	Pyramid orchid
<i>Anemone nemorosa</i>	Wood anemone
<i>Angelica sylvestris</i>	Wild angelica
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Sweet vernal grass
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow parsley
<i>Apium nodiflorum</i>	Fool's watercress
<i>Armoracia rusticana</i>	Horse radish
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	False oat-grass
<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	Mugwort
<i>Arum maculatum</i>	Cuckoo pint
<i>Arum maculatum</i>	Lords-and-ladies
<i>Azolla filiculoides</i>	Water fern
<i>Ballota nigra</i>	Black horehound
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy
<i>Betula pendula</i>	Silver birch
<i>Betula pubescens</i>	Downy birch
<i>Betula sp.</i>	Birch sp.
<i>Brachypodium pinnatum</i>	Tor-grass
<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>	False brome
<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>	False wood brome
<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>	Wood false brome
<i>Briza media</i>	Quaking grass
<i>Bromopsis erecta</i>	Upright brome
<i>Bromopsis ramosa</i>	Hairy- brome
<i>Calamagrostis epigejos</i>	Small wood reed
<i>Calamagrostis epigejos</i>	Wood small reed
<i>Callitriche stagnalis</i>	Common water starwort
<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	Hedge bindweed
<i>Campanula latifolia</i>	Giant bell flower
<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>	Harebell
<i>Campanula trachelium</i>	Nettle-leaved bell flower
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Shepherd's-purse
<i>Cardamine amara</i>	Large Bitter-cress
<i>Cardamine flexuosa</i>	Wavy bitter-cress



<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>	Cuckooflower
<i>Cardamine sp.</i>	Bitter-cress
<i>Carex acutiformis</i>	Lesser pond sedge
<i>Carex esp.</i>	Sedge sp.
<i>Carex flacca</i>	Glaucous sedge
<i>Carex hirta</i>	Hairy sedge
<i>Carex otrubae</i>	False fox sedge
<i>Carex panicea</i>	Carnation sedge
<i>Carex pendula</i>	Pendulous sedge
<i>Carex riparia</i>	Greater pond sedge
<i>Carex sylvatica</i>	Wood sedge
<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	Hornbeam
<i>Castanea sativa</i>	Sweet chestnut
<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Common knapweed
<i>Centaurea scabiosa</i>	Greater knapweed
<i>Centaureum erythraea</i>	Common centuary
<i>Ceratophyllum demersum</i>	Rigid hornwort
<i>Chamaecyparis lawsoniana</i>	Lawson cypress
<i>Circaea lutetiana</i>	Enchanter's nightshade
<i>Cirsium acaule</i>	Dwarf thistle
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping thistle
<i>Cirsium dissectum</i>	Meadow thistle
<i>Cirsium palustre</i>	Marsh thistle
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear thistle
<i>Clinopodium vulgare</i>	Wild basil
<i>Conopodium majus</i>	Pignut
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	Dogwood
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel
<i>Crataegus laevigata</i>	Midland hawthorn
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn
<i>Creeping Cinquefoil</i>	Creeping cinquefoil
<i>Crepis capillaris</i>	Smooth hawk's beard
<i>Cruciata laevipes</i>	Crosswort
<i>Cydonia sp.</i>	Quince sp.
<i>Cynoglossum officinale</i>	Hounds-tongue
<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	Crested dog's tail
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock's-foot
<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i>	Common spotted orchids
<i>Danthonia decumbens</i>	Heath-grass
<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>	Tufted hair-grass
<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Teasel
<i>Dryopteris carthusiana</i>	Narrow buckler fern
<i>Dryopteris dilatata</i>	Broad buckler fern
<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>	Male-fern
<i>Eleocharis palustris</i>	Common spike-rush
<i>Eleocharis palustris</i>	Spike rush
<i>Elymus caninus</i>	Bearded couch
<i>Elytrigia repens</i>	Couch grass
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Great willow herb
<i>Epipactis</i>	Terrestrial orchids
<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	Field horsetail
<i>Equisetum telmateia</i>	Great horsetail
<i>Erophila verna</i>	Whitlow grass
<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	Spindle tree

<i>Euphorbia amygdaloides</i>	Wood spurge
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Beech sp.
<i>Fallopia japonica</i>	Japanese knotweed
<i>Festuca arundinacea</i>	Tall fescue
<i>Festuca gigantea</i>	Giant fescue
<i>Festuca pratensis</i>	Meadow fescue
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	Red fescue
<i>Filago vulgaris</i>	Common cudweed
<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	Meadowsweet
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash
<i>Fumaria officinalis</i>	Common fumitory
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers
<i>Galium mollugo</i>	Hedge bedstraw
<i>Galium odoratum</i>	Woodruff
<i>Galium palustre</i>	Common marsh-bedstraw
<i>Galium verum</i>	Ladies bedstraw
<i>Genista tinctoria</i>	Dyer's green weed
<i>Geranium molle</i>	Dove's-foot crane's-bill
<i>Geranium pratense</i>	Meadow cranesbill
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb Robert
<i>Geum rivale</i>	Water avens
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Wood aven
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Ground ivy
<i>Glyceria fluitans</i>	Floating sweet-grass
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Common ivy
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed
<i>Hippuris vulgaris</i>	Mare's tail
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire fog
<i>Hordeum secalinum</i>	Meadow barley
<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	Bluebell
<i>Hypericum hirsutum</i>	Hairy St John's-wort
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly
<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	Himalayan balsam
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Yellow iris
<i>Juncus articulatus</i>	Jointed rush
<i>Juncus conglomeratus</i>	Compact rush
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Soft rush
<i>Juncus inflexus</i>	Hard rush
<i>Knautia arvensis</i>	Field scabious
<i>Lamiaeum galeobdolon</i>	Yellow archangel
<i>Lapsana communis</i>	Nipplewort
<i>Larix decidua</i>	European larch
<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	Meadow vetchling
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	Wild privet
<i>Linaria purpurea</i>	Purple toadflax
<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>	Common toadflax
<i>Lithospermum officinalis</i>	Common gromwell
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial rye grass
<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	Honey- suckle
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Common birds-foot trefoil
<i>Lotus pedunculatus</i>	Greater birds-foot trefoil
<i>Luzula campestris</i>	Field woodrush
<i>Lychnis flos-cuculi</i>	Ragged robin
<i>Lycopus europaeus</i>	Gypsy wort

<i>Lysichiton americanus</i>	American skunk cabbage
<i>Lysimachia nummularia</i>	Creeping jenny
<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	Purple loosestrife
<i>Malus domestica</i>	Apple
<i>Malus sylvestris</i>	Crab apple
<i>Matricaria discoidea</i>	Pineapple weed
<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	Black medick
<i>Melica uniflora</i>	Wood melick
<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	Water mint
<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>	Dog's mercury
<i>Milium effusum</i>	Wood millet
<i>Moehringia trinerva</i>	Three-nerved sandwort
<i>Morus sp.</i>	Mulberry
<i>Myosotis scorpioides</i>	Water forget-me-not
<i>Myosotis sylvatica</i>	Wood-forget-me-not
<i>Myriophyllum spicata</i>	Spiked water milfoil
<i>Nasturtium officinale</i>	Watercress
<i>Non-vascular plants</i>	Bryophytes
<i>Nuphar lutea</i>	Yellow water lily
<i>Nymphaea sp.</i>	Water lily
<i>Odontites vernus</i>	Red bartsia
<i>Oenanthe crocata</i>	Hemlock water dropwort
<i>Ononis repens</i>	Common restharrow
<i>Ononis spinosa</i>	Spiny restharrow
<i>Ophioglossum vulgatum</i>	Adders' tongue fern
<i>Ophrys apifera</i>	Bee orchid
<i>Orchis mascula</i>	Early purple orchid
<i>Orchis morio</i>	Green winged orchid
<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>	Wood sorrel
<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>	Wood-sorrel
<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Poppy
<i>Papaver somniferum</i>	Californian poppy
<i>Papaver somniferum</i>	Opium poppy
<i>Petasites hybridus</i>	Butterbur
<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	Reed canary grass
<i>Phleum pratense</i>	Timothy
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common reed
<i>Phyllitis scolopendrium</i>	Harts tongue fern
<i>Picea abies</i>	Norway spruce
<i>Pilosella officinarum</i>	Mouse-ear-hawkweed
<i>Pimpinella major</i>	Greater burnet-saxifrage
<i>Pinus nigra maritima</i>	Corsican pine
<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Scots pine
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort plantain
<i>Plantago major</i>	Greater plantain
<i>Plantago media</i>	Hoary plantain
<i>Poa nemoralis</i>	Wood meadow grass
<i>Poa trivialis</i>	Rough meadow grass
<i>Polygala vulgaris</i>	Milkwort
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	Knotgrass
<i>Polystichum setiferum</i>	Soft shield fern
<i>Populus alba</i>	White poplar
<i>Populus nigra x deltoides = P. x canadensis</i>	Canadian poplar
<i>Populus tremula</i>	Aspen

<i>Potentilla anserina</i>	Silverweed
<i>Potentilla sterilis</i>	Barren strawberry
<i>Primula veris</i>	Cowslip
<i>Primula vulgaris</i>	Primrose
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Selfheal
<i>Prunus cerasifera</i>	Cherry plum
<i>Prunus domestica</i>	Plum
<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>	Cherry laurel
<i>Prunus sp.</i>	Cherry sp.
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn
<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	Douglas fir
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken
<i>Pulicaria dysenterica</i>	Common fleabane
<i>Pyrus sp.</i>	Pear tree
<i>Quercus robur</i>	Pedunculate oak
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow buttercup
<i>Ranunculus auricomus</i>	Goldilocks buttercup
<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>	Lesser celandine
<i>Ranunculus flammula</i>	Lesser spearwort
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping buttercup
<i>Ranunculus sceleratus</i>	Celery-leaved buttercup
<i>Reseda lutea</i>	Wild mignonette
<i>Reseda luteola</i>	Weld
<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i>	Buckthorn
<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>	Yellow rattle
<i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>	Rhododendron
<i>Rosa arvensis</i>	Field rose
<i>Rosa canina</i>	Dog rose
<i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i>	Bramble
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common sorrel
<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Sheep's sorrel
<i>Rumex hydrolapathum</i>	Water dock
<i>Rumex sanguineus</i>	Wood dock
<i>Salix alba</i>	White willow
<i>Salix caprea</i>	Goat willow
<i>Salix cinerea</i>	Grey willow
<i>salix sp.</i>	Willow sp.
<i>Salvia verbenaca</i>	Wild clary
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder
<i>Sanguisorba minor</i>	Salad burnet
<i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>	Great burnet
<i>Schoenoplectus lacustris</i>	Common club-rush
<i>Scrophularia auriculata</i>	Water figwort
<i>Scrophularia nodosa</i>	Common figwort
<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Common ragwort
<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	Groundsel
<i>Sequoiadendron giganteum</i>	Giant redwood
<i>Sherardia arvensis</i>	Field madder
<i>Silaum silaus</i>	Pepper saxifrage
<i>Silene dioica</i>	Red campion
<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	Bladder campion
<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i>	Hedge mustard
<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	Bittersweet
<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Prickly sow thistle

<i>Sorbus torminalis</i>	Wild service
<i>Sparganium erectum</i>	Branched bur-reed
<i>Stachys officinalis</i>	Betony
<i>Stachys palustris</i>	Marsh woundwort
<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	Hedge woundwort
<i>Stellaria holostea</i>	Greater stitchwort
<i>Stellaria media</i>	Common chickweed
<i>Succisa pratensis</i>	Devil's-bit scabious
<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	Snowberry
<i>Tamus communis</i>	Black bryony
<i>Tanacetum parthenium</i>	Feverfew
<i>Taxus baccata</i>	Yew
<i>Thalictrum flavum</i>	Meadow rue
<i>Thymus polytrichus</i>	Wild thyme
<i>Tilia cordata</i>	Small-leaved lime
<i>Tilia platyphyllos x cordata = T. x europaea</i>	Lime
<i>Trifolium campestre</i>	Hop trefoil
<i>Trifolium dubium</i>	Lesser trefoil
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red clover
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White clover
<i>Trisetum flavescens</i>	Yellow oat-grass
<i>Typha latifolia</i>	Bulrush
<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	Gorse
<i>Ulmus glabra</i>	Wych elm
<i>Ulmus minor</i>	Small-leaved elm
<i>Ulmus sp.</i>	Elm sp.
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common nettle
<i>Verbascum nigrum</i>	Dark mullein
<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	Great mullein
<i>Veronica beccabunga</i>	Brooklime
<i>Veronica catenata</i>	Pink water speedwell
<i>Veronica hederifolia</i>	Ivy-leaved speedwell
<i>Viburnum lantana</i>	Wayfaring tree
<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	Guelder rose
<i>Vicia sativa</i>	Common vetch
<i>Viola hirta</i>	Hairy violet
<i>Viola odorata</i>	Sweet violet
<i>Viola riviniana</i>	Common dog violet
<i>Viscum album</i>	Mistletoe

## Appendix 6: Site descriptions

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
Abney Wood	<p>Abney Wood is primarily an ancient woodland site on level ground comprising mainly oak and ash standards with a hazel and field maple understorey. It has areas of sycamore and bramble increasing in density towards the west.</p> <p>There is a woodland bank to the north west of the site and historically coppiced hazel trees. There is a fairly good structure to the woodland with young, mature and veteran trees present with both standing and fallen dead wood throughout. Some damp shallow ditches are present but the woodland appears to be generally dry for much of the year. Woodpecker holes were observed within several trees. There is a large central ride running through the centre of the woodland with numerous shady rides, generally unmanaged, splitting off from, or running parallel to, this which tend to become thick with brambles along their length.</p> <p>Woodland species include large dense areas of dog's mercury and, where the bramble is not too dense, species including wood anemone, bluebells, primrose, wood-sorrel, yellow archangel, greater stitchwort and wood sedge were found.</p> <p>There is a small area to the south east which is not in the ancient woodland inventory and which has been subject to understorey clearance recently.</p> <p>A single main ride is kept clear of vegetation but others are present with areas of thick bramble encroachment and sycamore. There was evidence of scrub/ bramble removal in localised areas but not within the ancient woodland section.</p>
Alma Park	<p>Neutral and acid grassland dotted with groves of mature ash and field maple trees on a west-facing slope overlooking Alma Park Industrial Estate.</p> <p>Isolated veteran pedunculate oak occur along a path at the top of the slope.</p> <p>Small areas of more acidic grassland occur in the centre of the site where there are steep slopes and sandy outcrops. Here heath-grass and sheep's sorrel were locally frequent and small mouse-ear and lesser trefoil occurred on anthills in the dry grassland. Mining bees were recorded on the exposed sandy slopes.</p> <p>Dominant grasses throughout the majority of the site were coarse and tufted grasses of tor-grass, false oat-grass, meadow foxtail and tufted hair-grass.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>Large stands of ruderal vegetation and scrub were established at the boundaries where bramble, hawthorn, blackthorn and dog-rose were present; in addition isolated hawthorn bushes were frequent throughout the site.</p> <p>A number of very large mature ash were also located towards the centre of the site. A hawthorn hedge formed the western boundary in the northernmost section of the site and a blackthorn hedge an old boundary with the Southern Extension. Pignut was locally frequent and greater burnet was also recorded.</p> <p>The site evidently lacked grazing as the grassland was long, tufted and plant litter was present within the sward. Additionally scrub and ruderal vegetation were creeping in from the edges and also establishing in new locations.</p> <p>A grazing regime was in practice up until 2008 and the site is likely not to have been grazed since this date. If grazing is no longer an option due to difficulties associated with its location the site should be cut and foraged twice a year and the bramble in the grassland topped to prevent its spread.</p>
Alma Wood – Northern section	<p>Alma Wood is a long narrow strip of mixed species woodland lying in a north-south direction and bordering the large plantations of Londonthorpe Wood and also Alma Park to the west; a footpath runs the length through the centre of the woodland.</p> <p>The woodland is relatively mature and comprises extremely tall trees that have grown up closely together. There were a large number of mature ivy-clad sycamores in many areas producing a closed canopy where the ground flora was totally dominated by common ivy. Notable mature trees of sweet chestnut, horse chestnut, beech and lime towards the northern end are likely to be remnants of former planting where the sycamore has grown up around them to fill in as woodland. Also notable were huge creaking elms towards the south of the woodland. Elder and young sycamore formed a shrub layer in some parts and bramble and common nettle were dominant in other parts. Both standing dead wood and lying rotting wood occurred.</p> <p>Herbaceous perennials forming frequent stands were dog's mercury, herb-Robert and three-nerved sandwort. Botanical species were as recorded in the former 1987 survey with very few exceptions; and in addition to this a large stand of Goldilocks buttercup was recorded.</p> <p>The condition of the woodland is adequate and there appears to be a very low level of intervention.</p>



## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>Rhododendron was present within the woodland and should be removed. The spread of bramble and sycamore saplings should be curtailed, if possible.</p> <p>A programme of selective coppicing (sycamore) would greatly enhance the woodland which is lacking light throughout.</p>
Aunby Green Lane	<p>Aunby Green Lane is a grass farm track running through arable fields along a parish boundary. To the west there is a short section of managed hawthorn hedgerow which is likely to have been much more extensive in the past.</p> <p>The hedgerow is intact and contains field maple, blackthorn, wild privet and hazel with several mature ash and lime trees. The ground flora contains species such as hairy violet, hedge mustard, smooth hawk's beard, black horehound and poppy.</p> <p>The grass track is dominated by perennial rye grass, cock's-foot and ribwort plantain. The surrounding verges are more diverse and along its length are found species including hedge bedstraw, wild mignonette, field scabious, common toadflax, field madder and greater knapweed, although these species are dominated by coarser grassland species such as cock's-foot and false oat-grass with occasional elder.</p> <p>There is limited scrub on the verges suggesting that it is cut but the regime is unknown. Could benefit from arisings removal if not already being carried out.</p>
Aunby Valley	<p>A long narrow site comprising a section of chalk stream, which flows downstream into a lake and ending at a weir on the eastern boundary. The stream and lake supports abundant submerged, floating and marginal vegetation and is of BAP quality for its clear water and species diversity. The stream to the west has been modified to create additional fish pools and stretches, which also support good aquatic and marginal vegetation, including areas of marsh and wet woodland.</p> <p>Adjacent grassland is predominantly semi-improved neutral grassland but towards the western end a small area of calcareous grassland persists and is characterised by abundant tussock tor grass and upright brome with a scattering of herbs including greater knapweed, yellow-oat-grass and wild basil.</p> <p>Along the field boundary on both sides of the watercourse are a large number of veteran oak and ash trees.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>Hedgerows were species-poor or replaced with steep banks up to adjacent arable land.</p> <p>Lake is in very good condition and used for private fishing. Stream to the west has been modified to create around 24 additional fish pools and stretches, which also support good aquatic and marginal vegetation.</p> <p>The calcareous grassland is in less good condition being dominated by aggressive grasses reducing herb diversity. Adjacent tree growth likely also of overshadowing habitat too. Permissive paths around the lake mown for access around the lake. But access to the west beyond does not appear to be managed regularly and therefore access here was difficult.</p>
Auster Wood	<p>Auster Wood is the south-western arm of Bourne Wood, separated by the A151. It is ancient replanted woodland. Some small compartments of coniferous plantations - largely Norway spruce - remained but the majority of this former planting has been replaced by mixed deciduous species.</p> <p>The compartments were of varying ages and were dominated by pedunculate oak and ash. Self-established sycamore, willow species and birch, largely downy birch, were also frequent. There was no well- developed shrub layer but bramble and bracken were frequently dominant on the woodland floor. Old tree stumps from former woodland were in evidence. The woodland boundary retained characteristics of ancient woodland - here multi-stemmed ash and field maple persisted alongside a dry ditch and woodland bank, and Midland hawthorn (T1) was recorded. English bluebell, yellow archangel, pignut, wood anemone and dog's mercury also occurred close to woodland boundaries. Woodland grasses included hairy- brome, wood millet and wood meadow-grass.</p> <p>The woodland was divided by a main wide north-south sunny ride, other rides were narrow, damp and shaded and the compartments were difficult to access. Marsh thistle, diverse sedges and floating sweet-grass were frequent in wetter areas.</p> <p>Deer paths and badger tracks were present. Birds recorded were long-tailed tit, chiffchaff, great spotted woodpecker, song thrush, common buzzard tree sparrow. Butterflies recorded were red admiral, large white butterfly, green-veined white and common blue.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>There was a very low level of intervention in woodland visible. The spread of bracken and bramble should be controlled.</p>
<p>Aveling Barford's Industrial Site</p>	<p>This site incorporates a former industrial site and the railway embankment. The embankment supports calcareous grassland which is largely scrubbed over with pockets of high quality calcareous grassland maintained by rabbit grazing remaining amongst the scrub. A central part of the embankment appears to be more acidic but this may be a result of soil contamination as woody species (birch) and ruderals (Chamerion) are stunted. An open area within the birch scrub is unusually species poor dominated by Mouse-ear-hawkweed and bryophytes. The margins of this area support undetermined <i>Hieraceum</i> and <i>Epipactis</i> species which should be inspected when flowering for determination. Diverse open mosaic habitat in the north of the site contains piles of waste materials and aggregates over hardstanding as well as thin scrub with flower-rich open ruderal communities adding to the areas invertebrate interest. Calcareous grassland species are also colonising the brownfield element.</p> <p>An adjacent area of brownfield over former fen also appears to have good invertebrate habitats and the whole site would probably also repay assessment of its invertebrate value. This site is of suitable quality to be included in the developing OMH inventory. Other species recorded: fox, rabbit, and feral cat.</p> <p>Japanese Knotweed present. The site is largely scrubbed over. The area of calcareous grassland requires scrub control, brownfield is good.</p>
<p>Banthorpe Wood</p>	<p>This is a varied site containing blocks of mature lowland deciduous woodland, more recent non-native plantation woodland, scattered trees and semi-improved neutral wet grassland. The mature woodland is primarily dominated by oak and ash with locally dominant stands of beech.</p> <p>The understorey comprised of frequent old coppiced hazel. The ground flora was species poor and sparsely vegetated. Browsing by deer was evident and inhibiting regeneration of shrubs and ground flora.</p> <p>The non-native plantations consisted of frequent semi-mature Scot's pine and young sycamore, densely planted.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>Woodland glades and the central grassland area were unusually dominated by dense tussocks of wood small reed - suggesting the ground is predominantly wet. Other species such as common fleabane, greater bird's-foot trefoil and rushes are sparsely scattered.</p> <p>This is not a BAP habitat due a lack of species richness but semi-improved, neutral wet grassland is still likely to be of value to range of wildlife.</p> <p>Native oak trees had been planted (approx. 20 years old) along the western boundary interspersed with scattered scrub and grassland.</p> <p>Non-native plantation woodland would benefit from selective removal and coppice of sycamore to provide structural diversity and allow ground flora to establish.</p> <p>The neutral wet grassland is dominated by wood small-reed, and would perhaps become more diverse with aftermath grazing, or cutting and removal of arising.</p> <p>Woodland regrowth is poor due to deer grazing. Deer control would improve regrowth of understorey vegetation.</p>
Barber's Hill Pit	<p>This area largely comprises of arable land.</p> <p>A hawthorn hedgerow is situated along the south of the site along with a pedunculate oak and ash tree surrounded by elder, hawthorn, bramble and wild privet scrub.</p> <p>There is an area of semi-improved grassland between the scrub and the arable land comprised largely of false-oat grass and cock's-foot, with frequent common knapweed, common ragwort, hedge bedstraw, meadow vetchling and common birds-foot trefoil. Red bartsia, field scabious and common restharrow were also recorded.</p> <p>The arable land is managed for crop production and harvest.</p> <p>Semi-improved grassland is likely cut annually to keep on top of scrub. The dominance of false-oat grass would suggest the cuttings are not removed.</p> <p>The pit itself has been infilled since the first survey and none of the notable species recorded then were still present now.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
Barrowby Grassland	<p>The meadow has a small number but good abundance of lowland meadow BAP indicator species. Species include betony, yellow-oat-grass, greater burnet, yellow rattle, pignut, bugle, field wood rush.</p> <p>The boundary of the site is defined by overgrown and intact hedgerows consisting of hazel, hawthorn, ash and blackthorn.</p> <p>Site is in a good condition with a number of less common species typical of the habitat present. Local variations can be observed at the bottom and at the top of the field due a variation in soil moisture.</p> <p>No evidence for management but meadow cutting and aftermath grazing by sheep is likely.</p>
Bassingthorpe Spoil Bank & Thickets	<p>This site is a semi natural woodland strip located to the south of an active railway line. The other half of this site (The Thickets) is located to the north of the rails and was not surveyed due to lack of access.</p> <p>Two other woodland Local Wildlife Sites of Stoke Park Wood and Old Park Wood are very close and connected by a short length of hedgerow.</p> <p>This site when surveyed in 1977 was noted as much disturbed by the railway but now appears to be in a more settled state in terms of vegetation. The topography is varied containing steep embankments with some level areas and a drainage ditch runs along the southern edge. An access road and a small ditch also bisect the site roughly centrally running east west.</p> <p>The woodland is generally dense and dominated by ash, hawthorn and elder with occasional oak, field maple, hazel, sycamore and crab apple. Scattered dying larch is also present in the northern section. Mature and veteran trees are present of ash and oak along the southern boundary.</p> <p>The ground flora was dominated by species such as wood false-brome, bramble, nettle and dog's mercury with herb Robert, hedge woundwort. Remote sedge and tufted hair-grass were also present along the short ditch within the woodland.</p> <p>The boundary ditch had been recently cleared of dense bramble but meadow sweet, dog rose and false fox sedge were still evident.</p> <p>One of the veteran oaks had a barn owl resting place or nest and a herd of six red deer were observed roaming locally.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	No specific management apparent other than ditch clearance on the periphery for drainage purposes.
Beacon Hill	A linear site of hedgerow and verge. It appears to have become dominated by scrub in the west and bracken in the east. Still of interest but not calcareous grassland although there is an element of this. There is an extensive patch of greater burnet-saxifrage. Good verge immediately to the south (tor-grass, great horsetail) Other species: Common Lizard, Roselle's Bush Cricket
Bitchfield Road Verge	<p>The site appears to have become substantially more overgrown when compared with previous descriptions and appears to be largely unmanaged at the time of survey. The pond in the south-eastern section of the site was very congested with aquatic vegetation and there was little/no open water. Unfortunately due to the increase in scrub and ruderal vegetation around the periphery of the pond it was only possible to survey this area through the use of binoculars and therefore it is likely that a number of species will be under-recorded. Trees and scrub overhanging the pond included ash, hawthorn and grey willow. Other scrub present in the area included locally frequent bramble and blackthorn. Marginal and aquatic vegetation included yellow flag, branched bur-weed, water mint, water starwort, brooklime, soft rush, greater pond sedge and non-native American skunk cabbage. Coarse grasses and ruderal vegetation surrounding the western and southern edge of the pond included false oat-grass, common nettle, hogweed, cleavers and creeping thistle.</p> <p>There was very little road verge visible in the remainder of the site which was dominated by broad-leaved semi-natural woodland. The woodland also appeared to be largely unmanaged and included a good diversity of mature trees including pedunculate oak, ash, hornbeam, elm (possibly including small-leaved elm) and small-leaved lime. It is likely to be a small remnant of ancient semi-natural woodland. The shrub layer included elder, blackthorn, hawthorn, cherry plum and bramble.</p> <p>The closely growing mature trees provided a closed canopy to the woodland where the ground flora was dominated by common ivy, ground ivy and dog's mercury. In more open spaces and at woodland edges, wood false brome, bearded couch, greater stitchwort, wood dock, nipplewort, hedge woundwort, lords-and-ladies and English bluebell were all occasionally present. The woodland was regenerating but quite a number of saplings were non-native sycamore. A woodland bank bordered the field to the east and dense blackthorn formed the roadside boundary.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
Bitchneaves Wood	<p>Bitchneaves Wood is a mixed conifer and deciduous plantation on an ancient woodland site. It is situated within arable fields and surrounded by a deep ditch. The site boundary is predominantly blackthorn. Occasional mature oak and ash are present with remnants of old hazel coppice, however, there are no veteran trees present within the site. Other tree species include hornbeam, beech and sycamore with hawthorn, blackthorn and elder.</p> <p>Dog's mercury, wood false brome, wood sedge and greater stitchwort were locally abundant within the ground flora along with species including yellow archangel, enchanter's nightshade, honey- suckle and black bryony.</p> <p>Bramble was dense in many places, particularly in the northern section, with nettle and self-seeded sycamore prevalent in the southern section. Snowberry is also present as ground cover in places. The site is managed by selective felling and there is evidence that the wood is used for game-keeping.</p>
Black Spring Farm (verge)	<p>This site comprises two calcareous grassland verges and a hedgerow either side of a single lane tarmac farm track bisecting a hillside near Black Spring Farm, Swayfield. The site is located close to the Local Wildlife Site of Creeton Quarry which is an active limestone quarry.</p> <p>The hedge is managed, intact and species rich containing the species including hawthorn, blackthorn, wild privet, buckthorn, dogwood and a mature ash tree. The associated verge on this side is narrow and generally steep-sided and the ground flora includes hairy violet, dog's mercury, woodruff, honeysuckle and herb Robert. The verges on the south western side of the road is wider (approximately 2m) but both contain species including harebell, field scabious, agrimony, salad burnet and spiny restharrow.</p>
Boothby Great Wood	<p>Boothby Great Wood is an ancient replanted woodland with much variation in the blocks. This woodland is large and there is good variation in the age structure, density, species, rides and drainage although no veteran trees were noted. There is a pond located near to the south eastern boundary and glades or grassy areas are present in the more deciduous areas. Conifers are present throughout but two areas in the west and east are very dense. Between these there are also areas of dense young willow, hazel coppice and silver birch. There has been new planting, primarily of oak, in the southern central section.</p> <p>Ferns and bramble are present under the conifer plantation and the species-rich ground flora is mostly marginal to this along the rides which are varied in drainage throughout. Areas of impeded drainage contain species such as hard rush, water avens, meadowsweet, creeping jenny, water</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>mint and bugle with occasional greater horsetail and common marsh bedstraw and ragged robin. Also present occasionally are betony, cudweed, woodruff, hairy St John's wort common dog violet and yellow archangel.</p> <p>The glades and grassy areas have frequent false wood brome, wood sedge, wood millet and the pond is surrounded by dense areas of dog's mercury and bramble. It appears to be a good wildlife pond with marginal plants including gypsy wort, yellow flag iris, false fox sedge and common reed mace.</p> <p>This woodland would be much more interesting botanically without the conifers as the remnant ground flora is species-rich and the area large. The new planting of oak trees seen in this woodland will help to secure this diversity in the long term. Some areas of woodland contain very dense areas of young willow and birch but on the whole the glades and rides offset this and provide a diversity of structure across the site as a whole.</p> <p>There is an area centrally which is used by the local nursery for education and there is a game keeping pen located to the north.</p> <p>No veteran trees and limited standing or fallen deadwood. Some evidence of a move to plant more deciduous native trees which will benefit woodland ground flora.</p>
Boothby Little Wood	<p>Boothby Little Wood is a replanted ancient woodland site surrounded by arable fields. No veteran trees are present. The majority has been planted with conifers such as Scot's pine and Corsican pine but the eastern compartments are a mixed plantation of conifer and oak and a buffer of deciduous (ash and oak standards) woodland has been maintained around the site boundaries. The site slopes to the west where there is the remnants of an old hazel coppice at the boundary. Other trees and understorey present include field maple, hawthorn, elder, dogwood, dog rose and silver birch but some areas are dense with sycamore and bramble.</p> <p>The woodland has both wide open and narrow shady rides and these are maintained through active management. Some of these are damp and contain frequent meadowsweet and hard rush and occasional areas of wood small reed. The conifer sections generally have sparse ground flora and some areas contain dense bracken; however, the rides and the deciduous sections are more botanically interesting. Species present include ramsons, betony, greater stitchwort, hairy St John's wort, pignut, common figwort, yellow archangel and greater stitchwort.</p> <p>This is an ancient woodland site but has been planted up with many non-deciduous trees which reduces the species diversity of ground flora typical of ancient woodland. However, there is a</p>



## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>buffer zone of deciduous woodland around the edges and along some of the rides which offer more botanical interest. There are areas of dense sycamore and bracken and the woodland would benefit from management of these areas.</p>
Bourne Wood Compartment 1	<p>This is the northernmost section of Bourne Wood which is almost entirely former ancient woodland, including an area called Fox Wood, which has been replanted with Scots Pine. Other coniferous species included Norway Spruce, European larch and Lawson cypress. Bracken was present under areas of Scots Pine and Silver Birch.</p> <p>Grassy paths through compartments were often damp with some lying water.</p> <p>Deciduous planted species were largely pedunculate oak of varied ages with occasional mature beech. Ash, silver birch, hawthorn, cherry plum, willow species and hazel had also established and formed areas of scrub and semi-natural woodland.</p> <p>A small stream runs east to west through areas of damp woodland with frequent male-fern.</p> <p>The varied habitats of woodland rides, running water and mixed species woodland provided an excellent wildlife habitat.</p> <p>There is a very low level of intervention within the woodland where a good diversity of undisturbed habitats is maintained. Along with this the site retains some features of ancient woodland and is accessible to the public.</p>
Bourne Wood Compartment 2	<p>This compartment is located towards the north, and is largely mature replanted ancient woodland.</p> <p>Coniferous species were dominant; including frequent Scots pine, Norwegian spruce and English larch, but semi-natural regenerating woodland are also frequent. Where coniferous trees have fallen or been removed silver birch and bracken were frequent. A narrow section of woodland on the western boundary is semi-natural shaded woodland and includes species such as wood small-reed and wood meadow grass.</p> <p>Two wild service trees were recorded towards the centre of this Compartment.</p> <p>Grassy paths dissecting areas were often damp with some lying water.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>Deciduous planted species were largely pedunculate oak of varied ages with occasional mature beech. Ash, silver birch, hawthorn, willow species and hazel have also established and formed areas of scrub and semi-natural woodland.</p> <p>A small stream ran east to west close to the northern boundary through an area of damp woodland with frequent ferns.</p> <p>The varied habitats of woodland rides, running water and mixed species woodland although rather shady provided an excellent undisturbed wildlife habitat.</p> <p>There is a very low level of intervention within the woodland where a good diversity of undisturbed habitats is maintained. Along with this the site retains some features of ancient woodland and is accessible to the public.</p>
Bourne Wood Compartment 3	<p>This compartment is in the centre of Bourne Wood and is a patchwork of planted areas, largely of mature trees with frequent Scots pine, pedunculate oak, European larch and Norwegian spruce on ancient woodland sites.</p> <p>Semi-natural regenerating woodland is also frequent where coniferous trees had fallen or been removed and silver, downy birch and bracken are frequent. In addition hawthorn, willow species and hazel had also established and formed areas of scrub and semi-natural woodland, especially at edges of more mature plantation. Some areas of private woodland are marked.</p> <p>Grassy paths dissecting areas are often damp with some lying water. Wider sunny north-south footpaths are hard-surfaced.</p> <p>Two artificial lakes and a small pond are grouped together close to the northern boundary of this section. Marginal and aquatic species included at least two species of water lily, bulrush, sedges, rushes and yellow iris.</p> <p>Neutral grassland with a tight rabbit-grazed sward is present surrounding these water bodies.</p> <p>There is a very low level of intervention within the woodland where a good diversity of undisturbed habitats is maintained. Along with this the site retains some features of ancient woodland and is accessible to the public.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
Bourne Wood Compartment 4	<p>This compartment, also called Pillar Wood, forms the western section of Bourne Wood and is divided from the remainder of the woodland by a small stream running along an ancient boundary.</p> <p>Several small leaved limes are located on the boundary bank. Pillar Wood is divided into small rectangular compartments dominated by mature planted pedunculate oak.</p> <p>Bracken is frequent in the north-eastern extent where a badger sett was also recorded. Bramble is generally very frequent covering the woodland floor.</p> <p>Towards the southern section mature Lawson cypress formed in a large stand. Both Scots pine and Norway spruce also remained in some sections. Semi-natural regenerating woodland of silver birch, hawthorn and hazel is also a component of this compartment.</p> <p>Overall Pillar Wood, with the exception of the eastern boundary vegetation is less diverse and more homogenous than the remainder of Bourne Wood.</p> <p>There is a very low level of intervention within the woodland where a good diversity of undisturbed habitats is maintained. Along with this the site retains some features of ancient woodland and is accessible to the public.</p>
Bourne Wood Compartment 5	<p>This compartment is towards the centre of Bourne Wood and is a mixture of mature deciduous and coniferous plantation on ancient woodland sites, together with self-established species in and around the mature trees. Mature Scots pine, Norway spruce, European larch, Lawson cypress and Douglas fir are frequent as is pedunculate oak.</p> <p>Semi-natural regenerating woodland including silver birch and bracken are frequent where coniferous trees had fallen or been removed. Hawthorn, willow and hazel have also established and formed areas of scrub, especially at edges of more mature plantation.</p> <p>Grassy east/west paths dissecting areas were often damp with some lying water, some wider sunny north-south footpaths are hard-surfaced.</p> <p>Semi-natural woodland on the eastern boundary is an area of mature oak with hazel coppice and typical ancient woodland ground flora of English bluebell, pignut, wood meadow grass, wood millet and greater stitchwort.</p> <p>The varied habitats of the woodland rides, running water and mixed species woodland provided good and largely undisturbed wildlife habitat.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>There is a very low level of intervention within the woodland where a good diversity of undisturbed habitats is maintained. Along with this the site retains some features of ancient woodland and is accessible to the public.</p>
Bourne Wood Compartment 6	<p>This compartment is towards the south of Bourne Wood and is a mixture of mature deciduous and coniferous plantation on former ancient woodland, together with immature self-established species in and around the mature trees. Mature Scots pine, Norway spruce, and European larch is frequent as is pedunculate oak and ash.</p> <p>An area in the centre of this compartment is dominated by European larch in wet woodland with a number of small streams. Large areas of semi-natural habitat comprise of occasional Scots pine together with regenerating woodland including frequent silver birch, bracken and fallen dead wood.</p> <p>Hawthorn, willow and hazel have often established and formed areas of scrub especially at edges of more mature plantation.</p> <p>Grassy shaded paths dissecting areas were often damp with some lying water; the central wider sunny north-south footpaths are hard-surfaced. Woodland rides, running water and mixed species mature woodland provided good and largely undisturbed wildlife habitat.</p> <p>There is a very low level of intervention within the woodland where a good diversity of undisturbed habitats is maintained. Along with this the site retains some features of ancient woodland and is accessible to the public.</p>
Bourne Wood Compartment 7	<p>This compartment is at the southern extremity of Bourne Wood and includes the parking and picnic area, with small areas of neutral grassland.</p> <p>Woodland in this compartment is largely mature mixed semi-natural woodland with limited areas of coniferous plantation. Coniferous species include Norwegian spruce, Scots pine and European larch. The whole of this compartment was formerly ancient woodland. Large areas of semi-natural habitat are present providing largely undisturbed habitat with a good and varied structure.</p> <p>An area on the southern boundary is dominated by tall dense ash trees with ancient woodland ground flora of frequent greater stitchwort, pignut, wood melick, wood meadow-grass and wood millet. There is also an area of hazel coppice which has locally frequent English bluebell.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>Woodland rides and mixed species mature woodland provide valuable wildlife habitat.</p> <p>There is a very low level of intervention within the woodland where a good diversity of undisturbed habitats is maintained. Along with this the site retains some features of ancient woodland and is accessible to the public.</p>
Braceborough Great Wood	<p>Braceborough Great Wood is an area of ancient woodland located immediately north of New Plantation Local Wildlife Site. It is largely replanted with conifer or mixed plantation with oak and ash standards. The floristic interest is mainly peripheral to the woodland compartments but there are some wide deciduous areas and borders. No veteran trees were noted and standing and fallen deadwood was only occasional.</p> <p>The understory is very limited where conifer is present but in other areas species such as hawthorn, wild service, field maple, hazel, willow and elder are found. The main rides vary in width and drainage but are generally wide and grassy with abundant species including creeping soft grass, wood sedge and tufted hair grass. These areas also have scattered bluebell, common figwort, primrose, ramsons, wild angelica, bugle, hairy St John's wort and occasional early purple orchid.</p> <p>The eastern arm of the woodland is coniferous with an abundant understorey of elder but has interesting margins of mature oak and ash trees and contains a good woodland assemblage of frequent dog's mercury with pignut, yellow archangel, wood millet and occasional small areas of wood spurge and wood small reed.</p> <p>The woodland is used for game feeding and deer are present. The rides are mown. Bracken, bramble and nettle were dense in many areas of the woodland.</p>
Braceborough Little Wood	<p>Braceborough Little Wood is a replanted ancient woodland located immediately to the south of New Plantation and Braceborough Great Wood Local Wildlife Sites. A public footpath bisects the two adjoining woods. The rides and periphery of the woodland have the most botanical interest as the ground flora under the conifers is rather poor. The rides are narrow and generally unmanaged.</p> <p>It is predominantly a conifer plantation but has maturing oak and ash trees also present. Bracken and bramble are fairly dense throughout and the dominant understorey species is elder; however, also present within the understorey are species such as hawthorn, grey willow, hazel, field maple and blackthorn with occasional dog rose, honey suckle and black bryony.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>Although scrub is dominant, the ground flora still contains species such as scattered bluebells, yellow archangel, greater stitchwort, wood meadow grass, wood millet and occasional primrose and early purple orchid.</p> <p>No obvious signs of active management other than use for game keeping purposes (and former planting of coniferous species). This site would benefit from native planting and scrub control.</p>
Braceby Meadow	<p>Braceby Meadow is a small area of rough grassland with trees and scrub surrounded by a hedgerow. This site was historically designated as a semi-improved calcareous grassland where adders' tongue fern was noted. This species was not observed in this survey or in a previous one carried out in 1988. The site is currently managed as a woodland under EWGS<sup>3</sup>, ELS<sup>4</sup> and HLS<sup>2</sup> and, at the time of survey, the grass had been cut and the arisings left in situ which is not appropriate for a calcareous grassland site as it leads to increased soil fertility, promoting the growth of coarse, robust grass species only.</p> <p>It is now dominated by cock's-foot and false oat-grass with patches of tufted hair grass in places with frequent buttercup, Yorkshire fog and common sorrel. The trees including hawthorn, oak and ash are still moderately young and there are small areas of reed canary-grass and great willow herb particularly to the west around some of the bases of the trees indicating damper conditions but most are surrounded with rough grass with scrub including species such as bramble and cow parsley. The hedgerows are flailed at the bases and contain oak, ash, blackthorn, crab apple, and field maple.</p>
Breache's Wood	<p>Breaches Wood is an ancient replanted woodland surrounded by a ditch within arable fields. The woodland is primarily a mixed plantation of larch, Scot's pine and spruce but oak is present too. Blackthorn, field maple and ash dominate the woodland edge.</p> <p>The woodland has sparse ground flora under the conifers; however, the ground flora still contains species such as wood false-brome, wood sedge, common figwort, meadowsweet, barren strawberry, primrose, hard rush and wood sorrel. There are also two damper areas within the central woodland which are dominated by lesser pond sedge.</p> <p>Rides are maintained through infrequent mowing and selective felling is occurring in small areas. The woodland is also used for game-keeping with a pen and feeder present. Deer are present in the wood.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
Bulby Hall Wood	<p>Bulby Hall Wood is a replanted ancient woodland site of oak and ash standards with mature hazel and field maple coppice. Some areas have been planted with beech, Scots pine and larch. The woodland slopes to the south west towards the East Glen River Valley and old earthworks with moats are present centrally.</p> <p>The site is used for paintballing and areas of hard standing associated with the access track and car parking area are present in the north east part of the site. Numerous unmetalled tracks and rides are present throughout the woodland and these are mostly kept clear and mown; some are reinforced with large rubble. There is both standing and fallen deadwood throughout. Dense areas of bramble and nettle are present in the understorey. The moat areas were deep with little vegetation, densely shaded and did not contain water at the time of survey but are likely to hold water at other times of the year. There is a drain to the north of the site running parallel with the site boundary; this was dominated by great willow herb.</p> <p>Other areas were densely covered with dog's mercury and also present were species including enchanter's nightshade, bugle, bluebell, primrose with remote sedge and meadow-sweet.</p>
Bytham Plantation Cutting	<p>This is an old, disused railway cutting that has become overgrown with semi-mature ash, sycamore and hawthorn.</p> <p>The slopes are very steep with the limestone bed rock exposed along much of its length.</p> <p>Ground flora has limited diversity comprising of abundant wood false-brome, dog's mercury, wood aven, ferns and mosses (potentially as a result of shading).</p> <p>Equally to this, structural diversity is quite limited and uniform due to similar aged tree. There are also a number of large badger setts along the cutting.</p> <p>The main feature of value is the limestone outcrops, but these are becoming over shadowed.</p> <p>There seems to be no current management, so the railway cutting is progressively maturing into secondary woodland. It would be beneficial to selectively manage sycamore trees to provide structural variation.</p>
Cabbagehill Wood	<p>Cabbage Hill Wood is an ancient replanted woodland site with ash and oak standards and a scattering of conifers. The understorey trees include grey willow and Norway maple throughout with hawthorn, blackthorn and hazel also present. The woodland does not contain any veteran</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>trees but otherwise, it has good structure with habitat piles and fallen dead wood throughout, with areas of selective felling. Ditches are present within and around this woodland.</p> <p>The ground flora contains large areas of dog's mercury and pignut with locally abundant wood false brome, wood sedge, bluebell, greater stitchwort and lesser celandine. In wetter areas meadowsweet, hard rush, bugle and tufted hair grass is frequent. Other species recorded include hairy St John's wort, black bryony, wood meadow grass and common dog violet.</p> <p>The rides are maintained and the small areas of selective felling has created small glades. The woodland is used for game keeping and there is a pheasant rearing pen located to the north and hoppers are present throughout.</p>
Callan's Lane Wood	<p>Callans Lane Wood forms the northern section of the Callans Wood complex (which also includes Pasture Wood, Thorny Wood and Scullar Wood) and comprises compartments of mature plantation of mixed deciduous species on an ancient woodland site. The woodland canopy largely comprised ash, beech, pedunculate oak and aspen. Occasional coniferous species included Lawson's cypress and Douglas fir. The shrub layer included occasional wayfaring tree, hawthorn, hazel, goat and grey willow and field maple. Ground flora was rich in parts and ancient woodland indicator species were especially evident on woodland boundary banks (T1). English bluebell, pignut, woodruff, dog's mercury and yellow archangel all occurred. Wide open sunny rides and narrow shaded rides divided the woodland compartments. Wetter areas supported diverse rush species, meadowsweet, ragged robin, purple loosestrife and sweetgrass. Woodland grasses included giant fescue, wood melick and wood meadow-grass. Bramble and bracken frequently covered the woodland floor and restricted access. Wild service tree and badger setts were recorded on the western boundary with mature boundary trees of ash and pedunculate oak. The woodland provided good habitat for wildlife and speckled wood, blackcap, chiffchaff, chaffinch and long-tailed-tit recorded during the survey.</p> <p>Some rides had been recently mown. Bracken and bramble should be managed and contained.</p>
Careby Wood	<p>Careby Wood is a large ancient woodland site replanted with mixed plantation, much of which is still fairly young. It retains a wide deciduous border, particularly at the southern boundary and around the earthworks of an ancient fort to the east. Wide sunny rides are present and also narrow shaded ones throughout.</p> <p>The deciduous borders comprise oak and ash standards with old coppice stools present and a dense understory of other trees such as elm, blackthorn, dogwood and hawthorn. The ground</p>



## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>flora contains abundant bluebell, dog's mercury and ramsons with sweet violet, wood melick and bearded couch also recorded. Standing and fallen dead wood was found in these boundary areas only.</p> <p>The mixed plantation comprises a variety of conifer trees with areas of willow and oak. Wood spurge was present in several areas of the woodland but mainly towards the south. The rides are generally species-rich containing hard rush and occasional wood small reed, water mint, cuckooflower, greater birds-foot trefoil, hairy St John's-wort and ragged robin in damper areas. The typically calcareous species of crosswort and common gromwell were also observed.</p>
Castle Bytham Earthworks	<p>The site of Castle Bytham Earthworks is located within arable farmland. The majority of the site appears to be semi-improved neutral grassland but the earthwork banks are calcareous. The site is bounded by hedgerows apart from a section to the north. There are scattered scrub and trees across the site. The site also has a spring and a pond on the eastern boundary.</p> <p>The grassland was grazed by cattle at the time of survey and the sward was dominated by grasses such as crested dog's tail, Yorkshire fog, red fescue and cock's-foot. There is a small spring area to the north around which frequent hard rush is present. Ant hills are present within the grassland.</p> <p>The banks of the earthworks are the most floristically interesting part of the site containing a variety of typical limestone species including harebell, dwarf thistle, wild thyme, hoary plantain, lesser bird's foot trefoil, ladies bedstraw and field scabious.</p> <p>The hedgerow surrounding the site was predominantly hawthorn with other species such as blackthorn and bramble occasional. There are a few scattered trees and a small section of trees and scrub on the outer banks of the earthworks to the east.</p> <p>The south east corner of the site was not surveyed as access permissions were not clear. The area has a property on it surrounded by grassland and a horse grazed paddock; these were not evident from OS maps prior to the survey and thus land ownership for this area is not currently known.</p> <p>A green woodpecker was observed during the survey.</p> <p>The site is managed under ELS<sup>4</sup>/HLS<sup>2</sup>.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
Castle Bytham Station	<p>The east of this site comprises of a cutting through limestone, previously used for a railway. This area at the far east of the site now resembles semi-improved calcareous grassland with frequent common knapweed, field scabious, hedge bindweed, common bird's-foot trefoil, meadow vetchling, glaucous sedge and red fescue. Wild basil, wild strawberry, pignut, red bartsia and purple toadflax were also recorded. This area quickly becomes overgrown with dense hawthorn scrub further west.</p> <p>The scrub eventually opens up into a sandy dirt track used for horse training that continues beyond the west of the site.</p> <p>Either side of the track is sycamore woodland with ivy covering most of the woodland floor. Harts tongue fern, soft shield fern and male fern were also recorded here.</p> <p>This woodland does not fit any of the woodland criteria; it comprises of only non-native sycamore, the trees are not at full maturity, there are no abundant lichen/fungus/bryophyte communities and the ground flora is dominated by ivy. There is a wide dirt track running through it but it was heavily shaded and so is neither a wide and sunny nor a narrow and shady ride.</p> <p>The grassland at the east of the site is in a good condition and very herb-rich. However, encroaching scrub may replace it over time if left unmanaged. The rest of the site is of little botanical interest but likely acts as a green corridor for wildlife.</p> <p>Horses graze the edges of the track at the west of the site. The east is left unmanaged to deter trespassers.</p>
Catbury Wood	<p>A small ancient woodland site surrounded by arable fields located to the north east of the larger Local Wildlife Site of Norwood. This woodland was originally designated when it was a mature deciduous woodland but has since been replanted with alternating strips of oak and conifer trees and the ratio of site-appropriate and native species to planted conifers is approximately 50:50. The site is bordered by a dense boundary of blackthorn, hawthorn and oak along a steep-sided deep ditch.</p> <p>The ground flora is sparse under the conifers but elsewhere areas of dense brambles and nettle are common. The floristic interest is mostly peripheral, along the rides and boundary of the woodland. Species present, though not in any great quantity, include bluebell, hard rush, wild strawberry, bugle, primrose, dog-rose, greater stitchwort, early purple orchid, pendulous sedge, cowslip, meadowsweet and enchanter's nightshade.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>The site was clear felled and replanted with conifer and oak in 1988. Deer fencing is present at the boundary and game keeping feeders. Planting of the site with conifers is not appropriate management for the BAP habitat Lowland mixed deciduous woodland, which was likely present at the time of designation.</p>
Caythorpe Old Quarry	<p>This site largely comprises of improved grassland to the west at the base of the old quarry and arable land to the east and north.</p> <p>Along the quarry edges hawthorn scrub dominates.</p> <p>Several patches of tussock course grassland were located along the edge at the top of the quarry, predominantly comprising of false oat grass and cock's-foot.</p> <p>Anthills were present.</p> <p>A group of sycamores are present at the northern tip of the old quarry.</p> <p>The hawthorn scrub has grown over most of the quarry edge and what grassland remains is course and species poor. The majority of the site is ecologically poor improved grassland and arable land.</p> <p>This is a consequence of the scrub being unmanaged. Improved grassland may be grazed by sheep, although no livestock was present at the time of the survey.</p> <p>The arable land is managed for crop production and harvest, likely fertilised, due to the abundance of common nettle at the edges of the fields.</p>
Cliff Wood	<p>This woodland is located on a steep north-west facing slope, with the incline being less severe on the western, lower edge.</p> <p>With the exception of northernmost section (north of Glebe Farm) the ancient woodland site has been replanted. Tall beech and sweet chestnut on the upper slopes and pedunculate oak on the lower slopes, with Scots pine along the western boundary.</p> <p>Yew and sycamore are prevalent in the southern section close to Cliff Road.</p> <p>The north-eastern section is semi-natural in character with self-established ash and sycamore together with some previously planted European larch.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>Copious amounts of fallen dead wood and lopped wood were present throughout the woodland, and the ground was often disturbed. Several small streams flowed down through the slope.</p> <p>The ground flora was generally poor with areas of frequent bramble and common nettle. Dog's mercury was locally frequent in the shaded southern section. The boundaries of woodland were ancient with old hawthorn and multi-stemmed ash.</p> <p>Timber was being extracted from the woodland and was stacked along a trackway in the southern extent.</p> <p>The terrain of the woodland is difficult to manage with many wet areas resulting in heavily tracked and disturbed ground. There was copious small timber on the woodland floor.</p> <p>There is both historical and recent evidence of pheasant rearing - new and old cages. Beech, oak and Scots pine was being selectively thinned and logged. Copious amounts of thinning covered the woodland floor.</p>
Cocked Hat Plantation, Stoke Rochford	<p>Cocked Hat plantation is small planted woodland located on the southern slope of a valley which meets a stream along its northern perimeter.</p> <p>The wood is bound to the south by a footpath which links Pasture Farm to the west to the Skillington Road to the east. A network of hedgerows and the stream connect the plantation with a number of small woods in the local vicinity including Brickyard Plantation to the east. As such, the wood is part of a valuable ecological network for local wildlife.</p> <p>The canopy is co-dominated by ash and sycamore with a sparse understorey of elder and hawthorn. Dog's mercury dominated the ground flora with frequent ivy, nettles and red campion. The woodland had a number of mammal pathways and badger dung pits were noted. Fallen deadwood was left in-situ and some logs supported mosses and fungi.</p> <p>The stream was shallow at the time of the survey, flowing over a stony bed and with shallow banks. The section within the SNCI boundary was approximately 2m wide and supported occasional watercress and brooklime with ruderals such as rosebay willow herb on the banks.</p> <p>In the north east, on the other side of the stream, is a parcel of sheep-grazed floodplain grazing marsh. This contained frequent rushes and tufted hair-grass but otherwise had a short sward with abundant mosses and occasional flowering herbs including cuckooflower. Occasional anthills were in the pasture, suggesting that this field has a long-history of grazing management.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>Due to the habitat diversity in this SNCI, it supports a varied avifauna including green woodpecker, buzzard and a range of common songbirds. The stream provides an important habitat for invertebrates such as mayfly and dragonflies, and may be of value to other species such as dipper and kingfisher.</p> <p>The site is largely left without management. This has resulted in an influx of nettle growth.</p> <p>Wood appears to receive little management, with deadwood left in situ. A strip of grassland in the north of the site is part of a sheep grazed field.</p>
Corby Pasture Farm Wood	<p>Corby Pasture Farm Wood is a small but reasonably mature plantation woodland. It is located a short distance from Old Park Wood and New Wood Local Wildlife Sites. It is not an ancient woodland and is not particularly species-rich. The structure is fairly uniform. The majority of the trees are standards of oak and ash with horse chestnut and an understory of occasional hawthorn and dog-rose. Bramble and snowberry is fairly dense throughout with nettle and ivy and so the ground flora is generally limited. Species present include frequent dog's mercury and cow parsley with honeysuckle, cuckoo pint, wood avens and goldilocks buttercup.</p> <p>No management of scrub or rides apparent. The site appears to be within WGS and EWGS<sup>3</sup> scheme as well as ELS<sup>4</sup> and HLS<sup>2</sup>.</p>
Counter Drain	<p>A section of drain, deeper at the eastern end, and shallower at the western end, supporting abundant aquatic vegetation. The water quality is very good, being crystal clear and the drain has a gravel bottom.</p> <p>Marginal vegetation occurs in clumps along the drain, which is likely managed to avoid the spread of common club-rush, which is dominant in some areas. Other marginal herbs are limited with the banks being predominantly grassy, with a few ruderal species.</p> <p>Water levels in the drain vary from either end providing opportunity for water voles if present.</p> <p>Crystal clear water suggests that the drain is buffered from soil runoff from adjacent fields.</p> <p>The banks are likely managed well as the eastern bank is located next to SSSI and Wildlife Trust site (fen marsh, swamp).</p> <p>Wire fencing prevents poaching by cattle.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
Creeton Quarry	<p>Creeton Quarry is an active limestone quarry site located within a largely arable landscape. The majority of the site is bare earth and exposed workings and the eastern section has been extended since the previous survey in 1977. The site is vegetated with a periphery of tall ruderals and scrub and there is a small area of planted young trees. The central area contains a settlement pond which was not accessed during this survey, however it appeared to have little in the way of aquatic or marginal vegetation.</p> <p>Because the quarry is still active there are large areas of bare earth with operations such as earth moving and levelling ongoing within the site. Some areas have been colonised by vegetation and successional phases are variable across the site. The periphery is developing, particularly at the north and west boundaries. Plants colonising the bare earth include weld, wild mignonette, common fumitory and black medick and these species are present throughout the site. Teasel, mugwort and great willow herb interspersed with plants such as bladder campion, groundsel, prickly sow thistle, creeping cinquefoil, smooth hawk's-beard, common cudweed and occasional dark mullein, great mullein and purple toadflax are also present, particularly around the periphery of the site.</p> <p>There is a small area of native planted trees on a bank in the northern section and this comprises oak, dogwood and hawthorn. The quarry, for the most part, is colonising naturally and sparse elder and sycamore scrub is beginning to develop on the western boundary.</p> <p>The site is actively quarried and represents a dynamic site with areas of vegetation at different stages of succession. Small area of native tree planting but most vegetation has naturally colonisation. There is no management information available.</p>
Dartmouth Marsh	
Dartmouth Point	<p>Interest is focused around the small limestone quarry with rabbit burrows in South East. Invertebrate interest - abundant bee and wasp nests in the vertical surfaces. Veteran ash on slope to south. The wider grassland is dominated by tor-grass and upright brome in places and the steeper slopes may offer potential for restoration of an herb-rich habitat.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>Grazed by sheep and rabbits. Noted by the owner that Dartmouth point was at a point of change at about the beginning of their ownership 23 years ago and had lost considerable Dutch Elms. Re-planting and regrowth since then.</p>
Denton Reservoir	<p>The site is an artificial reservoir managed for angling. A fringe of heathy acid grassland/acid woodland occupies the embankment encircling the water. Good bramble flora. Sand substrate. Large amount of dead wood. Likely to be an excellent invertebrate site. Other species: swan, mussel, pike, perch, koi x 3, pied flycatcher, song thrush, canada geese x 30, greylag x 150, and one lesser white - fronted goose (confirmed). Potential white-clawed crayfish ARK site (owner enthusiastic about white-clawed crayfish and has other potential suitable ark sites too).</p> <p>Very good water quality. Good beds of macrophytes and abundant orthoptera. The lake is managed for fishing but it is rarely stocked maintaining natural fish levels. Non-intervention in wooded area is appropriate as it is narrow with veteran trees. Problems with illegal fires and leaving rubbish on land.</p>
Dobbin's Wood Dismantled Railway	<p>Dobbin's Wood Dismantled Railway Local Wildlife Site (LWS) is a linear site designated in 1977 and comprising grass verges, tall ruderals, scrub and trees and scrub. These are situated on flat ground, cuttings and embankments either side of a rough track. The site is adjacent to and south of Dobbin's Wood LWS.</p> <p>The verges vary in width from approximately 1 to 4 metres and the flat areas nearest to the track appear to be mown. There are areas of locally abundant greater bird's-foot trefoil with occasional gorse, bracken. The verges appear to be influenced by the adjacent woodland and plants include primrose, wild strawberry, dog's mercury, honeysuckle, black bryony, wood sedge, St John's wort and wood avens.</p> <p>The trees and scrub form a species-rich hedgerow either side of the track and comprise hawthorn, blackthorn, spindle, sycamore, dogwood, field maple, oak and willow with buckthorn, dog rose and elder.</p> <p>The verges are mown but there appears to be little in the way of scrub clearance, other than routine hedge cutting.</p> <p>Incidental records of large white, tortoiseshell and orange tip butterflies were made during the survey.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>The track appears to be mown and the hedgerow cut to keep the track clear for vehicle access.</p>
Dobbin's Wood	<p>Dobbin's Wood is located immediately to the north of Dobbin's Wood Dismantled Railway Local Wildlife Site (LWS) and to the east of Home's Wood and Pell's Wood LWS. It comprises mixed plantation on ancient woodland with a newer section on the southeast corner. The woodland trees are predominantly moderately aged oak and conifer with sycamore and some areas of younger planting. The understorey comprises scattered young hawthorn, field maple, dogwood, blackthorn and bramble is prevalent throughout.</p> <p>The ground flora is fairly sparse beneath the conifers, although some areas between the rows contain abundant bluebell. Dog's mercury is frequent throughout the woodland with species such as pignut, wild strawberry, wood sorrel, yellow archangel, male fern and common figwort also present.</p> <p>The rides have areas of abundant wood sedge and wood false brome with species including hard rush and lesser celandine. The drain that runs east-west through the lower third of the woodland has a drain with frequent meadowsweet, water mint, lesser pond sedge, bugle and wild angelica.</p> <p>The bramble is fairly dense in much of the woodland but the rides are clear. At the north eastern boundary there is a strip of mature rhododendron which is likely to become invasive if not managed. Deer control points are present between the woodland and old game keeping equipment storage area to the west.</p>
Docksight Wood - Northern	<p>This is uniform woodland dominated by ash with sycamore with an open canopy and a sparse shrub layer.</p> <p>Ground flora is grassy with abundant bramble and nettles, wood false-brome and dog's mercury.</p> <p>There are some mature sycamore trees.</p> <p>The site would benefit from enhancement of the diversity of the shrub layer.</p> <p>Ultimately it could be considered as borderline native woodland, this is due to the numerous mature sycamore and planting of pine and larch. Beech is also present.</p>



## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>The relatively open woodland canopy would benefit from new planting of native tree species. This would benefit ground flora, which is being invaded by sycamore seedlings.</p> <p>It is otherwise managed for game keeping with wide grassy rides.</p>
Docksight Wood - Southern	<p>This plantation woodland comprising a mix of beech, larch and pine trees in different proportions. It has a similar composition of ground flora and shrub layer as the northern woodland.</p> <p>Trees have been planted and are in clear rows.</p> <p>There is a stream at bottom of valley which is of BAP quality with a clear fast flow, and gravel/stony bottom. Good marginal vegetation and mature trees delineate the watercourse.</p> <p>Structural diversity could be improved below beech canopy.</p> <p>The woodland appears to be in management with planted trees, bird and bat boxes.</p> <p>There is also private game and fishing use of the site.</p>
Dodsey Wood	<p>Dodsey Wood is ancient woodland located on a slope down towards the west. A PROW is adjacent to the southern boundary which links the woodland with Ling Lane to Birkholm and Overgate Road to Swayfield. Dodsey Wood is linked to Elliot's Wood to the south by a network of hedgerows, which allow for wildlife corridors within the wider arable landscape.</p> <p>The canopy is dominated by ash with some oak and hazel. The southern third had a denser canopy than the rest, with a ground flora dominated by cow parsley. The majority of wood had a relatively open canopy, a sparse shrub layer and a ground flora dominated by brambles. Ancient woodland indicators, including pendulous sedge, pignut, spindle-tree, yellow archangel and greater stitchwort, were noted in occasional abundance throughout.</p> <p>Dry ditches are present along the northern and eastern boundaries. To the north a footpath separated the northern boundary from a linear stretch of planted woodland, which may acts as a sunny ride of importance for invertebrates. The southern boundary is hedgerow up to 4m high, with species including blackthorn, field maple, bramble, ash, cherry, elm, hawthorn and dog rose.</p> <p>Due to the topography and clay soils, the western edge of the woodland was damp with frequent soft rush, tufted hair-grass, bugle, wavy bitter-cress and occasional wood sedge.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>A small pond is present at the eastern edge of the woodland, potentially forming at the foot of a drainage ditch from the adjacent arable field. This pond is overgrown with willow herbs and fringed by dense brambles.</p> <p>The woodland is home to a variety of wildlife including deer and a variety of birds.</p> <p>There is a large abundance of brambles and nettles, and deadwood is being left in situ. No evidence of management for wildlife was apparent, such as coppicing, selective felling or installation of nest boxes.</p> <p>The wood is managed for game keeping with 2-3 compartments fenced-off in the south at the time of survey.</p> <p>There is hedgerow management undertaken on the southern boundary.</p>
Duncombe Farm Cutting	<p>This site is a disused railway embankment and cutting which is now partly used for rearing game birds, and partly allowed to regenerate naturally.</p> <p>There is woodland dominated by sycamore and ash with some large trees and tall scrub of hawthorn.</p> <p>The understorey is bare due to dense shading and/or due to disturbance by game birds. Rock outcrops present in cutting more in the eastern section.</p> <p>Grassland species of interest are few are far between. The regeneration of exposed rock now succeeded to dense secondary woodland or improved due to game rearing.</p> <p>The woodland is of poor quality due to the dominance of sycamore woodland, and the lack of ground flora and species poor shrub layer. It does hold some limited value for birds regardless of this.</p> <p>Any grassland is primarily lost due to improvement grassland along embankment with game use of land in mind. Rearing of game birds is ultimately heavily limiting the value of habitat here for wildlife.</p> <p>Management includes loss of ground flora, small mammal traps, fencing and improved grassland.</p> <p>Management of the railway cutting to the east is more of interest due to exposed rock outcrops; however management is reducing the value of this habitat for grassland species also.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
Edenham Grassland	<p>Edenham Grassland is an area of improved grassland surrounded, in part, by hedgerow. It contains a pond that is probably the remnants of an old field drainage system or stream. The grassland on the whole is species-poor and used for grazing cattle. The grassland is dominated by perennial rye grass and the main floristic interest is within the pond area. The field boundaries are slightly more diverse but the grassland has little interest other than a sparse scattering of common species such as daisy, hop trefoil and dove's-foot crane's-bill.</p> <p>The pond is L-shaped with the northern section fenced off from cattle. There are small trees and scrub at the pond's edge which include hawthorn, ash, hazel, blackthorn and dog rose.</p> <p>The pond has a good variety of plant species for its small size including pondweed, water figwort, celery-leaved buttercup, reed mace, hard rush, great willowherb, watercress and brooklime. There was an abundance of damselflies and dragonflies at the time of survey.</p> <p>Management consists of cattle grazing. The pond is partially fenced.</p>
Elliott's Wood	<p>Elliott's Wood is an Ancient Woodland located on the corner of Ling Lane, Honeypot Lane and Overgate Road and slopes down towards the north west.</p> <p>A network of hedgerows links it to other woodlands in the local area, allowing for wildlife movement across the otherwise arable landscape. The woodland canopy is dominated by ash with occasional oak, most of which are mature with frequent falling and standing deadwood.</p> <p>The shrub layer is dominated by hazel with occasional hawthorn, with more mature hazel dominating the canopy in the east. The eastern section also supported abundant dog's mercury, wood anemone and occasional primrose in the ground flora. Other Ancient Woodland indicator species included ramsons, yellow archangel and pignut which were occasional throughout. Bramble is also observed to be locally dominant</p> <p>An access track was present in the north which created a sunny ride of potential importance to invertebrates. This linked to a glade dominated by semi-improved grassland dominated by rough-leaved meadow-grass, with bugle and tufted hair-grass.</p> <p>An abundance of avifauna was noted as well as mammal pathways created through the woodland. Despite an apparent lack of management for wildlife the woodland was in a good condition with high species richness and structural diversity.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>The woodland was managed for game keeping at the time of survey, with fenced-off compartments and a number of hides present in the west.</p> <p>No coppicing of hazel is evident and any deadwood is left in situ.</p>
Far Old Park Wood	<p>Far Old Park Wood is a large ancient semi-natural woodland replanted with oak and ash standards and areas of old hazel coppice. It is located a field's distance away between Osgodby Coppice and Old Park Wood. The woodland structure is fairly uniform with limited understory; however, an area has been deer-fenced to the west and regeneration is evident in this area with a dense understorey. Very small discrete areas have been selectively felled and replanted with native deciduous trees such as willow, hazel and oak.</p> <p>Understorey species include hawthorn and field maple, and moderate amounts of bramble and bracken in places. There are managed rides throughout the woodland, some of which are fairly wet and contain abundant meadowsweet, hard rush and occasional patches of lesser pond sedge and meadow rue. Tufted hair grass, wood sedge, dog's mercury and bluebells are present throughout. This woodland has a good variety of ground flora including yellow archangel, enchanter's nightshade, greater stitchwort, primrose, pendulous sedge, pignut, wild strawberry, sweet violet and wood millet. Betony and hounds-tongue were also recorded.</p> <p>Deer fenced areas. Selective felling and deciduous native replanting. Occasional habitat piles present.</p>
Field by Denton Reservoir	<p>Field by Denton Reservoir is a small field of semi-improved neutral grassland surrounded by a hedge and located adjacent to Denton Reservoir Local Wildlife Site. It is mown for hay and then cattle moved onto the field for grazing each year. It has been treated with herbicide in the past five years as part of ragwort control measures. The grassland sward is fairly dense and uniform comprising cock's foot, Yorkshire fog and common bent. The surrounding hedgerow is dominated by hawthorn and blackthorn. A higher species diversity is found at the periphery of the site; although it is predominantly false oat-grass, it also contains species such as bluebell, cowslip, meadow cranesbill, spear thistle, common knapweed, and field horsetail. Abundant dragonfly and damselfly activity was noted around the periphery of the site with brown hawker and common blue damselfly recorded.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
Folkingham Castle Field	<p>Folkingham Castle Field is primarily a neutral grassland site with old earthworks but also includes, to the south, a large moat of a historic building (Folkingham House of Correction) surrounded by trees and scrub. Hedges surround the site apart from the western boundary and a public footpath crosses the south eastern corner of the site.</p> <p>The majority of the grassland at this site is sheep-grazed rough neutral grassland with historic earthworks of banks and ditches. Ant hills are common centrally and red fescue and whitlow grass are common within the sward here. Common bent, Yorkshire fog and cock's-foot are otherwise dominant with frequent tor grass, dove's foot crane's bill and yarrow. The ditches were dry at the time of survey and common cudweed, nettle and silverweed were frequent at the base. There are scattered areas of hawthorn scrub on top of the banks to the west but the main area of grassland has been treated with herbicide for nettle, dock and thistle so scrub is not an issue.</p> <p>The grassland to the south eastern corner is small in extent but appears to be ungrazed and more botanically interesting. It is possibly unimproved, containing species such as wild clary, black medick, pignut and knapweed.</p> <p>The moat around the building is very deep with steep banks and is surrounded by trees and scrub. Trees of ash, apple, elder, hawthorn and willow are present with bramble and ivy below. The base of this moat is dominated by reed and great willowherb and the banks with nettle, elder and hedge bindweed. The grassland of this area forms part of the garden for the building with the central area mown frequently. Marginal areas are cut less often. False oat grass, black medick and creeping buttercup are common here.</p> <p>The small area of unimproved calcareous grassland is species rich so appears to be managed well eg. cut to prevent scrubbing over but not overgrazed if at all. The neutral grassland area is treated with herbicide to prevent thistle and nettle encroachment. The woodland area appears to be unmanaged but contains a variety of species and is generally undisturbed.</p>
Frieston Ironstone Lakes	<p>The main interest of the site is the two fishing lakes, which appear to be in good condition for wildlife.</p> <p>The western lake has good marginal vegetation with frequent soft rush, hard rush, reed mace, reed canary grass and watermint. Three dykes have been created at the east of this lake with swamp habitat forming between them which largely comprises of reed mace and watermint. Scattered hawthorn scrub borders the north bank and groups of willow are situated along the south-eastern bank.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>The eastern lake has smaller areas of marginal vegetation, with steeper sandy banks featuring willow and hawthorn scrub along the eastern bank. This is fed by a stream running through a group of willows at the south west of the lake. Species-poor semi-improved grassland made up the land surrounding this lake which is dominated by Yorkshire fog and grazed by sheep. A strip of species-poor wet grassland is also present on the land adjacent to the south-eastern shore of the western lake. This is dominated by tufted hair grass and Yorkshire fog.</p> <p>The remainder of the site comprises of grazed improved grassland. A large flock of greylag geese was recorded making use of the lakes during the survey. The site provides good habitats for birds; however, fish in the lakes limits its potential for amphibians.</p> <p>A smaller body of water between the two lakes recorded previously is no longer present. It is possible that it was in-filled to provide additional grazing areas for sheep.</p> <p>Grassland on the site is largely heavily grazed by sheep, cattle, and horses. As such they are species-poor.</p> <p>The lakes are ultimately managed for fishing.</p>
Fulbeck Grassland	<p>This site comprises of improved pasture with a large pond.</p> <p>Relic ridge and furrow is observable in the western part of the site but no remaining grassland species of note occur.</p> <p>The pond has good emergent and floating vegetation but has limited marginal vegetation due to the presence of a large number of waterfowl.</p> <p>The site's condition is disappointingly poor bearing in mind its local setting close to parkland habitat and a traditional limestone village.</p> <p>It is grazed by cattle, with nutrient enrichment of grassland.</p> <p>The hedgerows are neglected and contain gaps.</p> <p>The pond is currently not well managed for wildlife.</p>
Glebe Farm Road Verge	<p>There is no description/ citation for this site which appears to have originally designated in 1952. Therefore, designating features are unknown and the site is likely to have changed significantly during the past 60 years. The site is triangular in shape and covers a small area of grassland between the disused railway embankment and Little Bytham Road. The majority of the site is</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>poor semi-improved grassland, dominated by Yorkshire Fog, red fescue, false oat-grass and tor-grass with frequent ribwort plantain. The grassland had been recently cut and the cuttings left lying in the field. There was variation in the species composition towards the eastern end of the site where the soil was very thin and influenced from the adjacent disused railway bund. Here casual escape species adapted to poor soil conditions were present including (non-native) Californian poppy, opium poppy and feverfew, together with frequent bird's-foot trefoil, black medick, yarrow, greater knapweed and red and white clover. A mixed native hedge was planted along the roadside boundary which then descended steeply down a grass bank to the road. Meadow brown and buff-tailed bumblebee were incidentally recorded.</p> <p>The roadside hedgerow appears to be regularly cut and maintained. The grassland had been recently cut but the overall management and frequency of cutting is not known. The arisings are left in situ and these should be removed to prevent further degradation of the site in terms of floral species diversity; however, original interest of the site is largely unknown and therefore it is difficult to ascertain the appropriateness of management.</p>
Glen Valley, Corby Glen	<p>Glen Valley, Corby Glen is designated as neutral semi-improved grassland located on a slope of the Glen valley with the River Glen running along the western boundary. However, the site is now primarily arable and contained a cereal crop at the time of survey. There is a narrow strip of scrub and young trees present on a steep slope along the south eastern boundary of the site; presumably this has remained uncultivated as a result of the topography. The scrub and young trees comprised hawthorn, blackthorn and elder with an understory of dense umbellifers, nettle, field bindweed and false oat-grass. The site was not surveyed in detail, partly to avoid crop damage, but primarily because it was clear that the former biodiversity interest of this site has been lost.</p> <p>The vast majority of the site has been cleared for arable. No remnant grassland remains.</p>
Gonerby Tunnel	<p>This site exhibits an area of woodland and scrub above a railway tunnel.</p> <p>A small strip of bare ground is present along the western ridge of the site. Low growing grasses and common ragwort are encroaching over this area, as well as various ephemeral and short, perennial vegetation. Dense gorse scrub borders the south of this area.</p> <p>The woodland throughout the site comprises of pedunculate oak, silver birch and ash, with bramble dominating the understorey.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>A dry shallow ditch is present in the east of the site. A clearing to the south of this ditch has become dominated by bramble. A small path ran through the scrub, with tufted vetch, hairy tare and birds-foot trefoil present.</p> <p>Scrub has encroached over much of the open areas previously on site, including the wet grassland which is now completely dominated by bramble.</p> <p>The woodland understorey has become dominated by undesirable bramble and no veteran trees were recorded.</p> <p>Rabbits graze the bare areas along the central ridge at the west of the site, slowing the encroachment of scrub and grassland in this area. The site otherwise appears unmanaged.</p>
Gorse Hill	<p>Gorse Hill is a mixed plantation woodland with beech as the dominant planted deciduous species. It is located adjacent to The Drift, a green lane Local Wildlife site and public footpath. The woodland slopes steeply to a stream just outside the boundary to the north and east. There is a plateau to the south and a public footpath also runs along this boundary.</p> <p>There is scattered hawthorn and elder throughout the woodland, mainly to the north underneath the coniferous trees, and sparse scrub underneath the beech. There are no veteran trees in this woodland and the age structure is limited.</p> <p>The ground flora includes areas of dense dog's mercury and other species present include hairy St John's-wort, cowslip, wood-forget-me-not, wood avens, hairy violet, black bryony and ivy-leaved speedwell. The banks of the stream are dominated by meadow sweet, reed canary grass and hemlock.</p> <p>The woodland is largely undisturbed with a single ride. The woodland is used for game keeping evidenced by a feeding station for gamebirds and deer are present within the woodland. There are badger setts present on the northern bank.</p>
Grantham Canal and Canal Bank Non-urban Section	<p>Six mile long canal running form Grantham to Muston Bridge and is the eastern subsection of the entire canal which terminates in Nottingham.</p> <p>It is a long site but fairly homogenous in terms of habitat type and quality and management along its length.</p>



## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>Invasive water fern is present in Grantham Canal. It is very dense at the eastern end, completely dominating the open water and continues as either continuous or very dense patches for around half the canal's length. Beyond this, moving westwards, it becomes much less frequent.</p> <p>The greatest diversity of aquatic plants was observed from the riverbank along the western half of the canal where the water fern and duckweed was less dense.</p> <p>Water fern is a major issue and the canal is being treated.</p> <p>The waterway is open to canoeing.</p> <p>Adjacent scrub is not too dense.</p> <p>Towpaths/footpaths presumably mown.</p>
<p>Grantham Canal and Canal Bank Urban Section</p>	<p>This is a section of the Grantham Canal that has been cut off from the main stretch of the Grantham canal due to urbanization and is surrounded by housing and industrial units.</p> <p>The area appears to support a wide range of birds and invertebrates including various damselflies, dragonflies and butterflies.</p> <p>Bankside has good structural diversity with a good variety of plants. Aquatic vegetation abundant and only a very small amount of refuse evident.</p> <p>The amenity grassland on the western banks appears to be mowed regularly.</p> <p>Selective scrub removal at the bankside is likely to preserve species diversity.</p> <p>No water fern was observed in this section.</p>
<p>Grantham Allotment Land, Harroby Road</p>	<p>Present here are rundown, old, neglected and vandalised allotments. A few plots are still used but this is a small proportion in comparison to whole site which is dominated by abundant scrub and ruderal. Although the allotments are in neglect, this abundance of scrub is likely to be of value to a range of wildlife including birds, hedgehogs and reptiles.</p> <p>Some areas are subject to burning and scrub clearance, as well as rubbish tipping.</p> <p>Notable features include dense plum copses, a small orchard consisting of approximately 6 old fruit trees, and the site's location adjacent to a school - with potential for educational value if brought into better management.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>Included in the site boundary are two large grazed fields, which have limited value due to limited species, and neglected hedgerows.</p> <p>Some localised management to remove rubbish and manage the orchard would be beneficial.</p> <p>Hedgerows could be managed better.</p> <p>The two large fields are cattle grazed. The allotments are neglected with only a small number of active plots.</p> <p>The remainder of the site is in states of lack of management, vandalism and scrub encroachment.</p> <p>Orchard, dense areas of scrub and mature trees are of highest value present on site. None of which appear to be actively managed.</p>
<p>Grantham House Grounds River Section</p>	<p>This site comprises a large house to the east with associated grounds and is adjacent to a section of the River Witham. The remainder of the grounds are located to the east of the river and comprise semi-improved or improved grassland surrounded by associated hedgerow, woodland and a pond.</p> <p>The river section is heavily shaded at the river bank and little vegetation is able to grow although a small patch of river water crow-foot was observed little else of interest botanically was present.</p> <p>The margins contained mature trees predominantly of ash and interspersed with beech, sycamore, London Plane, elder and willow.</p> <p>The understorey contains species such as bramble, ivy, nettle, garlic mustard, cocks' foot, chickweed and prickly sow thistle.</p> <p>No management of the river for wildlife.</p>
<p>Grantham House Grounds Fields</p>	<p>The grounds comprise of garden habitats of semi-improved grassland, ornamental planting, hedgerows or walls, mature trees and fruit and vegetable areas. The grassland is short mown. There are many mature trees on this area ranging from fruit trees such as apples, pears and a mulberry tree to other mature species such as beech, ash and sycamore.</p> <p>The fields are used to graze cattle, and the field to the south-west has been levelled and is a playing field for a school.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>The grassland itself appears to be improved and the edge habitats contained rough grassland with species such as false oat-grass, mugwort, hogweed and common knapweed.</p> <p>There is a small pond located along what appears to be an old ditch system adjacent to a small strip of woodland. The pond is heavily shaded by hawthorn trees and contained floating sweet grass. The bankside vegetation is heavily poached by cattle and contained sparse vegetation including chickweed, nettle and perennial rye grass.</p> <p>The woodland strip is interesting in that it has moderately aged hornbeam and small leaved lime but the understory vegetation is poor and similar in composition to that round the pond.</p> <p>Mowing of grassland and rides.</p> <p>Grazing by cattle which becomes heavy in places resulting in poached land.</p>
Griff's Plantation	<p>Griff's Plantation is woodland situated in an arable landscape to the east of the B6403 High Dyke. Three Public Rights of Way link the wood to Old Somerby to the North East and Boothby Pagnell to the South East.</p> <p>A network of hedgerows allow for wildlife movement to the wood, whilst the western boundary is managed as a hedgerow field boundary. The wood itself is an actively managed plantation largely comprising of ash, with occasional sycamore and conifers. The wood has structural diversity but the majority is dominated by mature trees, with hawthorn, blackthorn and elder in the shrub layer which is densest in the south.</p> <p>The oldest section supports a ground flora of brambles, cleavers, nettles and dog's mercury. No large populations of AWI were noted. A large area in the east was recently felled at the time of survey and replanted with saplings of oak, sycamore and silver birch. Bare ground with occasional ruderal plants has been left beneath the newly planted trees.</p> <p>In the south-east is young planted woodland with a developed ground flora dominated by brambles, with a canopy comprising of ash, rowan, field maple and oak. Two small over shaded ponds are present in the south, dominated by duckweed and with no emergent vegetation. Although not prime examples of aquatic habitat, they no doubt provide additional opportunities to a range of fauna.</p> <p>There is a wide grassy ride in the south adjacent to a track, with a long sward including fox-tails, crested dog's-tail, meadowsweet, bugle, timothy and creeping buttercup. The open habitats are</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>likely to be of importance to butterflies. The wood is home to an abundance of bird life, deer and badgers, with a long-standing badger sett in the centre.</p> <p>A large area has recently cleared and replanted and there is active management as plantation. A section in the south-east is roughly ten years old and was recently felled. A replanted section in the east is less than five years old.</p> <p>A number of hides were noted in the wood, which suggests it is managed for game-keeping.</p>
<p>Grimsthorpe Park Compartment 1</p>	<p>This compartment contains several large areas of species poor, semi-improved grassland.</p> <p>A large bushy hedgerow comprising hawthorn and blackthorn is situated along the north east boundary of the compartment.</p> <p>A smaller area of semi-improved neutral grassland is located at the south west of the compartment, and here a single pyramid orchid was recorded.</p> <p>An orchard at the south of the site contained apple, pear, plum, and quince trees, amongst coarse grassland. Mistletoe was recorded on one of the apple trees.</p> <p>Much of the grasslands were species poor, however, the orchard was in a good condition.</p> <p>Two fields north and south of the site grazed by cattle.</p> <p>Field in the centre of the site held captive deer.</p>
<p>Grimsthorpe Park Compartment 2</p>	<p>This is a large area of old plantation woodland at the north west of the Grimsthorpe Estate. The woodland is largely made up of mature pedunculate oak and beech. It is largely open with grasses dominating at ground level.</p> <p>Ruderals such as common nettle and dog's mercury are abundant in areas. Shrubs are occasionally distributed throughout the woodland.</p> <p>Numerous wide sunny rides cut through the woodland and featured an abundance of flowering species</p> <p>Two large areas of mixed plantation woodland are located at the east of the compartment and comprise Norway spruce, Lawson's cypress, pedunculate oak and beech, with dense bramble dominating the ground flora.</p> <p>Much of the woodland is in good condition despite having poor structure.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>The openness and abundance of rides allows the site to support an abundance of flowering woodland plants. However, snowberry and other undesirables are dominant in some areas.</p> <p>Woodland is likely managed to maintain its openness.</p> <p>Snowberry dense in areas and may or may not be managed.</p> <p>Rides are mown.</p>
<p>Grimsthorpe Park Compartment 3</p>	<p>This compartment comprises of the avenue leading up to Grimsthorpe Castle, the castle itself, its gardens, and the woodland to the south of it.</p> <p>A species-poor hawthorn hedgerow borders the north of the compartment separating it from the road.</p> <p>The main avenue largely comprises short amenity grassland with a line of mature lime, oak and horse chestnut trees on either side of the entrance road. Towards the castle veteran oak trees were present within areas of uncut grassland dominated by Yorkshire fog forming Parkland BAP habitat.</p> <p>The castle supports large numbers of swifts which were recorded foraging in the surrounding area. The gardens contained a large diversity of flowering ornamental plants and trimmed yew hedges.</p> <p>To the south of the gardens was young oak woodland with woodland grasses dominating the woodland floor, as well as abundant common hogweed.</p> <p>Wide sunny rides supported flowering plants.</p> <p>Much of the grasslands were species-poor, however, the young oak woodland support a greater diversity of flowering plants and large areas of bluebell are known to grow here in the spring. The veteran oaks in the parkland likely support a diverse invertebrate assemblage.</p> <p>Amenity grassland mowed regularly.</p> <p>Fertiliser/pesticide/herbicide only used in ornamental flower beds.</p>
<p>Grimsthorpe Park Compartment 4</p>	<p>This compartment comprises of an open area of semi-improved neutral grassland to the north of the main lake in the estate.</p> <p>Numerous veteran oak trees are present forming parkland BAP habitat.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>The grassland was dominated by Yorkshire fog; while not species-rich, an abundance of flowering plants were frequent throughout.</p> <p>It was previously managed through hay cutting and is now managed through rotational cattle grazing.</p>
<p>Grimsthorpe Park Compartment 5</p>	<p>This compartment comprises of two open areas of semi-improved neutral grassland to the south west and east of the main lake in the estate.</p> <p>Numerous veteran oak trees are present in most of these two areas forming parkland BAP habitat.</p> <p>The grassland is species-poor and dominated by Yorkshire fog and perennial ryegrass with frequent meadow barley. The only frequent flowering plant is white clover.</p> <p>A small area of mixed plantation woodland is located at the south west of the compartment, comprising largely Scot's pine, Norway spruce, sycamore and ash. Nettles dominated the ground flora.</p> <p>A small stream passes through the centre of the compartment flowing north east towards the lake. This contained good marginal and emergent vegetation.</p> <p>Managed through rotational low-intensity cattle grazing.</p>
<p>Grimsthorpe Park Compartment 6</p>	<p>This compartment comprises two lakes and an area of woodland at the west of the estate. Both lakes have diverse marginal vegetation. Mare's-tail and yellow water lily are frequent within the smaller lake.</p> <p>An area of wet woodland comprising alder and willow is located at the north west of the larger lake. Wet woodland comprising Canadian poplar, alder and willow also bordered a small stream to the north west of the smaller lake.</p> <p>Areas of old plantation woodland comprising mature ash, oak and sycamore are present at the north-west of the compartment. Ground flora is largely dominated by common nettle and cow parsley.</p> <p>Two areas of plantation woodland comprising Norway spruce, Scot's pine and sycamore are also present.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>The lakes appeared to be in good condition and supported large populations of waterfowl. Woodlands are dominated by sycamore and did not support a diverse ground flora.</p> <p>Pheasants kept for game in the eastern plantation.</p> <p>Both lakes likely managed to reduce aquatic vegetation from becoming dominant.</p>
<p>Grimsthorpe Park Compartment 7</p>	<p>This compartment comprises a large area of old plantations of ash, pedunculate oak, sycamore and beech, which have now become semi-natural.</p> <p>The ground flora is dominated by bramble, common nettle, cow parsley and dogs mercury.</p> <p>Large sunny rides are present throughout and supported flowering woodland plants. A single instance of small teasel was also recorded.</p> <p>A number of large veteran oaks including one standing dead specimen were recorded in the south of the compartment.</p> <p>An area of woodland in the south west has been cleared and developed into coarse grassland dominated by false oat grass, tufted hair grass, meadow fescue and Yorkshire fog.</p> <p>The woodlands contained numerous undesirable species within the ground flora including snowberry.</p> <p>However large rides, glades support a more diverse flora.</p> <p>Rides are mown.</p> <p>Dense patches of snowberry likely unmanaged.</p>
<p>Grimsthorpe Park Compartment 8</p>	<p>This section largely comprised semi-natural woodland made up of semi-mature to mature ash, sycamore and beech.</p> <p>The understory is largely open and clear of scrub, comprising of common nettle with patches of dog's mercury and bramble.</p> <p>Narrow rides are present with abundant false oat-grass and occasional wild basil was also recorded here. An area of dense snowberry was recorded at the south of this woodland.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>A small pine and fir plantation was located at the west of this compartment. Between these two woodlands is an area of semi-improved, species-poor grassland comprising largely of Yorkshire fog and perennial rye-grass.</p> <p>A small ephemeral pond is located here with abundant jointed rush and frequent spike rush, fool's watercress, creeping buttercup and floating sweet-grass. A large pond is located at the west of the compartment and contained frequent waterlily, water mint, mare's tail and bulrush.</p> <p>To the west of this pond is an area of scrub and a Typha swamp surrounded by Canadian poplars and willows.</p> <p>Woodland contains abundant sycamore and undesirable nettles dominate the ground flora. Little structural diversity although the lack of scrub may benefit spring flowering plants. Large pond appeared to be in a favourable condition with a range of native plant species present.</p> <p>The grassland is grazed by cattle.</p>
<p>Grimsthorpe Park Compartment 9</p>	<p>The north-eastern section of woodland is coniferous plantation comprising Scot's pine and Norway spruce, with common nettle dominating the ground flora.</p> <p>The main section of woodland comprised semi-mature pedunculate oak, ash and sycamore. This is very open with no scrub layer or understorey. Common nettle and wood millet are dominant at ground level.</p> <p>The south-west section of woodland comprised young sycamore with common nettle and dog's mercury dominating the ground flora.</p> <p>The west of the compartment featured an area of unimproved calcareous grassland within an old limestone quarry.</p> <p>Scrub and coarse grassland is present between the disused quarry and the active quarry at the south of the compartment.</p> <p>Grassland species-rich and in good condition. Woodland relatively young with poor structure, although lack of scrub may benefit early flowering plants.</p> <p>Grassland appeared unmanaged, although scrub may be managed manually to prevent encroachment.</p> <p>Large log piles were located along the northern perimeter of the quarry.</p>



## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
<p>Grimsthorpe Park Compartment 10</p>	<p>Unimproved calcareous grassland at the north west of the site and on the slopes, and grassland nearer the stream although less species-rich and showed some signs of improvement.</p> <p>A mosaic of herb-rich calcareous grassland, scattered hawthorn scrub and coarser calcareous grassland is located at the south of the compartment but is not dominant. A small pond is also present in the south east of this area.</p> <p>An active limestone quarry was present in the north west of the compartment, with sparse vegetation along its edges.</p> <p>The woodland at the south of the site is situated on a steep eastward-facing slope and comprised ash and sycamore with an understorey abundant in common nettle and bramble.</p> <p>Sheep are being used to manage the grassland through grazing. This is likely on a rotational basis.</p> <p>Small cages are being used to protect the orchids from sheep, although some of these proved to be ineffective.</p> <p>An area at the north east of the site is used for dumping spoil and storing logs. This was overgrown with ruderals associated with high nutrients and disturbed earth.</p>
<p>Grimsthorpe Park Compartment 11</p>	<p>The woodland at the north of the site is an old plantation comprising predominantly of beech and ash, with frequent pedunculate oak in the south west including some veteran specimens. The ground flora is dominated by common nettle with areas of dog mercury and bracken.</p> <p>The southern woodland is a younger plantation comprising ash, pedunculate oak and Norway spruce. Wide rides of coarse grassland are also present.</p> <p>A dense coniferous plantation dominated by Norway spruce is located at the south of the compartment.</p> <p>Two large areas of semi-improved neutral grassland are present in the centre and east of the site respectively. While flower-rich in places although not particularly species rich.</p> <p>A pond at the east of the site is fairly large with club rush, spike rush and jointed rush dominating the marginal vegetation.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>North west woodland in good condition, although structure is still very open, owing to its previous use as a plantation. The southern plantation had poorer diversity. Grassland showed signs of nutrient improvement, likely from the adjacent arable fields.</p> <p>Grassland not grazed. Assumed to be cut for hay.</p>
<p>Grimsthorpe Park Compartment 12</p>	<p>An ex-plantation comprising Scot's pine and beech at the eastern extent, sycamore and Norway spruce in the centre and Canadian poplar in the western extent.</p> <p>Ground flora is dominated by bramble, common nettle and false brome.</p> <p>Two veteran pedunculate oaks are located at the north east of the woodland and veteran horse chestnut are present along the north west border of the site.</p> <p>A pond is located at the south west of the site. A dead Canadian poplar had fallen into the pond.</p> <p>Management unclear.</p>
<p>Grimsthorpe Park Compartment 13</p>	<p>Woodland at the east of the site was an ex-plantation largely comprising of Scot's pine, Norway spruce and pedunculate oak. The understory is largely dominated by nettles and bramble with dense bracken dominating the ground flora at the west of the woodland.</p> <p>Coarse semi-improved calcareous grassland is present throughout the west of the site. This is dominated by false-oat grass and meadow fescue with frequent tor-grass and tall fescue. Creeping thistle and field horsetail were also frequent. It provides abundant nectar sources but was relatively species poor and showed signs of nutrient improvement, likely from adjacent arable land.</p> <p>Patches of dense bracken and hawthorn/blackthorn scrub were present at the west of the compartment.</p> <p>A ditch is present along the northern boundary of the compartment as well as along the western boundary of the plantation.</p> <p>Woodland and grassland appeared unmanaged.</p> <p>Pheasants were being reared in the woodland.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
<p>Grimsthorpe Park Compartment 14</p>	<p>Wood pastures featuring numerous veteran oaks.</p> <p>The north of the site is a mosaic of grassland, veteran oaks and scattered hawthorn scrub. The site opens up to the south-east, largely comprising species-poor semi-improved grassland and scattered veteran oaks.</p> <p>All veteran oaks were in various states of health and decay. Five large dead oaks were recorded on site.</p> <p>A species-rich hedgerow, largely comprising hawthorn and blackthorn is present at the south of the site.</p> <p>Site managed as wood pasture with cattle grazing.</p> <p>Numerous young oaks planted in the open areas of the south east field.</p>
<p>Grimsthorpe Park Compartment 15</p>	<p>The southern woodland is an ex plantation comprising mainly Scot's pine, pedunculate oak, larch, and Canadian poplar. Ground flora mainly comprised nettles and grasses.</p> <p>A series of 3 small ponds connected by drains are present at the north of the woodland.</p> <p>Dense patches of elder are occasional.</p> <p>The northern woodland is an ex-plantation comprising mainly of sycamore, beech, larch, pedunculate oak, and ash. The woodland is quite open with a ground flora comprising bracken, wood millet, and nettles.</p> <p>The grassland along the south of the arable fields comprised semi-improved neutral grassland with frequent meadow fescue, Yorkshire fog, lady's bedstraw, and common knapweed.</p> <p>Despite being ex-plantations both woodlands had developed a good structural diversity with a mix of wet areas and ponds, open grassy areas and glades, as well as areas of more dense vegetation and scrub. A strip of grassland adjacent to the fields is herb-rich.</p> <p>Some ride mowing and hay cutting.</p>
<p>Grimsthorpe Park Compartment 16</p>	<p>Old plantation comprising predominantly of beech, larch, and Norway spruce.</p> <p>Site slopes to the north west.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>Ground flora dominated by dense bracken throughout most of the site. Bramble dominated the south of the site.</p> <p>Trees loosely spaced allowing light into the woodland floor.</p> <p>A small area of species poor semi-improved grassland was located at the north of the site.</p> <p>Undesirable species frequent at ground level. Botanical diversity low.</p> <p>No apparent management of scrub and bracken on site.</p>
<p>Grimsthorpe Park Compartment 17</p>	<p>An old plantation comprising ash in the north and oak in the south of the site.</p> <p>Ground flora is dominated by nettles and bramble, although false brome, rough meadow grass and tufted hair grass are also frequent in areas.</p> <p>A ditch is located running through the centre of the site. This did not feature running water.</p> <p>This woodland is surrounded by arable fields, reducing its connectivity to nearby woodlands.</p> <p>Undesirables dominate the ground flora, botanical diversity is low.</p> <p>No obvious management of note.</p>
<p>Grimsthorpe Park Compartment 18</p>	<p>An old plantation dominated by ash and pedunculate oak.</p> <p>Grasses such as false brome, giant fescue and false oat grass make up a large proportion of the woodland floor.</p> <p>Trees are widely spaced apart and a large glade is present at the west of the woodland.</p> <p>Farm buildings to the west of the woodland are dilapidated and largely unused. Snowberry was present in an area.</p> <p>Undesirables dominate the ground flora and botanical diversity is low.</p> <p>No apparent management of scrub and bracken on site.</p> <p>Area fenced off for some game keeping in the centre of the site – pheasants.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
<p>Grimsthorpe Park Compartment 19</p>	<p>An old plantation dominated by ash and pedunculate oak.</p> <p>Grasses such as false brome, giant fescue and false oat grass make up a large proportion of the woodland floor.</p> <p>Trees are widely spaced apart and a large glade is present at the west of the woodland.</p> <p>Farm buildings to the west of the woodland are dilapidated and largely unused. Snowberry was present in an area at the south of the woodland, and bramble and common nettle were abundant in areas.</p> <p>Undesirables dominate the ground flora and botanical diversity is low.</p> <p>Open area of woodland planted with young ash and pedunculate oak trees.</p> <p>Snowberry at the south of the site is dense with no apparent management.</p>
<p>Grindlepits Spinney</p>	<p>Grindlepits Spinney is mature secondary woodland on the workings of a former limestone quarry.</p> <p>Sycamore is dominant, with some ash also present and trees are tall in stature. The woodland is very shady with an almost entirely closed canopy. Elder scrub is locally frequent but ground flora is very sparse. Lesser celandine occurs in open areas and sweet violet occurs on the scree slopes. Common nettle and common cleavers are both locally clumped.</p> <p>The ground is extremely uneven with a deeper pit towards the eastern side of the site, surrounded by sheer exposed cliff faces. There was evidence of both rabbits and badger present, with holes and pathways within the woodland.</p> <p>The condition of the woodland is adequate, it is not ecologically diverse and is rather homogenous in nature with a low number of botanical species however the quarry itself provided a context of interest.</p> <p>There was no visible management within this woodland which is self-established and self-managing. The woodland was not biodiverse and the main interest is potentially the quarry itself.</p>
<p>Gunboro' Wood</p>	<p>The majority of Gunboro' Wood is ancient replanted woodland with an area to the south west which is a deciduous plantation of more recent origin. The site encompasses the adjacent woodland area of Nab Wood to the east.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>Rides are present throughout and standing and fallen dead wood is generally sparse. Both wet and dry areas are present throughout the woodland with relatively little bracken and nettle.</p> <p>The woodland predominantly comprises blocks of oak standards of varying ages with occasional conifers.</p> <p>On the western boundary there are several veteran oaks. Silver birch is also present in many of the woodland blocks.</p> <p>There is a large straight wayleave for power lines cut through the woodland running north-south. Here the ground flora contains abundant bugle and hard rush. Further east there is a fairly young dense woodland and wet tussocky vegetation with areas of oak, bracken and silver birch. Mature oak, dense bluebells and yellow archangel are found here, particularly on the north east boundary.</p> <p>The rides are open and the overall structure of the woodland is varied over a wide area with veteran oak trees present to the west. The ground flora is species-rich.</p> <p>Rides are maintained for access, deer control and game keeping.</p> <p>Felling of coniferous plantation and replanting with deciduous species would benefit the biodiversity value of the site.</p>
Gunboro' Wood Road Verge	<p>The north and south-facing verges bounding this narrow road are semi-improved neutral grassland comprising a mixture of grasses and tall ruderal species. Cock's-foot, tall fescue, red fescue, creeping bent and rough meadow-grass are all locally frequent. Ruderal species established within the grassland include creeping and spear thistle, common nettle, hogweed, garlic mustard and cow parsley. Annual and ephemeral vegetation are present where the ground is bare of grasses - here annual meadow-grass, shepherd's-purse and greater plantain are present. The vegetation is marginally more diverse at the lower, north- western end of the site where false brome, greater stitchwort, meadow vetchling, common vetch and wood avens occur. Dog's mercury is present at the base of the hedge.</p> <p>Some ruderal vegetation had recently cut back but not removed. It is recommended that arisings are removed after cutting back which help to reduce the fertility of the verge, discourage the establishment of coarse grasses and allow less robust species to proliferate. The main vegetation on the verge had been allowed to grow up to maturity. The northern hedgerow had recently been severely reduced.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
Gunby Dale	<p>A small woodland of mixed species established around old limestone workings. Mature and semi-mature trees included oak, ash, Scots pine and sycamore, with hawthorn and elder forming an understorey in some parts of the woodland. However, mature trees had been removed and the terrain had been reprofiled in some parts. Sycamore seedlings were establishing throughout the woodland. A limestone cliff formed the central northern boundary. The Gunby Dale sub-site had previously been used for pheasant rearing and was very disturbed - it currently appears to be being used for off-road driving. Less disturbed habitats remained around the woodland boundaries where some ancient hawthorn and ash were located and bryophytes were locally frequent. There was evidence of both rabbits and badger. A hawthorn hedge was planted around the outside of the woodland.</p>
Gunby/Stainby Meadow	<p>The species rich grassland that this site was originally designated for has been lost.</p> <p>The site is dominated by arable cropping and species -poor hedgerows. Hedgerows consist of frequent hawthorn, hazel, ash, blackthorn, elder and English oak.</p> <p>The site is in a poor condition as inappropriate habitat management and the planting of non-native trees has caused the loss of species rich grassland.</p>
Guthram Gowt (River Glen)	<p>This site comprises of the adjacent land to the west and the north of a section of the River Glen in Guthram Gowt.</p> <p>Much of the site is species-poor semi-improved grassland grazed by cows and dominated by Yorkshire fog. A levee runs along the length of the site and the grassland on the river side is grazing marsh BAP habitat. Most of the grazing marsh still comprises of species-poor Yorkshire fog grassland, but there are more areas that are consistently wet and are dominated by reed sweetgrass, with frequent jointed rush, soft rush and tufted hairgrass.</p> <p>A large number of man-made ponds are located to the north of the levee, some of them completely vegetated forming swamp habitat. Those towards the east of the site are dominated by common reed, forming dense reedbed BAP habitat. Others contained abundant greater reedmace and clubrush, with rich marginal flora including purple loosestrife, common fleabane, watermint, marsh woundwort, water forget-me-not, fool's watercress and bittersweet. Branched bur-reed was also recorded.</p> <p>A species-rich hedgerow and ditch border the northern boundary of the site and consist of hawthorn, field maple, ash, hazel and blackthorn. Dense ruderal vegetation bordered part of the</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>western bank of the river, including dominant common nettle, abundant creeping thistle, and frequent common hogweed and bramble.</p> <p>The ponds are in good condition with good marginal flora and dense areas of reedbed which is of value to birds. The hedgerow is dense and well managed providing good connecting habitat and the grazing marsh provides further good bird habitat, with no invasive species recorded.</p> <p>The majority of the site is grazed by cattle.</p> <p>Ponds are maintained and managed for wildlife.</p> <p>Ash trees and other native woody species have been planted to strengthen hedgerows.</p>
Guthram Pit	<p>This is a block of wet woodland surrounding a ditch which was dry at the time of the survey.</p> <p>A uniform understorey being mainly dominated by trees and tall scrub, with no ground flora or low shrub layer.</p> <p>This is one of the few patches of woodland in the local area and therefore likely to be of value to birds. The canopy is dominated by willows and blackthorn.</p> <p>Margins of woodland have recently been mowed, maybe to avoid encroachment of arable fields. This reduces the value of the woodland as a gradual edge habitat is removed. Due to steepness of ditch and dense growth, management of the woodland doesn't appear to be present.</p>
Harlaxton Clays Wood	<p>A small area of ancient semi-natural woodland measuring approximately 3ha surrounded on all sides by grassland and arable fields. The land sloped down steeply in both a southerly and westerly direction. Tall mature and semi-mature sycamore were closely packed together forming a closed canopy over the majority of the woodland. Towards the lower section of the woodland on the western boundary there were a number of mature elm and oak, some of which had been coppiced. The shrub layer was generally sparse with occasional hawthorn. A clearer area close to the centre of the woodland was the site of a previous pheasant rearing pen. Here common nettle, common chickweed and sow thistle species were locally frequent growing in the nutrient-enriched soil. Ground flora was largely poor throughout the woodland but three-nerved sandwort, male and broad buckler ferns were locally frequent and narrow buckler fern was occasional. Both standing and lying dead and decaying timber were frequent especially towards the northern and western boundaries. Blackthorn formed a dense thicket along parts of the woodland boundary. Mammal paths were noted throughout the woodland and muntjac deer was recorded. Other</p>



## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>incidental sightings during the survey were of long tailed-tit, chaffinch, tree creeper, small tortoiseshell, painted lady and wood carpet.</p> <p>Since the cessation of pheasant rearing in the woodland some years ago, there appears to be have been no active management. Non-native sycamore was present throughout the majority of the site producing mature secondary woodland which was regenerating - seedlings and saplings were frequent. However some older more mature elm and oak close to the western boundary were of greater age, ecological interest and value. The woodland would benefit from the production of a 10-year management plan with clear objectives to increase the long-term ecological value of the woodland.</p>
Harlaxton Wood	<p>Harlaxton Woods is situated to the south of the main buildings of Harlaxton Manor within the large parkland grounds. The site slopes to the northwest. The site is mixed plantation and approximately two thirds of this is on ancient woodland located to the northwest. Veteran trees are scattered throughout the woodland and standing and fallen deadwood is frequent. Woodland paths are maintained throughout and there are two ponds, one to the centre of the site, the other near the north-west boundary.</p> <p>The woodland comprises conifer, sycamore and ash plantation with oak, birch, beech and hornbeam standards. There are several small areas of oak and sycamore coppice and other understorey species include scattered hawthorn, blackthorn, elder, holly and hazel. Bracken is dense in places but bramble is scattered and there are several areas of dense cherry laurel and rhododendron.</p> <p>Dense areas of bluebells and dog's mercury are also present with ferns scattered throughout. Other than this, the ground flora interest is mainly peripheral to the conifers. Ground flora species include wood meadow grass, wood avens, enchanter's nightshade, red campion and wood millet.</p> <p>One of the ponds is located centrally and appears to have originally been part of a landscaped area with a dilapidated stone bridge. This area is open and did not contain standing water at the time of survey but marshy vegetation was abundant including great willow herb, hard rush and pendulous sedge with occasional gypsywort. The other pond is located on the woodland periphery to the northwest. It is heavily shaded by surrounding vegetation and appears to be shallow and seasonally wet with the dominant species of floating sweet-grass and common water starwort.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>Barbastelle bats have been recorded in Harlaxton Manor railway tunnel and may also use the woodland.</p> <p>Woodland has veteran trees but conifer plantation, cherry laurel and rhododendron creates much shading. Scattered habitat piles/ managed wildlife trails present.</p>
Herrichio Wood	<p>Herrichio Wood is ancient woodland surrounded by arable land south-west of Birkholme.</p> <p>Its canopy is dense and co-dominated by ash and oak, with occasional elm. Field maple, elder, hawthorn and blackthorn are present in the shrub layer, with a patch of locally dominant snowberry in the north.</p> <p>The ground flora is dominated by brambles, with occasional carpets of bluebells and other ancient woodland indicators including greater stitchwort and yellow archangel. Occasional tussocks of tufted hair-grass are present, typical of heavy clay soils.</p> <p>An L-shaped ditch is present in the north-west, which was damp at the time of survey but did not support aquatic flora.</p> <p>Shady rides created by the access tracks provide some habitat diversity.</p> <p>A pond is present close to the south-eastern corner of the wood, which is likely to be an important water resource to a range of wildlife. Fallen deadwood was found grouped together in occasional piles, which may provide important habitat for fungi and saprophytic invertebrates.</p> <p>The wood supported a diverse avifauna, including buzzards, whilst evidence of deer was also noted.</p> <p>Appears to be largely unmanaged except for areas fenced off for game keeping.</p> <p>All edges of the wood were managed as hedgerows. Little other management was apparent, apart from the fenced-off areas for game-keeping.</p>
Holywell Hill	<p>Holywell Hill is a grassland site adjacent to Holywell Banks Site of Special Scientific Interest which was notified on account of its unimproved calcareous grassland flora. Mill Ponds, Holywell Local Wildlife Site is adjacent to Holywell Hill LWS to the west. There is a very small section of semi-natural woodland adjacent to a stream on the western boundary of the site.</p> <p>The site was heavily grazed by sheep at the time of survey and therefore limited species were recorded. The grassland was dominated by red fescue and white clover and perennial rye grass</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>was also present. Other species occasionally present included bird's foot-trefoil, lady's bedstraw, field woodrush, hoary plantain, milkwort and harebell. Hard rush, brooklime and bedstraw was present in a small flush in the northern area of the field.</p> <p>Several horse chestnut trees have been planted in a line close to the southern boundary hedgerow. There is a mature veteran willow tree on the western boundary adjacent to a stream which possibly should be included in the Mill Pond LWS description.</p> <p>The site is grazed but regime is possibly too high. Several horse-chestnut trees have been planted near the southern boundary hedgerow. The site is managed under ELS<sup>4</sup>/HLS<sup>2</sup>.</p>
Home Farm Plantation, Stoke Rochford Park	<p>Home Farm Plantation is a large wood actively managed as a plantation, which is set within the Stoke Rochford Estate. The Estate includes golf courses; sheep grazed pasture and parkland habitats which in combination with Home Farm Plantation creates a diverse landscape of high value to a range of wildlife.</p> <p>The mature areas of the plantation have a canopy dominated by sycamore with occasional beech and ash. A number of ancient beech trees with hollow trunks were noted, and mature yew trees are frequent in the north west. The mature areas have an understorey layer including privet, hawthorn and elder.</p> <p>Dog's mercury dominates the ground flora for the majority, with frequent cow parsley and occasional lord's-and-ladies. In the south west, a large area has been cleared and re-profiled to be used for log storage.</p> <p>A number of tracks wind through the wood, creating shady rides, and a small grassy glade are present in the south west. This structural diversity provides variety and diverse opportunities, resulting in good floral species richness and an abundance of birds and invertebrates.</p> <p>Actively managed plantation with areas dominated by young planted trees contributing to a good age range of trees, and management including planting native trees and a mix of native and non-native shrub species. One area in south west is lost however, as it is now bare ground for log storage use.</p> <p>Game feeders present and there is an area fenced-off for game keeping.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
Home Wood & Pell's Wood	<p>The Home Wood and Pell's Wood site comprises two ancient woodland sites that have been variously replanted with blocks of conifer and deciduous trees. It is located to the west of Dobbin's Wood Local Wildlife Site. The topography of the woodland is fairly level to the south and centre but becomes more undulating to the north where there is an area for clay pigeon shooting which has a small area of mown grassland. A drain/ stream bisects the site and there is a small pond in the southern central section.</p> <p>The age structure of the wood is fairly uniform with maturing oak and ash and standards of oak, ash and beech increasing in numbers northwards although several scattered veteran trees were also noted. The understory has scattered hawthorn, blackthorn and field maple, a small area of hazel coppice to the south and bramble is dense in places.</p> <p>The ground flora varies across the wood with drier areas primarily to the north containing extensive areas of yellow archangel, bluebells and wood millet but with greater bracken presence. Wetter areas within the woodland contain species including ramsons, greater horsetail, bugle and water mint and occasional floating sweet-grass. The pond is surrounded by lesser pond sedge and contains common starwort and water plantain. The stream contains abundant meadowsweet, great willow herb and occasional water figwort and scrub of elder and willow.</p> <p>The rides are generally well maintained throughout although there are occasional rides which are managed to a lesser degree, presumably due to access as they are waterlogged with deep vehicle tracks present.</p> <p>The tracks are mown between the clay pigeon shooting areas and there is obvious deer control and game keeping within the wood.</p>
Honington Grassland	<p>Species-rich grassland is no longer present within field, which now consists of improved pasture dominated by Yorkshire fog. Adjacent trackway (not within site boundary) supports relic calcareous grassland species and rocky outcrops. An adjacent field to the north is grazed by sheep and may still support calcareous grassland.</p> <p>Field grazed for cattle and game keeping. Adjacent habitats including mature woodland, sheep pasture and trackway provide relic habitats of higher ecological value.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
Honington Paddocks	<p>The site is dominated by improved grassland with scattered hawthorn scrub (former hedegrows). The northern boundary is delineated by a small stream with dense ruderal, marginal vegetation.</p> <p>Hedgerows have been neglected and partially grubbed out. Adjacent small stream supports scattered common reedmace and ruderal vegetation.</p>
Hungerton Road Verge	<p>The verge varies in width along its length and is between 3 and 5m wide. It is backed by a hawthorn hedgerow. The verge is poorly maintained; although the grass may be cut at an appropriate time of year, it appears that the arisings are left to rot into the sward causing nutrient enrichment and benefitting only the more robust species. Common knapweed and field scabious remain as dwindling elements of a finer MG5 sward; however, species of a rank MG1 sward are becoming increasingly dominant and include cow parsley, false oat-grass, cocksfoot, hogweed and nettle. The hedgerow ground flora is depauperate but with hedge woundwort, red campion and black bryony providing some interest.</p> <p>The verge should be cut in late summer and the arisings removed (e.g. as hay) in order to resort a finer grassland flora. The hedgerows should be allowed to re-establish some structure. The width of the verge should be enough to allow the hedgerows to be unmanaged - flailing is not necessary, although removal of suckering blackthorn, possibly by flailing or other methods, is likely to be required. The surrounding land is managed under ELS<sup>4</sup>/HLS<sup>2</sup> but it is not clear if this includes the road verge.</p>
Hurn Wood, Ropsley	<p>A mixed woodland plantation with mature ash, oak, field maple and Norway spruce dominant with occasional sycamore, beech, grey willow and silver birch. Further variation is provided by an understorey of species including hazel, blackthorn, Midland hawthorn, hawthorn and spindle. The full age range of trees is not present; however, there are wide mown rides, narrow shady rides, frequent fallen dead wood and new planting of trees, providing a diversity of micro-habitats and climates. Additionally there are ditches both central to and surrounding the woodland.</p> <p>The ground flora contains scattered bramble and young trees of the above species but also includes dog's mercury, wood melick, enchanter's nightshade, bugle and broad buckler fern. The rides are maintained, presumably for game keeping as there is a pheasant rearing pen centrally. At the edge of the rides there are areas of wood sedge, tufted hair-grass, hedge woundwort and giant bell flower.</p> <p>The wet ditch that runs centrally through the woods contains a good range of species including angelica, great willow-herb, meadowsweet, common fleabane, ragged robin and false fox sedge.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>Proportion of deciduous trees greater than coniferous with wide mown rides and pheasant feeders and a central pen present. Standing and fallen deadwood with occasional habitat piles present.</p>
Ingoldsby Wood	<p>Ingoldsby Wood is a large replanted ancient woodland site with an additional block of deciduous woodland to the west. It has been replanted with conifers and mixed deciduous woodland in blocks and is surrounded by a deciduous boundary. The deciduous blocks are predominantly young to moderately aged oak standards with scattered understorey trees including hawthorn, field maple and blackthorn.</p> <p>The woodland section to the west has a boundary with some veteran oak and ash trees bordering the adjacent arable field. Rides and public footpaths cross the site along which run ditches and drains. The southern end of the woodland around the remnants of a historic hazel coppice has fairly extensive patches of pignut, ramsons, yellow archangel and dog's mercury although these are also present elsewhere too. Some areas of abundant wood sorrel were observed under the conifer stands but the botanical interest was largely marginal. Species present here included scattered bluebells, wood millet, primrose, hairy St John's wort, bugle and greater stitchwort.</p> <p>The rides are varied and maintained mainly as wide sunny grassy rides though narrow shady rides are present in places, dominated with species including wood sedge, tufted hair grass and Yorkshire fog. The wet ditches and rides contained abundant meadowsweet with frequent water avens, bugle and ragged robin. Although the woodland has dense conifer stands, felled areas have been planted with mixed deciduous species. A game keeping pen is present to the south of the wood and an area of rhododendron is located near the western boundary.</p> <p>Signs and markers indicating the presence of common spotted orchids in a central ride were put up to protect them from damage from pedestrians and horses. Although the woodland had dense stands of conifer, the planting of mixed deciduous woodland in felled areas was evident. A small area of rhododendron is present at the western edge, centrally within an area of oak plantation. This wood is partly in ELS<sup>4</sup> and HLS<sup>2</sup> and is mainly an ancient replanted woodland.</p>
Irnham Hall Grounds Compartment 1	<p>This section of Irnham Hall Grounds includes Irnham Hall and its surrounding gardens, lawns and ornamental lakes. St Andrew's Church and churchyard together with 3 horse paddocks are present in the southern extent. The Compartment is bound on the northern side by Corby Road, on the eastern side by Swinstead Road and to the west by Irnham Park.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>Mixed species woodland planting to the west of the church, 'The Wilderness', supports a mixture of native and non-native species including several tall and mature horse chestnut, yew and sycamore. In the churchyard itself a number of mature small-leaved lime and common lime are present along boundaries and primrose is frequent within the semi-improved grassland.</p> <p>Lawns and ornamental flower beds and shrub planting surrounded Irnham Hall and the ornamental lakes. A large flock of Canada Geese, were resting on the lawns, and moorhen, were present on the lakes. The lakes were stocked with tench, for coarse fishing.</p> <p>Grassland within the horse paddocks is a mixture of semi-improved and improved grassland with cock's foot, perennial rye-grass and Yorkshire fog all commonly present, along with daisy, creeping buttercup, selfheal, white clover and red bartsia. One of the paddocks had been mown for hay.</p> <p>A veteran oak was also noted towards the centre of the site.</p> <p>Small copses of mixed deciduous woodland along the southern boundary are used for pheasant rearing and a species-poor hedgerow forms the southern boundary.</p> <p>The condition of the grassland is satisfactory as it was not overgrazed and appeared to be managed well, through cutting and grazing. Despite this the grassland was still not species-diverse.</p> <p>The Compartment includes some mature planted trees, especially around the churchyard, including parkland oaks as well as one veteran. Specialist advice should be taken on the management of veteran and very mature trees.</p>
Irnham Hall Grounds Compartment 2	<p>This section of Irnham Hall Grounds lies to the south of the horse paddocks at Irnham Hall and comprises of two large arable fields planted with wheat. Swinstead Road formed the eastern boundary and more arable fields of Irnham Park lay to the west. Land further to the south is outside of the Irnham Park Estate.</p> <p>The field margins support semi-improved neutral grassland with a reasonable diversity of grasses including common bent, meadow barley, crested dog's-tail, yellow oat-grass and broad-leaved species such as St John's-wort, common fleabane, hop trefoil and black medick.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>A dense tree and scrub boundary along Swinstead Road supports a mixture of mature oak, horse-chestnut and ash trees together with hawthorn, blackthorn and field maple. A veteran oak was noted on this eastern boundary too.</p> <p>The arable fields were divided by a tree line of English elm including some dead trees, along with this is a small pond with marginal vegetation of greater willowherb and sedges. Sections of maize for feeding pheasants are planted along the borders.</p> <p>Three mature horse-chestnuts and a veteran oak were located along a patchy hedgerow on the southern boundary.</p> <p>A small copse of mixed deciduous woodland surrounding a small pond is located in the south-west corner (just outside of the boundary) and is used for pheasant rearing and equipment storage.</p> <p>The western boundary hedgerow supported a large number of English elm, mature ash and another veteran oak.</p> <p>The condition of the field boundaries and hedgerows are satisfactory and provided suitable habitat to support wildlife</p> <p>This Compartment however are dominated by intensively managed crops, but do also includes some ecologically valuable habitats along the boundaries with mature and veteran trees present in the hedgerows.</p>
Irnham Meadow	<p>This is a near rectangular lowland hay meadow which had been harvested two days prior to the survey. It was evident that it is a damp meadow with patches of locally frequent hairy sedge, glaucous sedge, hard rush, as well as other unidentified sedges.</p> <p>Grasses included meadow barley, yellow oat-grass, false oat-grass, cock's-foot, couch grass, tufted hair-grass and reed canary grass. Common knapweed, common agrimony and meadowsweet were all locally frequent.</p> <p>The meadow is bordered on the northern and north-western boundaries by mature tree; lines of mature pedunculate oak and ash with mature hawthorn, blackthorn, crab apple and hazel in between.</p> <p>The eastern boundary is a tall hedge along Corby Road and the western boundary a hawthorn hedge with mature ash trees.</p>



## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>Anecdotal evidence from the previous owner is that this meadow may have been ploughed up when in their ownership; however, this has not been confirmed.</p> <p>Some of the more unusual recordings from this site may still be present; however, due to the hay crop having been harvested a few days before recording was limited.</p> <p>It appeared that the lowland meadow had largely been taken over by coarse grasses and sedges and was not diverse in flowering species; however, this should be confirmed by a visit scheduled earlier in the year.</p> <p>The 1978 survey suggested that the site was becoming overgrown with tufted hair-grass and it is possible that this is the reason that the meadow was ploughed up and resown.</p> <p>A damp meadow. It is cut on a yearly basis for hay. The meadow may benefit from extra drainage. A change of regime to involve periodic grazing may increase the diversity of the site.</p>
Irnham Park	<p>Irnham Park is an old parkland estate on the western edge of Irnham village covering an area of approximately 120ha (Irnham Hall, its immediate garden surrounds, horse paddocks and lakes were not surveyed due to restricted access and time constraints) A large number of parkland trees were in evidence including many mature standard oak and occasional horse chestnut. The estate is managed largely as an arable farm with game keeping in evidence and a number of horse paddocks. The majority of the land in the western extent was sown with oil seed rape and large fields of wheat were cultivated in the south-eastern fields. The arable crops were planted around mature oak standard parkland trees. Dry ditches and occasional lines of common reed formed boundaries through the fields with trackways of improved grassland. A farmland pond surrounded by scrub had low water levels. Veteran pedunculate oak and hornbeam were present along the northern boundary with Corby Road and open areas of semi-improved neutral grassland with frequent Yorkshire fog, red fescue, meadow buttercup and white clover grassland were located close to the farm. These two areas comprised the extent of the retained 'wood-pasture/parkland' habitat. Several small copses of mixed largely semi-mature woodland occurred where game birds were reared. Traditional game keeping methods were in operation and traps and dead targeted species were seen. An old field boundary with frequent elm species was noted. Deer, rabbit, common buzzard, brown hare, skylark, chiffchaff, painted lady, meadow brown and large skipper were recorded.</p> <p>The arable land appears to be farmed in an intensive manner which does not seem to be appropriate for an old parkland landscape. It is possible that further communication with the land</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>manger might establish whether changes are possible to ensure future, potentially more sustainable, management. It is currently within EWGS<sup>3</sup>, WGS, ELS<sup>4</sup> and HLS<sup>2</sup> (MAGIC).</p>
Irnham Verge	<p>The grass verges alongside a section of the B road are bounded by narrow drainage ditches and hedges. The moderately diverse hedges have recently been laid in part and the associated disturbance has prompted a flush of common annual species. The grassland element is quite variable with wetland dominated by meadowsweet and sedges at one end and drier ground at the other close to the village with tor-grass and greater burnet saxifrage of interest. Occasional mature trees, predominantly pedunculate oak, are present throughout.</p> <p>The verge appears to be managed adequately to maintain its floral interest and the recent hedge laying suggests that there is interest in managing this verge locally. The surrounding land is managed under ELS<sup>4</sup>/HLS<sup>2</sup> although it is not clear whether this includes the road verge.</p>
Keisby Wood	<p>This is mature, diverse and species rich semi-natural woodland, with excellent structural diversity it supports a good range of ancient woodland indicators including swathes of bluebells, wild garlic, dog's mercury and moschatel.</p> <p>Numerous large oak trees and numerous coppiced ash, hazel and small leaved lime are present. No part of the wood is the same. Wetter areas support lush dense growth of willows, tall herbs and scrub, whilst smaller undulations, potentially former ditch boundaries, support an abundance of wild garlic and ferns.</p> <p>Several deep, man-made, ponds occur through the wood. Abundant fallen and standing deadwood is present.</p> <p>Recently planted native and non-native trees have been planted along the northern boundary of the wood, adjacent to the air-field. Wet ditches also define northern and southern boundaries of the wood.</p> <p>The wood is managed well and is generally relatively undisturbed habitat of high wildlife value.</p> <p>Vegetation clearance has recently been undertaken along the southern ditch, with a subsequent flush of growth of understorey herbs of value to butterflies.</p> <p>Localised track clearance by big machinery has also been undertaken within the wood along the central track, with localised scrub removal/damage.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>Deer browsing is notable in places and the wood is also used for shooting.</p> <p>The northern boundary has been planted with a mix of native and non-native trees. These have been densely planted and currently of limited value to wildlife.</p>
<p>Leach Farm Fields Field 1</p>	<p>Leach Farm Fields is located 2.3km to the west of Castle Bytham. The fields are bound on northern side by a dismantled railway line and to the west and south by Shake Hole which is the eastern extent of Morkery Wood. The fields slope down from the woodland in a northerly orientation.</p> <p>Grassland throughout the farm has been classified as lowland neutral grassland and is largely unimproved pasture. Fields 1 through to 8 are on the whole very similar; any variation was largely due to the topography and resulting dampness.</p> <p>Grasses frequently present are common bent, creeping bent, sweet vernal grass, crested dog's-tail, tufted hair-grass, meadow barley, Yorkshire fog, false oat-grass and meadow foxtail. Overall the grassland is not flower-rich, but red clover, white clover, common cat's-ear, meadow buttercup, selfheal, bird's-foot-trefoil, and yellow rattle are all occasional.</p> <p>The majority of the fields are divided by hedgerows, running north-south which are largely species-poor and dominated by hawthorn and blackthorn, however a number of these hedgerows have been removed at some point in the past. East-West hedgerows on the periphery of Leach Farm are on the whole more species-diverse, featuring additional species such as field maple, elder, field rose and cherry plum. One of these also has additional features such as a bank, ditch and small pond denoting it likely to be old historical boundary. Hedgerow species comprises of blackthorn, hawthorn, elder, dogwood, field and dog-rose.</p> <p>Mature oak trees are present within old boundaries and also standing in the centre of the fields. The grassland provided good invertebrate habitat.</p> <p>The condition of the grassland is satisfactory with a low occurrence of ruderal species such as thistle, dock and ragwort.</p> <p>The grassland is under HLS<sup>2</sup> agreement and is cut annually for hay during the second week of July.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
<p>Leach Farm Fields Field 2</p>	<p>Leach Farm Fields is located 2.3km to the west of Castle Bytham. The fields are bound on northern side by a dismantled railway line and to the west and south by Shake Hole which is the eastern extent of Morkery Wood. The fields slope down from the woodland in a northerly orientation.</p> <p>Grassland throughout the farm has been classified as lowland neutral grassland and is largely unimproved pasture. Fields 1 through to 8 are on the whole very similar; any variation was largely due to the topography and resulting dampness.</p> <p>Grasses frequently present are common bent, creeping bent, sweet vernal grass, crested dog's-tail, tufted hair-grass, meadow barley, Yorkshire fog, false oat-grass and meadow foxtail. Overall the grassland is not flower-rich, but red clover, white clover, common cat's-ear, meadow buttercup, selfheal, bird's-foot-trefoil, and yellow rattle are all occasional.</p> <p>The majority of the fields are divided by hedgerows, running north-south which are largely species-poor and dominated by hawthorn and blackthorn, however a number of these hedgerows have been removed at some point in the past. East-West hedgerows on the periphery of Leach Farm are on the whole more species-diverse, featuring additional species such as field maple, elder, field rose and cherry plum. One of these also has additional features such as a bank, ditch and small pond denoting it likely to be old historical boundary. Hedgerow species comprises of blackthorn, hawthorn, elder, dogwood, field and dog-rose.</p> <p>Mature oak trees are present within old boundaries and also standing in the centre of the fields. The grassland provided good invertebrate habitat. A small pond with low water levels, similar to the one in Field 6, was located within the field. Here associated vegetation includes goat willow, bittersweet, compact rush, jointed rush, hard rush, yellow iris, bulrush, gypsywort, greater bird's-foot trefoil, common spike-rush, common marsh-bedstraw and water forget-me-not.</p> <p>The condition of the grassland is satisfactory with a low occurrence of ruderal species such as thistle, dock and ragwort.</p> <p>The grassland is under HLS<sup>2</sup> agreement and is cut annually for hay during the second week of July.</p>
<p>Leach Farm Fields Field 3</p>	<p>Leach Farm Fields is located 2.3km to the west of Castle Bytham. The fields are bound on northern side by a dismantled railway line and to the west and south by Shake Hole which is the</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>eastern extent of Morkery Wood. The fields slope down from the woodland in a northerly orientation.</p> <p>Grassland throughout the farm has been classified as lowland neutral grassland and is largely unimproved pasture. Fields 1 through to 8 are on the whole very similar; any variation was largely due to the topography and resulting dampness.</p> <p>Grasses frequently present are common bent, creeping bent, sweet vernal grass, crested dog's-tail, tufted hair-grass, meadow barley, Yorkshire fog, false oat-grass and meadow foxtail. Overall the grassland is not flower-rich, but red clover, white clover, common cat's-ear, meadow buttercup, selfheal, bird's-foot-trefoil, and yellow rattle are all occasional.</p> <p>The majority of the fields are divided by hedgerows, running north-south which are largely species-poor and dominated by hawthorn and blackthorn, however a number of these hedgerows have been removed at some point in the past. East-West hedgerows on the periphery of Leach Farm are on the whole more species-diverse, featuring additional species such as field maple, elder, field rose and cherry plum. One of these also has additional features such as a bank, ditch and small pond denoting it likely to be old historical boundary. Hedgerow species comprises of blackthorn, hawthorn, elder, dogwood, field and dog-rose.</p> <p>Mature oak trees are present within old boundaries and also standing in the centre of the fields. The grassland provided good invertebrate habitat.</p> <p>The condition of the grassland is satisfactory with a low occurrence of ruderal species such as thistle, dock and ragwort.</p> <p>The grassland is under HLS<sup>2</sup> agreement and is cut annually for hay during the second week of July.</p>
<p>Leach Farm Fields Field 4</p>	<p>Leach Farm Fields is located 2.3km to the west of Castle Bytham. The fields are bound on northern side by a dismantled railway line and to the west and south by Shake Hole which is the eastern extent of Morkery Wood. The fields slope down from the woodland in a northerly orientation.</p> <p>Grassland throughout the farm has been classified as lowland neutral grassland and is largely unimproved pasture. Fields 1 through to 8 are on the whole very similar; any variation was largely due to the topography and resulting dampness.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>Grasses frequently present are common bent, creeping bent, sweet vernal grass, crested dog's-tail, tufted hair-grass, meadow barley, Yorkshire fog, false oat-grass and meadow foxtail. Overall the grassland is not flower-rich, but red clover, white clover, common cat's-ear, meadow buttercup, selfheal, bird's-foot-trefoil, and yellow rattle are all occasional.</p> <p>The majority of the fields are divided by hedgerows, running north-south which are largely species-poor and dominated by hawthorn and blackthorn, however a number of these hedgerows have been removed at some point in the past. East-West hedgerows on the periphery of Leach Farm are on the whole more species-diverse, featuring additional species such as field maple, elder, field rose and cherry plum. One of these also has additional features such as a bank, ditch and small pond denoting it likely to be old historical boundary. Hedgerow species comprises of blackthorn, hawthorn, elder, dogwood, field and dog-rose.</p> <p>Mature oak trees are present within old boundaries and also standing in the centre of the fields. The grassland provided good invertebrate habitat.</p> <p>The condition of the grassland is satisfactory with a low occurrence of ruderal species such as thistle, dock and ragwort.</p> <p>The grassland is under HLS<sup>2</sup> agreement and is cut annually for hay during the second week of July.</p>
<p>Leach Farm Fields Field 5</p>	<p>Leach Farm Fields is located 2.3km to the west of Castle Bytham. The fields are bound on northern side by a dismantled railway line and to the west and south by Shake Hole which is the eastern extent of Morkery Wood. The fields slope down from the woodland in a northerly orientation.</p> <p>Grassland throughout the farm has been classified as lowland neutral grassland and is largely unimproved pasture. Fields 1 through to 8 are on the whole very similar; any variation was largely due to the topography and resulting dampness.</p> <p>Grasses frequently present are common bent, creeping bent, sweet vernal grass, crested dog's-tail, tufted hair-grass, meadow barley, Yorkshire fog, false oat-grass and meadow foxtail. Overall the grassland is not flower-rich, but red clover, white clover, common cat's-ear, meadow buttercup, selfheal, bird's-foot-trefoil, and yellow rattle are all occasional.</p> <p>The majority of the fields are divided by hedgerows, running north-south which are largely species-poor and dominated by hawthorn and blackthorn, however a number of these</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>hedgerows have been removed at some point in the past. East-West hedgerows on the periphery of Leach Farm are on the whole more species-diverse, featuring additional species such as field maple, elder, field rose and cherry plum. One of these also has additional features such as a bank, ditch and small pond denoting it likely to be old historical boundary. Hedgerow species comprises of blackthorn, hawthorn, elder, dogwood, field and dog-rose.</p> <p>Mature oak trees are present within old boundaries and also standing in the centre of the fields. The grassland provided good invertebrate habitat.</p> <p>The condition of the grassland is satisfactory with a low occurrence of ruderal species such as thistle, dock and ragwort.</p> <p>The grassland is under HLS agreement and is cut annually for hay during the second week of July.</p>
<p>Leach Farm Fields Field 6</p>	<p>Leach Farm Fields is located 2.3km to the west of Castle Bytham. The fields are bound on northern side by a dismantled railway line and to the west and south by Shake Hole which is the eastern extent of Morkery Wood. The fields slope down from the woodland in a northerly orientation.</p> <p>Grassland throughout the farm has been classified as lowland neutral grassland and is largely unimproved pasture. Fields 1 through to 8 are on the whole very similar; any variation was largely due to the topography and resulting dampness.</p> <p>Grasses frequently present are common bent, creeping bent, sweet vernal grass, crested dog's-tail, tufted hair-grass, meadow barley, Yorkshire fog, false oat-grass and meadow foxtail. Overall the grassland is not flower-rich, but red clover, white clover, common cat's-ear, meadow buttercup, selfheal, bird's-foot-trefoil, and yellow rattle are all occasional.</p> <p>The majority of the fields are divided by hedgerows, running north-south which are largely species-poor and dominated by hawthorn and blackthorn, however a number of these hedgerows have been removed at some point in the past. East-West hedgerows on the periphery of Leach Farm are on the whole more species-diverse, featuring additional species such as field maple, elder, field rose and cherry plum. One of these also has additional features such as a bank, ditch and small pond denoting it likely to be old historical boundary. Hedgerow species comprises of blackthorn, hawthorn, elder, dogwood, field and dog-rose.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>Mature oak trees are present within old boundaries and also standing in the centre of the fields. The grassland provided good invertebrate habitat. A small pond with low water levels, similar to the one in Field 2, was located within the field. Here associated vegetation includes goat willow, bittersweet, compact rush, jointed rush, hard rush, yellow iris, bulrush, gypsywort, greater bird's-foot trefoil, common spike-rush, common marsh-bedstraw and water forget-me-not.</p> <p>The condition of the grassland is satisfactory with a low occurrence of ruderal species such as thistle, dock and ragwort.</p> <p>The grassland is under HLS agreement and is cut annually for hay during the second week of July.</p>
<p>Leach Farm Fields Field 7</p>	<p>Leach Farm Fields is located 2.3km to the west of Castle Bytham. The fields are bound on northern side by a dismantled railway line and to the west and south by Shake Hole which is the eastern extent of Morkery Wood. The fields slope down from the woodland in a northerly orientation.</p> <p>Grassland throughout the farm has been classified as lowland neutral grassland and is largely unimproved pasture. Fields 1 through to 8 are on the whole very similar; any variation was largely due to the topography and resulting dampness.</p> <p>Grasses frequently present are common bent, creeping bent, sweet vernal grass, crested dog's-tail, tufted hair-grass, meadow barley, Yorkshire fog, false oat-grass and meadow foxtail. Overall the grassland is not flower-rich, but red clover, white clover, common cat's-ear, meadow buttercup, selfheal, bird's-foot-trefoil, and yellow rattle are all occasional.</p> <p>The majority of the fields are divided by hedgerows, running north-south which are largely species-poor and dominated by hawthorn and blackthorn, however a number of these hedgerows have been removed at some point in the past. East-West hedgerows on the periphery of Leach Farm are on the whole more species-diverse, featuring additional species such as field maple, elder, field rose and cherry plum. One of these also has additional features such as a bank, ditch and small pond denoting it likely to be old historical boundary. Hedgerow species comprises of blackthorn, hawthorn, elder, dogwood, field and dog-rose.</p> <p>Mature oak trees are present within old boundaries and also standing in the centre of the fields. The grassland provided good invertebrate habitat.</p>



## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>The condition of the grassland is satisfactory with a low occurrence of ruderal species such as thistle, dock and ragwort.</p> <p>The grassland is under HLS<sup>2</sup> agreement and is cut annually for hay during the second week of July.</p>
<p>Leach Farm Fields Field 8</p>	<p>Leach Farm Fields is located 2.3km to the west of Castle Bytham. The fields are bound on northern side by a dismantled railway line and to the west and south by Shake Hole which is the eastern extent of Morkery Wood. The fields slope down from the woodland in a northerly orientation.</p> <p>Grassland throughout the farm has been classified as lowland neutral grassland and is largely unimproved pasture. Fields 1 through to 8 are on the whole very similar; any variation was largely due to the topography and resulting dampness.</p> <p>Grasses frequently present are common bent, creeping bent, sweet vernal grass, crested dog's-tail, tufted hair-grass, meadow barley, Yorkshire fog, false oat-grass and meadow foxtail. Overall the grassland is not flower-rich, but red clover, white clover, common cat's-ear, meadow buttercup, selfheal, bird's-foot-trefoil, and yellow rattle are all occasional.</p> <p>The majority of the fields are divided by hedgerows, running north-south which are largely species-poor and dominated by hawthorn and blackthorn, however a number of these hedgerows have been removed at some point in the past. East-West hedgerows on the periphery of Leach Farm are on the whole more species-diverse, featuring additional species such as field maple, elder, field rose and cherry plum. One of these also has additional features such as a bank, ditch and small pond denoting it likely to be old historical boundary. Hedgerow species comprises of blackthorn, hawthorn, elder, dogwood, field and dog-rose.</p> <p>Mature oak trees are present within old boundaries and also standing in the centre of the fields. The grassland provided good invertebrate habitat.</p> <p>The condition of the grassland is satisfactory with a low occurrence of ruderal species such as thistle, dock and ragwort.</p> <p>The grassland is under HLS<sup>2</sup> agreement and is cut annually for hay during the second week of July.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
<p>Leach Farm Fields Field A</p>	<p>This is a small meadow to the east of the farmstead supporting some flower-rich grassland which has been classified as a 'Lowland Meadow'.</p> <p>Here a greater number of species were recorded within the grassland than in the other 8 fields of Leach Farm.</p> <p>Grasses present in this meadow include frequent Yorkshire fog, yellow oat-grass, crested dog's-tail, red fescue, tall fescue, creeping bent and false oat-grass with locally frequent upright brome and tufted hair-grass. Meadow buttercup, red clover, common knapweed, meadow vetchling and yellow rattle are frequent and common spotted orchid was occasional.</p> <p>The condition of the grassland is satisfactory with a low occurrence of ruderal species such as thistle, dock and ragwort.</p> <p>The grassland is under HLS<sup>2</sup> agreement and is cut annually for hay during the second week of July.</p>
<p>Lenton Pasture (Woodland)</p>	<p>Lenton Pasture is a small area of woodland planted in the 1940s, which has established into a semi-natural habitat. It is situated in an arable landscape between Pickworth and Lenton. A Public Right of Way meets the wood at the north east corner.</p> <p>The canopy is dominated by ash, with occasional oak and field maple. Hawthorn, blackthorn and hazel created a relatively dense shrub layer with brambles, nettles and cleavers dominating the ground flora.</p> <p>There are four ponds within the SNCI, the larger three being at the woodland's edge with areas of grassland surrounding them. These three ponds support fish, water lilies, bulrush and a range of marginal plants. The areas of grassland had a long sward and included abundant rough meadow grass, sedges and clovers, frequent crested dog's-tail, cock's-foot and creeping buttercup and occasional ruderals, bramble scrub and arable plants encroaching at the edges.</p> <p>The smaller forth pond in the south of the woodland, which is over-shaded, supports no emergent vegetation. The ponds and surrounding grassland provide habitat diversity and are of importance to a range of wildlife in particular invertebrates and waterfowl, and potentially grass snakes.</p> <p>The PRoW runs alongside a species-rich hedgerow and associated dry ditch, which provides additional diversity and an important wildlife corridor to the wood. Overall the SNCI is species-</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>rich, especially for its size and age, but there is an abundance of undesirable species amongst the ground flora.</p> <p>It appears to be largely unmanaged, with no evidence of selective felling or hazel coppicing. Any deadwood is left in situ.</p>
Little Haw Wood	<p>Little Haw Wood is an oak plantation and approximately half of this rectangular area is replanted ancient woodland. The woodland slopes to the north and there is a good age structure throughout from young to veteran trees with abundant standing and fallen deadwood. There are both wide sunny rides and narrow shady ones with scattered small glades. The northern periphery of the woodland is an old parish boundary and has the remnants of an old stone wall, a small disused quarry and a hazel coppice.</p> <p>Oak and ash are the predominant standards with occasional birch and an understorey of hawthorn, hazel, field maple and elder. The ground flora contains areas dominated by dog's mercury, tufted hair grass and locally abundant yellow archangel, wood sedge with scattered greater stitchwort, wood sorrel, common dog violet and common figwort.</p> <p>The wider rides are mown and species such as greater bird's foot trefoil, wild angelica, hairy St John's wort, cuckoo flower and lesser spearwort are present. Twayblade was recorded on the northern boundary.</p> <p>Rides mown and deer fenced areas are allowing understorey regeneration. Planting has been of native, deciduous species. No management information was available for this site.</p>
Little Ponton Quarry – Arable field	<p>This is a large arable field. The margins of which are narrow, a maximum of 5m wide, but they have a good range of common species due to the proximity to the species-rich quarry to the south.</p> <p>The hedgerows are species-poor.</p> <p>Some grazing by deer, otherwise no management for wildlife is evident.</p>
Little Ponton Quarry – Quarry	<p>This is an old disused limestone quarry with a range of species-rich habitats including tall ruderal, open mosaic habitat (consisting of species typical of calcareous conditions, limestone rock), scrub and woodland.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>The sites meets the criteria for the Habitat of Principal Important open mosaic habitat on previously developed land, and could be of national quality due to the species-rich habitats present.</p> <p>The calcareous species comprises of an intimate mix of herbs on compacted ground on the plateau. Here, bee orchids, common spotted orchid, common centuary are abundant.</p> <p>The site offers suitable conditions for all sorts of rarities due to the variety of substrates and aspects.</p> <p>The site is in a very good condition, with a large number of uncommon orchids and an excellent range of species spanning open mosaic, ruderal, herbs, scrub and woodland habitats.</p> <p>It is a large site, and a lack of management and hostile conditions is perfect for natural and slow regeneration.</p> <p>Sycamore and buddleia are present in low amounts. The absence of management is appropriate for site's habitats and species.</p>
Lodge Farm Woodland	<p>Lodge Farm Woodland is a small semi-natural deciduous woodland. The 1987 citation states 'The original site at this grid reference was a meadow, but has since been ploughed and is now arable'.</p> <p>The woodland is located adjacent to Dartmouth Point Local Wildlife Site. The structure was good with mature trees and a varied understory and standing and fallen deadwood throughout, mainly of elm. The site is steep-sided following the line of a stream running south west which, at the time of survey, was dry. The northern edge is bounded by a ditch and fenced from sheep.</p> <p>The co-dominant trees were sycamore and ash but oak, elm, beech, horse chestnut, lime and hornbeam were also present, some of which were mature or multi-stemmed. Present in the understorey were field maple, elder, blackthorn and hazel with bramble and dog rose also scattered throughout. The ground flora was generally species-poor and dominated with cow parsley, dog's mercury and nettle with abundant wood avens and hedge mustard.</p> <p>An unmanaged woodland area.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
Londonthorpe Meadow	<p>This is a triangular lowland meadow of damp unimproved grassland. Water is lying in the northern section of the site and onsite springs are possible.</p> <p>Woodland borders the northern and western boundaries and ruderal vegetation of common nettle, creeping thistle and hogweed is frequent along the inside boundaries. The eastern boundary is formed by a species-poor and patchy hedgerow dominated by hawthorn and blackthorn.</p> <p>The field slopes down from the south-eastern side towards the north-west corner and a public footpath traverses the site from east to west. The southern section of the site is dominated by rough and acidic grassland with relatively few flowering species; although pignut is locally frequent. In the northern section common spotted, broad-leaved marsh and southern marsh orchids are locally present in good numbers.</p> <p>Other species frequent in this section are ragged robin, yellow rattle, meadowsweet, lady's bedstraw and marsh bedstraw. Grasses include sweet vernal grass, creeping bent, rough meadow grass, cock's-foot, tufted hair-grass and Reed Canary-grass.</p> <p>The meadow provides an excellent habitat for invertebrates. A veteran oak is also present.</p> <p>This is a valuable habitat of old grassland with a significant number of flowering orchids of at least three species and appears to be self-maintaining.</p> <p>There was no evidence of grassland management; however it is possible that this lowland meadow is cut yearly.</p>
Londonthorpe Wood Compartment 1	<p>This compartment of Londonthorpe Wood is on a slope rising up from the old ditch and hedge boundary with Compartment 2, towards Alma Wood on the eastern side. An old hawthorn hedgerow, dividing Compartments 1 and 2 despite have many gaps, contains a number of mature ash and veteran oak trees. The remnants of an old wild honey bee nest were evident in one of the boundary's ash trees.</p> <p>Mature mixed native species plantation dominates together with occasional more mature trees. The trees are closely planted with sparse grass rides. Tree species included frequent hornbeam, pedunculate oak, hazel and ash.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>Copious amounts of dead branches lay on the woodland floor. Dense blackthorn scrub is present along habitat boundaries. There is a lot of regeneration at the edges of the plantation, with seedlings and saplings of field maple, sycamore and ash.</p> <p>An open area of species-poor neutral grassland in the southern extent was dominated by coarse grasses of cock's-foot and Yorkshire fog; a further veteran oak was located on the eastern boundary of this grassland.</p> <p>An overhead electricity transmission line crosses the Compartment from east to west beneath which tall ruderal vegetation including frequent great willowherb, cow parsley, thistles and hogweed have established on the disturbed ground.</p> <p>The maturing plantation provides a relatively undisturbed habitat for wildlife, especially for birds. An increase of coppicing within the plantation would promote light levels to improve the ground flora which is currently poor and would boost the diversity of invertebrates.</p> <p>Advice should be sought and followed on the management of the veteran trees.</p>
<p>Londonthorpe Wood Compartment 2</p>	<p>This is a large area of mature mixed native species plantation criss-crossed by grassy paths. This compartment of Londonthorpe Wood is bordered on the northern and western sides by Londonthorpe Lane. Alma Park borders the compartment to the south. An old hedge/ditch boundary forms the eastern boundary along which are a number of mature and veteran trees. The hedge itself is mature hawthorn and the ditch runs with water at the southern end only.</p> <p>Several veteran oak trees were noted. Mature mixed native species plantation included hornbeam, dogwood, field maple, alder, rowan and wild cherry. The trees are closely planted with largely shady grass rides.</p> <p>Occasional open areas of neutral grassland between blocks of plantation are dominated by coarse grasses of tufted hair-grass, tall fescue, cock's-foot and Yorkshire fog, together with more acidic grassland species of red fescue and heath grass.</p> <p>An overhead electricity transmission line crosses the compartment from east to west beneath which tall ruderal vegetation including frequent great willowherb, cow parsley, thistles and hogweed have established on the disturbed ground.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>The maturing plantation provides a relatively undisturbed habitat for wildlife, especially for birds. An increase of coppicing within the plantation would promote light levels to improve the ground flora which is currently poor and would boost the diversity of invertebrates.</p> <p>Advice should be sought and followed on the management of the veteran trees.</p>
<p>Londonthorpe Wood Compartment 3</p>	<p>The north-west section of this Woodland Trust site comprises of blocks of young plantations and expanses of neutral grassland. Other habitats present included an old boundary hawthorn hedgerow along Londonthorpe Lane on the southern edge and a pond on the northern boundary.</p> <p>Marginal and aquatic vegetation at the pond included water dock, spiked water milfoil, water mint, water plantain, soft and hard rush and sedges.</p> <p>The site is bounded on the southern side by 'Londonthorpe Lane' which runs east-west, and by a minor road on the eastern side. Native trees have been planted in naturalised copses which included pedunculate oak, wild cherry, hawthorn, field maple, hazel, ash, wayfaring tree, silver birch, hornbeam and dogwood.</p> <p>The neutral grassland is often tufted with a diversity of grasses including sweet vernal grass, creeping bent, rough meadow grass, Yorkshire fog, cock's-foot and tall fescue. Common knapweed, trefoils, cowslip and vetches are frequent. Common spotted orchids are occasional.</p> <p>Two veteran ash trees were noted.</p> <p>The site is in a reasonable condition although the grassland could potentially be managed more regularly, ideally cut twice a year with arisings removed.</p> <p>Selective coppicing of the new plantations would increase light levels within the woodland.</p> <p>Sides of hedgerows should be cut on alternate years. Recent hedge laying was in evidence.</p> <p>Veteran trees should be managed following specialist advice.</p>
<p>Londonthorpe Wood Compartment 4</p>	<p>The north-east section of this extensive Woodland Trust site comprises of blocks of semi-mature plantations and expanses of neutral grassland. Other habitats present include ditches and a pond.</p> <p>Habitat close to the pond is inaccessible; however identifiable marginal vegetation included hard and soft rush, meadowsweet and water plantain.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>The site is bound on the southern side by 'Londonthorpe Lane' which runs east-west and by a minor road on the western side. Native trees have been planted in naturalised copses which include pedunculate oak, wild cherry, hawthorn, field maple, hazel, ash, wayfaring tree, silver birch, hornbeam and dogwood.</p> <p>The neutral grassland is often tufted with a diversity of grasses including frequent sweet vernal grass, creeping bent, rough meadow grass, Yorkshire fog, cock's-foot and tall fescue. Common knapweed is frequent. Common spotted, broad-leaved marsh and southern marsh orchids and cowslips were recorded in good numbers within the grassland.</p> <p>The site is in a reasonable condition although the grassland could potentially be managed more regularly, ideally cut twice a year with arisings removed.</p> <p>Selective coppicing of the new plantations would increase light levels within the woodland. Willow scrub is invading grassland in the damp areas.</p> <p>Sides of hedgerows should be cut on alternate years.</p>
Long Bennington Grassland	<p>The site comprises a large area of intensively grazed species-poor semi-improved grassland made up of perennial ryegrass, Yorkshire fog and annual meadow grass with frequent white clover and occasional ox-eye daisy, greater plantain, common knapweed and selfheal.</p> <p>Rare occurrences of greater knapweed, field scabious and cow slips were recorded at the southern edge of the site.</p> <p>An area of hawthorn and blackthorn scrub is present at the north of the site.</p> <p>The grassland is in a poor condition as a result of heavy grazing by horses.</p> <p>More interesting species such as cow slips, field scabious and greater knapweed still persist but are unlikely to persist without a change in management.</p> <p>Fertile soil is also regularly added to improve areas which are underperforming.</p>
Lordship Close	<p>Lordship Close is a semi-improved neutral grassland site. It slopes gently to the south east and contains the hummocks of historical fishponds. It is surrounded by hedges which are dominated by hawthorn and blackthorn and there is a stream to the south west. The site was grazed by sheep at the time of survey and thistles and nettles had been treated with herbicide.</p>



## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>The grassland is typically dominated by crested dog's-tail and perennial rye grass with cock's foot, A61 white clover and Yorkshire fog also present. Other species included yarrow, birds-foot trefoil and selfheal which were occasional. The hollows in the earthworks did not contain water but had occasional areas of glaucous sedge and hard rush.</p> <p>The stream is heavily shaded by surrounding trees and scrub of the hedgerow which contains the species of willow, ash and hawthorn with blackthorn, maple and bramble. The ground flora of the hedgerows, where the sheep do not have access, contains dense areas of wood false brome, creeping thistle and nettle with other species including lords-and-ladies, ivy and ground ivy.</p> <p>The management of this neutral semi-improved meadow is suitable for this habitat although it is not particularly species rich.</p>
Manthorpe Road Burial Ground	<p>This site comprises of cemetery grounds around a small church on the outskirts of Grantham.</p> <p>The grassland is dominated by semi-improved neutral grassland of low value for wildlife due to limited species diversity and short-cropped grassland.</p> <p>A single plant of heath grass was recorded along with false-fox sedge and red bartsia.</p> <p>Boundary hedgerows are either newly planted native, or consisted of non-native species.</p> <p>The site was mown very short with negligible value for wildlife.</p>
Marston Sewage Works South Extension	<p>Much of this site comprises of swamp, which is dominated by reed sweet grass and areas of locally dominant greater reedmace and greater willowherb. Large areas of reedbed are present towards the west of the site along with a number of large areas of standing water.</p> <p>A large hawthorn hedgerow is present along the south of the site with occasional blackthorn, hazel and field maple. A species-rich hedgerow comprising of hawthorn, blackthorn, guelder rose, field maple, hazel and elder is situated across the centre of the site.</p> <p>An area of species-poor semi-improved grassland grazed by horses is present at the north-west of the site.</p> <p>A ditch with steep banks and running water is present along the northern boundary of the site. The banks of this ditch are dominated by common nettle and great willowherb.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>The swamp, reedbeds and ponds are in good condition and provide a large area of valuable inland wetland habitat for birds.</p> <p>The site is largely unmanaged and vegetation is no longer cut as this increased the phosphorus levels in the water above the acceptable level for the sewage works. This may result in an encroachment of ruderals and scrub into the swamp areas.</p> <p>Hedgerows appear strimmed using a machine.</p> <p>A sluice gate at the west of the site controls the water levels in the scrapes at the west of the site, allowing for varied water levels throughout the year and to limit the spread of vegetation.</p> <p>A field at the north west of the site is grazed by horses.</p>
Mickley Wood	<p>Mickley Wood is located to the east of the A1 close to Lobthorpe, and is not accessible by public right of way. The wood is surrounded by arable land and is on a gradient running down to the south.</p> <p>Beech, ash and oak form the canopy, with a sparse shrub layer beneath including hazel and hawthorn.</p> <p>The ground flora is dominated by dog's mercury and brambles with carpets of bluebells, ramsons and wood melick. Other ancient woodland indicators include occasional stands of yellow archangel, pignut and pendulous sedge.</p> <p>Numerous veteran oaks and prematurely aged ash trees were noted, providing roosting opportunities for bats.</p> <p>A seasonally wet pond is present in the west which was dry at the time of survey and a ditch with a shallow flow of water bound the eastern boundary. These aquatic habitats provide diversity and additional value to wildlife. The damp areas of the woodland support tussocks of tufted hair-grass and rushes.</p> <p>Abundant bryophytes and fungi were noted, especially growing on deadwood that had been left in-situ.</p> <p>Deer inhabit Mickley Wood in large numbers, alongside a diverse avifauna.</p> <p>Evidence of management included fenced areas for game keeping and two small areas that had been cleared and re-planted.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	Deadwood is left in- situ.
Mill Lane Verges	<p>Mill Lane runs in an east-westerly direction and the verges surveyed cover a length of approximately 1km. The 1977 description assessed the verges to have 'low ecological interest'. A ditch runs along the northern verge boundary and both verges are bounded by native hedges. Hawthorn was frequent within the hedges but elder, pedunculate oak, beech, blackthorn, field maple, ash, dog rose and field rose were also occasionally present. A number of semi-mature planted small-leaved lime were present within the western section of the northern verge. There was some variation within the composition of the verges; however, they largely comprised poor semi-improved neutral grassland. Tall coarse grasses and ruderal vegetation were dominant in the eastern section of the northern verge where common nettle, creeping thistle and hogweed were frequent. Meadow sweet was recorded in damper areas as was great burnet and horse radish. Meadow cranesbill as also recorded. There were less ruderal species in the southern verge where common and greater knapweed were locally frequent.</p> <p>The roadside verges had recently been cut and the cuttings left in situ. The hedgerows were regularly cut and maintained. Longer grass was present in the ditches and close to the hedgerow. Grass cuttings should be removed to prevent loss of species diversity within the sward and discourage the spread of ruderal vegetation.</p>
Mill Ponds, Holywell	<p>The site comprises of two ponds separated by a small stone bridge. The water in the western pond is clear, however, dense submerged and emergent vegetation is present throughout, comprising of mare's tail, common water starwort, and algae.</p> <p>The banks have eroded in places however marginal vegetation is present around most of the perimeter with frequent brooklime, great willowherb and pink water speedwell, with occasional alder.</p> <p>The eastern pond has a greater diversity of marginal vegetation, with frequent hard rush, reed sweet grass, watercress, water forget-me-not, water mint and brooklime. Submerged vegetation is of a similar composition to the western pond. The north eastern bank, as well as several small islands, feature grey willow and white willow scrub.</p> <p>A small stream at the north east of the site runs through an area of white willow.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>According to the grounds manager, the western lake supports stickleback, stone loch, carp, tench and rudd. It is likely these species also inhabit the eastern lake. A population of greylag geese was recorded at the eastern lake.</p> <p>If left unmanaged, the aquatic vegetation may become to dominate and willow scrub may spread throughout the eastern pond as it has done in the past.</p> <p>The western pond was dredged in 2013 and aquatic vegetation is pulled out in the spring and the late summer.</p> <p>Sheep, rabbits and waterfowl graze the banks of both lakes.</p> <p>The eastern lake seems to have been largely cleared of scrub since it was last inspected in 1977.</p>
Monk's Wood	<p>This is ancient woodland dominated by mature pedunculate oak and ash. The woodland habitat is dense, shaded and largely undisturbed.</p> <p>Hawthorn and field maple form an understorey layer, and small elm and wych elm are also present.</p> <p>Bramble is also locally frequent. Several bushes of spurge laurel were recorded on the eastern edge of the woodland, as well as two wild service trees</p> <p>Dog's mercury frequently carpets the ground and English bluebell is also locally frequent.</p> <p>A small pond is present in the north-western corner of the woodland, water coverage was very small in extent and surrounded by an area of boggy ground. Here large bitter-cress, wild angelica, water mint, reed sweet-grass, greater pond sedge and bittersweet were recorded.</p> <p>Early purple orchid was recorded in the south-western section.</p> <p>The condition of the woodland was adequate but overall it appeared to be a little neglected.</p> <p>There appears to be very little active current management of the woodland although there was evidence of previously used pheasant pens and also of deer control.</p>
New Plantation, Braceborough	<p>New Plantation, Braceborough is located between the ancient woodland Local Wildlife Sites of Braceborough Great Wood to the north and Braceborough Little Wood to the south. This woodland is primarily mixed plantation but there is a section of deciduous woodland to the east.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>The rides are lightly maintained and there is much dense bracken, sycamore saplings and bramble throughout the woodland.</p> <p>Where conifer is not prevalent there are oak standards with an understory of species such as hawthorn, blackthorn, hazel, oak, elder and willow. The ground flora includes male, broad buckler and soft shield ferns and bluebell, yellow archangel, enchanter's nightshade, honeysuckle and pignut. In wetter areas meadow sweet, wild angelica, hard rush and bugle are common.</p> <p>Within the deciduous block to the east, there is a good range of typical woodland species including an old coppiced area where there are patches of abundant dog's mercury and occasional wood spurge although this is becoming overgrown with sycamore. The woodland has been extended to the south of this section outside of the site boundary infilling a gap on what appears to be previously arable land and has been planted up with deciduous trees.</p> <p>The pond is located centrally within the south-eastern compartment and, apart from the margins, was surrounded by dense bramble. The pond vegetation was good and included yellow flag iris, with fools water-cress, water plantain, water mint, common water starwort, lesser pond sedge, false fox sedge and bittersweet.</p> <p>There are some wide deciduous strips of woodland and some areas are mixed plantation so the management is appropriate for some of the site rather than appropriate for the majority/ whole of the site or for the main interest which presumably is native deciduous lowland woodland. Bracken and bramble is dense throughout and there are large areas of conifer plantation reducing ground flora cover and thus reducing diversity. A new area of deciduous woodland has been planted, extending the woodland outside of the current boundary.</p>
New Wood	<p>New Wood is a deciduous planted woodland with oak and ash standards, good age structure and a moderate amount of standing and fallen deadwood throughout. Mature maple trees are also present within the woodland with oak at the periphery. A large section is fenced off in the north allowing understorey regeneration. The rides are mown.</p> <p>The understorey is not dense across the majority of the site, with the exception of that within the fenced area. It includes species such as hawthorn, blackthorn, elder, hazel, rose, and willow. The ground flora contains some locally abundant areas of wood anemone, dog's mercury and wood sedge, frequent patches of bramble, lesser celandine, honeysuckle and wood avens throughout with occasional lady fern, male fern and scattered bracken. The rides are damp in places and species present include frequent hard rush and tufted hair grass with meadow sweet,</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>hairy St John's wort, cuckoo flower, bugle and marsh bedstraw and pendulous sedge. Other woodland species noted were primrose, pignut and enchanter's nightshade.</p> <p>The rides are well maintained and the woodland used for game keeping. One third of the plantation woodland is enclosed within deer fencing (north-west). Red deer were observed during the survey.</p>
Nightingale Plantation	<p>Nightingale Plantation is a hazel coppice with oak, ash and hornbeam standards with a good variety of other tree species present including field maple, horse-chestnut, silver birch, hawthorn, crab apple and small-leaved lime. The coppicing is historic and the hazel stools are fairly mature. There are scattered habitat piles through the woodland and a game pen located to the eastern section. There are rides through and around the woodland most of which appear to have become overgrown with bramble in in the past and management of these is being carried out using herbicides.</p> <p>The ground flora is dominated by bluebell and dog's mercury although brambles are also dense particularly to the north-west. Stitchwort is locally abundant and other typically woodland species are present including enchanter's nightshade, male fern, false brome, wood sedge, pignut, barren strawberry, black bryony and honeysuckle.</p> <p>There is a small pond near to the southern boundary which is currently used for carp fishing. Hard rush and gypsywort were present at the margins but little else and no aquatic vegetation was observed.</p>
Norwood	<p>Norwood is a large ancient woodland comprising predominantly oak and ash standards with areas of dense conifer woodland centrally. Some areas of relict hazel coppice are present and there are areas of new mixed deciduous planting following felling.</p> <p>There are several veteran oak and ash trees scattered throughout the woodland. Other standards include beech, hornbeam, birch and bird cherry and the understory includes scattered hawthorn, field maple, blackthorn and elder. The woodland rides are well maintained and contain wood sedge, Yorkshire fog and tufted hair grass.</p> <p>The woodland is drained with ditches that contained shallow water at the time of survey. There is also a particularly marshy area in the centre of the northern half dominated by lesser pond sedge. Present in these damper areas is abundant meadowsweet, water avens and hard rush</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>with frequent wild angelica, water figwort, meadowsweet, marsh thistle and bugle and occasional ragged robin, common marsh bedstraw and meadow rue.</p> <p>The ground flora within the hazel coppice on the southern boundary comprised dense areas of ramsons, wood forget-me-not, and dog's mercury. Throughout the woodland species also included scattered areas of bluebell, yellow archangel, lesser celandine, wild strawberry, hairy St John's wort, wood sorrel and sweet woodruff.</p> <p>Bramble and nettle are not extensive within the woodland and there is generally good structure to the woodland; on a larger scale replanting and retention of occasional small trees contributes to this. The recently replanted areas are deer fenced.</p> <p>Replanting with deciduous species and retention of scattered old trees. Deer control points and game keeping area located to the south.</p>
Old Lime Kilns, Ancaster	<p>The Old Lime Kilns, Ancaster site is located on an old limestone quarry. The flora indicates some calcareous influence but the site has been developed and has presumably lost much of its botanical interest. The eastern two thirds of the site have been developed for housing and are completely lost. The western section is now the site of a rifle club with associated buildings, mown grassland and peripheral woodland and botanical interest is limited.</p> <p>Woodland areas have developed around the periphery consisting predominantly of semi-mature and mature sycamore trees with beech, ash and elder. The ground flora is dominated in these areas by dense ivy but also present are species such as wood avens, ground ivy, common daisy and perforate St John's-wort.</p> <p>Short grassland areas of the ranges are cut frequently and dominated with species such as common bird's-foot trefoil, common mouse-ear, self-heal, hop trefoil and springy turf moss. The areas of bare ground on the south-east facing slopes around the targets contain sparse bugloss, groundsel and weld. The strips of longer grass around ranges and car parking area are more species-rich containing species such as tor grass, oxeye daisy, common knapweed, field scabious.</p>
Old Park Wood Track Verge	<p>This site lies adjacent to The Hermitage SSSI and comprises a green lane, part of which has a rough tarmac track, with reasonably diverse grass verges and interesting scrub and hedgerow. The grassland element includes greater burnet-saxifrage, tor-grass, common knapweed and meadowsweet. The scrub is largely hawthorn and dog rose but also includes spindle, field maple, several species of bramble, a few bushes of harsh downy-rose, and field rose in the hedges.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>Hairy brome is frequent amongst the scrub and in the hedges. Veteran oak marks the northern end of the surveyed section; some of the oaks have a wide structure with branches to ground level suggesting they are open grown. Incidental observations of tawny owl and Roesel's bush cricket.</p> <p>The site is well managed. It appears the scrub is periodically cut and the grass probably cut at the same time allowing a cycle of scrub on the site. Surrounding land is managed under ELS<sup>4</sup> although it is not clear if this includes the road verge.</p>
Old Park Wood, Bassingthorpe	<p>Old Park Wood is a small wood located in an arable landscape adjacent to the west of the Grantham to Peterborough railway line. The railway line and a network of hedgerows provide ecological connectivity to the woodland.</p> <p>The majority of the wood is semi-natural broadleaved habitat and a parcel in the north east is non-native conifer plantation. The broadleaved habitat is dominated by ash and oak, with hawthorn and blackthorn creating an understorey layer. Dog's mercury and nettles dominate the ground flora of this section with occasional pignut, greater stitchwort, lord's-and-ladies and locally dominant yellow archangel. The plantation is almost entirely comprised of Lawson's cypress, creating a dense canopy with no shrub layer and sparse ground flora.</p> <p>A ditch bisects the wood running north-south, which didn't support aquatic flora at the time of survey although is likely to be seasonally wet.</p> <p>A strip of rank grassland also bisects the wood, just east of the ditch, which lies beneath electricity pylons. This grassland appeared unmanaged, with frequent thistles, tussocks of tufted hair-grass and false oat-grass.</p> <p>A pond forms where two boundary ditches meet at the north eastern corner of the wood, which is dominated by watercress.</p> <p>This site has good habitat diversity and is likely to be of value to a wide range of wildlife.</p> <p>The wood appears to be managed for game-keeping with a number of hides present. Standing and fallen deadwood is left in situ, providing opportunities for bryophytes, fungi and lichens.</p> <p>Grassy glades are unmanaged, and rank in nature.</p> <p>A planted parcel of land was located in the east which provides structural diversity, but some areas here are dominated by nettles.</p>



## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
Old Park Wood, Irnham	<p>Old Park Wood, Irnham is a replanted ancient woodland with oak and ash standards and some old coppiced hazel. A field boundary links the site to Far Old Park Wood Local Wildlife Site to the north and is adjacent to a grassland SSSI.</p> <p>Scattered through the woodland are veteran trees. The understorey also contains field maple and blackthorn with some dense areas of bramble and nettle. Small amounts of standing and fallen deadwood are present. The ground flora contains some dense areas of dog's mercury and bluebell. Other species present include wood anemone, wood sorrel, wild strawberry, yellow archangel, pendulous sedge, pignut, hairy St. Johns-wort and early dog-violet. Early purple orchid was also present at the north western boundary.</p> <p>There are several recent and ongoing areas of selective felling within the woodland. This is opening up the canopy to create sheltered glades and some native species replanting is occurring. The rides are maintained for access. The wood is also used for game keeping</p>
Osgodby Coppice	<p>A mature woodland of ash and oak standards with historically coppiced hazel. The site is joined to the Local Wildlife site of Colley Holts woodland by a short hedgerow to the south. The site is currently surrounded by deer fencing allowing tree and shrub regeneration. Fallen and standing deadwood is present throughout and also veteran trees which have many features of value including limb loss, flaking bark and apical die back. There are some small areas of felling creating open glades which are regenerating. The understorey contains species such as hawthorn, blackthorn and occasional crab apple, dogwood and field maple with a few sycamore.</p> <p>The rides are cut on rotation with some growing tall. The rides vary in nature with some that are wide and open and others, narrow and shady. The woodland is generally dry but contains damper areas particularly along the rides where meadowsweet is abundant. The ground flora contains dense areas of bluebell and dog's mercury with areas containing ramsons, wood millet, pendulous sedge, common figwort, enchanter's nightshade, male fern, and greater stitchwort. Early purple orchids were also noted on the south eastern corner of the site.</p>
Park Wood, Thurlby	<p>This is mature, ancient woodland divided in two by a main A road.</p> <p>The canopy is dominated by ash with English oak and a diverse shrub layer including wych elm, blackthorn, elder, common hawthorn, dogwood, hazel, maple, spindle, crab apple and pear.</p> <p>The ground flora comprises of characteristic species including dog's mercury, greater stitchwort and native blue-bluebell.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>Dead-standing and fallen wood is numerous.</p> <p>Woodland edges support a wide range of shrub species and good cover for birds.</p> <p>Coppiced hazel present throughout the wood in low numbers becoming locally abundant (5m spacing) in the south-east corner of the wood. No veteran trees were noted however.</p> <p>Ditches varied across the site, being shallow on the east side and larger on the west and north side.</p> <p>Both parts of the wood appeared similar in character although limited information was collected due to the late survey time and restricted access.</p> <p>The site is currently used for game shooting, with no other active use.</p> <p>Some tree removal has been undertaken along the eastern boundary of the western section - removing trees within a strip of approx. 10m wide. It is not clear what the reason for this might be but potentially to reduce trees close to the road. Beyond this there is no active woodland management.</p>
Parsonage Wood	<p>This is an ancient woodland site surrounded by a ditch. An area of plantation woodland is located to the south, separated by a deep ditch/gully. A large historic badger sett and a tiny pond, bare of any aquatic vegetation, are also located along this southern boundary.</p> <p>The site is very natural and undisturbed with a canopy of mature pedunculate oak and ash, and a shrub layer of hazel, elder, hawthorn and cherry plum.</p> <p>Swathes of greater stitchwort, wild garlic, pignut, woodruth, wood melick, yellow archangel and English bluebell are all present at various locations. Bramble too is occasionally prevalent.</p> <p>Overall the woodland has good diversity in the ground flora and shrub layer, especially towards the edges.</p> <p>The woodland appears to be developing naturally with very low intervention</p> <p>Only minor evidence of deer browsing.</p>
Pasture at Greatford	<p>This is a site dominated by improved pasture, with a small copse of secondary woodland dominated by sycamore, ash and oak. The boundaries are delineated by fencing.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>The site has limited value due to low species diversity, habitat structure and regular mowing of grassland.</p> <p>The condition of the site is poor and the grassland only supports commonly occurring, widespread species.</p> <p>It is mown for amenity use.</p> <p>No other management is evident, including for the woodland.</p>
Pasture Farm Track	<p>This site is a track near Pasture farm. A hawthorn hedge runs along the north side of the track at the eastern end of the site. This area of the track adjacent to the hedgerow contains a rich flora including frequent hedge bedstraw, field bindweed, red clover, red bartsia, common knapweed, greater knapweed, field scabious, and red campion.</p> <p>The remainder of the track largely passes through pasture and a small area of plantation woodland.</p> <p>A second hawthorn hedgerow is located on the west side of the track at the north western end.</p> <p>Also of note is dark mullein which was recorded on the side of the track near the farm buildings.</p> <p>The diversity of flora has declined since the original survey (86 species vs 54 species) and is largely restricted to the south eastern end of the track.</p> <p>Track receives irregular disturbance from farm vehicles.</p> <p>The hedgerows appear to be trimmed by machine.</p>
Pasture Wood	<p>Pasture Wood is the central section of Callans Lane woodland complex. It is mature plantation on ancient woodland and comprised both deciduous and coniferous compartments. Mature ash and pedunculate oak comprised the majority of the deciduous woodland with smaller amounts of beech, copper beech and English elm. Coniferous sections were largely spruce and Douglas fir and in the centre a large number of conifers had blown down. Overall this part of the woodland complex was very variable and had good structural and age diversity. Parts were very shaded with a closed canopy and others were quite open. Field maple, goat willow, hawthorn, elder and cherry plum provided a sparse shrub layer. Rotting elm stumps were located in the western section. Bramble covered the woodland floor in some parts, wood brome and wood melick were locally frequent in shaded areas and English bluebell and ramsons formed occasional carpets.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>The woodland provided good habitats for wildlife and orange-tip butterfly, common carder bee, blackcap, chiffchaff, willow warbler, chaffinch and skylark were all recorded.</p> <p>There appeared to be a low level of management. Some game-keeping was in operation. Some rides had been mown. Many fallen trees were left lying. The spread of bramble should be curtailed.</p>
Pillowsyke Holt	<p>This is semi-natural woodland dominated by even-aged mature ash with sycamore, elm and horse chestnut.</p> <p>There is limited ecological value due to open canopy, lack of shrub layer and a predominantly ruderal species-poor ground flora dominated by dog's mercury, hedge mustard and goosegrass. Good regrowth but limited structural diversity.</p> <p>Some very mature oaks along field boundaries but interior of wood is species-poor, ash dominated and uniform in age and spacing.</p> <p>The site is managed for game use.</p> <p>There is limited value for wildlife due to a lack of structural diversity.</p>
Ponton Great Wood	<p>This is an ancient woodland site that has been almost entirely replanted with young oak, with some ash also being present.</p> <p>A stream runs diagonally through the north-east section of the woodland, with the section to the north of stream unfelled and semi-natural.</p> <p>No shrub layer is present in the southern replanted section of the woodland but hazel and hawthorn are present within the semi-natural woodland.</p> <p>Bramble is frequent throughout the woodland, with frequent wet areas and the ground flora is generally poor.</p> <p>The woodland boundaries have the ancient features of a ditch, bank and hedgerow featuring frequent field maple and hawthorn. Grassy rides also dissect the planted oak.</p> <p>Two pheasant pens were in evidence.</p> <p>Selective thinning of the oak trees was taking place and the tracking of vehicles over the wet ground is damaging and compacting the woodland floor.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>The northern section of the woodland is heavily shaded with very tall mature trees, largely unmanaged.</p> <p>It is recommended that the tall blackthorn hedgerow along the southern boundary is reduced in order to rejuvenate it and to allow more light into the woodland.</p> <p>Timber was being extracted from the main southern section of the woodland to thin out the closely planted trees.</p>
Ponton Park Wood (also known as Woodnook Wood)	<p>Much of this site comprises of coniferous and broad-leaved plantations on previous ancient woodland. Young broad-leaved plantation comprises of oak and ash with low growing bramble at ground level, and was quite open with poor structure. Coniferous plantations are dominated by Norway spruce with scattered low growing bramble at ground level.</p> <p>Two areas at the west of the woodland are more established semi-natural and possibly ancient broad-leaved woodland. These areas have good structure with a range of different aged oak and ash trees, including occasional veterans. The understorey contains field maple, goats willow, hazel, hawthorn, dogwood and young ash and oak. Ground flora largely comprises of bramble and common nettle, although dog's mercury is locally abundant in places.</p> <p>A network of wide sunny rides and narrower shady rides are present throughout. Species recorded here included hairy brome, giant fescue, wood melick, creeping buttercup, common dog violet, enchanters nightshade. Recorded in smaller numbers but also of note were barren strawberry, cowslips, red bartsia, nettle-leaved bell flower and wild basil. Overall these are floristically rich in places.</p> <p>Fallen dead wood is present in the semi-natural areas and large log piles are present along the rides in the plantations. A large area of woodland at the north of the site had been recently cleared.</p> <p>A gamekeeper on site claims that early-purple orchid is present along the rides in the spring.</p> <p>There is both historical and recent evidence of pheasant rearing, in new and old cages.</p> <p>The plantations appeared to be managed to reduce scrub between the trees. The rides feature short grass and are likely to be mown, and show signs of vehicle use.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
<p>Priory Farm, Stamford</p>	<p>This site is previously pastoral farmland situated on the River Welland, which runs through the centre.</p> <p>Much of the site comprises of improved grassland dominated by perennial ryegrass. Species-poor semi-improved grassland at the east and centre of the site is dominated by Yorkshire fog with dense patches of common nettle and creeping thistle.</p> <p>A series of ephemeral ponds are located at the south-east of the site and are completely enclosed in hawthorn and willow scrub. A larger ephemeral pond at the north-east of the site, resembles marshy grassland with frequent jointed rush, floating sweetgrass and fool's watercress.</p> <p>The river banks feature rich marginal vegetation including frequent purple loose-strife, common reed, hard rush, watermint and common nettle with occasional water figwort, marsh woundwort, great willowherb and meadowsweet.</p> <p>Himalayan balsam is established along the banks of the river towards the east of the site. The outside river banks are near vertical in places with sandy exposures. Holes suitable to support kingfisher were identified within these banks. A passing kingfisher was also recorded at the west of the site and a family of roosting swans were recorded at the east of the site on the river bank.</p> <p>The condition of the river banks is good despite Himalayan Balsam becoming prevalent in places. The grasslands however are species-poor with frequent nettles; overall in poor condition.</p> <p>An interpretation sign stated that sheep were being used to graze the grassland (although none were seen during the survey) and that fertilisers were no longer used on the soil, in order to encourage an increase in the botanical richness of the grasslands on site.</p>
<p>Protection Woods Eastern</p>	<p>This is a mature poplar plantation, with a dense hawthorn and elder understorey.</p> <p>A notable feature is the abundance of moss on the hawthorn, and the relatively undisturbed understorey which is likely to be valuable habitat for birds.</p> <p>The area has a number of informal paths used by local people.</p> <p>It is in a good condition for wildlife, being relatively undisturbed understorey habitat under mature poplars.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>The plantation woodland is managed for wildlife and community use. There is localised evidence of wood chipping and track cutting, possibly for timber harvesting on a small scale.</p>
Protection Woods Western	<p>This is mature ash and oak woodland with an open grassy, regenerating understorey.</p> <p>The oaks are mature, and even-aged. The understorey is generally grassy or low scrub (missing a sub-canopy level). Open glades have been recently planted with a good mix of native trees including oak, ash and wild cherry.</p> <p>Woodland managed for game shooting, with an area managed for game keeping and large areas fenced off. There is some evidence of scrub clearance around these enclosures, and for access tracks.</p>
Ringstone Wood	<p>A small section of woodland which forms part of a sizeable woodland complex - the whole being largely ancient woodland but also includes plantation.</p> <p>A public footpath runs along the northern boundary.</p> <p>A dry ditch forms the western boundary with the plantation woodland of Row Wood.</p> <p>The southern section of the woodland is spruce plantation with a bracken-covered woodland floor - English bluebell is frequent along the extreme southern (old).</p> <p>In the main part of the woodland pedunculate oak and ash are frequent with some old multi-stemmed trees. The woodland is dense and dark with only one damp woodland ride between the plantation area and the semi-natural woodland.</p> <p>A bramble floor is frequent throughout the woodland. Hawthorn and hazel formed a good understorey layer.</p> <p>Open grassland bordered the eastern boundary. English bluebell is locally frequent in the north-eastern corner of the woodland.</p> <p>There was very little management evident in the woodland, with only minimal evidence of selective felling and logging. Increased thinning would benefit the site allowing more access of the ground storey to light.</p> <p>Otherwise it has resulted in it being largely undisturbed.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
Ropsley Rise Wood	<p>An ancient woodland site, covering approximately 56 ha that was replanted with conifers and mixed deciduous species. A large proportion of the coniferous woodland has since been replaced by native species plantations. Mature beech, pedunculate oak, ash and birch predominated, together with lots of younger downy birch. The shrub layer was not well-developed. Planting was dense and the majority of the rides were narrow and damp with lying water. A small overgrown pond was located close to the centre. Yorkshire fog and creeping soft-grass were frequent on the wet rides. Tree stumps from the original ancient woodland remained especially along the perimeter woodland banks. Common spotted and early purple orchid were occasionally present at edges of rides. The nature of the woodland especially in the south-eastern section was dense, waterlogged and difficult to access and woodland rides were narrow and damp. Stands of bracken and bramble were frequent beneath the trees, restricting access. A good diversity of sedges and grasses were present in any open areas. Eight species of sedges were recorded especially along ditches; bryophytes were dense in places. English bluebell, wood -sorrel and pignut were locally frequent beneath beech trees. Incidental mammal sightings on the day were grey squirrel, roe deer and muntjac deer. Birds recorded were common buzzard, skylark, chiffchaff, long-tailed tit and blackcap. Invertebrates - hornet, wood carpet, large white, orange-tip, speckled wood and common carder bee.</p> <p>There appeared to be a very low level of management and the woodland rides were largely damp and overgrown. The woodland would benefit from some selective coppicing to allow more light in to reach the woodland floor and also from glade creation to provide a greater diversity of habitats. There were large stands of bracken and bramble beneath the mature trees. Pheasant rearing was in evidence.</p>
Scoth Farm Pasture	<p>Scoth Farm Pasture was originally designated as a lowland neutral grassland under countryside stewardship but now has little floristic interest. This field was taken out of countryside stewardship approximately 2yrs ago and has been improved with fertiliser and herbicide, although it was still being used for cattle grazing during this survey. The field is bounded by hedgerows with trees and there is a pond located to the east.</p> <p>The grassland is not species-rich, dominated by perennial rye grass but also present was cock's-foot, red fescue, Yorkshire fog, crested dog's tail and meadow foxtail grasses. Herbs were rare but included sorrel, white clover, common mouse-ear and meadow buttercup.</p> <p>The pond was small and heavily poached by cattle but still contained pondweed and common spike rush. Peripheral vegetation included a few small willow and hawthorn trees.</p>



## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>The surrounding hedgerows are intact and dominated by hawthorn and blackthorn with occasional field maple, dog rose and bramble. The ground flora comprises species including greater willow herb, cow parsley and hedge bindweed. There are several ash and oak trees, two of which may be loosely considered veterans on the north and south boundary; these have either large girth or hollow trunk and dead branches.</p>
Scullar Wood	<p>Scullar Wood is the south-western section of Callan's Lane Wood Complex. It is relatively recently planted in relation to the majority of the woodland complex and is an even-aged pedunculate oak plantation. There was very little structural diversity to the woodland with a very sparse shrub layer. The ground flora was also species-poor with the highest diversity occurring along the boundaries - here rough meadow-grass, herb-Robert, wild garlic and dog's mercury were all occasional. Bramble was abundant on the woodland floor and tufted hair-grass and male fern were locally clumped. Mature coppiced ash were present along the woodland boundaries and old tree stumps were also in evidence. Muntjac and pheasant present in the woodland. A large badger sett was located in the south-western corner. Chiffchaff, common buzzard and red-tailed bumblebee were also recorded during the survey.</p> <p>Bramble should be managed and its spread restricted. The young oak should be thinned out and occasional glades created to provide ecological interest and increase biodiversity.</p>
Sempringham Priory and Fish Ponds	<p>Much of the site comprises of improved grassland dominated by timothy and locally dominant perennial rye grass.</p> <p>In the centre of these fields is a fenced off area of tall ruderals dominated by common nettle and hemlock.</p> <p>Patchy, species-poor hawthorn hedgerows bordered the western and southern boundaries of the fields.</p> <p>A small stream within a steep sided ditch bordered the north of the fields. The bankside vegetation of the stream indicates that it has been improved by fertiliser.</p> <p>An area of semi-natural broad-leaved woodland is situated at the north west of the site, with frequent ash and white willow. The under-storey comprised dense elder, hawthorn and blackthorn with common nettle and bramble dominating the ground flora. The eastern part of the woodland is wet and was made up of willow species with greater reed mace and common reed dominating the wettest areas.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>Most of the improved grassland has no botanical interest. The woodland is dense with good structure; however, the ground flora is dominated by undesirable species.</p> <p>Previous pond areas have now succeeded to wet woodland and likely are of value to birds associated with this habitat type.</p> <p>Improved grassland likely fertilised and managed for hay production.</p> <p>Woodland completely unmanaged.</p>
Shillingthorpe Hall Grounds	<p>The former grounds of an old property including old walled gardens, brick out-buildings, and mature parkland trees, which have since been neglected and left to ruin.</p> <p>The large site comprises of a range of habitats including large areas of dense scrub, secondary woodland, and semi-improved grassland.</p> <p>Value is in the size of the site and the variety of mature trees, habitats on site, rather than species richness.</p> <p>Management of site appears to be primarily managed for game shooting, with large areas of scrub, ruderal vegetation around fenced cages.</p> <p>There is some grazing by cattle, and cutting for hay.</p> <p>Invasive species are not managed.</p>
South Wood, Irnham	<p>South Wood, Irnham is an ancient replanted woodland of oak and ash standards. There are some areas of old hazel coppice and occasional veteran oak trees are present. Throughout, it is generally level and dry with occasional wetter areas. The understorey comprises hazel with field maple, hawthorn, blackthorn and a small area of elm is found on the western boundary. The ditches on the northern boundary have been recently cleared and hedge adjacent to this has been laid.</p> <p>There are large area of ramsons to the north and east and dog's mercury is dominant in many areas. Other species include yellow archangel, meadowsweet, wood sedge, greater stitchwort, primrose and early purple orchid. Bramble and nettle are present only in moderate amounts</p> <p>The northern section was not accessed due to deer fencing. However, it was possible to see that this area had a much denser understorey with regeneration of saplings. Larch is present in other</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>areas and these show deer damage. In these areas, the age structure of the woodland is less diverse.</p> <p>Deer control and fencing with rides managed through mowing. Areas of replanting of native deciduous species.</p>
Spring Wood, Edenham	<p>Spring Wood, Edenham is a largely mixed deciduous plantation on ancient woodland. Pedunculate oak was dominant, alongside ash, willow and birch species. The woodland was even-aged overall and lacked a shrub layer. Bramble frequently covered the woodland floor. In the eastern section lime was densely planted. A small stand of Lawson's cypress were located close to the rides in the northern extent - small compartments of conifers also remained. Two small ponds were located close to the northern boundary, the first in reasonable condition, and the second heavily shaded, polluted and lacking aquatic vegetation. An ancient veteran ash was located on the eastern boundary alongside a dry ditch. The woodland rides, on the whole, were narrow and shaded and a diverse range of sedges were recorded at edges and in wet ditches. Bryophytes were locally frequent especially on old tree stumps. A pheasant pen was located in the centre section where invasive snowberry also was frequent. Badger tracks and setts were recorded. Deer were seen.</p> <p>There was a very low level of management within the woodland which gave it a natural character. The woodland was very damp and potentially drainage could be improved. Invasive snowberry should be removed.</p>
Stainby Warren	<p>A large proportion of the Stainby Warren sub-site was mature secondary woodland dominated by ash and sycamore that had established on the very uneven ground of old workings and quarries. There were several immensely tall, mature multi-stemmed ash, many of which were ivy-clad. The canopy of the woodland was generally closed and the ground flora was often dominated by common ivy. In other sections, stands of dog's mercury and common nettle were frequent. In addition, small sections of the woodland have been densely planted with Scot's pine and European larch. Tor-grass, wood false-brome and false oat-grass occurred on occasional grassy paths and at woodland edges. Fallen dead and rotting wood was frequent. A pheasant pen was located in the western section, surrounded by tall common nettle. A large number of badger setts and a rabbit warren were also recorded. Exposed limestone scree was present in the northern section of the woodland with frequent sweet violet. Bryophytes were often abundant in the damper shaded areas of the quarries. Night-flowering catchfly was recorded in several places. Recently planted hawthorn hedges formed partial eastern and western boundaries.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
Stainfield Verges	<p>The site occupies either side of a short section (approximately 20m long and 8m wide) of road verge with a ditch and hedge.</p> <p>A few notable species were present including meadowsweet, common knapweed and agrimony, but their abundance was low.</p> <p>The hedge contains only a few typical shrub species but is unlikely to be ancient. The site therefore does not represent anything special beyond what is normal for road verges in the region.</p> <p>There is no value in retaining the site's designation.</p> <p>It is overall poor, potentially due to eutrophication or inappropriate management.</p> <p>Unclear as to whether cutting and removal of grassland is undertaken. Adjacent land use of horse pasture and arable suggests unlikely.</p>
Stamford Canal	<p>The Stamford Canal Local Wildlife Site is a stretch of disused canal running parallel and to the north of the River Welland to the south east of Market Deeping. It is bisected by the A15. The survey was carried out from the adjacent roads.</p> <p>It is heavily shaded in most places with dense young trees and scrub. Common duckweed was common and may have obscured other aquatic vegetation but along the length there was a good variety of marginal plants observed including locally abundant butterbur, frequent yellow flag iris, great willow herb, hemp agrimony, meadowsweet and greater pond sedge with occasional wild angelica, gypsywort, purple loosestrife, water mint, bittersweet and water figwort.</p> <p>The trees and scrub present bordering the canal included hawthorn, oak, field maple, ash, hazel, blackthorn, willow and holly. Occasional Snowberry and Canadian goldenrod were noted along the length although not in any great quantity.</p> <p>There appears to be a non-intervention approach to management and scrub is over shading the canal. Non-native Canadian golden rod and snowberry are present locally but are not frequent. The site appears to be managed under ELS<sup>4</sup>.</p>
Stamford Cemetery	<p>This site is believed to be one of two remaining Lincolnshire sites for sulphur clover and one plant of this species was recorded in the old cemetery during the 2014 survey.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>An area of older diverse sward is present in the south west of the site although most of these species appear to be spreading slowly out into the wider cemetery.</p> <p>Several species of bramble are present as well as a diversity of tree species, many of them planted. These included frequent yew and occasional or rarely occurring field maple, beech, lime, holly, oak (evergreen and pedunculate) and giant redwood.</p> <p>Areas of the cemetery under new graves are heavily manicured and there are plans to extend burials into an adjacent woodland area (woodland burial).</p> <p>The boundary walls are of old limestone. Gatekeeper butterfly and ant hills were additionally recorded during the survey.</p> <p>Retains interest but unfavourable at present</p> <p>Current management is through regular mowing. The grass not cut until October and then leaves gathered. Cutting are removed from the site</p> <p>Threats to the site include acidification of soil from conifer debris and overhanging/shading from all trees.</p> <p>Management plans have been requested in relation to extended burial areas into the woodland.</p>
Stamford Meadows	<p>Stamford Meadows is located on the 'Jurassic Way' to the west of the town of Stamford on the floodplain of the River Welland. The eastern reach of the Stamford Meadows site is called Town Meadows and is amenity grassland but for the most part the meadows are grassland, tall ruderals and occasional scrub around depressions and ditches with seasonally flooded areas surrounded by a scrub fringe. The site was originally grazed but has been cut for hay for approximately twenty years.</p> <p>The grassland is dominated with false oat grass, cow parsley and nettle with spear thistle and hogweed also abundant. Vegetation such as perennial rye grass, knotgrass, ribwort plantain and pineapple weed are dominant on the footpaths running through the site. Meadow fescue, creeping bent, Yorkshire fog, smooth meadow grass and carnation sedge are also present with sedges and rushes particularly to the north.</p> <p>The main site has some areas of scrub and young trees centrally comprising willow with elder, hawthorn, blackthorn and ash. Town Meadows has mature specimen trees of field maple, cherry and hornbeam.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>A very small overgrown pond is present near the centre of the northern boundary and is dominated by yellow flag iris, bulrush, great willow herb and brooklime. Several other depressions were present but did not hold water at the time of survey; these are likely to be seasonally wet, however, particularly over winter. These areas had little ground flora, being heavily shaded by surrounding scrub.</p> <p>Oil seed rape is present in patches throughout but particularly to the south and it is potentially problematic due to invasiveness. Himalayan balsam was observed on the margins of the river at the Town Meadows area which appears to be managed by strimming.</p> <p>Banded demoiselle <i>Calopteryx splendens</i> was incidentally recorded during the survey.</p> <p>The main area has been cut annually for hay for the past 20 years. The Town Meadows section of this site appears to be cut short frequently some relaxation of this would contribute to the overall diversity of the site. Oil seed rape is spreading in main area. The site appears to be managed under ELS<sup>4</sup>.</p>
Stock Springs	<p>Secondary woodland dominated by sycamore.</p> <p>The young sycamore trees are even-aged and densely spaced.</p> <p>Ground flora is limited to scattered common herbs.</p> <p>Habitat does not appear to be actively managed.</p> <p>Some use for game keeping.</p>
Stocken Hall Hedge	<p>The eastern reach of this hedge has been scrubbed out and is now part of an arable field. The western reach has been subject to rubble and soil dumping on edges of stream/wet ditch. The vegetation is typical of disturbed open ground and scrub trees and tall ruderals remain.</p>
Stoke Park Wood	<p>A network of hedgerows provides a corridor for wildlife movement to other parcels of nearby semi-natural habitat including Old Park Wood and woodland along the railway line.</p> <p>The majority of the canopy is dominated by oak and ash, except for the eastern third which included occasional firs and a strip of poplar trees along the eastern boundary. Hawthorn and occasional hazel formed the shrub layer throughout.</p> <p>A number of access tracks ran through the woodland which created both sunny and shady rides dominated by grassland with seasonally-wet ditches either side. These increased the overall</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>floral diversity considerably. There was a grassy glade in the north eastern corner of the woodland which appeared to be left unmanaged and had a rank sward. Adjacent to this was an area of recently planted woodland including immature oak, hawthorn, silver birch and brambles beneath.</p> <p>Along the western and southern boundaries, the woodland was either managed as a hedgerow or a hedgerow had been planted beneath the canopy. These hedgerows were species-rich and included shrubs found in the understorey of the woodland in addition to rose, beech and elder.</p> <p>Stoke Park Wood has good habitat diversity, is species-rich and provides opportunities to a range of wildlife. Although there are areas dominated by undesirables.</p> <p>Glade in north east appears to have shifted to the east and the previous glade is planted with native trees (less than 20 years old).</p> <p>Hints that land is used for game keeping - fenced area in south west containing numerous feeders.</p> <p>An area dominated by grass species in the north east does not appear managed and was rank in nature.</p>
<p>Stoke Rochford Park Compartment 1</p>	<p>An area of calcareous grassland is present on a slope at the north east of the site. The soil here was thin with patches or bare limestone present. An unidentifiable species of orchid (owing to time of year) was also recorded here.</p> <p>The stream passes through a small area of wet woodland comprising alder and willow at the north of the site.</p> <p>Two young broad-leaved plantations comprising a mix of beech, pedunculate oak, wild cherry, field maple, silver birch were present to the north of Stoke Rochford Hall.</p> <p>The stream is in good condition with good marginal vegetation. The small area of unimproved calcareous grassland was in favourable condition although coarse grasses at the edge of this habitat restrict it and may encroach in the future. Woodlands on site were largely plantation and did not have an established structure. Grazed grasslands, however, were species-poor and semi-improved.</p> <p>Southern grassland grazed by cows, northern grassland grazed by sheep. Grassland on the golf course and surrounding Stoke Rochford Hall is regularly mowed.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	Himalayan balsam was only present in small number and is possibly managed.
<p>Stoke Rochford Park Compartment 2</p>	<p>This compartment consists of the land at the north west of Stoke Rochford Park.</p> <p>Much of this compartment comprised species-poor semi-improved grassland grazed by cattle. These grasslands are dominated by Yorkshire fog, perennial rye grass and crested dog's-tail, with frequent cock's-foot.</p> <p>Area of improved grassland and scattered veteran trees including beech was present within an area used as a golf course at the north of this compartment. Scattered veteran trees were also present in an area grazed by sheep at the south of the compartment. Both areas are likely ancient parkland BAP habitat.</p> <p>A slow moving stream flowed westward from a spring within the middle of another field grazed by cattle. A young broad-leaved plantations comprising a mix of beech, pedunculate oak, wild cherry, field maple, silver birch was present the centre of the compartment.</p> <p>Woodlands on site were largely plantation and did not have an established structure, although condition is likely to improve with age. Grazed grasslands were species-poor and semi-improved.</p> <p>Southern grassland grazed by sheep, western grassland grazed by cows.</p> <p>Grassland on the golf course is regularly mowed and edges are less regularly mowed.</p>
<p>Stoke Rochford Park Compartment 3</p>	<p>This compartment consists of the land at the south west of Stoke Rochford Park. Much of this compartment comprised species-poor semi-improved grassland grazed by cattle. These grasslands are dominated by Yorkshire fog, perennial ryegrass and crested dog's-tail, with frequent cock's-foot.</p> <p>Veteran trees including beech are present within the grassland and as such, an area of this compartment may qualify as parkland BAP habitat, although much of the trees are too young and spaced out for the other areas to qualify.</p> <p>Woodlands on site were largely plantation and did not have an established structure, although condition is likely to improve with age.</p> <p>Grazed grassland is species-poor and semi-improved.</p>



## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>The area surrounding spring contains a good diversity of species although its condition is poor owing to the abundance of invasive species surrounding it and the dominance of mare's tail.</p> <p>Grassland grazed by cattle.</p> <p>Sports field mowed regularly.</p> <p>Japanese knotweed is dense and likely not managed.</p>
<p>Stoke Rochford Park Compartment 4</p>	<p>This compartment consists of the land within Stoke Rochford Park to the east of the Cringle Brook. Much of this compartment comprised amenity and species-poor semi-improved grassland within a large golf course.</p> <p>Areas of semi-improved calcareous grassland are present along the western boundary of the golf course and are largely dominated by coarse grasses including tor-grass, false-oat grass and upright brome with occasional glaucous sedge and patches of quaking grass. Some shorter areas of calcareous grassland within the golf course displayed a greater diversity of flowering plants.</p> <p>Occasional pollard veteran beech trees are located throughout the golf course, likely a relic of ancient parkland.</p> <p>Areas of calcareous grassland largely in good condition, however, coarse grasses are becoming dominant in areas and reducing the suitability for many smaller flowering plants associated with this habitat. The remainder of the grassland on site is species-poor.</p> <p>Golf course managed through a varied mowing regime, with the fairways and greens receiving regular management and likely herbicide and fertiliser. Grassland on the slopes and edge of the site likely unmanaged or cut irregularly. Small area of grassland at the south west of the compartment was grazed by sheep.</p>
<p>Stoke Rochford Park Compartment 5</p>	<p>This compartment consists of the land at the east of Stoke Rochford Park and is made up of semi-natural woodland, mixed and broad-leaved plantations.</p> <p>Semi-natural woodland at the north east of the site is made up of mature beech, with frequent common nettle and dog's mercury at ground level.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>Young broad-leaved plantation at the north of the site is made up of rowan, wild cherry, beech, yew and holly. Torgass is dominant at ground level, with occasional lady's bedstraw, meadow vetchling and salad burnet.</p> <p>Older plantations in the centre of the compartment comprise areas of Norway spruce and ash with frequent dog's mercury.</p> <p>A large clearing close to the road features dense ruderal vegetation including abundant common nettle and frequent rosebay willowherb, bramble and dogs mercury.</p> <p>The mixed plantation woodland at the south of the compartment is made up of sycamore, Norway spruce and ash with ivy dominating the ground flora along with frequent dog's mercury.</p> <p>Woodland of poor structure and largely plantation. Ground flora largely undesirable species such as common nettle, bramble and ivy, although, dogs mercury was also frequent throughout.</p> <p>Snowberry dense in places. Likely not managed.</p>
Stonepit Wood	<p>Stonepit Wood is an ancient replanted mature deciduous woodland with ash and oak standards. It is a small wood located to the east of the large block of the woodlands of Home, Pell's and Dobbin's Woods (all Local Wildlife Sites). Although there are mature trees present within woodland there are no veterans; however, there is a fine example just outside the woodland, along a connecting hedge to the north east. The woodland slopes gently to the south and there is a small grassy strip before the woodland reaches a drain at the boundary. There is a small hollow towards the north of the woodland which, given the name of the woodland, could be an old quarry.</p> <p>Poplar and sycamore trees are present within the peripheral areas of the site along with scattered larch, field maple, blackthorn and hawthorn, willow and elder throughout.</p> <p>Large areas of bluebells and dog's mercury are present and other frequent species include yellow archangel, primrose, wood false brome, wood sedge, ramsons and bugle. Pendulous sedge and small teasel are found to the south.</p> <p>The rides are maintained through mowing and clear throughout the woodland but some areas within the woodland contain very dense bramble. Snowberry is also present but fairly sparse. The woodland is used for game keeping evidenced by game feeding stations. Deer presence noted.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
Stroxton Stream	<p>A small stream with a rocky bed.</p> <p>The western end is largely shaded beneath a line of ash and horse chestnut trees. A small waterfall is located towards the centre of the stream.</p> <p>Towards the west the stream meets the edge of a marshy area of grassland on the northern bank. In these less shaded areas dense great horsetail is dominant, completely obscuring the stream in places.</p> <p>Where the great horsetail is less dominant other marginal species occur including frequent great willowherb, fool's water-cress and water mint.</p> <p>Tenant claims he has found fish at the west end of stream which runs through their garden.</p> <p>No notable species were recorded and areas of the stream have become dominated by great horsetail.</p> <p>May be of value to fish travelling upstream.</p> <p>The tenant clears marginal vegetation when it becomes too dense in the stretch of the stream in his garden. The remainder is unmanaged other than the cattle which graze the adjacent land.</p>
Stubton Hall Woodland	<p>This site comprises an area of woodland set in the grounds of Stubton Hall and is primarily mature trees with a grassland understory. The hedgerow running along the western boundary is dominated by hawthorn with occasional field maple, ash and elm. There is a mature oak tree with flaking bark and broken branches but no dead wood and little understory which is limited only to an occasional young hawthorn tree or elder shrub.</p> <p>The site appears to be designated for snake's head fritillary as the woodland itself is an old ornamental wood. This species was not found in the previous survey, although the continued presence was verified by the previous site owners/ managers in 1987 though there is some doubt as to whether or not the species is a cultivar. Snake's head fritillary was not evident during the 2015 survey; however, the grass had been cut prior to the survey and thus it is possible that it could have been missed.</p> <p>The northern section of this woodland is currently mown twice yearly to the bases of the trees and the southern section appears to be mown more frequently. Tree species are predominantly ash but also present are oak, horse chestnut, Scot's pine, cherry, sycamore, beech and turkey oak. The ground flora is generally species-poor and dominated by cow parsley with thistles,</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>cleavers, herb Robert and grasses such as cock's-foot and Yorkshire fog. Other species include occasional wood avens, dog's mercury and bluebell and violet.</p> <p>Cut twice yearly which could benefit snake's head fritillary if still present. (not under stewardship scheme)</p>
Swinstead Scrub	<p>Swinstead Scrub is a mixed woodland plantation on a steep east facing slope. It lies between a Site of Special Scientific Interest (Swinstead Valley) and a green lane Local Wildlife Site (The Drift). It has been planted with strips of alternating conifers and oak and these are still relatively young. Other areas, particularly to the west, remain as predominantly sycamore and elder with dog's mercury and nettle being the major ground cover component.</p> <p>There are access tracks through the woodland and a game keeping pen located to the south. The rides are reasonably interesting with locally abundant species such as field scabious, musk thistle and wild parsnip indicating that the area to the west may have been calcareous grassland in the past. To the west, more typical woodland species were also observed including hawthorn, hazel, common dog violet and pignut.</p> <p>The biodiversity value of this site, although not currently particularly floristically diverse, has the potential to develop through natural succession and it is well connected with other semi-natural habitats in the wider area.</p> <p>The site has been planted with both native and non-native species such as oak and conifers. Woodland rides are managed by mowing and there is evidence of use of the site for game rearing - a game pen was present to the south. The grassland rides to the west appear to benefit from the current mowing regime. Part of the site is in EWGS<sup>3</sup>.</p>
Syston Park and Lake	<p>The parkland is largely turned over to arable but some of the parkland interest remains around the lake and in the numerous veteran trees which have both been planted and are naturally occurring. These include oak, horse chestnut and lime. Other tree and shrub species present within the site boundaries, particularly in the wooded areas, include frequent beech, sycamore and hawthorn, and occasional crack and grey willow, large-leaved lime, silver birch and holly. The lake has clear water, with a bottom of limestone boulders and silt with a moderately diverse marginal flora. Aquatic and marginal plants recorded include water mint, watercress, rigid hornwort and brooklime. The site appears to have a diverse bramble flora especially on the woodland edges and this possibly warrants further survey. Incidental faunal records include: gatekeeper, common blue, azure damselfly, broad-bodied chaser, wood pigeon, pheasant,</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>kingfisher, greylag, mole, rabbit, brown hare, common buzzard, coot, mute swan, grey heron, wren, canada geese.</p> <p>The wooded areas are within EWGS<sup>3</sup> and the site is managed under ELS<sup>4</sup> and HLS<sup>2</sup>. Although there are numerous veteran trees on the site they could be better protected; some have ploughed ground below their canopies and others are shaded by younger woodland. It appears that fallen deadwood is largely removed and natural recruitment of future generations is likely to be low.</p>
<p>Temple Wood Compartment 1</p>	<p>This is the northernmost section and is a mixture of mature oak and ash plantation with a woodland floor largely covered by dense bramble; ferns and tufted hair-grass are also locally abundant. Some older oak trees are often present along compartment boundaries.</p> <p>A small stand of mature Scots Pine was located on the eastern boundary. Generally there is little or no shrub layer present, hawthorn is occasional. Broad buckler, narrow buckler and male fern were all recorded.</p> <p>A wide sunny (north/south ride) and narrow shaded (east/west) rides crossed the woodland, and both wet and dry ditches were present along habitat boundaries. The wider sunny ride supported a reasonable range of flowering plants providing nectar sources for invertebrates.</p> <p>A small pond supported water starwort and water-crowfoot. Stands of ruderal vegetation were also frequently present including hemlock water-dropwort, willowherbs and common nettle. A large stand of small teasel was present; and also frequent butterbur in the same location.</p> <p>This part of the woodland was a little homogenous in nature; bramble is generally dominant on the woodland floor.</p> <p>There was a very low level of management visible within the woodland - it is likely that the woodland is poorly drained.</p>
<p>Temple Wood Compartment 2</p>	<p>The northern section of the woodland, including Compartment 2 is native plantation woodland, on non-ancient woodland sites. The deciduous plantation is predominantly densely planted pedunculate oak and ash and there was little or no shrub layer present, hawthorn was occasional. Bramble covered the woodland floor in large expanses and ferns and tufted hair-grass were also locally abundant.</p> <p>Broad buckler and male fern were recorded. The main access road was a wide sunny north/south ride bordered by both wet and dry ditches. A length of species-rich hedgerow bordered the main</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>access road on the eastern woodland border. Narrow shaded damp rides also crisscrossed the woodland.</p> <p>The wider sunny rides supported a good range of flowering plants providing nectar sources for invertebrates. Stands of ruderal vegetation are also frequently present including hemlock water-dropwort, willowherbs and common nettle.</p> <p>This largely plantation woodland comprises a reasonable diversity of habitats and woodland structure including semi-natural areas of diverse botanical species and supports a wide range of invertebrates and birdlife.</p> <p>There is a low level of intervention within the woodland.</p>
<p>Temple Wood Compartment 3</p>	<p>This Compartment of Temple Wood is a mixture of deciduous, coniferous plantation and self-established woodland on an ancient woodland site. A sunny east/west ride divides oak plantation to the north from coniferous plantation to the south-west.</p> <p>The deciduous plantation is predominantly densely planted pedunculate oak and ash with a sparse shrub layer present. Bramble covered the woodland floor in large expanses and ferns and tufted hair-grass are also locally abundant. Broad buckler, narrow buckler, and male fern were all recorded.</p> <p>The wide sunny ride supported a variety of grasses, sedges and wild flowers and provided good habitat for a range of invertebrates. Stands of ruderal vegetation were also frequently present including hemlock water-dropwort, willowherbs, cow parsley and common nettle.</p> <p>Notable species recorded were early purple orchid, English bluebell, yellow archangel, wood sorrel and ransoms. This woodland compartment comprises of a good diversity of habitats and botanical species and supports a wide range of wildlife.</p> <p>There is a low level of management. Some trees from coniferous areas have been felled.</p>
<p>Temple Wood Compartment 4</p>	<p>The southern section of the woodland, including Compartment 4 is largely replanted ancient woodland. This deciduous plantation is predominantly densely planted pedunculate oak and ash with hawthorn forming an occasional shrub layer.</p> <p>Bramble covered the woodland floor in large expanses and ferns and tufted hair-grass were also locally abundant. Broad buckler, narrow buckler and male fern were all recorded.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>Shaded rides dissected the woodland, and wet ditches were frequent.</p> <p>Large Bitter-cress was recorded in a tiny woodland pit near the western edge.</p> <p>This Compartment is dissected by an east/west ride along the ancient woodland boundary along which were recorded a wild service tree and old coppiced trees and a veteran oak.</p> <p>The woodland compartment comprised a reasonable diversity of undisturbed habitats and botanical species to support a wide range of wildlife.</p> <p>There appeared to be very little intervention.</p>
<p>Temple Wood Compartment 5</p>	<p>The southern section of the woodland, including Compartment 5 is replanted ancient woodland, with a mature spruce plantation on the north-western edge.</p> <p>The woodland slopes down from the southern boundary to a small stream. Deciduous plantation on either side of the stream was planted with pedunculate oak, ash with beech on the southern edge. Hazel, poplar, willow, dogwood and birch were also frequently present.</p> <p>Trees in the extreme southernmost sections are sparser with evidence of wind-blow and fallen trees. Bramble, male fern and tufted hair-grass are locally frequent on the woodland floor.</p> <p>Narrow shaded rides crisscross the woodland with wet ditches and patches. Stands of ruderal vegetation were also frequently present including frequent hemlock water-dropwort, willowherbs and common nettle.</p> <p>The woodland comprises a good diversity of undisturbed habitats and botanical species and supports a range of wildlife.</p> <p>There is very little evidence of intervention.</p>
<p>Thorny Wood</p>	<p>Deciduous and coniferous plantation which included spruce, Douglas fir, mature beech, pedunculate oak and ash. There were occasional self-established Lawson's cypress. There was diversity in age and structure of the planting but the Thorny Wood site was, on the whole, botanically less diverse than the majority of the wider woodland complex within which it lies. Spindle, wayfaring tree and field maple were occasional in the shrub layer. A wide sunny ride divided the compartments with narrower shady rides crossing this. A stream crossed the plantation from east to west. Water mint, hairy St John's-wort, ragged robin and plicate sweet</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>grass were locally frequent in wet areas of the rides. Bramble was locally frequent covering the ground between the trees. Formerly coppiced hazel occurred in one section.</p> <p>There was a low level of intervention within the woodland. The ride had been previously mown. Pheasant rearing was in operation at a low level. The spread of bramble should be controlled.</p>
<p>Twyford Wood Compartment 1</p>	<p>This Compartment covers the north-east extent of the site and includes mature plantation on an ancient woodland site. The mature plantation frequently comprises of pedunculate oak and beech. A mature Scot's Pine plantation is located in the centre of this Compartment. Mature Lawson's Cypress are also occasional.</p> <p>This Compartment comprises of a diversity of habitats, including wide sunny rides, narrow damp rides, wet ditches, bare ground, a tiny woodland pond and a stream. Drains and ditches are frequently present bordering the woodland rides and paths.</p> <p>Mature oak with ground cover of bramble and nettle are locally frequent, but English bluebell is also frequent beneath a mature beech (T1 on habitat map).</p> <p>Self-established woodland trees of birch, aspen and willow are very frequent, where the ground flora is dominated by tufted hair-grass and bracken. Retained compartments of mature Scots pine often had an understorey of silver birch and bracken with patches of bare ground.</p> <p>This diverse site provided a range of habitats suitable to support local wildlife, especially birds and invertebrates. The mature plantations together with self-established woodland often forms habitat with a very natural character.</p> <p>There is a very low level of management visible within the woodland. Selective coppicing would significantly improve parts of the site.</p>
<p>Twyford Wood Compartment 2</p>	<p>Compartment 2 covers an area in the north and centre of the woodland. This Compartment comprises of a diversity of habitats, oak plantation, Scot's pine plantation, dense scrub, wide sunny rides, narrow damp rides, wet ditches, bare ground, concrete, ephemeral vegetation and flower-rich road verges.</p> <p>Mature planted trees of pedunculate oak and ash with ground cover of bramble and nettle are frequent as were more recent plantings of oak. Self-established woodland trees of birch, aspen and willow are very frequent, where the ground flora is often dominated by tufted hair-grass and bracken.</p>



## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>Reed Canary-grass formed frequent stands together with rushes at edges of drainage ditches along the concrete roads. Burnet rose also formed low thickets of scrub bordering the road. Southern and Western marsh-orchid and bee orchid occurred alongside the concrete road. An extensive stand of wood vetch was recorded. Bryophyte cover was abundant along edges of the disused runway, where bare ground was also frequent.</p> <p>There is a very low level of management visible within the woodland but the Compartment provides a diverse range of habitats. An increase in coppicing would improve some parts of the site. The majority of the dense younger woodland is deer fenced.</p>
<p>Twyford Wood Compartment 3</p>	<p>This Compartment comprised a diversity of habitats, deciduous plantation, coniferous plantation, dense and scattered scrub, narrow damp rides, a woodland stream, bare ground, neutral and acid grassland, ephemeral vegetation and flower-rich verges.</p> <p>The Compartment includes the majority of the retained coniferous habitats which had an understorey of silver birch, bramble and bracken together with some bare ground. Where coniferous woodland has been removed a mixture of birch species and willow scrub has often established with ground flora dominated by tufted hair-grass and bracken.</p> <p>Neutral and coarse grassland areas managed by the Butterfly Conservation supported species such as dyer's green weed, pepper saxifrage and green winged orchid.</p> <p>There appeared to be a very low level of intervention, where conifers had been removed habitats were naturalising.</p> <p>There is a very low level of management visible within the woodland but the Compartment provides a diverse range of habitats. Selective coppicing would improve some parts of the site.</p> <p>Grassland areas managed by the Butterfly Conservation.</p>
<p>Twyford Wood Compartment 4</p>	<p>This Compartment covers the south-east section of the woodland and comprises of a diversity of habitats, including pedunculate oak, Norway spruce and Scots pine plantations, neutral grassland, wide sunny rides, narrow damp rides, wet ditches, bare ground, concrete, ephemeral vegetation and flower-rich road verges.</p> <p>Planted areas of semi-mature pedunculate oak with ground cover of bramble bordered the disused runway. The edge of the runway is a mosaic of short perennial vegetation, mosses and bare ground.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>Self-established woodland and scrub of birch, poplar, hawthorn and willow are also very frequent - ground flora is often dominated by tufted hair-grass, bracken and bramble.</p> <p>Older, more mature mixed species woodland towards the northern edge of this Compartment included a glade of beech woodland with a stream running through and a sink; here early purple orchid, wood sorrel, wood anemone and soft shield fern were recorded.</p> <p>An area of neutral/acid grassland in the southern extent is managed by Butterfly Conservation.</p> <p>There is a very low level of management visible within the woodland but the site provides a diverse range of habitats. Selective coppicing would significantly improve some parts of the site.</p> <p>Grassland areas managed by the Butterfly Conservation.</p>
<p>Twyford Wood Compartment 5</p>	<p>This Compartment covers the southernmost extent of the woodland including the large triangular runways of the disused airstrip. It comprises of a diversity of habitats, including pedunculate oak and Norway spruce plantations, wide sunny rides, narrow damp rides, wet ditches, bare ground, concrete, ephemeral vegetation and road verges.</p> <p>Semi-mature plantations of pedunculate oak with ground cover of bramble are the dominant habitat bordering the disused runways.</p> <p>Self-established woodland and scrub of hawthorn and willow often form the boundary between the concrete and the plantations. Runways interspersed with bare ground, and scrub was also recolonising the hard-standing.</p> <p>The condition of the woodland is variable. Both bracken and bramble are occasionally dominant on the woodland floor.</p> <p>There is a very low level of management visible within the woodland however the site provides a diverse range of habitats.</p>
<p>Water Lane Field, Woolsthorpe</p>	<p>The current site boundary comprises neutral grassland within a semi-improved field and an improved field, a small block of plantation woodland, a car park, associated hedgerows and a road ditch. The land slopes towards the road but there is no botanical evidence to suggest that the field regularly floods anymore as mentioned in the old citation carried out in 1982.</p> <p>The grassland is horse grazed currently, and divided into a semi-improved and an improved field.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>The woodland is an establishing mixed dense plantation of beech, ash, Scot's pine also containing sycamore, hawthorn, blackthorn and elder. The ground flora is sparse but dominated by nettles where light penetrates.</p> <p>A small road drain runs along the roadside hedge to the north. The hedge is maintained to a low height and is dominated by hawthorn and ash with a ground flora of species such as cleavers, hogweed, herb Robert and upright hedge-parsley.</p> <p>The road drain vegetation had recently been cut but contained a moderate variety of species.</p> <p>The hedgerow to the south comprised ash, hawthorn with dog wood, elder and yew with the woody climbers of dog rose and bramble. The ground flora hedge bedstraw, lords and ladies, ivy, dog's mercury and devil's-bit scabious.</p> <p>This site was designated for grassland with flooding but this no longer occurs.</p> <p>The fields are horse grazed but the woodland block appears to be unmanaged.</p>
Wicker Holt	<p>Wicker Holt is a linear ancient semi-natural woodland sited on a steep-sided stream valley surrounded by arable fields. The woodland appears to be currently unmanaged although an old deer stalking point is still in place and a very overgrown ride is visible in the eastern section. Due to limited access (because of the density of the understorey) this survey was carried out primarily from the edge of the woodland.</p> <p>The woodland comprises primarily mature oak and ash standards with mature field maple. The woodland has a good variety of trees including hawthorn, buckthorn, blackthorn, willow and hazel. There are several trees centrally containing woodpecker holes and fallen and standing deadwood appears to be present throughout.</p> <p>The ground flora contains dense areas of cow parsley, nettle and dog's mercury with lords-and-ladies locally abundant to the south and a dense patch of meadow cranes-bill on the western periphery. Running through the site is a small stream which is heavily shaded and contains abundant moss and liverworts. This site would benefit from an early survey for vernal woodland species to enable less restricted access into the woodland.</p> <p>No evidence of management.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
Willoughby Heath	<p>Site is dominated by arable crops with species-poor but intact hedgerows.</p> <p>Limestone stones present in field margins with potential to support declining arable margin species but this is not confirmed.</p> <p>Habitat is lost.</p>
Wood in South Witham	<p>Site largely comprises of a sycamore plantation with a smaller hybrid black poplar plantation in the north west of the site.</p> <p>A stream forming part of the River Witham runs through the north of the site although is largely overshadowed with woodland and bramble scrub.</p> <p>The woodland ground-flora is poor and largely dominated by common nettle and bramble. A clearing in the woodland is present at the bottom of an old quarry and comprises of species-poor semi-improved grassland dominated by timothy and Yorkshire fog with frequent wood small reed at the base of the quarry slopes.</p> <p>The western slope of this quarry has become overgrown with sycamore and scrub. The eastern slope is more exposed and featured exposed sandy soil in places. This slope contains species associated with well drained ground.</p> <p>Much of the site is plantation woodland with a poor diversity of ground flora. The trees and scrub previously at the bottom of the quarry have been cleared and allowed damp species-poor grassland to colonise. This has allowed greater sun exposure on the eastern slope of the quarry and some indicators of limestone grassland are present but the species diversity is low and no notable species were recorded.</p> <p>Quarry floor cleared of scrub and likely mown to maintain grass sward height.</p> <p>Hunting platforms look out over the western slope and floor of the quarry and as such this area is likely managed for game.</p>
Wood near Pasture Farm	<p>Secondary woodland dominated by mature ivy-clad sycamore on very uneven ground, possibly former workings.</p> <p>There is a ditch/outfall along the south-eastern boundary.</p> <p>The ground rises very steeply from the western side up towards the north-east.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>A large noisy rookery is located in the tall sycamore towards the centre.</p> <p>The woodland floor is often dominated by ivy and also common nettle, however ground flora is generally sparse. Elder formed a frequent shrub layer. Cowslip is locally frequent along the north-western boundary.</p> <p>The woodland appeared to be neglected and unmanaged.</p>
<p>Woodlands Farm Arable and Semi-improved Grassland</p>	<p>Large site comprising eight fields. This compartment is made up of five fields comprising of arable and semi-improved grassland, and some others set-aside comprising of ruderal and annuals.</p> <p>Limited species richness due to dominance of cultivated cropping, species-poor hedgerows, and field margins.</p> <p>Grazed fields by horses comprising of species-poor, semi-improved grassland.</p> <p>Management</p> <p>Arable land and set-aside fields, with light grazing by horses (due to large size of fields).</p> <p>Hay cut from adjacent species-rich meadows used on semi-improved grazed grassland so potential for improvement but currently low species richness.</p> <p>There is some poaching by horses, and potential for nutrient enrichment due to selective grazing, latrines but currently not too bad.</p>
<p>Woodlands Farm Meadow</p>	<p>This compartment is made up of the remaining three fields in the north west of the site. Two are managed as meadows and one is lightly grazed by horses.</p> <p>All the fields contain remnants of ridge and furrow, the eastern field being most pronounced.</p> <p>The two meadows support lowland meadow BAP habitat; however, the third field does not due to management and lack of species diversity. It could potentially be improved if grazing is removed - horse grazing likely deteriorates grassland species over time. Some species still present but rare and scattered.</p> <p>A rich mix of herbs and grasses and the ridge and furrow provides a clear pattern of wet and dry grassland composition.</p> <p>Meadows are in good condition, with excellent habitat structure for wildlife.</p>

## Descriptions of sites surveyed 2014-2016

Site	Site description*
	<p>Boundary hedgerows are species-poor but intact. Internal field boundaries are missing but mature trees still present.</p> <p>Thistles abundant in places particularly in the grazing field and along the southern boundaries of the meadow fields.</p> <p>Aftermath grazing by sheep.</p>
<p>Woodlands Farm Woodland</p>	<p>Woodland with ancient woodland indicators including abundant dog's mercury, midland hawthorn, ash and oak but replanted with white poplar and overgrown with nettles.</p> <p>Boundaries support relic species of value and mature trees, but interior has limited value due to planting of non-native species and canopy being more open allowing ruderal species to dominate.</p> <p>Nutrient levels high due to abundant nettle.</p> <p>Would improve if non-native poplars were replaced with native species.</p>

\*scientific names provided in Appendix 5



## Ecology Consultancy

The Ecology Consultancy is part of the Temple Group.

### Experience and quality that make a difference

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