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### Co112 Boxtedhall Wood Marsh (11.5 ha) TL 998341

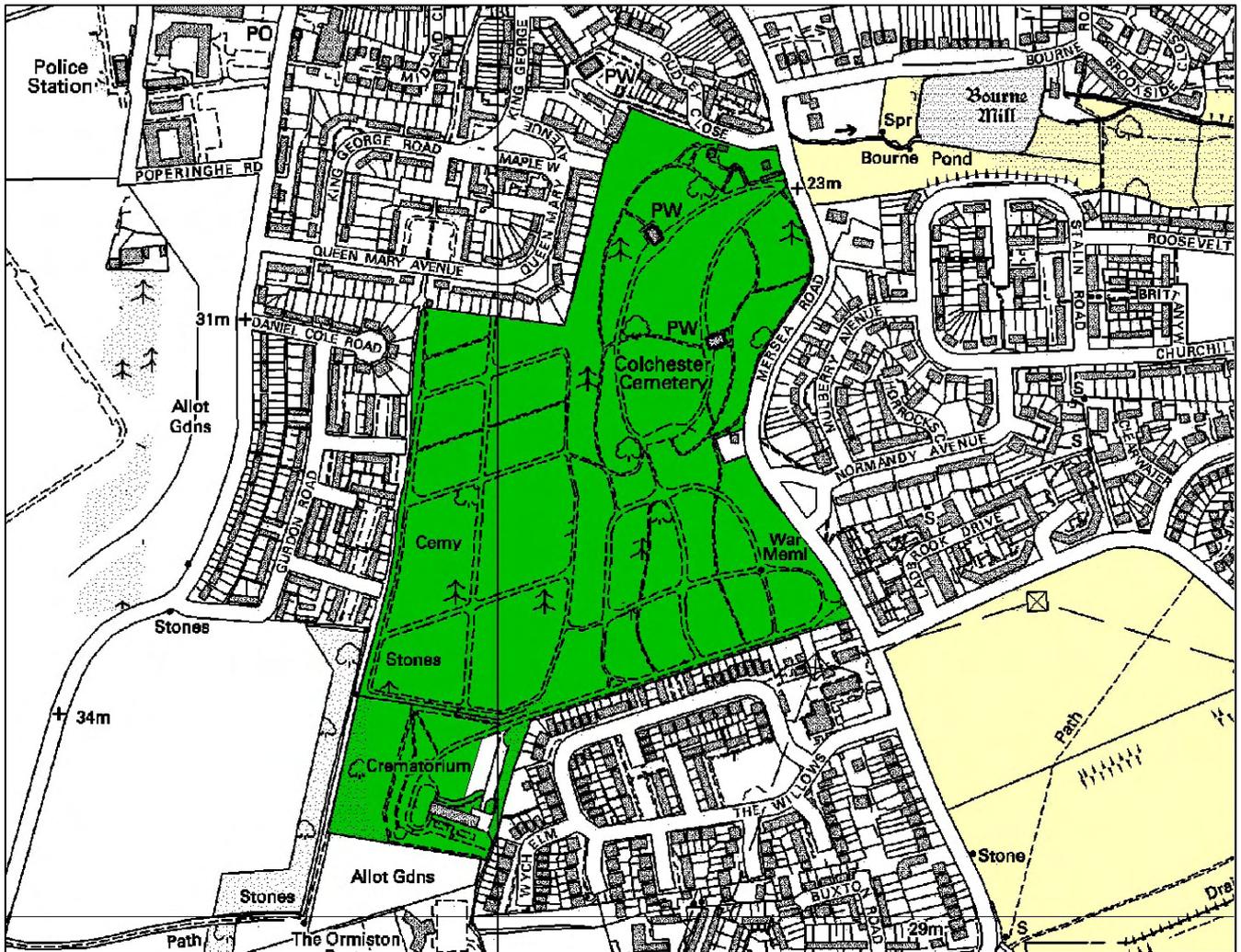
Adjoining the ancient Boxtedhall Great Wood is an extensive series of plantations. These are mostly Willows (*Salix* spp), but other trees are present including Alder (*Anus glutinosa*) and Poplar (*Populus* sp.). The widely spaced trees have allowed for either a ruderal cover of Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*) to develop where the ground is drier, or areas of sedge bed dominated by Lesser Pond-sedge (*Carex acutiformis*) with some Reed Canary-grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) where there is poor drainage. The wetter zones have a more diverse associated herb flora and include Marsh-marigold (*Caltha palustris*), Angelica (*Angelica sylvestris*), Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*), Cuckooflower (*Cardamine pratensis*) and Common Valerian (*Valeriana officinalis*), a species that has declined in Essex and is now on the Essex Red Data List of plants. Common Meadow-rue (*Thalictrum flavum*), another Essex Red Data List species, is also found near peripheral scrub to the north of the site. Also included in this site is a drain extending to the north, which provides valuable habitat for two important scarce species. Amongst the marginal vegetation of the drain is Ragged-robin (*Lychnis flos-cuculi*), whilst the emergent flora is has a substantial population of Water Violet (*Hottonia palustris*), a very scarce plant within Colchester borough, usually confined to clear and relatively nutrient-poor water bodies.

**Selection criteria:** HCr2(a), HCr2(c), ScCr15

**BAP Priority Habitats:** Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland, Wet Woodland (UK)

**Date of selection:** 1991

**Date of last revision:** December 2008



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### Co113 Colchester Cemetery (21.4 ha) TM 000234

As with many churchyards, this large, old cemetery has encapsulated and helped to preserve an area of old grassland, albeit modified by its use. The best flora lies in the older western section, where the Essex Red Data List plant Meadow Saxifrage (*Saxifraga granulata*) is particularly notable. Other characteristic acid grassland species include Field Scabious (*Knautia arvensis*), Mouse-ear-hawkweed (*Pilosella officinarum*), Bird's-foot (*Ornithopus perpusillus*), Knotted Clover (*Trifolium striatum*) and Heath Bedstraw (*Galium saxatile*).

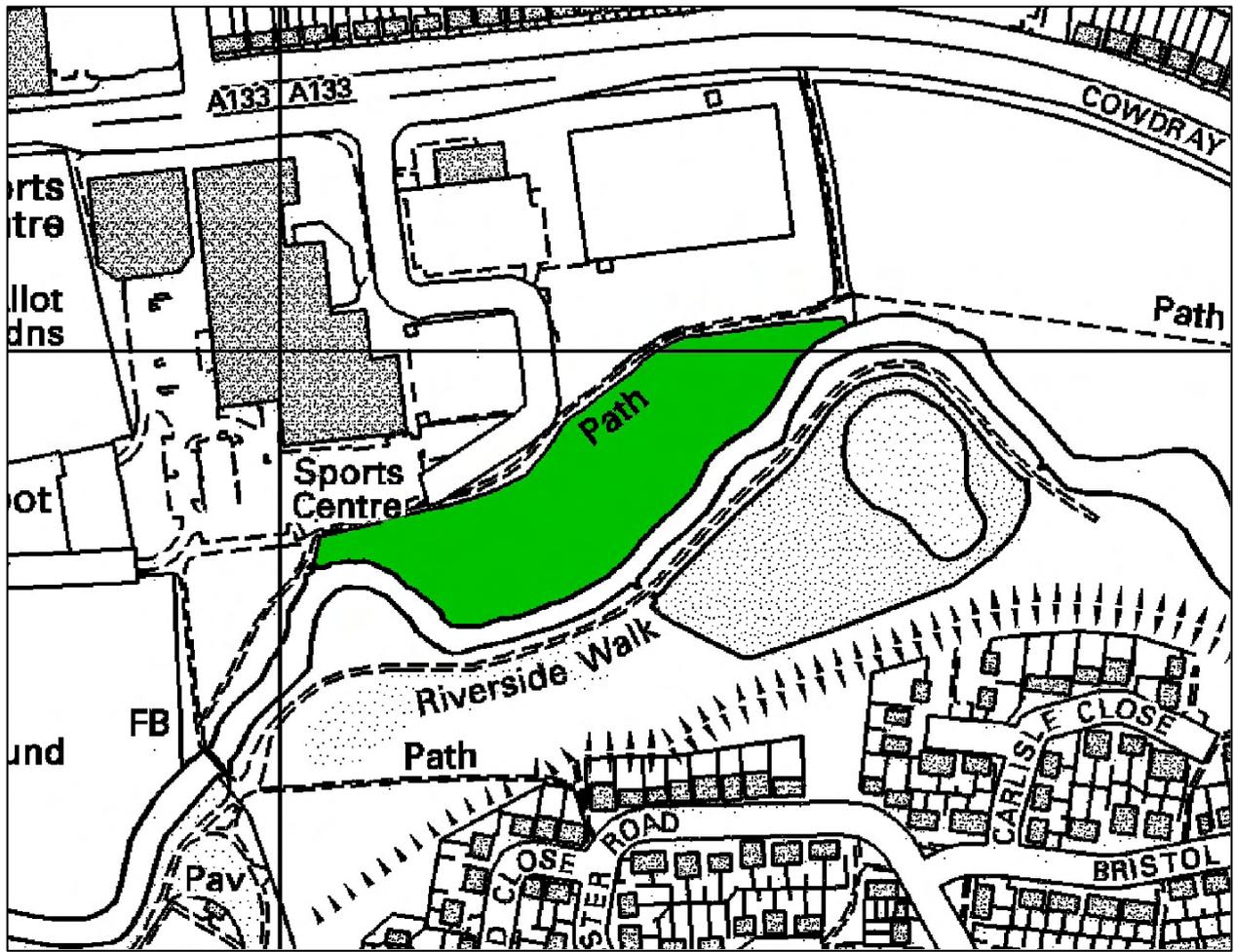
Invertebrates recorded in recent years include several Nationally Scarce species such as the UK BAP Priority species Stag Beetle (*Lucanus cervus*), the solitary bee *Dasypoda hirtipes* and the micro-moth *Nemophora fasciella*. Barn Owls have been known to use the various buildings across the site, as have roosting bats.

**Selection criteria:** HCr11, SCr15

**BAP Priority Habitats:** Lowland Dry Acid Grassland (UK); Lowland Grasslands, Urban Habitats (Essex)

**Date of original selection:** December 2008

**Date of last revision:** -



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**Co114 Bull Meadow LNR (1.4 ha) TM 002259**

This riverside wet meadow has a very diverse flora that includes Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) and the rare (in Essex) Brown Sedge (*Carex disticha*) and Bottle Sedge (*Carex rostrata*). Other species of interest include Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*), Cuckooflower (*Cardamine pratensis*), Marsh Foxtail (*Alopecurus geniculatus*) and Marsh Woundwort (*Stachys palustris*). The varied invertebrate interest includes a good range of foraging bumblebees, the Nationally Scarce (Na) Long-winged Conehead Bush-cricket (*Conocephalus discolor*), several species of damselfly from the adjacent river, using the meadow as hunting grounds, and the Nationally Scarce (Na) Wasp Spider (*Argiope bruennichi*). Common Toads, now a national BAP species, also occur here.

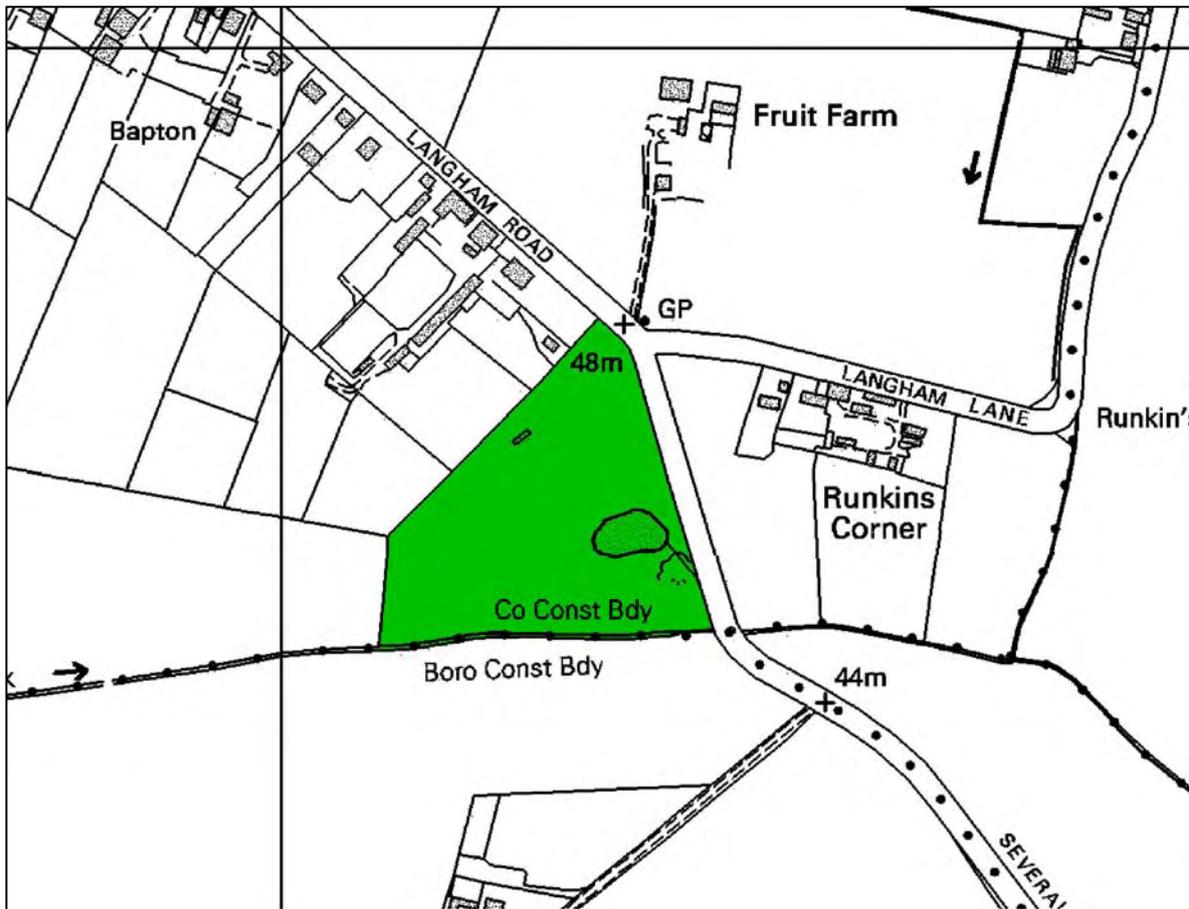
This is one of a series of remnant river flood plain sites that occur along the river Colne within Colchester. Management of the increasing carpet of Hedge Bindweed (*Calystegia sepium*) is urgently required in order to prevent it from smothering the marshland vegetation.

**Selection criteria:** HCr14; SCr15

**BAP Priority Habitats:** Lowland Fens (UK); Urban Habitats (Essex)

**Date of original selection:** 1991

**Date of last revision:** December 2008



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### Co115 Langham Road Grassland (2.9 ha) TM 001296

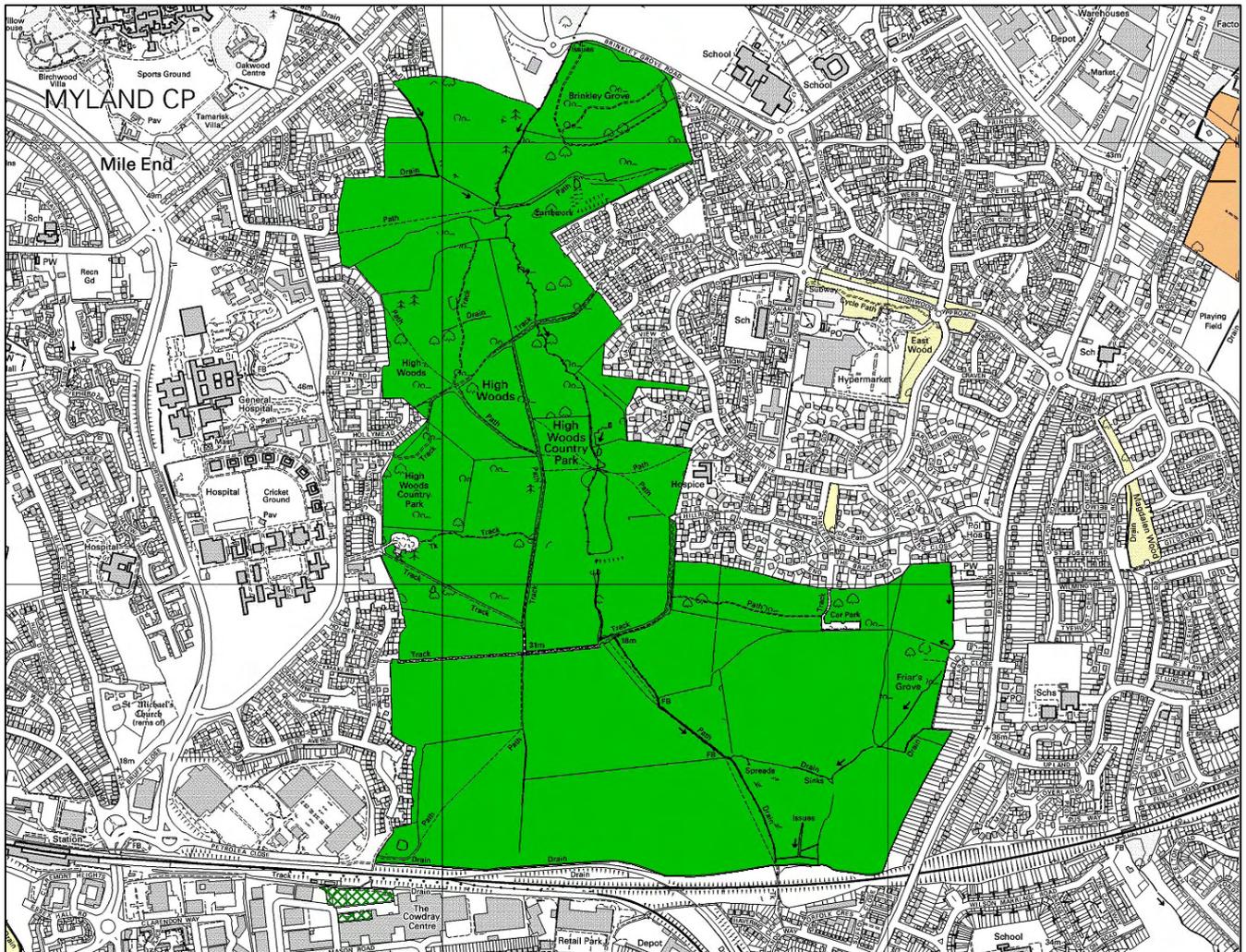
This varied Habitat comprises dry and damp grassland with a pond on the east side of the site. The dry grassland is characterised by grasses including Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*) and Meadow-grasses (*Poa* sp.). The damper zones are distinguished by a composition including Marsh Foxtail (*Alopecurus geniculatus*) and Floating Sweet-grass (*Glyceria fluitans*). Herbs associated with these areas include Greater Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus pedunculatus*), Marsh Thistle (*Cirsium palustre*) and Lesser Spearwort (*Ranunculus flammula*) an Essex Red Data List (ERDL) species which has declined due to improved drainage of wet meadows. The pond is dominated by Bulrush (*Typha latifolia*) with encroaching Grey Willow (*Salix cinerea*) particularly on the east and south sides. The west side of the pond displays open habitat where Water Horsetail (*Equisetum fluviatile*), also ERDL, forms an extensive stand, while the margins support Cuckooflower (*Cardamine pratensis*). A threat to the pond is New Zealand Pigmyweed (*Crassula helmsii*) which currently covers much of the shallow water area and is gradually choking the ponds native vegetation, which cannot effectively compete against this invasive alien species.

**Selection Criteria:** HCr11, SCr15

**BAP Priority Habitats:** Lowlands Meadows (UK); Lowland Grassland (Essex)

**Date of selection:** December 2008

**Date of last revision:** -



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## Co116 High Woods (145.0 ha) TM 001275

### Woodland

High Wood with Brinkley Grove is one of the largest ancient woods in the borough. The overgrown coppice-with-standards structure is composed of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), Small-leaved Lime (*Tilia cordata*), Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*) and Downy Birch (*B. pubescens*), with some planted conifers. Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) is scattered along the small stream that runs through the wood to feed the main lake within the open grassland of the country park. The ground flora displays a wide range of species including Creeping Soft-grass (*Holcus mollis*), Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), Pignut (*Conopodium majus*), Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*), Wood Sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*), Lesser Celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*), Great Wood-rush (*Luzula sylvatica*), Common Cow-wheat (*Melampyrum pratense*), Yellow Pimpernel (*Lysimachia nemorum*) and Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*). Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*) still survives in some areas.

Friars Grove on the eastern margin of the site is also ancient wood and is being actively managed as Hornbeam and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) coppice with Ash and Pedunculate Oak standards. The central stream supports a small stand of Alder with scrubby Oak/Ash wood adjacent to housing to the east. The diverse canopy and understorey also includes Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Sweet Chestnut, Hazel, Common Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Crab Apple (*Malus sylvestris*), Wild Cherry (*Prunus avium*) and Small-leaved Lime. The ground flora is varied, particularly with regard to ancient woodland species, including Moschatel, Wood Anemone, Pignut, Remote Sedge, Bluebell, Yellow Archangel (*Lamium*

*galeobdolon*), Hairy St. John's-wort (*Hypericum hirsutum*), Dog's Mercury, Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*) (some of which are from garden origin) and Early Dog Violet (*Viola reichenbachiana*).

Elsewhere, blocks of relatively newly planted woodland are maturing and will need some management in the future to reduce crown density as they mature. Selective coppicing would greatly increase the habitat diversity of these areas of woodland, which currently comprise rather uniform stands of even-aged standards.

### Grassland

The grasslands range from areas of short-mown amenity swards, through tall, less intensively managed meadow to areas of wet rush-pasture, swamp and fen vegetation. Some grassland has been recently created from ex-arable fields, using an appropriate meadow seed mix and creating some of the most flower-rich grasslands in the site. Overall, the sward comprises a diverse mix of common grasses and herbs, including Meadow Foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*), Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*), Bent-grasses (*Agrostis* spp.), Yellow Oat-grass (*Trisetum flavescens*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Crested Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Field wood-rush (*Luzula campestris*), Agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*), Black Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Bird's-foot Trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), Grass Vetchling (*Lathyrus nissolia*), Bulbous Buttercup (*Ranunculus bulbosus*), Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*), Ox-eye Daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*), Clovers (*Trifolium* spp.) and Wild Parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*). Species of particular note include Cowslip (*Primula veris*), Peppercorn (*Silaum silaus*) and Pignut (*Conopodium majus*). In damper areas, Tufted Hair-grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*), rushes (*Juncus* spp.), Angelica (*Angelica sylvestris*), Cuckooflower (*Cardamine pratensis*), Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) and Common Fleabane (*Pulicaria dysenterica*) can be found.

Scrub invasion is well-advanced in some areas of grassland and management will be needed to maintain a mosaic of scrub and open grassland in some parts of the site, but especially in the south-east close to Friars Grove. Across the site, old hedgerows and a section of ancient green lane provide additional habitat diversity.

### Fauna

The mosaic of habitats here supports a good variety of birds, insects, mammals, reptiles and amphibians, including many species of conservation concern. The main lake supports a good population of frogs and toads, despite the fish present, whilst a small pond near Turner Rise supports Smooth Newts. These amphibian populations help to support Grass Snakes, whilst Common Lizards also occur here. The Turner Road pond supports at least nine species of dragon- and damselfly, including the Nationally Rare (RDB2, Vulnerable) Scarce Emerald (*Lestes dryas*). Of particular significance amongst the invertebrates is the White Admiral (*Limenitis camilla*) – a rare Essex butterfly, which inhabits High wood itself. Many other species of more common butterflies are found here, including the Small Heath, Speckled Wood, Ringlet, Common Blue and Meadow Brown. The invertebrate fauna also includes a rare Essex cuckoo-bee (*Psithyrus rupestris*) and also a recent UK colonist bumblebee *Bombus hypnorum* at one of its few known Essex locations. Planted Poplars in the open space near Mile End support the rare gall-forming bug *Pemphigus populi*.

**Selection criteria:** HCr1(a), HCr2(a), HCr2(c), HCr6(b), HCr10, HCr12, HCr13, SCr3, SCr14

**BAP Priority Habitats:** Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland, Lowland Meadows, Hedgerows (UK), Ancient Woodland, Ancient/Species-rich Hedgerows and Green Lanes, Lowland Grassland, Urban Habitats (Essex)

**Date of original selection:** 1991

**Date of last revision:** December 2008



Manwood grasslands are Sharp-flowered Rush (*Juncus acutiflorus*), Pepper Saxifrage (*Silaum silaus*) and Fine-leaved Water-dropwort (*Oenanthe aquatica*).

#### Man Wood

This ancient wood has been extensively replanted by conifers, particularly Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*). Native species include Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and Wild Service-tree (*Sorbus torminalis*) over a ground flora typical of light and well-drained soils, which includes much Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*), Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Greater Stitchwort (*Stellaria holostea*). Other notable species are Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), Climbing Corydalis (*Ceratocarpus claviculata*), Heath Speedwell (*Veronica montana*) and Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*).

#### Scrub and Woodland

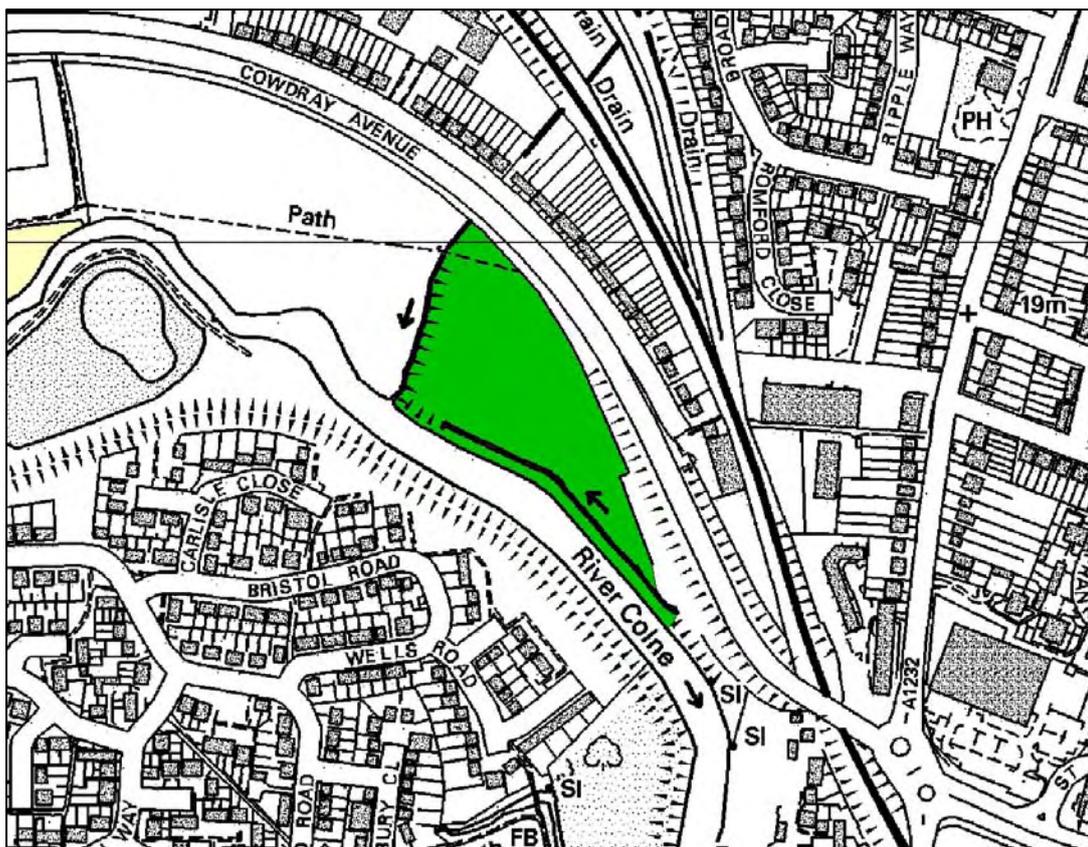
The band of scrub and secondary woodland immediately south of Manwood grassland exhibits a varied structure and composition of woody species, which includes spaced-out Pedunculate Oak standards along upper slopes and dense Silver Birch, Hazel, Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) along lower slopes. The underlying sand and gravels support associated species such as Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*), Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*), Bracken, Heath Speedwell, Sheep's-sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*), Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*) and Wood Sage (*Teucrium scorodonia*). Bluebell and Remote Sedge are also amongst the woodland flora. Other herbs found along disturbed tracks and open areas are Red Bartsia (*Odontites vernus*), Scarlet Pimpernel (*Anagallis arvensis*), Wild Carrot (*Daucus carota*), Agrimony Common Centaury (*Centaureum erythraea*), Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*) and Hairy St John's-wort (*Hypericum hirsutum*). Parts of the site are used extensively for clay pigeon shooting.

**Selection criteria:** HCr1(a), HCr2(a), HCr2(c), HCr10, HCr14, HCr23

**BAP Priority Habitats:** Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland, Lowland Fens, Coastal and Floodplain Grassland (UK); Lowland Grassland, Ancient Woodland (Essex)

**Date of selection:** 1991

**Date of last revision:** December 2008



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### **Co118 Cowdray Marsh (2.2 ha) TM 006259**

This site has undergone a radical change since its original designation as a SINC in the early 1990s. Originally a rush-pasture, the site was largely topsoil stripped and generally disturbed as a presumed prelude to housing development. However, since then it has recovered to form a damp marshland and wet woodland mosaic within the River Colne flood plain, of interest for its flora and invertebrates. Typical marshland plants include Angelica (*Angelica sylvestris*), Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*), Soft Rush (*Juncus effusus*), Hard Rush (*J. inflexus*), a large quantity of Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), Water Mint (*Mentha aquatica*) and Brooklime (*Veronica beccabunga*). Areas of young wet scrub woodland are provided by Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), Grey Alder (*Alnus incana*), Goat Willow (*Salix caprea*), Grey Willow (*S. cinerea*) and White Willow (*S. alba*).

Of particular interest amongst the invertebrates is the Nationally Endangered (RDB1) digger wasp *Cerceris quadricincta*. This species has long been a speciality of the Colchester area and this site appears to form part of a mosaic of habitats being utilised by a population of this wasp along the River Colne corridor and extending into surrounding urban areas. The Nationally Scarce Wasp Spider (*Argiope bruennichi*) has a strong population within the marsh, implying a good grasshopper population, since these form its main prey. The site also supports a diverse bumblebee population, the Nationally Scarce (Na) long-winged Conehead Bush-cricket (*Conocephalus discolor*) and a large population of breeding frogs. Other amphibian species may also be present.

**Selection criteria:** HCr6(b); HCr14; SCr14

**BAP Priority Habitats:** Lowland Fens (UK); Urban Habitats (Essex)

**Date of original selection:** 1991

**Date of last revision:** December 2008



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### **Co119 Pete Tye Common (17.8 ha) TM 006180**

This site comprises Pete Tye Common and an additional area of non-common land grassland. The eastern and western sections comprise a mosaic of dry and damp grassland and scrub. Several large anthills confirm the antiquity of the site. Centrally is a tall grass sward cut for hay. Meadow Barley (*Hordeum secalinum*) is frequent alongside Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Meadow Foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*), Yorkshire Fog (*Holcus lanatus*) and Velvet Bent-grass (*Agrostis canina*). There are relatively few flowering plants and the most common species are Meadow Buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*), Meadow Vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*), Smooth Tare (*Vicia tetrasperma*) and Creeping Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*). The common includes areas of scrub and rough grassland that extend along Peldon Road and Colchester Road, although one section of common has been removed from the site on account of it being damaged by the dense planting of broadleaved trees. Bands of Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) scrub and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) dominate parts of the verge and will need managing to ensure they do not smother the ancient grassland beneath. A tussocky area of tall herbs and scattered Bramble lies south of Colchester Road and this retains a good variety of herbs including Common Fleabane (*Pulicaria dysenterica*), Greater Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus pedunculatus*), Black Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Meadow Vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*) and Agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*).

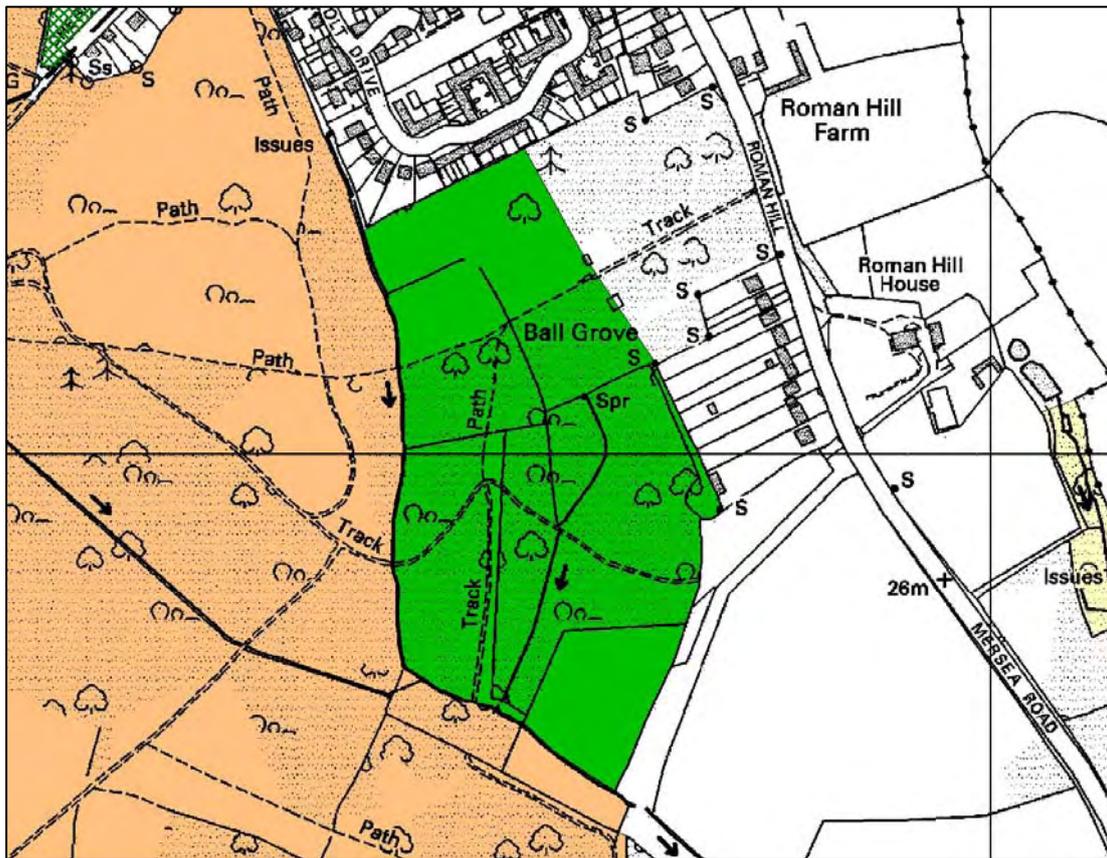
An area of rough grassland, which is not common land, provides additional habitat for small mammals and invertebrates. Meadow Foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*), Meadow Barley and Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*) are amongst the tall grassland sward, which is dominated by coarse species. Here, herbs are typified by Field Bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*), Creeping Thistle, Meadow Vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*) and Meadow Buttercup.

**Selection criteria:** HCr6(b), HCr11, HCr13

**BAP Priority Habitats:** Lowland Meadows (UK); Lowland Grassland (Essex)

**Date of selection:** 1991

**Date of last revision:** December 2008



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### Co120 Ball Grove (10.3 ha) TM 006209

This site comprises a mosaic of ancient woodland, recent woodland, rough grassland and an old, species-rich meadow. Here, the most significant species are Green-winged Orchid (*Orchis morio*), Adder's-tongue Fern (*Ophioglossum vulgatum*) and Fairy Flax (*Linum catharticum*), amongst Bird's-foot Trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Common Sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*), Agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*), Crested Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*), Black Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*) and Heath Speedwell (*Veronica officinalis*). The northern grasslands are taller and unmanaged, but still retain an acid grassland flora, which includes Common Centaury (*Centaureum erythraea*), Mouse-ear-hawkweed (*Pilosella officinarum*) and Field Wood-rush (*Luzula campestris*), although False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) is coming to dominate some areas.

The central area of woodland is the remnant ancient Ball Grove, which is typically old Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) coppice with Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards. Here, the ground flora includes Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*) and Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*). Away from this core of ancient wood is a larger area of maturing recent oak wood with some grassy rides.

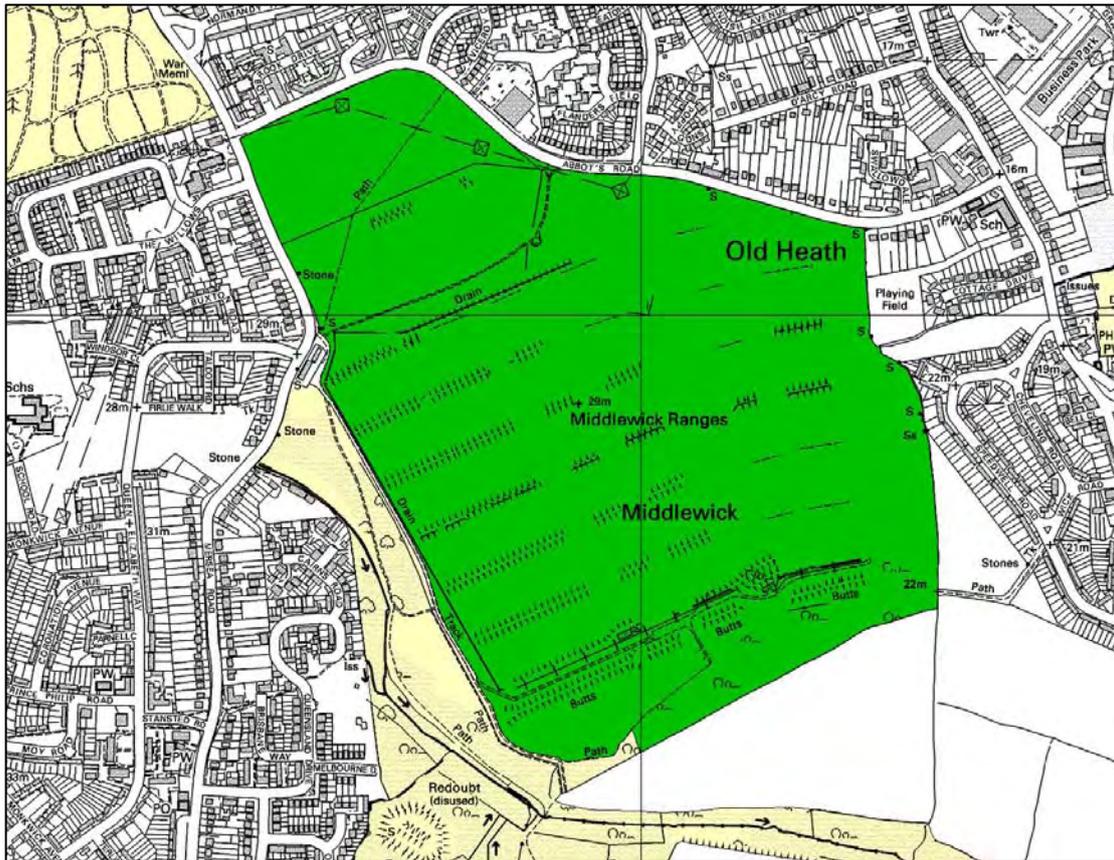
**Selection criteria:** HCr1(b), HCr2(a), HCr10, HCr13, SCr15

**BAP Priority Habitats:** Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland, Lowland Meadows (UK); Ancient Woodland, Lowland Grassland (Essex)

**Date of original selection:** December 2008

**Date of last revision:** -





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### **Co122 Middlewick Ranges (70.1 ha) TM 009228**

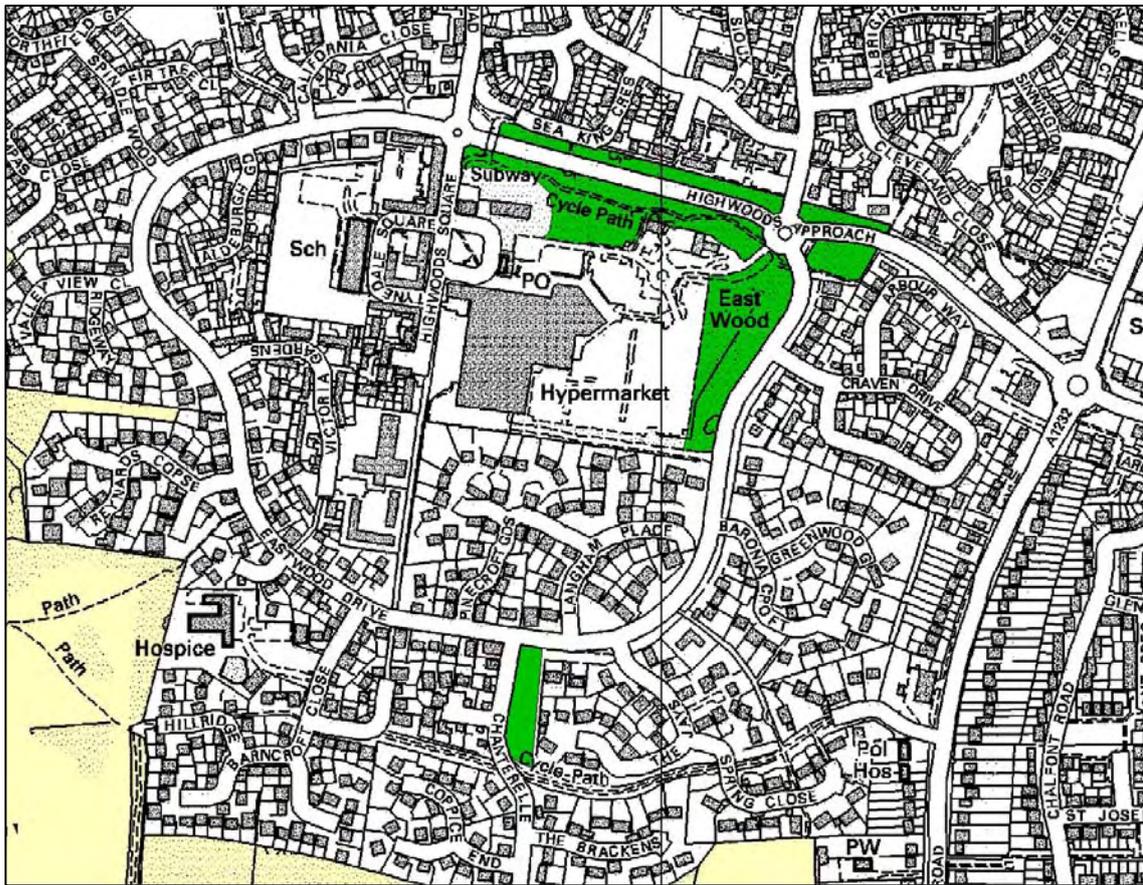
The vegetation here comprises tall sward grassland to the north, short-mown acidic turf over the rifle ranges and scrubby acidic grassland behind the main butts. The flora is dominated by Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Field Wood-rush (*Luzula campestris*) and Common Bent-grass (*Agrostis capillaris*), with scrub of Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*), Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) and Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*). The principal value of this site, however, is its invertebrate populations. The main rifle butts at the south end of the site, along with smaller sandy banks to the north, provide significant nesting habitat for a range of insects, whilst the extensive grasslands surrounding them, including those areas kept closely mown over the active parts of the rifle range, provide the necessary additional foraging grounds. The best-studied group of insects here is the hymenoptera (bees, wasps and ants), within which seven nationally threatened (Red Data Book) and eight Nationally Scarce species have been recorded. The most significant species are the digger wasp *Cerceris quadricincta* (RDB1), the UK BAP digger wasp *Cerceris quinquefasciata* (RDB3), its brood-parasite cuckoo-wasp *Hedychrum niemelai* (RDB3) and the Small Blue Carpenter-bee *Ceratina cyanea* (RDB3). Some of the short-mown sandy banks bordering the range roads support a large population of the pRDB4 Bee-wolf digger wasp (*Philanthus triangulum*). The scrubby acid grassland behind the rifle butts was the last known site for the Grayling butterfly in Essex, which is now only known as a sporadic vagrant along the Thames estuary.

**Selection criteria:** HCr12; HCr19; SCr13; SCr14

**BAP Priority Habitats:** Lowland Dry Acid Grassland (UK); Lowland Grassland (Essex)

**Date of original selection:** 1991

**Date of last revision:** December 2008



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### Co123 East Wood (5.2 ha) TM 010274

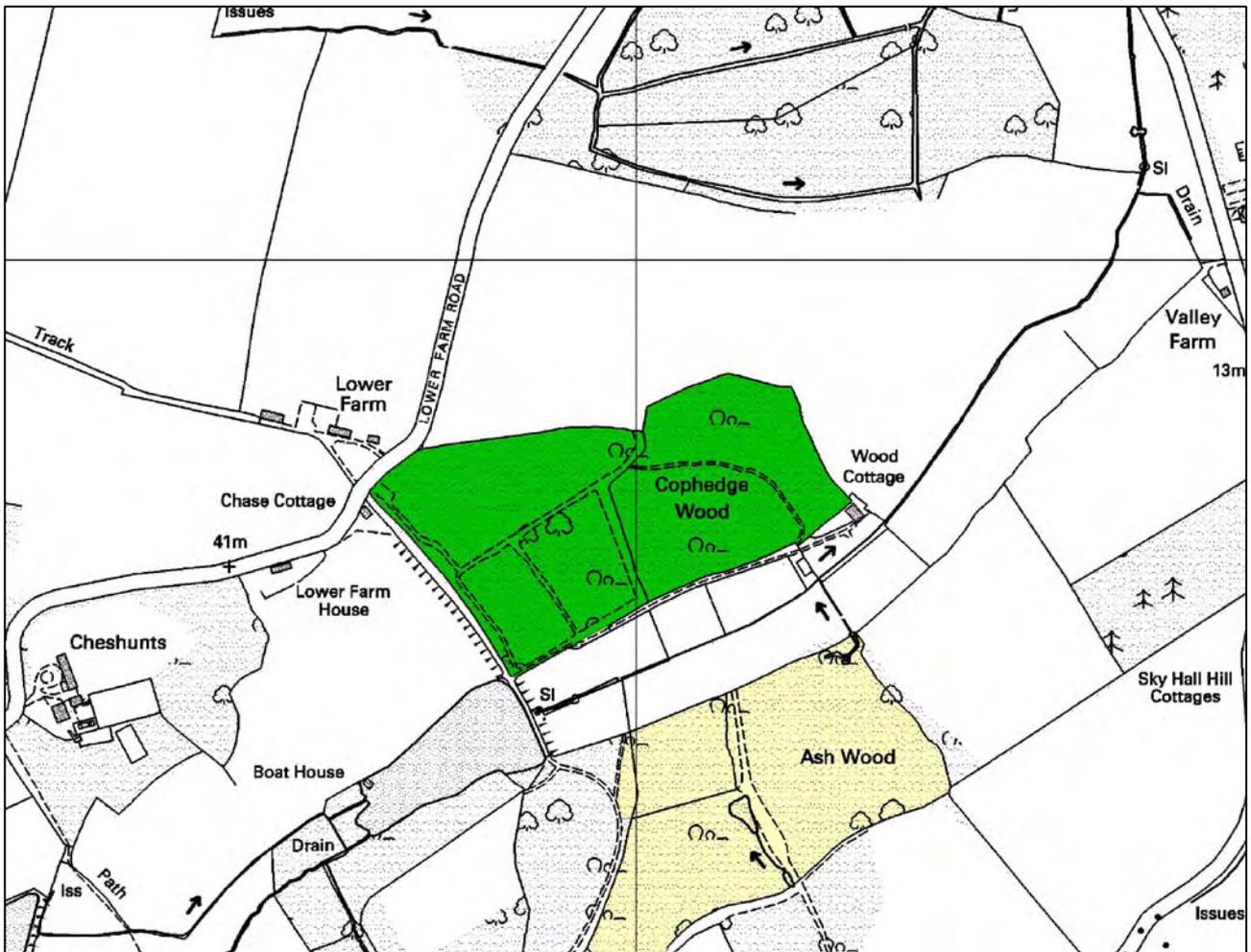
East Wood was largely destroyed by a supermarket and housing development. However, a number of fragments and boundary banks survived, scattered through the development. The canopy of those blocks clustered around Highwoods Approach largely comprises Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards amongst Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) trees from coppice with some Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*) and Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*). The ground flora is dominated by Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*), although a surprisingly varied ground flora has survived in places where human disturbance is not significant. Characteristic species include Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*), Wood Sedge (*Carex sylvatica*), Wavy Hair-grass (*Deschampsia flexuosa*), Wood Spurge (*Euphorbia amygdaloides*), Creeping soft-grass (*Holcus mollis*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Great Wood-rush (*Luzula sylvatica*) and Wood Meadow-grass (*Poa nemoralis*). A small remnant of the southern part of East Wood also survives adjacent to the road Chanterelle. Here, Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice is frequent, along with some Sweet Chestnut and Pedunculate Oak. The ground flora is being heavily trampled by general pedestrian traffic, but still includes frequent Creeping soft-grass, Bluebell and Bramble.

**Selection criteria:** HCr1(a)

**BAP Priority Habitats:** Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK); Ancient Woodland, Urban Habitats (Essex)

**Date of original selection:** 1991

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### Co124 Cophedge Wood (8.0 ha) TM 010337

This wood can be split into two sections, the eastern half, ancient woodland, and the western half which is recent. The ancient section has a mix of Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*) and Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*). These trees form either a high canopy or sub canopy structure. Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) coppice and some Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) are found towards the east end of the wood. The ground flora is dominated by Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Ivy (*Hedera helix*), interspersed with patches of Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg).

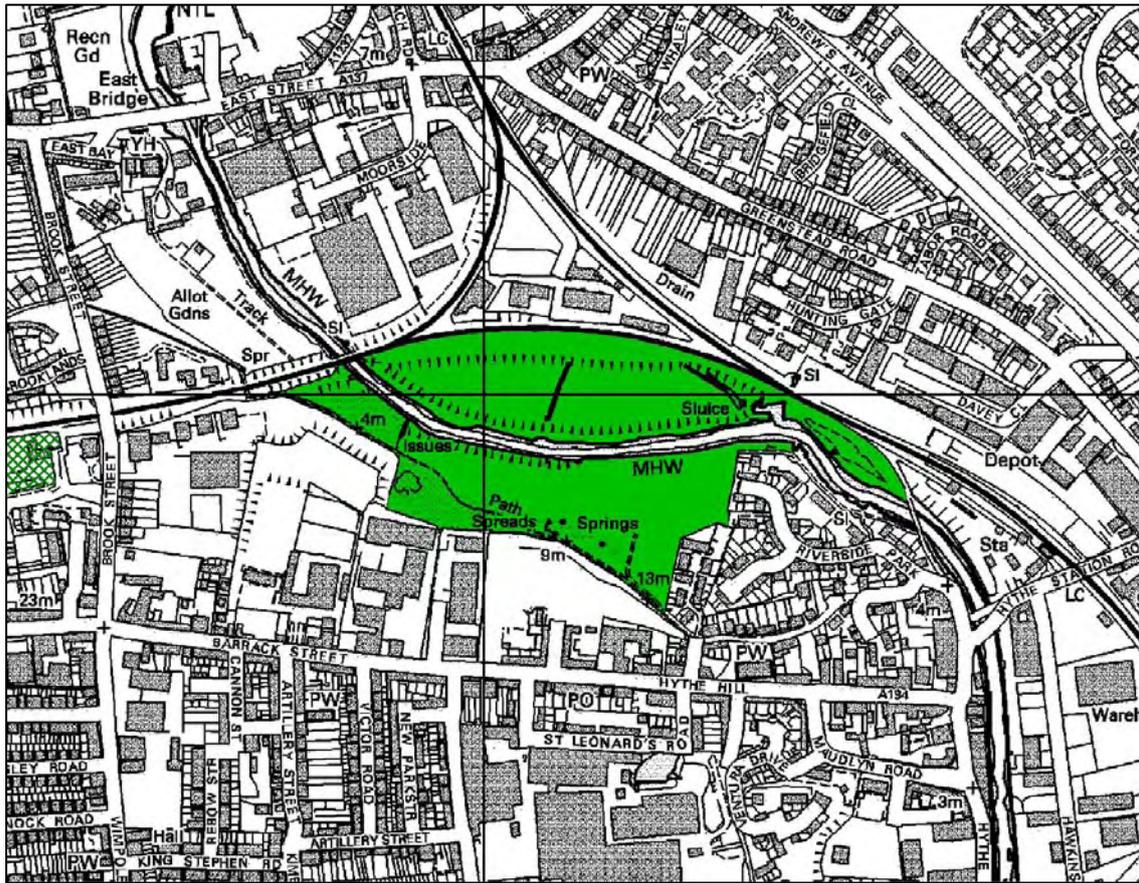
The non ancient block has a similar composition with Sycamore, Silver Birch Sweet Chestnut and Oak. The central area has been subject to felling and clearing of trees. The ground flora here has much Ground Ivy (*Glechoma hederacea*) with scattered Bramble patches. Bluebells grow in this block, but they are very rare, as might be expected from the more recent origins for this section.

**Selection criteria:** HCr1(a), HCr2(a)

**BAP Priority Habitats:** Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK); Ancient Woodland (Essex)

**Date of selection:** 1991

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### Co125 The Moors (8.1 ha) TM 011250

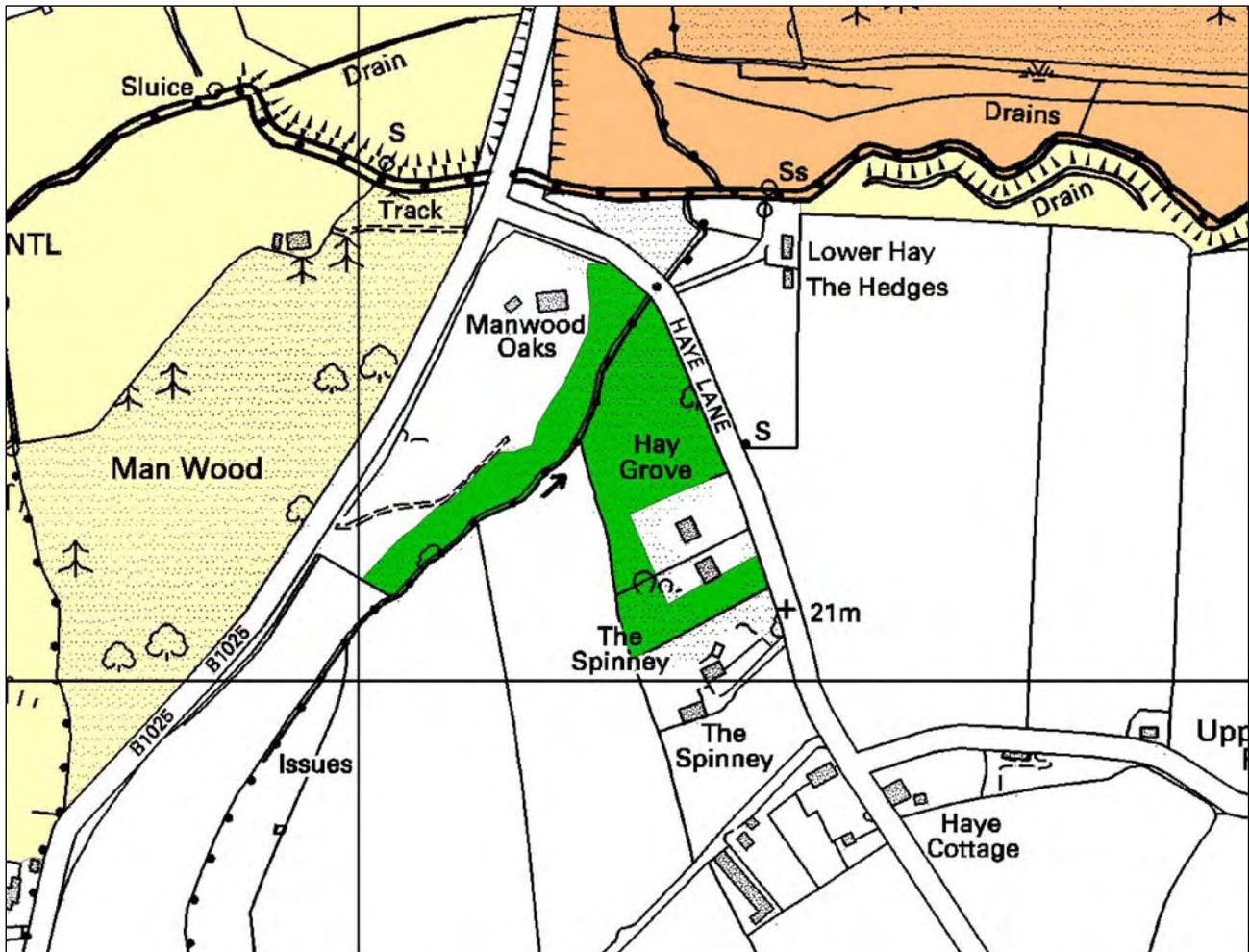
This unusual site, in parts heavily disturbed in the past by man's activities, comprises Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*)-beds, woodland, rough grassland and ruderal communities that have developed a unique flora and fauna. The invertebrate populations are of particular note, with Roesel's (*Metrioptera roeselii*), Short-winged Cone-head (*Conocephalus dorsalis*) and Dark (*Pholidoptera griseoaptera*) Bush-crickets, Lesser Marsh Grasshopper (*Chorthippus albomarginatus*), Wormwood Shark Moth (*Cucullia absinthii*), several interesting hoverflies and, unusually for Colchester, a good mollusc fauna. Also present are a good range of bumblebees, butterflies and the Nationally Scarce (Na) Wasp Spider (*Argiope bruennichi*). The flora includes Hemlock Water-dropwort (*Oenanthe crocata*, a rare Essex plant), Wormwood (*Artemisia absinthum*) and Dittander (*Lepidium latifolium*) (a Nationally Scarce species). Management to halt the spread of scrub woodland will be necessary to maintain the diverse mosaic of habitats across the southern part of this site.

**Selection criteria:** HCr2(b), HCr6(b), HCr13, HCr21

**BAP Priority Habitats:** Reedbeds (UK and Essex)

**Date of original selection:** 1991

**Date of last revision:** December 2008



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### Co126 Haye Grove/Manwood Oaks (2.1 ha) TM 011201

This small grove is dominated by Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards with Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) growing above an understorey of Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.). Butchers-broom (*Ruscus aculeatus*) and Red Currant (*Ribes rubrum*) are also present. The ground flora is diverse in composition where the Bramble cover subsides and includes Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) in abundance, as well as Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), Pignut (*Conopodium majus*), Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*), Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon* subsp. *montanum*) and Barren Strawberry (*Potentilla sterilis*). A central area of Haye Grove has been lost to development which has extended the gardens of two residential properties. Manwood Oaks is also being subsumed into a residential garden. The northern banks of the tributary support a varied canopy and ground flora with Wood Anemone, Greater Stitchwort (*Stellaria holostea*), Wood-sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*), Three-nerved Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*) and Heath Speedwell (*Veronica officinalis*) growing underneath large oak, Hornbeam and Hazel coppice.

**Selection criteria:** HCr1(a), HCr1(b)

**BAP Priority Habitats:** Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK); Ancient Woodland (Essex)

**Date of selection:** 1991

**Date of last revision:** December 2008



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**Co127 Donyland Woods West (2.0 ha) TM 011208**

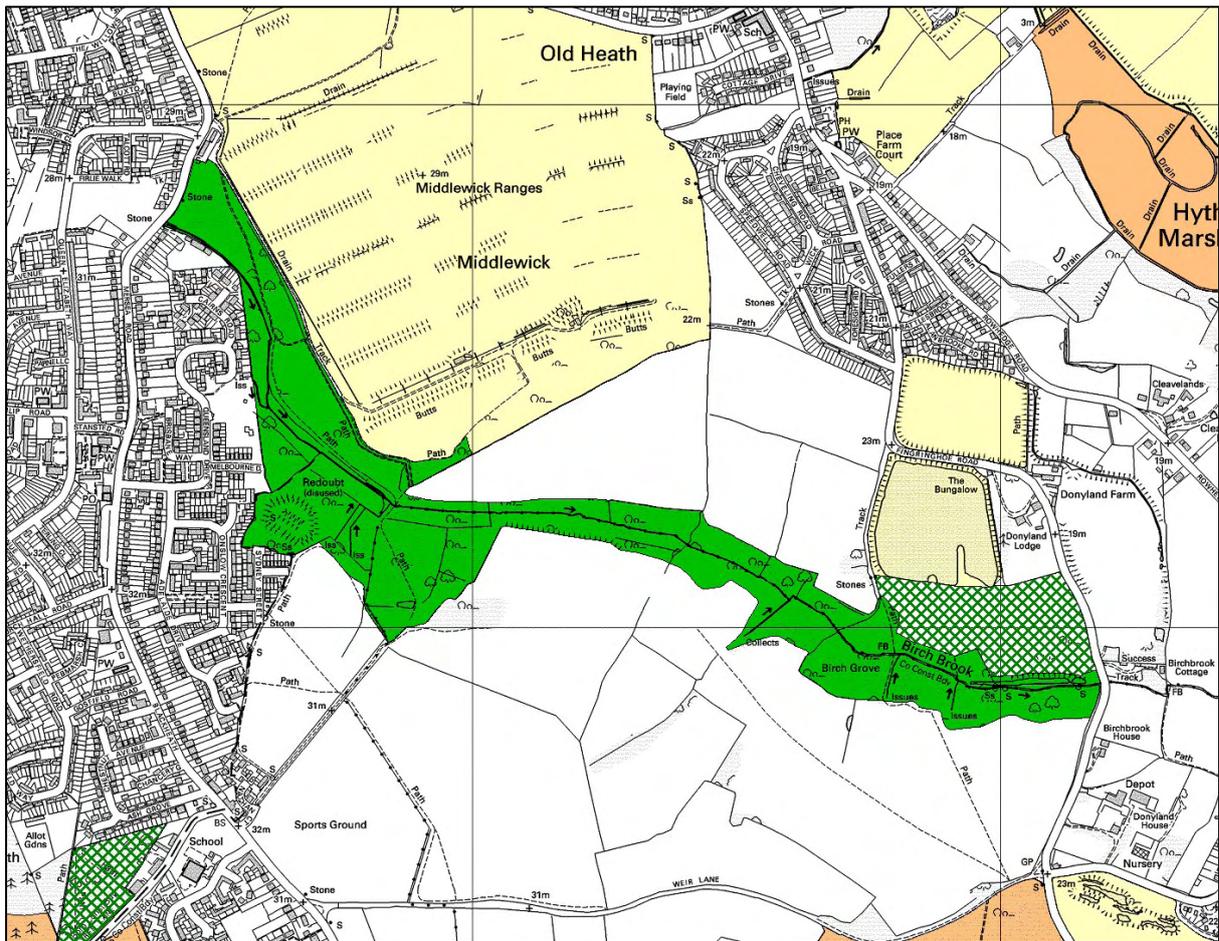
The northern end of this narrow, streamside wood shows signs of being ancient. Here, a steeply-sided stream gully has Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) coppice with Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards, with Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*) and abundant Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) in the ground flora. The southern end comprises Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) and Elm (*Ulmus* sp.) along with some planted exotics and is of more recent origin. The flora is diverse close to the stream, with more Bluebells, along with Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*), Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*) and Lesser Celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*).

**Selection criteria:** HCr1(b), HCr2(a)

**BAP Priority Habitats:** Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK); Ancient woodlands (Essex)

**Date of original selection:** December 2008

**Date of last revision:** -



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### Co128 Birch Brook Wood (30.3 ha) TM 010222

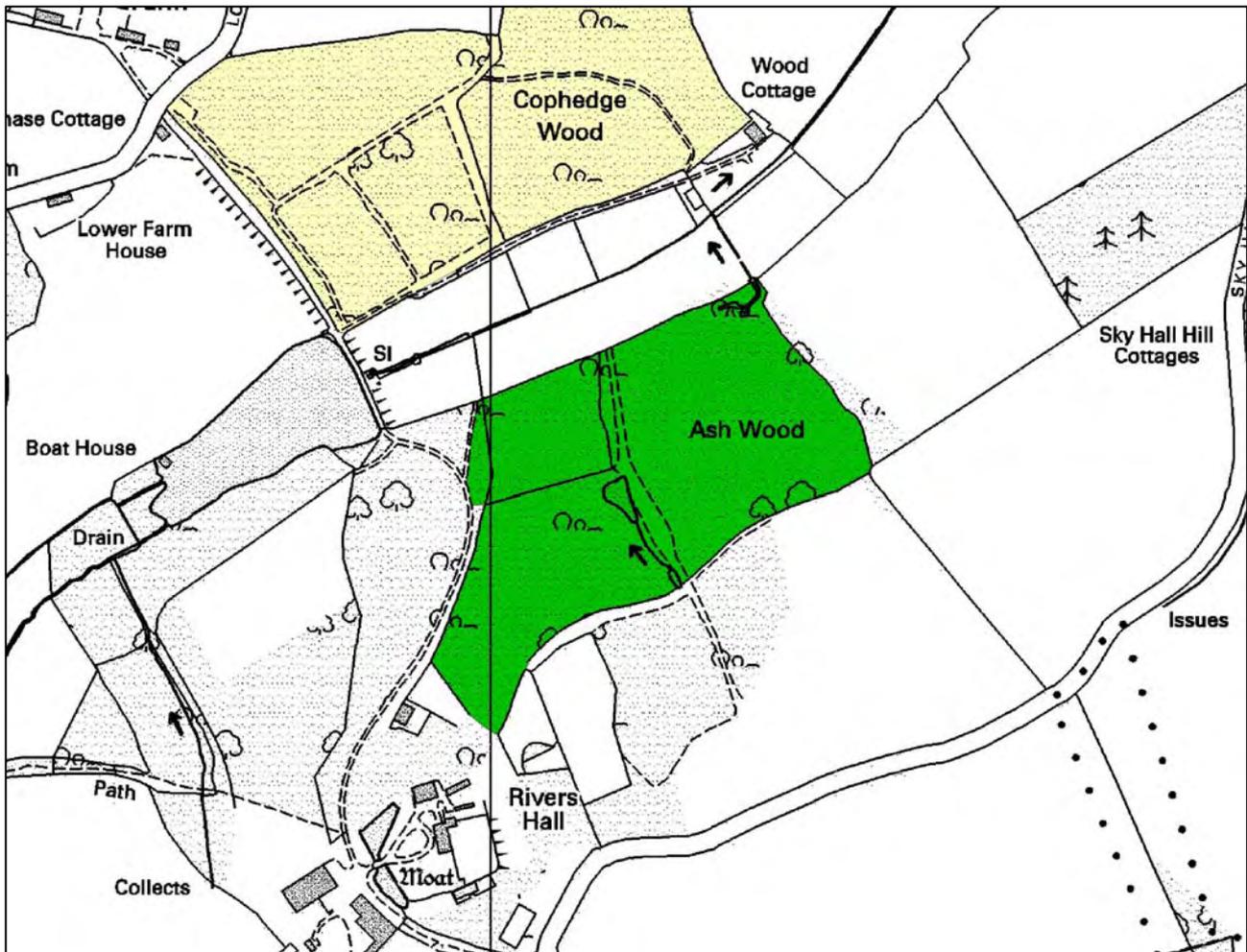
This stream valley wood shows remarkable variation in woodland types. On the higher, dry ground is a wood of mainly Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Birch (*Betula* spp.) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), but this quickly gives way down slope to willow scrub woodland with Crack Willow (*Salix fragilis*) and Grey Willow (*S. cinerea*). The immediate streamside is fringed by Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*). Occasional seepage springs have encouraged slumping of the valley sides and small, localised sedge-beds have formed as a result. The ground flora is rich in ferns, with Narrow Buckler-fern (*Dryopteris carthusiana*), Hart's-tongue Fern (*Phyllitis scolopendrium*) and Scaly Male Fern (*Dryopteris affinis*) of particular note. The flora also includes Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), Lady Fern (*Athyrium filix-femina*), Pignut (*Conopodium majus*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Creeping Jenny (*Lysimachia nemorum*), Wood Sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*), Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*) and Wood Horsetail (*Equisetum sylvaticum*) at one of its few Essex locations. The area around the Redoubt comprises dry acid grassland and scrub, providing additional habitat diversity.

**Selection criteria:** HCr2(b), HCr2(d), HCr5, SCr15

**BAP Priority Habitats:** Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland, Wet Woodland (UK)

**Date of original selection:** 1991

**Date of last revision:** December 2008



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### Co129 Ash Wood (6.7 ha) TM 011335

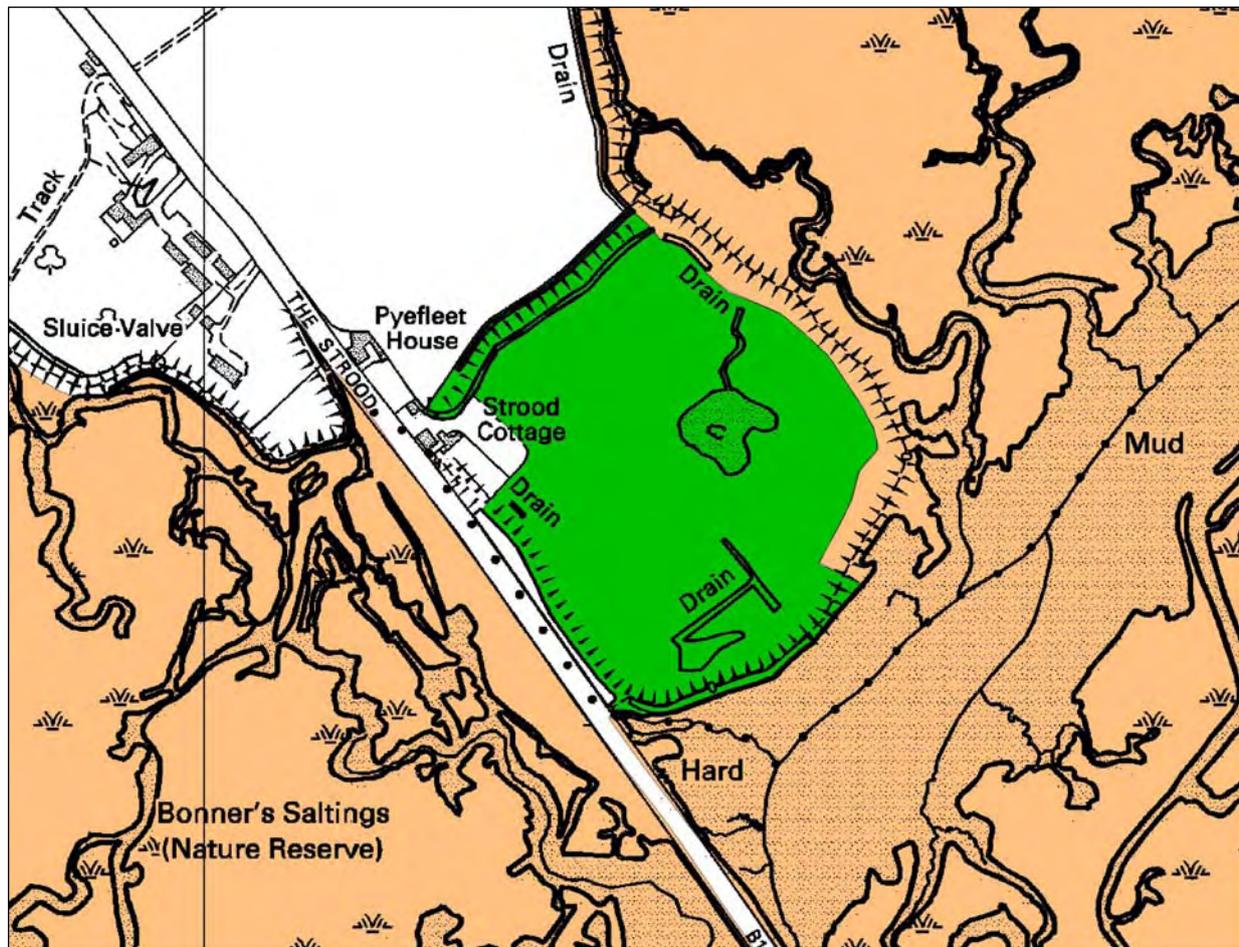
This wood displays a varied structure ranging from areas with a high canopy to those predominantly formed of a lower shrub layer. A good mix of broadleaved tree and shrub species are present including Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*), Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) and Wild Cherry (*Prunus avium*). Most of the wood has well drained slopes where Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) forms extensive ground flora cover. In contrast to the drier slopes is an area in the north-west corner where an open canopy with Sweet Chestnut exists over a very wet Soft-rush (*Juncus effusus*) dominated habitat. Small patches of Opposite-leaved Golden-saxifrage (*Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*) are found in the wettest zones near the stream.

**Selection criteria:** HCr1(a), HCr2(a), SCr15

**BAP Priority Habitats:** Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK); Ancient Woodland (Essex)

**Date of selection:** 1991

**Date of last revision:** December 2008



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### Co130 Strood Marsh (6.8 ha) TM 013153

Strood Marsh is contained within sea walls that separate it from the adjacent SSSI. It consists of freshwater scrapes and ditches concentrated in the eastern half and a peripheral area of tussocky rough grassland. The western area contains mounds and disturbed bare ground where the site has previously been subject to tipping and earth movement. The freshwater scrapes and ditches comprise dominant stands of Sea Club-rush (*Bolboschoenus maritimus*), with Hard Rush (*Juncus inflexus*), Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*), and Lesser Bulrush (*Typha angustifolia*) also present along the margins. The surrounding rough grassland is periodically grazed by sheep and contains typical species including Cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*), Common Couch (*Elytrigia repens*), Crested Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*), Meadow Foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*), Spear Thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*) and Wild Carrot (*Daucus carota*). The grassland becomes dominated by Tufted Hair-grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*) and Hard Rush to the south. There are occasional scattered shrubs including Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) and Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) grows along parts of the sea wall.

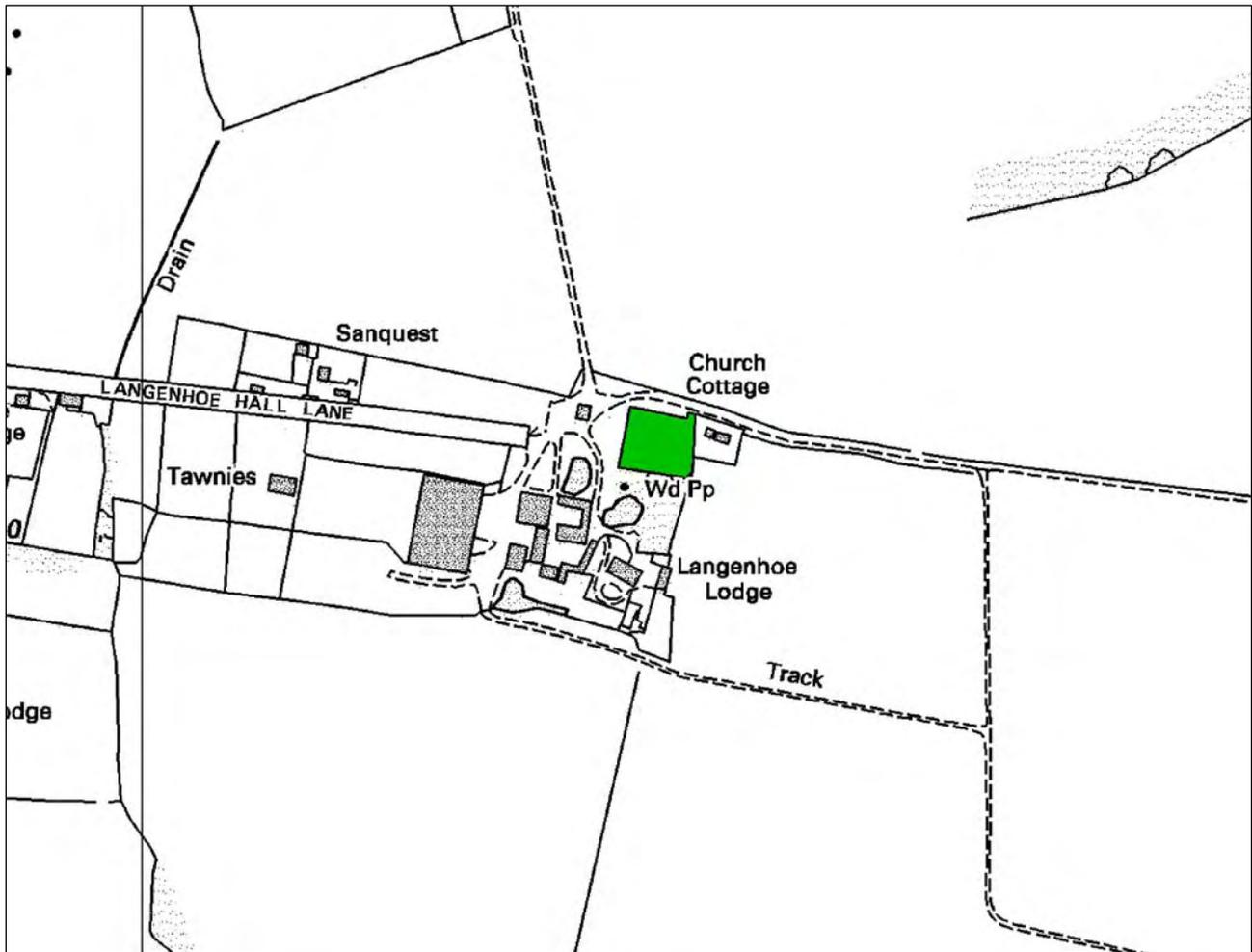
A large population of Water Voles has been recorded throughout the network of ditches and the margins of the open water habitat and Snipe are known to occur in this wetland habitat. It also forms an invaluable high water roost for wildfowl and waders associated with the adjacent saltmarsh and mudflats.

**Selection criteria:** HCr16, SCr10

**BAP Priority Habitats:** Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh (UK); Coastal Grazing Marsh (Essex)

**Date of selection:** December 2008

**Date of last revision:** -



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### **Co131 Langenhoe Lodge churchyard (0.2 ha) TL 013174**

This small, old and redundant churchyard comprises rough grassland and tall ruderals, but still retains a number of interesting species. Although coarse grasses dominate, Yellow Oat-grass (*Trisetum flavescens*) and Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*) are amongst the finer species present. Oxeye Daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*) and Black Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*) are abundant and the herb layer also includes Selfheal (*Prunella vulgaris*), Meadow Buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*), Agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*) and Common Fleabane (*Pulicaria dysenterica*), which cater for a variety of nectaring insects. An abundance of Nettles (*Urtica dioica*), Bristly Oxtongue (*Picris echioides*), Ground-ivy (*Glechoma hederacea*) and other species tolerant of nutrient rich soils is indicative of the lack of recent management. Pyramidal Orchid (*Anacamptis pyramidalis*), an Essex Red Data List species, is also present amongst the tall grassland sward and is particularly notable in this part of the county.

**Selection criteria:** HCr10

**BAP Priority Habitats:** Lowland Meadows (UK); Lowland Grassland (Essex)

**Date of selection:** December 2008

**Date of last revision:** -



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**Co132 Magdalen Wood (1.3 ha) TM 015272**

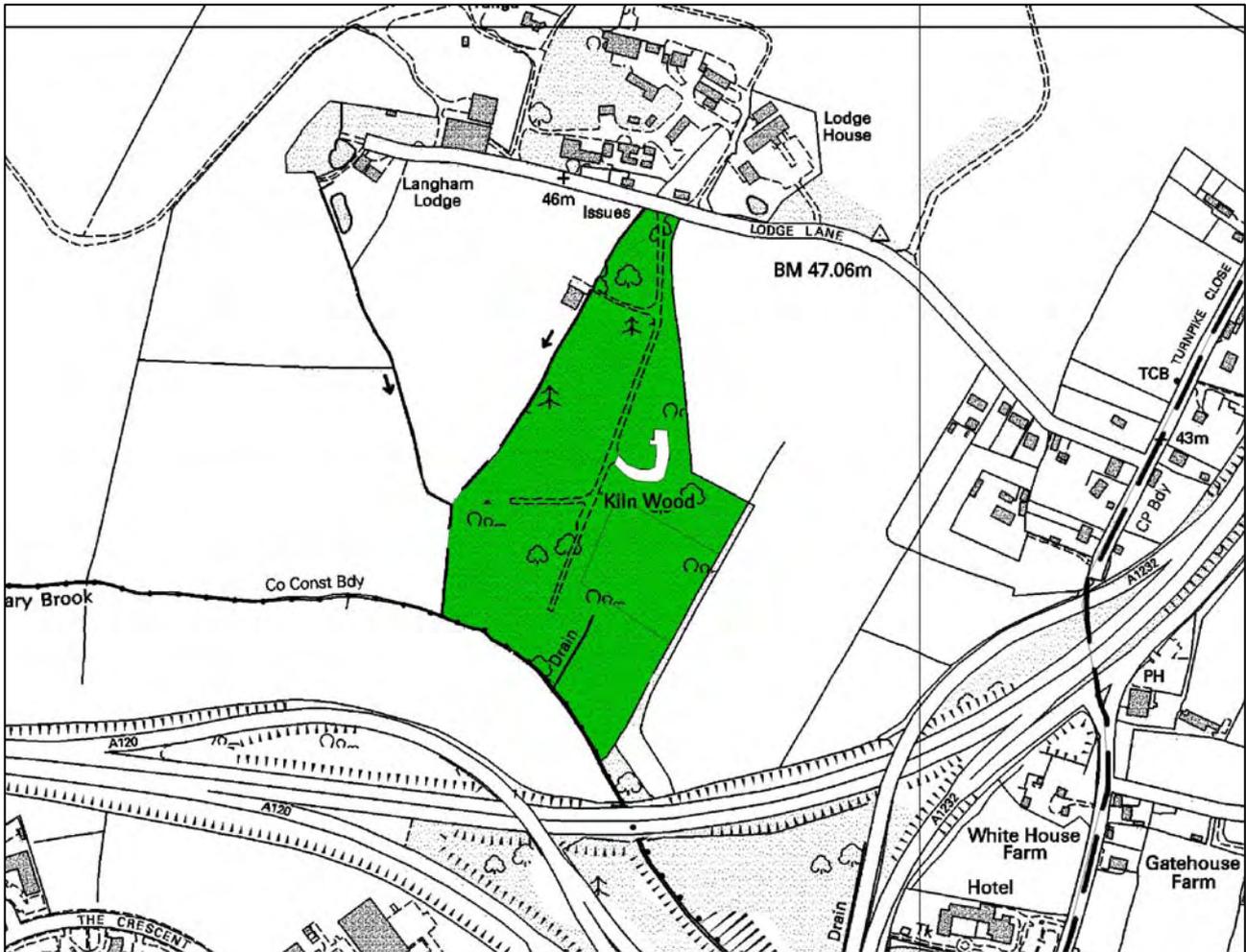
This site comprises the remnant western edge of Magdalen Wood, the rest of which has been lost to housing. It is a well-walked wood and has significance to the Essex urban HAP, bring ancient woodland ecology right into the lives of those people living around it. The rather heavily trampled ground flora still includes locally frequent Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Lesser Celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*), as well as Pignut (*Conopodium majus*). The canopy comprises mainly Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), with some very large overgrown coppice stools (now to canopy height) of Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) and, curiously for an essentially dry site, Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*). It would be beneficial to curb the influx of garden escape plants within the ground flora and also to limit the extent of trampling by attempting to delineate a lesser number of definite paths.

**Selection criteria:** HCr1(b)

**BAP Priority Habitats:** Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK); Ancient Woodland, Urban Habitats (Essex)

**Date of original selection:** December 2008

**Date of last revision:** -



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**Co133 Kiln Wood (9.2 ha) TM 017295**

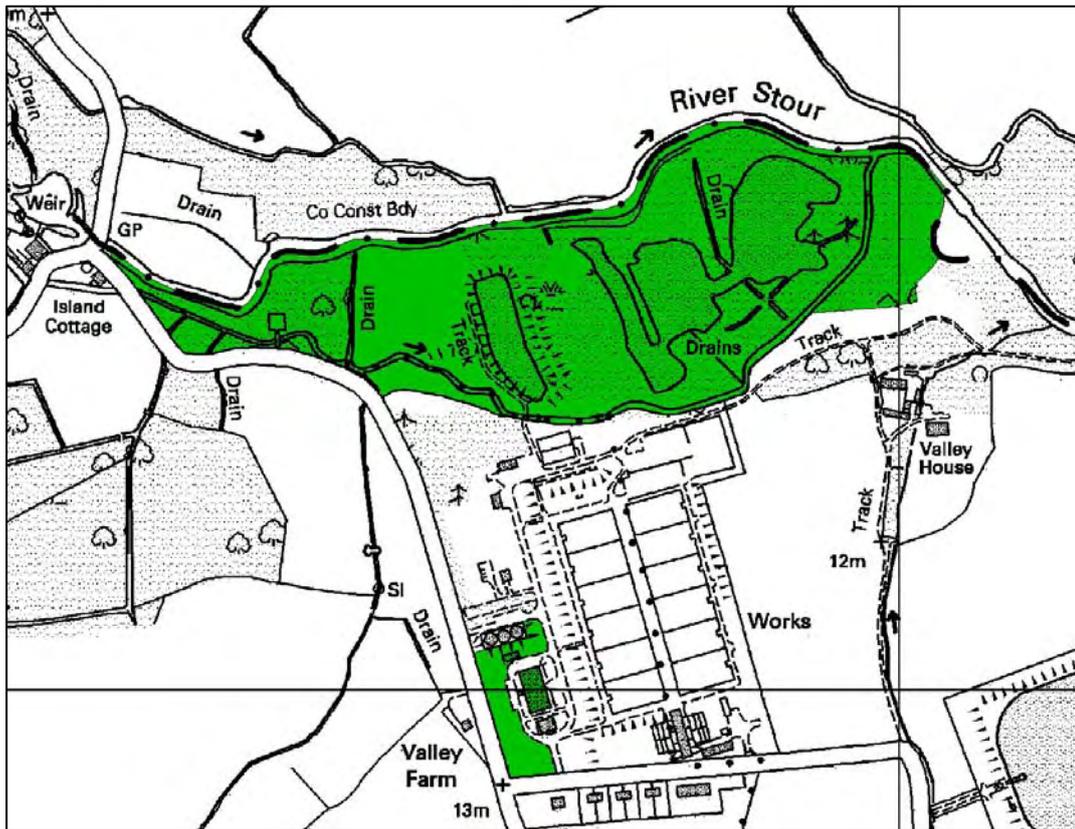
This ancient wood exhibits a varied structure. Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) and Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*) all contribute to the canopy cover. Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) is abundant in the ground flora. The non-ancient part of the wood is not easily discernible from the ancient section. Young Alder and Birch are found in the recent section. Two areas in the south of this wood have been cleared. Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg) is now encroaching over the open ground, but a central area in one clearing has extensive patches of Bird's-foot Trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*) and a few spikes of Bee Orchid (*Ophrys apifera*).

**Selection criteria:** HCr1(a), HCr2(a)

**BAP Priority Habitats:** Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK); Ancient Woodland (Essex)

**Date of selection:** 1991

**Date of last revision:** December 2008



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### Co134 Langham Water works (12.0 ha) TM 016343

This site lies largely within the Langham water treatment works. It comprises a mosaic of wet woodland, lakes and other water courses and also a small orchard, which has a good population of Cuckooflower (*Cardamine pratensis*) in the lawn beneath the trees. The main building of the treatment works is also included on account of its county significance for breeding House Martins, with approximately 50 nest active in recent years.

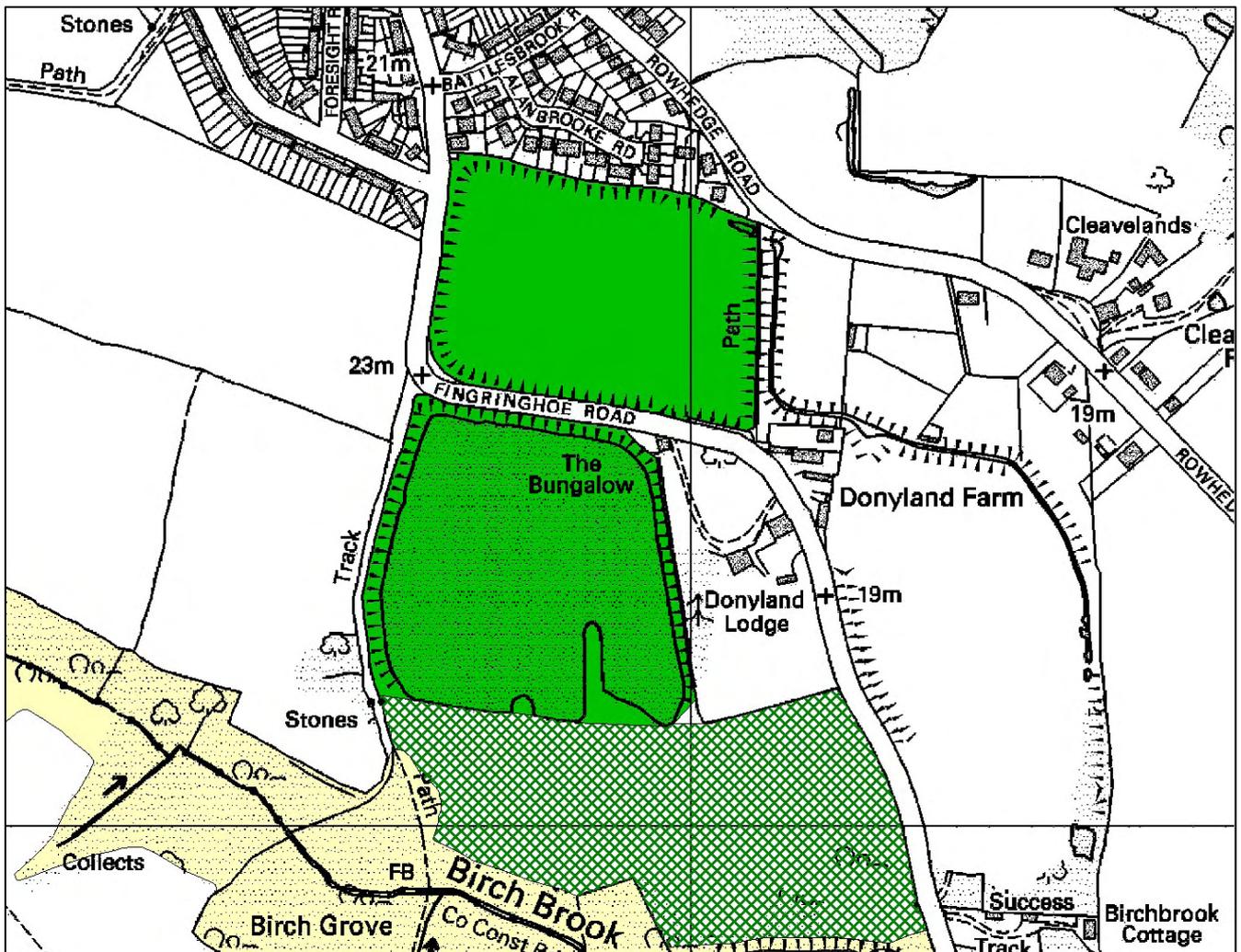
The woodland canopy is a mix of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) in drier ground and both native and planted willows (*Salix* spp.) in wetter areas. The ground flora in this nutrient-rich environment is locally dominated by Stinging Nettle (*Urtica dioica*), which acts as a primary host for the Nationally Scarce parasitic plant Greater Dodder (*Cuscuta europaea*). This plant is only known in Essex from the Stour Valley. The lake margins support the Essex Red Data List plant Skullcap (*Scutellaria galericulata*). The scrub and wood habitats support a number of RSPB Birds of Conservation concern, including Bullfinch, Dunnock, Goldfinch and Green Woodpecker. This mosaic of habitats supports a good range of significant invertebrates, including White-legged Damselfly, Red-eyed Damselfly, Banded Demoiselle, the Nationally Rare (RDB2) fly *Leopoldius brevivirostris* and the hoverfly *Chalcosyrphus nemorum*. Water Voles have also been recorded from some of the ditches.

**Selection criteria:** HCr2(c), HCr6(b), HCr7, HCr23, HCr26, SCr14, SCr15

**BAP Priority Habitats:** Wet Woodland, Eutrophic Standing Waters, Traditional Orchards (UK); Old Orchards (Essex)

**Date of original selection:** 1991

**Date of last revision:** December 2008



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### Co135 Donyland Wetlands (9.5 ha) TM 019223

This site has been notified on account of its breeding amphibians, most notably Common Toad, now a UK BAP species. The fauna also includes Common Frog and Smooth Newt, with the possibility of Great Crested Newts also occurring.

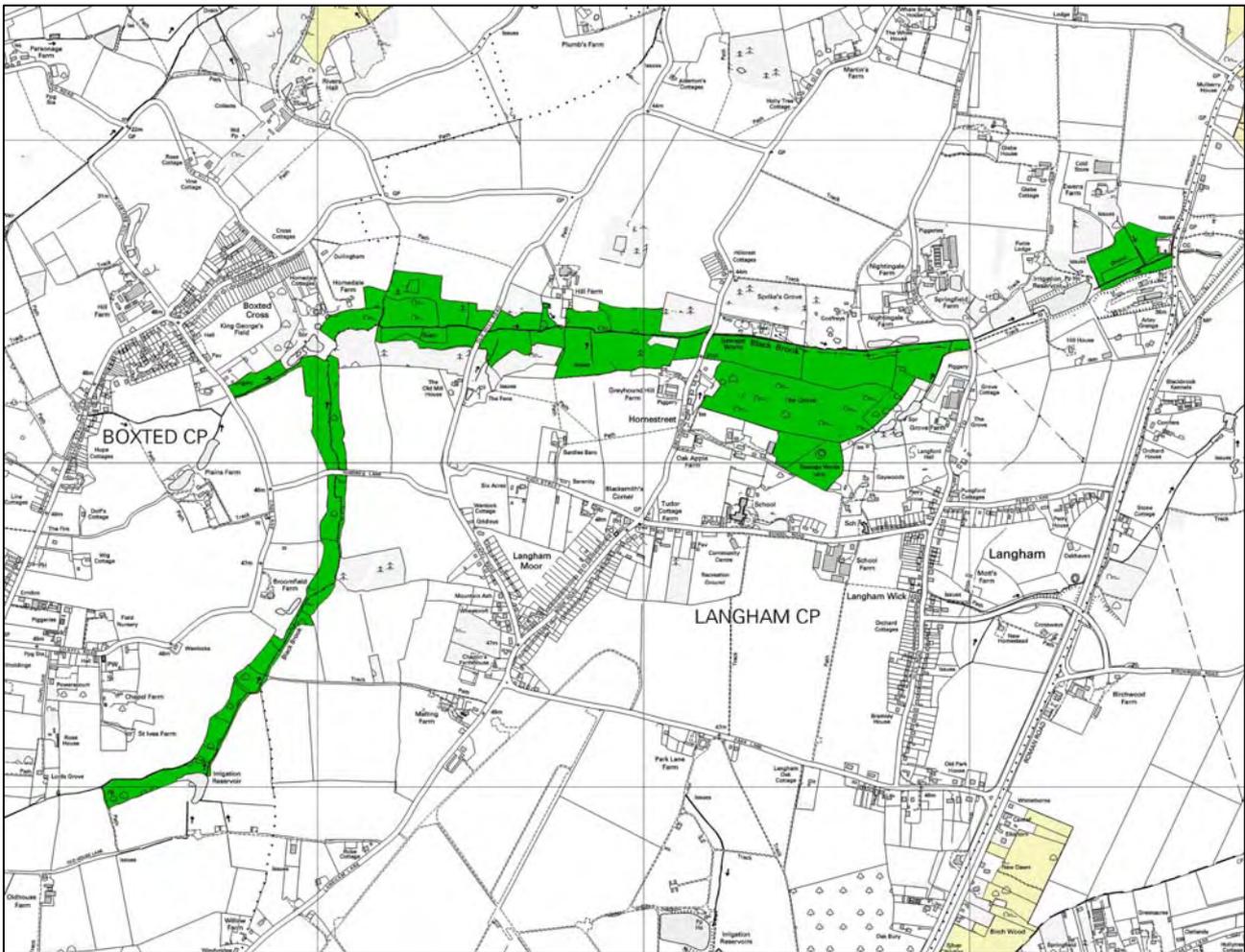
The northern section comprises a broad, shallow lake that draws down in the summer. The shallow margins are developing willow (*Salix* spp.) scrub, amongst swamp vegetation. The Great Green Bush-cricket *Tettigonia viridissima* (an Essex Red Data List species) has been recorded from here. The southern section comprises a flood mineral extraction pit that is now fringed with scrub.

**Selection criteria:** HCr5, SCr3, SCr14

**BAP Priority Habitats:** Eutrophic Standing Waters (UK)

**Date of original selection:** 1991 (in part)

**Date of last revision:** December 2008



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### Co136 Black Brook (51.3 ha) TM 020323

This extensive mosaic of habitats associated with the Black Brook between Boxted and Langham provides a valuable wildlife corridor. To the west of the site, Willow (*Salix* spp.) and Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) dominates a very wet narrow woodland corridor. The waterlogged ground supports several species of interest including Marsh-marigold (*Caltha palustris*), Marsh Bedstraw (*Galium palustre*), Bog Stitchwort (*Stellaria uliginosa*), Lesser Spearwort (*Ranunculus flamula*), Opposite-leaved Golden-saxifrage (*Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*) and abundant Cuckooflower (*Cardamine pratensis*). Drier areas have tall Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) over a ground flora dominated by Broad Buckler-fern (*Dryopteris dilatata*), with small patches of Climbing Corydalis (*Ceratocarpus claviculata*).

A small compartment of probable ancient woodland to the north of the Black Brook has Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Alder and some Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) forming the high canopy, with Grey Willow (*Salix cinerea*) in the shrub canopy. Here, the higher ground is drier with Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Pignut (*Conopodium majus*). Down slope, this grades into damper conditions that favour Wood Sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*) and Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*). Towards the Black Brook the ground is very wet, typically supporting more Opposite-leaved Golden-saxifrage.

An unusual feature either side of Old Mill Road, are banks with very old Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) coppice with standards. To the east of the road, the habitat changes and is characterised by grassland and plantation woodland. The higher grassy slopes exhibit a sandy acid soil with species such as Early Hair-grass (*Aira praecox*), Common Stork's-bill (*Erodium cicutarium*) and Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*). The lower streamside grassland has in contrast, species of neutral grassland including Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*) and Meadow-grasses (*Poa* spp.).

East of Greyhound Hill, grazed open grassland lies to the south of Black Brook, with plantation blocks with Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) and Alder coppice. Scattered Rhododendron (*Rhododendron ponticum*) is found throughout the various planted compartments. The grassland is most interesting near to a pond west of Grove Hill. Here, Lesser Spearwort and Cuckooflower are found in the wet grassland.

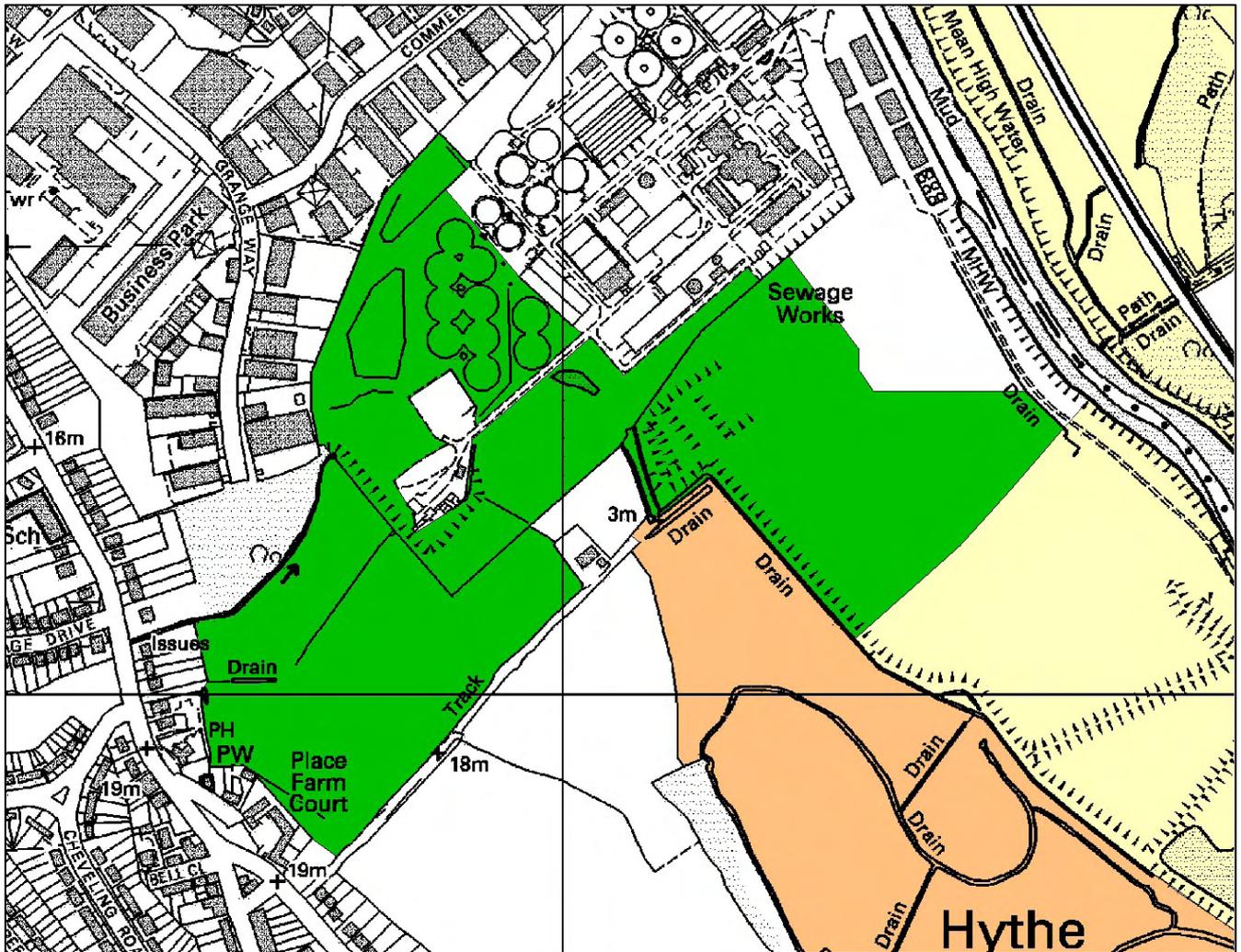
The easternmost block of habitat has shallow water located north of the Black Brook with tussocks of emergent and marginal Rush. Other species found in the waterlogged zone include Skullcap (*Scutellaria galericulata*), Water Mint (*Mentha aquatica*), Bog Stitchwort and Water Forget-me-not (*Myosotis scorpioides*). This habitat grades into drier neutral grassland, which in turn grades to a semi-acid grassland slope.

**Selection criteria:** HCr1(b), HCr2(d), HCr19, SCr15

**BAP Priority Habitats:** Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland, Lowland Dry Acid Grassland, Wet Woodland (UK); Lowland Grassland (Essex)

**Date of selection:** 1991

**Date of last revision:** December 2008



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### Co137 Hythe Brownfield (17.5 ha) TM 019232

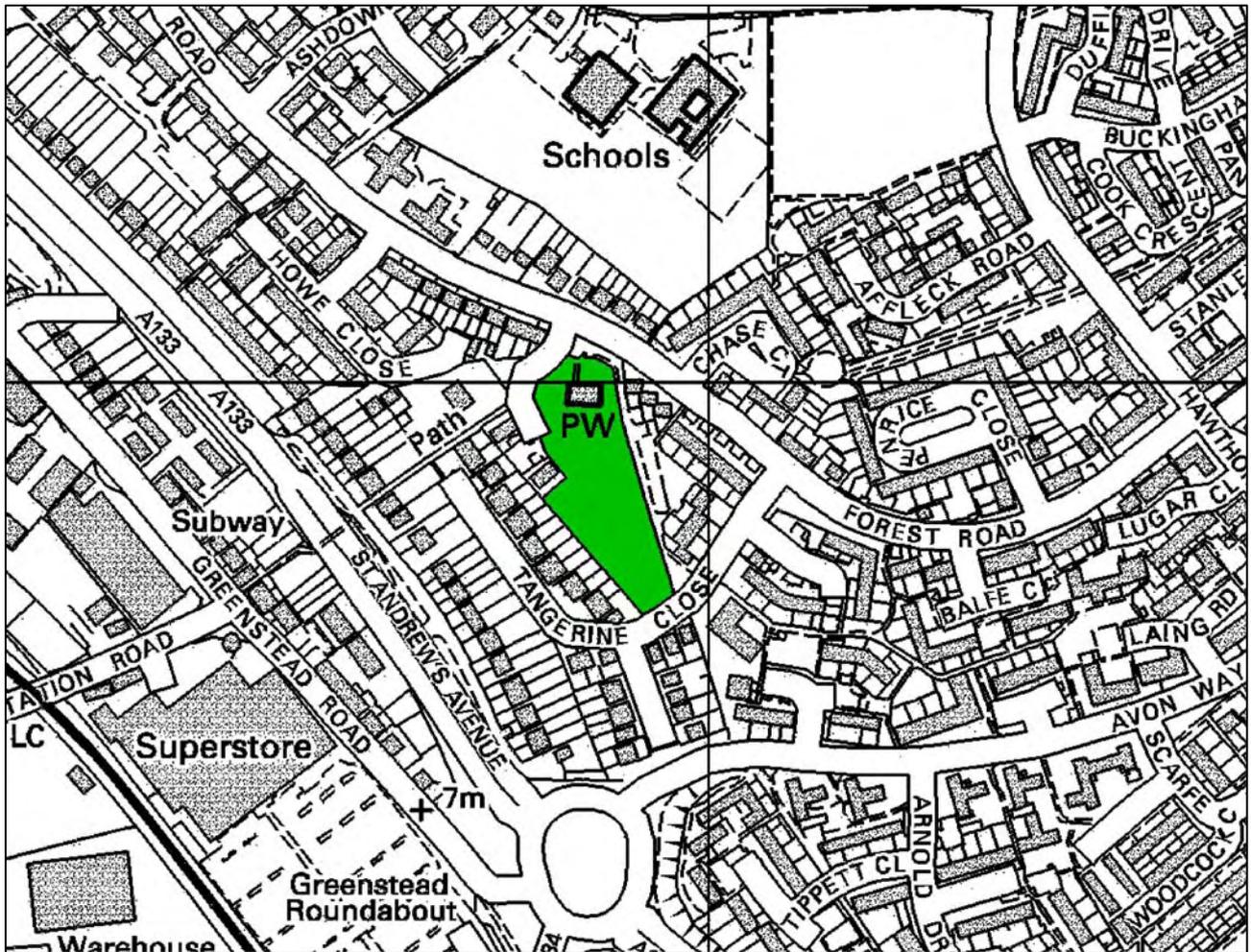
This series of post-industrial habitats includes an old sand pit, disused parts of a sewage treatment work and an area of old grazing marsh modified by sludge deposition. Such areas are known to be important for invertebrates, and the old sand pit cliff in particular supports a nationally important assemblage of solitary bees and wasps, including the Nationally Rare (RDB3) *Cerceris quinquefasciata*, a UK BAP Priority species; its cuckoo-wasp brood parasite *Hedychrum niemelai*, the nomad bee *Nomada fulvicornis* and the Small Blue Carpenter-bee *Ceratina cyanea* (all also RDB3), along with numerous other Nationally Scarce species. Much of the surrounding brownfield grassland provides essential foraging habitat for these and many other invertebrates. The area of modified grazing marsh supports a population of the Essex Red Data listed Great Green Bush-cricket (*Tettigonia viridissima*).

**Selection criteria:** HCr20, SCr14

**BAP Priority Habitats:** Open Mosaic Habitats on Previously Developed Land (UK); Brownfield Sites (Essex)

**Date of original selection:** 1991 (in part)

**Date of last revision:** December 2008



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**Co138 St. Andrew's Churchyard, Greenstead (0.7 ha) TM 019249**

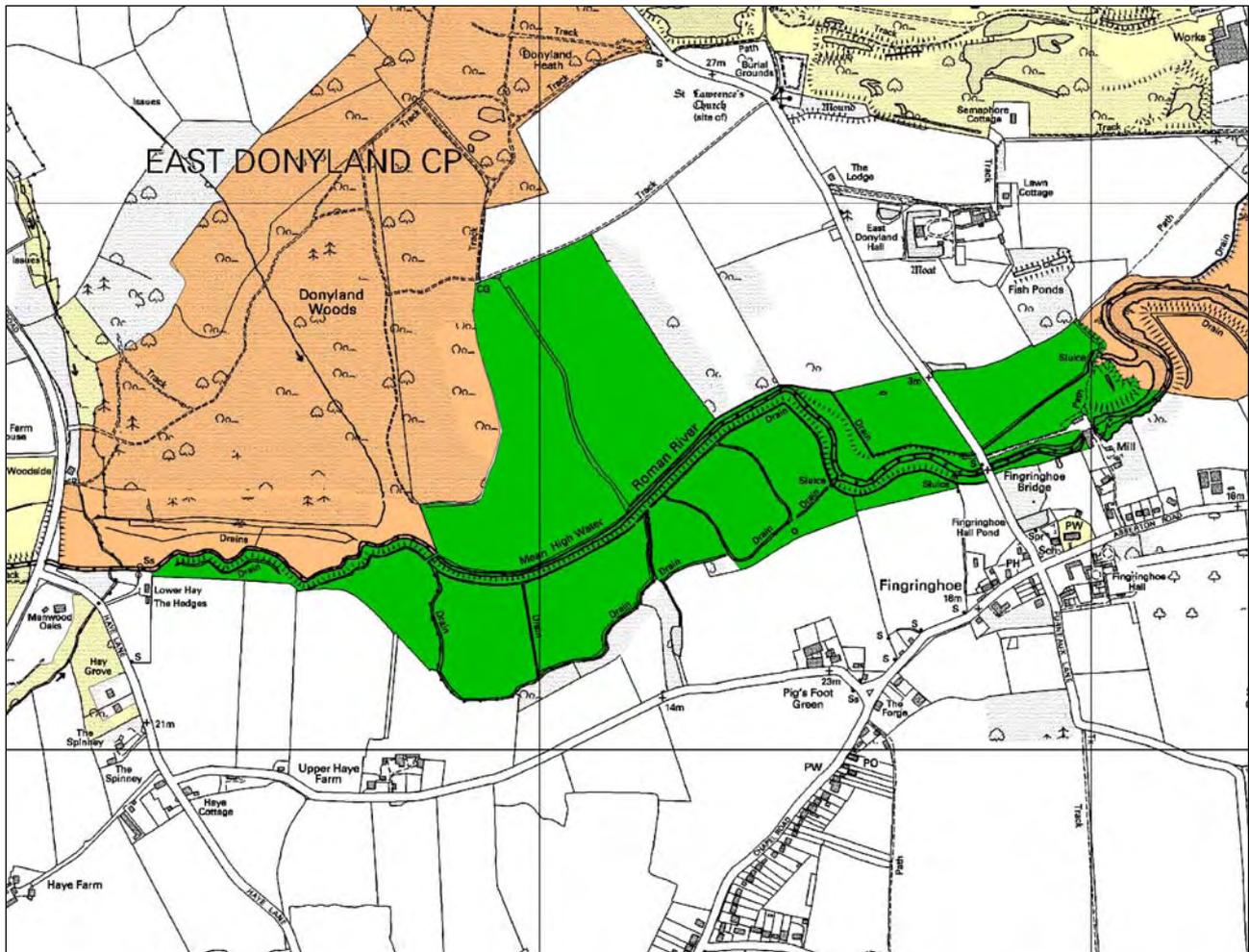
This churchyard in the Greenstead area of Colchester has mown grassland in the immediate vicinity of the church and unmanaged long grass towards the southern end. Although not species rich, the site has a diverse mix of common grasses and herbs including Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Meadow grasses (*Poa* spp.), Yellow Oat-grass (*Trisetum flavescens*) and Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*). The long grass sward provides good habitat for invertebrate species in this urban environment. Of note is a localised population of Lesser Calamint (*Clinopodium calamintha*), an Essex Red Data List species that occupies sunny locations near the church.

**Selection criteria:** HCr11, SCr15

**BAP Priority Habitats:** Urban Habitats (Essex)

**Date of selection:** December 2008

**Date of last revision:** -



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### Co139 Roman River East (49.7 ha) TM 021204

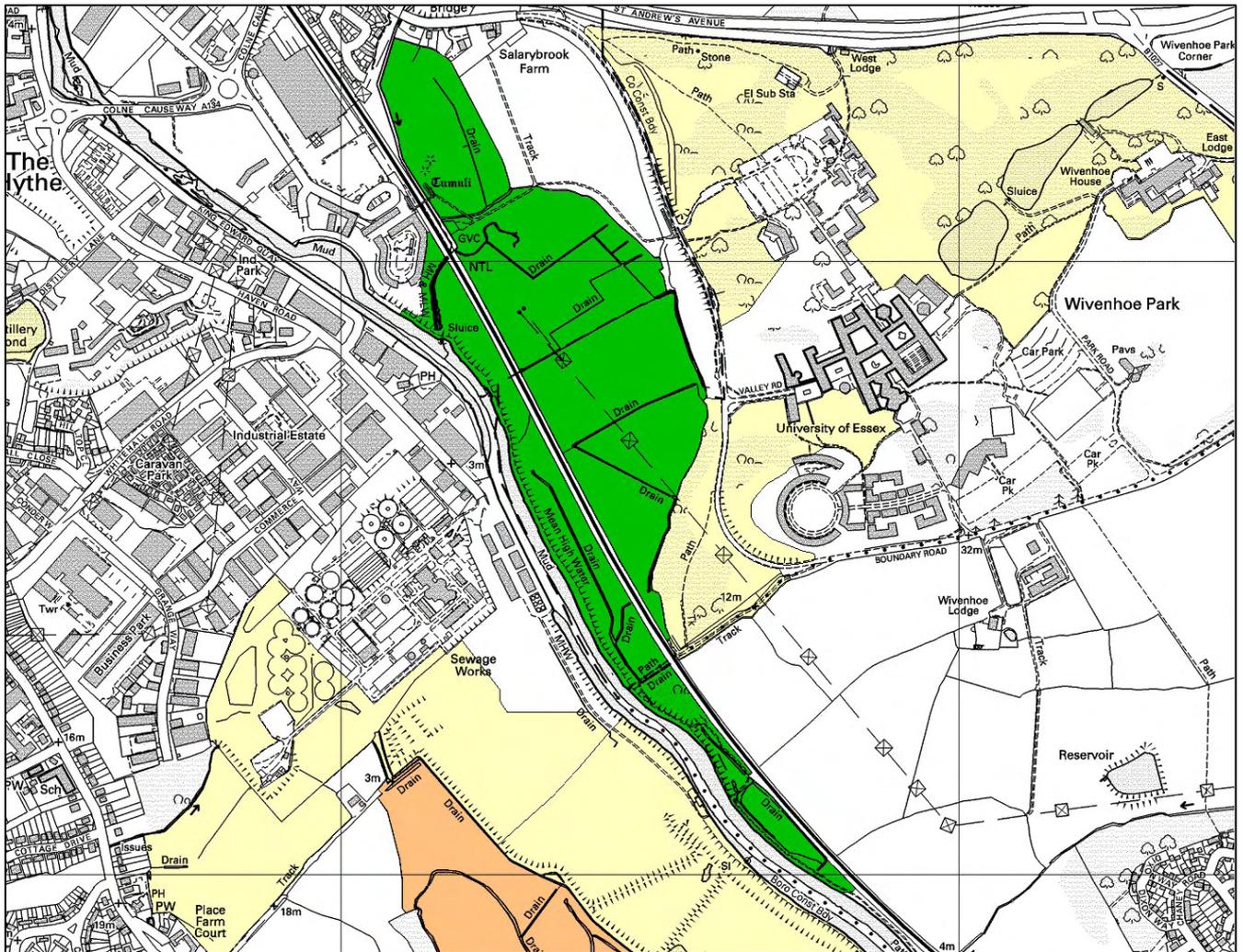
The key part of this site is a band of former grazing-marsh bordering the tidal Roman River, which still retains a flora characteristic of this scarce and declining habitat, including Grass Vetchling (*Lathyrus nissolia*), Cuckooflower (*Cardamine pratensis*) and Hairy Buttercup (*Ranunculus sardous*), amongst Marsh Foxtail (*Alopecurus geniculatus*), Meadow Foxtail (*Alopecurus pratense*), Crested Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*), Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*) and Meadow-grasses (*Poa* spp.). Sea Club-rush (*Bolboschoenus maritimus*) is found along parts of the associated ditches, which are generally fringed by Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*). Dittander (*Lepidium latifolium*), an Essex Red Data List species, is also of note amongst areas of rough grassland. The grassland includes some scattered and dense scrub as well as tussocky sections with anthills, which support resident Common Lizards. To the north of the river are two large pastures which form part of the flood plain, but also rise to form areas of dry acid grassland on their upper slopes, characterised by Common Bent-grass (*Agrostis capillaris*) and Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*).

**Selection criteria:** HCr11, HCr14

**BAP Priority Habitats:** Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh, Lowland Dry Acid Grassland (UK); Lowland Grassland, (Essex)

**Date of selection:** 1991

**Date of last revision:** December 2008



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### Co140 University Marshes (26.0 ha) TM 023237

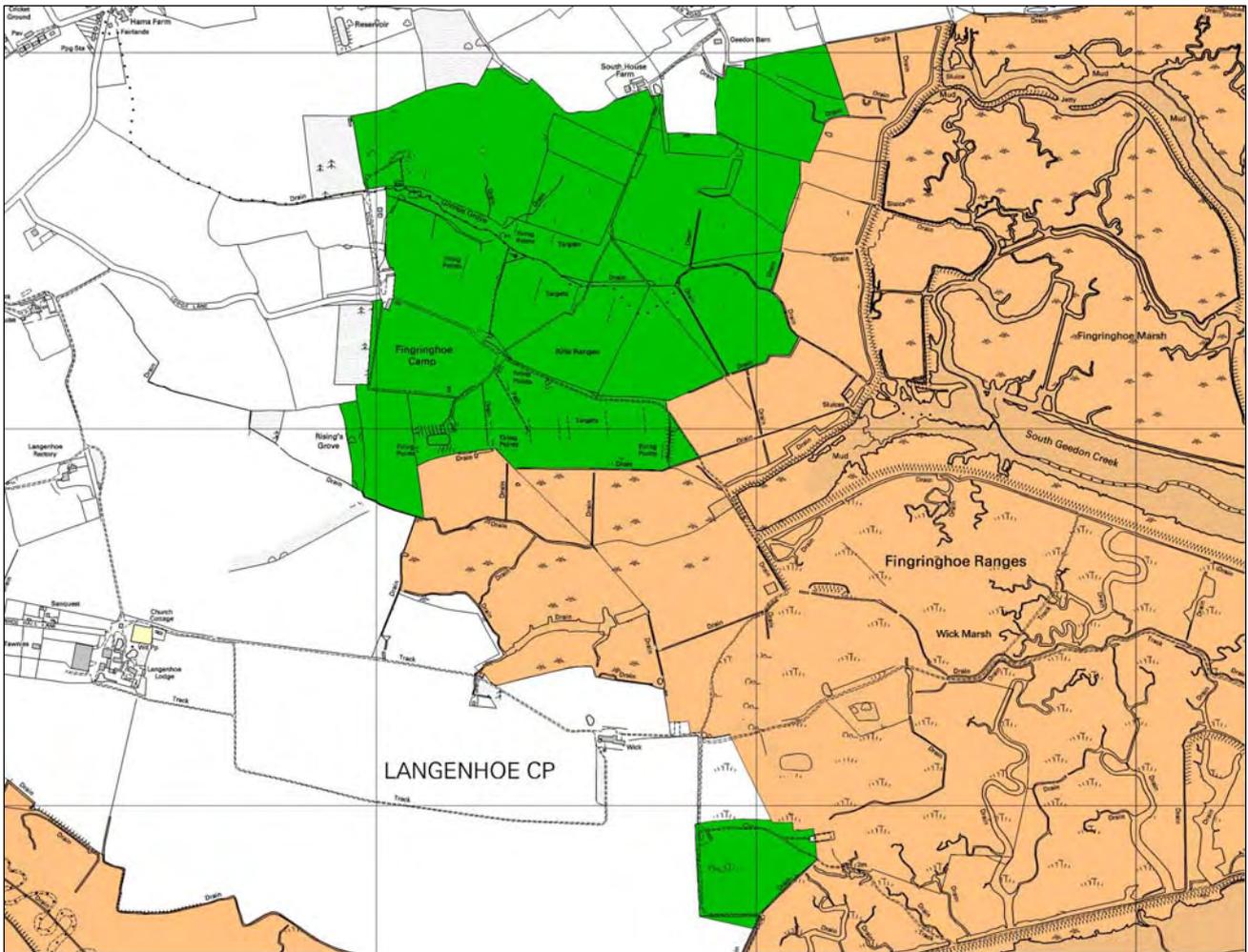
This relict grazing-marsh retains many typical species, such as Grass Vetchling (*Lathyrus nissolia*), Dittander (*Lepidium latifolium*), Hairy Buttercup (*Ranunculus sardous*) and Divided Sedge (*Carex divisa*), whilst the larger drains support broad bands of Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*), with Brackish Water-crowfoot (*Ranunculus baudotii*) in areas of more open water. The section between the River Colne and the railway line is currently unmanaged and is being invaded by False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*). An appropriate low-density grazing regime will be importance for the conservation of this site.

**Selection criteria:** HCr 16, HCr22

**BAP Priority Habitats:** Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh, Reedbeds (UK); Coastal Grazing Marsh, Reedbeds (Essex)

**Date of original selection:** 1991

**Date of last revision:** December 2008



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### **Co141 Fingringhoe Ranges (114.0 ha) TM 029203**

This Site consists of an extensive area of grassland and grazing-marsh, as well as woodland and scrub habitats which represent a significant extension to the SSSI marshes to the south and east.

#### Grassland

The diverse grasslands include abundant Meadow Barley (*Hordeum secalinum*) alongside Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Crested Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*), Yellow Oat-grass (*Trisetum flavescens*), Sheep's Fescue (*Festuca ovina*) and Meadow Foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*). The meadows in the northern half exhibit the greatest diversity with plants such as Agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*), Rough Hawkbit (*Leontodon hispidus*), Mouse-ear-hawkweed (*Pilosella officinarum*), Red Bartsia (*Odontites vernus*), Meadow Buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*) and Grey Sedge (*Carex divulsa* subsp. *divulsa*). Notable species include Grass Vetchling (*Lathyrus nissolia*), Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*), Spiny Restharrow (*Ononis spinosa*), Lesser Hawkbit (*Leontodon saxatilis*) and Fairy Flax (*Linum catharticum*), the latter being an Essex Red Data List (ERDL) species. These meadows are subject to periodic grazing which maintains the grassland diversity.

Sea Club-rush (*Bolboschoenus maritimus*) and Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) line borrow-dykes and ditches and form some dense stands and Marsh Foxtail (*Alopecurus geniculatus*) and Saltmarsh Rush (*Juncus gerardii*) are found along shallow drains within the old grazing marsh. The large central and southern areas used as rifle ranges are regularly mown and are typified by Meadow Barley, Selfheal (*Prunella vulgaris*), Creeping Cinquefoil (*Potentilla reptans*), Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), Daisy (*Bellis perennis*), Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*) and Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*). Here the

short sward has reduced wildlife interest in comparison to the adjacent grasslands, but they are included here as foraging habitat for birds, invertebrates and also reptiles. Areas of rank grassland and tall ruderals are also included and these provide valuable habitat for invertebrates such as the Wasp Spider (*Argiope bruennichi*), an ERDL species, small mammals and reptiles; Slowworm, Common Lizard and Grass Snake have been recorded. An area of rough grassland and scrub which abuts the SSSI to the south has been added as additional habitat.

#### Woodland

Risings Grove is a Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) woodland with some large standards and coppice stools and a dominant Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) cover with Greater Stitchwort (*Stellaria holostea*) and Three-nerved Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*). The southern portion comprises dense scrub and planted woodland.

Grimps Grove is a recent valley woodland with a mixed canopy comprising oak, Field Maple, Wild Cherry (*Prunus avium*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and elm (*Ulmus* sp.), with Bluebell, Three-nerved Sandwort, Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*), Wood Melick (*Melica uniflora*) and Butchers-broom (*Ruscus aculeatus*) being of interest amongst a generally sparse ground layer.

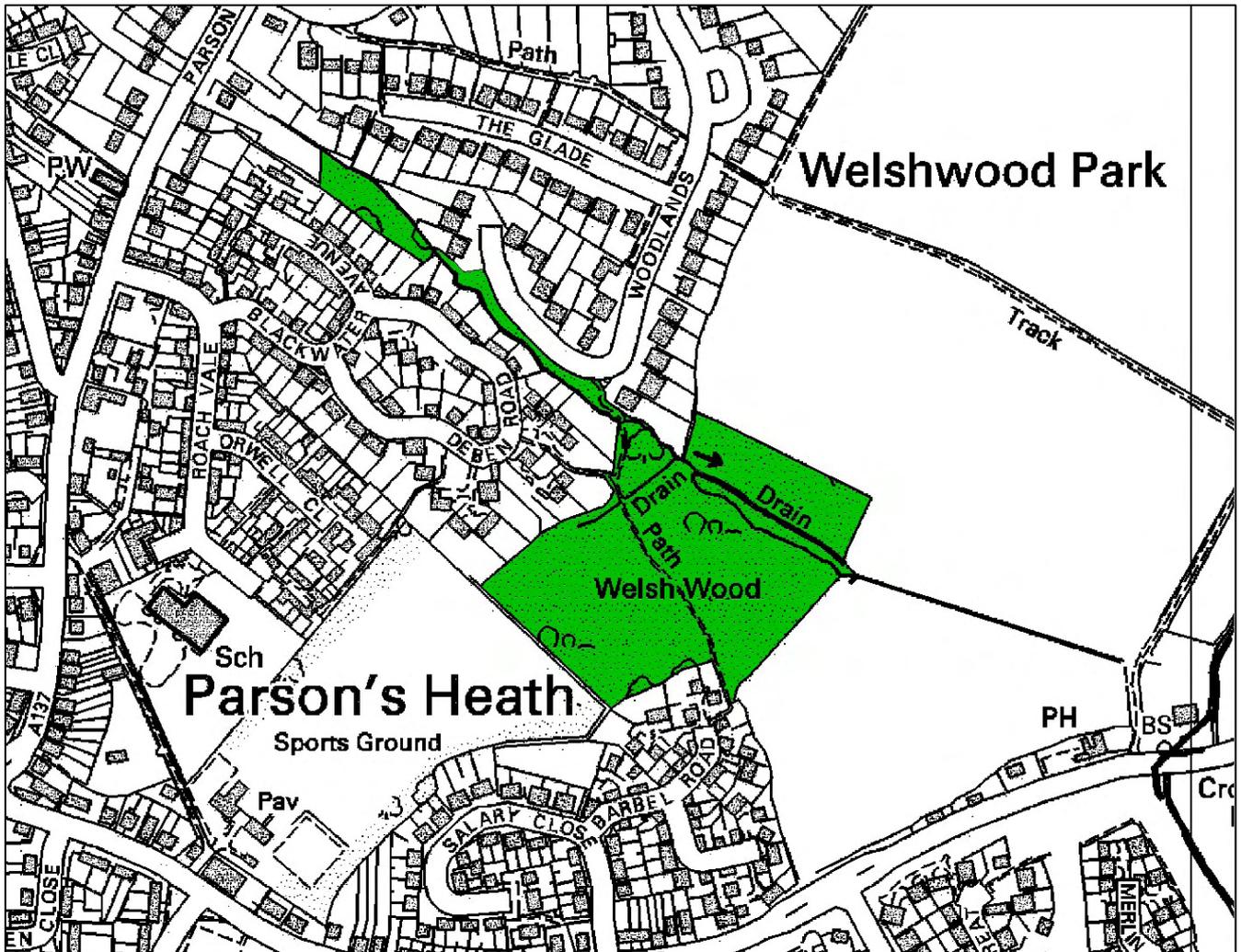
**Selection criteria:** HCr2(c), HCr11, HCr12, HCr16, SCr4, SCr10, SCr15

**BAP Priority Habitats:** Lowland Meadow, Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh (UK); Lowland Grassland, Coastal Grazing Marsh (Essex)

**Date of selection:** 1991

**Date of last revision:** December 2008





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### Co143 Welsh Wood (3.7 ha) TM 026265

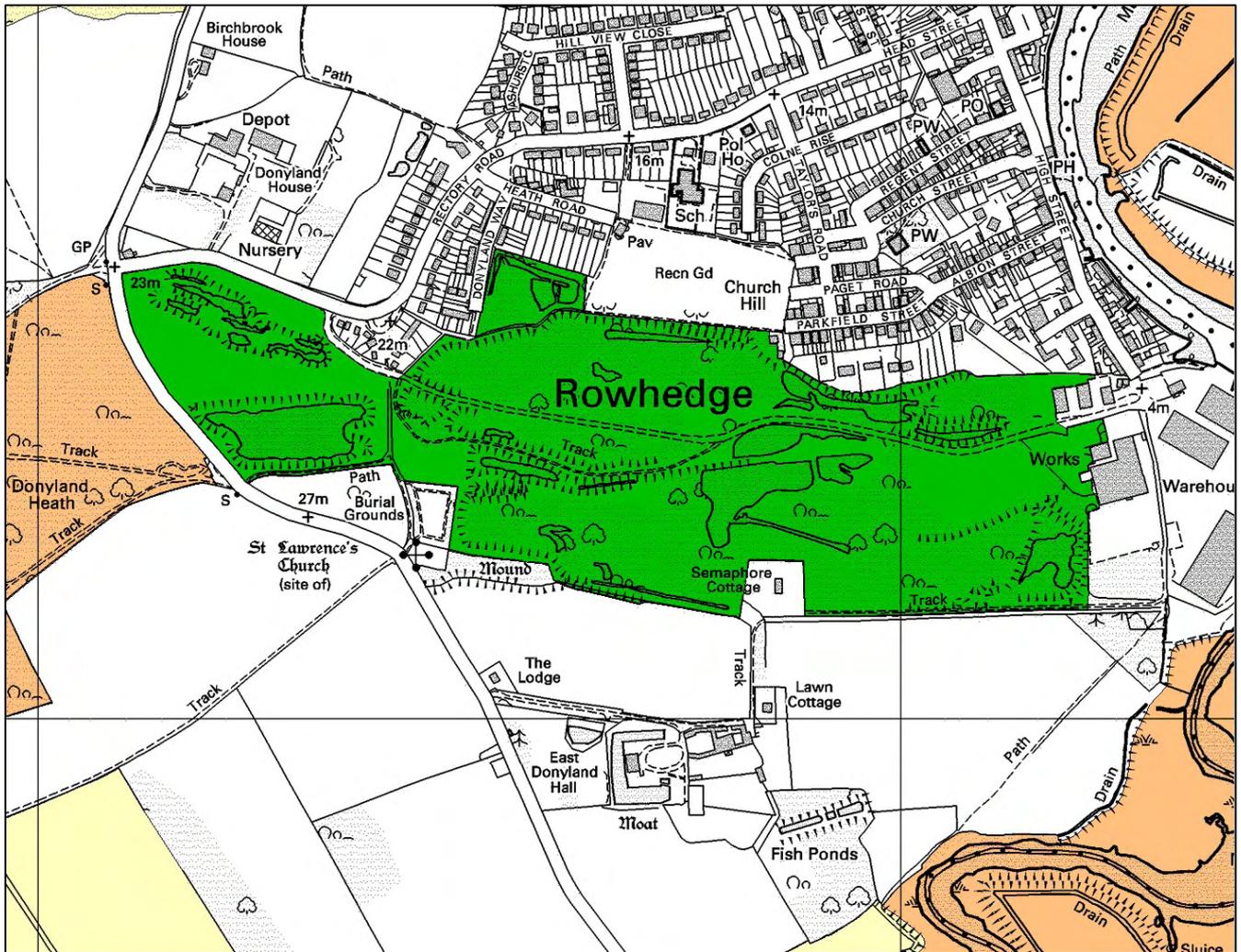
This largely ancient wood comprises overgrown coppice of Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) with standards of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*). The canopy also includes Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), streamside Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) and clones of Aspen (*Populus tremula*). The ground flora is surprisingly rich in ancient woodland plants, including Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*), Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*), Remote Sedge (*C. remota*), Wood Sedge (*C. sylvatica*), abundant Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), Hart's-tongue Fern (*Phyllitis scolopendrium*), Soft Shield-fern (*Polystichum setiferum*), Early Dog-violet (*Viola reichenbachiana*) and Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*), along with Lesser Celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*) and Goldilocks Buttercup (*Ranunculus auricomus*).

**Selection criteria:** HCr1(a), HCr2(a)

**BAP Priority Habitats:** Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK); Ancient woodland, Urban Habitats (Essex)

**Date of original selection:** 1991

**Date of last revision:** December 2008



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### Co144 Rowhedge Pits (28.2 ha) TM 026213

These former gravel pits now support a mosaic of lakes, ponds, swampy scrub and woodland, grassy tracks and sandy cliffs with a varied fauna and flora. The wood contains at least 23 woody species, although it is predominantly Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Birch (*Betula* spp.) and Willow (*Salix* spp.). The water bodies are varied in size and nature, with Lesser Reedmace (*Typha angustifolia*) and Sea Club-rush (*Scirpus maritimus*) being typical species. The bog-moss *Sphagnum squarrosum* is of note amongst the ground vegetation.

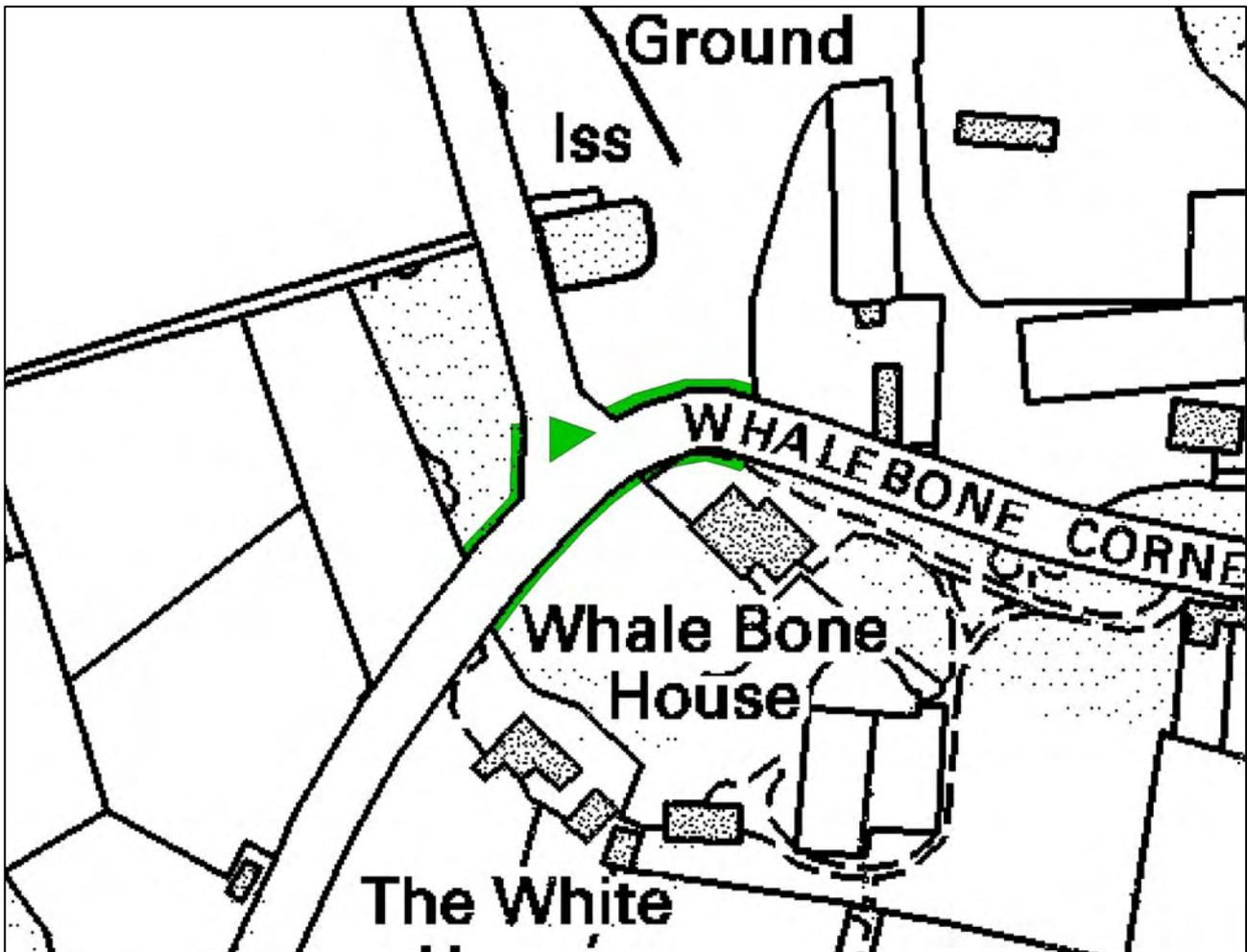
The dense scrub habitats attract a typical array of nesting birds, whilst the few steep, sandy faces that are still exposed provide nesting habitat for solitary bees and wasps, including the Nationally Rare (RDB3) *Nomada fulvicornis*.

**Selection criteria:** HCr5, HCr20

**BAP Priority Habitats:** Wet Woodlands (UK)

**Date of original selection:** 1991

**Date of last revision:** December 2008



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**Co145 Langham Verges (0.05 ha) TM 02793345**

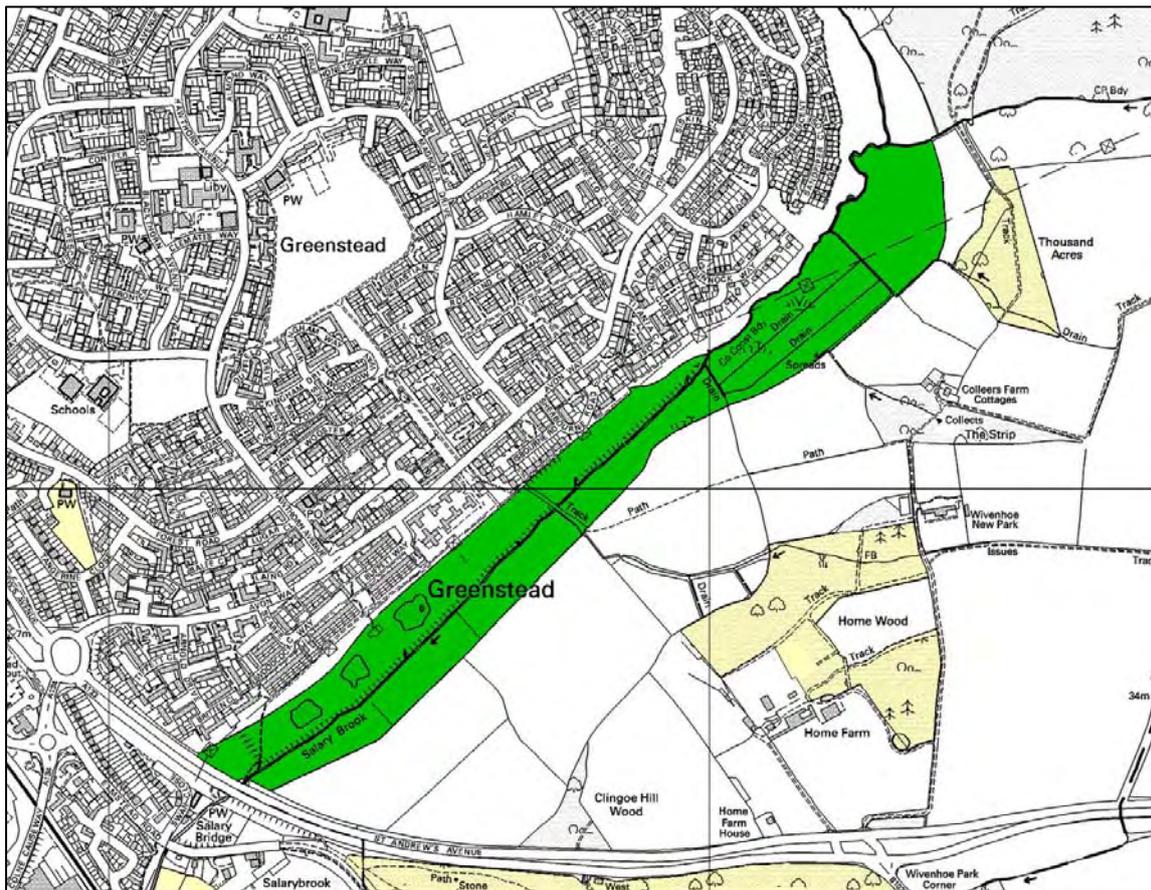
Hoary Cinquefoil (*Potentilla argentea*) and Lesser Calamint (*Clinopodium calamintha*) are of interest amongst the flora of this series of verges. Lesser Calamint is a Nationally Scarce plant that is of regional importance in north Essex, and is included within the Essex Red Data List of plants for the county, as is Hoary Cinquefoil.

**Selection criteria:** SCr15

**UK BAP Priority Habitats:**

**Date of selection:** 1991

**Date of last revision:** December 2008



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### **Co146 Salary Brook (20.5 ha) TM 028250**

This river valley corridor constitutes an important urban wildlife area, allowing for a variety of informal countryside recreational pursuits close to a large urban population. The grasslands have variable species diversity, but the flower-rich areas support Black Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*), Ox-eye Daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*) and various vetches (*Vicia* spp.). Damper areas within the grasslands support Angelica (*Angelica sylvestris*), Cuckooflower (*Cardamine pratensis*), Reed Sweet-grass (*Glyceria maxima*), Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*), Tufted Hair-grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*), Sneezewort (*Achillea ptarmica*) and Sharp-flowered Rush (*Juncus acutiflorus*) as well as a number of sedge (*Carex* spp.)-beds.

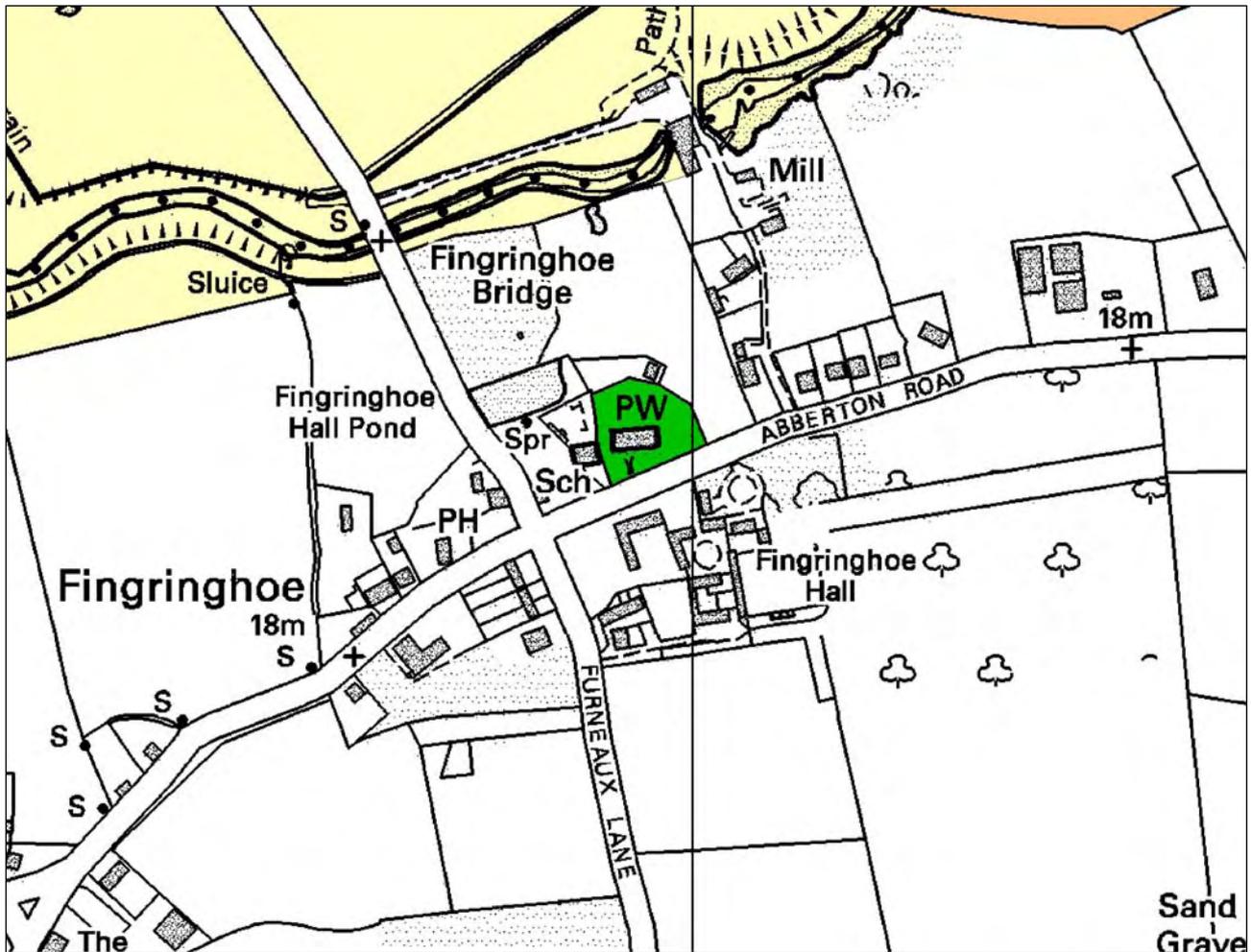
A series of shallow ponds have a marginal flora of Reedmace (*Typha latifolia*), Rushes (*Juncus* spp.), Branched bur-reed (*Sparganium erectum*) and Greater Pond-sedge (*Carex riparia*) and attract a good variety of dragon- and damselflies, including Common Emerald, Blue-tailed, Banded Demoiselle and Common Blue. The mosaic of scrubby hedgerows and tall swamp habitats attract birds such as Sedge Warbler and even passing interest from the much rarer Grasshopper Warbler.

**Selection criteria:** HCr6(b); HCr11; HCr13

**BAP Priority Habitats:** Lowland Grassland (Essex)

**Date of original selection:** 1991

**Date of last revision:** December 2008



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### Co147 Fingringhoe Churchyard (0.3 ha) TM 029203

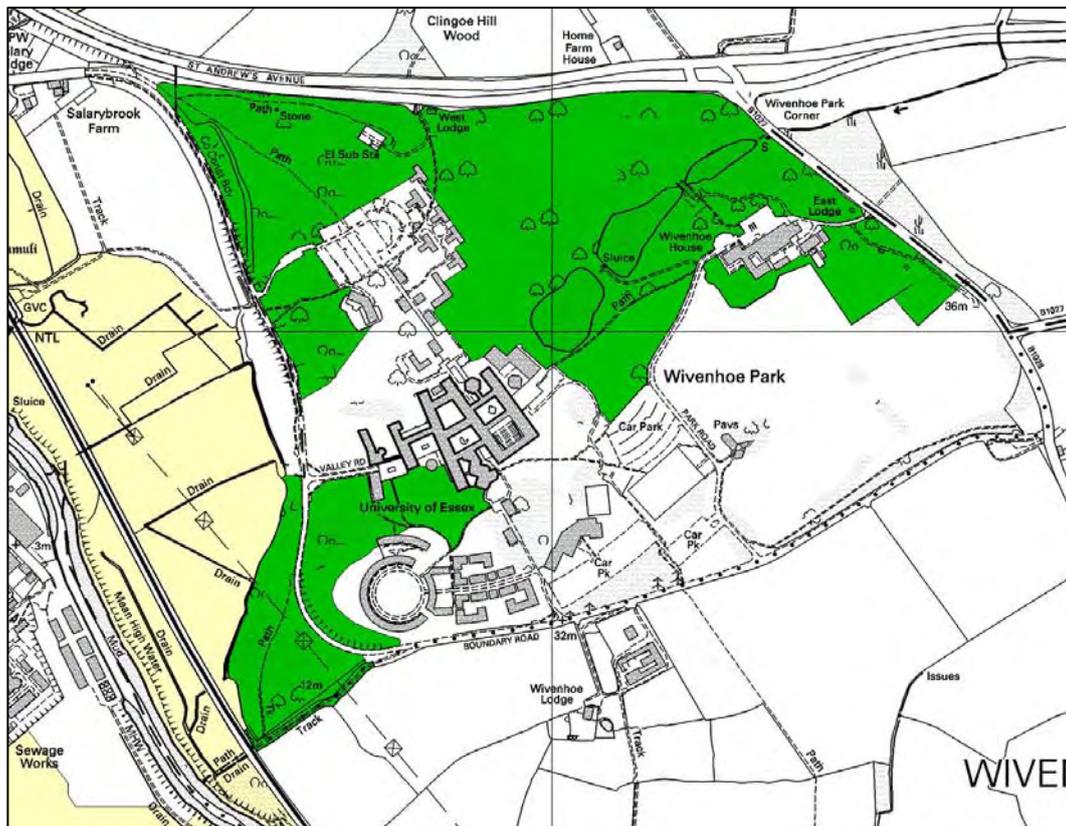
This churchyard supports a range of grasses and herbs associated with unimproved grassland. Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Yellow Oat-grass (*Trisetum flavescens*) and Meadow Foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*) are amongst the finer grasses present, although coarse species such as Cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*) and False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) dominate much of the sward. Lesser Calamint (*Clinopodium calamintha*), an Essex Red Data List species, grows along the front of the church and is scattered throughout, as is Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*). Black Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*) and Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*) are amongst the various herbs present and Nettles (*Urtica dioica*) and Cow Parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*) are abundant in more nutrient-rich areas. Harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*), another scarce Essex plant, grows on a number of graves.

**Selection criteria:** HCr10, SCr15

**BAP Priority Habitats:** Lowland Meadow (UK); Lowland Grassland (Essex)

**Date of selection:** December 2008

**Date of last revision:** -



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### Co148 Wivenhoe Park (38.1 ha) TM 030240

This site comprises the modified parkland associated with Wivenhoe House, now dominated by the University of Essex. The parkland includes some oak (*Quercus* spp.) trees in excess of 400 years old, with large specimens of Cork Oak (*Q. suber*), redwoods, pines, cedars and wellingtonias. Some areas of woodland appear to be very old, with locally plentiful Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*). The intimate association that can develop between wildlife and the built environment of old parkland is demonstrated by the interesting fern fauna that has developed on the ha-ha (sunken wall) of Wivenhoe House, with significant populations of Hart's-tongue Fern (*Phyllitis scolopendrium*) and Black Spleenwort (*Asplenium adiantum-nigrum*).

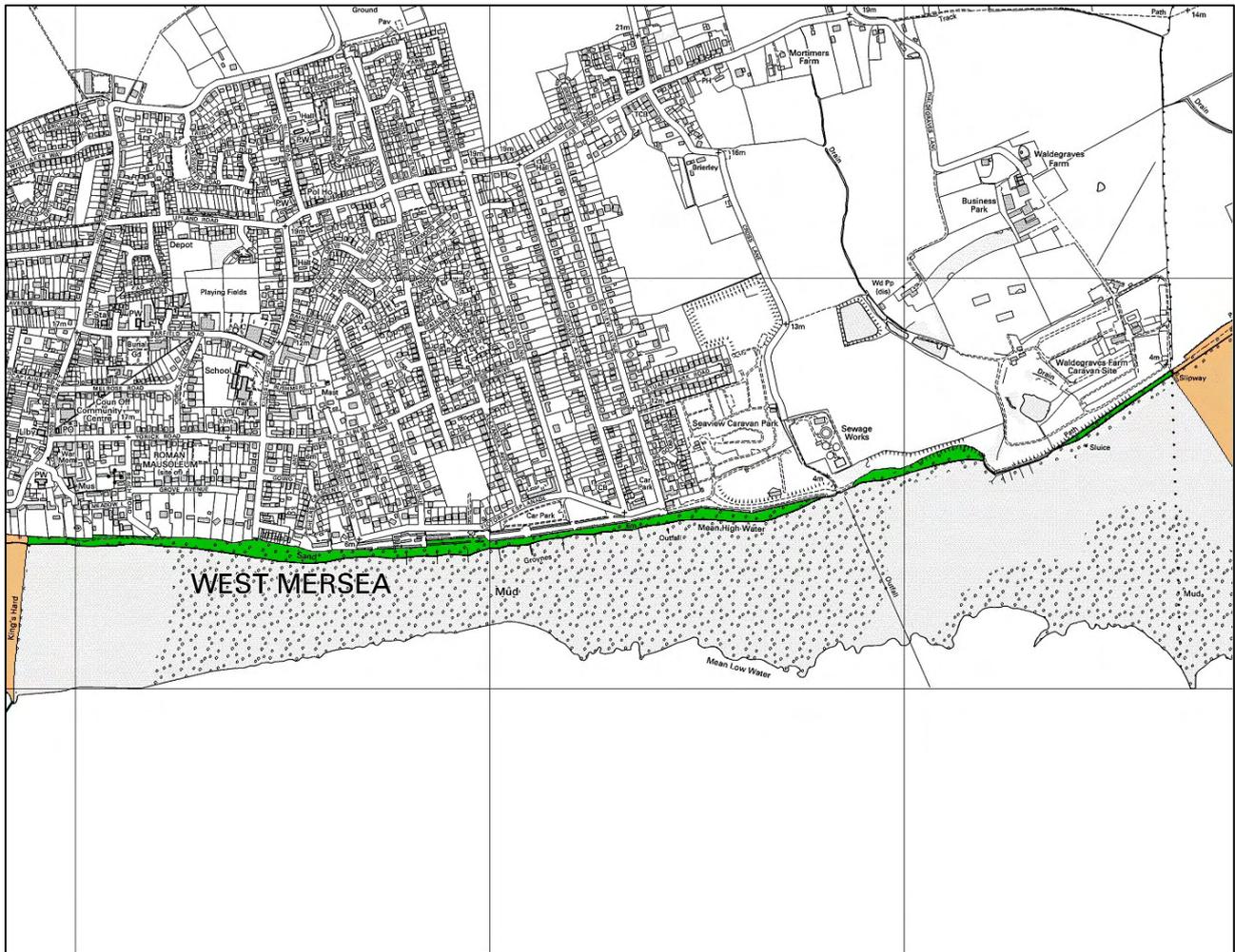
Areas of acidic grassland are dominated by Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Common Bent-grass (*Agrostis capillaris*), Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*) and Field Wood-rush (*Luzula campestris*), with Cuckooflower (*Cardamine pratensis*), Early forget-me-not (*Myosotis ramossissima*), Slender Parsley-piert (*Aphanes microcarpa*), Blinks (*Montia fontana*) and Subterranean Clover (*Trifolium subterraneum*) being of interest. The invertebrate fauna includes a good range of butterflies, including White-letter and Purple Hairstreaks, Ringlet, Speckled Wood and Skippers. Nightingales regularly occur in an area of scrubby woodland close to the railway line. The park also supports a rookery, good numbers of Jackdaws and significant numbers of over-wintering Goosander on the lakes.

**Selection criteria:** HCr2(b), HCr2(c), HCr3, HCr6(b), HCr10, SCr15

**BAP Priority Habitats:** Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland, Lowland Dry Acid Grassland, Wood-pasture and Parkland (UK); Lowland Grassland, Veteran Trees (Essex)

**Date of original selection:** 1991

**Date of last revision:** December 2008



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**Co149 West Mersea Foreshore (5.9 ha) TM 020123**

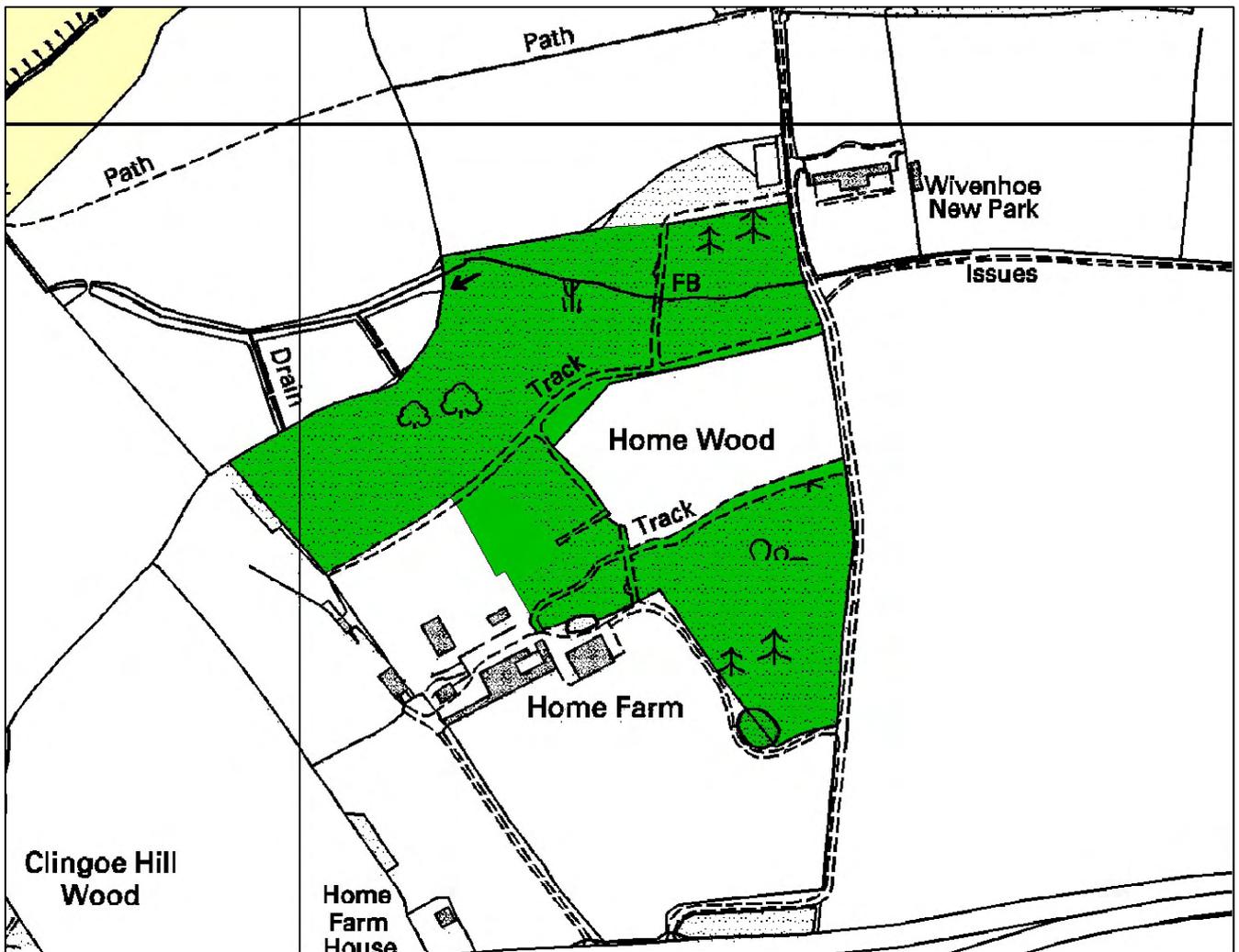
Although suffering from localised heavy disturbance, this stretch of foreshore by West Mersea has an extremely good beach flora, a rare habitat in Essex, which is particularly notable for Ray's Knotgrass (*Polygonum raii*). Other characteristic species include Sea Sandwort (*Honckenya peploides*), Sea Holly (*Eryngium maritimum*), Dune Fescue (*Vulpia membranacea*), Sand Cat's-tail (*Phleum arenarium*), Marram Grass (*Ammophila arenaria*), Frosted Orache (*Atriplex laciniata*), Prickly Saltwort (*Salsola kali*), Sea Spurge (*Euphorbia paralias*), Sea Rocket (*Cakile maritima*), Sea Kale (*Crambe maritima*), Sand Couch (*Elymus farctous*) and Yellow-horned Poppy (*Glaucium flavum*). Although not truly a sand dune system, this flora has very close affinities with such habitats and, as such, is felt to be part of Essex's contribution to the national Coastal Sand Dunes BAP.

**Selection Criteria:** HCr29

**BAP Priority Habitats:** Coastal Sand Dunes, Coastal Vegetated Shingle (UK)

**Date of original selection:** 1991

**Date of last revision:** December 2008



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### Co150 Home Wood (7.8 ha) TM 031247

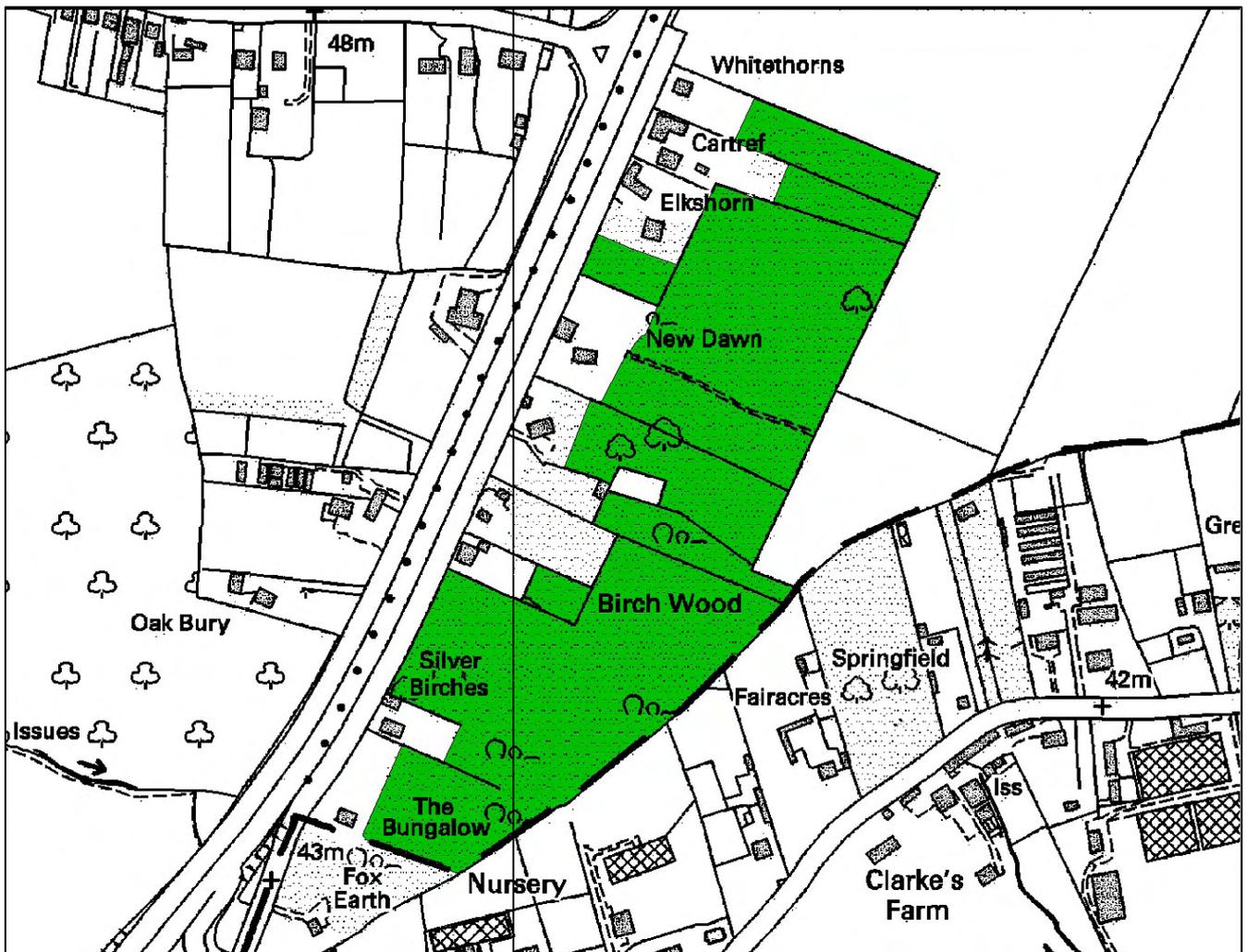
This ancient wood has a broadleaved canopy composed of Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and some Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*) and suckering Elm (*Ulmus* sp.). There has been some replanting with conifers, but a more worrying trend is the advanced stage of Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) invasion across the site, with some recent coppicing of this species in the western arm. The ground flora reflects the light soil conditions, with typical species including Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*), Wood Sage (*Teucrium scorodonia*), Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*), Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*), Creeping Soft-grass (*Holcus mollis*) and Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*). The small internal ditch/stream in the northern section supports Opposite-leaved golden-saxifrage (*Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*).

**Selection criteria:** HCr1(a)

**BAP Priority Habitats:** Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK); Ancient Woodland (Essex)

**Date of original selection:** 1991

**Date of last revision:** December 2008



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### Co151 Birch Wood, Langham (9.3 ha) TM 031306

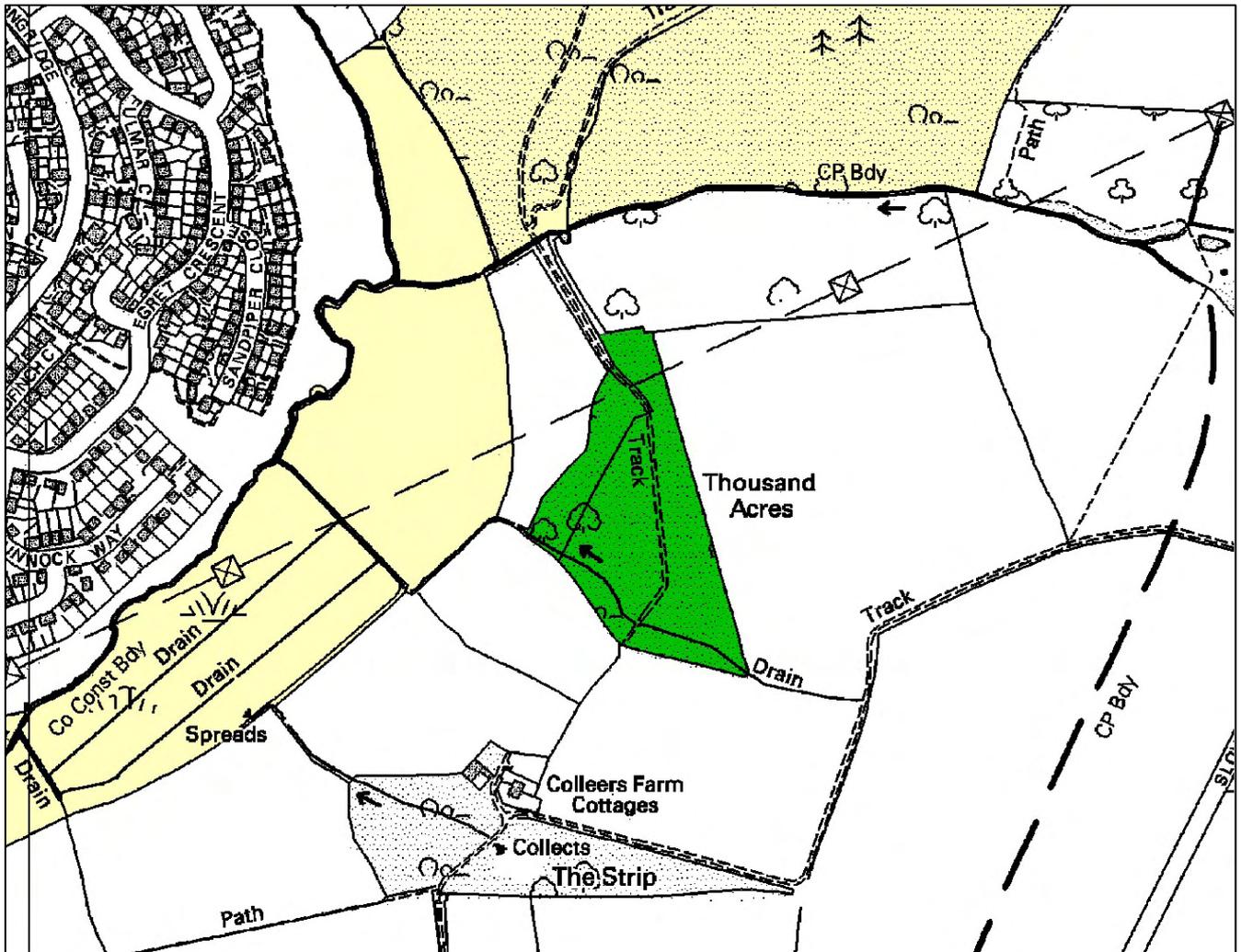
This ancient woodland has had a long history of piecemeal assimilation into the gardens of adjacent houses and the boundary illustrated here should be regarded as provisional, since it is not always possible to tell where a residential curtilage ends and “open countryside” begins. Needless to say, further conversion of ancient woodland into gardens should be discouraged. A small section of this wood lies over the border within Tendring District. The canopy tree and shrub species recorded include Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*), Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), and Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*). The ground layer is characterised by Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*), Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*), Wood Sage (*Teucrium scorodonia*) and Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*), although some Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) still survives.

**Selection criteria:** HCr1(a)

**BAP Priority Habitats:** Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK); Ancient woodland (Essex)

**Date of original selection:** 1991

**Date of last revision:** December 2008



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### Co152 Thousand Acres (2.6 ha) TM 035253

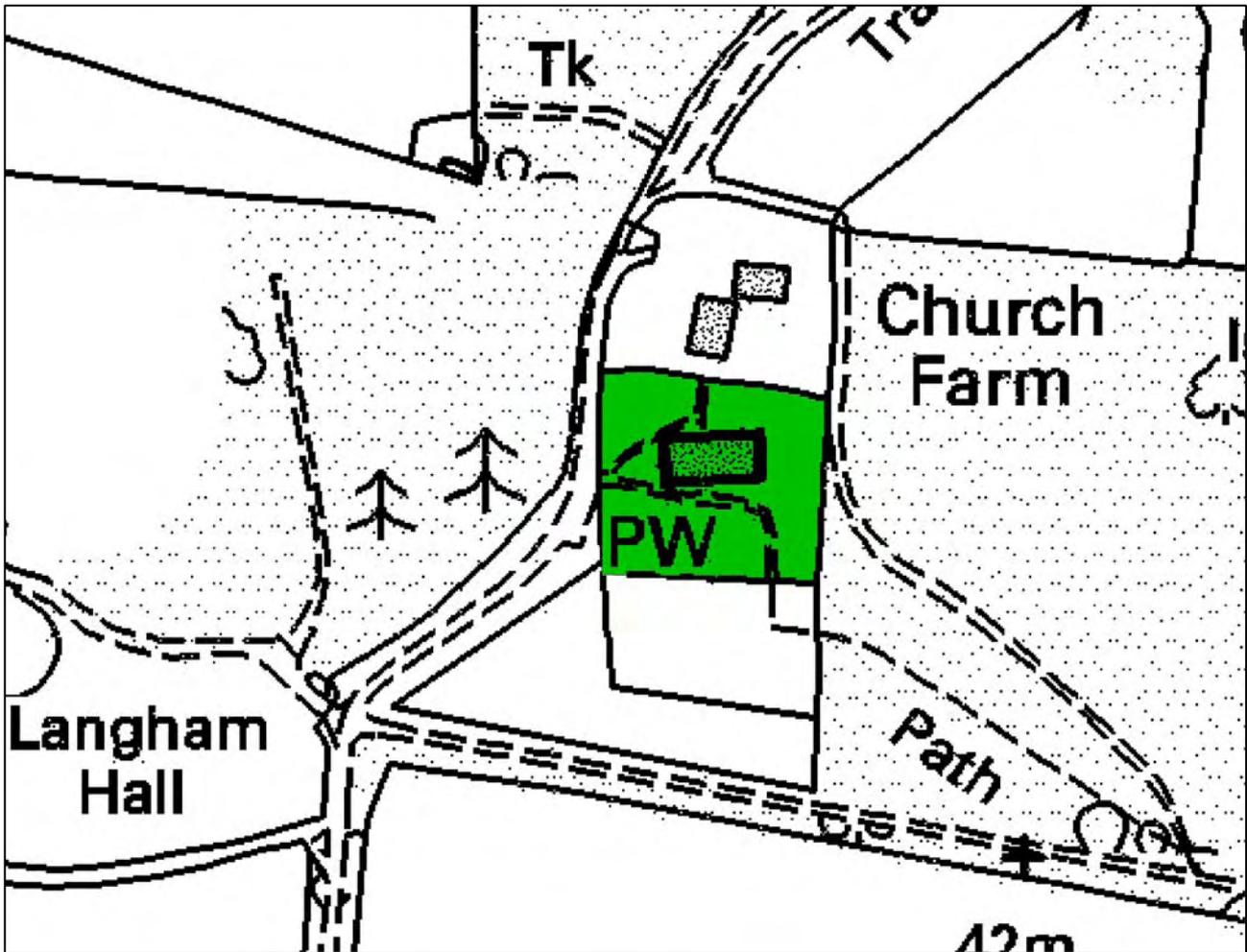
The original canopy of this mainly ancient wood comprises Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) as standards and overgrown coppice, with locally frequent Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*). Now, however, the canopy and understorey are dominated by Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), with some planted Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*). The ground flora includes abundant Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), with some Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*) and Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*). This site includes a small strip of recent secondary woodland, which comprises a mature canopy of Pedunculate Oak and Sweet Chestnut and now forms an integral part of this small wood.

**Selection criteria:** HCr1(a); HCr2(a)

**BAP Priority Habitats:** Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK); Ancient Woodland (Essex)

**Date of original selection:** 1991

**Date of last revision:** December 2008



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**Co153 St Mary's Churchyard, Langham Hall (0.4 ha) TM 034337**

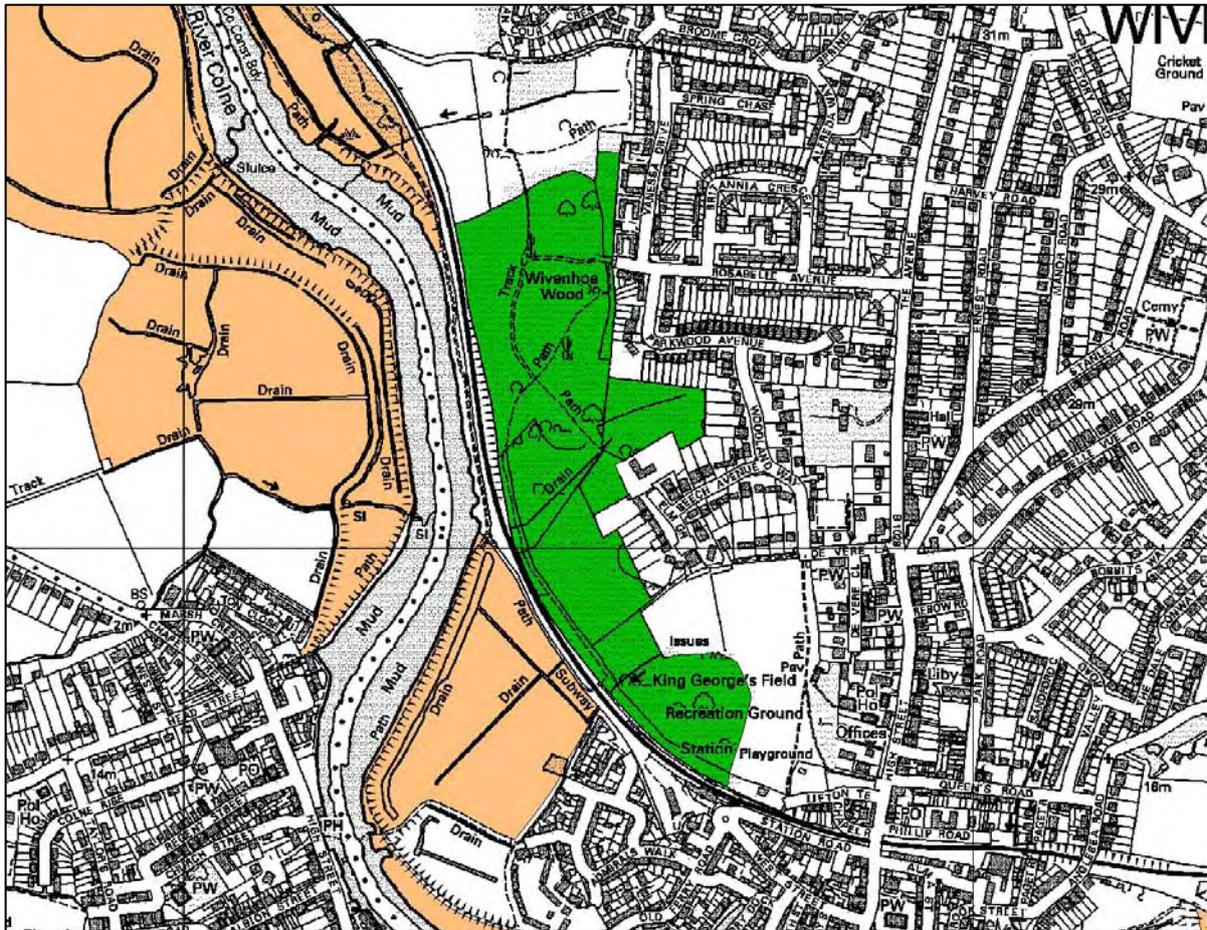
This churchyard displays a diverse flora characterised by species associated with light acid soils and includes Mouse-ear-hawkweed (*Pilosella officinarum*), Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*) and Common Cudweed (*Filago vulgaris*). Lesser Calamint (*Clinopodium calamintha*), a nationally scarce species, and an Essex Red Data List species, is very common along the sunny south side of the church. Other species recorded include Barren Strawberry (*Potentilla sterilis*), Field Wood-rush (*Luzula campestris*) and Pignut (*Conopodium majus*).

**Selection criteria:** HCr10

**BAP Priority Habitats:** Lowland Dry Acid Grassland (UK)

**Date of selection:** December 2008

**Date of last revision:** -



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### Co154 Wivenhoe Wood (11.4 ha) TM 035222

The northern half of this site is ancient wood, but the remainder is modern secondary cover. The original canopy cover of the southern section comprises Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) but is now co-dominated by Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*) and Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) following the great storm of 1987, which opened up the canopy to these invasive species. The ancient section includes a good deal of Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), some of which has been recently coppiced.

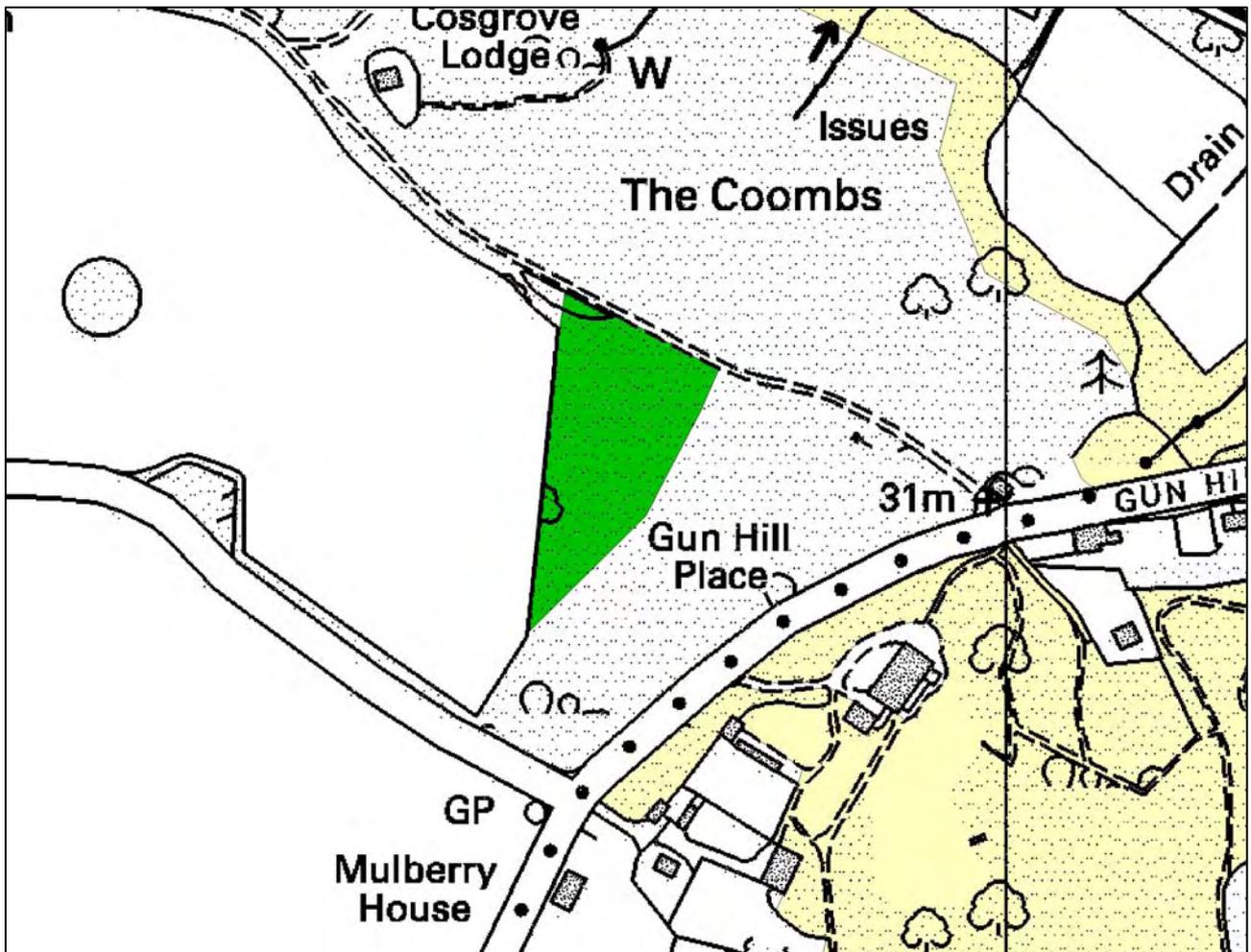
The ground flora is variable and under pressure from localised heavy trampling and play pressure, although it is recognised that this wood has an important role to play in the countryside experience of local residents (Urban HAP significance). The ground cover in the modern secondary wood is dominated by Ivy (*Hedera helix*), but overall the flora is diverse, with Wood Sedge (*Carex sylvatica*), Scaly Male Fern (*Dryopteris affinis*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Hairy Wood-rush (*Luzula pilosa*) and Hart's-tongue Fern (*Phyllitis scolopendrium*) indicating the ancient status of parts of the site.

**Selection criteria:** HCr1(a); HCr2(a)

**BAP Priority Habitats:** Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK); Ancient Woodland, Urban Habitats (Essex)

**Date of original selection:** 1991

**Date of last revision:** December 2008



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**Co155 Gun Hill Grassland (0.7 ha) TM 038333**

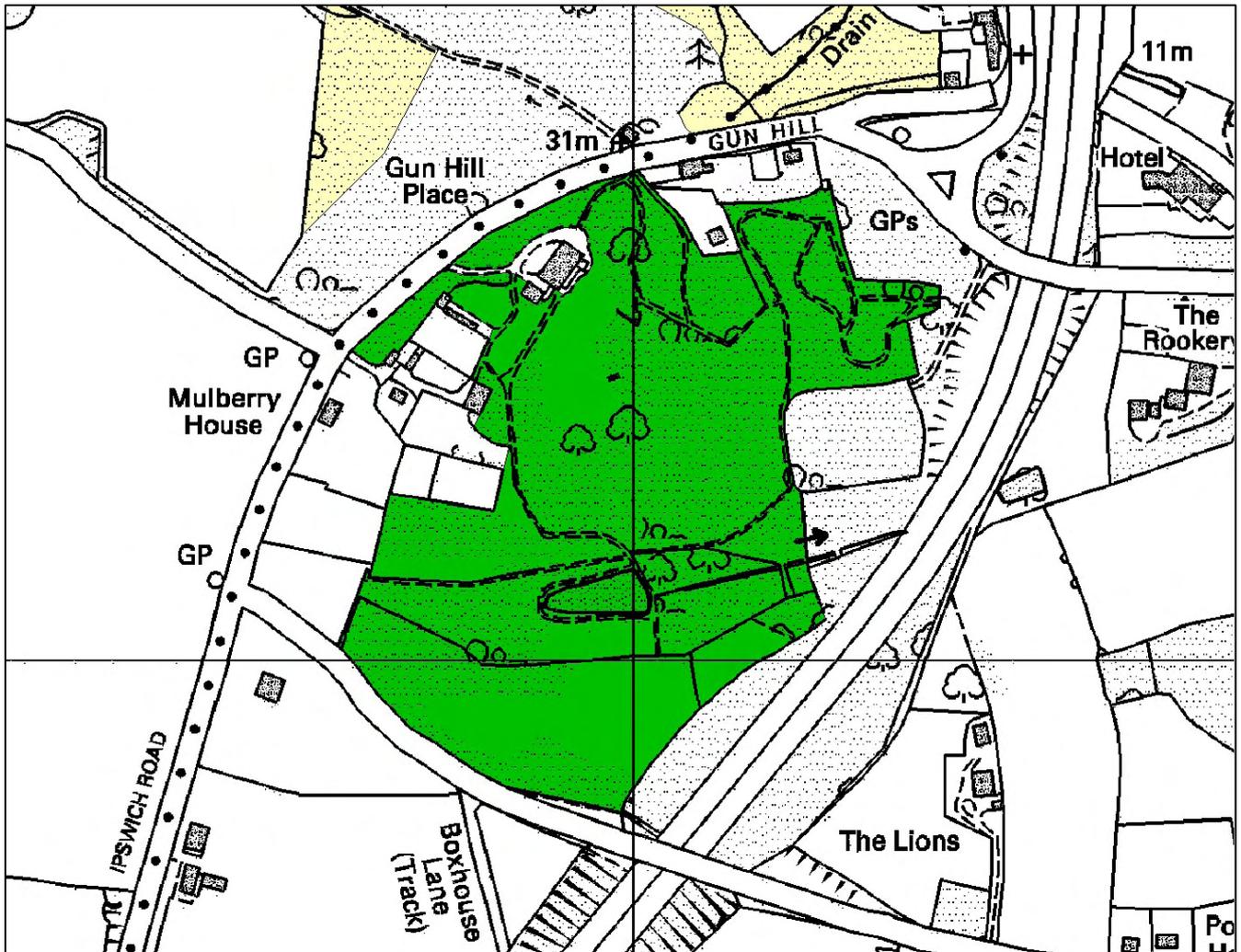
This site exhibits a mix of Bent-grasses (*Agrostis* spp.) and abundant Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*) as the characteristic species of acid grassland. This grassland type has seen a reduction in area throughout Essex during recent decades. Acid grassland is variable in terms of species richness and diversity, but these dry sandy habitats can be important habitats for ground dwelling and burrowing invertebrates.

**Selection criteria:** HCr19

**BAP Priority Habitats:** Lowland Acid Grassland (UK)

**Date of selection:** December 2008

**Date of last revision:** -



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### Co156 Gun Hill Place (9.2 ha) TM 039331

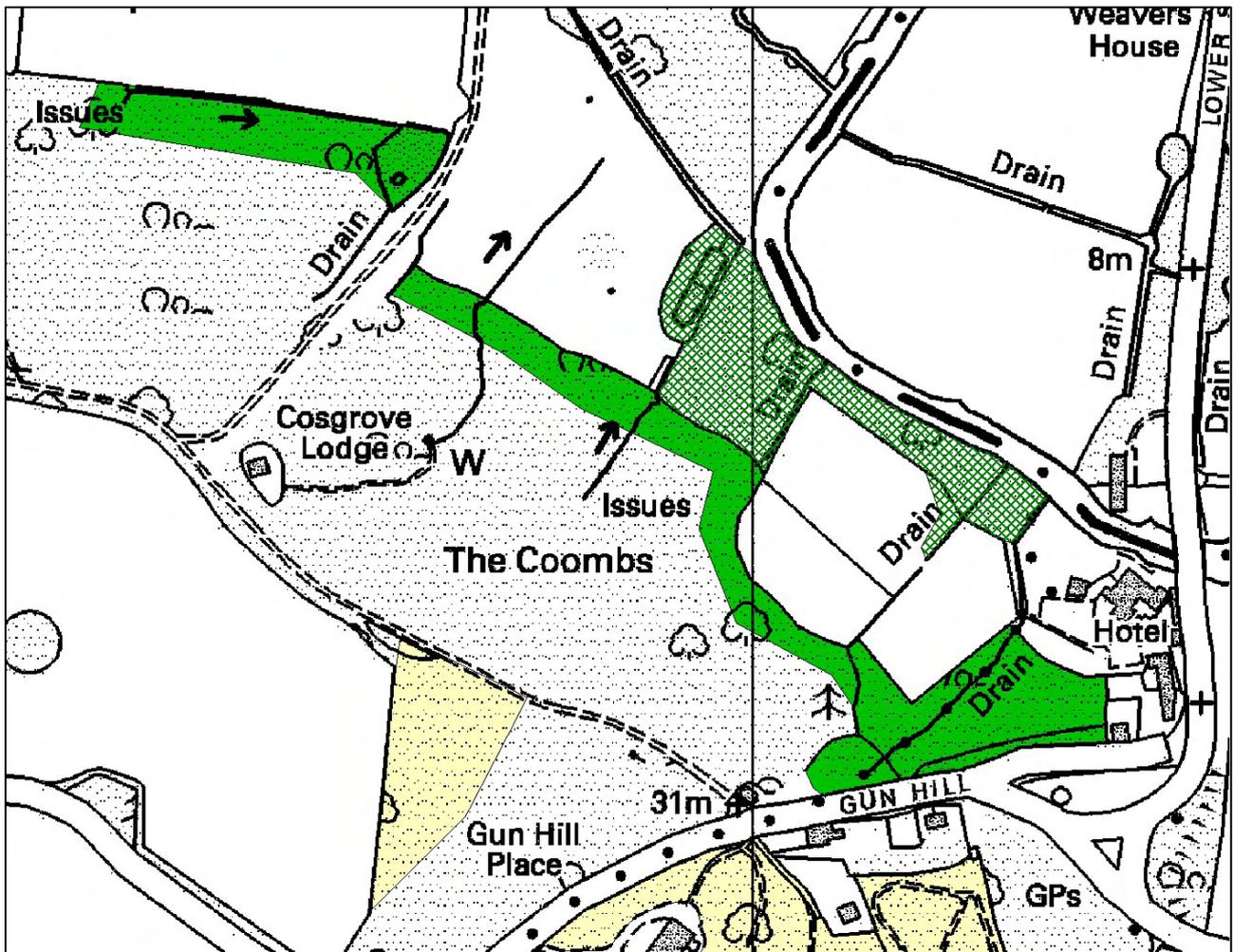
This site comprises the grounds of a derelict house (undergoing restoration in 2008). The large ornamental gardens, with veteran native trees, exotic ornamentals, lake and areas of dry acid grassland have been left to nature for many years and now support a wealth of wildlife, including the UK and Essex BAP Stag Beetle. Other species of interest include Grass Snake, Slow-worm and Adder; and a diverse bumblebee population. Dead-wood habitat, an important component of veteran tree stands, is present in good quantity.

**Selection criteria:** HCr4; HCr19; SCr4

**BAP Priority Habitats:** Lowland Acid Grassland, Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK); Veteran Trees (Essex)

**Date of original selection:** December 2008

**Date of last revision:** -



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**Co157 The Coombs (2.2 ha) TM 039335**

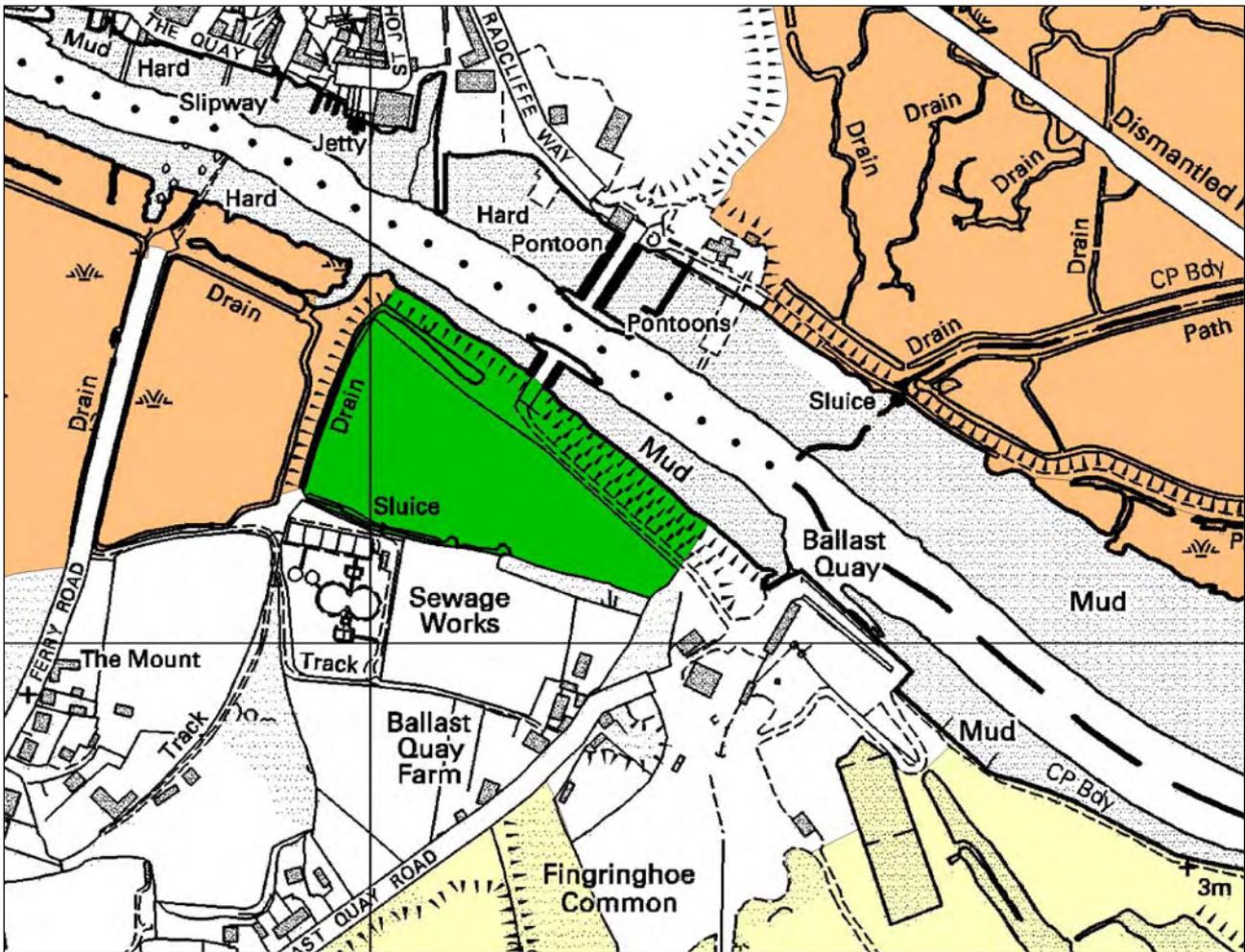
A very steep wooded bank with Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) on the slopes and a wet stream valley at the bottom dominated by Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) coppice characterises this site. Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Climbing Corydalis (*Ceratocarpus claviculata*) are found on the drier slopes, whilst Yellow archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*) and Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*) are found in slightly damper conditions towards the base of the slope. Opposite-leaved Golden-saxifrage (*Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*), an Essex Red Data List species typical of wet marshy conditions forms localised patches along the stream valley.

**Selection criteria:** HCr2(d), SCr15

**BAP Priority Habitats:** Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland, Wet Woodland (UK)

**Date of selection:** December 2008

**Date of last revision:** -



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**Co158 Barrage Marsh (3.6 ha) TM 040211**

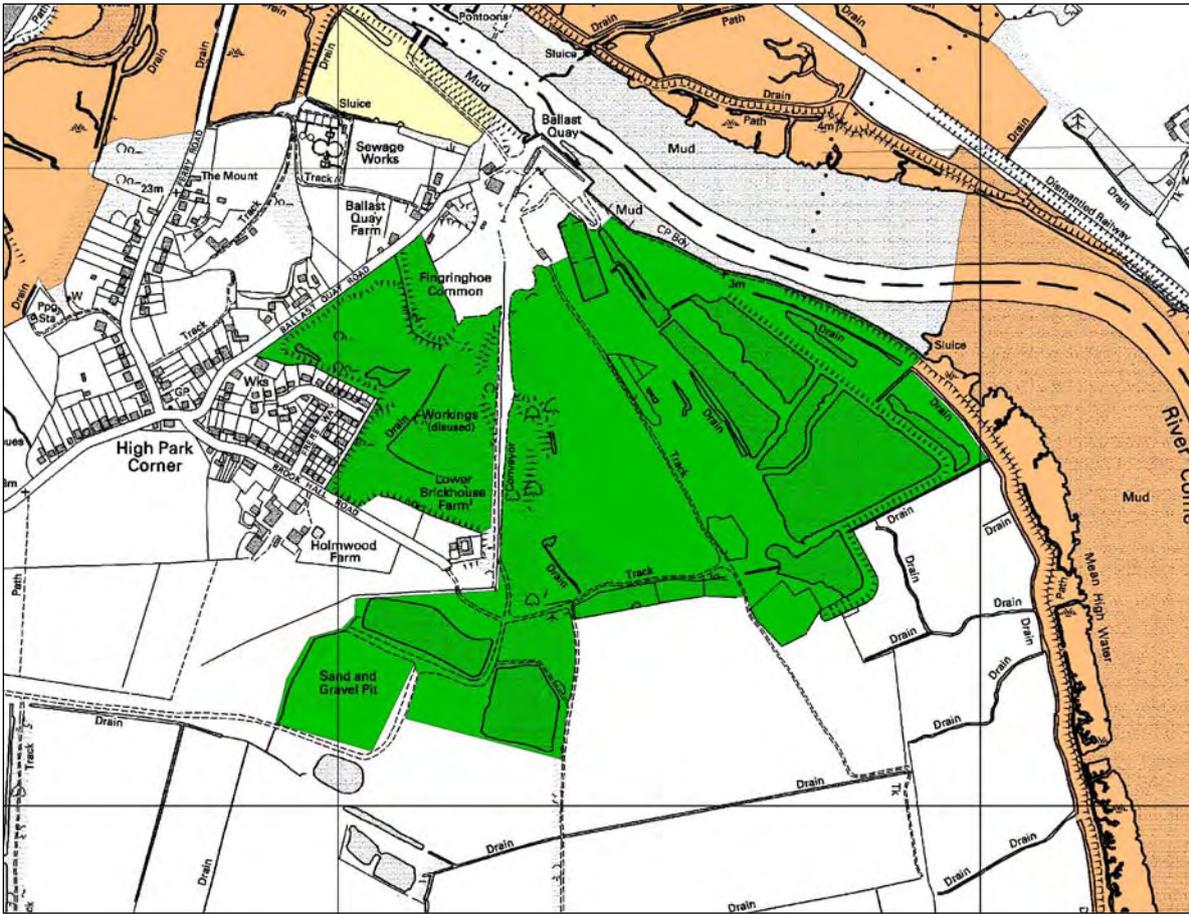
This area of grazing-marsh is included because of the scarcity of the habitat type and its location adjacent to the Upper Colne Marshes SSSI, being a relict of the marshland system that previously flanked the River Colne. The grassland flora includes Meadow Barley (*Hordeum secalinum*), Dittander (*Lepidium latifolium*), an Essex Red Data List plant, Marsh Foxtail (*Alopecurus geniculatus*) and Hairy Buttercup (*Ranunculus sardous*); the latter two occur along a series of shallow damp ditches. Included in the Local Wildlife Site are the sea wall and a small area of saltmarsh, which supports typical species such as Glassworts (*Salicornia* agg.), Common Sea-lavender (*Limonium vulgare*), Annual Sea-blite (*Suaeda maritima*), Sea Wormwood (*Seriphidium maritimum*) and Sea Aster (*Aster tripolium*). The site is used by coastal birds that inhabit and pass along the Colne wildlife corridor.

**Selection criteria:** HCr16

**BAP Priority Habitats:** Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh (UK); Coastal Grazing Marsh (Essex)

**Date of selection:** 1991

**Date of last revision:** December 2008



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### Co159 Brickhouse Farm Pits (51.9ha) TM 041205

This large site comprises worked out gravel pits in the latter stages of succession, containing a mosaic of scrub, woodland, wet woodland, reedbed, grassland and freshwater habitats. The area to the west of the conveyor has been left largely unmanaged since it was abandoned in the 1970s and now contains areas of tall Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and birch (*Betula* sp.) as well as dense Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*), Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) and willow (*Salix* sp.) scrub which has colonised the undulating sand/gravel slopes. Here additional habitats of interest include an area of wet willow woodland with reeds (*Phragmites australis*) and an open sandy area subject to regular disturbance which supports early colonisers including Soft-rush (*Juncus effusus*), Common Cudweed (*Filago vulgaris*) and Small Cudweed (*Filago minima*), an Essex Red Data List plant. An area of common land to the north contains oak woodland with some large standards and Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) and Spurge-laurel (*Daphne laureola*) amongst the ground flora.

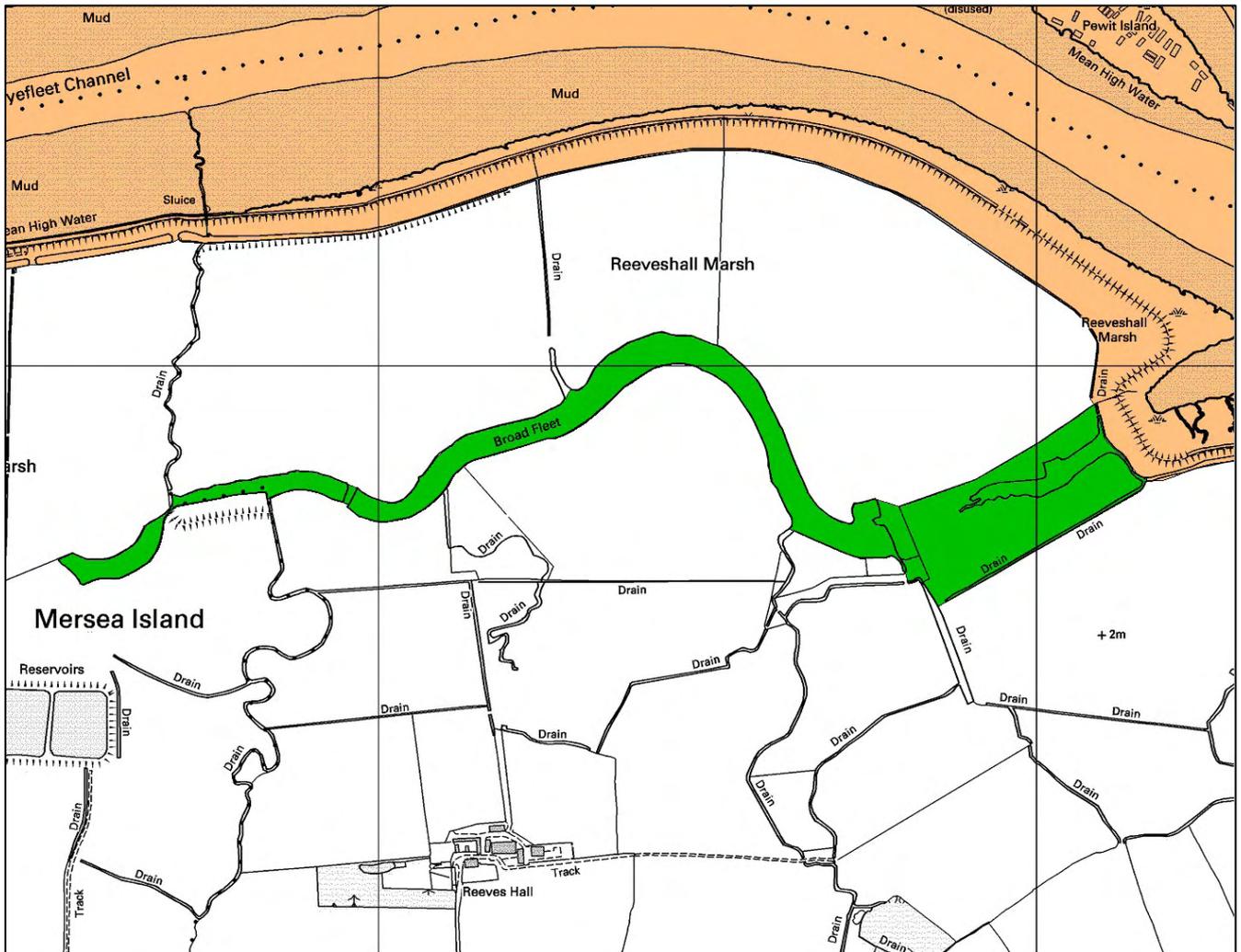
Sea wall and borrow-dyke make up the eastern boundary of the site which abuts onto the River Colne Estuary SSSI, and this habitat supports typical species such as Sea Aster (*Aster tripolium*) and Narrow-leaved Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus glaber*). Adjacent to this, an extensive area of reedbed has formed in old silt ponds, with willow scrub becoming well established in places and Gorse and Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) found on higher ground. Rough grassland contained within the site provides additional habitat for wildlife such as invertebrates and reptiles; all four species of Essex reptile have been previously recorded within Brickhouse Farm Pits. In addition, Great Crested Newts have been reported within one of the lakes.

**Selection criteria:** HCr2(c), HCr6(b), HCr13, HCr 20, HCr21, SCr4

**BAP Priority Habitats:** Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland, Open Mosaic Habitats on Previously Developed Land (UK); Brownfield Sites (Essex)

Date of selection: December 2008

Date of last revision: -



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### Co160 Reeveshall Reedbed (11.3 ha) TM 044160

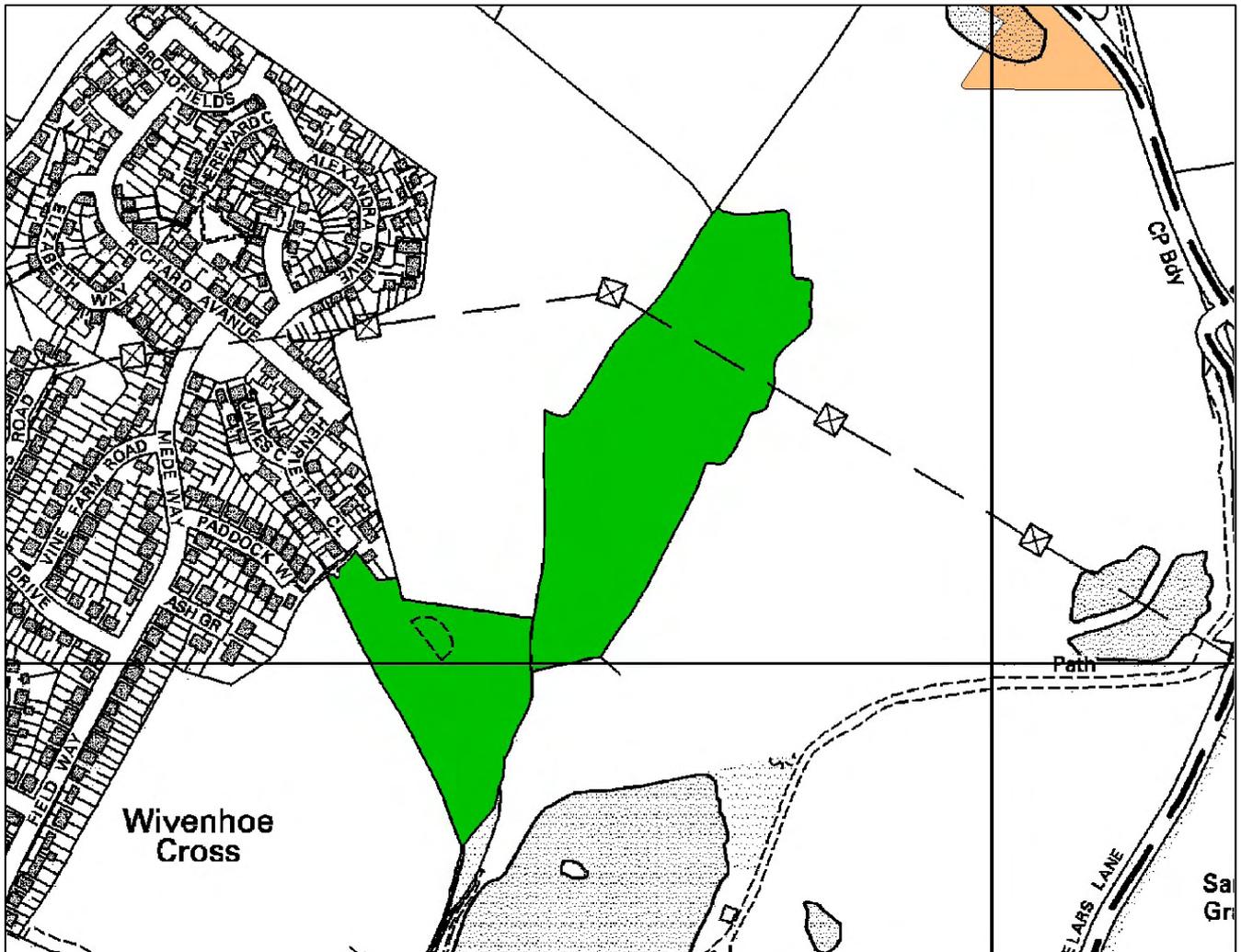
This site comprises a large bed of Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) – a scarce BAP habitat. Typical reed- dependent birds, such as Reed and Sedge Warbler breed here. Bearded Tit has also been known to breed. The eastern end of the site comprises an area of brackish open water that has affinities with another BAP habitat: Saline Lagoons. The damp margins of this lagoon provide high water feeding opportunities for coastal wading birds.

**Selection criteria:** HCr21; HCr28

**BAP Priority Habitats:** Reedbeds (UK and Essex)

**Date of original selection:** December 2008

**Date of last revision:** -



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### **Co161 Wivenhoe Cross Pit (6.3 ha) TM 046230**

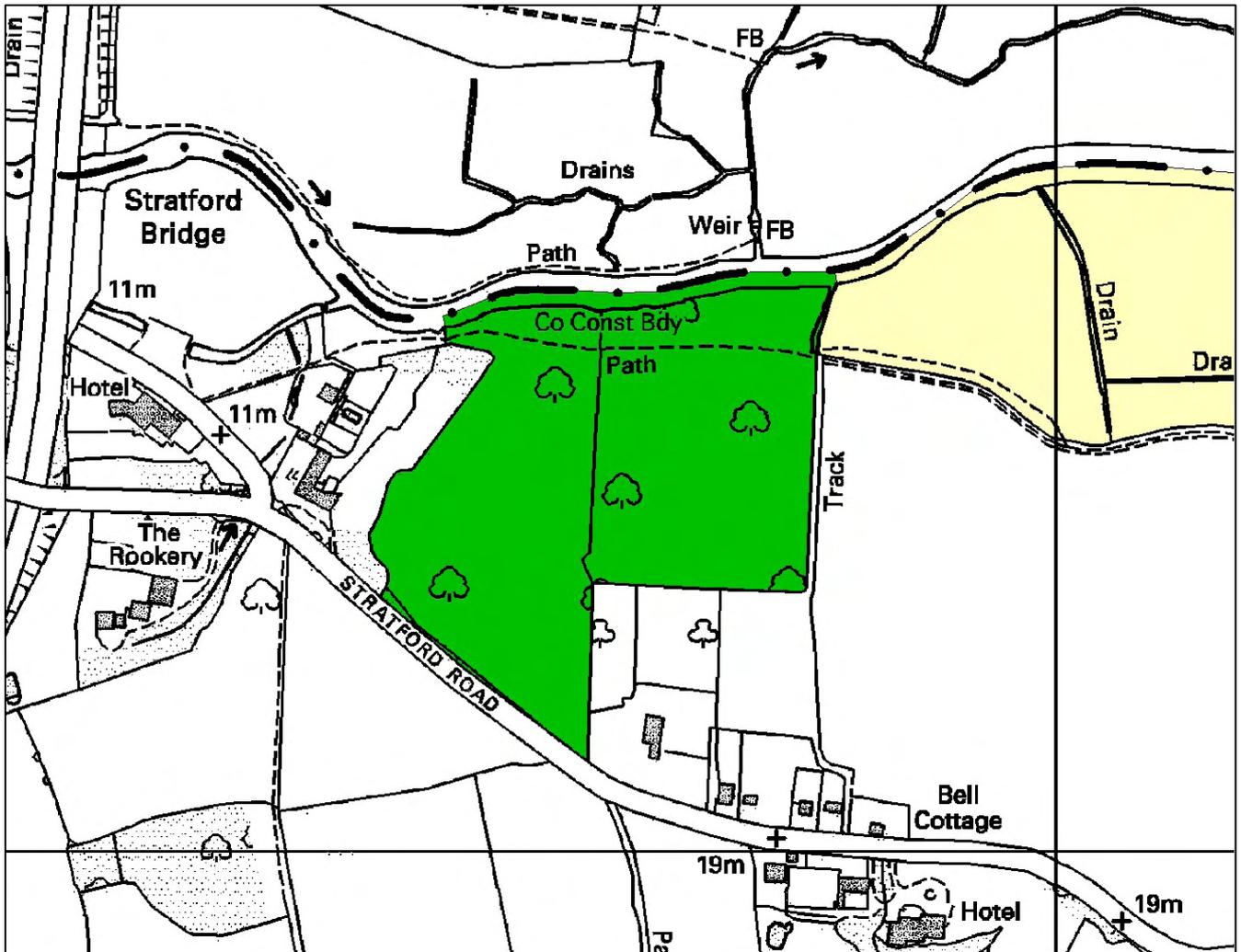
This site comprises brownfield tall ruderal grassland and scattered scrub. The smaller southern section has a shallow central pit, within which the UK BAP digger wasp *Cerceris quinquefasciata* (RDB3) and its brood parasite cuckoo-wasp *Hedychrum niemelai* (RDB3) have both been recorded. A number of other Nationally Rare and Scarce invertebrates have also been observed here, including the Wasp Spider *Argiope bruennichi*. The surrounding weedy grassland, including an area of former arable land forming the larger, northern section of this site, will provide essential foraging habitat for all invertebrates found here.

**Selection criteria:** HCr12; HCr20; SCr14

**BAP Priority Habitats:** Open Mosaic Habitats on Previously Developed Land (UK); Brownfield Sites (Essex)

**Date of original selection:** December 2008

**Date of last revision:** -



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**Co162 Dalethorpe Park (6.6 ha) TM 046332**

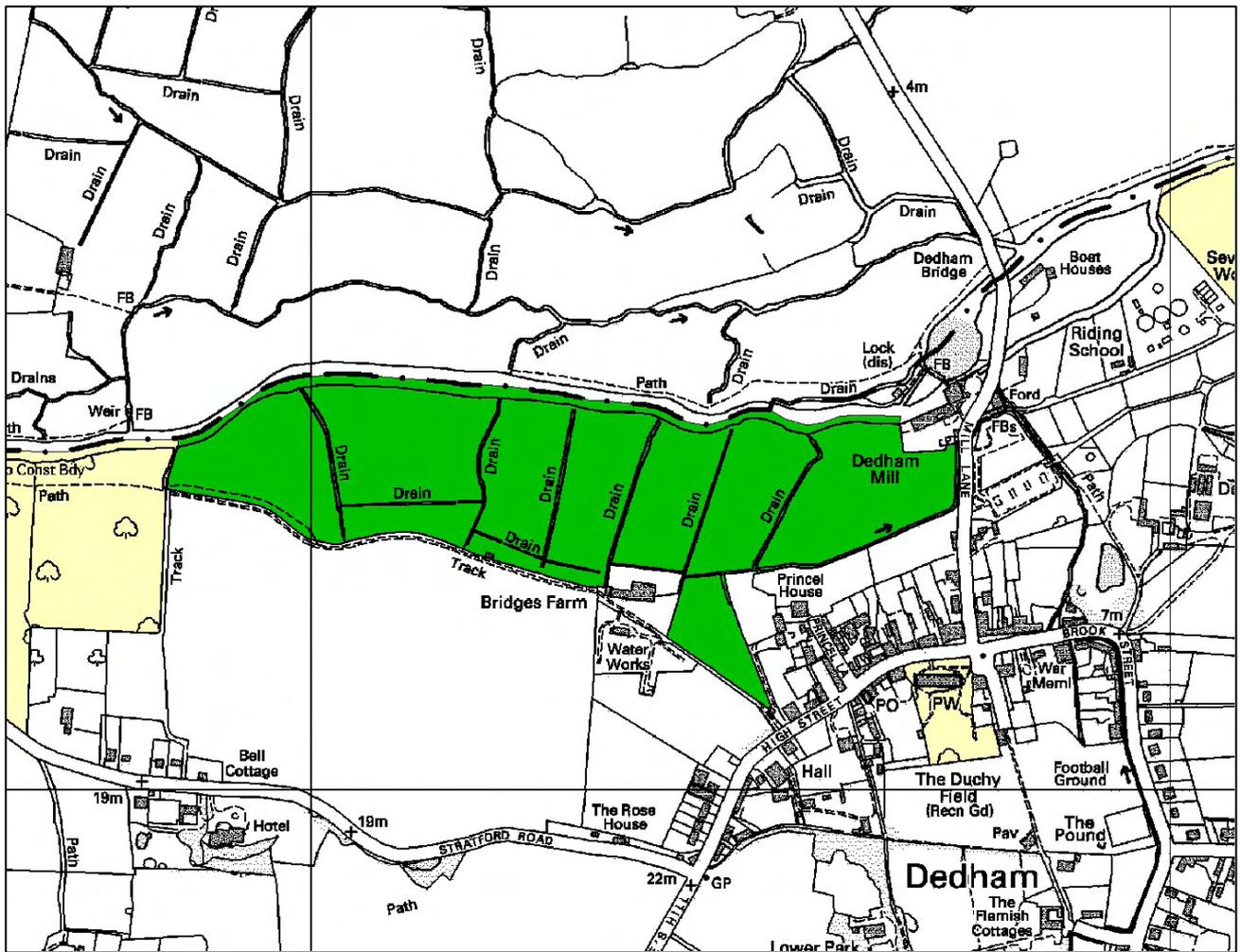
The ornamental planting of this small area of parkland includes Oak (*Quercus* spp.), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), London Plane (*Acer platanus*), Lime (*Tilia* sp.) and Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*). Some of these trees have attained a girth of 4 metres and are now producing dead wood features that are likely to be of importance for saproxylic invertebrates.

**Selection criteria:** HCr4

**BAP Priority Habitats:** Wood-Pasture and Parkland (UK); Veteran Trees (Essex)

**Date of original selection:** December 2008

**Date of last revision:** -



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### Co163 Bridges Farm (16.4 ha) TM 053334

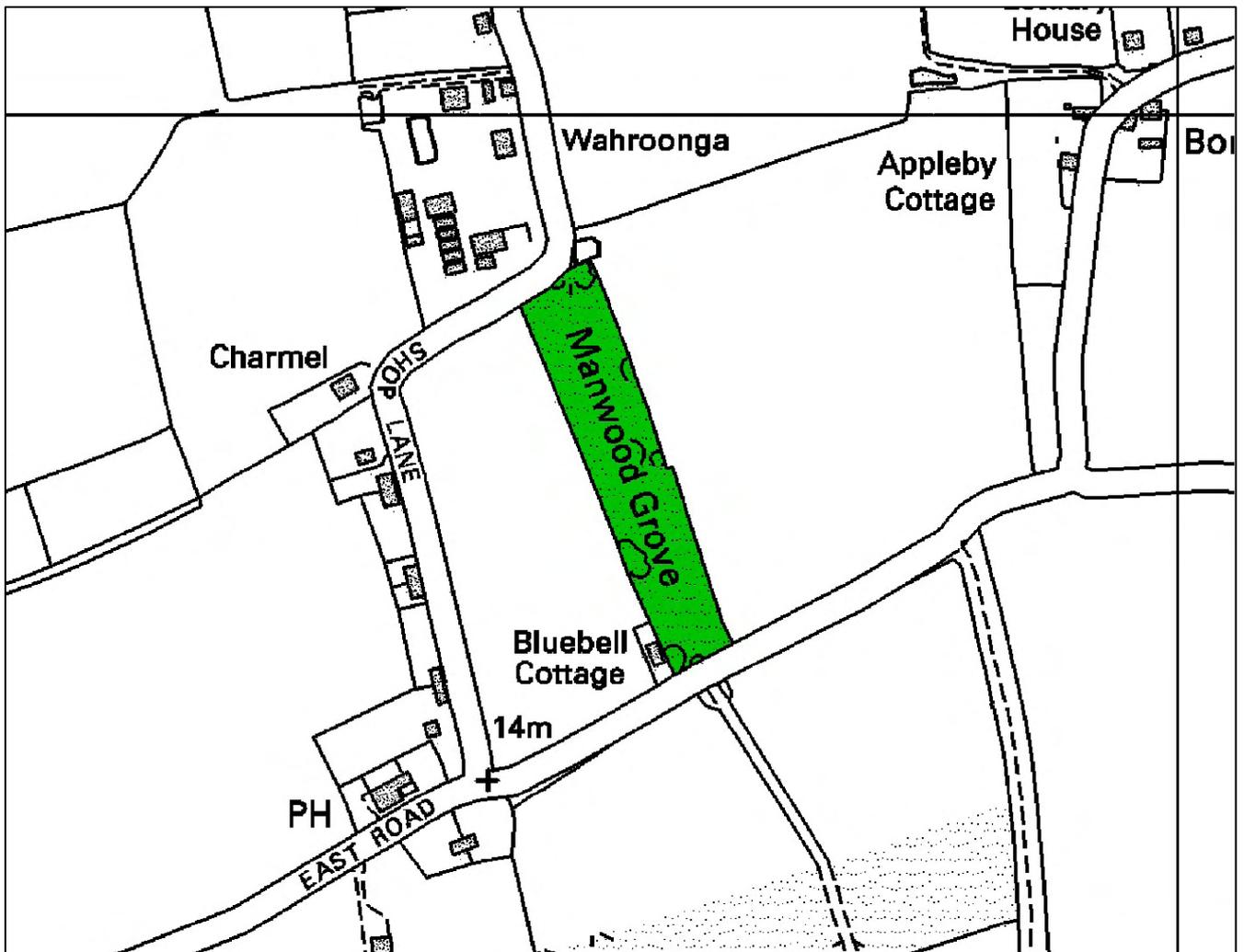
The majority of this site lies within the National Trust's Bridges Farm holding and comprises alluvial floodplain pastures with dissecting ditches and the banks of the River Stour. Whilst the pastures have received some agricultural improvement and are not floristically rich, they remain of value due to the relative scarcity of this habitat type and their associated invertebrate interest. The drainage ditches and riverbank have a good flora that includes Marsh Bedstraw (*Galium palustre*), Water Horsetail (*Equisetum fluviatile*), Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*), Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), Reed Canary-grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), Yellow Flag-iris (*Iris pseudacorus*), Common Valerian (*Valeriana officinalis*), Water Dock (*Rumex hydrolapathum*), Common Meadow-rue (*Thalictrum flavum*) and Greater Pond-sedge (*Carex riparia*). An interesting invertebrate fauna is associated with these habitats, including Lister's River Snail (*Viviparus conectus*) and the water beetle *Graptodytes pictus*.

**Selection criteria:** HCr14; SCr15

**BAP Priority Habitats:** Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh (UK); Lowland Grassland (Essex)

**Date of original selection:** 1991

**Date of last revision:** December 2008



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#### **Co164 Manwood Grove (1.0 ha) TM 056148**

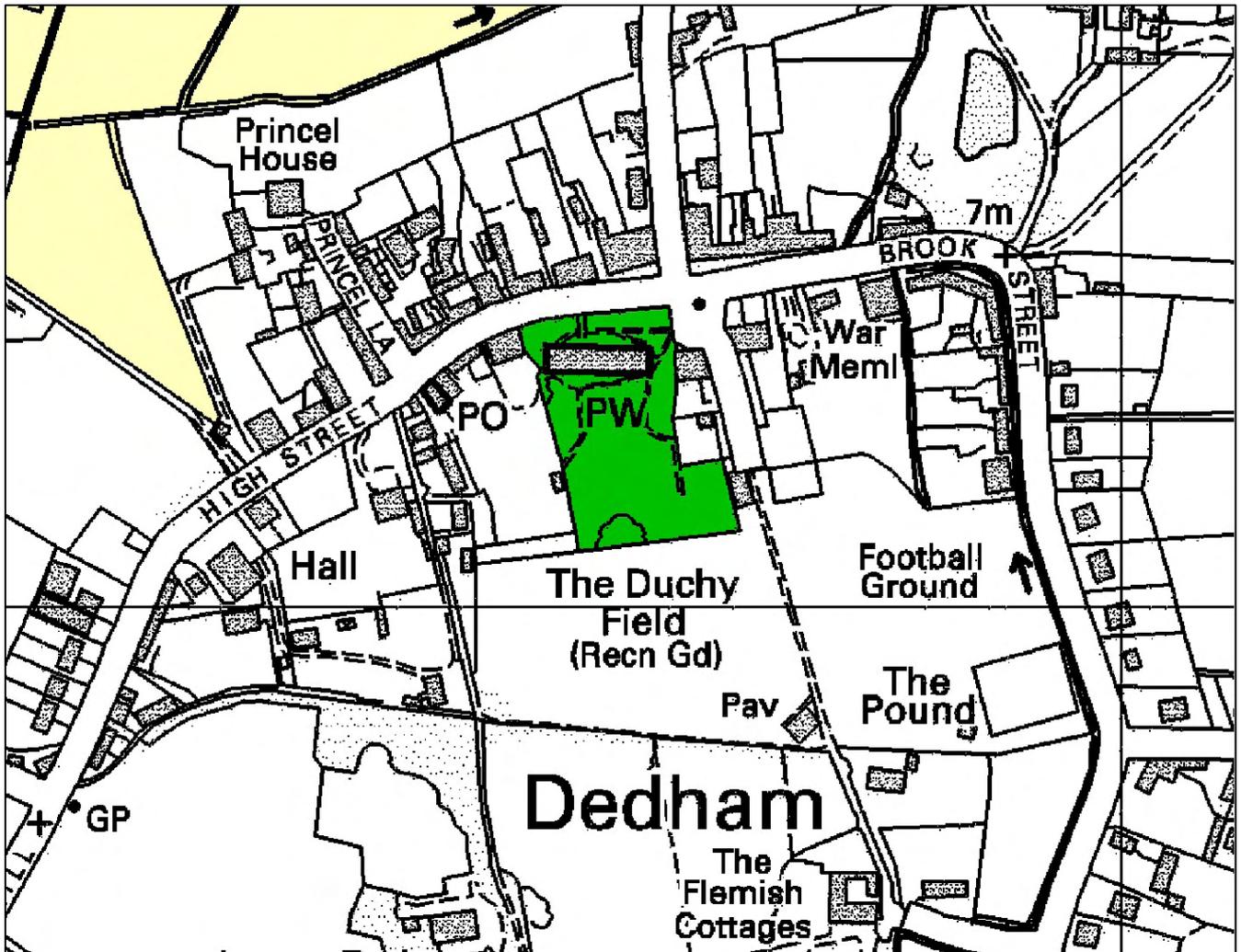
This narrow strip is one of the largest old, possibly ancient, pieces of woodland on Mersea Island. Its rather sparse canopy is mainly of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and some suckering elm (*Ulmus* sp.), with a very scrubby understorey of Elder (*Sambucus nigra*), Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*). The rather limited ground flora includes abundant Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) at the northern end. The wood supports a rookery and provides habitat for a typical array of birds and insects in an otherwise poorly wooded part of the borough.

**Selection criteria:** HCr1(b)

**BAP Priority Habitats:** Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK); Ancient Woodland (Essex)

**Date of original selection:** December 2008

**Date of last revision:** -



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**Co165 Dedham Churchyard (0.8 ha) TM 057330**

The turf of this small churchyard is relict acid grassland, which is of particular note for the presence of Lesser Calamint (*Clinopodium calamintha*) and Harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*). Maidenhair Spleenwort (*Asplenium trichomanes*) and Black Spleenwort (*Asplenium adiantum-nigrum*) occur on the walls. All of these species are Essex Red Data List plants. The lichen flora on walls and gravestones is also of interest.

**Selection criteria:** SCr15

**BAP Priority Habitats:** Lowland Dry Acid Grassland (UK)

**Date of original selection:** 1991

**Date of last revision:** December 2008



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### Co166 Fen Farm Saltmarsh (1.1 ha) TM 061141

This small area of Reed (*Phragmites australis*) and saltmarsh was not included within the adjacent Colne Estuary. It is included here on account of the fragility and conservation concern associated with all saltmarshes in Essex. The flora includes the Nationally Scarce Golden Samphire (*Inula crithmoides*) and Shrubby Seablite (*Suaeda vera*), along with Sea Aster (*Aster tripolium*), Greater Sea-spurrey (*Spergularia media*) and Sea-purslane (*Atriplex portulacoides*).

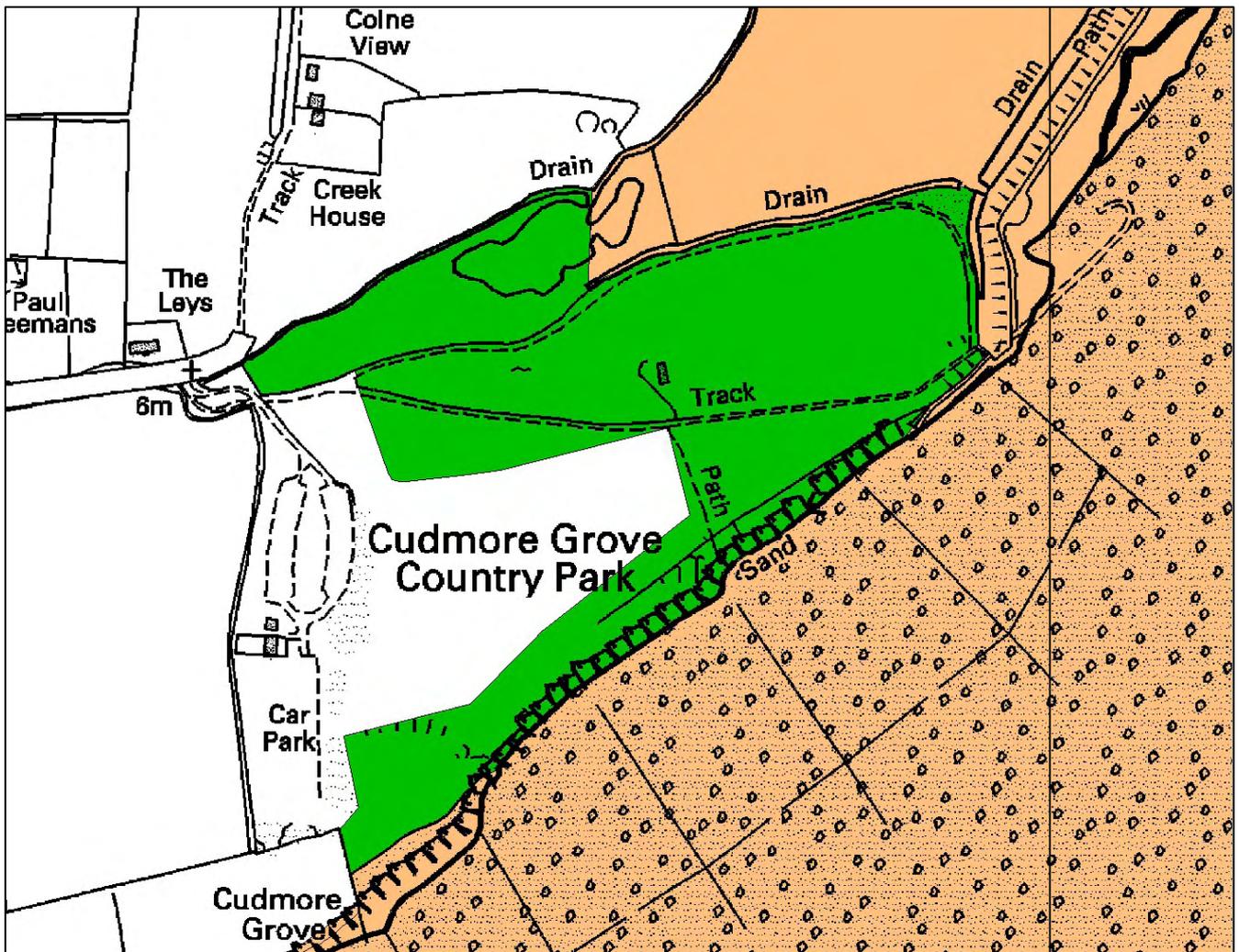
**Selection criteria:** HCr22, HCr30, SCr15

**BAP Priority Habitats:** Coastal Saltmarsh (UK); Saltmarsh (Essex)

**Date of original selection:** December 2008

**Date of last revision:** -





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### **Co168 Cudmore Grove Country Park (8.7 ha) TM 067147**

This site comprises the floristically diverse grasslands of the country park, a small wildfowl wetland and the sandy vertical cliffs adjacent to the Colne Estuary SSSI. In the shorter, sandy turf of the cliff-top can be found species typical of such coastal grasslands, many of which are inherently scarce, such as Fenugreek (*Trifolium ornithopodioides*), Strawberry Clover (*Trifolium fragiferum*) and Narrow-leaved Bird's-foot Trefoil (*Lotus glaber*) along with Fescue grasses (*Festuca* spp.) and Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*).

The site is of great importance for Adders, with other reptiles and amphibians also present. The invertebrates of the cliffs have only been briefly studied, but this has revealed an assemblage of Nationally Scarce (and Essex Red Data List) solitary bees, including *Andrena fulvago* and *Megachile dorsalis*. Many of these will be foraging for resources in the adjacent country park grasslands

**Selection criteria:** HCr12, SCr15

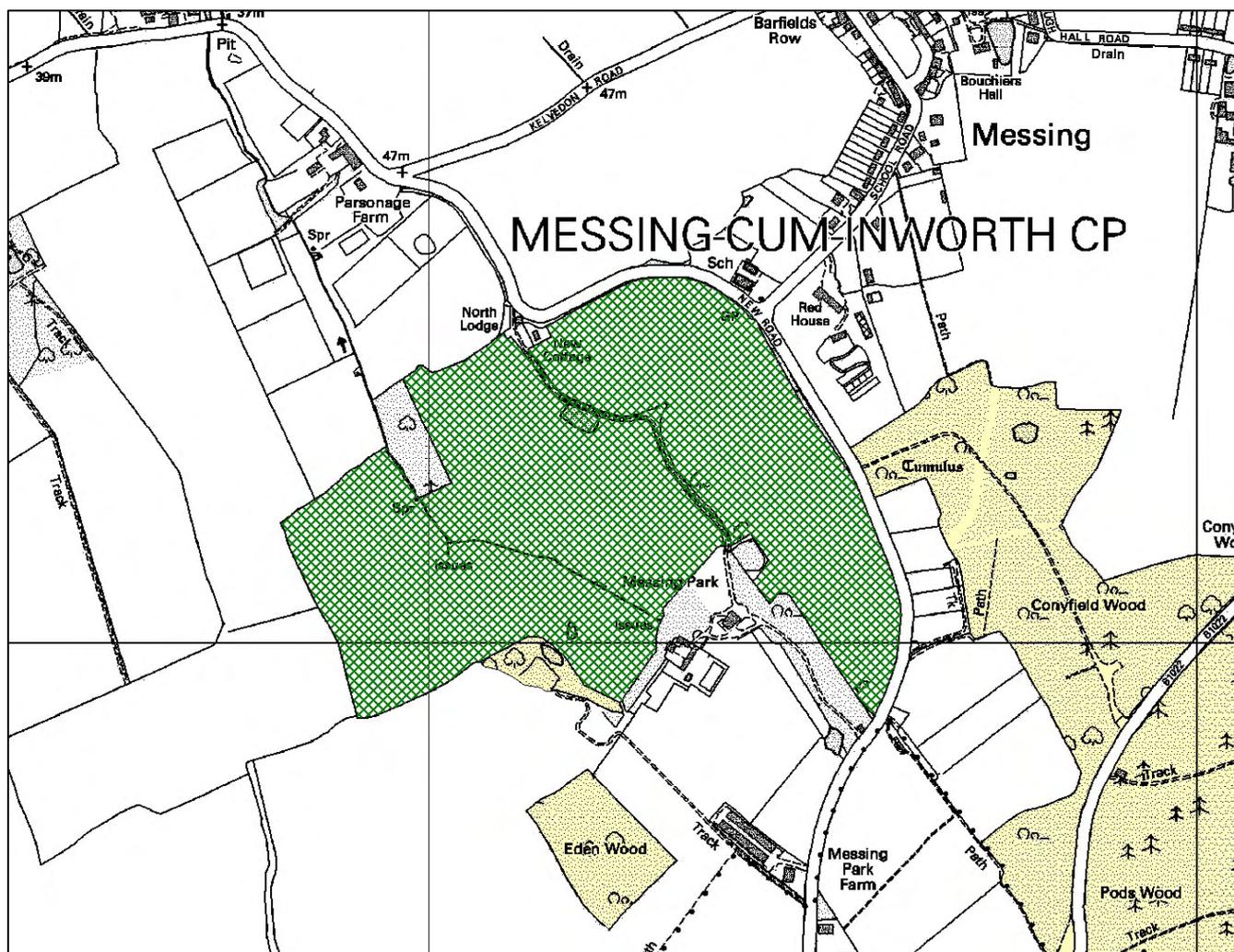
**BAP Priority Habitats:** Maritime Cliff and Slopes (UK)

**Date of original selection:** 1991

**Date of last revision:** December 2008

## APPENDIX 4

### REGISTER OF POTENTIAL LOCAL WILDLIFE SITES



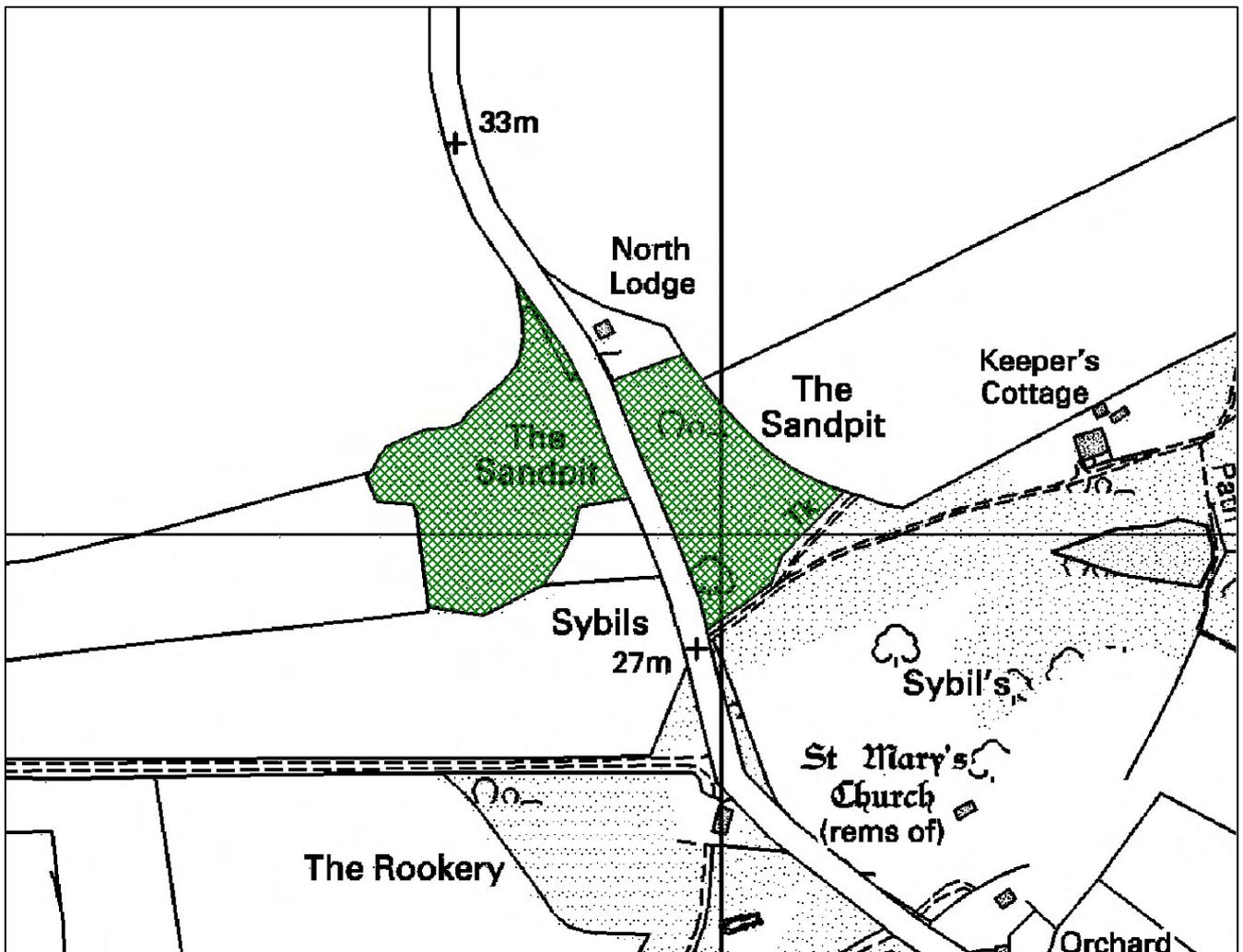
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#### **PCLoWS1 Messing Park (27.4 ha) TL 891182**

An area of parkland that does not clearly conform to aspects of the Essex BAP for Veteran Trees or Wood-pasture, but may be worthy of closer investigation. "Wood-pasture and Parkland" is a UK BAP Priority Habitat.

**Potential Interest:** Dead wood invertebrates associated with isolated trees; grassland flora.

**Action Required:** Further survey work, especially for invertebrates.



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**PCLoWS2 The Sandpit Woods (2.3 ha) TL 949210**

Potentially ancient woodland remnants in the north-western and eastern sections. Interesting bird life and flora worthy of closer inspection.

**Potential Interest:** General woodland ecology

**Action Required:** Further survey work



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**PCLoWS3 Craxe's Green Wood (1.6 ha) TL 952188**

This site is an area of wood, scrub and damp grassland, with a seasonally wet swampy area to the south.

**Potential Interest:** Amphibians and invertebrates.

**Action Required:** Further survey work.



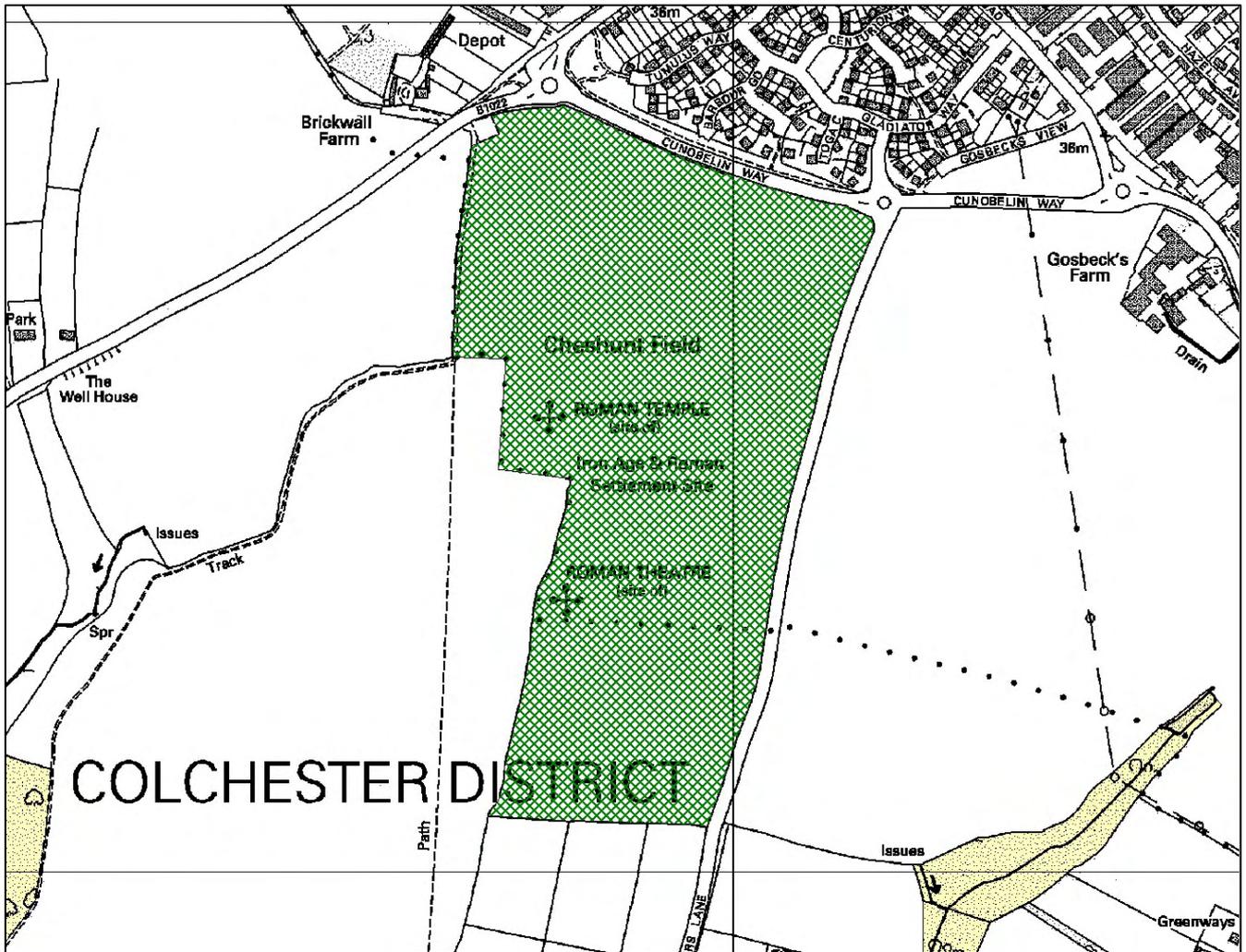
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**PCLoWS4 Lexden Triple Dyke (1.0 ha) TL 965246**

Oak and Holly woodland on ancient fortification earthworks, which might be considered to be “ancient” although the history of vegetation cover would be difficult to determine. Invertebrates would be worth a more detailed survey.

**Potential Interest:** Ancient woodland ecology? Dead wood invertebrates.

**Action Required:** Further survey work, especially for invertebrates.



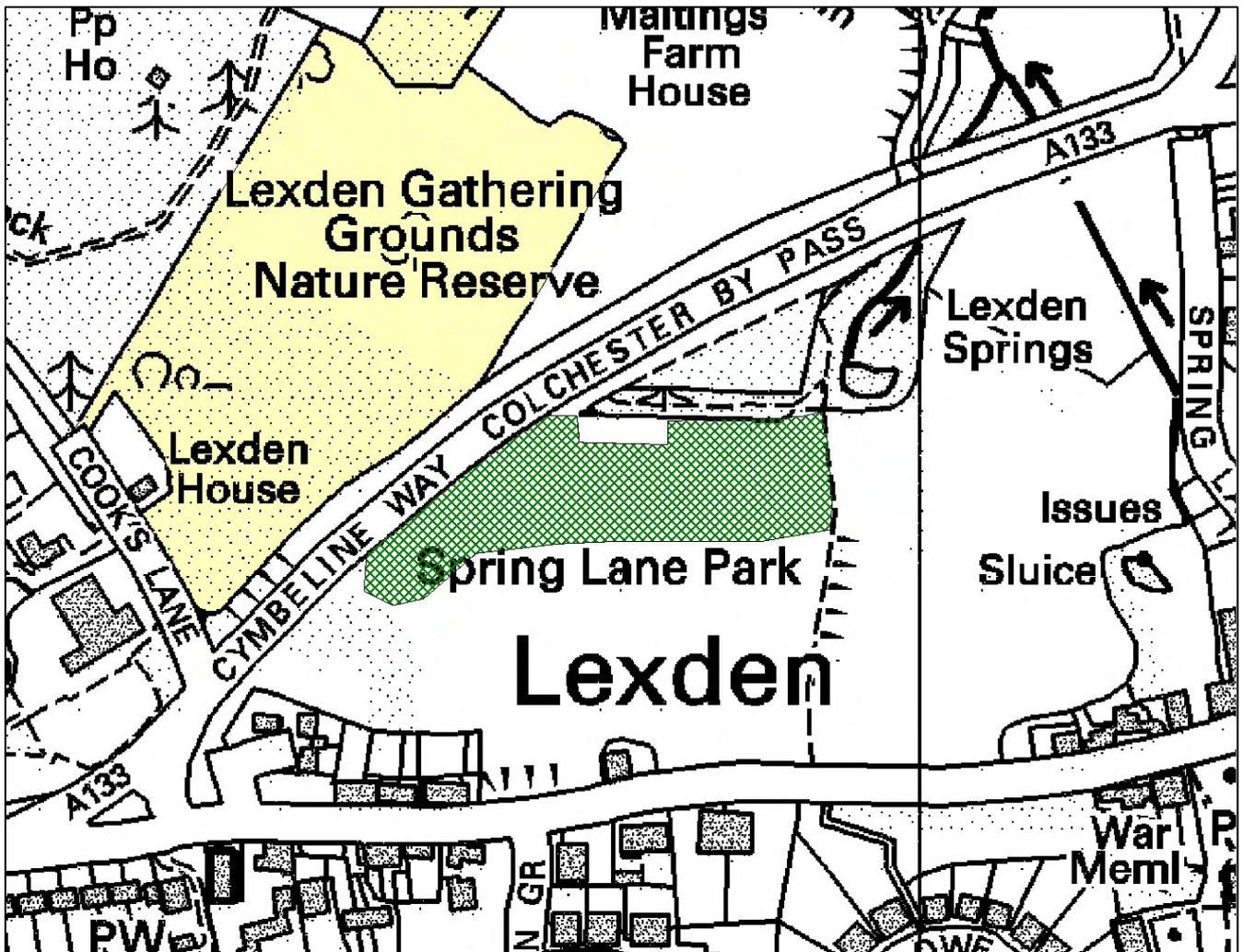
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**PCLoWS5 Gosbeck's Park (27.0 ha) TL 968225**

An area of sown grassland with a good species mix. Whilst being recent grassland, the sward may be an important foraging ground for invertebrates, such as butterflies, bees, wasps and flies.

**Potential Interest:** Invertebrates

**Action Required:** Invertebrate surveys



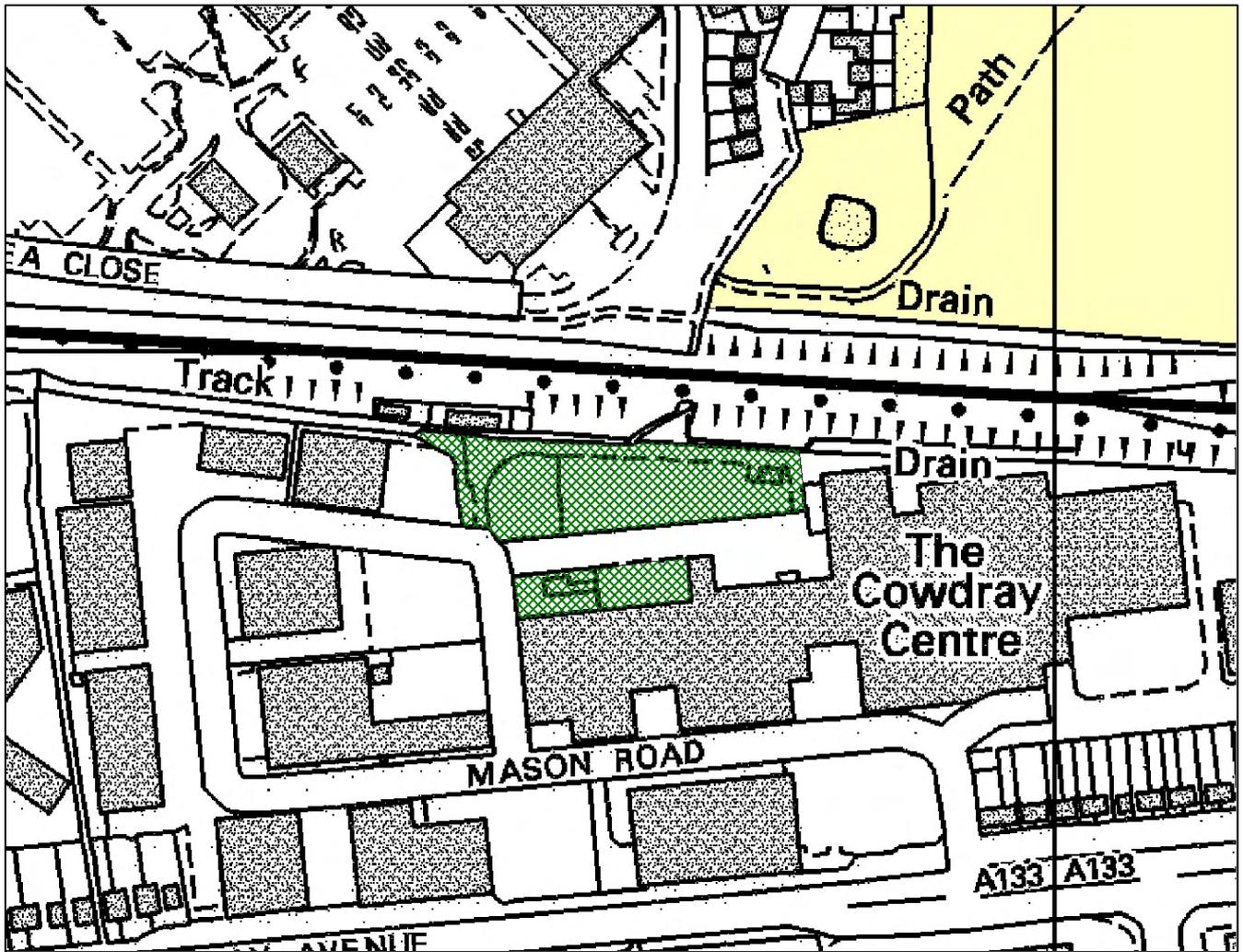
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**PCLoWS6 Spring Lane Park (0.8 ha) TL 968252**

An area of generally short-mown acid grassland, which includes an abundance of Blinks (*Montia fontana*) – a plant that generally favours damp, unimproved acid soils. Harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*) may also be present.

**Potential Interest:** Unimproved acid grassland

**Action Required:** Less intensive management, to allow flora to develop better, followed by survey work, including invertebrates.



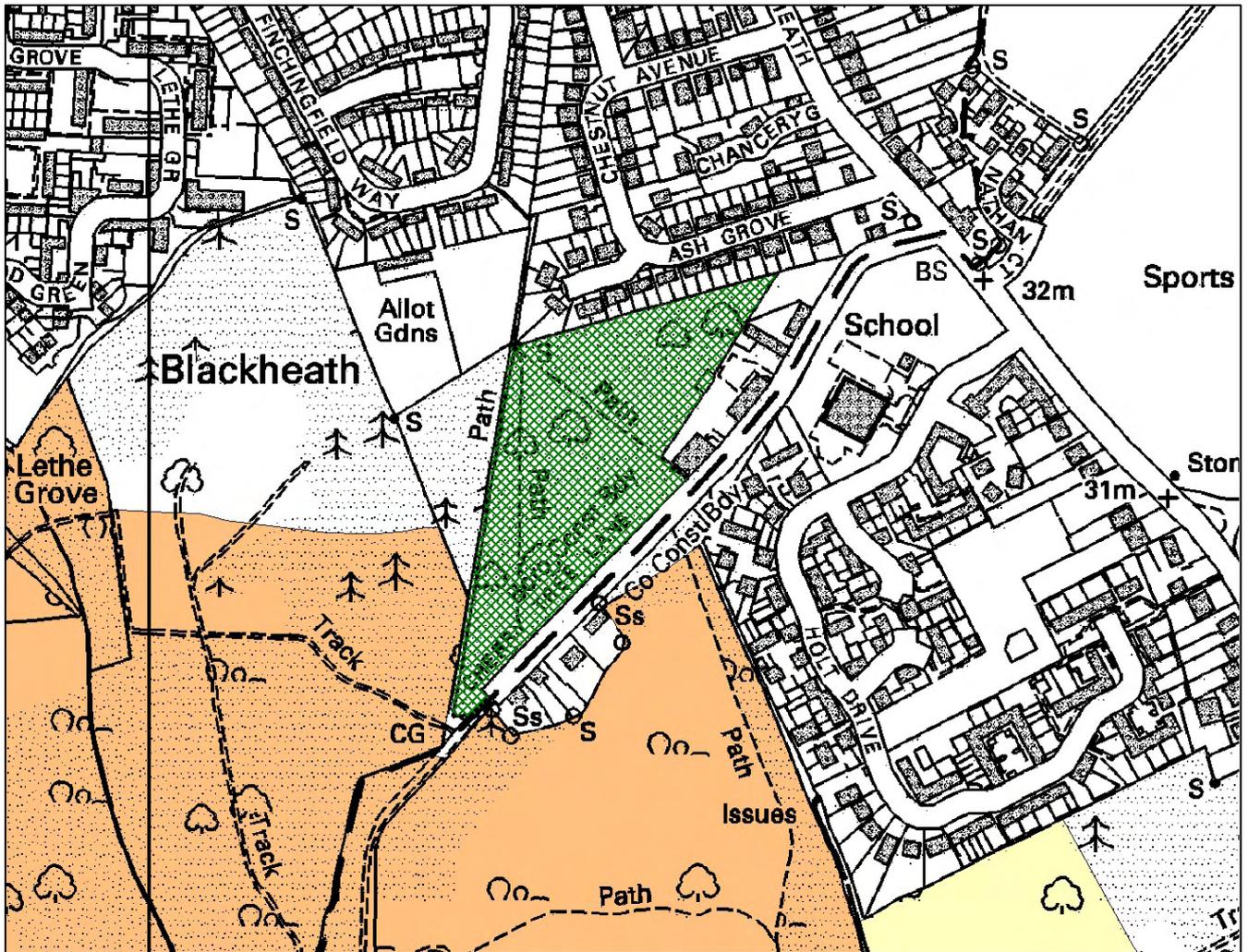
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**PCLoWS7 Former Ozalid Works (0.7 ha) TL 998262**

An area of derelict ground that has now partially revegetated with Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) scrub, tall ruderals and short perennials. Such areas of “brownfield” habitat are known to support important assemblages of invertebrates. A number of Nationally Rare (RDB) solitary bees and wasps have been taken from land adjacent to this site and the Ozalid Works site is likely to be providing additional foraging and nesting habitat.

**Potential Interest:** Brownfield invertebrates

**Action Required:** Invertebrate surveys



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**PCLows8 Black Heath (2.6 ha) TM 003215**

Old maps show this area to be the last surviving remnant of Black Heath, a large heathland waste that gave its name to this area of urban Colchester. Despite being now planted with conifers and with plentiful Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*), the site still supports a few plants of Purple Moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea*), which is a rare species in north-east Essex.

**Potential Interest:** Heathland

**Action Required:** Restoration of the heath by removal of tree cover, Bramble and Bracken. This ground disturbance may stimulate the seed bank of heathland plants in the soil. Management to maintain the site largely free from scrub will be required in order to encourage the development of acid grassland.



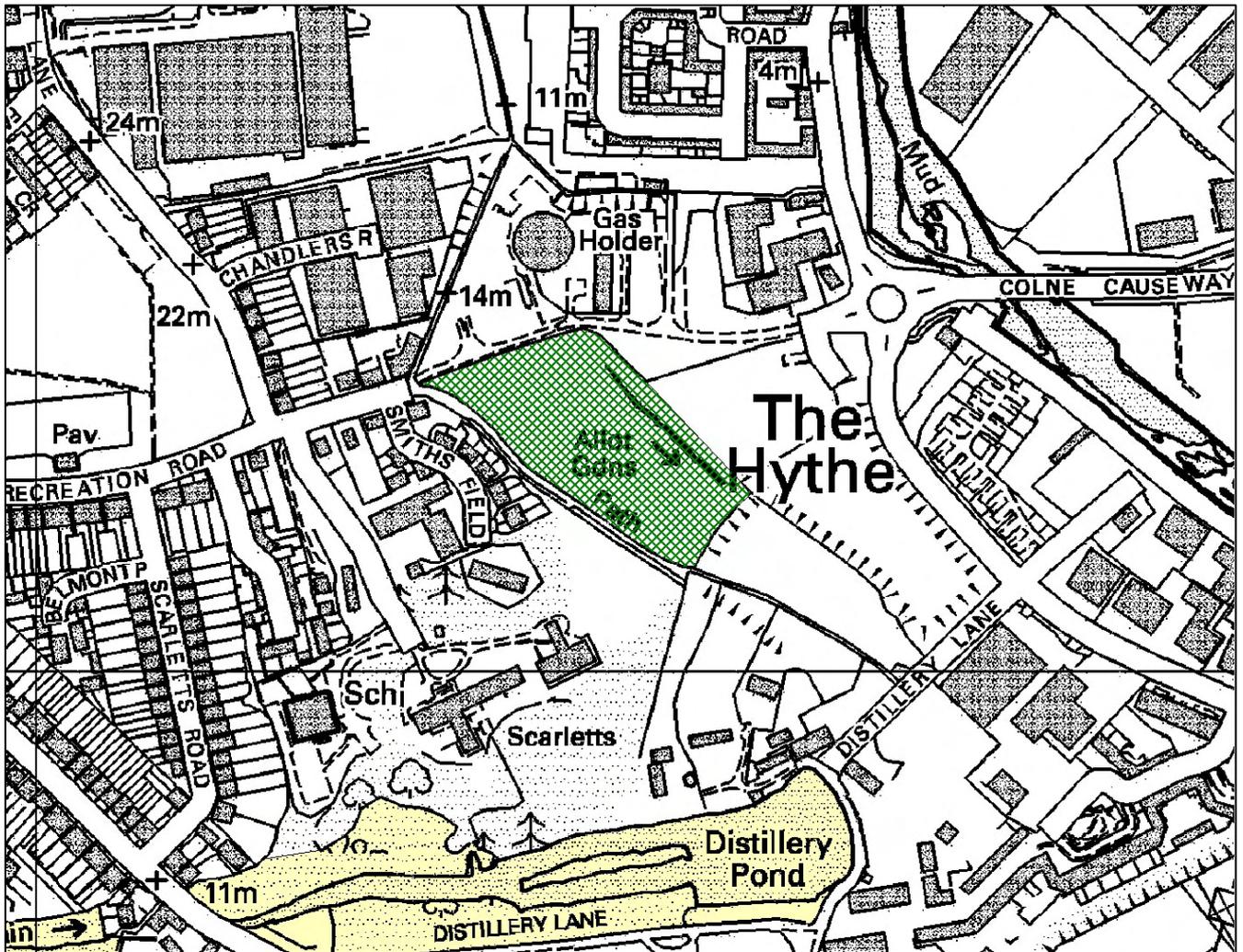
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**PCLoWS9 St Botolph's Sidings (1.2 ha) TM 004249**

This is an area of “brownfield” land comprising sparsely vegetated waste ground, which is likely to be of importance for invertebrates and reptiles.

**Potential Interest:** Brownfield ecology

**Action Required:** Surveys for invertebrates, flora and reptiles.



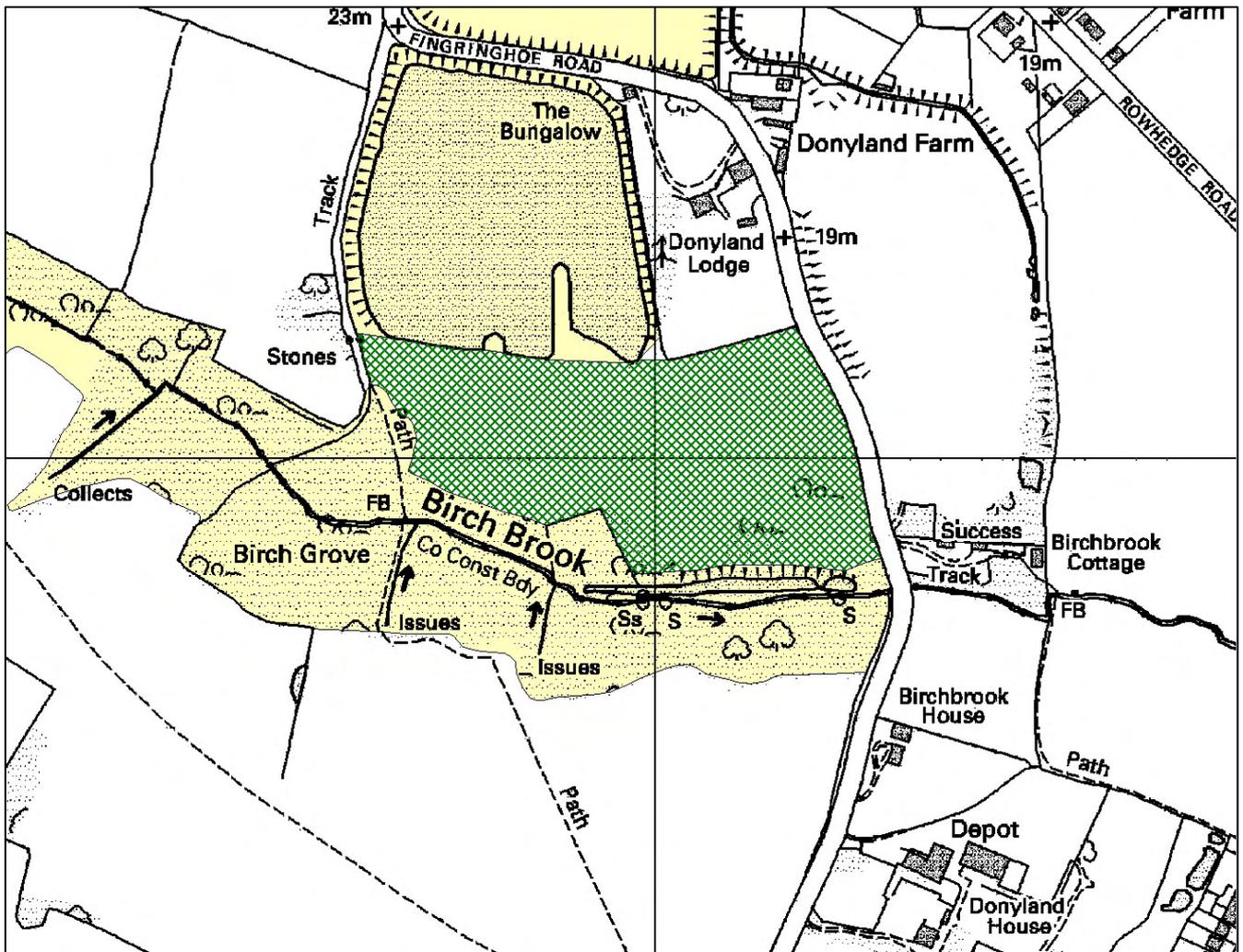
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**PLoWS10 Grant's Meadow Allotment (1.5 ha) TM 013241**

This is only partially used as an allotment, with an area of damp grassland and tall herb vegetation along the north eastern boundary. A number of interesting invertebrates have been recorded from here and further survey work may be enough to elevate the site to LoWS status. The reptile populations may also be worthy of closer investigation.

**Potential Interest:** Invertebrates, reptiles

**Action Required:** Further survey work required.



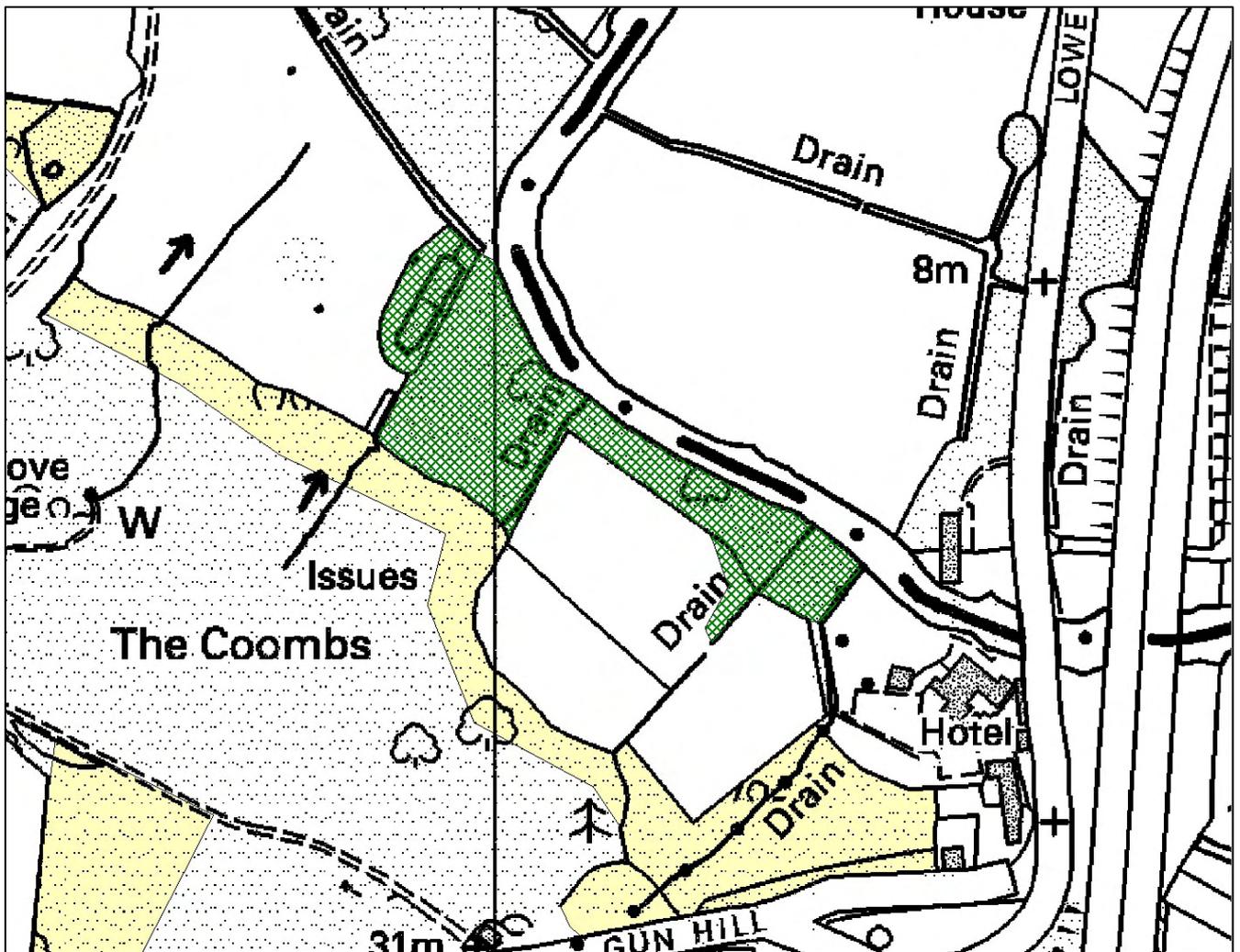
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### **PCLoWS11 Donyland Waste (5.6 ha) TM 019219**

This is an area of fallow land akin to brownfield habitat, being sparsely vegetated but species-rich with an assemblage of annual weedy and tall ruderal perennials. Such areas are of importance for a range of invertebrates.

**Potential Interest:** Invertebrate assemblages.

**Action Required:** Survey work



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**PCLoWS12 The Coombs Marsh (1.8 ha) TM 040335**

Previous surveys of this area of open willow plantation and marsh have revealed an interesting assemblage of marshland plants, although their current status is uncertain. The invertebrates may also be worthy of more detailed survey work.

**Potential Interest:** Marshland flora and invertebrates

**Action Required:** Further survey work.



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**PCLoWS13 Shir Burn (4.3 ha) TM 074314**

This area of damp, sheep-grazed grassland along the Shir Burn needs to be regarded within the context of the grassland and wet woodland on the other side of the brook, which are Local wildlife Sites for Tendring District. The grassland strip within Colchester looks to have good potential for its flora and invertebrates, although no notable species were observed during the current brief survey schedule.

**Potential Interest:** Grassland flora and invertebrates

**Action Required:** Further survey work