2020

Ryburgh Neighbourhood Plan (2019 - 2040)

SUBMISSION VERSION

EVIDENCE PACK

Consultation Period: Monday 6 April - Monday 18 May 2020

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RYBURGH SUBMISSION VERSION NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN EVIDENCE PACK

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Note: Update (September 2020)
An update to the Submitted Evidence Pack April 2020 was made to correct the key to the Map on page 108 of Evidence Document 2 in respect of the colour coding of the Little Ryburgh and North of Great Ryburgh small field landscape areas. This amendment was highlighted as a modification through the Ryburgh Neighbourhood Plan Examination Report of 4 August 2020.

Evidence Document 1 - Housing Report

A Report on Housing for the consideration of the working group preparing the Ryburgh Neighbourhood Plan

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The Ryburgh Neighbourhood Plan Area

Great Ryburgh is a thriving historic village about two miles to the south-east of Fakenham and in the upper Wensum Valley: it is seeking to formulate a Neighbourhood Plan.

Current and future housing in the Neighbourhood Plan area and factors affecting this.

The Neighbourhood Plan area lies within the parish boundary of Great Ryburgh and has seen relatively little new housing development in the recent past due, no doubt in large part, to various policies within the Local Plan for North Norfolk. From the 2001 census Ryburgh is shown as having a population of 668 in 264 households, with the population rising to 694 in the 2011 census.

The following details have also been gathered from the 2011 census data, with assistance from North Norfolk District Council who have kindly supplied a draft settlement profile for the parish of Ryburgh.

Population

Age profile	Aged 0 to 15		Aged 16 to 29		Aged 30 to 44		Aged 45 to 64		Aged 65+	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Ryburgh	**128**	**19**	**102**	**15.1**	**104**	**15.2**	**192**	**28.6**	**146**	**21.7**
North Norfolk	14,669	14.5	27,606	27.2	14,596	14.4	30,100	29.7	29,197	28.8

The population figures show that, compared to the North Norfolk District Council area as a whole, Ryburgh has a higher percentage of 0 – 15 year olds (19% compared to 14.5%); a much lower percentage of 16 – 29 year olds (15.1% compared to 27.2%) and fewer residents aged 65 and over (21.7% in Ryburgh compared to 28.8% for the District.) Those aged between 30 and 44, and between 45 and 64 are very similar in Ryburgh when compared to NNDC.

Housing Stock

House or bungalow						**Flat, maisonette or apartment**						**Caravan or other mobile or temporary structure**	
Detached		**Semi-detached**		**Terraced**		**Purpose-built block of flats**		**Part of a converted or shared house**		**In a commercial building**			
numb.	%	numb.	%	numb.	%	numb.	%	numb.	%	numb.	%	numb.	%
133	41.3	116	36.0	66	20.5	4	1.2	1	0.3	1	0.3	1	0.3

Household tenure

Owned		Shared ownership		Social rented: Local Authority		Social rented: Other		Private rented		Living rent free	
numb.	%	numb.	%	numb.	%	numb.	%	numb.	%	numb.	%
182	62.8	2	0.7	7	2.4	48	16.6	47	16.2	4	1.4

Affordability

Ryburgh	North Norfolk	East	England
10.18	8.72	8.45	7.16

The following should be noted for the affordability statistics:

Ratio of lower quartile house prices to lower quartile earnings using 2 sets of data:

Annual Income from Employment - This is from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) and is available via the website of the Office for National Statistics (ONS). We use mean and lower quartile annual earnings. Note that this a sample of people in employment and the true value may differ to the sample data. The data does not include self-employed people.

www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/earningsandworkinghours/datasets/placeofresidencebylocalauthorityashetable8

House Prices. The ONS also provides information about lower quartile house prices by local authority Ward. Income data is not available at the Parish level and instead we compare lower quartile prices (for the ward) with lower quartile full-time income (earnings from employment) for the district. We assume that lower quartile income for the ward is the same as for the district - this may be a false assumption.

https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/housing/datasets/lowerquartilepricepaidbywardhpssadataset39

Great Ryburgh and Little Ryburgh are within the Countryside area as designated by the Local Plan (North Norfolk District Council Core Strategy, September 2008.) This **Countryside Area** is part of the settlement hierarchy, with the following summaries regarding development:

- the majority of new commercial and residential development will be directed to the **"Principal Settlements"** of Cromer, Fakenham, Holt and North Walsham;
- there will be more limited development opportunities in the **"Secondary Settlements"** of Hoveton, Sheringham, Stalham and Wells-next-the-Sea;
- a small amount of new development will be focussed on a number of designated **"Service Villages"** and **"Coastal Service Villages"** in order to support rural sustainability;
- in the rest of the District, known as the **"Countryside Area"**, development will be restricted to particular types of development such as that to support the rural economy, meet affordable housing needs and to provide renewable energy.

The majority of the recent development within the Neighbourhood Plan Area has taken the form of infill development on small sites within Great Ryburgh.

As being an area designated as 'countryside' within the Local Plan, it should be noted for interest that Great Ryburgh is shown as being within a boundary on the *Proposals Map West.* This boundary is not a settlement boundary, but was originally included as a 'boundary for reuse and adaptation of buildings in the Countryside' under Policy LP29. However, this policy has been superseded by Policy HO9, with the boundary showing the area within which 'the conversion and re-use of suitably constructed buildings in the countryside for permanent residential purposes will be permitted provided that' a number of criteria are met (Policy HO9, NNDC Core Strategy.)

With the loss of its primary school among other factors, it is almost certain that Great Ryburgh will remain within the Countryside Area in the emerging Local Plan. In the existing Local Plan, Service Villages "were selected on the basis of presence of a primary school, a level of public transport and a range of services (e.g. village shop) that can meet basic day-to-day needs" (Core Strategy, 2.4.7, page 30.) Great Ryburgh does not fulfil these criteria.

Recent house-building

Some indication of the scale of housing development permitted under the existing Local Plan is shown by the figures below. It should be noted that these completions do not necessarily relate to complete new builds, but also include conversions and extensions to existing properties for example. Statistics from the North Norfolk Residential Land Availability Statement (2016) state that for Ryburgh:

	Completions															U/C	Planning Permissions (including U/C)	
	2001 /02	2002 /03	2003 /04	2004 /05	2005 /06	2006 /07	2007 /08	2008 /09	2009 /10	2010 /11	2011 /12	2012 /13	2013 /14	2014 /15	2015 /16		De-tailed	Out-line
Ryburgh	0	4	0	0	1	9	3	2	2	9	3	0	1	2	0	2	1	0

Supporting this pattern, when looking at planning permissions over the past ten years which have been granted for new houses or conversion to residential units within Great Ryburgh, a pattern of small-scale house-building can be seen.

Approved Planning Permissions for Housing – including date when permission was granted

PF/15/1228 erection of 5 residential units – land off Highfield Close, Great Ryburgh; Tue. 18 Apr 2017

PF/09/0409 conversion of school to one residential dwelling – Great Ryburgh, All Saints C of E VA Primary School; Tue. 30 Jun 2009

PF/08/1739 erection of three two-storey dwellings – the Old Appleyard, Station Road, Great Ryburgh; Wed. 11 Mar 2009

PF/08/1165 conversion of redundant barn into holiday dwelling – Suckers Barn, Westwood Lane, Great Ryburgh; Wed. 01 Oct 2008

PF/08/1063 erection of single-storey dwelling – 9 Fakenham Road, Great Ryburgh; Wed. 04 Feb 2009

PF/08/0654 erection of two-storey dwelling – rear of October Lodge, Fakenham Road, Great Ryburgh; Thu. 03 Jul 2008

PF/08/0202 conversion of one dwelling into two dwellings – 11 Fakenham Road, Great Ryburgh; Thu. 17 Apr 2008

PF/07/1864 extension and conversion of outbuilding to provide residential dwelling – The Coach House, Fakenham Road, Great Ryburgh; Tue. 15 Apr 2008

Affordable housing is the main category of new housing which could be permitted within the Neighbourhood Plan Area under the Local Plan's rural exception site policy. Policy HO 3, Affordable Housing in the Countryside, explains the circumstances under which affordable housing can be permitted) Here, the need to demonstrate a proven local housing need for affordable housing is necessary. This 'local housing need' is defined as being 'the need in the Parish and adjacent Parishes as evidenced by the Strategic Housing Market Assessment and the Council's waiting list, or a Local Housing Needs Survey' (Policy HO 3, Affordable Housing in the Countryside.) For Ryburgh the 'adjacent Parishes' for the purposes of this policy consist of Pudding Norton, Kettlestone, Fulmodeston and Stibbard. Housing officers at NNDC advise that there are currently (31st May 2018) 39 households with a local connection to Ryburgh and these adjacent parishes which are on the Council's waiting list for housing. These break down as shown below:

Ryburgh & adjacent parishes – local connections	
Household	**Count**
Couple	2
Family 1 child	7
Family 2 children under 10 years	4
Family 2 children, 1 child under 10 or more years, one of each sex	4
Family 3 children	4
Family 5+ children	1
Other Family	2
Single Person	15
Total	**39**

Crisp Maltings

The presence of the Crisp Malting works within the centre of Great Ryburgh has a major impact on the village, especially in terms of the traffic moving to and from the works, as well as in visual terms. Plans have been made and disseminated by the Crisp Malting Group with proposals for a new access road, which will be delivered if permission is granted for an associated housing development of between 50 – 75 houses to the north of existing housing along Station Road in the heart of the village. The Crisp Malting Group made a presentation of these plans to Ryburgh Parish Council on 11th August 2017.

Future housing development

So long as there are no major changes in the emerging Local Plan's policies for housing, it is reasonable to assume that development in the Neighbourhood Plan area over the next 20 years should be similar to that of the past 10 years. This means that housing will continue to take the form of infill development within the settlement of Great Ryburgh, and that this housing should primarily be of affordable houses. The policies within the Ryburgh Neighbourhood Plan should support this scale and type of development if it is in accordance with the wishes of the community. A means by which such new housing can be encouraged, whilst being limited to the preferred area within the

settlement of Great Ryburgh needs to be found, such as by drawing a tight boundary around the settlement to show the limit inside which infill housing could be permitted.

Mechanisms for the provision of needed housing, particularly affordable housing, could include the use of Community Land Trusts (CLTs). Such community-led development would help to give the community more say in where and what type of development would take place, as well as giving an opportunity for other community benefits. This could also be a way of delivering needed housing in part of an area designated as 'countryside', as the housing would make a lasting and meaningful contribution to the vitality of the community of Great Ryburgh.

The Housing Policy 4.3

The Housing Policy 4.3 has been written at the request of the Ryburgh Neighbourhood Plan Working Group.

Two residents' questionnaires have been undertaken which have been used to guide the drafting of this policy. The second questionnaire specifically covered housing issues, and although it had a disappointing return of 41 (15th December 2018) certain trends could be identified, along with noting that a wide range of opinions were expressed, with few questions eliciting overwhelming support or opposition to the various suggestions.

Regarding the type of new housing (if any) residents wanted to be built in Ryburgh, the most popular types are starter homes with 1-2 bedrooms (20 respondents) and family homes with 2-4 bedrooms (23 respondents.) Housing for the elderly was popular (15 respondents) with most other categories gaining about 10 supporters: single-storey homes, self-build homes; social housing; housing for rent; shared ownership housing; no housing. One respondent called for 5-6 bedroom houses, with other lesser support for flats/apartments and residential care.

Turning to the favoured sites for development within Ryburgh the highest level of support (26) was for using brownfield sites within Great Ryburgh, with significant numbers (22 and 20 respectively) also favouring in-filling sites in existing built-up areas and re-using brownfield sites outside Great Ryburgh. There was also good support (16) for the re-use of farm buildings for housing, with 4 wanting no sites to be used and 3 wanting greenfield sites to be used.

The largest number of respondents (24) wanted individual houses to be built, with 22 favouring smaller developments of less than 10 houses, and 11 for developments of between 11 and 30 dwellings. 6 wanted no new housing with none wanting developments of more than 30 houses.

A final question asked for residents to record their worries regarding future development in the parish with most of these revolving around traffic issues including an increase in traffic (36), unsafe pedestrian routes (32) and inadequate on-street parking (23.) These concerns should be addressed mainly through any transport and traffic policies in the Neighbourhood Plan.

Turning to the Housing Policy it is important to note that where there are relevant policies in the Local Plan there will usually be no need for repetition of these within the Neighbourhood Plan. One area of note is the classification of Great Ryburgh within the Local Plan (and set to be continued in

the emerging Local Plan) where it is defined as being part of the 'countryside', and as such has development limited by Local Plan Policies. However, by promoting more development than set out in the Local Plan to ensure the sustainability of Ryburgh, some small level of growth should be permitted, especially as this aligns with paragraph 78 of the revised NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework) which says: 'to promote sustainable development in rural areas, housing should be located where it will enhance or maintain the vitality of rural communities. Planning policies should identify opportunities for villages to grow and thrive, especially where this will support local services. Where there are groups of smaller settlements, development in one village may support services in a village nearby.'

To give clarity to the Policy for Infill Housing in Great Ryburgh for the Neighbourhood Plan, it is proposed to use a settlement boundary for infill housing drawn tightly to the existing built development of Great Ryburgh. It is acknowledged that this area is designated as 'countryside' within the Local Plan, but it provides a mechanism by which a limit for the growth of Great Ryburgh can be contained, and the preferred form of infill development be encouraged. Such new housing would make a meaningful and lasting contribution to the vitality of the community.

Dated May 2019

Landscape Character Assessment - Ryburgh Neighbourhood Plan

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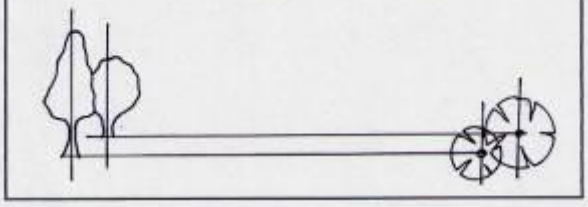

November 2019

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Appendix - Mapped Features

1 Introduction

This document is intended to be used to inform a variety of decision making processes for the Parish of Ryburgh. The report is produced in the format of a landscape character assessment which is a recognized process for assessing and understanding landscape. This can be used for a variety of purposes including decision making for Development Planning and other processes which may help to guide those who are making decisions about the development of the Parish. The report uses a standard approach to the process of identifying landscape character and uses this to inform assessments of the pressures on and possibilities for the landscape. The report is intended to identify what makes different areas within the Parish distinctive and to assess the condition and sensitivity of these to change. It then uses these to provide some guidance on how the landscape can be managed to avoid erosion or damage to the character of the landscape and also to look at ways in which it may be enhanced

The initial chapters of this report look at the process of how landscape character assessment is done, what it can be used for, and what outputs it will produce in this instance. The document describes the structure of the report and what each part is intended to achieve. It also looks at how to use this document in practice, but can't - due to the large range of potential uses, look at this in detail. The document should be seen as a starting point rather than an end point, and should not be seen as a fixed entity which 'fossilizes' the landscape. It is intended to evolve as the Parish evolves, and as its parishioners want it to evolve. It may provide the basis for other studies (one such would be looking in more detail at the historical elements of the landscape and how they remain and contribute to the landscape character of the area - an 'historic landscape character assessment may be appropriate to help this or a series of specific 'theme based' assessments such as hedgerow surveys or land cover surveys could be done). Similarly, this report does not look in detail at the character of the built elements of the village, but references them in a 'holistic' way where they contribute to the overall character of an area of the Parish.

The initial chapters (1 - 3) are then followed by a short assessment review showing the context of the Parish assessment in relation to the North Norfolk District Council Landscape Character Assessment (2009) and the emerging landscape Character Assessment which is being undertaken by the District concurrently with this assessment (by Land Use Consultants) (chapter 4) and another (Chapter 5) considers the basis of the geological and topographical information on the parish

1.1 Landscape Character Assessment

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 Landscape as an entity is not static but is constantly changing and developing. Decisions relating to development often impinge considerably upon landscape, changing and altering it. It is therefore important that proposals are informed by an understanding of the landscape and what factors may be more, or less, appropriate.

1.1.2 North Norfolk District Council Core Strategy Policy EN2 requires that proposals for development should be informed by, and be sympathetic to, the distinctive character of an area. This Landscape Character Assessment provides the tools to help implement this policy and should be used alongside more detailed site specific appraisals of an area at the time of application.

Structure of the Landscape Character Assessment

1.1.3 The document is arranged into different chapters with the main analysis of Landscape Character contained within the Character Types and Character Area chapters. The map in chapter 3 illustrates where the different Types and Areas are found.

1.1.4 For those users unfamiliar with Landscape Character Assessments, it may help to understand the reasoning behind how, and why, certain judgements are made within the North Norfolk Landscape Character Assessment by reading the Introduction section. This details the development of Landscape Character Assessment, an overview of the process involved, and how it can be utilised when making decisions about development within the context of landscape and the Core Strategy policies. A User Guide is included in section 3 of the document to enable those less familiar with Landscape Character Assessment to help interpret the Core Strategy policy and this document.

1.1.5 Chapter 2 describes the North Norfolk Landscape Character Assessment in detail, explaining the rationale, principles and processes behind the assessment. This should be referred to during use to gain the context of the study.

Policy Context

1.1.6 The North Norfolk Core Strategy incorporating development control policies was adopted by the Council on 24 September 2008. This contains a series of polices which will be used to determine planning applications in the District. It covers the period to 2021 but can be reviewed within that period. The Local Plan is currently under review (2018) and a new local plan is due within the next year which may supersede elements of the EN2 policy.

1.1.7 However, currently the Core Strategy Policy EN2, Protection of Landscape and Settlement Character, requires that proposals should be informed by, and be sympathetic to, the distinctive character areas identified in the Landscape Character Assessment. This document is therefore an important piece of evidence that should be used to inform development proposals and consideration of planning applications.

1.1.8 Government policy (NPPF 2018) requires that development plans and decisions on planning applications contribute to the delivery of sustainable development, by: Seeking to achieve environmental, economic and social objectives together over time, addressing the causes and potential impacts of climate change, taking a spatial approach to planning,

promoting high quality inclusive design, improving access for all, and ensuring that communities can contribute to the planning process.

1.1.9 This document has had regard to these principles and seeks to provide an evidential basis for decision makers.

Decision Making and Conflicts

1.1.10 When considering development proposals or planning applications, judgements made through the LCA process will be important in informing the final decision. As stated in section 2 landscape character assessment is not a tool designed to resist changes that may influence the landscape. Rather it is an aid to decision making, a tool to help understand what the landscape is like today, how it came to be like that and how it may change in the future. Government policy in the NPPF requires that development plans and decisions on planning applications contribute to the delivery of sustainable development. In some circumstances a Planning Authority may decide in reaching a decision to give different weight to social, environmental, resource or economic considerations. Where this is the case, the reasons for doing so should be explicit and the consequences considered. Adverse environmental, social and economic impacts should be avoided, mitigated or compensated for.

1.1.11 Situations may arise where there is conflict between LCA conclusions and the social and economic objectives of the District Council Local Plan. In these instances the benefits and consequences should be carefully considered and, if development is to proceed, the information contained in the LCA should be used to minimise the impact of the development on the character of the landscape or steer it to a more appropriate location (in terms of landscape character) if possible.

1.1.12 Site specific appraisals, such as through individual landscape character and visual assessments, will be important in translating the principles contained in the LCA to individual proposals.

1.2 What is Landscape Character Assessment?

Background

1.2.1 There is an increasing recognition for a need to incorporate landscape considerations into decision making, particularly due to the ever more influential sustainable development agenda. Landscape Character Assessment is seen as a tool which can aid the decision making process and at the same time make a significant contribution to the objectives of sustainable development that relate to environmental protection and the prudent use of natural resources.

This was recognised by the Government, in England, in their 2000 Rural White Paper: *Our Countryside: The Future - A Fair Deal for Rural England* (Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions), which endorses the use of Landscape Character Assessment as a way of informing decisions.

1.2.2 The NPPF produced in 2012 made reference to and supported the use of Landscape Character Assessments as an integral part of the information base for the development of Local Plans (at all levels - parish, district and county). The new NPPF has dropped this

statement in favour of a more loosely worded and less powerful statement that local authorities should simply ‘make sufficient provision…for Landscapes and green infrastructure’. Overall the NPPF has lessened the role of environmental protection given by the Planning system and lessened the importance of landscape but at the same time has tended to increase the role of the Neighbourhood Plan in the process. Therefore the status and importance of a Neighbourhood Plan which included reference to and supporting information for landscapes and green infrastructure has relevance in determining planning applications.

1.2.3 In considering *landscape* in land use planning and management, there has been a change in emphasis from landscape evaluation or designation, i.e. what makes one area 'better' than another, through to describing the 'character' of a landscape, i.e. what makes one area 'different' or 'distinct' from another. Finally the shift to Landscape Character Assessment which is a process of addressing both the characterisation process (the identification, mapping, classification and description of landscape character) but also the process of making judgements based on landscape character (in order to inform a range of decisions). The development of Landscape Character Assessment over the years has been a gradual process to help address the differing opinions associated with ‘landscape quality’ based surveys.

1.2.4 Landscape Character Assessment is just one of a number of tools for environmental and character assessment, and it is important to distinguish and recognise the role that each tool can play. Landscape Character Assessment can be applied to a number of different uses, such as planning and landscape conservation, management and enhancement. It should not be used as a tool to resist changes in the landscape, but is there to aid decision making by understanding the landscape, its history and potential; and to ensure that change and development does not undermine what is characteristic or valued about the landscape.

Defining Landscape Character and Landscape Character Assessment

1.2.5 Landscape is about the relationship between people and place, and does not just apply to special or designated landscapes and is not restricted to the countryside. Landscape is a result of how the different components of our environment - both the natural, such as the influence of geology, soils, climate, flora and fauna; and the cultural, such as the historical and current impact of land use, settlement, enclosure and other human interventions - interact together and how they are perceived by people (see Figure 1.1). This is not just a visual perception, but also involves the other senses and the feelings, memories and other associations that the landscape evokes. Landscape character is the pattern that arises from particular combinations of the different components, and can provide a sense of place to the surroundings. Landscape Character Assessment has emerged as an appropriate way to look at landscape because it provides a structured approach to identifying character and distinctiveness as well as value.

Figure 1: What is landscape?

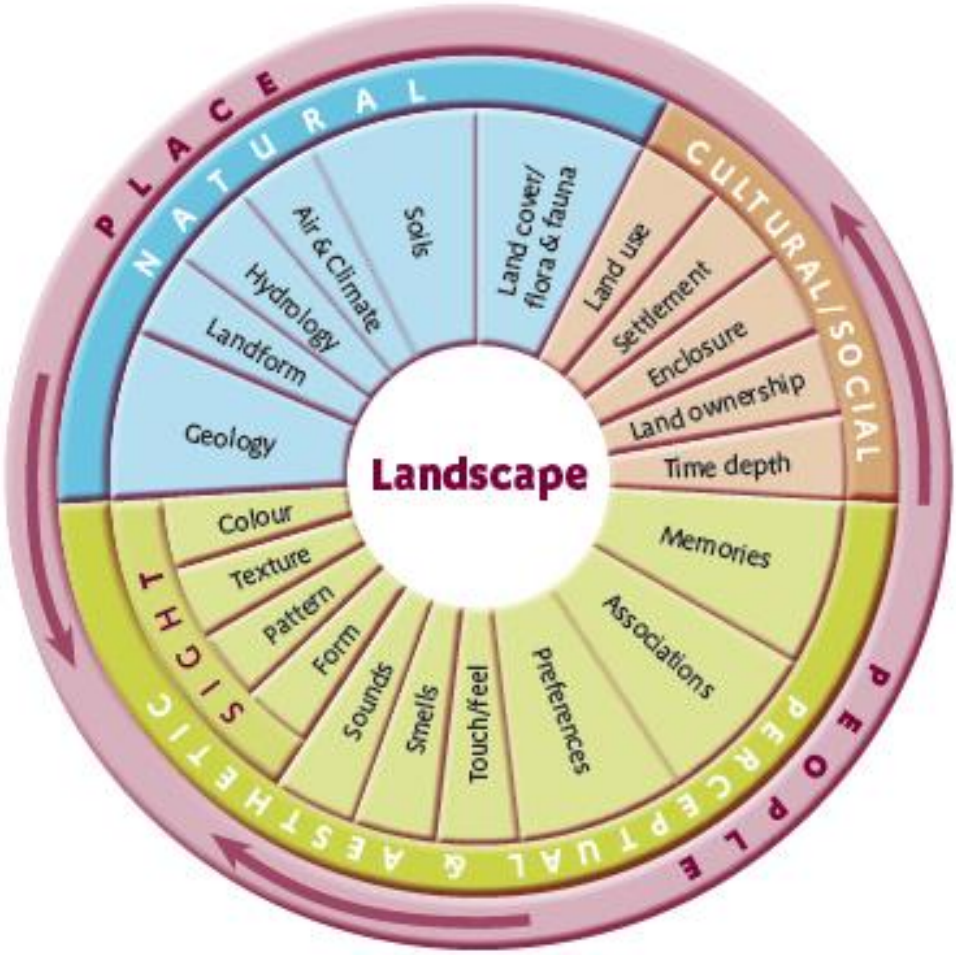


Figure 1.1: What is landscape?

1.2.6 Landscape Character Assessment in its most basic form is a process of assessing the particular features (individual items such as churches) and elements (general items such as hills) within landscapes which make one landscape different from another. The process of undertaking a Landscape Character Assessment is to try to break down the overall landscape into its constituent parts, understanding the contribution of each of them to the whole effect and then be able to describe and analyse the landscape in a manner which is useful to the particular purpose set.

Key Principles

1.2.7 The process of undertaking a Landscape Character Assessment is underpinned by a set of key principles, however there is a degree of flexibility and evolution in this process that allows response to local circumstances. In order to understand Landscape Character

Assessment and make appropriate use of the tool it is useful to understand what the key principles are and the history and philosophy behind them. The following is a summary of the key principles:

1. The emphasis placed on landscape character. Landscape Character Assessment is primarily concerned with *landscape character* rather than landscape quality or value. Landscape Character is defined as a distinct and recognisable pattern of elements that occur consistently in a particular type of landscape.

2. The division between the process of characterisation and the making of judgements to inform
decisions. Landscape Character Assessment has two distinct stages:

The characterisation process - which is a relatively value-free process.

The subsequent making of judgements based on landscape character. The judgements made contribute to informing the decision making process.

3. The roles for both objectivity and subjectivity in the process.

There has been long standing debate about the role of objectivity and subjectivity in the process of *landscape assessment*. The process of characterisation is (in the main) an objective process. However, the process of making judgements to inform decisions involves an element of subjectivity.

4. The potential for the application at different scales. Landscape Character Assessment can be applied at a number of different scales. Assessments should fit together within a hierarchy of types and areas, one level adds more detail to the one above. This survey sits below that of the current North Norfolk District Council Landscape Character Assessment (completed and published in 2009 and which is adopted as supplementary planning guidance within the North Norfolk Local Plan. This in turn sits below the national level Landscape Character assessment in the National Character Areas assessment dated 2014 (.Gov.uk website)

Process

1.2.8 With the key principles in mind, there are a number of steps to undertaking a Landscape Character Assessment, each of which will have certain parameters to adhere to (as detailed in the Landscape Character Assessment Guidelines for England and Scotland, prepared by the Countryside Agency *et al*, 2002 - revised with additional guidance in 2014). The steps are divided into the **characterisation stage** and the **making judgements stage**.

1.2.9 Characterisation Stage - this stage embraces the practical steps involved in identifying areas of distinctive character, classifying and mapping them, and describing their character. This stage clarifies what makes one area different or distinct from another, and results in the identification of Landscape Character Types (distinct types of landscape that are homogeneous in character yet generic in nature in that they may occur in different parts of the country) and/or Landscape Character Areas (single unique areas being the discrete geographical areas of a particular landscape type). Within the Characterisation stage the following processes are undertaken:

Step 1: Defining the Scope. All Landscape Character Assessments must have a clearly defined purpose. This will influence the scale and level of detail required and the types of judgements required to inform decisions.

Step 2: Desk Study. This stage involves a review of relevant background information and data to identify areas of common character.

Step 3: Field Survey. Data from the field should be collected in order to refine the draft landscape character types and areas identified at the Desk Study stage. This information is also used to inform the written descriptions of the characters and to identify the current condition of the landscape elements.

Step 4: Classification and description. This step finalises the characterisation process by classifying the landscape into landscape character types and areas and mapping their extent.

1.2.10 At the end of the characterisation phase, the Landscape Character Assessment should contain a map of the Character Areas (for larger surveys - Landscape Character Types which are generic may be appropriate above this level but for a Parish sized assessment, Areas are more appropriate), a description of the Character Areas, and the identification of the Key Characteristics. A Landscape Character Assessment can conclude following the Characterisation Stage and will result in an objective, neutral view of the current character of the landscape.

1.2.11 Making Judgements Stage - Where the assessment has been undertaken to inform a particular decision or policy, the assessment will move on to make judgements about landscape character. This stage is based on the results of the characterisation process and involves making judgements about landscape character to inform particular decisions related to the type of application.

Step 5: Deciding the approach to judgements. This stage requires thought to be given to the overall approach, the criteria to be used and the information needed to support the judgements to be made. Additional field work may be necessary or information from the original field survey may need to be reviewed, such as the condition of the landscape elements and features and the sensitivity of the landscape to change.

Step 6: Making Judgements. The nature of the judgements and the outputs that may result from the process will vary according to the purpose of the assessment. The main approaches to making judgements within the landscape assessment process are usually landscape strategies, landscape guidelines, attaching status to landscapes, and landscape capacity (further information on this can be found in the Landscape Character Assessment Guidelines; Countryside Agency *et al* 2002).

1.2.12 Depending on the aims and objectives of the Landscape Character Assessment, the final stages of the assessment could contain the following outputs: Landscape Enhancement Proposals, Information for Planning Policies, Special Recognition, Landscape Strategies and Guidelines, or Proposals for Location and Design of Development. At this stage in the process of producing a Neighbourhood Plan, these features are not included but may be added as supplementary documents as the Plan evolves.

1.2.13 The next part of this document describes in detail how the Ryburgh Landscape Character Assessment has been prepared using the above guidelines and best practice. This will take the form of *Outputs* expected for each stage of the process. It will allow the user to understand the scope of the document and how to interpret the information contained in the Character Assessments.

2 Ryburgh Landscape Character Assessment

2.1 Methodology

Brief and Scope of Study

2.1.1 The primary aim of the Ryburgh Landscape Character Assessment is to provide an assessment of landscape character in the Ryburgh Neighbourhood Area (RNA) to inform and support the relevant landscape policies to be produced for the Ryburgh Neighbourhood Plan (RNP). Its purpose is to provide the underlying evidence base on which the policies in the RNP are intended to operate, and to inform and assist in the decision making process for determining actions which may affect the appearance and character of the landscape of the RNA.

2.1.2 Landscape Character Assessment is not a tool designed to resist changes that may influence the landscape. Rather it is an aid to decision making, a tool to help understand what the landscape is like today, how it came to be like that and how it may change in the future. Its role is to help ensure that change and development does not undermine whatever is characteristic or valued about any particular landscape, and that ways of improving the character of a place can be considered.

2.1.3 Broad changes to landscapes can occur over decades through social and economic factors. How land is used and managed may be affected by food production practices, transport, leisure activities, and as a source for materials and energy. Changes also occur through regular planning applications for new build and modifications to existing buildings for housing, retail, business, farming and farm diversification, and leisure and tourism. The individual and cumulative effects of such development can have major impacts for good or ill on landscape character. It is this second category of change where the policies of the Core Strategy have the most direct influence on whether a development may or may not be permitted. Policy EN2 sets the standards to be met as regards to the landscape factor in the determination of a planning application. The policy requires that proposals for development should be informed by, and be sympathetic to, the distinctive character of an area.

2.1.4 It is anticipated that this study will be referred to by Development Control officers, developers, the Parish Council, members of the public and all others responsible for, or interested in development within the parish of Ryburgh to ensure that development is appropriate to the landscape it is within.

2.1.5 The study may also assist in the implementation of other Core Strategy Policies such as EN4 Design, EN9 Biodiversity & Geology and EN10 Development and Flood Risk, and also

provides a common framework from which all may assess the impact of a development on the landscape.

Scale and Level of Detail

2.1.6 The appropriate level of detail for this study was determined to be at the Local Authority Scale
('Parish level' as defined by the Natural England Guidance), this results in the definition of landscape types which have unity of character due to particular combinations of land form and land cover, and a distinct pattern of elements. Character Areas at this scale are discrete geographical areas where each type occurs, conveying a sense of place. This is not a site specific appraisal and individual appraisals will need to be carried out to inform decisions on planning applications.

Relationship to Other Assessments

2.1.9 During the preparation of the assessment there was a need to ensure continuity between the Ryburgh study and the North Norfolk District Council Landscape Character Assessment 2009 and the newly emerging NNDC LCA the draft version of which was provided in 2018. There was also a need to ensure that this assessment would adhere to guidelines and ensure conformity with potential future assessments, i.e. a hierarchical approach.

2.1.10 Norfolk Wildlife Trust and the Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership have in addition prepared an Ecological Network map for Norfolk identifying core areas for biodiversity where protection, enhancement and expansion of the existing resource will be a priority. This county level report has been taken forward at the District level and the North Norfolk Ecological Network Mapping report seeks to, identify key statements contained in the county ecological report relevant to North Norfolk make recommendations on how these ecological network priorities can be further developed and implemented in North Norfolk.

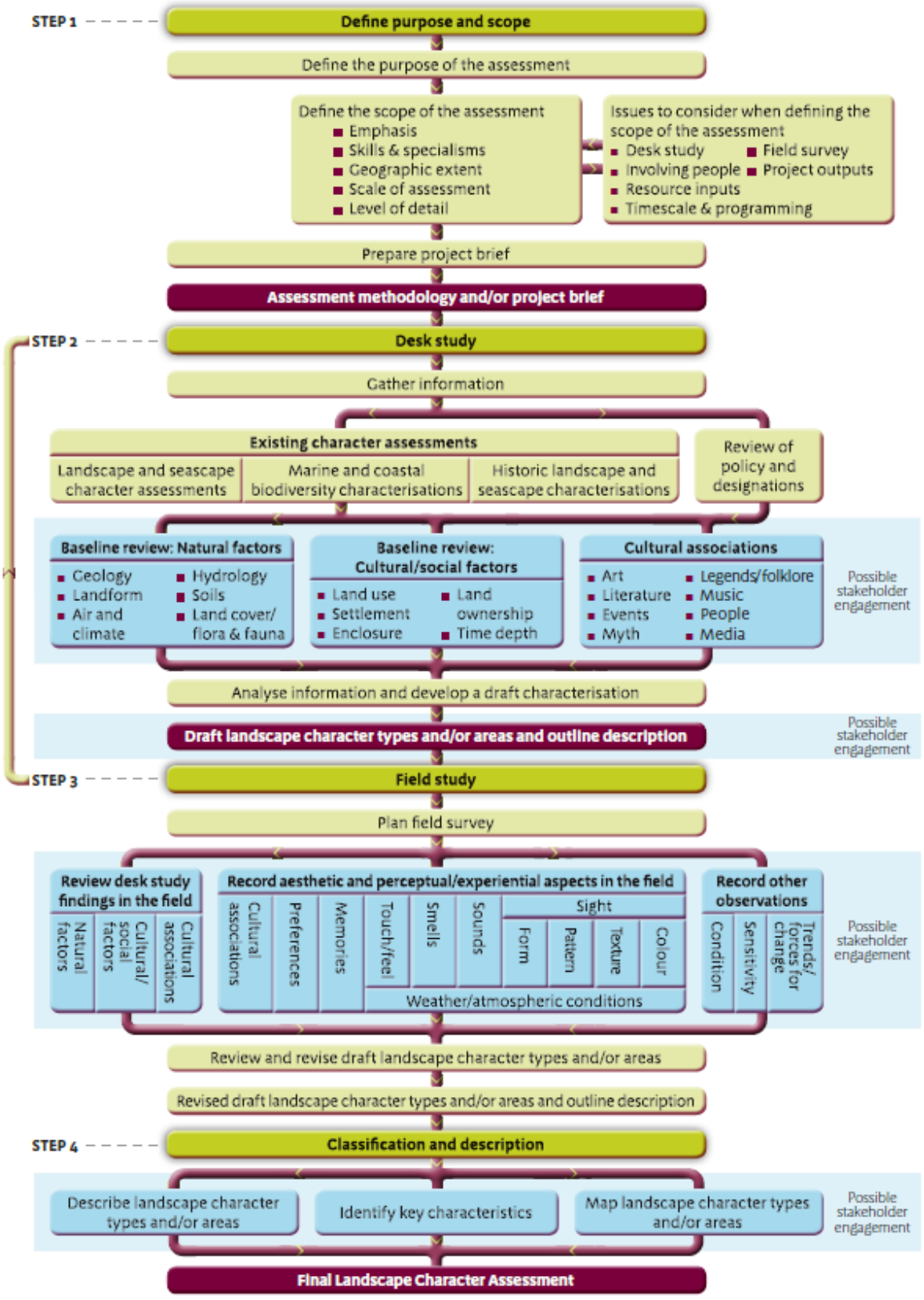
2.1.11 This has informed the assessment of ecological character included within the LCA. Further information can be found in Appendix B of the North Norfolk Core Strategy.

2.1.13 There are other documents and studies which also describe settlement character. These include the North Norfolk Design Guide which seeks to raise the quality of design of new development in the District by offering advice on appropriate design solutions. The Design Guide was adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document in December 2008 and should also inform new development proposals. In addition there are a series of Conservation Area Appraisals which look in detail at the Conservation Areas of the District to define what makes up the special character and sense of place in these areas. The appraisals look at topography and landscape setting, history, buildings, settlement form, important views and activities and uses. Negative features that detract from the special qualities of the area are identified and management recommendations for protection and enhancement of the area proposed.

Approach and Methodology

The system of approach and methodology used in the production of this LCA can be viewed using the flow diagramme - figure 2 (from Natural England - guidance for Landscape Character Assessment 2014) overleaf. This describes the process that was used to arrive at the developed LCA contained in this document

Figure 2: Landscape Character Assessment - the process



2.1.15 The assessment was conducted using the standard Landscape Character Assessment methodology, previously described in Section 1.2, developed by the Natural England and others on behalf of the Government. Figure 2 outlines the chronology and methodology carried out by C J Yardley Landscape Survey Design and Management during the study. As highlighted earlier, a series of publicly available data sets were scrutinised in addition to a review of the existing North Norfolk District Council LCA document from 2008 and 2018 (both of which are based on a wide variety of datasets). These data sets included a wide range of factors, many of which were aggregated into *Landscape Description Units* (LDUs), such as 'Rolling Farmland with Dispersed Settlement' or 'River valley flood plain'. These were used to provide the basis of the assessment of the landscape character of the area.

2.1.16 An interrogation and understanding of this desk-based data was undertaken, followed by a process of field study to augment and test the data.

Biodiversity and Ecological Character

2.1.17 Apart from simply describing landscape, other factors can be included or have influence within a Landscape Character Assessment, such as the biodiversity of the area. Biodiversity has a similar place within the planning regime to landscape and the two are linked in terms of what they contribute to the sense of place of any area. Biodiversity in this survey is recognised through the use of land cover and soil type / geological data, and each landscape description includes a section on ecological character. More detailed information on the ecological character and content of the Parish together with a 'Biodiversity vision' for the Parish and 'Mechanisms for maintaining and enhancing biodiversity' in the parish are included in the report by Wild Frontier Ecology - Ryburgh Parish Ecology Report - August 2018.

Geological Context

2.1.18 Along with ecological information, the Landscape Character Assessment has also been informed by the geology of the area, which has played a large part in shaping the Parish.

2.1.19 The form of the landscape of the Parish is significantly affected - one could say dominated - by the effect of the former Ice Ages and the presence of glacial action on the landscape.

2.1.20 The legacy of the glaciers which covered the area in the Anglian glaciation 350,000 years ago and again reached the north coast some 30,000 to 10,000 years ago still dominates the landscape throughout the District of North Norfolk. The gravels, sands, chalk erratic's and boulder clays left behind by the retreating ice still determine the natural vegetation patterns. This is evident in the formation of the river valleys, the alluvial and gravel deposits therein and the sandy till / light loams on the upper slopes of the valley sides and rolling landscape beyond. The landscape of the Parish has a fairly significant degree of relief compared with some parts of Norfolk and is relatively 'hilly'.

2.2 Outputs from the Characterisation Stage

Landscape Character Map - Areas

2.2.1 The implementation and completion of the Desk Survey and the Field Study has resulted in the apportionment the landscape of the Parish into one level of character assessment: Landscape **Areas**. These are distinct areas, plotted on a map of the Parish (see Appendix), which demonstrate a similar character of appearance, history and ecology at one scale of resolution; these Areas sit below the level of discrimination of scale seen in the Landscape Character Areas in the North Norfolk District Council LCA but nest within them. Each Character Area is given their own chapter in the document.

2.2.2 The boundaries between different Areas should be treated as potentially transitional areas where the character of one Area blends with the neighbouring Area. This is not always true and there are some zones where a hard boundary can be seen with a distinct transition between the types (such as the boundary between the valley floor and the valley sides). Similarly and of equal importance is the need to understand the 'intervisbility' between Character Areas - a character area does not stand on its own in isolation - informed only by itself and nothing else - it is very much a product of its surrounding Areas. At a Parish level this is even more true as it is usually possible to see other Areas from much of the Area you are in. Therefore ones reaction to, and feeling of the landscape, is very much informed by, and influenced by, what is happening in other Character Areas as well as the Area one is standing in

2.2.5 Within the Landscape Area Chapters, there is a written description of its **Location and boundaries** followed by some **photographic representations** of the key elements of the character type. There then follows a list of the **Key Characteristics** of the Character Area, these are the combination of elements which help give the landscape its distinct sense of place. They tend to be 'positive' characteristics but they may also be 'negative' features which nevertheless are important to the current character of the landscape.

2.2.6 A written description of the **Landscape Character** is then given which describes the overall character of the landscape with reference to topography, land cover, geology, land use, settlement and enclosure where relevant. Although the characterisation stage of the Landscape Character Assessment process is primarily objective, there is a need to assess the way in which the features and elements work together to form the character which may involve some subjectivity. The approach in this study has been to give a balanced view during the description stage, combining both objective and subjective elements to comply with the aims of the study.

2.2.7 Following a description of the Landscape Character, a description of the **Ecological character** of the landscape type is given. This completes the outputs for the Characterisation Stage.

2.2.8 To ensure continuity throughout the document, decisions had to be taken as to what the definitions of particular features and elements were and how they are described throughout

the document, for example defining field size into small, medium and large. A guide to each of these definitions is available in the Glossary of terms and phrases used in this document.

2.3 Outputs from the Making Judgements Stage

Defining the Making Judgements Process

2.3.1 Because the study is to be used in decision making and to help in the process of managing change in the landscape, there was a need to make judgements on the Landscape Character of the Parish. The main aim of the study is to ensure that development proposals are planned and designed to achieve an appropriate relationship with their surroundings, and wherever possible contribute to the enhancement of the landscape. The Landscape Character Assessment, however, is not intended to focus entirely on maintaining the existing character of the landscape.

2.3.2 Approaches to making judgements are generally based on the following considerations: the character, quality (condition of features), value of the landscape, and its sensitivity to change. These terms have distinct definitions when used in landscape character assessment to ensure consistency between assessments. This study has sought to be faithful to those definitions as specified in the Countryside Agency Guidelines. The complete definitions of the terms are given in the Glossary at the end of the document.

2.3.3 The approach to making judgements in this study has been to assume that within the landscape the positive characteristics should be protected from adverse change, and that the negative characteristics may be improved by some form of enhancement. This has involved: evaluating the landscape condition and strength of character, calculating the effects of predicted change on key characteristics (both negative and positive), defining potential threats to key characteristics as a result of adverse consequences to change, identifying potential enhancement opportunities where there is scope for beneficial change.

Landscape Sensitivity

2.3.5 During the field survey and desk-based data analysis procedure, the aspect of 'Landscape Sensitivity' was considered. Landscape sensitivity is the degree to which a particular landscape type or area is able to accommodate change without significant effects on its character. For the purpose of development control this aspect of landscape is fundamentally important. Landscapes vary in their ability to accommodate different forms of development. Sensitivity will therefore vary according to landscape type, its condition, the nature of the proposed development and the type of change being considered. The sensitivity assessment of the Landscape Character in this document is presented in the '**Feature Analysis Tables**', and essentially describes how sensitive a particular landscape is to change – positive or negative. The condition and the degree of contribution to the character of the landscape provided by the elements and features were considered. Aesthetic aspects or visual sensitivity were not assessed.

2.3.6 In this survey, the issue of sensitivity to change is a key feature, and one which is analysed both at the individual feature/element level and at the corporate whole landscape

level. The reason that it has been done in this way is to provide a detailed understanding of the way in which the dynamic of the landscape behaves when subjected to stress or pressures (principally, though not entirely) from development of one sort or another. For the purposes of this assessment, development planning and changes to the agricultural scene have been considered as central and have therefore biased the concentration of interpretation but not of the underpinning assessment; because these are the factors which are likely to be the source of enquiry, and be informed by this survey.

Notes on Landscape *Value* and *Sensitivity*

2.3.7 Landscape value was and still is a very important means of apportioning landscape policy. National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and at District level, Areas of High Quality Landscape all rely on this form of assessment. However, it has been criticised on the basis that it is very subjective - 'what is beauty?' and on the basis that it does not value the wider landscape which is not beautiful. By changing the criteria to 'character' rather than 'beauty' the two problems were largely addressed. Everywhere has a character and the character assessment process works to try to remove a good deal of subjectivity. Nevertheless, relative value is still an important; some would argue the most important factor, in defining policy. Therefore, whilst a Parish Neighbourhood Plan can be assisted by a Landscape Character Assessment rather than simply areas which have been designated as of higher value and those that have not, there remains an element of qualitative value assessment in the Planning system which can be acknowledged in a Plan (but informed by a Landscape Character Assessment) some form of qualitative assessment). It will be seen that the issues which surround the assessment of, and policy apportionment resulting from, considerations of landscape sensitivity, are likely to be very similar to issues relating to relative landscape value.

2.3.8 However, it should be noted that the similar factors affecting *sensitivity* are entirely distinct perspectives compared with the notion of 'value', which have been arrived at by different survey methodologies. In the first instance, landscape value is effectively a personal response to what the surveyor or convention, considers to be attractive or beautiful. In the second instance, the sensitivity of landscape, is arrived at after analysis of the features and elements which have gone to make the landscape look and behave as it does (both those that are obvious and visual and those that are less obvious but may have guided or underpinned development), the sensitivity referred to therefore can be either a sensitivity of the individual feature or element (how robust it is and how easily lost or eroded by environmental changes) or the sensitivity of the whole landscape character of a location to change or erosion (i.e. the corporate effect of environmental changes which could erode or damage the integrity of the 'whole'). Sensitivity in an integrated landscape character assessment (which includes historical and ecological factors) also has to take into account the presence and sensitivity of these interrelated factors, teasing out their elements and features, all of which will contribute to overall landscape character.

Landscape Condition

2.3.9 During the survey process (desk and field study) the condition of elements and features was assessed as being within one of three categories 'Good, Fair or Poor'. This was assessed in relation to the degree of intactness and state of repair (in visual, functional and ecological perspectives) of the element/feature in relation to the mean for that element/feature within the

Area AND if known (from historical survey) its original degree of presence (quantity)/intactness/assumed or assessed likely state of repair.

2.3.10 This was then used in conjunction with an assessment of the vulnerability of the element/feature to changes in its condition, quantitative presence, or to effects which might impinge upon the element/feature as a result of potential development of the landscape (additions of new features/elements and/or changes in other existing features/elements) to provide a score for the degree of sensitivity shown by an element/feature, or group of elements within the Analysis for each Landscape Area. The scores used were High, Moderate and Low and relate to a judgement made about each element/feature group in relation to a relative mean (for that feature or element group) within the same Landscape Type(s) in North Norfolk. Due to the degree of variation within an Area, it is possible that the same element/feature could be more or less sensitive in different locations (usually depending upon the relationships with other elements/features), which is why in some instances the table refers to 'Moderate to High' or 'Moderate to Low' sensitivity, to accommodate the variability within the Area.

2.3.11 Therefore for the purposes of this survey, sensitivity can be assumed to be a function of the relative vulnerability of an element or feature to changes in its condition and or to external effects on other elements/features or the introduction of new elements and features which erode its setting/relationships and thereby its contribution to the character of the landscape within the Type.

Feature Analysis Tables

2.3.12 The making judgements stage has resulted in **Tables** analysing the main constituent elements and features mentioned in the Key Characteristics section. The issue of relative sensitivity of the different Landscape Types to change is dealt with in the tables, as is an evaluation of their **condition** (good, fair or poor). Some degree of weighting has been given for those elements that have obviously declined but may yet still demonstrate a strong presence compared to those that have never been particularly strong elements but have not suffered decline.

2.3.13 The condition is then used to consider the individual elements' sensitivity to change within that specific landscape Area. Factors that might affect the element/feature are considered and a description of how these might positively or negatively affect them is suggested ('forces for change').The element or feature is then scored for its overall **sensitivity**; high, moderate or low.

2.3.14 The intention is that this information can be used to better understand the way in which different issues, pressures or opportunities could affect the individual elements and features which go to make up the character of the landscape and hence be useful in determining policy production or individual responses to specific proposals.

2.3.15 By dividing up each landscape Area into elements and features for the purpose of sensitivity, a clearer understanding of the mechanisms and likely outcomes of any set of development proposals/other factors for change in the landscape, can be more clearly analysed and their effects more clearly understood and quantified.

Evaluation - Landscape Condition

2.3.16 The final part of the Character Area section evaluates the Feature Analysis tables and descriptive and other data and presents some conclusions on the main strengths and weaknesses of the Type and the overall sensitivity of the landscape to change.

2.3.17 The principal **recent changes** to the landscape which have impacted most on the character of the Type are also assessed.

2.3.18 This is followed by a series of recommendations which detail what **factors** (particularly within the Development Control realm) would either protect and enhance or detract from the landscape and ecological character of the Area.

3 How to use the Landscape Character Assessment

3.1 User Guide

Overview

3.1.1 The document is not intended to be read from start to finish. When considering development, the user should first look at the Landscape Character Map to ascertain which Landscape Character Area the application falls within, and then refer to the relevant chapter.

3.1.2 Having found the Area which the development is in, particular attention should be paid to the 'Key Characteristics' section of that Area, and the table showing the 'analysis of specific elements and features'. For the latter, the sensitivity of the key characteristics is an important consideration.

User Guide

3.1.5 A simple flow-chart has been devised as a User Guide for the Landscape Character Assessment and is shown over the page. This has been developed to provide those less familiar with Landscape Character Assessment with a simple step-by-step process to follow to quickly access the information contained in the document.

3.1.6 It does not negate the need to understand the principles and processes behind the Landscape Character Assessment, which are detailed in Chapter Two of this document, which can be referred to if required. However it should enable the user to start to analyse the development in the context of impact on landscape and to start to look at the landscape in terms of its constituent parts, what makes it characteristic and forces for change in the landscape.

3.1.7 The User Guide should be followed from top to the bottom, in order. Always refer back to the full text of the Character Area analysis and description for further detail and clarity. For clarification of the process refer to Chapter Two.

Identify the **Landscape Character Area** within which the development site falls.

If the site falls on or near the boundary of two or more Areas, then a brief analysis should be carried out to see if the site exhibits key characteristics of the Area it falls within or adjacent Area key characteristics, if unsure, an analysis for all Areas within the vicinity should be carried out. Remember the importance of intervisibility between Areas at this scale of resolution.

↓

Identify the **Key Characteristics** that make up that Landscape Character Area and that feature within the development site and surrounding landscape.

↓

Using the **feature analysis** in the **Table**, identify if the development may have an impact (positive or negative) on any of the Key Characteristics identified.
(Note the *Condition* and *Sensitivity* of the Key Characteristic)

↓

Assessment of the **positive** and **negative factors** affecting character of the Areas– Will the development contain factors which:

- will erode or not contribute to the maintenance or enhancement of the Landscape Character,
- will enhance or actively contribute to the maintenance of the Landscape Character
- will contribute to the maintenance or enhancement of the ecological character?

↓

↓

↓

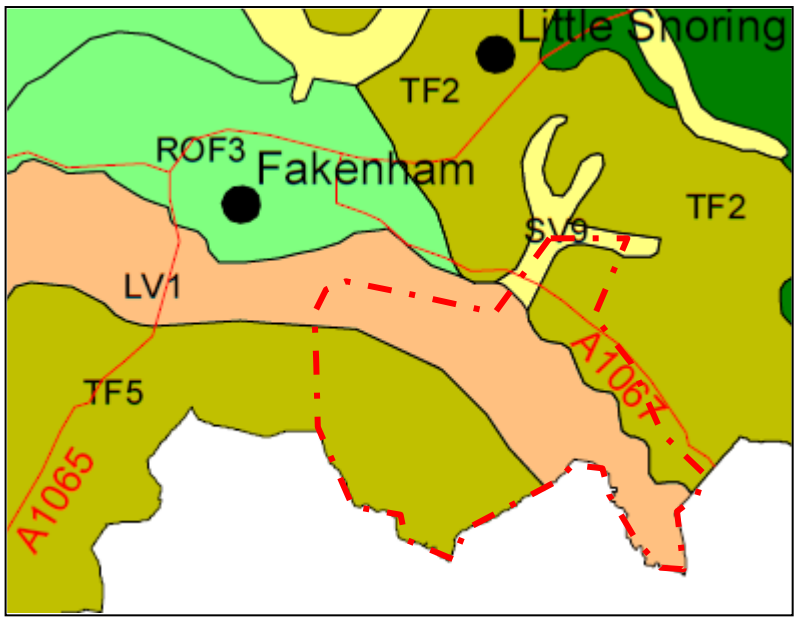
Summary and **Conclusions:**
Amalgamate the Landscape Character Area evaluations, taking into consideration the *Condition* and *Sensitivity* of the landscape factors, and apply to Core Strategy Policy EN2.

The main Positive & Negative Factors contained in the Type assessment should be used as the principle basis for assessment of landscape impact; the detailed and specifically located information contained in the Area Policy Issues should then be referred to in order to additionally inform weight and adjust the Factors recommendations appropriately.
A site specific landscape character assessment should be undertaken to assess the impact of a particular development in a particular location.

4. Other Landscape Character Assessments

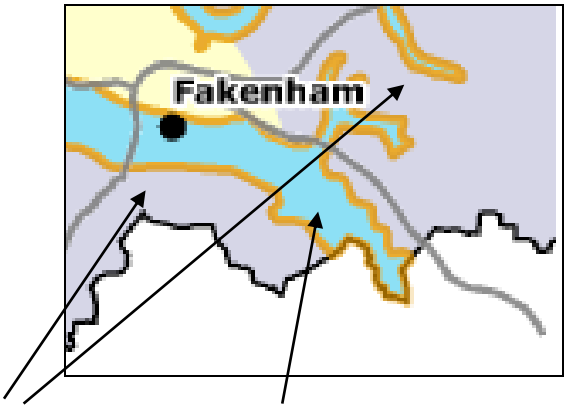
4.1. There are a number of other landscape character assessments which are relevant to understand in relation to the Parish LCA. The main one concerns the North Norfolk District Council LCA which has been referenced before. There are currently two LCAs which NNDC hold covering this area - one is the currently adopted landscape character assessment produced in 2009 which is embedded within the current local plan, and the other is a new LCA being produced (in the process of consultation) LCA which will be used to inform the new emerging Local Plan (2018 - 2019). Both are considered below;

The NNDC LCA was produced in 2009 and it includes the Parish in its coverage. The parish contains a number of different character 'types' (which are a larger scale 'generic type' for the County) and smaller 'areas' which are specific to a part of the District. The plan below shows a section of the NNDC LCA map indicating how the Parish of Ryburgh fits into this zoning in the NNDC LCA



as can be seen above, the Parish includes parts of Areas TF2 (Tributary Farmland Type - Snoring, Stibbard and Hindolveston Character Area), TF5 (Tributary Farmland Type - Raynham, Pudding Norton and Gt Ryburgh Character Area), LV1 (Large Valley Type - Raynham to Gt Ryburgh Area), and SV9 (Small Valley Type - Raynham Tatterford and Kettlestone Area).

The Land Use Consultants emerging LCA being produced in 2018 - 19 has altered the number and some of the descriptive elements of the previous landscape character assessment. It has retained the River Valleys character type but integrated all tributaries into one catchment for each river valley (in this case RV1 - River Wensum and its Tributaries). Similarly the 'Tributary Farmland' type has been reviewed and all the variants of this type which had previously been divided into distinct 'Areas' has been removed - leaving one very large and diverse 'Type' to cover a large part of the District and embrace a wide variety of different landscape characters.



Tributary Farmland Type - RV1 River Wensum and its Tributaries

Both reports provide a detailed description of the character of the area/type, a summary of Key Characteristics for each area / type, some form of analysis to pick out important factors which contribute to the special qualities of the area / type, an assessment of factors which enhance or detract (forces for change) from the character and a set of guidelines to assist in retaining, protecting and enhancing the character of the area / type.

The Ryburgh Parish Landscape Character Assessment identifies 'Areas' which are at a higher level of resolution than these 'Types' and 'Areas' mentioned in the NNDC LCA. They are smaller in size and there are consequently several in each of the NNDC LCA 'Areas' mentioned above - It's a equivalent to a more detailed map.

5. Other factors which have been assessed

The Appendix contains maps showing the topography of the area and the underlying geology which are both significant factors in determining the appearance and land cover of the parish. A glance at the three maps in the appendix will show the way in which Character Areas respond both to the topography and geology of the area and that the three are indivisible elements of the whole which goes up to produce the landscape which we see - together with numerous other influences - mainly the effect of human occupation on the landscape (most of which can be distilled down to maximising economic returns from land at different phases in the history of the area and the effect of land ownership types / tenure on land use and land parcels)

6. Landscape Character Assessments for each Character Area in the Parish of Ryburgh

Intimate landscapes near settlement

6.1. Little Ryburgh and associated access lane Area

Examples of typical landscapes in this Area

6.1.1. Location and Boundaries

This Area is located to the northern part of the Parish and consists of the small access lane which runs from Langor Bridge to the Bridge Road and incorporates the small semi-parish of Lt Ryburgh. The boundaries of the Area are indistinct and blend into the adjoining Character Areas of 6.1 (small valley / Langor Bridge) and 6.3 (eastern rolling arable plateau and valley sides)

6.1.2. Key characteristics

- This is a distinctive Area but one which is very small and localised, and not clearly bounded by topographical features. The Area is primarily a development of the collection of main features which give rise to an intimate older settled landscape.

- The principle unifying element is the small lane which runs from near Langor Bridge to the Bridge Road and encompasses the entire length of the Area. The lane has a very distinctive and intimate character of enclosure, contrasted with small areas where glimpses of wider countryside can be gained - both in the valley area near the centre of the 'village' and on the top of the rising land, where it effectively is a part of the wider 6.3 Plateau landscape.

- Deeply incised 'holloways' are formed on the rising and dipping land (two hills are breasted by the lane) and are mostly accompanied by woodland which almost forms a tunnel of vegetation. The lane is narrow and bends enough to limit views along it

- Settlement is dispersed and almost entirely composed of smaller, individual and semi-detached vernacular cottages of brick, or brick and flint with tiled roofs. In one or two instances, an infill house in a semi-vernacular style (semi- cottage like) is present. Gardens are typically cottage types and tend to be bounded by older field hedges.

- The sense of elevation gives views over some distance from various locations and the presence of the Maltings is seen from the area of the main 'village', but whilst not dominant, is by its industrial form and size a strongly sensed element in the landscape which tends to colour the perception of the whole Area.

- Smaller field sizes - often associated with pasture - are normal. Field boundaries are a mix of types with lower native species hedges and post and wire being represented.

- The farm in the centre of the village is a strong 'rural' feature and gives colour and purpose to the landscape. The buildings are not overly large or modern, and the whole blends well with the intimate and relatively small scale nature of the Area.

6.1.3. Description of Landscape Character

This is a landscape which is surprising for this area of Norfolk, and indeed for Norfolk as a whole. It could easily be in Devon or Dorset. The intimate and small scale nature of the Area is the first thing to be apparent, together with a sense of enclosure and 'older landscape' elements such as the small narrow lane, the grassed bank verges, the generally not overly improved or gentrified cottages, and the cottage garden settings. The small field sizes and pasture further complement this.

The views into the small valley floor area (6.10) emphasise this and reinforce the sense of intimacy. They also limit views and further enclose the landscape in its own scale.

The presence of woodland is common throughout the Area, but most is small scale and consists of older copses of Oak and Ash / mixed scrub. Hedges tend to be mixed species but

not of great diversity and not particularly high or thick. Boundaries are also formed with post and wire and the combination of features, together with the topography along the lane gives rise to frequent views out of the Area and over adjoining landscapes.

The ruined Church and the active Parish Cemetery are strong features and one memorial (a large Angel dating from the early C20th) can clearly be seen from surrounding countryside as a landmark.

6.1.4. Geological Character

The upper parts of the Area where it extends onto the open Plateau lands are comprised of Sheringahm Cliffs formation - comprising glacial deposits of clay, silts, sands and gravels with a light sand / clay loam texture. This changes to a more highly drained and dry / coarse sand and gravel mix on the valley sides.

6.1.5. Ecological Character

Primarily the area is arable but with notable improved pasture fields used for grazing horses etc. Small to medium gardens tend to be the norm

Woodland is present - as small mixed copses of older trees (Oak and Ash) with Field Maple and Blackthorn scrub.

6.1.6. Analysis of Key Characteristics

Key Characteristic	Condition of characteristic	Analysis of Key Characteristics	Sensitivity to change
Semi-natural habitats	fair	Grassland pasture has been improved and contains limited diversity plant communities Woodland copses appear to be unmanaged but are in a stable condition	Moderate
Enclosed landscape	Fair	The current form of mature boundary hedges, trees and scrub gives an intimate feel to the landscape which would be lost with their removal. The removal of some features of woodland or hedging could significantly alter the views and feel of the area	Moderate
Settlement	Good	The settlement appears to be fairly stable with limited changes over the past 30 years (mostly associated with minor changes to existing buildings / one or two new residences but of a semi-vernacular design and not significantly dominating or altering the character of the settlement) rather than new buildings. The majority of cottages have little or no significant ‘gentrification’. New building would have a significant impact on the appearance of the Area The farm contains one or two more modern buildings but these are of a scale / location and relationship to the existing farm that does not significantly alter the feeling of small scale older farmstead that this farm gives	High
Lane and access	Good	A very rural and small lane of considerable intimacy. The grassed banks and ‘tunnel’ elements of woodland lend a strong character to the Area. Upgrading or altering even	High

		quite small elements associated with the roadway width (kerbing / street lighting etc.) or altering the verge width / slopes / adjacent trees and vegetation would have a disproportionate impact on character	
Night time / external lighting	Poor	Dominant lighting is present from the Maltings which gives a strong glow to the area and diminishes the sense of rural isolation which is otherwise fairly strong during daylight hours	Moderate

Evaluation

6.1.7. Landscape Condition and Strength of Character

The condition of the landscape varies between good and fair. The good areas are those that are most associated with the intimate valley area around Lt Ryburgh - the fair areas are those that are more generic in character on the upper Plateau zones.

The strength of character is good - this is a distinctive location

6.1.8. Recent Landscape Impacts

There have been few 'physical' changes to this landscape for some time (last 30 years). Minor changes have been the introduction of a single larger agricultural building in the farm near the roadway (probably at least 30 years old) and two or so new modern style brick and flint cottages dating from around 20 - 30 years ago.

6.1.9. Assessment of positive / negative factors affecting the Landscape Character Area

a). Factors which may erode / may not contribute to the maintenance / enhancement of the Landscape Character Area

Changes to the management of the semi-natural habitats by removal of the pasture and small field structure to the landscape and more intensive agricultural or forestry usage

More intensive management of the boundary hedgerows.
Felling / replanting of the copses

External lighting to housing and farmsteads. Further changes to external lighting for the maltings

New farm buildings within the farm area or wider countryside if not carefully designed / located to blend with the existing farm structure.

Gentrification of housing - extensions, changes to the gardens which remove existing older field boundary hedging / garden trees etc. and replace these with suburban features.

Overly ‘tidying’ the landscape to remove the sense of older rural continuity / areas of scrub, uneven hedges, bits of rough ground, older defunct buildings etc.

b) Factors which may support or enhance the character of the Area

Reinforcement of hedging where any gaps are present

Minor extensions to woodland copses to reinforce these features

Reductions in light spillage from Maltings

Landscape Guidelines

Conserve the sense of rurality

This partially enclosed (but with significant valley and open plateau views), tranquil and largely rural landscape area is sensitive to increases in built development, such as housing or new major agricultural buildings. There is also a strong tendency for this landscape to be gradually changed by ‘creeping urbanisation’ in the form of the alteration of formerly agricultural land to garden, horsiculture or just ‘yard’ type storage.

The maintenance of hedges should be encouraged as significant characteristic features of this landscape. Replanting / restocking of hedged (and currently non-hedged) boundaries should be encouraged - together with the provision of new hedgerow trees to replace an increasingly old and dying stock.

Ensure the redevelopment of redundant barn complexes both within, on the edge and especially outside settlement boundaries, is sensitively undertaken avoiding use of suburban features such as surfaced drives, domestic style gates and fences, ornamental planting, overly large windows or excessive external lighting.

The same should be considered for new standalone houses in the countryside or on the village fringe. This is not a landscape where grand ‘feature’ non-settlement based or settlement based houses are characteristic of the area.

Impact both by day and night should be a consideration to maintain the rural character and dark skies. Consider opportunities to address adverse light pollution by means of replacement down lighting or complete removal of lighting, taking into account the appropriateness of the latest lighting technologies, e.g. different types of LEDs. The use of external lighting beyond very modest ‘rear door light’ is almost universally inappropriate in this landscape

Maintain the rural features that contribute to character, biodiversity and historical continuity, including rural lanes, hedgerows, verges, gateposts and walls – avoid road widening and urbanising features such as close board fencing, kerbs, lighting and excessive signage.

New planting associated with development should blend with existing features rather than simply trying to screen new development - layers of vegetation may be more appropriate than one thick screen using species local to the area. Extending and linking planting to other features such as hedgerows and copses gives a greater degree of ecological connectivity and value but also can (if done sensitively and with some degree of comprehension of the grain and structure of the landscape) blend more successfully into the character of the existing landscape rather than appearing as a ‘new landscape feature around a development’. Planting should consider such factors as maintaining existing views from public locations of watercourses or other rural features (pasture etc.)

Creeping suburbanisation such as that created by glamping sites, lodges and other 'rural diversification businesses' can have a disproportionate impact on changing the rural character of this otherwise simple and traditional area. This is not a landscape which has 'leisure' uses or can accommodate the type of changes and disturbance that would tend to accompany such changes without significant impact on landscape character

2) Conserve the dispersed and 'unspoilt' character of Lt Ryburgh
Retain the dispersed, non-intensive settlement structure of the village where larger mature gardens and hedged boundaries separate off the few dwellings clustered around this farming based settlement. Infill development or excessive enlargement of / introduction of modern or 'contemporary' design types would tend to jar with and be contrary / have a disproportionate adverse effect on the character and setting of the settlement and the landscape in which it sits

3) Protect and managed the cultural integrity of the landscape and retain its setting and views
The Maltings is a dominant feature of views from parts of this area over the Wensum Valley, drawing the eye. Existing trees / hedging on the eastern (valley floor) side provide some relief, separation and buffering in the form of vegetation, but only partially screen the buildings (but show the effectiveness of doing so). The colour of the existing silos (light brown) could be more effectively chosen. At night, the external lighting is highly visible and intrusive. Improvements to colouration (graded or banded to different tones but the same colour using a non-reflective paint) and the use of more sensitive lighting would reduce the dominance and severity of the appearance of this installation, and its adverse impact on rural character

Features such as phone masts, wind turbines and solar panel installations would be difficult to integrate into this landscape without adding a sense of clutter to this intimate landscape.

New Farm buildings in this landscape would need careful siting and could be intrusive or overly dominant / out of scale with / relevance to the character and usage of this small scale pastoral landscape. Landscaping in the form of copses and belts of trees can sometimes be used with good effect to set and ground buildings and to address assist in addressing impacts of existing buildings which sit awkwardly/prominently in the landscape.

Avoid the tendency for gentrification of existing buildings through overlarge extensions, rebuilds or extensions to garden areas which take in existing agricultural land - which tend to suburbanise and alter the cultural references of the area. Retaining and enhancing the landscape setting of buildings through the use of hedged boundaries, tree planting etc. has limited ability to offset excessive changes to buildings or their curtilage.

4) Conserve and expand areas of non-arable habitats
Improve ecological connectivity in the landscape through conserving and expanding areas of woodland, ponds and other non-arable and semi-natural habitats.
Retain and manage areas of woodland and trees, including those that contribute to the setting of the buildings in the landscape. Reinstate and create hedges, grassland, ponds and watercourses where these have been lost or removed from the landscape. Seek areas where existing or future pasture, woodland, scrub, heathy type and arable margins could be enlarged or created, with a focus on re-connecting fragmented habitats and improving ecological connectivity for a variety of species including great crested newts, reptiles, bats, birds and insects.
Support landowners and agricultural subsidy schemes that invest in natural capital and ecosystems services. These can include, but are not limited to, creating and restoring ponds and 'ghost' ponds and managing and enhancing the range of habitats associated with bats, barn owls and farmland birds, providing roosting, nesting/resting and feeding opportunities throughout the year(woodland margins, fallow plots, overwintered stubble and insect-rich foraging habitats). Recognise important views which contribute to the appreciation and setting of the landscape - do not introduce features which will block or diminish these

5) Manage the impacts of climate change

Manage and enhance the health and structure of woodlands to improve resilience in the face of climate change and pests and diseases. Manage development to ensure that changing recreational patterns do not adversely affect the rural agricultural heritage of this landscape Area.

6.2. North of Gt Ryburgh small field landscape

Photographs of Typical landscapes in this area

6.2.1. Location and Boundaries

This Area is located to the northern side of the village of Gt Ryburgh and runs as a linear feature from Highfield Lane to the Maltings. The boundary of the Area to the north is the ring garth field boundary hedge and tree line and to the south is the rear garden boundaries of properties in Gt Ryburgh

6.2.2. Key characteristics

- This is a small discrete Area which forms the northern boundary zone and setting to the Village of Gt Ryburgh.

- A shallow valley topography without a flood plain floor - unlike some other valleys in the parish

- Trees and mature hedges of size enclose the Area. The species of the hedges are mixed indicating older boundary types. Hedgerow trees include Field maple, Elm and Oak
- Proximity to the Maltings gives a sense of dominance / full stop to the Area and separates it from its natural connectivity with the River Wensum valley floor area

- Small field sizes and pasture characterise the enclosure

- The stream has been canalised and placed within a deep trapezoidal ditched form

- The boundary between residential land and the pastoral land of the Area is fairly strongly marked except for properties along Highfield Lane which have large 'paddock type' / gardens, some of which are rural in character and others which are more suburban in character, both of which extend into the Area.

6.2.3. Description of Landscape Character

A small discrete area of land to the north of the village. The village is primarily strongly linear in character, with one main central roadway and most properties being distributed to either side of this main feature. Small lokes carry a number of properties behind other dwellings which front onto the roadway. Only at Highfield Lane where there has been development of generic local authority / housing association type properties, does this pattern alter and develop beyond this model, starting with a line of 1940s Council Houses which have worked northwards to infill this zone. The structure of the settlement is important in understanding and appreciating the form and structure of the surrounding fields which form this Area

This Area bounds and encloses the naturally linear structure to the village and forms a similar function to that of its corresponding area of small fields and pasture lands to the south of the village. That is to say that these Areas are the 'closes' or small holdings / village fields which were, and are, a characteristic of 'open' villages (ones not otherwise controlled by one or two large landowners) where village development was not overly controlled or restricted and the villagers tended to have ownership of their properties and to 'take in' and own / manage small fields close to the properties - enclosing them early on (from the C15th through to the C17th usually). This gives rise to a typical structure to the village whereby the village develops either as a linear feature (or maybe a cluster if the road network is suitable) surrounded by a ring of small fields (these usually - as in this instance - survive with mature, larger and taller mixed hedges, small and medium sized trees and plenty of pasture relative to arable cultivation) with the open field structure (if it existed in part or all of the Parish lands) extending from this area. This seems to be very much what is seen in this parish and whilst we were not able to obtain maps before the C19th first Edition OS, the land beyond the small village closes / paddocks seems to be likely to have been enclosed fairly early in a piecemeal manner (probably between the C17 and C19th) rather than as a single Parliamentary Enclosure model pushed (usually) by one or two large landowners who wanted to divest the villagers of their customary rights of tillage as much as improve the efficiency of the land. This history has given rise to the land structure which is still apparent today with larger more intensively farmed lands located outside a ring of small closes near the village settlement.

6.2.4. Geological Character

Superficial deposits of material as fans / slope features comprising glacial deposits of clay, silts, sands and gravels with a light sand / clay loam texture. This changes to a more highly drained and dry / coarse sand and gravel mix on the valley sides.

6.2.5. Ecological Character

Rough semi-improved grassland, improved grassland and areas of tall ruderal herbs. Mature, often multi species hedges comprising Elm, Blackthorn, Field Maple and a lesser composition of Hawthorn in some places - often incorporating smaller and medium sized trees of Ash, Oak Field maple and Elm.

The deeply incised stream / ditch contains no appreciable distinctive riverine ecology wither within or on the sloping ditch sides, and was dry (at Highfield Lane) when we surveyed the site in August 2018

6.2.6. Analysis of Key Characteristics

Key Characteristic	Condition of characteristic	Analysis of Key Characteristics	Sensitivity to change
Semi-natural habitats	Fair	Rough grassland with limited management. Intensively grazed small paddocks for horses.	Moderate
Small water bodies	Poor	Canalised and deeply dug with steep trapezoidal sides (at the Highfield Ln end - other areas could not be assessed).	Moderate
Sense of enclosure	Good	The landscape is predominantly enclosed by the mature large hedges and trees and topography of the rising land to the west and south	Moderate
Settlement	Fair to poor	There is some settlement usage of this landscape, often for subsidiary buildings to existing residences, but also for new residences. Gradual developments of the Area are significantly altering the character of this Area and the setting and character of the settlement of Gt Ryburgh - eroding rural setting and sense of continuity in the development of the parish structure (harmony between the settlement structure and the historic field structure / agricultural land beyond)	High
Hedges and trees	Good to Fair	The structure of the intact hedges, hedgerow trees are an important distinguishing feature to this landscape which separates it from the larger more intensive arable lands beyond and reinforces its character as ‘old’ landscape	Moderate to High
Watercourses	Poor	The canalisation and deepening of the stream watercourse has largely removed any visual interest or ecology from this feature. It can only be improved by other forms of management (except further deepening or culverting)	Low
Maltings	Poor	A dominant feature to the eastern end of the Area which blocks this Area off from its natural connection in landscape and ecological terms from the River Wensum Valley	Moderate

Evaluation

6.2.7. Landscape Condition and Strength of Character

The sense of enclosure and 'older historic rural remnant landscape' that this area demonstrates is Fair to Good depending on the location of the viewer. The presence of the Maltings at the eastern end tends to diminish the feeling of a remote older landscape which fits in with, and is an integral part of, the development of the settlement of the village. The western end of the Area has a strong resonance with this feeling however.

6.2.8. Recent Landscape Impacts

Further deepening of the stream bed - possibly affecting the hydrology of the feature?

Developments for garden buildings - extensions of land which are used for garden / domestic purposes with suburbanising characteristics

Increased dominance of the Maltings due to significant enlargement of the silos and adjacent land usage for industrial purposes

6.2.9. Assessment of positive / negative factors affecting the Landscape Character Area

a). Factors which may erode / may not contribute to the maintenance / enhancement of the Landscape Character Area

> Changes which reduce or remove hedging or trees, its composition or alter (significantly) its management where these are not in accordance with good ecological / landscape management objectives. The taller hedges and presence of hedgerow trees of age, are significant factors in contributing to the sense of enclosure / definition of this Character Area
>
> Changes which reduce or remove grassland, its composition or alter (significantly) its management where these are not in accordance with good ecological / landscape management objectives. The presence of pasture and particularly rough pasture, are significant factors in contributing to the sense of historic age / definition of this Character Area
>
> Changes which extend or alter the settlement boundary / structure of the village and which would erode or change the relationship between the area of small historic older fields in this Area and the structure of the settlement pattern which is largely responsible for its creation and continued existence.
>
> Enlargement of the Maltings which would further erode the sense of the older setting and character of this Area and that of the adjacent settlement character
>
> Increases in external lighting which will impact on the nocturnal character of the Area

Further canalisation or culverting of the stream which would remove the watercourse feature which is an essential part of 'explaining' in character terms, the valley form of the topography of the Area

Installation of ad hoc huts and shelters for animals / provision of sub-divisions of fields using prominent 'tape' type or other boundary features which are not in keeping with the rural appearance of the Area. Storage of materials or other items on fields which tend to give a 'yard' appearance and detract from the agricultural use type.

Changes of use from agricultural / pasture to garden land which introduce suburban elements to the landscape and encourage ad hoc building development

b) Factors which may support or enhance the character of the Area

Works to restore the stream to a more natural feature by infilling with clay / silt and capping with a gravel bed / reducing the slope of the sides of the stream to avoid it appearing as a 'deep slit'

Enhancing the management of the grassland to increase diversity and improve the appearance and ecology of the area

Reinforcing existing hedges and planting hedgerow trees to allow for succession when older trees die.

Landscape Guidelines

Conserve the sense of rurality

This partially enclosed (but with views), tranquil and largely rural landscape area is sensitive to increases in built development, such housing and industrial activity. There is also a strong tendency for this landscape to be gradually changed by 'creeping urbanisation' in the form of the alteration of formerly agricultural land to garden, horsiculture or just 'yard' type storage Capacity to visually contain development is superficially there in the form of existing built development of the village fringe and larger or taller field boundaries / limited views, but this masks the change rather than preventing the change being apparent and tangibly altering the character from a rural area to an 'urban fringe clutter' Type.

The maintenance of older tall and spreading hedges should be encouraged as significant characteristic features of this landscape. Replanting / restocking of hedged (and currently non-hedged) boundaries should be encouraged - together with the provision of new hedgerow trees to replace an increasingly old and dying stock.

Ensure the redevelopment of redundant barn complexes both within, on the edge and especially outside settlement boundaries, is sensitively undertaken avoiding use of suburban features such as surfaced drives, domestic style gates and fences, ornamental planting, overly large windows or excessive external lighting.

The same should be considered for new standalone houses in the countryside or on the village fringe. This is not a landscape where grand 'feature' non-settlement based or settlement based houses are characteristic of the area.

Impact both by day and night should be a consideration to maintain the rural character and dark skies. Consider opportunities to address adverse light pollution by means of replacement down lighting or complete removal of lighting, taking into account the appropriateness of the latest lighting technologies, e.g. different types of LEDs. The use of external lighting beyond very modest 'rear door light' is almost universally inappropriate in this landscape

Maintain the rural features that contribute to character, biodiversity and historical continuity, including rural lanes, hedgerows, verges, gateposts and walls – avoid road widening and urbanising features such as close board fencing, kerbs, lighting and excessive signage.

New planting associated with development should blend with existing features rather than simply trying to screen new development - layers of vegetation may be more appropriate than one thick screen using species local to the area. Extending and linking planting to other features such as hedgerows and copses gives a greater degree of ecological connectivity and value but also can (if done sensitively and with some degree of comprehension of the grain and structure of the landscape) blend more successfully into the character of the existing landscape rather than appearing as a 'new landscape feature around a development'. Planting should consider such factors as maintaining existing views from public locations of watercourses or other rural features (pasture etc.)

Creeping suburbanisation such as that created by glamping sites, lodges and other 'rural diversification businesses' can have a disproportionate impact on changing the rural character of this otherwise simple and traditional area. This is not a landscape which has 'leisure' uses or can accommodate the type of changes and disturbance that would tend to accompany such changes without significant impact on landscape character

2) Conserve the nucleated character of Gt Ryburgh

Retain the compact character of development in villages to avoid impinging on the remote, rural character of the surrounding landscape. Avoid sprawl into this landscape as it will erode or fundamentally change the character of the Area. Ensure any new development is well integrated into the landscape and does not form a harsh edge. From this landscape, only small glimpses of odd houses / groups of houses associated with the main settlement are present. Development which would produce intrusion of the settlement into this landscape will have a disproportionate adverse impact on the tranquillity, appearance and character of the Area.

3) Protect and managed the cultural integrity of the landscape and retain its setting and views

The Maltings is a dominant feature at the eastern end of this landscape and has a strong influence over the Area as a whole, although at the western end, it is only seen as one emerges out of the valley on the northern side. Existing trees / hedging on the western side provide some relief, separation and buffering in the form of vegetation, but do not screen the buildings from the rural area to the west and north. The colour of the new silos (bare galvanised steel which tends to shine on light days) is substantially more intrusive visually than if the colouration had been a muted (or series of muted) tones using a non-reflective paint. This would reduce the dominance and severity of the appearance and its adverse impact on rural character

Features such as phone masts, wind turbines and solar panel installations would be difficult to integrate into this landscape without adding a sense of clutter to this intimate landscape.

New Farm buildings in this landscape would need careful siting and could be intrusive or overly dominant / out of scale with / relevance to the character and usage of this small scale pastoral landscape. Landscaping in the form of copses and belts of trees can sometimes be used with good effect to set and ground buildings and to address assist in addressing impacts of existing buildings which sit awkwardly/prominently in the landscape.

Avoid the tendency for gentrification of existing buildings through overlarge extensions, rebuilds or extensions to garden areas which take in existing agricultural land - which tend to suburbanise and alter the cultural references of the area. Retaining and enhancing the landscape setting of buildings through the use of hedged boundaries, tree planting etc. has limited ability to offset excessive changes to buildings or their curtilage.

4) Conserve and expand areas of non-arable habitats

Improve ecological connectivity in the landscape through conserving and expanding areas of woodland, ponds and other non-arable and semi-natural habitats.

Retain and manage areas of woodland and trees, including those that contribute to the setting of the buildings in the landscape. Reinstate and create hedges, grassland, ponds and watercourses where these have been lost or removed from the landscape. Seek areas where existing or future pasture, woodland, scrub, heathland and arable margins could be enlarged or created, with a focus on re-connecting fragmented habitats and improving ecological connectivity for a variety of species including great crested newts, reptiles, bats, birds and insects.

Support landowners and agricultural subsidy schemes that invest in natural capital and ecosystems services. These can include, but are not limited to, creating and restoring ponds and 'ghost' ponds and managing and enhancing the range of habitats associated with bats, barn owls and farmland birds, providing roosting, nesting/resting and feeding opportunities throughout the year(woodland margins, fallow plots, overwintered stubble and insect-rich foraging habitats). Recognise important views which contribute to the appreciation and setting of the landscape - do not introduce features which will block or diminish these

5) Manage the impacts of climate change

Manage and enhance the health and structure of woodlands to improve resilience in the face of climate change and pests and diseases. Manage development to ensure that changing recreational patterns do not adversely affect the rural agricultural heritage of this landscape Area.

6.3. South of Gt Ryburgh small field landscape

Photos of typical landscapes within the Area

6.3.1. Location and Boundaries

This Area is located to the southern side of the village of Gt Ryburgh and runs as a linear feature from along the southern side of the settlement from the western end to the area around the Old Rectory. The boundary of the Area to the south is the extent of the small fields associated with the village, and to the north is the rear garden boundaries of properties in Gt Ryburgh

6.3.2. Key characteristics

- This is a small discrete Area which forms the southern boundary zone and setting to the Village of Gt Ryburgh.
- An area of gently rising valley slope / rolling plateau land
- Trees and mature hedges of size enclose the Area. The species of the hedges are mixed indicating older boundary types. Hedgerow trees include Field maple, Elm and Oak
- Proximity to the Maltings gives a sense of dominance / full stop to the Area and separates it from its natural connectivity with the River Wensum valley floor area
- Small field sizes and pasture characterise the enclosure
- The boundary between residential land and the pastoral land of the Area is fairly strongly marked

6.3.3. Description of Landscape Character

A small but fairly discrete area of land to the south of the village which tends to have a somewhat indistinct boundary with the adjoining Rolling Plateau Farmland to the south. The village is primarily strongly linear in character, with one main central roadway and most properties being distributed to either side of this main feature. Small lokes carry a number of properties behind other dwellings which front onto the roadway. Only at Highfield Lane where there has been development of generic local authority / housing association type properties, does this pattern alter and develop beyond this model, starting with a line of 1940s Council Houses which have worked northwards to infill this zone. The structure of the settlement is important in understanding and appreciating the form and structure of the surrounding fields which form this Area

This Area bounds and encloses the naturally linear structure to the village and forms a similar function to that of its corresponding area of small fields and pasture lands to the north of the village. That is to say that these Areas are the ‘closes’ or small holdings / village fields which

were, and are a characteristic of 'open' villages (ones not otherwise controlled by one or two large landowners) where village development was not overly controlled or restricted and the villagers tended to have ownership of their properties and to 'take in' and own / manage small fields close to the properties - enclosing them early on (from the C15th through to the C17th usually). This gives rise to a typical structure to the village whereby the village develops either as a linear feature (or maybe a cluster if the road network is suitable) surrounded by a ring of small fields (these usually - as in this instance - survive with mature, larger and taller mixed hedges, small and medium sized trees and plenty of pasture relative to arable cultivation) with the open field structure (if it existed in part or all of the Parish lands) extending from this area. This seems to be very much what is seen in this parish and whilst we were not able to obtain maps before the C19th first Edition OS, the land beyond the small village closes / paddocks seems to be likely to have been enclosed fairly early in a piecemeal manner (probably between the C17 and C19th) rather than as a single Parliamentary Enclosure model pushed (usually) by one or two large landowners who wanted to divest the villagers of their customary rights of tillage as much as improve the efficiency of the land. This history has given rise to the land structure which is still apparent today with larger more intensively farmed lands located outside a ring of small closes near the village settlement.

6.3.4. Geological Character

The upper parts of the Area where it extends onto the open Plateau lands are comprised of Sheringahm Cliffs formation - comprising glacial deposits of clay, silts, sands and gravels with a light sand / clay loam texture. This changes to a more highly drained and dry / coarse sand and gravel mix on the valley sides.

6.3.5. Ecological Character

Semi-improved grassland and improved grassland. Mature, often multi species hedges comprising Elm, Blackthorn, Field Maple and a lesser composition of Hawthorn in some places - often incorporating smaller and medium sized trees of Ash, Oak Field maple and Elm. Some areas where more 'garden' or park style planting of boundaries has incorporated Lombardy Poplars etc.

6.3.6. Analysis of Key Characteristics

Key Characteristic	Condition of characteristic	Analysis of Key Characteristics	Sensitivity to change
Semi-natural habitats	Fair to Poor	Most grassland is improved and mown or grazed. This is one of the defining features of the Area	Moderate
Sense of enclosure	Fair to good	The landscape is predominantly enclosed by the mature large hedges and trees and topography of the rising land to the west and south. This is probably the defining feature of the Area	High
Settlement	Fair to poor	There is some settlement usage of this landscape, often for subsidiary buildings to existing residences but also for new residences. Gradual developments of the Area are significantly altering the character of this Area and the setting and character of the settlement of Gt Ryburgh - eroding rural setting and sense of continuity in the development of the parish structure (harmony between the settlement structure and the historic field structure /	

Hedges and trees	Good to Fair	agricultural land beyond) The structure of the intact hedges, hedgerow trees are an important distinguishing feature to this landscape which separates it from the larger more intensive arable lands beyond and reinforces its character as 'old' landscape	Moderate to High

Evaluation

6.3.7. Landscape Condition and Strength of Character

The sense of enclosure and 'older historic rural remnant landscape' that this area demonstrates results in a Fair condition to the character of this Area. Gradual works to gardenise and install new buildings and housing within the Area is eroding the character.

The strength of character is Fair due to erosion issues

6.3.8. Recent Landscape Impacts

Gradual gardenising of land and the use of land for new buildings and development.

6.3.9. Assessment of positive / negative factors affecting the Landscape Character Area

a). Factors which may erode / may not contribute to the maintenance / enhancement of the Landscape Character Area

Changes which reduce or remove hedging or trees, its composition or alter (significantly) its management where these are not in accordance with good ecological / landscape management objectives. The taller hedges and presence of hedgerow trees of age, are significant factors in contributing to the sense of enclosure / definition of this Character Area

Changes which reduce or remove grassland, its composition or alter (significantly) its management where these are not in accordance with good ecological / landscape management objectives. The presence of pasture is a significant factor in contributing to the sense of historic age / definition of this Character Area

Changes which extend or alter the settlement boundary / structure of the village and which would erode or change the relationship between the area of small historic older fields in this Area and the structure of the settlement pattern which is largely responsible for its creation and continued existence.

Increases in external lighting which will impact on the nocturnal character of the Area

Installation of ad hoc huts and shelters for animals / provision of sub-divisions of fields using prominent 'tape' type or other boundary features which are not in keeping with the rural appearance of the Area. Storage of materials or other items on fields which tend to give a 'yard' appearance and detract from the agricultural use type.

Changes of use from agricultural / pasture land to garden land which introduce suburban elements to the landscape and encourage ad hoc building development

b) Factors which may support or enhance the character of the Area

Enhancing the management of the grassland to increase diversity and improve the appearance and ecology of the area

Reinforcing existing hedges and planting hedgerow trees to allow for succession when older trees die.

Landscape Guidelines

Conserve the sense of rurality

This partially enclosed (but with some glimpsed views), tranquil and largely rural landscape area is sensitive to increases in built development, such housing and industrial activity. There is also a strong tendency for this landscape to be gradually changed by 'creeping urbanisation' in the form of the alteration of formerly agricultural land to garden, horsiculture or just 'yard' type storage Capacity to visually contain development is superficially there in the form of existing built development of the village fringe and larger or taller field boundaries / limited views, but this masks the change rather than preventing the change being apparent and tangibly altering the character from a rural area to an 'urban fringe clutter' Type.

The maintenance of older tall and spreading hedges should be encouraged as significant characteristic features of this landscape. Replanting / restocking of hedged (and currently non-hedged) boundaries should be encouraged - together with the provision of new hedgerow trees to replace an increasingly old and dying stock.

Ensure the redevelopment of redundant barn complexes both within, on the edge and especially outside settlement boundaries, is sensitively undertaken avoiding use of suburban features such as surfaced drives, domestic style gates and fences, ornamental planting, overly large windows or excessive external lighting.

The same should be considered for new standalone houses in the countryside or on the village fringe. This is not a landscape where grand 'feature' non-settlement based or settlement based houses are characteristic of the area.

Impact both by day and night should be a consideration to maintain the rural character and dark skies. Consider opportunities to address adverse light pollution by means of replacement down lighting or complete removal of lighting, taking into account the appropriateness of the latest lighting technologies, e.g. different types of LEDs. The use of external lighting beyond very modest 'rear door light' is almost universally inappropriate in this landscape

Maintain the rural features that contribute to character, biodiversity and historical continuity, including rural lanes, hedgerows, verges, gateposts and walls – avoid urbanising features such as close board fencing, kerbs, lighting and changes of use of land.

New planting associated with development should blend with existing features rather than simply trying to screen new development - layers of vegetation may be more appropriate than one thick screen using species local to the area. Extending and linking planting to other features such as hedgerows and copses gives a greater degree of ecological connectivity and value but also can (if done sensitively and with some degree of comprehension of the grain and structure of the landscape) blend more successfully into the character of the existing landscape rather than appearing as a 'new

landscape feature around a development'. Planting should consider such factors as maintaining existing views from public locations of watercourses or other rural features (pasture etc.)

Creeping suburbanisation such as that created by glamping sites, lodges and other 'rural diversification businesses' can have a disproportionate impact on changing the rural character of this otherwise simple and traditional area. This is not a landscape which has 'leisure' uses or can accommodate the type of changes and disturbance that would tend to accompany such changes without significant impact on landscape character

2) Conserve the nucleated character of Gt Ryburgh

Retain the compact character of development in villages to avoid impinging on the remote, rural character of the surrounding landscape. Avoid sprawl into this landscape as it will erode or fundamentally change the character of the Area. Ensure any new development is well integrated into the landscape and does not form a harsh edge. From this landscape, only small glimpses of odd houses / groups of houses associated with the main settlement are present. Development which would produce intrusion of the settlement into this landscape will have a disproportionate adverse impact on the tranquillity, appearance and character of the Area.

3) Protect and managed the cultural integrity of the landscape and retain its setting and views

Features such as phone masts, wind turbines and solar panel installations would be difficult to integrate into this landscape without adding a sense of clutter to this intimate landscape.

New Farm buildings in this landscape would need careful siting and could be intrusive or overly dominant / out of scale with / relevance to the character and usage of this small scale pastoral landscape. Landscaping in the form of copses and belts of trees can sometimes be used with good effect to set and ground buildings and to address assist in addressing impacts of existing buildings which sit awkwardly/prominently in the landscape.

Avoid the tendency for gentrification of existing buildings through overlarge extensions, rebuilds or extensions to garden areas which take in existing agricultural land - which tend to suburbanise and alter the cultural references of the area. Retaining and enhancing the landscape setting of buildings through the use of hedged boundaries, tree planting etc. has limited ability to offset excessive changes to buildings or their curtilage.

4) Conserve and expand areas of non-arable habitats

Improve ecological connectivity in the landscape through conserving and expanding areas of woodland, ponds and other non-arable and semi-natural habitats.
Retain and manage areas of woodland and trees, including those that contribute to the setting of the buildings in the landscape. Reinstate and create hedges, grassland, ponds and watercourses where these have been lost or removed from the landscape. Seek areas where existing or future pasture, woodland, scrub, heathland and arable margins could be enlarged or created, with a focus on re-connecting fragmented habitats and improving ecological connectivity for a variety of species including great crested newts, reptiles, bats, birds and insects.
Support landowners and agricultural subsidy schemes that invest in natural capital and ecosystems services. These can include, but are not limited to, creating and restoring ponds and 'ghost' ponds and managing and enhancing the range of habitats associated with bats, barn owls and farmland birds, providing roosting, nesting/resting and feeding opportunities throughout the year(woodland margins, fallow plots, overwintered stubble and insect-rich foraging habitats). Recognise important views which contribute to the appreciation and setting of the landscape - do not introduce features which will block or diminish these

5) Manage the impacts of climate change

Manage and enhance the health and structure of woodlands to improve resilience in the face of climate change and pests and diseases. Manage development to ensure that changing Recreational patterns do not adversely affect the rural agricultural heritage of this landscape Area.

Tributary Farmland Landscapes.

6.4. Eastern Tributary Farmland and Valley Sides Area

Examples of typical landscapes within this Area

6.4.1. Location and Boundaries

This Area is located to the eastern side of the River Wensum and dominates the majority of the land of this side of the Parish. The boundaries of this landscape Area continue beyond the Parish to the east (on the other side of the A1067) and as far as the woodland belts around the Sennow Estate where a more 'parkland / woodland character area is present. On the western side the site boundaries are the main river Wensum valley floor and some areas where incised valleys are present (Area 6.1 Langor Bridge / Lt Ryburgh valley floor, 6.2 Lt Ryburgh and associated access lane and 6.4. Stibbard Road dry valley)

6.4.2. Key characteristics

- An area which is determined as much by topography as land cover

- A gently rolling landscape which has a sense of height
- Fairly long or long distance views - often over the valley to the other side and towards Fakenham.
- Some views of the Maltings but few of the village of Gt Ryburgh itself - which tends to be too low - below the level of the publicly accessible routes where there are intervening areas of rising land, and surrounded by trees / not visible. External lighting significantly increases the dominance of the Maltings at night.
- Strongly defined in some parts by the intervisibility with other Areas such as the Wensum Valley or Tributary Valleys
- Larger field size. Almost entirely arable
- Mostly closely or fairly closely managed field boundary hedges. Sizes range moderately but there are few if any 'tree hedges' forming boundaries which are too high to see over.
- Few but prominent hedgerow trees - mostly mature oaks - with some less mature Ash.
- Low settlement density with occasional farmsteads and isolated groups of farm workers / estate cottages (as at Stibbard Crossroads)

6.4.3. Description of Landscape Character

This is an open landscape where longer views over the Area and beyond are common. The upper parts of the Area where the topography is flatter give limited views which are often bounded by fairly young plantation woodland or small copses (except near Sennow where the older woodland belts of the parkland form the boundary to the Area).

Hedges form a strong feature to the Area and are mostly typical of the managed Norfolk arable landscapes where hedge size is regulated by annual or bi-annual cutting to between 1.5 and 2.5m high. Species mix tends to be limited with Hawthorn dominating where the hedges can be seen close to.

Views of the Maltings are present from some areas and tend to draw the eye as they do from any part of the Parish landscape due to the contrast with the rest of this rural area. They are not dominant but are a sensed presence. At night they are or can be much more dominant (depending on weather conditions) as the exterior lighting is significant and casts a strong glow over the area.

Noise and the sense of a busy roadway is present as one nears the A1067

The age structure of the trees tends to be older for hedgerow trees and younger for plantation woodlands - which often contain conifers as well as broadleaved trees - sometimes in domination.

Views from the Area are limited by woodland to an extent and these tend to focus and frame views.

Few publicly accessible areas where one can walk over the Area - (a footpath from Lt Ryburgh to the A1067 is notable) most of the Area is seen by the public from a car or from other Areas (such as the small lane in Lt Ryburgh or from the area of the Wensum Valley floor).

Settlement density is low and comprises small farmsteads / barn complexes. These may not be clearly visible from public locations, but some are, and lend character to the landscape through the use of vernacular brick / flint and tile structures. Housing is infrequent and mostly located in adjacent Areas. The exception is the area around Stibbard Crossroads where there is a collection of estate cottages (beyond the Parish boundary)

6.4.4. Geological Character

The upper parts of the Area where it extends onto the open Plateau lands are comprised of Sheringham Cliffs formation - comprising glacial deposits of clay, silts, sands and gravels with a light sand / clay loam texture. This changes to a more highly drained and dry / coarse sand and gravel mix on the valley sides.

6.4.5. Ecological Character

Primarily the area is arable

Woodland is present - as small mixed copses and some more regular longer belts of plantation trees - often mixed coniferous and broadleaved types. There is very little pasture or other areas which are not actively cultivated. Larger, older woodlands are present to the Area but in a continuation of its zoning outside the Parish to the south east.

6.4.6. Analysis of Key Characteristics

Key Characteristic	Condition of characteristic	Analysis of Key Characteristics	Sensitivity to change
Semi-natural habitats	fair	There is virtually none in the Area	Moderate
Open landscape views	Fair	The landscape gives moderate views - in some limited instances these are much longer and take in other Areas and land as far as the western side of the Wensum Valley / Fakenham and the maltings	Moderate
Settlement	Good	The settlement appears to be fairly stable with limited changes over the past 30 years (mostly associated with minor changes to existing buildings rather than new buildings. The majority of cottages have little or no significant 'gentrification'. New building would have a significant impact on the appearance of the Area None of the farmsteads appear to have had significant new farm building development. There are no isolated large agricultural buildings	High
A1067	Poor	Noise from the road is fairly dominant as this area is approached. The changes to the junction at Stibbard Crossroads have introduced some urban elements of	Moderate

		considerable amounts of kerbing and bus stops	
Field size and hedgerows	Fair	The field pattern is fragmented in places and some boundaries demonstrate fragmented hedges or no hedges at all. Field size is medium to medium large but there are no very large or excessively open areas where substantial numbers of hedges have been removed to create a prairie landscape Further removal of hedges would be noticeable and would significantly open up the landscape	High
Hedgerow trees	Fair to poor	Few remain and those that do tend to be older. No new younger trees to replace them. They are one of the more defining features of this fairly simple landscape and their gradual loss will be noticeable	Moderate to high
Night time / external lighting	Poor	Dominant lighting is present from the Maltings which gives a strong glow to the area and diminishes the sense of rural isolation which is otherwise fairly strong during daylight hours. Increased lighting would tend to further diminish the sense of rural location to the area	Moderate

Evaluation

6.4.7. Landscape Condition and Strength of Character

The condition of the landscape is fair. Elements have / are gradually eroding due to loss of hedgerow trees and fragmentation of hedges and the increasing dominance of the somewhat 'block like' woodlands

6.4.8. Recent Landscape Impacts

There have been few 'physical' changes to this landscape for some time (last 30 years). Changes before this time include field boundary losses and introduction of new woodland belts.

6.4.9. Assessment of positive / negative factors affecting the Landscape Character Area

a). Factors which may erode / may not contribute to the maintenance / enhancement of the Landscape Character Area

More intensive management of the boundary hedgerows.
Felling / replanting of the copses

External lighting to housing and farm. Further changes to external lighting for the Maltings

New farm buildings within the farm areas or wider countryside if not carefully designed / located to blend with the existing farm structure.

Gentrification of housing - extensions, changes to the gardens which remove existing older field boundary hedging / garden trees etc. and replace these with suburban features.

Significant changes to land use (such as solar farms / wind turbines or phone masts)

b) Factors which may support or enhance the character of the Area

Reinforcement of hedging where any gaps are present

Allowing some hedges to develop to larger sizes / natural forms

Replacement of hedgerow trees - Oaks

Provision of wildflower grass field margins under agricultural schemes

Reductions in light spillage from Maltings

Landscape Guidelines

Conserve the sense of rurality

This open, tranquil and strongly rural landscape area is particularly sensitive to increases in built development, such as wind turbines, telecom masts, housing and industrial activity. Capacity to visually contain development in this context is limited.

Ensure the redevelopment of redundant barn complexes both within, on the edge and especially outside settlement boundaries, is sensitively undertaken avoiding use of suburban features such as surfaced drives, domestic style gates and fences, ornamental planting, overly large windows or excessive external lighting.

The same should be considered for new standalone houses in the countryside. This is not a landscape where grand 'feature' non-settlement based or settlement based houses are characteristic of the area. There are a very few isolated farmsteads situated in discrete locations surrounded by a moderate sized working farm but no 'grand houses' (Sennow is located nearby but is situated in an entirely screened woodland landscape of its own, quite separate from this landscape Area).

Impact both by day and night should be a consideration to maintain the rural character and dark skies. Consider opportunities to address adverse light pollution by means of replacement down lighting or complete removal of lighting, taking into account the appropriateness of the latest lighting technologies, e.g. different types of LEDs. The use of external lighting beyond very modest 'rear door light' is almost universally inappropriate in this landscape

Maintain the rural features that contribute to character, biodiversity and historical continuity, including rural lanes, hedgerows, verges, gateposts and walls – avoid road widening and urbanising features such as close board fencing, kerbs, lighting and excessive signage.

New planting associated with development should blend with existing features rather than simply trying to screen new development - layers of vegetation may be more appropriate than one thick screen using species local to the area. Extending and linking planting to other features such as hedgerows and copses gives a greater degree of ecological connectivity and value but also can (if done sensitively and with some degree of comprehension of the grain and structure of the landscape) blend more successfully into the character of the existing landscape rather than appearing as a 'new landscape feature around a development'.

Creeping suburbanisation such as that created by glamping sites, lodges and other 'rural diversification businesses' can have a disproportionate impact on changing the rural character of this otherwise simple and traditional area. This is not a landscape which has 'leisure' uses or can accommodate the type of changes and disturbance that would tend to accompany such changes without significant impact on landscape character

2) Conserve the nucleated character of Gt Ryburgh

Retain the compact character of development in villages to avoid impinging on the remote, rural character of the surrounding landscape. Avoid linear sprawl. Ensure any new development is well integrated into the landscape and does not form a harsh edge. From this landscape, Gt Ryburgh is barely visible and does not impinge on the open, long distance views over valley and rolling farmland. Development which would produce intrusion of the settlement into this landscape will have a disproportionate adverse impact on the tranquillity, appearance and character of the Area.

3) Protect and managed the cultural integrity of the landscape and retain its setting and views

The Maltings, though fairly infrequently seen from this landscape has a strong 'influence' due to its incongruity with the strongly rural character and complete lack of any other industrial features or references in which to contextualise or set it. The colour of silos and buildings is significant to drawing the eye - banding or grading colouration can reduce impacts as can the use of non-reflective paint types. Existing tree planting near to the maltings makes a good contribution to screening - loss of, or reductions to this would have a disproportionate impact. Similarly future planting - sensitively sited - would eventually have a positive impact - at least in maintaining the existing tree stock and cover.

Features such as phone masts, wind turbines and solar panel installations would be difficult to integrate into this landscape without being a significant draw to the eye and jarring with the clean, open, unobstructed and simple rural landscape.

New Farm buildings have the potential to jar with and disrupt the setting of this landscape type. New farm buildings should be designed to integrate with the existing grain and structure of existing farm complexes and be of a scale and form / colour which blends with these existing features.
Landscaping in the form of copses and belts of trees can sometimes be used with good effect to set and ground buildings and to address assist in addressing impacts of existing buildings which sit awkwardly/prominently in the landscape.

Avoid the tendency for gentrification of existing buildings through overlarge extensions, rebuilds or extensions to garden areas which take in existing agricultural land - which tend to suburbanise and alter the cultural references of the area. Retaining and enhancing the landscape setting of buildings through the use of hedged boundaries, tree planting etc. has limited ability to offset excessive changes to buildings or their curtilage.

4) Conserve and expand areas of non-arable habitats

Improve ecological connectivity in the landscape through conserving and expanding areas of woodland, ponds and other non-arable and semi-natural habitats.
Retain and manage areas of woodland and trees, including those that contribute to the setting of the buildings in the landscape. Reinstate and create hedges, grassland, ponds and watercourses where these have been lost or removed from the landscape. Seek areas where existing or future pasture, woodland, scrub, heathland and arable margins could be enlarged or created, with a focus on re-connecting fragmented habitats and improving ecological connectivity for a variety of species including great crested newts, reptiles, bats, birds and insects.
Support landowners and agricultural subsidy schemes that invest in natural capital and ecosystems services. These can include, but are not limited to, creating and restoring ponds and 'ghost' ponds and managing and enhancing the range of habitats associated with bats, barn owls and farmland birds, providing roosting, nesting/resting and feeding opportunities throughout the year(woodland margins, fallow plots, overwintered stubble and insect-rich foraging habitats). Recognise important views which contribute to the appreciation and setting of the landscape - do not introduce features which will block or diminish these

5) Manage the impacts of climate change

Manage and enhance the health and structure of woodlands to improve resilience in the face of climate change and pests and diseases. Manage development to ensure that changing recreational patterns do not adversely affect the rural agricultural heritage of this landscape Area.

6.5. Western Tributary Farmland and Valley Sides Area

Examples of typical landscapes in the Area

6.5.1. Location and Boundaries

This Area is located to the western side of the River Wensum and dominates the majority of the land of this side of the Parish. The boundaries of this landscape Area continue beyond the Parish to the west and extend well into the adjoining parishes. The northern and eastern boundaries are formed by the boundary of the Area with the Wensum Valley and with the settlement of Gt Ryburgh (and associated Small Field landscapes).

6.5.2. Key characteristics

- An area which is determined as much by topography as land cover
- A gently rolling landscape which has a sense of height

- Fairly long or long distance views - often over the valley to the other side and towards Fakenham and towards Colkirk.

- Limited views of the settlement of Gt Ryburgh - most are softened by the topography (Gt Ryburgh is lower than the majority of the Area) and trees / large mature hedges

- Partly defined in some parts by the intervisibility with other Areas such as the Wensum Valley

- Larger field size but still relatively modest compared with some areas of the County. Almost entirely arable

- Field boundary hedges are fairly closely managed - few would be classified as older types or tree/hedge sized.

- Moderate number of prominent hedgerow trees - mostly mature oaks - with some less mature Ash.

- Low settlement density with occasional farmsteads (two main ones at Highfield Farm and West Wood Farm) and isolated groups of farm workers / estate cottages

- Woodland is present in modern belts (few) and one more cohesive area to the southern side of the Area (West Wood)

- The railway contains a long area of semi-natural landscape of scrub, rough grassland which extends to associated areas of rough ground

6.5.3. Description of Landscape Character

This is an open landscape where longer views over the Area and beyond are common. The upper parts of the Area where the topography is flatter give limited views which are often bounded by fairly young plantation woodland.

Hedges form a strong feature to the Area and are mostly typical of the managed Norfolk arable landscapes where hedge size is regulated by annual or bi-annual cutting to between 1.5 and 2.5m high. Species mix tends to be limited with Hawthorn dominating where the hedges can be seen close to.

Ditched boundaries without hedges (or accompanying hedges) are common. Some ditches are actually streams which have been canalised and deepened to form ditched features and the stream / valley context has been more or less lost

The age structure of the trees tends to be older for hedgerow trees and younger for plantation woodlands - which can contain conifers as well as broadleaved trees - A few young verge trees are located along Highfield Lane.

Few publicly accessible areas where one can walk over the Area - (Highfield Lane / PRoW and Westwood Lane are the two main examples apart from the Fakenham Road which is a main transit route rather than for walking).

The railway forms a strong linear wooded feature to the south east of the site.

Settlement density is low and comprises two large older farm / barn complexes. There are one or two locations with isolated barn (older types - not large modern versions) collections and a small number of farmworkers cottages in isolated locations (C19th Brick and tile)

6.5.4. Geological Character

The upper parts of the Area where it extends onto the open Plateau lands are comprised of Sheringahm Cliffs formation - comprising glacial deposits of clay, silts, sands and gravels with a light sand / clay loam texture. This changes to a more highly drained and dry / coarse sand and gravel mix on the valley sides.

6.5.5. Ecological Character

Primarily the area is arable

Woodland is present - as medium sized mixed shelter belts and one larger / older area at West Wood. There is very little pasture or other areas which are not actively cultivated.

6.5.6. Analysis of Key Characteristics

Key Characteristic	Condition of characteristic	Analysis of Key Characteristics	Sensitivity to change
Semi-natural habitats	fair	Areas of rough grassland and wooded scrub associated with the railway and adjacent land (on cuttings). A fairly strong feature which would be easily removed	High
Open landscape views	Fair	The landscape gives moderate to long distant views - in some instances these are much longer and take in other Areas and land as far as the eastern side of the Wensum Valley / Fakenham and the maltings	Moderate
Settlement	Good	The settlement appears to be fairly stable with limited changes over the past 30 years. New building in the area of Highfield has altered the edge of the settlement and is fairly prominent (although relieved by the presence of a mature boundary hedge to the countryside.). The majority of cottages have little or no significant 'gentrification'. New building would have a significant impact on the appearance of the Area None of the farmsteads appear to have had significant new farm building development. There are no isolated large agricultural buildings	High
Field size and hedgerows	Fair	The field pattern is fragmented in places and some boundaries demonstrate fragmented hedges or no hedges at all - sometimes only a ditched boundary feature remains. Field size is medium to medium large but there are no very large or excessively open areas where substantial numbers of hedges have been removed to	High

		create a prairie landscape Further removal of hedges would be noticeable and would significantly open up the landscape	
Hedgerow trees	Fair to poor	A moderate number remain (more proportionately than to the east of the Wensum) and those that do tend to be older. Few new younger trees to replace them. They are one of the more defining features of this fairly simple landscape and their gradual loss will be noticeable	Moderate to high
Night time / external lighting	Poor	Dominant lighting is present from the Maltings which gives a strong glow to the area and diminishes the sense of rural isolation which is otherwise fairly strong during daylight hours	Moderate
Railway	Good	An area of semi-natural scrub and rough grassland as a long linear feature connecting to other areas of habitat and defining the valley side. Vulnerable to fragmentation and removal as has happened elsewhere in the County to older former railway lines	High

Evaluation

6.5.7. Landscape Condition and Strength of Character

The condition of the landscape is fair to good. Elements have / are gradually eroding due to loss of hedgerow trees and fragmentation of hedges and the increasing dominance of the somewhat ‘block like’ woodlands

6.5.8. Recent Landscape Impacts

Development at Highfield Close for the construction of new housing association properties has introduced a somewhat generic ‘estate’ type element into the built form adjacent to this character Area which is fairly visible from the Area (although screened by a large hedge).

Some field boundary losses (last 30 years) and hedgerow / hedgerow tree losses but not to the extent that has occurred in other parts of the County.

6.5.9. Assessment of positive / negative factors affecting the Landscape Character Area

a). Factors which may erode / may not contribute to the maintenance / enhancement of the Landscape Character Area

More intensive management of the boundary hedgerows.
Felling / replanting of the copses

External lighting to housing and farm. Further changes to external lighting for the maltings

New farm buildings within the farm areas or wider countryside if not carefully designed / located to blend with the existing farm structure.

Gentrification of housing - extensions, changes to the gardens which remove existing older field boundary hedging / garden trees etc. and replace these with suburban features.

Significant changes to land use (such as solar farms / wind turbines or phone masts)

Alterations to and upgrading of the Fakenham (or other) roads which introduce urban elements into the landscape and remove the sense of the main road approaching the village being 'a rural road' (kerbing, widening, straightening, signage, lighting, bus stops and footways)

b) Factors which may support or enhance the character of the Area

Reinforcement of hedging where any gaps are present

Allowing some hedges to develop to larger sizes / natural forms

Replacement of hedgerow trees - Oaks

Reductions in light spillage from Maltings

Landscape Guidelines

Conserve the sense of rurality

This open, tranquil and strongly rural landscape area is particularly sensitive to increases in built development, such as wind turbines, telecom masts, housing and industrial activity. Capacity to Visually contain development in this context is limited.

Ensure the redevelopment of redundant barn complexes both within, on the edge and especially outside settlement boundaries, is sensitively undertaken avoiding use of suburban features such as surfaced drives, domestic style gates and fences, ornamental planting, overly large windows or excessive external lighting.

The same should be considered for new standalone houses in the countryside. This is not a landscape where grand 'feature' non-settlement based or settlement based houses are characteristic of the area. There are a very few isolated farmsteads situated in discrete locations surrounded by a moderate sized working farm but no 'grand houses'.

Impact both by day and night should be a consideration to maintain the rural character and dark skies. Consider opportunities to address adverse existing light pollution by means of replacement down lighting or complete removal of lighting, taking into account the appropriateness of the latest lighting technologies, e.g. different types of LEDs. The use of external lighting beyond very modest 'rear door light' is almost universally inappropriate in this landscape

Maintain the rural features that contribute to character, biodiversity and historical continuity, including rural lanes, hedgerows, verges, gateposts and walls – avoid road widening and urbanising features such as close board fencing, kerbs, lighting and excessive signage.

New planting associated with development should blend with existing features rather than simply trying to screen new development - layers of vegetation may be more appropriate than one thick screen using species local to the area. Extending and linking planting to other features such as hedgerows and copses gives a greater degree of ecological connectivity and value but also can (if done sensitively and with some degree of comprehension of the grain and structure of the landscape)

blend more successfully into the character of the existing landscape rather than appearing as a 'new landscape feature around a development'.

Creeping suburbanisation such as that created by glamping sites, lodges and other 'rural diversification businesses' can have a disproportionate impact on changing the rural character of this otherwise simple and traditional area. This is not a landscape which has 'leisure' uses or can accommodate the type of changes and disturbance that would tend to accompany such changes without significant impact on landscape character

2) Conserve the nucleated character of Gt Ryburgh

Retain the compact character of development in villages to avoid impinging on the remote, rural character of the surrounding landscape. Avoid linear sprawl. Ensure any new development is well integrated into the landscape and does not form a harsh edge. From this landscape, Gt Ryburgh is barely visible and does not impinge on the open, long distance views over valley and rolling farmland. Development which would produce intrusion of the settlement into this landscape will have a disproportionate adverse impact on the tranquillity, appearance and character of the Area. In the one or two locations where it is visible (approaching the village from the west and looking at the Broadland Housing Assoc site) it is separated from the rural area by a mature hedge of approx. 5m in height which helps to prevent a hard edge to this otherwise significant impact

3) Protect and managed the cultural integrity of the landscape and retain its setting and views

The Maltings, though fairly infrequently seen from this landscape has a strong 'influence' due to its incongruity with the strongly rural character and complete lack of any other industrial features or references in which to contextualise or set it. The colour of silos and buildings is significant to drawing the eye - banding or grading colouration can reduce impacts as can the use of non-reflective paint types. Existing tree planting near to the maltings makes a good contribution to screening - loss of, or reductions to this would have a disproportionate impact. Similarly future planting - sensitively sited - would eventually have a positive impact - at least in maintaining the existing tree stock and cover.

Features such as phone masts, wind turbines and solar panel installations would be difficult to integrate into this landscape without being a significant draw to the eye and jarring with the clean, open, unobstructed and simple rural landscape.

New Farm buildings have the potential to jar with and disrupt the setting of this landscape type. New farm buildings should be designed to integrate with the existing grain and structure of existing farm complexes and be of a scale and form / colour which blends with these existing features. Landscaping in the form of copses and belts of trees can sometimes be used with good effect to set and ground buildings and to address assist in addressing impacts of existing buildings which sit awkwardly/prominently in the landscape.

Avoid the tendency for gentrification of existing buildings through overlarge extensions, rebuilds or extensions to garden areas which take in existing agricultural land - which tend to suburbanise and alter the cultural references of the area. Retaining and enhancing the landscape setting of buildings through the use of hedged boundaries, tree planting etc. has limited ability to offset excessive changes to buildings or their curtilage.

4) Conserve and expand areas of non-arable habitats

Improve ecological connectivity in the landscape through conserving and expanding areas of woodland, ponds and other non-arable and semi-natural habitats.
Retain and manage areas of woodland and trees, including those that contribute to the setting of the buildings in the landscape. Reinstate and create hedges, grassland, ponds and watercourses where these have been lost or removed from the landscape. Seek areas where existing or future pasture, woodland, scrub, heathland and arable margins could be enlarged or created, with a focus on re-connecting fragmented habitats and improving ecological connectivity for a variety of species including great crested newts, reptiles, bats, birds and insects.
Support landowners and agricultural subsidy schemes that invest in natural capital and ecosystems services. These can include, but are not limited to, creating and restoring ponds and 'ghost' ponds and managing and enhancing the range of habitats associated with bats, barn owls and farmland

birds, providing roosting, nesting/resting and feeding opportunities throughout the year(woodland margins, fallow plots, overwintered stubble and insect-rich foraging habitats). Recognise important views which contribute to the appreciation and setting of the landscape - do not introduce features which will block or diminish these

5) Manage the impacts of climate change

Manage and enhance the health and structure of woodlands to improve resilience in the face of climate change and pests and diseases. Manage development to ensure that changing recreational patterns do not adversely affect the rural agricultural heritage of this landscape Area.

Valley Landscapes

6.6. Southern Wensum Valley Floor

Examples of typical landscapes in the Area

6.6.1. Location and Boundaries

This Area is located to the southern side of the main access bridge / road to Stibbard on the eastern side of the village of Gt Ryburgh. The Area is bounded by the ‘ring garth’ features of mature hedges / ditches at the transition between the valley floor and valley sides and is

strongly associated with the topographical and geological character of the Parish. The boundary may also be associated with a small road or lane/track.

6.6.2. Key characteristics

- An area which is determined as much by topography as land cover
- A flat landscape formed in the flood plain of the River Wensum
- Some views of the Maltings but few of the village of Gt Ryburgh itself - which tends to be set within a fairly 'tree'd' landscape. However the nature of the trees and the sense of the presence of settlement related to the type of tree planting / presence is strong. External lighting significantly increases the dominance of the Maltings at night.
- A fairly open landscape with longish views up and down the river area and from the Areas of Rolling Plateau overlooking the Valley Floor much of the Area can be appreciated. Within the Area, views may be more limited (such as that gained from the Guestwick Road)
- Almost entirely pasture - with some areas of rough scrubland and wetland scrapes being present which are mostly associated with a small wildlife reserve. A large fishing lake has introduced a new land use which is unlike any other part of this Area.
- Field boundaries are mostly ditched but there are good intact hedges to the western side of the valley floor (ring garth) but the eastern side is fragmented
- The river is more sensed than seen due to its relatively narrow and reed fringed area
- Settlement features fringe the valley to the north western sector and lend strong characteristics to it
- The road bridge for the Stibbard Road is a significant feature.
- Settlement is only present in the zone around the Mill (older buildings - some converted) and in locations adjacent to the Area nearer the village. There is one prominent older farmstead to the eastern side of the valley floor transition area which is a prominent and characteristic landmark

6.6.3. Description of Landscape Character

This is a surprisingly open landscape which is most easily seen and appreciated from neighbouring landscape Areas to the east of the valley and as one transits over the central roadway from Stibbard. Views of the Area from the ring garth roadway of the minor lane to Guestwick are limited by the mature older hedgerows to either side.

The sense of valley floor / valley sides' transition is very marked by the topography and land cover change. The flat alluvial / gravels flood plain area beside the valley suddenly rises and this is marked by the presence of a boundary hedge / ditch and or small lane or track. This

arrangement is typical of many other areas of valley floor throughout the County and beyond where for practical reasons this was an appropriate way to manage and distinguish land usage.

Pasture tends to be fairly rough and only semi-improved - used for grazing but some areas may be cut for forage.

Field boundaries within the valley floor are primarily delineated by ditches with the use of post and wire and occasional scrub hedging.

Trees within the valley floor area are few and most are confined to the area of the Mill (some very large Poplars and other mixed species forming a copse)

The watercourse of the river has recently been remodelled to give a more natural course on the former route before the river was canalised in the mid C19th for drainage and in association with the watermill.

The provision of fishing lakes - with security fencing for otters / people - has introduced a new feature to the valley floor and replaced former pasture with a large artificial lake. This has also altered the landform by introducing raised bunding around the lake

6.6.4. Geological Character

Riverine sands, gravels and alluvial deposits made during the action of the river carrying materials from elsewhere and depositing them in a sedimentary fashion. The distribution in the valley is characteristic of the mosaic of such deposits seen over much of the nearby Wensum Valley and is very localised in character with some zones of deep rich loams / alluvial silts and organic material right adjacent to outcrops of sands and gravels of widely differing particle sizes. These have a strong influence on the land cover where this has been left to naturally develop or where significant inputs have not been made to alter it - hence wet woodlands tend to be on the alluvial material and the dryer grassland zones on the sands and gravels.

6.6.5. Ecological Character

Semi-natural with rough grassland, ditches and the special qualities of the river Wensum (SAC). Boundary hedges tend to be more mixed with Hazel, Field Maple and other species as well as Hawthorn

6.6.6. Analysis of Key Characteristics

Key Characteristic	Condition of characteristic	Analysis of Key Characteristics	Sensitivity to change
Semi-natural habitats	Good to poor	Pasture areas are generally good. The new fishing lakes have removed a significant area of natural landform and habitat and replaced it with an artificial water body and bunded banks which have tended to change the character of this area significantly	High
open landscape	Good to fair / poor	The landscape is predominantly open but has enclosing elements on the western side which are in good condition. In contrast the same type of boundary features to the eastern side are fragmented. Views along the valley are	High

		good from some locations and from the neighbouring Area to the east but are very limited around the area of settlement to the north west where tall hedges / buildings intervene. The presence of the fishing lakes introduces a sense of suburban enclosure with fencing and bunding	
Settlement	Fair	The settlement appears to be moderately stable with limited changes over the past 30 years (mostly associated with conversions to new residential usage and the construction of three or four new dwellings within the valley floor area on what was pasture). New building has (where it has occurred), and would have a significant impact on the appearance and enclosure of the valley floor area. The fishing lake area has made significant changes to the land cover and introduced elements of suburban fencing and changes to the topography of the valley floor which are clearly artificial and unlike any other part of the Area. This has tended to link and fill in the settlement extent along this side of the valley which in other low density settlement areas (notably around the Church) is characterised by a sense of spaciousness where paddocks remain to provide a setting to both buildings and natural features The presence of the Maltings is not so dominant to this Area as to others due to the intervening area of Gt Ryburgh village (which is more sensed than seen), topography and particularly trees.	Moderate
Hedges and trees	Good to poor	Some parts demonstrate (southern end of Guestwick road) good intact hedges whilst others do not - such as the eastern side of the valley ring garth. Individual trees have not been (at least since C 1940s) a strong element except in a few places associated directly with the River and Mill areas and these are fairly stable to the current period. Woodland is similarly present only around the Mill and appears to be fairly stable and intact. The large Poplars by the river / mill will come to the end of their lives soon and although strong features, more appropriate planting may be chosen	Moderate to High depending on location.
Watercourses	Good to fair	Most appear to be well managed or to be present sufficiently to provide good habitat. Water management appears to be considered in detail and recent remodelling of the course of the Wensum has enhanced the appearance and ecology of the Area. The location near to the Bridge gives the best views of the watercourse of the river New scrapes have been provided in a small area of the southern part of the Valley and these attract significant quantities of transiting birdlife. They tend to fit in well with the topography as the landform is relatively undisturbed / shallow features, and which dry out in summer - appearing as rough pasture to aid the cohesiveness of this overriding characteristic of this landscape	High

Evaluation

6.6.7. Landscape Condition and Strength of Character

The condition of the landscape varies between good and fair. The good areas are those that are managed as pasture and where hedges and scrub features are present in appropriate and logical relationships to the watercourses, the valley sides and historical features of the valley. The fair areas tend to be those associated with the more fragmented zones of ring garth on the eastern side of the valley, the new housing development and the area of the fishing lake which have tended to exclude views of the river valley and remove pasture and rural elements. The fishing lake has introduced a new landscape feature which tends to be somewhat at odds with the natural pasture / open undeveloped valley floor zone - particularly the changes to the land levels (bunding) and fencing / car parking.

The strength of character is good

6.6.8. Recent Landscape Impacts

The landscape appears to be similar to that which is shown in the 1946 RAF aerial photo - an open area of pasture delineated by hedges and with a central watercourse (which in 1946 was highly canalised).

The main area of change has been between the Mill and the Village where new houses (of a generic type) have been constructed and the new fishing lake - both of which have introduced suburban type characteristics to the landscape.

The remodelling of the course of the Wensum has changed the canalisation back to a course which is much more naturalistic

6.6.9. Assessment of positive / negative factors affecting the Landscape Character Area

a). Factors which may erode / may not contribute to the maintenance / enhancement of the Landscape Character Area

Development or infill to the existing settlement structure

Gentrification of the existing housing stock

Roadway improvements which introduce pavements / kerbing / lighting or other features which erode the character of the rural roadways

Removal of or fragmentation to hedged boundaries

Alterations to the flat valley flood plain landform - this is one of the defining characteristics of the Area and one which is easily lost / fragmented or disrupted (for instance by works to install scrapes or ponds which do not respond to the landforms / landscape present - great care is required to locate / work these sensitively)

Changes to land cover

Changes to the management of the semi-natural habitats by removal of the mosaic structure and more intensive agricultural or forestry usage

More intensive management of the boundary hedgerows

Alterations to the drainage pattern of the valley - which could be positive or negative

Alterations to the river course in the valley - which could be positive or negative

External lighting to housing or other areas

b) Factors which may support or enhance the character of the Area

An enhanced management for the semi-natural habitats to maintain and enhance the diversity of mosaic forms whilst maintaining the contrasting sense of enclosure / openness which characterises different locations in this Area. Considerable care needs to be exercised when remodelling landforms in the valley due to the need to maintain the 'flat floodplain' characteristic which is one of the dominant features of the Area. If overly done, this sense of openness / natural form will be lost.

Removal of the Leylandii trees and their replacement with native species of tree / hedge near the Bridge would give better appreciation of the natural appearance and setting of both the valley and village

Infill hedging to the ring garth to the eastern side of the valley floor and the introduction of a few prominent watercourse or ring garth hedgerow trees - Oak, willow or alder to emphasise the boundaries and boundary transitions and to give a greater sense of the 'wet landscape' elements which some tree species do.

Replace the mature Poplars near the Mill with native species of willow or alder when it comes to their time for removal.

LANDSCAPE GUIDELINES

1) Maintain the scale and pastoral qualities of the valley landscape

This landscape is largely separate from the village and affords both long and more intimate views over pasture towards the valley sides / woodlands beyond, and up and downstream. There are only very limited views of settlement in the form of a scatter of houses along Mill Road - these are well separated, and trees provide significant screening and separation of this semi-dispersed settlement type.

Developments which infill the areas between the scatter of dwellings near the bridge and the more isolated Mill area would significantly enclose and alter the relationship and character of this very pastoral and rural area. Spacing and larger garden / small paddock areas are important for the setting and character of this Area. The zone around the Church is particularly important to maintain as an undeveloped / agricultural / pastoral area within the valley, affording views of the Grade 1 listed building in its context within the conservation Area emphasising strongly the intimate rural valley character.

The provision of hard boundary features would significantly intrude into the sense of organic softer boundary elements and be contrary to the character of the area

Alteration of existing pastoral / agricultural land to alternative uses has had an effect in suburbanising and altering the character of the valley floor area. The use of bunding, fencing and provision of car parks etc. for leisure use / garden areas have partly changed the character from rural to suburban, and produce a landscape that is different from, and at odds with, the remaining pastoral

valley. Further changes - even on a limited scale, and with relatively few physical elements involved - have a disproportionate impact in altering the sense of openness / views and historical continuity / naturalness of the landscape - changing it to an artificial, modern and disturbed landscape. Introduction of landscaping to screen developments is rarely appropriate in this landscape area as it further reduces the key characteristics of views, and a sense of the scale, form and continuity of the valley / presence of the river.

Developments which extend to the river edge or within the open pastoral area of the valley floor will be likely to have significant detrimental impacts on the landscape character and key characteristics of the Area.

Developments which introduce features which are clearly visible from the valley floor (housing / industrial, wind turbines, phone masts etc.) will similarly have significant detrimental impacts on the landscape character and key characteristics of the Area as the intervisibility and interlinkage between the character areas of the valley sides / crest and the character of the pastoral, unspoilt valley floor are indivisible.

2) Maintain rural character

This is not a landscape that can accommodate even small amounts of development without impacts on character. The low and well-spaced density of the built elements of the settlement are key to maintaining the sense of rural character and key characteristics of the Area.

Features such as hedged field boundaries of different heights and different species types together with wide grassed verges are important to maintain and enhance where possible.

The large areas of open grassed pasture on the valley floor are a key element to maintain.

The topography of the valley floor which is smooth and level - formed by the retreating wide river that will have flowed over the Area at the end of the Ice Age is important to maintain to reference the Area as an 'unspoilt' / unaltered valley floor. Scrapes and ditches should seek to be unobtrusive and avoid piles of earth or significant unevenness in the valley floor zone.

Small areas of scrub / rough ground / wetland are characteristic but should not be dominant. Woodlands are few (associated with the mill and with Sennow which is beyond the parish boundary) but trees, though not numerous, are an important element of the landscape and replacements both along the watercourse / field boundaries and roadways should be encouraged where possible

Ensure the redevelopment of redundant barn complexes both within, on the edge of, and especially outside settlement boundaries, is sensitively undertaken avoiding use of suburban features such as surfaced drives, domestic style gates and fences, ornamental planting, overly large windows or excessive external lighting. Impact both by day and night should be a consideration to maintain rural character and dark skies.

Maintain the rural features that contribute to character, biodiversity and historical continuity, including ancient winding lanes, hedgerows, wide verges, gateposts and walls – avoid road widening and urbanising features such as kerbs, lighting and excessive signage.

There may be opportunities to emphasise the location and appearance of the river by planting individual trees to sides of the watercourse or differential land management options near the river. At present the river is more felt than seen in this landscape - except near the Bridge

3) Protect high ecological status

Protect the high ecological status and water quality of the river valleys, extensive stretches of which are nationally designated, recognising that varied habitats which enhance biodiversity likewise enhance landscape interest and character.

Manage and enhance the health and structure of woodlands and wetlands to improve resilience in the face of climate change and new pests, diseases and invasive species, supporting and reintroducing

traditional management practices where appropriate, such as coppicing. Seek opportunities to restore and expand native carr woodland by replacing existing poplar plantations.

4) Protect and manage cultural heritage assets

Protect and appropriately manage the rich cultural heritage of the area, reflecting the existing and historic relationship of the elements of Gt Ryburgh which relate to watercourses. In this context, the isolation and separation of the Mill from the village, the set back of housing and development from the river and the setting and views of the Church from within the settlement area and the Conservation Area all contribute to the character of the Area. Mature trees within the Conservation Area are important features which set and separate existing buildings.

Seek to remove the lines of existing conifers near the Bridge and replace with native species of trees / hedging to provide limited views of the bridge and river area from Bridge Road.

5) Strengthen public access

Strengthen public access through the valley, including the fragmented rights of way network, by introducing new linkages, including seeking opportunities to utilise the disused railway lines within some areas as longer distance cycle and footpath routes. This could be as part of new strategic green infrastructure within the Fakenham and Area, in response to the continued growth of the towns. Seek opportunities to improve people's interpretation of the landscape, including natural, historic and archaeological features, to reinforce the distinct identity of valleys.

6.7. Northern Pasture Wensum Valley Floor

Examples of typical landscapes in this Area

6.7.1. Location and Boundaries

This Area is located to the northern side of the main access bridge / road to Stibbard on the eastern side of the village of Gt Ryburgh. The Area is bounded by the 'ring garth' feature of ditches at the transition between the valley floor and valley sides on the eastern side of the Area, and less consistently, by existing boundaries to gardens and the Maltings / former railway line to the west. The Area is strongly associated with, but distinct from, the area of valley floor to the north and west which has been excavated for gravel extraction and now comprises water filled pits.

6.7.2. Key characteristics

- An area which is determined as much by topography as land cover
- A flat landscape formed in the flood plain of the River Wensum
- Dominant views of the Maltings but few of the village of Gt Ryburgh itself - which tends to be set within a fairly 'tree'd' landscape although gardens are apparent. However the nature of the trees and the sense of the presence of settlement related to the type of tree planting / presence is strong. External lighting significantly increases the dominance of the Maltings at night.
- A fairly open landscape, but significantly more enclosed than the corresponding Area to the south of the Bridge, with limited views up and down the river area, and to / from the Areas of Rolling Plateau overlooking the Valley Floor. Few publicly available viewing locations - the main ones are from the eastern side of the valley side and bridge area.
- Almost entirely pasture - with some areas of rough scrubland.
- Field boundaries are mostly ditched, but there are some fragmented hedges within the Area - together with areas of scrub

- The river is more sensed than seen due to its relatively narrow width and tall herb fringed edges

- Settlement features fringe the valley to the western side (mainly gardens) and lend strong characteristics to it

- The road bridge for the Stibbard Road is a significant feature / landmark.

6.7.3. Description of Landscape Character

This is a fairly enclosed landscape which is most easily seen and appreciated from neighbouring landscape Areas to the east of the valley and as one transits over the central roadway from Stibbard.

The sense of valley floor / valley sides' transition is very marked by the topography and land cover change. The flat alluvial / gravels flood plain area beside the valley suddenly rises and this is marked by the presence of a boundary ditch - but only to the eastern side. The marked presence of a 'ring garth' is less dominant in this Area than the corresponding Area to the south of the bridge.

Pasture tends to be fairly rough and only semi-improved - used for grazing but some areas may be cut for forage.

Field boundaries within the valley floor are primarily delineated by ditches with the use of post and wire and Hawthorn / scrub hedging.

Trees within the valley floor area are few and most are confined to the area of the settlement to the western side where garden boundaries tend to be tree'd. Lawson Cypress trees are dominant near the bridge

The dominant presence of the Maltings is a strong feature to - but diametrically contrasting with - the pastoral valley floor area.

6.7.4. Geological Character

Riverine sands, gravels and alluvial deposits made during the action of the river carrying materials from elsewhere and depositing them in a sedimentary fashion. The distribution in the valley is characteristic of the mosaic of such deposits seen over much of the nearby Wensum Valley and is very localised in character with some zones of deep rich loams / alluvial silts and organic material right adjacent to outcrops of sands and gravels of widely differing particle sizes. These have a strong influence on the land cover where this has been left to naturally develop or where significant inputs have not been made to alter it - hence wet woodlands tend to be on the alluvial material and the dryer grassland zones on the sands and gravels.

6.7.5. Ecological Character

Semi-natural with rough grassland, ditches and the special qualities of the river Wensum (SAC). Boundary hedges tend to be more mainly Hawthorn

6.7.6. Analysis of Key Characteristics

Key Characteristic	Condition of characteristic	Analysis of Key Characteristics	Sensitivity to change
Semi-natural habitats	Good to poor	Pasture areas are generally good.	High
Sense of enclosure / openness	Good to fair / poor	The landscape is predominantly open but has enclosing elements within it which break up views and make this a more enclosed landscape type than that to the south of the bridge. Within the valley itself, this mix of views and enclosure leads to a more 'naturalistic' landscape than the more open and managed appearance of the southern valley floor, however externally to the Area the views are limited by the presence of the Maltings and to a lesser extent garden areas which directly contrast with and in the case of the Maltings, is opposed to, the pastoral character of the valley floor area	High
Settlement	Fair	There have been moderate but significant changes to the housing settlement pattern fringing this area. The principle one being the extension of the built environment eastwards from the area of the Pub by the addition of new houses and gardens which has tended to enclose the entrance to the village from the east and limit views of the setting of the village historic core buildings around the Church junction and School area from the valley. (and which are within the Conservation Area of the Village) The enclosure of gardens leading down to the river with trees means that buildings are not so easily seen but are sensed. The Maltings dominates this Area due to its proximity and scale. This extends to views over the Area from the Bridge Road and The Street (lt Ryburgh) which are actually fairly well screened by existing scrub and hedge vegetation as well as trees nearer the buildings. The importance of the scrub / tall hedging in this Area and on the rising valley sides, together with the trees near to the Maltings cannot be underestimated in terms of their value in reducing the visual impact of this large complex which has grown considerably in recent years. However the sense of surprise and incongruity of the Maltings complex in this pastoral landscape draws the eye and fills in the context	High - as a setting to the landscape Area
Hedges and trees	Fair to poor	Some parts demonstrate reasonable intact hedgerows but most hedges tend to be fragmented and sporadic. Hedge height tends to be higher than normal and the degree of management is not great which leads to larger spreading and more attractive bush features which have a much more naturalistic appearance. The height and form of the scrub and hedging is important in screening the maltings. Trees near to the settlement are Fair but serve an important role in screening the buildings and particularly the Maltings from views	Moderate to High depending on location.
Watercourses	Good to fair	Most appear to be well managed or to be present sufficiently to provide good habitat. The river has not been	High

		re-modelled in this Area as it has further south. The location near to the Bridge gives the best views of the watercourse of the river The proximity to the large open water bodies of the former gravel extraction is important as a context but are not on this Area	

Evaluation

6.7.7. Landscape Condition and Strength of Character

The condition of the landscape varies between good and poor. The good areas are those that are managed as pasture and where hedges and scrub features are present in appropriate and logical relationships to the watercourses, the valley sides and historical features of the valley. The fair areas tend to be those associated with the more fragmented zones of hedging, and the somewhat dominant non - native planting of Lawson's Cypress trees around gardens to the western side.

The dominance of the Maltings considerably affects the sense of pastoral qualities to parts of the Area and certain views of the area and render the character disrupted and poor.

The strength of character is good but with notable exceptions as above

6.7.8. Recent Landscape Impacts

The landscape appears to be generally similar to that which is shown in the 1946 RAF aerial photo but is less so than that to the south of the Bridge. New development to the east of the Pub has tended to extend the built area of the village to the river where previously it was set back with a fringe of pasture between it and the settlement. The valley floor area is also somewhat more enclosed by scrub and sporadic hedging than it was in 1946. The Maltings don't appear to be of any size or feature in 1946 either. The most recent developments of new silos (in a shiny galvanised material which catches the eye) have substantially increased the domination of this complex

6.7.9. Assessment of positive / negative factors affecting the Landscape Character Area

a). Factors which may erode / may not contribute to the maintenance / enhancement of the Landscape Character Area

Development or infill to the existing settlement structure

Enlargement of the maltings/ changes to buildings which would increase their dominance

Gentrification of the existing housing stock

Garden developments which extend the suburban appearance of the gardens to the river

Roadway improvements which introduce pavements / kerbing / lighting or other features which erode the character of the rural roadways

Removal of or fragmentation to hedged boundaries

Alterations to the flat valley flood plain landform - this is one of the defining characteristics of the Area and one which is easily lost / fragmented or disrupted (for instance by works to install scrapes or ponds which do not respond to the landforms / landscape present - great care is required to locate / work these sensitively)

Changes to land cover

Changes to the management of the semi-natural habitats by removal of the mosaic structure and more intensive agricultural or forestry usage

More intensive management of the boundary hedgerows

Alterations to the drainage pattern of the valley - which could be positive or negative

Alterations to the river course in the valley - which could be positive or negative

External lighting to housing or other areas

b) Factors which may support or enhance the character of the Area

An enhanced management for the semi-natural habitats to maintain and enhance the diversity of mosaic forms whilst maintaining the contrasting sense of enclosure / openness which characterises different locations in this Area. Considerable care needs to be exercised when remodelling landforms in the valley due to the need to maintain the ‘flat floodplain’ characteristic which is one of the dominant features of the Area. If overly done, this sense of openness / natural form will be lost.

Removal of the Leylandii trees and their replacement with native species of tree / hedge near the Bridge would give better appreciation of the natural appearance and setting of both the valley and village

Infill hedging to the ring garth to the eastern side of the valley floor and the introduction of a few prominent watercourse or ring garth hedgerow trees - Oak, willow or alder to emphasise the boundaries and boundary transitions and to give a greater sense of the ‘wet landscape’ elements which some tree species do.

Increasing boundary screening to the Maltings by further tree planting

LANDSCAPE GUIDELINES

1) Maintain the scale and pastoral qualities of the valley landscape

This landscape is close to the Maltings and part of the village and affords mostly intimate views over pasture towards the valley sides / woodlands beyond, and upstream. The Maltings is a dominant feature of this Area but has some degree of separation provided in the form of existing tree planting on the eastern (valley floor) side - further planting will provide succession and additional screening to

this element which does not positively contribute to the otherwise strongly rural / pastoral character of the valley.

Developments which infill the areas between the scatter of dwellings near the bridge area / Maltings would significantly enclose and alter the relationship and character of this very pastoral and rural area. Spacing and larger garden / small paddock areas are important for the setting and character of this Area. The zone around the Church is particularly important to maintain as an undeveloped / agricultural / pastoral area within the valley, affording views of the Grade 1 listed building in its context within the conservation Area emphasising strongly the intimate rural valley character.

The provision of hard boundary features would significantly intrude into the sense of organic softer boundary elements and be contrary to the character of the area

Alteration of existing pastoral / agricultural land to alternative uses has had an effect in suburbanising and altering the character of the valley floor area. The use of bunding, fencing and garden areas can change the character from rural to suburban, and produce a landscape that is different from, and at odds with, the remaining pastoral valley. Changes - even on a limited scale, and with relatively few physical elements involved - have a disproportionate impact in altering the sense of openness / views and historical continuity / naturalness of the landscape - changing it to an artificial, modern and disturbed landscape.

Developments which extend to the river edge or within the open pastoral area of the valley floor will be likely to have significant detrimental impacts on the landscape character and key characteristics of the Area.

Developments which introduce features which are clearly visible from the valley floor (housing / industrial, wind turbines, phone masts etc.) will similarly have significant detrimental impacts on the landscape character and key characteristics of the Area as the intervisibility and interlinkage between the character areas of the valley sides / crest and the character of the pastoral, unspoilt valley floor are indivisible.

2) Maintain rural character

This is not a landscape that can accommodate even small amounts of development without impacts on character.

Features such as hedged field boundaries of different heights and different species types together with wide grassed verges are important to maintain and enhance where possible. Especially where these define the area of the transition of the valley floor / sides

The large areas of open grassed pasture on the valley floor are a key element to maintain.

The topography of the valley floor which is smooth and level - formed by the retreating wide river that will have flowed over the Area at the end of the Ice Age is important to maintain to reference the Area as an 'unspoilt' / unaltered valley floor. Scrapes and ditches should seek to be unobtrusive and avoid piles of earth or significant unevenness in the valley floor zone.

Small areas of scrub / rough ground / wetland are characteristic but should not be dominant. Woodlands are associated with the transition to the valley sides boundary zone. Trees, though not numerous, are an important element of the landscape and replacements both along the watercourse / field boundaries and roadways should be encouraged where possible

External lighting at the Maltings adversely affects the nocturnal character of the Area which would otherwise be largely a dark skies, rural / pastoral one. Seek opportunities to replace the more intrusive lighting with less intrusive types. Avoid further external lighting on new and existing developments in this Area or use types which are minimal for the purpose required / fully justified and of a type which minimises light pollution

Maintain the rural features that contribute to character, biodiversity and historical continuity, including ancient winding lanes, hedgerows, wide verges, gateposts and walls – avoid road widening and urbanising features such as kerbs, lighting and excessive signage.

There may be opportunities to emphasise the location and appearance of the river by planting individual trees to sides of the watercourse or differential land management options near the river. At present the river is more felt than seen in this landscape - except near the Bridge

3) Protect high ecological status

Protect the high ecological status and water quality of the river valleys, extensive stretches of which are nationally designated, recognising that varied habitats which enhance biodiversity likewise enhance landscape interest and character.

Manage and enhance the health and structure of woodlands and wetlands to improve resilience in the face of climate change and new pests, diseases and invasive species, supporting and reintroducing traditional management practices where appropriate, such as coppicing. Seek opportunities to restore and expand native carr woodland.

4) Protect and manage cultural heritage assets

Protect and appropriately manage the rich cultural heritage of the area, reflecting the existing and historic relationship of the elements of Gt Ryburgh which relate to watercourses. In this context, the set back of housing and development from the river and the setting and views of the Church from within the settlement area and the Conservation Area all contribute to the character of the Area. Mature trees within the Conservation Area are important features which set and separate existing buildings.

Seek to remove the lines of existing conifers near the Bridge and replace with native species of trees / hedging to provide limited views of the bridge and river area from Bridge Road.

5) Strengthen public access

Strengthen public access through the valley, including the fragmented rights of way network, by introducing new linkages, including seeking opportunities to utilise the disused railway lines within some areas as longer distance cycle and footpath routes. This could be as part of new strategic green infrastructure within the Fakenham and Area, in response to the continued growth of the towns. Seek opportunities to improve people's interpretation of the landscape, including natural, historic and archaeological features, to reinforce the distinct identity of valleys.

6.8. Northern Wet Pits Wensum Valley Floor

Examples of typical landscapes within this Area

Not available

6.8.1. Location and Boundaries

This Area is located to the northern side of the village of Gt Ryburgh. The Area is bounded by former railway line to the west and River Wensum to the east. The Area is relatively small and distinctive.

6.8.2. Key characteristics

- An area which is defined by water filled pits formed by gravel extraction (up to approx. 20 years ago).
- Uneven bunding and forms to the remaining terrestrial land
- A small area of open landscape but not accessible by the public
- The River is very secondary in its relationship to this landscape

6.8.3. Description of Landscape Character

Water filled pits of an artificial form and nature which were left after extraction of the gravel on the site was completed.

Interspersed with rough grassland bunds and verge areas
Access was not possible to assess this Area in detail

6.8.4. Geological Character

Riverine sands, gravels and alluvial deposits made during the action of the river carrying materials from elsewhere and depositing them in a sedimentary fashion. The distribution in the valley is characteristic of the mosaic of such deposits seen over much of the nearby Wensum Valley and is very localised in character with some zones of deep rich loams / alluvial silts and organic material right adjacent to outcrops of sands and gravels of widely differing particle sizes. These have a strong influence on the land cover where this has been left to naturally develop or where significant inputs have not been made to alter it - hence wet woodlands tend to be on the alluvial material and the dryer grassland zones on the sands and gravels.

6.8.5. Ecological Character

Semi-natural with rough grassland and open water bodies

6.8.6. Analysis of Key Characteristics

Key Characteristic	Condition of characteristic	Analysis of Key Characteristics	Sensitivity to change
Semi-natural habitats	Fair	Rough grassland, small parcel of mixed woodland	Moderate
Open water bodies	Fair	Not particularly likely to demonstrate significant landscape or biodiversity value if they are 'normal' restored pits.	Moderate
Sense of enclosure / openness	Fair	The landscape is predominantly open but has enclosing elements to the north west in the form of woodland and the rising landform of the valley sides	Moderate
Settlement	Fair	There is no settlement or usage of this landscape however the proximity of the Maltings complex is likely to dominate the sense of remoteness that would otherwise be present. Development on this site would introduce a new and alien feature to the valley floor area.	Moderate
Hedges and trees	Fair to poor	Small area of woodland to the central area which breaks up the Area and increases enclosure. Similarly the woodland to the north west is likely to be important in providing a setting and sense of enclosure to the Area	Moderate to High
Watercourses	Cannot assess	Cannot assess	

Evaluation

6.8.7. Landscape Condition and Strength of Character

Access to this area was not provided so can only be inferred from remote sensing and mapped data

Condition appears to be Fair - the removal of pasture and replacement with water filled pits of artificial construction and likely appearance is unlikely to be a positive or enhancing feature to the valley. It has effectively disrupted and removed one of the key defining and characteristic elements of the rural area and replaced it with a post-industrial landscape which has obvious references to gravel extraction. The value of open deep water bodies is limited in ecological terms. The separation from the bunding to the River Wensum is a negative landscape feature

The strength of character is fair but it is a character that is partly at odds with the older pasture landscapes

6.8.8. Recent Landscape Impacts

Gradual naturalisation of the pits since their abandonment in the 1990s from appearance of aerial photos

6.8.9. Assessment of positive / negative factors affecting the Landscape Character Area

a). Factors which may erode / may not contribute to the maintenance / enhancement of the Landscape Character Area

The use of the pits for recreational activities which would introduce suburban and other features into a landscape which - apart from the visual proximity to the Maltings - is undisturbed and represents a feature in a quiet predominantly pastoral / woodland and riverine landscape

Alterations to the drainage pattern of the valley - which could be positive or negative

Alterations to the river course in the valley - which could be positive or negative

Removal of trees or woodland on or adjacent to the Area which will tend to reveal more of the somewhat un-natural appearance of the pits

b) Factors which may support or enhance the character of the Area

Lowering of any bunding and an attempt to return the landscape to a more 'flood plain' type flat landform with scrub / pasture areas.

LANDSCAPE GUIDELINES

1) Maintain the scale and pastoral qualities of the valley landscape

This landscape is close to the Maltings and part of the village and affords mostly intimate views over pasture towards the valley sides / woodlands beyond, and upstream. The Maltings is a dominant feature of this Area but has some degree of separation provided in the form of existing tree planting on the eastern (valley floor) side - further planting will provide succession and additional screening to this element which does not positively contribute to the otherwise strongly rural / pastoral character of the valley.

The provision of hard boundary features would significantly intrude into the sense of organic softer boundary elements and be contrary to the character of the area

Alterations to the topography of the valley floor can be either positive or negative depending on the proposed works - significant parts of this Area have been disturbed by former gravel extraction and there is no 'natural' landform.

Leisure type developments (chalets etc.) would introduce a significant suburbanising element into this largely inaccessible and quiet / tranquil landscape

Developments which introduce features which are clearly visible from the valley floor (housing / industrial, wind turbines, phone masts etc.) will similarly have significant detrimental impacts on the landscape character and key characteristics of the Area as the intervisibility and interlinkage between the character areas of the valley sides / crest and the character of the pastoral, unspoilt valley floor are indivisible.

2) Maintain rural character

This is not a landscape that can accommodate even small amounts of development without impacts on character.

Features such as hedged field boundaries of different heights and different species types together with wide grassed verges are important to maintain and enhance where possible. Especially where these define the area of the transition of the valley floor / sides

Small areas of scrub / rough ground / wetland are characteristic but should not be dominant. Woodlands are associated with the transition to the valley sides boundary zone. Trees, though not numerous, are an important element of the landscape and replacements both along the watercourse / field boundaries and roadways should be encouraged where possible

External lighting at the Maltings adversely affects the nocturnal character of the Area which would otherwise be largely a dark skies, rural / pastoral one. Seek opportunities to replace the more intrusive lighting with less intrusive types. Avoid further external lighting on new and existing developments in this Area or use types which are minimal for the purpose required / fully justified and of a type which minimises light pollution

There may be opportunities to emphasise the location and appearance of the river by planting individual trees to sides of the watercourse or differential land management options near the river.

3) Protect high ecological status

Protect the high ecological status and water quality of the river valleys, extensive stretches of which are nationally designated, recognising that varied habitats which enhance biodiversity likewise enhance landscape interest and character.

Manage and enhance the health and structure of woodlands and wetlands to improve resilience in the face of climate change and new pests, diseases and invasive species, supporting and reintroducing traditional management practices where appropriate, such as coppicing. Seek opportunities to restore and expand native carr woodland.

4) Strengthen public access

Strengthen public access through the valley, including the fragmented rights of way network, by introducing new linkages, including seeking opportunities to utilise the disused railway lines within some areas as longer distance cycle and footpath routes. This could be as part of new strategic green infrastructure within the Fakenham area, in response to the continued growth of the towns. Seek opportunities to improve people's interpretation of the landscape, including natural, historic and archaeological features, to reinforce the distinct identity of valleys.

6.9. Northern Woodland; Wensum Valley Floor

Examples of typical landscapes within the Area

6.9.1. Location and Boundaries

This Area is located to the northern side of the Parish of Gt Ryburgh and runs as a sinuous feature along the western side of the valley bounded in part by the proximity to the railway line. A part of the woodland extends to the west of the railway line as it starts to cross the valley floor area towards Fakenham. The northern boundary of the Area is formed by the River Wensum

6.9.2. Key characteristics

- An area which is defined by largely wet woodland areas and some dryer zones where land is slightly higher (often gravel outcrops in the valley floor)

- Dense woodland - mostly mixed deciduous types. Some of which is predominantly wet.
- Presence of ephemeral and other wet pools within the woodland.

- Route of the former railway line (which is a pathway / trackway in places) and is slightly higher than the surrounding landscape.

- The River is very secondary in its relationship to this landscape

6.9.3. Description of Landscape Character

An area of dense woodland with a few areas of open grassland between them and one or two locations where former heathland was present (on Gt Ryburgh Common) but which have now become more wooded, and which demonstrated gorse and other heathy type plant communities.

Access was not possible over much of this area (there is a public right of way to the Common) to assess this Area in detail. The much of the Area is owned and managed by Pensthorpe Natural Park

6.9.4. Geological Character

Riverine sands, gravels and alluvial deposits made during the action of the river carrying materials from elsewhere and depositing them in a sedimentary fashion. The distribution in the valley is characteristic of the mosaic of such deposits seen over much of the nearby Wensum Valley and is very localised in character with some zones of deep rich loams / alluvial silts and organic material right adjacent to outcrops of sands and gravels of widely differing particle sizes. These have a strong influence on the land cover where this has been left to naturally develop or where significant inputs have not been made to alter it - hence wet woodlands tend to be on the alluvial material and the dryer grassland zones on the sands and gravels.

6.9.5. Ecological Character

Semi-natural with areas of wet woodland, former heathland and rough grassland. There are also small areas of water bodies

6.9.6. Analysis of Key Characteristics

Key Characteristic	Condition of characteristic	Analysis of Key Characteristics	Sensitivity to change
Semi-natural habitats	Good	Rough grassland, small and larger parcels of mixed woodland - some wet and others dryer. Some areas of remnant heath (present 25 years ago) on the Common	Moderate
Small water bodies	Fair	May have value as ecological features and as part of the wet woodland characteristics.	Moderate
Sense of enclosure	Good	The landscape is predominantly enclosed by the woodland and topography of the rising land to the west and south	Moderate
Settlement		There is no settlement or usage of this landscape	High
Hedges and trees	Good	The woodland element is what characterises this landscape and gives it the sense of remoteness and enclosure	Moderate to High
Watercourses	Good	River Wensum and small ditched features within the woodland	High

Evaluation

6.9.7. Landscape Condition and Strength of Character

The woodland / grassland are in good condition and the strength of character is good

6.9.8. Recent Landscape Impacts

There have been few recent changes to this landscape Area - gradual changes over the past 70 years have seen increasing amounts of woodland develop over the former heathland and grassland areas.

6.9.9. Assessment of positive / negative factors affecting the Landscape Character Area

a). Factors which may erode / may not contribute to the maintenance / enhancement of the Landscape Character Area

Changes which reduce or remove woodland, its composition or alter (significantly) its management where these are not in accordance with good ecological / landscape management objectives

Changes which reduce or remove grassland, its composition or alter (significantly) its management where these are not in accordance with good ecological / landscape management objectives

b) Factors which may support or enhance the character of the Area

Continued management of the woodland, healthland, watercourses and grassland to support ecological or landscape objectives.

LANDSCAPE GUIDELINES

1) Maintain the scale and pastoral qualities of the valley landscape

This is a rural and inaccessible area which is largely wooded but with areas of open grassland and remnant heath.

Development within this area would significantly alter its character and quiet, tranquil qualities which are a result of its isolation and diversity of landcover. Leisure or any form of residential type developments (chalets etc.) would introduce a significant suburbanising element into this largely inaccessible and quiet / tranquil landscape

Developments which introduce features which are clearly visible from the valley floor (housing / industrial, wind turbines, phone masts etc.) will similarly have significant detrimental impacts on the landscape character and key characteristics of the Area as the intervisibility and interlinkage between the character areas of the valley sides / crest and the character of the pastoral, unspoilt valley floor are indivisible.

2) Maintain rural character

This is not a landscape that can accommodate even small amounts of development without impacts on character.

A rough woodland carr type mosaic of natural mixed deciduous woodland, small areas of grassland and remnant heath are characteristic. Management options that seek to maintain or enhance this structure will support and enhance landscape character

External lighting at the Maltings adversely affects the nocturnal character of the Area which would otherwise be largely a dark skies, rural / pastoral one. Seek opportunities to replace the more intrusive lighting with less intrusive types. Avoid further external lighting on new and existing developments in this Area or use types which are minimal for the purpose required / fully justified and of a type which minimises light pollution

3) Protect high ecological status

Protect the high ecological status and water quality of the river valleys, extensive stretches of which are nationally designated, recognising that varied habitats which enhance biodiversity likewise enhance landscape interest and character.

Manage and enhance the health and structure of woodlands and wetlands to improve resilience in the face of climate change and new pests, diseases and invasive species, supporting and reintroducing traditional management practices where appropriate, such as coppicing. Seek opportunities to restore and expand native carr woodland.

4) Strengthen public access

Strengthen public access through the valley, including the fragmented rights of way network, by introducing new linkages, including seeking opportunities to utilise the disused railway lines within some areas as longer distance cycle and footpath routes. This could be as part of new strategic green infrastructure within the Fakenham area, in response to the continued growth of the towns. Seek opportunities to improve people's interpretation of the landscape, including natural, historic and archaeological features, to reinforce the distinct identity of valleys.

6.10. Langor Bridge and Little Ryburgh Tributary Valley Area

Examples of typical landscapes within this Area

6.10.1. Location and Boundaries

This Area is located to the northern part of the Parish and consists of the valley floor area of the TWO small tributary valleys to the River Wensum which runs northwards into the Kettlestone area and the shorter one which ends near Lt Ryburgh. The majority of the western valley landscape area extends outside the Parish but is bounded within the Parish by the course of the stream in the centre of the valley floor. The Lt Ryburgh valley is located entirely within the Parish

6.10.2. Key characteristics

- An area with considerable extents of low management natural habitats of rough grassland / tall herbs, mixed woodland and carr and smaller elements hinting at dryer areas within the valley floor (gravel zones) on which there are heathy plants of gorse etc.

- A fairly enclosed landscape where trees and hedging enclose the fairly intimate valley topography.

- A landscape which has marked differences between the undeveloped area of natural habitats to the north and south of Langor Bridge and the busy roadway of the A1067 which contains a few scattered cottages and an older style garage

- The stream is more sensed than visible but the landscape is clearly that of a ‘wetland’ by the references to the topography and the habitat.

- The views out of the Area are to the rising land of the shallow valley sides and the arable land that this accommodates.

- The Lt Ryburgh valley is smaller and lends character and setting to the adjacent character areas of the Eastern Rolling Plateau Area and Lt Ryburgh Area, but displays

the same mix of habitat types - but in a much smaller area and without road noise disturbance

6.10.3. Description of Landscape Character

This is an enclosed and intimate landscape of contrasts. The contrast between the undeveloped and very wild feeling valley floor habitats of scrub, woodland, tall hedges and tall herbs interspersed with small areas of rough grazing pasture and the busy A1067 which bisects the valley. The noise from the road is present over the entire Area and one never forgets that this is a busy area close to habitation but visually one could be many miles from such habitation and roads as the road is not visible from the one main footway close to the Area (on the opposite side of the valley and outside the Parish)

The boundary to the Area is strongly demarcated by the presence of the transition from this Area type to the open arable lands beyond. A mature - often large - mixed but mainly Hawthorn hedge and Oak trees separate the Areas - accompanied by a ditch.

The habitat type is consistent north and south of the Langor Bridge area and forms a mosaic of semi-natural and low management / grazing habitats of rough grassland, tall ruderal herbs, scrub, wetter woodland carr (often containing Sallow and some Alder) and some dryer woodland areas of mixed species. Some dryer rising areas of land - which tend to be associated with outcrops of gravel within the valley floor area (a strongly represented geological feature and interspersed with alluvial deposits from the watercourses) can have heathy content of gorse etc.

The former railway trackbed is not easily seen but is shown on the maps (it ran up the centre of the valley) but there is a signal box near Langor Bridge (glimpsed behind a Leylandii hedge) and must have been a very dominant feature when the railway was running.

The settlement structure is dispersed and fragmented - just a collection of ad hoc cottages along the A1067 and where the minor lane spurs off to Lt Ryburgh. Most are semi-vernacular in appearance but there is one larger detached 1950s bungalow and the area of the Garage is distinctive as a landmark. This consists of a typical older style (1950s) shed type garage with a more modern canopy and car wash.

6.10.4. Geological Character

Riverine sands, gravels and alluvial deposits made during the action of the river carrying materials from elsewhere and depositing them in a sedimentary fashion. The distribution in the valley is characteristic of the mosaic of such deposits seen over much of the nearby Wensum Valley and is much localised in character with some zones of deep rich loams / alluvial silts and organic material right adjacent to outcrops of sands and gravels of widely differing particle sizes. These have a strong influence on the land cover where this has been left to naturally develop or where significant inputs have not been made to alter it - hence wet woodlands tend to be on the alluvial material and the dryer grassland zones on the sands and gravels.

6.10.5. Ecological Character

Semi-natural with rough grassland, remnant heathland and wet and dry mixed woodland being present

6.10.6. Analysis of Key Characteristics

Key Characteristic	Condition of characteristic	Analysis of Key Characteristics	Sensitivity to change
Semi-natural habitats	Good	The low management input tends to allow the scrubland to develop over the pasture element. The 1940s aerial photos show a vastly more open 'pasture dominated' landscape. Grazing and some scrub management will be needed to check the change to blanket woodland cover and maintain the current mosaic form (if this is what is wanted)	Moderate
Enclosed landscape	Good	The current form of mature boundary hedges, trees and scrub gives an intimate feel to the landscape which would be lost with their removal. Parts can be removed without altering the feel radically	Moderate
Settlement and roadway elements are markedly separate from the semi-natural land either side	Fair	The settlement appears to be fairly stable with limited changes over the past 30 years (mostly associated with minor changes to existing buildings rather than new buildings together with increasing tree presence). New building would have a significant impact on the appearance of the Langor Bridge area	Moderate

Evaluation

6.10.7. Landscape Condition and Strength of Character

The condition of the landscape varies between good and fair. The good areas are those that are away from the A1067. The area near the A1067 is somewhat fragmented and discordant with the busy road dominating all other factors.

The strength of character is good but that near Langor Bridge tends to be somewhat generic - again due to the busy road and somewhat generic housing types

6.10.8. Recent Landscape Impacts

There have been few 'physical' changes to this landscape for some time (last 30 years) but over the past 70 years there has been a marked change from a more open landscape of pasture to one which is more enclose and wooded. Arguably the more modern landscape is the more interesting and diverse but it is definitely different.

Within the last 40 years the increasing traffic on the A1067 has come to form the dominant feature to the Area by reason of noise and sense of busyness

6.10.9. Assessment of positive / negative factors affecting the Landscape Character Area

a). Factors which may erode / may not contribute to the maintenance / enhancement of the Landscape Character Area

Increasing noise and traffic on the A1067

Development or infill to the existing settlement structure

Changes to the buildings of the garage

Alterations to the highway

Changes to the management of the semi-natural habitats by removal of the mosaic structure and more intensive agricultural or forestry usage

More intensive management of the boundary hedgerows

Alterations to the drainage pattern of the valley - which could be positive or negative

Alterations to the river course in the valley - which could be positive or negative

External lighting to housing and garage

b) Factors which may support or enhance the character of the Area

Reductions in vehicle speed / noise from the roadway
Removal of non-native species of trees (e.g. Leylandii)

An enhanced management for the semi-natural habitats to maintain and enhance the diversity of mosaic forms whilst maintaining the sense of enclosure and separation from the roadway and adjacent landscape Areas

LANDSCAPE GUIDELINES

1) Maintain the scale and pastoral qualities of the valley landscape

This landscape is a mosaic of woodland, rough grassland, remnant areas of heath and more formal grazing zones. The intimate and enclosed mosaic nature of the largely unintensively managed habitats is the defining feature of this Area. Development of housing, industry or other changes of use in this Area would adversely impact on this mosaic of habitats which have a strong sense of interconnectivity both as a wildlife supporting area and as a particular type of landscape

The busy A1067 contains a scatter of older and smaller housing and an existing older type garage area. Infill or significant alteration of this informal and low density settlement - particularly the installation of new buildings at the garage which may increase its prominence / remove tree cover or affect the area near the stream would be strongly detrimental to the landscape character of the Area. The colour and form / size of new structures would need to blend with the existing character of the area to avoid adverse impacts

Infill development between existing properties and buildings would significantly alter the appearance and character of the settlement structure which is ad hoc and dispersed / low key / semi vernacular.

This is largely a dark skies landscape and external lighting / street lighting is not characteristic of the Area. Lighting to buildings should therefore be low key and should seek to avoid light pollution / be the minimum required.

The provision of hard boundary features would significantly intrude into the sense of organic softer boundary elements and be contrary to the character of the area

2) Maintain rural character

This is not a landscape that can accommodate even small amounts of development without impacts on character. The low and well-spaced density of the built elements of the settlement are key to maintaining the sense of rural character and key characteristics of the Area.

Features such as hedged field boundaries of different heights and different species types together with wide grassed verges are important to maintain and enhance where possible.

Maintain the rural features that contribute to character, biodiversity and historical continuity, including ancient winding lanes, hedgerows, wide verges, gateposts and walls – avoid road widening and urbanising features such as kerbs, lighting and excessive signage.

3) Protect high ecological status

Protect the high ecological status and water quality of the river valleys, extensive stretches of which are nationally designated, recognising that varied habitats which enhance biodiversity likewise enhance landscape interest and character.

Manage and enhance the health and structure of woodlands and wetlands to improve resilience in the face of climate change and new pests, diseases and invasive species, supporting and reintroducing traditional management practices where appropriate, such as coppicing. Seek opportunities to restore and expand native carr woodland by replacing existing poplar plantations.

6.11. South of Gt Ryburgh - small valley Area

Examples of typical landscapes within this Area

6.11.1. Location and Boundaries

This Area is located to the south of the Parish and is a small strip of land which conforms to the topography of the land, running east to west along the line of a small canalised ditch / stream. The stream and character Area are followed in part by a small lane to Guestwick. The boundaries of the site are the transition between the pasture valley floor and the gently rising valley sides marked by a low hedge.

6.11.2. Key characteristics

- A small and discrete area which is as much influenced by adjacent Western Tributary Farmland Area as it is by itself
- Characterised by rough semi-improved pasture land cover and a fairly level valley floor
- No settlement or development in this Area
- An isolated rural feel - intimate in character
- Small fairly low hedges bound the landscape which is otherwise fairly open
- Occasional hedgerow trees
- Narrow rural lane

6.11.3. Description of Landscape Character

A very small and discrete area of land which has a distinctive character and is long and narrow - bounding much of the southern boundary of the Parish.

The Area is defined by its topography and land cover with a very simple structure. The land cover is semi-improved grassland with a few areas of scrub and sub-divided by small hedges. The topography is a fairly flat small and narrow valley floor.

The small stream which has formed the valley has been canalised over many years and is a minor feature to the landscape

Views are gained over and beyond the Area from the small lane to Guestwick and the Area is really little significant feature in an otherwise arable landscape.

6.11.4. Geological Character

Riverine sands, gravels and alluvial deposits made during the action of the river carrying materials from elsewhere and depositing them in a sedimentary fashion. The distribution in the

valley is characteristic of the mosaic of such deposits seen over much of the nearby Wensum Valley and is very localised in character with some zones of deep rich loams / alluvial silts and organic material right adjacent to outcrops of sands and gravels of widely differing particle sizes. These have a strong influence on the land cover where this has been left to naturally develop or where significant inputs have not been made to alter it - hence wet woodlands tend to be on the alluvial material and the dryer grassland zones on the sands and gravels.

6.11.5. Ecological Character

Semi-natural with semi-improved grassland, small clumps of scrub and small native species hedging. The stream has a limited ecological value but is not so deeply incised as some in other parts of the Parish

6.11.6. Analysis of Key Characteristics

Key Characteristic	Condition of characteristic	Analysis of Key Characteristics	Sensitivity to change
Semi-natural habitats	Fair	Semi-improved grassland dominates the Area. Small and relatively closely managed hedges provide boundaries and give some additional linear ecological value along with the small areas of scrub and the canalised but not deeply incised stream. Removal of parts of or all of the above features would significantly alter or even remove the Character Area as a distinctive feature (as has happened in other areas of the Parish where similar small valley landscapes probably had similar vegetation until the late C19th	Moderate
Open and semi enclosed landscape	Fair	The current form of boundary hedges, trees and scrub gives an intimate feel to the landscape which would be lost with their removal. The lower height of some hedges makes the area very ‘small’ and somewhat less significant in feel than it could be	Moderate

Evaluation

6.11.7. Landscape Condition and Strength of Character

The condition of the landscape is fair. The semi-improved grassland has a lower ecological value than could be potentially the case and the well managed hedges are somewhat less ecologically valuable than more naturalistic ones which would have a greater sense of enclosure and emphasise the distinctive character of this small area.

The strength of character is good

6.11.8. Recent Landscape Impacts

Very little change in the last 70 years

6.11.9. Assessment of positive / negative factors affecting the Landscape Character Area

a). Factors which may erode / may not contribute to the maintenance / enhancement of the Landscape Character Area

Changes to the management of the pasture to give a more intensive usage, or to introduce 'horsiculture' features such as shelters / taped boundaries and stored materials which would detract from the open rural - 'isolated' feel

More intensive management of the boundary hedgerows

Alterations to the drainage pattern of the valley - which could be positive or negative

b) Factors which may support or enhance the character of the Area

Maintain the existing grassland management - add small areas of scrub or leave some areas to develop a taller sward before grazing to increase mosaic and diversity effects

Re-model the watercourse to increase the wetland habitat in the valley (meanders and shallow sides for vegetation)

Add hedgerow trees to replace those that will be lost as the existing stock matures

LANDSCAPE GUIDELINES

1) Maintain the scale and pastoral qualities of the valley landscape

This landscape is largely separate from the village and affords both long and more intimate views over pasture towards the valley sides / woodlands beyond, and up and downstream.

The provision of hard boundary features would significantly intrude into the sense of organic softer boundary elements and be contrary to the character of the area

Alteration of existing pastoral / agricultural land mix to alternative uses would have a significant adverse impact on this character Area.

Developments which introduce features which are clearly visible from the valley floor (housing / industrial, wind turbines, phone masts etc.) will similarly have significant detrimental impacts on the landscape character and key characteristics of the Area as the intervisibility and interlinkage between the character areas of the valley sides / crest and the character of the pastoral, unspoilt valley floor are indivisible.

2) Maintain rural character

This is not a landscape that can accommodate even small amounts of development without impacts on character. The low and well spaced density of the built elements of the settlement are key to maintaining the sense of rural character and key characteristics of the Area.

Features such as hedged field boundaries of different heights and different species types together with wide grassed verges are important to maintain and enhance where possible.

The large areas of open grassed pasture on the valley floor are a key element to maintain.

The topography of the valley floor which is smooth and level - formed by the retreating wide river that will have flowed over the Area at the end of the Ice Age is important to maintain to reference the Area as an 'unspoilt' / unaltered valley floor. Scrapes and ditches should seek to be unobtrusive and avoid piles of earth or significant unevenness in the valley floor zone.

Small areas of scrub / rough ground / wetland are characteristic but should not be dominant. Woodlands are few (associated with the mill and with Sennow which is beyond the parish boundary) but trees, though not numerous, are an important element of the landscape and replacements both along the watercourse / field boundaries and roadways should be encouraged where possible

Maintain the rural features that contribute to character, biodiversity and historical continuity, including ancient winding lanes, hedgerows, wide verges, gateposts and walls – avoid road widening and urbanising features such as kerbs, lighting and excessive signage.

There may be opportunities to emphasise the location and appearance of the river by planting individual trees to sides of the watercourse or differential land management options near the river. At present the river is more felt than seen in this landscape - except near the Bridge

3) Protect high ecological status

Protect the high ecological status and water quality of the river valleys, extensive stretches of which are nationally designated, recognising that varied habitats which enhance biodiversity likewise enhance landscape interest and character.

Manage and enhance the health and structure of woodlands and wetlands to improve resilience in the face of climate change and new pests, diseases and invasive species, supporting and reintroducing traditional management practices where appropriate, such as coppicing. Seek opportunities to restore and expand native carr woodland by replacing existing poplar plantations.

Bibliography

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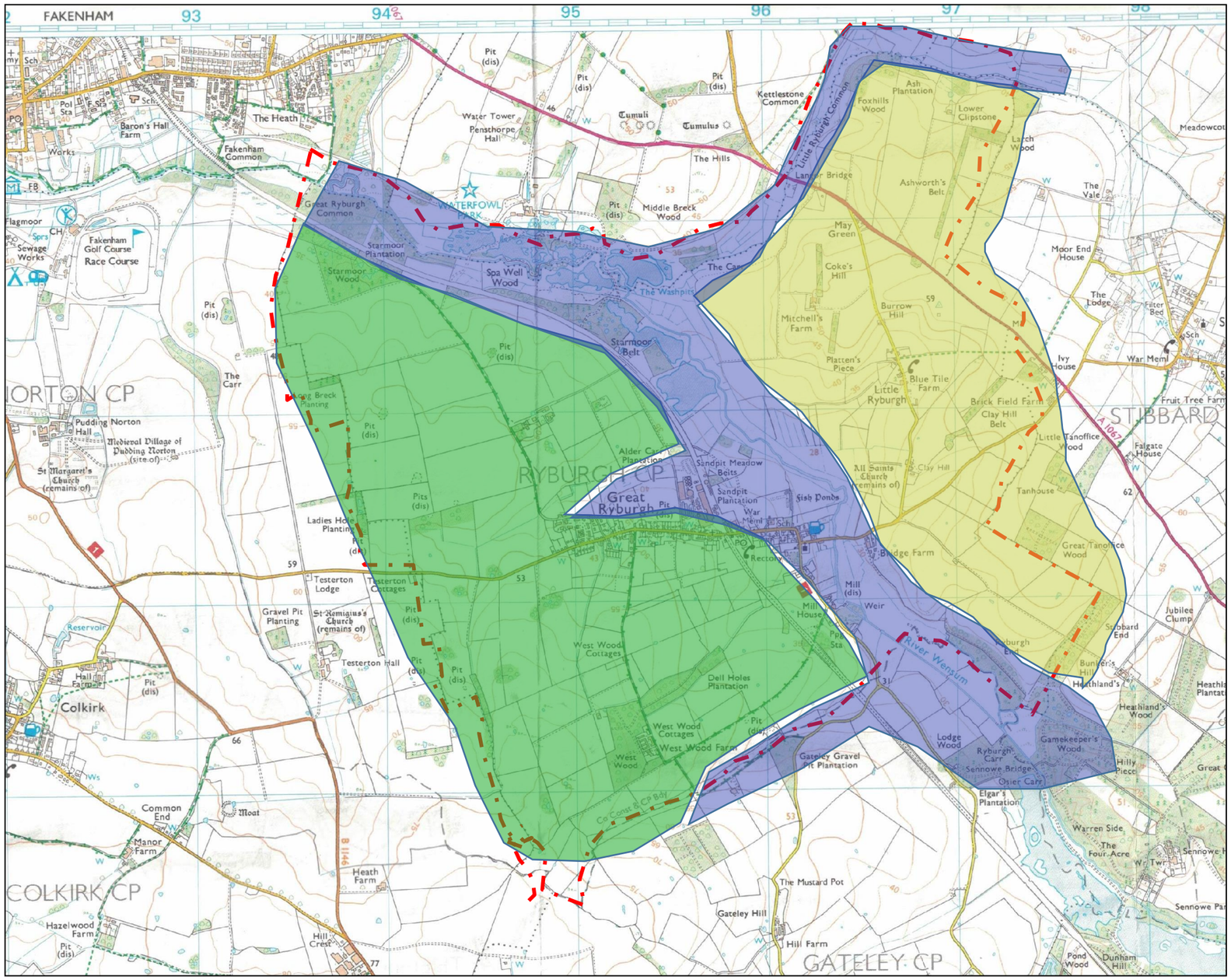
Appendix - Mapped features

1. Surface Geology of Ryburgh Parish

2. Topography of Ryburgh Parish

3. Landscape Character Areas in Ryburgh Parish

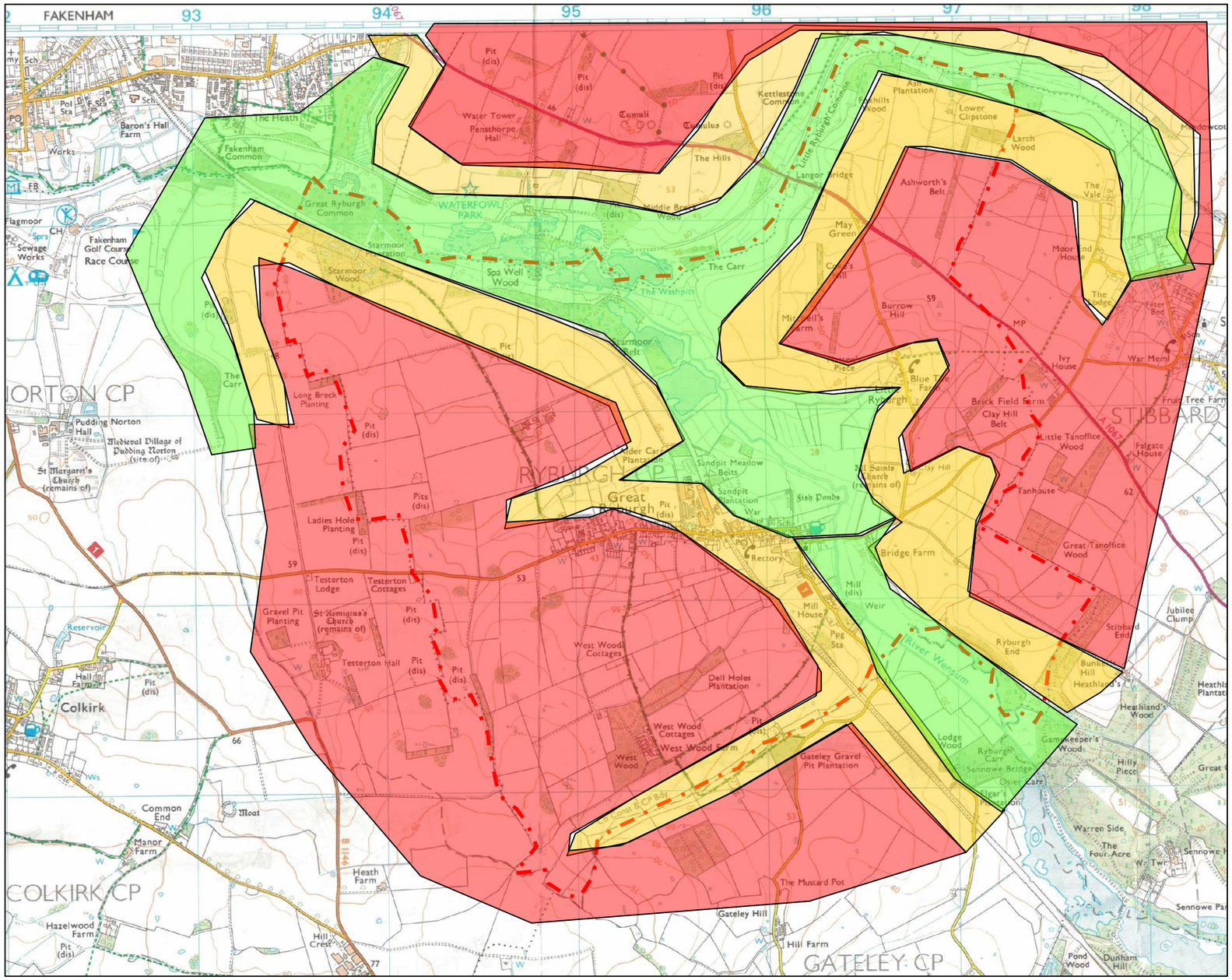


Surface Geology of Ryburgh Parish

Lowestoft deposits - diamicton - clay, silts sands and gravels - formed in glacialonditions

Alluvium deposits - silts, clay and sands and gravels formed in riverine conditions

Sheringham Cliffs deposits - clay, silts sands and gravels - formed in glacial conditions

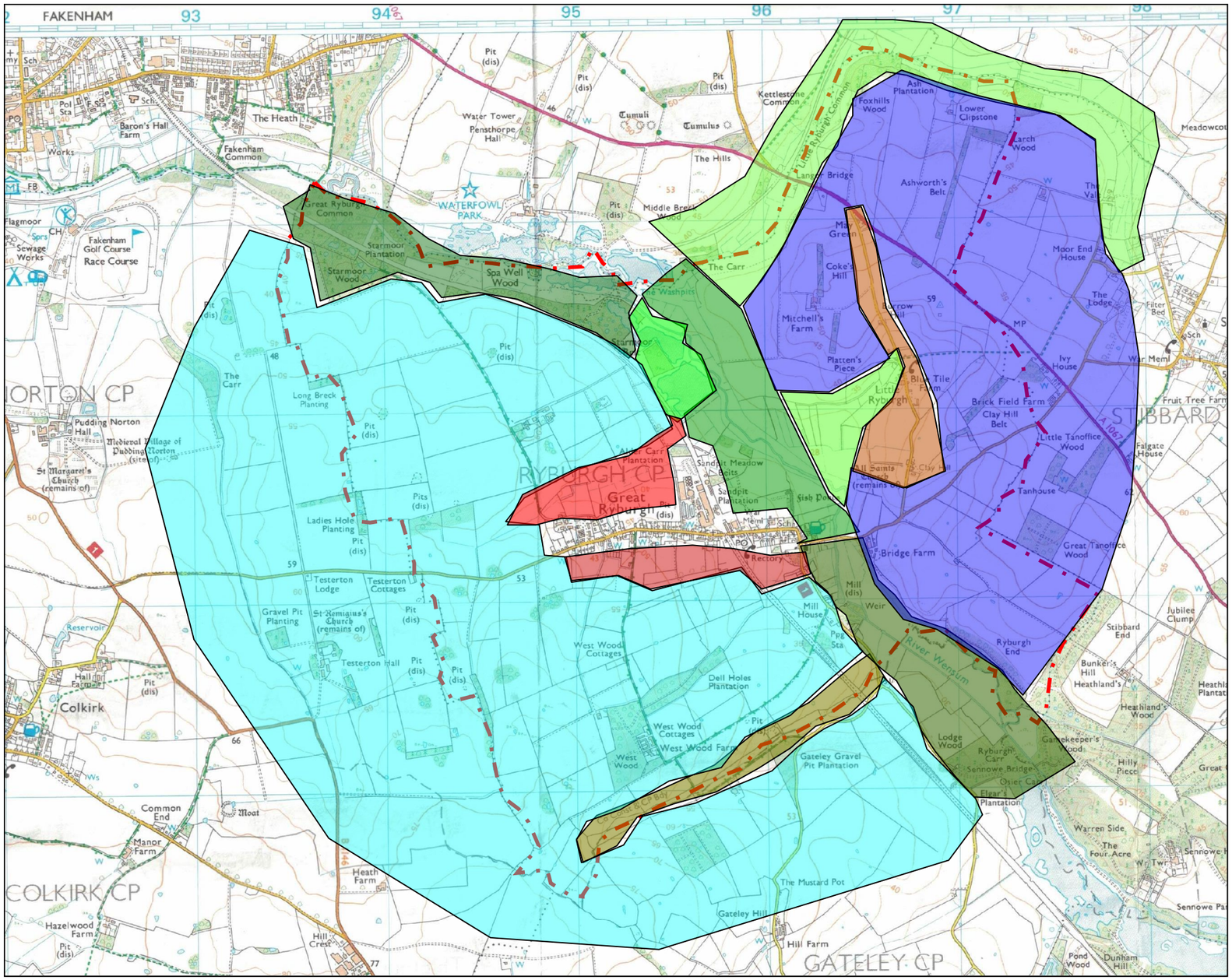


Topography

Land over 30m above sea level

Land over 40 m above sea level

Land over 50m above sea level



Landscape Character Areas

Valley Types

Kettlestone / Langor and Lt Ryburgh small valley

South of Gt Ryburgh small valley

Southern Open Wensum Valley Floor

Northern Enclosed Wensum Valley Floor

Northern Wet Pit Wensum Valley Floor

Northern Wooded Wensum Valley Floor

Close to Settlement Types

Lt Ryburgh Area

North of Gt Ryburgh small field landscape

South of Gt Ryburgh small Field Landscape

Tributary farmland types

Eastern Tributary Farmland

Western Tributary Farmland

WILD FRONTIER ECOLOGY

Parish of Ryburgh

Ecological Report

August 2018

Report produced by	**Submitted to**
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The data which we have prepared and provided is accurate, and has been prepared and provided in accordance with the CIEEM's Code of Professional Conduct. We confirm that any opinions expressed are our best and professional bona fide opinions.

This report conforms to the British Standard 42020:2013 Biodiversity – Code of practice for planning and development.

Contents

1. Non-technical Summary

Wild Frontier Ecology was commissioned by Ryburgh Parish Council to undertake an ecological report on Ryburgh Parish, centred on Grid Ref TF 9527. This is to inform the emerging Neighbourhood Plan.

The desk study included a data search with Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service. Other data sources include MAGIC, the Defra online mapping portal, and consultation with other online and library resources. Aerial imagery has been used to trace the recent history. A consultation has been undertaken with the local Wildlife Group to provide additional records and to gather thoughts on improving biodiversity in the parish.

The data search revealed a broad range of species to have been recorded in or around Ryburgh, as well as seven County Wildlife Sites and a section of the River Wensum SSSI/ SAC. Clearly the River Wensum is a major ecological corridor for wetland and river species. A number of key species groups are identified within the parish.

This report aims to provide a vision for biodiversity enhancement within the parish, and suggests policies to begin achieving this.

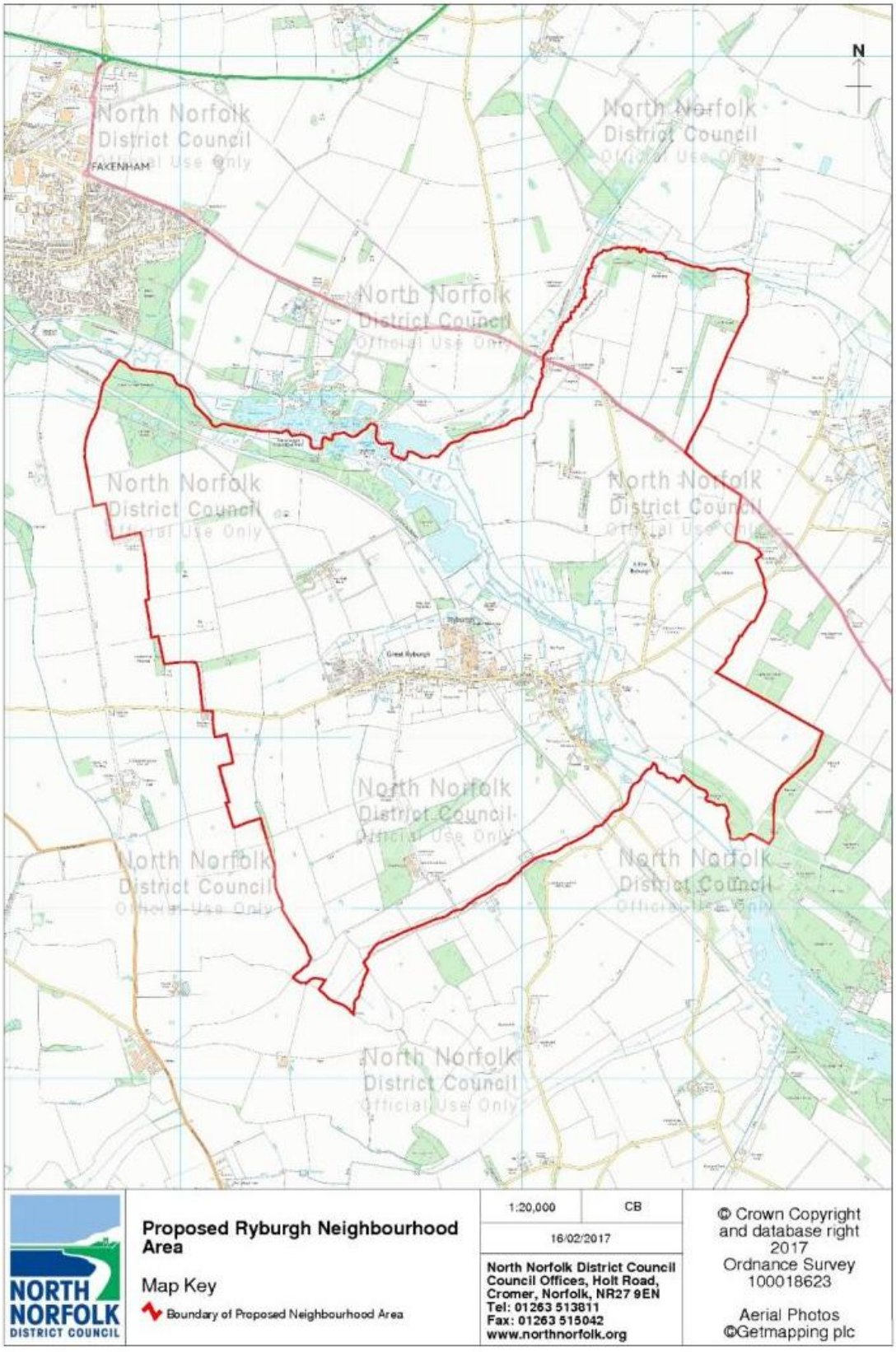
2. Background

Wild Frontier Ecology (WFE) was commissioned by Ryburgh Parish Council to undertake a study of Ryburgh Parish, centred on Grid Ref TF 9527.

The parish is producing a Neighbourhood Development Plan. Such plans are intended to complement the Local Plan. However, the current Local Plan provides little detail for Ryburgh and is currently being revised, so there is some scope for creation of new policies to support biodiversity.

The area covered by this study is based on the following figure.

Figure 1. Ryburgh NDP Area



3. Relevant Legislation and Policy

3.1 Statutory and Non-statutory Site Designations

3.1.1 International (European) Site Designations

The European Council Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (92/43/EEC) as amended directs the designation of important wildlife sites through the European Community as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), and gives statutory protection to habitats and species listed in the Directive as being threatened or of community interest. Sites identified as candidate SAC (cSAC) are provided with the same level of protection as SAC.

Annex I of 92/43/EEC as amended lists habitat types which are regarded as being of European importance. Included within these are a number of 'priority habitat types' which are habitats regarded as being in danger of disappearance and whose natural range falls broadly within the European Union. This European law had been transposed into UK legislation by The Conservation (Natural Habitats) &c Regulations 1994, now replaced by The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010.

Habitats of European-wide importance for birds are listed under the EC Wild Birds Directive (79/409/EEC) as amended. Habitats designated under this Directive are notified as Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and are identified for holding populations > 1% of the reference population as defined in Appendix 4 of the SPA review of bird species listed in Annex 1 of the same Council Directive. Sites identified as potential SPA (pSPA) are provided with the same level of protection as SPA.

Wetlands of International Importance are designated under the Ramsar Convention.

3.1.2 National (UK) Site Designations

National ecological designations, such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and National Nature Reserves (NNRs) are also afforded statutory protection. SSSIs are notified and protected under the jurisdiction of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (WCA 1981) as amended. SSSIs are notified based on specific criteria, including the general condition and rarity of the site and of the species or habitats supported by it.

3.1.3 Non-Statutory County Site Designations

Local authorities may designate certain areas as being of local conservation interest. The criteria for inclusion may vary between areas. Most individual counties have a similar scheme, within Norfolk such sites are designated as County Wildlife Sites (CWS). Designation of such sites does not itself confer statutory protection, but they are a material consideration when planning applications are being determined.

3.2 Species Designation and Protection

3.2.1 Bats

All bat species are listed under Annex IV (and certain species also under Annex II) of the European Union's Council Directive 92/43/EEC (The Habitats Directive), and are given UK protected status by Schedule 2 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. Bats and their roosts also receive protection from disturbance from by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000). This protection extends to both the species and roost sites. It is an

offence to kill, injure, capture, possess or otherwise disturb bats. Bat roosts are protected at all times of the year (making it an offence to damage, destroy or obstruct access to bat roosts), regardless of whether bats are present at the time.

3.2.2 Badgers

The Protection of Badgers Act 1992 makes it unlawful to knowingly kill, capture, disturb or injure an individual badger *Meles meles*, or to intentionally damage, destroy or obstruct an area used for breeding, resting or sheltering by badgers (i.e. a sett).

3.2.3 Riparian Mammals

The water vole *Arvicola amphibius* is protected in accordance with Schedule 5 of the WCA 1981. It is an offence to intentionally damage, destroy or obstruct access to any structure or place which water voles use for shelter or protection, or to disturb water voles whilst they are using such a place. It is also an offence to kill, injure, capture or possess water voles.

Otters *Lutra lutra* are protected in accordance with Schedule 5 of the WCA 1981. The otter is also a protected species included in Annex II of 92/43/EEC, and is protected under Schedule 2 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. It is an offence to intentionally kill, injure or take an otter from the wild, or to intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to any habitat used by otters or to disturb the otters which make use of those habitats.

3.2.4 Birds

All bird species are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended. This prevents killing or injuring any bird or damaging or destroying nests and eggs. Certain species (including barn owl *Tyto alba*) are also listed under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, which prohibits intentionally or recklessly disturbing the species at, on or near an 'active' nest.

3.2.5 Reptiles

All native reptiles are listed on Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, and are afforded protection under Sections 9(1) and 9(5). For the reptile species occurring in Norfolk, adder *Vipera berus*, grass snake *Natrix helvetica*, slow-worm *Anguis fragilis* and common lizard *Zootoca vivipara*, this protection prohibits deliberate or reckless killing and injury but does not include habitat protection.

3.2.6 Great Crested Newts

The great crested newt *Triturus cristatus* is fully protected in accordance with both national and international legislation. The species is listed under Annexes IV and II of European Directive 92/43/EEC, and Schedule 2 of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. The species is also protected by Sections 9(4) and 9(5) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended. It is an offence to knowingly or recklessly kill, injure, disturb, handle or sell the animal, and this protection is afforded to all life stages. It is unlawful to deliberately or recklessly damage, destroy, or obstruct the access to any structure or place used for shelter or protection; this includes both the terrestrial and aquatic components of its habitat.

3.2.7 White-clawed Crayfish

White clawed crayfish are listed on Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 but only receive protection under Sections 9(1) and 9(5). This makes it an offence to take or sell white-clawed crayfish. Section 9 applies to all stages in their life cycle.

3.2.8 Plants

Schedule 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 lists plant species which are afforded special protection. It is an offence to pick, uproot or destroy any species listed on Schedule 8 without prior authorisation, and all plants are protected from unauthorised uprooting (i.e. without the landowner's permission) under Schedule 13 of the WCA 1981.

A Vascular Plant Red List for England[1] provides a measure of the current state of England's flora measured against standardised IUCN criteria. Any taxon that is threatened – Critically Endangered (CR), Endangered (EN), Vulnerable (VU) – or Near Threatened (NT) does not have statutory protection but should be regarded as a priority for conservation in England. It should be noted that 'threat' is not synonymous with 'rarity', some of the species concerned are still relatively common and widespread.

It is an offence to plant or cause Japanese knotweed *Fallopia japonica* to spread in the wild under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and all waste containing Japanese knotweed comes under the control of Part II of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

3.3 Species and Habitats of Principle Importance

There are other priority species and habitats which are a consideration under the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2018, placing responsibility on Local Planning Authorities to aim to conserve and enhance biodiversity and to encourage biodiversity in and around developments. There is a general biodiversity duty in the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 (Section 40) which requires every public body in the exercising of its functions to 'have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity'. Biodiversity, as covered by the Section 40 duty, includes all biodiversity, not just the Habitats and Species of Principal Importance.

Section 41 of the NERC Act lists a number of species and habitats as being Species/Habitats of Principal Importance. These are species/habitats in England which had been identified as requiring action under the UK BAP, and which continue to be regarded as conservation priorities under the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework. The protection of either Species of Principal Importance or Habitats of Principal Importance is not statutory, but "specific consideration"[2] should be afforded by Local Planning Authorities when dealing with them in relation to planning and development control. Also, there is an expectation that public bodies would refer to the Section 41 list when complying with the Section 40 duty.

[1] Stroh, P.A., Leach, S.J., August, T.A., Walker, K.J., Pearman, D.A., Rumsey, F.J., Harrower, C.A., Fay, M.F., Martin, J.P., Pankhurst, T., Preston, C.D. & Taylor, I. 2014. A Vascular Plant Red List for England. Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland, Bristol.
[2] JNCC (2015) UK BAP priority species and habitats http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/biodiversity/protectandmanage/habsandspeciesimportance.aspx

3.4 National Policy

The overarching policy guidance for biodiversity is included within the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF[3]). Section 15 of this document (Conserving and Enhancing the Natural Environment) outlines the approach that Local Authorities should adopt when considering ecological issues within the planning framework, including the principles of the Mitigation Hierarchy. This espouses that in addressing impacts on valued features, avoidance should be the first option considered, followed by mitigation (minimising negative impacts). Where avoidance and mitigation are not possible, compensation for loss of features can be used as a last resort. Paragraph 170 of the NPPF gives policy support to the provision of **net gains** in biodiversity.

3.5 Local Policy

The 2008 Core Strategy contains the following policy EN9:

All development proposals should: protect the biodiversity value of land and buildings and minimise fragmentation of habitats; maximise opportunities for restoration, enhancement and connection of natural habitats; and incorporate beneficial biodiversity conservation features where appropriate.

Development proposals that would cause a direct or indirect adverse effect to nationally designated sites, or other designated areas, or protected species will not be permitted unless; they cannot be located on alternative sites that would cause less or no harm; the benefits of the development clearly outweigh the impacts on the features of the site and the wider network of natural habitats; and prevention, mitigation and compensation measures are provided.

Development proposals that would be significantly detrimental to the nature conservation interests of nationally designated sites will not be permitted. Development proposals where the principal objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity or geodiversity interests will be supported in principle. Where there is reason to suspect the presence of protected species applications should be accompanied by a survey assessing their presence and, if present, the proposal must be sensitive to, and make provision for, their needs.

[3] DCLG (2018). National Planning Policy Framework. UK Government.

4. Objectives and Methods

4.1 Report Objectives

This desk study is intended to inform the emerging Neighbourhood Development Plan.

4.2 Desk Study

Data has been obtained from several different sources. There has been a data search with Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service; other data sources include MAGIC, the Defra online mapping portal, and consultation with other online and library resources. Aerial imagery has been used to check the recent history. The Ryburgh Wildlife Group has been consulted with reference to their detailed wildlife knowledge of the parish.

5. Desk Study Information

5.1 Local Landscape Description

Ryburgh lies within the Mid-Norfolk National Character Area. The Natural England profile[4] describes the Area as:

- Broadly flat, glacial till plateau dissected by river valleys which create a more intricate landscape to the west of Norwich.
- Chalk bedrock overlain by gravels, sands and glacial till left behind by the retreating ice of Anglian glaciations, and the resulting complexity of soils, determine natural vegetation patterns.
- Underlying chalk aquifer; small, fast-flowing chalk streams and biodiversity-rich, wide, lush river valleys with wooded valley slopes, including the internationally important chalk-fed River Wensum.
- Tranquil agricultural landscape with extensive areas of arable land, dominated by cereals with break-cropping of sugar beet and oilseed rape, and some pastures along valley floors.
- Ancient countryside, much of it enclosed in the 14th century, with a sporadically rationalised patchwork field system, sinuous lanes and mixed hedges with hedgerow oaks.
- Largely fragmented, isolated mixed deciduous and pasture woodlands, with a notable area of ancient woodland at Foxley Wood.
- Important alkaline valley fen communities and areas of remnant heathland.
- Large number of 18th-century estates with their associated parkland, and a great density and stylistic variety of churches which are prominent features in the landscape.

On a more local level, the landscape within the parish and around is dominated by the Wensum river valley (photo 7), with plateau lying to the south and west, and beyond the river to the north-east. The valley sides are moderately sloping.

There are a number of tributary streams which drain into the Wensum (photo 5), which is in its upper-mid stretches as it runs south-east through Ryburgh. Much of the land in the area has been subject to more recent enclosure than suggested above, and there is a pattern of larger fields with straight hedges. Valley bottoms are dominated by drained grazing marsh.

There is a pattern of field ponds in and beyond the parish (at least 47 ponds identified outside the river valley in Ryburgh CP – see Figure 4).

Within the valley, the watercourse and water flow has been highly modified, not least by the mill. The River Wensum Restoration Strategy[5] states that the stretches of river running through the parish are in need of rehabilitation. However a canalised part of the river, downstream of Ryburgh Mill, was restored to its historic meandering course in

[4] Natural England (2014) National Character Area 84: Mid Norfolk. http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk

[5] Natural England Commissioned Report NECR010 - River Wensum Restoration Strategy. publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/59064

2011/12. There are wet ditches, and downstream of the village/ mill there is an area managed by the Wildlife Group for birds and other species.

5.2 Pre-existing Information on Designated Sites

The River Wensum SSSI/ SAC runs through the parish from north-west to south-east. Aside from the river itself, the designation also includes land parcels at Ryburgh Common (2) and Little Ryburgh/ Langor Bridge (2), with Kettlestone Common just beyond the parish boundary.

The qualifying features of the Wensum that gives it its SAC status[6] include the Annex I habitat 3260 - water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation and the presence of Annex II species 1092 – white clawed crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes*. Other features identified but not listed as primary reasons for the designation include the presence of Desmoulins's whorl snail *Vertigo moulinsiana*, brook lamprey *Lampetra planeri* and bullhead *Cottus gobio*.

The citation for the River Wensum SSSI defines the calcareous lowland river as the best of its type as a whole in England in nature conservation terms. It states diverse botanical and invertebrate communities, as well as a good mixed fishery and support of notable bird species. The citation is appended.

The land parcels associated with the SSSI/ SAC support remnant lowland heath, fen, damp woodland and pingo habitats.

There are six County Wildlife Sites wholly or partly within the parish – these are:

- 1273 – Starmoor Wood and Plantation
- 1275 – Land adjacent to River Wensum
- 1281 – Lower Clipstone
- 1282 – West Wood
- 1284 – Land adjacent to Pensthorpe
- 2164 – Starmoor Belt

All of these sites support valued habitats, including wet and dry woodland, species-rich wet and dry grassland and fen. The citations are appended.

West Wood CWS is also designated as ancient woodland.

There are areas of Section 41 Priority Habitat within the parish (Figure 3). These include floodplain grazing marsh through substantial parts of the Wensum valley floor, as well as fragments of heathland (Lt Ryburgh Common), sections of deciduous woodland, fen, and "other" priority habitat. Some of these areas overlap with SSSI and CWS designations, but the woodland and floodplain grazing marsh are generally undesignated.

[6] http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/protectedsites/sacselection/sac.asp?EUCode=UK0012647

Figure 2. Designated Wildlife Sites within the Parish.

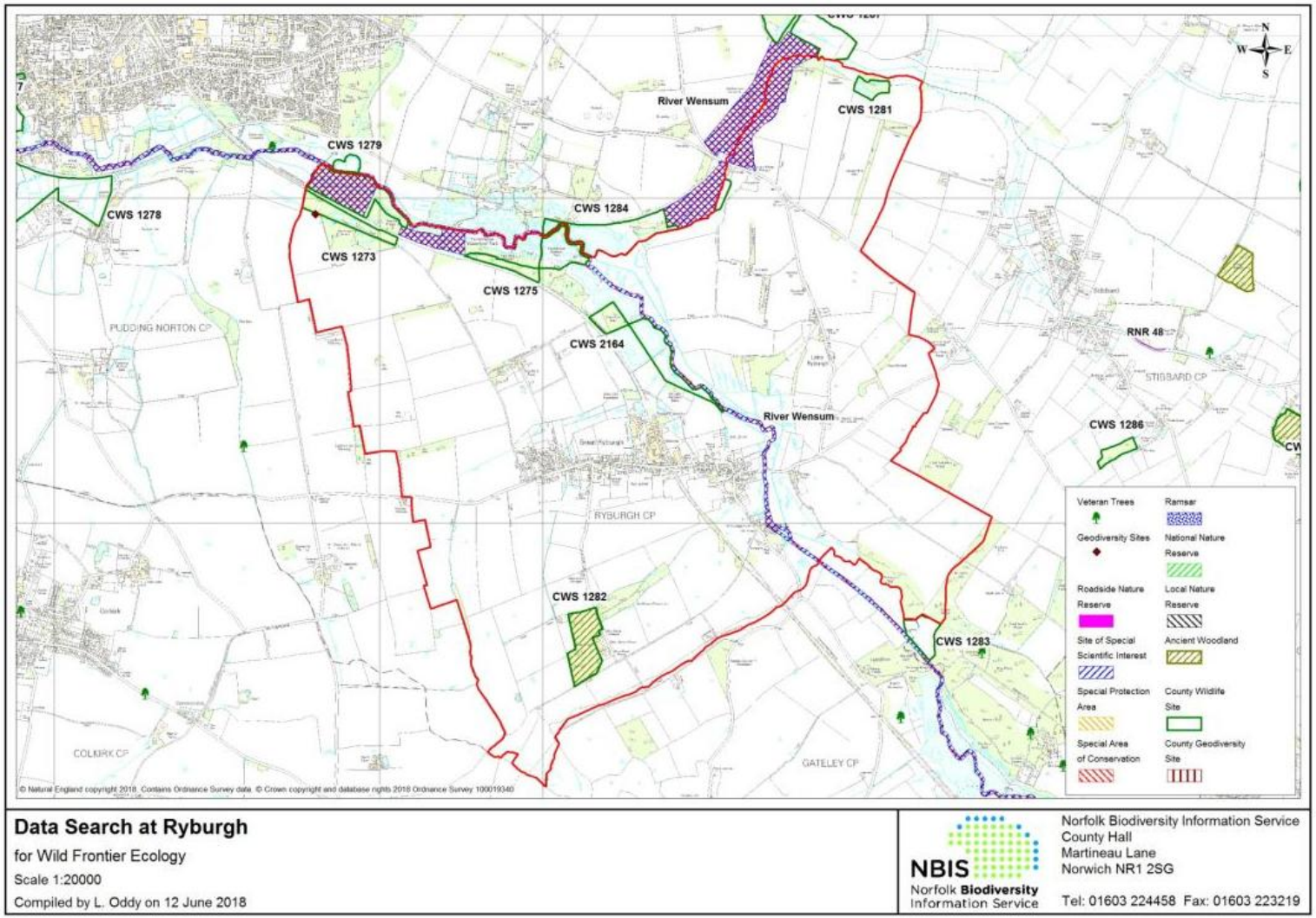


Figure 3. Priority Habitat types (excluding hedgerows)

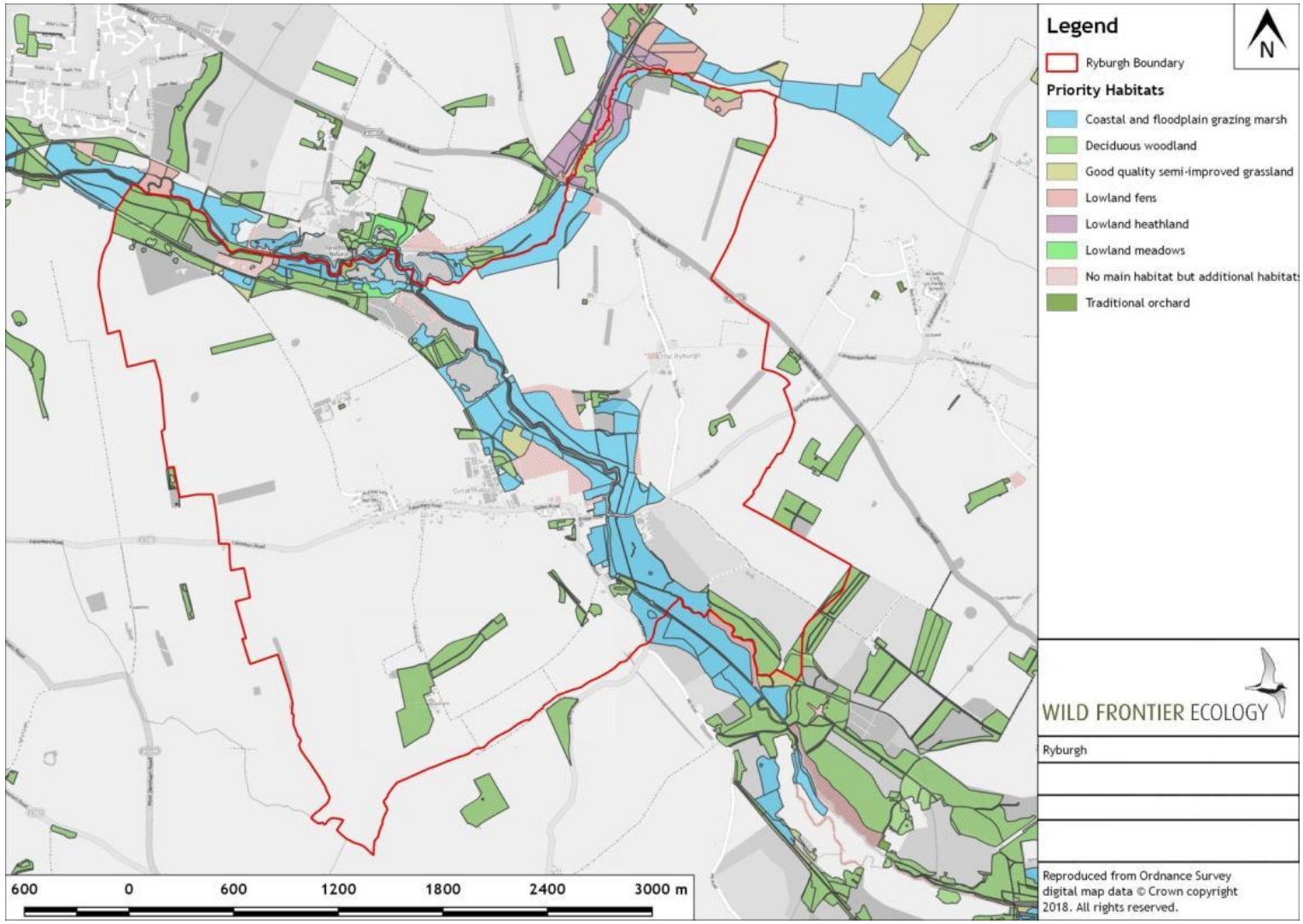
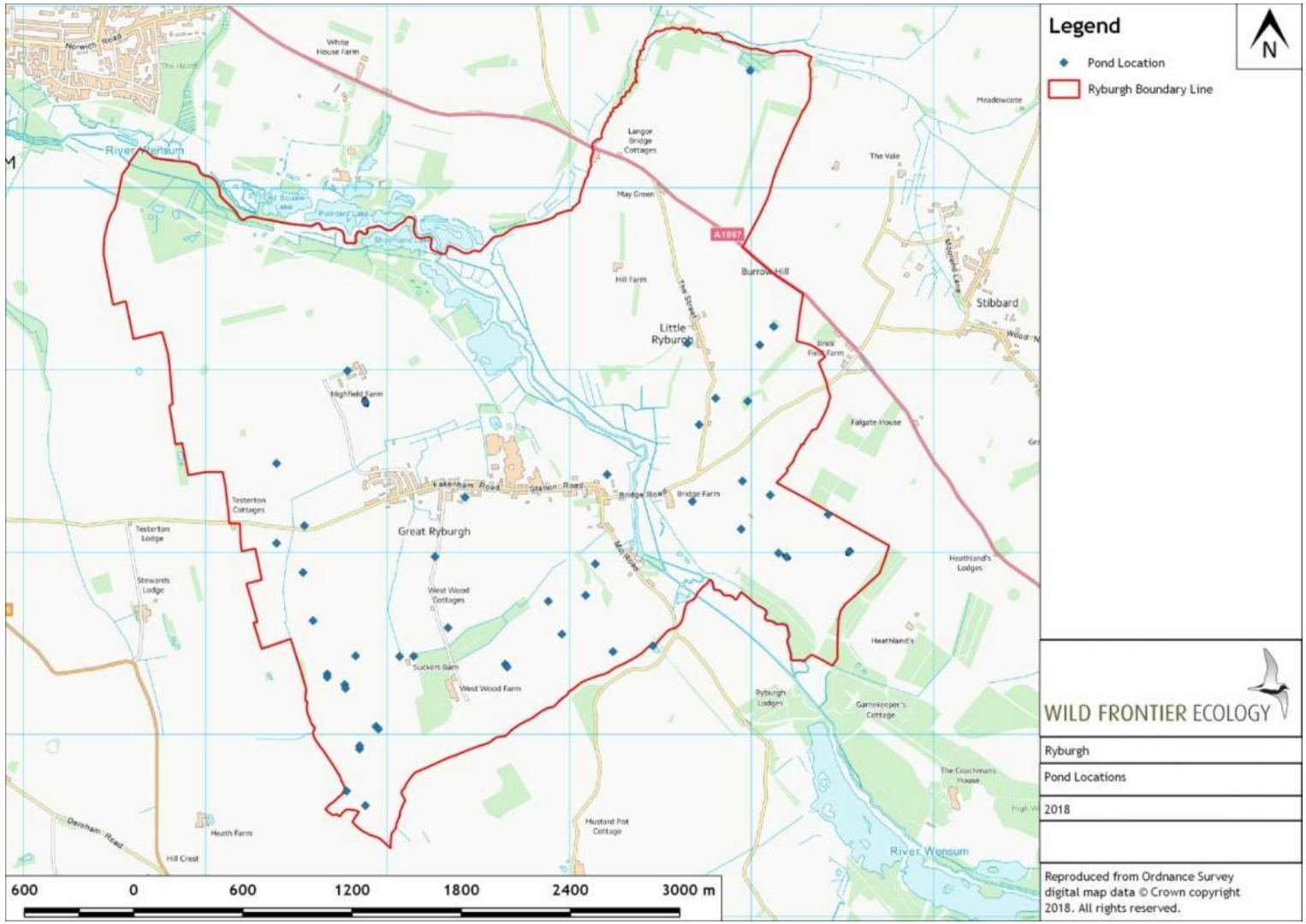


Figure 4. Location of ponds outside the floodplain



5.3 Pre-existing Information on Protected and Valued Species

Table 1, below, gives a summary of biological records available for the parish.

Table 1. Biological records from within Ryburgh Parish

English name	Scientific name	Species group	Number of records	Species status (See Appendix 3)
Scots Pine	*Pinus sylvestris*	conifer	2	NS-excludes, ScotBL
Bluebell	*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*	flowering plant	2	ScotBL, WCA8
White-clawed Freshwater Crayfish	*Austropotamobius pallipes*	crustacean	10	Bern3, FEP7/2, HSD2p, HSD5, RLGLB.EN, ScotBL, Sect.41, Sect.42, UKBAP, WCA5/9.1t, WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.5b
Ghost Moth	*Hepialus humuli*	insect - moth	15	Sect.41, Sect.42, UKBAP
Oak Hook-tip	*Watsonalla binaria*	insect - moth	6	Sect.41, Sect.42, UKBAP
Fen Crest	*Brachmia inornatella*	insect - moth	1	Nb
Dusky Thorn	*Ennomos fuscantaria*	insect - moth	7	Sect.41, Sect.42, UKBAP
Latticed Heath	*Chiasmia clathrata*	insect - moth	2	Sect.41, Sect.42, UKBAP
Small Emerald	*Hemistola chrysoprasaria*	insect - moth	4	Sect.41, Sect.42, UKBAP
Spinach	*Eulithis mellinata*	insect - moth	1	Sect.41, Sect.42, UKBAP
Small Phoenix	*Ecliptopera silaceata*	insect - moth	1	Sect.41, Sect.42, UKBAP
Dark-barred Twin-spot Carpet	*Xanthorhoe ferrugata*	insect - moth	18	Sect.41, Sect.42, UKBAP
Shaded Broad-bar	*Scotopteryx chenopodiata*	insect - moth	3	Sect.41, Sect.42, UKBAP
Blood-Vein	*Timandra comae*	insect - moth	18	Sect.41, Sect.42, UKBAP
Pale Eggar	*Trichiura crataegi*	insect - moth	3	Sect.41, Sect.42, UKBAP
Grey Dagger	*Acronicta psi*	insect - moth	1	Sect.41, Sect.42, UKBAP
Knot Grass	*Acronicta rumicis*	insect - moth	1	Sect.41, Sect.42, UKBAP
Mouse Moth	*Amphipyra tragopoginis*	insect - moth	13	Sect.41, Sect.42, UKBAP
Dot Moth	*Melanchra persicariae*	insect - moth	21	Sect.41, Sect.42, UKBAP

English name	Scientific name	Species group	Number of records	Species status (See Appendix 3)
Shoulder-striped Wainscot	*Leucania comma*	insect - moth	11	Sect.41, Sect.42, UKBAP
Powdered Quaker	*Orthosia gracilis*	insect - moth	11	Sect.41, Sect.42, UKBAP
Feathered Gothic	*Tholera decimalis*	insect - moth	1	Sect.41, Sect.42, UKBAP
Autumnal Rustic	*Eugnorisma glareosa*	insect - moth	1	Sect.41, Sect.42, UKBAP
Small Square-spot	*Diarsia rubi*	insect - moth	37	Sect.41, Sect.42, UKBAP
Heath Rustic	*Xestia agathina*	insect - moth	1	Sect.41, Sect.42, UKBAP
Sprawler	*Asteroscopus sphinx*	insect - moth	3	Sect.41, Sect.42, UKBAP
Green-brindled Crescent	*Allophyes oxyacanthae*	insect - moth	11	Sect.41, Sect.42, UKBAP
Rosy Minor	*Litoligia literosa*	insect - moth	2	Sect.41, Sect.42, UKBAP
Dusky Brocade	*Apamea remissa*	insect - moth	1	Sect.41, Sect.42, UKBAP
Large Nutmeg	*Apamea anceps*	insect - moth	1	Sect.41, Sect.42, UKBAP
Ear Moth	*Amphipoea oculea*	insect - moth	3	Sect.41, Sect.42, UKBAP
Rosy Rustic	*Hydraecia micacea*	insect - moth	19	Sect.41, Sect.42, UKBAP
Large Wainscot	*Rhizedra lutosa*	insect - moth	5	Sect.41, Sect.42, UKBAP
Rustic	*Hoplodrina blanda*	insect - moth	23	Sect.41, Sect.42, UKBAP
Mottled Rustic	*Caradrina morpheus*	insect - moth	25	Sect.41, Sect.42, UKBAP
Sallow	*Cirrhia icteritia*	insect - moth	11	Sect.41, Sect.42, UKBAP
Beaded Chestnut	*Agrochola lychnidis*	insect - moth	26	Sect.41, Sect.42, UKBAP
Flounced Chestnut	*Agrochola helvola*	insect - moth	1	Sect.41, Sect.42, UKBAP
Brown-spot Pinion	*Agrochola litura*	insect - moth	18	Sect.41, Sect.42, UKBAP
Centre-barred Sallow	*Atethmia centrago*	insect - moth	8	Sect.41, Sect.42, UKBAP
White Ermine	*Spilosoma lubricipeda*	insect - moth	24	Sect.41, Sect.42, UKBAP
Buff Ermine	*Spilosoma lutea*	insect - moth	42	Sect.41, Sect.42, UKBAP
Cinnabar	*Tyria jacobaeae*	insect - moth	12	Sect.41, Sect.42, UKBAP
Giant Water-veneer	*Schoenobius gigantella*	insect - moth	2	Nb

English name	Scientific name	Species group	Number of records	Species status (See Appendix 3)
Large Clouded Knot-horn	*Homoeosoma nebulella*	insect - moth	1	Nb
Great Crested Newt	*Triturus cristatus*	amphibian	2	Bern2, FEP7/2, HabRegs2, HSD2p, HSD4, ScotBL, Sect.41, Sect.42, UKBAP, WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.4c, WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.5b
Common Toad	*Bufo bufo*	amphibian	1	Bern3, Sect.41, Sect.42, UKBAP, WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.5b
Common Frog	*Rana temporaria*	amphibian	1	Bern3, HSD5, WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.5b
Canada Goose	*Branta canadensis*	bird	1	BD2.1, CMS_A2
Barnacle Goose	*Branta leucopsis*	bird	1	BAmb, BD1, Bern2, CMS_A2, CMS_AEWA-A2, FEP7/2, ScotBL
Mute Swan	*Cygnus olor*	bird	3	BAmb, BD2.2, CMS_A2, CMS_AEWA-A2
Pink-footed Goose	*Anser brachyrhynchus*	bird	1	BAmb, BD2.2, CMS_A2, CMS_AEWA-A2
Greylag Goose	*Anser anser*	bird	2	BAmb, BD2.1, CMS_A2, CMS_AEWA-A2, WCA1ii
Shelduck	*Tadorna tadorna*	bird	7	Bern2, CMS_A2, CMS_AEWA-A2
Mandarin Duck	*Aix galericulata*	bird	4	CMS_A2
Wigeon	*Anas penelope*	bird	1	BD2.1, CITESC, CMS_A2, CMS_AEWA-A2, WO1ii
Teal	*Anas crecca subsp. crecca*	bird	1	BAmb, BD2.1, CITESC, CMS_A2, CMS_AEWA-A2
Mallard	*Anas platyrhynchos*	bird	1	BAmb, BD2.1, CMS_A2, CMS_AEWA-A2
Red-crested Pochard	*Netta rufina*	bird	6	BD2.2, CMS_A2, CMS_AEWA-A2
Pochard	*Aythya ferina*	bird	1	BAmb, BD2.1, CMS_A2, CMS_AEWA-A2, ScotBL, WO1ii
Little Egret	*Egretta garzetta*	bird	27	BD1, Bern2, CITESA, CMS_AEWA-A2
Grey Heron	*Ardea cinerea*	bird	1	CMS_AEWA-A2, WO1i
Bittern	*Botaurus stellaris*	bird	23	BD1, Bern2, BRed, CMS_AEWA-A2, FEP7/2, ScotBL, Sect.41, Sect.42, UKBAP, WCA1i, WO1i
Black Stork	*Ciconia nigra*	bird	2	BD1, Bern2, CITESA, CMS_A2, CMS_AEWA-A2
White Stork	*Ciconia ciconia*	bird	1	BD1, Bern2, CMS_A2, CMS_AEWA-A2
Spoonbill	*Platalea leucorodia*	bird	1	BAmb, BD1, Bern2, CITESA, CMS_A2, CMS_AEWA-A2, WCA1i
Grey Partridge	*Perdix perdix*	bird	15	BD2.1, BRed, FEP7/2, ScotBL, Sect.41, Sect.42, UKBAP

English name	Scientific name	Species group	Number of records	Species status (See Appendix 3)
Quail	*Coturnix coturnix*	bird	2	BAmb, BD2.2, WCA1i, WO1i
Fulmar	*Fulmarus glacialis*	bird	1	BAmb
Cormorant	*Phalacrocorax carbo*	bird	1	CMS_AEWA-A2
Honey-buzzard	*Pernis apivorus*	bird	53	BAmb, BD1, CITESA, CMS_A2, ScotBL, WCA1i
Black Kite	*Milvus migrans*	bird	3	BD1, CITESA, CMS_A2
Red Kite	*Milvus milvus*	bird	43	BAmb, BD1, CITESA, CMS_A2, FEP7/2, RLGLB.NT, ScotBL, WCA1i
Marsh Harrier	*Circus aeruginosus*	bird	21	BAmb, BD1, CITESA, CMS_A2, FEP7/2, ScotBL, WCA1i, WO1i
Hen Harrier	*Circus cyaneus*	bird	4	BD1, BRed, CITESA, CMS_A2, FEP7/2, ScotBL, Sect.41, Sect.42, WCA1i, WO1i
Montagu's Harrier	*Circus pygargus*	bird	5	BAmb, BD1, CITESA, CMS_A2, FEP7/2, WCA1i
Goshawk	*Accipiter gentilis*	bird	6	CITESA, CMS_A2, WCA1i, WO1i
Sparrowhawk	*Accipiter nisus*	bird	5	CITESA, CMS_A2, WO1i
Buzzard	*Buteo buteo*	bird	82	CITESA, CMS_A2, WO1i
Rough-legged Buzzard	*Buteo lagopus*	bird	3	CITESA, CMS_A2
Osprey	*Pandion haliaetus*	bird	23	BAmb, BD1, CITESA, CMS_A2, ScotBL, WCA1i, WO1i
Kestrel	*Falco tinnunculus*	bird	1	BAmb, Bern2, CITESA, CMS_A2, FEP7/2, ScotBL, Sect.42, WO1i
Red-footed Falcon	*Falco vespertinus*	bird	1	Bern2, CITESA, CMS_A2
Merlin	*Falco columbarius*	bird	2	BRed, BD1, Bern2, CITESA, CMS_A2, FEP7/2, ScotBL, WCA1i, WO1i
Hobby	*Falco subbuteo*	bird	53	Bern2, CITESA, CMS_A2, ScotBL, WCA1i
Peregrine	*Falco peregrinus*	bird	11	BD1, Bern2, CITESA, CMS_A2, ScotBL, WCA1i, WO1i
Water Rail	*Rallus aquaticus*	bird	3	BD2.2, CMS_AEWA-A2
Crane	*Grus grus*	bird	12	BAmb, BD1, Bern2, CITESA, CMS_A2, CMS_AEWA-A2
Oystercatcher	*Haematopus ostralegus*	bird	6	BAmb, BD2.2, CMS_AEWA-A2
Little Ringed Plover	*Charadrius dubius*	bird	8	Bern2, CMS_A2, CMS_AEWA-A2, WCA1i

English name	Scientific name	Species group	Number of records	Species status (See Appendix 3)
Golden Plover	*Pluvialis apricaria*	bird	1	BAmb, BD1, BD2.2, CMS_A2, CMS_AEWA-A2, FEP7/2, ScotBL, Sect.42, WO1ii
Grey Plover	*Pluvialis squatarola*	bird	1	BAmb, BD2.2, CMS_A2, CMS_AEWA-A2
Lapwing	*Vanellus vanellus*	bird	4	BD2.2, BRed, CMS_A2, CMS_AEWA-A2, FEP7/2, ScotBL, Sect.41, Sect.42, UKBAP
Avocet	*Recurvirostra avosetta*	bird	4	BAmb, BD1, Bern2, CMS_A2, CMS_AEWA-A2, FEP7/2, WCA1i
Snipe	*Gallinago gallinago*	bird	12	BAmb, BD2.1, CMS_A2, CMS_AEWA-A2, FEP7/2
Jack Snipe	*Lymnocryptes minimus*	bird	2	BAmb, BD2.1, CMS_A2, CMS_AEWA-A2
Whimbrel	*Numenius phaeopus*	bird	2	BD2.2, BRed, CMS_A2, CMS_AEWA-A2, WCA1i, WO1i
Woodcock	*Scolopax rusticola*	bird	3	BRed, BD2.1, CMS_A2, CMS_AEWA-A2, ScotBL
Ruff	*Calidris pugnax*	bird	1	BD1, BD2.2, BRed, CMS_A2, CMS_AEWA-A2, FEP7/2, ScotBL, WCA1i, WO1i
Bar-tailed Godwit	*Limosa lapponica*	bird	2	BAmb, BD1, BD2.2, CMS_A2, CMS_AEWA-A2, ScotBL, Sect.42
Greenshank	*Tringa nebularia*	bird	1	BD2.2, CMS_A2, CMS_AEWA-A2, WCA1i, WO1i
Green Sandpiper	*Tringa ochropus*	bird	9	BAmb, Bern2, CMS_A2, CMS_AEWA-A2, ScotBL, WCA1i
Wood Sandpiper	*Tringa glareola*	bird	1	BAmb, BD1, Bern2, CMS_A2, CMS_AEWA-A2, ScotBL, WCA1i
Mediterranean Gull	*Larus melanocephalus*	bird	4	BAmb, BD1, Bern2, CMS_A2, CMS_AEWA-A2, WCA1i
Yellow-legged Gull	*Larus michahellis*	bird	1	BAmb
Black Tern	*Chlidonias niger*	bird	1	BAmb, BD1, Bern2, CMS_AEWA-A2, WCA1i
Common Tern	*Sterna hirundo*	bird	14	BAmb, BD1, Bern2, CMS_AEWA-A2, ScotBL, WO1i
Stock Dove	*Columba oenas*	bird	8	BAmb, BD2.2
Turtle Dove	*Streptopelia turtur*	bird	15	BD2.2, BRed, CITESA, FEP7/2, ScotBL, Sect.41, Sect.42, UKBAP, WO1i
Cuckoo	*Cuculus canorus*	bird	14	BRed, Sect.41, Sect.42, UKBAP
Barn Owl	*Tyto alba*	bird	20	BAmb, Bern2, CITESA, FEP7/2, ScotBL, WCA1i, WO1i
Little Owl	*Athene noctua*	bird	22	Bern2, CITESA

English name	Scientific name	Species group	Number of records	Species status (See Appendix 3)
Tawny Owl	*Strix aluco*	bird	9	Bern2, CITESA
Long-eared Owl	*Asio otus*	bird	1	Bern2, CITESA, WO1i
Short-eared Owl	*Asio flammeus*	bird	1	BAmb, BD1, Bern2, CITESA, FEP7/2, ScotBL, WO1i
Swift	*Apus apus*	bird	6	BAmb, ScotBL
Kingfisher	*Alcedo atthis*	bird	4	BAmb, BD1, Bern2, FEP7/2, ScotBL, WCA1i, WO1i
Hoopoe	*Upupa epops*	bird	3	Bern2, WCA1i
Green Woodpecker	*Picus viridis*	bird	3	BAmb, Bern2
Great Spotted Woodpecker	*Dendrocopos major*	bird	1	Bern2
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	*Dendrocopos minor*	bird	1	Bern2, BRed, FEP7/2
Grasshopper Warbler	*Locustella naevia*	bird	1	BRed, Sect.41, Sect.42, UKBAP
Willow Warbler	*Phylloscopus trochilus*	bird	2	BAmb
Skylark	*Alauda arvensis*	bird	1	BD2.2, BRed, FEP7/2, ScotBL, Sect.41
Sand Martin	*Riparia riparia*	bird	3	BAmb, Bern2
Swallow	*Hirundo rustica*	bird	7	BAmb, Bern2
House Martin	*Delichon urbicum*	bird	12	BAmb, Bern2
Water Pipit	*Anthus spinoletta*	bird	1	BAmb, Bern2
Yellow Wagtail	*Motacilla flava subsp. flavissima*	bird	1	Bern2, BRed, FEP7/2, ScotBL, Sect.41, Sect.42, UKBAP, WO1i
Grey Wagtail	*Motacilla cinerea*	bird	10	BAmb, Bern2
Pied Wagtail	*Motacilla alba subsp. yarrellii*	bird	1	Bern2
Waxwing	*Bombycilla garrulus*	bird	7	Bern2
Whinchat	*Saxicola rubetra*	bird	1	BAmb, Bern2
Stonechat	*Saxicola rubicola*	bird	2	Bern2
Ring Ouzel	*Turdus torquatus*	bird	1	Bern2, BRed, FEP7/2, ScotBL, Sect.41, Sect.42, UKBAP, WO1i

English name	Scientific name	Species group	Number of records	Species status (See Appendix 3)
Fieldfare	*Turdus pilaris*	bird	2	BD2.2, BRed, WCA1i, WO1i
Song Thrush	*Turdus philomelos*	bird	1	BD2.2, BRed, FEP7/2, ScotBL
Redwing	*Turdus iliacus*	bird	1	BD2.2, BRed, ScotBL, WCA1i
Mistle Thrush	*Turdus viscivorus*	bird	1	BAmb, BD2.2
Spotted Flycatcher	*Muscicapa striata*	bird	6	Bern2, BRed, CMS_A2, FEP7/2, ScotBL, Sect.41, Sect.42, UKBAP
Whitethroat	*Sylvia communis*	bird	2	BAmb
Willow Tit	*Poecile montana*	bird	1	Bern2, BRed, FEP7/2, ScotBL
Marsh Tit	*Poecile palustris*	bird	1	Bern2, BRed
House Sparrow	*Passer domesticus*	bird	2	BRed, Sect.41, Sect.42, UKBAP
Tree Sparrow	*Passer montanus*	bird	3	BRed, FEP7/2, ScotBL, Sect.41, Sect.42, UKBAP
Lesser Redpoll	*Acanthis cabaret*	bird	3	BRed, Sect.41, Sect.42, UKBAP
Common (Mealy) Redpoll	*Acanthis flammea*	bird	1	Bern2
Linnet	*Linaria cannabina*	bird	2	Bern2, BRed, FEP7/2, ScotBL
Siskin	*Spinus spinus*	bird	2	Bern2, ScotBL
Brambling	*Fringilla montifringilla*	bird	2	ScotBL, WCA1i
Goldfinch	*Carduelis carduelis*	bird	1	Bern2
Common Crossbill	*Loxia curvirostra*	bird	5	Bern2, WCA1i, WO1i
Bullfinch	*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*	bird	7	BAmb, FEP7/2, ScotBL
Hawfinch	*Coccothraustes coccothraustes*	bird	1	Bern2, BRed, ScotBL, Sect.41, Sect.42, UKBAP
Reed Bunting	*Emberiza schoeniclus*	bird	1	BAmb, Bern2, FEP7/2, ScotBL, Sect.41, Sect.42, UKBAP
European Otter	*Lutra lutra*	terrestrial mammal	1	Bern2, CITESA, FEP7/2, HabRegs2, HSD2p, HSD4, RLGLB.NT, ScotBL, Sect.41, Sect.42, UKBAP, WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.4c, WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.5b
Eurasian Badger	*Meles meles*	terrestrial mammal	3	Bern3, PBA, ScotBL, WO5
Polecat	*Mustela putorius*	terrestrial	1	Bern3, HabRegs4, HSD5, Sect.41, Sect.42, UKBAP

English name	Scientific name	Species group	Number of records	Species status (See Appendix 3)
		mammal		
West European Hedgehog	*Erinaceus europaeus*	terrestrial mammal	14	Bern3, Sect.41, Sect.42, UKBAP
Western Barbastelle	*Barbastella barbastellus*	terrestrial mammal	3	Bern2, CMS_A2, CMS_EUROBATS-A1, FEP7/2, HabRegs2, HSD2p, HSD4, RLGLB.NT, Sect.41, Sect.42, UKBAP, WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.4c, WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.5b
Serotine	*Eptesicus serotinus*	terrestrial mammal	1	Bern2, CMS_A2, CMS_EUROBATS-A1, FEP7/2, HabRegs2, HSD4, WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.4c, WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.5b
Unidentified Bat	*Myotis*	terrestrial mammal	14	CMS_A2, HabRegs2, WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.4c, WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.5b
Daubenton's Bat	*Myotis daubentonii*	terrestrial mammal	5	Bern2, CMS_A2, CMS_EUROBATS-A1, FEP7/2, HabRegs2, HSD4, ScotBL, WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.4c, WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.5b
Natterer's Bat	*Myotis nattereri*	terrestrial mammal	8	Bern2, CMS_A2, CMS_EUROBATS-A1, FEP7/2, HabRegs2, HSD4, ScotBL, WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.4c, WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.5b
Noctule Bat	*Nyctalus noctula*	terrestrial mammal	13	Bern2, CMS_A2, CMS_EUROBATS-A1, FEP7/2, HabRegs2, HSD4, ScotBL, Sect.41, Sect.42, UKBAP, WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.4c, WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.5b
Pipistrelle Bat species	*Pipistrellus sp.*	terrestrial mammal	17	CMS_A2, HabRegs2, WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.4c, WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.5b
Pipistrelle	*Pipistrellus pipistrellus sensu lato*	terrestrial mammal	25	Bern2, Bern3, CMS_A2, CMS_EUROBATS-A1, FEP7/2, HabRegs2, HSD4, ScotBL, Sect.42, WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.4c, WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.5b
Nathusius's Pipistrelle	*Pipistrellus nathusii*	terrestrial mammal	1	Bern2, CMS_A2, CMS_EUROBATS-A1, HabRegs2, HSD4, ScotBL, WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.4c, WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.5b
Soprano Pipistrelle	*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*	terrestrial mammal	25	Bern2, CMS_A2, CMS_EUROBATS-A1, HabRegs2, HSD4, ScotBL, Sect.41, Sect.42, UKBAP, WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.4c, WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.5b
Brown Long-eared Bat	*Plecotus auritus*	terrestrial mammal	8	Bern2, CMS_A2, CMS_EUROBATS-A1, FEP7/2, HabRegs2, HSD4, ScotBL, Sect.41, Sect.42, UKBAP, WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.4c, WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.5b

English name	Scientific name	Species group	Number of records	Species status (See Appendix 3)
European Water Vole	*Arvicola amphibius*	terrestrial mammal	16	FEP7/2, ScotBL, Sect.41, Sect.42, UKBAP, WCA5/9.1k/l, WCA5/9.1t, WCA5/9.2, WCA5/9.4.a, WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.4c, WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.5b
Brown Hare	*Lepus europaeus*	terrestrial mammal	16	FEP7/2, ScotBL, Sect.41, Sect.42, UKBAP

Table 2. Biological records in adjacent areas to Ryburgh Parish (mostly Pensthorpe).

English Name	Scientific name	Species group	Number of records	Species status*
Yellow Glasswort	*Salicornia fragilis*	flowering plant	1	NRPl, NS-excludes
Large-leaved Lime	*Tilia platyphyllos*	flowering plant	1	FEP1, NS-excludes
Wall	*Lasiommata megera*	insect - butterfly	1	RLGB.Lr(NT), Sect.41, Sect.42, UKBAP
Desmoulin's Whorl Snail	*Vertigo (Vertigo) moulinsiana*	mollusc	1	FEP7/2, HSD2p, RDBGB.R, RLGLB.LR(cd), Sect.41, Sect.42, UKBAP
Harvest Mouse	*Micromys minutus*	terrestrial mammal	2	Sect.41, Sect.42, UKBAP
Nuthatch	*Sitta europaea*	bird	3	Bern2
Treecreeper	*Certhia familiaris*	bird	1	Bern2
Starling	*Sturnus vulgaris*	bird	1	BD2.2, BRed, FEP7/2
Bearded Tit	*Panurus biarmicus*	bird	1	BAmb, Bern2, ScotBL, WCA1i, WO1i
Blue Tit	*Cyanistes caeruleus*	bird	1	Bern2
Great Tit	*Parus major*	bird	1	Bern2
Coal Tit	*Periparus ater*	bird	9	Bern2
Mealy Redpoll	*Acanthis flammea subsp. flammea*	bird	1	Bern2
Pied Wagtail	*Motacilla alba*	bird	1	Bern2
Wren	*Troglodytes troglodytes*	bird	1	Bern2

English Name	Scientific name	Species group	Number of records	Species status*
Robin	*Erithacus rubecula*	bird	6	Bern2, ScotBL
Nightingale	*Luscinia megarhynchos*	bird	3	BAmb, Bern2
Wheatear	*Oenanthe oenanthe*	bird	9	BAmb, Bern2
Goldeneye	*Bucephala clangula*	bird	5	BAmb, BD2.2, CMS_A2, CMS_AEWA-A2, WCA1ii, WO1ii
Bewick's Swan	*Cygnus columbianus subsp. bewickii*	bird	3	BAmb, BD1, Bern2, CMS_A2, CMS_AEWA-A2, ScotBL, Sect.41, Sect.42, UKBAP, WCA1i, WO1i
Whooper Swan	*Cygnus cygnus*	bird	2	BAmb, BD1, Bern2, CMS_A2, CMS_AEWA-A2, FEP7/2, ScotBL, WCA1i, WO1i
Goosander	*Mergus merganser*	bird	4	BD2.2, CMS_A2, CMS_AEWA-A2, WO1i
Tundra Bean Goose	*Anser fabalis subsp. rossicus*	bird	6	BAmb, BD2.1, CMS_A2, CMS_AEWA-A2, ScotBL
White-fronted Goose	*Anser albifrons*	bird	6	BD2.2, CMS_A2, CMS_AEWA-A2, ScotBL
Ruddy Shelduck	*Tadorna ferruginea*	bird	1	BAmb, BD1, Bern2, CMS_A2, CMS_AEWA-A2, FEP7/2
Gadwall	*Anas strepera*	bird	19	BAmb, BD2.1, CMS_A2, CMS_AEWA-A2, WO1ii
Teal	*Anas crecca*	bird	11	BAmb, BD2.1, CITESC, CMS_A2, CMS_AEWA-A2
Marsh Warbler	*Acrocephalus palustris*	bird	1	BRed, Sect.41, UKBAP, WCA1i
Cetti's Warbler	*Cettia cetti*	bird	28	WCA1i
Wood Warbler	*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*	bird	1	BRed, ScotBL, Sect.41, Sect.42, UKBAP, WO1i
Pectoral Sandpiper	*Calidris melanotos*	bird	2	CMS_A2
Dunlin	*Calidris alpina*	bird	4	Bern2, BRed, CMS_A2, CMS_AEWA-A2, FEP7/2, ScotBL, WO1i
Black-tailed Godwit	*Limosa limosa*	bird	5	BD2.2, BRed, CMS_A2, CMS_AEWA-A2, FEP7/2, RLGLB.NT, ScotBL, WCA1i, WO1i
Spotted Redshank	*Tringa erythropus*	bird	1	BAmb, BD2.2, CMS_A2, CMS_AEWA-A2
Redshank	*Tringa totanus*	bird	2	BAmb, BD2.2, CMS_A2, CMS_AEWA-A2, FEP7/2
Larus canus subsp. canus	*Larus canus subsp. canus*	bird	3	BAmb, BD2.2, CMS_AEWA-A2
Lesser Black-backed Gull	*Larus fuscus*	bird	3	BAmb, BD2.2, CMS_AEWA-A2
Black-headed Gull	*Chroicocephalus*	bird	21	BAmb, BD2.2, CMS_AEWA-A2, ScotBL, Sect.42

English Name	Scientific name	Species group	Number of records	Species status*
	ridibundus			
Moorhen	*Gallinula chloropus*	bird	10	BD2.2, CMS_A2, CMS_AEWA-A2
Coot	*Fulica atra*	bird	14	BD2.1, CMS_AEWA-A2
Ringed Plover	*Charadrius hiaticula*	bird	2	BAmb, Bern2, CMS_A2, CMS_AEWA-A2, Sect.42
Common Sandpiper	*Actitis hypoleucos*	bird	21	BAmb, CMS_A2, CMS_AEWA-A2
Common snipe	*Gallinago gallinago subsp. gallinago*	bird	6	BAmb, BD2.1, CMS_A2, CMS_AEWA-A2, FEP7/2
Knot	*Calidris canutus*	bird	1	BAmb, BD2.2, CMS_A2, CMS_AEWA-A2
Little Grebe	*Tachybaptus ruficollis*	bird	2	BAmb, CMS_AEWA-A2
Great Crested Grebe	*Podiceps cristatus*	bird	2	CMS_AEWA-A2
Red Kite	*Milvus milvus subsp. milvus*	bird	25	BAmb, BD1, CITESA, CMS_A2, FEP7/2, RLGLB.NT, ScotBL, WCA1i
Hen harrier	*Circus cyaneus subsp. cyaneus*	bird	6	BD1, BRed, CITESA, CMS_A2, FEP7/2, ScotBL, Sect.41, Sect.42, WCA1i, WO1i
Pintail	*Anas acuta*	bird	2	BAmb, BD2.1, CITESC, CMS_A2, CMS_AEWA-A2, WCA1ii, WO1ii
Garganey	*Anas querquedula*	bird	6	BAmb, BD2.1, CITESA, CMS_A2, CMS_AEWA-A2, ScotBL, WCA1i, WO1i
Shoveler	*Anas clypeata*	bird	14	BAmb, BD2.1, CITESC, CMS_A2, CMS_AEWA-A2, WO1ii
Tufted Duck	*Aythya fuligula*	bird	29	BAmb, BD2.1, CMS_A2, CMS_AEWA-A2
Common Scoter	*Melanitta nigra*	bird	1	BD2.2, BRed, CMS_A2, CMS_AEWA-A2, ScotBL, Sect.41, Sect.42, UKBAP, WCA1i, WO1i
Smew	*Mergellus albellus*	bird	2	BAmb, BD1, Bern2, CMS_A2, CMS_AEWA-A2, ScotBL
Ruddy Duck	*Oxyura jamaicensis*	bird	3	CMS_A2
Brown Birch Bolete	*Leccinum scabrum*	fungus	2	RLGB.DD

5.4 Ryburgh Wildlife Group Records

Members of the Wildlife Group hold records from Ryburgh Parish which have not present in the biological record. These include:

- Historic records of brown argus butterfly *Aricia agestis*.
- Harvest mouse within the parish.
- Records of slow-worm *Anguis fragilis* along the old railway line.
- Records of glow-worm *Lampyris noctiluca* along the old railway line.
- At least three badger setts within the parish.
- At least nine species of bat recorded during the Norfolk Bat Survey.
- The presence of a community woodland on the south side of the playing field.
- Significant numbers of "village" birds including house sparrow, song thrush, swift and house martin.
- A good scattering of farmland bird species including good numbers of yellowhammers and bullfinches, also some grey partridges and lapwings.
- Presence of early purple orchids *Orchis mascula* and twayblades *Listera ovata* in at least two hedgerows.
- Presence of small red-eyed damselflies *Erythromma viridulum*.
- Importance of the area managed as a nature reserve along Mill Road for waders and waterfowl year-round.
- Importance of area along the tributary drain running parallel with the village to the north – large mature hedgerows, small fields, rich in wildlife. This should be regarded as having an equivalent ecological value to the Wensum floodplain to which it is joined.
- Occurrence of great crested newts within the village.
- Species which used to occur frequently within the parish, now rare or extinct – spotted flycatcher, turtle dove, tree sparrow, snipe (breeding), redshank, honey buzzard, nightingale, white-clawed crayfish, water vole.

The bat species recorded from a point near the centre of the village are as follows:

Species	Total number of passes (all nights)
Barbastelle	8
Brown long-eared bat	34
Common pipistrelle	103
Daubenton's bat	4
Leisler's bat	2
Natterer's bat	28
Noctule	13
Serotine	18
Soprano pipistrelle	125

5.5 Desk Study Synthesis

Overall, the parish contains a number of valued ecological features, and has potential to support others which have been recently lost. Some of these have general appeal, while others are more esoteric. These features are identified in Table 3.

Table 3. Summary of Ryburgh Parish ecological features

Feature	Status in Parish
Designated Sites	River Wensum SSSI/ SAC riverine and terrestrial sections. Six CWS wholly or partly within the parish, covering a variety of habitats.
Valued habitats – floodplain, and associated species	Section 41 Habitat almost continuously through the Wensum valley including grazing marsh and wet ditches. Species include otter and water vole, wetland birds, wetland invertebrates and plants.
Valued habitats – hedgerows and associated species	Throughout the parish, including some species rich hedgerows. Supporting orchid species, and farmland birds. Forming a coherent network of hedgerow habitat, and connecting sections of woodland.
Valued habitats – ponds and associated species	At least 47 pond basins throughout the parish outside the floodplain, supporting great crested newts and other pond specialist species.
Valued habitats – woodland and associated species	One known ancient woodland, and other sections of wet woodland, broad-leaved woodland and plantation scattered throughout the parish, not forming a coherent network in itself.
Bats	At least ten species recorded, although roost locations are poorly known.
Terrestrial mammals	Harvest mouse, brown hare, hedgehog, polecat and badger have all been recorded; all of these species have elevated conservation status, and are “wider countryside” species.
Breeding birds - village	Notable numbers of house sparrow, swift, starling, house martin and swallow. Barn owl considered frequent, and nesting within the parish. Spotted flycatcher may be lost as a breeding species.
Breeding birds - farmland	Skylark, yellowhammer, grey partridge, lapwing, linnet, bullfinch, red kite all currently present within parish. Tree sparrow and turtle dove may be lost as breeding species.
Breeding birds - wetland	Breeding and wintering avocet, and other waterfowl. Snipe and redshank no longer breeding.
Reptiles and amphibians – slow-worm, great crested newt	Small populations exist within the parish, extent not fully known.
Invertebrates including glow-worm and small red-eyed damselfly	Populations exist within the parish of ecologically valued species; distribution and numbers not fully known.

6. Long-term Biodiversity Vision for the Parish

By the end of the plan period, the parish will continue to support the diversity of habitats currently present. New wildlife habitats will have been created both within the village and the open countryside. The Wensum valley's function as a wildlife corridor will be enhanced by well managed and increasingly diverse habitats, and adjacent supporting habitats. Tributary water-bodies will feed good quality water into the river. Ponds will have been restored to provide a loose network of wetland habitats throughout the parish. Hedgerows will be sympathetically managed and paired with field margins to provide a coherent network of ecological corridors.

Within the village, a high proportion of homes will provide some form of accommodation for dependent wildlife, including integral and external bird and bat boxes. A high level of wildlife awareness among residents will mean that a number of gardens are managed partially or wholly for wildlife. Parish land will be managed where possible with conservation management input. Parish walks will allow regular and close contact with nature and diverse habitats. Wildlife records contributed by a range of people will get passed on into the biological record to inform future development and activity within the parish. Residents, landowners and tenants will continue to work together to enhance habitats where possible.

There will be healthy and growing populations of farmland, village and wetland birds; major bat roosts will be known and supported; butterflies will be diverse and abundant in village and farmland; there will be healthy populations of reptiles and amphibians, which are able to expand through suitable habitat from their current loci. Adjoining parishes will be encouraged and inspired by the efforts within the parish by showcasing of well-managed habitats or successful populations of species.

7. Mechanisms for Maintaining and Enhancing Biodiversity

7.1 Collation of Biological Records and Monitoring

Currently a lot of the biodiversity in the parish does not appear in the biological record. This information gap may prevent planning applications being adequately assessed. It is advised that the Ryburgh Wildlife Group and Parish Council should put some resource into collating and sending recent species records to Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service. In the medium term, devising a way of providing a flow of information directly to NBIS will be beneficial in this respect.

The Wildlife Group is ideally placed to monitor the wildlife of the parish. There are opportunities for increased community involvement, for example in counting birds nesting on or in buildings, in having a portal for local wildlife sightings, and in helping to manage and create habitats where appropriate. Monitoring certain key species can be used as a proxy (with limitations) for the health of the environment overall.

7.2 Land Designation

There are various forms of land designation which could apply to the parish. Further County Wildlife Sites could be designated with landowner agreement, although designation of land as a CWS does not guarantee that it is well managed. CWS designation would however normally protect land against development, as it is a material consideration in planning policy. It is unlikely that further land could be designated SSSI within the parish for a number of reasons.

A more recent form of designation, Local Green Space, could also be used to secure certain areas within the parish. Such a designation will provide special protection against development, however the NPPF states it will not be appropriate for most green areas or open space[7].The following paragraphs are from the NNDC Amenity Green Space Topic Paper[8] which covers this subject.

The NPPF sets out how local communities can identify green areas of particular importance to them and seek to designate land as Local Green Space. Local Green Spaces should only be designated when a Plan is prepared or reviewed, and be capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period. Paragraph 77 states:

"The LGS designation will not be appropriate for most green areas or open spaces. The designation should only be used:

- *where the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;*
- *where the green area is demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and*
- *where the green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.*

[7] NPPF, 2018, Para 99
[8] www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/tasks/planning-policy/document-library/

Any designation of green spaces must be based on evidence to demonstrate why the area is demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance (see Table 4). The PPG provides additional guidance and states that:

Designating any Local Green Space will need to be consistent with local planning for sustainable development in the area. In particular, plans must identify sufficient land in suitable locations to meet identified development needs and the Local Green Space designation should not be used in a way that undermines this aim of plan making."

The Topic Paper concludes "*Taking the above into account, in designating Local Green Space, plan-makers need to demonstrate that the requirements for its designation are met in full. These requirements are that the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves; it is demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance; and it is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land. Many sites have a particular significance to individuals but in identifying particular significance to be designated as a Local Green Space, "particular" significance is expected, going beyond the everyday reverence which is paid to such places. Identifying Local Green Space must be consistent with the local planning of sustainable development and complement investment in sufficient homes, jobs and other essential services.*"

Bearing this in mind, designation of LGS is quite a high bar to reach. This does not make it unattainable however.

Table 4. Criteria for Local Green Space selection (NNDC Topic Paper).

Criteria	Explanation of Criteria / Questions to ask
It will rarely be appropriate to designate spaces that are the subject of a planning permission and or subject to existing designation	Local Green Space designation will rarely be appropriate where the land has planning permission for development. Exceptions could be where the development would be compatible with the planning permission or where planning permission is no longer capable of being implemented. • Is the space the subject of a planning permission for development? • Is the site already protected by an existing designation
It will not be appropriate to designate spaces that are allocated or proposed for development in the Local Plan or the emerging Local Plan.	The national Planning Practice Guidance states that: Designating any Local Green Space will need to be consistent with local planning for sustainable development in the area. In particular, plans must identify sufficient land in suitable locations to meet identified development needs and the LGS designation should not be used in a way to undermine this aim of plan making. • Is the space allocated or proposed to be allocated in a Local Plan? or • Has the site been put forward for development in any evidence based documents such as Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment?
The space must not be an extensive tract of land and must be local in character.	Blanket designation of open countryside adjacent to settlements is not appropriate. • Does the space or combination of adjoining spaces "feel" local in character and scale, in respect of the local community that the space serves?
	• Is the proposed space larger than other areas of land in the vicinity? Is it contained with clearly defined edges? • How does the space connect physically, visually and socially to the local area?
The space must be within close proximity to the community it serves.	The space would normally be within easy walking distance of the community it serves. • How close is the space to the community it serves?
The space must be **demonstrably special** to the local community.	Blanket designation of all/most green areas or open space within an area is not appropriate. The space must be demonstrably special by consideration of the following; The proposed space is of particular local significance and should meet one of the following criteria: • Beauty • historic significance • recreational value • tranquillity • richness of wildlife

7.3 Habitats of Principle Importance

Habitats of Principle Importance (see Figure 3) are afforded consideration through the planning process under the NERC Act 2006. Section 41 of the NERC Act provides a list of Habitats of Principal Importance. Any Priority Habitat affected by development should be afforded "specific consideration". See section 3.3.

7.4 Good Relations with Landowners

As much of the land, and therefore species of wildlife value, is private, it is important that good relations are maintained between the parish and the landowners and their tenants. Such a relationship will benefit many of the habitats and species of significance to the parish. Good relations may also aid in maintaining public access and a good informal footpath network.

7.5 Neighbourhood Plan Policies

Policies within the Neighbourhood Plan can support the biodiversity vision, particularly in relation to development, but also more generally in creating expectations that all activities within the parish should be sensitive to the valued ecological features.

7.6 Land Management

Ryburgh Parish is quite unusual in having an area of land (adjacent to Mill Road in the Wensum valley) which is managed specifically for wildlife. Other areas, such as existing ponds, could relatively easily be brought into positive management by scrub and tree clearance. Most aspects of land management (except perhaps where non-intervention is the chosen management method) will need to be achieved in negotiation with landowners and tenants. Potential conservation management projects within the parish could be:

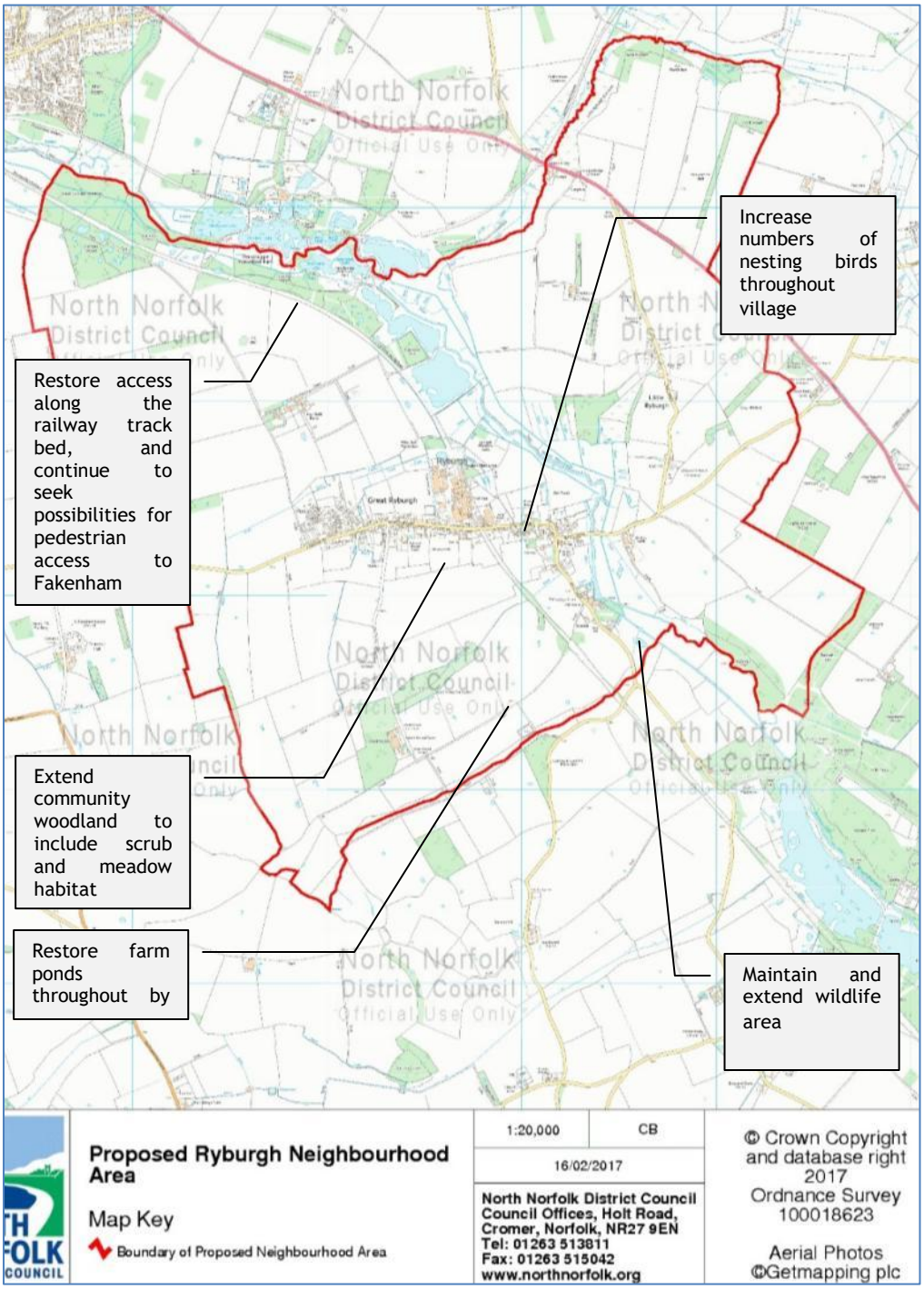
- Restoration of farm ponds.
- Excavation of new ponds (outside river valley).
- Mature scrub clearance.
- Conservation hedgerow management.
- Planting of new hedgerows where ecological connectivity can be enhanced.
- Tree planting.
- No- or limited- intervention techniques.
- Water level management (particularly within the valley).
- New field margins for bird food, or nectar and pollen.
- Wildflower meadow creation and management.
- Creation of edge habitats.
- Retention of mature and veteran trees.
- Erection of new nestboxes.

8. Recommendations

8.1 Potential Restoration Projects

Some potential projects and locations are outlined in Figure 5 below.

Figure 5. Potential conservation projects within the parish.



8.2 Key Indicator Species

Monitoring of the following species could be used as a measure of the ecological health of the parish, and might engage further public interest.

- Village nesting birds – house martin, swift, house sparrow.
- Farmland birds – yellowhammer, skylark.
- Wetland birds – species to be decided.
- Bats
- Butterflies
- Orchids

8.3 Suggested Policy Input for Biodiversity

NNDC policy currently does not currently echo the NPPF in terms of seeking net biodiversity gain through development, although work is in progress on the new local plan. This could be reinforced within the Neighbourhood Plan.

Seeking to designate Local Green Space through policy may be successful; a policy indicating the intention to designate certain areas as Local Green Space (or supporting those areas if designation can be achieved earlier) could be included.

Corpusty and Saxthorpe neighbourhood plan incorporates a policy designed to safeguard the Bure valley from inappropriate development. This could be adapted for the Wensum valley as follows:

The River Wensum and its surrounding River Valley is identified as a key component of the Parish's Green Infrastructure Network. The habitats found within river valleys are identified within the Priority Habitats and Species covered under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. The Wensum itself is SSSI/ SAC.

Development proposals within or adjacent to this important and sensitive habitat area will only be permitted if:

• The primary objective of the proposal is to conserve or enhance the habitat; or

• The benefits of and need for the development in that particular location clearly outweighs the loss.

Any development proposal that may have an impact on the aquatic or terrestrial ecology of the River Wensum and its river valley should be accompanied by an ecological assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment. Any mitigation and/or compensation measures outlined in such assessments will be secured via planning conditions and/or planning obligations.

Such a policy may be extendable to all Section 41 habitats within the parish.

Net gains for new housing applications often come in the form of biodiversity friendly landscaping, nest boxes and similar. A policy could specify, given the importance of nesting birds within the village, that all new houses should be fitted with at least one integral nestbox or bat box.

Re hedgerows, the Corpusty policy could be adapted as follows:

Hedgerows in the Parish are already protected by the Hedgerow Regulations 1997. Thus, any affected by development requiring consent should be protected and, wherever possible, enhanced. Hedgerows in danger of removal as a result of development should be replaced within the site and accompanied by an after-care and management scheme secured by planning conditions. Supplementary planting which strengthens the existing network of hedgerows and ecological corridors will also be encouraged. Proposals that may have an impact on any species or habitat within designated nature conservation areas (including County Wildlife Sites) should be accompanied by an ecological assessment and mitigation and/or compensation measures in accordance with NPPF 'mitigation hierarchy'. Any mitigation and/or compensation outlining measures in such assessments will be secured via planning conditions and/or planning obligations. Proposals that would lead to the enhancement of ecological network will be encouraged, particularly where they would improve habitat connectivity or support the management of the County Wildlife Sites, and/or the Wensum Valley. There is a wealth of mature trees in the village and proposals should respect these and seek to incorporate them within a planning proposal wherever possible tree preservation orders must be respected.

Such a policy could be extended to cover ponds.

Policies could also support improved connectivity within the parish, both for people and biodiversity.

Appendix 1. Photographs

Photo 1. Farmland is an extensive habitat in the parish – changes in management can have a large impact on biodiversity.

Photo 2. Hedgerow along Highfield Lane – important corridor of movement for wildlife, and attractive for residents' recreational needs.

Photo 3. Farmland with wide field margins along Highfield Lane.

Photo 4. There are opportunities for biodiversity provided by houses and gardens in the village.

Photo 5. The River Wensum SSSI/ SAC is an internationally important wildlife habitat.

Photo 6. Artificial nestboxes well used by house martins on Mill Road.

Photo 7. View across the Wensum valley with its floodplain grazing marsh, an important corridor of movement for biodiversity. The Maltings can be seen in the distance.

Photo 8. Typical overgrown and shaded farmland pond.

Photo 9. Old Railway Line.

Photo 10. Grazing marsh within the valley.

Appendix 2. Site Citations for Local Designations

River Wensum SSSI

Date of Notification: 4 February 1993

COUNTY: Norfolk SITE NAME: RIVER WENSUM

Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, section 17 of the Water Resources Act 1991, Section 4 of the Water Industry Act 1991 and Section 13 of the Land Drainage Act 1991.

National Rivers Authority Region: Anglian

International Drainage Board: River Wensum

Water Company: Anglian Water Plc

Local Planning Authorities: North Norfolk District Council, Norfolk County Council, Kings Lynn & West Norfolk District Council, South Norfolk District Council, Breckland District Council, Broadland District Council

National Grid Reference: TF 942246 to TG 250078

Length of River SSSI: Approx 71km Area: 393.31 (ha) 971.9 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 132 133 134 1:10,000: TF 82 SE NE NW, TF 93 SE, TF 92 SE NE NW, TF 83 SE, TG 01 NE NW, TG 02 SW, TG 11 SE SW NW

Date of Notification (under 1981 Act): 1993

Other Information:
New site.

Description and Reasons for Notification:
Key features
The Wensum has been selected as one of a national series of rivers of special interest as an example of an enriched, calcareous lowland river. With a total of over 100 species of plants, a rich invertebrate fauna and a relatively natural corridor, it is probably the best whole river of its type in nature conservation terms, although short stretches of other similar rivers may show a slightly greater diversity of species.

The upper reaches are fed by springs that rise from the chalk and by run-off from calcareous soils rich in plant nutrients. This gives rise to dense beds of submerged and emergent vegetation characteristic of a chalk stream. Lower down, the chalk is overlain with boulder clay and river gravels, resulting in aquatic plant communities more typical of a slow-flowing river on mixed substrate. Diversity of plant species is further enhanced by mills and weirs; upstream the river slows to produce characteristic deep water plant communities, whilst below the barriers they are replaced by species tolerant of swirling and turbulent water.

Unusually for a lowland river in England, much of the adjacent land is still traditionally managed for hay crops and by grazing, giving a wide spectrum of grassland habitats some of which are seasonally inundated. The mosaic of meadow and marsh habitats, including one of the most extensive reedbeds in the country outside the Broads, provide niches for a wide variety of specialised plants and animals.

The River itself supports an abundant and diverse invertebrate fauna including the native freshwater crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes* as well as a good mixed fishery. Brown trout *Salmo trutta fario* form the major component of the fish community of the upper

Wensum, whilst the middle and lower reaches are dominated by chub *Leuciscus cephalus*, pike *Esox lucius*, eel *Anguilla anguilla* and barbel *Barbus barbus*. Kingfisher *Alcedo attthis* and little grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* breed along the River, whilst the adjacent wetlands have good populations of reed warblers *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*, sedge warblers *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* and barn owls *Tyto alba*.

Flora

In the upper reaches on gravel substrates lesser water-parsnip *Berula erecta* and the brook water-crowfoot *Ranunculus penicillatus* form a large component of the flora. Where silt has been deposited, spiked water milfoil *Myriophyllum spicatum*, blue water-speedwell *Veronica anagalis-aquatica*, opposite leaved pondweed *Groenlandia densa*, willow moss *Fontinalis antipyretica* and the nationally rare short-leaved starwort *Callitriche truncata* occur.

The middle and lower stretches of the river are characterised by rich lowland plant communities. The dominants are yellow water-lily *Nuphar lutea*, flowering rush *Butomus umbellatus*, fennel pondweed *Potamogeton pectinatus*, perfoliate pondweed *Potamogeton perfoliatus*, arrowhead *Sagittaria sagittifolia* and unbranched bur-reed *Sparganium erectum*. Variations in the aquatic plant community reflect the alternation of fast-flowing shallows with deep slow-moving water. Other species with widespread distribution along the Wensum include rigid hornwort *Ceratophyllum demersum*, spiked water-milfoil *Myriophyllum spicatum*, fan-leaved water-crowfoot *Ranunculus circinatus*, branched bur-reed *Sparganium erectum*, common club-rush *Scirpus lacustris*, horned pondweed *Zannichellia palustris* and the nationally scarce river water-dropwort *Oenanthe fluviatilis*.

The marginal and bankside communities are typical of lowland rivers. Often there are dense and continuous stands of reeds or sedges. Reed sweet-grass *Glyceria maxima* is dominant in the lower reaches. Elsewhere stands of reed canary-grass *Phalaris arundinacea*, greater pond-sedge *Carex riparia*, reedmace *Typha latifolia* and common reed *Phragmites australis* are widespread. Where edges are not dominated by tall emergents, stragling or low-growing herbs such as fool's water-cress *Apium nodiflorum*, water-mint *Mentha aquatica*, water forget-me-not *Myosotis scorpioides* and brooklime *Veronica becaabunga* occur.

Of the semi-natural habitats associated with the River, the most frequently occurring are acidic or neutral unimproved wet grasslands. The flora of these grasslands is typified at Helhoughton and Turf Common by bogbean *Menyanthes trifoliata*, marsh marigold *Caltha palustris*, yellow rattle *Rhinanthus minor*, ragged robin *Lychnis flos-cuculi*, southern marsh orchid *Dactylorhiza praetermissa*, common spotted orchid *Dactylorhiza fuchsii*, water mint *Mentha aquatica* and yellow iris *Iris pseudacorus*.

Elsewhere the land is seasonally inundated so that grazing is restricted; extensive areas of reedbed and tall mixed fen communities have developed which provide valuable breeding and hunting grounds for birds such as the barn owl *Tyto alba* and hen harrier *Circus cyaneus*. Examples include Guist Common which is reed dominated; Goggs Mill Reserve near Fakenham which has a mixed fen community with species such as meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*, angelica *Angelica sylvestris* and meadow rue *Thalictrum flavum*, and Sculthorpe Moor, which although gradually being invaded by willow *Salix* spp. scrub has a fen community of saw sedge *Cladium mariscus* and black bog-rush *Schoenus nigricans*. Although there are several areas of alder swamp interspersed with the above communities, Guist Carr forms the main example of wet woodland within the SSSI.

All of the habitats within the SSSI are intrinsically linked to and dependent on the River for their continued existence. Appropriately, in times of drought, these adjacent wetlands have a vital role in buffering the river against low flows; in wetter periods they absorb river flood waters and become swamp-like in nature.

Two tributaries have been included in the SSSI, the Tat and the Langor Drain. They are both major flow contributors to the main river; historically, the Tat may have been the

original Wensum. The Langor valley comprises an extensive area of semi-natural habitat which is dominated by fen vegetation. The specific composition ranges from almost exclusively reed to a mixture of meadowsweet and sedge species. Parts of Little Ryburgh Common are grazed, having bittersweet *Solanum dulcamara*, branched bur-reed *Sparganium erectum*, water cress *Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum*, greater tussock sedge *Carex paniculata*, lesser water parsnip *Berula erecta*, water mint *Mentha aquatica*, and marsh marigold *Caltha palustris* as elements in their flora. The vegetation of the drier areas of Little Ryburgh Common includes bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*, honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum*, field scabious *Knautia arvensis*, harebell *Campanula rotundifolia* and soft rush *Juncus effusus*.

Invertebrates

The Wensum has an abundant and diverse mollusc fauna which includes the nationally rare, small snail *Vertigo moulinsiana*, which is associated with aquatic vegetation at the river edge. Two other aquatic molluscs which occur, *Valvata piscinalis* and *Gyraulus albus*, have a localised distribution in England. Water beetles are well represented; *Brychnus elevatus*, of localised distribution in England, is found in deep slow-flowing sections of the river. The mayflies *Ephemerella ignita*, *Caenis luctuosa*, *Centroptilium luteolum* and *Centroptilium pennulatum* are also of local distribution. There is a species of stonefly, *Amphinemura standfussi*, more usually associated with upland rivers. The flatworm *Crenobia alpina* is of note, being a relict in southern England where it is confined to cold-water springs.

County Wildlife Sites

CWS Number	CWS name	Description
1283	Land adjacent to River Wensum	This site is an area of rough unimproved grazing pasture adjacent to the River Wensum SSSI. Yorkshire fog (Holcus lanatus) dominates with creeping thistle (Cirsium arvense), welted thistle (Carduus acanthoides) and nettle (Urtica dioica) also present. Other species include spear thistle (Cirsium vulgare), water forget-me-not (Myosotis scorpioides), brooklime (Veronica beccabunga), reed canary grass (Phalaris arundinacea) and compact rush (Juncus conglomeratus). (Based on the Wensum Valley Project 1993 Survey)
1284	Land adjacent to Pensthorpe	This complex site is divided into four sections, partly by the River Wensum SSSI. Since its original survey much of the site has been affected by gravel extraction. The two north-western sections, separated by the River Wensum, comprise tall fen which includes meadowsweet (Filipendula ulmaria), hemp agrimony (Eupatorium cannabinum), and reed sweet-grass (Glyceria maxima). Nettles (Urtica dioica), are extensive in places. This area has extensive gravel extractions and contains a number of water-filled pools. Also within this block is an area of woodland called The Carr which comprises large oak (Quercus robur) standards over a mainly dry fen ground flora. The remaining eastern and southern sections of the site comprise marshy grassland. The southern is drier and less diverse, but does include some areas of orchids. It has been subject to gravel extraction in parts. (Based on the 1985 habitat survey (NWT))
1275	Land adjacent to River Wensum	This site consists of a belt of woodland, broad in the east and narrow in the west with a disused railway as its southern boundary. The River Wensum runs north-east of the wood. The woodland is of two types, with conifer plantations in the eastern block being on sandy soil on higher ground, with many pingoes; in the west is alder and ash carr, on lower ground, on a more peaty soil, with many wet and damp areas. The canopy in the coniferous part is of well-spaced larch Larix decidua, scot's pine Pinus sylvestris and Norway spruce Picea abies, with occasional silver birch Betula pendula, sycamore Acer pseudoplatanus, oak Quercus robur, beech Fagus sylvatica and planted exotic trees. The western side has mostly alder Alnus glutinosa in the wettest parts, some previously coppiced, with abundant ash Fraxinus excelsior, and occasional oak, sweet chestnut Castanea sativa and silver birch in raised, drier areas. The understorey in the eastern part is mostly bracken Pteridium aquilinum, bramble Rubus fruticosus agg. and broad buckler fern Dryopteris dilatata. The western side has abundant hazel Corylus avellana coppice, with frequent holly Ilex aquifolium in places, and also broad buckler fern Dryopteris dilatata, bracken Pteridium aquilinum and locally frequent small spindly ash and occasional guelder rose Viburnum opulus. The ground flora in the east is sparse, with occasional foxglove Digitalis purpurea, common hemp-nettle Galeopsis tetrahit and sheep's sorrel Rumex acetosella in cleared areas, while in the west red campion Silene dioica and ground ivy Glechoma hederacea occur frequently, with a variety of other less frequent species including water figwort Scrophularia auriculata, water mint Mentha aquatica and bittersweet Solanum dulcamara. Marsh marigold Caltha palustris is apparently frequent in the spring. Bluebell Hyacinthoides non-scripta grow abundantly under hazel

CWS Number	CWS name	Description
		in some places. There is some deadwood, and moss cover is good, especially in the wetter parts of the wood. There are many pingoes and ponds, most without any significant aquatic vegetation, though one has an alder 'island' with a large stand of greater tussock sedge Carex paniculata. Marginal vegetation round a small pond in the south-west includes water plantain Alisma plantago-aquatica, celery-leaved buttercup Ranunculus sceleratus and water-milfoil Myriophyllum sp. A pond halfway down the carr supports species including water chickweed Myosoton aquaticum. The site is part of the Pensthorpe Nature Reserve, which is wildlife-friendly with much open ground and many varied habitats.
1281	Lower Clipstone	This site is a small area of diverse marshy grassland on flat ground at the bottom of a small valley and an area of improved and reseeded grassland on the slope to the south. The site also includes a small pond with some emergent vegetation. The flat marshy areas have a well-grazed short turf with tussocks of rushes such as hard rush (Juncus inflexus), particularly near to the pond. The sward is dominated by Yorkshire fog (Holcus lanatus) and common bent (Agrostis capillaris) with sedges such as carnation sedge (Carex panicea) and hairy sedge (Carex hirta) occurring locally. Jointed rush (Juncus articulatus), white clover (Trifolium repens), ribwort plantain (Plantago lanceolata), water mint (Mentha aquatica) and common sorrel (Rumex acetosa) are also found whilst in the drier areas nettle (Urtica dioica) and broad-leaved dock (Rumex obtusifolius) are frequent. Small ditches cross the grassland and support species such as greater bird's-foot trefoil (Lotus uliginosum) whilst scrub and trees occur along the site boundaries. Alder (Alnus glutinosa), ash (Fraxinus excelsior) and crack willow (Salix fragilis) are all common along with dense hawthorn (Crataegus monogyna), gorse (Ulex europaeus) and bramble (Rubus fruticosus agg.). The edges of the pond are rather poached but the margins still support a diverse vegetation including purple-loosestrife (Lythrum salicaria) and small sweet-grass (Glyceria declinata) whilst bulrush (Typha latifolia) and yellow iris (Iris pseudacorus) form an island in shallow water. Aquatic plants include common water-starwort (Callitriche stagnalis) and blanket weed.
1282	West Wood	This is a broad-leaved replanted ancient woodland situated on clay loam soils on a mostly level site. The canopy is made up of mature and very mature standard oak Quercus robur, with an understorey of coppiced hazel Corylus avellana, ash Fraxinus excelsior and occasional field maple Acer campestre, the ash coppice growing from mature and very mature cut trunks. The shrub layer varies with hazel coppice throughout, but with scrubby saplings of ash, elder Sambucus nigra and blackthorn Prunus spinosa growing particularly in the southern two-thirds of the wood. Spindle Euonymus europaeus grows occasionally. Parts of the western edge of the wood appear drier and support bracken Pteridium aquilinum. Tangled thickets of blackberry Rubus fruticosus agg. and honeysuckle Lonicera periclymenum climbers occur locally frequently. The ground flora includes a number of ancient woodland indicators, predominantly bluebell Hyacinthoides non-scripta, dog's mercury Mercurialis perennis and wood anemone Anemone nemoralis, with several clumps of ramsons Allium ursinum. Yellow archangel Lamiastrum

CWS Number	CWS name	Description
		galeobdolon and pignut Conopodium majus are also frequent. Areas of wood in the north-east have been cleared of both standard and coppice, with more opportunist vegetation moving in such as foxglove Digitalis purpurea and marsh thistle Cirsium palustre as well as increasing yellow archangel. Nettle Urtica dioica dominates the south-eastern edge of the wood, adjacent to the farm. A few spikes of early-purple orchid Orchis mascula occur in the dry area to the west. The northernmost third of the wood has a rough track crossing from east to west, off the rough road leading to West Wood Farm and Cottages. Approximately at the mid-point of the track a big grassy clearing has been opened with pheasant feeders around it. Other tracks are indistinct. The site is surrounded by hedges of varying ages, including some old coppiced field maple and some fine standard oaks. There is a lot of deadwood present throughout the wood, mostly in cut coppiced poles left on the ground, but also some stags and stumps and occasional standing deadwood. Arable land, grassland and farm buildings and land, both current and redundant, surround the site. A long strip of similar-looking woodland, Dell Holes Plantation, runs north-eastwards across the road from West Wood. The woodland is surrounded by mostly dry ditches with no specific flora with an old hedge bank along the north-eastern edge. The deep ditch along the eastern perimeter is wet in part and supports many species including water avens Geum rivale, yellow archangel and wood melick Melica uniflora.
2164	Starmoor Belt	A rectangular mixed woodland adjacent to a disused railway. An old hedge is evident within the wood and wood banks occur along the north-east and south-east boundaries of the site; two pollards are found to the north-west. To the east is the oldest part of the wood, with many veteran trees, especially ash (Fraxinus excelsior) and oak (Quercus robur). A layer of young sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus) and occasional Scot's pine (Pinus sylvestris) occurs throughout; planted sweet chestnut (Castanea sativa) occurs occasionally. Native trees found commonly in the understorey include hawthorn (Crataegus monogyna), hazel (Corylus avellana), holly (Ilex aquifolium), elder (Sambucus nigra) and a small thicket of blackthorn (Prunus spinosa). The ground flora includes herb Robert (Geranium robertianum), enchanter's nightshade (Circaea lutetiana), wood avens (Geum urbanum) and red campion (Silene dioica). Nettle (Urtica diocia) is frequent throughout, as is wood false brome (Brachypodium sylvaticum). Sanicle (Sanicula europaea) and violet (Viola sp.) are more localised, as are bugle (Ajuga reptans) and three-neved sandwort (Moehringia trinerva). Deadwood, both standing and fallen, occurs throughout the wood. To the west of the grassy path the wood has been more heavily planted with Norway spruce (Picea abies) and European larch (Larix decidua) amongst the several species planted here, most of which are conifers. The grassy path that transects the site is dominated by Yorkshire Fog (Holcus lanatus), with other common species including silverweed (Potentilla anserine), knapweed (Centaurea nigra), yarrow (Achillea millefoilum), marsh thistle (Cirsium palustre), wild angelica (Angelica sylvestris) and hard rush (Juncus inflexus). An un-vegetated hollow in the south west is probably a pingo.

CWS Number	CWS name	Description
1287	Fishers Common	This site is a CWS for its species-rich marshy grassland and fen communities. A mosaic of drier grassland and marshy grassland with several depressions/pingos and dykes originating from seepage springs with associated fen communities. It is currently summer-grazed by cattle. Kettlestone fen CWS 1289 is found immediately north-west of the site and Kettlestone common and Little Rybugh common are to the south west and are part of the River Wensum SSSI complex. Semi-improved neutral grassland is found to the north of the site and is dominated by meadow grasses with few herbs. The sward is generally short with crested dogs tail (Cynosurus cristatus), meadow foxtail (Alopecurus pratensis), yorkshire fog (Holcus lantatus), rough meadow grass (Poa trivialis), red fescue (Festuca rubra) and sweet vernal grass (Anthoxanthum odoratum) all abundant. Tussocks of soft rush (Juncus effusus) and tufted hair grass (Deschampsia cespitosa) are interspersed amongst the grassland. Common sorrel (Rumex acetosa), hairy sedge (Carex hirta), field wood rush (Luzula campestris) are frequent with hairy tare (Vicia hirsuta) occasional. An area to the south of the common also has a drier neutral grassland community. Meadow foxtail and red fescue are the dominant grasses with abundant creeping buttercup (Ranunculus repens) and germander speedwell (Veronica chamaedrys). Soft rush is only occasional here. The lower, damper areas of the site form a marshy grassland habitat with several depressions/pingos and areas of species-rich fen. Species present include brown sedge (Carex disticha), lesser spearwort (Ranunuclus flammula), marsh foxtail (Alopecurus geniculatus), cuckoo flower (Cardamine pratensis) and bog stitchwort (Stellaria alsine). The north west of the site is wet with calcareous flushes creating an excellent species-rich fen community. Blunt flowered rush (Juncus subnodulus) is abundant with frequent marsh valerian (Valeriana diocia), greater birds-foot trefoil (Lotus pedunculatus) and meadowsweet (Filipendula ulmaria). Occasional species include ragged robin (Lychnis flos-cuculi), marsh marigold (Caltha palustris), marsh cinquefoil (Potentilla palustre) and common valerian (Valeriana officinalis). Bog bean (Menyanthes trifoliate), and southern marsh orchid (Dactylorhiza praetermissa) are rare to occasional. Lesser pond sedge (Carex acutiformis) is abundant as are tussocks of greater tussock sedge (Carex paniculata). This is the most ecologically rich area of the site. A main drain holding water intersects the site south east to north-west. Its margins are very species rich. Within the drain water horsetail (Equisetum fluviatile) is locally frequent. Branched bur-reed (Sparganium erectum) is occasional; water mint (Mentha aquatica) frequent. Some areas of the ditch are dominated by lesser water parsnip (Berula erecta), whilst other areas by floating sweet grass (Glyceria fluitans) and greater tussock sedge. Common reedmace (Typha angustifolia) is occasional and water starwort (Callitriche sp.) rare within the drain. Marginal species include brooklime (Veronica beccabunga), marsh bedstraw (Galium palustre) and greater spearwort (Ranunculus lingua). Meadowsweet is occasional on the margins with yellow rattle (Rhinanthus minor). Site is in good condition with suitable management of cattle grazing during the summer months.

CWS Number	CWS name	Description
1273	Starmoor Wood & Plantation (formerly Adj. Disused Railway)	Part of Starmoor Wood was made CWS in 1993, this largely followed the south side of the disused railway line and is deciduous coppice woodland, dominated by alder Alnus glutinosa and birch Betula spp. with mature oak Quercus robur and ash Fraxinus excelsior. The structure is varied with much neglected hazel Corylus avellana coppice. Some areas are heavily shaded and consequently the woodland floor is largely bare. Other areas have a tall shrub layer of bramble Rubus fruticosus agg. and nettle Urtica dioica with honeysuckle Lonicera periclymenum)and hogweed Heracleum sphondylium, red campion Silene dioica in patches, also dog's mercury Mercurialis perennis and herb-Robert Geranium robertianum. There is much standing dead wood. Numerous pingo-like depressions occur in the wood, the larger, with standing water, have alders with broad buckler fern all round them; the water is covered with common duckweed Lemna minor. Damper pingos around the wood sometimes have grey willow Salix cinerea and red currant Ribes rubrum in and around the, and one or two hold stands of water-pepper Persicaria hydro-piper. North of the railway, up to the River Wensum, is a mix of seasonally-wet alder carr with ash, downy birch Betula pubescens and hazel as well as areas of planted pines; there is little ground flora in either. Ditches here support water-starwort Callitriche agg. and common duckweed, with hemp agrimony Eupatorium cannabinum, nettle, red campion Silene dioica, water mint Mentha aquatica, lesser pond sedge Carex acutiformis, water forget-me-not Myosotis scorpioides, reed Phragmites australis and ground ivy Glechoma hederacea grow on the edges. A wet area supports dense, tangled grey willow, crack willow Salix fragilis and osier Salix viminalis and huge hybrid poplar edge the woodland here. Shallow pingos are scattered through the wood here, supporting local reed Phragmites australis, lesser pond sedge Carex actuiformis and rare broad buckler fern Dryopteris dilatata. A narrow strip of land, north of part of the SSSI, is dominated by Scot's pine Pinus sylvestris with some hazel below in the west and here the land varies between wet and dry: where wet, the land is muddy and the vegetation is dense and impenetrable, with tree species such as osier, grey willow and hawthorn Crataegus monogyna net;egrowing with abundant common reed and common nettle, as well as some yellow iris Iris pseudacorus and bittersweet Solanum dulcamara; huge hybrid poplar grow at intervals by the river. Where dry, Norway maple Acer platanoides and hazel are dominant. South of the middle ditch, the land is generally drier with standard oak and hazel below, though the eastern end is more open and ash, alder, hawthorn and a few guelder rose Viburnum opulus also grow, with some bare leaf litter. The southern edge of this whole strip has a dry ditch all the way along, full of common nettle. Some mature trees grow alongside the ditch, including pollard oaks, other tall oaks and a big multi-stemmed ash at the eastern end. The disused railway line has abundant scrub of hazel, downy birch, grey willow, blackthorn Prunus spinosa and goat willow Salix caprea, making a dense, dark habitat. Tall shrubs of grey willow and hazel grow out from the base of the embankment and sprawl across the old track. Occasional forbs include frequent nettle, with some ground ivy, herb robert and wood avens Geum urbanum. The areas at the base of the embankment are very dark and damp

CWS Number	CWS name	Description
		with sprawling dead willow branches and no ground flora. The triangle of land that makes up most of Starmoor Wood, to the south of the CWS, is potentially of CWS quality, with many good quality pingos; however, ownership is currently unknown.

Appendix 3. Abbreviations used in Tables 1 and 2.

Tables 1-2 abbreviations key: UK BoCC Red list criteria

Code	Issue
IUCN	Global Conservation Status. Species listed by Birdlife International as being Globally Threatened using IUCN criteria.
HD	Historical Decline: A severe decline in the UK population between 1800 and 1995 without substantial recent recovery.
BDp	Breeding Population Decline: Severe decline in the UK breeding population size of more than 50%, over 25 years (BDp1), or since 1969 (BDp2).
WDp	Non-breeding Population Decline: Severe decline in the UK non-breeding population size, of more than 50%, over 25 years (Wdp1) of since 1969 (WDp2).
BDr	Breeding Range Decline: Severe decline in the UK range, of more than 50%, over 25 years (BDr1) or since 1969 (BDr2).

Tables 1-2 abbreviations key: UK BoCC Amber list criteria

Code	Issue
SPEC	European Conservation Status: Categorised as a Species of European Conservation Concern (SPEC 1, 2 or 3).
HDrec	Historical Decline – Recovery: previously red listed for Historical Decline, but now with substantial recent recovery (population size has more than doubled in the last 25 years).
BDMp	Breeding Population Decline: As for red list criteria BDp1 and BDp2, but with moderate (≥25-≤50%) decline.
WDMp	Non-breeding Population Decline: As for red list criteria WDp1 and WDp2, but with moderate (≥25-≤50%) decline.
BDMr	Breeding Range Decline: As for red list criteria BDr1 and BDr2, but with moderate (≥25-≤50%) decline.
BR and WR	Rarity: UK breeding population of less than 300 pairs (BR), or non-breeding population of less than 900 individuals (WR).
BL and WL	Localisation: At least 50% of the UK breeding (BL) or non-breeding (WL) population found in 10 or fewer sites.
BI and WI	International Importance: At least 20% of the European breeding (BI) or non-breeding (WI) population found in the UK.

Table 1-2 abbreviations key: general

	Abbreviated Designation	Full designation	Description
International	Bern1	Bern Convention Appendix 1	Special protection (`appropriate and necessary legislative and administrative measures`) for the plant taxa listed, including prohibition of deliberate picking, collecting, cutting, uprooting and, as appropriate, possession or sale.
International	Bern2	Bern Convention Appendix 2	Special protection (`appropriate and necessary legislative and administrative measures`) for the animal taxa listed, includingall forms of deliberate capture and

	Abbreviated Designation	Full designation	Description
			keeping and deliberate killing; the deliberate damage to or destruction of breeding or restin
International	Bern3	Bern Convention Appendix 3	Special protection through 'appropriate and necessary legislative and administrative measures', of the listed wild fauna species.
International	BD1	Birds Directive Annex 1	Birds which are the subject of special conservation measures concerning their habitat in order to ensure their survival and reproduction in their area of distribution. As appropriate, Special Protection Areas to be established to assist conservation measu
International	BD2.1	Birds Directive Annex 2.1	Birds which may potentially be hunted under national legislation within the geographical land and sea area to which the Directive applies. (Note that some species are protected by the national legislation of some Member States although hunting would poten
International	BD2.2	Birds Directive Annex 2.2	Birds which may potentially be hunted under national legislation only within certain specified Member States. (Note that some species are protected by the national legislation of some Member States although hunting would potentially be legal under the Dir
International	BD3.1	Birds Directive Annex 3.1	Birds (or parts / derivatives of) which may be sold, kept for sale or transported for sale provided they have been legally killed, captured or otherwise legally acquired (see Article 6.1).
International	BD3.2	Birds Directive Annex 3.2	Birds (or parts / derivatives of) which may be sold, kept for sale or transported for sale provided they have been legally killed, captured or otherwise legally acquired provided authorisation has been granted by the relevant Member State (see Article 6.2
International	BD3.3	Birds Directive Annex 3.3	Birds which, in 1979, the European Commission were charged under Article 6.4 with carrying out studies to assess the biological status of and the effects of marketing on such status. (Note this Annex is no longer operative, these studies having now been u
International	CMS_A1	Convention on Migratory Species, Appendix 1	Endangered migratory species in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of their range, and for which Range States are obliged to prohibit taking and to take protective measures to conserve. (Note that taking may be permitted in some
International	CMS_A2	Convention on Migratory Species, Appendix 2	Migratory species having an unfavourable conservation status for which Range States are encouraged to conclude international agreements for their benefit.
International	CMS_AEWA-A2	Convention on Migratory Species, African-Eurasian Waterbirds Agreement - Annex II	Conservation of migratory waterbirds, giving special attention to endangered species as well as to those with an unfavourable conservation status.
International	CMS_ASCOBANS	Convention on Migratory Species, Small Cetaceans Agreement, Baltic, NE.Atlantic, Irish, N Seas	Conservation of small cetacean species to achieve favourable conservation status, conscious that the management of threats to their existence, such as bycatch, habitat deterioration and other anthropogenic disturbance, requires concerted and coordinated r
International	CMS_EUROBATS-A1	Convention on Migratory Species, EUROBATS - Annex I	Protection and enhancement of species populations through legislation, education, conservation measures and international co-operation.
International	CITESA	EC CITES Annex A	All CITES Appendix I species. Some CITES Appendix II and III species, for which the EU has adopted stricter domestic measures.

	Abbreviated Designation	Full designation	Description
			Some non-CITES species.
International	CITESB	EC CITES Annex B	All other CITES Appendix II species not listed in Annex A.Some CITES Appendix III species.Some non-CITES species.
International	CITESC	EC CITES Annex C	All other CITES Appendix III species not listed in Annex A or Annex B.
International	CITESD	EC CITES Annex D	Some CITES Appendix III species for which the EU holds a reservation (CITES reservations - English, French, Spanish). Some non-CITES species.
International	HSD2np	Habitats Directive Annex 2 - priority species	Species which are endangered, the conservation of which the Community has a particular responsibility in view of the proportion of their natural range which falls within the territory of the Community. They require the designation of special areas of cons
International	HSD2p	Habitats Directive Annex 2 - non-priority species	Animal and plant species of Community interest (i.e. endangered, vulnerable, rare or endemic in the European Community) whose conservation requires the designation of special areas of conservation. Note that the contents of this annex have been updated in
International	HSD4	Habitats Directive Annex 4	Animal and plant species of Community interest (i.e. endangered, vulnerable, rare or endemic in the European Community) in need of strict protection. They are protected from killing, disturbance or the destruction of them or their habitat. Note that the c
International	HSD5	Habitats Directive Annex 5	Animal and plant species of Community interest whose taking in the wild and exploitation may be subject to management measures.
International	OSPAR	OSPAR Convention	OSPAR Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic. OSPAR List of Threatened and/or Declining Species and Habitats.
Nat Legislation	PBA	Protection of Badgers Act 1992	An Act to consolidate the Badgers Act 1973, the Badgers Act 1991 and the Badgers (Further Protection) Act 1991. Prohibits the wilful injuring, killing or taking of badgers, except as permitted by or under the Act.
Nat Legislation	Sect.41	Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 - Species of Principal Importance in England (sec	Species “of principal importance for the purpose of conserving biodiversity” covered under section 41 (England) of the NERC Act (2006) and therefore need to be taken into consideration by a public body when performing any of its functions
Nat Legislation	HabRegs2	The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2010 (Schedule 2)	Schedule 2- European protected species of animals.
Nat Legislation	HabRegs4	The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2010 (Schedule 4)	Schedule 4- Animals which may not be taken or killed in certain ways
Nat Legislation	HabRegs5	The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2010 (Schedule 5)	Schedule 5- European protected species of plants.
Nat Legislation	ScotBL	Scottish Biodiversity List of species of principal importance for biodiversity conservation	The Scottish Biodiversity List is a list of flora, fauna and habitats considered by the Scottish Ministers to be of principal importance for biodiversity conservation. The development of the list has been a collaborative effort involving a great many stak
Nat Legislation	WO1i	The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (Schedule 1 Part 1)	Birds which are protected by special penalties at all times.
Nat Legislation	WO1ii	The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (Schedule 1 Part 2)	Birds which are protected by special penalties during the close season.
Nat Legislation	WO2i	The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (Schedule 2 Part 1)	Birds which may be killed or taken outside the close season.

	Abbreviated Designation	Full designation	Description
Nat Legislation	WO2ii	The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (Schedule 2 Part 2)	Birds which may be killed or taken by authorised persons at all times. This has now been deleted and no longer applies: the provision of this part is covered by General Licences issued annually.
Nat Legislation	WO3	The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (Schedule 3)	Birds which may be sold dead at all times.
Nat Legislation	WO4	The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (Schedule 4)	Birds which may be shown for competitive purposes.
Nat Legislation	WO5	The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (Schedule 5)	Animals which are protected at all times.
Nat Legislation	WO6	The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (Schedule 6)	Animals which may not be killed or taken by certain methods.
Nat Legislation	WO7	The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (Schedule 7)	Animals which may be sold alive or dead at any time.
Nat Legislation	WO8i	The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (Schedule 8 - Part 1)	Plants which are protected from intentional picking, removal or destruction and from selling (in whole or part) and from advertising for sale.
Nat Legislation	WO8ii	The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (Schedule 8 - Part 2)	Plants which may not be sold.
Nat Legislation	WO9i	The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (Schedule 9 - Part 1)	Animals which established in the wild but may not be released from captivity.
Nat Legislation	WO9ii	The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (Schedule 9 - Part 2)	Plants which may not be caused to grow in the wild.
Nat Legislation	WCA1i	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 1 Part 1)	Birds which are protected by special penalties at all times.
Nat Legislation	WCA1ii	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 1 Part 2)	Birds which are protected by special penalties during the close season.
Nat Legislation	WCA2i	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 2 Part 1)	Birds which may be killed or taken outside the close season.
Nat Legislation	WCA2ii	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 2 Part 2)	Birds which may be killed or taken by authorised persons at all times.
Nat Legislation	WCA3i	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 3 Part 1)	Birds which may be sold alive at all times if ringed and bred in captivity.
Nat Legislation	WCA3ii	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 3 Part 2)	Birds which may be sold dead at all times.
Nat Legislation	WCA3iii	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 3 Part 3)	Birds which may be sold dead from 1st September to 28th February.
Nat Legislation	WCA4	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 4)	Birds which must be registered and ringed if kept in captivity.
Nat Legislation	WCA5/9.1(kill/injuring)	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 5 Section 9.1 (killing/injuring))	Section 9.1. Animals which are protected from intentional killing or injuring.
Nat Legislation	WCA5/9.1(taking)	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 5 Section 9.1 (taking))	Section 9.1 Animals which are protected from taking.
Nat Legislation	WCA5/9.2	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 5 Section 9.2)	Section 9.2 Animals which are protected from being possessed or controlled (live or dead).
Nat Legislation	WCA5/9.4a	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 5 Section 9.4a)	Section 9.4 Animals which are protected from intentional damage or destruction to any structure or place used for shelter or protection.
Nat Legislation	WCA5/9.4b	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 5 Section 9.4b)	Section 9.4 Animals which are protected from intentional disturbance while occupying a structure or place used for shelter or protection.
Nat Legislation	WCA5/9.5a	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 5 Section 9.5a)	Section 9.5 Animals which are protected from being sold, offered for sale or being held or transported for sale either live or dead, whole or part.
Nat Legislation	WCA5/9.5b	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 5 Section 9.5b)	Section 9.5 Animals which are protected from being published or advertised as being for sale.
Nat Legislation	WCA5/9.4A*	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 5)	Ceteaca/basking shark that are not allowed to be intentionally or recklessly disturbed.
Nat Legislation	WCA5/9.4c	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 5)	Animals which are protected from their access to any structure or place which they use for shelter or protection being obstructed.

	Abbreviated Designation	Full designation	Description
Nat Legislation	WCA6	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 6)	Animals which may not be killed or taken by certain methods.
Nat Legislation	WCA8	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 8)	Plants which are protected from intentional picking, uprooting or destruction (Section 13 1a); selling, offering for sale, possessing or transporting for the purpose of sale (live or dead, part or derivative) (Section 13 2a); advertising (any of these) fo
Nat Legislation	WCA9i	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 9 Part 1)	Animals which may not be released or allowed to escape into the wild.
Nat Legislation	WCA9ii	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 9 Part 2)	Plants which may not be planted or caused to grow in the wild.
Nat Legislation	Sect.42	Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 - Species of Principal Importance in Wales (secti	Species "of principal importance for the purpose of conserving biodiversity" covered under Section 42 (Wales) of the NERC Act (2006) and therefore need to be taken into consideration by a public body when performing any of its functions with a view to con
New NBIS List	Breck_Special	Breckland Specialists	Species identified as Breckland specialits by the Breckland Biodiversity audit 2010
New NBIS List	NRPl	Norfolk Rare Plants	Norfolk rare plants as identified by BSBI County recorder Bob Ellis
Other rare/scarce	FEP1	Farm Environment Plan Guidance 001	Species is listed in the DEFRA document 'Environmental Stewardship Farm Environment Plan Guidance 001: Hedgerow Woody Species (from Schedule 3 of Hedgerow Regulations 1997)'.
Other rare/scarce	FEP7/2	Farm Environment Plan Guidance 007- Table 2	Species is listed in 'Table 2: Farm Environment Plan Species to be recorded in Part 2 of the FEP' of the DEFRA document 'Environmental Stewardship Farm Environment Plan Guidance 007: Plant & animal species in the Farm Environment Plan (FEP)'.
Other rare/scarce	FEP7/3	Farm Environment Plan Guidance 007- Table 3	Species is listed in 'Table 3: High Value Arable Margin Indicator Species' of the DEFRA document 'Environmental Stewardship Farm Environment Plan Guidance 007: Plant & animal species in the Farm Environment Plan (FEP)'.
Other rare/scarce	NRMar	Nationally rare marine species	Species which occur in eight or fewer 10km X 10km grid squares containing sea (or water of marine saline influence) within the three mile territorial limit.
Other rare/scarce	NSMar	Nationally scarce marine species	Species which occur in nine to 55 10km X 10km grid squares containing sea (or water of marine saline influence) within the three mile territorial limit.
Other rare/scarce	N	Nationally Notable	Species which are estimated to occur within the range of 16 to 100 10km squares. (subdivision into Notable A and Notable B is not always possible because there may be insufficient information available). Superseded by Nationally Scarce, and therefore no l
Other rare/scarce	NA	Nationally Notable A	Taxa which do not fall within RDB categories but which are none-the-less uncommon in Great Britain and thought to occur in 30 or fewer 10km squares of the National Grid or, for less well-recorded groups, within seven or fewer vice-counties. Superseded by
Other rare/scarce	NB	Nationally Notable B	Taxa which do not fall within RDB categories but which are none-the-less uncommon in Great Britain and thought to occur in between 31 and 100 10km squares of the National Grid or, for less-well recorded

	Abbreviated Designation	Full designation	Description
			groups between eight and twenty vice-counties. Super
Other rare/scarce	NR-excludes	Nationally rare. Excludes Red Listed taxa	Occurring in 15 or fewer hectads in Great Britain. Excludes rare species qualifying under the main IUCN criteria.
Other rare/scarce	NS-excludes	Nationally scarce. Excludes Red Listed taxa	Occurring in 15 or fewer hectads in Great Britain. Excludes rare species qualifying under the main IUCN criteria.
Red Data List	BAmb	Bird Population Status - amber	Amber list species are those with an unfavourable conservation status in Europe; those whose population or range has declined moderately in recent years; those whose population has declined historically but made a substantial recent recovery; rare breeder
Red Data List	BRed	Bird Population Status - red	Red list species are those that are Globally Threatened according to IUCN criteria; those whose population or range has declined rapidly in recent years; and those that have declined historically and not shown a substantial recent recovery.
Red Data List	RLGB.CR	IUCN (2001) - Critically endangered	A taxon is Critically Endangered when it is facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild in the immediate future, as defined by any of the criteria A to E.
Red Data List	RLGB.DD	IUCN (2001) - Data Deficient	A taxon is Data Deficient when there is inadequate information to make a direct, or indirect, assessment of its risk of extinction based on its distribution and/or population status. A taxon in this category may be well studied, and its biology well known
Red Data List	RLGB.EN	IUCN (2001) - Endangered	A taxon is Endangered when it is not Critically endangered but is facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild in the near future.
Red Data List	RLGB.EW	IUCN (2001) - Extinct in the wild	A taxon is Extinct in the wild in Great Britain when it is known to survive only in cultivation, in captivity or as a naturalised population (or populations) well outside the past range. A taxon is presumed extinct in the wild when exhaustive surveys in k
Red Data List	RLGB.EX	IUCN (2001) - Extinct	A taxon is Extinct in Great Britain when there is no reasonable doubt that the last individual in Great Britain has died. A taxon is presumed extinct when exhaustive surveys in known and/or expected habitat, at appropriate times (diurnal, seasonal, annual
Red Data List	RLGB.NT	IUCN (2001) - Lower risk - near threatened	Taxa which do not qualify for Lower Risk (conservation dependent), but which are close to qualifying for Vulnerable. In Britain, this category includes species which occur in 15 or fewer hectads but do not qualify as Critically Endangered, Endangered or V
Red Data List	RLGB.RE	IUCN (2001) - Regionally Extinct	Category for a taxon when there is no reasonable doubt that the last individual potentially capble of reproduction within the region has died or has disappeared from the wild in the region, or when, if it is a former visiting taxon, the last individual ha
Red Data List	RLGB.VU	IUCN (2001) - Vulnerable	A taxon is Vulnerable when it is not Critically Endangered or Endangered but is facing a high risk of extinction in the wild in the medium term future.
Red Data List	RLGB.CR	IUCN (1994) - Critically endangered	A taxon is Critically Endangered when it is facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild in the immediate future, as defined by any of the criteria A to E.
Red Data List	RLGB.DD	IUCN (1994) - Data Deficient	A taxon is Data Deficient when there is inadequate information to make a direct, or indirect, assessment of its risk of extinction based on its distribution and/or population status. A taxon in this category may be well

	Abbreviated Designation	Full designation	Description
			studied, and its biology well known
Red Data List	RLGB.EN	IUCN (1994) - Endangered	A taxon is Endangered when it is not Critically endangered but is facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild in the near future.
Red Data List	RLGB.EX	IUCN (1994) - Extinct	Taxa which are no longer known to exist in the wild after repeated searches of their localities and other known likely places.Superseded by new IUCN categories in 1994, but still applicable to lists that have not been reviewed since 1994.
Red Data List	RLGBLr(NT)	IUCN (1994) - Lower risk - near threatened	Taxa which do not qualify for Lower Risk (conservation dependent), but which are close to qualifying for Vulnerable. In Britain, this category includes species which occur in 15 or fewer hectads but do not qualify as Critically Endangered, Endangered or V
Red Data List	RLGB.VU	IUCN (1994) - Vulnerable	A taxon is Vulnerable when it is not Critically Endangered or Endangered but is facing a high risk of extinction in the wild in the medium term future.
Red Data List	RDBGB.EN	IUCN (pre 1994) - Endangered	Taxa in danger of extinction and whose survival is unlikely if the causal factors continue operating. Superseded by new IUCN categories in 1994, but still applicable to lists that have not been reviewed since 1994.
Red Data List	RDBGB.EX	IUCN (pre 1994) - Extinct	Taxa which are no longer known to exist in the wild after repeated searches of their localities and other known likely places.Superseded by new IUCN categories in 1994, but still applicable to lists that have not been reviewed since 1994.
Red Data List	RDBGB.Inde	RDB - Indeterm	Taxa not seen since 1970 but require further survey before they can be declared extinctknown to be Extinct, Endangered, Vulnerable or Rare, but where there is not enough information to say which of these categories is appropriate. Superseded by new IUCN c
Red Data List	RDBGB.Insu	RDB - Insuff known	Taxa that are suspected but not definitely known to belong to any of the above categories (i.e. Endangered, Vulnerable, Rare), because of the lack of information. Superseded by new IUCN categories in 1994, so no longer in use.
Red Data List	RDBGB.R	IUCN (pre 1994) - Rare	Taxa with small populations that are not at present Endangered or Vulnerable, but are at risk. (In GB, this was interpreted as species which exist in fifteen or fewer 10km squares). Superseded by new IUCN categories in 1994, but still applicable to lists
Red Data List	RDBGB.Thre	RDB - Threatened endemic	Taxa which are not known to occur naturally outside Britain. Taxa within this category may also be in any of the other RDB categories or not threatened at all.
Red Data List	RDBGB.VU	IUCN (pre 1994) - Vulnerable	Taxa believed likely to move into the Endangered category in the near future if the causal factors continue operating. Superseded by new IUCN categories in 1994, but still applicable to lists that have not been reviewed since 1994.
Red Data List	RLGLB.CR	IUCN (2001) - Critically endangered	A taxon is Critically Endangered when the best available evidence indicates that it meets any of the criteria A to E for Critically Endangered (see Section V), and it is therefore considered to be facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild.
Red Data List	RLGLB.EN	IUCN (2001) - Endangered	A taxon is Endangered when the best available evidence indicates that it meets any of the criteria A to E for Endangered (see

	Abbreviated Designation	Full designation	Description
			Section V), and it is therefore considered to be facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild.
Red Data List	RLGLB.VU	IUCN (2001) - Vulnerable	A taxon is Vulnerable when the best available evidence indicates that it meets any of the criteria A to E for Vulnerable (see Section V), and it is therefore considered to be facing a high risk of extinction in the wild.
Red Data List	RLGLB.DD	IUCN (2001) - Data Deficient	A taxon is Data Deficient when there is inadequate information to make a direct, or indirect, assessment of its risk of extinction based on its distribution and/or population status. A taxon in this category may be well studied, and its biology well known
Red Data List	RLGLB.EX	IUCN (2001) - Extinct	A taxon is Extinct when there is no reasonable doubt that the last individual has died. A taxon is presumed Extinct when exhaustive surveys in known and/or expected habitat, at appropriate times (diurnal, seasonal, annual), throughout its historic range h
Red Data List	RLGLB.NT	IUCN (2001) - Lower risk - near threatened	A taxon is Near Threatened when it has been evaluated against the criteria but does not qualify for Critically Endangered, Endangered or Vulnerable now, but is close to qualifying for or is likely to qualify for a threatened category in the near future.
Red Data List	RLGLB.CR	IUCN (1994) - Critically endangered	A taxon is Critically Endangered when it is facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild in the immediate future, as defined by any of the criteria A to E.
Red Data List	RLGLB.DD	IUCN (1994) - Data Deficient	A taxon is Data Deficient when there is inadequate information to make a direct, or indirect, assessment of its risk of extinction based on its distribution and/or population status. A taxon in this category may be well studied, and its biology well known
Red Data List	RLGLB.EN	IUCN (1994) - Endangered	Taxa in danger of extinction and whose survival is unlikely if the causal factors continue operating. Superseded by new IUCN categories in 1994, but still applicable to lists that have not been reviewed since 1994.
Red Data List	RLGLB.LR(cd)	IUCN (1994) - Lower risk - conservation dependent	Taxa which are the focus of a continuing taxon-specific or habitat-specific conservation programme targeted towards the taxon in question, the cessation of which would result in the taxon qualifying for one of the threatened categories above within a peri
Red Data List	RLGLB.NT	IUCN (1994) - Lower risk - near threatened	Taxa which do not qualify for Lower Risk (conservation dependent), but which are close to qualifying for Vulnerable. In Britain, this category includes species which occur in 15 or fewer hectads but do not qualify as Critically Endangered, Endangered or V
Red Data List	RLGLB.VU	IUCN (1994) - Vulnerable	Taxa believed likely to move into the Endangered category in the near future if the causal factors continue operating. Superseded by new IUCN categories in 1994, but still applicable to lists that have not been reviewed since 1994.
UK BAP	UKBAP	UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species	The UK List of Priority Species and Habitats contains 1150 species and 65 habitats that have been listed as priorities for conservation action under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP).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