

A meeting of the **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (ENVIRONMENT, COMMUNITIES AND PARTNERSHIPS)** will be held in **CIVIC SUITE, PATHFINDER HOUSE, ST MARY'S STREET, HUNTINGDON PE29 3TN** on **THURSDAY, 1 FEBRUARY 2024** at **7:00 PM** and you are requested to attend for the transaction of the following business:-

## **AGENDA**

### **APOLOGIES**

**1. MINUTES** (Pages 5 - 8)

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environment, Communities and Partnerships) meeting held on 4th January 2024.

**Contact Officer: B Buddle 01480 388008**

**2. MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

To receive from Members declarations as to disclosable pecuniary and other interests in relation to any Agenda item.

**Contact Officer: B Buddle 01480 388008**

**3. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME** (Pages 9 - 20)

a) The Panel are to receive the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme and current Notice of Key Executive Decisions.

b) Members to discuss future planning of items for the Work Programme

**Contact Officer: B Buddle 01480 388008**

**4. THE GREAT FEN**

The Panel is to receive a presentation on the Great Fen Project from The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire & Northamptonshire

**Contact Officer: B Buddle 01480 388008**

**5. FLOODING MANAGEMENT UPDATE (Pages 21 - 46)**

To receive an update on Flooding Management in the District.

**Contact Officer: O Morley 01480 388103**

**6. BUSINESS RATES DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF POLICY (Pages 47 - 80)**

The Panel is invited to comment on the Business Rates Discretionary Rate Relief Policy.

**Executive Councillor: S Ferguson**

**Contact Officer: Z Warren 01480 388461**

**7. UPDATE ON ALTERNATIVE LAND MANAGEMENT (Pages 81 - 240)**

To receive an Update on Alternative Land Management.

**Executive Councillor: L Davenport-Ray**

**Contact Officer: M Chudley 01480 388323**

**8. SUPPORT TO THE FINANCIALLY VULNERABLE (Pages 241 - 254)**

To receive and comment on a report regarding support to those who are Financially Vulnerable or in Financial Crisis: Amendment to Partnership Arrangements with Citizen's Advice Rural Cambridgeshire.

**Executive Councillor: B Pitt**

**Contact Officer: P Fox 01480 388530**

24 day of January 2024

**Michelle Sacks**

Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service

**Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and other Registerable and Non-Registerable Interests.**

Further information on [Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and other Registerable and Non-Registerable Interests is available in the Council's Constitution](#)

**Filming, Photography and Recording (including Live Streaming) at Council Meetings**

This meeting will be filmed for live and/or subsequent broadcast on the Council's YouTube site. The whole of the meeting will be filmed, except where there are confidential or exempt items. If you make a representation to the meeting you will

be deemed to have consented to being filmed. By entering the meeting you are also consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for webcasting and/or training purposes. If you have any queries regarding the streaming of Council meetings, please contact Democratic Services on 01480 388169.

The District Council also permits filming, recording and the taking of photographs at its meetings that are open to the public. Arrangements for these activities should operate in accordance with [guidelines](#) agreed by the Council.

**Please contact Mrs Beccy Buddle, Democratic Services Officer (Scrutiny), Tel No: 01480 388008/e-mail [Beccy.Buddle@huntingdonshire.gov.uk](mailto:Beccy.Buddle@huntingdonshire.gov.uk) if you have a general query on any Agenda Item, wish to tender your apologies for absence from the meeting, or would like information on any decision taken by the Committee/Panel.**

Specific enquiries with regard to items on the Agenda should be directed towards the Contact Officer.

Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting as observers except during consideration of confidential or exempt items of business.

Agenda and enclosures can be viewed on the [District Council's website](#).

#### **Emergency Procedure**

In the event of the fire alarm being sounded and on the instruction of the Meeting Administrator, all attendees are requested to vacate the building via the closest emergency exit.

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## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (ENVIRONMENT, COMMUNITIES AND PARTNERSHIPS) held in Civic Suite, Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon PE29 3TN on Thursday, 4 January 2024.

PRESENT: Councillor J E Kerr – Chair.

Councillors T Alban, M J Burke, S Bywater, S J Criswell, N J Hunt, M Kadewere, D J Shaw and G J Welton.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors J E Harvey, C Lowe and S R McAdam.

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillors L Davenport-Ray, M A Hassall and S L Taylor.

### **38. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 7th December 2023 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### **39. MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

No declarations were received.

### **40. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME**

With the aid of a report by the Democratic Services Officer (Scrutiny) (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme was presented to the Panel and the current Notice of Key Executive Decisions which had been prepared by the Executive Leader for the period 1st January 2024 to 30th April 2024 was noted.

*Following a discussion, the Panel agreed to alter the order of the agenda to allow for better flow of discussion.*

### **41. CIVIL PARKING ENFORCEMENT UPDATE**

By means of a report by the Operations Manager (a copy of which was appended in the Minute Book) the Civil Parking Enforcement Update report was presented to the Panel.

Following a question from Councillor Alban, the Panel heard that due to the geographic nature, there is an increase in costs to enforce parking in rural areas, however a balance would be found to maintain compliance and enforcement. The Panel also heard that an ongoing relationship with members flagging areas of concern would be critical to the maintenance of this balance. In response to a further question from Councillor Alban, the Panel heard that due to the geographical

reach of Cambridgeshire it is not viable for teams from Cambridge to travel into the rural areas to enforce parking, therefore HDC were supporting their rural neighbours, in particular Fenland.

The Panel heard that a communications plan would be implemented as part of the project to ensure awareness in both members and residents. Councillor Bywater commented that the timing of these communications would be key and observed that seasonal timings, such as school holidays, be taken into consideration as part of the plan.

The Panel were advised, in response to questions from Councillors Burke and Shaw, that modelling had been informed by professional associates and that HDC had benchmarked against similar rural districts for anticipated costs incurred and anticipated compliance. The Panel were further advised that by law, Civil Parking Enforcement could not make a surplus and that any surplus achieved must be ringfenced to transport projects. A balance would be struck between enforcement and compliance, and also that no targets would be set as ideally there should not be a need to issue enforcements. The Panel were also assured that the limit on generating a surplus income would not limit the quantity of notices issued.

Councillor Hunt enquired whether the anticipated General Election posed a threat to the timeline of the project, the Panel were assured that the risk had been noted however, the application would be classed as regular business therefore not anticipated to be an issue.

Further to a question from Councillor Alban regarding information on other authorities and what surplus others encountered, the Panel were assured that this was not a money generating exercise and that the model was comparable to similar rural authorities. The Panel were further advised that this was publicly available information and would be shared with the Panel following the meeting.

The Panel praised an excellent report and were advised that an annual report on progress would be fed through the democratic cycle in due course.

Following the discussion, it was

RESOLVED

that the comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel be passed to Cabinet for their consideration when making a decision upon the recommendations contained within the report.

#### **42. BIODIVERSITY FOR ALL - STRATEGIC OPEN SPACES**

By means of a report by the Open Spaces Project Manager (a copy of which was appended in the Minute Book), the Biodiversity for All – Strategic Open Spaces Report was presented to the Panel.

Following questions from Councillor Alban, it was confirmed to the Panel that MKA was the name of the ecology consultancy who undertook the audit in the report. It was also confirmed that Units were defined by Natural England and were broken down by habitats.

The Panel heard that this was a complex field and that different habitat types had different units attached. It was suggested that a separate briefing be arranged to discuss this in more detail.

Following a question from Councillor Hunt on community involvement, the Panel heard that the team envisaged community engagement to allow for conversations regarding this.

Councillor Bywater enquired about the anticipated budget for the planned work and expressed concerns on clarity of costings, following which, the Panel were assured that external funding had been secured via the Combined Authority and would form the budget for the planned works. It was further highlighted that Appendix E illustrated the potential uplift in biodiversity to be achieved by this. It was further assured that the team want to achieve as much as possible with the funding available but also that national funding was expected, the works done to date would allow the team to be in a good position once this became available to further develop projects.

Councillor Burke enquired about community engagement with groups who are known users of the districts Open Spaces, the Panel were assured that a communications plan would be implemented to ensure this.

It was clarified to the Panel, following a question from Councillor Shaw, that Appendix A demonstrated the breakdown of all aspects of the project and its costs. It was further clarified, further to a question from Councillor Hunt, that the audits would be published on the HDC website in due course.

Whereupon, it was

RESOLVED

that the comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel be passed to Cabinet for their consideration when making a decision upon the recommendations contained within the report.

#### **43. OPEN SPACES UPDATE**

By means of a presentation by the Operations Manager – Parks and Open Spaces (a copy of which was appended in the Minute Book) an Update on Open Spaces was presented to the Panel.

Following an enquiry from Councillor Bywater, the Panel heard that the team had developed strategic connections with local partnerships and agencies thus connecting community groups with their local spaces. The Panel were further advised that the One Leisure Active Lifestyles team were involved in connecting partnerships with communities and the distribution of the associated funding.

In response to a question from Councillor Burke, the Panel heard that the Council were an early adopter of accessible recreational equipment, however research had been undertaken to see how this equipment had evolved and to understand how community groups are using the equipment to ensure that it continues to fulfil the needs of residents.

The Panel heard, in response to a question from Councillor Alban, that the team were aware that access in the form of carparking could be an issue at some open spaces but that there was open discourse with local residents to ensure this was managed to the benefit of all.

Councillor Hunt praised the team for the excellent service that they provide and the value for money they give, this sentiment was echoed by the Panel.

#### **44. UPDATE ON REDUCING THE CARBON IMPACT OF COUNCIL FACILITIES**

By means of a presentation by the Facilities Manager – Hard Services (a copy of which was appended in the Minute Book), an update on reducing the carbon impact of Council facilities was presented to the Panel.

The Panel heard in response to a query from Councillor Alban that work to improve the lighting at Pathfinder House had been ongoing over the Christmas period but was on course for completion early in the New Year.

The Panel praised the hard work of the teams involved and the leadership of the Council in this work, through the setting of expectations which the Council had achieved itself. The Council had inspired partners and communities with their enthusiasm and set the example to the District.

Chair



## Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2023-24

<b>Performance and Growth Agenda Items</b>			
<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Pre-Scrutiny</b>	<b>Scrutiny Review</b>	<b>Task and Finish Groups Working Groups</b>
31 <sup>st</sup> January 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final 2024/25 Budget and Medium - Term Financial Strategy (2025/26 to 2028/29) including Capital programme</li> <li>• 2024/25 Treasury Management, Capital and Investment Strategies</li> <li>• Corporate Performance Report 2023/24 Q3</li> </ul>		
6 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial Performance Report 2023/24 Q3</li> <li>• Corporate Plan Refresh</li> </ul>		
3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Infrastructure Levy Funding Allocation</li> <li>• UK Shared Prosperity Funding Update</li> <li>• Market Towns Programme – Spring Update</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Huntingdonshire Futures – Festival of Huntingdonshire</li> </ul>	
5 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Market Towns Programme – Summer Update</li> <li>• Corporate Performance Report (2023/24) Quarter 4</li> <li>• Finance Performance Report (2023/24) Quarter 4</li> <li>• Treasury Management Outturn Report 2023/24</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Huntingdonshire Futures – Bi-annual update</li> </ul>	
Unscheduled/Pending Further Details			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Huntingdonshire Place Strategy</li> <li>• Market Towns Programme</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business Development</li> </ul>
<b>Environment, Communities and Partnerships Agenda Items</b>			
<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Pre-Scrutiny</b>	<b>Scrutiny Review</b>	<b>Task and Finish Groups Working Groups</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> February 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non Domestic Rates Discretionary Rate Relief Policy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update on Alternative Land Management Scheme</li> <li>• Support to the Financially Vulnerable Amendment to Partnership Arrangements with Citizen's Advice Rural Cambridgeshire</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Great Fen Presentation</li> <li>• Flooding Management Update</li> </ul>
7 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EV Charging Strategy</li> <li>• One Leisure Long Term Operating Model Report</li> <li>• One Leisure Membership Architecture Review Report</li> <li>• Revocation of the Risk Based Verification Policy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biodiversity for All Update</li> <li>• HCP Investment Project Update</li> <li>• Climate and Environment Portfolio Update</li> </ul>	
4 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CPE Agency Agreement</li> <li>• Material Recycling Facility Contract Renewal</li> <li>• Climate Emergency UK Report and Action Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One Leisure Annual Performance Review</li> </ul>	
6 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual Climate Update</li> </ul>		
Unscheduled/ Pending Further Details		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GP Waiting Times</li> <li>• Issue of concrete affecting public buildings – specifically Hinchingsbrooke Hospital</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engagement with Parish Councils and development of relationship</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of NHS Dentists within the District</li> <li>• Corporate performance reports</li> <li>• Local Lettings Plan</li> <li>• SEUK Update</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hydrogen Vehicles</li> <li>• Environmental impacts on planning – renewable energy, green spaces</li> </ul>
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## Task and Finish Groups

### Performance and Growth

<b>Review of External Appointments to Outside Organisations</b>
<b>Membership:</b> Cllrs S Cawley, S J Corney, I D Gardener and S A Howell
<p><b>Progress:</b></p> <p><b>Summer 2022:</b> Terms of Reference have been established. Questionnaire has been sent to all relevant boards and organisations. Regular meetings are established from September.</p> <p><b>September 2022:</b> Evidence and information gathering underway.</p> <p><b>November 2022:</b> Information gathering completed.</p> <p><b>February 2023:</b> Report presented to O&amp;S Panel and Cabinet</p> <p><b>March 2023:</b> Cabinet response to the report received by the Panel.</p> <p><b>July 2023:</b> Communication to be sent to all Councillors who are representatives on outside organisations to advise the new reporting progress.</p> <p><b>January 2024:</b> Group met to discuss progress and anticipated plan to move forward.</p> <p><b>Next steps:</b> Plan to regularly review and monitor implementation of recommendations.</p>

## Environment, Communities and Partnerships

<b>Climate Working Group</b>
<b>Members:</b> Cllrs T D Alban, J Kerr, C Lowe and D Shaw <b>Lead Officer:</b> Neil Sloper
<b>Progress:</b> <b>November 2022:</b> Initial Meetings held to establish Terms of Reference for the group. <b>April 2023:</b> Regular meetings established. Evidence and information gathering to be progressed. Group to be involved in the Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy Development. <b>January 2024:</b> Meetings held to discuss proposed work plan for the group and to discuss HVO Fuels project <b>Next Steps:</b> Meetings to be scheduled to allow involvement in proposed works.

<b>Climate Sub Group</b> <b>Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy</b>
<b>Members:</b> Cllrs T D Alban, J Kerr, C Lowe and D Shaw <b>Lead Officer:</b> George McDowell
<b>Progress:</b> <b>February 2022:</b> Initial meeting held <b>May 2023:</b> Regular meetings established. Residents survey agreed. <b>July 2023:</b> Meeting to review the outcome of the survey. <b>September 2023:</b> Meeting to review applications for the EV pilot scheme <b>November 2023:</b> Meeting to update on progress <b>December 2023:</b> Meeting to finalise report detail <b>Next Steps:</b> Final report anticipated for March 2024 cycle of meetings

**NOTICE OF EXECUTIVE KEY DECISIONS INCLUDING THOSE TO BE CONSIDERED IN PRIVATE**

**Prepared by:** Councillor Sarah Conboy, Executive Leader of the Council  
**Date of Publication:** 9 January 2024  
**For Period:** 1 February 2024 to 31 May 2024

Membership of the Cabinet is as follows: -

Councillor Details	Councillor Contact Details
Councillor S J Conboy Executive Leader of the Council and Executive Councillor for Place	Cloudberry Cottage 9 Earning Street Godmanchester Huntingdon PE29 2JD  Tel: 01480 414900 / 07831 807208 E-mail: <a href="mailto:Sarah.Conboy@huntingdonshire.gov.uk">Sarah.Conboy@huntingdonshire.gov.uk</a>
Councillor L Davenport-Ray Executive Councillor for Climate & Environment	73 Hogsden Leys St Neots Cambridgeshire PE19 6AD  E-mail: <a href="mailto:Lara.Davenport-Ray@huntingdonshire.gov.uk">Lara.Davenport-Ray@huntingdonshire.gov.uk</a>
Councillor S Ferguson Executive Councillor for Customer Services	9 Anderson Close St Neots Cambridgeshire PE19 6DN  Tel: 07525 987460 E-mail: <a href="mailto:Stephen.Ferguson@huntingdonshire.gov.uk">Stephen.Ferguson@huntingdonshire.gov.uk</a>

Page 13 of 254

Councillor M Hassall	Executive Councillor for Corporate & Shared Services	<p>Care of Huntingdonshire District Council  St Mary's Street  Huntingdon  Cambridgeshire PE29 3TN</p> <p>Tel: 07825 193572  E-mail: <a href="mailto:Martin.Hassall@huntingdonshire.gov.uk">Martin.Hassall@huntingdonshire.gov.uk</a></p>
Councillor B Mickelburgh	Executive Councillor for Finance & Resources	<p>2 Grainger Avenue  Godmanchester  Huntingdon  Cambridgeshire PE29 2JT</p> <p>Tel: 07441 392492  E-mail: <a href="mailto:Brett.Mickelburgh@huntingdonshire.gov.uk">Brett.Mickelburgh@huntingdonshire.gov.uk</a></p>
Councillor B Pitt	Executive Councillor for Community & Health	<p>17 Day Close  St Neots  Cambridgeshire PE19 6DF</p> <p>Tel: 07703 169273  E-mail: <a href="mailto:Ben.Pitt@huntingdonshire.gov.uk">Ben.Pitt@huntingdonshire.gov.uk</a></p>
Councillor T Sanderson	Deputy Executive Leader and Executive Councillor for Planning	<p>29 Burmoor Close  Huntingdon  Cambridgeshire PE29 6GE</p> <p>Tel: 01480 436822  E-mail: <a href="mailto:Tom.Sanderson@huntingdonshire.gov.uk">Tom.Sanderson@huntingdonshire.gov.uk</a></p>

Councillor S Taylor	Executive Councillor for Leisure, Waste & Street Scene	66 Wren Walk Eynesbury St Neots Cambridgeshire PE19 2GE  Tel: 07858 032076 E-mail: <a href="mailto:Simone.Taylor@huntingdonshire.gov.uk">Simone.Taylor@huntingdonshire.gov.uk</a>
Councillor S Wakeford	Executive Councillor for Jobs, Economy, and Housing	4 Croft Close Brampton Huntingdon Cambridgeshire PE28 4TJ  Tel: 07762 109210 E-mail: <a href="mailto:Sam.Wakeford@huntingdonshire.gov.uk">Sam.Wakeford@huntingdonshire.gov.uk</a>

Page 15 of 254

Notice is hereby given of:

- Key decisions that will be taken by the Cabinet (or other decision maker)
- Confidential or exempt executive decisions that will be taken in a meeting from which the public will be excluded (for whole or part).

A notice/agenda together with reports and supporting documents for each meeting will be published at least five working days before the date of the meeting. In order to enquire about the availability of documents and subject to any restrictions on their disclosure, copies may be requested by contacting the Democratic Services Team on 01480 388169 or E-mail [Democratic.Services@huntingdonshire.gov.uk](mailto:Democratic.Services@huntingdonshire.gov.uk).

Agendas may be accessed electronically at the [District Council's website](#).

Formal notice is hereby given under The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 that, where indicated part of the meetings listed in this notice will be held in private because the agenda and reports for the meeting will contain confidential or exempt information under Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended) and that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it. See the relevant paragraphs below.

Any person who wishes to make representations to the decision maker about a decision which is to be made or wishes to object to an item being considered in private may do so by emailing [Democratic.Services@huntingdonshire.gov.uk](mailto:Democratic.Services@huntingdonshire.gov.uk) or by contacting the Democratic Services Team. If representations are received at least eight working days before the date of the meeting, they will be published with the agenda together with a statement of the District Council's response. Any representations received after this time will be verbally reported and considered at the meeting.

**Paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended) (Reason for the report to be considered in private)**

1. Information relating to any individual.

2. Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.
3. Information relating to the Financial and Business Affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information)
4. Information relating to any consultations or negotiations or contemplated consultations or negotiations in connection with any labour relations that are arising between the Authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of or office holders under the Authority.
5. Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.
6. Information which reveals that the Authority proposes: -
  - (a) To give under any announcement a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or
  - (b) To make an Order or Direction under any enactment
7. Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation, or prosecution of crime.

Huntingdonshire District Council  
Pathfinder House  
St Mary's Street  
Huntingdon PE29 3TN.

Notes: -(i) Additions changes from the previous Forward Plan are annotated \*\*\*

(ii) Part II confidential items which will be considered in private are annotated ## and shown in italic.



Subject/Matter for Decision	Decision/ recommendation to be made by	Date decision to be taken	Documents Available	How relevant Officer can be contacted	Reasons for the report to be considered in private (paragraph no.)	Relevant Executive Councillor	Relevant Overview & Scrutiny Panel
Non-Domestic Rates Discretionary Rate Relief Policy	Cabinet	6 Feb 2024		Katie Kelly, Revenue and Benefits Manager Tel No: (01480) 388151: Email: katie.kelly@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources	Environment, Communities & Partnerships
Final 2024/25 Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy (2025/26 to 2028/29) including Capital Programme	Cabinet	6 Feb 2024		Karen Sutton, Director Finance and Corporate Services Tel No: (01480) 387072 or Email: karen.sutton@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources	Performance & Growth
2024/25 Treasury Management, Capital and Investment Strategies	Cabinet	6 Feb 2024		Karen Sutton, Director Finance and Corporate Services Tel No: (01480) 387072 or Email: karen.sutton@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources	Performance & Growth

Page 1 of 8  
20254

Subject/Matter for Decision	Decision/ recommendation to be made by	Date decision to be taken	Documents Available	How relevant Officer can be contacted	Reasons for the report to be considered in private (paragraph no.)	Relevant Executive Councillor	Relevant Overview & Scrutiny Panel
Market Towns Programme Spring Update	Cabinet	19 Mar 2024		Pamela Scott, Regeneration and Housing Delivery Manager Tel: 01480 388486 or Email: pamela.scott@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		Executive Councillor for Jobs, Economy and Housing	Performance & Growth
Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy	Cabinet	19 Mar 2024		George McDowell, Parking Services Officer Tel: 01480 388386 or Email: george.mcdowell@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		Executive Councillor for Climate & Environment	Environment, Communities & Partnerships
Corporate Plan Refresh	Cabinet	19 Mar 2024		Dan Buckridge, Business Intelligence and Performance Manager Tel: 01480 388065 or Email: dan.buckridge@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		Executive Councillor for Corporate & Shared Services	Performance & Growth
UK Shared Prosperity Funding Update	Cabinet	19 Mar 2024		Pamela Scott, Regeneration and Housing Delivery Manager Tel: 01480 388486 or Email: pamela.scott@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		Executive Councillor for Jobs, Economy and Housing	Performance & Growth

Page 18 of 254

Subject/Matter for Decision	Decision/ recommendation to be made by	Date decision to be taken	Documents Available	How relevant Officer can be contacted	Reasons for the report to be considered in private (paragraph no.)	Relevant Executive Councillor	Relevant Overview & Scrutiny Panel
One Leisure Membership Architecture Review Report***	Cabinet	19 Mar 2024		Gregg Holland, Head of Leisure Services Gregg Holland: 01480 388157 or Email gregg.holland@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		Executive Councillor for Leisure, Waste and Street Scene	Environment, Communities & Partnerships
One Leisure Long Term Operating Model Report***	Cabinet	19 Mar 2024		Gregg Holland, Head of Leisure Services Gregg Holland: 01480 388157 or Email gregg.holland@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		Executive Councillor for Leisure, Waste and Street Scene	Environment, Communities & Partnerships
Revocation of the Risk Based Verification (RBV) Policy***	Cabinet	19 Mar 2024		Katie Kelly, Revenue and Benefits Manager Tel No: 01480 388151 or Email: katie.kelly@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		Executive Councillor for Finance & Resources	Environment, Communities & Partnerships
Climate Emergency UK Report and Action Plan	Cabinet	16 Apr 2024		Karen Sutton, Director Finance and Corporate Services or Tel: 01480 387072 Email: karen.sutton@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		Executive Councillor for Climate and Environment	Environment, Communities & Partnerships

Subject/Matter for Decision	Decision/ recommendation to be made by	Date decision to be taken	Documents Available	How relevant Officer can be contacted	Reasons for the report to be considered in private (paragraph no.)	Relevant Executive Councillor	Relevant Overview & Scrutiny Panel
CPE Agency Agreement	Cabinet	16 Apr 2024		George McDowell, Parking Services Officer Tel No: 01480 388386 or Email: george.mcdowell@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		Executive Councillor for Leisure, Waste and Street Scene	Environment, Communities & Partnerships
Community Infrastructure Levy Funding Allocation	Cabinet	16 Apr 2024		Claire Burton, Implementation Team Leader Tel No: 01480 388274 or Email: Claire.Burton@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		Deputy Executive Leader and Executive Councillor for Planning	Performance & Growth
Material Recycling Facility (MRF) Contract Extension (Part 2) ***##	Cabinet	16 Apr 2024		Andrew Rogan, Waste Operations Manager Tel No: 01480 388082 or Email: Andrew.Rogan@huntingdonshire.gov.uk	3	Executive Councillor for Leisure, Waste and Street Scene	Environment, Communities & Partnerships

Page 20 of 254

# Flooding update

Oliver Morley &

Hilary Tandy – Flood Manager –  
Cambridgeshire County Council

# Background

- Cambridgeshire and its neighbouring counties experienced widespread flooding in December 2020 and January 2021. Huntingdonshire was particularly affected. Subsequently, an Overview and Scrutiny Task and Finish Group was established to conduct an evidence-based investigation into the nature and extent of the flooding, the lessons that could be learnt and the steps that might be taken to ensure communities are adequately prepared going forward.
- A focussed study methodology was devised. It identified primary sources of evidence, namely Cambridgeshire County Council, the Environment Agency and Anglian Water. Separate meetings were held with each of these organisations. The report summarises the evidence submitted, the discussions that took place and the actions agreed with partners that address the Terms of Reference.
- Original report can be found here. [8. Overview and Scrutiny Flooding Task and Finish Study.docx](#)

# What was the response?

- We committed to 5 actions on the back of this work.
- This has then been informed by subsequent events including the events of January 2024
- A number of principles informed this work, and our work to date
  - Our residents struggle to understand who is responsible for what, and **simple guidance and single sources of the truth** benefit everyone.
  - There are **likely to be more flood events** over coming years, if the pattern of events we have seen over recent times continues.
  - There is a **key role for the public and community activity** in seeking to prepare and mitigate flood events
- In short flooding is everyone's responsibility, and HDC are committed to:
  - **Doing** what is within their powers and legal duties to do
  - To **enable** and support residents and communities to take action that will benefit our residents and businesses
  - To use our **influence** and work with partners to ensure residents voices are heard, and that we act to support the best possible outcomes for our residents

# What we committed to doing following 2020/21 – All underway



- a) to **publicise links to flooding advice** through the District Council's own communication channels and forward the advice to all Town and Parish Councils;
- b) that the Council works with the County Council to **support the establishment of local flood groups** as a means to develop community resilience against future flooding and as an important additional source of information for forecasting flooding;
- c) a **study be undertaken by a group of technical experts to understand fully the causes of floods** linked to climate change, to look at the issue of cumulative impacts and to make a series of recommendations to feed into the next SPD document review, ensuring the refreshed document responds to changing realities and technology;
- d) to work with Cambridgeshire County Council and other partners to create a case conference system to **evaluate technical advice on flood mitigation on those most complex applications**,
- e) to **collaborate with partners on the development of a joint drainage and waste water management plan**, and
- f) that the Council **support the County Council in its project to map local water courses** and call for this mapping activity to begin with Huntingdonshire.



# Planning and Land Management

# Updates on activity



- The Environment Act became law in November 2021. It sets binding targets including for air quality, water, biodiversity and waste reduction
- HDC declared a climate emergency in 2023, recognising the impact of climate change on local events such as flooding
- HDC published a climate strategy in 2023. This sets the direction for how we manage our own land and influence partnership working with statutory stakeholders alongside Town & Parish Councils, with flood risk being a key consideration.
- In January 2023 Cabinet agreed to commence an update the Huntingdonshire Local Plan(HLP). One of the evidence bases being prepared relates to integrated water management (IWM). This will look at surface water, flood risk and waste-water. CCC are actively inputting into this process
- In preparing the update to the HLP statutory consultees are engaged in all consultations, and the EA are working with HDC through the stages of development of the HLP.
- We are actively trialling Alternative Land Management to support biodiversity, and hope to contribute to the slowing of water entering watercourses

# Publicity and Promotion

# Publicise opportunities to act on flooding Flooding - Huntingdonshire.gov.uk



Enter search term



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Page 28 of 254

[Home](#) / [Environmental Issues](#) / [Flooding](#)



## Environmental Issues

### Flooding

[Strategic Flood Risk Assessment](#)

## Flooding

### Who is responsible for managing flooding in the district?

[Cambridgeshire County Council](#) is the Lead Local Flood Authority and is responsible for managing:

- surface water flooding - including rainfall that runs off surfaces such as roads, roofs and patios
- groundwater flooding - including flooding caused by long and heavy rainfall that increases the groundwater table flooding from ordinary watercourses, such as drains and ditches, but excluding main rivers.

Flooding from rivers is dealt with by the [Environment Agency](#).

We are responsible for maintaining some watercourses and ensuring that owners of land next to watercourses



### Be Prepared for an emergency

Flooding, severe weather, prolonged power out, heatwave, large smoke plume, chemical leak... how would you cope in an emergency situation?

If there is a major emergency affecting wide areas the emergency services will attend to the most vulnerable first. Being prepared and knowing what to do in an emergency can limit the impact of the emergency on you, your family and the community and help the recovery process.

Find out what you can do to be prepared using the tabs on the right.

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Resilience Forum (CLRf) is a multi-agency group



### Severe Weather

Severe weather can come in many forms – rain, wind, snow, fog, severe cold or heatwave.

You can sign up for weather warnings through the Met Office.

In the event of severe weather:

- If possible store some basic supplies
- Keep pets indoors (bring outdoor pets in)
- Close doors and windows and close curtains to protect against broken windows
- Secure outdoor belongings such as bikes, garden furniture etc., or if possible bring them indoors
- If the gas, water or electric stop working let the relevant service know – know who your suppliers are and have their contact numbers and your account numbers in a handy place
- Warm vulnerable people in your community. Help them prepare.



### Severe weather

Prepare for flooding

- Sandbags
- Flood water
- Cold weather
- Strong winds
- Hot weather

### Prepare for flooding

Is your home at risk of flooding?

Floods can happen quickly, so don't wait until it's too late to think about preparation.

Here are some things you can do to prepare before it starts raining.

- Check if your property is at risk from flooding
- Sign up for flood warnings if you live in a risk area
- Check your insurance coverage
- Find out what you can do to protect your home
- Consider flood protection equipment for your home
- Know how to turn off your utilities in your home
- Contact your Parish Council to find out if your community has a flood group

# The self-reporting tool as a key asset



https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/business/planning-and-development/flood-and-water/report-a-flood

programme

Flood planning and development

Flood risk management

Report a flood

Watercourse management

## Flooding emergency

In the event of a flood, if there is a threat to life call 999

To report the emergency to the Police, please call 101

## Report a flooding problem on roads and pavements

To report flooding problems on roads or pavements (e.g. overflowing drains and gullies) use the link to our highway reporting tool below.

[Report a flooding problem on roads and pavements](#)

## Report flooding in a property, home or garden

# Flood risk communities and Community Flood Groups

# Following 2020/21 floods CCC identified areas triggering additional studies



- [Alconbury and Alconbury Weston](#) - Dec 2020
- [Brampton](#) – Dec 2020
- [Broughton](#) – Dec 2020
- [Buckden](#) – Dec 2020
- [Godmanchester](#) – Dec 2020
- [Offords](#) – Winter 2020-21
- [Old Hurst](#) – Winter 2020
- [Ramsey](#) – Dec 2020
- [Sawtry](#) – Dec 2020
- [St Ives](#) – Dec 2020
- [St Neots](#) – Dec 2020
- [Woodwalton](#) – Winter 2020
- [Great Ouse](#) – Dec 2020
- [St Ives](#) – August 2020
- [St Neots](#) – August 2020

- A review of risk and possible interventions has been completed across these areas with results expected in Feb/March.
- The role of the Community sensors benefiting from the LoraWaN network.



CCC are aware of flood groups in the following areas, all are different:



- Abbots Ripton and Wennington
- Brampton
- Brington
- Buckden
- Elton
- Fenstanton
- Godmanchester
- Hemingford Grey
- Hilton Houghton & Wyton
- Kimbolton and Stonely
- Molesworth
- Offords
- St Ives
- St Neots
- Wistow
- Alconbury Brook (Alconbury, Alconbury Weston and Hammerton)



# Cambridgeshire County Council

Play (k)



0:02 / 1:29



# Flood Groups, Flood Kit and Storage

## Flood Groups, Flood Kit and Storage

Page 35 of 254





What do you and  
your  
communities  
need to support  
the development  
of flood groups?

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# Watercourse Mapping

Who owns what?

How is it maintained?

What to do in the event of an  
issue remain key concerns?

# Demo by CCC

Hilary Tandy

# How do we support the mapping work?



- Ensuring we have a single source of the truth on ownership and responsibilities around water courses is critical.
- This will always be an ongoing process, and as we continue to improve our knowledge of water courses, we will be pursuing ever more detailed work.
- Tracking down the information on ownership is not always a quick process, and one no authority is resourced for.
- We can provide advice and guidance for any member of the community or organisation to seek the clarity we desire.
- We are exploring a Citizen Science approach, where if community members do the research and submit the evidence we will update the map accordingly and take responsibility for any ownership it implies.

# Flood Events of 2024



# What happened?

- Emergency response 2<sup>nd</sup> January, in response to Storm Henk.
- Impact of the Storm and rainfall minimal given prior preparations.
- Emergency response escalated from 3<sup>rd</sup> January as River Flooding from catchments for the Great Ouse.
- Peak river levels and related flooding 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> January.

# What we did?

- Communications went out to members and the public. How do we continue to enhance?
- Excellent response from Community flood groups
- On the ground response from HDC in Ramsey and Buckden amongst other areas.
- Planned contingencies multi-agency approach for evacuations

# Taking the learning from the events of 2024

- Enhanced support for the Community role
  - Appetite to empower residents to take action within guidance?  
Not asking for action but informing of action.
  - To act to safeguard their interests?
- That could include roles around checking watercourses, where there is a benefit for residents and communities to do so, supported by campaign resource.
  - E.g. Check your local culvert, move your car, put up a flooding sign.
- Work with County to explore a different management of operational delivery around street cleansing
- Explore a stronger enforcement approach to altering drainage arrangements without permission

# What else and what next?



- HDC will strengthen our own severe weather/flood plan. Exploring how we will work with flood groups and promote flood prevention work, actions to be taken when alerts and warnings are received which would be linked to our graduated response framework.
- Influence CPLRF to undertake scenario planning for Huntingdonshire using EA modelling.
- Enhancing our communication and coordination role and using our comms channels to reassure and direct. Expand communications approach to broadcast more widely. Promote information centre for relevant trusted information.
- The Cambridge & Peterborough Local Resilience Forum (CPLRF) are establishing two pilot Community Resilience groups, one in St. Ives and one in Alconbury to promote community resilience and much of this work will be focused on currently establish community resilience groups such as the flood groups.
- Review at risk residents, especially independent living complexes

# Questions and feedback

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## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

<b>Title/Subject Matter:</b>	Business Rates – Discretionary Rate Relief
<b>Meeting/Date:</b>	Overview & Scrutiny (Environment, Communities and Partnerships) 1 February 2024
<b>Executive Portfolio:</b>	Cllr S Ferguson - Executive Councillor for Customer Services
<b>Report by:</b>	Z Warren Council Tax and Business Rates Manager
<b>Ward(s) affected:</b>	All

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### **Executive Summary:**

As a Billing Authority, Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) has the power to set its own Business Rates Discretionary Rate Relief Policy in accordance with Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988. Provisions within the legislation allow Billing Authorities to award various types of discretionary relief to qualifying local businesses in order to reduce or remove Business Rates liability.

HDC recognises the importance of businesses to the local economy and the contribution that is made to the community by voluntary, charitable and non-profit making organisations.

The award of discretionary rate relief directly supports the corporate priority of forward-thinking economic growth, and the policy look and feel has been updated to make it easier for businesses to understand and therefore access support. The adoption of a formal policy ensures fair and consistent decision making, reducing the risk of legal challenge, which also supports the corporate priority to deliver good, high value-for-money services with good control and compliance with statutory obligations.

If adopted, the policy will come into effect on 1 April 2024.

### **Recommendation(s):**

The Overview and Scrutiny Panel is invited to comment on the Discretionary Rate Relief Policy and recommendation.

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**Public  
Key Decision - Yes**

## **HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Title/Subject Matter:** Business Rates Discretionary Rate Relief Policy

**Meeting/Date:** Cabinet – 6 February 2024

**Executive Portfolio:** Executive Councillor for Customer Services

**Report by:** Z Warren Council Tax and Business Rates  
Manager

**Ward(s) affected:** All

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### **Executive Summary:**

As a Billing Authority, Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) has the power to set its own Business Rates Discretionary Rate Relief Policy in accordance with Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988. Provisions within the legislation allow Billing Authorities to award various types of discretionary relief to qualifying local businesses in order to reduce or remove Business Rates liability.

HDC recognises the importance of businesses to the local economy and the contribution that is made to the community by voluntary, charitable and non-profit making organisations.

The award of discretionary rate relief directly supports the corporate priority of forward-thinking economic growth, and the policy look and feel has been updated to make it easier for businesses to understand and therefore access support. The adoption of a formal policy ensures fair and consistent decision making, reducing the risk of legal challenge, which also supports the corporate priority to deliver good, high value-for-money services with good control and compliance with statutory obligations.

If adopted, the policy will come into effect on 1 April 2024.

### **Recommendation(s):**

The Cabinet is

### **RECOMMENDED**

to adopt the Business Rates Discretionary Rate Relief Policy in APPENDIX A, to be effective from 1 April 2024.

## **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The Local Government Finance Act 1988 sets out provision for Billing Authorities to determine a Business Rates Discretionary Rate Relief Policy to provide support to local businesses by reducing or removing Business Rates liability for certain periods of time.
- 1.2 Legislative changes require the existing policy to be updated, and this report sets out the changes that have been made.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The current policy came into force on 1 April 2023 with the aim of setting out the types of relief available to businesses for the duration of the Rating List which comes to an end on 31 March 2026.
- 2.2 The Non-Domestic Rating Act 2023 removed a restriction preventing billing authorities from making a decision to award discretionary relief more than 6 months after the end of the relevant financial year.
- 2.3 Whilst reviewing the policy for the amendment in 2.2, the opportunity has been taken to review the look and feel of the current policy to making it easier for businesses to navigate and therefore access eligible support.

## **3. KEY IMPACTS**

- 3.1 The Non-Domestic Rating (Discretionary Relief) Regulations 1989 required that decisions to award discretionary relief applications must be taken by 30 September of the year following the financial year for which relief was sought.
- 3.2 The Non-domestic Rating Act 2023 has repealed this requirement, allowing Local Authorities discretion in this area.
- 3.3 It would normally be expected that applications for discretionary relief are made as soon as practicable. However, it is acknowledged that there are some instances where this may not be possible, for example, where there are delays with the Valuation Office Agency adding a new hereditament to the rating list.
- 3.4 Therefore, the policy has been updated state that applications should be received by 30<sup>th</sup> September of the year following the relevant year unless exceptional circumstances apply, such as the example set out above.
- 3.5 Whilst updating the policy for the legislative change, the opportunity has also been taken to review the whole document, resulting in the following changes being made:
  - The previous policy had no cap on the amount of hardship relief that could be awarded to a ratepayer under Section 49. The cap limit of £20,000, unless exceptional circumstances apply, has been introduced under this section to mirror Section 69 relief in the policy,

other peer authorities and allow ratepayers to understand the likely limits pre-application.

- The look and feel of the policy has been updated to make it easier for businesses to navigate and therefore access rates relief
- The requirement for businesses to notify the Council where there are changes in circumstances which may affect eligibility has been made more prominent

3.6 The existing Discretionary Rate Relief Policy is included in APPENDIX B for comparative purposes.

#### **4. COMMENTS OF OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY**

4.1 The comments of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel will be included in this section prior to its consideration by the Cabinet.

#### **5. TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

5.1 Annual bills for National Non-Domestic Rates will be processed and issued in March 2024 and the intention is that wherever possible, the bills will reflect the discretionary rate relief applicable.

#### **6. LINK TO THE CORPORATE PLAN, STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND CORPORATE OBJECTIVES**

6.1 The policy aligns with the corporate priority of providing good, value for money services with good control and compliance with statutory obligations. The policy has now become more user friendly and easier to understand meaning less avoidable contact.

6.2 The policy also aligns with the corporate priority of forward-thinking economic growth, by supporting local businesses to claim all relief they are entitled to.

#### **7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 The adoption of a formal discretionary rate relief policy ensures fair and consistent decision making and reduces the risk of legal challenge.

7.2 There is no legal implication other than for the policy to be formally determined in accordance with the legislation, to enable delegated officers to access and grant discretionary rate relief as appropriate to assist in qualifying local ratepayers.

- 7.3 Providing discretionary relief to ratepayers is likely to amount to a subsidy. Any relief provided by local authorities will need to comply with the UK's domestic and international subsidy control obligations. Ratepayers of organisations and businesses making an application for any relief under this policy must ensure they are compliant with subsidy allowance amounts.

## **8. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDED DECISIONS**

- 8.1 The recommendations are based on ensuring continuing support and fairness to qualifying local ratepayers.

## **9. LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED**

- Appendix 1 – New Discretionary Rate Relief Policy
- Appendix 2 – Previous Discretionary Rate Relief Policy

## **CONTACT OFFICER**

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# Discretionary Rate Relief Policy

<b>Content</b>	<b>Page Number</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Discretionary relief for Charitable organisations (Top up relief)</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Section 47 - Not-for-profit organisations relief</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Section 44a (part-occupation) Relief</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Section 49 – Hardship Relief</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>CASC</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Local Newspaper Relief</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Rural Rate Relief</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Section 69 relief – Localism Act 2011</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Retail Hospitality and Leisure relief</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Supporting Small Business Rate Relief</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Decisions, Payment of Accounts, Cost of relief</b>	<b>15</b>

## **1. Introduction**

The Local Government Finance Act 1988 makes provision for local authorities to award certain reliefs. This policy relates to the discretionary powers for Huntingdonshire District Council to award National Non-Domestic rates relief under Section 44A, Section 47 and Section 49 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 and Section 69 of the Localism Act 2011

Huntingdonshire District Council recognises the importance of businesses to the local economy and the contribution that is made to the community by voluntary, charitable, and non-profit making organisations. This policy sets out the qualifying criteria for each of the different types of discretionary relief to ensure support is given appropriately and proportionately.

Each application will be considered on its own merits and consideration will be given to the guidance within this policy and national legislation. In determining awards, consideration would also be given to the interests of the Council Tax payers within Huntingdonshire. Decisions regarding rate relief will be communicated to the ratepayer in writing. If the decision is a refusal of the relief, full reasons for the refusal will be provided in the letter.

Discretionary Rate Relief cannot be granted to any premises occupied by the Council, or any Town or Parish Council, or major Precepting Authority (excepted premises).

### **Applying for Relief**

Each application must be submitted on the Council's application form and supporting evidence provided as required.

The Council will not tolerate any business providing incorrect information in order to gain a reduction. Any ratepayer who is found to have falsely applied for relief, provided false information or representation in order to obtain rates relief could be subject to an investigation which may lead to prosecution.

### **Payment of Instalments**

Ratepayers must continue to pay any rates that fall due whilst their application is pending. If payments are not received in line with the bill, the Council will continue with its normal recovery procedures to secure payment.

### **Period of award**

Discretionary relief will generally be for the awarded for the duration of the rating list from the date awarded on the decision notice, unless notified otherwise or there is a change of circumstances which impacts on entitlement.

If the ratepayer experiences any change in circumstances which would impact on the eligibility for any relief awarded they must notify the Council within 28 days.

### **Backdating**

Where applications for Discretionary Rate Relief are successful and apply to a previous period, the Council may consider backdating the award. This does not apply to s44a relief where an inspection is necessary to confirm eligibility.

Applications should be received by 30<sup>th</sup> September in the year following the financial year for which relief is sought. Any applications received after that date will have backdating limited to the 1<sup>st</sup> April of the current financial year, unless exceptional circumstances apply, such as, a new property been brought into the rating list.

### **Cost of Relief**

The cost of awarding discretionary relief is apportioned as follows:

- 50% Central Government.
- 40% District Council.
- 9% County Council.
- 1% Fire Service.

Where discretionary relief is given under Section 49 (Hardship) and section 69 of the Localism Act 2011, the full cost will fall to the Local Authority.

### **Subsidy Control**

Providing discretionary relief to ratepayers is likely to amount to a subsidy, and so any relief provided by Local Authorities will need to comply with the UK's domestic and international subsidy control obligations.

The Subsidy Control Act 2022 allows an economic actor (e.g. a holding company and its subsidiaries) to receive up to £315,000 in a 3- year period. Business Rates payers applying for, or in receipt of, relief considered to be a subsidy will be required, on a self-assessment basis, to inform the Council if they are in breach of the cash caps or Minimal Financial Assistance (MFA) limit. Where such declarations are not received, relief will be refused or withdrawn. Further information on the subsidy control regime can be found at [www.gov.uk/government/collections/subsidy-control-regime](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/subsidy-control-regime)



## **Discretionary relief for Charitable organisations (Top up relief)**

Hereditaments occupied by Charities are entitled to receive 80% Mandatory rate relief under Section 43 of the Local Government Act 1988. The Council has discretion to award an additional 20% in Discretionary Rate Relief.

Approval of up to 20% discretionary rate relief shall take into consideration:

- The extent their activities must meet the Council's corporate objectives and a demonstrable beneficial impact on the local community.
- The extent to which the organisation is local to Huntingdonshire and the benefits of the Authorities' residents.
- The financial position of the applicant.

The following organisations or premises will not normally be considered for Discretionary Charitable Relief regardless of their status:

- Administration offices for national charities
- Overseas aid organisations
- Charity shops and cafes operated by national charities or associated organisations.
- Housing Associations
- Schools and other educational establishments
- promotion of religious belief
- Organisations operating a restrictive membership policy for which a fee is payable.
- Empty properties
- Car parking spaces

Applications in respect of empty properties will not be considered.

### **Applications**

All applications will be considered on the merits of the individual case. Any application will need to be supported with copies of the organisation's latest articles of Association / memorandum, clearly stating the objectives of the organisation along with their latest certified accounts.

### **Period & amount of Award**

The Rateable Value limit for this relief is £51,000

Once granted, relief will be awarded for a fixed period providing there is no change in the organisation's activities. The organisation must notify the Council of any such changes within 28 days.

Huntingdonshire District Council would not normally consider backdating of discretionary rate relief applications unless there are exceptional circumstances, for example, a backdated entry into the rating list.

## **Section 47 - Not-for-profit organisations relief**

A not-for-profit organisation or kindred organisation is one that is not established or conducted for profit, whose objectives are charitable, but is not registered as a charity with HMRC.

In awarding discretionary relief, priority will be given to those organisations that provide greatest value to the community as well as considering overall affordability in terms of loss of income to the council. As such, applications will be considered favourably where:

- The organisation brings a net social, environmental or economic benefit to the community, and in this way contribute to the sustainable development of the District.
- The organisation can demonstrate that it's activities directly meet a local need, either by contributing to or implementation of the District Councils corporate objectives.
- The organisation can demonstrate that it provides facilities that which indirectly relieve the Council of the need to do so or enhance and supplement those which it does provide.

Membership should generally be open to all members of the community. Organisations which provide and seek to encourage the use of such facilities to all sections of the community will receive more sympathetic consideration than those which do not. Clubs or organisations will not be considered if they have membership rates set at such a high level as to exclude the general community.

### **Applications**

All applications will be considered on the merits of the individual case. Any application will need to be supported with copies of the organisation's latest articles of Association / memorandum, clearly stating the objectives of the organisation along with their latest certified accounts.

### **Period & amount of Award**

The Rateable Value limit for this relief is £51,000

Once granted, relief will be awarded for a fixed period providing there is no change in the organisation's activities. The organisation must notify the Council of any such changes within 28 days.

Huntingdonshire District Council would not normally consider backdating of discretionary rate relief applications unless there are exceptional circumstances, for example, a backdated entry into the rating list.

## **Section 44a (part-occupation) Relief**

Occupation of part of a property is considered occupation of the whole. Where a property is only partly occupied temporarily and for a short period of time, the Council has discretion under Section 44A of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 to award a part empty relief. This is achieved by the council requesting that the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) provide a certificate to certify the rateable value of the occupied and empty areas.

Applications will only be considered where the occupied and unoccupied parts can be easily defined and segregated. For the purposes of this policy a period of up to 12 calendar months shall be considered to be temporary and longer periods shall not be considered temporary.

S44A relief will not normally be awarded in respect of different operative periods that contain the same area of unoccupied property that existed in preceding operative periods. Rate relief under this section will not usually be awarded where the partial occupation may be considered to arise due to the ordinary day to day nature of the business( E.G the operation of a warehouse).

No award shall be made where it appears to the Council that the reason that part of the property is unoccupied is wholly or mainly for the purposes of applying for Section 44A relief.

### **Applications**

A ratepayer making an application shall provide a plan clearly showing the dimensions of the occupied and unoccupied areas of suitable quality for the VOA to apportion the rateable value(s). All applications will be subject to an inspection to verify the vacant areas, therefore retrospective application will not be considered.

### **Period & amount of Award**

In the absence of a statutory definition of “short time” relief will only be awarded in line with normal empty property limits. I.e., Up to 6 months for all commercially assessed properties and 3 months for all others. \*

Awards of Section 44A relief shall end at the earliest occurrence of one of the following:

- The end of the statutory period for which empty relief maybe allowed\* (See Above)
- The end of the financial year i.e., 31 March in any year.
- All or part of the unoccupied area becoming occupied.
- The whole of the property becoming occupied
- The ratepayer ceasing to be liable for the property.
- If Council is unable to verify following reasonable notice the area remains unoccupied.

If the ratepayer experiences any change in circumstances which would impact on the eligibility for any relief awarded they must notify the Council within 28 days.

### **Section 49 – Hardship Relief**

The Council has discretion under Section 49 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 to grant full relief, or part, on the grounds of “Hardship” but must first be satisfied that:

- The ratepayer would sustain hardship if the Authority did not do so, *and*;
- It is reasonable for the Authority to do so, having regards to the interests of persons liable to pay Council Tax set by it.

### **Applications**

The ratepayer must submit a comprehensive application, together with all last 2 years audited accounts. (Bank statements) and any other information reasonably required. The application would have to show what action it has already taken to lessen their hardship. This should include, but not limited to:

- seeking independent professional advice
- re-negotiating with creditors,
- re-structuring their business and pricing structure.
- demonstrating a clear business plan is in place to address the hardship.

The ratepayer would also need to demonstrate what significant detrimental effect on the local community it would have should it cease to trade. This would include, but would not be limited to, local employment and the importance of the company to the local area.

Every case will be considered on its own merits, and will have particular regard to evidence of exceptional or unforeseen circumstances to justify reduction. Hardship Relief would not be considered in the following circumstances:

- Where the business is profitable, or where the business has experienced a minor loss in trade in comparison to the annual turnover of the business
- Where the drawings/remuneration of the Director(s) or proprietor are above a “reasonable” amount.
- Where the business is new and hardship relief is being requested to fund the initial progression of the business
- Where the property is empty
- Where a similar facility is already being provided within the same locality or within a reasonable distance

### **Period & amount of Award**

Awards of Hardship Relief would generally be awarded for a short period only, usually a maximum of six months.

The amount of Hardship Relief awarded would be determined on a case-by-case basis, but would not normally exceed £20,000, unless exceptional circumstances apply.

If the ratepayer experiences any change in circumstances which would impact on the eligibility for any relief awarded they must notify the Council within 28 days.

### **Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC's)**

Hereditaments occupied by Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC) are entitled to receive 80% Mandatory rate relief under Section 43 of the Local Government Act 1988. The Council has discretion to award an additional 20% in Discretionary Rate Relief.

Approval of up to 20% discretionary rate relief shall take into consideration:

- The extent their activities must meet the Council's corporate objectives and a demonstrable beneficial impact on the local community.
- The extent to which the organisation is local to Huntingdonshire and the benefits of the Authorities' residents.
- The financial position of the applicant.

We would expect CASCs to

- Be open to all sections of the community, except where legitimate restrictions apply.
- Have membership rates set at levels that do not exclude the general community.
- Demonstrate that the criteria by which it considers application for membership is consistent with open access.

### **Applications**

All applications will be considered on the merits of the individual case. Any application will need to be supported with copies of the organisation's latest articles of Association / memorandum, clearly stating the objectives of the organisation along with their latest certified accounts.

### **Period & amount of Award**

The Rateable Value limit for this relief is £51,000

Once granted, relief will be awarded for a fixed period providing there is no change in the organisation's activities. The organisation must notify the Council of any such changes within 28 days.

Huntingdonshire District Council would not normally consider backdating of discretionary rate relief applications unless there are exceptional circumstances, for example, a backdated entry into the rating list.

### **Local Newspapers Relief**

This relief is available for office space occupied by local newspapers up to a maximum of one discount per hereditament, per title.

The premises must be occupied by a local newspaper and wholly or mainly used as office premises for journalists and reporters. The relief is not available for magazines.

### **Applications**

Each application will be considered on its own merits following receipt of a completed form.

Where any other types of relief are applicable to the property, these will be applied first. The relief will be applied against the net bill.

### **Period & amount of Award**

The sum of £1,500 relief is limited to a maximum of one discount:

- Per newspaper title; and
- Per hereditament

Awards will be made annually, up until 2024/25.

If the ratepayer experiences any change in circumstances which would impact on the eligibility for any relief awarded, they must notify the Council within 28 days.

### **Rural Rate Relief**

Mandatory Rural Rate Relief is available for post offices, village shops, petrol filling stations and public houses subject to rateable value restriction, where they are the only business of that type in the rural settlement.

The Rural Settlement List is reviewed annually and designates settlements within a rural area which have a population of 3,000 or less. The list is published on our website under the business rate relief pages.

Properties that will benefit from the relief will be hereditaments that:

- The sole general store, food shop or post office with a rateable value of up to £8,500 or
- The sole public house or petrol filling station with a rateable value of up to £12,500

Any business that is entitled to mandatory Rural Rate Relief will be eligible for the increased level of discount to 100% off their business rates bill.

Where a property meets the above qualifying criteria, but the rateable value is above the defined limits but below £16,500, the Council has discretion to award relief and will consider doing so where the property is used for the benefit of the local community and the award is in the interests of Council Taxpayers.

### **Applications**

Where possible ratepayers entitled to relief under this local scheme will be identified by Huntingdonshire District Council. Ratepayers who believe they might be entitled to this relief should contact the Business Rates team.

### **Period & amount of Award**

Discretionary Rural Rate Relief will be for the awarded for the duration of the rating list from the date awarded on the decision notice unless notified otherwise or there is a change of circumstances which impacts on entitlement.

If the ratepayer experiences any change in circumstances which would impact on the eligibility for any relief awarded, they must notify the Council within 28 days.

The Government announced in the Autumn Statement on 23 November 2016 that the relief will double from 50% to 100% from 1 April 2017.

The government is not changing legislation, instead local authorities are required to adopt a local scheme and decide each individual case using their discretionary relief powers introduced by the Localism Act (under Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988).

### **Section 69 relief – Localism Act 2011**

Section 69 of the Localism Act 2011 amends the 1988 Act to allow local authorities the discretion to award rate relief to all types of businesses.

The cost of any relief awarded is fully funded by the Local Authority, and therefore is borne solely by council taxpayers of the borough. It is therefore essential that relief is only given to those ratepayers who will bring significant benefit to the area.

Applications for rate relief under this section of the Policy will normally only be considered favourably where the Council is satisfied that an award will result in tangible benefits to local residents and in particular where the award will directly result in attracting businesses, investment or jobs to the local area.

### **Applications**

Written applications will be accepted and reviewed in consultation with the Council's economic development team. Every case would be considered on its own merit and any award would be an exception rather than the rule and would be time limited.

Applications will need to be supported by a minimum of:

- Details of the business and its importance to the local community. Examples could include (but not limited to) the benefits of employment, uniqueness of business, growth
- Copies of last 2 years accounts
- Copy of Business Plan
- Clear reasoning for the request
- Details of the number of people that are, or who will be, employed by the business that reside in Huntingdonshire. Details of future employment opportunities and business growth
- Any other evidence that the ratepayer feels supports their application
- Details of other support received from other sources, or support requested from other sources

### **Period & amount of Award**

Any relief granted is at a maximum of £20,000 and for up to one financial year only.

If the ratepayer experiences any change in circumstances which would impact on the eligibility for any relief awarded, they must notify the Council within 28 days.

### **Retail Hospitality and Leisure relief**



The 2023/24 Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Business Rates Relief scheme will provide eligible, occupied, retail, hospitality and leisure properties with a 75% relief, up to a cash cap limit of £110,000 per business.

Hereditaments that meet the eligibility for Retail, Hospitality and Leisure scheme will be occupied hereditaments which meet all of the following conditions for the chargeable day: they are wholly or mainly being used:

- as shops, restaurants, cafes, drinking establishments, cinemas or live music venue
- for assembly and leisure; or
- as hotels, guest & boarding premises or self-catering accommodation

Relief will not be awarded to hereditaments that are being used for the provision of the following services to visiting members of the public:

- Financial services (e.g. banks, building societies, cash points, bureaux de change, short-term loan providers, betting shops)
- Medical services (e.g. vets, dentists, doctors, osteopaths, chiropractors)
- Professional services (e.g. solicitors, accountants, insurance agents/ financial advisers, employment agencies, estate agents, letting agents)
- Post office sorting offices

### **Applications**

All possible qualifying properties will be identified based on the property description given to an assessment by the Valuation Office Agency, and the relief will automatically be awarded and should show on your annual bill for 2023/24.

### **Period & amount of Award**

In 2023/24 & 2024/24, the amount of relief awarded will be equivalent to 75% of the chargeable amount, after other reliefs and exemptions apply, up to a cash cap of £110k per business (not per premises).

The business must not exceed either the £110,000 cash cap for 2023/24 or the Small Amounts of Financial Assistance limit of £315,000 over 3 years (including 2023/24).

If the ratepayer experiences any change in circumstances which would impact on the eligibility for any relief awarded, they must notify the Council within 28 days.

### **Supporting Small Business Rate Relief**

At the 2022 Autumn Statement on 17 November, the Chancellor announced that the 2023 Supporting Small Business scheme will cap bill increases at £600 per year for businesses losing eligibility for some or all Small Business Rate Relief or Rural Rate Relief at the 2023 revaluation.

Charities and Community Amateur Sports Clubs, who are already entitled to mandatory 80% relief, are not eligible for 2023 Supporting Small Business Relief.

To support these ratepayers, the 2023 Supporting Small Business Relief scheme will limit the increase in ratepayers bills to a cash value of £600 per year. This cash maximum increase ensures that ratepayers do not face large bill increases in 2023/24 after transitional relief and small business rate relief (as applicable) have been applied.

Ratepayers eligible for the 2023 Supporting Small Business Relief and whose 2023 rateable values are £51,000 or more, will not be liable to pay the supplement to fund small business rate relief.

The 2023 Supporting Small Business scheme replaces the previous scheme which was introduced in 2017 to support small and medium ratepayers who had seen large increases in their bills at the 2017 revaluation.

There is no second property test for eligibility for the 2023 Supporting Small Business Relief scheme. However, those ratepayers who during 2022/23 lost entitlement to Small Business Rate Relief (because they failed the second property test) but have, under the rules for Small Business Rate Relief, been given a 12 month period of grace before their relief ended - can continue on the 2023 Supporting Small Business Relief scheme for the remainder of their 12 month period of grace.

### **Applications**

The Supporting Small Business Rates relief is effective from 01 April 2023. Businesses that meet the eligibility criteria will automatically be awarded the Supporting Small Business Rates Relief. Small Business Rate Relief or Rural Rate Relief will not be applied to further reduce the bill.

### **Period & amount of Award**

Eligible ratepayers will see their bill increases capped at £600 per year.

## **Review of Decisions**

There is no statutory right of appeal against a decision regarding discretionary rate relief unless the decision is so unreasonable that no reasonable person could have reached it ('Wednesbury principles').

However, Huntingdonshire District Council recognises that ratepayers should be entitled to have a discretionary decision reviewed if dissatisfied with the outcome.

Only the ratepayer or authorised agent may ask for a review against the decision not to award relief, or the level of relief awarded. An application for review must be made within 14 days of the notification of decision.

Reviews must be in writing specifying reasons why a decision should be amended and may be supported by relevant new or additional evidence where relevant. The Review will be deemed to be discontinued if further evidence requested from the ratepayer has not been received within 14 days of the request.

Any review will be completed within 28 days of receipt unless exceptional circumstances apply and will be conducted by an officer who was not part of the original decision.

Business Rates remain payable as demanded pending the outcome of any application or review.

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**Public**  
**Key Decision - Yes**

## **HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Title/Subject Matter:** Business Rates Discretionary Rate Relief Policy  
**Meeting/Date:** Cabinet – 7th February 2023  
**Executive Portfolio:** Executive Councillor for Customer Services  
**Report by:** Council Tax and Business Rates Manager  
**Ward(s) affected:** All

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### **Executive Summary:**

As a Billing Authority, Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) has the power to set its own Business Rates Discretionary Rate Relief Policy in accordance with Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.

Provisions within the legislation allow Billing Authorities to award various types of discretionary relief to qualifying local businesses in order to reduce or remove Business Rates liability.

HDC recognises the importance of businesses to the local economy and the contribution that is made to the community by voluntary, charitable and non-profit making organisations. This policy sets out the qualifying criteria for each of the different types of discretionary relief to ensure support is given appropriately and proportionately.

It will come into effect on 1 April 2023.

### **Recommendation(s):**

The Cabinet is

### **RECOMMENDED**

to approve the Business Rates Discretionary Rate Relief Policy effective from 1 April 2023.

## **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The Local Government Finance Act 1988 sets out provision for Billing Authorities to determine a Business Rates Discretionary Rate Relief Policy to provide support to local businesses by reducing or removing Business Rates liability for certain periods of time. In order to do this, a policy has been produced that sets out the different types of relief that can be awarded and the specific qualifying criteria for each relief.
- 1.2 The Council must set out its Discretionary Rate relief policy for the term of the new Local Rating List which is currently expected to be for 3 years from 01 April 2023 – 31 March 2026.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The current policy came into force on 1 April 2017 with the aim of setting out the types of relief available to businesses for the duration of the Rating List which comes to an end on 31 March 2023. The Valuation office agency has revalued all non-domestic rated hereditaments and assigned a new rateable value to them with effect from 01 April 2023.
- 2.2 This new Rating List comes into effect from that date therefore the policy has been reviewed and amended to ensure that relief is awarded to appropriate businesses. It also reflects the priorities and objectives of the current administration and considers the economic climate.
- 2.3 A minor change to the policy took place earlier in 2022 to include the provision of a time limited relief aimed at supporting businesses affected by the pandemic. That scheme has now ended and has been removed from the proposed policy.

## **3. KEY IMPACTS**

- 3.1 Without careful analysis of the impact of the new rateable values, combined with the “knock on” effects of mandatory reliefs some ratepayers could be unfairly penalised by the resultant changes. The review of the discretionary rate relief policy seeks to address those changes, and smooth any immediate change in rating liabilities which will assist local/rural businesses.
- 3.2 An analysis and forecast of the new rateable values has also been carried out to ensure that when setting our rateable value caps on discretionary relief Huntingdonshire District Council are supporting businesses appropriately and proportionately
- 3.3 As there is a 100% cost to the Council in funding “Localism Reliefs” (section 49, Section 69) it is specifically recommended that these awards are granted in exceptional circumstances. This will be based on the individual merits of an applicant where no other relief is possible and the ratepayer contributes to the amenities of the community and/or the Councils corporate objectives, and it is in the interests of the local Council Taxpayers to do so.

#### **4. COMMENTS OF OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY**

- 4.1 The comments of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel will be circulated ahead of the Cabinet meeting.

#### **5. TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

- 5.1 Annual bills for National Non-Domestic Rates will be processed and issued on 17 March 2023 and the intention is that wherever possible, the bills will reflect the discretionary rate relief applicable.
- 5.2 Government have yet to release the Legislation which contains the details of the Retail Hospitality and Leisure, Supporting Small Businesses and the Rural Rate Relief thresholds for 2023/24. This is anticipated in the New Year, however, because of this delay and the need for ratepayers to make applications (which will then need to be assessed) will mean that annual bills may be processed without relief on the accounts.

#### **6. LINK TO THE CORPORATE PLAN, STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND CORPORATE OBJECTIVES**

- 6.1 Through use of discretionary rate relief the Council will contribute to its stated aims of developing stronger and more resilient communities, and its work programme of supporting economic growth in rural communities.
- 6.2 Within the boundaries of the legislation these policies will ensure support will be provided to:
- 6.2.1 Charities, Community Amateur Sports Clubs and Non-profit making companies
  - 6.2.2 Local Newspapers, the only Businesses in a Rural Settlement (Public Houses, Village Shops, Petrol Stations, Post Offices)
  - 6.2.3 Viable Local Businesses who are experiencing Hardship, that are local employers
  - 6.2.4 Viable local businesses that are looking to grow, attract investment or employment to the area

#### **7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 There is no legal implication other than for the policy to be formally determined in accordance with the legislation, to enable delegated officers to access and grant discretionary rate relief as appropriate to assist in qualifying local ratepayers.
- 7.2 Providing discretionary relief to ratepayers is likely to amount to a subsidy. Any relief provided by local authorities will need to comply with the UK's domestic and international subsidy control obligations. Ratepayers of organisations and businesses making an application for any relief under

this policy must ensure they are compliant with subsidy allowance amounts.

## **8. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDED DECISIONS**

- 8.1 The recommendations are based on ensuring continuing support and fairness to qualifying local ratepayers following the revaluation of the rating list, and taking into account other proposed legislative changes from 01 April 2023, whilst smoothing the financial effects of any changes for both the ratepayer and the Council.

## **9. LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED**

Appendix 1 - Discretionary Rate Relief Policy – Charites, Community Amateur Sports Clubs and Non Profit Making Organisations.

Appendix 2 - Discretionary Rate Relief – Section 44a, Section 49, Public Conveniences, Local Newspaper Relief, Rural Rate Relief

Appendix 3 – Localism Relief

Appendix 4 – Supporting small businesses and Retail Hospitality and Leisure Relief

Appendix 5 - Decisions, Payment of Accounts, Appeals and Period of award

## **CONTACT OFFICER**

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## Huntingdonshire District Council Discretionary Rate Relief Policy Appendices

### **Appendix 1: Discretionary Rate Relief Policy – Charities, Community Amateur Sports Clubs and Non Profit Making Organisations.**

1. This policy is to be used to calculate Discretionary Rate relief for charities and Kindred organisations as prescribed in Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 (as amended). The rateable values mentioned relate to values in the 2023 Local Rating List for Huntingdonshire
2. Charities, and registered Community Amateur Sports Clubs are entitled to 80% Mandatory rate relief under Section 43 of the Local Government Act 1988. The council has discretion to award an additional 20% in discretionary rate relief. Approval of up to 20% discretionary rate relief shall take into consideration:
  - The extent their activities must meet the Council’s corporate objectives and a demonstratable impact to the local community.
  - The extent to which the organisation is local to Huntingdonshire and the benefits of the Authorities residents.
  - The financial position of the applicant.

The following organisations or premises will not be considered for Discretionary Rate Relief regardless of their status:

- Profit making organisations
  - Administration offices for national charities
  - Overseas aid organisations
  - Charity shops and cafes operated by national charities or associated organisations
  - Housing Associations
  - Private schools, colleges, nurseries or schools
  - promotion of religious belief
  - Organisations operating a restrictive membership policy for which a fee is payable
  - Empty properties
  - Car parking spaces
3. Section 47 - Not-for-profit organisations relief
    - A not-for-profit organisation or kindred organisation is one that is not established or conducted for profit, whose objectives are charitable, but is not registered as a charity with HMRC.
    - Relief cannot be granted to any premises occupied by the Council, or any town, parish council or major Precepting Authority (excepted premises).

- In awarding discretionary relief, priority will be given to those organisations that provide greatest value to the community as well as considering overall affordability in terms of loss of income to the council.
- The organisation must bring a net social, environmental or economic benefit to the community, and in this way contribute to the sustainable development of the District.
- In addition, it should demonstrate that its activities directly meet a local need, either by contributing to or implementation of the District Councils Corporate objectives.
- Membership should generally be open to all members of the community. Organisations which provide and seek to encourage the use of such facilities to all sections of the community will receive more sympathetic consideration than those, which make no effort.
- Clubs or organisations will not be considered if they have membership rates set at such a high level as to exclude the general community.
- Preference will be given to organisations that provide facilities, which indirectly relieve the Council of the need to do so or enhance and supplement those which it does provide.
- All applications will be considered on the merits of the individual case. Any application will need to be supported with copies of their latest articles of association/memorandum clearly stating the objectives of the organisation along with their latest certified accounts.
- Once granted, relief will be awarded for a fixed period providing there is no change in the organisation's activities.
- Unoccupied properties will not qualify for relief
- The Rateable value limit for this relief is £51,000.

## **Appendix 2: Discretionary Rate Relief – Section 44a, Section 49, Public Conveniences, Local Newspaper Relief, Rural Rate Relief**

### **Section 44a (part-occupation) Relief**

1. Occupation of part of a property is considered occupation of the whole. Where a property is only partly occupied for a short period of time the Council has discretion under Section 44A of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 to award a part empty relief. This is achieved by the council requesting that the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) provide a certificate to certify the rateable value of the occupied and empty areas.
2. Applications will only be considered where the occupied and unoccupied parts can be easily defined and segregated.
3. No award shall be made where it appears to the Council that the reason that part of the property is unoccupied is wholly or mainly for the purposes of applying for Section 44A relief.
4. S44A relief will not normally be awarded in respect of different operative periods that contain the same area of unoccupied property that existed in preceding operative periods.
5. Rate relief under this section will not usually be awarded where the partial occupation may be considered to arise due to the ordinary day to day nature of the business( E.G the operation of a warehouse).
6. For the purposes of these guidelines a period of up to 12 calendar months shall be considered to be temporary and longer periods shall not be considered temporary.
7. In the absence of a statutory definition of “short time” relief will only be awarded in line with normal empty property limits. I.e., Up to 6 months for all commercially assessed properties and 3 months for all others. \*
8. A ratepayer making an application shall provide a plan clearly showing the dimensions of the occupied and unoccupied areas of suitable quality for the VOA to apportion the rateable value(s).
9. All applications will be subject to an inspection to verify the vacant areas, therefore retrospective application will not be considered.
10. Awards of Section 44A relief shall end at the earliest occurrence of one of the following:
  - The end of the statutory period for which empty relief maybe allowed\* (See Above)
  - The end of the financial year i.e., 31 March in any year.
  - All or part of the unoccupied area becoming occupied.
  - The whole of the property becoming occupied
  - The ratepayer ceasing to be liable for the property.
  - The Council is unable to verify, following reasonable notice, that the area remains unoccupied.

### **Section 49 – Hardship Relief**

1. The Council has discretion under Section 49 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 to grant full relief, or part, on the grounds of “Hardship” but must first be satisfied that:
  - The ratepayer would sustain hardship if the Authority did not do so,  
*and;*

- It is reasonable for the Authority to do so, having regards to the interests of persons liable to pay Council Tax set by it.
2. The ratepayer must submit a comprehensive application, together with all last 2 years audited accounts. (Bank statements) and any other information reasonably required
  3. The application would have to show what action it has already taken to lessen their hardship. This should include, but not limited to:
    - seeking independent professional advice
    - re-negotiating with creditors,
    - re-structuring their business and pricing structure
    - demonstrating a clear business plan is in place to address the hardship.
  4. It would also need to demonstrate what significant detrimental effect on the local community, it would have should it cease to trade. This would include, but not limited to, local employment and the importance of the company to the local area.
  5. Every case will be considered on its own merits, and we will have particular regard to evidence of exceptional or unforeseen circumstances to justify reduction.
  6. Hardship Relief would not be considered in the following circumstances:
    - Where the business is profitable, or where the business has experienced a minor loss in trade in comparison to the annual turnover of the business
    - Where the drawings/remuneration of the Director(s) or proprietor are above a “reasonable” amount.
    - Where the business is new and hardship relief is being requested to fund the initial progression of the business
    - Where the property is empty
    - Where a similar facility is already being provided within the same locality or within a reasonable distance

### **Public Conveniences**

1. In 2021 the Non-Domestic Rating (Public Lavatories) Bill came into force which gives public lavatories 100% relief from business rates, it would apply retrospectively from 1 April 2020.
2. The relief will not apply to toilets of a larger unit of rateable property (a “hereditament”), for example, toilets in public libraries. It amends Part 3 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 to ensure that, in relation to an eligible hereditament which consists wholly or mainly of a public lavatory, the chargeable amount will be zero.
3. This provides, in effect, a 100% mandatory relief for eligible public lavatories in England and Wales.
4. The relief will be applied automatically to the business rates account.

## **Local Newspapers Relief**

1. This relief is available for office space occupied by local newspapers up to a maximum of one discount per hereditament, per title.
2. The premises must be occupied by a local newspaper and wholly or mainly used as office premises for journalists and reporters. The relief is not available for magazines.
3. Each application will be considered on its own merits following receipt of a written application
4. Where any other types of relief are applicable to the property, these will be applied first. The relief will be applied against the net bill.
5. The sum of £1,500 relief is limited to a maximum of one discount:
  - Per newspaper title; and
  - Per hereditamentAwards will be made annually, up until 2024/25.

## **Rural Rate Relief**

1. Mandatory Rural Rate Relief is available for post offices, village shops, petrol filling stations and public houses subject to rateable value restriction, where they are the only business of that type in the rural settlement.
2. Properties that will benefit from the relief will be hereditaments that:
  - The sole general store, food shop or post office with a rateable value of up to £8,500 or
  - The sole public house or petrol filling station with a rateable value of up to £12,500
3. The Rural Settlement List is reviewed annually and designates settlements within a rural area which have a population of 3,000 or less. The rural settlement list is published on our website under the business rate relief pages.
4. Where possible ratepayers entitled to relief under this local scheme will be identified by Huntingdonshire District Council. Ratepayers who believe they might be entitled to this relief should contact the Business Rates team.
5. The Government announced in the Autumn Statement on 23 November 2016 that the relief will double from 50% to 100% from 1 April 2017.
6. As a measure the government is not changing legislation, instead local authorities are required to adopt a local scheme and decide each individual case using their discretionary relief powers introduced by the Localism Act (under Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988).
7. Anyone who is entitled to mandatory Rural Rate Relief will be eligible for the increased level of discount to 100% off their business rates bill.
8. Where a property meets the above qualifying criteria, but the rateable value is above the defined limits but below £16,500 the Council has discretion to award relief.
9. Discretionary relief maybe considered where the rateable value of the property is below £16,500 and
10. The property is used for the benefit of the local community and the award is in the interests of Council Taxpayers.

### Appendix 3 Section 69 relief – Localism Act

1. Section 69 of the Localism Act 2011 amends the 1988 Act to allow local authorities the discretion to award rate relief to all types of businesses, The cost of any relief awarded is fully funded by the Local Authority.
2. As the costs of such relief is borne solely by council taxpayers of the borough, it is essential that relief is only given to those ratepayers who will bring significant benefit to the area.
3. Applications for rate relief under this section of the Policy will normally only be considered favourably where the Council is satisfied that an award will result in tangible benefits to local residents and in particular where the award will directly result in attracting businesses, investment or jobs to the local area
4. Every case would be considered on its own merit and any award would be an exception rather than the rule and would be time limited.
5. Written applications will be accepted and reviewed in consultation with the Councils economic development team.
6. Applications will need to be supported by a minimum of:
  - Details of the business and its importance to the local community. Examples could include (but not limited to) the benefits of employment, uniqueness of business, growth
  - Copies of last 2 years accounts
  - Copy of Business Plan
  - Clear reasoning for the request
  - Details of the number of people that are, or who will be, employed by the business that reside in Huntingdonshire. Details of future employment opportunities and business growth
  - Any other evidence that the ratepayer feels supports their application
  - Details of other support received from other sources, or support requested from other sources
7. Any relief granted is at a Maximum of £20,000 and for one financial year only

## **Appendix 4 Retail Hospitality and Leisure and Supporting Small Businesses**

### **Retail, Hospitality & Leisure**

At the Autumn Statement on 17 November 2022 the Chancellor announced the introduction of a new business rates relief scheme for retail, hospitality and leisure properties in 2023/24. This will support the businesses that make our high streets and town centres a success and help them to evolve and adapt to changing consumer demands. The 2023/24 Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Business Rates Relief scheme will provide eligible, occupied, retail, hospitality and leisure properties with a 75% relief, up to a cash cap limit of £110,000 per business.

Hereditaments that meet the eligibility for Retail, Hospitality and Leisure scheme will be occupied hereditaments which meet all of the following conditions for the chargeable day:

they are wholly or mainly being used:

- i. as shops, restaurants, cafes, drinking establishments, cinemas or live music venue
- ii. for assembly and leisure; or
- iii. as hotels, guest & boarding premises or self-catering accommodation

Relief will not be awarded to -

Hereditaments that are being used for the provision of the following services to visiting members of the public:

- Financial services (e.g. banks, building societies, cash points, bureaux de change, short-term loan providers, betting shops)
- Medical services (e.g. vets, dentists, doctors, osteopaths, chiropractors)
- Professional services (e.g. solicitors, accountants, insurance agents/ financial advisers, employment agencies, estate agents, letting agents)
- Post office sorting offices

All possible qualifying properties will be identified based on the property description given to an assessment by the Valuation Office Agency, and the relief will automatically be awarded and should show on your annual bill for 2023/24.

To claim the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure relief the business must not have exceeded either the £110,000 cash cap for 2023/24 or the Small Amounts of Financial Assistance limit of £315,000 over 3 years (including 2023/24).

### **Supporting Small Business Rate Relief**

At the 2022 Autumn Statement the Chancellor announced that the 2023 Supporting Small Business (SSB) scheme will cap bill increases at £600 per year for any business losing eligibility for some or all Small Business Rate Relief or Rural Rate Relief at the 2023 revaluation.

## **Appendix 5 Decisions, Payment of Accounts, Appeals and Period of award**

### **Decisions**

Decisions regarding rate relief will be communicated to the ratepayer in writing. If the decision is a refusal of the relief, full reasons for the refusal will be provided in the letter.

### **Payment of Instalments**

Ratepayers must continue to pay any rates that fall due whilst their application is pending. If payments are not received in line with the bill, the Council will continue with its normal recovery procedures to secure payment.

### **Appeal rights**

1. There is no statutory right of appeal against a decision regarding discretionary rate relief unless the decision is so unreasonable that no reasonable person could have reached it ('Wednesbury principles').
2. However, Huntingdonshire District Council recognises that ratepayers should be entitled to have a discretionary decision reviewed if dissatisfied with the outcome.
3. Only the ratepayer or authorised agent may appeal against the decision not to award relief, or the level of relief awarded. Appeals must be made within 14 days of the notification of decision.
4. Appeals must be in writing specifying reasons why a decision should be amended and supported by relevant new or additional evidence. An appeal will be deemed to be discontinued if further evidence requested from the ratepayer has not been received within 14 days of the request.

### **Period of award**

All awards will be for the awarded for the duration of the rating list, from the date awarded on the decision notice, unless there is a change in circumstance. The Council will look to contact recipients for confirmation of entitlement and potential renewal of relief, with the exception of Section 49, Section 69 and Section 44a Relief.



A large, leafy tree stands in the center of a grassy field. The sky is overcast and grey. The overall scene is a natural, outdoor setting.

# Alternative Land Management: Amenity Grass January 2024 Update

Wet spring  
delayed first cut  
of all council  
amenity grass

Only 16 Emails  
from 9  
individuals to  
ALM mailbox

April 2023  
First amenity  
grass cut of  
the year with  
ALM sites  
marked out

May 2023  
ALM website  
goes live –  
information  
signs installed  
at ALM sites

June 2023  
Parish Forum  
Info Stall

Summer -  
Autumn 2023  
Ongoing  
conversations  
with Towns  
and Parishes

Summer -  
Autumn 2023  
Amendments  
to sites as a  
result of  
feedback

“Why the long  
grass?”

Needingworth  
site removed  
from trial and  
mowed –  
following  
resident  
complaints

September 2023  
Ecology survey of sites at end of the growing season  
Future management recommendations

October 2023  
First amenity grass cut of Winter

January 2024  
O&S Update

January 2024  
Updates to project webpage with ecology survey results

Spring 2024  
First amenity grass cut of the year with ALM sites marked out

Exploring more robust signs

“Just one season’s worth of growth has made a significant difference to the sites, both in terms of floral diversity and the numbers and types of invertebrates that are found.”



Why did we  
do this?

Corporate plan

Climate strategy

Biodiversity for all

# How Did we do this?

Page 85 of 254

- 232 sites
- Signs placed adjacent to sites
- Web page created
- Engaged ecologists for 30 site surveys (Greenwillows associates)
- Biodiversity assessment



Resident photos –  
Stukeley Meadows

# Flora (Plants) Found

---

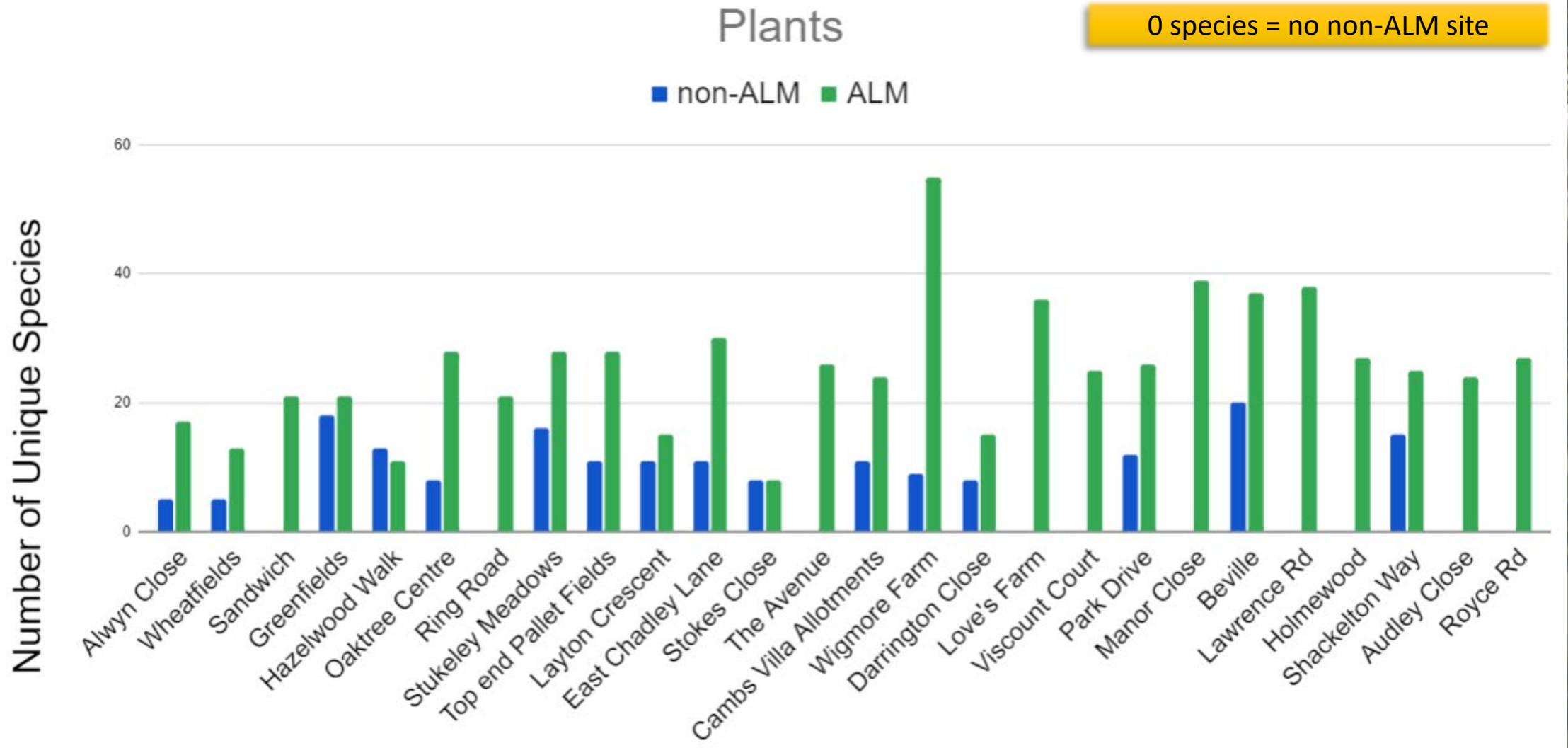
- 156 species found across 26 sites
- Wigmore Farm site in Godmanchester was the most diverse
- 9 plant species on Non ALM site
- 55 plant species on ALM site



GODM ALM Wigmore Farm ALM - Fungi  
(Blackening Waxcap)



HUNT ALM Stukeley Mead  
ALM – Strawberry Clover



# What plants did we find?

# Invertebrates Found

- 92 species across 26 sites
- Hazelwood Walk in Huntingdon was the most diverse
- 5 invertebrate species on non ALM site
- 53 invertebrate species on ALM site
- 17 other fauna observed: birds, mammals, amphibians



STNT ALM Love's Farm middle – Juvenile Common Toad (BAP species)

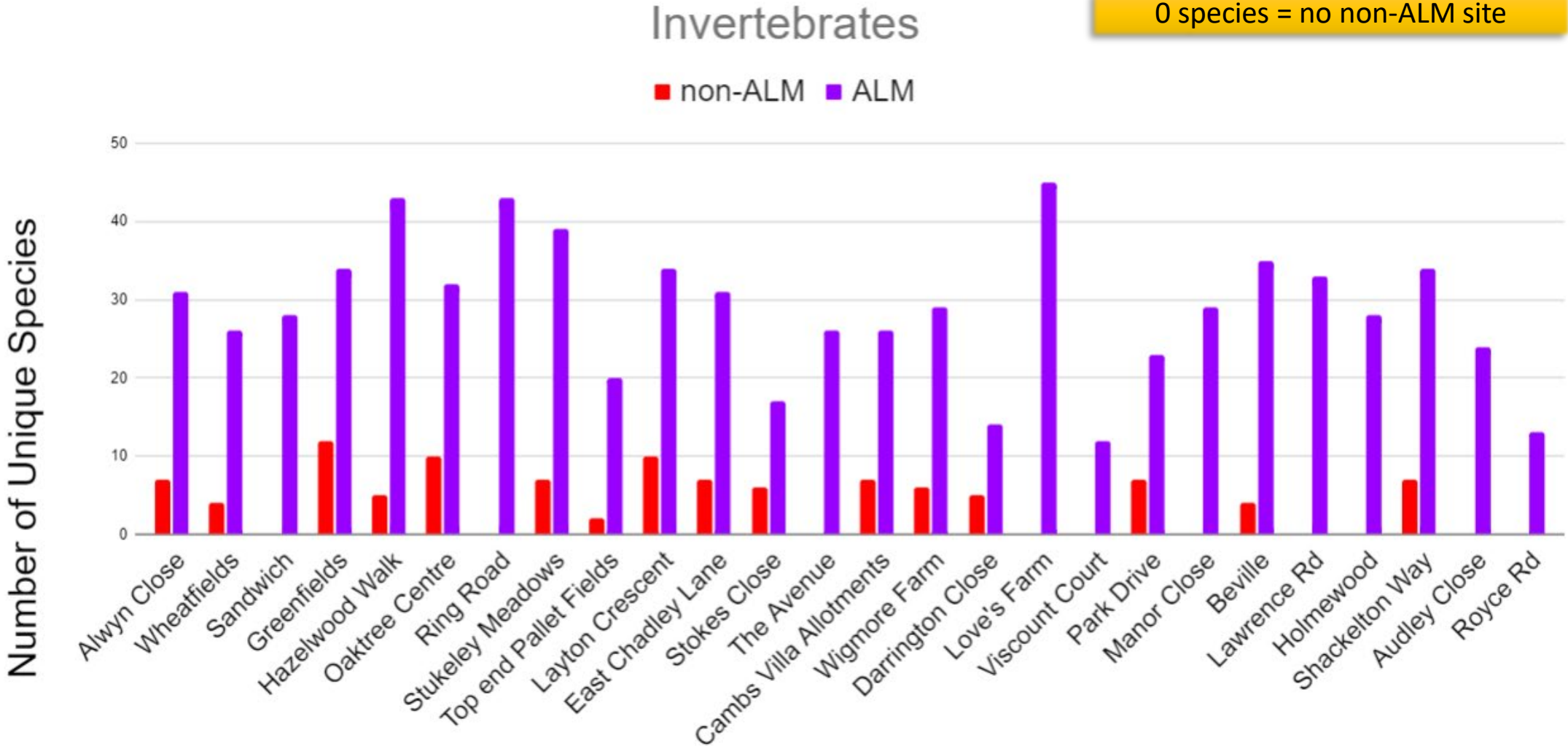


HUNT ALM Stukeley Meadows Top ALM – Wasp Spider

Invertebrates:  
spiders, insects and s

GTGS ALM Manor Clo  
The Footballer ho





# What invertebrates did we find?

# Case Study Earith

The baseline score for the ALM site is 0.15 BU.  
(appendix 1 page 10)

39 Flora  
30 invertebrates

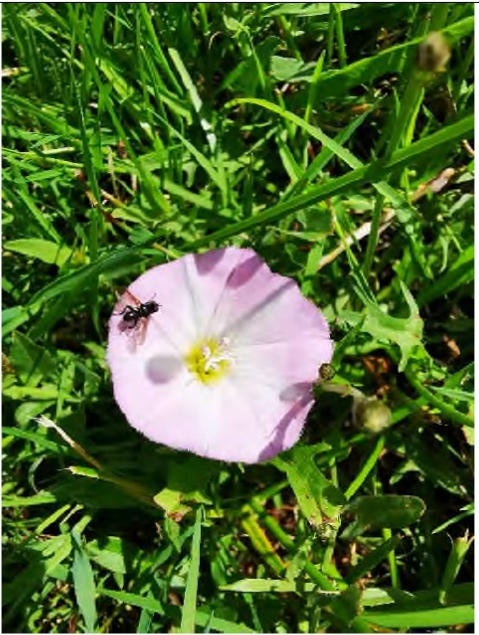
A local resident gave negative feedback of the area, stating it looked messy and left less room for children to play. Whilst surveying the site, a child was noted to be playing in the area and cycling on the hard standing pathways only.

It is recommended the site is managed as per the Management Matrix table.

The arisings could be left on site in a discrete pile close to the hedgerow to provide additional refugia for wildlife and preserving invertebrate eggs etc. that may have been laid in the long vegetation over summer



EART ALM Greenfields ALM- Brown Argus butterfly on Yarrow



EART ALM Greenfields ALM- Hoverfly sp. on Field Bindweed

Page 90 of 254

# Case Study Brampton

The baseline score for the ALM site is 0.95 BU.  
(Appendix 1 page 44)

26 Flora  
44 Invertebrates

A local couple living opposite the ALM site were interested in what we were doing and seeking advice for their own garden. They thought the ALM areas were a positive thing and were trying to achieve a similar outcome in their own gardens through seeding with wildflowers. They also provided anecdotal evidence of Muntjac Deer, Cuckoo, and Green Woodpecker in the area



BRMP ALM Layton Crescent ALM



BRMP ALM Layton Crescent ALM – Yellow Dung Fly



GODM ALM Wigmore Farm ALM - Lichen

# Case Study Wigmore Farm

- The baseline score for the ALM site is 3.97 BU. (appendix 1 page 10)
- 64 Flora
- 37 invertebrates
- The ALM site is situated within a wider area of open green space to the west of a residential housing estate. Hedgerows and trees are present to the south and west of the site, with scattered trees through the open green space. The ALM site is part of a wider network of ALM areas within the open managed greenspace, this area was chosen as part of the survey as it was the largest and most interesting, particularly in terms of habitats



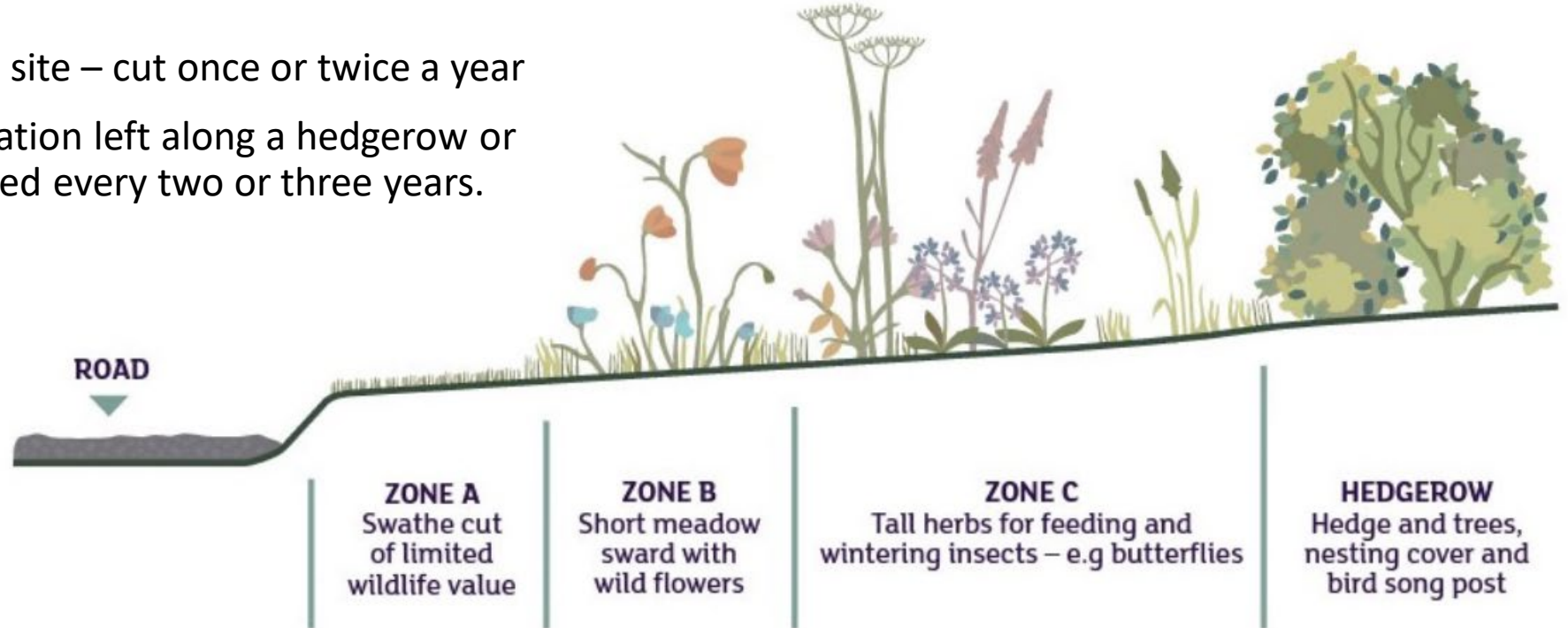
GODM ALM Wigmore Farm ALM – Invertebrate burrows in disturbed ground

# Future Recommended Maintenance

- This diagram details a simplistic view of what the aim should be when looking to create structural diversity and, while being aimed primarily at road verges, can also be applied conceptually to many of the ALM sites.
- Zone A illustrates the mown paths and edges of the sites – managed frequently

Zone B the majority of the site – cut once or twice a year

Zone C a strip of tall vegetation left along a hedgerow or site edge, and only managed every two or three years.



# Conclusions

“It is evident in many cases that **just one season’s worth of growth has made a significant difference to the sites**, both in terms of floral diversity and the numbers and types of invertebrates that are found within them.”

“One of the key factors in being able to increase biodiversity within an area is through **creating as much structural diversity as possible**. This would have benefits on both flora and fauna and, in the long term, would require less management and mowing in comparison with the previous management that was employed.”





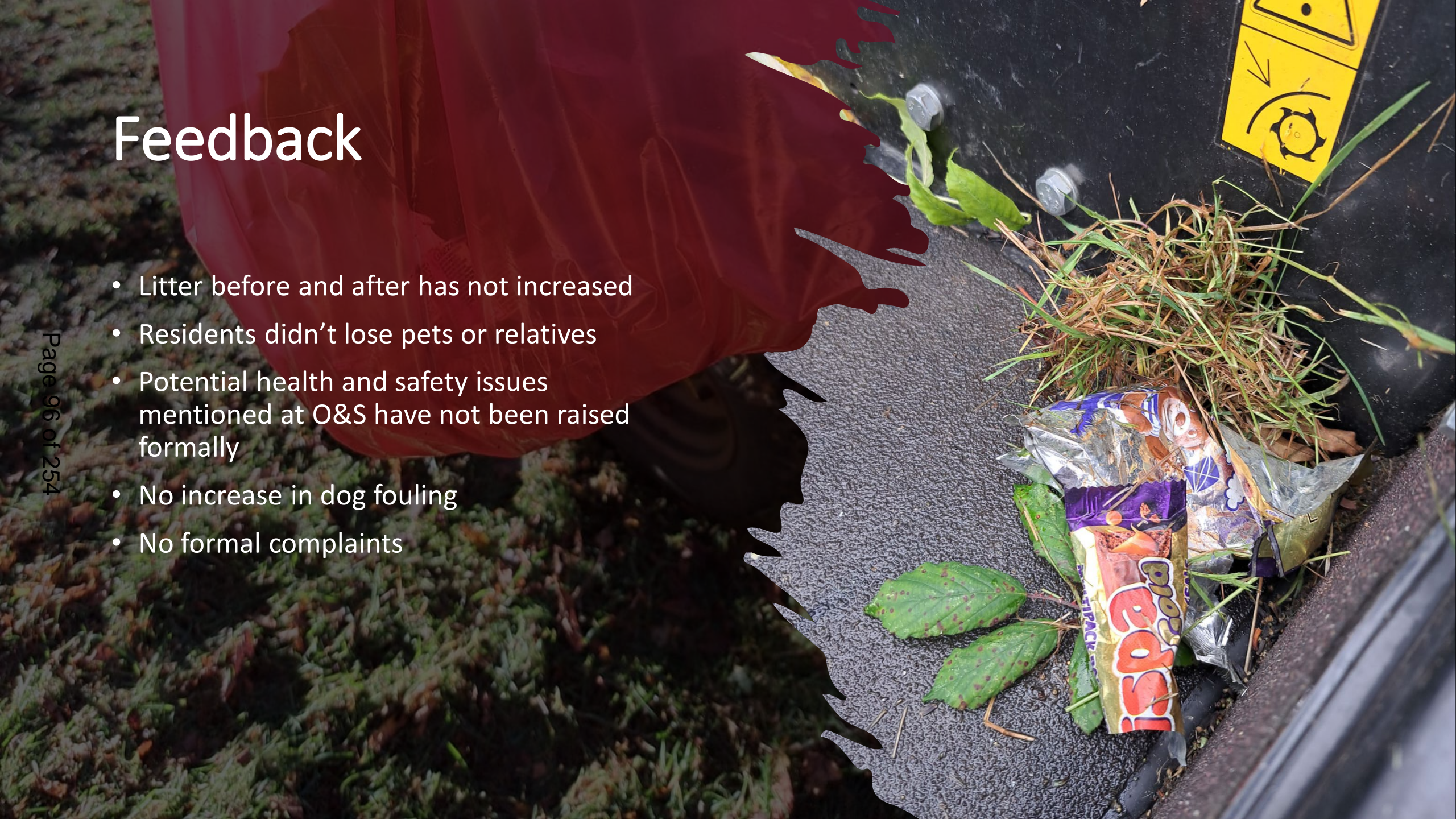
Resident photo –  
Stukeley Meadows

# Feedback

- 5 sites amended due to feedback
- Needingworth Parish Council asked for the ALM site to be cut immediately. It was cut but we did receive queries as to the reason from residents.
- 16 Emails from 9 individuals to ALM mailbox
- Some signs removed
- More robust signage required as trial continues

# Feedback

- Litter before and after has not increased
- Residents didn't lose pets or relatives
- Potential health and safety issues mentioned at O&S have not been raised formally
- No increase in dog fouling
- No formal complaints



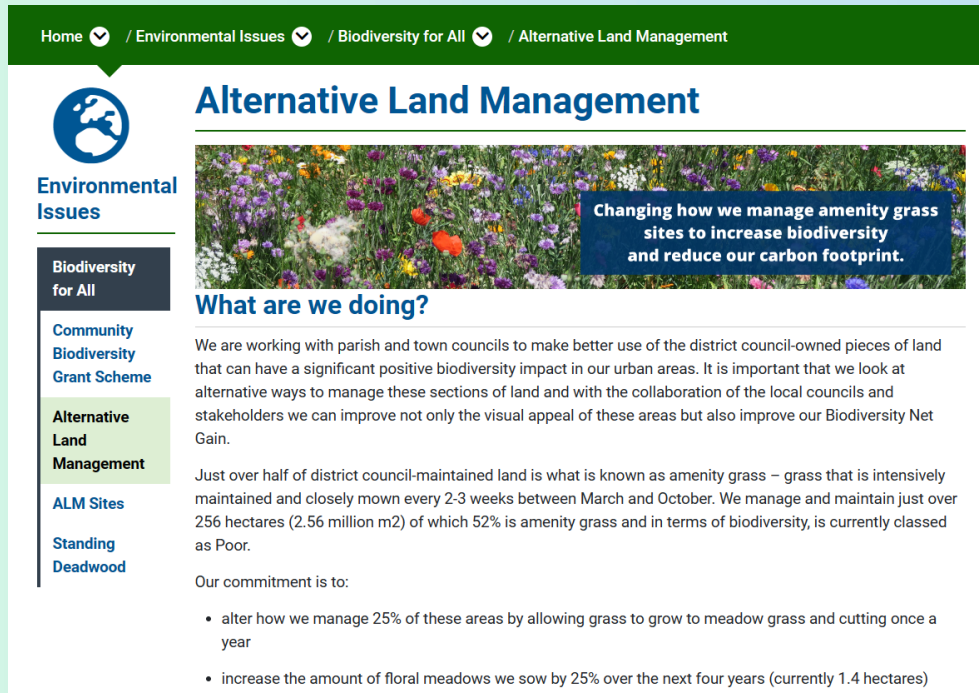


# What happens next?

- No extra 2024 sites planned as of now
- Email [crm\\_ops@huntingdonshire.gov.uk](mailto:crm_ops@huntingdonshire.gov.uk) to propose a site
- Management of current sites with ongoing biodiversity assessment
- Merge this project with the “Biodiversity for All” project
- Survey of sites in Autumn 2024 by our new graduate ecologists
- June 2024 - Parish Forum information stall
- Ongoing conversations with Towns and Parishes

# Share progress with your residents

Project webpage will soon have ecology survey results and photos




Home / Environmental Issues / Biodiversity for All / Alternative Land Management

## Alternative Land Management

**Environmental Issues**

- Biodiversity for All
- Community Biodiversity Grant Scheme
- Alternative Land Management**
- ALM Sites
- Standing Deadwood



**Changing how we manage amenity grass sites to increase biodiversity and reduce our carbon footprint.**

### What are we doing?

We are working with parish and town councils to make better use of the district council-owned pieces of land that can have a significant positive biodiversity impact in our urban areas. It is important that we look at alternative ways to manage these sections of land and with the collaboration of the local councils and stakeholders we can improve not only the visual appeal of these areas but also improve our Biodiversity Net Gain.

Just over half of district council-maintained land is what is known as amenity grass – grass that is intensively maintained and closely mown every 2-3 weeks between March and October. We manage and maintain just over 256 hectares (2.56 million m<sup>2</sup>) of which 52% is amenity grass and in terms of biodiversity, is currently classed as Poor.

Our commitment is to:

- alter how we manage 25% of these areas by allowing grass to grow to meadow grass and cutting once a year
- increase the amount of floral meadows we sow by 25% over the next four years (currently 1.4 hectares)





## **greenwillows associates ltd**

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Ecological Surveys • Habitat Management • Arboricultural Surveys • Vegetation Clearance

### **Alternative Land Management (ALM) Biodiversity Assessment**

**On behalf of: Huntingdonshire District Council**

**Project Manager: Hannah Bushnell BA (Hons)**  
**Prepared by: Hannah Bushnell BA (Hons)**

**October 2023**

Registered in England & Wales 5153730 Greenwillows Associates Ltd VAT Registration No: 8345691 07

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## DOCUMENT CONTROL SHEET

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Version	Purpose of Issue	Author(s)	Reviewed	Approved	Date
001	Alternative Land Management (ALM) Biodiversity Assessment	Hannah Bushnell BA (Hons)	Emma Parnwell BA (Hons) MSc MCIEEM Sarah Lambert BSc (Hons)	Emma Parnwell BA (Hons) MSc MCIEEM Sarah Lambert BSc (Hons)	12/10/23

## Contents

<b>1.0 Introduction</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2.0 Methodology</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>3.0 Site Results and Assessment</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>4.0 Summary</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>5.0 References</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>6.0 Photographs</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>7.0 Appendices</b>	<b>74</b>

## Tables

Table One – Desktop Results: Statutory Protected Sites within 1km

## Appendices

Appendix One: Site Location Plan

Appendix Two: Habitat Maps

Appendix Three: Condition Assessment Scores

Appendix Four: Flora and Invertebrates

Appendix Five: Flora and Fauna Common and Latin Names

Appendix Six: Management Matrix

Appendix Seven: Additional Enhancements for Wildlife

## 1.0 Introduction

### 1.1 Introduction and Rationale

Greenwillows Associates Ltd. has been commissioned to provide an assessment of twenty-nine sites, within the Huntingdonshire District situated in Cambridgeshire, that have recently been selected as areas for Alternative Land Management (ALM), to encourage greater biodiversity within the local district, as well as potentially providing many other benefits to the environment and local residents.

The ALM sites included a sample of greenspaces across the geographical area of the Huntingdonshire District, with sites broadly of a similar size (all under 1ha) and habitat. Previously, the management of most sites was largely the same; as part of the broader network of open areas within Huntingdonshire they would have been routinely mown every two to three weeks during the growing season. Most areas have become part of the ALM scheme within the last year and were therefore mown up until that point. The sites in most cases are located within residential areas and are open access to the public.

### 1.2 Purpose of Surveys

The purpose of the surveys was to assess each individual ALM area in terms of current habitat present, following its removal from a regular mowing regime. The assessment included:

- Providing a general description of each site, including habitat/s present using the UK Habitat Classification (UKHab).
- Mapping the habitats. Any sites/habitats of significance were also noted where relevant, and a brief outline included of the surrounding landscape/habitats.
- Assessing the condition of each habitat using the Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) condition assessment criteria. Providing a list of plants and invertebrates present, and any other wildlife if observed.
- Providing biodiversity Scores for each ALM site, through calculating the baseline of each site using the most recent Defra Metric.
- Comparing the ALM sites to adjacent non-ALM areas (still under traditional management), in terms of biodiversity scores, and general biodiversity focusing on plants and invertebrates.
- Collection of data to inform appropriate future management for each ALM site.

### 1.3 Purpose of Report

The main purposes of this report are:

- To provide results of each of the sites surveyed to individually, and collectively understand any changes, and positive or negative impacts on biodiversity from reduced or changed management of the sites.
- Provide a baseline biodiversity score that can be referred to during future assessments of the ALM sites. This can then be used to calculate and monitor any formal biodiversity net gain or losses over time.

- Provide results on the comparisons of ALM sites to the adjacent non-ALM areas (green spaces that are still under regular management) to gain a more comprehensive insight into the effects.
- Offer recommendations on future management and monitoring of the sites.
- Make the data available to the general public and local residents, via the council's website and through interpretation signs with QR codes at each site. The aim of this is to encourage the public/local residents to engage with the spaces through visiting and looking out for the plants and animals that have been recorded during these surveys, also taking pictures and recording any new observations they might make. This will help build up a bigger picture of the biodiversity of the sites over time.

## 2.0 Methodology

### 2.1 Desktop Study

A search of the Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) website was undertaken with regards to the presence of statutory nature conservation sites within 1km of each site. The results are shown below in Table One.

### 2.2 Field Surveys

#### 2.2.1 Habitats and Condition Assessment

A walkover of each ALM site was undertaken between 7<sup>th</sup> August and 8<sup>th</sup> September 2023, by Hannah Bushnell assisted by Emma Parnwell, Alice Burgess, Alison Gray, and Sarah Lambert.

Habitats were identified using version 2.0 of the UK Habitat Classification (2023). The condition of each habitat was then conditioned assessed following Natural England's Biodiversity Metric 4.0 – Technical Annex 1: Condition Assessment Sheets and Methodology (2023). This included using one metre by one metre quadrats on areas of grassland (the primary habitat encountered) as part of the data gathering. As well as recording plant species within each quadrat, a largely comprehensive incidental species list was also gathered at each site. Abundance of each species was not specifically recorded, however, general comments or anything of note was recorded during the surveys.

Although trees species and other habitats, where present, were noted, they have not been included as part of the total BNG assessment of each site, to focus on the grassland and the changes resulting specifically from an alteration in management regime.

While canvassing public opinion was not within the scope of these surveys, any feedback the local residents wanted to share has been noted and included within the report for reference.

#### 2.2.2 Invertebrate Counts

Visual searching and informal sweep netting for invertebrates on the vegetation was carried out during the field surveys; incidental sightings of invertebrates were also recorded whilst on site. Where possible, invertebrates have been identified to species level, however, most have been classified to family level within the report.

Whilst the focus was on invertebrates, other incidental wildlife sightings were also noted.

### 2.3 Mapping

QuantumGIS (QGIS) was used to digitise the results of the UKHab habitat surveys and carry out area calculations for each habitat parcel within the ALM sites. All area-based habitats are reported in hectares (ha) to three decimal places.

A Minimum Mapping Unit (MMU) Scale was set at a scale of twenty-five metres squared and five metre length for fine-scale mapping as recommended in the UK Habitats guidance.

A habitat map for each ALM site can be found in **Appendix Two**. The ALM sites have been split into distinct parcels where changes in conditions, such as management e.g. mown areas,



occur. However, to simplify the results for the biodiversity calculations each parcel will have been combined to calculate the overall total area and Biodiversity Units.

## 2.4 Biodiversity Net Gain Metric Calculations

The baseline Biodiversity Unit (BU) score was calculated for each ALM site to provide a more formal measurement of biodiversity. To provide additional context, a baseline BU score has also been calculated for the adjacent non-ALM sites. To attribute any meaning to the scores, as a benchmark for comparison, the non-ALM areas have all been set as the same area (ha) as their comparative ALM site. The most recent Natural England Biodiversity Metric 4.0 was used to undertake the calculations.

The habitats assessed were primarily grasslands, and within the Biodiversity Net Gain Metric each type of habitat is given a distinctiveness score and condition score. 'Modified grassland', which comprised the majority of the ALM sites, is a habitat of 'low' distinctiveness in the Metric, and 'other neutral grassland', which was the second most frequent type, is a habitat of 'medium' distinctiveness as it is deemed to be a better quality and more biodiverse habitat. Therefore, purely based on habitat type, other neutral grassland will hold a higher unit score than modified grassland. Each habitat is then assessed for its condition, and can score 'poor', 'fairly poor', 'moderate', 'fairly good' or 'good'.

## 2.5 Constraints and Limitations

Surveys only provide a 'snap-shot' of information temporally and spatially which can be extrapolated to make an ecological evaluation. Ecological conditions can vary on a yearly and seasonal basis.

Where possible, all ALM sites have been compared to an adjacent non-ALM area (i.e. areas which are still part of a regular management regime). However, for a small number of sites this was not possible due to the absence of any other green spaces in the immediate area. Also, whereas ALM sites were specifically marked out on the plans, the comparison non-ALM sites were not defined, making it more difficult to do conclusive comparisons between the two. Nevertheless, generalisations and trends have still been noted.

The surveys were carried out during late summer, after the main growing/flowering season, and some species of plants, particularly earlier flowering species, may not have been recorded. However, because the ALM areas were unmown there will have still been sufficient vegetation/flowers to be able to make an accurate assessment of their biodiversity value. Because of the time of year, many invertebrate species may also have gone undetected as their main active period will have been over.

On three of the sites visits (HOLY GAG Needingworth, PERY GAG ALM Perry and FARC ALM Church and Andrewe's Close) it was noted that, for various reasons, these sites had already been mown. The client was consulted, and it was agreed there would be no benefit to carrying out surveys at these sites. Therefore only a brief description has been provided on each, in the results below.

Although data regarding statutory protected sites could be gathered through MAGIC, records of non-statutory sites e.g., County Wildlife Sites (CWS) were not available for this project and therefore are not included within the results.

One site (LTPX GAG Little Paxton) was surveyed notably later than the other sites. However, weather conditions during the survey were unseasonably warm for the time of year which meant invertebrates were still observed in good numbers. As the site had not been cut, there was still enough vegetation left to not significantly impact the ability to identify plant species that would have been present/visible in August.

In most cases the ALM grassland sites were categorised as such in April 2023, meaning they would have been last mown September-November 2022. Some sites may have been left unmanaged for a longer period, but it is not known when each specific site was last mown.

### 3.0 Site Results and Assessment

**Table One – Desktop Results: Statutory Protected Sites within 1km**

Site	Distance from Statutory Protected Site
Earith Parish - Greenfields	470m - Ouse Washes RAMSAR, SSSI, SAC, SPA. 720m - Berry Fen SSSI.
Needingworth	Mown (not included).
Wheatfields	None within 1km.
Wetfield (Alwyn close)	None within 1km.
Sandwich	None within 1km.
Love's Farm middle	None within 1km.
Wigmore farm	800m - Portholme SSSI, SAC.
Top End Pallet Fields	330m - Great Stukeley Railway Cutting SSSI.
Stukeley Meadows top	730m - Great Stukeley Railway Cutting SSSI.
The Avenue	120m - Portholme SSSI, SAC.
Cambridge Villa Allotments	860m - Portholme SSSI, SAC.
East Chadley Lane	410m - Portholme SSSI, SAC.
Stokes Close	None within 1km.
Manor Close	None within 1km.
Perry	Mown (not included).
Great Gransden	1km - Waresley Wood SSSI.
Darrington Close	None within 1km.
Viscount Court	None within 1km.
Church and Andrewes	Mown (not included).
Shackleton Way	None within 1km.
Alwalton	1km - Castor Flood Meadows SSSI.
Hazelwood Walk	1km - Great Stukeley Railway Cutting SSSI.
Oak Tree Centre	750m - Great Stukeley Railway Cutting SSSI.
Ring Road	600m - Portholme SSSI, SAC.
Layton Crescent	770m - Brampton Racecourse SSSI, Brampton Meadow SSSI, Brampton Wood SSSI and Portholme SSSI, SAC.
Beville Close	450m - Woodwalton Marsh SSSI. 1km - Monks Wood SSSI, NNR.
Holmewood	None within 1km.
Ramsey	None within 1km.
Little Paxton	270m - Paxton Pits SSSI 920m - St Neots Common SSSI

Nb. NNR= National Nature Reserve, SAC= Special Area of Conservation, SSSI= Site of Special Scientific Interest, SPA= Special Protection Areas.

### 3.1 Site Reference and Name: EART ALM Greenfields (Earith Parish)

**Postcode:** PE28 3QZ

**W3W:** split.whizzing.early

**On Site Reference Number:** Not known

**QGIS/BNG Parcel Reference:** 1

**Date Surveyed:** 7<sup>th</sup> August 2023

#### 3.1.2 General Description and Results

The ALM habitat has been assessed as modified grassland in good condition - 0.025ha.

The baseline score for the ALM site is **0.15 BU**.

The baseline score for the adjacent non-ALM site of the same area would be 0.15 BU.

The site is dominated by grasses with a noticeable display of flowering Autumn Hawkbit due to the time of year. The grassland is mainly long grass with a mown path around the perimeter, providing some diversity in sward height.

The site is set within a residential area, primarily surrounded by houses and gardens. There are two other open green areas adjacent to the site (separated by footpaths), one of which forms the non-ALM site for comparison. There is also a short stretch of hedgerow with trees adjacent to the site to the east.

The adjacent non-ALM area, a small parcel of grassland to the north of the ALM site, also comprises modified grassland in good condition, however, due to being mown there was a lack of a varied sward height. Due to the low sward height the plant species varied slightly in comparison with the ALM site, with plants such as Common Stork's-bill noted which prefer more open and exposed habitats.

The site is located approximately 470m from the Ouse Washes protected site, however, there is limited good connecting habitat between the two.

The ALM site was found to support at least twenty-one species of plants while the non-ALM had eighteen species. However, sampled sections (quadrats) of the ALM site were generally more diverse than the non-ALM area, with more species noted per square metre.

The ALM site was found to support a possible twenty individual species of invertebrates. Within the non-ALM area at least sixteen species were recorded.

A general observation made was that bees and butterflies tended to be found more within the ALM site due to the number of flowering plants still available, particularly on the Autumn Hawkbit.

During the survey a Blackbird and Goldfinches were noted in the area, and a corvid nest was noted within the hedgerow.

A local resident gave negative feedback of the area, stating it looked messy and left less room for children to play. Whilst surveying the site, a child was noted to be playing in the area and cycling on the hard standing pathways only.

### 3.1.3 Management / Enhancement Opportunities

It is recommended the site is managed as per the Management Matrix table in Appendix Six. Additionally, it would be beneficial to retain a strip of tall vegetation between the grassland and hedgerow and cut on rotation as per the management matrix.

The arisings could be left on site in a discrete pile close to the hedgerow to provide additional refugia for wildlife and preserving invertebrate eggs etc. that may have been laid in the long vegetation over summer.

### **3.2 Site Reference and Name: HOLY GAG Needingworth**

**Postcode:** PE27 4UA

**W3W:** tubes.dupe.reminder

**On Site Reference Number:** Not known

**QGIS/BNG Parcel Reference:** 2

**Date Surveyed:** 7<sup>th</sup> August 2023

#### **3.2.2 General Description and Results**

The ALM site comprises a discrete area of grassland within a larger area of open space grassland. The site, however, was not surveyed as the grass had already been cut prior to the survey, therefore no further assessment has been made.

A small group of local residents gave positive feedback on the ALM area (prior to being cut) and said they had no issue with where it was situated. They stated that originally, they were not sure about the new management regime but once they understood the conservation aims of the ALM via a sign put in place by HDC, they were supportive of it being left uncut, and were disappointed when it was cut.

### 3.3 Site Reference and Name: STNT GAG Wheatfields

**Postcode:** PE27 3UY

**W3W:** whimpered.sweeter.uncouth

**On Site Reference Number:** Not known

**QGIS/BNG Parcel Reference:** 3

**Date Surveyed:** 7<sup>th</sup> August 2023

#### 3.3.2 General Description and Results

The ALM habitat has been assessed as modified grassland in good condition - 0.104ha.

The baseline score for the ALM site is **0.62 BU**.

The baseline score for the adjacent non-ALM site of the same area would be 0.21 BU.

The site is dominated by fast-growing grasses, without a great diversity of herbaceous species (wildflowers). The grassland was long, with a mown path around the perimeter, providing some structural diversity.

The site is set discretely within a larger area of open green space (non-ALM) with a hedgerow adjacent to the east and a children's playground nearby. The rest of the grassland appears to be regularly mown and sits within a residential area of St Ives. The open space connects to other areas of grassland, with another ALM site (not surveyed) to the south-east.

The adjacent non-ALM area, a larger parcel of grassland to the south-east of the ALM site, also comprises modified grassland, however the condition was assessed as being poor because of a lack of herbaceous species.

The ALM site was found to support at least thirteen species of plants while the non-ALM had five species, with the ALM site having a greater number of grasses and herbaceous species present.

The ALM site was found to support twenty-eight individual species of invertebrates. Within the non-ALM area four species were recorded, including a Wasp Spider. Wasp Spiders are very striking black and yellow, resembling their namesake, and an obvious species to pick out and identify. They need tall grass to construct their webs to catch passing insects.

A general observation noted a small patch of flowering Common Knapweed in the ALM supporting several bees. Common Knapweed is known to be one of the most important sources of pollen and nectar in late summer.

No other wildlife was noted at the time.

Children were noted to be playing in the ALM area to the south-east where pathways had been cut through the centre.

### 3.3.3 Management / Enhancement Opportunities

It is recommended the site is managed as per the Management Matrix table in Appendix Six and as stated above in paragraph 3.1.3. by leaving a large section of grassland uncut over winter to offer sheltering habitat to invertebrates such as the wasp spider which leave their eggs in tall vegetation over winter. The area of tall vegetation should be rotated around the site each year to avoid scrub development.



### 3.4 Site Reference and Name: STIV GAG Wetfield (Alwyn Close)

**Postcode:** PE27 3HN

**W3W:** breached.darling.splints

**On Site Reference Number:** Not known

**QGIS/BNG Parcel Reference:** 4

**Date Surveyed:** 7<sup>th</sup> August 2023

#### 3.4.2 General Description and Results

The ALM habitat has been assessed as modified grassland in good condition - 0.187ha.

The baseline score for the ALM site is **1.12 BU**.

The baseline score for the adjacent non-ALM site of the same area would be 0.37 BU.

The site is dominated by fast-growing grasses with few herbaceous species. Much of the grassland is long, with a central circular area that had been cut with paths leading in and out of the ALM area, providing some structural diversity in the vegetation and opportunities for children to play in.

The site is situated within a larger area of open green space (non-ALM) and takes up approximately half of the area. Hedgerows border the wider open green space to the north and west with some scattered trees in the area. The site and wider open green space sit within a residential area, with no apparent connectivity to any other green spaces.

The adjacent non-ALM area, the wider area of grassland, also comprises modified grassland. However the condition was assessed as being poor due to a general lack of species and a poor number of herbaceous species.

The ALM site was found to support seventeen species of plants while the non-ALM had five species, with the ALM site having a greater number of grasses and herbs present.

The ALM site was found to support twenty-two individual species of invertebrates. Within the non-ALM area seven species were recorded.

Wood Pigeons were observed in the area during the survey.

Feedback from a local resident was quite negative, citing a negative comment Alan Titchmarsh had made on rewilding and essentially how it is not a good thing. They also stated that the unmown grass looks messy and takes up too much of the open space forcing the older children to play football in areas where the younger children normally play. Children were noted to be playing in the ALM site, where pathways had been cut through the centre of the long grass.

#### 3.4.3 Management / Enhancement Opportunities

It is recommended the site is managed as per the Management Matrix table in Appendix Six

and as stated in paragraph 3.1.3.

Further benefit would be made if the ALM site was moved closer to the hedgerow to the west to create graduation and better connectivity between the two areas. More of the site could then be cut along the eastern side, creating a larger area for children to play to the east.

### 3.5 Site Reference and Name: STIV GAG Sandwich (Marley Road)

**Postcode:** PE27 3WN

**W3W:** feasting.dairies.universes

**On Site Reference Number:** Not known

**QGIS/BNG Parcel Reference:** 5

**Date Surveyed:** 7<sup>th</sup> August 2023

#### 3.5.2 General Description and Results

The ALM habitat has been assessed as modified grassland in good condition - 0.106ha.

The baseline score for the ALM site is **0.64 BU**.

There were no immediately adjacent sites to carry out a comparison of non-ALM.

The site is dominated by tall grasses with some herbaceous species, with scattered trees at a moderate density also present across the site. The entire ALM consisted of a number of separate sites along the road verges, most being along Marley Road. The area chosen as part of the survey was situated along the northernmost bend in the road, appearing to be one of the larger parcels. This site has limited connectivity to the other ALM areas due to intervening roads. As well as roads, the surrounding landscape is dominated by residential houses and gardens to the south and a small area of woodland/scrub and a hedgerow to the north of Marley Road, with arable land beyond that.

The ALM site was found to support twenty-one species of plants.

The ALM site was found to support a possible twenty-eight individual species of invertebrates.

No other wildlife was noted at the time.

#### 3.5.3 Management / Enhancement Opportunities

It is recommended the site is managed as per the Management Matrix table in Appendix Six. Longer areas of vegetation could be left around the trees over winter to create sheltering habitat for wildlife.

### 3.6 Site Reference and Name: STNT ALM Love's Farm Middle

**Postcode:** PE19 6DN

**W3W:** threaded.propose.brand

**On Site Reference Number:** Not known

**QGIS/BNG Parcel Reference:** 6

**Date Surveyed:** 8<sup>th</sup> August 2023

#### 3.6.2 General Description and Results

The ALM habitat has been assessed as modified grassland in good condition – 0.648ha.

The baseline score for the ALM site is **3.89 BU**.

There were no immediately adjacent sites to carry out a comparison of non-ALM.

The site is dominated by long tussocky grass with a large, central mown area and mown paths, creating structural diversity in the vegetation. The topography of the site also varies, with the site sitting within basin with raised banks around the perimeter. The ground was damp in places due to the low-lying nature of the site and being an extension of the balancing pond, Fox Brook also runs adjacent to the site. The grassland has roughly been split into two distinct areas as the species composition and hydrological conditions were noticeably different nearer the pond. The ground was noted to be wetter, with species present such as Hard Rush and Creeping Bent. The grassland overall has been assessed as being modified due to the lack of species diversity per survey area. However, taking into account the full species list for the site, as well as other factors, the grassland is borderline modified to other neutral grassland.

The ALM area surveyed forms part of a larger ALM site, comprising a balancing pond surrounded by other neutral grassland to the north, east and west. Although these habitats were not fully condition assessed, thus not included within the biodiversity assessment, the grassland has a good number of species present including Tufted Vetch, Selfheal, Crested Dog's-tail, Smooth Meadow-grass and Ox-eye Daisy. The transitional vegetation enclosing the pond includes, but is not limited to, willows, Marsh Horsetail, Hook-moss sp., Hard Rush, Lesser Bulrush, Purple-loosestrife, Bird's-foot-trefoil and Jointed Rush. Eight juvenile Common Frogs and two juvenile Common Toads were noted within the grasslands surrounding the pond. As the Common Toad is a UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) species, and is almost certainly breeding in the balancing pond, it automatically elevates the pond to a priority habitat as per the UKHab definition. Both the pond and neutral grassland are shown within the plans.

The ALM site forms part of a larger network of balancing ponds, trees/scrub and open green spaces that form a corridor across the residential area.

The ALM site was found to support thirty-six species of plants.

Although a comparison wasn't made between ALM and non-ALM, differences between the

invertebrate numbers on the mown and unmown parts of the site were still noted. The ALM site was found to support forty-five individual species of invertebrates, whilst only three species were recorded within the mown part. This site had the greatest number of individual invertebrate species recorded of all the sites.

### 3.6.3 Management / Enhancement Opportunities

It is recommended the site is managed as per the Management Matrix table in Appendix Six. However, due to the high fertility of the grassland the site would benefit from a late summer cut, as opposed to an autumn cut, with arisings removed. A wide strip of vegetation left long over winter would benefit amphibians, invertebrates and other wildlife.

Creation of refugia and hibernaculum would benefit amphibians, particularly over the winter months. However, these would only be recommended in an area where they were not vulnerable to vandalism, avoiding sites heavily used by the public and/or created in areas where they are not visible. The creation of underground hibernaculum, as shown in Appendix Seven would mitigate this.

### 3.7 Site Reference and Name: GODM ALM Wigmore Farm

**Postcode:** PE29 2YL

**W3W:** motivate.always.disarmed

**On Site Reference Number:** 127

**QGIS/BNG Parcel Reference:** 7

**Date Surveyed:** 8<sup>th</sup> August 2023

#### 3.7.2 General Description and Results

The ALM habitat has been assessed as other neutral grassland in moderate condition – 0.496ha.

The baseline score for the ALM site is **3.97 BU**.

The baseline score for the non-ALM site of the same area would be 1.98 BU.

The ALM site assessed comprises a mosaic of habitats including grassland, small areas of scattered scrub within the grassland, and small areas of bare ground, all of which surround a balancing pond. The balancing pond itself did not form part of the assessment. Most of the grassland appeared to have been seeded with a wildflower flower mix of native species, particularly along the northern section. The area around the pond appeared to include a mix of seeded and naturally colonising plants, in particular annual species, due to the sandy dry substrate and open structure in places. One of the annual plant species recorded, Knotted Clover, is a significant record for the site as it is rare in Huntingdonshire, having only been recorded at three other sites. Species within the scattered scrub included Bramble, Aspen, Silver Birch, White Willow and Ash seedlings. The site had good structural diversity in terms of different sward heights due to the open bare ground and mown areas as well as topographical diversity from the slopes around the pond.

The ALM site is situated within a wider area of open green space to the west of a residential housing estate. Hedgerows and trees are present to the south and west of the site, with scattered trees through the open green space. The ALM site is part of a wider network of ALM areas within the open managed greenspace, this area was chosen as part of the survey as it was the largest and most interesting, particularly in terms of habitats.

The adjacent non-ALM area, a larger parcel of grassland to the north of the ALM site also comprises other neutral grassland, but is in poor condition due to a lack of species (numbers and diversity) and structural diversity.

The ALM site was found to support fifty-five species of plants, the most of any ALM site, while the non-ALM had nine species.

The ALM site was found to support thirty-one individual species of invertebrates, including a wasp spider. Within the non-ALM area six species were recorded.

Despite not fulfilling all the necessary criteria to reach a neutral grassland of good condition,

Internal Reference: J309

the site was assessed as being the most biodiverse of all surveyed sites in terms of plants species. The patches of bare ground were observed to be particularly good for invertebrates such as solitary bees, as well as lichens. A Blackening Waxcap, another significant record for the ALM site, is a good indicator that the site has low nutrients and is therefore good for supporting a diverse array of plant species.

Many birds were noted in the area and included House Martin, Greater Spotted Woodpecker and Goldfinch.

### 3.7.3 Management / Enhancement Opportunities

It is recommended the grassland along the top of the bank, north of the pond is managed as per the Management Matrix table in Appendix Six.

The area surrounding the pond will require different management due to the slopes and varying habitats. It is recommended the scrub is managed each year through strimming discrete areas on a rotational basis, in order to maintain open areas of grassland and bare ground as well as structural diversity within the scrub itself. Ideally, the scrub should not account for more than five to ten percent of the grassland area. However, this does not include the transitional zone around the edge of the pond where willow etc. are present, although it is important to ensure that scrub does not become dominant around the entire pond causing overshadowing and potentially accelerating succession and the drying out process.

Maintaining areas of bare ground is essential for invertebrates, as mentioned above, as well as lichens and annual plants.

### 3.8 Site Reference and Name: HUNT ALM Top end - Pallet Fields/Kent/Surrey

**Postcode:** PE29 7JP

**W3W:** above.extreme.breakaway

**On Site Reference Number:** Not known

**QGIS/BNG Parcel Reference:** 8

**Date Surveyed:** 8<sup>th</sup> August 2023

#### 3.8.2 General Description and Results

The ALM habitat has been assessed as modified grassland in good condition – 0.385ha.

The baseline score for the ALM site is **2.31 BU**.

The baseline score for the adjacent non-ALM site of the same area would be 2.31 BU.

The site is dominated by grasses, particularly False –Oat-grass, but there was a lack of species diversity and low number of herbaceous species. The grassland has become quite rank, indicating a lack of frequent management for some time, which may be a result of the vegetation growing along a bank which is more difficult to cut and collect on. A mown strip ran along the bottom of the bank and along the top of the bank creating a pathway and providing some structural diversity in sward heights. Scattered trees were present along the bank at low density.

The ALM site runs between a large industrial estate to the west and residential area to the east, forming part of a larger green corridor between the two that continues south. A shelter-belt of trees and shrubs also runs immediately adjacent to the west.

The adjacent non-ALM areas, again form part of the corridor, with most of it comprising mown, modified grassland. The area looked at for comparison sits on the other side of the trees, to the south of the ALM site. The site is located approximately 330m from the Great Stukeley Railway Cutting protected site, however, with limited connectivity due to industrial warehouses and roads.

The ALM site was found to support twenty-eight species of plants while the non-ALM had eleven species.

The ALM site was found to support twenty individual species of invertebrates. Within the non-ALM area two species were recorded.

Positive feedback was given by a local resident living in one of the houses opposite, who appreciated its importance for nature, and said she has seen deer and foxes in the area.

A significant amount of litter was noted along the upper path of the ALM site in comparison to other sites that were surveyed.

Wood Pigeons and gulls were noted in the area during the survey.



### 3.8.3 Management / Enhancement Opportunities

It is recommended the site is managed as per the Management Matrix table in Appendix Six. If the topography of the site presents a challenge with cutting and collecting, it is recommended as an alternative that large, scalloped edges are strimmed along the bank, either along the bottom half, but preferably to the top. This will ensure the grassland does not become too dense across the whole site, while also creating a mosaic of short and long grass with some areas that can be mown less frequently and can be left for the scrub to spread a bit.

### 3.9 Site Reference and Name: HUNT ALM Stukeley Meadows Top

**Postcode:** PE29 6UQ

**W3W:** coining.failed.pound

**On Site Reference Number:** 200

**QGIS/BNG Parcel Reference:** 9

**Date Surveyed:** 8<sup>th</sup> August 2023

#### 3.9.2 General Description and Results

The ALM habitat has been assessed as other neutral grassland in poor condition – 0.515ha.

The baseline score for the ALM site is **2.06 BU**.

The baseline score for the adjacent non-ALM site of the same area would be 2.06 BU.

The site is dominated by grasses with some herbaceous species present but less abundant. It was evident that parts of the grassland were damp, likely to be seasonally wet and waterlogged during winter, since species such as False Fox-sedge and Creeping Bent were present. The site had a mown edge along the west, with some areas of less dense sward, however, it would still benefit from more structural diversity. A small parcel of trees is situated in the middle of the site where an electricity pylon is present. Linear strips of woodland also border the site along the north-east and north-west boundaries.

The ALM site forms part of a larger corridor of green space that runs between the housing estates and Stukeley Road and the A141. Stukeley Meadows Local Nature Reserve is also further south down the greenspace corridor. Barracks Brook is situated approximately eight metres to the south-west of the ALM site. The site is located approximately 730m from the Great Stukeley Railway cutting protected site, however there is limited good connecting habitat due to roads and an industrial estate.

The non ALM grassland used for comparison is a strip of other neutral grassland that runs parallel to the ALM site and the brook.

The ALM site was found to support twenty-eight species of plants while the non-ALM had sixteen species. During the survey, Strawberry Clover, a plant that is listed as Vulnerable in England was noted growing close to the brook in the non-ALM area. Strawberry clover is *“a species of short grassland on heavy clay soils. It was a widespread feature of grassy bridleways and green lanes before these were lost to, or damaged by, changes in land use and management”* (Wells, 2003). This reinforces the importance and need for areas of short grassland, such as the area in which this plant was noted to be growing, as well as the longer vegetation. A varied sward length is likely to produce the highest diversity of species.

The ALM site was found to support thirty-nine individual species of invertebrates, with a significant density of wasp spiders recorded. Within the non-ALM area eighth species were recorded.

Several common garden birds were noted in the area along with a dead Field Mouse and two juvenile Common Frogs which were noted in the ALM site.

### 3.9.3 Management / Enhancement Opportunities

It is recommended the site is managed as per the Management Matrix table in Appendix Six. Additionally, it would be beneficial to amphibians and invertebrates if approximately half the site is left uncut over winter so as not to remove all of the suitable habitat for the species such as Common Frogs and Wasp Spiders that were recorded on site. Ideally the site should be cut leaving a mosaic of short and long areas as opposed to large blocks, alternatively leaving a wide strip of grassland around the central area of trees and adjacent to the wooded areas. If possible, the arisings should be left in a large pile in on site a discrete corner as refugia for frogs and other amphibians and wildlife.

### 3.10 Site Reference and Name: GODM ALM The Avenue

**Postcode:** PE29 2AF

**W3W:** motor.renovated.bill

**On Site Reference Number:** 132

**QGIS/BNG Parcel Reference:** 10

**Date Surveyed:** 10<sup>th</sup> August 2023

#### 3.10.2 General Description and Results

The ALM habitat has been assessed as modified grassland in good condition – 0.122ha.

The baseline score for the ALM site is **0.73 BU**.

There were no immediately adjacent sites to carry out a comparison of non-ALM.

The site is a relatively small grassland site with a Hawthorn and mature/veteran Horse-chestnut tree in the centre. The Horse-chestnut was noted to have suitable features for supporting roosting bats and other wildlife due to the presence of a significant amount of dead wood. There are also six Common Limes that border the site along the eastern boundary, the trees continuing beyond the site creating an avenue along the road. There is a well-managed hedgerow along the northern boundary. The site had a modest assemblage of plants with not much species diversity, the mown path around the edges provided some structural diversity in sward height with small amounts of bare ground.

The site is situated adjacent to a main road, with a grass field to the north and large residential houses to the west, which back on to the River Great Ouse – a protected area, of which the site has some suitable connectivity to.

The ALM site was found to support at least twenty-six species of plants.

The ALM site was found to support twenty-six individual species of invertebrates, with only three species recorded within the mown parts.

There were not many plants in flower, however, of the few still left, thistles were noted to be still providing pollen and nectar for bumblebees.

No other wildlife was noted at the time.

It was noted that the ALM site was unlikely to be used by members of the public due to its isolated location and not being that near to any residential areas.

#### 3.10.3 Management / Enhancement Opportunities

It is recommended the site is managed as per the Management Matrix table in Appendix Six.

### 3.11 Site Reference and Name: GODM GAG Cambridge Villa Allotments

**Postcode:** PE29 2BH

**W3W:** limelight.member.heave

**On Site Reference Number:** 139

**QGIS/BNG Parcel Reference:** 11

**Date Surveyed:** 10<sup>th</sup> August 2023

#### 3.11.2 General Description and Results

The ALM habitat has been assessed as modified grassland in good condition – 0.039ha.

The baseline score for the ALM site is **0.23 BU**.

The baseline score for the adjacent non-ALM site of the same area would be 0.23 BU.

The site is a discrete patch of grassland tucked away adjacent to an area of managed grassland appearing to belong to a retirement home complex. The site was noted to have a larger ratio of herbaceous species present in comparison with most other ALM sites. The soil was noticeably fine and sandy, which might contribute to the lack of coarse, fast growing grasses with more herbaceous species present, due to a lack of nutrients. However, due to the lack of diversity in herbaceous species the grassland was still assessed as being modified. A large, mature Horse-chestnut tree sits in the centre of the site.

The site is on the edge of Godmanchester with a shelter belt of woodland running between it and the A1307. The woodland creates a long linear corridor between the site and other open greenspaces. There are also some residential houses and an allotment adjacent to the site.

The adjacent non-ALM area, a larger parcel of grassland to the north-west of the ALM site, also comprises modified grassland in good condition, although had less variation within the sward height.

The ALM site was found to support at least twenty-four species of plants while the non-ALM had eleven species.

The ALM site was found to support twenty-six individual species of invertebrates. Within the non-ALM area seven species were recorded. An active Common Wasp nest near to the Horse-chestnut was noted during the survey. Several ant hills were also recorded, possibly being more noticeable due to the sandy substrate, as this type of soil is good for ant hill creation.

Diggings were also noted within the site, which is likely from Rabbits.

No other wildlife was noted at the time.

Although not observed, the ALM area could potentially attract other wildlife due to its proximity to the woodland and allotments; it also appears to be a quiet location which is another factor in its suitability.

### 3.11.3 Management / Enhancement Opportunities

It is recommended the site is managed as per the Management Matrix table in Appendix Six. With appropriate management the site could become other neutral grassland within a relatively short period of time. It is recommended that the grassland is not cut too low to the ground as this could destroy the ant hills that are beneficial for biodiversity.

### 3.12 Site Reference and Name: GODM ALM East Chadley Lane

**Postcode:** PE29 2WQ

**W3W:** heartless.cooks.screening

**On Site Reference Number:** 134/141

**QGIS/BNG Parcel Reference:** 12

**Date Surveyed:** 10<sup>th</sup> August 2023

#### 3.12.2 General Description and Results

The ALM habitat has been assessed as other neutral grassland in poor condition – 0.053ha.

The baseline score for the ALM site is **0.21 BU**.

The baseline score for the adjacent non-ALM site of the same area would be 0.32 BU.

The site is relatively small and one of the only ALM sites to be dominated by tall herbs such as Teasel and Hogweed, as well as a relatively good number of grasses and herbs in comparison to many of the other sites. A mown path was present around the perimeter of the site providing good structural diversity with the contrasting heights and types of vegetation.

The site is situated within a wider area of open greenspace, some of which is also under ALM – mainly around the pond area which is adjacent. The rest of the area comprises short grassland and trees/scrub, with bramble scrub and willows all along the eastern boundary of the site.

An area of short grassland, adjacent to the north of the ALM site was used as the non-ALM site. The grassland was assessed as modified in good condition which comparatively gives it more Biodiversity Units than the ALM site purely based on condition. Although the ALM site is a habitat of higher distinctiveness and more biodiverse it was assessed as being in poor condition as it is not a typical grassland.

The ALM site was found to support thirty species of plants while the non-ALM had eleven species.

The ALM site was found to support thirty-two individual species of invertebrates. Within the non-ALM area seven species were recorded.

Birds including Robin, Blackbird, Magpie, and Chiffchaff were noted in the area during the survey. No other wildlife was observed at the time.

#### 3.12.3 Management / Enhancement Opportunities

Although the dominance of tall herbs is usually a negative indication of grassland quality, in this case, with the site being near to a pond and with plenty of other grassland around, it is recommended that the vegetation within the centre is maintained as tall herbs, rather than aiming to achieve a typical grassland. Tall herbs are important for providing shelter to lots of

wildlife as well as plant species such as the Teasel and Hogweed being important for foraging invertebrates (observed during the survey). Teasel is also a good food source for Goldfinches which forage on the seeds during autumn/winter. To prevent the area from succumbing to the adjacent scrub, the short-mown path around the edge should be cut as usual and maintained at a short length, and the rest of the site split into half or thirds and each part cut on rotation, every two to three years.

Being nearby to a pond, the site also has potential to support other wildlife such as amphibians and therefore should be managed sensitively, ideally avoiding cutting the vegetation too low to the ground where individuals might be sheltering. Hibernacula in the form of log/brush piles could also be created for additional sheltering and over-wintering habitat.



### 3.13 Site Reference and Name: GODM ALM Stokes Close

**Postcode:** PE29 2LQ

**W3W:** resembles.with.intention

**On Site Reference Number:** 137

**QGIS/BNG Parcel Reference:** 13

**Date Surveyed:** 10<sup>th</sup> August 2023

#### 3.13.2 General Description and Results

The ALM habitat has been assessed as modified grassland in good condition – 0.065ha.

The baseline score for the ALM site is **0.39 BU**.

The baseline score for the adjacent non-ALM site of the same area would be 0.39 BU.

The site is a relatively small area of grassland situated within an open greenspace surrounded by residential houses. A few scattered trees, all semi-mature, comprising Ash, Hornbeam, and Field Maple were also present within the site and within the wider open space area. The grassland was quite species poor in terms of grasses and herbaceous species.

The adjacent non-ALM area consists of the wider grassland area, again assessed as modified grassland in good condition with a similar species makeup. Ornamental shrub borders are also present around the greenspace.

The ALM site was found to support at least eight species of plants while the non-ALM also had eight species.

The ALM site was found to support seventeen individual species of invertebrates. Six species were recorded within the non-ALM area. No other wildlife was noted at the time.

Positive feedback for the ALM was given from a local resident living opposite the green.

#### 3.13.3 Management / Enhancement Opportunities

It is recommended the site is managed as per the Management Matrix table in Appendix Six.

### 3.14 Site Reference and Name: GTST ALM Manor Close

**Postcode:** PE19 5DX

**W3W:** soups.geese.weeded

**On Site Reference Number:** Not known

**QGIS/BNG Parcel Reference:** 14

**Date Surveyed:** 11<sup>th</sup> August 2023

#### 3.14.2 General Description and Results

The ALM habitat has been assessed as modified grassland in good condition – 0.185ha.

The baseline score for the ALM site is **1.11 BU**.

There were no immediately adjacent sites to carry out a comparison of non-ALM.

The site is largely dominated by dense, tussocky grasses, with more herbaceous species recorded from the mown areas. A few trees were concentrated within the northern section of the site and included willow and Whitebeam. A public footpath cuts through the site leading to the adjacent area of woodland and scrub. A hedgerow stretches across the northern site boundary with some Bramble encroachment into the site. Residential houses and gardens surround the site to the south, east and west.

The ALM site was found to support at least thirty-nine species of plants.

Although a comparison was not made between ALM and non-ALM, differences between the invertebrate numbers on the mown and unmown parts of the site were still noted. The ALM site was found to support thirty individual species of invertebrates, with only six species recorded within the mown parts.

A Wren was recorded during the survey along with fox scat and mammal runs within the site. Being adjacent to the woodland the site has the potential to be used by many different species.

#### 3.14.3 Management / Enhancement Opportunities

It is recommended the site is managed as per the Management Matrix table in Appendix Six. It is recommended that a strip along the hedgerow is managed less frequently to create graduation between the adjacent woodland and hedgerow and the grassland site.

**3.15 Site Reference and Name:** PERY GAG ALM Perry

**Postcode:** PE28 0DW

**W3W:** conspire.paper.openings

**On Site Reference Number:** Not known

**QGIS/BNG Parcel Reference:** 15

**Date Surveyed:** 11<sup>th</sup> August 2023

**3.15.2 General Description and Results**

The ALM site comprises a discrete area of grassland within a larger area of open greenspace. The site, however, was not surveyed as the grass had already been cut prior to the survey, therefore no further assessment has been made.

### 3.16 Site Reference and Name: GTGN GAG Gt Gransden

**Postcode:** SG19 3RL

**W3W:** mailboxes.slab.hours

**On Site Reference Number:**

**QGIS/BNG Parcel Reference:** 16

**Date Surveyed:** 11<sup>th</sup> August 2023

#### 3.16.2 General Description and Results

The ALM habitat has been assessed as modified grassland in good condition – 0.064ha.

The baseline score for the ALM site is **0.38 BU**.

There were no immediately adjacent sites to carry out a comparison of non-ALM.

The site is a relatively small and isolated parcel of grassland on the edge of a residential housing estate. A fairly low species assemblage was recorded, with Perennial Rye-grass dominant. The grass cover was very dense with a prominent thatch layer. A single mature oak tree is present within the site and was noted as having potential to support roosting bats. The grassland had a mown border giving some diversity in sward height.

The site is bordered by hardstanding and fences, providing little connectivity to other green spaces and limiting potential for the site to be used by a diverse group of animal species. An area of grassland is present the other side of the fence to the north-east.

The ALM site was found to support at least twenty-four species of plants.

Although a comparison wasn't made between ALM and non-ALM, differences between the invertebrate numbers on the mown and unmown parts of the site were still noted. The ALM site was found to support twenty-five individual species of invertebrates, with only five species recorded within the mown parts.

No other wildlife was noted at the time.

#### 3.16.3 Management / Enhancement Opportunities

It is recommended the site is managed as per the Management Matrix table in Appendix Six.

### 3.17 Site Reference and Name: STNT GAG Darrington Close

**Postcode:** PE19 8PT

**W3W:** crackling.incorrect.ticking

**On Site Reference Number:** Not known

**QGIS/BNG Parcel Reference:** 17

**Date Surveyed:** 11<sup>th</sup> August 2023

#### 3.17.2 General Description and Results

The ALM habitat has been assessed as modified grassland in poor condition – 0.427ha.

The baseline score for the ALM site is **0.85 BU**.

The baseline score for the adjacent non-ALM site of the same area would be 0.85 BU.

The site comprises grassland very poor in species diversity, with only a low number of grasses and herbaceous species recorded. There was, however, a small stand of Common Knapweed present indicating that the site could potentially progress to other neutral grassland with appropriate management, but the current poor species count and domination of grasses like Perennial Rye-grass and Cock's-foot is more in line with the modified definition. The ALM site has mown areas around the perimeter creating some diversity in sward height, although the unmown areas were uniformly quite dense and tussocky. The ALM site and wider area also had large, mature scattered trees present including Horse-chestnut and Giant Redwood.

The site is set within a wider area of open greenspace, with a central mown area used as the non-ALM comparison area, also assessed as modified grassland in poor condition, and other parcels of ALM areas, of which the largest parcel was surveyed. Lines and groups of trees surround the open space on most boundaries and create a green corridor with other trees to the east. Beyond that, the site is predominantly surrounded by residential houses and gardens.

The ALM site was found to support at least fifteen species of plants while the non-ALM had eight species.

The ALM site was found to support fourteen individual species of invertebrates. Within the non-ALM area five species were recorded.

Several birds were observed within the surrounding trees.

The site was noted to be popular with dogwalkers.

#### 3.17.3 Management / Enhancement Opportunities

It is recommended the site is managed as per the Management Matrix table in Appendix Six.

### 3.18 Site Reference and Name: STNT GAG Viscount Court

**Postcode:** PE19 7DX

**W3W:** napped.dolphins.piled

**On Site Reference Number:** 246

**QGIS/BNG Parcel Reference:** 18

**Date Surveyed:** August 2023

#### 3.18.2 General Description and Results

The ALM habitat has been assessed as modified grassland in poor condition – 0.085ha.

The baseline score for the ALM site is **0.17 BU**.

There were no immediately adjacent sites to carry out a comparison of non-ALM.

The site comprises a strip of grassland that runs adjacent to Duloe Brook, that feeds into the River Great Ouse. Some scattered trees and shrubs were also present across the site at low density. The grassland was dominated by a few common grasses and was relatively poor on herbaceous species, although as noted in the site above, Common Knapweed was present in small numbers.

The ALM site forms part of a wider network of grassland on either side of the brook, with other open greenspaces also connecting to the brook. The majority of the surrounding landscape comprises residential houses/flats.

The ALM site was found to support at least twenty-five species of plants.

Although a comparison wasn't made between ALM and non-ALM, differences between the invertebrate numbers on the mown and unmown parts of the site were still noted. The ALM site was found to support fourteen individual species of invertebrates, with two species recorded within the mown parts.

Being adjacent to the brook and the green corridor that this provides within the wider landscape -, the site could potentially support a variety of wildlife.

No other wildlife was noted at the time.

A local resident feedback that they didn't mind the concept of the rewilding areas. However, as a dogwalker, he was concerned about the long grass adjacent to the brook where he walks his dog and said he had to repeatedly take his dog to the vets due to grass seeds becoming embedded. He also shared concerns regarding the possibility of fires during periods of hot and dry weather and would prefer the ALM area to be somewhere away from the main path where people walk dogs.

#### 3.18.3 Management / Enhancement Opportunities

It is recommended the site is managed as per the Management Matrix table in Appendix Six.

Care should be taken to ensure that arisings do not end up in the watercourse and that vigorous tall herbs do not take over the brook. [OBJ]

**3.19 Site Reference and Name:** FARC ALM Church & Andrewe's Close

**Postcode:** PE7 3AY

**W3W:** identify.depravity.tapers

**On Site Reference Number:** 220

**QGIS/BNG Parcel Reference:** 19

**Date Surveyed:** 15<sup>th</sup> August 2023

**3.19.2 General Description and Results**

The ALM site comprises a small area of grassland between a playground and a planted Floral Meadow. The site, however, was not surveyed as the grass did not appear to vary from the surrounding non-ALM grassland, therefore it was assumed the area had been cut previously.

### 3.20 Site Reference and Name: YAXL ALM Shackleton Way

**Postcode:** PE7 3AB

**W3W:** intend.arrives.certainly

**On Site Reference Number:** 55 & 57

**QGIS/BNG Parcel Reference:** 20

**Date Surveyed:** 15<sup>th</sup> August 2023

#### 3.20.2 General Description and Results

The ALM habitat has been assessed as modified grassland in poor condition – 0.229ha.

The baseline score for the ALM site is **0.46 BU**.

The baseline score for the adjacent non-ALM site of the same area would be 0.46 BU.

The site comprises grassland, some of which grows within a balancing pond, noted to be dry but damp underfoot at the time of the survey indicating that it is possibly seasonally wet. Within the grassland there were distinct areas of vegetation including stands of Common Nettle, Great Willowherb, tall grassland, and the pond area which had some areas of bare ground with Redshank and areas of rushes. These combined to create a site with good structural diversity. There is also some topographical diversity due to the pond basin and raised areas around the pond. As each vegetation type was largely in separate stands, the overall plant diversity within each area was quite low and therefore assessed as modified grassland. Despite the relatively poor plant species diversity, the site had fairly good numbers and a diverse range of invertebrates. This is because of the presence of good populations of key plant species and varied structural diversity within the main pond area. The site is set within a wider area of open greenspace, which includes mown grassland (non-ALM area) and planted shrubs/trees. This is situated within a relatively new looking housing estate. Shackleton Way Newt Reserve is located just to the south of the ALM site and is managed for Great Crested Newts (a European Protected and UK BAP species).

The ALM site was found to support at least twenty-five species of plants while the non-ALM had fifteen species.

The ALM site was found to support thirty-four individual species of invertebrates. Within the non-ALM area seven species were recorded.

A Woodpigeon and domestic cat were recorded in the ALM site during the survey, along with deer droppings. Although not observed, the site has potential to support amphibians, particularly Great Crested Newts.

#### 3.20.3 Management / Enhancement Opportunities

It is recommended the site is managed as per the Management Matrix table in Appendix Six, however, the vegetation ideally should not be cut too low to the ground due to the possibility of Great Crested Newts and other amphibians using the site for shelter. Although the site did



not score highly in terms of habitat diversity, it is beneficial to maintain the stands of tall herbs, through mowing one half of the site every one to two years, as they create good sheltering habitat for amphibians. Any arisings could be left in discrete piles within the ALM site to create additional refugia for newts and other amphibians.

### 3.21 Site Reference and Name: ALWN ALM GAG Alwalton

**Postcode:** PE7 3UP

**W3W:** folds.patrol.fool

**On Site Reference Number:** 203 & 243

**QGIS/BNG Parcel Reference:** 21

**Date Surveyed:** 15<sup>th</sup> August 2023

#### 3.21.2 General Description and Results

The ALM habitat has been assessed as horticulture (cropland) in condition N/A – 0.035ha.

The baseline score for the ALM site is **0.07 BU**.

There were no immediately adjacent sites to carry out a comparison of non-ALM.

The site differs to the other ALMs in that it has been seeded with an annual seed mix, predominantly comprising plants such as Corn Marigold and Corncockle which would normally be found in an arable setting. A mown path went around the perimeter of the site and had not been included within the seeded area. The path would normally have been assessed as modified grassland. However, for the purposes of the survey it was included as part of the ALM site. The site is a relatively isolated parcel of grassland situated on a wide road verge and surrounded by houses. Another ALM area was shown on the plan along the same road to the east of the site. However, on inspection it appeared to have been mown.

The ALM site was found to support at least twenty-seven species of plants.

Although a comparison was not made between ALM and non-ALM, differences between the invertebrate numbers on the mown and unmown parts of the site were still noted. The ALM site was found to support fourteen individual species of invertebrates, with only four species recorded within the mown parts.

No other wildlife was noted at the time, but there was anecdotal evidence given by the local residents of mice, rats and snakes.

Negative feedback was also given by the same two residents living opposite the site who were very against the area, stating it looked untidy, children could no longer have picnics there and that they could no longer see their cars because the vegetation was so long and full of 'weeds'.

#### 3.21.3 Management / Enhancement Opportunities

It is recommended the site is managed as per the Management Matrix table in Appendix Six. If the ALM site is not suitable in its current location, the ALM site that had been cut could offer an alternative solution as it is further from the residents and could be open to less scrutiny. However, it is noted that there could be other factors as to why that site was chosen.

### 3.22 Site Reference and Name: HUNT ALM Hazelwood Walk

**Postcode:** PE29 1HR

**W3W:** strictest.feeds.payer

**On Site Reference Number:** Not known

**QGIS/BNG Parcel Reference:** 22

**Date Surveyed:** 16<sup>th</sup> August 2023

#### 3.22.2 General Description and Results

The ALM habitat has been assessed as modified grassland in poor condition – 0.056ha.

The baseline score for the ALM site is **0.11 BU**.

The baseline score for the adjacent non-ALM site of the same area would be 0.34 BU.

The site is a relatively small parcel of grassland situated within a residential area, forming part of a slightly larger area of open greenspace. A low number of species, including grasses and herbs was recorded. However, Autumn Hawkbit was abundant and in flower at the time of the survey providing a good source of pollen and nectar for Common Blue butterflies. A mown path was present around the perimeter providing some diversity in sward heights. A mature Ivy-covered Ash tree is situated within the centre of the site. A small area of non-ALM grassland, also assessed as modified but in good condition due to a higher number of species recorded, sits to the south of the site separated by a path. Adjacent to the non-ALM is a strip of shrubs and tall herbs.

The ALM site was found to support at least eleven species of plants while the non-ALM had thirteen species.

The ALM site was found to support forty-three individual species of invertebrates. Within the non-ALM area five species were recorded.

No other wildlife was noted at the time.

#### 3.22.3 Management / Enhancement Opportunities

It is recommended the site is managed as per the Management Matrix table in Appendix Six. Additionally, it is recommended that the small area of non-ALM grassland is also managed less frequently to create a gradation between the strip of scrubs and tall vegetation, creating more sheltering habitat and connectivity between the two areas.

### 3.23 Site Reference and Name: HUNT ALM Oak Tree Centre

**Postcode:** PE29 7HN

**W3W:** mirroring.broccoli.lights

**On Site Reference Number:** Not known

**QGIS/BNG Parcel Reference:** 23

**Date Surveyed:** 16<sup>th</sup> August 2023

#### 3.23.2 General Description and Results

The ALM habitat has been assessed as other neutral grassland in moderate condition – 0.088ha.

The baseline score for the ALM site is **0.70 BU**.

The baseline score for the adjacent non-ALM site of the same area would be 0.18 BU.

The site comprises an area of grassland across a bank and along the south-east corner and edge of a wider open greenspace. A fairly good mix of herbaceous and grass species were recorded in localized patches across the site, with other areas more grass-dominated. A notable patch of Marjoram was noted along the bottom of the bank, adjacent to the car park which, during the survey was covered in insects including Gatekeeper and Common Blue butterflies, Mint Moth (possibly a small Purple-and-gold), and a variety of flies. Trees and shrubs are also present along the eastern site boundary. The area has a good structural diversity including trees and shrubs, the ALM tall vegetation adjacent and short grassland.

The wider area of grassland (non-ALM site) was assessed as modified in poor condition due to the lack of numbers and diversity of plants. The adjacent trees form part of a corridor along the adjacent road, providing some good connectivity to other green spaces. Residential houses and office buildings/shops are also present within the wider landscape.

The ALM site was found to support at least twenty-eight species of plants while the non-ALM had eight species.

The ALM site was found to support thirty-three individual species of invertebrates. Within the non-ALM area ten species were recorded.

No other wildlife was noted at the time.

A visitor to the nearby facilities said that the ALM area looked nice.

#### 3.23.3 Management / Enhancement Opportunities

It is recommended the site is managed as per the Management Matrix table in Appendix Six and as stated above in paragraph 3.1.3.

### 3.24 Site Reference and Name: HUNT ALM Ring Road

**Postcode:** PE29 3RP

**W3W:** tailing.finishing.wriggled

**On Site Reference Number:** 184

**QGIS/BNG Parcel Reference:** 24

**Date Surveyed:** 16<sup>th</sup> August 2023

#### 3.24.2 General Description and Results

The ALM habitat has been assessed as modified grassland in good condition – 0.149ha.

The baseline score for the ALM site is **0.89 BU**.

There were no immediately adjacent sites to carry out a comparison of non-ALM.

The site comprises a grassland road verge with a very dense, tussocky sward. A good ratio of herbaceous species was present, particularly Yarrow which was in flower at the time. A mown path was present around the perimeter of site providing a diverse sward height. The ALM site forms part of a larger area of ALM sites along the road. This strip was less dominated by trees than most and appeared to have greater plant diversity. Three scattered trees were present on the ALM site.

The site lies between two roads, the wider landscape consisting of a network of roads, houses, car parks, open greenspaces and other commercial buildings, therefore lacking connectivity to other good habitat.

The ALM site was found to support at least twenty-one species of plants.

The ALM site was found to support forty-three individual species of invertebrates.

A Woodpigeon nest was noted in one of the trees, along with eggshells and a dead pigeon.

#### 3.24.3 Management / Enhancement Opportunities

It is recommended the site is managed as per the Management Matrix table in Appendix Six.

### 3.25 Site Reference and Name: BRMP ALM Layton Crescent

**Postcode:** PE28 4TS

**W3W:** romance.array.hardens

**On Site Reference Number:** Not known

**QGIS/BNG Parcel Reference:** 25

**Date Surveyed:** 16<sup>th</sup> August 2023

#### 3.25.2 General Description and Results

The ALM habitat has been assessed as modified grassland in good condition – 0.158ha.

The baseline score for the ALM site is **0.95 BU**.

The baseline score for the adjacent non-ALM site of the same area would be 0.95 BU.

The site comprises a moderately sized parcel of grassland with several scattered trees, of approximately similar ages. A small fallen tree surrounded by a mixture of native and ornamental shrubs and tall herbs was present in the site. The grassland was assessed as modified due to a relatively poor species assemblage. However, species such as Lady's Bedstraw, Goat's-beard and Field Madder, which had not been recorded on many other sites, were noted.

An adjacent parcel of non-ALM grassland is situated to the north of the site, with a central area of trees and shrubs. This area was also assessed as being modified in good condition.

The open greenspaces are situated within a residential area, surrounded by houses with a school, arable field, and brook nearby within the wider area.

The ALM site was found to support at least fifteen species of plants while the non-ALM had eleven species.

The ALM site was found to support thirty-four individual species of invertebrates. Within the non-ALM area ten species were recorded.

A local couple living opposite the ALM site were interested in what we were doing and seeking advice for their own garden. They thought the ALM areas were a positive thing and were trying to achieve a similar outcome in their own gardens through seeding with wildflowers. They also provided anecdotal evidence of Muntjac Deer, Cuckoo, and Green Woodpecker in the area and mentioned a local entomologist in the area who had recorded bees nesting in an area of bare ground under one of the trees. Further to this, the entomologist contacted us to pass on his records of Hairy-Footed Flower Bees and Common Mourning Bees using the site and living within the base of an ash tree. He also expressed positive feedback for the scheme, stating that ceasing regular cutting of grass in the southern part of this area of Layton Crescent would be of benefit to many insects and also aesthetically pleasing in his view and he hopes the change in management will continue in future years.

A Woodpigeon nest was noted within one of the trees.

### 3.25.3 Management / Enhancement Opportunities

It is recommended the site is managed as per the Management Matrix table in Appendix Six, however, as opposed to leaving a strip of long grassland, areas around the trees can be left long over winter. Additionally, it would be beneficial to leave a strip of longer vegetation around the trees/shrubs within the neighbouring non-ALM area, to create graduation between the two habitat and providing more foraging and sheltering habitat for wildlife.

### 3.26 Site Reference and Name: WDWT ALM Beville

**Postcode:** PE28 5YN

**W3W:** regress.mining.surfer

**On Site Reference Number:** 205

**QGIS/BNG Parcel Reference:** 26

**Date Surveyed:** 17<sup>th</sup> August 2023

#### 3.26.2 General Description and Results

The ALM habitat has been assessed as other neutral grassland in poor condition – 0.014ha.

The baseline score for the ALM site is **0.06 BU**.

The baseline score for the adjacent non-ALM site of the same area would be 0.03 BU.

The site is a narrow strip of tall, dense grassland stretching between a dry ditch and a larger area of frequently managed open grassland (non-ALM area). The site appeared to have been seeded with a mixture of plants including some annual arable species such as Corncockle and Cornflower, albeit in low densities. Perennials are also present including Common Knapweed and Ox-eye Daisy. Due to the small area of the site, there was little opportunity for diversity in sward height. However, immediately adjacent to the site is the non-ALM area which is mown and then tall herbs along the ditch on the main-road side. There are also several trees along the adjacent ditch.

The site sits within a part residential, part arable setting with houses to the north and arable land to the south. The adjacent non-ALM area was assessed as being modified grassland in poor condition.

The ALM site was found to support at least thirty-seven species of plants while the non-ALM had twenty species.

The ALM site was found to support thirty-eight individual species of invertebrates. Within the non-ALM area four species were recorded.

Goldfinches were heard in the area during the survey.

#### 3.26.3 Management / Enhancement Opportunities

It is recommended the site is managed as per the Management Matrix table in Appendix Six.



### 3.27 Site Reference and Name: HOLM GAG ALM Holmewood

**Postcode:** PE7 3PF

**W3W:** shelters.year.sized

**On Site Reference Number:** Not known

**QGIS/BNG Parcel Reference:** 27

**Date Surveyed:** 17<sup>th</sup> August 2023

#### 3.27.2 General Description and Results

The ALM habitat has been assessed as modified grassland in good condition – 0.152ha.

The baseline score for the ALM site is **0.91 BU**.

There were no immediately adjacent sites to carry out a comparison of non-ALM.

The site comprises a parcel of grassland situated between residential houses and leading on to a small allotment area. A garage is located within the site and tall herbs were encroaching into the site from the nearby allotment. However these created some structural diversity, along with the other half of the site which had been mown. Residents were using the mown section of the ALM site to park their cars.

The site is situated within the village of Holme, and although it is surrounded by houses to the north and south it is not densely populated with allotments, open fields, and trees to the east and north-east and another larger open greenspace area to the west.

The ALM site was found to support at least twenty-seven species of plants.

Although a comparison wasn't made between ALM and non-ALM, differences between the invertebrate numbers on the mown and unmown parts of the site were still noted. The ALM site was found to support thirty individual species of invertebrates, with only four species recorded within the mown parts.

No other wildlife was noted at the time. However, there is good potential for wildlife to use the site due to its connectivity to the allotments and other green areas.

#### 3.27.3 Management / Enhancement Opportunities

It is recommended the site is managed as per the Management Matrix table in Appendix Six.

### 3.28 Site Reference and Name: RAMS GAG Ramsey (Lawrence Road)

**Postcode:** PE26 1UY

**W3W:** fells.caressed.economics

**On Site Reference Number:** 180

**QGIS/BNG Parcel Reference:** 28

**Date Surveyed:** 17<sup>th</sup> August 2023

#### 3.28.2 General Description and Results

The ALM habitat has been assessed as modified grassland in poor condition – 0.163ha.

The baseline score for the ALM site is **0.33 BU**.

There were no immediately adjacent sites to carry out a comparison of non-ALM.

The site comprises grassland with a significant number of trees, making the site semi-woodland. Species included Ash, Walnut, Horse-chestnut, Hornbeam, oak, poplar, Rowan, Hawthorn and lime. As a result, the grassland is quite patchy with areas of bare and disturbed ground under the tree canopies. Each survey area returned a poor number of species. However, across the whole site, a good variety of species were recorded, including some more shade tolerant plants, usually associated with woodlands such as violet. Tree cover was less dense at the northern end of the site and as a result more sunlight was filtering through the canopy creating glades, where Speckled Wood butterfly was observed basking. The grass was also much denser here. The topography of the site was varied with a slight raised bund running through the site and shallow hollowed areas under the trees. The site also had structural diversity with regards to sward height due to the trees and varying amounts of light reaching the ground creating bare patches. A mown strip is present around the perimeter, which was found to be supporting a different assemblage of species.

A managed, native hedgerow runs along the north and east site boundaries and continues along the adjacent main road. The rest of the site is surrounded by a road and residential area, although the area is not densely populated, sitting on the edge of the town, close to arable fields.

The ALM site was found to support at least thirty-eight species of plants.

The ALM site was found to support thirty-four individual species of invertebrates. Small holes were found in the bare patches of soil which could potentially be those of solitary bees.

Evidence of Muntjac Deer was noted, along with a Woodpigeon nest and remain of a Wood pigeon.

Positive feedback was given by a couple who were not local but visiting the area, who said a family relative lived in the area and was also supportive of it.

### 3.28.3 Management / Enhancement Opportunities

To some extent the site can be managed as per the Management Matrix table in Appendix Six. However, long term, much of the grassland could become shaded out by the trees. It is therefore recommended that if possible, the site is managed in a way to allow more light in through opening up the canopy and creating mini glades. This could either involve thinning the trees by removing a small number of individual trees across the site, potentially focusing on the less established trees, and retaining any trees that have features that could potentially support bats. Alternatively, pruning and crown thinning of the trees would also allow more light to enter. Creating glades would benefit the ground flora and species such as the Speckled Wood butterfly that rely on these areas as part of their life cycle and for survival as they create warm sheltered spots. Hibernacula for wildlife could also be created from the logs and brash. However, if created in an obvious place, could be subject to vandalism or become a fire hazard and so this should be taken into consideration when choosing the location for habitat enhancements.

### 3.29 Site Reference and Name: LTPX GAG Little Paxton

**Postcode:** PE19 6PE

**W3W:** breakaway.episodes.amounting

**On Site Reference Number:**

**QGIS/BNG Parcel Reference:** 29

**Date Surveyed:** 8<sup>th</sup> September 2023

#### 3.29.2 General Description and Results

The ALM habitat has been assessed as modified grassland in good condition – 0.071ha.

The baseline score for the ALM site is **0.43 BU**.

The baseline score for the adjacent non-ALM site of the same area would be 0.43 BU.

The site comprises an area of grassland that forms part of a slightly larger open greenspace. The grassland was largely dominated by a small number of grasses with some common herbaceous species throughout. The sward lacked diversity, being quite dense throughout, other than the mown path along the southern boundary.

A Leyland Cypress hedge forms the northern boundary with a line of trees separating the site from the adjacent school. Other than the school, the surrounding area consists of residential housing with scattered green spaces, some connecting to the site. The non-ALM area includes the rest of the grassland within the greenspace and was also assessed as being modified in good condition, although lacking any diversity in sward height.

The site is located approximately 270m from the Paxton Pits protected site. However, there is a lack of good connecting habitat between the two due to houses and roads.

The ALM site was found to support at least twenty-six species of plants while the non-ALM had twelve species.

The ALM site was found to support twenty-three individual species of invertebrates. Within the non-ALM area seven species were recorded.

Birds including Robin, Starling, Woodpigeon and Goldfinch were heard in the area.

#### 3.29.3 Management / Enhancement Opportunities

It is recommended the site is managed as per the Management Matrix table in Appendix Six.

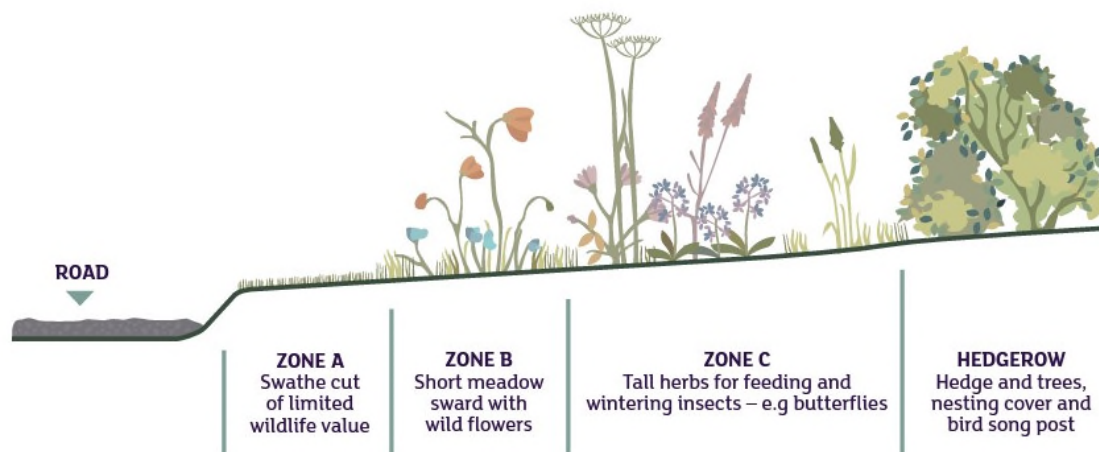
## 4.0 Summary

In summary, it is evident in many cases that just one season's worth of growth has made a significant difference to the sites, both in terms of floral diversity and the numbers and types of invertebrates that are found within them. For many sites the BNG score has been the same for both ALM and the nearby non-ALM area. However, in most instances the number of plant, and more notably invertebrate species, has been significantly greater in the ALM sites. It is important to note that in order to create an area rich in biodiversity some management is still required and maintaining areas of short grassland and disturbed ground is integral to supporting species that thrive in those conditions, while also offering foraging opportunities to wildlife such as birds, with some species needing short grassland to be able to probe into the ground for insects. Care should be taken when cutting long vegetation to ensure species that seek shelter in these areas such as hedgehogs and amphibians are not present. Where possible, vegetation near ponds should be left longer in places, to offer areas of shelter to amphibians.

Management of the longer areas of grassland is also required to ensure they don't become too uniformly dense causing some species to become over-shaded by taller plants. Lack of management also allows a build-up of nutrients, favoured by the more vigorous species; fast-growing grasses and tall herbs that will easily out compete smaller herb species. However, some fast-growing species are still valuable, for example plants such as thistles and dandelions that are viewed as 'weeds' by many, are a critical food/nectar source for invertebrates late and early in the season when alternative sources are sparse.

With such a large number of sites to manage it is not always going to be practical or viable to manage each site differently or in a way that is overly complicated. However, where feasible, one of the key factors in being able to increase biodiversity within an area is through creating as much structural diversity as possible. This would have benefits on both flora and fauna and, in the long term, would require less management and mowing in comparison with the previous management that was employed.

The below diagram taken from the Plantlife Managing Grassland Road Verges - Best Practice Guidelines (2020), details a simplistic view of what the aim should be when looking to create structural diversity and, while being aimed primarily at road verges, can also be applied conceptually to many of the ALM sites. Zone A illustrates the mown paths and edges of the sites – managed frequently, Zone B the majority of the site – cut once or twice a year, and Zone C a strip of tall vegetation left along a hedgerow or site edge, and only managed every two or three years.



*Plantlife - Managing grassland road verges: A best practice guide.*

Structural diversity should also ideally be maintained throughout the year, as leaving some longer areas over winter will provide shelter for over wintering invertebrates, small mammals, amphibians, and reptiles.

With appropriate management it is likely that many of the sites will become even better over time, in general terms and measurably through the BNG Metric. Some areas will develop more distinctive habitat, moving from modified grassland to other neutral grassland. Where grassland is already assessed as being other neutral grassland, it is unlikely to ever achieve a different or better distinctiveness habitat without major intervention, but the condition could be increased, which will in turn increase the biodiversity value of the site.

Most of the time seeding is not required to create an interesting and diverse habitat. Over time, with the correct management, different plant species will colonise as conditions become more suitable for them. In circumstances where seeding is appropriate or necessary, it is recommended that a native mix sourced locally from a reputable seed supplier are used. Also, only seed mixes that are appropriate to the local area or habitat should be used. For example, current mixes including annuals such as corn cockle, cornflower etc are generally better suited to arable margins, although they do visually look very pleasing and still support many invertebrates. It is acknowledged they still have their place in public greenspace, if used more as ornamental planting which has wildlife value above non-native plants historically chosen for ornamental borders. Where habitats such as hedgerows and scrub (if council owned) are present alongside ALM sites, these can also be managed to benefit wildlife, by cutting every two to three years, or when required, during late winter either once most of the berries and fruits are gone or on rotation to ensure food for wildlife is left over winter. Appropriate management of hedgerows will encourage a thick, dense hedge that is much better for supporting wildlife than a tall leggy hedge or one with gaps – see People’s Trust for Endangered Species – ‘Top tips for managing hedgerows’ page for best practice guidance. On a number of sites there is plenty of space to allow the hedges within the ALM and non ALM,

as well as hedges bordering the site to become much wider permanently, benefiting invertebrates and nesting birds. Where space allows, a wider strip alongside current hedges and copses within the ALM and non ALM areas can be cut on a longer rotation to provide a graduation between the habitats.

To ensure that the ALM sites continue to support the diverse range of species they already do, as well as hopefully becoming more biodiverse in forthcoming years, it is advised that ecological monitoring is continued to capture the data, and if necessary, prescribe advice on best management practices to obtain the greatest achievable potential of the sites for biodiversity. Any future monitoring would ideally be carried out in June/July at the peak of the growing season.

Some sites could be further enhanced for wildlife through the provision of non-integrated bird and bat boxes where trees are present and refugia/hibernacula piles particularly on sites near ponds, **see Appendix Five** for further details.

Based on discussions with some of the local residents, it is concluded that signage and interpretation of the ALM areas are very important in engaging with the public and aiding in their understanding of the reasons behind these areas. However, it was noted that signs were not present in a lot of areas and in many cases this was due to members of the public removing them. In the long-term a more secure method of fixing signs might be explored, alongside other avenues of engagement.

The above recommendations could be applied to all similar ALM and non ALM sites across the district.

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- Wells, T.C.E., (2003) Flora of Huntingdonshire. Huntingdon: Huntingdonshire Flora and Fauna Society & T.C.E. Wells.



## 6.0 Photographs



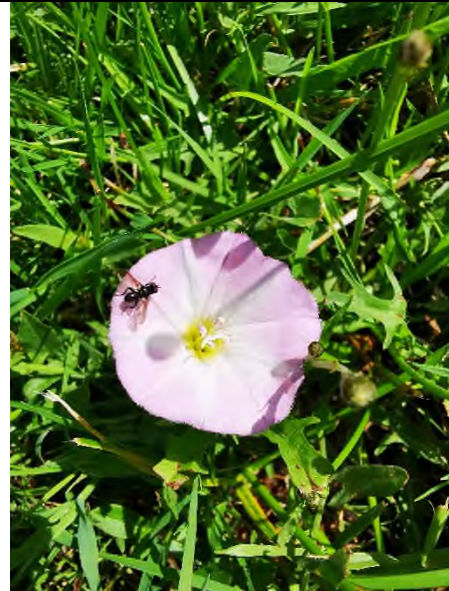
EART ALM Greenfields ALM



EART ALM Greenfields Non-ALM



EART ALM Greenfields ALM- Brown Argus butterfly  
on Yarrow



EART ALM Greenfields ALM- Hoverfly sp. on Field  
Bindweed



HOLY GAG Needingworth ALM (mown)



HOLY GAG Needingworth ALM & Non-ALM (mown)



STIV GAG Wheatfields ALM



STIV GAG Wheatfields Non-ALM



STIV GAG Wheatfields ALM- Pair of Common Blue butterfly



STIV GAG Wheatfields ALM- Honey Bee on Common Knapweed



STIV GAG Wetfield ALM



STIV GAG Wetfield Non-ALM



STIV GAG Wetfield ALM- Grass moth sp. on  
Perennial Rye-grass



STIV GAG Wetfield ALM- Broad Centurion



STIV GAG Sandwich ALM



STIV GAG Sandwich ALM- moth sp. on Ragwort



STIV GAG Sandwich ALM- Rove beetle sp.



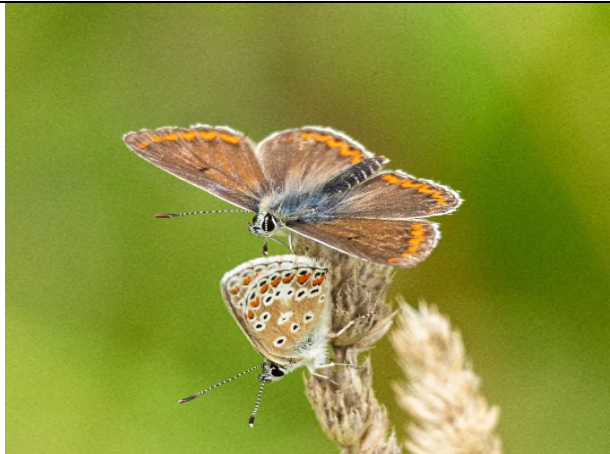
STIV GAG Sandwich ALM- Red-legged Shield Bug



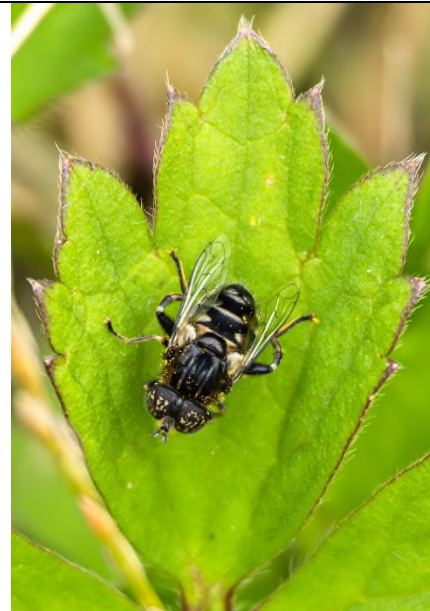
STNT ALM Love's Farm middle ALM



STNT ALM Love's Farm middle ALM (wetter area)



STNT ALM Love's Farm middle ALM- flora & fauna  
– Brown Argus butterflies



STNT ALM Love's Farm middle ALM- Small Spotted Dronefly



STNT ALM Love's Farm middle – Juvenile Common Toad (BAP species)



STNT ALM Love's Farm middle – Juvenile Common Frog



GODM ALM Wigmore Farm ALM



GODM ALM Wigmore Farm ALM



GODM ALM Wigmore Farm Non-ALM



GODM ALM Wigmore Farm ALM – Invertebrate burrows in disturbed ground



GODM ALM Wigmore Farm ALM - Lichen



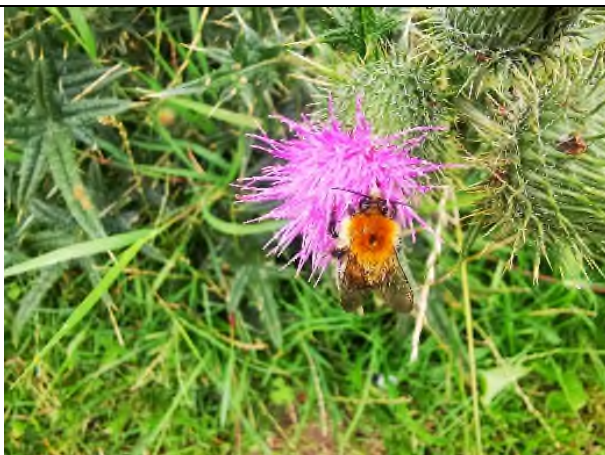
GODM ALM Wigmore Farm ALM - Fungi  
(Blackening Waxcap)



HUNT ALM Top end Pallet Fields Kent Surrey ALM



HUNT ALM Top end Pallet Fields Kent Surrey Non-  
ALM



HUNT ALM Top end Pallet Fields Kent Surrey ALM-  
Common Carder-bee. on Spear Thistle



HUNT ALM Top end Pallet Fields Kent Surrey ALM-  
Bishop's Mitre bug



HUNT ALM Stukeley Meadows Top ALM



HUNT ALM Stukeley Meadows Top Non-ALM



HUNT ALM Stukeley Meadows Top ALM – Wasp  
Spider



HUNT ALM Stukeley Meadows Top Non-ALM –  
Strawberry Clover



GODM ALM The Avenue ALM



GODM ALM The Avenue ALM – mown edges



GODM ALM The Avenue ALM- Bumble bee sp. on  
Spear Thistle



GODM ALM The Avenue ALM- Bishop's Mitre bug



GODM GAG Cambridge Villa Allotments ALM



GODM GAG Cambridge Villa Allotments Non-ALM



GODM GAG Cambridge Villa Allotments ALM-  
Juvenile Tortoise Bug



GODM GAG Cambridge Villa Allotments ALM-  
Cereal Leaf Beetle.

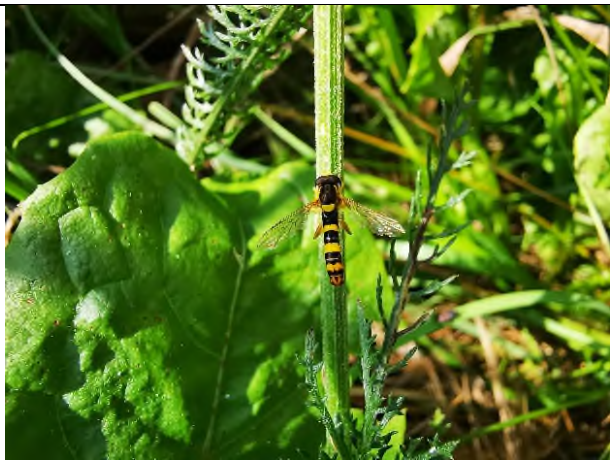




GODM ALM East Chadley Lane ALM



GODM ALM East Chadley Lane Non-ALM



GODM ALM East Chadley Lane ALM – Long  
Hoverfly



GODM ALM East Chadley Lane ALM -Hoverfly sp.



GODM ALM Stokes Close ALM



GODM ALM Stokes Close Non-ALM



GODM ALM Stokes Close ALM- True bug sp.



GODM ALM Stokes Close ALM- Lacewing larvae



GTGS ALM Manor Close ALM



GTGS ALM Manor Close ALM



GTGS ALM Manor Close ALM – The Footballer hoverfly



GTGS ALM Manor Close ALM – Ant hill



GTGN GAG Gt Gransden ALM



GTGN GAG Gt Gransden ALM – Broad-leaved Dock



PERY GAG ALM Perry ALM (mown)



PERY GAG ALM Perry ALM (mown)



STNT GAG Darrington Close ALM



STNT GAG Darrington Close Non-ALM



STNT GAG Viscount Court ALM



STNT GAG Viscount Court ALM



STNT GAG Viscount Court ALM – Adjacent brook



STNT GAG Viscount Court ALM – Invertebrate  
burrow



FARC ALM Church & Andrewe's Close ALM (mown)



FARC ALM Church & Andrewe's Close ALM  
(mown)



YAXL ALM Shackleton Way ALM



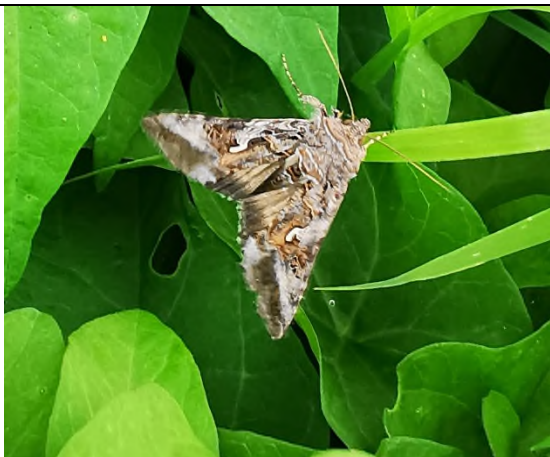
YAXL ALM Shackleton Way ALM



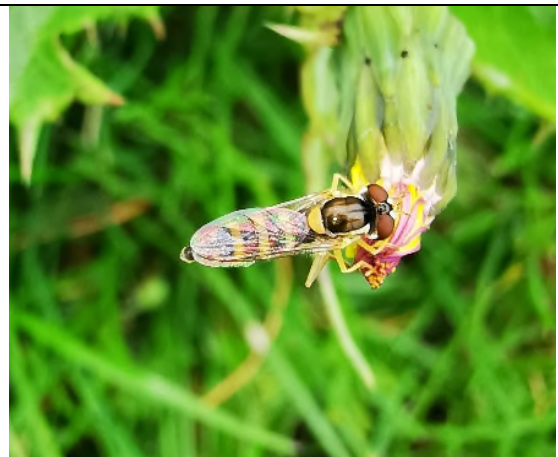
YAXL ALM Shackleton Way Non-ALM



YAXL ALM Shackleton Way ALM – *Altica* sp. in tall  
ruderal (willowherb)



YAXL ALM Shackleton Way ALM – Silver-Y moth



YAXL ALM Shackleton Way ALM – Long Hoverfly



ALWN ALM GAG Alwalton ALM



ALWN ALM GAG Alwalton ALM – Dock Bug



HUNT ALM Hazelwood Walk ALM



HUNT ALM Hazelwood Walk Non-ALM



HUNT ALM Hazelwood Walk ALM – Common Blue  
butterfly



HUNT ALM Hazelwood Walk ALM – Long-winged  
Conehead



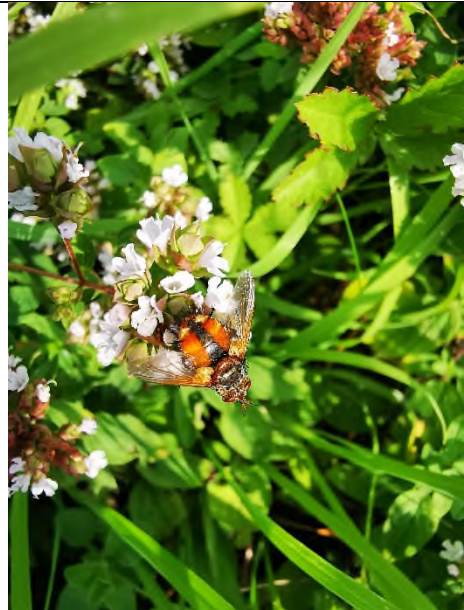
HUNT ALM Oak Tree Centre ALM



HUNT ALM Oak Tree Centre Non-ALM (right)



HUNT ALM Oak Tree Centre ALM – Gatekeeper  
butterfly on Marjoram



HUNT ALM Oak Tree Centre ALM – Tachinid fly



HUNT ALM Ring Road ALM



HUNT ALM Ring Road ALM



HUNT ALM Ring Road ALM – Damselfly sp.



HUNT ALM Ring Road ALM – Honey Bee



BRMP ALM Layton Crescent ALM



BRMP ALM Layton Crescent Non-ALM



BRMP ALM Layton Crescent ALM – Yellow Dung  
Fly



BRMP ALM Layton Crescent ALM – Striped  
Woodlouse





WDWT ALM Beville ALM



WDWT ALM Beville Non-ALM



HOLM GAG ALM Holmewood ALM



HOLM GAG ALM Holmewood ALM (mown section)



HOLM GAG ALM Holmewood ALM – Common Blue butterfly



HOLM GAG ALM Holmewood ALM – Goat's-beard



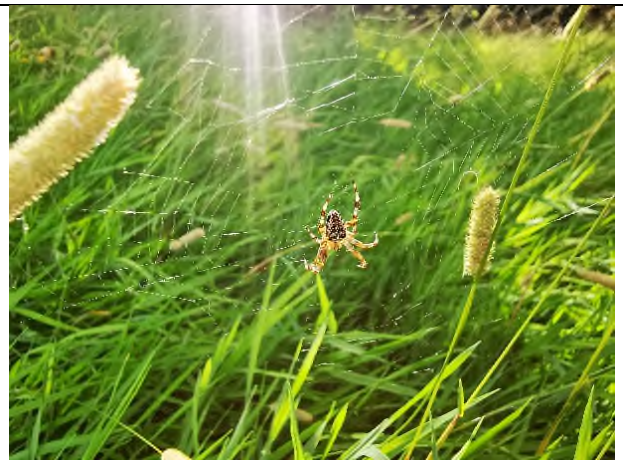
RAMS GAG Ramsey (Lawrence Road) ALM



RAMS GAG Ramsey (Lawrence Road) ALM



RAMS GAG Ramsey (Lawrence Road) ALM –  
Speckled Wood butterfly



RAMS GAG Ramsey (Lawrence Road) ALM –  
Garden Spider



LTPX GAG Little Paxton ALM



LTPX GAG Little Paxton Non-ALM



LTPX GAG Little Paxton ALM – Batman Hoverfly on  
flowering Ivy



LTPX GAG Little Paxton ALM

## 7.0 Appendices

### Appendices

Appendix One: Site Location Plan

Appendix Two: Habitat Maps

Appendix Three: Condition Assessment Scores

Appendix Four: Flora and Invertebrates

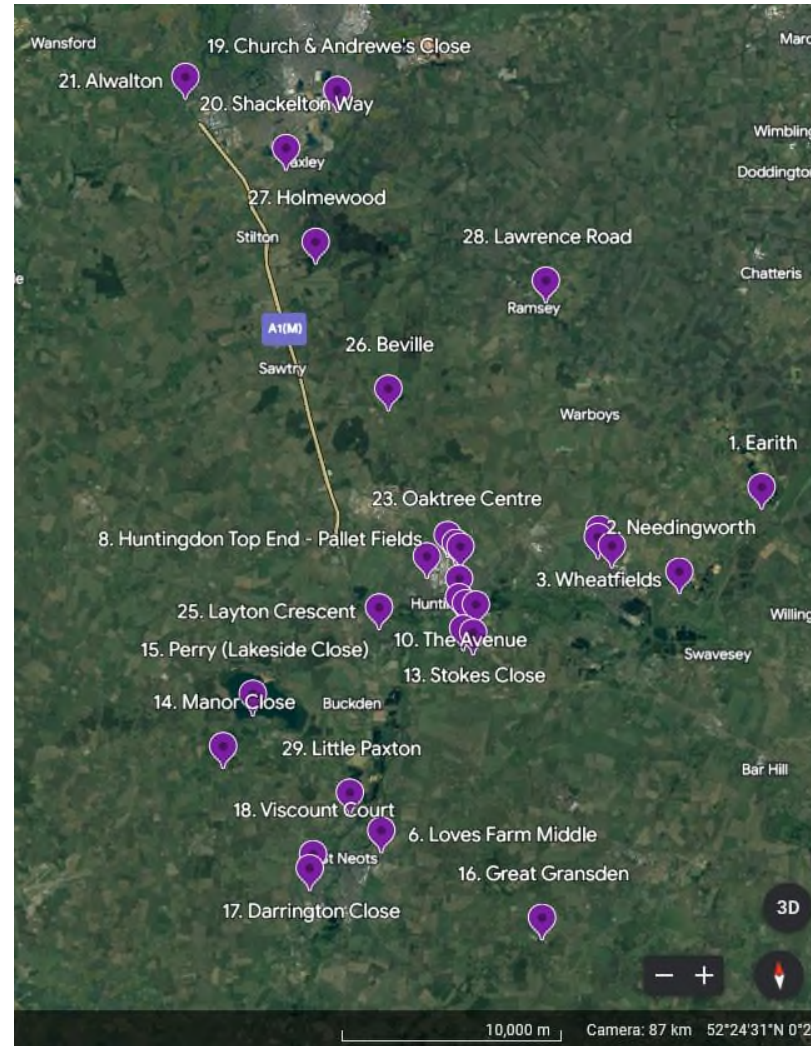
Appendix Five: Flora and Fauna Common and Latin Names

Appendix Six: Management Matrix

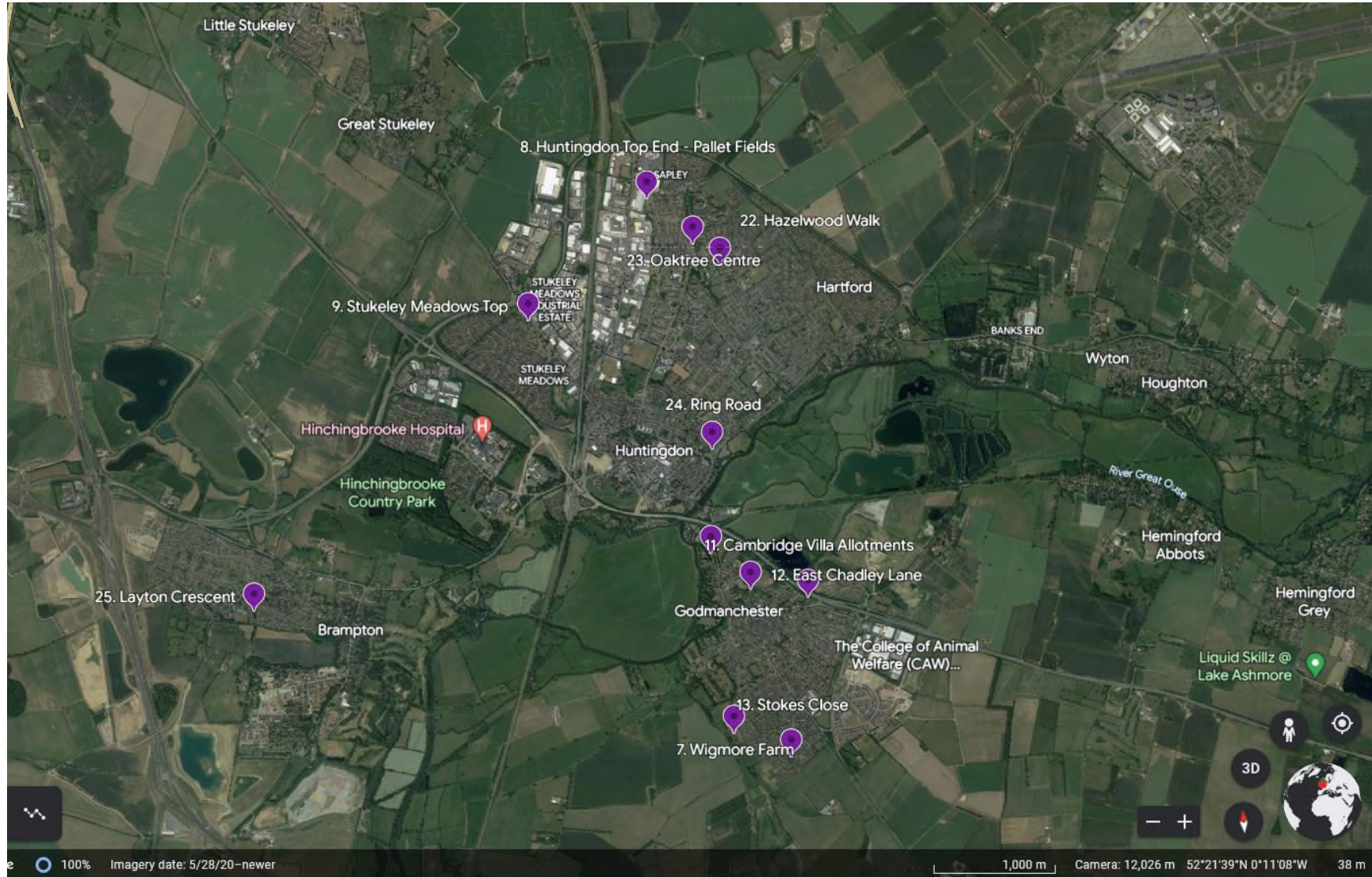
Appendix Seven: Additional Enhancements – Birds and Bats

Appendix One: Site Location Plans

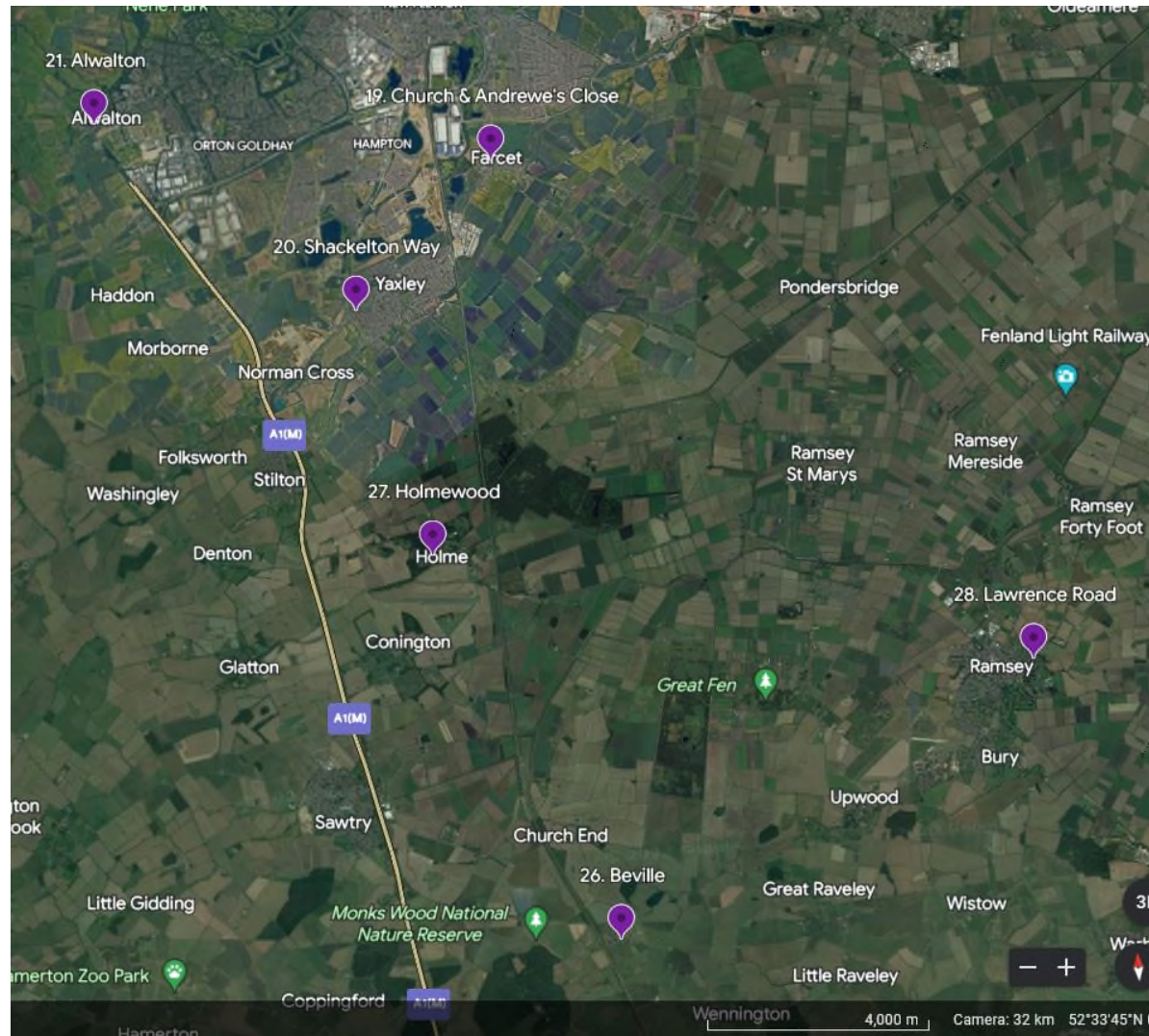
Page 173 of 254



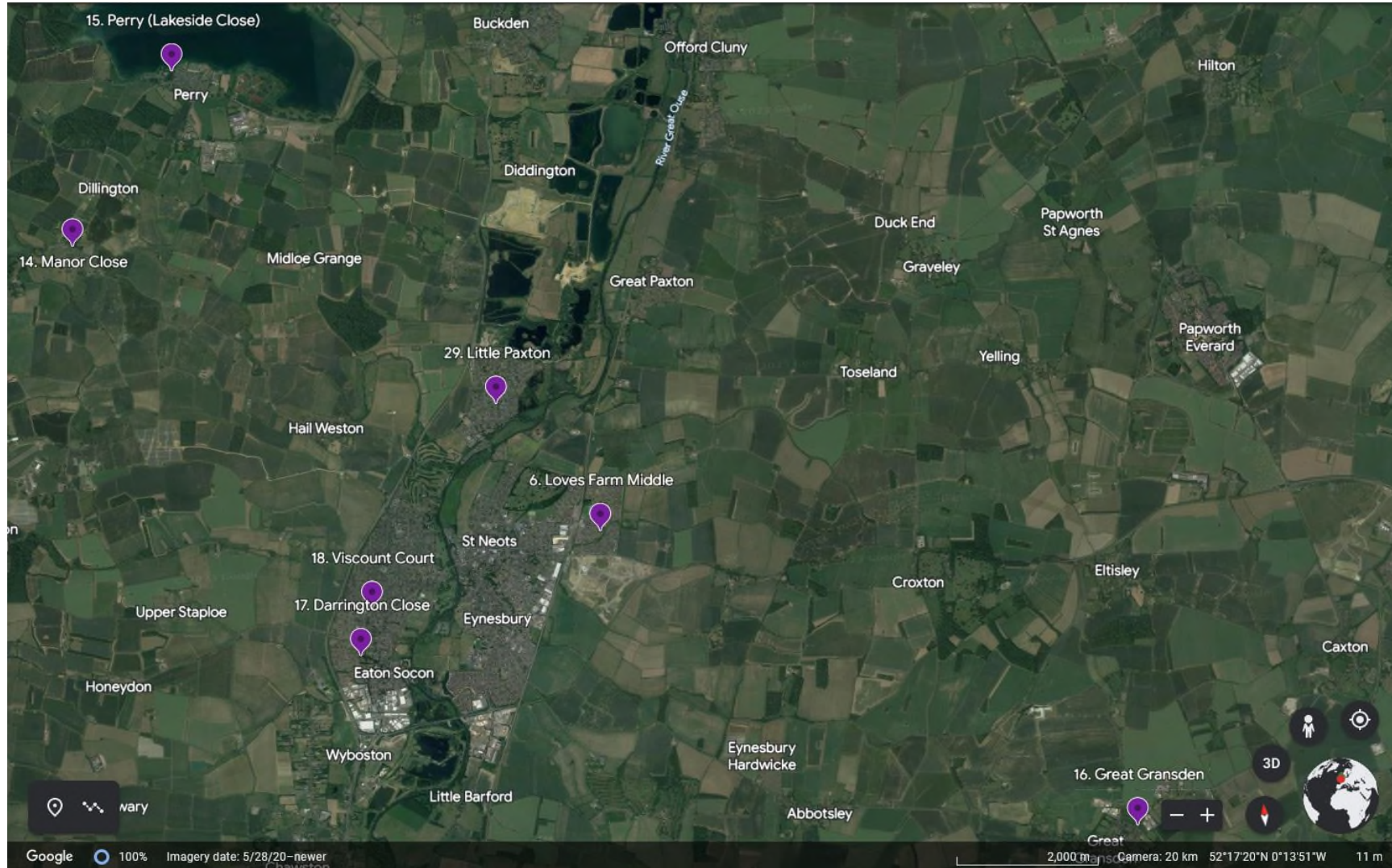
All surveyed ALM sites within Huntingdonshire



ALM sites in and around Huntingdon

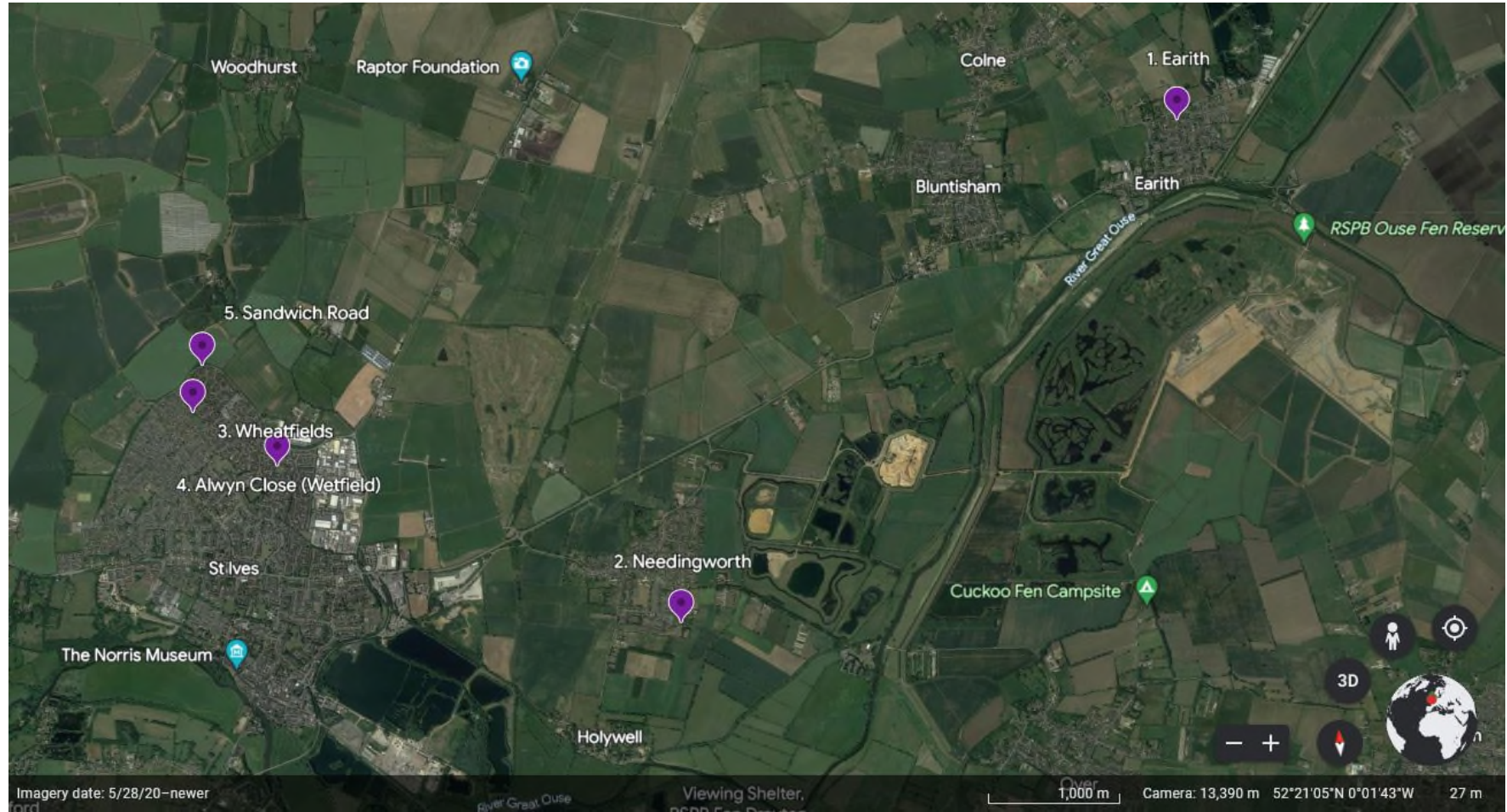


Northern district ALM sites



Southern district ALM sites





ALM sites in and around St Ives

### Appendix Two: Habitat Maps

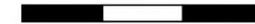


**Key**

 Modified grassland

Secondary Code	Description
106	Mown

0 5 10 15 m



Aerial photograph taken from Google Earth ©



greenwillows  
associates ltd

EART ALM Greenfields  
Habitat Map  
September 2023  
V:001



**Key**

 Modified grassland

Secondary Code	Description
106	Mown

0 15 30 45 m

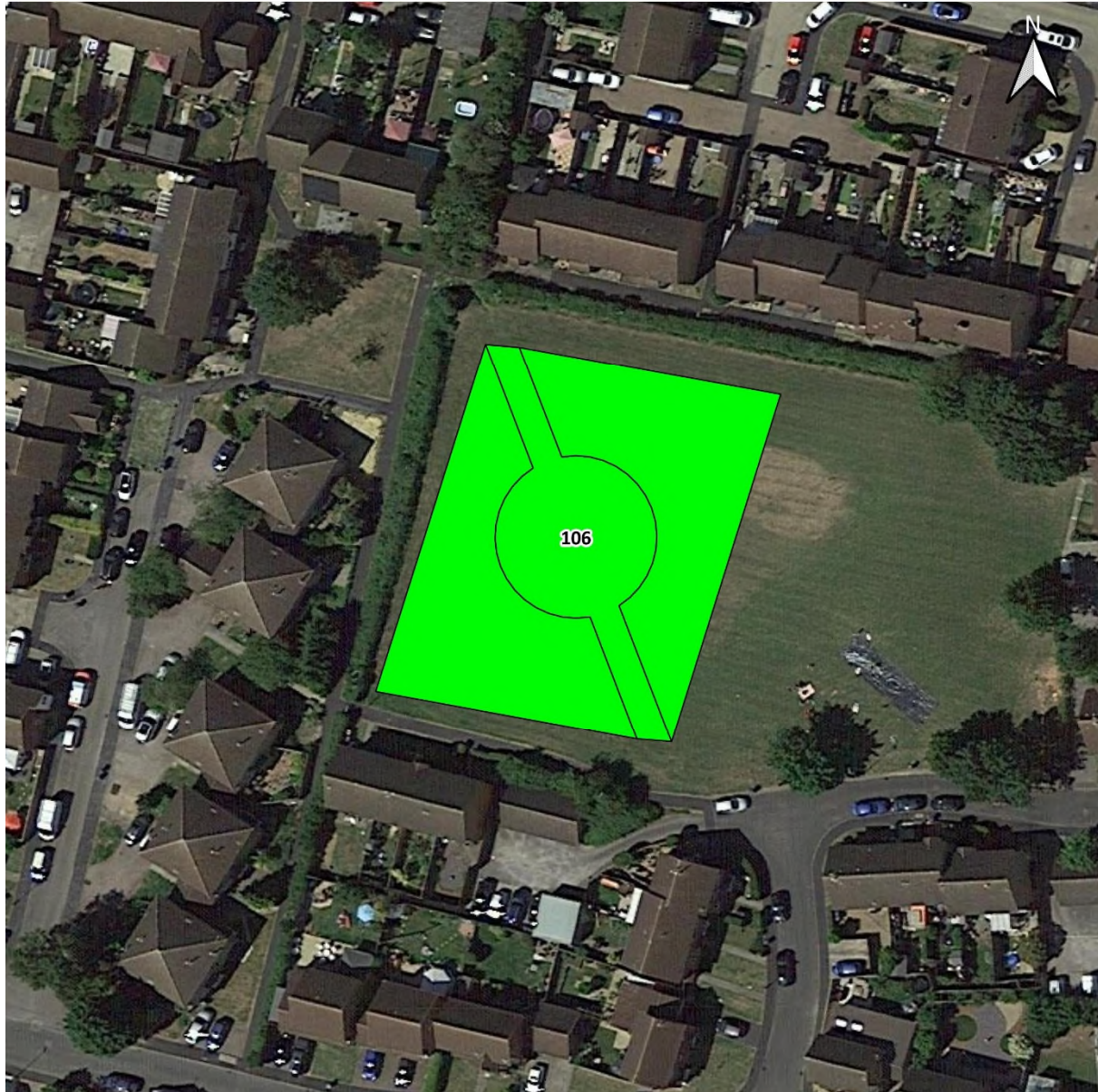


Aerial photograph taken from Google Earth ©




greenwillows  
associates ltd

STIV GAG Wheatfields  
Habitat Map  
September 2023  
V:001



Key

 Modified grassland

Secondary Code	Description
106	Mown

0 15 30 45 m

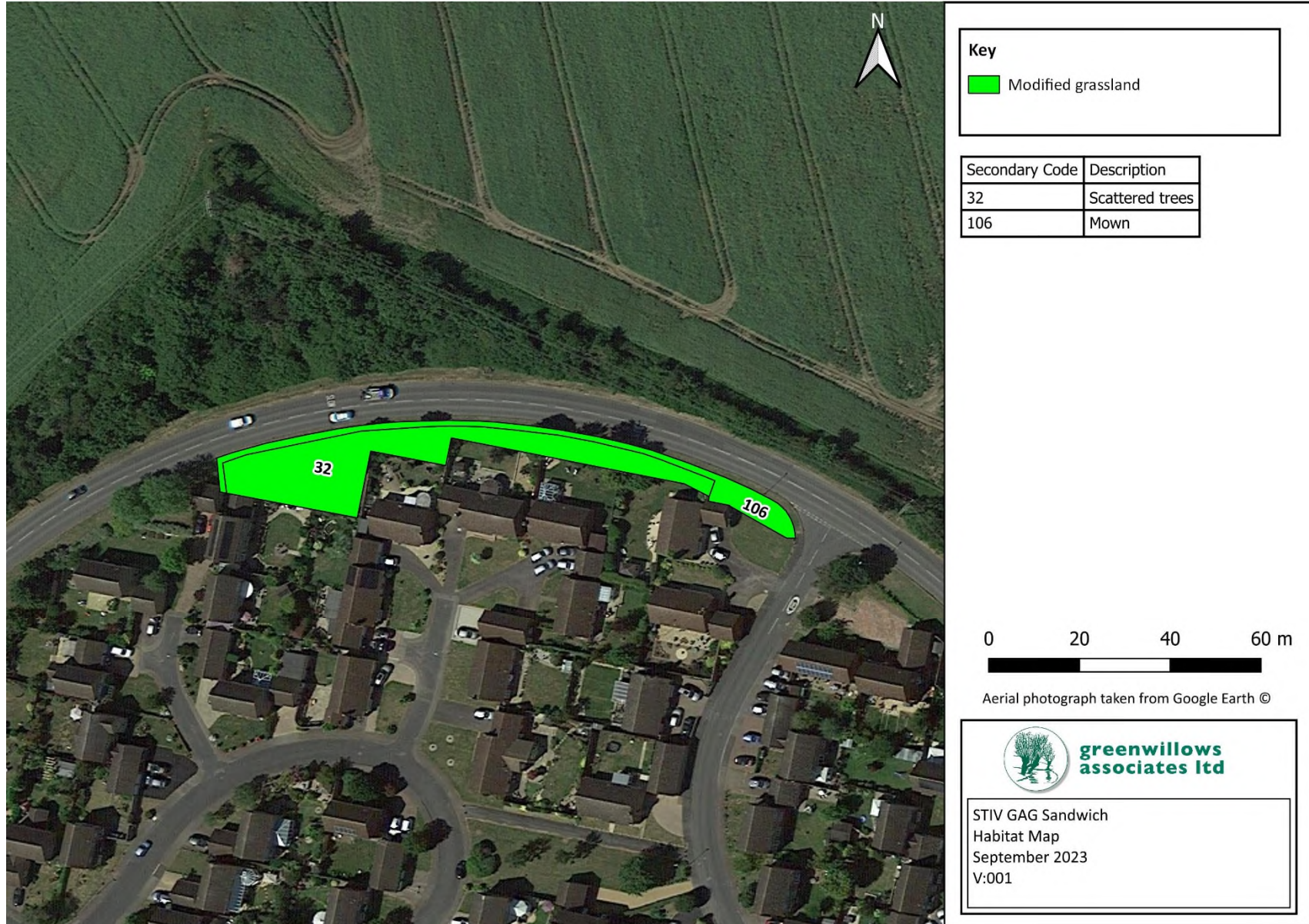


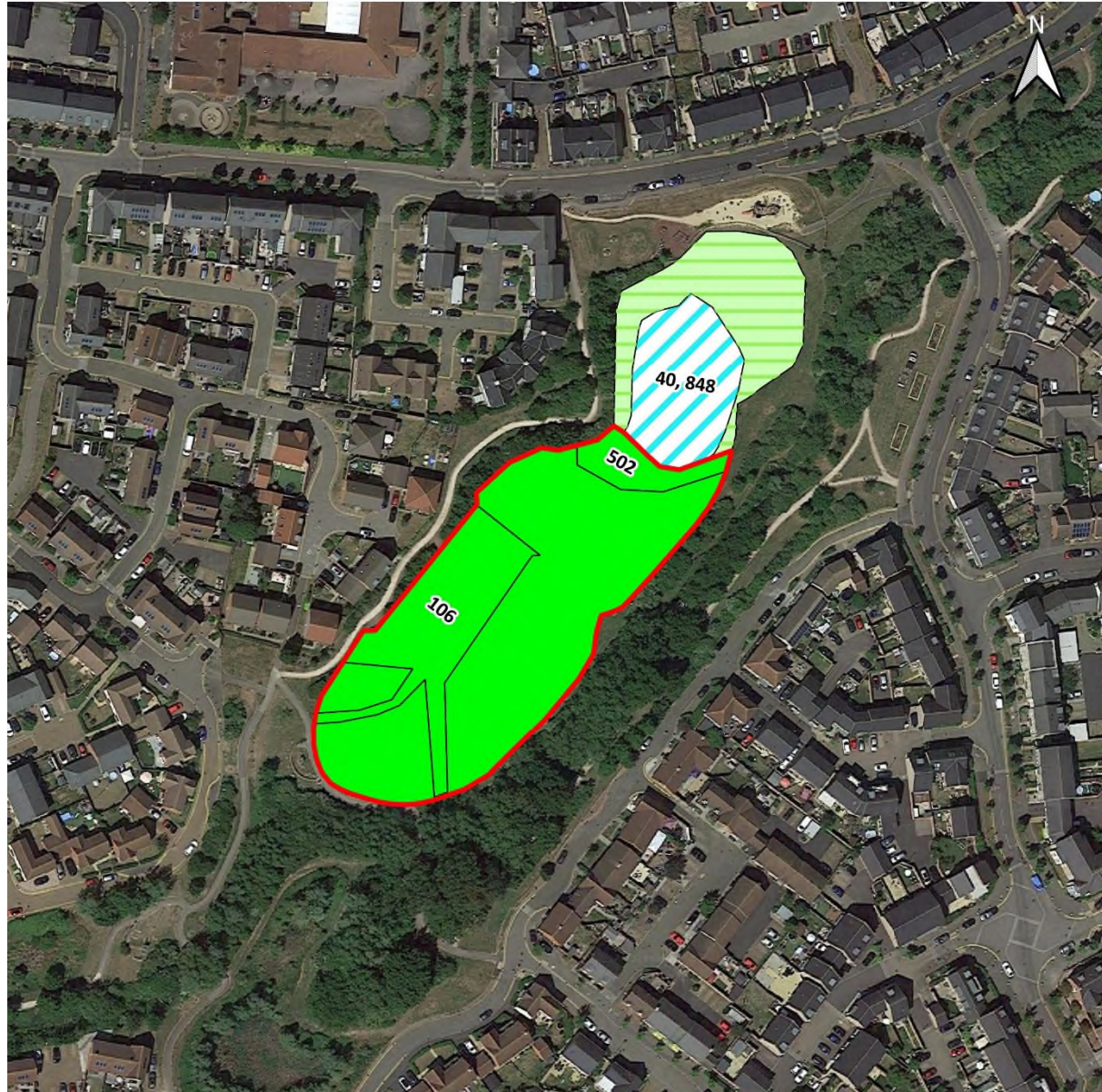
Aerial photograph taken from Google Earth ©







greenwillows  
associates ltd

STIV GAG Wetfield (Alwyn Close)  
Habitat Map  
September 2023  
V:001





**Key**

-  Other neutral grassland
-  Modified grassland
-  Standing open water and canals (balancing pond)
-  ALM survey area

Secondary Code	Description
40	Ponds (priority habitat)
106	Mown
502	Seasonally wet
848	Sustainable drainage system



Aerial photograph taken from Google Earth ©




greenwillows  
 associates ltd

STNT ALM Love's Farm Middle  
 Habitat Map  
 September 2023  
 V:001





**Key**

 Modified grassland

Secondary Code	Description
16	Tall forbs
32	Scattered trees
106	Mown

0 30 60 90 m



Aerial photograph taken from Google Earth ©




greenwillows  
 associates ltd

HUNT ALM Top end Pallet Fields Kent Surrey  
 Habitat Map  
 September 2023  
 V:001





**Key**

 Other neutral grassland

Secondary Code	Description
106	Mown

0 25 50 75 m



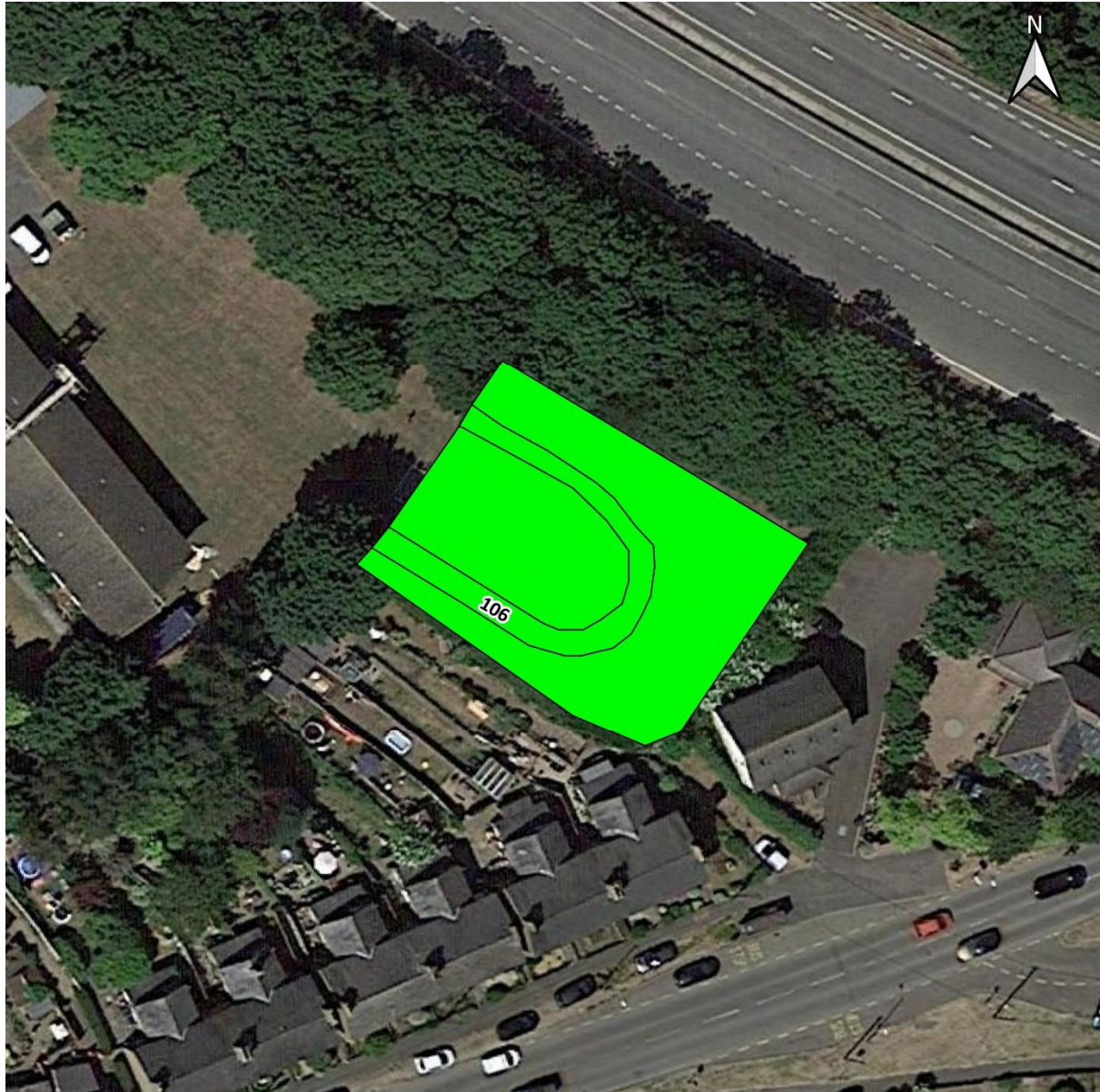
Aerial photograph taken from Google Earth ©




greenwillows  
associates ltd

HUNT ALM Stukeley Meadows Top  
Habitat Map  
September 2023  
V:001





**Key**

 Modified grassland

Secondary Code	Description
106	Mown

0 10 20 30 m



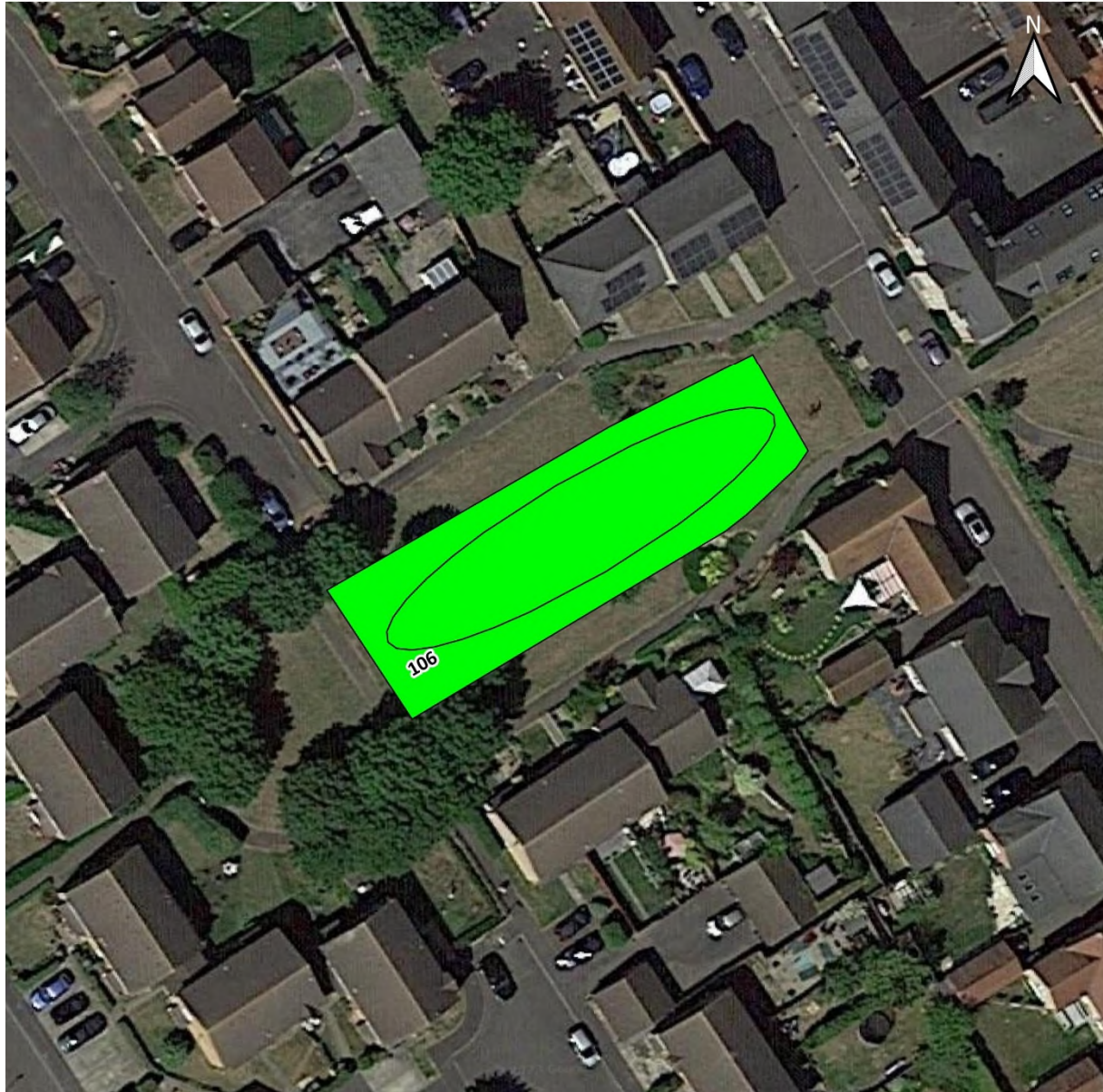
Aerial photograph taken from Google Earth ©




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associates ltd

GODM GAG Cambridge Villa Allotments  
Habitat Map  
September 2023  
V:001





**Key**

 Modified grassland

Secondary Code	Description
106	Mown

0 10 20 30 m



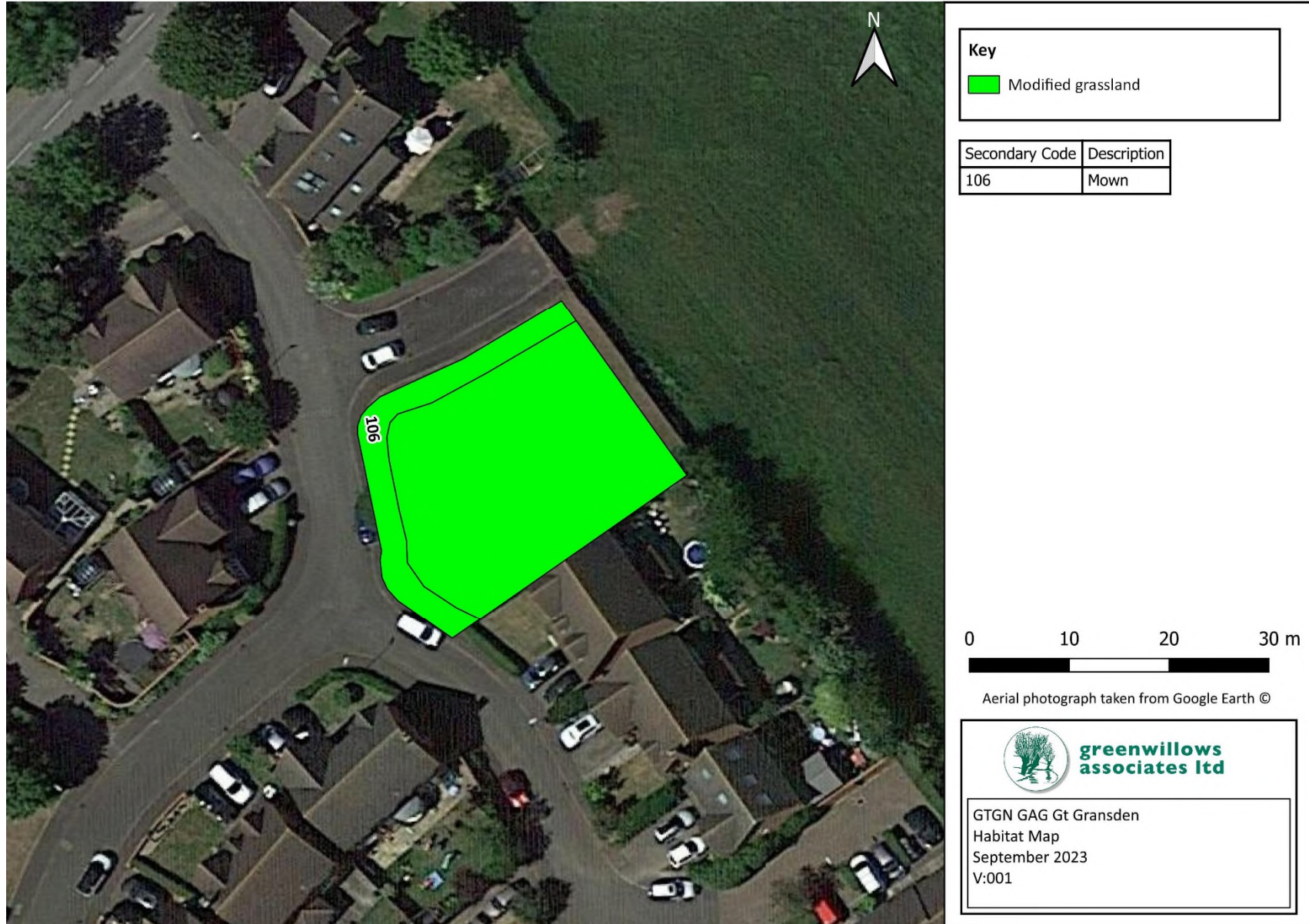
Aerial photograph taken from Google Earth ©



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associates ltd

GODM ALM Stokes Close  
Habitat Map  
September 2023  
V:001







**Key**

Modified grassland

Secondary Code	Description
32	Scattered trees
106	Mown



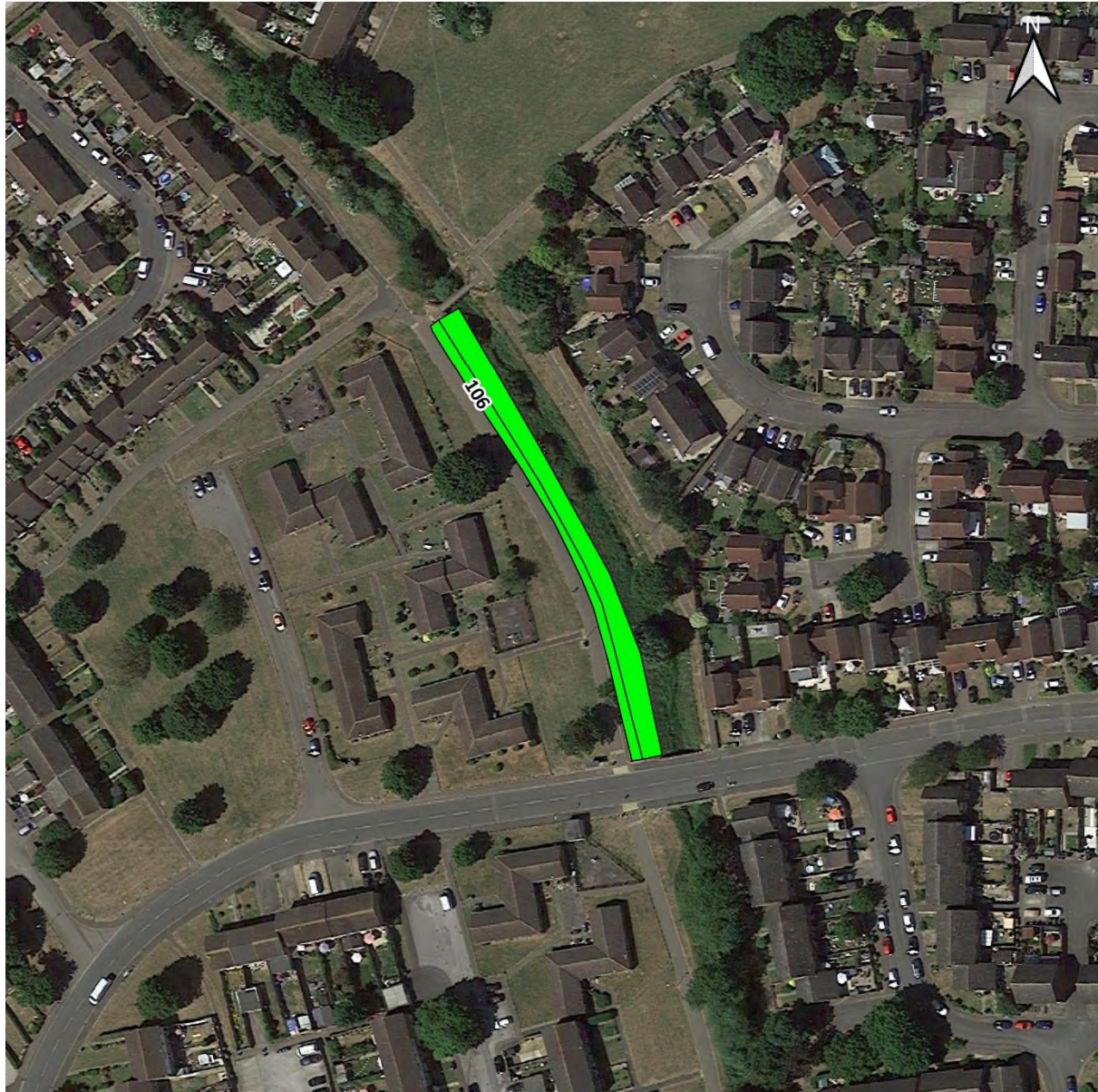
Aerial photograph taken from Google Earth ©



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 associates ltd

STNT GAG Darrington Close  
 Habitat Map  
 September 2023  
 V:001



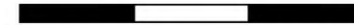


Key

 Modified grassland

Secondary Code	Description
106	Mown

0 25 50 75 m



Aerial photograph taken from Google Earth ©



greenwillows  
associates ltd

STNT GAG Viscount Court  
Habitat Map  
September 2023  
V:001



**Key**

	Modified grassland
---	--------------------

Secondary Code	Description
16	Tall forbs
106	Mown
502	Seasonally wet
848	Sustainable drainage system

0      20      40      60 m



Aerial photograph taken from Google Earth ©



YAXL ALM Shackleton Way  
 Habitat Map  
 September 2023  
 V:001




**Key**

- Modified grassland
- Horticulture  
 (sown arable wildflower mix)

Secondary Code	Description
106	Mown

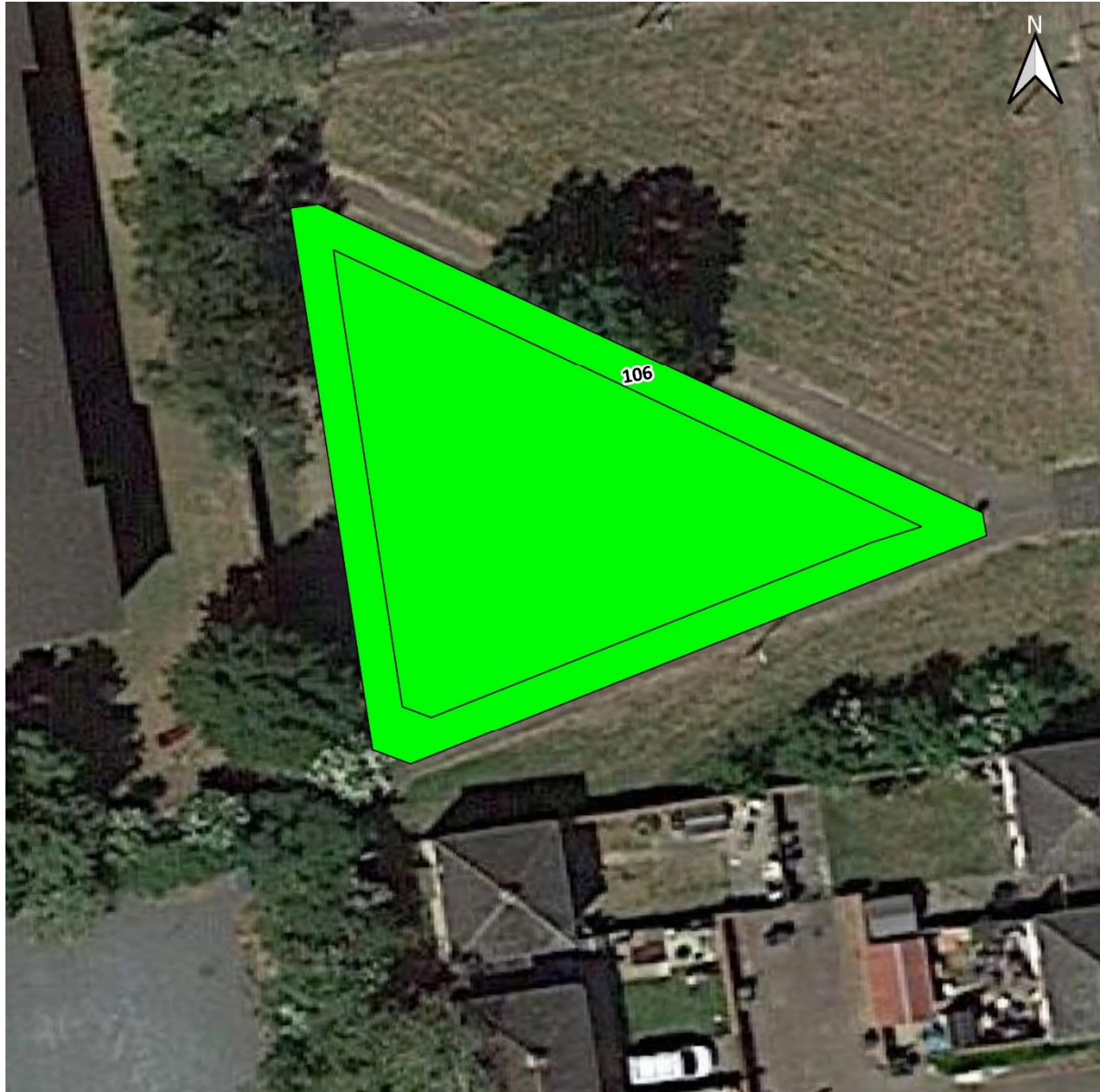


Aerial photograph taken from Google Earth ©



greenwillows  
 associates ltd

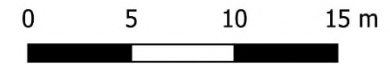
ALWN ALMGAG Alwalton  
 Habitat Map  
 September 2023  
 V:001



**Key**

	Modified grassland
---	--------------------

Secondary Code	Description
106	Mown



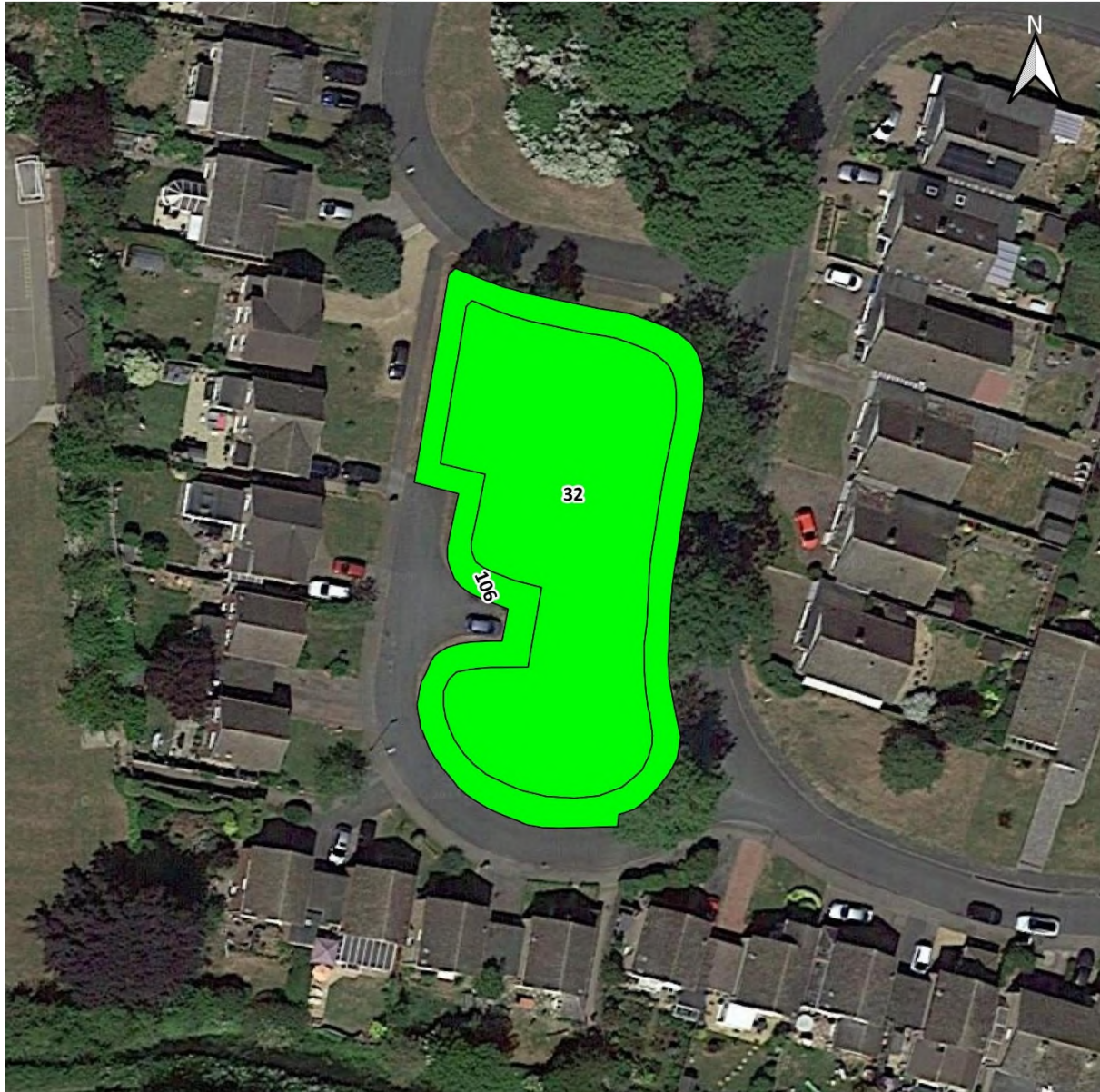
Aerial photograph taken from Google Earth ©



HUNT ALM Hazelwood Walk  
Habitat Map  
September 2023  
V:001





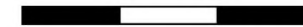


**Key**

 Modified grassland

Secondary Code	Description
32	Scattered trees
106	Mown

0 10 20 30 m

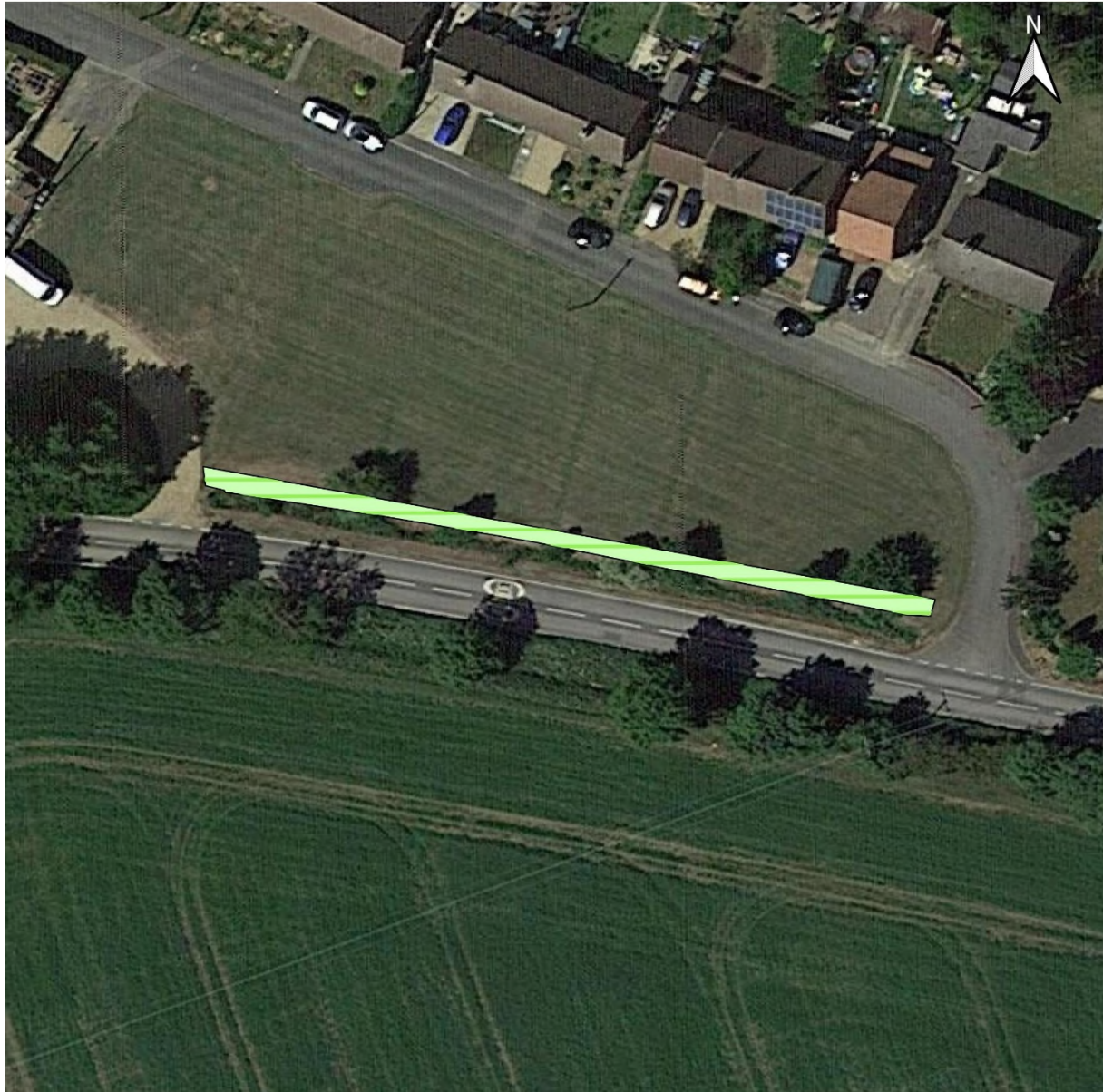


Aerial photograph taken from Google Earth ©




greenwillows  
associates ltd

BRMP ALM Layton Crescent  
Habitat Map  
September 2023  
V:001



Key

 Other neutral grassland

0 5 10 15 20 25 30 35 m



Aerial photograph taken from Google Earth ©



greenwillows  
associates ltd


WDWT ALM Beville Close  
Habitat Map  
September 2023  
V:001







Key

 Modified grassland

Secondary Code	Description
32	Scattered trees
106	Mown

0 15 30 45 m

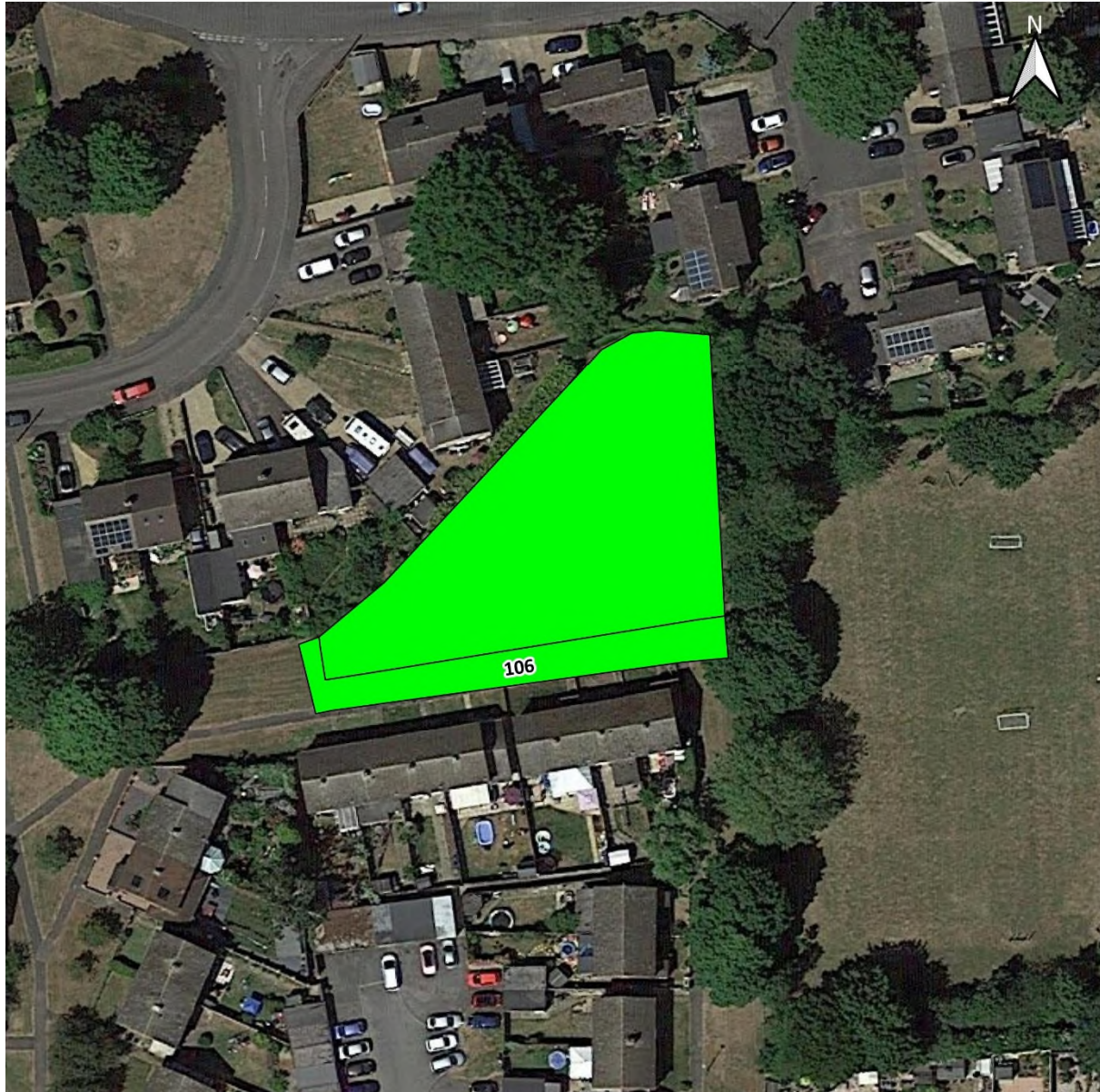


Aerial photograph taken from Google Earth ©




greenwillows  
associates ltd

RAMS GAG Ramsey  
Habitat Map  
September 2023  
V:001



Key

 Modified grassland

Secondary Code	Description
106	Mown

0 15 30 45 m



Aerial photograph taken from Google Earth ©



greenwillows  
associates ltd

LTPX GAG Little Paxton  
Habitat Map  
September 2023  
V:001

## Appendix Three: Condition Assessment Scores

### Modified Grassland:

Limitations (if applicable)	Habitat parcel reference									
	1A	1B	3A	3B	4A	4B	5A	6A	8A	8B
Condition Assessment Criteria	Grid reference									
	Greenfie lds ALM	Greenfi elds	Wheatfie lds ALM	Wheatf ields	Wetfiel d ALM	wetfiel d	Sanwi ch ALM	Love' s Farm	Top end ALM	Top end
Criterion passed (Yes or No)										
A	There are 6-8 vascular plant species per m <sup>2</sup> present, including at least 2 forbs (this may include those listed in Footnote 1). <b>Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition.</b>									
A	Where the vascular plant species present are characteristic of medium, high or very high distinctiveness grassland, or there are 9 or more of these characteristic species per m <sup>2</sup> (excluding those listed in Footnote 1), please review the full UKHab description to assess whether the grassland should instead be classified as a higher distinctiveness grassland. Where a grassland is classed as medium, high, or very high distinctiveness, please use the relevant condition sheet.									
B	Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20% is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for vertebrates and invertebrates to live and breed.									
C	Some scattered scrub (including bramble <i>Fragaria fruticosa</i> agg.) may be present, but scrub accounts for less than 20% of total grassland area. Note - patches of scrub with continuous (more than 90%) cover should be classified as the relevant scrub habitat type.									
D	Physical damage is evident in less than 5% of total grassland area. Examples of physical damage include excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, erosion caused by high levels of access, or any other damaging management activities.									
E	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of rabbit warrens) <sup>2</sup> .									
F	Cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is less than 20%.									
G	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species <sup>2</sup> (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA <sup>4</sup> ).									
Essential criterion achieved (Yes or No)										
Number of criteria passed										
Y Y Y N Y N Y Y Y Y										
7 6 6 5 7 5 7 7 7 7										
Condition Assessment Result (out of 7 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved x/1								
Passes 6 or 7 criteria including passing essential criterion A	Good (3)	Y	Y	Y		Y		Y		Y
Passes 4 or 5 criteria including passing essential criterion A	Moderate (2)									
Passes 3 or fewer criteria; OR Passes 4 - 6 criteria (excluding criterion A)	Poor (1)				Y		Y			

Limitations (if applicable)	Habitat parcel reference									
	10A	10B	11A	11B	12B	13A	13B	14A	16A	
Condition Assessment Criteria	Grid reference									
	The Avenue ALM	The Avenue	Camb's Villa Allot	Camb's Villa Allot	East Chadley	Stoke's Close	Stoke's Close	Manor Close	Gt Gran ALM	
Criterion passed (Yes or No)										
A	There are 6-8 vascular plant species per m <sup>2</sup> present, including at least 2 forbs (this may include those listed in Footnote 1). <b>Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition.</b>									
A	Where the vascular plant species present are characteristic of medium, high or very high distinctiveness grassland, or there are 9 or more of these characteristic species per m <sup>2</sup> (excluding those listed in Footnote 1), please review the full UKHab description to assess whether the grassland should instead be classified as a higher distinctiveness grassland. Where a grassland is classed as medium, high, or very high distinctiveness, please use the relevant condition sheet.									
B	Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20% is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for vertebrates and invertebrates to live and breed.									
C	Some scattered scrub (including bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.) may be present, but scrub accounts for less than 20% of total grassland area. Note - patches of scrub with continuous (more than 90%) cover should be classified as the relevant scrub habitat type.									
D	Physical damage is evident in less than 5% of total grassland area. Examples of physical damage include excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, erosion caused by high levels of access, or any other damaging management activities.									
E	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of rabbit warrens) <sup>2</sup> .									
F	Cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is less than 20%.									
G	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species <sup>4</sup> (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA <sup>5</sup> ).									
Essential criterion achieved (Yes or No)										
Number of criteria passed										
Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y										
7 4 7 6 6 7 6 7 7										
Condition Assessment Result (out of 7 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved x/7								
Passes 6 or 7 criteria including passing essential criterion A	Good (3)	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
Passes 4 or 5 criteria including passing essential criterion A	Moderate (2)		Y							
Passes 3 or fewer criteria; OR Passes 4 - 6 criteria (excluding criterion A)	Poor (1)									

Limitations (if applicable)	Habitat parcel reference																																																								
	17A	17B	18A	20A	20B	23B	24A	25A	25B	26B																																															
Condition Assessment Criteria	Grid reference																																																								
	Darrington Close	Darrington Close	Vicount Court ALM	Shackleton Way	Shackleton Way	Oak Tree	Ring road ALM	Lagton Cresc	Lagton Cresc	Beville																																															
Criterion passed (Yes or No)																																																									
A	There are 6-8 vascular plant species per m <sup>2</sup> present, including at least 2 forbs (this may include those listed in Footnote 1). <b>Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition.</b> Where the vascular plant species present are characteristic of medium, high or very high distinctiveness grassland, or there are 9 or more of these characteristic species per m <sup>2</sup> (excluding those listed in Footnote 1), please review the full UKHab description to assess whether the grassland should instead be classified as a higher distinctiveness grassland. Where a grassland is classed as medium, high, or very high distinctiveness, please use the relevant condition sheet.																																																								
B	Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20% is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for vertebrates and invertebrates to live and breed.																																																								
C	Some scattered scrub (including bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.) may be present, but scrub accounts for less than 20% of total grassland area. Note - patches of scrub with continuous (more than 90%) cover should be classified as the relevant scrub habitat type.																																																								
D	Physical damage is evident in less than 5% of total grassland area. Examples of physical damage include excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, erosion caused by high levels of access, or any other damaging management activities.																																																								
E	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of rabbit warrens) <sup>2</sup> .																																																								
F	Cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is less than 20%.																																																								
G	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species <sup>1</sup> (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA <sup>4</sup> ).																																																								
Essential criterion achieved (Yes or No)																																																									
Number of criteria passed																																																									
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Condition Assessment Result (out of 7 criteria)</th> <th>Condition Assessment Score</th> <th colspan="9">Score Achieved x/11</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Passes 6 or 7 criteria including passing essential criterion A</td> <td>Good (3)</td> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>7</td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Passes 4 or 5 criteria including passing essential criterion A</td> <td>Moderate (2)</td> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Passes 3 or fewer criteria; OR Passes 4 - 6 criteria (excluding criterion A)</td> <td>Poor (1)</td> <td>Y</td><td>Y</td><td>Y</td><td>Y</td><td>Y</td><td>Y</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Y</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>											Condition Assessment Result (out of 7 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved x/11									Passes 6 or 7 criteria including passing essential criterion A	Good (3)							7				Passes 4 or 5 criteria including passing essential criterion A	Moderate (2)											Passes 3 or fewer criteria; OR Passes 4 - 6 criteria (excluding criterion A)	Poor (1)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				Y
Condition Assessment Result (out of 7 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved x/11																																																							
Passes 6 or 7 criteria including passing essential criterion A	Good (3)							7																																																	
Passes 4 or 5 criteria including passing essential criterion A	Moderate (2)																																																								
Passes 3 or fewer criteria; OR Passes 4 - 6 criteria (excluding criterion A)	Poor (1)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				Y																																														

Limitations (if applicable)		Habitat parcel reference									
		27A									
Condition Assessment Criteria		Grid reference									
		Holmewood ALM									
		Criterion passed (Yes or No)									
	There are 6-8 vascular plant species per m <sup>2</sup> present, including at least 2 forbs (this may include those listed in Footnote 1). <b>Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition.</b>	Y									
A	Where the vascular plant species present are characteristic of medium, high or very high distinctiveness grassland, or there are 9 or more of these characteristic species per m <sup>2</sup> (excluding those listed in Footnote 1), please review the full UKHab description to assess whether the grassland should instead be classified as a higher distinctiveness grassland. Where a grassland is classed as medium, high, or very high distinctiveness, please use the relevant condition sheet.										
B	Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20% is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for vertebrates and invertebrates to live and breed.	Y									
C	Some scattered scrub (including bramble <i>Fragaria fruticosa</i> agg.) may be present, but scrub accounts for less than 20% of total grassland area. Note - patches of scrub with continuous (more than 90%) cover should be classified as the relevant scrub habitat type.	Y									
D	Physical damage is evident in less than 5% of total grassland area. Examples of physical damage include excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, erosion caused by high levels of access, or any other damaging management activities.	Y									
E	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of rabbit warrens) <sup>2</sup> .	Y									
F	Cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is less than 20%.	Y									
G	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species <sup>4</sup> (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA <sup>4</sup> ).	Y									
<b>Essential criterion achieved (Yes or No)</b>		Y									
<b>Number of criteria passed</b>		7									
Condition Assessment Result (out of 7 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved x/7									
Passes 6 or 7 criteria including passing essential criterion A	Good (3)	Y									
Passes 4 or 5 criteria including passing essential criterion A	Moderate (2)										
Passes 3 or fewer criteria; OR Passes 4 - 6 criteria (excluding criterion A)	Poor (1)										

Other Neutral Grassland:

Limitations (if applicable)		7A	7B	9A	9B	12A	23A	26A					
Condition Assessment Criteria		<b>Grid reference</b>											
		Wigmore ALM	Wigmore	Stukeley meado	Wtukeley meado	East Chadley Lane	Oak Tree ALM	Beville ALM					
		<b>Criterion passed (Yes or No)</b>											
A	The grassland is a good representation of the habitat type it has been identified as, based on its UKHab description - the appearance and composition of the vegetation closely matches the characteristics of the specific grassland habitat type. Indicator species listed by UKHab for the specific grassland habitat type are consistently present.  <b>Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition for non-acid grassland</b>	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	N					
B	Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20% is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for insects, birds and small mammals to live and breed.	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N					
C	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens <sup>1</sup> .	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y					
D	Cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is less than 20% and cover of scrub (including bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.) is less than 5%.	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y					
E	Combined cover of species indicative of sub-optimal condition <sup>2</sup> and physical damage (such as excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, damaging levels of access, or any other damaging management activities) accounts for less than 5% of total area.  If any invasive non-native plant species <sup>3</sup> (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA <sup>4</sup> ) are present, this criterion is automatically failed.	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y					
<b>Additional Criterion - must be assessed for all non-acid grassland types</b>													
F	There are 10 or more vascular plant species per m <sup>2</sup> present, including forbs that are characteristic of the habitat type (species referenced in Footnote 2 and 4 cannot contribute towards this count).  <b>Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.</b>	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N					
<b>Essential criterion for Good condition achieved (for non-acid grassland) (Yes or No)</b>		Y		N	N	N	N	N	N				
<b>Number of criteria passed</b>		4	3	3	3	3	5	3					
<b>Condition Assessment Result</b>	<b>Condition Assessment Score</b>	<b>Score Achieved x/!</b>											
<b>Acid Grassland types (Result out of 5 criteria)</b>													
Passes 5 criteria	Good (3)												
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)												
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)												
<b>Non-acid grassland types (Result out of 6 criteria)</b>													
Passes 5 or 6 criteria, including essential criterion A, and additional criterion F.	Good (3)												
Passes 3 - 5 criteria, including essential criterion A.	Moderate (2)	Y					Y						
Passes 2 or fewer criteria; OR Passes 3 or 4 criteria excluding criterion A and F	Poor (1)		Y			Y		Y					



## Appendix Four: Flora and Invertebrate Lists by Site

\*Shaded columns indicate sites where there was only an ALM area to survey

### Flora

Species	St Ives Sites				Earith				Huntingdon Sites								Brampton				
	Alwyn Close		Wheatfields		Sandwich		Greenfields		Hazelwood Walk		Oaktree Centre		Ring Road		Stukeley Meadows Top		Top end Pallet Fields		Layton Crescent		
	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	
Annual meadow-grass							1														
Autumn hawkbit	1	1	1			1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Barren brome																					
Bent sp. (grass)															1						
Birds-foot-trefoil																		1			
Black horehound																					
Black medick															1						
Blue fleabane																					
Bramble sp.																			1		
Bristly ox-tongue			1	1		1	1			1	1				1						
Broad-leaved dock																			1		
Bucks-horn plantain														1							
Common Cats' ear																					
Cladonia lichen sp.																					
Cleavers																					
Clustered dock											1					1		1			
Cock's-foot		1		1		1	1	1	1	1	1			1		1		1	1	1	1
Common bent																					
Common cat's ear		1																			
Common centaury																					
Common chickweed																					
Common corncockle																					
Common couch																					
Common daisy		1				1	1	1	1		1			1	1		1	1	1	1	
Common knapweed				1							1										
Common knot grass							1							1							

Species	St Ives Sites				Earith				Huntingdon Sites								Brampton			
	Alwyn Close		Wheatfields		Sandwich		Greenfields		Hazelwood Walk		Oaktree Centre		Ring Road		Stukeley Meadows Top		Top end Pallet Fields		Layton Crescent	
	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM
Common mallow											1									
Common mouse-ear							1	1							1	1			1	
Common nettle											1							1		
Common ragwort		1		1		1					1				1			1		
Common sorrel															1					
Common spike-rush																				
Common stork's-bill							1													
Common yarrow																				
Corn Chamomile																				
Corn marigold																				
Corncockle																				
Cornflower																				
Cow parsley						1					1							1		
Creeping bent		1		1		1		1		1	1			1		1				1
Creeping buttercup		1				1		1		1	1			1	1					
Creeping cinquefoil						1				1	1			1	1					
Creeping thistle														1						
Crested dogs'-tail																1				
Crown vetch											1									
Curled dock		1		1		1										1				
Cut-leaved crane's-bill										1						1	1	1		
Dandelion	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1			1	1	1	1		1	
Deadnettle sp.																				
Dock sp.																				
Doves-foot crane's-bill							1	1	1	1				1	1			1		
Dwarf mallow														1						1
False fox-sedge																1				
False oat-grass				1							1			1		1		1		1
Field bindweed							1	1			1							1		
Field madder																				1
Field scabious																				
Fleabane sp.																				
Forget-me-not sp.																				

Species	St Ives Sites				Earith				Huntingdon Sites								Brampton				
	Alwyn Close		Wheatfields		Sandwich		Greenfields		Hazelwood Walk		Oaktree Centre		Ring Road		Stukeley Meadows Top		Top end Pallet Fields		Layton Crescent		
	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	
Germander speedwell																			1	1	
Goat's-beard																					1
Great willowherb																					
Greater plantain	1	1	1			1			1		1			1	1		1		1	1	
Green alkanet																					
Ground-ivy							1														
Groundsel									1												
Hairy willowherb																					
Hard rush																					
Hawksbeard sp.																					
Hedge bedstraw																					
Hedge bindweed																		1			
Hemlock															1						
Herb Robert																					
Hoary ragwort											1	1			1		1				
Hogweed																		1			
Honeysuckle sp																					
Ivy																					
Kidney-vetch																					
Knotted clover																					
Knotted hedge-parsley						1								1							
Lady's bedstraw																					1
Smaller cats-tail																					
Lichen sp.																					
Lime sp.																					
Mallow sp.																					
Maple sp.																					
Mayweed sp.																					
Meadow barley																1					
Meadow buttercup																1	1	1			
Meadow foxtail																					
Moss sp.																					
Mouseear sp.																					

Species	St Ives Sites				Earith				Huntingdon Sites								Brampton			
	Alwyn Close		Wheatfields		Sandwich		Greenfields		Hazelwood Walk		Oaktree Centre		Ring Road		Stukeley Meadows Top		Top end Pallet Fields		Layton Crescent	
	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM
Mustard sp.																				
Nipplewort																				
Ox-eye daisy																				
Pendulous sedge																				
Perennial rye-grass	1	1		1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Perforate St John's-wort																				
Poa sp. (grass)		1		1		1					1			1						1
Pointed spear-moss																				
Poppy sp.																				
Prickly lettuce																				
Prickly sow-thistle								1												
Purple-loosestrife																				
Red clover															1					
Red deadnettle																				
Red fescue								1									1	1		1
Redshank																				
Reed sp.																				
Reindeer lichen																				
Rhubarb																				
Ribwort plantain						1	1	1	1		1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Rosebay willowherb																				
Rough hawksbeard																				
Rough meadow-grass								1							1	1		1		
Salad burnet																				
Scarlet pimpernel				1																
Selfheal						1									1					
Shepherd's-purse																		1		
Shining crane's-bill																				
Small-flowered Crane's-bill							1		1		1									
Small scabious																				
Smooth hawk's-beard								1	1		1									
Smooth meadow-grass															1					
Smooth sow-thistle																				

Species	St Ives Sites				Earith				Huntingdon Sites								Brampton			
	Alwyn Close		Wheatfields		Sandwich		Greenfields		Hazelwood Walk		Oaktree Centre		Ring Road		Stukeley Meadows Top		Top end Pallet Fields		Layton Crescent	
	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM
Soapwort																				
Soft brome																				
Soft rush																				
Spear thistle						1		1								1		1		
Spiked sedge											1									
Squirrel-tail fescue																				
Stone parsley																		1		
Strawberry clover															1					
Sweet vernal-grass																				
Tall fescue																				
Teasel																				
Thyme-leaved speedwell																				
Timothy		1		1		1		1			1		1		1					
Tufted vetch																				
Upright hedge-parsley																				
Violet sp.																				
Wall barley		1						1						1				1		
Wetted thistle																				
Whea.																				
White bryony																				
White campion											1									
White clover	1	1	1	1		1		1	1	1	1			1	1	1	1		1	
White deadnettle																			1	
White willow																				
Wild carrot																			1	
Wild marjoram											1									
Willowherb sp.																				
Wood avens																				
Wood dock																				
Wood small-reed																				
Wood-sorrel sp.								1												
Yarrow						1	1	1			1		1						1	1
Yellow feather-moss																				

	St Ives Sites						Earith		Huntingdon Sites										Brampton	
	Alwyn Close		Wheatfields		Sandwich		Greenfields		Hazelwood Walk		Oaktree Centre		Ring Road		Stukeley Meadows Top		Top end Pallet Fields		Layton Crescent	
Species	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM
Yellow oat-grass																				
Yorkshire-fog		1													1	1				
Other - unidentified species		1					1	1												
<b>Total Species</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>13</b>		<b>21</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>28</b>		<b>21</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>15</b>

Flora list - sites continued:

	Godmanchester Sites										St Neots Sites				Eaton Socon		Little Paxton		Great Staughton		Woodwalton	
	East Chadley Lane		Stokes Close		The Avenue		Cambs Villa Allotments		Wigmore Farm		Darrington Close		Loves Farm - Middle		Viscount Court		Park Drive		Manor Close		Beville	
Species	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM
Annual meadow grass								1						1						1		
Autumn hawkbit		1				1	1	1	1			1		1			1	1		1	1	
Barren brome		1													1							1
Bent sp. (grass)																						
Birds-foot trefoil									1													1
Black horehound																						
Black medick									1				1									
Blue fleabane									1													
Bramble sp.		1							1								1	1		1		1
Bristly oxtongue		1				1		1				1		1					1	1	1	
Broad-leaved dock		1									1						1					
Bucks-horn plantain																						
Common Cats' ear																						
Cladonia lichen sp.																						
Cleavers		1																				1
Clustered dock																					1	
Cock's-foot	1	1				1		1		1	1	1		1		1		1		1	1	1

Species	Godmanchester Sites										St Neots Sites				Eaton Socon		Little Paxton		Great Staughton		Woodwalton	
	East Chadley Lane		Stokes Close		The Avenue		Cambs Villa Allotments		Wigmore Farm		Darrington Close		Loves Farm - Middle		Viscount Court		Park Drive		Manor Close		Beville	
	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM
Common bent								1	1		1											
Common cat's ear		1	1	1					1											1		
Common centaury									1											1		
Common chickweed																				1		
Common corncockle																						
Common couch								1														
Common daisy			1			1	1	1		1			1				1		1	1		
Common hawthorn																						
Common knapweed									1		1				1							1
Common knot grass																1			1			
Common mallow		1					1	1							1							
Common mouse-ear									1				1								1	
Common nettle		1													1		1		1	1		1
Common ragwort						1		1		1			1		1		1		1	1		
Common sorrel																					1	
Common spike-rush													1									
Common stork's-bill																						
Common yarrow																						
Corn chamomile																						
Corn marigold																						
Corncockle																						1
Cornflower																						1
Cow parsley		1				1																1
Creeping bent				1				1					1		1		1		1			
Creeping buttercup		1						1					1						1	1		
Creeping cinquefoil						1									1		1		1	1		
Creeping thistle																					1	
Crested dogs'-tail									1				1									1
Crown vetch																						
Curled dock													1									
Cut-leaved crane's-bill		1							1		1		1						1			1
Dandelion	1	1	1	1		1		1	1				1		1	1	1	1		1	1	1

Species	Godmanchester Sites										St Neots Sites				Eaton Socon		Little Paxton		Great Staughton		Woodwalton	
	East Chadley Lane		Stokes Close		The Avenue		Cambs Villa Allotments		Wigmore Farm		Darrington Close		Loves Farm - Middle		Viscount Court		Park Drive		Manor Close		Beville	
	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM
Dead nettle sp.				1																		
Dock sp.																					1	
Doves-foot cranesbill	1	1					1	1		1	1	1			1		1					
Dwarf mallow																						
False fox-sedge																						
False oat-grass		1				1		1				1			1		1		1			1
Field bindweed								1		1							1				1	1
Field madder																						
Field scabious									1													
Fleabane sp.									1													
Forget-me-not sp.																						1
Germander speedwell										1												
Goat's-beard																						
Great willowherb																						
Greater plantain	1	1				1	1						1		1						1	
Green alkanet																	1					
Ground-ivy						1	1	1									1			1		
Groundsel																						
Hairy willowherb																					1	
Hard rush										1												
Hawksbeard sp.						1																
Hedge bedstraw		1	1	1																		
Hedge bindweed		1													1							
Hemlock																						
Herb Robert																						
Hoary ragwort													1									
Hogweed		1																			1	1
Honeysuckle sp																		1				
Ivy																		1				
Kidney vetch										1												
Knotted clover										1												
Knotted hedge parsley																						



Species	Godmanchester Sites										St Neots Sites				Eaton Socon		Little Paxton		Great Staughton		Woodwalton	
	East Chadley Lane		Stokes Close		The Avenue		Cambs Villa Allotments		Wigmore Farm		Darrington Close		Loves Farm - Middle		Viscount Court		Park Drive		Manor Close		Beville	
	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM
Lady's bedstraw									1													
Lichen sp.									5													
Lime sp.						1																
Mallow sp.	1																1					1
Mayweed sp.																						
Meadow barley																						
Meadow buttercup									1													
Meadow foxtail									1				1									
Meadow thistle																						
Moss sp.						1											1			1		
Mouse ear sp.						1																
Mustard sp		1																				
Nipplewort																						1
Ox-eye daisy									1													1
Pendulous sedge									1												1	
Perennial rye grass	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1		1		1	1	1	1		1	1	1
Perforate St. John's-wort												1										
Poa sp. (grass)																	1			2		
Pointed spear-moss													1									
Poppy sp.																						1
Prickly lettuce								1			1		1		1		1			1	1	1
Prickly sow-thistle		1						1			1		1			1	1			1	1	1
Purple-loosestrife									1													
Red clover									1													
Red dead nettle																				1		
Red fescue			1			1			1				1			1			1	1	1	
Redshank																						
Reed sp.									1													
Reindeer lichen									1													
Rhubarb																						
Ribwort plantain	1					1	1	1	1	1					1	1	1			1		
Rosebay willowherb									1													

Species	Godmanchester Sites										St Neots Sites				Eaton Socon		Little Paxton		Great Staughton		Woodwalton	
	East Chadley Lane		Stokes Close		The Avenue		Cambs Villa Allotments		Wigmore Farm		Darrington Close		Loves Farm - Middle		Viscount Court		Park Drive		Manor Close		Beville	
	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM
Rough hawksbeard													1									
Rough meadow grass		1		1		1							1									
Salad burnet									1													1
Scarlet pimpernel													1									
Selfheal								1	1				1							1		
Shepherds purse													1									
Shining cranesbill																				1		
Smaller cats' tail																						
Small-flowered Crane's-bill						1														1		
Small scabious										1												
Smooth hawksbeard	1						1	1		1			1		1							
Smooth meadow grass										1			1									
Smooth sow-thistle						1		1							1					1		
Soapwort															1							
Soft brome																						1
Soft rush																						
Spear thistle						1		1				1		1		1		1		1	1	1
Spiked sedge																						
Squirreltail fescue										1												
Stone parsley																						
Strawberry clover																						
Sweet vernal grass										1												
Tall fescue										1				1								
Teasel		1																				
Thyme-leaved speedwell				1																		
Timothy															1		1			1		1
Tufted vetch										1												
Upright hedge parsley																						1
Violet sp.																						
Wall barley	1	1				1		1				1			1		1			1		
Wetted thistle						1																
Wheat						1									1							

Species	Godmanchester Sites										St Neots Sites				Eaton Socon		Little Paxton		Great Staughton		Woodwalton	
	East Chadley Lane		Stokes Close		The Avenue		Cambs Villa Allotments		Wigmore Farm		Darrington Close		Loves Farm - Middle		Viscount Court		Park Drive		Manor Close		Beville	
	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM
White bryony																						1
White campion																						
White clover	1	1	1	1		1			1	1	1			1		1				1	1	
White dead nettle		1																				1
White willow										1												
Wild carrot										1												1
Wild marjoram																						
Willowherb sp.																						
Wood avens																		1				
Wood dock														1								1
Wood small reed										1												
Wood sorrel sp.							1	1														
Yarrow	1	1					1	1	1	1	1			1		1	1			1	1	
Yellow feather moss										1												
Yellow oat grass										1												
Yorkshire fog		1												1						1		1
Other - unidentified species																		1				2
<b>Total Species</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>		<b>26</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>15</b>		<b>36</b>		<b>25</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>26</b>		<b>39</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>37</b>

Flora list - sites continued:

	Ramsey		Holme		Yaxley		Great Gransden		Alwalton	
	Lawrence Rd		Holmewood		Shackelton Way		Audley Close		Royce Rd	
Species	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM
Annual meadow grass		1			1					
Autumn hawkbit		1		1		1		1		1
Barren brome								1		
Bent sp. (grass)										
Birds-foot trefoil										
Black horehound										
Black medick										
Blue fleabane										
Bramble sp.				1						
Bristly oxtongue		1		1	1	1		1		
Broad-leaved dock				1				1		1
Bucks-horn plantain		1								
Cats' ear sp					1					
Cladonia lichen sp.										
Cleavers										
Clustered dock						1				1
Cock's-foot		1		1		1		1		
Common bent										
Common cat's ear										
Common centaury										
Common chickweed		1						1		
Common corncockle										1
Common couch										
Common daisy		1		1	1			1		1
Common hawthorn										
Common knapweed										1
Common knotgrass										
Common mallow		1								
Common mouse-ear		1						1		
Common nettle		1		1		1				
Common ragwort		1				1				

	Ramsey		Holme		Yaxley		Great Gransden		Alwalton	
	Lawrence Rd		Holmewood		Shackelton Way		Audley Close		Royce Rd	
Species	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM
Common sorrel										
Common spike-rush										
Common stork's-bill										
Common sycamore										
Common yarrow										
Corn chamomile										1
Corn marigold										1
Corncockle										
Cornflower										1
Cow parsley		1						1		
Creeping bent		1		1		1		1		
Creeping buttercup					1	1		1		
Creeping cinquefoil		1		1						
Creeping thistle						1		1		1
Crested dogs'-tail										
Crown vetch										
Curled dock										
Cut-leaved crane's-bill				1		1		1		
Dandelion		1		1	1	1		1		1
Dead nettle sp.										
Dock sp.								1		
Doves-foot cranesbill		1		1	1			1		1
Dwarf mallow										
False fox-sedge										
False oat-grass		1		1		1		1		1
Field bindweed										
Field madder										
Field scabious										
Fleabane sp.										
Forget-me-not sp.		1								
Germander speedwell		1		1						
Goat's-beard				1						
Great willowherb						1				

	Ramsey		Holme		Yaxley		Great Gransden		Alwalton	
	Lawrence Rd		Holmewood		Shackelton Way		Audley Close		Royce Rd	
Species	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM
Greater plantain				1	1	1				1
Green alkanet		1								
Ground-ivy				1						
Groundsel		1			1			1		
Hairy willowherb										
Hard rush										
Hawksbeard sp.										
Hedge bedstraw										
Hedge bindweed						1				
Hemlock										
Herb Robert		1								
Hoary ragwort				1						
Hogweed								1		
Honeysuckle sp										
Ivy										
Kidney vetch										
Knotted clover										
Knotted hedge parsley		1								
Lady's bedstraw										
Lesser cats tail										
Lichen sp.										
Mallow sp.										1
Mayweed sp.					1					
Meadow barley										
Meadow buttercup										
Meadow foxtail						1				
Meadow thistle										
Moss sp.										
Mouse ear sp.										
Mustard sp										
Nipplewort		1								
Ox-eye daisy										
Pendulous sedge										

	Ramsey		Holme		Yaxley		Great Gransden		Alwalton	
	Lawrence Rd		Holmewood		Shackelton Way		Audley Close		Royce Rd	
Species	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM
Perennial rye grass		1		1	1	1		1		1
Perforate St. John's-wort										
Poa sp. (grass)		1				1		1		1
Pointed spear-moss										
Poppy sp.										1
Prickly lettuce						1				
Prickly sow-thistle				1	1					
Purple-loosestrife										
Red clover										
Red dead nettle						1				
Red fescue				1				1		1
Redshank						1				
Reed sp.										
Reindeer lichen										
Rhubarb				1						
Ribwort plantain				1						1
Rosebay willowherb										
Rough hawksbeard										
Rough meadow grass										
Salad burnet										
Scarlet pimpernel										
Selfheal		1		1						
Shepherds purse		1								
Shining cranesbill										
Smaller cats' tail										
Small-flowered Crane's-bill										
Small scabious										
Smooth hawksbeard										
Smooth meadow grass										
Smooth sow-thistle		1								1
Soapwort										
Soft brome										
Soft rush						1				

	Ramsey		Holme		Yaxley		Great Gransden		Alwalton	
	Lawrence Rd		Holmewood		Shackelton Way		Audley Close		Royce Rd	
Species	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM
Spear thistle		1								1
Spiked sedge										
Squirreltail fescue										
Stone parsley										
Strawberry clover										
Sweet vernal grass										
Tall fescue										
Teasel						1				
Thyme-leaved speedwell		1								
Timothy grass		1				1				1
Tufted vetch										
Upright hedge parsley										
Violet sp.		1								
Wall barley		1						1		1
Welted thistle										
Wheat										
White bryony										
White campion						1				
White clover				1	1	1		1		1
White dead nettle				1						
White willow										
Wild carrot										1
Wild marjoram										
Willowherb sp.		1								
Wood avens		1								
Wood dock		1								
Wood small reed										
Wood sorrel sp.										
Yarrow		1		1						1
Yellow feather moss										
Yellow oat grass										
Yorkshire fog						1				
Other - unidentified species										



	Ramsey		Holme		Yaxley		Great Gransden		Alwalton	
	Lawrence Rd		Holmewood		Shackelton Way		Audley Close		Royce Rd	
Species	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM
Total Species		38		27	15	25		24		27

**Invertebrates** – Note: shaded columns indicate there was no non-ALM site to survey.

	St Ives Sites						Earith		Huntingdon Sites								Brampton			
	Alwyn Close		Wheatfields		Marley Road/ Sandwich		Greenfields		Hazelwood Walk		Oaktree Centre		Ringroad		Stukeley Meadows Top		Top end Pallet Fields		Layton Crescent	
Orders	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM
Hymenoptera (ants, bees and wasps)	0	3	0	6		1	3	11	0	9	1	5		7	1	2	0	2	0	6
Coleoptera (beetles)	1	6	2	2		8	2	4	1	2	2	4		4	2	4	0	2	2	4
Lepidoptera (moths & butterflies)	2	3	0	2		4	3	2	0	6	2	6		7	0	9	0	5	1	4
Hemiptera (True bugs)	1	6	0	4		4	0	4	0	8	1	2		5	0	6	0	0	1	4
Hemiptera (Flies)	2	11	1	4		7	3	8	3	10	3	9		12	2	8	1	6	3	10
Orthoptera (Grasshoppers & Bushcrickets)	0	1	0	2		0	0	2	0	3	0	1		1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Odonata (Damselflies & Dragonflies)	0	0	0	1		1	0	1	0	2	0	0		1	0	3	0	0	0	1
Ephemoptera (Mayflies)	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Neuroptera (Lacewings)	0	0	0	1		1	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	1	0	1	0	0
Arachnids (Spiders and relatives)	1	1	1	4		2	1	2	1	3	1	4		6	1	5	1	3	2	3
Isopoda (Woodlice)	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	1		0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Gastropoda (Slugs & Snails)	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	1		0	1	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total species</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>26</b>		<b>28</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>32</b>		<b>43</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>34</b>

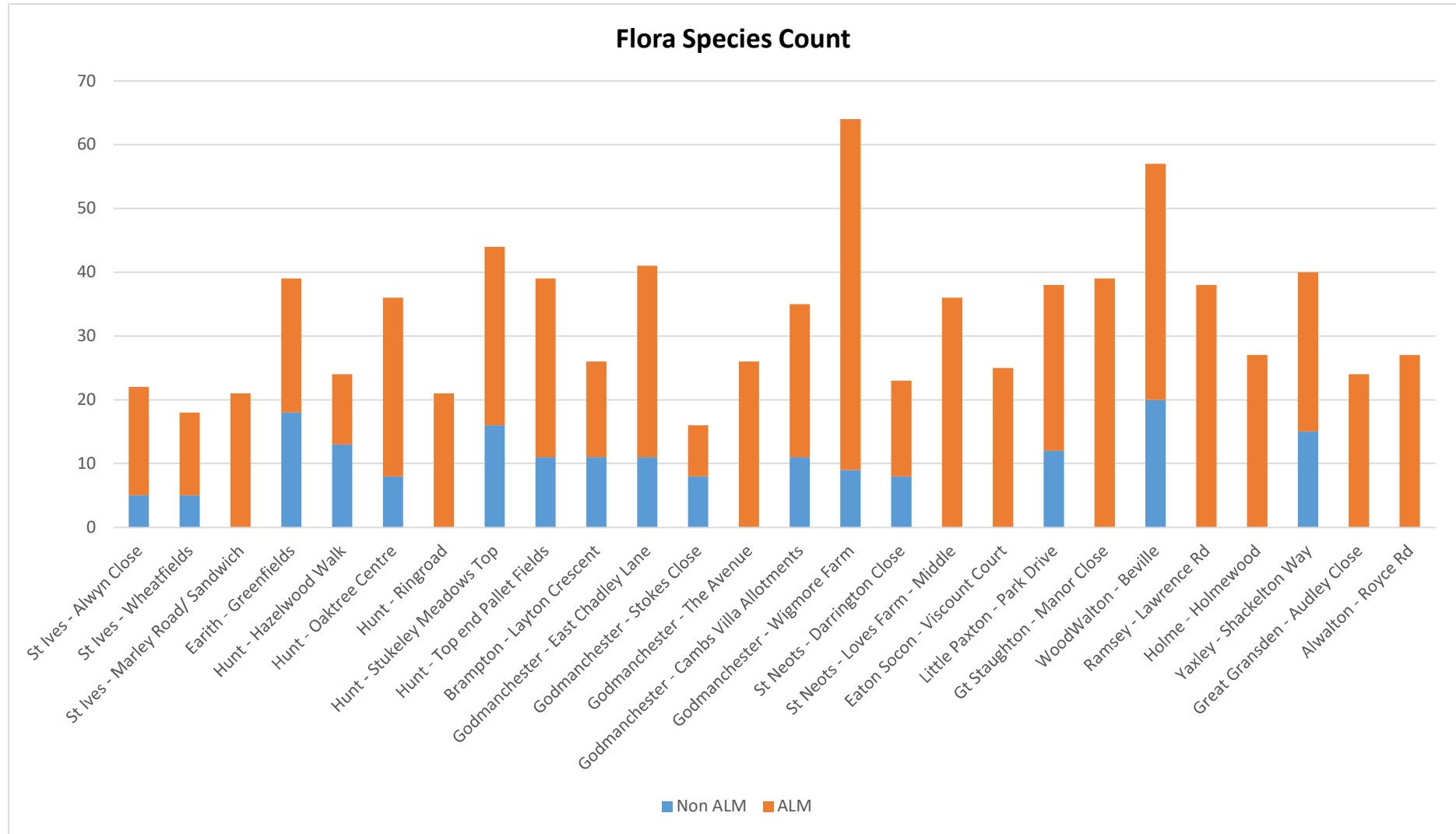
Invertebrates – table 2 of 3

	Godmanchester Sites										St Neots Sites				Eaton Socon		Little Paxton		Great Staughton		Woodwalton		Ramsey	
	East Chadley Lane		Stokes Close		The Avenue		Cambs Villa Allotments		Wigmore Farm		Darrington Close		Loves Farm - Middle		Viscount Court		Park Drive		Manor Close		Beville		Lawrence Rd	
Orders	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM
Hymenoptera (ants, bees and wasps)	1	5	1	1		3	0	2	1	5	0	5		3			1	7		4	0	9		1
Coleoptera (beetles)	1	3	2	3		4	1	3	1	2	1	1		5		3	1	1		4	1	1		7
Lepidoptera (moths & butterflies)	1	6	0	2		4	2	2	0	3	0	2		12		2	1	2		5	0	6		3
Hemiptera (True bugs)	0	3	0	2		5	0	6	0	4	0	2		7		2	0	3		3	1	2		2
Hemiptera (Flies)	3	7	2	6		4	3	6	3	6	4	2		12		3	3	7		7	1	8		16
Orthoptera (Grasshoppers & Bushcrickets)	0	0	0	0		1	0	1	1	2	0	0		0		1	0	1		1	0	3		0
Odonata (Damselflies & Dragonflies)	0	2	0	1		2	0	1	0	3	0	1		2		0	0	0		0	0	0		0
Ephemeroptera (Mayflies)	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	1	0	0		0		0	0	0		0	0	0		0
Neuroptera (Lacewings)	0	0	0	1		0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0		0	0	0		0	0	0		0
Arachnids (Spiders and relatives)	1	5	1	1		3	1	5	0	3	0	1		4		1	1	2		5	1	6		3
Isopoda (Woodlice)	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0		0	0	0		0	0	0		1
Gastropoda (Slugs & Snails)	0	1	0	0		0	0	0	0	2	0	0		0		0	0	0		1	0	3		1
<b>Total species</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>17</b>		<b>26</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>14</b>		<b>45</b>		<b>12</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>23</b>		<b>29</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>35</b>		<b>33</b>

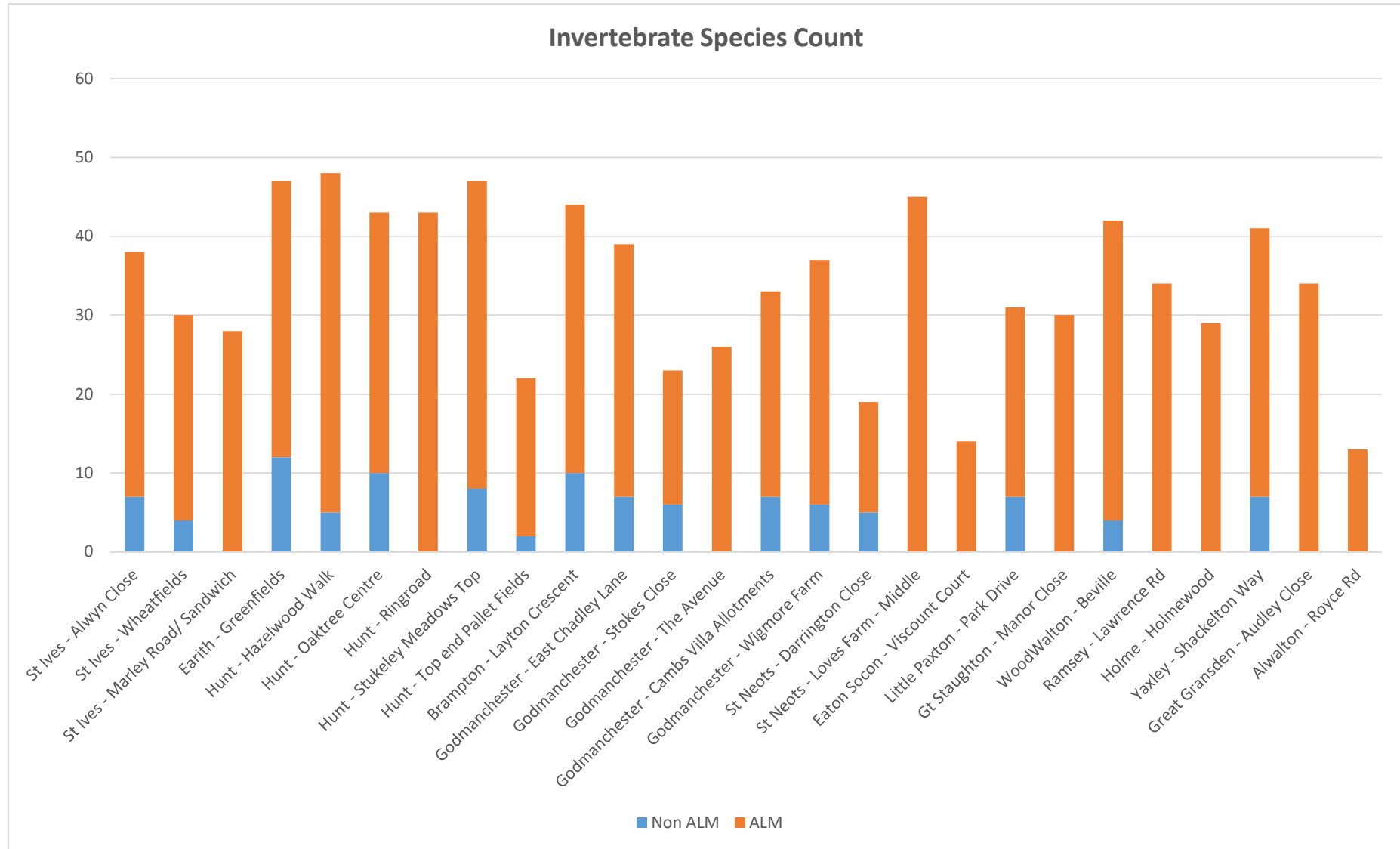
Invertebrates – table 3 of 3

	Holme		Yaxley		Great Gransden		Alwalton	
	Holmewood		Shackelton Way		Audley Close		Royce Rd	
Orders	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM	Non	ALM
Hymenoptera (ants, bees and wasps)		3	1	5		3		3
Coleoptera (beetles)		4	1	3		4		1
Lepidoptera (moths & butterflies)		5	0	6		3		0
Hemiptera (True bugs)		2	0	5		4		2
Hemiptera (Flies)		8	3	6		8		5
Orthoptera (Grasshoppers & Bushcrickets)		4	1	2		0		1
Odonata (Damselflies & Dragonflies)		1	0	1		0		0
Ephemoptera (Mayflies)		0	0	0		0		0
Neuroptera (Lacewings)		0	0	0		0		0
Arachnids (Spiders and relatives)		1	1	6		2		1
Isopoda (Woodlice)		0	0	0		0		0
Gastropoda (Slugs & Snails)		1	0	0		1		0
<b>Total species</b>		<b>28</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>34</b>		<b>24</b>		<b>13</b>

Graph of species counts by site – Flora:



Graph of species counts by site – Invertebrates:



**Appendix Five: Flora and Fauna Common and Latin Names**

**Flora:**

Common	Latin
Annual Meadow-grass	<i>Poa annua</i>
Aspen	<i>Populus tremula</i>
Autumn Hawkbit	<i>Scorzoneroides autumnalis</i>
Barren Brome	<i>Anisantha sterilis</i>
Bird's-foot-trefoil	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>
Black Horehound	<i>Ballota nigra</i>
Blackening Waxcap	<i>Hygrocybe conica</i>
Black Medick	<i>Medicago lupulina</i>
Blue Fleabane	<i>Erigeron acris</i>
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.
Bristly Ox-tongue	<i>Helminthotheca echioides</i>
Broad-leaved Dock	<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>
Buck's-horn Plantain	<i>Plantago coronopus</i>
Cats'-ear	<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>
Lichen sp.	<i>Cladonia</i> sp.
Cleavers	<i>Galium aparine</i>
Clustered Dock	<i>Rumex conglomeratus</i>
Cock's-foot	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>
Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>
Common Bent	<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>
Common Chickweed	<i>Stellaria media</i>
Common Couch	<i>Elymus repens</i>
Common Daisy	<i>Bellis perennis</i>
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>
Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>
Common Knapweed	<i>Centaurea nigra</i> agg.
Common Knotgrass	<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>
Common Mallow	<i>Malva sylvestris</i>
Common Mouse-ear	<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>
Common Nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>
Common Ragwort	<i>Jacobaea vulgaris</i>
Common Sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>
Common Stork's-bill	<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>
Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>
Corn chamomile	<i>Anthemis arvensis</i>
Corn Marigold	<i>CGlebionis segetum</i>

Common	Latin
Corncockle	<i>Agrostemma githago</i>
Cornflower	<i>Centaurea cyanus</i>
Cow Parsley	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>
Creeping Bent	<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>
Creeping Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>
Creeping Cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla reptans</i>
Creeping Thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>
Crested Dog's-tail	<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>
Curled Dock	<i>Rumex crispus</i>
Cut-leaved Crane's-bill	<i>Geranium dissectum</i>
Crown Vetch	<i>Securigera varia</i>
Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum</i> agg.
Deadnettle sp.	<i>Lamium</i> sp.
Doves-foot Crane's-bill	<i>Geranium molle</i>
Dwarf Mallow	<i>Malva neglecta</i>
False Fox-sedge	<i>Carex otrubae</i>
False Oat-grass	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>
Field Bindweed	<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>
Field Madder	<i>Sherardia arvensis</i>
Turnip	<i>Brassica rapa</i>
Field Scabious	<i>Knautia arvensis</i>
Fleabane	<i>Pulicaria dysenterica</i>
Forget-me-not sp.	<i>Myosotis</i> sp.
Germander Speedwell	<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>
Goat's-beard	<i>Tragopogon pratensis</i>
Great Willowherb	<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>
Greater Plantain	<i>Plantago major</i>
	<i>Pentaglottis sempervirens</i>
Green Alkanet	
Ground-ivy	<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>
Groundsel	<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>
Hard Rush	<i>Juncus inflexus</i>
Hawk's-beard sp.	<i>Crepis</i> sp.
Hedge Bedstraw	<i>Galium album</i>
Hedge Bindweed	<i>Calystegia sepium</i>
Hemlock	<i>Conium maculatum</i>
Herb-Robert	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>
Hoary Ragwort	<i>Jacobaea erucifolia</i>
Hoary Willowherb	<i>Epilobium parviflorum</i>
Hogweed	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>
Hornbeam	<i>Carpinus betulus</i>
Horse-chestnut	<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>
Kidney-vetch	<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>

Common	Latin	Common	Latin
Knotted Clover	<i>Trifolium striatum</i>	Small-flowered Crane's-bill	<i>Geranium pusillum</i>
Knotted hedge-parsley	<i>Torilis nodosa</i>	Small Scabious	<i>Scabiosa columbaria</i>
Lady's Bedstraw	<i>Galium verum</i>	Smooth Hawk's-beard	<i>Crepis capillaris</i>
Lichen sp.		Smooth Meadow-grass	<i>Poa pratensis</i>
Lime sp.	<i>Tilia sp.</i>	Smooth Sow-thistle	<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>
Mallow sp.	<i>Malva sp.</i>	Soapwort	<i>Saponaria officinalis.</i>
Maple sp.	<i>Acer sp.</i>	Soft Rush	<i>Juncus effusus</i>
Meadow Barley	<i>Hordeum secalinum</i>	Spear Thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>
Meadow Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Spiked Sedge	<i>Carex spicata</i>
Meadow Foxtail	<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>	Squirrel-tail fescue	<i>Vulpia bromoides</i>
		Stone Parsley	<i>Sison amomum</i>
Mouse ear sp.	<i>Cerastium sp.</i>	Sweet Vernal-grass	<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>
Nipplewort	<i>Lapsana communis</i>	Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>
Oak	<i>Quercus sp.</i>		<i>Schedonorus arundinacea</i>
Ox-eye Daisy	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Tall Fescue	
Pendulous Sedge	<i>Carex pendula</i>	Teasel	<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>
Perennial Rye-grass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Thyme-leaved Speedwell	<i>Veronica serpyllifolia</i>
Perforate St John's-wort	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Timothy	<i>Phleum pratense</i>
Poplar sp.	<i>Populus sp.</i>	Tufted Vetch	<i>Vicia cracca</i>
Poppy sp.	<i>Papaver sp.</i>	Upright Hedge-parsley	<i>Torilis japonica</i>
Prickly Lettuce	<i>Lactuca serriola</i>	Violet sp.	<i>Viola sp.</i>
Prickly Sow-thistle	<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Wall Barley	<i>Hordeum murinum</i>
Prunus sp.	<i>Prunus sp.</i>	Wetted Thistle	<i>Cardus crispus</i>
Purple-loosestrife	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	Wheat	<i>Triticum aestivum</i>
Red Clover	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	White Bryony	<i>Bryonia dioica</i>
Red Dead-nettle	<i>Lamium purpureum</i>	White cCover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>
Red Fescue	<i>Fescue rubra</i>	White Deadnettle	<i>Lamium album</i>
Redshank	<i>Persicaria maculosa</i>	White Willow	<i>Salix alba</i>
Common Reed	<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Wild Carrot	<i>Daucus carota ssp carota</i>
Reindeer Lichen	<i>Cladonia rangiferina</i>	Wild Marjoram	<i>Origanum vulgare</i>
Rhubarb	<i>Rheum rhabarbarum</i>	Willowherb sp.	<i>Epilobium sp.</i>
Ribwort Plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Wood Avens	<i>Geum urbanum</i>
	<i>Chamaenerion angustifolium</i>	Wood Dock	<i>Rumex sanguineus</i>
Rosebay Willowherb		Wood Small-reed	<i>Calamagrostis epigejos</i>
Rough Meadow-grass	<i>Poa trivialis</i>	Wood sorrel sp.	<i>Oxalis sp.</i>
Salad Burnet	<i>Poterium sanguisorba</i>	Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>
Scarlet Pimpernel	<i>Lysimachia arvensis</i>		<i>Homalothecium lutescens</i>
	<i>Tripleurospermum inodorum</i>	Yellow Feather-moss	
Scentless Mayweed		Yellow Oat-grass	<i>Trisetum flavescens</i>
Selfheal	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Yorkshire-fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>
Shining cranesbill	<i>Geranium lucidum</i>		
Silver birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>		
Smaller cats' tail	<i>Phleum bertolonii</i>		



**Invertebrates:**

<b>Invertebrate Common Name</b>	<b>Latin</b>
14-spot ladybird	<i>Propylea quattuordecimpunctata</i>
16-spot ladybird	<i>Tytthaspis sedecimpunctata</i>
7-spot ladybird	<i>Coccinella septempunctata</i>
Aphid sp.	Family Aphididae
Batman hoverfly	<i>Myathropa florea</i>
Bishops mitre	<i>Aelia acuminata</i>
Black ant	<i>Lasius niger</i>
Black housefly type species	Various families
Blue-tailed damselfly	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>
Brimstone butterfly	<i>Gonopteryx rhamni</i>
Broad centurion	<i>Chloromyia formosa</i>
Brown argus butterfly	<i>Aricia agestis</i>
Brown hawker dragonfly	<i>Aeshna grandis</i>
Bumble bee - various species	<i>Bombus sp.</i>
Bumblebee - white or buff tailed sp.	<i>Bombus lucorum</i> agg.
Caterpillar sp.	Family Lepidoptera
Cereal leaf beetle	<i>Oulema melanopus</i>
Common blue butterfly	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>
Common blue damselfly	<i>Enallagma cyathigerum</i>
Common carder bee	<i>Bombus pascuorum</i>
Common darter dragonfly	<i>Sympetrum striolatum</i>
Common green lacewing	<i>Chrysoperla carnea</i>
Common green shield bug	<i>Palomena prasina</i>
Common mourning bee	<i>Melecta albifrons</i>
Common red ant	<i>Myrmica rubra</i>
Common wasp	<i>Vespula vulgaris</i>
Crab spider	<i>Misumena vatia</i>
Crane fly sp.	<i>Tipulidae sp.</i>
Dark bush cricket	<i>Pholidoptera griseoptera</i>
Devil's coach horse beetle	<i>Staphylinus olens</i>
Dock bug	<i>Coreus marginatus</i>
Earwig sp.	<i>Forficulidae sp.</i>
European tarnished plant bug	<i>Lygus rugulipennis</i>
Flea-type beetle - various species	Order Coleoptera
Flesh fly – various species	Family Sarcophagidae
Four-spotted chaser dragonfly	<i>Libellula quadrimaculata</i>
Froghoppers/leafhoppers - various species	Suborder Auchenorrhyncha
Garden snail	<i>Cornu aspersum</i>
Garden spider	<i>Araneus diadematus</i>
Gatekeeper butterfly	<i>Pyronia tithonus</i>
Grass bug	<i>Stenodema laevigata</i>

Invertebrate Common Name	Latin
Grass moth unknown sp.	<i>Crambus sp.</i>
Grasshopper – various species	Family Acrididae
Green leafhopper	<i>Cicadella viridis</i>
Greenbottle fly sp.	<i>Calliphoridae sp.</i>
Ground beetle sp.	Family Carabidae
Hairy-footed flower bee	<i>Anthophora plumipes</i>
Hairy shield bug	<i>Dolycoris baccarum</i>
Harvestman - unknown species	Order Opiliones
Holly blue butterfly	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>
Honey bee	<i>Apis mellifera</i>
Hornet mimic hoverfly	<i>Volucella zonaria</i>
Hoverflies - numerous species	Family Syrphidae
Lacewing	Family Chrysopidae
Leatherbug sp.	Family Coreidae
Long hoverfly	<i>Sphaerophoria scripta</i>
Long-winged conehead	<i>Conocephalus discolor</i>
Marmalade hoverfly	<i>Episyrphus balteatus</i>
Mayfly sp.	Order Ephemoptera
Meadow brown butterfly	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>
Mint/Small purple and gold moth	<i>Pyrausta aurata</i>
“Money” or tiny spiders - various species	Various
Mosquito - various species	Family Culicidae
Oak bushcricket	<i>Meconema thalassinum</i>
Parasitic wasps - various species	Suborder Apocrita (Parasitica)
Pea leaf weevil	<i>Sitona lineatus</i>
Peacock butterfly	<i>Aglais io</i>
Picture-winged flies - various species	Families - various
Plume moth	<i>Emmelina monodactyla</i>
Pollen beetle - various species	Family Nitidulidae
Red admiral butterfly	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>
Red mite - various species	<i>Tetranychidae sp.</i>
Roesel's Bush-cricket	<i>Roeseliana roeselii</i>
Silver Y moth	<i>Autographa gamma</i>
Small copper butterfly	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>
Small spotty-eyed dronefly	<i>Eristalinus sepulchralis</i>
Snail sp.	Unknown family
Snail-killing fly - unknown species	Family Sciomyzidae
Soldier beetle sp.	Family Cantharidae
Solitary bee – various species	Family Apidae
Southern hawker dragonfly	<i>Aeshna cyanea</i>
Speckled wood butterfly	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>
Striped woodlouse	<i>Philoscia muscorum</i>
Tachinid fly	<i>Tachina sp.</i>

Invertebrate Common Name	Latin
The Footballer hoverfly	<i>Helophilus pendulus</i>
Thunder fly/thrip	<i>Thripidae sp.</i>
Tortoise bug	<i>Eurygaster testudinaria</i>
Tortricid moth sp.	<i>Tortricidae sp.</i>
Wasp spider	<i>Argiope bruennichi</i>
Woodlouse	Suborder Oniscidea
Yellow dung fly	<i>Scathophaga stercoraria</i>
Yellow meadow ant	<i>Lasius flavus</i>

**Other Fauna:**

Common	Latin
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>
Carrion crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>
Common Frog	<i>Rana temporaria</i>
Common Toad	<i>Bufo bufo</i>
Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>
Field Mouse	<i>Apodemus sylvaticus</i>
Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>
Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>
House martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>
Muntjac deer	<i>Muntiacus reevesi</i>
Red kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>

**Appendix Six: Management Matrix**

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
<b>Grassland Management &amp; Monitoring</b>												
Annual main cut- 80% of ALM site (autumn) to 5cm height, removing arisings.  *20% strip of long grass/tall vegetation to be left – adjacent to hedgerows/trees/scrub (if present).  *Arisings to be left in discrete pile on edge of site & close to hedgerow/scrub, where possible.									Cut & collect Annually 80%			
Annual second cut- 80% of ALM site as above.  *Still leaving 20% strip of longer grass.			Cut Annually 80%									
Annual Supplementary cuts- 20% of site, short paths and borders maintained through spring/summer months.  *as required/desired.				Cut & collect Annually – as required Paths/edges 20%								
Remaining area of tall vegetation- 50% of area cut on rotation every year.		Cut 50% of area every year										
Monitoring: annually (as required).				Survey during main flowering period								

\*Important note: checks for wildlife such as hedgehogs and amphibians should be carried out before mowing areas of long/dense grassland and vegetation, if found, they should be carefully encouraged out of the way or carefully moved to an area of safety within the cover of nearby vegetation that isn't to be cut.

## Appendix Seven: Additional Enhancements for Wildlife

### Bird Boxes

Integrated boxes should be placed in a south-to- south-westerly orientation at a height of 2-6m above ground level (depending on species catered for). A variety of bird boxes are available to support different tree nesting species, below are an example of some suitable boxes available.



*Schwegler 1B Nest Box*



*Vivara Pro Seville 32mm WoodStone Nest Box*

### **Bat Boxes**

Boxes should be installed on a south-to- south-westerly orientation at a height of 4-6m above ground level, away from any artificial light sources. Branches should be cleared to provide an unrestricted flight path to and from the box.

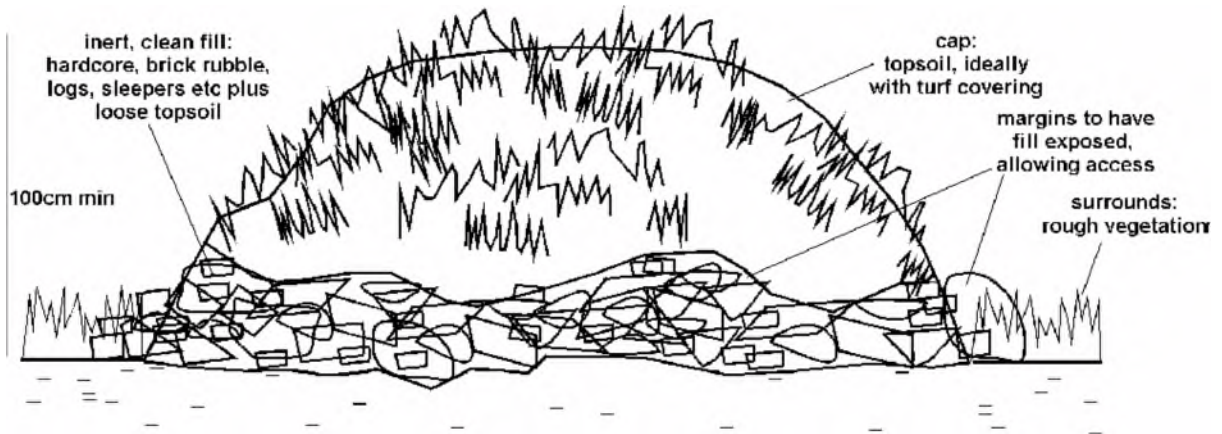


*General Purpose Bat Box.*



*Vivara Pro Woodstone Bat Box.*

Other wildlife



Example hibernaculum – will benefit a range of species including amphibians, invertebrates, small mammals, and reptiles. Hibernacula's can also be buried underground so they blend in more seamlessly with the landscape and are less vulnerable to vandalism/being tampered with.

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**Public**  
**Key Decision – No**

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Title/Subject Matter:** Support to those who are Financially Vulnerable or in Financial Crisis: Amendment to Partnership Arrangements with Citizen's Advice Rural Cambridgeshire

**Meeting/Date:** Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environment, Communities and Partnerships). 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024

**Executive Portfolio:** Communities and Health

**Report by:** Paul Fox, Interim Corporate Director

**Ward(s) affected:** All

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### **Executive Summary:**

A report to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environment, Communities and Partnerships) on 5th October 2023 set out the strategic context for our work on financial vulnerability, directly linking it to the priorities and actions set out in the council's Corporate Plan.

That report, endorsed by the Panel, indicated that we were working with Citizen's Advice Rural Cambridgeshire (CARC) to consider how our funding and partnership arrangements best support residents who are financially vulnerable or in financial crisis.

This report updates on that work and describes to committee the rationale for several proposals that have been coproduced with and have the support of CARC.

### **Recommendation(s):**

The Panel is asked to consider and comment on the actions set out in the report

.

## 1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 This report describes our plans, co-developed with CARC, to:

- i. Move Citizen's Advice Rural Cambridgeshire from its current location at Eastfield House to Pathfinder House
- ii. Co-locate the relocated CARC service with the Council's Residents Advice and Information Service
- iii. Use the opportunities presented by the move to improve access of Citizen's Advice services to the public

## 2. BACKGROUND

2.1 The Council's [Corporate Plan](#) sets out the Council's vision for 2023-2028 as:

We all want to live in a place with the highest possible quality of life. A place people are drawn to, where they feel included and can aspire to something. A place people are proud to call home.

The priorities within the plan, shaped by local people and viewed through a green lens, provide the framework to achieve this vision. These are:

- Priority 1: Improving the Quality of Life for Local People.
- Priority 2: Creating a better Huntingdonshire for Future Generations.
- Priority 3: Delivering good quality, high value for money services with good control and compliance with statutory obligations.

### Priority 1: Improving quality of life for local people



**Improving the happiness and wellbeing of residents**

We want the highest possible quality of life for the people of Huntingdonshire. It will be a place which attracts employers and visitors and somewhere residents are proud to call home. We will be evidence based, responsive and support the foundations of a good life. This includes personal independence, prosperity, social connection, community and good health.

**Keeping people out of crisis\***

We will identify the root causes that lead people into crises and find ways to prevent them. We will do this through our own actions. We will also work in partnership with residents, businesses, community groups, charities and our public sector partners.

**Helping people in crisis\***

Where a crisis has already happened, we will work holistically to understand the issues, the cause of these issues and what opportunities exist to address them. We will seek to prevent multiple personal crises becoming entrenched and unmanageable by addressing root causes.

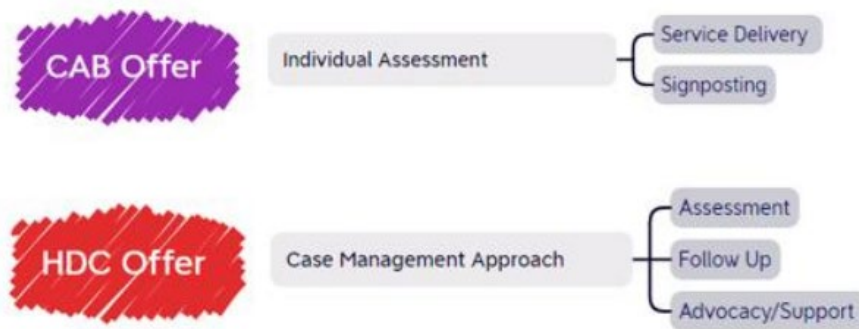
\* Crisis - A life changing event, or series of significant events within a short period of time, which can threaten or harm an individual's life experiences, often needing support to prevent further negative consequences.

- 2.2 The Corporate Plan (pages 11-13), also set out actions for 2023/2024 that relate to financial vulnerability and financial crisis. The primary purpose of this report is to set out how work undertaken to date has led to further developments in our approach. In all cases our approaches are informed by the 'Do, Enable, Influence' framework set out in the corporate plan.
- 2.3 Our developing approach to supporting those who are financially vulnerable or in financial crisis was endorsed by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environment, Communities and Partnerships) on 5th October 2023.
- 2.4 Corporate Action Plan Item 11 indicates that the Council will *'Resource and lead a key change programme which reviews the way we support residents across a range of local providers.'*
- 2.5 Citizens Advice is a nationally recognised charity providing free and independent advice to those with problems with benefits, debt, housing and other issues. It is a free, open-access service which has high levels of public recognition and trust.
- 2.6 The local, independently constituted part of this national network is Citizens Advice Rural Cambs (CARC), which provides help and advice across East Cambs, Fenland and Huntingdonshire.
- 2.7 Councils across the country have a long history of funding CAB to support local populations. However, the landscape for this provision can be complex. Often a CAB will be funded by several organisations. Some of these funders will have grant or contract arrangements for provision of specific services, while others contribute more generally to the work of CAB in their area.
- 2.8 Locally, HDC is one of several funders of CARC. CARC is considered a grant-funded delivery partner rather than a provider of directly commissioned services that are subject to detailed specification. The grant funding covers the breadth of services set out in paragraph 2.5 of this report.
- 2.9 The cost-of-living crisis has exacerbated demand for CARC services, as well as similar (but distinct) services such as those provided by those such as HDC Residents Advice and Information Service (RAI) and by Cambs County Council (CCC).
- 2.10 The Household Support Fund, funded by central government and administered by CCC, provides direct financial support to those in need. This funding is expected to be unavailable to CCC after 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024. The withdrawal of this fund after several years is expected to increase demand on both CARC and the RAI.
- 2.11 The vast majority of CARC services are provided by telephone and email. However drop-in services are provided at Pathfinder House, Huntingdon and at St. Neots library. Provision of those services (or indeed any other drop-in services in the district), does not constitute part of the grant agreement between HDC and CARC.

- 2.12 Many people prefer discussing issues such as personal finance face-to-face rather than over the telephone or by email. To this end, both the council and CARC share an aspiration to improve access to CARC services by increasing the number of drop-in services available across Huntingdonshire. However, CARC report that the cost of hiring suitable facilities is a barrier to this.
- 2.13 The current value of the grant provided to CARC by HDC is £115,700. The service is currently located in council premises at Eastfield House. The council then charges CARC £18,680 per annum for the use of Eastfield House and for the rooms used to provide drop-in sessions at Pathfinder House.

### **3. ANALYSIS AND ACTIONS**

- 3.1 Financial vulnerability is the risk of a person not being able to withstand or recover from financial shocks. While this might be a sudden loss of income or a sudden increase in expenditure, it can also be the result of cumulative impacts of these factors over a longer time.
- 3.2 As set out in the [report](#) on financial vulnerability previously endorsed by the panel, the system of support available to those who are financially vulnerable is complex and can be difficult to access.
- 3.3 In response to that complexity, we continue to work towards solutions that look holistically at the causes as well as the consequences of financial vulnerability. Smoother interactions between services providing these solutions will improve the experiences and outcomes of residents seeking support, irrespective of entry point to the support system.
- 3.4 Within this system, CARC and our RAI work increasingly closely supporting residents with similar problems. Often, the same residents are supported by both services.
- 3.5 RAI adopt a case management: approach where those in need are supported to develop an agreed plan, based on awareness and availability of the support available. This approach may involve multiple contacts over an extended period. The approach of CARC may be more characterised as 'service delivery' (e.g., income maximisation, debt management). These distinctions are illustrated below.



- 3.6 CARC are currently located as tenants of HDC at Eastfield House. Examination of occupancy patterns at Pathfinder House (PFH) identified the opportunity to move CARC to Pathfinder House and collocate them with the RAI team. This co-location will facilitate greater joint working and coordination between the services.
- 3.7 At present CARC are grant funded by HDC. CARC are then charged rent for the use of facilities at both Eastfield House and Pathfinder House (from which some services are provided).
- 3.8 CARC services mainly provided through telephone contact. Both HDC (and funder) and CARC (as provider) share an aspiration to improve service accessibility by providing greater numbers of face-to-face appointments through outreach sessions in the community. CARC report that much of their service capacity is provided by volunteers and it is premises rental costs that is the main barrier to this development.
- 3.9 It is therefore proposed that HDC do not charge rent for hosting CARC once they move to Pathfinder House. This will release the resource currently paid to HDC as rent to fund face-to-face outreach sessions around the district. This amount will be ring-fenced as part of the funding agreement between the two bodies.
- 3.10 The locations for the proposed outreach/face-to-face services will be agreed in partnership with CARC but will be based on several factors. These will include (but need not be limited to):
- i. availability of suitable premises,
  - ii. cost of suitable premises
  - iii. accessibility of premises including transport options and walking distances
  - iv. identification of sites/services already attended by those who may benefit from service provided by CARC/RAI (e.g., food projects)
  - v. availability and capacity of other support services in an area
  - vi. potential demand for the service.
- 3.11 Some proxy measures for potential service demand are shared as Appendix 1. The demand relative to population will be considered as well as overall numbers, which will tend to reflect areas of high population density.

- 3.12 Once the arrangements to relocate CARC are confirmed, further work will be undertaken to identify the location and frequency of additional face to face outreach services using the criteria set out in paragraph 3.10

#### **4. KEY IMPACTS / RISKS**

- 4.1 At present those needing support tend to receive a different experience and service offer depending on whether they seek support from CARC or HDC. While this may be appropriate in some cases, greater coordination of these distinct but complementary services, achieved through colocation, will provide a more consistent, more holistic approach to support which better aligns resource with need.
- 4.2 The changes outlined above will be joint CARC/RAI endeavours, so supporting the coordination of these services, increasing the visibility of the council's support offer and increasing the capacity and accessibility of support to residents.
- 4.3 Assuming that a replacement tenant can be found for Eastfield House, the proposed changes are not anticipated to come at a cost to the council. Indeed, it is possible that a rent higher than that currently paid by CARC could be achieved. In that situation, we would be making service improvements while (marginally) increasing income. However, should a new tenant not be found, the loss of rental income remains a risk. Were this risk to materialise, there would be an annual cost pressure of just under £19,000 against the Council's overall budget while the space remained empty.

#### **5. WHAT ACTIONS WILL BE TAKEN/TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

- 5.1 It is aimed to align the proposed changes with the start of the financial year 2024/24 and the renewal of CARC funding agreement covering that period. However, the benefits that are sought from the actions set out in this paper are not dependent on a specific deadline.
- 5.2 The changes above, including the ring-fencing of an identified budget for the provision of face-to-face outreach services will be included in a new two-year grant funding agreement between HDC and CARC.
- 5.3 Project management, IT, facilities management and other support necessary to complete the successful move from Eastfield House to Pathfinder House is being identified through normal internal project management processes.

## **6. LINK TO THE CORPORATE PLAN, STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND/OR CORPORATE OBJECTIVES**

- 6.1 Set out in Section 2 of this report.

## **7. CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 The proposals set out in this report have arisen through ever-closer working between HDC and CARC throughout 2023/24. The proposals have been developed in partnership.
- 7.2 The desire for increased accessibility of citizens advice and other support services through face-to-face outreach has not been identified as part of a formal consultation process but has been identified through informal feedback from partners, including those in the voluntary and community sector.

## **8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 There is a likelihood of the financial implications being marginally positive, though paragraph 4.3 gives detail of a small financial risk to the council.

## **9. HEALTH IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 As set out in detail in the report to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environment, Communities and Partnerships) on 5th October 2023 our entire approach is based on a social determinants of health approach. Supporting those who are financially vulnerable or in financial crisis – or indeed the population in general - in this way will contribute to a range of positive outcomes including health and wellbeing.

## **10. LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED**

Appendix 1: Geographical breakdown of support provided Citizens Advice and Household Support Fund

## **11. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 11.1 Support to the Financially Vulnerable: Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environment, Communities and Partnerships). 5<sup>th</sup> October 2023

## **CONTACT OFFICER**

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## Appendix 1: Geographical breakdown of support provided

Table 1: Citizen's Advice Rural Cambridgeshire Huntingdonshire Client Numbers: April 2023 to November 2023

Column 1 = clients by ward

Column 2= numbers as a percentage of occupied households in each ward (to take into account the varying size of each area)

Ward	Number of clients	% of households
Alconbury	37	2.4%
Brampton	124	3.3%
Buckden	33	2.2%
Fenstanton	36	2.1%
Godmanchester & Hemingford Abbots	128	3.0%
Great Paxton	31	2.5%
Great Staughton	22	1.6%
Hemingford Grey & Houghton	85	3.2%
Holywell-cum-Needingworth	62	2.2%
Huntingdon East	68	2.4%
Huntingdon North	281	5.2%
Kimbolton	13	0.9%
Ramsey	127	2.8%
Sawtry	91	3.2%
Somersham	36	2.2%
St Ives East	67	2.3%
St Ives South	90	2.5%
St Ives West	28	2.2%
St Neots East	51	3.4%
St Neots Eatons	129	2.7%
St Neots Eynesbury	221	4.2%
St Neots Priory Park & Little Paxton	110	2.4%
Stilton, Folksworth & Washingley	39	1.4%
The Stukeleys	60	2.5%
Warboys	68	2.1%
Yaxley	77	1.7%

Table is RAG rated to support rapid review. The low take-up in the certain wards may be linked to their residents being more likely to look to Peterborough rather than Huntingdon for support.

Figure 1: Map of Citizen's Advice Rural Cambridgeshire Clients by Huntingdonshire District Council Ward

### Number of clients by ward

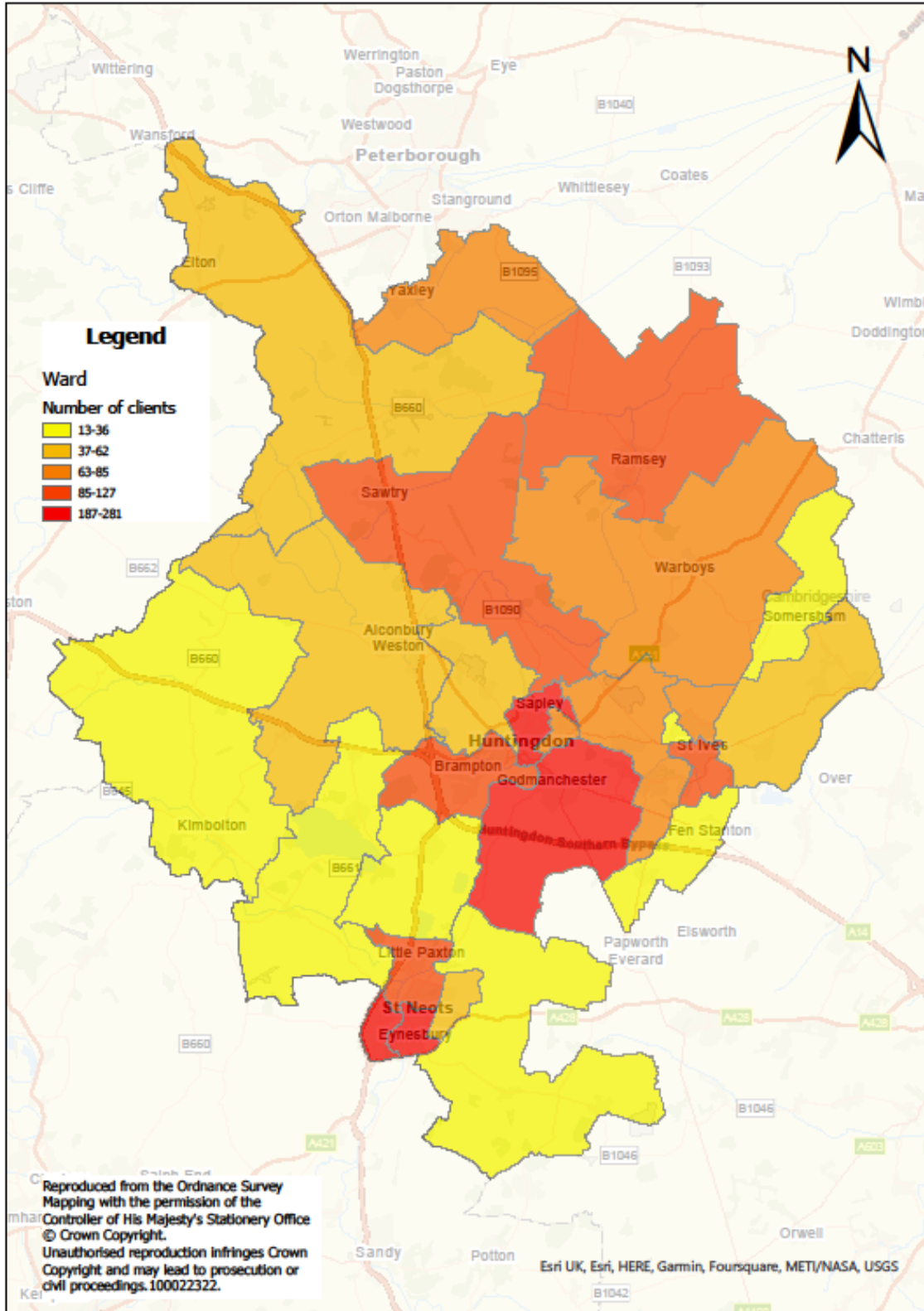


Figure 2: Citizen's Advice Rural Cambridgeshire Clients by Huntingdonshire District Council Ward as a Percentage of Occupied Households

### Clients as % of occupied households by ward

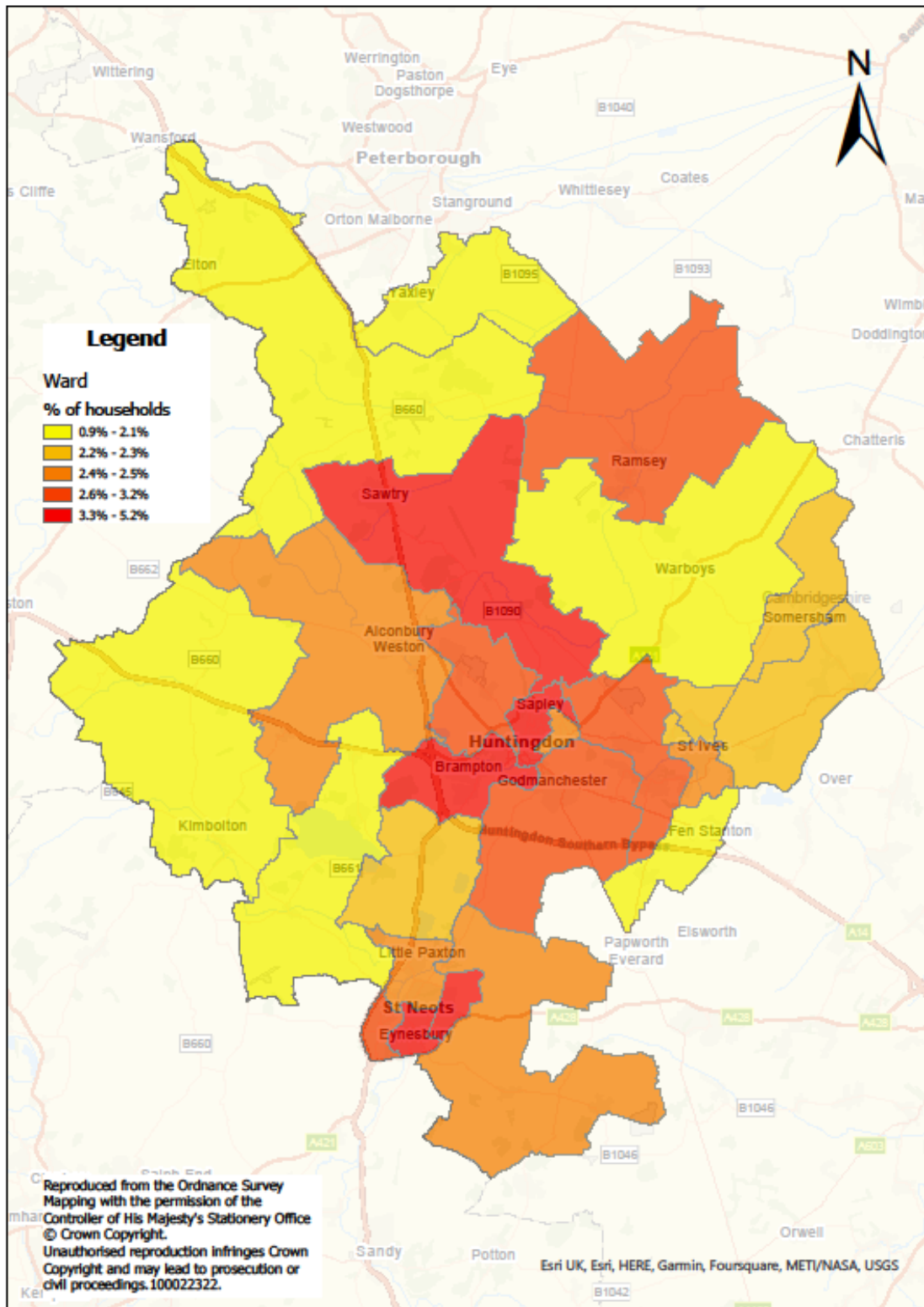


Figure 3: Huntingdonshire Households Receiving Household Support Fund Awards

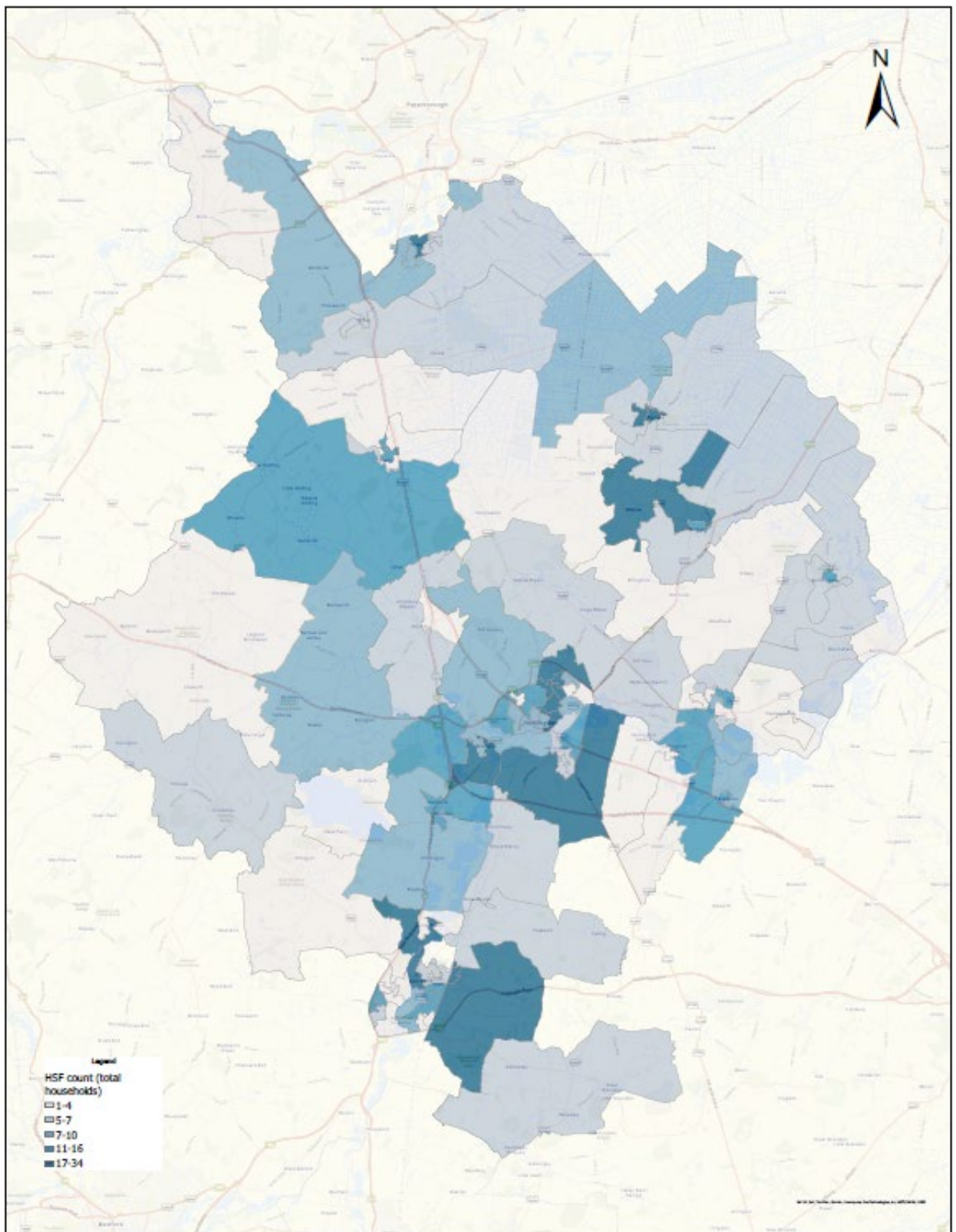
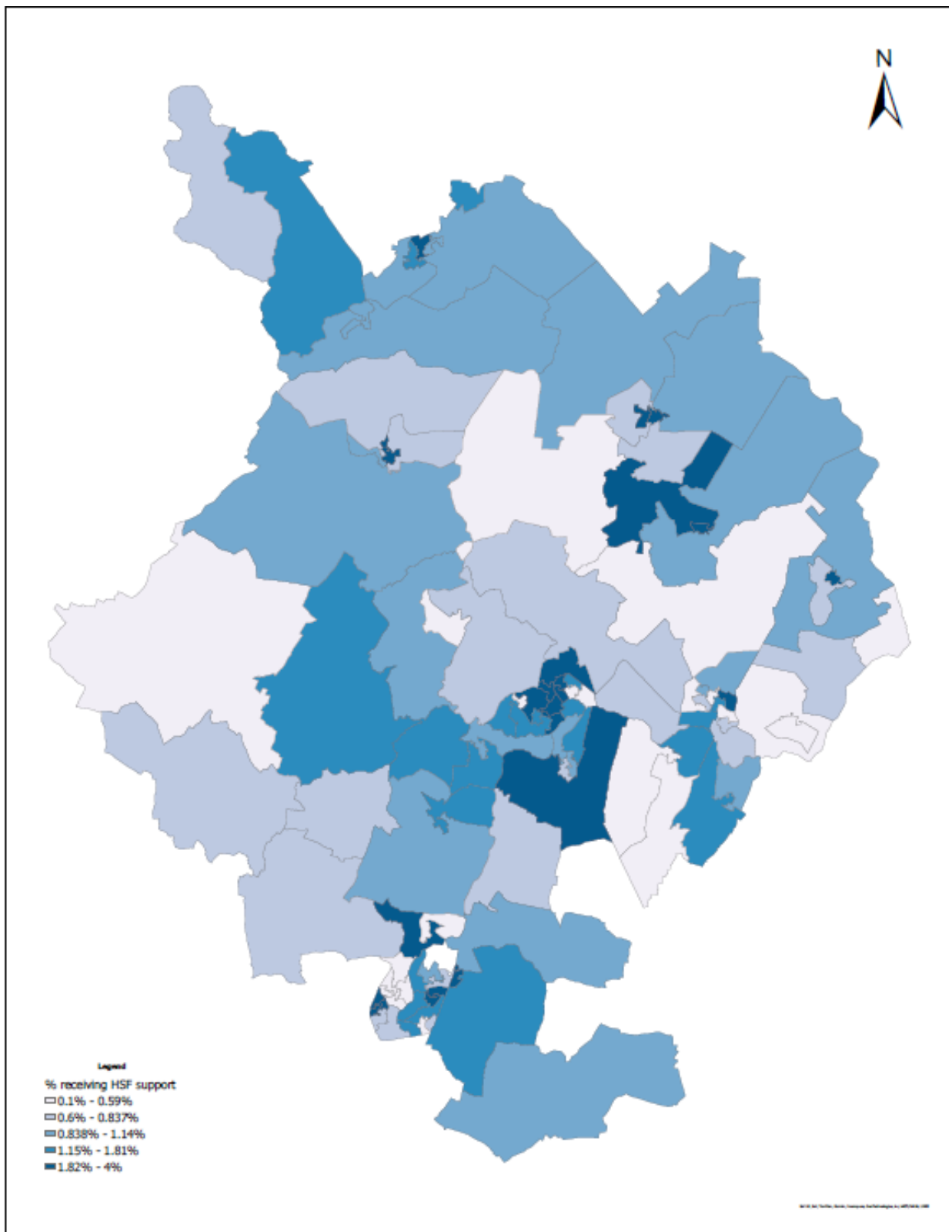


Figure 4: Percentage of Huntingdonshire Households Receiving Support from Household Support Fund



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