

**ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT  
FELIXSTOWE & TRIMLEY VILLAGES  
STRATEGIC AREA**

<i><b>Project no.</b></i>	<i><b>Report</b></i>	<i><b>Date</b></i>
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## **Ecological Assessment of Strategic Areas: Felixstowe & Trimley Villages**

Suffolk Wildlife Trust was commissioned in 2008 by the Strategic Planning Department of Suffolk Coastal District Council to undertake surveys within the large strategic planning areas in the east of Ipswich and Felixstowe, Walton and the Trimley villages.

A desktop study was undertaken using digital mapping and aerial photographs, in conjunction with the latest information supplied by Suffolk Biological Records Centre. Areas designated for their wildlife value, such as SPA/Ramsar site, SSSI and County Wildlife Site were highlighted as were records for protected species and Biodiversity Action Plan species.

Each area was visited and the location and quality of the different habitats were recorded. Each was assessed in terms of species assemblages and connectivity to other sites. Species of particular interest were recorded, such as sightings of reptiles, migrant birds and uncommon plants. Consideration was given to the contribution made by the different habitats to the wider ecological network.

**Suffolk Wildlife Trust**, with its membership of over 24,000 people, is the largest environmental charity in the county concerned with all aspects of nature conservation. It seeks to:

- protect the county's wildlife through the management of its 60 nature reserves
- deliver educational activities and opportunities for people of all ages to become involved in wildlife-related activities
- carry out detailed ecological surveys
- offer advice to landowners and decision makers
- campaign on all relevant aspects of environmental protection

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**Overall ecological network map covering the 6 strategic areas**

## 1 Area 1: Land north of the A14 at Trimley St Mary

### 1.1 General description

This is a large area of farmland containing several cornfields with very narrow headlands; there are also two set a-side areas. A track and a young mixed plantation border much of the southern edge. The A14 embankment comprised mainly of tall rank grass with sycamore, ash, elm and dead elm scrub. In the northwest the land falls away into a sink and watercourse with springs. The watercourse continues eastwards to form a boundary with Egypt Wood. Along some of the field boundaries there are localised areas of scrub.

### 1.2 Footpaths

A footpath from Thurman's Lane runs northwards adjacent to the A14 trunk road. A track alongside a young mixed plantation bisects the wheat fields of much of the southern edge, which continues through to Candlet.

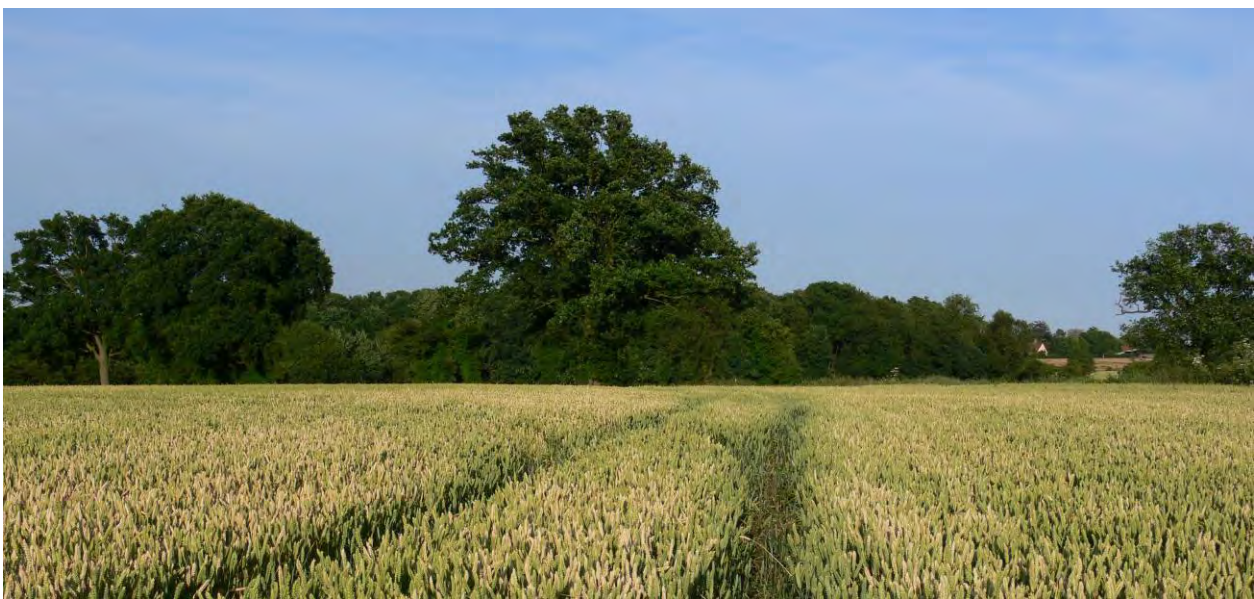
### 1.3 Surrounding land

The site's southern border lies adjacent to the A14 trunk road, beyond which lies the built environment of Trimley St. Mary and open farmland. North of the site is bounded by Egypt Wood, a mature woodland, and a narrow strip of alder and willow woodland which is very important for birds especially siskin, goldfinch and redpoll throughout the winter period. Beyond the woodland belt lies unbroken countryside and the flood plain of the Deben estuary. In a northwest and southeast direction lies open countryside.

### 1.4 Habitats

#### 1.4.1 Arable land

This large area of farmland contained several cornfields with very narrow headlands. Although no BAP species were recorded during the site visit, hares have been recorded.



Mature oaks on the field boundaries with Egypt Wood in the background



#### 1.4.2 Set-a-side

There are also two set aside areas adjacent to each other and situated in the northwestern area of the site. The set aside area is predominantly of nettle and creeping thistle with many common species, which included coarse grasses such as cocksfoot and Yorkshire fog; other plants included scarlet pimpernel, perforate St. John's wort, herb Robert, spotted medick and weld. Meadow sweet was found in the ditches. The set aside would provide an important food source for wintering birds.

#### 1.4.3 Woodland

Egypt Wood (CWS) lies on the northeastern corner of the site. Sycamore and ash with a dense understory of elder and sycamore saplings dominate the mature woodland. Some of the trees are clad in ivy.

#### 1.4.4 Hedgerows and tree belts

A poplar plantation and several willows and alders border the watercourse; throughout the site there are a number of mature oaks in the hedgerows and field boundaries. A variety of shrubs including dead elm and elm scrub are to be found on the boundaries of the set aside fields. Localised areas of scrub are to be found throughout the site especially towards the wet area. The southern embankment comprises of sycamore, ash elm scrub, hawthorn and bramble.

#### 1.4.5 Wet Area and watercourse

In the northwest the land falls away into a sink and watercourse with springs and the area is surrounded by scrub. The different assemblage of plants which included brooklime, great horsetail, common reed, marsh marigold and watermint is an important habitat for a variety of invertebrate life as well as for breeding birds such as blackcap. The watercourse runs the length of the northern perimeter of the site and through Egypt Wood.

#### 1.4.6 Species poor grassland

- Motorbike scrambling track

This is a small area in the northwest of the site, enclosed by scrub comprising of poor grassland, dominated by bare ground due to the scrambling. The scrambling circuit also continues down the slopes into the sink area.

### 1.5 Wildlife Corridors/Ecological networks

This large area of farmland with its set aside, hedges, scrub, mature trees, woodland, tree belts and watercourse provides excellent wildlife corridors in all directions. Unbroken open countryside is maintained between the floodplains of the Orwell and Deben estuary.

### 1.6 Ecological Constraints

#### 1.6.1 Designated sites

Within the site lies Egypt Wood County Wildlife Site. The wood is thought to be of ancient origin because of its reasonably diverse range of ground flora thus a Biodiversity Action Plan habitat.

#### 1.6.2 Biodiversity Action Plan habitats without a site designation

No habitats were recorded which fell into this category.

#### 1.6.3 Protected and Biodiversity Action Plan species

Slow worms have been recorded within this area. This is a UK and Suffolk BAP species. Reptiles are protected under the Wildlife & Countryside Act (1981) from killing and injury.

Potential BAP species that could be using the site include skylark, bullfinch, linnet, grey partridge, corn bunting and turtle dove.

The boundary oaks and the mature trees in the woodland areas could be supporting bats. All bats are fully protected under the UK (wildlife & Countryside Act (1981) and European law (Conservation (natural Habitats, & c) Regulations 1994).

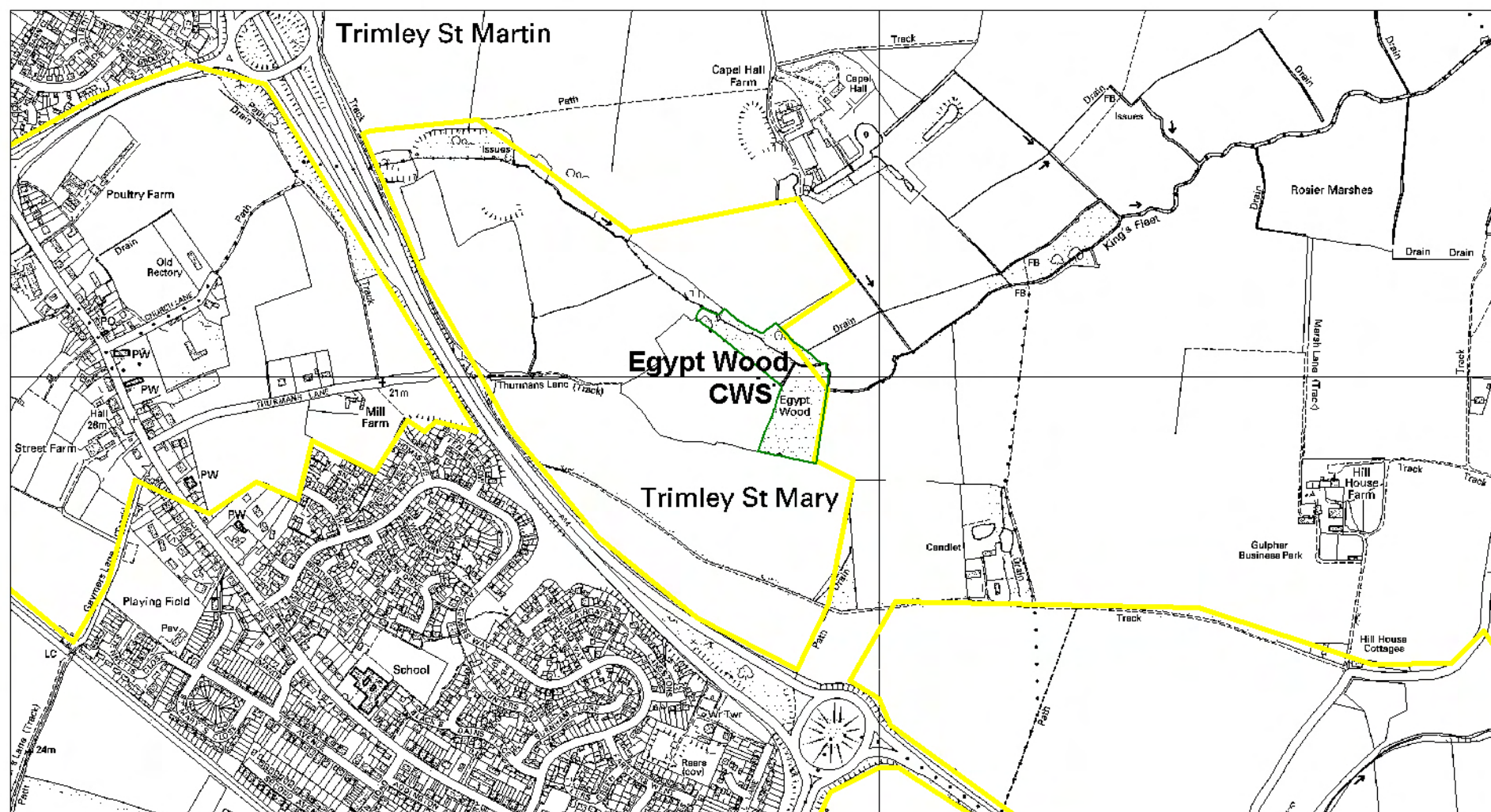
Brown hares have been recorded within this area. This is a UK and Suffolk BAP species.

## Area 1

Designated Sites

Scale 1:10500

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Ipswich IP6 9JY



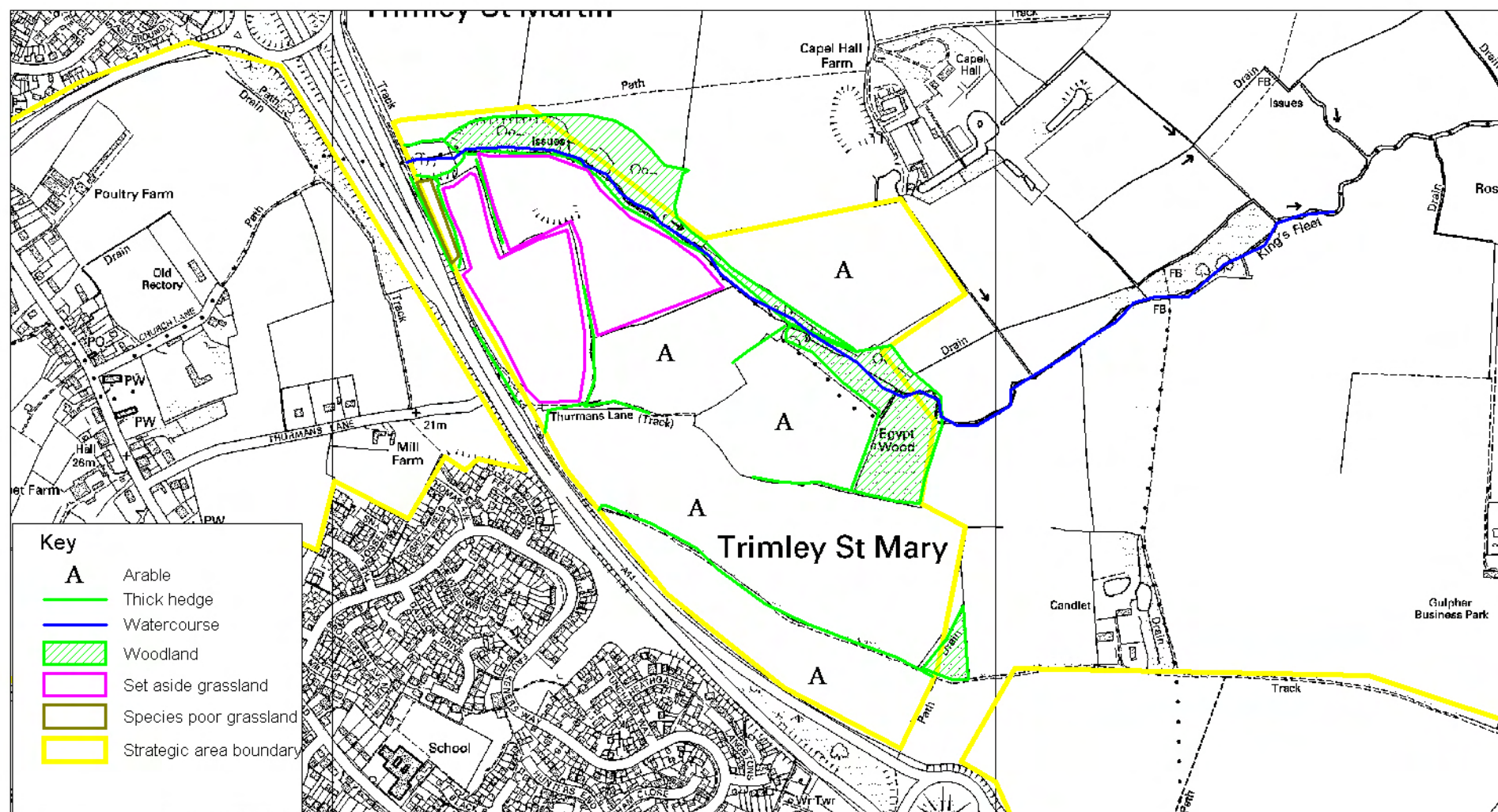
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Scale 1:9000

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## **2. Area 2: Land between the railway line and the A14 and the villages of Trimley St. Martin and Trimley St. Mary.**

### 2.1 General description

Arable fields dominate the area; to the west of Trimley High Road the fields are large whereas to the east they are small. Hedgerows varied from containing mixed species to almost a single stand of elm and from being managed to being left tall and bushy. Adjacent to the railway line and the A14 are mixed plantations. At Great Street Farm all the parcels of land are horse paddocks as is a strip of land adjacent to Gaymer's Lane (not marked on OS map). More horse paddocks are next to the Mushroom farm, Poultry Farm and sports ground. Public footpaths and tracks criss-cross the whole area. In the vicinity of Church and Thurman's Lane is a variety and abundance of mature trees and at Mill Farm there are areas of rough and amenity grassland.



Hedgerow and woodland adjacent to the A14

### 2.2 Footpaths

There is a wealth of public footpaths and tracks throughout the whole site. Dog walkers were common and dog fouling of the footpaths was evident.

### 2.3 Surrounding land

The village of Trimley St Martin lies to the north of the site and the village of Trimley St. Mary lies to the south. The Trimley High Road and associated properties bisect the site. To the south of the railway line lies the flood plain and hinterland of the Orwell estuary and to the northeast the open countryside and flood plain of the Deben estuary.

#### 2.4.1 Habitats

##### 2.4.1 Arable land

Primarily the site was farmland with a series of arable fields and narrow headlands planted with cereals, beans and sugar beat. There is a short length of drain totally covered by nettle and bracken in the arable field adjacent to the A14 roundabout at Trimley.

There were several skylark territories (BAP species).

#### 2.4.2 Species poor grassland

- Horse paddocks

A significant proportion of the site was a maze of horse paddocks and supporting infrastructures (see list above). These areas were low in wildlife value; however, house sparrows and starlings (BoCC species) and swallows (summer migrant) were using the area.

- Amenity grassland

There were two amenity areas, which were the sports ground next to the mushroom farm and an area of grassland near Mill Farm. These are short mown areas and low in wildlife value.

#### 2.4.3 Rough grassland

There was an area of grassland at Mill Farm, possibly an abandoned horse paddock, which varied from being short rabbit grazed turf to long and rank with nettle and thistle beds. Species included greater birdsfoot trefoil, garlic mustard, common field speedwell, common vetch, meadow buttercup, great lettuce, common mouse-ear, spotted medick, white clover, common comfrey, smooth hawksbeard, lesser swine-cress, field forget-me-not, common centaury and grass vetchling.

There was another small area of grassland next to the disused Poultry Farm that comprised primarily of rye grass and coarse grasses such as Yorkshire fog and false oat-grass with great lettuce, bristly ox-tongue and patches of rosebay willowherb and nettles. Bramble scrub was encroaching into the field from the hedgerow. There were two whitethroat territories.

#### 2.4.4 Woodland

There was a large plantation adjacent to the railway line that contained a variety of trees including field maple, ash and sycamore; scrub species included hawthorn, bramble, dog rose and elder. There was another very good mixed mature woodland running almost the length of the A14; species included ash, sweet chestnut, oak, Scot's pine and poplar. In the vicinity of Church and Thurman's Lane there was a wealth of mature trees, which included oak, horse chestnut, sweet chestnut, beech, sycamore scots pine, holme oak and ash. The variety of trees and shrubs and the quality of the habitat in these areas will support a wide range of invertebrate and bird species.

#### 2.4.5 Hedgerows

The most important feature of the site are the hedgerows, which were numerous and of good quality and support a wide range of wildlife throughout the year. Running the length of the railway line is a tall, wide, bushy hedge/tree belt comprising of a variety of species. More good quality hedges are located around the Mushroom Farm and horse paddocks; a number of these

contained dead wood and elm scrub. To the west of the Trimley High Road where the arable fields are small, the hedgerows formed a mosaic of wildlife corridors through the site. Throughout the site the hedgerows supported a number of summer migrants such as blackcap, whitethroat and lesser whitethroat. In addition, a song thrush (BAP species) was observed along with many other species.

## 2.5 Wildlife Corridors/Ecological networks

The network of hedges and the abundance of mature trees not only provide wildlife links through the Trimleys but also link the hinterland of the Orwell estuary and the open countryside associated with the flood plain of the Deben estuary. The habitat associated with the railway line and the A14 are also good wildlife corridors.

## 2.6 Ecological Constraints

### 2.6.1 Designated sites

There are no designated sites within Strategic Area 2.

### 2.6.2 Biodiversity Action Plan habitats without a site designation

No habitats were recorded which fell into this category.

### 2.6.3 Protected and Biodiversity Action Plan species

There were several skylark and two song thrush territories; both are UK and Suffolk BAP species.

Potential BAP species that could be using the site include bullfinch, linnet, grey partridge, song thrush and turtle dove.

The derelict buildings, horse paddocks and boundary oaks could be supporting bats. All bats are fully protected under the UK (wildlife & Countryside Act (1981) and European law (Conservation (natural Habitats, & c) Regulations 1994).

No brown hares were observed during the site visit; however, this is a potential BAP species for the site.

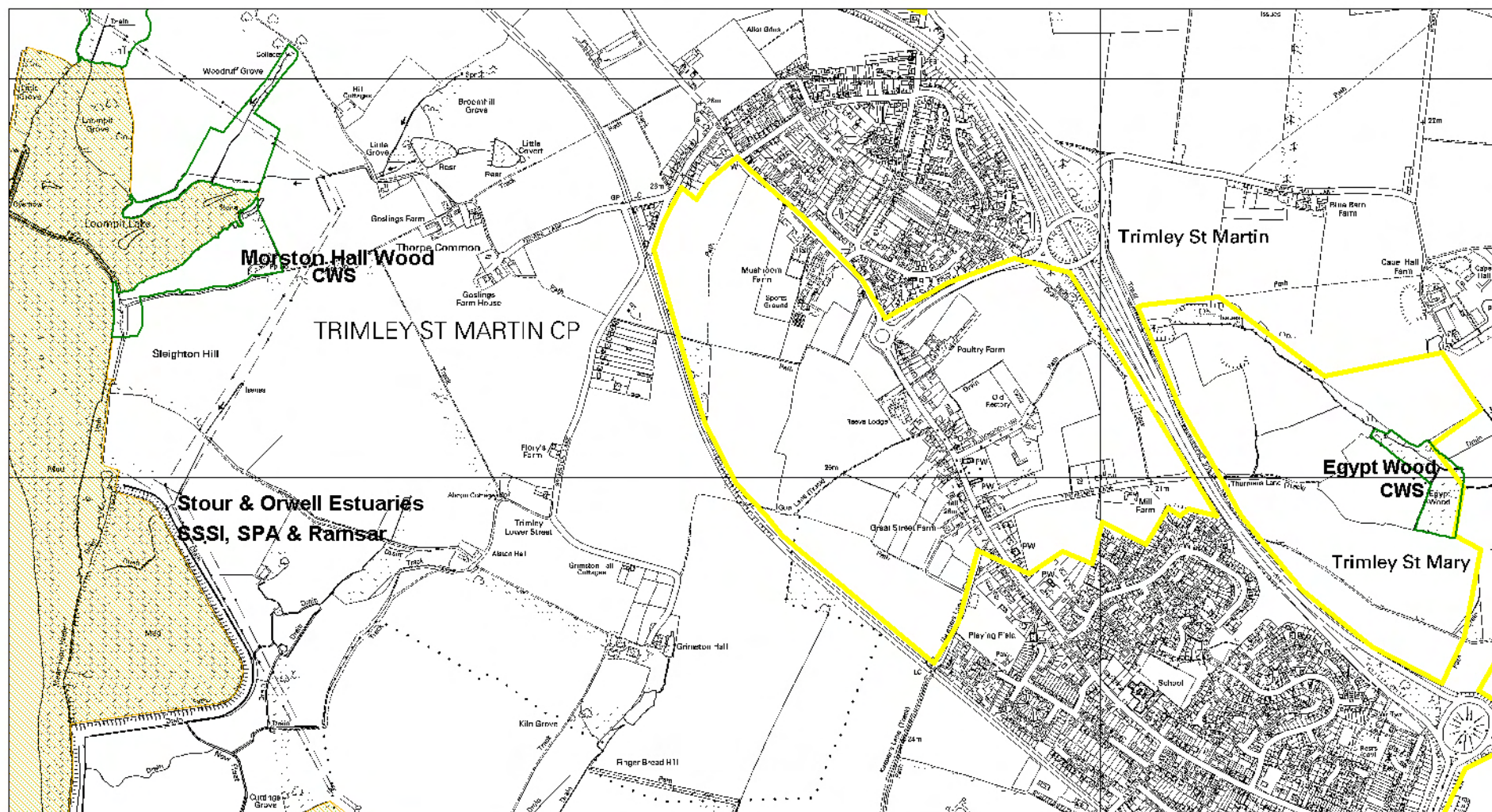
The verge and embankments associated with the Ipswich to Felixstowe railway line could support common lizard. Reptiles are protected under the Wildlife & Countryside Act (1981) from killing and injury.

## Area 2

Designated Sites

Scale 1:15000

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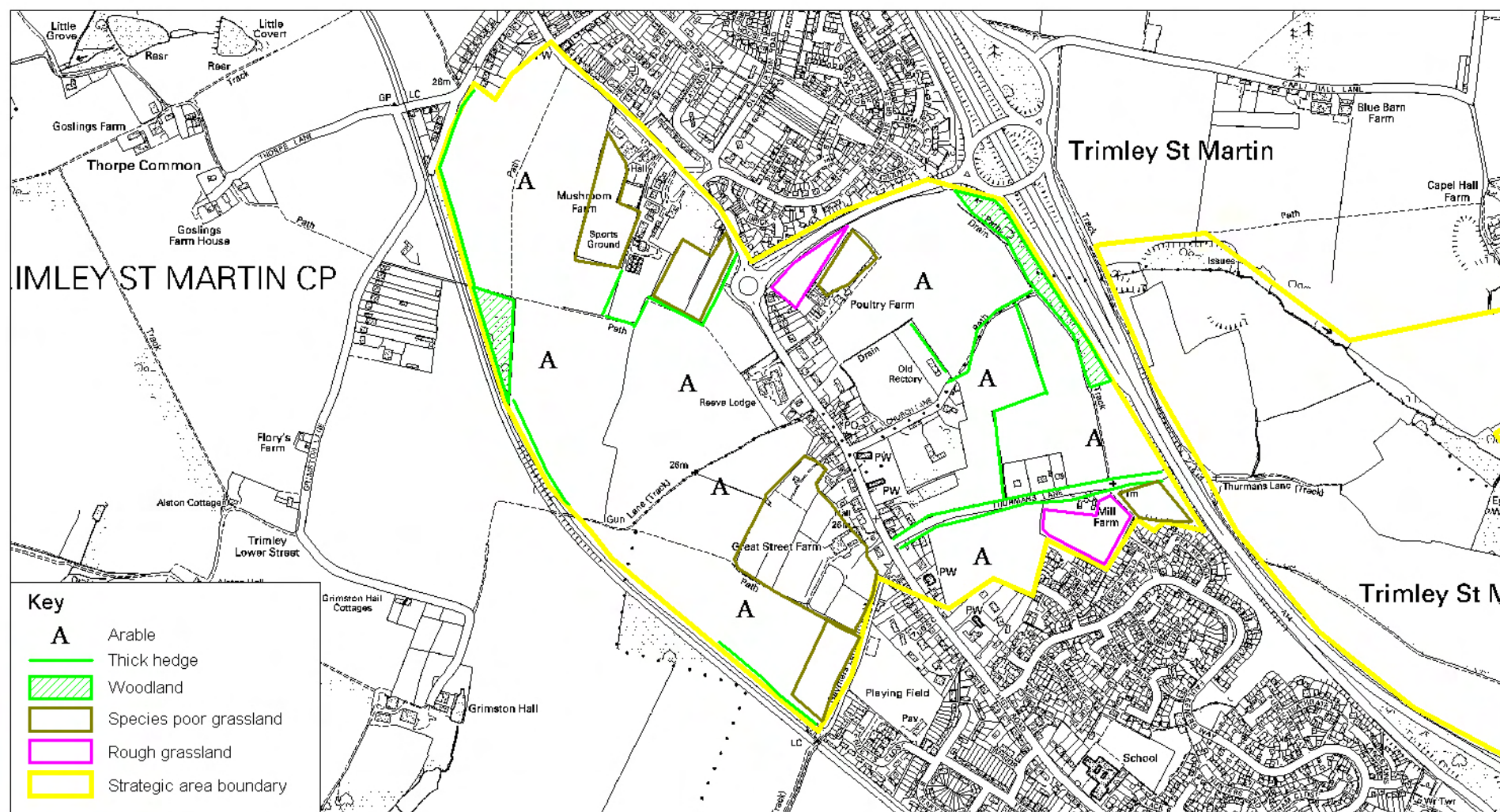


## Area 2

Habitats

Scale 1:11000

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### **3 Area 3: Land between Trimley St. Mary and Walton**

#### **3.1 General description**

The plot of land west of the A14 Dock Spur Road comprised solely of allotment gardens and horse paddocks whilst in the east the land was either arable or amenity grassland. To the north of the Trimley High Road the land was in arable production and next to the rifle range there were more horse paddocks with associated structures. The gardens at Walton Hall contained a number of mature trees, which included horse chestnut, red horse chestnut, beech and copper beech. Throughout the site there were plantations that involved a mixture of species, bushy hedges and belts of mature trees.

#### **3.2 Footpaths**

Each of the three main blocks that make up this area has a single footpath that connects with other sites.

#### **3.3 Surrounding land**

This area of land is sandwiched between Trimley St. Mary in the northwest and Walton in the southeast. Part of the site abuts Clicket Hill and Searson's Farm and thereafter the flood plain of the Orwell estuary. In a northeasterly direction there is open countryside all the way to the flood plain of the Deben estuary.

#### **3.4 Habitats**

##### **3.4.1 Arable land**

There were two parcels of arable land, which were planted with beans and wheat, and coupled with their narrow field margins were of low wildlife value.

##### **3.4.2 Hedgerows and tree belts**

The most important feature of the site is the hedgerows, which were numerous and of good quality and support a wide range of wildlife throughout the year. The hedgerows supported a number of summer migrants such as blackcap, whitethroat and lesser whitethroat. In addition, a song thrush (BAP species) was observed.

The gardens at Walton Hall contain a number of mature trees, which include horse chestnut, red horse chestnut, beech, copper beech and holly. The boundaries associated with the A14 embankment are mixed plantations with very little understory and ground flora; species include larch, oak, sycamore, corsican pine, scots pine and alder. Along the railway line the hedge is managed in places and is short, and comprises of bramble and dog rose. Other sections are tall and bushy and comprise of willow, field maple, hazel, ash and rowan. Where the amenity grassland borders the railway line it is double fenced and the hedge is wide. Between the arable and amenity grassland, the belt of trees, many of which are mature, contains a variety of species and dead wood with elm regrowth much of which is clad in ivy. There is also a belt of mature beech *Fagus sylvatica* adjacent to the school playing fields. North of the Trimley High Road the area is almost surrounded by a thick, bushy hedge predominately of hawthorn. A small wooded

area by the rifle range contains dead wood and regrowth elm and a broad bushy hedge surrounds the allotment gardens.

#### 3.4.3 Species poor grassland

- Horse paddocks

A large proportion of the site contained horse paddocks and supporting infrastructures. These areas were low in wildlife value; however, house sparrows and starlings (BoCC species) and swallows (summer migrant) were using the area.

- Amenity grassland

A significant proportion of the site, adjacent to Maidstone School, was amenity grassland. This is maintained as a short mown area, which is low in wildlife value.

#### 3.4.4 Allotment gardens

Allotments can be of vital importance to wildlife, often supporting valuable habitats for a range of plants, invertebrates and birds. They are also important links in green corridors.

The allotments on this site were well used with all plots culminating in a varied assemblage of plants and associated wildlife.

### 3.4 Wildlife Corridors/Ecological networks

Owing to the site being between two large urban developments, the connectivity is excellent linking large areas of countryside by a corridor of semi-natural habitats. The wildlife link is also via the hedgerows and tree belts associated with the A14 embankments and the railway line.

### 3.5 Ecological Constraints

#### 3.5.1 Designated sites

There are no designated sites within Strategic Area 3.

#### 3.5.2 Biodiversity Action Plan habitats without a site designation

No habitats were recorded which fell into this category.

#### 3.5.3 Protected and Biodiversity Action Plan species

There were no BAP species observed during the site visit.

Potential BAP species that could be using the site include, turtle dove, song thrush and pipistrelle bat.

The buildings, horse paddocks and mature trees could support bats. All bats are fully protected under the UK (wildlife & Countryside Act (1981) and European law (Conservation (natural Habitats, & c) Regulations 1994).

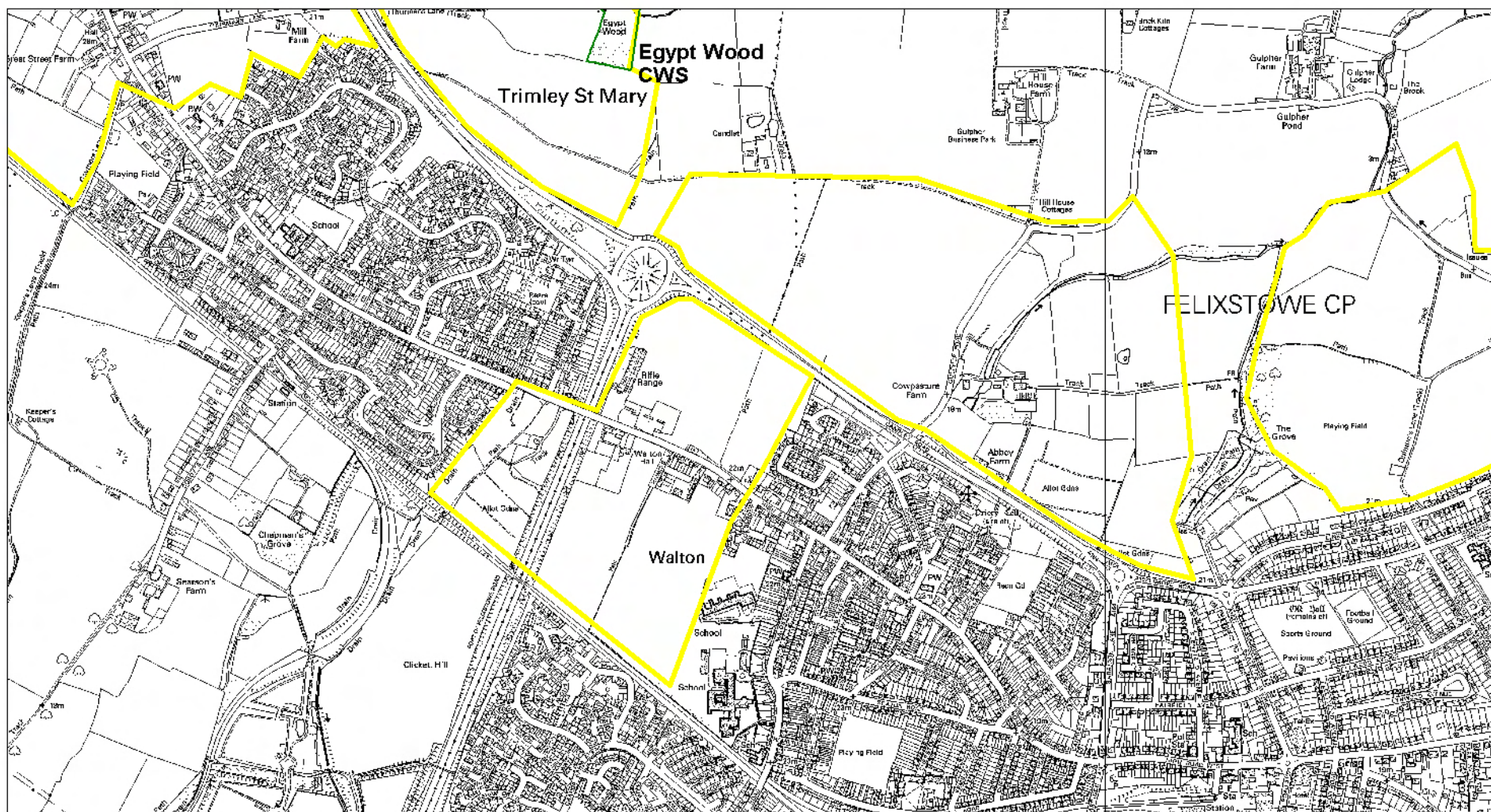
The verge and embankments associated with the Ipswich to Felixstowe railway line could support common lizard. Reptiles are protected under the Wildlife & Countryside Act (1981) from killing and injury.



Scale 1:14000



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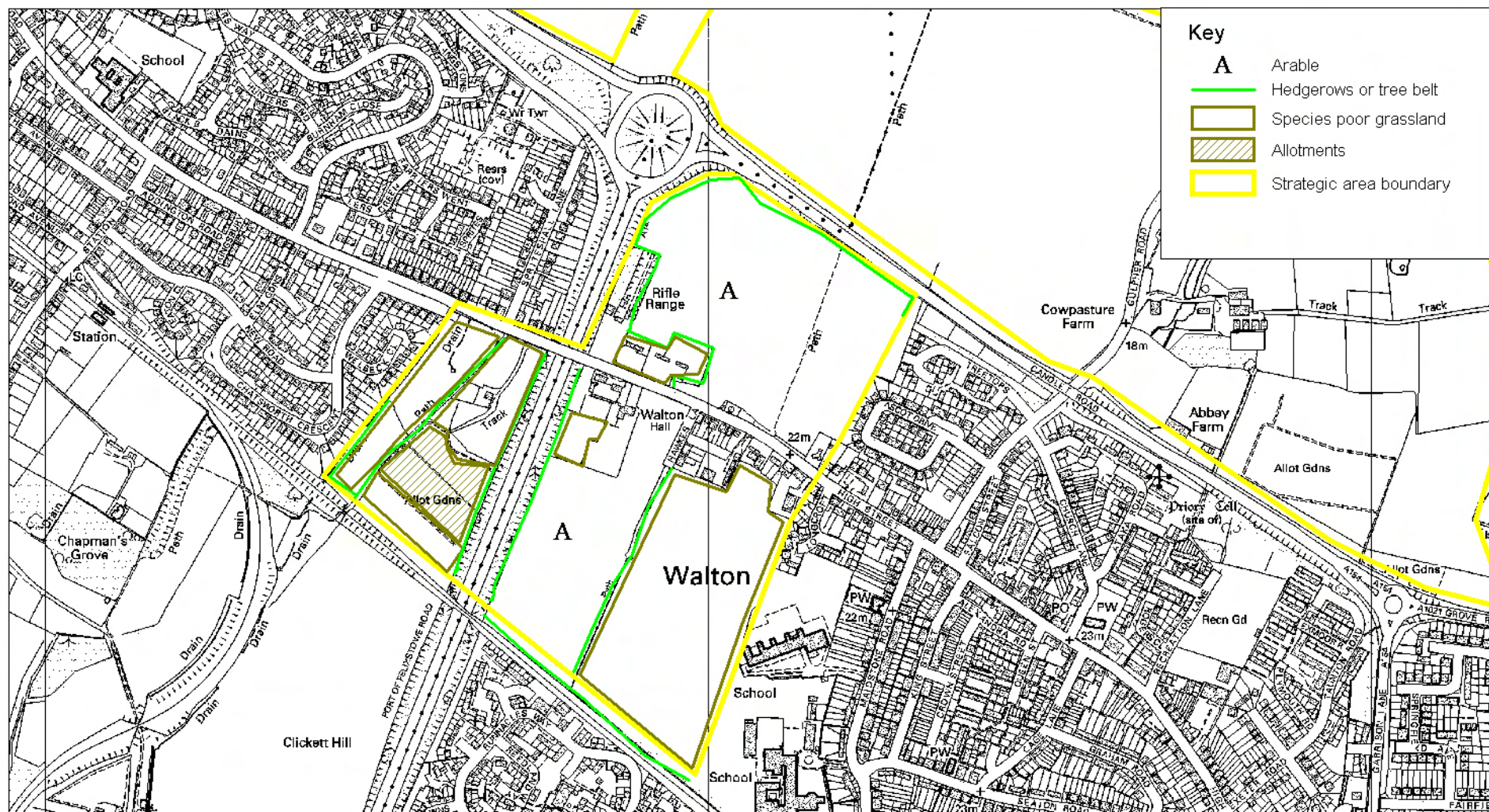


## Area 3

Habitats

Scale 1:9000

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## **4. Area 4: Land north of the Dock Spur roundabout and Candlet Road**

### 4.1 General description

Almost half of the site is in arable production with narrow headlands and hedgerows. East of Gulpher Road the site consists primarily of horse paddocks associated with the equestrian centre of Cowpasture Farm and allotment gardens. Other land uses include a golf range, stable blocks, industrial units and a derelict area containing caravans and vehicles. Semi-natural wildlife areas were small in comparison but contained a variety of habitats that included ponds, scrub, plantations and meadows.

### 4.2 Footpaths

A footpath bisects the main arable block and runs along the northern edge of the field. At Abbey farm there is a footpath that runs around the allotment gardens, through the horse paddocks and into the Grove woodland.

### 4.3 Surrounding land

Most of the sites southern boundary was adjacent to the built environment of Walton except for a strip of farmland and the amenity areas bordering Clickett hill and the open countryside and flood plain of the Orwell estuary. In a north-easterly direction there is open countryside all the way to the Deben estuary. Immediately east of the site lies the Grove woodland and a new community woodland planted by the Woodland Trust.

### 4.4 Habitats

#### 4.4.1 Arable land

There was a large arable field planted with cereals, beans and potatoes. There was a minimum of three skylark territories and several brown hares were observed (BAP species).

#### 4.4.2 Hedgerows and tree belts

Hedgerows, trees and scrub were a key feature of this site. An overgrown hedge with elm scrub and bramble surrounded the allotment gardens. Along Candlet Road there was a wide bramble verge and a young tree belt on the embankment containing a variety of tree species. There was a tall bushy hedge along part of Gulpher Road and a number of trees and scrub was associated with the ponds and watercourse at Cowpasture Farm. The arable land also contained good quality hedges.

The structural diversity provided by these habitats would provide sanctuary, breeding and feeding places for a wide range of wildlife.

#### 4.4.3 Species poor grassland

- Horse paddocks

The equestrian centre of Cowpasture Farm formed a significant part of the land use of this site. These areas were low in wildlife value; however, house sparrow (BoCC species) and swallow (summer migrant) were using the site.

- Golf range

This short mown area was low in wildlife value.

#### 4.4.4 Allotment gardens

Allotments can be of vital importance to wildlife, often supporting valuable habitats for a range of plants, invertebrates and birds. They are also important links in green corridors.

The allotments on this site were well used with all plots culminating in a varied assemblage of plants and associated wildlife.

#### 4.4.5 Woodland

To the east of the allotment gardens is Abby Grove, a community woodland planted in 1998 by the Woodland Trust, as part of its Woods on your doorstep project. The woodland has been planted with native broadleaved species.

#### 4.4.6 Ponds and watercourse

The two ponds contained a variety of aquatic and emergent plants such as common reed, amphibious bistort, yellow iris and curled pondweed. There were sticklebacks in the ponds, breeding birds included mallard and moorhen and there were several damselfly species and emperor dragonflies present. The shallow watercourse meandered around the meadows towards the Grove woodland.

The ponds and associated scrub and mature willow trees were very good habitat areas for a wide variety of wildlife.

### 4.5 Wildlife Corridors/Ecological networks

Despite all the varying land uses, the site provides excellent connectivity with the wider countryside that borders the flood plain of the Deben estuary. In an east west direction the site links unbroken countryside.

### 4.6 Ecological Constraints

#### 4.6.1 Designated sites

There are no designated sites within Strategic Area 3.

#### 4.6.2 Biodiversity Action Plan habitats without a site designation



No habitats were recorded which fell into this category.

#### 4.6.3 Protected and Biodiversity Action Plan species

There were several skylark and one song thrush territories; both are UK and Suffolk BAP species. In addition several brown hares were observed.

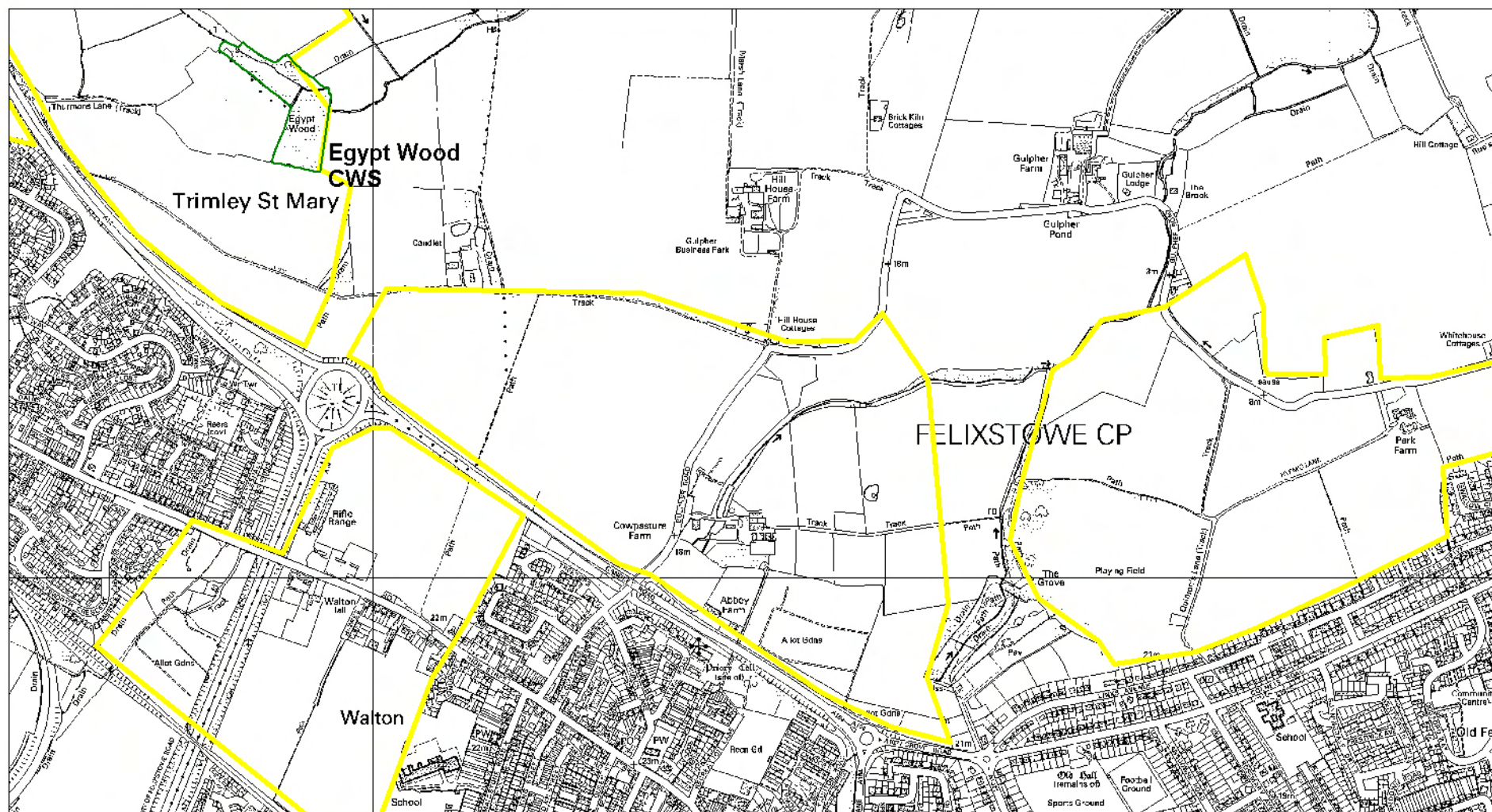
Potential BAP species that could be using the site include, turtle dove, bullfinch, linnet and pipistrelle bat.

The horse paddocks and mature trees could be supporting bats. All bats are fully protected under the UK (wildlife & Countryside Act (1981) and European law (Conservation (natural Habitats, & c) Regulations 1994).

Scale 1:12500



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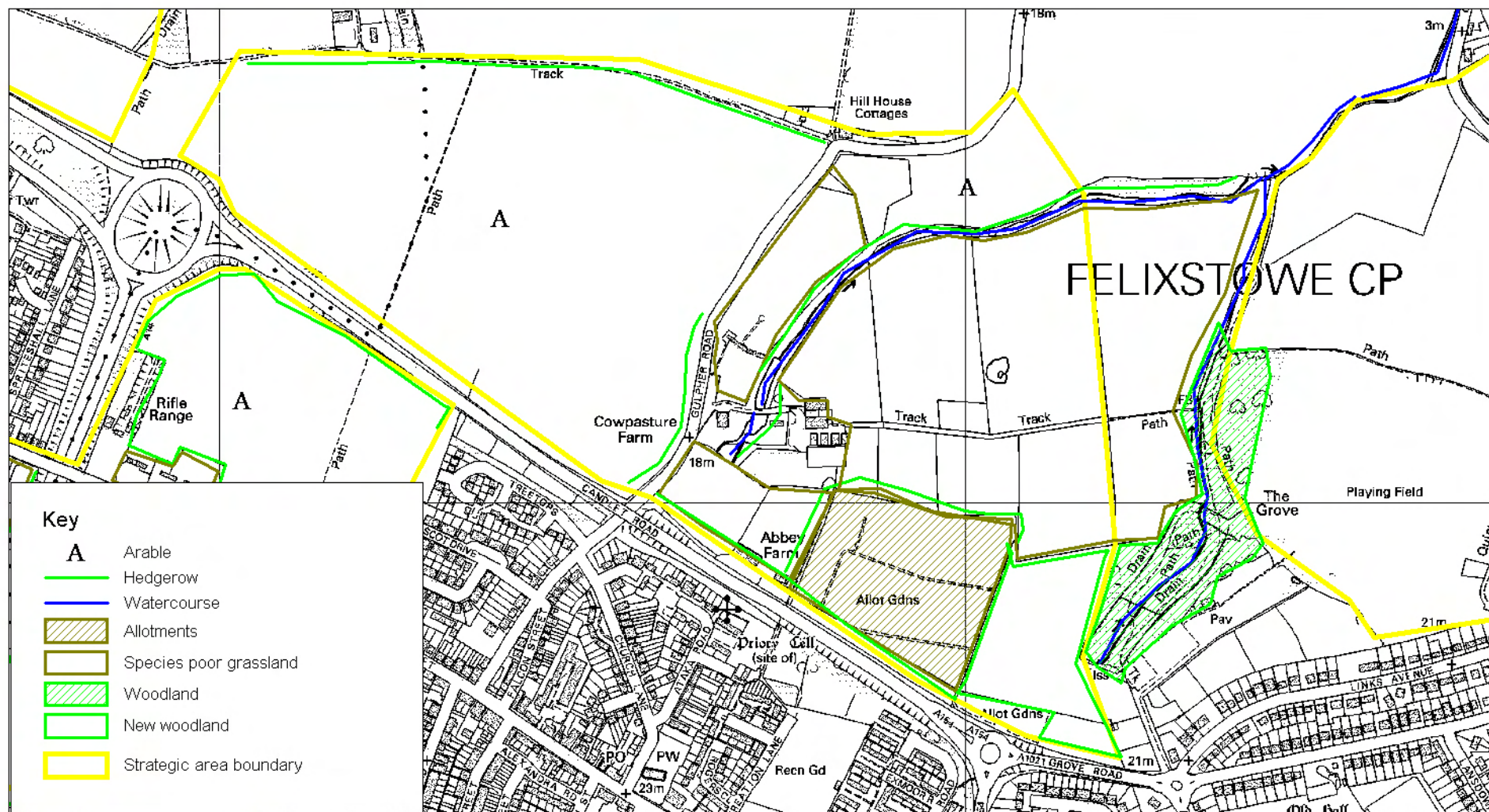
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## Area 4

Habitats

Scale 1:8000

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## **5. Area 5: Land on the northern outskirts of Felixstowe, south of Gulpher Road**

### 5.1 General description

The site is predominantly arable. To the west is the Grove woodland and a large playing area whilst to the north of Gulpher Road there are a few small grazing meadows. In the east of the site there are allotment gardens and a small woodland with a pond. Hedgerows are an important feature of the site.

### 5.2 Footpaths

There are a number of footpaths and tracks linking the site with neighbouring areas.

### 5.3 Surrounding land

To the south of the site is the built environment of Felixstowe and to the west the mature woodland of the Grove. North of the site is open countryside, predominantly arable, but with some grazing meadows.

### 5.4 Habitats

#### 5.4.1 Arable land

This large area of farmland contained several cornfields with very narrow headlands. Several pairs of skylark were the only BAP species using the site.

#### 5.4.2 Woodland

The mature deciduous woodland of the grove formed part of the western edge of the site supports a diverse range of invertebrates and birdlife. Near Fleet House corner there was a dense woodland and scrub area with mature willows and a variety of bushes including hawthorn and bramble. This habitat supported several summer migrants such as blackcap, chiffchaff and whitethroat.

#### 5.4.3 Hedgerows and trees

Hedgerows are important wildlife corridors in a farmland landscape and there were a number of hedgerows meandering through this site. The Quinton's Lane hedge, in particular, was broad, tall and bushy and comprised of a mixture of tree and scrub species. Mature oaks were also dotted about the field boundaries.

#### 5.4.4 Pond and watercourse

In the woodland, to the east of the site, there was a large shaded pond, which was potentially of wildlife value, however this was not surveyed due to the impenetrable nature of the surrounding scrub. A short length of watercourse formed the northwestern boundary of the site.

#### 5.4.5 Species poor grassland

- Grazing meadows

To the north of Gulpher Road there were a few small cattle grazed meadows.

- Amenity grassland

There was a large playing field between the Grove and Quinton's Lane, which was maintained as a short mown area and as a consequence was of low wildlife value.

#### 5.4.6 Allotment gardens

Allotments can be of vital importance to wildlife, often supporting valuable habitats for a range of plants, invertebrates and birds. They are also important links in green corridors.

The allotments on this site were well used with all plots culminating in a varied assemblage of plants and associated wildlife.

### 5.5 Wildlife Corridors/Ecological networks

The site links unbroken countryside with flood plain of the Deben estuary. The wildlife link is also via the hedgerows and trees associated with the field boundaries and tracks.

### 5.6 Ecological Constraints

#### 5.6.1 Designated sites

There are no designated sites within Strategic Area 3.

#### 5.6.2 Biodiversity Action Plan habitats without a site designation

No habitats were recorded which fell into this category.

#### 5.6.3 Protected and Biodiversity Action Plan species

There were several skylark territories; a UK and Suffolk BAP species.

Potential BAP species that could be using the site include, turtle dove, linnet, song thrush and pipistrelle bat.

The mature trees could be supporting bats. All bats are fully protected under the UK (wildlife & Countryside Act (1981) and European law (Conservation (natural Habitats, & c) Regulations 1994).





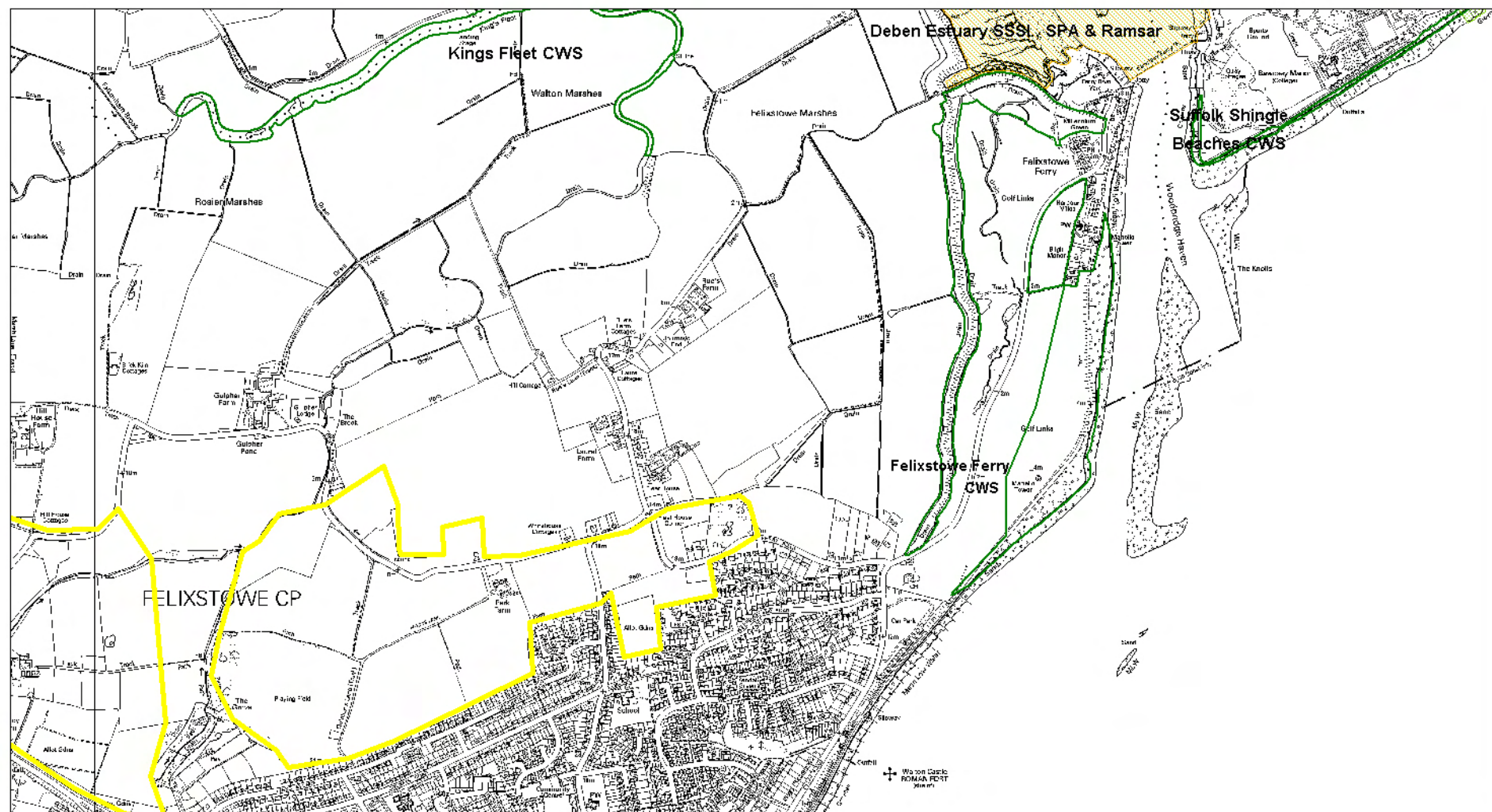
Farmland adjacent to Fleet House Corner

## Area 5

Designated Sites

Scale 1:17000

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Brooke House  
Ashbocking  
Ipswich IP6 9JY



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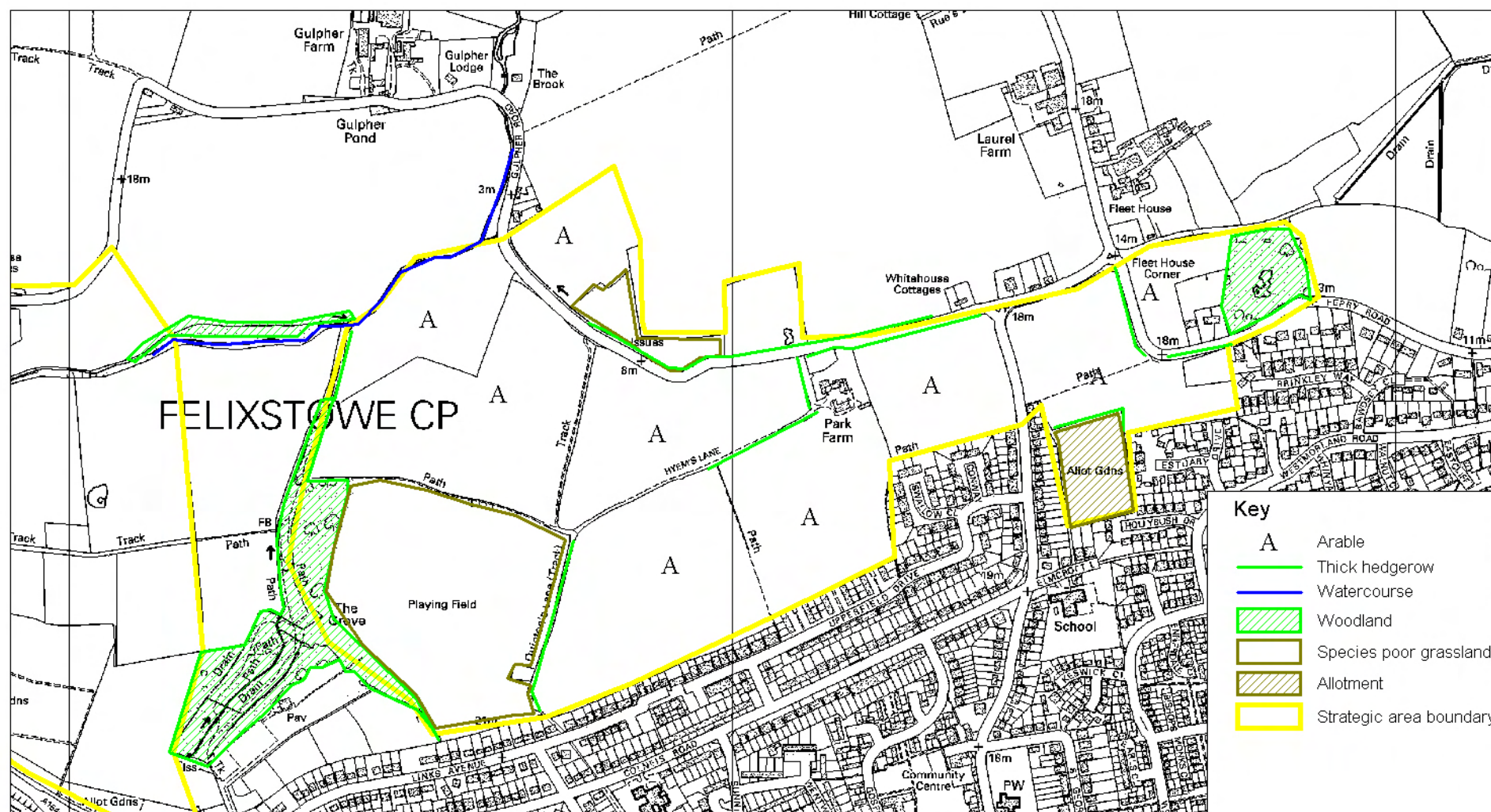


## Area 5

Habitats

Scale 1:9000

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## **6. Area 6: Land on the eastern outskirts of Trimley St. Martin immediately north of the A14**

### 6.1 General description

The area is predominantly of arable fields with narrow headlands and is planted with cereals and potatoes. The site is bounded by hedgerows; sections varied from being continuous and of hawthorn to those that were open with the occasional sprawling bramble bush. There are three small woodlands each containing mature trees. There is also an area of waste ground with brick rubble and several derelict buildings.

### 6.2 Footpaths

There are no public footpaths.

### 6.3 Surrounding land

The site is surrounded by unbroken open countryside, a large proportion of which is under intensive agricultural production. However, a network of hedgerows, mature trees, verges and headlands link the countryside. To the south of the site lies the flood plain and hinterland of the Orwell estuary and to the northeast the open countryside and flood plain of the Deben estuary.

### 6.4 Habitats

#### 6.4.1 Arable land

Primarily the site was farmland in arable production. There was a minimum of six skylark territories and five hares were observed, both of which are BAP species. Two pairs of oystercatcher were also found breeding in the potato fields.

Only one nationally important plant species was found which was dittander *Lepidium latifolium* but most of the plants were common species and confined to the narrow headlands.



Woodland at Croft House and in the distance derelict buildings and woodland

#### 6.4.2 Woodland

The woodland east of Croft House is dominated by mature oak, sweet chestnut and ash; in some areas the woodland has been replanted with sweet chestnut and ash. Many of the trees are clad in ivy. The ground flora is sparse but contains bramble and localised areas of bluebells. On the fringe of the wood there is a broad hawthorn hedge.

Two other small woodlands exist in the arable landscape and contained mature trees which included sycamore, oak, sweet chestnut, horse chestnut and elder. The ground flora was dominated by common cleavers and nettle with small patches of wood false brome.

A song thrush (BAP species) was recorded in the wood.

#### 6.4.3 Hedgerows

The site was almost entirely enclosed by a broad hawthorn hedge, which was very bushy in places; additional species included dead elm, elm scrub, field maple, gorse and bramble. There were a few open areas that contained bramble. At Innocence Farm there were a few mature oaks in the hedge-line.

#### 6.4.4 Other semi-natural areas

There were a number of derelict buildings, one of which had evidence, in the form of regurgitated pellets, of a barn owl (BAP species) using the site. In addition, there were two pairs of stock doves (amber listed species). Around the buildings were areas of silver birch, elder and bramble scrub along with piles of rubble.

The buildings could provide roosting opportunities for bats.

### 6.5 Wildlife Corridors/Ecological networks

This large area of farmland with its hedgerows, woodlands and boundary trees maintains unbroken open countryside between the floodplains of the Orwell and Deben estuaries.

A wildlife corridor link is provided via the hedgerow, headland and verge adjacent to the A14 trunk road.

### 6.6 Ecological Constraints

#### 6.6.1 Designated sites

There are no designated sites within Strategic Area 6.

#### 6.6.2 Biodiversity Action Plan habitats without a site designation

No habitats were recorded which fell into this category.

### 6.6.3 Protected and Biodiversity Action Plan species

Although barn owls were not seen during the site visit, it was evident that they are using one of the derelict buildings for roosting. Barn owls are protected under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act (1981).

There were a minimum of six skylark territories and a single song thrush was noted in one of the woodlands. Both these species are UK and Suffolk BAP species.

Potential farmland BAP species that could be using the site include bullfinch, linnet, grey partridge and turtle dove.

The derelict buildings and boundary oaks could be supporting bats. All bats are fully protected under the UK (Wildlife & Countryside Act (1981) and European law (Conservation (natural Habitats, & c) Regulations 1994).

Distributed throughout the site were brown hares; five were observed during the site visit. This is a UK and Suffolk BAP species.

The verge along the A14 trunk road could support common lizard and they could be present in the wider area, which contained derelict buildings and brick rubble. Reptiles are protected under the Wildlife & Countryside Act (1981) from killing and injury.

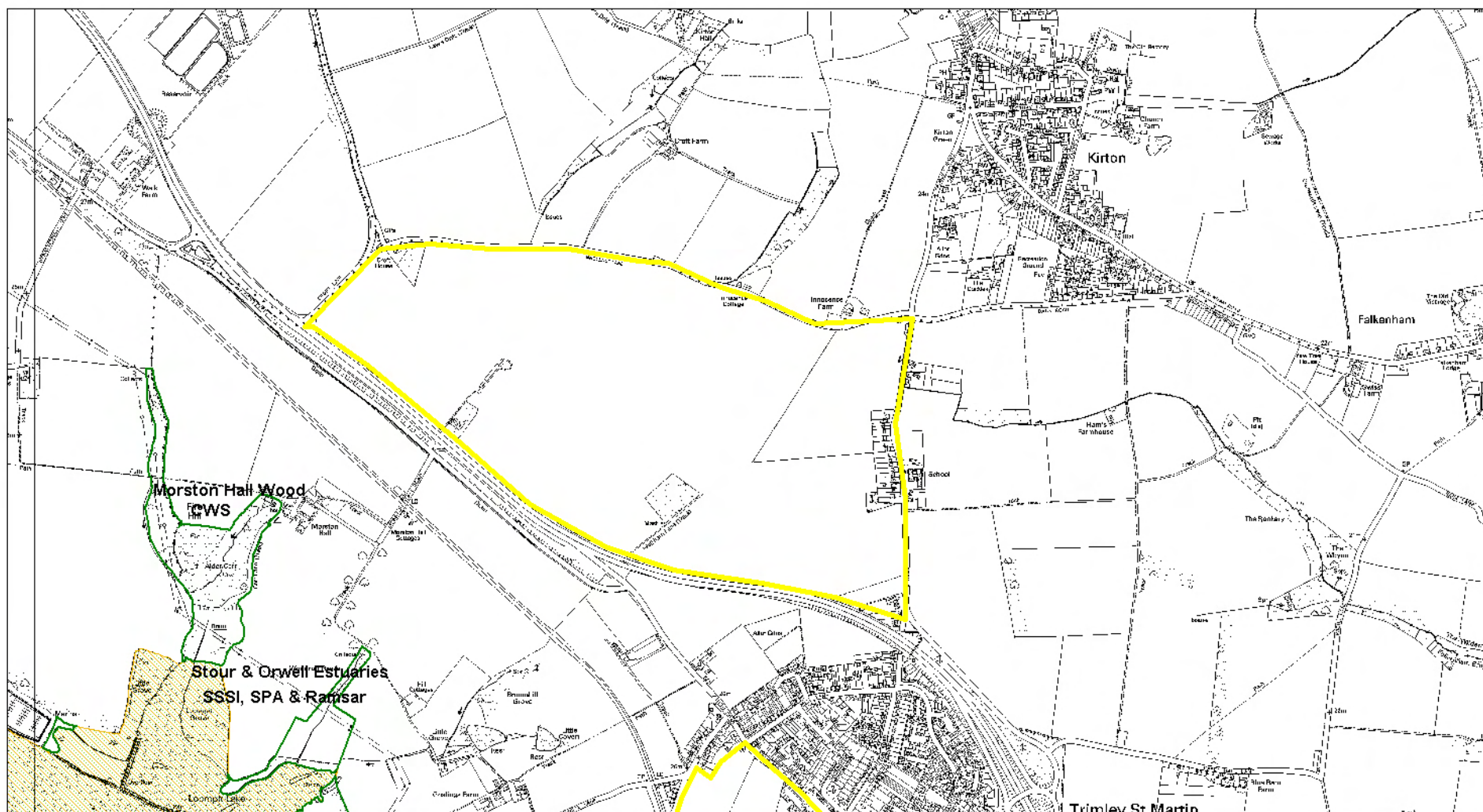
Stag beetles have been recorded within this area. This is a UK and Suffolk BAP species.

## Area 6

Designated Sites

Scale 1:17500

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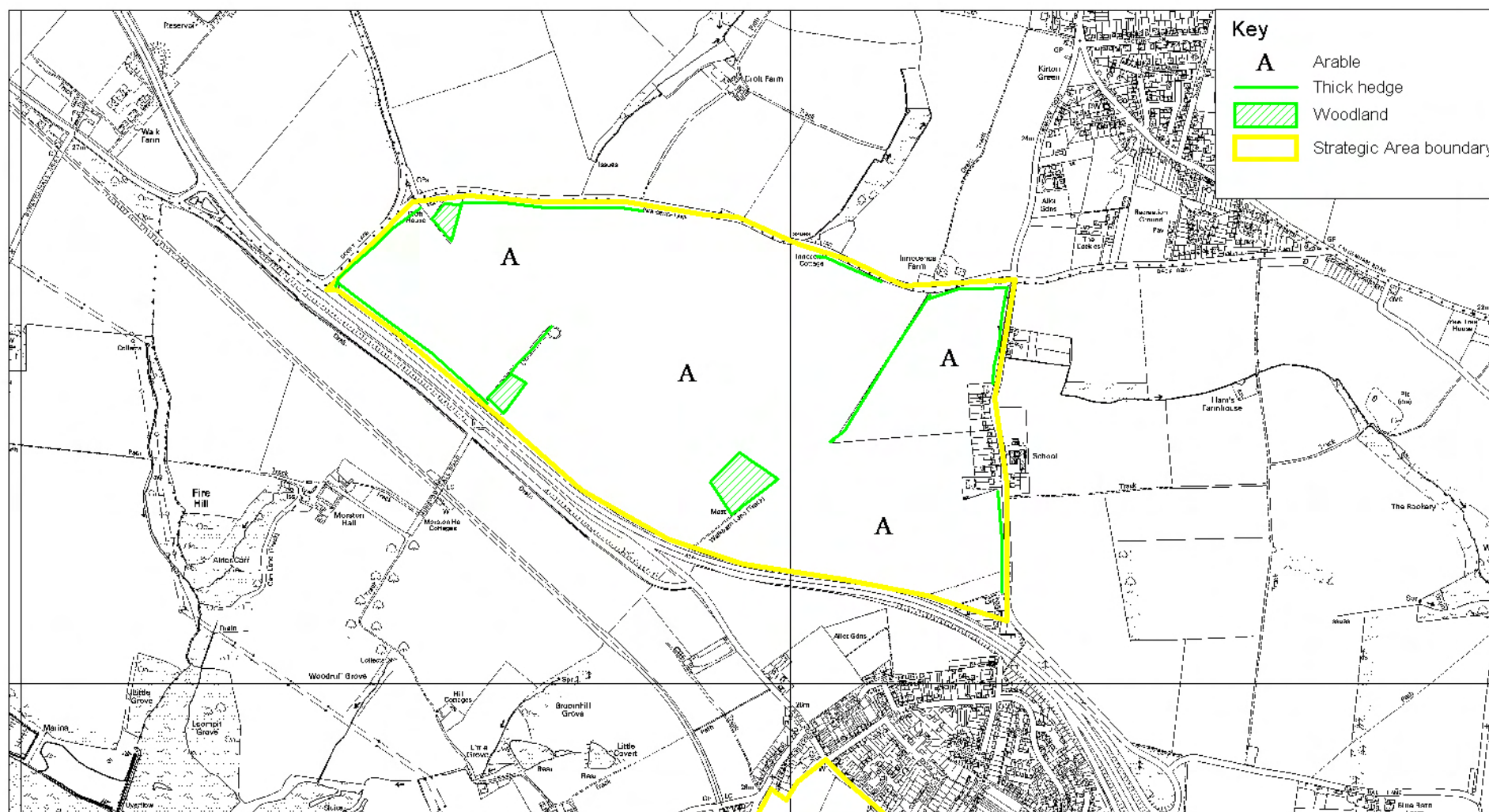
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## Scale 1:15500

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Ecological Networks

Felixstowe Strategic Area

Scale 1:20000

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