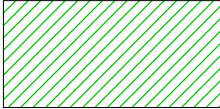


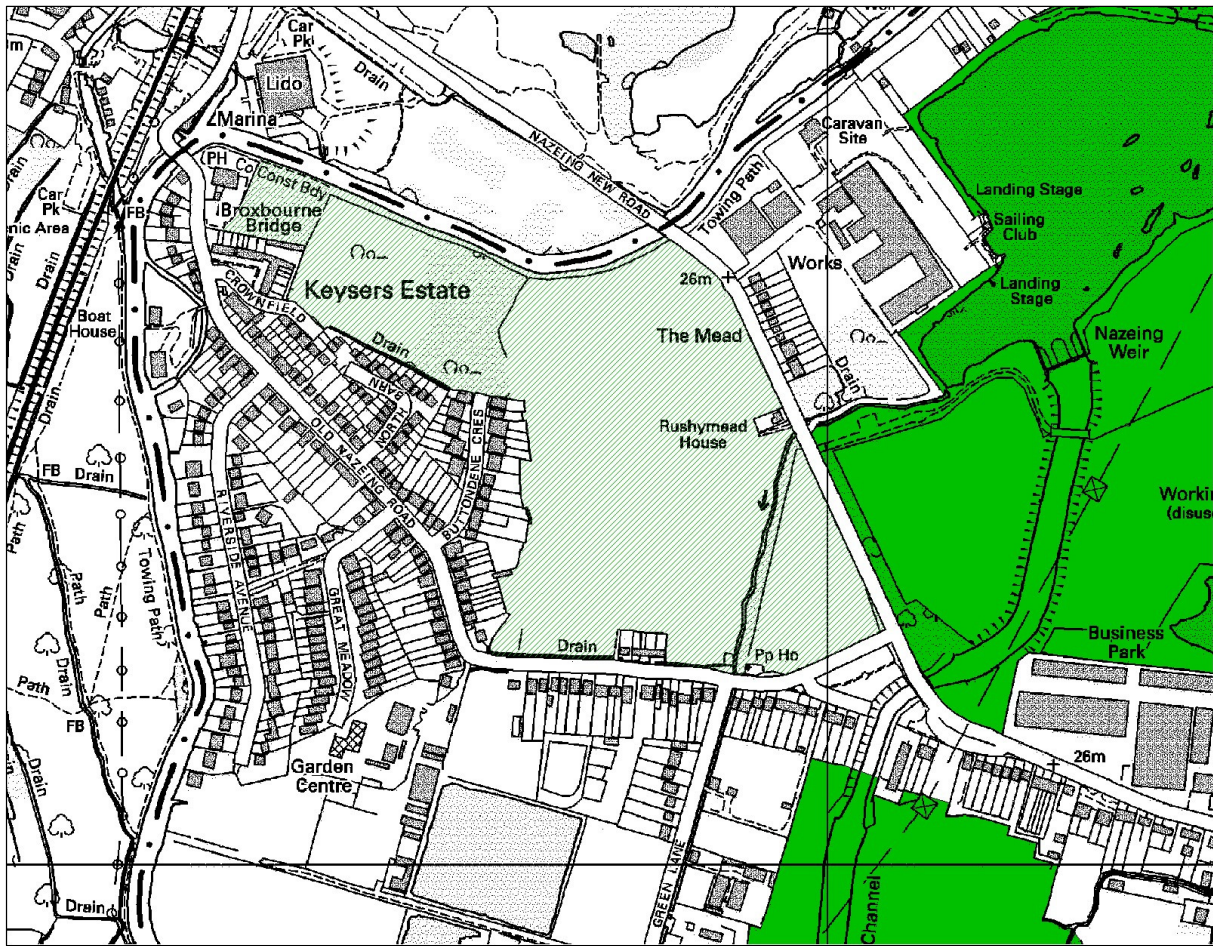


APPENDIX 3

REGISTER OF POTENTIAL WILDLIFE SITES

KEY

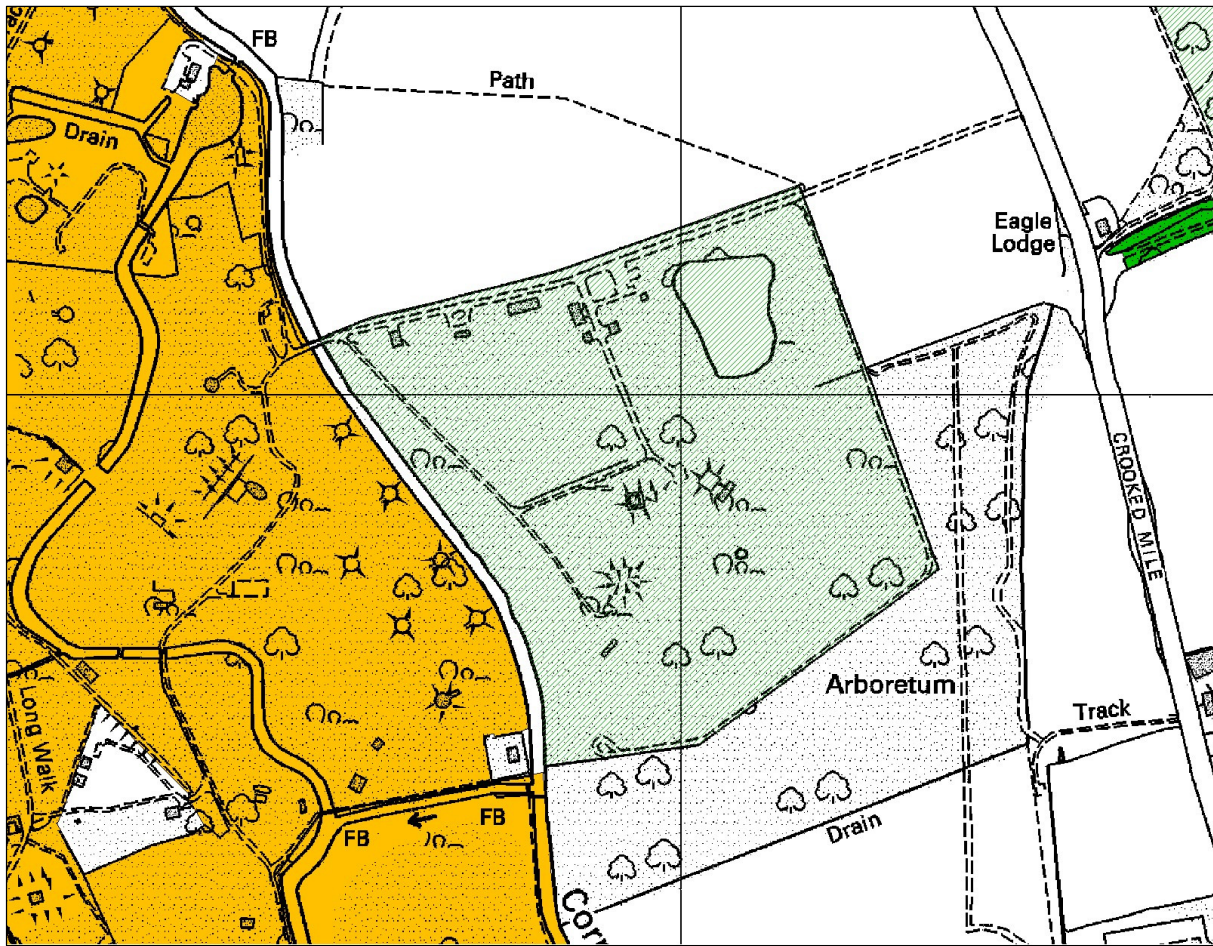
	Potential LoWS
	LoWS
	SSSI



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PEPLoWS1 Keyzers Mead (17.7 ha) TL 377064

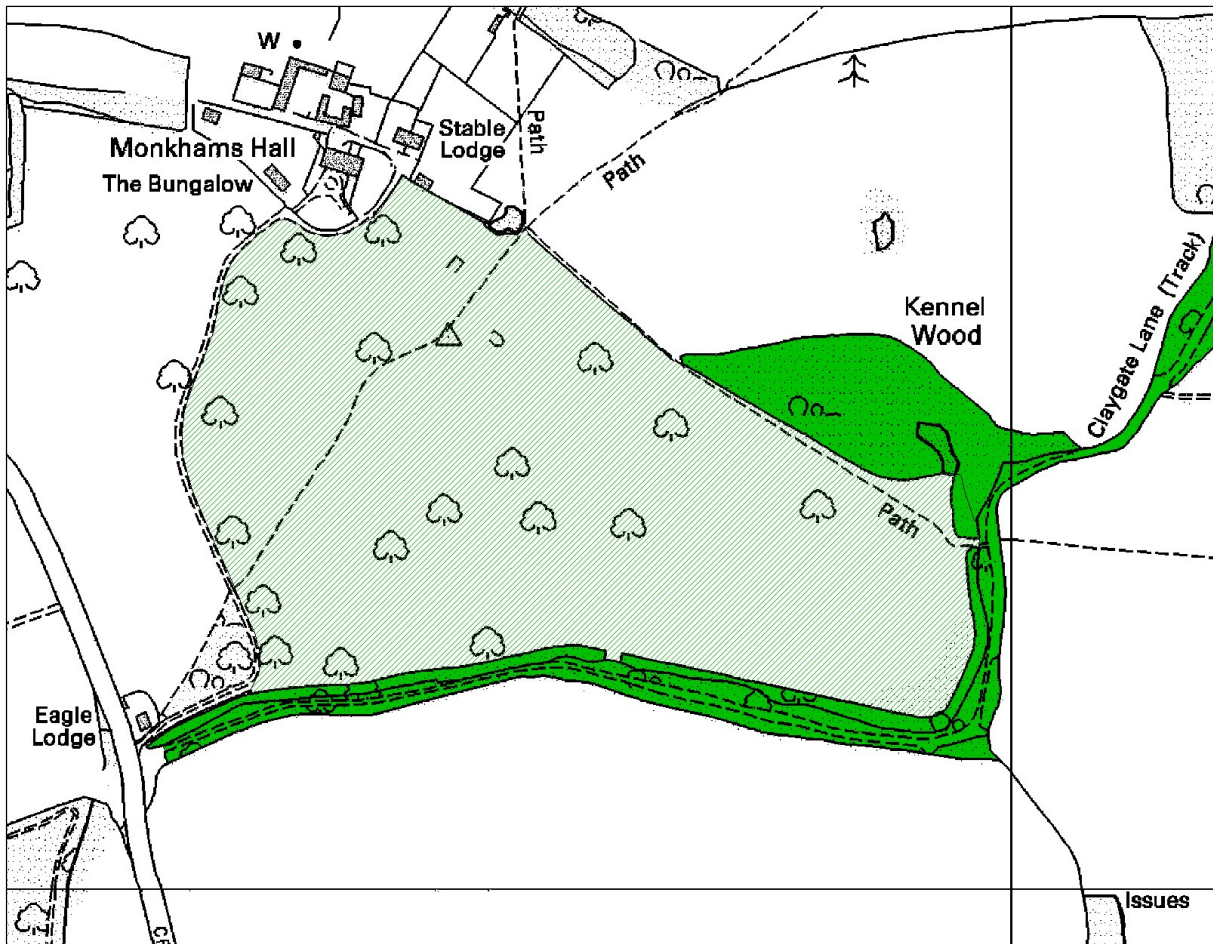
This area of recent broadleaved woodland, scrub and rough grassland may be of importance for invertebrates and reptiles and is likely to also support a good range of breeding birds. More detailed survey work over several seasons is likely to be necessary to fully assess the value of this site.



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PEpLoWS2 Crooked Mile Mosaic (12.5 ha) TL 379019

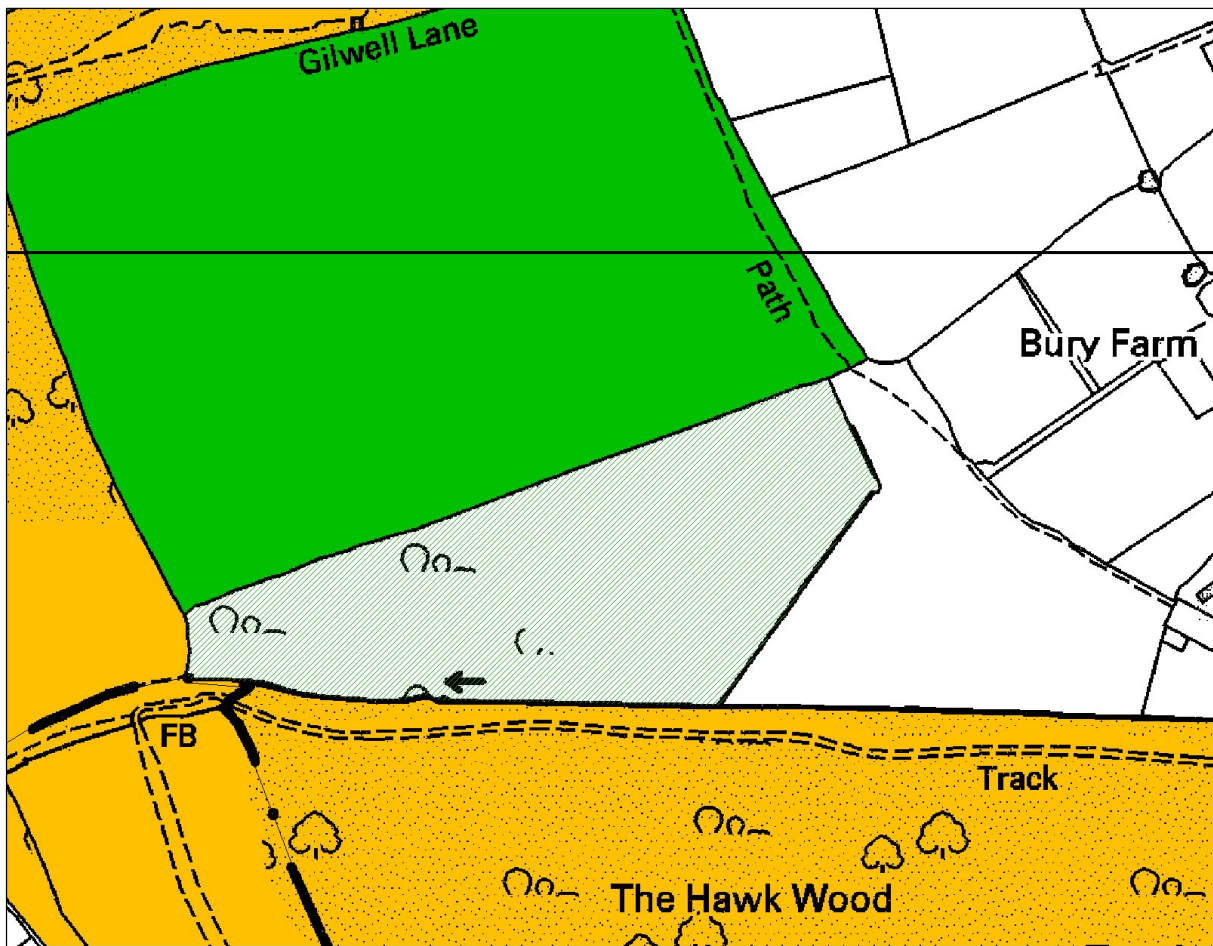
This site was identified as a SINC in 1992, on the premise that it was a mosaic of varied habitats adjacent to a SSSI. More detailed survey work, focussing on invertebrates, reptiles and amphibians is needed to clarify this alleged wildlife interest before this site can be reconsidered. Management to improve habitat structure and diversity would also be desirable.



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PEpLoWS3 Monkham's Hall Parkland (16.3 ha) TL 386023

Areas of parkland can be selected under criterion HC4 if they possess veteran trees and/or an interesting ground flora can be selected. Here, the rather thin scattering of trees and the more modest age of the trees means that the inherent invertebrate interest of veteran trees cannot be taken for granted. Specific survey work may show that this site has significant invertebrate value, at which point it could be considered for upgrading to full LoWS status.



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PEpLoWS4 Yardley Hill East Meadow (3.7 ha) TQ 386958

This site is a former SINC that has fallen into neglect and decline. Its citation was as follows:

“Yardley Hill East Meadow forms a habitat extension to the woodland of the bordering Epping Forest SSSI. The horse-grazed grassland comprises two main stands, one dominated by Oraches (*Atriplex* spp.) and Bent-grasses (*Agrostis* spp.) with Rushes (*Juncus* spp.) and Sedges (*Carex* spp.), the other area being dominated by a mixture of Bent-grasses, False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) and Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*). Species of note include Pepper-saxifrage (*Silaum silaus*), Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*) and Crested Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*).”

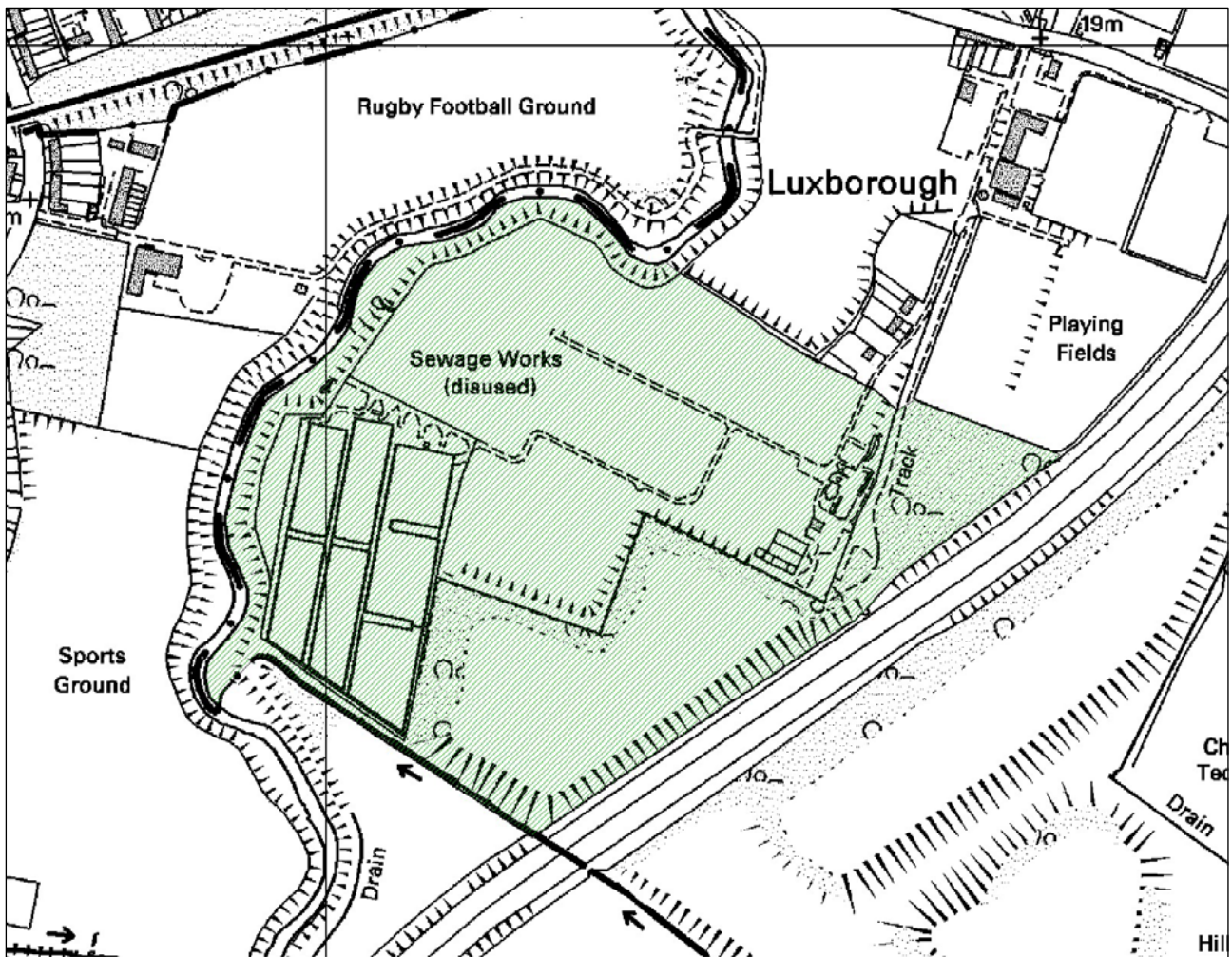
The site is now heavily scrubbed over in the western half and comprises species-poor rough grassland to the east. Restorative management may improve the site sufficiently for it to be re-considered as a LoWS in the future.



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PEpLoWS5 High Beach Deer Park (12.4 ha) TQ 402988

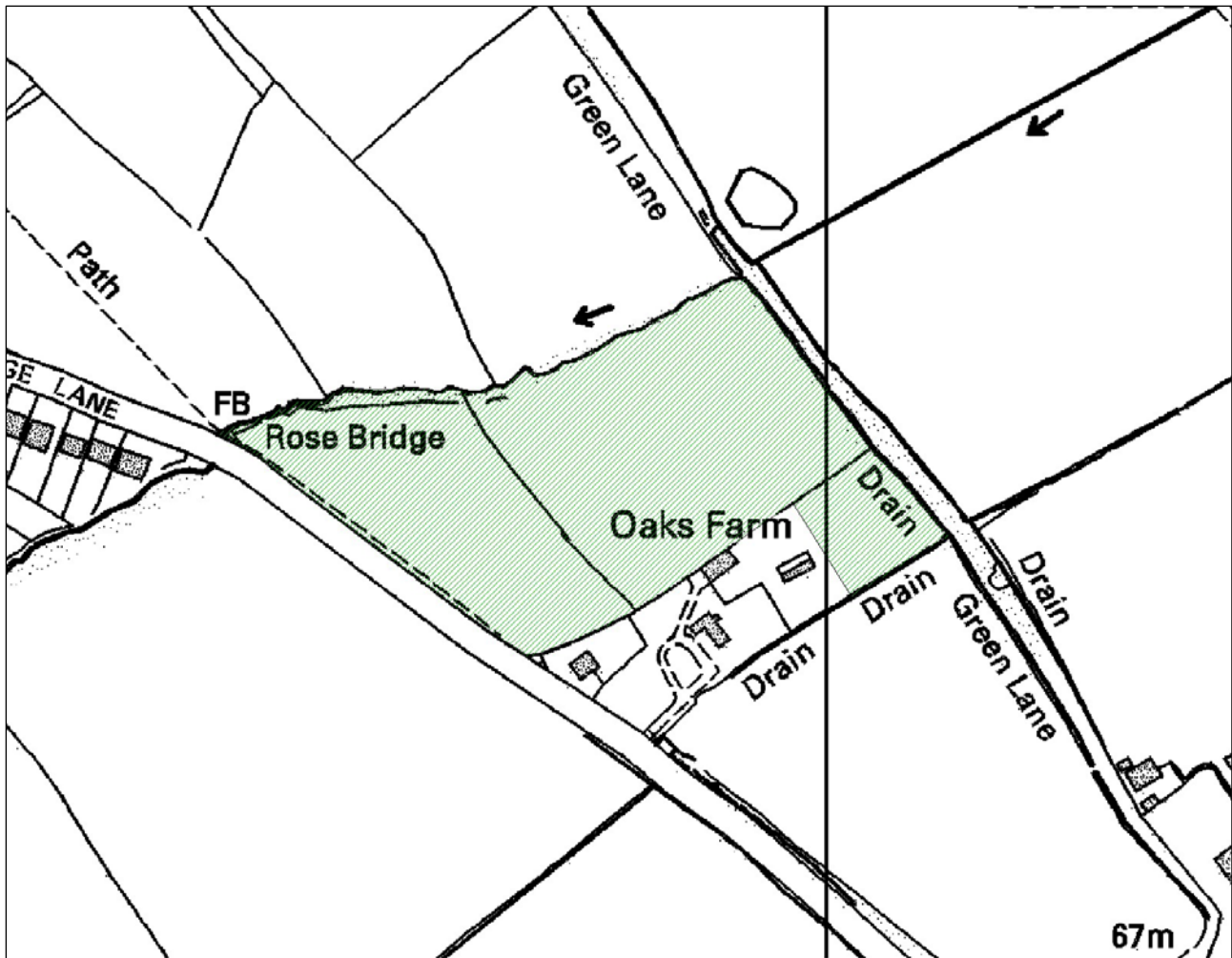
Areas of parkland can be selected under criterion HC4 if they possess veteran trees and/or an interesting ground flora can be selected. Here, there is a rather thin scattering of trees even though some of them are large and have dead wood in the crown and the inherent invertebrate interest of veteran trees cannot be taken for granted. Specific survey work may show that this site has significant invertebrate value, at which point it could be considered for upgrading to full LoWS status.



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PEpLoWS6 Luxborough Sewage Works (18.7 ha) TQ 422926

This seemingly disused sewage works site is a form of brownfield habitat and may well be of importance for invertebrates, reptiles, nesting birds and other wildlife. However, considerable survey effort will be required to verify this claim before it can be considered for full LoWS status.



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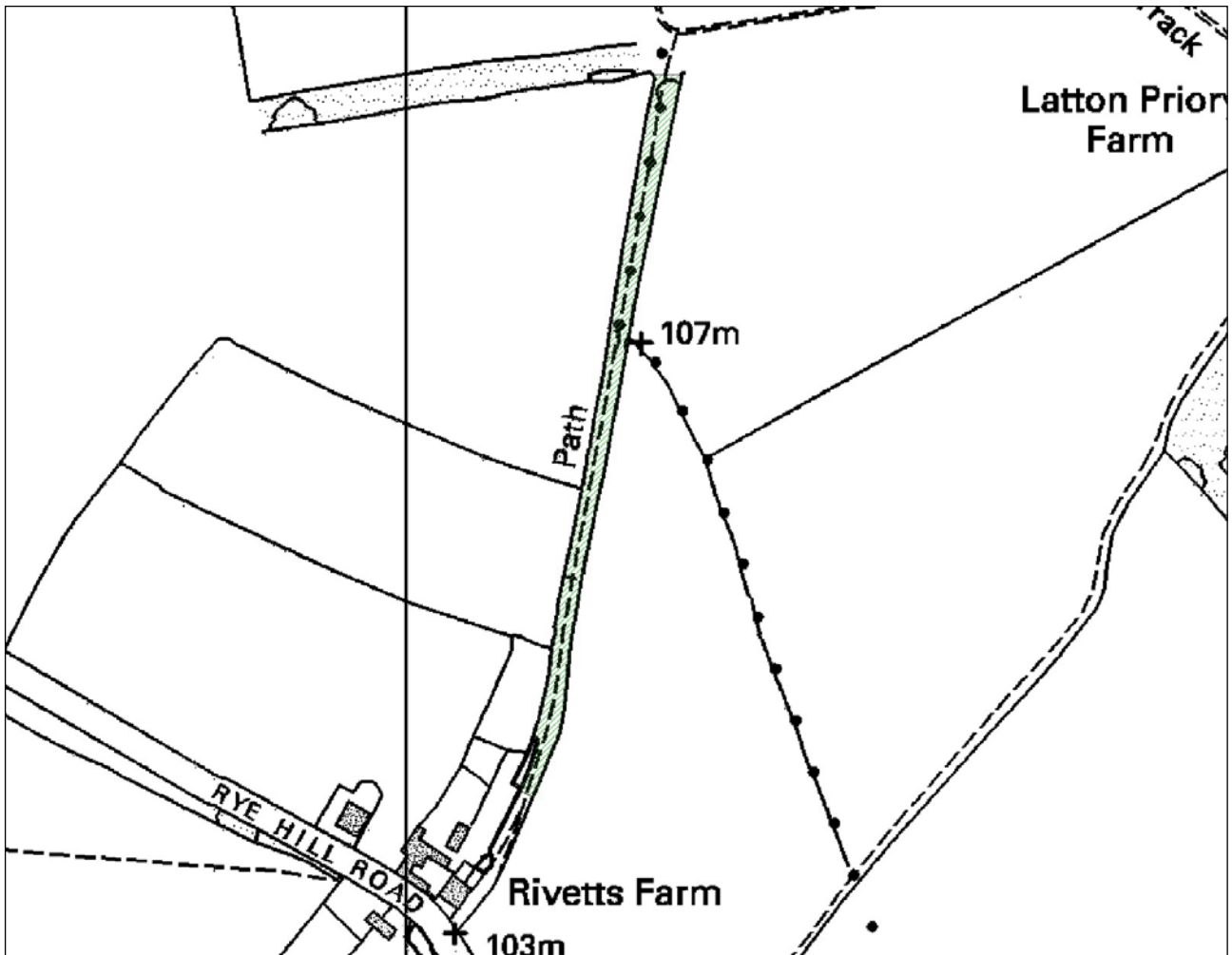
PEpLoWS7 Oaks Farm, Chigwell (3.9 ha) TQ 448935

The small square of land to the east of Oaks Farm was identified as a SINC in 1992, and was described as follows:

“Oak Farm Meadow, recently grazed after lying unmanaged for several years, now supports a mix of Bent-grass (*Agrostis* sp.) and Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*) with some Rush (*Juncus* sp.) present in the east. The presence of Sneezewort (*Achillea ptarmica*) suggests this to be a relict unimproved grassland, a rare habitat in Essex.”

Whilst this old grassland status may well hold true, the old SINC now comprises dense scrub, with very little open grassland. The larger blocks of grassland are rough and unmanaged but a single plant of Sneezewort was found during the current survey, suggesting that these fields may also be old grassland.

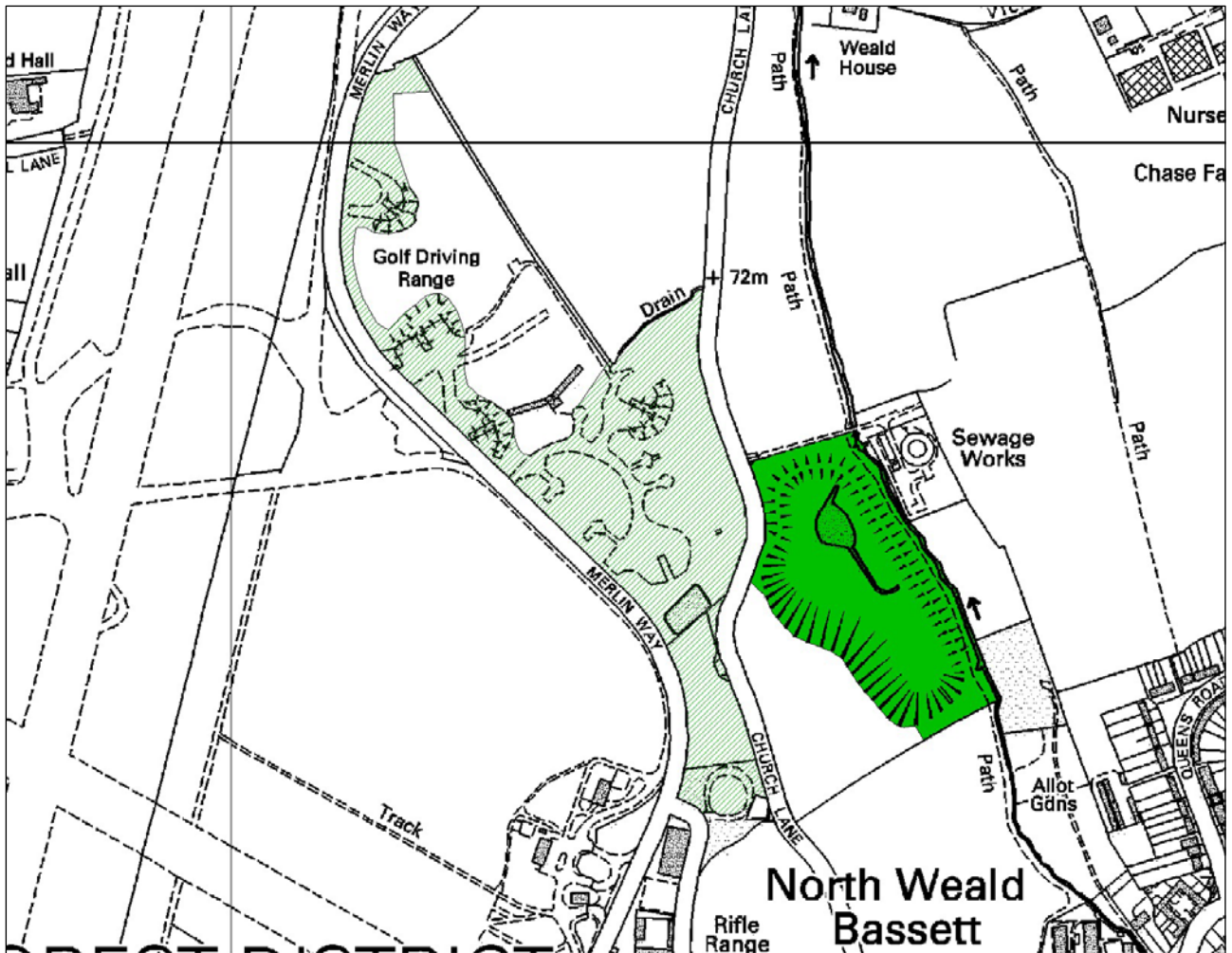
However, some restorative management is needed to improve the condition of the site before it can be assessed for adoption as a LoWS.



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PEpLoWS8 Rivetts Farm Lane (0.4 ha) TL 461063

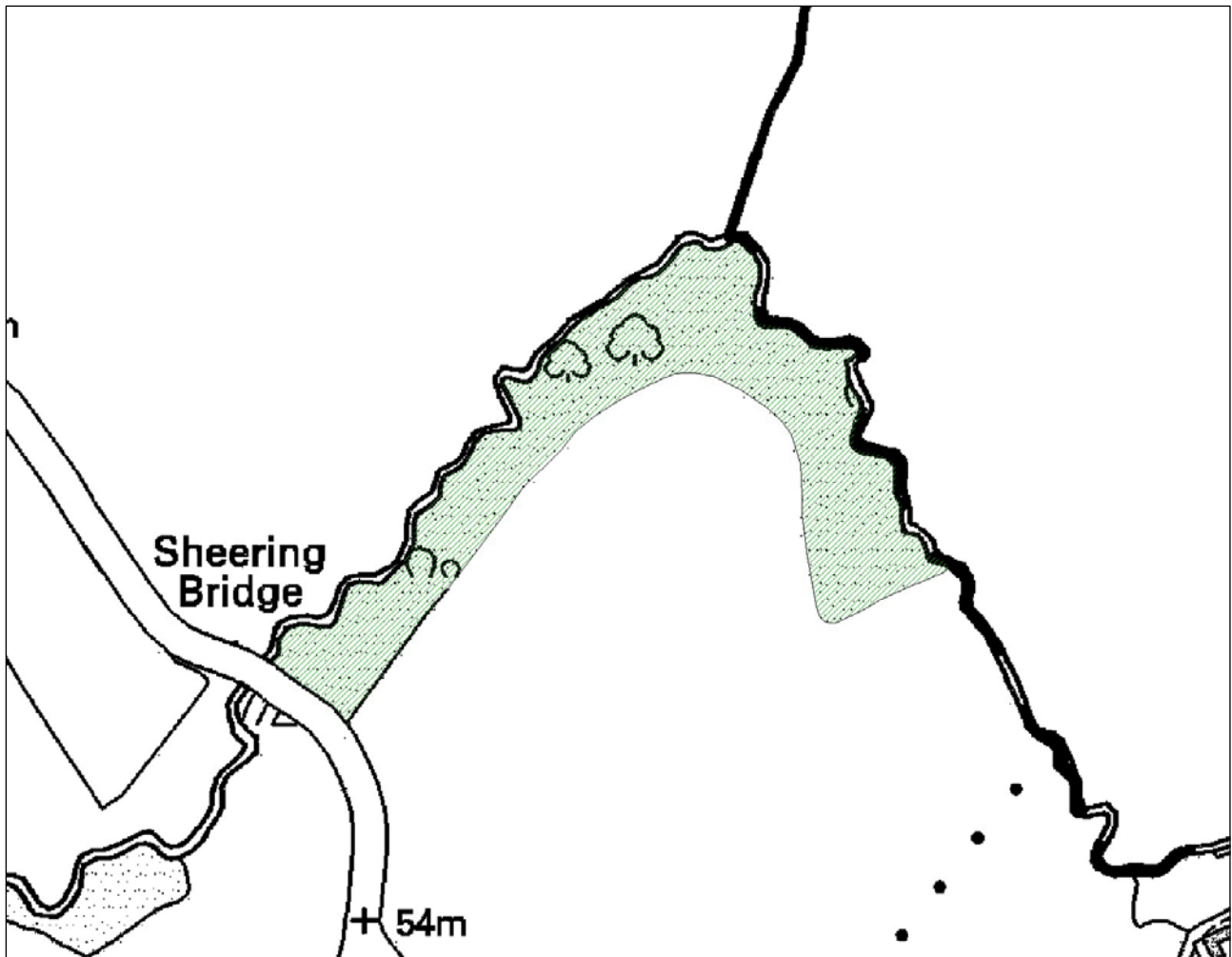
It has been suggested that this short section of lane supports species of high conservation value, such as Dormouse and Glow-worm. Specific survey work is needed to clarify this situation. The lane is rather short to act as much of a wildlife corridor, as is argued for the several, much longer lanes that have now been adopted as LoWS.



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PEpLoWS9 Merlin Way Brownfield (6.1 ha) TL 492047

This site comprises rough grassland, spoil and disturbed ground associated with old banks and hard standing on the periphery of the old war-time airfield. Such habitats are well known for supporting rich assemblages of invertebrates and may also be home to reptiles and amphibians, but some specific survey work is needed to gain data on the actual wildlife present before LoWS status can be proposed. The amount of brownfield habitat is very much more restricted than the Blunts Farm LoWS at Theydon Bois.

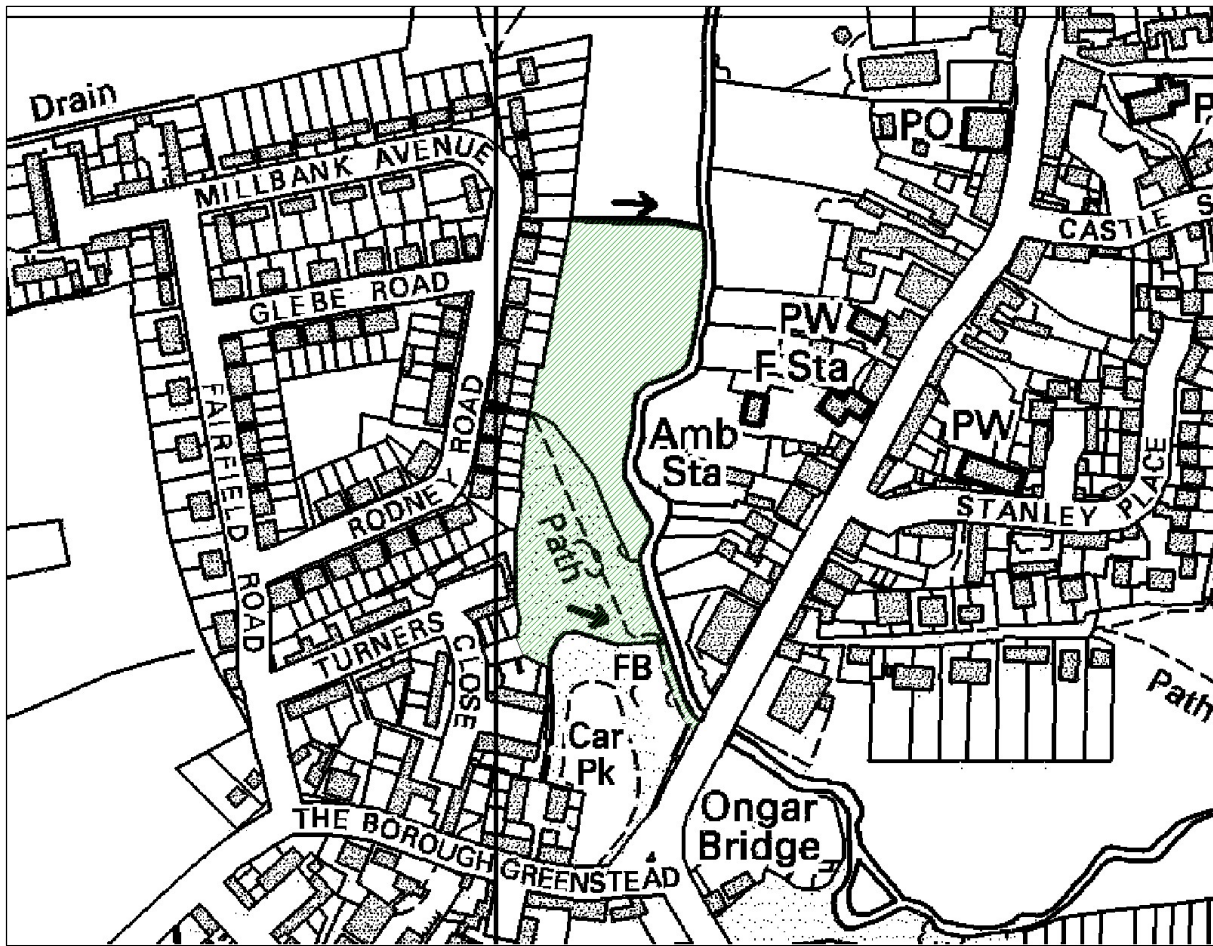


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PEpLoWS10 Sheering Bridge Marsh (1.8 ha) TL 513133

This site is a former SINC that has now deteriorated in quality, with scrub and tree cover having now largely eliminated the interesting marshland flora beneath. Restorative management could, however, restore the site so that it might be reconsidered in the future. The old SINC citation read as follows:

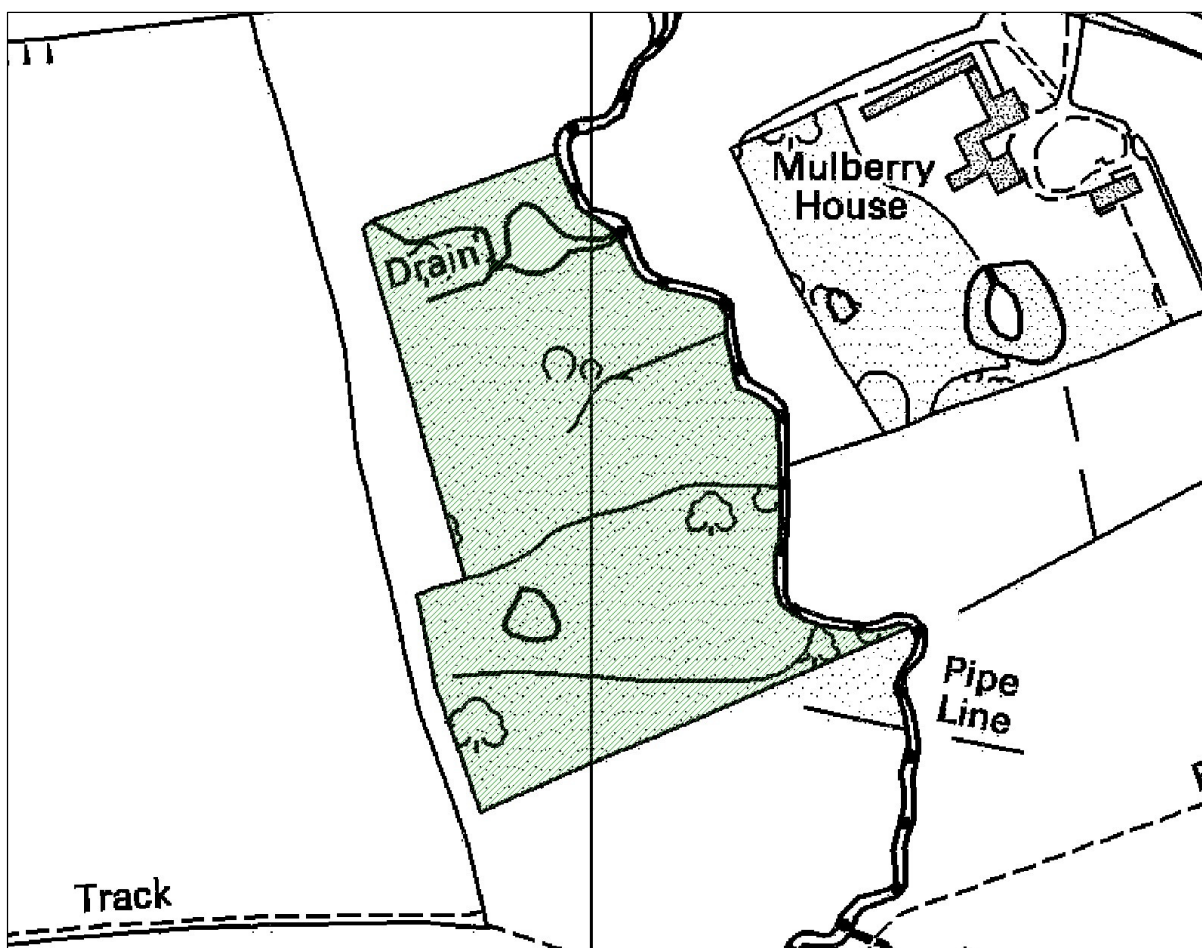
“Sheering Bridge Mosaic is a streamside site comprising two main areas of planted Willow (*Salix* sp.), mixed with indigenous Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), separated by wet neutral grassland dotted with Marsh Marigold (*Caltha palustris*), Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*) and Purple-loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*). The site also includes a bed of Lesser Pond-sedge (*Carex acutiformis*) close to Sheering Bridge.”



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PEpLoWS11 Cripsey Brook Nature Reserve (1.3 ha) TL 550027

This site is being promoted as a nature reserve by Epping Forest District Council and doubtless has a useful role to play in terms of an urban wildlife “experience” for local residents, but it is not thought to have sufficient interest to qualify as a LoWS at present. In recent years it has developed into a mosaic of close-grazed grassland and scrub. Whilst Kingfisher and Water Vole are known to utilise the adjacent brook, this site is not a key part of the ecology of these species.

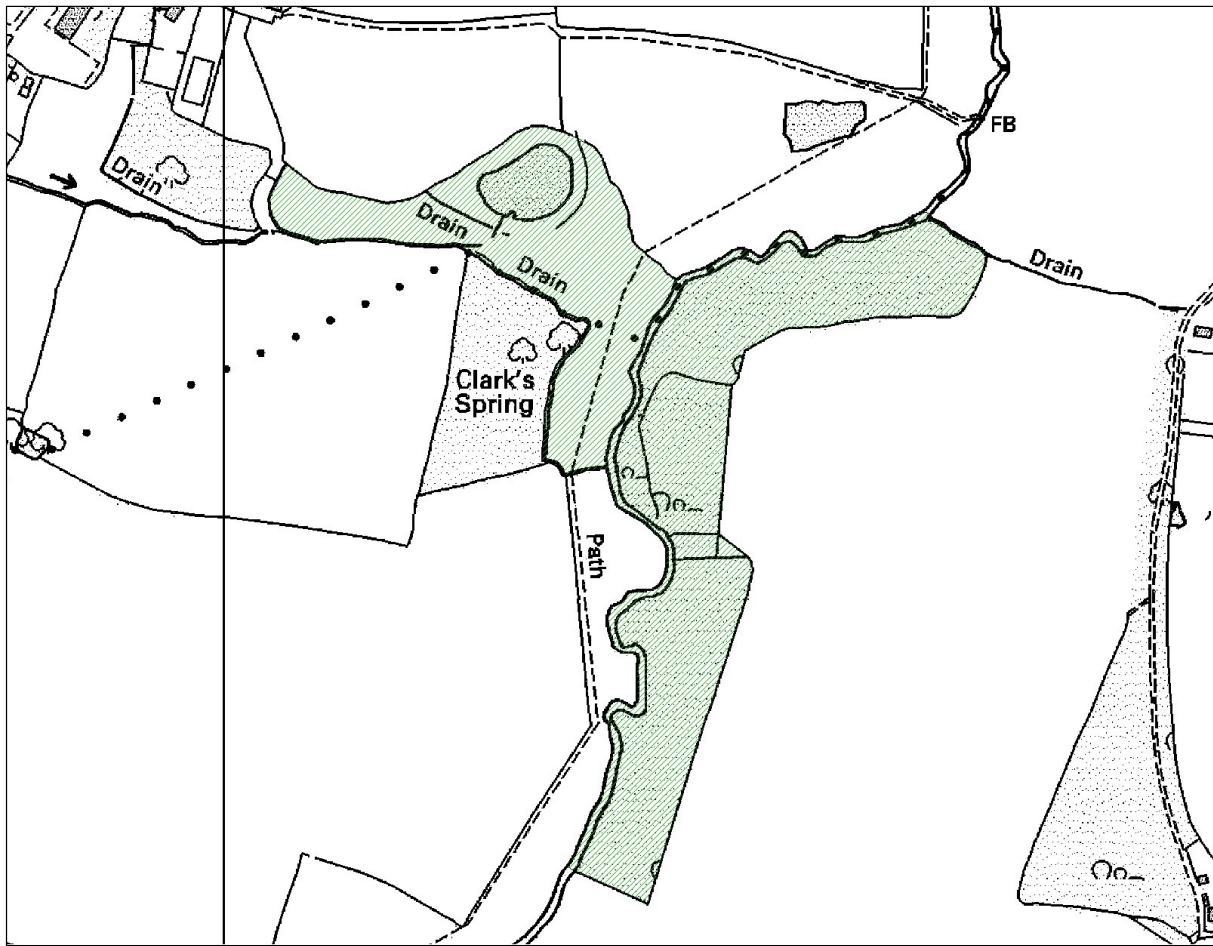


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PEpLoWS12 Rectory Meadow (3.7 ha) TL 560037

This site is a former SINC that has now deteriorated in quality, with scrub and tree cover having now largely eliminated the interesting marshland flora beneath. Restorative management could, however, restore the site so that it might be reconsidered in the future. The old SINC citation read as follows:

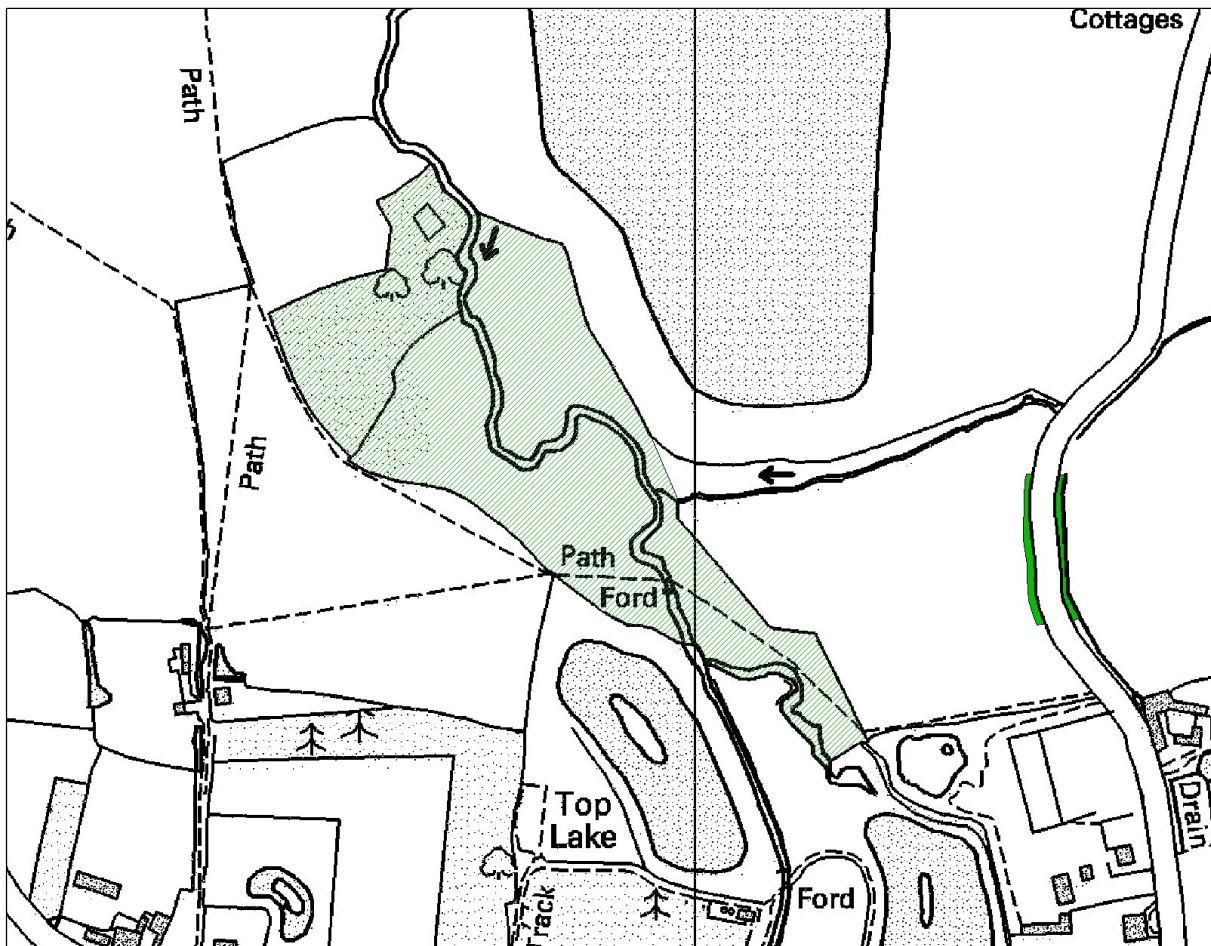
“Rectory Meadow is a planted woodland with a thin canopy over rank grassland and ruderals. The main tree species is Willow (*Salix* sp.), whilst the grassland is characterised by neutral species such as Meadow Foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*), Meadow Vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*) and Rough Meadow-grass (*Poa trivialis*). Damper areas of the site support Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*), Reed Canary-grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), Lesser Pond-sedge (*Carex acutiformis*), Brown Sedge (*Carex disticha*), Hairy Sedge (*Carex hirta*) and Greater Pond-sedge (*Carex riparia*). Pignut (*Conopodium majus*) has also been recorded.”



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PEpLoWS13 Clark's Spring Mosaic (7.8 ha) TL 563044

A number of interesting plants have been recorded from this site in the past, including the water-crowfoot *Ranunculus circinatus*, which is a scarce Essex plant. Further survey work is needed to determine the current status of the critical species, along with features such as invertebrate populations, before LoWS status can be considered.



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PEpLoWS14 Beauchamp Roding Marsh (4.4 ha) TL 588093

This is a former SINC that has deteriorated in quality, but restorative management may return it to a condition whereby it could be reconsidered as a LoWS. Its SINC citation read as follows:

“This site, located adjacent to the infant River Roding, supports an extensive stand of Ragged Robin (*Lychnis flos-cuculi*) and Marsh Valerian (*Valeriana dioica*). Other water-dependent species include Marsh Marigold (*Caltha palustris*), Lady's Smock (*Cardamine pratensis*) and Branched Bur-reed (*Sparganium erectum*).

The drier parts of the site contain a wide range of grasses including Sweet Vernal Grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Crested Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*), Cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*) and the uncommon Meadow Brome (*Bromus commutatus*). Hairy Oat-grass (*Helictotrichon pubescens*), a grass usually associated with calcareous soils (mainly in NW Essex) has also been recorded.”

The presence of Hairy Oat-grass should be viewed with some scepticism and may be a mis-identification.