

Summary of Written Representations from Norfolk Wildlife Trust

Submitted for Deadline 1: 26th February 2026

Planning Act 2008 (as amended)

In the matter of:

Application by National Grid Electricity Transmission for the Norwich to Tilbury Project

Planning Inspectorate Ref: EN020027

Norfolk Wildlife Trust Registration Identification ref: [REDACTED]

Norfolk Wildlife Trust (Registered charity no. 208734) has more than 40,000 members and is dedicated to the conservation of wildlife and restoration of the natural environment in Norfolk. We recognise the need for new electricity transmission infrastructure to facilitate the transition to renewable and low-carbon electricity generation and supply in the UK. Our interest in the National Grid Electricity Transmission grid reinforcement scheme that is the subject of this DCO application ('the Project') relates to its impacts on wildlife and ecology in Norfolk, both in terms of existing wildlife and ecological features and the potential ecological enhancements to make a meaningful contribution to nature recovery.

Throughout the progress of the Norwich to Tilbury project Norfolk Wildlife Trust has engaged with National Grid and their project team to discuss our areas of concern. Through this process we have already seen changes made to the scheme design alleviating some concerns.

Our written representation provides further detail on the following:

- We have ongoing concerns about Meadow Wood candidate County Wildlife Site (CWS) and the surrounding habitat. We recommend further assessment of alternative routes is undertaken.
- We support Suffolk Wildlife Trusts concerns around The Waveney and Little Ouse Landscape Recovery Project (WaLOR) & the crossing of the River Waveney Valley, principally relating to the proposed river restoration works.
- Bats, notably barbastelle, may be impacted by hedgerow loss as commuting routes are severed. We advocate for monitoring of these to provide further certainty in their effectiveness.
- Norfolk Wildlife Trust are interested in the delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain. Firstly, it must be remembered that Biodiversity Units are a proxy for biodiversity value; the Project should be delivering a biodiversity legacy which offers genuine long-term biodiversity benefit to Norfolk, Suffolk, and Essex. The delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain should focus on those areas identified by the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

It is the view of Norfolk Wildlife Trust that any habitat defined as providing compensation for a loss of nesting bird habitat should not contribute beyond no-net-loss. We therefore ask that National Grid provide suitable evidence of both mitigation and compensation in relation to how these are considered regarding Biodiversity Net Gain.

- Norfolk Wildlife Trust recommend that, as part of the DCO process, an Ecological Advisory Group (EAG) is established

Norfolk Wildlife Trust will continue to work with the Applicant on these concerns and seek to ensure the best possible outcomes for biodiversity and nature recovery, which can in part be delivered by following the recommendations made within our Written Representation, where more detail on the above comments is provided.



Written Representations

from
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1. Introduction

Norfolk Wildlife Trust (Registered charity no. 208734) has more than 40,000 members and is dedicated to the conservation of wildlife and restoration of the natural environment in Norfolk. We recognise the need for new electricity transmission infrastructure to facilitate the transition to renewable and low-carbon electricity generation and supply in the UK. Our interest in the National Grid Electricity Transmission grid reinforcement scheme that is the subject of this DCO application ('the Project') relates to its impacts on wildlife and ecology in Norfolk, both in terms of existing wildlife and ecological features and the potential ecological enhancements to make a meaningful contribution to nature recovery.

Norfolk Wildlife Trust is supportive of renewable energy and associated infrastructure required to upgrade the electrical network, providing impacts on wildlife and habitats can be avoided through careful siting, design and high-quality mitigation. However, we have some concerns about the Norwich to Tilbury scheme's impacts on biodiversity.

Norfolk Wildlife Trust has engaged with the National Grid Project Team, and their ecological consultants, regarding the Project as part of and alongside the pre-application process. Our comments below detail the areas of interest and concern which will be the focus of our representations and engagement as part of the DCO application process.

We note that new information may come to light during the Examination process and reserve the right to comment on additional matters to those detailed below should this be necessary to support our goal of securing the best possible outcomes for wildlife and biodiversity.

Our ecological concerns centre around the impacts of the overhead line route through Norfolk on designated nature conservation sites, irreplaceable habitats, and protected species. Our focus during the Examination will be on securing comprehensive mitigation and compensation for potential impacts.

2. General Concerns and Comments

We acknowledge that through route selection and design, significant effort has been made to avoid crossing or impacting protected wildlife sites in Norfolk.

However, based on the information provided within the Application we remain concerned regarding the potential impacts to important habitats within protected and important sites for biodiversity and nature recovery. While we are satisfied that efforts to minimise impact have been made, we remain concerned about the following impacts:

- Meadow Wood candidate County Wildlife Site (CWS) and Norton's Wood CWS
- The Waveney Valley, where overhead lines cross the WaLOR project
- Bats
- Biodiversity Net Gain

Norfolk Wildlife Trust expect a strong adherence to the mitigation hierarchy when it comes to biodiversity:

- Avoid impacts where possible
- Mitigate during works to minimise impacts
- Compensate for any impacts made
- Enhance to leave a net gain for biodiversity

Norfolk Wildlife Trust wish to extend our support to those comments made by Suffolk Wildlife Trust and Essex Wildlife Trust within their Written Representations.

Norfolk Wildlife Trust strongly suggest the establishment of an Ecological Advisory Group (EAG) to advise on the design and implementation of ecology and biodiversity compensation and mitigation associated with the construction and operational lifetime of the proposed Norwich to Tilbury Project.

The EAG should comprise representatives of at a minimum district and local councils (or their future equivalents), statutory bodies (including Natural England and the Environment Agency), and non-statutory nature organisations (including Suffolk, Norfolk, and Essex Wildlife Trusts). We believe that an overarching group united by jointly agreed principles and ambitions could support focussed discussions which may provide the best possible biodiversity outcomes for the project.

3. County Wildlife Sites

County Wildlife Sites (CWS), sometimes referred to as Local Wildlife Sites in other counties, play a vital role in conserving biodiversity within Norfolk. The CWS designation is non-statutory, but it recognises the high value of a site for wildlife, which is unlikely to meet the criteria for a SSSI. However, many CWSs are of county, regional or even national importance. They are often designated because they support characteristic or threatened species or habitats. Sites may be privately or publicly owned and vary in size and shape from small meadows, green lanes, dykes and hedges to much larger areas of ancient woodlands, heathland, greens, commons and marshes.

The protection afforded to CWSs, as a non-statutory site, is less than a statutory site (such as a Site of Special Scientific Interest). However, as recognised sites of biodiversity interest there remains a requirement, as part of EN-1¹ and notably EN-5² for their consideration and protection as part of the Norwich to Tilbury Project.

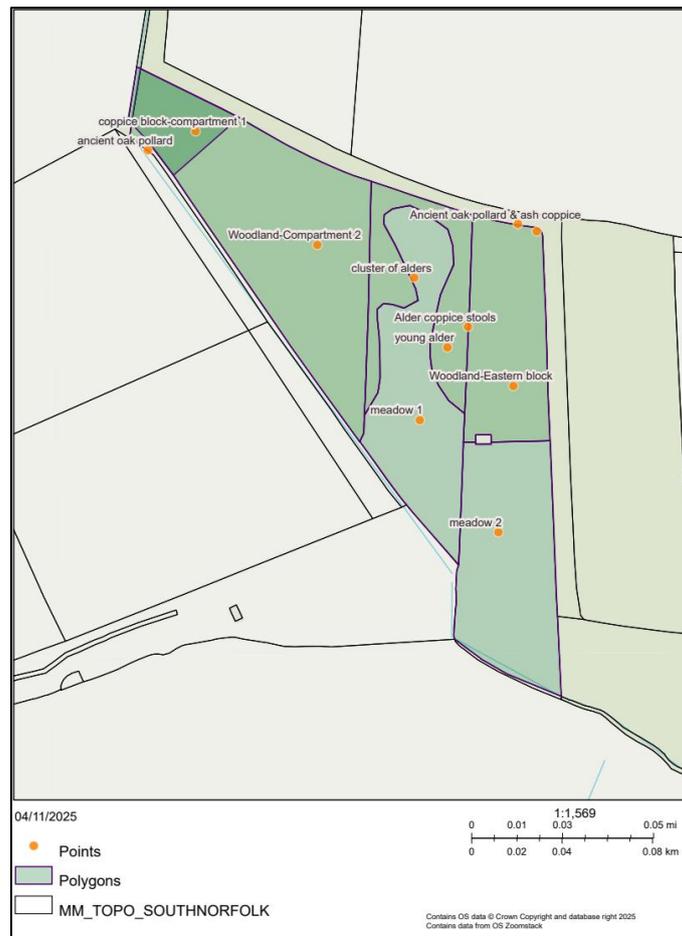
Norfolk Wildlife Trust acknowledge that National Grid has, where reasonably possible, sought to avoid direct impacts to CWSs through design (demonstrated by changes made during and following previous consultations). Where impacts occur, reasonable measures are put forward in line with the Mitigation Hierarchy. However, we do put forward further comment below regarding the potential impacts on CWSs within Norfolk.

Meadow Wood Candidate CWS

We have concerns regarding the proposed pylon route between pylon 48 and 49 which will impact Meadow Wood Nature Reserve (as shown on the map below in dark green shading). Following a botanical survey of the site conducted by NWT in June 2025, Meadow Wood Nature Reserve was found to meet the criteria for designation as a County Wildlife Site; specifically the 'mosaic' criterion 1, 2 and 3 (see [CWS HANDBOOK 2014](#)). The site has now been approved for designation in the annual 2026 CWS update and will be ratified by the CWS Partnership in March. We attached the complete survey results in Appendix A.

¹ Department for Energy Security & Net Zero, Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1), December 2025.

² Department for Energy Security & Net Zero, Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-5), December 2025.



Our CWS survey recorded the eastern block of woodland (as shown on map above) as UKHab w1f, 30, possible 26. This section is possibly an ancient wood pasture, characterised by historic pollards and coppice stools on the boundary ditches with younger woodland within the parcel. In the northern part of the woodland, where the land rises slightly, Ancient Woodland Indicator species include wood anemone *Anemone nemorosa*, pignut *Conopodium majus*, primrose, common spotted orchid *Dactylorhiza fuchsii*, and bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*. NWT are currently supporting the landowner to apply to Natural England to for this land to be designated as Ancient Wood Pasture.

Adjacent to the east is a similar strip of woodland with historic features potentially indicating it may also be Ancient wood pasture. A track runs north of the site with historic pollards and overstood coppice. We recognise that these two areas do not have official designation, but we point out that they are of great value. Ancient wood pastures are irreplaceable habitats which must be protected. Their long-standing presence, species and form serve as a rich cultural record of past management practices, and they provide food, shelter and breeding sites to large numbers of species including birds, bats, fungi and insects, which are often restricted in their distribution.

Sheet 8 of 13 of the Trees and Hedgerows to be Removed or Managed Plans – Section A³ shows the degree of tree loss associated with the proposed alignment. The arboricultural impact assessment⁴ (“AIA”) provides (p. 28 and 29 of Figure A12.6.1, the Landscape and Visual Arboricultural Impacts Plan, Annex D of the AIA) specific detail on the particular trees and groups affected. Individual trees and groups can be cross referenced against Annex C, the tree schedule of the AIA. This shows the high arboricultural value of some of these individuals to be removed or managed. For example, T1181 is a mature English oak of category A2 which will need to be

³ Examination library reference: [\[APP-048\]](#)

⁴ Examination library reference: [\[APP-236\]](#)

removed entirely. G402 to G409 are all groups in this area which need to be removed. Of these, VG404 and VG406 are veteran groups, and half of these groups are in category A3.

In accordance with EN1⁵, guidance is given with regards to the Secretary of State's decision-making process:

5.4.55 The Secretary of State should not grant development consent for any development that would result in the loss or deterioration of any irreplaceable habitats, including ancient woodland, and ancient and veteran trees unless there are wholly exceptional reasons and a suitable compensation strategy exists.

We are concerned about the siting of the Norwich-Tilbury pylon route going immediately adjacent to the proposed CWS and the loss of the adjacent woodland habitat. We suggest that a less ecologically damaging route would be to run the pylon route north to south over the grazing meadow. Given that there appear to be feasible alternatives and the scale of tree loss and importance of habitats in this area, we recommend that the Applicant sets out more explicitly the balance of impacts on tree loss in this area for the various design alternatives which have been considered and the relative harms of these alternative alignments explicitly weighed against each other.

We also draw attention to the pylon maintenance route, which runs along the northern boundary of Meadow Wood. Sheet 8 of 13 of the Trees and Hedgerows to be Removed or Managed Plans – Section A⁶ shows that there will be no impact on the trees and hedgerows in this area. It must be ensured that the track into the field is far enough away so as to not damage the tree roots in the area.

We would welcome further dialogue with the applicant over their plans for this area and recommend that Planning Inspectorate Examining Authority visit the area for an accompanied site visit.

Norton's Wood CWS

Norton's Wood CWS is specifically highlighted in the EIA for potential habitat loss. The CWS is outside the order limits but within 2m of the temporary haul road near pylon RG019. The potential for accidental encroachment is proposed to be dealt with by demarcating the order limits in line with the outline code of construction practice ("OCOCP"). It is stated that after mitigation there would be no significant residual effect on this woodland CWS. We seek assurances that the highest standards of working practices will be followed in this area to ensure that impacts are avoided. It must be ensured that there is no accidental encroachment on to the CWS as this could significantly increase the area of habitat impacted.

4. WaLOR

We support all comments made by Suffolk Wildlife Trust regarding the River Waveney Crossing, and impacts to the Waveney and Little Ouse Landscape Recovery Project (WaLOR). The Norwich to Tilbury project should not undermine the ability of the WaLOR project to deliver significant biodiversity uplift in this area of the Waveney Valley.

5. Bats

The bat surveys supporting the Norwich to Tilbury Project show a minimum of eight species recorded, including the presence of barbastelle⁷. While we seek the best possible mitigation and outcomes for all bat

⁵ Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1)

⁶ Examination library reference: [\[APP-048\]](#)

⁷ National Grid, 2025, Norwich to Tilbury Volume 6: Environmental Statement, Document 6.8.A10 ES Appendix 8.10 – Bat Activity Survey Report, Final Issue A August 2025, AENC-ARC-ENV-REP-0142

species, as a notably rare species which is typically present in low numbers, barbastelle is a priority. Delivering the best mitigation and outcomes for barbastelles will likely be better for other bat species as well.

Norfolk Wildlife Trust expect mitigation design to deliver retained connectivity during construction where possible, including during short-term periods of inactivity (such as weekends, overnights, bank holidays). We welcome the use of any natural materials to bolster this and encourage the Project Team to avoid the use of plastics where possible.

We understand that hedgerows will be reinstated post-construction with suitable species (i.e. suitable for planting over the underground cable route). However, there is delay in hedgerows becoming of significant value for bats, and mitigation should be provided until hedgerows return to the condition they were in prior to works taking place.

We encourage and support the concept of continued monitoring around all proposed artificial flyways included within the Norwich to Tilbury Project.

6. Habitats of Principal Importance

Paragraphs 4.8.53 to 4.8.56 of chapter 4 of the ES⁸ set out the general approach to vegetation clearance for overhead lines. Trees and Hedgerows to be Removed and or Managed Plans – Section A⁹ shows that a considerable quantity of trees and woodland is expected to be lost as a direct impact of Norwich to Tilbury. For standard lattice pylons, a 40m wide swathe of vegetation will be removed to allow for construction, operation and maintenance of the overhead line. An additional 8m either side of this central swathe may need to be managed to allow for clearance from the conductor. A further 22m either side is potentially affected to account for allowances in design flexibility and lateral limits of deviation, resulting a total width of the “potentially affected” envelope of 100m.

This scheme will cause significant temporary losses of lowland mixed deciduous woodland, coastal and floodplain grazing marsh, lowland dry acid grassland, important hedgerows, and rivers. While termed 'temporary', these losses will persist for several years, and full ecological restoration will take decades.

7. Biodiversity Net Gain

The delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), including the delivery of a 10% net gain as defined by the Statutory Metric, should consider how best to offer genuine biodiversity uplift. The delivery of BNG for the project is welcomed, and we encourage the delivery of net gain to go beyond the 10% minimum required. We are pleased to see that where habitat cannot be restored to baseline condition or better within two-years, habitat will be treated as lost and will be replaced by a suitable like-for-like or higher distinctiveness habitat.

It must be remembered that Biodiversity Units are a proxy for biodiversity value and that Norwich to Tilbury Project should not only be aiming to deliver Biodiversity Net Gain well above the 10% minimum which is being worked towards, but also to be delivering a biodiversity legacy which offers genuine long-term biodiversity benefit to Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex.

There are many ways in which this should be considered. These include delivering the right habitat in the right place, a consideration for natural regeneration scrub and woodland as opposed to planting, the inclusion of additional habitats such as ponds, a long-term commitment to replacement planting or remedial management, where planting is undertaken not only species, but local provenance is considered.

⁸ Examination library reference: [\[APP-130\]](#)

⁹ Examination library reference: [\[APP-048\]](#)

While we appreciate that several of these points are considered within the supporting documents, a continued commitment to delivering the best outcomes for biodiversity, as well as Biodiversity Net Gain, would be strongly welcomed by Norfolk Wildlife Trust.

The Norfolk Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) was published in 2025, providing a blueprint for the delivery of habitat creation for nature recovery in Norfolk. We strongly advocate that where any habitat is created with the aim of enhancing biodiversity that it is informed by the LNRS. This includes habitat delivered within the Draft Order Limits, National Grid landholding, or where offsite Biodiversity Units are purchased.

We note that within the supporting documents¹⁰ (such as Table 8.23 of the ES) it is stated that the loss of nesting bird habitat is negated by Biodiversity Net Gain delivery. Any habitat creation or enhancement to provide compensation for a loss of nesting habitat – or other impacts to protected and priority species that would be required regardless of the requirement to deliver BNG – can only be counted up to no-net-loss within the Biodiversity Net Gain assessment.

While we agree and understand that areas of habitat creation undertaken to contribute towards the Project's Biodiversity Net Gain requirements will see nesting habitat created, this should be seen as incidental.

We therefore ask that National Grid provide suitable evidence of both mitigation and compensation in relation to how these are considered within the Biodiversity Net Gain assessment.

8 Overall Summary and Conclusions

In conclusion, Norfolk Wildlife Trust look forward to continued discussion with the Norwich to Tilbury Project Team regarding our concerns, which include:

- Concerns
 - Impacts to Meadow Wood candidate County Wildlife Site
 - Whether the delivery of the WaLOR project will be negatively impacted or impeded by the Norwich to Tilbury Project, including the undergrounding of existing electricity infrastructure within the Waveney Valley.
 - A loss of habitat and habitat connectivity in the short and medium term where hedgerow removal occurs where the route is undergrounded. This has potential to impact barbastelle bats.
 - The delivery of post-development Biodiversity Net Gain Units, notably around water courses and the use of Biodiversity Net Gain in delivering compensation habitat for nesting birds.

In addition, Norfolk Wildlife Trust make the following recommendations:

- The establishment of an Ecological Advisory Group
- Suitable post-construction monitoring of habitat restoration at CWSS
- Monitoring during and post- construction of mitigation measures designed to retain landscape connectivity for bats.
- That Biodiversity Net Gain is delivered with an emphasis on the best possible biodiversity outcomes with measures in place to secure all post-development units in perpetuity.

Norfolk Wildlife Trust will continue to work with the Applicant on these concerns and seek to ensure the best possible outcomes for biodiversity and nature recovery.

¹⁰ National Grid, 2025, Norwich to Tilbury Volume 6: Environmental Statement (Document 6.8 ES Chapter 8 Ecology and Biodiversity, Final Issue A August 2025, AENC-ARC-ENV-REP-0035

Summary

Norfolk Wildlife Trust will engage with the Examination primarily via the submission of Written Representations and the agreement of a Statement of Common Ground with National Grid, a draft of which is already provided¹¹ although we may wish to attend specific hearings. This Statement clearly sets out our areas of interest and offers more detailed comment, which we will look to update if required.

Norfolk Wildlife Trust look forward to continued discussions with National Grid on the above topics and hope to see genuine positives for biodiversity in Norfolk delivered as part of this project.

Yours sincerely,


Campaigns and Policy Officer

planning@norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk

Appendix A County Wildlife Site Survey Form

County Wildlife Site name	Meadow wood nature reserve
County Wildlife Site number	PCWS
Grid reference	TM127911
Parish	Bunwell
District	South Norfolk
Area (ha)	2.11ha
Notification category	Habitat mosaic
Survey date	24/4/25 & 12/06/25

Type of survey	Please tick
New site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

¹¹[EN020027-000313-5.9.17 Draft Statement of Common Ground - Norfolk Wildlife Trust - Letter.pdf](#)

Re-survey of existing site	<input type="checkbox"/>
Change to existing site (specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Information change	<input type="checkbox"/>

Annotated habitat map:

(Please show boundary of area surveyed clearly, main habitats and key features such as veteran trees, ditches, species-rich areas, etc.)



Site and habitats description:

Meadow wood nature reserve is a mix of woodland, possible ancient wood pasture and grassland. Bordered by a track and public footpath to the north, multiple ancient pollards and coppiced trees line the site. The northern strip of the site sits on slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage. The remaining area supports loamy and sandy soils with naturally high groundwater and a peaty surface. (Landis Soilscales)

Western block of woodland UKhab:w1f 30,211

This section of woodland comprises two distinct compartments.

Compartment 1 was coppiced during winter 2024/2025 and is fenced using Heras panels. Several trees have been retained, including field maple *Acer campestre*, ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, bird cherry *Prunus padus*, sweet chestnut *Castanea sativa*, wild cherry *Prunus avium*, and horse chestnut *Aesculus hippocastanum*. Scrub species left in situ include hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, hazel *Corylus avellana*, and blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*.

Some new planting has been undertaken, including oak *Quercus robur*, blackthorn, and hazel. The southern end of this compartment remains unfenced, with a laid hawthorn hedge & dead hedge providing protection from deer. A significant ancient oak pollard sits on the boundary here.

Hazel occurs in the understorey throughout, with some stools recently coppiced. Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* has been pollarded in places. The ground flora is dominated by frequent nettle *Urtica dioica* and garlic mustard *Alliaria petiolata*, with wood false brome *Brachypodium sylvaticum* and dog's mercury *Mercurialis perennis* also present. A group of twelve bluebells *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* were also recorded by the landowner earlier in the year. Red currant *Ribes rubrum* and hemp-nettle *Galeopsis tetrahit* are rare. Honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum* and black bryony *Tamus communis* occur in one area, climbing among sweet chestnut and ash. Occasional bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg. is beginning to establish in the open spaces alongside ash and hawthorn seedlings. Cut wood has been left stacked on site.

Compartment 2 is currently unfenced. The ground flora is dominated by dense nettle, with frequent dog's mercury, garlic mustard, and rough meadow grass *Poa trivialis*. The canopy includes tall, diseased ash over hazel coppice and layered hazel. Several ash trees have fallen and been left in situ, creating significant areas of dead wood and bare ground.

In the southern part of this compartment, the ground becomes wetter, supporting wood false brome *Brachypodium sylvaticum*, wood sedge *Carex sylvatica*, and remote sedge *Carex remota*. Brooklime *Veronica beccabunga* is found in a damp, open area of the woodland. The understorey includes occasional elder *Sambucus nigra* and hawthorn.

The canopy is very open in places, particularly to the west, due to fallen diseased ash. These open areas support excellent natural scrub regeneration. Nettle and cleavers *Galium aparine* are abundant across much of the woodland floor. Additional ground flora includes wild garlic *Allium ursinum* and lords-and-ladies *Arum maculatum*.

The site is rich in birdsong and invertebrate activity, with signs of good biodiversity throughout.

Eastern block of woodland UKhab: w1f, 30, possible 26

This section is possibly an ancient wood pasture, characterised by ancient pollards and coppice stools on the boundary ditches with younger woodland within the parcel. Faden's map and the 1st OS edition show scattered trees on the parcel rather than continuous woodland.



1st edition OS (Historic map explorer)

To the east, the site is bordered by a similar long, narrow strip of woodland, separated from the survey parcel by a dry ditch. Remote sedge is abundant along the banks of the ditch. The soils are clayey and peaty, with a soft, damp substrate underfoot.

The boundary ditch is marked by old hazel coppice stools situated on the adjacent land holding. In places, alder *Alnus glutinosa* forms the canopy above a ground layer dominated by nettle. Other ground flora includes dog's mercury, wood sedge and further stands of remote sedge. Numerous old alder coppice stools are present throughout.

Along the western boundary, adjacent to Meadow 1, a ditch is lined with very large alder coppice stools, contributing to the woodland's mature structure.

The main body of the woodland has excellent structural diversity. The canopy is composed primarily of alder, with hawthorn and blackthorn forming a well-developed shrub layer. In some areas, the ground flora is dominated by dog's mercury. Other species include nettle, various sedges, and hedge woundwort *Stachys sylvatica*. Young coppice regrowth is evident throughout, and there is a substantial amount of dead wood. In open areas, tall sedges such as greater pond sedge *Carex riparia* are present. False wood brome is abundant, and wild garlic occurs frequently.

A few diseased ash remain, including one large, semi-fallen individual and a second, very tall specimen. Near these the ancient woodland indicators (AWI), three-nerved sandwort *Moehringia trinervia* and primrose *Primula vulgaris* are present. The moss *Mnium hornum* is frequent in places. There are few young trees or saplings overall, although some young coppice is developing.

In the northern part of the woodland, where the land rises slightly, AWI species include wood anemone *Anemone nemorosa*, pignut *Conopodium majus*, primrose, common spotted orchid *Dactylorhiza fuchsii*, and bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*.

Several large oak pollards and hazel coppice stools sit along the woodland boundary, alongside an old field maple. One major oak pollard has a girth of approximately 5-6metres. In drier areas, oak stands above hazel in the understorey. Hornbeam *Carpinus betulus* is present along the eastern bank. A wood bank marks the northern boundary adjacent to the track (photo available).

Grassland – Meadow 1 Ukhav: g3c5

This is a small area of semi-improved, species-poor neutral grassland. The site is notably wet, particularly in the southern section, where it overlies peaty soils. The sward is dominated by tall grasses including **Yorkshire fog** *Holcus lanatus*, **cock's-foot** *Dactylis glomerata*, **rough meadow grass**, and **false oat grass** *Arrhenatherum elatius*. Herbaceous species are only occasional and largely restricted to **water mint** *Mentha aquatica*, **common mouse-ear** *Cerastium fontanum*, and **lesser stitchwort** *Stellaria graminea*.

A small copse of seven alder trees occupies the narrowest part of the grassland, where **nettle** dominates the ground layer surrounding the trees. South of the alders, the character of the grassland changes, with **meadow foxtail** *Alopecurus pratensis* becoming the dominant grass and **hairy sedge** *Carex hirta* occurring frequently. Scattered patches of **lesser stitchwort** and **purple loosestrife** *Lythrum salicaria* and hemp agrimony *Eupatoria cannabinum* are also present.

The western section of the meadow is dominated by **creeping thistle** *Cirsium arvense*, while the eastern area supports a mix of **mint**, **stitchwort**, and **greater bird's-foot trefoil** *Lotus pedunculatus*, with **mint** being locally abundant along the eastern edge. **Thistles** are again dominant towards the southern end of the grassland on both the western and eastern sides. **Meadow foxtail** remains the dominant grass towards the central swathe.

Grassland – Meadow 2

The northern part of this meadow lies on dry, sandy soils. The central swathe supports a varied sward height with areas of bare ground. Grasses present include occasional tussocks of cock's-foot, along with rough meadow grass and common bent *Agrostis capillaris*. Red fescue *Festuca rubra* is frequent throughout, and timothy *Phleum pratense* is locally frequent. A significant build-up of thatch is present, and the area shows signs of rabbit grazing. A single tussock of spiked sedge *Carex spicata* was recorded. Lesser stitchwort is frequent, and germander speedwell *Veronica chamaedrys* and common sorrel *Rumex acetosa* occur occasionally.

Towards the south, where the soil becomes heavier, the grassland becomes dominated by coarser grasses and creeping thistle. A dry ditch marks the southern boundary of the meadow, with the grassland edge lined by occasional trees and shrubs, including hawthorn, blackthorn, grey willow *Salix cinerea*, and dogwood *Cornus sanguinea*.

Habitats overview:

(Please list the main habitat types (UKHab if possible) with their area or %, and the length of linear features such as hedgerows)

Habitat type	Area or % of site
Woodland	1.28ha
Neutral grassland	0.82ha

Other notable species:

(Include non-plant species, eg. turtle dove/common toad/dingy skipper.)

What is the current landscape context of the site?

(E.g. adjacent habitats including any that are similar, linkage to other notable habitats.)

Adjacent to the east is a similar strip of woodland with historic features potentially indicating it is Ancient wood pasture. Further east to this is CWS 272 Brick Kiln Lane, Bunwell hill comprising willow carr and fen. A track runs north of the site with ancient pollards and overstood coppice. An area of planted woodland & created meadow lies north of the track to the West.

Agricultural fields surround the remainder of the site.

How could the ecological connectivity of the site be improved?

(E.g. adjacent habitat creation/restoration, buffer zones, grass margins, linkage to other sites.)

An ancient woodland; Bunwell wood sits to the north approximately xx km away. There doesn't appear to be a continuous hedge line running between the woodland sites so there is potential for greater connectivity if neighbouring landowners were prepared to plant a hedge /restore a hedge along Brick kiln lane which runs between the sites.

Has the site got public access?

(E.g. public footpath/permissive/open access/private and other notes on access.)

No public access but a footpath runs along the north & western sides.

Is the site in positive conservation management?

(Please choose from yes/no/partly/non-intervention and give details.)

The woodland is in positive conservation management with small scale coppicing & thinning, leaving plenty of wood in-situ and protecting recently coppiced stools from deer browsing through dead hedges & Heras fence panels. The grassland is under-managed and would benefit from a late summer cut & collect or light grazing.

Brief management proposals:

(E.g. should the site be grazed, cut & raked off, coppiced, thinned etc.)

Continue with the woodland management as is.

The grassland could be cut with a strimmer or preferably with a reciprocal mower in late summer/early autumn. The cuttings would need to be raked off & removed off-site or stacked away from watercourses, under a tree or in a species-poor area of the meadow. Ideally 70-80% of the grassland would be cut & the remaining left for over-wintering invertebrate refuge. This area should be rotated each year to prevent scrub from becoming established on the meadow.

How would you rate the overall site condition?

(Please rate the overall condition of the site and if relevant, the condition of compartments.)

Compartment number (if relevant, show clearly on map)	Favourable/ no issues. Score 1	Favourable/ some issues Score 2	Recovering Score 3	Unfavourable – no change Score 4	Unfavourable - declining Score 5 (poor management)	Neglected Score 6 (no management)	Part destroyed/ Score 7	Destroyed Score 8
Woodland		2 (all wdl has issues with deer & regeneration)						
Grassland				4				
Overall Condition		2						

Surveyor's assessment of site:

(To be filled in using the CWS handbook:
http://www.nbis.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/Habitat_selection_criteria.pdf)

Habitat	Criteria passed on	Criteria failed on	Comments
Woodland	1, 2, 5,6	4? (size)	
Grassland	6	7 (size)	
Mosaic	1,2,3		Passed on this criteria

Final assessment of site:

(To be filled in by CWS Adviser)

Adviser:

Date:

Habitat	Criteria passed on	Criteria failed on	Comments
Mosaic	1,2,3		

Recommendations:

- Site remains CWS (boundary unchanged)
- Site deleted
- Boundary altered (*Please specify*)
- Notify site as CWS

PLANT LIST

County Wildlife Site name & reference number: Meadow wood nature reserve

Date of survey: 24/4/25 & 12/06/25

Surveyor: [REDACTED]

Please include DAFOR abundance. For plants of note (e.g. rare/scarce species), please include exact grid reference (6 figure) or location.*

Species/scientific name	Common name	DAFOR	Comments/Location
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple	O	
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore	R	
<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	Horse-chestnut	R	
<i>Agrimonia eupatoria</i>	Agrimony	R	
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Common Bent	LF	
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic Mustard	F	
<i>Allium ursinum</i>	Ramsons	O	
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Alder	F	
<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>	Meadow Foxtail	LA	
<i>Anemone nemorosa</i>	Wood Anemone	R	

<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Sweet Vernal-grass	LF	
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow Parsley	O	
<i>Arctium minus</i>	Lesser Burdock	R	
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	False Oat-grass	O	
<i>Arum maculatum</i>	Lords-and-Ladies	O	
<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>	False-brome	LA	
<i>Carex hirta</i>	Hairy Sedge	LF	
<i>Carex otrubae</i>	False Fox-sedge	R	
<i>Carex remota</i>	Remote Sedge	LA	
<i>Carex spicata</i>	Spiked Sedge	R	
<i>Carex sylvatica</i>	Wood-sedge	LF	
<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	Hornbeam	O	
<i>Castanea sativa</i>	Sweet Chestnut	R	
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common Mouse-ear	O	
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle	LA	
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear Thistle	O	
<i>Conopodium majus</i>	Pignut	O	
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	Dogwood	R	
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	A	
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	F	
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock's-foot	LA	
<i>Dioscorea communis</i>	Black Bryony	R	
<i>Eupatoria cannabinum</i>	Hemp agrimony	O	
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	Red Fescue	O	
<i>Ficaria verna</i>	Lesser Celandine	LF	
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash	F	
<i>Galeopsis tetrahit</i>	Hemp-Nettle	R	
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers	LF	
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb-Robert	O	
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Herb Bennet	O	
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Ground-ivy	LA	
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy	F	

<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire-fog	LA	
<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	Bluebell	O	
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly	R	
<i>Jacobaea erucifolia</i>	Hoary Ragwort	R	
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Soft-rush	O	
<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	Purple loosestrife	O	
<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	Honeysuckle	R	
<i>Lotus pedunculatus</i>	Greater Bird's-foot-trefoil	R	
<i>Lycopus europaeus</i>	Gypsywort	R	
<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	Water Mint	LF	
<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>	Dog's Mercury	LA	
<i>Moehringia trinervia</i>	Three-nerved Sandwort	O	
<i>Persicaria amphibia</i>	Amphibious Bistort	R	
<i>Phleum pratense</i>	Timothy	LF	
<i>Poa trivialis</i>	Rough Meadow-grass	LA	
<i>Potentilla anserina</i>	Silverweed	O	
<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	Creeping Cinquefoil	O	
<i>Primula</i>	Primrose	O	
<i>Prunus avium</i>	Wild Cherry	R	
<i>Prunus padus</i>	Bird Cherry	R	
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn	O	
<i>Pulicaria dysenterica</i>	Common Fleabane	O	
<i>Quercus robur</i>	Pedunculate Oak	F	
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow Buttercup	R	
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup	O	
<i>Ribes rubrum</i>	Red Currant	O	
<i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i>	Bramble	O	
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common Sorrel	O	
<i>Rumex conglomeratus</i>	Clustered Dock	O	
<i>Salix alba</i>	White Willow	R	
<i>Salix cinerea</i>	Common Sallow	O	

<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder	O	
<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	Bittersweet	R	
<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	Hedge Woundwort	O	
<i>Stellaria graminea</i>	Lesser Stitchwort	LF	
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common Nettle	LA	
<i>Veronica beccabunga</i>	Brooklime	O	
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Germander Speedwell	O	
<i>Vicia tetrasperma</i>	Smooth Tare	O	

* See <https://www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk/documents/downloads/cwa/handout-9-using-dafor>

Pollard on edge of recent coppice block.



Western compartment (unfenced)



Fallen Ash left in situ



Lane to the north of the site



Boundary Pollards and Over-stood coppice





Alder coppice stools

