

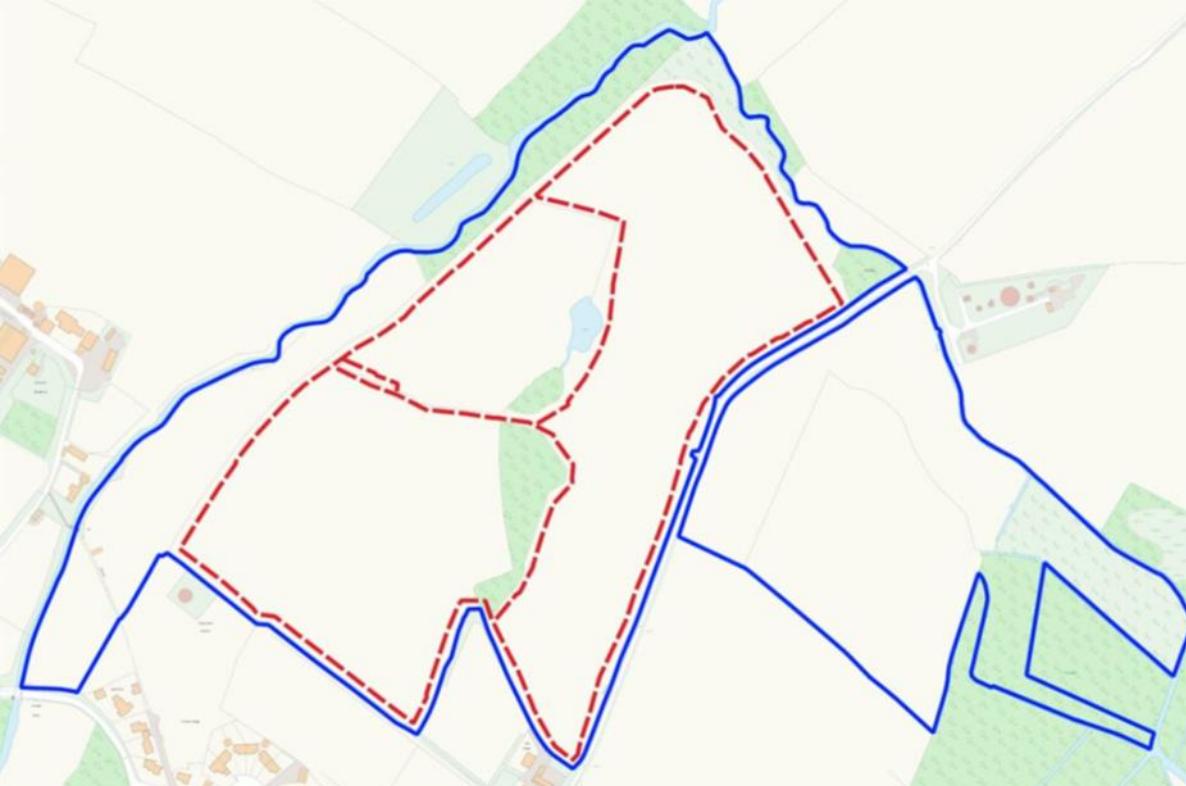
# Welcome!

Richard Parmee  
Biodiversity Manager



Working Together

# What land has been purchased?



- Approx. 25 hectares (62 acres)
- Mostly meadow
- Some woodland, wet woodland, reed beds and river frontage



# Why has MSDC purchased this land?

- Nature recovery – in response to biodiversity crisis
- Broader environmental benefits – including natural flood management, carbon storage
- Public access to nature – permissive paths not under threat!



Working Together

# Our Plans – First Steps: Understanding the Site

Ecology survey of the whole site

Desk study –

- Aerial photos
- Old maps
- Soil types
- Flood zones

Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Your input!



# Ecology Survey

## Six Priority Habitats:

- Deciduous woodland
- Veteran trees
- Coastal floodplain grazing marsh
- Reedbeds
- Alder woodland
- Semi-improved grassland

## Also:

- Species-rich hedgerows
- Mature and notable trees
- Wet and coppiced woodland
- Pond
- Ditches
- Aquatic margins

Mosaic of habitats with potential for a wide range of species



# Site History

Old map shows former field boundaries, three ponds and the farm



Aerial photo from 1940s shows the same, plus evidence that some fields were cultivated

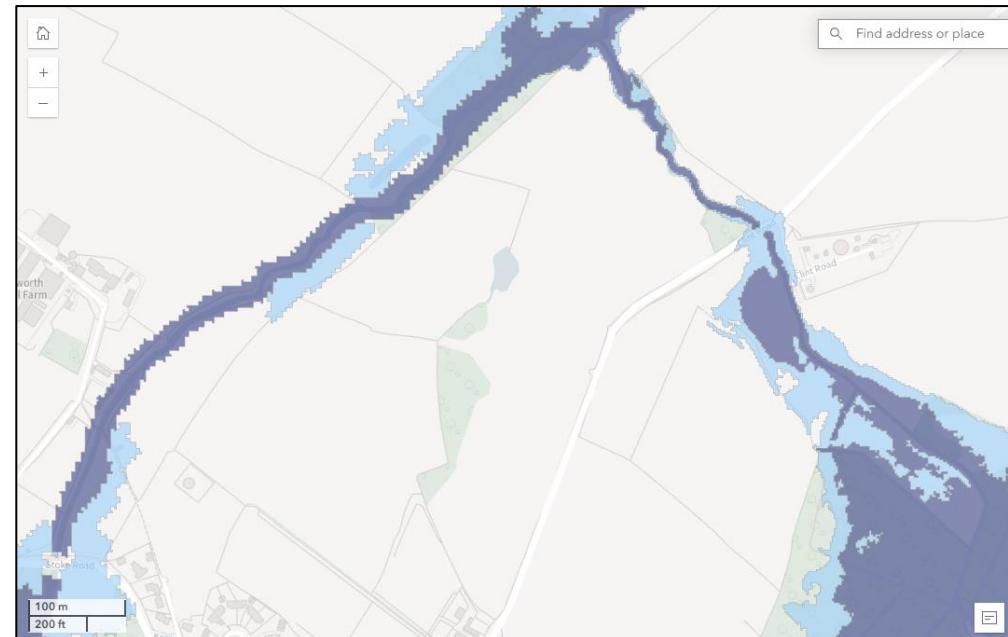
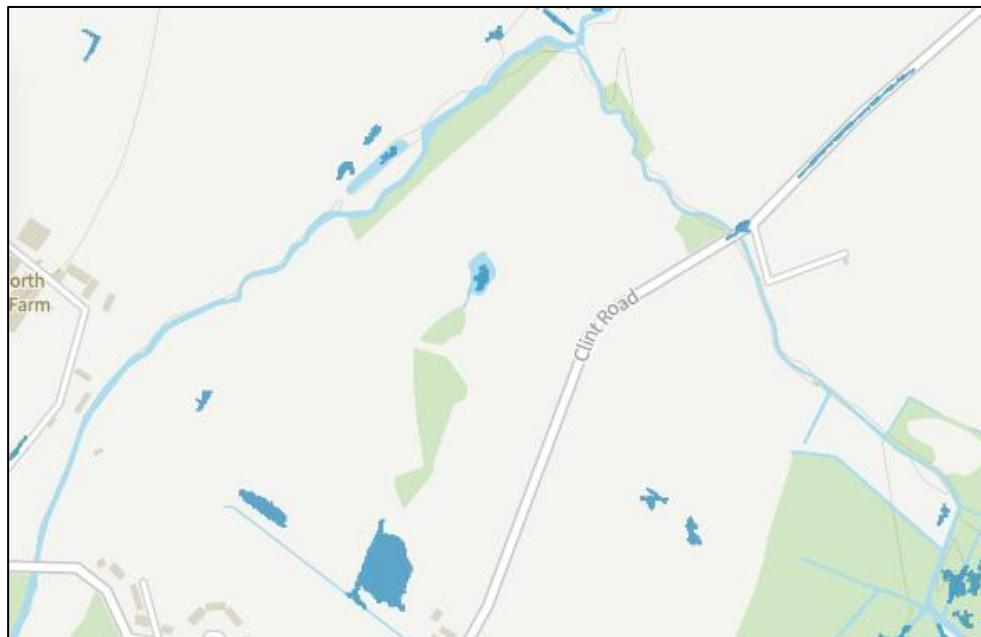
# Soils and Flood Zones

## Soils (right):

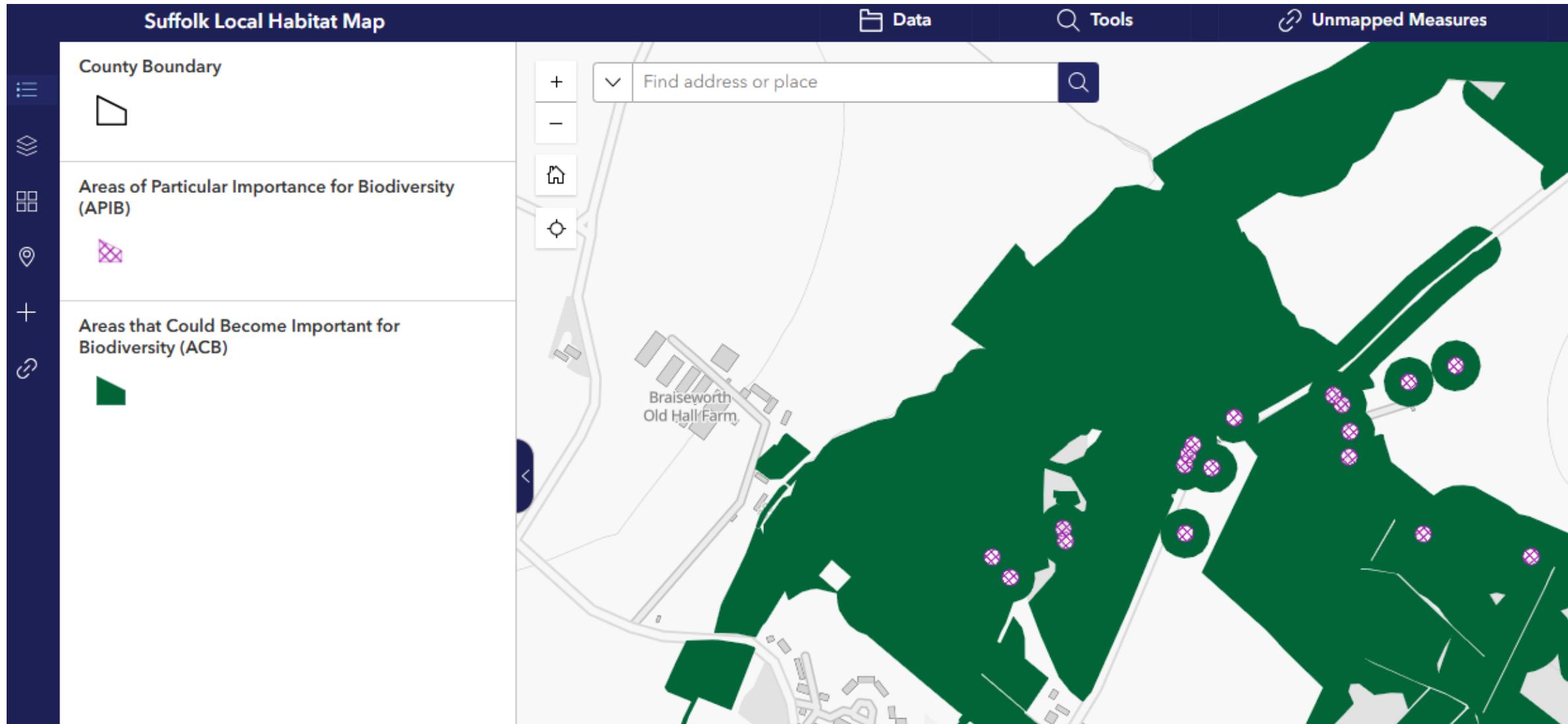
- Majority is Class 3 (green)
- Class 2 (blue) to south and east, including wetter area

## Flooding:

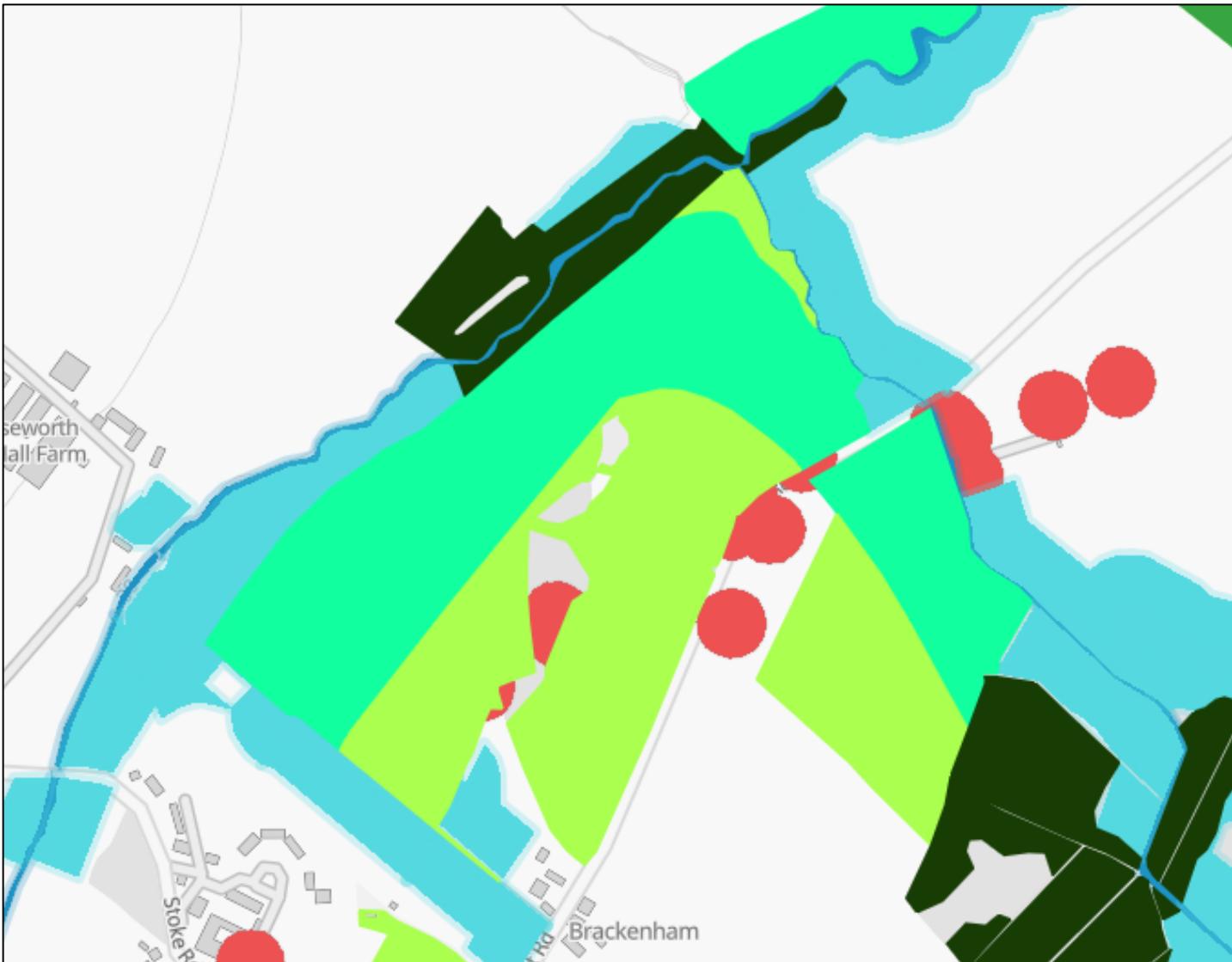
- Areas prone to flooding by surface water (below)
- Flood zones 2 and 3 – river flooding (bottom right)



# Local Nature Recovery Strategy



# Potential Habitat Measures



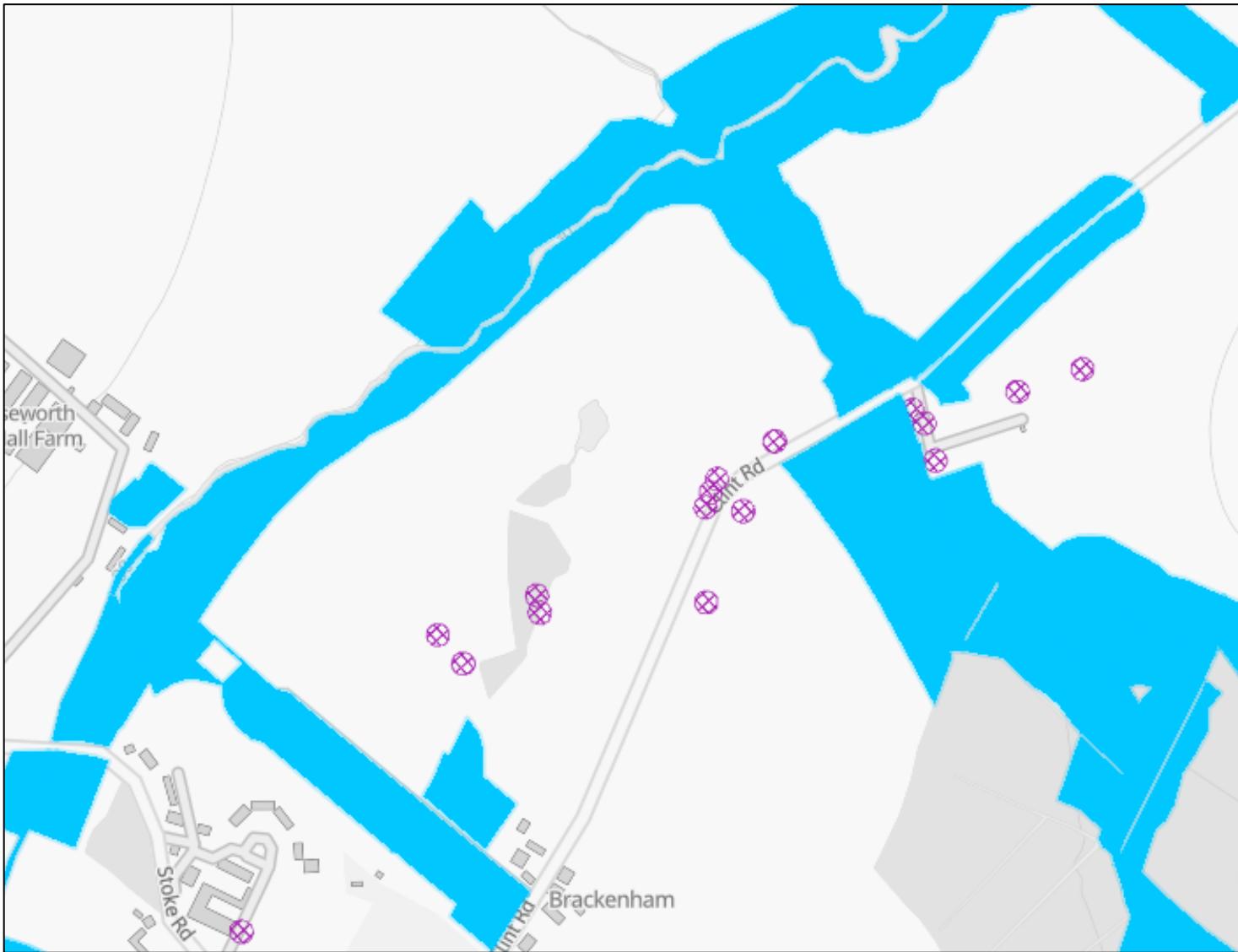
- Woodland restoration (dark green)
- Other neutral grassland restoration (light green)
- Wet grassland and grazing meadows restoration (mid green)
- River, riparian and floodplain habitat creation (blue)
- Veteran trees restoration (red)

# Potential Species Measures



- Water vole
- Great crested newt
- Kingfisher

# Wider Environmental Benefits



Opportunities for water quality improvement and flood mitigation

# Your Input

- Feedback on options under consideration
- What do you want for the site?
- What is special to you?
- History – what can you tell us?



Working Together

# Options Under Consideration

- Grassland enhancement
- Hedgerow reinstatement
- Hedge management
- Wood pasture
- Veteran trees
- Pond restoration and creation
- Woodland
- Scrub
- Orchard
- Reedbed
- Flood plain – natural flood management
- Increased access and engagement
- Local Nature Reserve designation



# Grassland Enhancement

- Mowing regime
- Livestock for grazing
- Management of problem plants (ragwort, thistles)
- Preventing scrub development
- Opportunity for food production alongside nature recovery



# Hedgerow Reinstatement

- Potential for over 800m hedge reinstatement
- Signs of former hedge lines still visible on the ground – may be hedgerow plants that could return
- Increased connectivity
- More hedge habitat
- Include hedgerow trees



# Hedge Management

- Some hedges have been managed to keep them short and narrow
- Broader, taller hedges better for wildlife – more food and habitat
- Scope for coppicing and hedge expansion



# Wood Pasture

- An important, but scarce habitat
- Allows increased tree cover and grazing to coexist
- Helps perpetuate veteran tree habitat
- Can select saplings already growing to retain local tree stock



# Veteran Trees



- Valuable habitat, supporting many species, often scarce
- Huge character
- Require careful management



# Pond Restoration and Creation

- Only one of at least three ponds remain
- Scope to reinstate second, but third now woodland
- Could create new ponds elsewhere

## Succession:

- Dredging halts this
- New ponds support
- Greater diversity

# Woodland

- Planted woodland – straight lines, little understorey
- Wet woodland – uneven distribution with understorey
- Scope for expansion in right place – natural generation?



# Scrub

- Transient habitat, often seen as neglect
- Valuable for many species, such as nightingale and turtle dove
- Will develop naturally if we simply stop mowing or grazing



# Orchard

- Only one apple tree within the site!
- Potential to create a community orchard, providing fruit for the village
- Could include local heritage varieties e.g Lady Henniker
- Works well with grazing
- Opportunity for food production alongside nature recovery



# Reedbed

- Areas already there
- Would benefit from improved management
- Would benefit from reconnection with water courses
- Benefits for wildlife, flood management and water quality



# Flood Plain

- Water courses canalised – disconnection from flood plain
- Reconnection benefits biodiversity, water quality and flood management
- Meadows likely to have been wetter prior to canalisation
- Potential for native black poplar planting – UK's rarest timber tree. Suffolk is a stronghold



# Access and Engagement



- Existing permissive access to continue
- Could expand this, depending on management
- Local value – not intending to create another Needham Lake!
- Need to consider access and grazing
- Would like to increase local involvement – scope for volunteering?

# Next Steps

Tell us what you think:

- Leave comments on the maps
- You can email [biodiversity@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:biodiversity@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk)
- You can talk to me now or by 'phone: 01449 724 762

We need a site name – suggestions?

Management plan – ASAP

Start work – this winter

