

Welcome!

Richard Parmee
Biodiversity Manager



What is this meeting for?

- Presentation of the draft management plan
- Seeking your views
- Set out the next steps
- Getting you involved
- We need a name!



A quick recap

- 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!



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



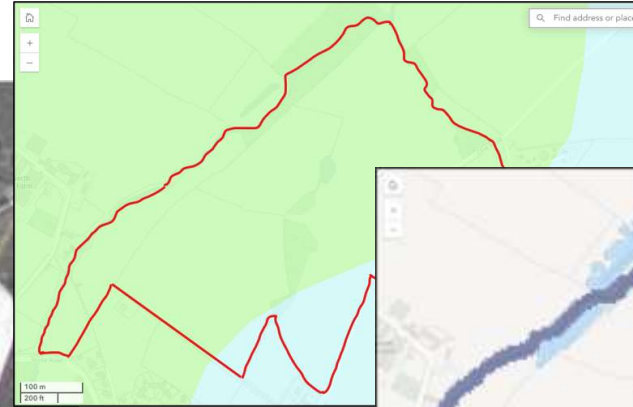


What have we done so far?

- Fencing and hedge planting
- Planting native black poplars
- New signs – more to come
- Sought advice from SWT on pond restoration and creation



Creating the Management Plan



What's in it?

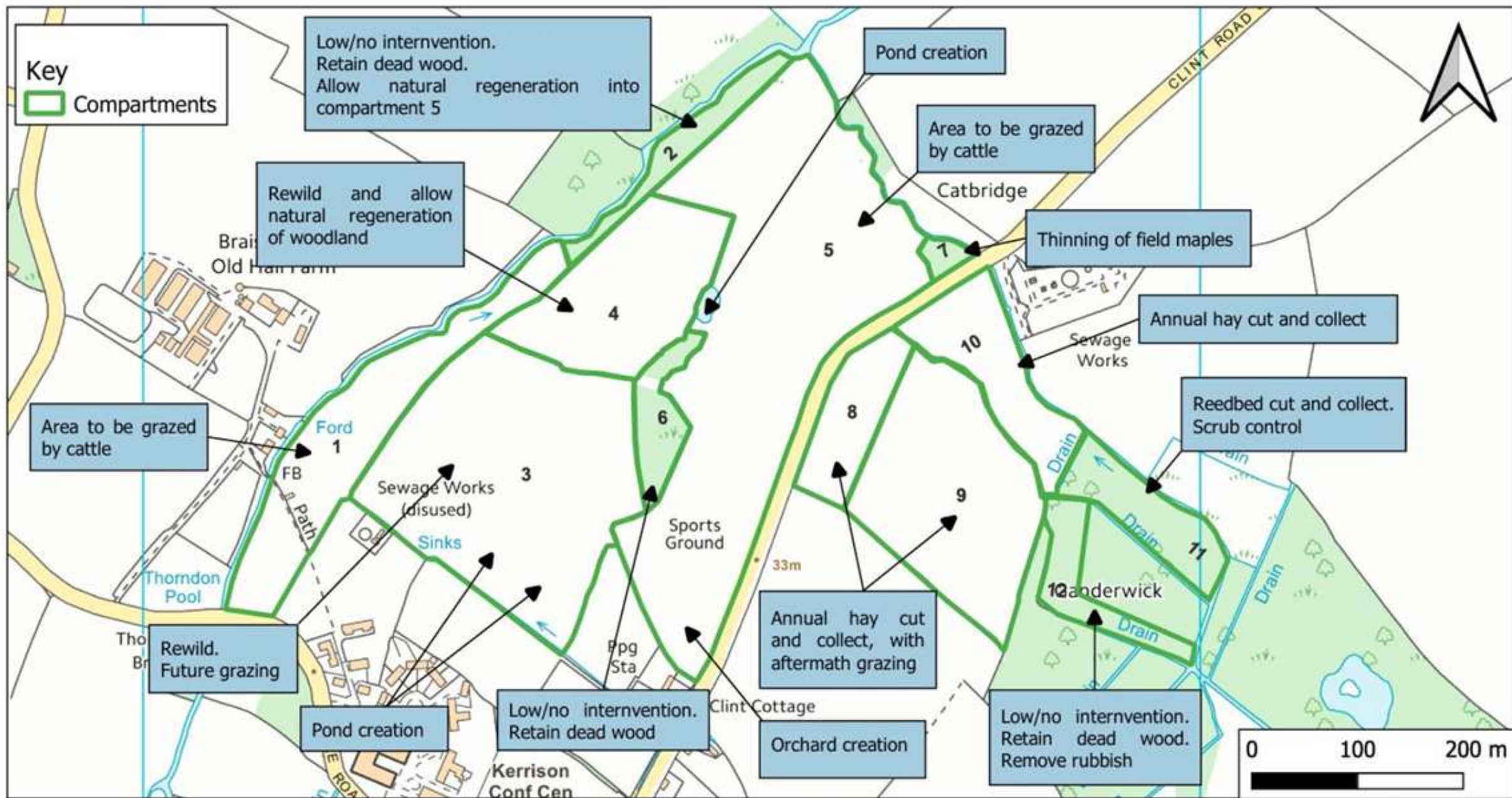
- **Description** – where, what's there, conditions, habitats and species, history, public use
- **Considerations** – LNRS, biodiversity duty, site analysis, vision
- **The Plan** – grassland, woodland, reedbed, wet woodland, hedgerows, rivers, invasive species
- **Calendar of actions**
- **Monitoring and surveying**
- **Maps**



The Vision

- Increased connection and engagement with local people
- Food production – orchard, grazing
- Education – school use
- Habitat creation and enhancement
- Improved water quality and flood management
- County Wildlife Site and / or Local Nature Reserve designation

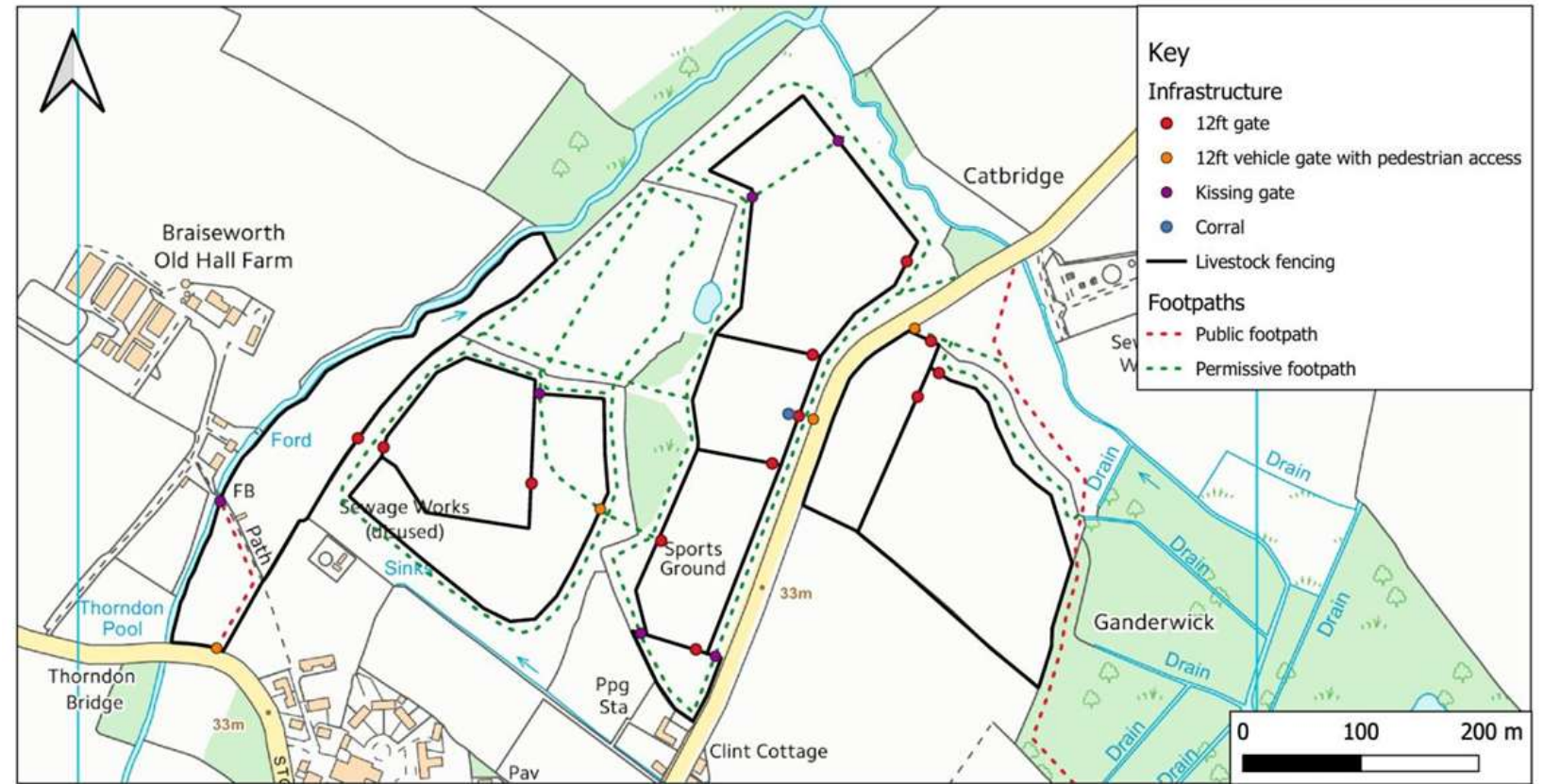




This map is reproduced from the Ordnance Survey Map by Wilder Ecology - Copyright SWT Trading Ltd under Suffolk Wildlife Trust. © Crown copyright and database rights [2026] OS [AC0000806008/3793]. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright.

Grassland Enhancement

- Low intensity grazing - food production and grassland management
- Fencing keeps livestock separate from people and dogs but maintains permissive paths
- Hay production to east
- Varied conditions – habitat diversity
- Management of problem plants (ragwort)



This map is reproduced from the Ordnance Survey Map by Wilder Ecology - Copyright SWT Trading Ltd under Suffolk Wildlife Trust. © Crown copyright and database rights [2026] OS [AC0000806008/3793]. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright.

Ragwort



Valuable native plant:

- Host plant for the cinnabar moth – caterpillars now abundant
- Valuable plant for pollinators

However:

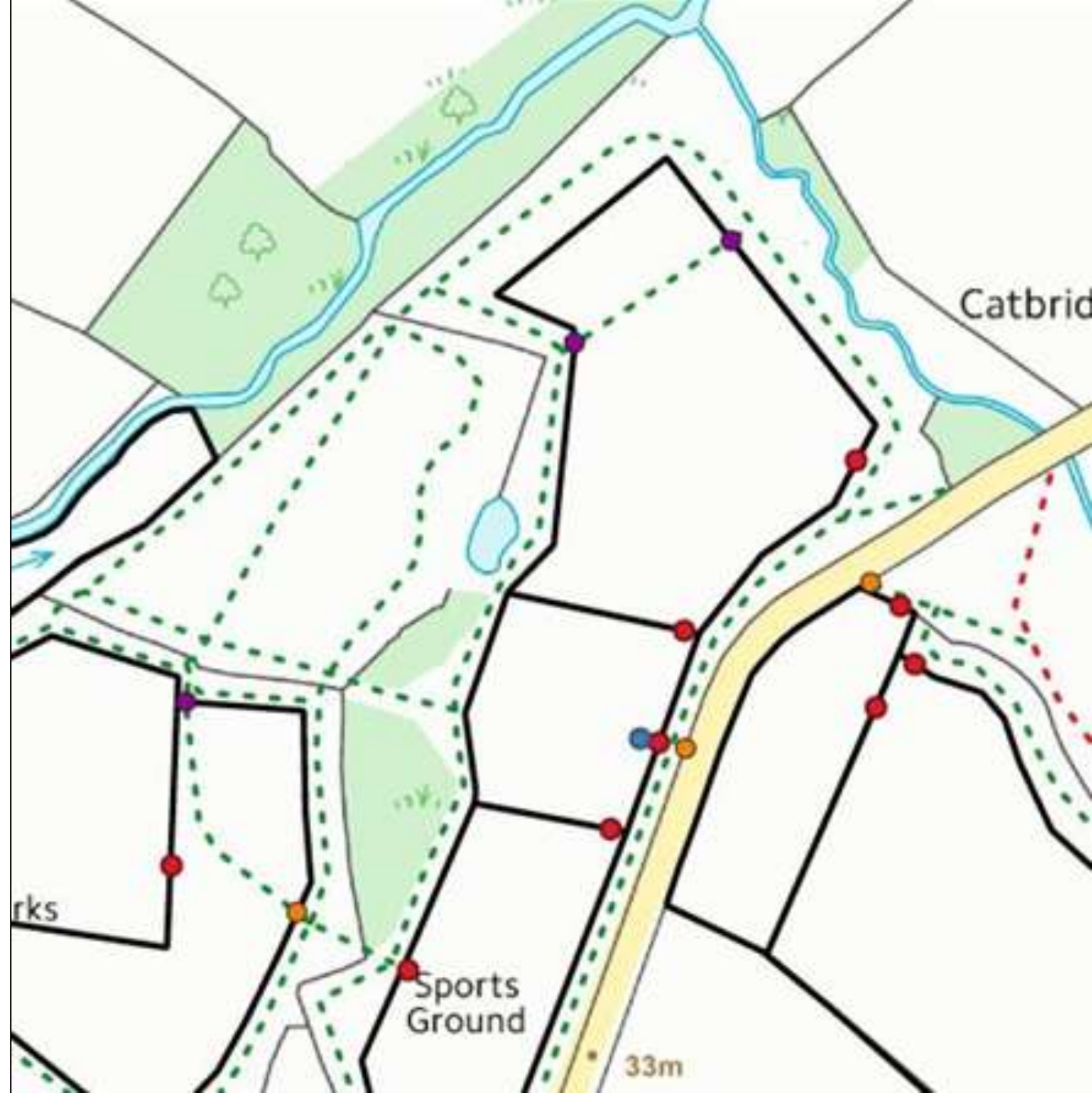
- Toxic to livestock to varying degrees
- Tastes foul when alive, loses taste when dry – bad for hay!

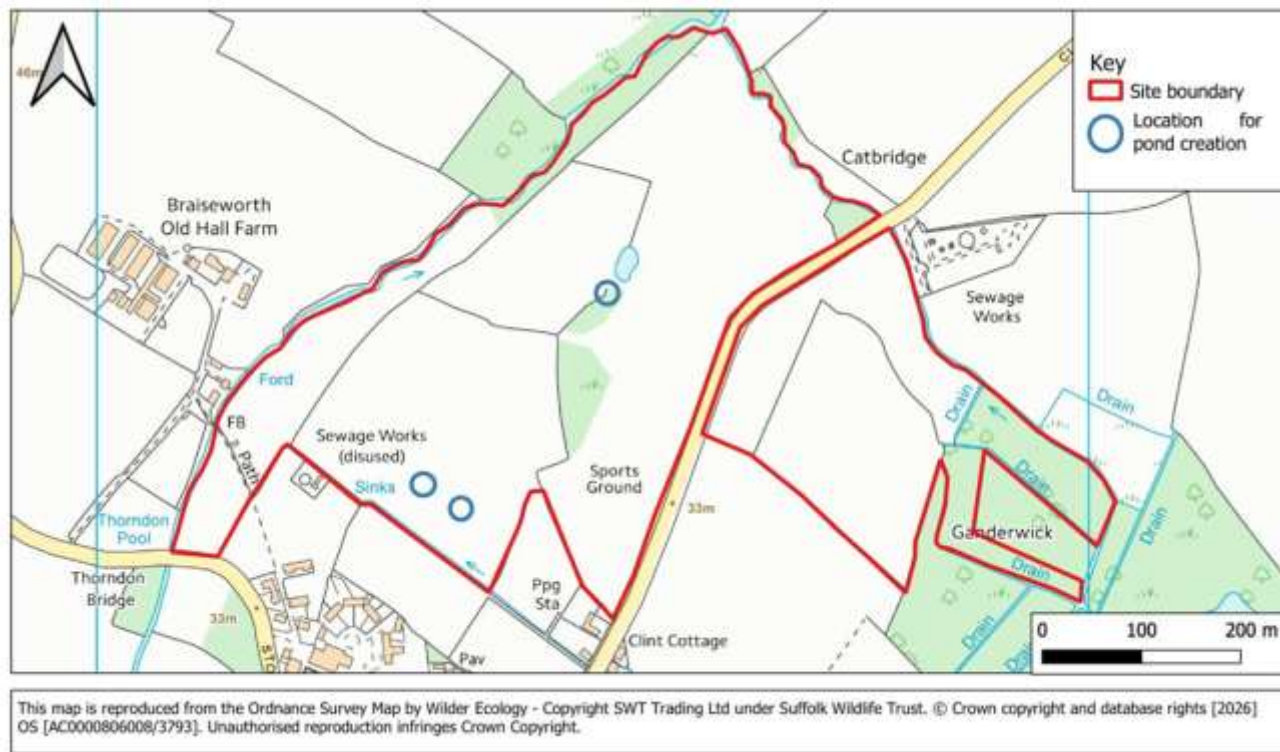
Will monitor and control as needed:

- Less of a problem for sheep – can be used to control
- Topping in July (caterpillars and birds!)
- Herbicide last resort

“Rewilding”

- Minimal intervention – natural development
- Diverse and valuable habitat for many species, such as nightingale and turtle dove
- Will better link woodland across much of the site
- Can introduce low intensity grazing if desired in the future to manage habitat





Pond Restoration and Creation

- Only one of at least three ponds remain
- Scope to reinstate second, but third now woodland with copious rubble
- Could create new ponds elsewhere – supports grazing

Succession:

- Dredging halts this
- New ponds support
- Greater diversity



Orchard

- Potential to create a community orchard, providing fruit for the village
- Best located in Class 2 land close to village
- Could include local heritage varieties e.g. Lady Henniker
- Works well with grazing
- Opportunity for food production alongside nature recovery
- Opportunity for the village to plant, manage and make use of fruit – we already have 40 trees waiting to plant!



Barn Owls

- Potential to install boxes on some of the larger trees
- Require open aspect – clear view of the box
- Lots of foraging habitat, more so where grass is cut less frequently, becoming tussocky



Woodland

- Planted woodland – scope to thin to allow more light to floor, to encourage floral diversity and structure
- Veteran trees in woodland – minimise trampling and monitor to maintain stability – maybe halo around?
- Scope for use for education – Forest School
- No intervention recommended for the wet woodland – leave to develop naturally



Reedbed

- Rotational cutting of reeds – 1/3 per year
- Prevents scrub formation (keep below 10%)
- Prevents thatch formation that suppresses smaller species



Hedgerows

- 500m hedge reinstatement already
- Coppicing helps restore gappy hedgerows
- Some allowed to expand without cutting
- Roadside hedges will be cut annually



This map is reproduced from the Ordnance Survey Map by Wilder Ecology - Copyright SWT Trading Ltd under Suffolk Wildlife Trust. © Crown copyright and database rights [2026] OS [AC0000806008/3793]. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright.

River Dove and Thorndon Brook

- Poor water quality in the River Dove – limited aquatic plants
- Requires investigation into sources of poor quality and coordinated efforts to address
- Thorndon Brook better – recent work by IDB
- Scope for leaky dams and meanders – slows speed, reduces erosion, assists flood management
- Requires cooperation with adjacent landowners



Invasive Non-Native Species



- None identified (yet!)
- Himalayan balsam most likely due to water courses
- Control to be implemented if any found

Monitoring and Surveying

- Suggested monitoring and surveying programme

Features	Monitoring requirements	Time of year	Repeat Frequency
GCN presence/absence survey in new ponds	eDNA	April – June	2 years after pond creation
Breeding bird	Breeding bird survey	April - June	Every 5 years
Bats	Nighttime bat walkover	May – September	Every 5 years
Monitoring INNS – Himalayan balsam	Site walk over to monitor presence	April - June	Annually

Access and Engagement



- Existing permissive access to continue – may need to close one day a year to maintain status
- Need to consider access, including dog walking, and grazing
- Would like to increase local involvement – scope for volunteering?

Local Nature Reserve

- Designation can protect the site for the future
- Public engagement and school use an integral element
- Can open the door to other funding streams
- As habitats develop, the site may merit other designations in recognition of its biodiversity, further safeguarding its future



Getting involved

- Proposed planting of community orchard in the autumn
- 40 trees already to plant – we need your help
- Help with establishment in first few years would be great
- Opportunity to manage the trees (pruning, thinning, picking)
- What else would you like to do?



What name?

Suggestions so far include:

- Ganderwick
- Brackenham
- Glebe Land

Need to move away from
Kerrison Land or Set Aside
Land!

Village vote? Sensible
suggestions only, please...

'Boaty McBoatface' tops public vote as name of polar ship

© 17 April 2016 535 Comments



Working Together

Questions?

Thoughts?

Feedback sought

- You can email biodiversity@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk
- You can talk to me now or by 'phone:
01449 724 762

