

Site reference: Ufd319

Site name: Bordeaux Pit, Little Chesterford

Grid ref. (approx. centre of site): TL513414

Site area: 4.7ha

LoWS Selection Criteria:

- HC28 – Small-component mosaics

Boundary Map



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Site Description

This site is a formal aggregate extraction site that is now managed as a fishery by Saffron Walden Angling Club. It comprises patches of scrub and open mosaic grassland around a series of open water lakes.

The flooded pits support stands of marginal and emergent vegetation including Common Club-rush (*Schoenoplectus lacustris*), Great Willowherb (*Epilobium hirsutum*), Purple-loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), Gipsywort (*Lycopus europaeus*) and Water Mint (*Mentha aquatica*).

The surrounding scrub is varied, including Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Elder (*Sambucus nigra*), Goat Willow (*Salix caprea*), apple (*Malus* sp.), birch (*Betula* sp.), rose (*Rosa* agg.) and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) with Wild Clematis (*Clematis vitalba*), Large Bindweed (*Calystegia silvatica*), Great Mullein (*Verbascum thapsus*) and tall ruderals such as Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*), thistles (*Cirsium* spp.) and Common Ragwort (*Jacobaea vulgaris*).

Open areas are flower-rich with some bare ground and support Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*) and Smaller Cat's-tail (*Phleum bertolonii*) with Wild Basil (*Clinopodium vulgare*), Common Calamint (*Clinopodium*

ascendens), Blue Fleabane (*Erigeron acer*), Grey Sedge (*Carex divulsa*), Thyme-leaved Sandwort (*Arenaria serpyllifolia*), Common Centaury (*Centaureum erythraea*), Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), Selfheal (*Prunella vulgaris*), Perforate St John's-wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), Field Forget-me-not (*Myosotis arvensis*), Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), Black Medick (*Medicago arabica*) and Creeping Cinquefoil (*Potentilla reptans*).

Site Selection Rationale

HC28 – The site supports a mosaic of scrub, open water and open mosaic habitats that combine to provide good overall diversity, although the extent and condition of the habitats in themselves would not be sufficient to meet any individual criterion.

Priority Habitats

None

Ownership and Access

Ownership is unknown, but the site is managed by an angling club and there is no public access. It can be viewed from London Road to the east.

Condition Statement

Moderate, stable

Management Issues

Management for angling is not ideal for biodiversity, but it does preserve the character of the habitat and ensures a degree of stability. The proportions of scrub and open habitat are important and without active management the scrub will spread reducing the value of the site.

Review Schedule

Site selected: 2007 (as PLoWS4)

Site Reviewed: 2024, promoted to full LoWS