

3.9 Site 9. Spring Plantation, Taverham

Photographs



Key Facts

- 3.9.1 Size of the Site: 1.65ha
- 3.9.2 Habitats present: **Lowland mixed deciduous woodland**
- 3.9.3 Tree Preservation Orders, Conservation Areas, County Wildlife Sites (CWS), Roadside Nature Reserves, Priority Habitats, Statutory Designated Sites present on site? **Strategic Area. Area that Could become of Particular Importance for Biodiversity in LNRS. Priority Habitat woodland. Woodland Tree Preservation Order.**
- 3.9.4 Recommended habitat measures in LNRS: **restore and enhance existing deciduous woodland.**

Baseline Habitat Description and BNG Calculation

- 3.9.5 The Site comprised a public woodland surrounded by residential housing. It was lowland mixed deciduous woodland in **moderate condition** and a Priority Habitat.
- 3.9.6 The woodland contained a diverse range of tree species in both the canopy and shrub layers. The canopy layer included abundant mature oak, frequent sycamore, occasional sweet chestnut and silver birch and rarely hornbeam, small leaved lime *Tilia cordata*, wild cherry, beech and non-native *Robinia pseudoacacia*.

- 3.9.7 The shrub layer contained 16 shrub species including frequent natives of holly and hazel and occasional invasive and non-native cherry laurel and rarely present non-native Lawson cypress and Norway maple.
- 3.9.8 Ground flora in the woodland was generally present, particularly in off-path areas that seemed to suffer little disturbance. Bramble was abundant and common nettle, garlic mustard *Alliaria petiolata* and herb Robert are occasional. Bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, red campion *Silene dioica*, foxglove *Digitalis purpurea* and ground ivy were rarely present.
- 3.9.9 The woodland was found to be in moderate condition rather than good condition due to the presence of invasive cherry laurel in the understorey, less than 80% of canopy and understorey trees being native (due to the abundance of sycamore in the canopy and other non-natives in the understorey) and lack of veteran trees.
- 3.9.10 In total, the habitats on Site represent **19.78 Habitat Units** as shown in Table 14 below.

Table 14. Baseline BNG Calculation for Habitats

Habitat	Area (hectares)	Ecological Distinctiveness	Condition	Habitat Units (HU)
Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	1.65	High	Moderate	19.78
Total	1.65			19.78

- 3.9.11 A map of the baseline habitats is provided in Figure 9, Appendix 1.

Proposed Biodiversity Enhancements

- Continue with management of cherry laurel with the aim of eradication;
- Thin holly in dense stands to enhance ground flora;
- Reduce abundance of sycamores by removing saplings and protecting native natural regeneration;
- Veteranise four trees away from footpaths/gardens;
- Create five woodpiles; and
- Install five bat and five bird boxes.

Specification of Management Actions

- 3.9.12 Proposed biodiversity enhancements are shown on Figure 9, Appendix 2.

Norway Spruce:

- Small cherry laurel regeneration was observed in the woodland followed presumed recent attempts to cut it back. Regeneration will be removed using a hand held saw

and poisoning the stump to prevent regeneration. Checks for three years following removal/herbicide application will be undertaken to check and treat any regrowth.

Holly:

- Thin dense holly stands by selectively removing 50% of individual hollies to allow more light penetration to the field layer and encourage ground flora. Holly removal will take place during September-mid February to avoid the bird nesting season.

Sycamore:

- Remove all seedlings/saplings of sycamore to prevent succession of the woodland to a sycamore dominated woodland. Remove saplings measuring less than 75mm stem diameter measured at 1.5m height and use wood for wood piles (see below). The aim is not to remove larger sycamores from the canopy but to try to bias the next generation of trees towards native species.
- Protect new native broadleaf regeneration from browsing with brash/dead hedging/removed holly and sycamore surrounding each sapling.

Woodpiles:

- Create five new woodpiles within the woodland. Each woodpile should be a minimum of 2m length x 2m width x 1m height and located in both cool shaded areas in the woodland and at the woodland edge to create a variety of microclimates. A variety of large, medium and small diameter logs in the pile should be used as well as bark, dead leaves and twigs to create a ‘holey’ but closely interwoven structure that can be left in perpetuity to rot down.

Bird and bat boxes:

- Five bird boxes and five bat boxes will be installed on suitable trees as per the guidance in Appendix 3.

Five Year Biodiversity Enhancement Plan

3.9.13 Following the management specification and guidance above, the Table below provides the timing of management actions over five years.

Habitat	Management Action and Timing				
	2025/2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland	Inspect cherry laurel and remedy any regrowth Create five new woodpiles.	Inspect cherry laurel and remedy any regrowth Thin dense holly stands. Remove sycamore saplings. Use brash to protect native tree saplings.	Inspect cherry laurel and remedy any regrowth	Inspect cherry laurel and remedy any regrowth	Thin dense holly stands. Remove sycamore saplings. Use brash to protect native tree saplings.

Bird and bat boxes	Install five bird boxes and five bat boxes on trees.	Check bird and bat boxes remain securely fixed.	Check bird and bat boxes remain securely fixed.	Check bird and bat boxes remain securely fixed.	Check bird and bat boxes remain securely fixed.
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Annual Monitoring Checklist

3.9.14 The checklist below is devised as a quick annual check to be carried out and completed by the responsible Community Asset Manager to ensure that the recommended enhancements measures above have taken place. The items in the checklist below have been replicated in a separate Annual Monitoring excel spreadsheet for ease of completion.

Annual Monitoring Checklist for Spring Wood, Taverham

Habitat	Management Action	Tick relevant column if completed				
		2025/2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	Cherry laurel removed and checked?					
	Dense holly areas thinned?					
	Sycamore saplings removed and native tree saplings dead hedged?					
	Woodpiles created, minimum five?					
Bird and bat boxes	Installed?					
	Annually checked to make sure still safely secured to tree?					

Post-enhancement BNG Calculation

3.9.17 The proposed enhancements will produce a BNG uplift of **24.31%** in Habitat Units over **20 years**. This is solely derived from the woodland enhancement measures and enhancing the condition of the lowland mixed deciduous woodland from moderate to good.