

# Norfolk Boreas Offshore Wind Farm

# Appendix 22.7

## Botanical Survey Reports

## Environmental Statement

## Volume 3

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*Photo: Ormonde Offshore Wind Farm*

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## Norfolk Boreas Botanical survey

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<b>Survey scope :</b>	Botanical survey
<b>Prepared on behalf of :</b>	Royal HaskoningDHV
<b>Report reference :</b>	2017/147.5
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## 1. Executive Summary

1.1. Baseline data to inform the Norfolk Boreas Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) was collected in 2017 as part of the Norfolk Vanguard Project. Following a review of this baseline data, 15 'priority areas' were identified as locations for further ecological surveys.

1.2. Habitats located within one of these priority areas adjacent to the River Wensum Special Area of Conservation (SAC) were identified as requiring detailed botanical surveys to inform the Norfolk Boreas EIA.

1.3. The survey had three aims:

1. To identify the presence/likely absence of the following plants growing within the floodplain habitats of the River Wensum SAC:
  - pond water-crowfoot *R. peltatus*;
  - stream water-crowfoot *R. penicillatus ssp. pseudofluitans*;
  - river water-crowfoot *R. fluitans*.
2. To identify what habitats and plant species are present within the floodplain and drainage ditches within the priority area.
3. To identify and locate any groundwater springs/seepage within the grassland habitats of the River Wensum floodplain.

1.4. Methodologies were developed using guidance documents from Rodwell (2006) and Doarks and Leach (1990).

1.5. The grassland adjacent to the River Wensum consisted of two main National Vegetation Classification (NVC) communities, which were often transitional to each other:

- MG1 - *Arrhenatherum elatius* grassland *Festuca rubra* sub-community
- MG10 – *Holco-Juncetum effusi* rush pasture

1.6. Communities associated with Ditch 1 were consistent along its length. They were classified according to Doarks and Leach (1990) as being:

- Aquatic endgroup A5b – *Lemna minor-Lemna trisulca*-filamentous algae
- Emergent endgroup E2 – *Glyceria maxima-Berula erecta*

1.7. None of the following species, associated with the River Wensum SAC habitat were recorded during the botanical survey within the River Wensum floodplain: *R. peltatus*, *R. penicillatus ssp. pseudofluitans* or *R. fluitans*.

1.8. There was no evidence of calcareous ground water spring or seepage activity with the priority area.

## **2. Introduction**

### **2.1. Project background**

2.1.1. The Norfolk Boreas Offshore Wind Farm site is located 73km off the coast of Norfolk at the closest point. The project would comprise of an array of offshore wind turbines and offshore substations which will be connected to the shore by offshore export cables.

2.1.2. The project will also require onshore infrastructure in order to transmit and connect the offshore wind farm to the National Grid, which in summary would comprise:

- Landfall;
- Onshore cable route (60km);
- An onshore project substation; and
- Works at the Necton National Grid substation (including extension of the existing substation, interface cables, and modification of the overhead power lines).

2.1.3. Norfolk Boreas is the sister project to the proposed Norfolk Vanguard offshore wind farm project which will be located across two offshore wind farm sites, adjacent to the Norfolk Boreas offshore wind farm site. Norfolk Vanguard is being developed first and its Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and project design development are at a more advanced stage than for Norfolk Boreas. As both projects would connect to the existing Necton National Grid substation, there has been a strategic approach to identifying locations for all onshore infrastructure with the aim of optimising overall design and reducing impacts where practical.

### **2.2. Survey scope**

#### **2.2.1. Development of survey scope**

2.2.1.1. As Norfolk Boreas is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) an EIA is required as part of a Development Consent Order (DCO) application under the Planning Act 2008.

2.2.1.2. Baseline data to inform the Norfolk Boreas EIA was collected in 2017 as part of the Norfolk Vanguard Project. Following a review of this baseline data, 15 'priority areas' were identified as locations for further ecological surveys, due to the potential sensitivity of the habitats present or the location of key elements of the project onshore infrastructure. One of these priority areas was identified as requiring detailed botanical surveys as part of the Norfolk Vanguard project in 2017, but could not be surveyed in 2017 due to access restrictions.

2.2.1.3. Norfolk Wildlife Services were appointed in February 2018 to undertake additional ecological surveys on the data gaps identified at this priority area plus a 50m buffer.

2.2.1.4. Norfolk Boreas Offshore Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment: Phase 2 Ecological Surveys Scope (Royal HaskoningDHV, 2017), produced in December 2017, set out the Survey Scope for delivering the botanical survey within the one priority area. Norfolk Wildlife Services used the Survey Scope to deliver the botanical survey. The approach used by Norfolk Wildlife Services to deliver this scope (herein the 'survey protocol') is set out in Section 3.

#### **2.2.2. Survey Scope**

##### *Survey locations*

2.2.2.1. Following consultation with Natural England (as part of the Evidence Plan Process for the Norfolk Vanguard Project), a botanical survey of the River Wensum and its floodplain

is required. The need for a detailed assessment of the habitats associated with the River Wensum was recommended to ensure that the potential effects of proposed horizontal directional drilling (HDD) under the River Wensum upon the qualifying flora of the River Wensum SAC and the notified flora of the River Wensum Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) are fully understood (PINS, 2016)

2.2.2.2. The priority area identified during the Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey (Royal HaskoningDHV, 2018) as requiring further botanical survey was identified to include the following areas:

- The grassland habitats located on the River Wensum floodplain on the northern (left-hand) bank of the river;
- The single drainage ditch within the floodplain on the northern (left-hand) bank of the River Wensum.

2.2.2.3. The location of the priority area described above is shown in Appendix 1 of this report.

### **2.3. Aim of report**

2.3.1. The aim of this report is to present the findings of the botanical survey.

### **2.4. Survey objective**

2.4.1. The botanical survey had three objectives:

1. To identify the presence/likely absence of the following plants growing within the floodplain habitats of the River Wensum SAC:
  - pond water-crowfoot *R. peltatus*;
  - stream water-crowfoot *R. penicillatus ssp. pseudofluitans*;
  - river water-crowfoot *R. fluitans*.
2. To identify what habitats and plant species are present within the floodplain and drainage ditches within the priority area.
3. To identify and locate any groundwater springs/seepage within the grassland habitats of the River Wensum floodplain.

### 3. Methodology

3.1. Section 3.1 sets out the proposed survey protocol as agreed between Royal HaskoningDHV and Norfolk Wildlife Services prior to any field work commencing, and Section 3.2 sets out how the surveys were delivered in relation to the protocol and identifies any deviations or modifications that took place during the delivery phase.

#### 3.1. Survey protocol

##### *Relevant guidance*

3.1.1. The following guidance documents were used to inform development of the survey methodology:

- Rodwell, J.S. (2006) National Vegetation Classification: Users' handbook. JNCC
- Doarks, C., & Leach, S. J. (1990). A classification of grazing marsh dyke vegetation in Broadland. Nature Conservancy Council.

##### *Survey locations*

3.1.2. The survey area covers all of the priority area described in Section 2, and the term survey location is used from herein.

3.1.3. The survey location is shown on the map in Appendix 2 and this location is summarised in Table 1.

*Table 1 Botanical survey location, description and area.*

Survey Location	GPS co-ordinates	Priority area description (as provided by Royal HaskoningDHV)	Additional details (as provided by Norfolk Wildlife Services)	Approx area of suitable habitat (hectares)
Wensum	TG 0416 1767	HDD receptor site adjacent to the River Wensum	Wet and dry grassland with a drainage ditch and a woodland	2.8

##### *Survey methodology*

3.1.4. Two different methodologies will be undertaken for different aspects of the Norfolk Boreas botanical survey.

- An NVC survey of grassland within the wider floodplain (Rodwell 2006) including identification of any springs and seepages.
- A vegetation survey of the ditches using the methodology of Doarks and Leach (1990).

3.1.5. The two methodologies are described below.

##### **NVC survey**

3.1.6. Sampling of the site will be undertaken in accordance with the approach set out in Rodwell (2006). An initial walkover will be conducted to identify the broad vegetation communities present within the site. Following this, sampling quadrats will be randomly selected within each broad vegetation community. A full species list will be noted for each quadrat, with species abundances quantified in accordance with the Domin scale and vegetation height will be recorded.

Table 2 : Domin cover values

Domin	Cover (%)
10	91-100
9	76-90
8	51-75
7	34-50
6	26-33
5	11-25
4	4-10
3	<4% (many individuals)
2	<4% (several individuals)
1	<4% (few individuals)

3.1.7. Any potential calcareous groundwater seepage/spring activity within the site will be noted.

3.1.8. An NVC community type will be attributed to the sampling locations. A map showing the NVC communities will be drawn up following the results of the survey.

3.1.9. The precise location of all notable species was recorded.

3.1.10. Quadrat sampling will be used within delineated sub-communities, and those species found within each quadrat identified.

#### *Analysis to NVC Communities*

3.1.11. The NVC community type for each sampling location will be based on Rodwell (2006) and surveyor experience from comparable sites with those identified communities. Floristic tables will be generated for each community type that summarises the constancy values of constituent species among the samples. Constancy values will be allocated as per the following table:

Table 3 : Constancy tables as defined in Rodwell (2006)

Constancy	Frequency (5%)	Description
I	1-20 (i.e. 1 stand in 5)	scarce
II	21-40	occasional
III	41-60	frequent
IV	61-80	constant
V	81-100	constant

3.1.12. The keys of British Plant Communities Volume 3: Grasslands and Montane Communities were used to define grassland community types (Rodwell, 1992)

## Ditch Survey

3.1.13. One ditch system was identified within the River Wensum floodplain survey area and was labelled Ditch 1 (see Figure 3).

3.1.14. Within the ditch system, 20m sections will be chosen per ditch that appears to contain homogenous or representative vegetation for both aquatic and emergent communities. Photographs will be taken and central grid references noted at each sampling location.

3.1.15. All species within the aquatic zone will be noted with abundances (quantified within DAFOR) and general notes about the ditch recorded. Local cover values will also be noted, where relevant. Emergent species are defined as those within the aquatic zone, which for most of the summer have the majority of their biomass above the water surface.

Table 4 : DAFOR and local cover values

DAFOR	Cover (%)	Local cover values
Dominant (D)	70-100	Abundant-Locally dominant
Abundant (A)	30-70	Frequent-Locally dominant , Frequent- Locally abundant
Frequent (F)	10-30	Occasional-Locally dominant , Occasional- Locally abundant
Occasional (O)	3-10	Rare-Locally dominant , Rare-Locally abundant , Occasional-Locally frequent
Rare (R)	<3	Rare-Locally frequent, Rare-Locally occasional

3.1.16. The following aquatic plant species, associated with the River Wensum SAC habitat, will be given particular attention:

- pond water-crowfoot *R. peltatus*
- stream water-crowfoot *R. penicillatus ssp. pseudofluitans*
- river water-crowfoot *R. fluitans*

### Analysis to Endgroups

3.1.17. Aquatic and emergent species for each sampling location will be attributed an endgroup. Species and abundances will be hand sorted through the key in Doarks and Leach (1990) to identify an aquatic and emergent endgroup for each sampling location. These groups are set out in the tables below.

Table 5 : Aquatic vegetation communities, as defined in Doarks and Leach (1990)

Community	Binomial Names	Common names
A1	<i>Scirpus fluitans</i> - <i>Potamogeton natans</i>	Floating club rush-broad leaved pondweed
A2	<i>Potamogeton natans</i> - <i>Hottonia palustris</i> - <i>Myriophyllum verticillatum</i>	Broad leaved pondweed-Water violet-Whorled water milfoil
A3a	<i>Potamogeton natans</i>	Broad leaved pondweed
A3b	<i>Stratiotes aloides</i> - <i>Hydrocharis morsus-ranae</i>	Water soldier-Frogbit
A4	<i>Ceratophyllum demersum</i>	Rigid hornwort
A5a	<i>Eloдея Canadensis</i> - <i>Ceratophyllum demersum</i>	Canadian pondweed-Rigid hornwort
A5b	<i>Lemna minor</i> - <i>Lemna trisulca</i> -Filamentous algae	Common duckweed-Ivy leaved duckweed-Filamentous algae
A6	<i>Callitriche stagnalis</i> / <i>platycarpa</i>	Common/Variou leaved water starwort
A7a	Filamentous algae- <i>Enteromorpha</i>	Filamentous algae-Gutweed
A7b	<i>Potamogeton pectinatus</i> – <i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>	Fennel pondweed-Spiked water milfoil

Table 6 : Emergent vegetation communities, as defined in Doarks and Leach (1990)

Community	Binomial Names	Common names
E1	<i>Carex riparia</i> / <i>acutiformis</i> - <i>Phragmites australis</i>	Greater/Lesser pond sedge-Common reed
E2	<i>Glyceria maxima</i> - <i>Berula erecta</i>	Reed canary grass/Lesser water parsnip
E3	<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Soft rush
E4	<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common reed
E5	<i>Scirpus maritimus</i> - <i>Scirpus lacustris</i> subsp, <i>tabernaemontani</i> - <i>Eleocharis uniglumis</i>	Saltmarsh bulrush-Common club rush-Slender spike rush
E6	<i>Scirpus maritimus</i> - <i>Juncus gerardii</i>	Saltmarsh bulrush-Saltmarsh rush

3.1.18. The optimal survey window is between May and early August.

3.1.19. No species licences are required for these surveys.

3.1.20. The survey will be undertaken by suitably experienced NVC surveyors, who will either be members of Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) or act according to its code of conduct.

3.1.21. Appropriate long sleeved and long legged clothing, gloves and boots will be worn whilst surveying.

## 3.2. Survey delivery

### 3.2.1. Survey methodology as delivered

#### *Access to survey locations*

3.2.1.1. Access was achieved to the full survey location. However access was restricted until the end of August 2018 due to grazing.

#### *Equipment used*

3.2.1.2. Equipment used for the surveys is detailed below:

- Weather writer, pen, relevant site survey information and survey recording sheets
- Camera
- GPS
- Hand lens

#### *Survey effort*

3.2.1.3. There were two distinct grassland communities identified during the walkover of the site. 11 quadrats of 2m x 2m, specified in accordance with Rodwell (2006) for short herbaceous vegetation, were randomly selected within these two areas. The sampling locations are shown on Appendix 1.

3.2.1.4. Ditch 1, of approximately 300m, appeared fairly uniform along its length, although the surrounding environmental conditions varied. Three samples were taken from Ditch 1 where the surrounding NVC communities appeared to differ.

#### *Dates of surveys*

3.2.1.5. The survey was undertaken by Chris Roberts and Sally McColl on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2018 from 09:00-18:00. Weather conditions were Beaufort Wind Scale 1: light air, 22°C, 7/8 cloud cover.

#### *Personnel*

3.2.1.6. All surveys were undertaken by suitably experienced NVC surveyors, who are listed in the table below. Other personnel mentioned in Table 7 were safety workers.

*Table 7 : Personnel and relevant experience*

Team Member	Experience
Chris Roberts	15 years' experience of ecological surveying including monitoring of National Nature Reserve's for Natural England, grazing marshes and ditches and NVC plant surveys.
Sally McColl	11 years' experience of ecological surveying, including aquatic plant surveys, condition monitoring and NVC plant surveys.
Joseph Hassall	Safety worker

### 3.2.2. Limitations

3.2.2.1. Carrying out surveys in late August alters the species that are likely to be identified and would prevent detection of early flowering species, including some grasses. The late timing should not have an influence on sedge or aquatic species. However, despite the late timing of the survey, it is anticipated that the results obtained provide an accurate understanding of the habitats and species present.

3.2.2.2. There had been exceptionally high temperatures and an extended period of low rainfall prior to the survey. This would mean that some species may have died back, especially on light sandier soils. Some areas of seepage or spring activity may have been reduced, but it is likely that their prominence would have been increased by such conditions

i.e. that they would have been more resistant to such conditions, and would be highlighted by their contrast with the surrounding areas.

## 4. Results

### 4.1. General

- 4.1.1. Maps showing sampling locations are shown in Appendix 1.
- 4.1.2. Photographs taken at sampling locations are included in Appendix 2 (Figures 1-14).
- 4.1.3. Raw data tables and endgroup descriptions (Doarks and Leach, 1990) are attached as separate documents.
- 4.1.4. A map showing field numbers is attached in Appendix 3.
- 4.1.5. A map showing NVC communities, endgroups, and target notes is attached in Appendix 4.
- 4.1.6. Raw data tables are attached in Appendix 5.
- 4.1.7. The site consisted of three fields on peaty soil (Fields 1, 3 and 4) which were embanked on the river edge and lower than the river level. These fields were assigned to NVC community MG10. In addition there were three fields on sandy, loamy free draining soils (Fields 2, 5 and 6) which were higher than the river level. These fields were assigned to NVC community MG1.
- 4.1.8. There was one drain, Ditch 1, running through the site from north-west to south-east adjacent to Fields 1-5. This ditch was assigned aquatic endgroup A5b and emergent endgroup E2.

### 4.2. NVC survey

#### Overview

- 4.2.1. Field 1 was a typical grazing marsh, but was very rank and ungrazed. Vegetation near to the floodbank was dominated by nettle and thistle suggesting that eutrophic material had previously been deposited there. From historic aerial photographs it appeared that this field is generally cut rather than grazed.
- 4.2.2. Field 2, adjacent to the river was higher and drier than the adjacent Fields 1 and 3. It was dominated by nettle along the southern section with the northern section having an increased amount of herbaceous plants. There was a single oak tree on the river bank in Field 2.
- 4.2.3. Fields 3 and 4 were typical grazing marshes with a slightly wetter nature and were grazed at the time of survey. To the northern end of Field 4, the ground sloped rapidly upwards to the arable upland.
- 4.2.4. Field 5 was mostly dead grassland to the northern end, and sloped steeply up the eastern end to meet Field 6, and to the southern end there was exposed gravel, suggesting previous extraction (Target note 2; shown on Figure NVC-3 in Appendix 4: Community types).
- 4.2.5. Field 6 was the most northerly field adjacent to the upland, and had steeply sloping sides down into a central low point with a few mature trees and a large pond (Target note 1), which was dry at the time of survey. There was a young mixed native hedgerow along the northern and eastern sides (Target note 5). The northern, western and eastern sides, were grazed short whilst the steep slopes and southern side was dominated by long coarse grasses, and had frequent *Cirsium arvense*.
- 4.2.6. There was an area of mixed native broadleaved woodland adjacent to Ditch 1 and the western end of Field 5 (Target note 3).

4.2.7. There was an area of scattered hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* scrub between Fields 5 and 6 (Target note 4).

## **MG1 - Arrhenatherum elatius grassland Festuca rubra sub-community**

### *Description*

4.2.8. The sampling locations were dominated by coarse grasses with species such as *Dactylis glomerata*, *Agrostis stolonifera* and *Holcus lanatus* having highest constancy values with frequent *F. rubra*.

4.2.9. Herbs present with the high constancy were small low growing species such as *Taraxacum* agg., *Achillea millefolium* and *Geranium molle* with *Senecio jacobea* and *C. arvense* being present at some sampling locations.

4.2.10. The MG1 grassland sampling locations were labelled as D1-D7.

4.2.11. On average between 9 and 12 species were recorded per sampling location, with approximately half of those recorded being grasses.

### *Variation within community*

4.2.12. There was variation between the sampling locations, as displayed by the data (Appendix 5).

4.2.13. Sampling locations D1-4 were within the rabbit grazed shorter sward of Field 6 and were fairly similar being more grass dominant with species such as *D. glomerata*, *A. stolonifera*, *H. lanatus* and *Festuca arundinacea* with a good diversity but low abundance of herbaceous plants which were of a frequent occurrence at some of the sampling locations.

4.2.14. Sampling location D5 was an example of the longer, ranker and ungrazed area of this community on the southern side of Field 6 where *C. arvense* was a prominent feature and the low growing herbaceous plants had been outcompeted by the more aggressive grasses.

4.2.15. Sampling location D6 was within Field 5 where the majority of the vegetation was dead and had not recovered presumably since the prolonged hot dry spell in the early summer. The vegetation that was recognisable had a similar composition to D1-D4 and was shortly rabbit grazed. However the common presence of the moss *Kindbergia praelonga* (syn *Eurynchium praelongum*) made it structurally distinct from the other sampling locations. *K. praelonga* is a lowland moss which occurs in variable habitats.

4.2.16. Sampling location D7 was within Field 2 between the River Wensum and the drain. Interestingly this field was much higher than the adjacent grazing marshes Fields 1 and 3. This area had previously been grazed by cattle earlier in the season and retained a relatively short sward where the vegetation was more palatable. This sampling location differed from the other sampling locations by being dominated by *F. rubra* and having a presence of *Ulex europaeus*. The south of the field was ranker and dominated by *U. dioica*.

### *Goodness of fit to community*

4.2.17. MG1 is described as “a community in which coarse-leaved tussock grasses, notably *A. elatius* with usually smaller amounts of *D. glomerata* and *H. lanatus* are always conspicuous and generally dominant. Large umbellifers are frequent throughout and sometimes abundant and the sequential flowering of first, *Anthriscus sylvestris* and later, *Heracleum spondylium* and *Chaerophyllum temulentum*, can give stands a distinct creamy-white haze throughout most of late spring and summer. Apart from *C. arvense*, *Centaurea nigra* and *U. dioica*, other tall herbs are generally infrequent, though a variety of species may attain dominance locally.” (Rodwell, 1992).

4.2.18. The quadrats surveyed were not an exact fit with MG1 as *A. elatius* was not recorded at any of the sampling locations, but was noted within the surrounding sward but not as dominant.

4.2.19. Sampling locations did however have constant occurrence of other coarse grasses such as *D. glomerata*, *H. lanatus* and *A. stolonifera* with a frequent occurrence of *F. rubra*.

4.2.20. It is likely on the drier areas D6 and D7 that there is a transition to more lowland acid grassland community types.

#### Constancy table

4.2.21. The constancy table for the MG1 community is shown below. Constant species were identified as *D. glomerata*, *A. stolonifera*, *H. lanatus*, *Phleum pratense*, and *Taraxacum agg.*

Table 8: Constancy table for MG1 - *Arrhenatherum elatius* grassland *Festuca rubra* sub-community

Species	Constancy
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i> (cocks foot)	V
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i> (creeping bent)	IV
<i>Holcus lanatus</i> (Yorkshire fog)	IV
<i>Phleum pratense</i> (timothy)	IV
<i>Taraxacum agg.</i> (dandelion)	IV
<i>Achillea millefolium</i> (yarrow)	III
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i> (common bent)	III
<i>Cirsium arvense</i> (creeping thistle)	III
<i>Elymus repens</i> (couch grass)	III
<i>Festuca arundinacea</i> (tall fescue)	III
<i>Festuca rubra</i> (red fescue)	III
<i>Geranium molle</i> (Dove's-foot Crane's-bill)	III
<i>Senecio jacobaea</i> (ragwort)	III
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i> (field bindweed)	II
<i>Lolium perenne</i> (perennial ryegrass)	II
<i>Urtica dioica</i> (nettle)	II
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i> (common Stork's-bill)	I
<i>Galium aparine</i> (goosegrass)	I
<i>Geranium pusillum</i> (small flowered Crane's-bill)	I
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i> (ground ivy)	I
<i>Kindbergia praelonga</i> (common feather moss)	I
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i> (ribwort plantain)	I
<i>Rumex acetosa</i> (common sorrel)	I
<i>Rumex crispus</i> (curled dock)	I
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i> (broad leaved dock)	I
<i>Senecio vulgaris</i> (groundsel)	I
<i>Stachys sylvatica</i> (hedge woundwort)	I
<i>Torilis japonica</i> (upright hedge parsley)	I
<i>Ulex europaeus</i> (gorse)	I
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i> (germander speedwell)	I
<i>Vicia cracca</i> (tufted vetch)	I

### MG10 - *Holco-Juncetum effusi* rush pasture

#### Description

4.2.22. The sampling locations were dominated by *H. lanatus* with *L. perenne*, *P. pratense* and *U. dioica* being constant. *Juncus effusus*, *Phalaris arundinacea* and *Glyceria maxima* were recorded at half of the sampling locations.

4.2.23. The MG10 grassland sampling locations were labelled as W1-W4.

4.2.24. Sampling locations appeared quite variable in species diversity with between 5 and 16 species being recorded.

4.2.25. No nationally or locally scarce species were noted at any of the sampling locations.

#### *Variation within community*

4.2.26. There was significant variation between the sampling locations (Appendix 5), which reflects the variation within vegetation in the fields.

4.2.27. Quadrats 1-3 were taken within Field 1 which was ungrazed and uncut. Behind the floodbank this was dominated by *U.dioica*, and within the field was the varying presence of *F. arundinacea*, *G.maxima*, *D. glomerata* and *P. arundinacea* indicating a variation in wetness throughout the field.

4.2.28. Quadrat 4 was taken within Field 3, from which the cows were removed whilst the survey was being carried out. The species-richness recorded within this field was lower and the community less structurally varied. Only coarse species such as *D. glomerata*, *H.lanatus* and *U.dioica* were recorded.

#### *Goodness of fit to community*

4.2.29. MG10 - *Holco-Juncetum effusi* is described as “a sward with prominent tussocks of *Juncus effusus* up to 80cm tall in a generally species poor and shorter grassy ground. *Holcus lanatus* and *Juncus effusus* are the only constant grasses and each or both may be abundant” (Rodwell, 1992).

4.2.30. This community is characteristic of permanently moist sites, which is widely distributed in pastures which are usually grazed.

4.2.31. It is not an exact fit with this community type as although *H.lanatus* is present at high constancy, so too is *L. perenne* and *P. pratense*, while *A. stolonifera* and *J. effusus* are frequent.

4.2.32. It is suggested that this is a good fit in those wetter areas where *J.effusus* is present, and where *U.dioica* is more persistent, it suggests a transition to drier community types.

#### *Constancy table*

4.2.33. The constancy table for the MG10 community is shown below. Constant species were identified as *H.lanatus*, *L. perenne*, *P. pratense*, and *U.dioica*.

Table 9: Constancy table for MG10 - *Holco-Juncetum effusi* rush pasture

Species	Constancy
<i>Holcus lanatus</i> (Yorkshire fog)	V
<i>Lolium perenne</i> (perennial ryegrass)	IV
<i>Phleum pratense</i> (timothy)	IV
<i>Urtica dioica</i> (common nettle)	IV
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i> (creeping bent)	III
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i> (cock's-foot)	III
<i>Equisetum palustre</i> (marsh horsetail)	III
<i>Festuca arundinacea</i> (tall fescue)	III
<i>Glyceria maxima</i> (reed sweet grass)	III
<i>Juncus effusus</i> (soft rush)	III
<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i> (reed canary grass)	III
<i>Ranunculus repens</i> (creeping buttercup)	III
<i>Taraxacum</i> agg. (dandelion)	III
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i> (false oat grass)	II

Species	Constancy
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i> (common mouse ear)	II
<i>Cirsium arvense</i> (creeping thistle)	II
<i>Cirsium palustre</i> (marsh thistle)	II
<i>Festuca rubra</i> (red fescue)	II
<i>Galium aparine</i> (goosegrass)	II
<i>Galium uliginosum</i> (fen bedstraw)	II
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i> (ground ivy)	II
<i>Persicaria amphibia</i> (amphibious bistort)	II
<i>Potentilla anserina</i> (silverweed)	II
<i>Rumex conglomeratus</i> (clustered dock)	II

## Other communities

### *Dry grassland*

4.2.34. The state of vegetation within Field 5, which was mostly dead grassland especially within the northern end, meant that botanical surveying would not have been accurate in representing the communities present.

4.2.35. Within the southern end there was exposed gravel on which here was sparsely growth of acid-grassland species including sheep's sorrel *Rumex acetosella*, sand spurrey *Spergularia rubra*, buckhorn plantain *Plantago coronopus*, wall barley *Hordeum murinum*, rat's tail fescue *Vulpia myuros* and hoary cinquefoil *Potentilla argentea*.

### *River Wensum margins*

4.2.36. The marginal edge of the River Wensum was excluded from the survey area but was noted as being similar in composition to the southern bank of the river which was classified as *S5-Glycerietum maximae* swamp. The area of the River Wensum has been previously sampled within work for the Norfolk Vanguard Project (Norfolk Wildlife Services, 2017)

### *Pond in Field 6*

4.2.37. The large pond (Target note 1) was dry at the time of survey. The vegetation was dominated by *G. maxima* with a rare occurrence of water plantain *Alisma plantago-aquatica* and water forget-me-not *Myosotis scorpioides*.

### *Mixed native broadleaved woodland*

4.2.38. There was an area of mixed native broadleaved woodland adjacent to Ditch 1 and the northern end of Field 5 (Target note 3). This was excluded from the NVC survey as the primary aim of the surveys was to concentrate on the grassland and ditch habitats within the River Wensum floodplain.

### *Scattered scrub*

4.2.39. There was an area of scattered hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* scrub between Fields 5 and 6 (Target note 4).

## 4.3. Ditch survey

### *Description*

4.3.1. Ditch 1 was a slow-moderate flowing drain of approximately 300m in length, 1.5m wide and was fairly uniform along its length, with water being very shallow (10-15cm) and sparse vegetation cover. At the northern end there was thick silt/sand layer on the bed which then appeared to disperse to expose a sandy/gravelly bed approximately half way along the ditch length.

### Aquatic vegetation

4.3.2. Overall there was minimal aquatic vegetation within the ditch and *Lemna minor* was the most abundant species recorded at all three sampling locations.

4.3.3. The three sampling locations corresponded to endgroup A5b – *L. minor*-*Lemna trisulca*-filamentous algae where species such as *Ceratophyllum demersum*, *Callitriche. spp.* and *P. berchtoldii* are often typical.

4.3.4. Despite there being no filamentous algae present, it is a good match to this group as a representative community of ditches with low species diversity within freshwater marshes.

Table 10 : Ditch 1 – Species and abundances of aquatic vegetation

Species	Sampling Location		
	1A	1B	1C
<i>Callitriche spp. (starwort)</i>	Rare	Rare	Occasional
<i>Elodea nuttali (Nuttall's pondweed)</i>	Rare	-	Occasional
<i>Lemna minor (lesser duckweed)</i>	Occasional	Occasional	Frequent
<i>Sparganium emersum (un-branched bur-reed)</i>	Rare	-	-
<b>Aquatic endgroup</b>	<b>A5b</b>	<b>A5b</b>	<b>A5b</b>

### Emergent vegetation

4.3.5. A wide range of species were recorded as emergent vegetation but all in occasional abundance or less, except at 1A where there was a stand of *Glyceria maxima* recorded as frequent. Despite there being a lack of dominant species, *G. maxima* or *B. erecta* were present at all three locations.

4.3.6. The three sampling locations keyed out to E2 - *Glyceria maxima* - *Berula erecta* community.

4.3.7. This endgroup is associated with high species diversity and the sampling locations fit well with this group.

Table 11: Ditch 1 – Species and abundances of emergent vegetation

Species	Sampling Location		
	1A	1B	1C
<i>Agrostis stolonifera (creeping bent)</i>			Rare
<i>Apium nodiflorum (fool's-water-cress)</i>		Rare	Occasional
<i>Berula erecta (lesser water-parsnip)</i>		Occasional	Occasional
<i>Cardamine spp. (bittercress)</i>		Rare	Rare
<i>Epilobium hirsutum (hairy willow-herb)</i>	Rare		
<i>Filipendula ulmaria (meadowsweet)</i>		Rare	
<i>Glyceria maxima (reed sweet-grass)</i>	Frequent		
<i>Glyceria plicata/fluitans (plicate/floating sweet-grass)</i>		Rare	
<i>Holcus lanatus (Yorkshire fog)</i>		Rare	
<i>Lythrum salicaria (purple loosestrife)</i>	Rare		
<i>Mentha aquatica (water mint)</i>	Rare	Occasional	
<i>Myosotis scorpidium (water forget-me-not)</i>		Rare	Rare
<i>Phalaris arundinacea (reed canary grass)</i>	Rare		Occasional
<i>Rumex hydrolapathum (water dock)</i>		Rare	
<i>Rumex obtusifolius (broad-leaved dock)</i>			Rare

Species	Sampling Location		
<i>Scrophularia auriculatum</i> (water figwort)	Rare		
<i>Solanum dulcamara</i> (bittersweet)		Rare	
<i>Sparganium erectum</i> (branched bur-reed)			O
<b>Emergent endgroup</b>	<b>E2</b>	<b>E2</b>	<b>E2</b>

### Summary

4.3.8. The endgroup A5b - *Lemna minor/ Lemna trisulca/* filamentous algae is species poor, typically found in water depths of <20cm, and is associated with moderately eutrophic conditions.

4.3.9. Endgroup E2 - *Glyceria maxima-Berula erecta* is typical of eutrophic freshwater conditions with a high base status. Aquatic community A5b is often associated with this emergent vegetation.

### 4.4. Nationally rare and scarce species

4.4.1. *P. argentea* recorded at Target Note 2 is listed as near threatened in Great Britain. This species was recorded at grid reference TG 04206 17695.

4.4.2. No nationally or locally scarce species were noted at any of the other sampling locations.

4.4.3. None of the species listed within the Norfolk Boreas Phase 2 Ecological Surveys Scope associated with the River Wensum SAC habitat were noted during the ditch or NVC surveys.

### 4.5. Presence of springs and seepage

4.5.1. There were wetter areas of the MG10 community evident within Fields 1 and 3. However as these small, isolated areas were located at the back of the flood bank in close proximity to the river, it is likely to be a result of winter inundation and river water seepage through the flood bank.

4.5.2. The pond within the priority area held no obvious spring or seepage activity species and was dry at the time of survey.

4.5.3. The mixed native broadleaved woodland held no obvious species connected with spring or seepage activity.

4.5.4. There was no evidence of calcareous ground water spring or seepage activity with the priority area.

## 5. Conclusion

### **NVC survey**

5.1. The grassland found adjacent to the River Wensum consisted of two main NVC communities, which were often transitional to each other:

- MG1 Arrhenatherum elatius grassland Festuca rubra sub-community
- MG10 – *Holco-Juncetum effusi* rush pasture

5.2. MG10 is a species poor community and characteristic of permanently moist sites, which are widely distributed in grazed pastures. It is a good fit with this community in the wetter areas, but suggests a transition to drier community types where *J. effusus* was not recorded.

5.3. MG1 is community type associated with ungrazed, coarse and tussocky swards found on free draining soil. The sampling locations were in general species poor, and where these areas were ungrazed appeared to be the best fit with this community type. However there appeared to be a transition to more lowland acid grassland communities within the drier areas.

5.4. There were other small features noted which were not subject to detailed NVC surveys:

- Dry grassland in Field 5, which included small areas of acid-grassland species including *P. argentea*;
- River Wensum margins similar in composition to the southern bank of the river which was classified as *S5-Glycerietum maximae* swamp;
- Pond in Field 6, dry at the time of survey and was dominated by *G. maxima*;
- Mixed native broadleaved woodland excluded from the NVC survey;
- Scattered hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* scrub between Fields 5 and 6 (Target note 4).

### **Ditch survey**

5.5. Ditch 1 was classified according to Doarks and Leach (1990) as being:

- Aquatic endgroup A5b – *Lemna minor-Lemna trisulca*-filamentous algae
- Emergent endgroup E2 – *Glyceria Maxima-Berula erecta*

5.6. Aquatic and emergent vegetation was similar at the three sampling locations and along the ditch length.

5.7. The species recorded fit well with endgroup's A5b and E2 and are generally species poor and associated with eutrophic conditions.

### **Ranunculecae floating beds**

5.8. None of the following species, associated with the River Wensum SAC habitat were recorded during the botanical survey of habitats within the River Wensum floodplain:

- pond water-crowfoot *R. peltatus*
- stream water-crowfoot *R. penicillatus ssp. pseudofluitans*
- river water-crowfoot *R. fluitans*

### **Presence of springs and seepage**

5.9. The wetter areas of the MG10 community at the back of the flood bank is likely to be a result of winter inundation and river water seepage through the flood bank, as this area is isolated, not extensive and is in close proximity to the river.

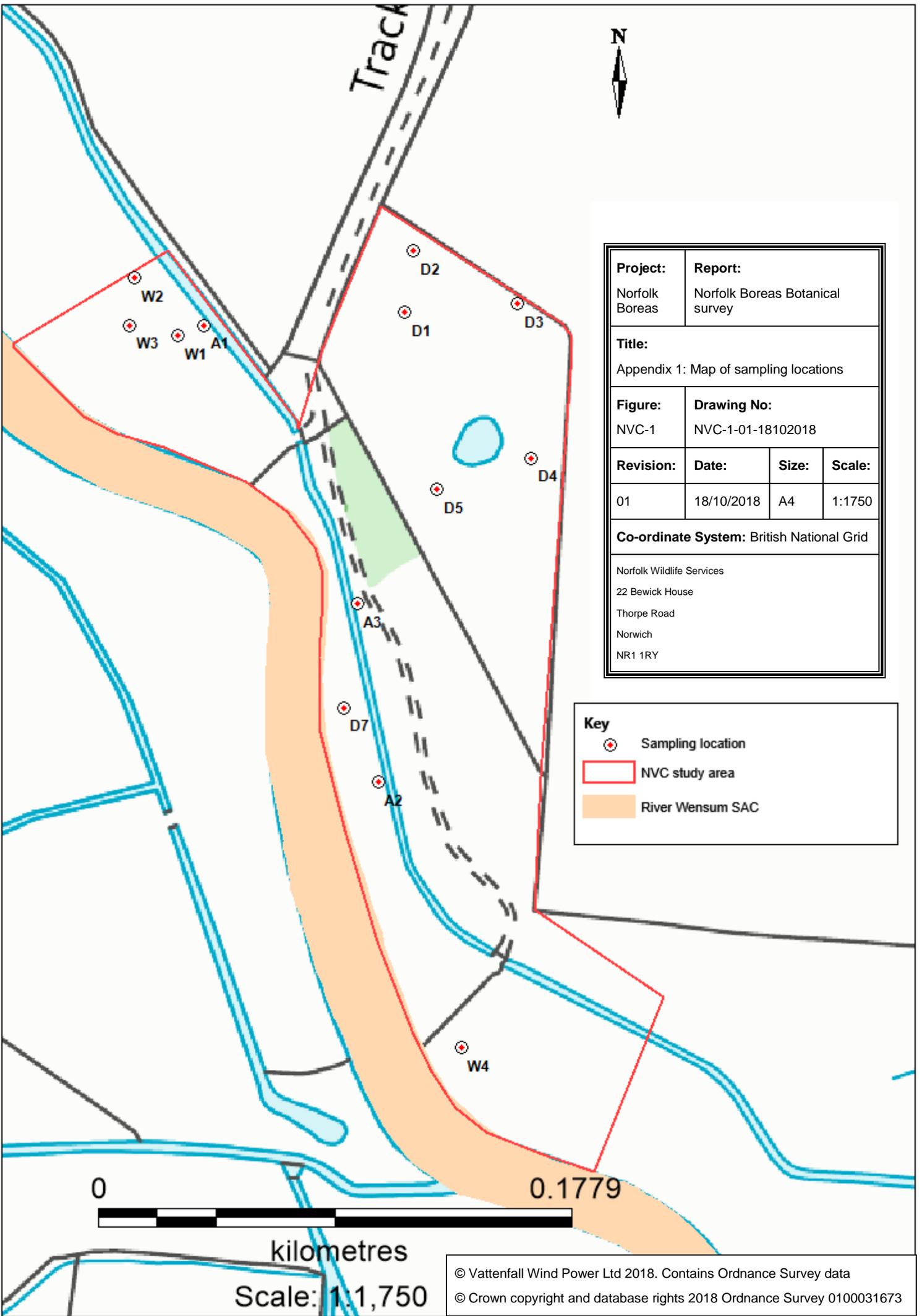
5.10. The pond within the priority area was wholly dry and held no obvious spring or seepage activity species.

5.11. There was no evidence of seepage within the woodland areas.

5.12. There was no evidence of calcareous ground water spring or seepage activity with the priority area.

## 6. References

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<b>Project:</b> Norfolk Boreas		<b>Report:</b> Norfolk Boreas Botanical survey	
<b>Title:</b> Appendix 1: Map of sampling locations			
<b>Figure:</b> NVC-1		<b>Drawing No:</b> NVC-1-01-18102018	
<b>Revision:</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Size:</b>	<b>Scale:</b>
01	18/10/2018	A4	1:1750
<b>Co-ordinate System:</b> British National Grid			
Norfolk Wildlife Services 22 Bewick House Thorpe Road Norwich NR1 1RY			

<b>Key</b>	
	Sampling location
	NVC study area
	River Wensum SAC

## 8. Appendix 2 – Photographs



*Figure 1 : NVC sampling location W1 – MG10*



*Figure 2 : NVC sampling location W2 – MG10*



*Figure 3 : NVC sampling location W3 – MG10*



*Figure 4 : NVC sampling location W4 – MG10*



*Figure 5 : NVC sampling location D1 – MG1*



*Figure 6 : NVC sampling location D2 – MG1*



Figure 7 : NVC sampling location D3 – MG1



Figure 8 : NVC sampling location D4 – MG1



Figure 9 : NVC sampling location D5 – MG1



Figure 10 : NVC sampling location D6 – MG1



Figure 11 : NVC sampling location D7 – MG1



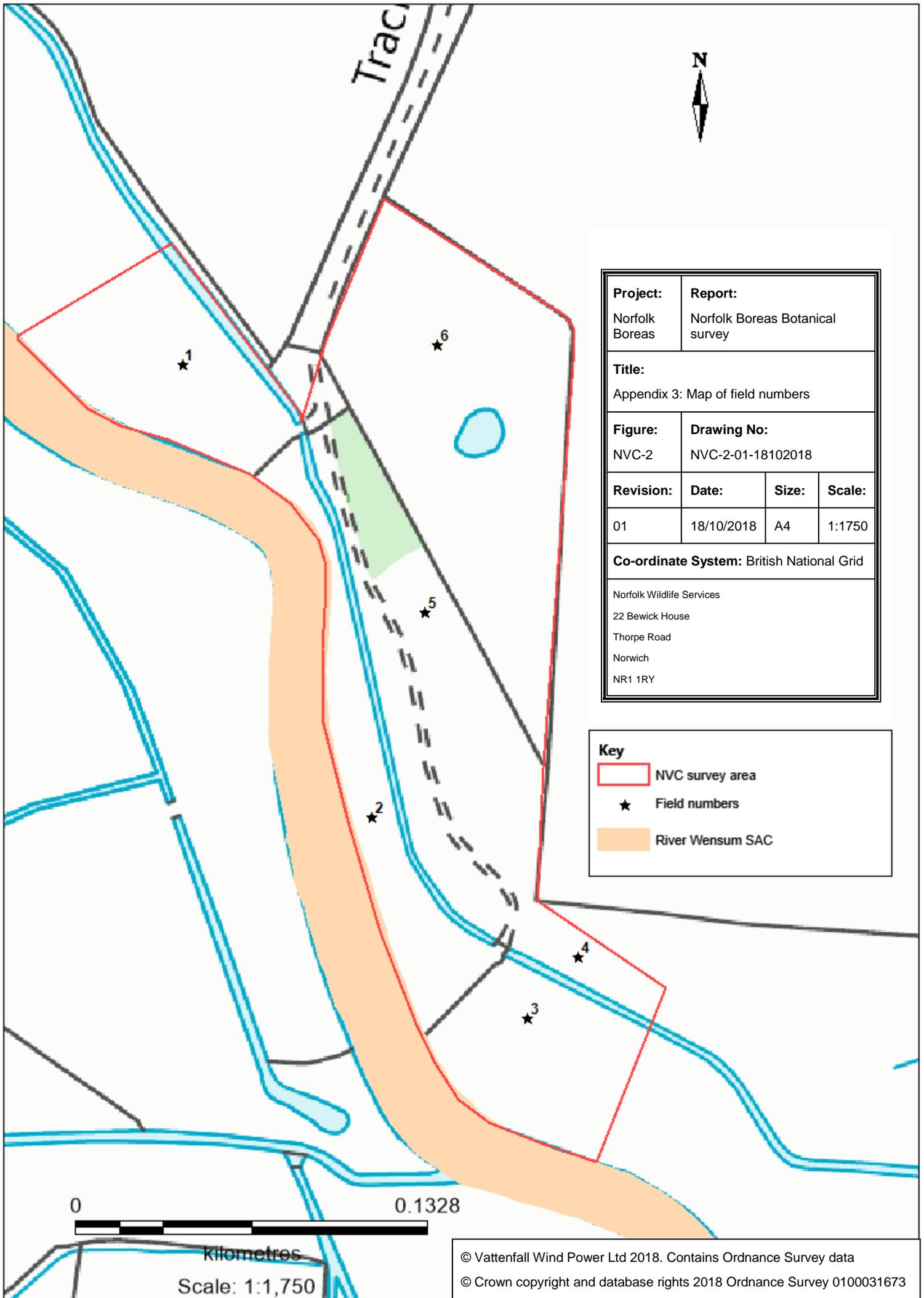
Figure 12 : Ditch survey sampling location 1A – A5b/E2



*Figure 13 : Ditch survey sampling location 1B – A5b/E2*



*Figure 14 : Ditch survey sampling location 1C – A5b/E2*



<b>Project:</b> Norfolk Boreas		<b>Report:</b> Norfolk Boreas Botanical survey	
<b>Title:</b> Appendix 3: Map of field numbers			
<b>Figure:</b> NVC-2		<b>Drawing No:</b> NVC-2-01-18102018	
<b>Revision:</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Size:</b>	<b>Scale:</b>
01	18/10/2018	A4	1:1750
<b>Co-ordinate System:</b> British National Grid			
Norfolk Wildlife Services 22 Bewick House Thorpe Road Norwich NR1 1RY			

<b>Key</b>	
	NVC survey area
	Field numbers
	River Wensum SAC



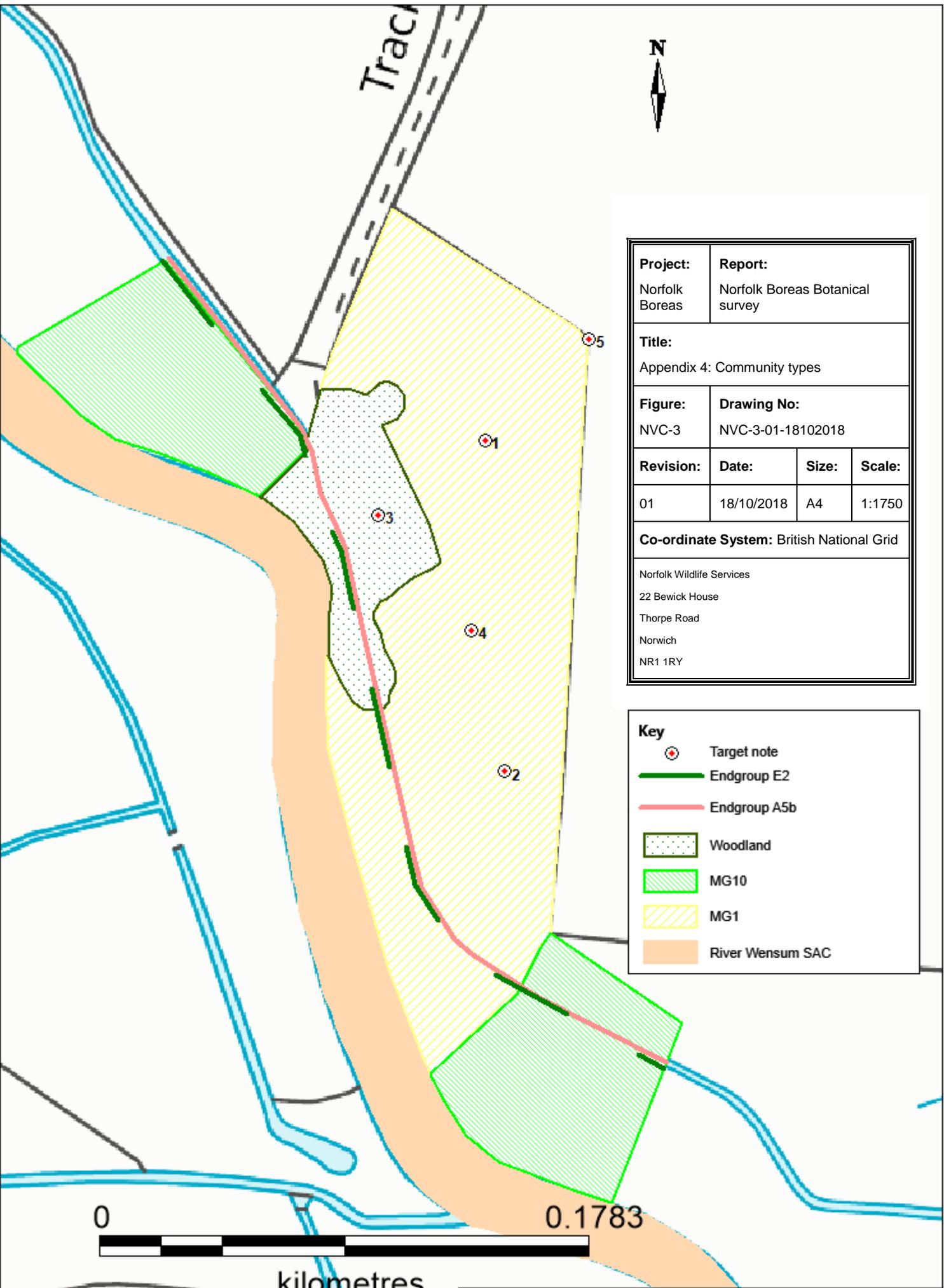
Scale: 1:1,750

Track



<b>Project:</b> Norfolk Boreas		<b>Report:</b> Norfolk Boreas Botanical survey	
<b>Title:</b> Appendix 4: Community types			
<b>Figure:</b> NVC-3		<b>Drawing No:</b> NVC-3-01-18102018	
<b>Revision:</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Size:</b>	<b>Scale:</b>
01	18/10/2018	A4	1:1750
<b>Co-ordinate System:</b> British National Grid			
Norfolk Wildlife Services 22 Bewick House Thorpe Road Norwich NR1 1RY			

Key	
	Target note
	Endgroup E2
	Endgroup A5b
	Woodland
	MG10
	MG1
	River Wensum SAC



kilometres  
Scale: 1:1,750

## 11. Appendix 5 – Raw data tables

Table 12: NVC Recording Form for MG7 (Quadrats W1 – W4)

NWS - NVC Recording Form				
Site:	River Waveney Floodplain			
Date:	28/08/2018			
Recorder:	Sally McColl/Chris Roberts			
NVC type :	MG7			
Photographs? (Y/N)	Y			
Number of quadrats	4			
1. Quadrat data	TG 04091 17850	TG 04075 17872	TG 04073 17854	TG 04197 17582
	wet grassland on peat quadrat 4 currently grazed			
Species	Quadrat number			
	W1	W2	W3	W4
Bare ground (%)	5	0	0	5
Bryophytes (%)	0	0	0	0
Litter (%)	5	5	5	10
Litter (depth in mm)	1	1	1	5
Water (%)	0	0	0	0
Water (depth in cm)	0	0	0	0
Layer 1 : mean height (mm)	0-50mm	0-50mm	0-50mm	0-50mm
Layer 1 : cover (%)	0	0	0	90
Layer 2 : mean height (cm)	5cm-0.5m	5cm-0.5m	5cm-0.5m	5cm-0.5m
Layer 2 : cover (%)	80	95	75	10
Layer 3 : mean height (m)	0.5-1m	0.5-1m	0.5-1m	0.5-1m
Layer 3 : cover (%)	20	5	25	0
Layer 4 : mean height (m)	1-2m	1-2m	1-2m	1-2m
Layer 4 : cover (%)	0	0	0	0
Scrub (seedlings)	0	0	0	0
Scrub (saplings)	0	0	0	0
Scrub (mature)	0	0	0	0
Scrub (trees)	0	0	0	0
Species	Quadrat number			
	W1	W2	W3	W4
Holcus lanatus (Yorkshire fog)	4	5	4	7
Pheum pratense (timothy)	2	4	2	0
Lolium perenne (perennial ryegrass)	5	4	1	0
Urtica dioica (common nettle)	5	0	7	6
Agrostis stolonifera (creeping bent)	4	2	0	0
Juncus effusus (soft rush)	1	4	0	0
Schedonorus arundinacea (tall fescue)	0	1	5	0
Ranunculus repens (creeping buttercup)	1	1	0	0
Taraxacum agg. (dandelion)	3	0	0	3
Dactylis glomerata (cock's-foot)	4	0	0	4
Glyceria maxima (reed sweet grass)	4	0	4	0
Phalaris arundinacea (reed canary grass)	1	5	0	0
Equisetum palustre (marsh horsetail)	1	1	0	0
Arrhenatherum elatius (false oat grass)	0	0	0	2
Galium uliginosum (fen bedstraw)	0	4	0	0
Galium aparine (goosegrass)	1	0	0	0
Potentilla anserina (silverweed)	1	0	0	0
Cerastium fontanum (common mouse ear)	0	1	0	0
Glechoma hederacea (ground ivy)	0	1	0	0

Cirsium arvense (creeping thistle)	0	0	1	0
Persicaria amphibia (amphibious bistort)	0	2	0	0
Cirsium palustre (marsh thistle)	0	3	0	0
Festuca rubra (red fescue)	0	4	0	0
Rumex conglomeratus (clustered dock)	0	1	0	0
Rumex obtusifolius (broad leaved dock)	0	0	0	0
Scrophularia auriculata (water figwort)	0	0	0	0

Table 13: NVC Recording Form for MG1 (Quadrats D1 – D7)

NWS - NVC Recording Form							
Site:	River Waveney Floodplain						
Date:	28/08/2018						
Recorder:	Sally McColl/Chris Roberts						
NVC type :	MG1 Festuca rubra sub community						
Photographs? (Y/N)	Y						
Number of quadrats	7						
1. General description of stand	sandy soil						
No real litter layer - more matting around tussocky vegetation; All quadrats are spring grazed; Quadrats 3 and 4 were recently grazed; Quadrats 5 and 6 were currently grazed; Quadrat 7 was slightly higher and drier							
2. Quadrat data							
	TG 04176 17859	TG 04179 17882	TG 04218 17862	TG 04223 17804	TG 04188 17792	TG 04178 17753	TG 04153 17710
Species	Quadrat number						
	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6	D7
Bare ground (%)	1	1	10	0	0	5	10
Bryophytes (%)	0	0	0	0	0	25	0
Litter (%)	15	15	20	30	30	5	30
Litter (depth in mm)	50	50	30	30	30	30	50
Water (%)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Water (depth in cm)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Layer 1 : mean height (mm)	0-50mm	0-50mm	0-50mm	0-50mm	0-50mm	0-50mm	0-50mm
Layer 1 : cover (%)	10	15	15	20	0	50	25
Layer 2 : mean height (cm)	5cm-0.5m	5cm-0.5m	5cm-0.5m	5cm-0.5m	5cm-0.5m	5cm-0.5m	5cm-0.5m
Layer 2 : cover (%)	85	80	84	79	75	20	60
Layer 3 : mean height (m)	0.5-1m	0.5-1m	0.5-1m	0.5-1m	0.5-1m	0.5-1m	0.5-1m
Layer 3 : cover (%)	5	5	1	1	25	0	0
Layer 4 : mean height (m)	1-2m	1-2m	1-2m	1-2m	1-2m	1-2m	1-2m
Layer 4 : cover (%)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scrub (seedlings)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scrub (saplings)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scrub (mature)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scrub (trees)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Species	Quadrat number						
	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6	D7
Dactylis glomerata (cocks foot)	5	7	5	5	6	4	5
Agrostis stolonifera (creeping bent)	4	2	5	6	0	4	0
Holcus lanatus (Yorkshire fog)	5	0	2	4	4	4	0
Taraxacum agg. (dandelion)	1	3	2	4	0	0	2
Phleum pratense (timothy)	1	1	1	4	2	0	0
Cirsium arvense (creeping thistle)	2	1	0	1	4	0	0
Festuca rubra (red fescue)	0	0	2	1	4	0	8
Elymus repens (couch grass)	2	1	0	0	1	0	3
Geranium molle (Dove's-foot Crane's-bill)	0	5	1	2	0	0	0
Schedonorus arundinacea (tall fescue)	0	4	0	1	6	0	0
Achillea millefolium (yarrow)	0	0	4	0	0	3	1

Agrostis capillaris (common bent)	4	0	5	5	0	0	0
Senecio jacobaea (ragwort)	0	2	1	1	0	0	1
Lolium perenne (perennial ryegrass)	2	0	0	0	0	4	0
Convolvulus arvensis (field bindweed)	0	0	4	1	0	0	0
Urtica dioica (nettle)	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Rumex acetosa (common sorrel)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Veronica chamaedrys (germander speedwell)	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Senecio vulgaris (groundsel)	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Plantago lanceolata (ribwort plantain)	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Galium aparine (goosegrass)	0	0	0	0	4	0	0
Stachys sylvatica (hedge woundwort)	0	0	0	0	0	4	0
Erodium cicutarium (common Stork's-bill)	0	0	0	0	0	4	0
Geranium pusillum (small flowered Crane's-bill)	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Torilis japonica (upright hedge parsley)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Ulex europaeus (gorse)	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Kindbergia praelonga (common feather moss)	0	0	0	0	0	6	0
Glechoma hederacea (ground ivy)	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Rumex crispus (curled dock)	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Rumex obtusifolius (broad leaved dock)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vicia cracca (tufted vetch)	0	0	0	0	4	0	0
Arrhenatherum elatius (false oat grass)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Centaurea nigra (common knapweed)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leontodon autumnalis (autumn hawkbit)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rumex acetosella (sheep's sorrel)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



<i>Berula erecta</i>		<i>Lemna polyrhiza</i>		<i>Sparganium emerum</i>	R
<i>Bidens cernua</i>		<i>Lemna triscula</i>		<i>Sparganium erectum</i>	
<i>Butomus umbellatus</i>		<i>Lotus uliginosus</i>		<i>Stachys palustris</i>	
<i>Callitriche spp.</i>	R	<i>Lynchis flos-cuculi</i>		<i>Stratiotes aloides</i>	
<i>Caltha palustris</i>		<i>Lycopus europaeus</i>		<i>Triglochin palustris</i>	
<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>		<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	R	<i>Typha latifolia</i>	
<i>Carex acutiformis</i>		<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	R	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	
<i>Carex disticha</i>		<i>Mysotis laxa</i>		<i>Utricularia vulgaris</i>	
<i>Carex hirta</i>		<i>Myosotis scorpidium</i>		<i>Veronica beccabunga</i>	
<i>Carex otrubae</i>		<i>Myriophyllum sp.</i>		<i>Veronica catenata</i>	
<i>Carex paniculata</i>		<i>Myriophyllum verticillatum</i>		<i>Zannichellia palustris</i>	
<i>Carex psuedocyperus</i>		<i>Nasturtium officinale</i>			
<i>Carex riparia</i>		<i>Nuphar lutea</i>			
<i>Carex rostrata</i>		<i>Oenathe fistulosa</i>			
<i>Ceratophyllum demersum</i>		<i>Oenanthe lachenalii</i>			
<i>Ceratophyllum submersum</i>		<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	R		
<i>Chara spp.</i>		<i>Phragmites australis</i>			
<i>Cirsium palustre</i>		<i>Poa trivialis</i>			
<i>Eleocharis palustris</i>		<i>Polygonum amphibium</i>			
<i>Eleocharis uniglumis</i>		<i>Polygonum hydropiper</i>			
<i>Elodea nuttalli</i>	R	<i>Polygonum persicaria</i>			
<i>Enteromorpha spp.</i>		<i>Potamogeton bertoldii</i>			
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>		<i>Potamogeton crispus</i>	R		
<i>Glyceria plicata/fluitans</i>		<i>Ranunculus flammula</i>			
<i>Glyceria maxima</i>		<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	F		
<i>Hippuris vulgaris</i>		<i>Ranunculus sardous</i>			
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>		<i>Ranunculus scleratus</i>			
<i>Hordeus secalineum</i>		<i>Rumex conglomeratus</i>			
<i>Hottonia palustre</i>		<i>Rumex crispus</i>			



## Norfolk Vanguard Botanical survey

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Report prepared by Norfolk Wildlife Services Ltd.  
on behalf of Royal HaskoningDHV, October 2017

Reference: 2016/131/7

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## 2. Executive Summary

2.1. Following consultation on The Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey (Royal HaskoningDHV, 2017a), a detailed survey of the River Wensum and its floodplain were recommended to be carried out to understand any potential effects of horizontal directional drilling on the designated and notifiable features of River Wensum Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

2.2. The survey had four aims:

1. To identify the National Vegetation Classification (NVC) communities within the River Wensum SAC and SSSI.
2. To note if the following plants are growing within the River Wensum or grazing marsh ditches:
  - pond water-crowfoot *Ranunculus peltatus*;
  - stream water-crowfoot *Ranunculus penicillatus ssp. pseudofluitans*;
  - river water-crowfoot *Ranunculus fluitans*.
3. To identify the NVC communities within the semi-improved grassland found adjacent to the River Wensum.
4. To look for presence of calcareous groundwater springs/seepage within the semi-improved grassland.

2.3. Methodologies were developed using guidance documents from Rodwell (2006) and Doarks and Leach (1990).

2.4. The semi-improved grassland adjacent to the River Wensum consisted of two main NVC communities, which were often transitional to each other:

- MG6 – *Lolium perenne-Cynosurus cristatus* grassland
- MG10 – *Holco-Juncetum effusi* rush pasture

2.5. The River Wensum consisted of two main NVC communities:

- A8a - *Nuphar lutea* community, “species-poor” sub community (aquatic zone)
- S5 - *Glycerietum maximae* swamp, *Alisma plantago-aquatica-Sparganium erectum* sub community (marginal edge)

2.6. Communities associated with the ditches varied depending on location and land management. They were classified according to Doarks and Leach (1990) as being:

- Aquatic End Group A5b – *Lemna minor-Lemna trisulca*-filamentous algae
- Aquatic End Group A6 - *Callitriche stagnalis/platycarpa*
- Aquatic End Group A7b - *Potamogeton pectinatus-Myriophyllum spicatum*
- Emergent End Group E1 – *Carex riparia/acutiformis-Phragmites australis*
- Emergent End Group E2 – *Glyceria Maxima-Berula erecta*
- Emergent End Group E3 - *Juncus effusus*

2.7. None of the following species, associated with the River Wensum SAC habitat were recorded during the botanical survey within the River Wensum or its floodplain: *R. peltatus*, *R. penicillatus ssp. pseudofluitans* or *R. fluitans*

2.8. There was no evidence of calcareous ground water spring or seepage activity with the study area.

## **3. Introduction**

### **3.1. Project background**

3.1.1. Norfolk Vanguard is a proposed offshore wind farm being developed by Vattenfall Wind Power Limited (or an affiliate company), with a capacity of 1800MW, enough to power 1.3 million UK households. The offshore wind farm comprises two distinct areas, Norfolk Vanguard East (NV East) and Norfolk Vanguard West (NV West) and will be connected to the shore by offshore export cables installed within the provisional offshore cable corridor. The project will also require onshore infrastructure in order to connect the offshore wind farm to the National Grid at the existing National Grid substation at Necton, which in summary will comprise the following:

- Landfall;
- Cable relay station (if required);
- Underground cables;
- Onshore substation; and
- Extension to the existing Necton National Grid substation.

3.1.2. The location of the onshore electrical infrastructure is shown on Figure 1, Appendix A: of the Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey Report (Royal HaskoningDHV, 2017a). Collectively the onshore electrical infrastructure is herein referred to as the 'onshore project area'.

3.1.3. During the development of the project, the onshore Scoping Area that was initially defined has been refined, to include three landfall options, associated cable relay search zones, as well as an onshore substation search zone in proximity to the Necton National Grid substation. A 200m wide cable corridor has been identified within which the buried cable will be located, and Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) zones and mobilisation zones have been identified along the cable corridor.

3.1.4. The surveys described within this report were designed and based on the onshore project area which was in use when the project Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey was undertaken (February 2017). As the project design is further refined, these search zones will decrease in size, and the final options for the siting of infrastructure (i.e. one cable relay station, one landfall, one onshore substation) will be taken forward for the final Development Consent Order (DCO) application in June 2018.

### **3.2. Aim of report**

3.2.1. As Norfolk Vanguard is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required as part of a DCO application under the Planning Act 2008.

3.2.2. Norfolk Wildlife Services were appointed in late April 2017 to undertake additional ecological surveys to support this application as set out within the Survey Scope (Royal HaskoningDHV, 2017b).

3.2.3. The Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey (Royal HaskoningDHV, 2017a) identified the potential for legally protected species located within the project area plus a 50m buffer surrounding the project area, and provided recommendations for further surveys required to characterise the ecological baseline for the project area.

### **3.3. Survey objective**

3.3.1. The botanical survey had four objectives:

1. To identify the NVC communities within the River Wensum SAC and SSSI;

2. To note if the following plants are growing within the River Wensum or grazing marsh ditches:
  - pond water-crowfoot *R. peltatus*;
  - stream water-crowfoot *R. penicillatus ssp. pseudofluitans*;
  - river water-crowfoot *R. fluitans*.
3. To identify the NVC communities within the semi-improved grassland found adjacent to the River Wensum.
4. To look for presence of calcareous groundwater springs/seepage within the semi-improved grassland.

### **3.4. Survey scope**

#### **3.4.1. Development of survey scope**

3.4.1.1. A Scoping Report for the EIA (Royal HaskoningDHV, 2016) was submitted to the Secretary of State on 3 October 2016 and the response in the form of a Scoping Opinion (PINS, 2016) published on 11 November 2016. That Scoping Opinion included the consultation responses of Natural England and Norfolk County Council.

3.4.1.2. An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey of the onshore project area was undertaken during February 2017 (Royal HaskoningDHV, 2017a). The Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey identified the potential for legally protected species located within the project area plus a 50m buffer surrounding the project area, and provided recommendations for further surveys required to characterise the ecological baseline for the project area. These recommendations were issued to stakeholders on 17 March 2017 for comment, as part of the project Evidence Plan Process. Feedback was received from Norfolk County Council and Natural England on the 23 March 2017 and 3 April 2017 respectively that the methodologies were appropriate and acceptable.

3.4.1.3. A Survey Scope detailing the surveys required in order to deliver the Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey Report recommendations (Royal HaskoningDHV, 2017b) was produced in March 2017. The Survey Scope (set out in Section 3.4.2) was used to tender for delivery of ecological surveys required for the project. Norfolk Wildlife Services based the methodology on this Survey Scope in consultation with the client.

#### **3.4.2. Survey Scope**

##### *Survey area*

3.4.2.1. Following consultation with Natural England conducted as part of the Evidence Plan Process, the need for a detailed assessment of the habitat associated with the River Wensum was recommended to ensure that the potential effects of proposed horizontal directional drilling under the River Wensum upon the quantifying features of the River Wensum SAC and the notified features of the River Wensum SSSI were fully understood. As a consequence a botanical survey will be undertaken to characterise the habitats of the semi-improved grassland found adjacent to the River Wensum during the field survey. This botanical survey will also involve a systematic search of the site in order to check the wet grassland habitats for the presence of springs and seepages, in order to characterise the water environment within the River Wensum floodplain.

3.4.2.2. The locations of the habitats scoped into the botanical survey are shown on Figure 1 (Appendix 1 of this report).

##### *Methodology*

3.4.2.3. The botanical survey will follow the methodology set out in *National Vegetation Classification: Users' handbook* (Rodwell, 2006). The survey will cover all semi-improved and wet grassland areas adjacent to the River Wensum within the survey area (as shown on Figure 1). Quadrat sampling will be used within delineated sub-communities, and those species found within each quadrat identified. An NVC communities map will be drawn up following the results of the survey, and the precise location of all notable species recorded.

The following aquatic plant species, for which the habitat is given its SAC status, will be given particular attention:

- pond water-crowfoot *Ranunculus peltatus*
- stream water-crowfoot *R. penicillatus ssp. pseudofluitans*
- river water-crowfoot *R. fluitans*.

3.4.2.4. The optimal surveying window for the botanical survey is between April and June.

3.4.2.5. The survey should be undertaken by experienced NVC surveyors, preferably members of the CIEEM. No species licences are required for this survey.

### **3.5. Scoping of survey locations**

3.5.1. Natural England recommended the need for a detailed assessment of the habitat associated with the River Wensum to ensure that the potential effects of proposed horizontal directional drilling under the River Wensum upon the qualifying features of the River Wensum SAC and the notified features of the River Wensum SSSI were fully understood.

### **3.6. Conservation Status of the River Wensum SAC**

3.6.1. The whole length of the River Wensum is a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest (1993) and Special Area of Conservation (2005). The site is listed under Annex I for habitat 3260 "Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitriche-Batrachion* vegetation".

3.6.2. The River Wensum represents sub-type 1 in lowland eastern England. Although the river is extensively regulated by weirs, *Ranunculus* vegetation occurs sporadically throughout much of the river's length. Stream water-crowfoot *R. penicillatus* ssp. *pseudofluitans* is the dominant *Ranunculus* species but thread-leaved water-crowfoot *R. trichophyllus* and fan-leaved water-crowfoot *R. circinatus* also occur.

### **3.7. Presence of springs and seepages**

3.7.1. Soligenous water movement through the soil discharging from rocks can be at a point (spring) or over a wide area (seepage). A pre-requisite for this type of groundwater discharge is an underlying or adjacent aquifer, such as the Cretaceous chalk aquifer underlying the soils of the River Wensum.

3.7.2. Evidence of spring activity is usually characterised by surface wetness and/or a change in vegetation community within a site.

## 4. Methodology

4.1. Section 4.1 sets out the proposed survey protocol as agreed between Royal HaskoningDHV and Norfolk Wildlife Services prior to any field work commencing, and Section 4.2 sets out how the surveys were delivered in relation to the protocol and identifies any deviations or modifications that took place during the delivery phase.

### 4.1. Survey protocol

4.1.1. This Section details the proposed survey protocol as agreed between Royal HaskoningDHV and Norfolk Wildlife Services prior to any field work commencing.

#### *Relevant guidance*

4.1.2. The following guidance documents were used to inform development of the survey methodology:

- Rodwell, J.S. (2006) National Vegetation Classification: Users' handbook. JNCC
- Doarks, C., & Leach, S. J. (1990). A classification of grazing marsh dyke vegetation in Broadland. Nature Conservancy Council.

#### *Methodology*

4.1.3. Three different methodologies will be undertaken for different aspects of the Norfolk Vanguard botanical survey.

- An NVC survey of grassland within the wider floodplain (Rodwell 2006) including identification of any springs and seepages.
- For the Norfolk Vanguard River Wensum SAC/SSSI Survey, an adapted NVC river survey on a point-sampling basis, supplemented by visual examination.
- A vegetation survey of the ditches using the methodology of Doarks and Leach (1990).

4.1.4. The three methodologies are described below.

#### **Grassland NVC survey**

4.1.5. Sampling of the site will be undertaken in accordance with the approach set out in Rodwell (2006). An initial walkover will be conducted to identify the broad vegetation communities present within the site. Following this, sampling quadrats will be randomly selected within each broad vegetation community. A full species list will be noted for each quadrat, with species abundances quantified in accordance with the Domin scale and vegetation height will be recorded.

Table 1 : Domin cover values

Domin	Cover (%)
10	91-100
9	76-90
8	54-75
7	34-50
6	26-33
5	11-25
4	4-10
3	<4% (many individuals)
2	<4% (several individuals)

1	<4% (few individuals)
---	-----------------------

4.1.6. Any potential calcareous groundwater seepage/spring activity within the site will be noted.

4.1.7. A NVC community type will be attributed to the sampling locations. A map showing the NVC communities will be drawn up following the results of the survey, and the precise location of all notable species recorded.

4.1.8. Quadrat sampling will be used within delineated sub-communities, and those species found within each quadrat identified.

### ***Analysis to NVC Communities***

4.1.9. The NVC community type for each sampling location will be on Rodwell (2006) and surveyor experience from comparable sites with those identified communities. Floristic tables will be generated for each community type that summarises the abundance and constancy values of constituent species among the samples. Constancy values will be allocated as per the following table:

*Table 2 : Constancy tables as defined in Rodwell (2006)*

Constancy	Frequency (5%)	Description
I	1-20 (i.e. 1 stand in 5)	scarce
II	21-40	occasional
III	41-60	frequent
IV	61-80	constant
V	81-100	constant

4.1.10. Keys of British Plant Communities Volume 3: Grasslands and Montane Communities, British Plant Communities Volume 4: Aquatic communities, swamps and tall herb fen and British Plant Communities Volume 1: Woodlands and scrub will be used to assign NVC community types.

### ***River Wensum SAC/SSSI Survey***

4.1.11. The total length of the River Wensum survey reach (a distance of 360m) will be split into 10 equal parts, so sampling will occur approximately every 35m.

4.1.12. A canoe will be anchored in the approximate centre of the river at the identified sampling locations (Figure 2). Photographs will be taken and grid references noted at each sampling location.

4.1.13. A rope with a 3 headed grapnel will be thrown 5m south west and north east of each anchored sampling location. The grapnel will be allowed to sink to the river bed before being slowly pulled along the river bed and into the canoe.

4.1.14. At each sampling location any plants collected on the grapnel will be noted by the field surveyor and scored according to a percentage scale (0-100%).

4.1.15. A bathascope will be used at and between sampling locations to look through the water column at vegetation towards the river bed. A visual assessment will be made through the water column regarding species, abundances and vegetation height. Shallower vegetation will be incorporated within the sampling regime.

4.1.16. Particular attention will be paid to identify those species listed within the specification document.

4.1.17. The following aquatic plant species, associated with the River Wensum SAC habitat, will be given particular attention:

- pond water-crowfoot *R. peltatus* .
- stream water-crowfoot *R. penicillatus ssp. pseudofluitans* .
- river water-crowfoot *R. fluitans*.

4.1.18. An NVC community will be attributed to each of the sampling locations, based on a combination of the grapnel sampling and bathascope assessment.

4.1.19. An NVC community will be attributed to the marginal vegetation.

### **Ditch Survey**

4.1.20. Four distinct ditch systems were identified within the River Wensum floodplain survey area and were labelled Ditch 1-4 (see Figure 3).

4.1.21. Within each ditch system, 20m sections will be chosen per ditch that appears to contain homogenous or representative vegetation for both aquatic and emergent communities. Photographs will be taken and grid references noted at each sampling location.

4.1.22. All species within the aquatic zone will be noted with abundances (quantified within DAFOR) and general notes about the ditch recorded. Local cover values will also be noted, where relevant. Emergent species are defined as those within the aquatic zone, which for most of the summer have the majority of their biomass above the water surface.

Table 3 : DAFOR and local cover values

DAFOR	Cover (%)	Local cover vales
Dominant (D)	70-100	A-LD
Abundant (A)	30-70	F-LD, FLA
Frequent (F)	10-30	O-LD, OLA
Occasional (O)	3-10	R-LD, R-LA, O-LF
Rare (R)	<3	R-LF, R-LO

4.1.23. The following aquatic plant species, associated with The River Wensum SAC habitat, will be given particular attention:

- pond water-crowfoot *R. peltatus*
- stream water-crowfoot *R. penicillatus ssp. pseudofluitans*
- river water-crowfoot *R. fluitans*

### **Analysis to Endgroups**

4.1.24. Aquatic and emergent species for each sampling location will be attributed an End Group. Species and abundances will be hand sorted through the key in Doarks and Leach (1990) to identify an aquatic and emergent End Group for each sampling location. These groups are set out in the Tables below.

Table 4 : Aquatic vegetation communities, as defined in Doarks and Leach (1990)

Communi ty	Binomial Names	Common names
A1	<i>Scirpus fluitans-Potamogeton natans</i>	Floating club rush-broad leaved pondweed

A2	<i>Potamogeton natans</i> - <i>Hottonia palustris</i> - <i>Myriophyllum verticillatum</i>	Broad leaved pondweed-Water violet-Whorled water milfoil
A3a	<i>Potamogeton natans</i>	Broad leaved pondweed
A3b	<i>Stratiotes aloides</i> - <i>Hydrocharis morsus-ranae</i>	Water soldier-Frogbit
A4	<i>Ceratophyllum demersum</i>	Rigid hornwort
A5a	<i>Elodea Canadensis</i> - <i>Ceratophyllum demersum</i>	Canadian pondweed-Rigid hornwort
A5b	<i>Lemna minor</i> - <i>Lemna trisulca</i> -Filamentous algae	Common duckweed-Ivy leaved duckweed-Filamentous algae
A6	<i>Callitriche stagnalis/platycarpa</i>	Common/Various leaved water starwort
A7a	Filamentous algae- <i>Enteromorpha</i>	Filamentous algae-Gutweed
A7b	<i>Potamogeton pectinatus</i> – <i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>	Fennel pondweed-Spiked water milfoil

Table 5 : Emergent vegetation communities, as defined in Doarks and Leach (1990)

Community	Binomial Names	Common names
E1	<i>Carex riparia/acuteformis</i> - <i>Phragmites australis</i>	Greater/Lesser pond sedge-Common reed
E2	<i>Glyceria maxima</i> - <i>Berula erecta</i>	Reed canary grass/Lesser water parsnip
E3	<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Soft rush
E4	<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common reed
E5	<i>Scirpus maritimus</i> - <i>Scirpus lacustris</i> subsp. <i>tabernaemontani</i> - <i>Eleocharis uniglumis</i>	Saltmarsh bulrush-Common club rush-Slender spike rush
E6	<i>Scirpus maritimus</i> - <i>Juncus gerardii</i>	Saltmarsh bulrush-Saltmarsh rush

### Personnel

4.1.25. All surveys will be undertaken by suitably experienced NVC surveyors, who are either members of CIEEM or act according to its code of conduct.

### Survey timing, equipment and weather conditions

4.1.26. Although the optimal surveying window for the botanical survey was identified by the ITT as being between April and June, given the survey required identification of sedges and rushes the optimal period is May to late July / early August.

### Additional information

4.1.27. A permit to survey within The River Wensum SAC will be required from Natural England.

4.1.28. Any locally scarce species will be noted with reference to A Flora of Norfolk (Beckett and Bull, 1999).

4.1.29. Any nationally scarce species will be noted with reference to The Vascular Plant Red Data List for Great Britain (Cheffings and Farrell (Eds), 2005).

## 4.2. Survey delivery

4.2.1. This Section details how the surveys were delivered in relation to the agreed protocol, identifies any deviations or modifications that took place during the delivery phase and highlights survey limitations.

### 4.2.1. Survey methodology as delivered

#### *Access to survey sites*

4.2.1.1. Access permission to the northern half of the River Wensum was not granted.

4.2.1.2. There were no other access restrictions.

#### *Survey effort*

4.2.1.3. There appeared to be two distinct grassland NVC community types identified during the walkover of the site. 14 quadrats of 2m x 2m, specified in accordance with Rodwell (2006) for short herbaceous vegetation, were randomly selected within these two areas (Figure 1).

4.2.1.4. Due to the depth of the river being too deep to wade in, and too wide to sample from the southern bank, the survey of the River Wensum was undertaken by canoe.

4.2.1.5. Due to the dangers of sampling the marginal vegetation of the River Wensum from the bank next to deep water and silt or from a canoe, the marginal vegetation was attributed a NVC community based on visual impression of the species present.

#### *Dates of surveys*

Table 6 : Dates, personnel and weather for vegetation surveys

Location	Visit Date	Time	Weather	Personnel
NVC Grassland	05/07/2017	10:00-17:00	2/8 cloud cover, BWS 1, dry, hot 27°C	Sally McColl Chris Smith
NVC Grassland	24/08/2017	08:00-15:00	2/8 cloud cover, BWS 1, dry with sunny spells, hot 24°C	Sally McColl Carolyn Smith
NVC River Wensum	28/07/2017	08:30-14:00	7/8 cloud cover, BWS 3, dry, cool with sunny spells	Sally McColl James Allitt
NVC Ditches	23/08/2017	08:00-15:00	2/8 cloud cover, BWS 1, dry, with sunny spells, hot 22°	Sally McColl Ben Moore
NVC Ditches	24/08/2017	08:00-15:00	2/8 cloud cover, BWS 1, dry with sunny spells, hot 24°C	Sally McColl Carolyn Smith

#### *Personnel*

4.2.1.6. All surveys were undertaken by suitably experienced NVC surveyors, who are listed in the table below. Other personnel mentioned in Table 6 were safety workers.

Table 7 : Personnel and relevant experience

Team Member	Experience
Chris Smith	20 years' experience within ecological consultancy and 25 years' experience of ecological surveying including NVC plant surveys.
Sally McColl	10 years' experience of ecological surveying, including aquatic plant surveys, condition monitoring and NVC plant surveys.
Carolyn Smith	4 years' experience of ecological surveying including NVC plant surveys.

## Consent

4.2.1.7. A permit to survey within the SAC was received from Natural England on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2017 (Appendix 3).

### 4.2.2. Limitations

4.2.2.1. The NVC approach was not felt applicable to ditch vegetation within the site, due to the limitations of that classification for artificial dykes (Mountford, 2006). However the alternative use of Doarks and Leach (1990) is felt to be more robust and applicable in this instance and gives no significant limitations.

4.2.2.2. Limitations for each survey type are outlined in the Table below.

*Table 8: Limitations and suggested impacts*

Survey Type	Limitation	Impact of Limitation
Grassland Survey	No limitations	N/A
River Survey	Access to the northern half of the river was not given by the landowner, so the survey was carried out on the southern half;  The marginal edge was too dangerous to sample from the bank or by canoe.	Not significant – the emergent vegetation was visible from the southern half of the river, and the aquatic vegetation was fairly uniform.  Not significant – the marginal edge consisted of a single species swamp community and was easily assessed by eye.
Ditch Survey	No limitations	N/A

## 5. Results

5.1. Maps showing sampling locations are shown in Appendix 1 (Figures 1-3).

5.2. Photographs taken at sampling locations are included in Appendix 2 (Figures 4-38).

5.3. Raw data tables and endgroup descriptions (Doarks and Leach, 1990) are attached as separate documents.

5.4. A map showing field names is attached in Appendix 6 and NVC map is attached in Appendix 7.

### 5.1. Grassland NVC survey

#### Overview

5.1.1. The site consists of a relatively flat floodplain, which nevertheless contains some variation in levels and drainage patterns. Areas closest to the river appear to have the highest water tables, and include areas with peaty soils (Fields 4, 7, 8 and 9) whereas the more southerly and westerly sections are drier and loamy (Fields 6 and 1). The site is roughly grazed throughout to varying degrees by cattle.

5.1.2. The site slopes down from the upland in the north easterly direction although the majority of the fields are undulating, with some lower wetter patches having impeded drainage. Penny Spot Beck and the River Wensum were embanked, whilst all other ditches graded into the surrounding grassland.

5.1.3. On the back of the floodbank, Field 9, there was a distinct patch of wetter vegetation. This is thought to be caused by seepage of water through the floodbank due to proximity to the river rather than soligenous water flow. Another distinct wetter area was on the edge of the survey area in Field 7, which is likely caused by natural undulation of the field. The remaining fields, although showing undulation with lower areas, appeared much drier.

5.1.4. The aquatic and marginal communities of the ditches are a prominent feature, but are dealt with in the subsequent sections.

5.1.5. The grassland appears to consist of the following vegetation communities:

- MG6 – *Lolium perenne*-*Cynosurus cristatus* grassland
- MG10 – *Holco-Juncetum effusi* rush pasture

5.1.6. MG6 is present throughout the southern and easterly parts of the site, whilst MG10 is confined to a small area at the back of the floodbank and the north western and north eastern (part of) marshes. These habitats are intrinsically linked with ground conditions, with MG6 located on free draining soil and on areas of higher ground, and MG10 being located on impeded soils and in lower areas.

5.1.7. There are overgrown hedgerows and scattered scrub throughout the site with species such as hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* (which is classified as W21 – *Crataegus monogyna*-*Helix hederia* scrub (Target notes 1 and 3)), and sallow *Salix cinerea* with a bramble *Rubus fruticosus* understorey (which is classified as W2a *Salix cinerea*-*Betula pubescens*-*Phragmites australis*, *Alnus glutinosa*-*Filipendula ulmaria* sub community).

5.1.8. A line of oaks *Quercus robur* (Target note 4) and poplars *Populus spp.* (Target note 2) were recorded.

5.1.9. Field 10 was excluded from classification under NVC as it appeared to be in a cropping regime, and not grassland.

## **MG6 *Lolium perenne*-*Cynosuretum cristati* grassland**

### *Description*

5.1.10. The sampling locations were grass-dominant with species such as *Agrostis stolonifera*, *Holcus lanatus* and *L. perenne* having the highest constancy values as well as *Ranunculus repens*, which typically persists in grazed areas.

5.1.11. Herbs present with the highest constancy values are small creeping species such as *Potentilla repens*, *Trifolium repens*, and *Trifolium pratense* with taller herbs present at some sampling locations.

5.1.12. The MG6 grassland sampling locations were labelled as D1-D6.

5.1.13. On average between 10 and 20 species were recorded per sampling location, with over half of those recorded being grasses.

5.1.14. No nationally or locally scarce species were noted at any of the sampling locations.

### *Variation within community*

5.1.15. There is variation between the fields within the site, as shown by the sample data.

5.1.16. At the south-east of the site, there was a lush, tussocky sward which had approximately four coarse grass species of equal abundance including *A. stolonifera* and *Festuca arundinacea* and appeared to have been grazed earlier in the season (Field 5).

5.1.17. At the back of the floodbank adjacent to the wetter MG10 community (Field 9), the vegetation here was less species rich and had coarse grasses such as *A. stolonifera*, *H. lanatus* and *F. arundinacea* in higher abundances.

5.1.18. Throughout the site, but especially on the eastern side the community was often transitional to the MG10 community and examples of samples within these areas had higher occurrence of *J. effusus*, *H. lanatus* and *R. repens* (Field 8).

5.1.19. As the ground rose towards the west the sward became drier (Field 6), and became a more closely grazed sward with more fine grasses evident. A lot of ruderal species such as *Cirsium arvense* and *Rumex obtusifolius* were evident.

5.1.20. At the south-west (Field 1) the sward was lush, and lightly grazed with a higher proportion of herbs and *Juncus inflexus* present. However, the southern and eastern areas of this field appeared higher and drier. This location is very clearly transitional in places towards the *J. inflexus* variation of MG10 (Target note 5).

5.1.21. Fields 2, 3 and 4 were ungrazed at the time of survey and vegetation was very tall and had *Arrhenatherum elatioris* evident.

5.1.22. The back of the floodbank (Field 9) and Field 5 had a much more tussocky sward, consistent with a lighter grazing regime.

### *Goodness of fit to community*

5.1.23. MG6 is described as “a short, tight sward which is grass-dominated. *Lolium Perenne* is usually the most abundant grass with varying amounts of *Cynosurus cristatus*. *Festuca Rubra* and *Agrostis capillaris* are frequent throughout and, in long-established pasture, they may be abundant. *Holcus lanatus* and *Dactylis glomerata* are also frequent but of somewhat patchy distribution. They may become more prominent as coarse tussocks if pasture is under-grazed and *H. lanatus* is often abundant and vigorous around cattle dung which the animals avoid.” (Rodwell, 1992).

5.1.24. It is not an exact fit with MG6, as *C. cristatus* is only present at one of the quadrats, and *T. repens* is in a lower value. However this may be because many of the areas are

transitional to MG10 and are located within damper areas which are less favourable for *C. cristatus*.

5.1.25. MG6 is typical of grazed lowland pasture in Britain on moist freely draining soils, which is consistent with the site.

5.1.26. Ungrazed Fields 2 and 5 could potentially fit better with MG1-A. *elatioris* as it grades to the arable upland (Target notes 6 and 7)), where under grazing has allowed this grass to appear more dominant, or it could just be that a lighter grazing regime has led to this appearance of change.

### Constancy table

5.1.27. The constancy table is shown below.

Table 9: Constancy table for MG6 *Lolium perenne*-*Cynosuretum cristati*

Species	Average for stand (DOMIN)	Constancy
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i> (creeping bent)	4	V
<i>Holcus lanatus</i> (Yorkshire fog)	5	V
<i>Lolium perenne</i> (perennial ryegrass)	2	V
<i>Ranunculus repens</i> (creeping buttercup)	3	V
<i>Taraxacum agg.</i> (dandelion)	2	V
<i>Festuca rubra</i> (red fescue)	2	IV
<i>Phleum pratensis</i> (timothy)	3	IV
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i> (false oat grass)	2	III
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i> (common mouse ear)	1	III
<i>Poa trivialis</i> (rough meadow grass)	1	III
<i>Bromus mollis</i> (soft brome)	1	II
<i>Carex hirta</i> (hairy sedge)	1	II
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i> (cocks foot)	1	II
<i>Festuca arundinacea</i> (tall fescue)	2	II
<i>Juncus inflexus</i> (hard rush)	2	II
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i> (ribwort plantain)	1	II
<i>Poa pratensis</i> (smooth stalked meadow grass)	1	II
<i>Potentilla repens</i> (creeping cinquefoil)	1	II
<i>Trifolium pratense</i> (red clover)	1	II
<i>Trifolium repens</i> (white clover)	1	II
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i> (common bent)	1	I
<i>Alopecurus geniculatus</i> (marsh foxtail)	1	I
<i>Brachythecium rutabulum</i> (rough stalked feather moss)	0	I
<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i> (crested dogs tail)	0	I
<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i> (tufted hair grass)	1	I
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i> (ground ivy)	0	I
<i>Juncus effusus</i> (soft rush)	1	I
<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i> (meadow vetchling)	1	I
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i> (bird's foot trefoil)	1	I
<i>Potentilla anserina</i> (silverweed)	1	I
<i>Pulicaria dysenterica</i> (common fleabane)	1	I
<i>Rumex crispus</i> (curled dock)	<1	I
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i> (broad leaved dock)	1	I
<i>Senecio jacobaea</i> (ragwort)	<1	I
<i>Urtica dioica</i> (nettle)	<1	I
<i>Vicia cracca</i> (tufted vetch)	<1	I

## MG10 – *Holco-Juncetum effusi* rush pasture

### Description

5.1.28. These wetter grasslands were on peaty soils, located within the lowest areas within the site and are numbered W1-W7.

5.1.29. The species with highest constancy values are *J. effusus*, *A. stolonifera*, and *H. lanatus* with *R. repens* a constant but at a low abundance.

5.1.30. Sampling locations W1, W2, W6-W8 were taken along the back of the river bank to north/north-east of the site.

5.1.31. Sampling locations W3-W5 were taken in the northern marsh, although this habitat continued slightly to the south (Field 8).

5.1.32. No nationally or locally scarce species were noted at any of the sampling locations.

### Variation within community

5.1.33. W5 (Field 7) was distinctly wetter and *Persicaria amphibia* was evident within the *J. effusus*.

5.1.34. W7 (Field 9) had *Glyceria maxima* present instead of *J. effusus*. These sampling locations were generally lightly or not grazed, although the grass sward between the tussocks were well grazed.

### Goodness of fit to community

5.1.35. MG10 *Holco-Juncetum effusi* – “a sward with prominent tussocks of *Juncus effusus* up to 80cm tall in a generally species poor and shorter grassy ground. *Holcus lanatus* and *Juncus effusus* are the only constant grasses and each or both may be abundant” (Rodwell, 1992).

5.1.36. This community is characteristic of permanently moist sites, which is widely distributed in pastures and are usually grazed.

5.1.37. It is a good fit with this community type as *A. stolonifera*, *H. lanatus* and *J. effusus* are present at high constancies, although *R. repens* is at a lower occurrence.

### Constancy table

5.1.38. The constancy table is below.

Table 10: Constancy table for MG10

Species	Average for stand (DOMIN)	Constancy
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i> (creeping bent)	4	V
<i>Holcus lanatus</i> (Yorkshire fog)	5	V
<i>Juncus effusus</i> (soft rush)	5	V
<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> (meadow foxtail)	2	IV
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i> (false oat grass)	2	IV
<i>Festuca arundinacea</i> (tall fescue)	2	IV
<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i> (meadow sweet)	2	IV
<i>Stellaria graminea</i> (lesser stitchwort)	1	IV
<i>Potentilla anserina</i> (silverweed)	2	III
<i>Ranunculus repens</i> (creeping buttercup)	1	III
<i>Rumex acetosa</i> (common sorrel)	1	III
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i> (common mouse ear)	1	III
<i>Juncus articulatus</i> (jointed rush)	1	II

<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i> (meadow vetchling)	1	II
<i>Lotus pedunculatus</i> (greater bird's-foot-trefoil)	1	II
<i>Poa trivialis</i> (rough meadow grass)	1	II
<i>Taraxacum</i> agg. (dandelion)	1	II
<i>Carex acutiformis</i> (lesser pond sedge)	1	II
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i> (cock's-foot)	1	II
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i> (ground ivy)	1	II
<i>Glyceria maxima</i> (reed sweet-grass)	1	II
<i>Carex riparia</i> (greater pond sedge)	1	II
<i>Trifolium pratense</i> (red clover)	<1	II
<i>Carex hirta</i> (hairy sedge)	<1	I
<i>Cirsium arvense</i> (creeping thistle)	<1	I
<i>Lolium perenne</i> (perennial ryegrass)	<1	I
<i>Myosotis secunda</i> (creeping forget me not)	<1	I
<i>Persicaria amphibia</i> (amphibious bistort)	1	I
<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i> (reed canary grass)	1	I
<i>Urtica dioica</i> (common nettle)	<1	I
<i>Cirsium dissectum</i> (meadow thistle)	<1	I
<i>Equisetum palustre</i> (marsh horsetail)	<1	I
<i>Quercus</i> spp. (oak sapling)	<1	I
<i>Rumex conglomeratus</i> (clustered dock)	<1	I
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i> (broad leaved dock)	<1	I
<i>Senecio aquaticus</i> (marsh ragwort)	<1	I
<i>Senecio jacobea</i> (common ragwort)	<1	I
<i>Trifolium repens</i> (white clover)	<1	I

5.1.39. Full data tables are provided as an excel table in Appendix 4.

## 5.2. River Wensum SAC/SSSI survey

### Description

5.2.1. The river was approximately 2m deep and 20m wide, with good marginal vegetation, often in floating and inaccessible mats.

5.2.2. There were no trees along the river banks of the southern stretch of the survey area. There were a few white willows *Salix alba*, along the southern banks between sampling locations 6 and 8, and some oaks *Quercus robur*, and alders *Alnus glutinosa* along the northern bank.

5.2.3. Two main vegetation communities were identified:

- A8a-*Nuphar lutea* community, species-poor sub community.
- S5-*Glycerietum maximae* swamp, *Alisma plantago-aquatica*-*Sparganium erectum* sub community.

### S5-*Glycerietum maximae* swamp

5.2.4. There was a good marginal vegetation dominated by *G. maxima* with large mats of *Apium nodiflorum* stretching out into the river, narrowing the open water by up to 10m in certain areas. There were some floating mats of *P. arundinacea* and *Veronica catenata* throughout the sampled area. *Sparganium erectum* with some *Myosotis scorpioides* was present at sampling location 10. This emergent community was assessed as NVC S5-*Glycerietum maximae* swamp, *Alisma plantago-aquatica*-*Sparganium erectum* sub community.

### A8a-*Nuphar lutea* community, species-poor sub community

5.2.5. The majority of the open water was generally covered by *N. lutea*, which persisted throughout the water column. The amount to which the *N. lutea* persisted through the water column varied along the length. It was estimated that *N. lutea* was present over 25% of the water column growing from the bed to 50cm below the surface at sampling locations 4 and 5, whereas at most other sampling locations *N. lutea* was evident on the water surface and was estimated to occupy an average of 25%-50% of the water column.

5.2.6. *N. lutea*, dominated the water column, with occasional species such as *Callitriche* spp., and *Elodea nuttalli* being recorded. The occasional strand of *M. spicatum* was noted floating on the water surface, but not picked up during the survey. Beds of this plant were noted upstream from the survey area.

5.2.7. The NVC community assigned to the aquatic communities is A8a-*Nuphar lutea* community, species-poor sub community.

### Variation within community

5.2.8. This stretch of river was fairly uniform in terms of aquatic macrophyte diversity.

5.2.9. None of the following species listed within the Norfolk Vanguard Phase 2 Ecological Surveys Scope associated with the River Wensum SAC habitat were noted:

- pond water-crowfoot *R. peltatus*
- stream water-crowfoot *R. penicillatus* ssp. *pseudofluitans*
- river water-crowfoot *R. fluitans*

5.2.10. No locally or nationally scarce species were noted during the survey.

### Goodness of fit to community

5.2.11. A8 is described in Rodwell (1995) "...Much of the vegetation is species poor, consisting of little else apart from *N. lutea*..."

5.2.12. The species-poor sub community is described in Rodwell (1995) as "*N. lutea* is sometimes the only plant here, with just very occasional *L. minor* on the surface, *Elodea canadensis*, *Callitriche stagnalis*, *Zannichellia* or *Ceratophyllum demersum* beneath and a few shoots or clumps of *Sagittaria*, *Apium*, *V. beccabunga* or *Mentha aquatica*."

5.2.13. The sampling locations fit well with the description of this community type.

### Results table

5.2.14. Species and abundances of aquatic plants noted at each sampling location are listed in Table 10 below.

Table 11 : Species and abundances of aquatic plants at river sampling locations

Point	Sampling direction	Species			
		<i>Nuphar lutea</i>	<i>Callitriche spp.</i>	<i>Elodea nuttalli</i>	<i>Myosotis scorpioides</i>
		% cover	% cover	% cover	% cover
1	NE	25	-	5	-
1	SW	25	-	-	-
2	NE	10	5	25	-
2	SW	-	5	20	-
3	NE	10	-	5	-
3	SW	50	-	-	-
4	NE	30	-	1	-
4	SW	10	-	15	-
5	NE	25	-	-	-
5	SW	10	-	5	-
6	NE	25	-	-	-
6	SW	30	-	-	-
7	NE	15	-	-	-
7	SW	20	-	-	-
8	NE	5	-	-	-
8	SW	-	-	-	-
9	NE	30	-	-	-
9	SW	30	-	-	-
10	NE	75	-	-	1
10	SW	75	-	-	-

## 5.3. Ditch survey

### Ditch 1

#### Description

5.3.1. This was an agricultural field drain of approximately 2.5m wide and was fairly uniform along its length, with water being very shallow (10-30cm) and abundant vegetation cover.

#### Aquatic vegetation

5.3.2. *Polygonum amphibium* was locally dominant, at three of the sampling locations (1A, 1B, 1D) with *Potamogeton berchtoldii* being abundant at 1C.

5.3.3. The species recorded along this ditch length key out to three different End Groups. Species recorded at sampling locations 1A correspond to the End Group A6-*Callitriche stagnalis/platycarpa* which is a good fit with this group with both *C. spp.* and *L. minor* being present.

5.3.4. Species recorded at sampling location 1B key out to the End Group A7b-*Potamogeton pectinatus-Myriophyllum spicatum*, which doesn't fit well as none of the constant species for this group were recorded, and only keyed to this group due to the presence of *L. minor*.

5.3.5. Species recorded at sampling locations 1C and 1D key out to End Group A5b-*Lemna minor/Lemna trisulca*/filamentous algae. Despite two of the constant species not being recorded with only *L. minor* being present, it is a good fit to this group as it represents ditches with low species diversity with some *C. spp.* and *P. pusilus/berchtoldii* present. End Group A5b is the best fit with sampling locations 1B-1D.

Table 12 : Ditch 1 – Species and abundances of aquatic vegetation

Species	Sampling Location			
	1A	1B	1C	1D
<i>Polygonum amphibium</i>	A - LD	F	-	F - LD
<i>Potamogeton bertoldii</i>	O	A	A	R
<i>Callitriche spp.</i>	O - LD	-	R	-
<i>Lemna minor</i>	R	R	R	O
<b>Aquatic End Group</b>	<b>A6</b>	<b>A7b</b>	<b>A5b</b>	<b>A5b</b>

#### Emergent vegetation

5.3.6. Emergent vegetation was in general low growing with species such as *B. erecta*, frequently occurring. Other species such as *Mentha aquatica* were of rare occurrence. There were no dominant species at any of the points except at 1A where pendulous sedge *Carex pendula*, was locally dominant.

5.3.7. The emergent vegetation does not fill well with the End Groups due to the lack of dominant species resulting from shading.

Table 13: Ditch 1 – Species and abundances of emergent vegetation

Species	Sampling Location			
	1A	1B	1C	1D
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	R	O	R	
<i>Alisma aquatica</i>			R	
<i>Berula erecta</i>		F	R	

Species	Sampling Location			
<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>		R	R	
<i>Carex pendula</i>	LD			
<i>Carex spp.</i>			O	
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	R	R	R	
<i>Equisetum palustris</i>	R			
<i>Juncus articulatus</i>			O	
<i>Juncus inflexus</i>	R	R	A	
<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	O	O	F	R
<i>Polygonum amphibium</i>		F		
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	R	R	R	
<i>Salix cinerea</i>		O	O	O
<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	R			
<i>Tussilago farfara</i>			R	
<i>Typha latifolia</i>	O	O	O	
<b>Emergent End Group</b>	<b>E2</b>	<b>E3</b>	<b>E3</b>	<b>E2</b>

### Summary

5.3.8. End Group A6-*Callitriche stagnalis/platycarpa* is typically found in ditches that border between the uplands and grazing marsh, which can dry out for periods in the summer. Land to the north of the ditch does slope downwards, and due to the woodland fringe on the south side it is thought likely that the ditch does dry out at times in the shallower areas. This group is most closely associated with emergent End Group E2-*Glyceria maxima-Berula erecta*.

5.3.9. End Group A5b-*Lemna minor/Lemna trisulca*/filamentous algae is species poor, typically found in water depths of <20cm, and is associated with moderately eutrophic conditions.

5.3.10. None of the following species listed within the Norfolk Vanguard Phase 2 Ecological Surveys Scope associated with the River Wensum SAC habitat were noted:

- pond water-crowfoot *R. peltatus*
- stream water-crowfoot *R. penicillatus ssp. pseudofluitans*
- river water-crowfoot *R. fluitans*

## Ditch 2

### Description

5.3.11. This was an agricultural field drain of approximately 2.5m wide, 5-30cm water depth and was variable along its length in terms of vegetation cover.

### Aquatic vegetation

5.3.12. Sampling locations 2C to 2E keyed out to End Group A5b – *Lemna minor*-*Lemna trisulca*-filamentous algae where species such as *C. spp.* and *P. berchtoldii* are often typical.

5.3.13. Sampling locations 2A and 2B could not be assigned aquatic End Groups due to the lack of water plants. These points were heavily overshadowed by dense hedgerow to the west and tall ruderal vegetation to the east. The water level was very low at these points, with the sandy substrate at the bottom of the ditch evident. However, the ditch is quite uniform along its length, and the End Groups are thought likely to follow the same community, if shading was reduced.

Table 14: Ditch 2 - Species and abundances of aquatic vegetation

Species	Sampling Locations				
	2A	2B	2C	2D	2E
<i>Lemna trisulca</i>	-	-	R	A	-
<i>Lemna minor</i>	R	-	R	O	R
<i>Callitriche spp.</i>	-	-	O-LD	R	R
Filamentous algae	-	-	F-LD	O	O
<i>Hottonia palustre</i>	-	-	F	O	-
<i>Potamogeton bertoldii</i>	-	-	F-LD	-	-
<i>Elodea nuttalli</i>	-	-	-	R	-
<b>Aquatic End Group</b>	<b>A5b</b>	<b>A5b</b>	<b>A5b</b>	<b>A5b</b>	<b>A5b</b>

### Emergent vegetation

5.3.14. Emergent vegetation was generally low growing with species such as *B. erecta*, and *M. aquatica*, occurring with the highest scores at each sampling location. *P. arundinacea*, and *G. maxima* were locally dominant at sampling locations 2C and 2D.

5.3.15. Sampling location 2A was closest to emergent End Group E3-*Juncus effusus*, due to the presence of *Juncus effusus*, however this was only at rare occurrence and therefore sampling location 2A fits better with E2-*Glyceria maxima*-*Berula erecta* to which sampling locations 2B-2E also key out. However, only sampling location 2E has *G. maxima* present, whilst sampling locations 2A and 2D have *B. erecta* present as abundant to dominant and sampling locations 2B and 2C have it occurring occasionally.

Table 15: Ditch 2 – Species and abundances of emergent vegetation

Species	Point				
	2A	2B	2C	2D	2E
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	R	R			
<i>Apium nodiflorum</i>					R
<i>Berula erecta</i>	D	O	O	A	
<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>	R				R
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>					R
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	R	R			

<i>Equisetum palustris</i>					O
<i>Eupatorium cannabinum</i>	R				
<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>				R	
<i>Galium palustre</i>					R
<i>Glyceria maxima</i>					A/LD
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>				R	
<i>Iris pseudoacorus</i>					O
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	R				
<i>Juncus inflexus</i>		R			
<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	F	F		F	R
<i>Myosotis scorpidium</i>			O	O	O
<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	O		A/LD	O	
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	O			R	
<i>Ranunculus scleratus</i>					R
<i>Salix cinerea</i>	O				
<i>Scrophularia auriculatum</i>					R
<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>		R	R	R	R
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	R	O			
<i>Valeriana officinalis</i>	R	R			
<b>Emergent End Group</b>	<b>E3</b>	<b>E2</b>	<b>E2</b>	<b>E2</b>	<b>E2</b>

### Summary

5.3.16. Ditch 2 was consistently classified as this End Group A5b-*Lemna minor/Lemna trisulca*/filamentous algae along its length.

5.3.17. End Group A5b-*Lemna minor/Lemna trisulca*/filamentous algae is a species poor community typically found in water depths of <20cm, and is associated with eutrophic conditions.

5.3.18. This aquatic community is often associated with the emergent vegetation End Group E2-*Glyceria maxima-Berula erecta* which is typical of eutrophic freshwater conditions with a high base status.

5.3.19. None of the following species listed within the Norfolk Vanguard Phase 2 Ecological Surveys Scope associated with the River Wensum SAC habitat were noted:

- pond water-crowfoot *R. peltatus*
- stream water-crowfoot *R. penicillatus ssp. pseudofluitans*
- river water-crowfoot *R. fluitans*

### Ditch 3

5.3.20. This was an Internal Drainage Board (IDB) drain running along the back of the floodbank, which looked to have been cleared out within the last few years. This ditch was 2.5m wide and approximately 45-60cm deep.

#### Aquatic vegetation

5.3.21. Beds of *C. spp.*, dominated under the water surface with *Lemna minuta* dominating at the water surface. *E. nuttalli* was also recorded at all 5 sampling locations. This was the most diverse of the four ditches sampled, with an average of 5-6 species per sampling location.

5.3.22. The End Group assigned to the aquatic vegetation in this ditch is A5b – *Lemna minor-Lemna trisulca*-filamentous algae.

Table 16: Ditch 3 – Species and abundances of aquatic vegetation

Species	Sampling Locations				
	3A	3B	3C	3D	3E
<i>Lemna minuta</i>	A	A	A	F	O
<i>Callitriche spp.</i>	A	A	F	O	O
Filamentous algae	F	F	F	O	-
<i>Ceratophyllum demersum</i>	-	-	O	R	-
<i>Elodea nuttalli</i>	R	R	F	O	O
<i>Hottonia palustre</i>	-	F	O	R	-
Hydrodictyon algae	-	-	R	-	-
<i>Polygonum amphibium</i>	-	R	R	-	-
<i>Potamogeton pusillus</i>	R	R	-	-	-
<b>Aquatic End Group A6</b>	<b>A5b</b>	<b>A5b</b>	<b>A5b</b>	<b>A5b</b>	<b>A5b</b>

#### Emergent vegetation

5.3.23. Emergent vegetation had a good mix of species with *Sparganium erectum*, and *G. maxima* occurring abundantly within the sampling locations. Other typical swamp species such as *Filipendula ulmaria*, and *Galium palustre* were recorded at low abundances.

5.3.24. The End Group assigned to the emergent vegetation in this ditch is E2 – *Glyceria Maxima-Berula erecta*. It is a good fit with E2, as *G. maxima* was present at four of the sampling locations, and *A. stolonifera* and *A. nodiflorum/B. erecta* were present at the majority of sampling locations.

Table 17: Ditch 3 – Species and abundances of emergent vegetation

Species	Sampling Locations				
	3A	3B	3C	3D	3E
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	R		R		
<i>Apium nodiflorum</i>	R	R	F	R	R
<i>Berula erecta</i>			R		R
<i>Carex riparia</i>		R			
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>			R	R	
<i>Equisetum palustris</i>			R		
Filamentous algae			F		
<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>		R	R	R	R

Species	Sampling Locations				
<i>Galium palustre</i>			O	R	R
<i>Glyceria maxima</i>	O	F		O	
<i>Hippuris vulgaris</i>			F		
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>		R			R
<i>Juncus articulatus</i>		R			
<i>Juncus effusus</i>		R	R	R	
<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	R		O		
<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	R	R	R		O
<i>Polygonum amphibium</i>		R			
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	R	R	R	R	R
<i>Rumex conglomeratus</i>			R		
<i>Salix cinerea</i>		O	O	R	
<i>Scrophularia auriculatum</i>		R			R
<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>					O
<i>Sparganium emerum</i>	F				
<i>Sparganium erectum</i>	F	O		O	F
<i>Stachys palustris</i>	R		O		
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	R		R	R	R
<i>Veronica beccabunga</i>			O		
<b>Emergent End Group</b>	<b>E2</b>	<b>E2</b>	<b>E2</b>	<b>E2</b>	<b>E2</b>

### Summary

5.3.25. Ditch 3 was consistently classified along its length as aquatic End Group A5b – *Lemna minor-Lemna trisulca*-filamentous algae. It is associated with the emergent End Group is E2 – *Glyceria Maxima-Berula erecta*, typical of high nutrient conditions.

5.3.26. None of the following species listed within the Norfolk Vanguard Phase 2 Ecological Surveys Scope associated with the River Wensum SAC habitat were noted:

- pond water-crowfoot *R. peltatus*
- stream water-crowfoot *R. penicillatus ssp. pseudofluitans*
- river water-crowfoot *R. fluitans*

### Ditch 4 (Penny Spot Beck)

5.3.27. Penny Spot Beck meanders through the site where it flows out into the River Wensum. The ditch has steeply sloping sides, well vegetated with emergent vegetation, which encroach into the ditch significantly along the majority of its length causing significant shading. It is different from the other ditches sampled by having a slow flow, whereas other ditches were static.

#### Aquatic vegetation

5.3.28. This ditch had no aquatic plants at any of the sampling locations, except for filamentous algae at one point. The ditch had macrophytes present during the July grassland visit (pers. obs. Chris Smith 05/07/17).

5.3.29. At sampling location 4C, the ditch is approximately 5cm deep and is adjacent to a cattle drinking point. The substrate is gravelly and flowing with water with the odd piece of filamentous algae, caught on the stone. At sampling location 4B the ditch deepens to 30cm, the stony bottom is replaced by silt and there is encroachment from marginal vegetation. At sampling location 4C, the water is deeper to 45cm and becomes more turbid.

5.3.30. It is not clear why there were no plants growing within the ditch in the sample area, where the ditch is more open and not subject to significant shading. There was no sign of the ditch being recently cleared out, or any treatment by herbicides. It is unlikely that the cattle are the issue, as there is significant poaching by cattle on the other ditches surveyed. It is thought possible run-off from the arable land to the north may be responsible, although there were no blooms of algae present which are consistent with nutrient enrichment.

5.3.31. It is though likely that if aquatic vegetation was present, it would be consistent with a species poor community A5b – *Lemna minor*-*Lemna trisulca*-filamentous algae as environmental conditions within Penny Spot Beck appear similar to that of neighbouring ditches within the site. The A5b End Group was most frequently associated with E2 (Doarks and Leach, 1990), and were most frequently recorded together across the survey area.

Table 18: Ditch 4 - Species and abundances of aquatic vegetation

Species	Sampling Locations		
	4A	4B	4C
<i>Filamentous algae</i>	R	-	-
<b>Aquatic End Group A6</b>	<b>A5b</b>	<b>A5b</b>	<b>A5b</b>

#### Emergent vegetation

5.3.32. Emergent vegetation was dominated by single-species stands of reeds and grasses with limited associated species recorded at each point. *G. maxima*, *P. arundinacea*, and *C. riparia* were recorded as the most abundant species.

5.3.33. Sampling locations D2 and D3 keyed out to emergent End Group E2, whilst D1 keyed out to group E1 – *Carex riparia/acutiformis*-*Phragmites australis* due to the presence of *C. riparia* at the water line. Although all sampling locations seem more consistent with E2 it is however a poor fit as two of the constant species, *B. erecta* and *A. stolonifera* were not present.

Table 19: Ditch 4 – Species and abundances of emergent vegetation

Species	Sampling Locations		
	4A	4B	4C
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>			

Species	Sampling Locations		
<i>Apium nodiflorum</i>			R
<i>Berula erecta</i>			
<i>Carex riparia</i>	O		
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>			
<i>Equisetum palustris</i>			
Filamentous algae			
<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>			
<i>Galium palustre</i>			
<i>Glyceria maxima</i>	F	A	
<i>Hippuris vulgaris</i>			
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>			
<i>Juncus articulatus</i>			
<i>Juncus effusus</i>			
<i>Mentha aquatica</i>			
<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	O	O	F
<i>Polygonum amphibium</i>			
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>		R	R
<i>Rumex conglomeratus</i>			
<i>Salix cinerea</i>			
<i>Scrophularia auriculatum</i>			
<i>Sparganium emerum</i>			
<i>Sparganium erectum</i>			
<i>Stachys palustris</i>			
<i>Urtica dioica</i>			
<i>Veronica catenata</i>			R
<b>Emergent End Group</b>	<b>E1</b>	<b>E2</b>	<b>E2</b>

### Summary

5.3.34. No aquatic species were evident along the beck within the survey area. The majority of the beck is very narrow, with steep banks and very tall emergent vegetation which is shading the ditch. It is thought likely that if vegetation were to be present it would be consistent with A5b – *Lemna minor-Lemna trisulca*-filamentous algae. The majority of emergent vegetation along the beck is classified as emergent End Group E2 – *Glyceria maxima-Berula erecta* which is consistent with the lack of grazing along this ditch length.

5.3.35. None of the following species listed within the Norfolk Vanguard Phase 2 Ecological Surveys Scope associated with the River Wensum SAC habitat were noted:

- pond water-crowfoot *R. peltatus*
- stream water-crowfoot *R. penicillatus ssp. pseudofluitans*
- river water-crowfoot *R. fluitans*

### 5.4. Incidental observations

5.4.1. A number of signal crayfish *Pacifastacus leniusculus*, were seen whilst carrying out the survey of the River Wensum.

## 6. Conclusions

### **Grassland NVC Survey**

6.1. The semi-improved grassland found adjacent to the River Wensum consisted of two main NVC communities, which were often transitional to each other:

- MG6 – *Lolium perenne*-*Cynosurus cristatus* grassland
- MG10 – *Holco-Juncetum effusi* rush pasture

6.2. MG10 is a species poor community and characteristic of permanently moist sites, which are widely distributed in grazed pastures. It is a good fit with this community type.

6.3. MG6 is typical of short, tight grass-dominated swards found on free draining soil within grazed lowland pastures, which is consistent with the study area. It is not an exact fit with MG6 because many of the areas are transitional to MG10 and are located within damper areas, and some ungrazed areas could fit better with MG1.

### **River Wensum SAC/SSSI Survey**

6.4. The section of the River Wensum within the study area is dominated by beds of *N. lutea* and is classified as NVC community A8a-*Nuphar lutea* community, “species-poor” sub community. Marginal vegetation consists of NVC community S5-*Glycerietum maximae* swamp, *Alisma plantago-aquatica*-*Sparganium erectum* sub community.

### **Ditch Survey**

6.5. The ditches varied depending on location and land management. They were classified according to Doarks and Leach (1990) as being:

- Aquatic End Group A5b – *Lemna minor*-*Lemna trisulca*-filamentous algae
- Aquatic End Group A6 - *Callitriche stagnalis*/*platycarpa*
- Aquatic End Group A7b - *Potamogeton pectinatus*-*Myriophyllum spicatum*
- Emergent End Group E1 – *Carex riparia/acuteformis*-*Phragmites australis*
- Emergent End Group E2 – *Glyceria Maxima*-*Berula erecta*
- Emergent End Group E3 - *Juncus effusus*

6.6. Some ditches were very shaded or for other reasons lacked aquatic vegetation.

6.7. Despite the variation in appearance of vegetation communities the best fit End Groups across the study area appeared to be species poor End Groups A5b – *Lemna minor*-*Lemna trisulca*-filamentous algae and E2 – *Glyceria Maxima*-*Berula erecta* associated with eutrophic conditions.

### **Ranunculecae floating beds**

6.8. None of the following species, associated with the River Wensum SAC habitat were recorded during the botanical survey within the River Wensum or its floodplain:

- pond water-crowfoot *R. peltatus*
- stream water-crowfoot *R. penicillatus* ssp. *pseudofluitans*
- river water-crowfoot *R. fluitans*

### **Presence of springs and seepage**

6.9. There was no evidence of calcareous ground water spring or seepage activity with the study area. The MG10 community at the back of the flood bank is likely to be a result of river

water seepage through the flood bank, as this area is isolated, not extensive and is in close proximity to the river. Other wetter communities on the site, such as MG10, and dyke vegetation such as A5b are more consistent with lateral water flows or impeded drainage rather than soligenous water movement.

## 7. References

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## 8. Appendix 1 – Map of sampling points

Figure 1: Grassland sampling point map

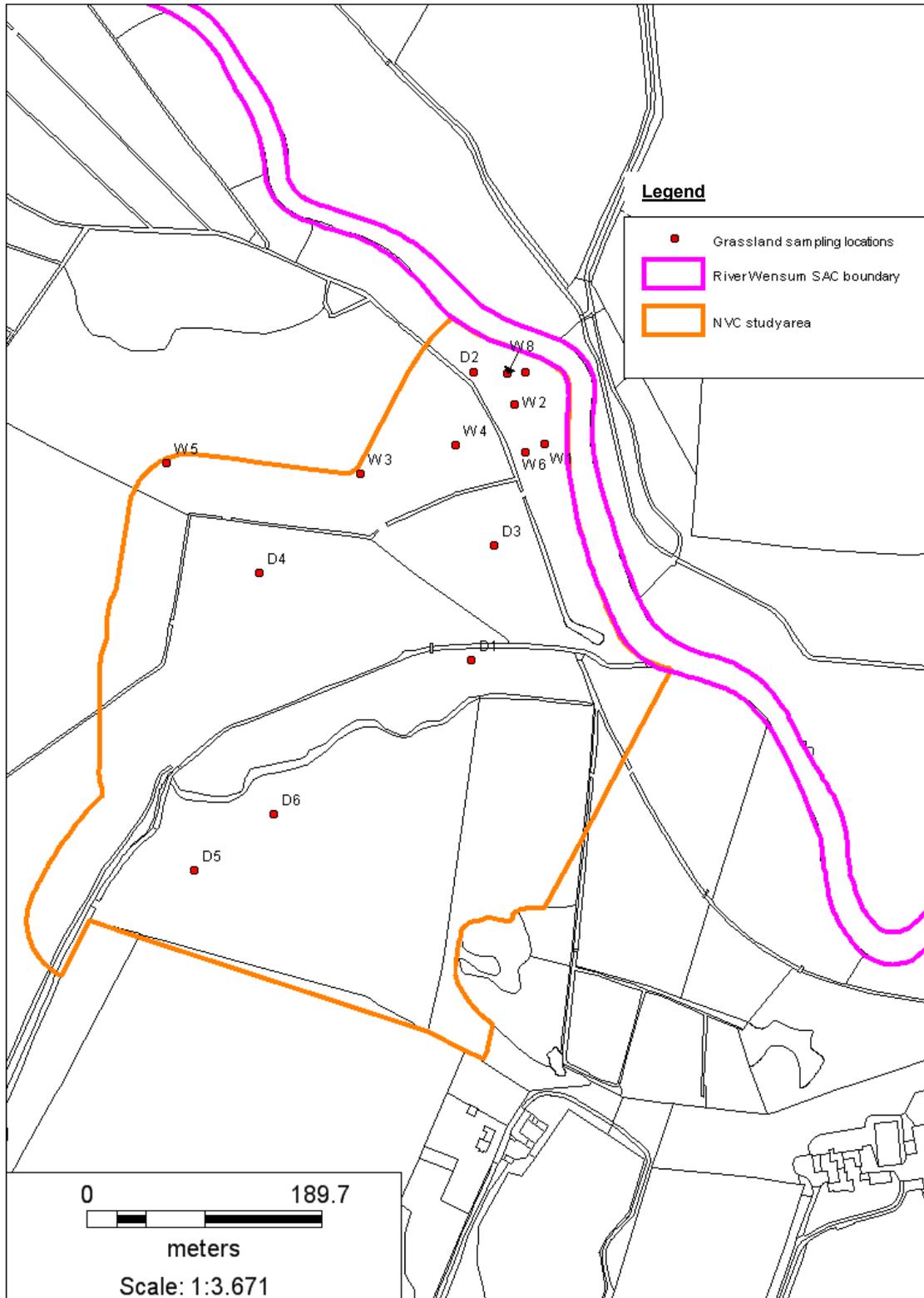


Figure 2: River survey sampling point map

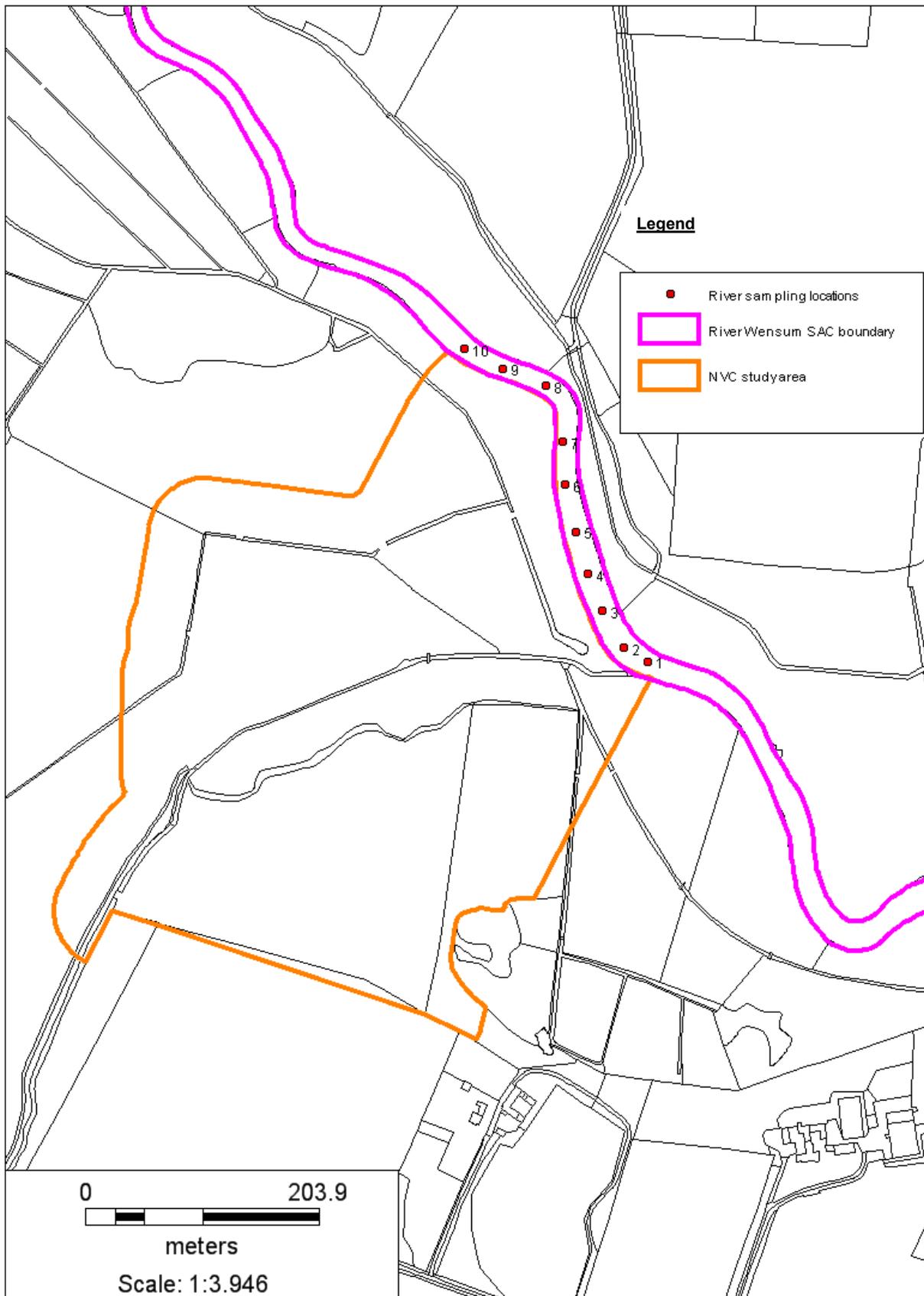
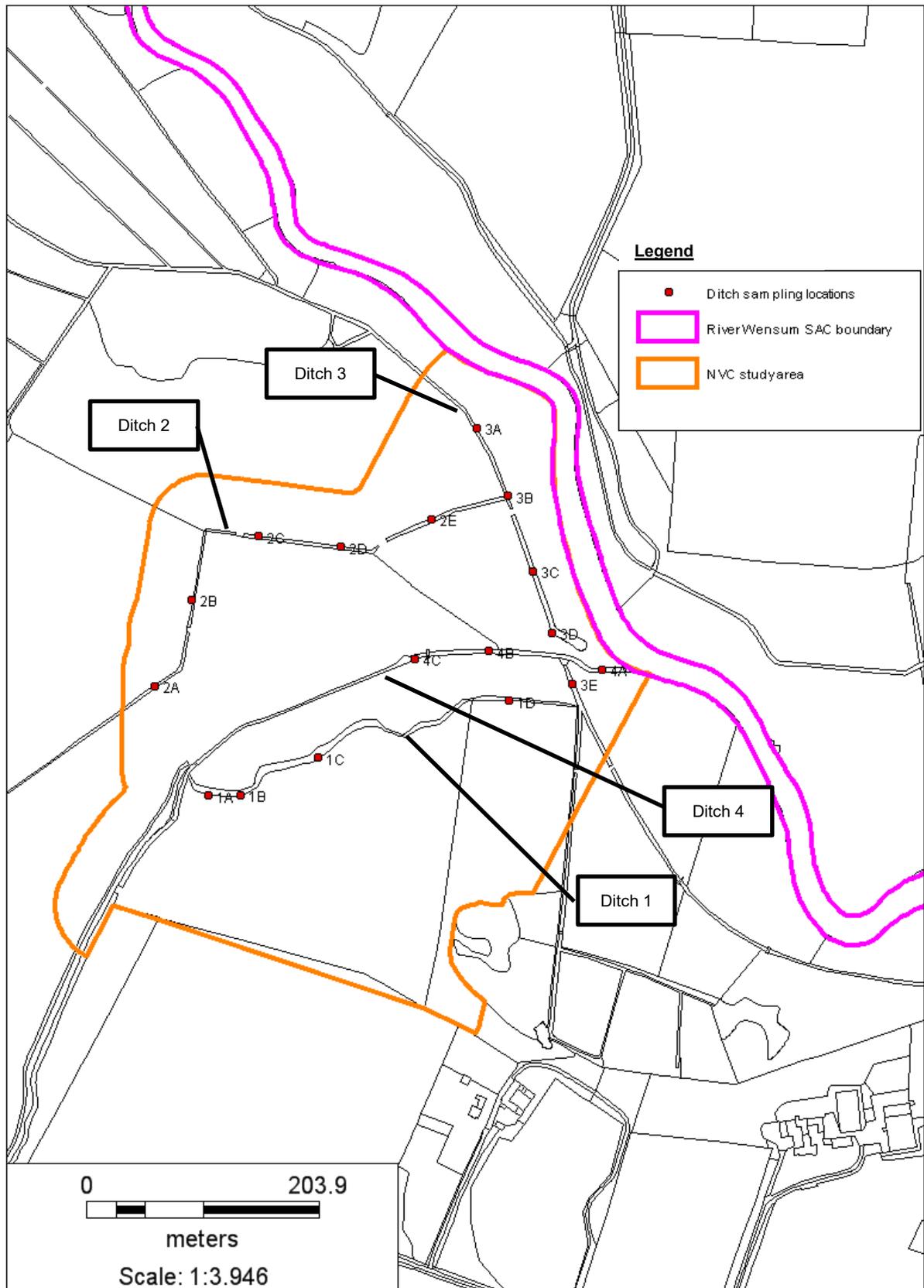


Figure 3: Ditch survey sampling point map



## 9. Appendix 2 – Photographs



*Figure 4 : Grassland survey sampling point W1 – MG10*



*Figure 5 : Grassland survey sampling point W2 – MG10*



*Figure 6 : Grassland survey sampling point W3 – MG10*



*Figure 7 : Grassland survey sampling point W4 – MG10*



*Figure 8 : Grassland survey sampling point W5 – MG10*



*Figure 8 : Grassland survey sampling point W7 – MG10*



*Figure 10 : Grassland survey sampling point W8 – MG10*



*Figure 11 : Grassland survey sampling point D1 - MG6*



*Figure 12 : Grassland survey sampling point D2 - MG6*



*Figure 13 : Grassland survey sampling point D3 - MG6*



*Figure 14 : Grassland survey sampling point D4 - MG6 on driest part of site with many ruderals*



*Figure 15 : Grassland survey sampling point D5 - MG6*



*Figure 16 : Grassland survey sampling point D6 - MG6*



*Figure 17 : Ditch survey sampling point 1A – A6 / E2*



*Figure 18 : Ditch survey sampling point 1B – A7b / E3*



*Figure 19 : Ditch survey sampling point 1C – A5b / E3*



*Figure 20 : Ditch survey sampling point 1D – A5b / E2*



*Figure 21 : Ditch survey sampling point 2A – A5b / E3*



*Figure 22 : Ditch survey sampling point 2C – A5b / E2*



*Figure 23 : Ditch survey sampling point 2D – A5b / E2*



*Figure 24 : Ditch survey sampling point 3A – A5b / E2*



*Figure 25 : Ditch survey sampling point 3B – A5b / E2*



*Figure 26 : Ditch survey sampling point 3C – A5b / E2*



*Figure 27 : Ditch survey sampling point 3D – A5b / E2*



*Figure 28 : Ditch survey sampling point 3E – A5b / E2*



*Figure 29 : Ditch survey sampling point 4A – E1*



*Figure 30 : Ditch survey sampling point 4B – E1*



*Figure 31 : River survey sampling point 2 – A8a*



*Figure 32 : River survey sampling point 3 – A8a*



*Figure 33 : River survey sampling point 4 – A8a*



*Figure 34 : River survey sampling point 5 – A8a*



*Figure 35 : River survey sampling point 6 – A8a*



*Figure 36 : River survey sampling point 8 – A8a*



*Figure 37 : River survey sampling point 9 – A8a*



*Figure 38 : River survey sampling point 10 – A8a*

## 10. Appendix 3 – Consent



River Wensum Site of Special Scientific Interest Norfolk  
("the SSSI")  
River Wensum Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

### CONSENT OF NATURAL ENGLAND

Section 28E(3)(a) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981  
(as amended and inserted by section 75 and Schedule 9 of  
the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000)  
Regulation 21 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species  
Regulations 2010

To:

Mr Carrick.....

Of:

Castle Farm, Swanton Morley, Dereham, NR20 4JT.....

You have Natural England's consent to carry out, cause or permit to be carried out the operations specified below, on the land specified below.

This consent covers the period to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017.

The specified operations:

Aquatic plant and Desmoulin whorl snail surveys.....  
.....

Timing of the operations:

24<sup>th</sup> July 2017 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017.....

Land on which the operations are to be carried out:

The River Wensum and adjacent land and ditches as shown on the attached maps.

Signed for Natural England:



Date: 24/07/2017.....

## 11. Appendix 4 – Raw data tables

These excel files are available electronically at [www.vattenfall.co.uk/norfolkvanguard](http://www.vattenfall.co.uk/norfolkvanguard).

## 12. Appendix 5 – Endgroup descriptions

3.9 The Lemna minor - Lemna trisulca - filamentous algae (A5b) endgroup

Constant species

Lemna minor, filamentous algae (Cladophora spp.), Lemna trisulca.

Nationally rare/scarce species

Ceratophyllum submersum, Myriophyllum verticillatum, Oenanthe fluviatilis, Potamogeton acutifolius, Potamogeton coloratus, Potamogeton friesii, Potamogeton trichoides, Ranunculus baudotii, Stratiotes aloides.

Regionally rare species

Nitella flexilis var. flexilis, Scirpus fluitans.

Physiognomy

The A5b endgroup is of low species diversity, possessing a mean of 5.1 aquatic species per sample, with a range of 1-11. Typically stands of the endgroup had the water surface totally covered with a mixture of Lemna minor, Lemna trisulca and Enteromorpha spp., with possibly a few rosettes of Hydrocharis morsus-ranae, whilst the ditch bottom had a blanket of filamentous algae (Cladophora spp), amongst which small clumps of submerged aquatics sometimes occurred. Ceratophyllum demersum, Callitriche spp., and Potamogeton berchtoldii/pusillus were the most frequently represented. The poorest stands of this endgroup contained only Lemna minor.

Although this endgroup possessed several nationally and regionally rare/scarce species, they were all recorded at low frequencies, and were invariably better represented within other endgroups. Ceratophyllum submersum was the only exception, occurring at its second highest frequency (0.7%) within this endgroup.

The A5b endgroup was found in association with all the emergent endgroups, but was most frequently associated with the "freshwater" Glyceria maxima - Berula erecta endgroup (E2) ( $p < 0.001$ ). The brackish endgroups E4, E5 and E6 were all significantly negatively correlated with the A5b endgroup at ( $p < 0.001$ ) ( $p < 0.001$ ) and ( $p < 0.01$ ) respectively.

Habitat

The A5b endgroup was found widely on freshwater marsh levels and rarely on those marsh levels where oligohaline conditions prevail. It occurred on all substrates, although showed a slight preference for peaty and sandy soils ( $p < 0.05$ ). 78% of stands were from ditches with water conductivities of less than 2,000  $\mu\text{S/cm}$ , while 22% were classified as oligohaline (2,001-10,000  $\mu\text{S/cm}$ ). This was the only freshwater endgroup not to be significantly positively associated with the conductivity class of  $< 1,000 \mu\text{S/cm}$  but instead showed a strong association with

the 1,001-2,000 uS/cm class ( $p < 0.001$ ). It was also the only freshwater endgroup that did not show a significant disassociation with the oligohaline (2,001-10,000 uS/cm) class. This suggests that A5b is probably best regarded as intermediate between the strictly freshwater and the obviously brackish endgroups. It was found within a broad range of water widths, although a relatively large proportion were below two metres (42%), while 9% were less than one metre ( $p < 0.001$ ). It was also found within the whole range of water depths, but showed a stronger preference for shallow water of <20 cm depth ( $p < 0.001$ ) than other aquatic endgroups, except for A6. The aquatic vegetation of ditches which had been choked by emergents or covered by a floating mat of swamp vegetation (eg. Glyceria fluitans/plicata, Berula erecta and Nasturtium officinale) was usually classified as A5b, as it often consisted of nothing more than a sparse cover of Lemna minor growing on what little water surface was available. These neglected ditches accounted for a large proportion of the A5b vegetation found in shallow water.

At the other extreme, A5b was also frequently found in newly cleaned ditches. Lemna spp. are mobile, ubiquitous species that are able to proliferate rapidly and so are often early recolonisers of 'empty' ditches.

This endgroup also included eutrophic ditches in which a degraded species-poor flora exists, predominantly comprising of Lemna minor, Lemna trisulca, filamentous algae (Cladophora spp.) and Enteromorpha spp.

#### Succession

A newly dredged ditch containing the A5b endgroup could feasibly change to any of the aquatic endgroups, although A1 and A7b would be unlikely due to the low incidence in these endgroups of Lemna minor; however, if after a couple of years the ditch was still A5b, then there would be few endgroups to which it would be likely to change. A5b could change to A5a, although this would depend on the species present and/or their cover. Some A5b stands resembled A4 except for their larger filamentous algae and/or Enteromorpha component. A5b also showed floristic similarities with the A7a endgroup, both being relatively species-poor endgroups dominated by filamentous algae and Enteromorpha spp., although Lemna spp. are not so prominent in A7a and many species found at low constancy in A5b are absent from A7a. However, many species able to tolerate eutrophic conditions are also characteristic of oligohaline vegetation - eg. Zannichellia palustris, Potamogeton pectinatus and Myriophyllum spicatum - and so are found in both A5b and A7a.

#### Distribution

A5b was by far the most common aquatic endgroup accounting for 30% of the ditches sampled. It was found to be ubiquitous in Broadland, except on Haddiscoe Island (LCT) which supports only the oligohaline endgroups A7a and A7b. A5b was also found at a lower concentration on the oligohaline marsh levels of Halvergate (LBH) and the upper Thurne (HW).

### **Affinities**

Ditches within the A5b endgroup generally comprised the NVC Lemna minor (A2A/B) community and little else, although a few had the Elodea canadensis sub-community of the Potamogeton pectinatus - Myriophyllum spicatum (A11B) community, the Ceratophyllum demersum (A5) community or the Callitriche stagnalis (A16) community. The A5b endgroup has a clear affinity to Group D of the preliminary classification of Broadland dyke vegetation (Driscoll 1983) in that it represented impoverished ditches that possessed filamentous algae and Enteromorpha sp. at their highest frequency. However some of the richer stands within the A5b endgroup resemble Group C.

Table 7. Constancy table for the Lemna minor-Lemna trisulca-filamentous algae (A5b) endgroup

Species Name	Constancy %	DAFOR Values
LEMMINO	95	1-5
FILAALGA	75	2-5
LEMNTRIS	75	1-5
ENTESPP.	60	1-5
CERADEME	33	1-5
CALLSPP.	33	1-5
POTABERC	17	1-4
POLYAMPH	13	1-4
HYDRMORS	12	1-4
ELODCANA	9	1-4
POTAPECT	9	1-5
ZANNPALU	9	1-3
UTRIVULG	8	1-5
MYRISPIC	7	1-4
LEMNGIBB	5	2-5
SAGISAGI	4	1-2
POTAFRIE	4	1-3
SPAREMER	4	1-2
CERASUBM	4	1-4
AQUAMOSS	3	1-4
CHARSPP.	3	1-4
ELODNUTT	2	1-4
LEMNPOLY	2	1-3
HOTTPALU	2	1-4
POTACRIS	2	1-2
STRAALOI	1	2
AZOLFILI	1	1-4
NUPHLUTE	1	1-3
RANUAQUA	0.5	1
RICCNATA	0.5	4
SCIRFLUI	0.5	3
RICCFLUI	0.5	5
POTALUCE	0.5	3
POTAACUT	0.5	1
NITESPP.	0.5	1
RANUBAUD	0.5	2
FONTANTI	0.5	5
RANUCIRC	0.5	1

Average species per sample = 5.1 (1-11)  
 Number of samples = 204  
 Total number of species = 38

The first four letters of the Species Name code refers to the genus, while the last four letters the species. Species not obvious from their codes can be identified against the full list of aquatic species encountered during this survey, Appendix 5.

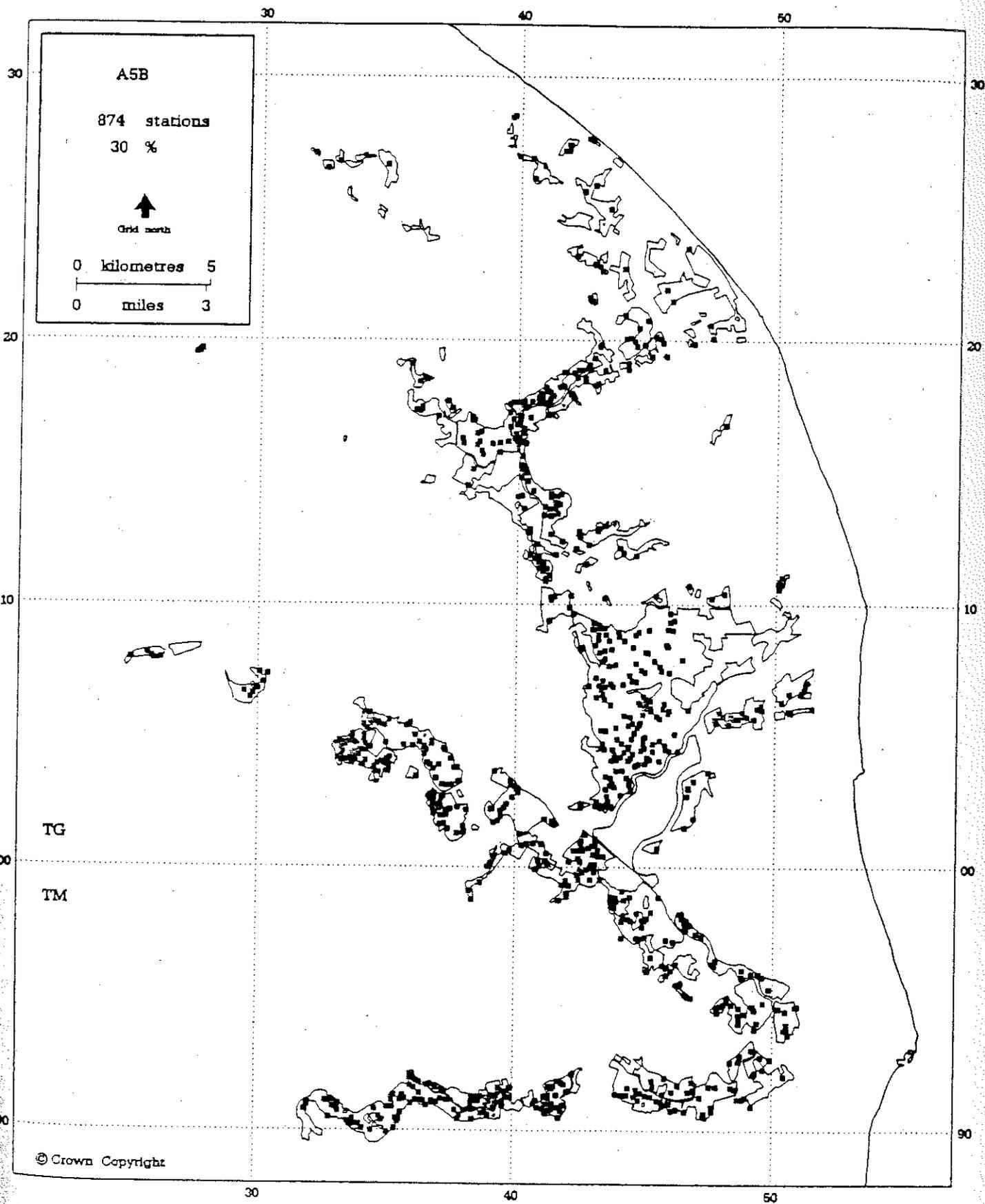


Fig. 7 The distribution of the A5b endgroup in Broadland

### 3.10 The Callitriche stagnalis/platycarpa (A6) endgroup

#### Constant species

Callitriche stagnalis/platycarpa, Lemna minor.

#### Nationally scarce species

Myriophyllum verticillatum, Potamogeton friesii, Ranunculus baudotii.

#### Regionally rare species

Nitella flexilis var. flexilis

#### Physiognomy

During this survey all the Callitriche species were grouped together, as Callitriche stagnalis, Callitriche platycarpa and Callitriche hamulata are often difficult to distinguish without fruit (Wigginton & Graham 1981). Much of the material identified was Callitriche stagnalis, although Callitriche platycarpa was recorded frequently. Stands within this endgroup were usually of very low species diversity, with a mean of 3.2 aquatic species per sample, and with a range between 1 and 7. The stands were typically dominated by Callitriche spp. with Lemna minor being the only other species occurring at high constancy, although usually at lower cover than the Callitriche component. The other species recorded in this endgroup were generally present at very low constancy and cover.

Nationally and regionally scarce/rare species were found at very low frequencies, and all occurred in other endgroups at much higher frequencies.

This endgroup was found in association with all emergent endgroups except the mesohaline E6. However it was usually accompanied by the freshwater emergent endgroups, particularly Glyceria maxima-Berula erecta (E2) ( $p < 0.001$ ).

#### Habitat

This endgroup appeared to be confined to three distinct dyke habitats in Broadland. Firstly, it was frequently found in ditches on the border between the "uplands" and the grazing marsh levels; such ditches often become dry for periods during the summer months, and may also be bounded by a hedge or woodland fringe, traditional in Broadland. Of all the aquatic species, Callitriche spp. are the ones most able to thrive under such conditions as they are both tolerant of shade and able to withstand long periods out of water.

Secondly, it was more frequently recorded in recently dredged ditches (6.2%) than would be expected by examination of the frequency of occurrence within the whole data-set (3.2%). This is probably due to the capacity of Callitriche spp. to rapidly invade new habitats, both by seed and stem fragment.

Thirdly, this endgroup only occurred at high frequency (31%) within the Waveney Valley (WV) IDB sub-area, which is one of very few gravity drained levels in Broadland. Under such conditions the water levels in the ditches can fluctuate widely, with an increased likelihood of ditches drying out during periods of drought, conditions under which Callitriche spp. are able to flourish. In some situations, if fed by springs, the water in the ditch may sustain a periodic flow. Callitriche spp. have been shown to survive in swift flowing streams (Haslam 1978), hence would easily exploit this rare flowing water habitat in Broadland.

The results show the endgroup to be found in waters of low conductivity. 75% of the stands had a conductivity of less than 1,000  $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$  ( $p < 0.01$ ) while 98% were below 2,000  $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ . The Callitriche endgroup was found on the whole range of soil types, although it showed a preference for peaty ( $p < 0.001$ ) and sandy ( $p < 0.01$ ) soils, and in comparison with other freshwater endgroups tended to avoid clayey soils ( $p < 0.001$ ). The endgroup had a high proportion of its ditches with water widths of less than one metre (14%) ( $p < 0.01$ ), and with water depths of less than 20 cms (28%) ( $p < 0.001$ ), this further highlights its preference for ditches that are likely to become temporarily dry.

#### Succession

Callitriche spp. were recorded within all the aquatic endgroups except A1 (Potamogeton natans-Scirpus fluitans) and A3b (Stratiotes aloides-Hydrocharis morsus-ranae). However, Callitriche spp. only become dominant, with the exclusion of nearly all other aquatics, within the A6 endgroup. Once established it is likely to persist unchanged for many years, although if an A6 ditch is deepened so as to contain water throughout the year it would probably change initially, under eutrophic conditions, to the A5b endgroup. Indeed, a few stands within the A5b endgroup had abundant Callitriche spp., but with the addition of several species usually only found at low cover and constancy within A6, e.g. Lemna trisulca, filamentous algae, Ceratophyllum demersum and Potamogeton bechtoldii/pusillus. A few stands within the A6 endgroup contained more mesic elements with Potamogeton natans, Myriophyllum verticillatum, Hottonia palustris and Sparganium emersum present at low cover. Under more mesotrophic conditions where the ditch contains water throughout the year, the A2 endgroup (Potamogeton natans-Myriophyllum verticillatum, Hottonia palustris) might be expected to develop.

#### Distribution

The A6 endgroup occurred at a low frequency in the EFU survey being found in only 3% of the ditches sampled. This is probably an underestimation of its frequency as the survey deliberately excluded 'dry' ditches, many of which are likely to have contained this endgroup. A6 was mainly found in the middle and upper reaches of the river valleys. However it also occurred within the levels on the south side of the lower

reaches of the River Waveney, where it was associated with spring water flow. By far the greatest concentration of this endgroup is to be found within the upper-most reaches of the Waveney Valley (WV).

#### **Affinities**

The A6 endgroup closely resembles a rather species-poor version of the NVC Callitriche stagnalis (A16) community. Callitriche vegetation was not represented in the preliminary classification of Broadland dyke vegetation (Driscoll 1983). However, Callitriche sp. was found at its highest constancy within the Group A of this classification.

Table 8. Constancy table for the Callitriche stagnalis/platycarpa (A6) endgroup

Species Name	Constancy %	DAFOR Value
CALLSPP.	95	1-5
LEMNMINO	77	2-4
FILAALGA	18	2
LEMNTRIS	18	1-3
HOTTPALU	14	1
POLYAMPH	14	2-3
POTANATA	14	1
ZANNPALU	9	1-4
ENTESPP.	9	1-2
CERADEME	9	1-2
RANUBAUD	9	1
CHARSPP.	9	1
SPAREMER	5	1
POTABERC	5	4
MYRIVERT	5	5
ELODCANA	5	1
HYDRMORS	5	1
UTRIVULG	5	3

Average species per sample = 3.2 (1-7)  
 Number of samples = 22  
 Total number of species = 18

The first four letters of the Species Name code refers to the genus, while the last four letters the species. Species not obvious from their codes can be identified against the full list of aquatic species encountered during this survey, Appendix 5.

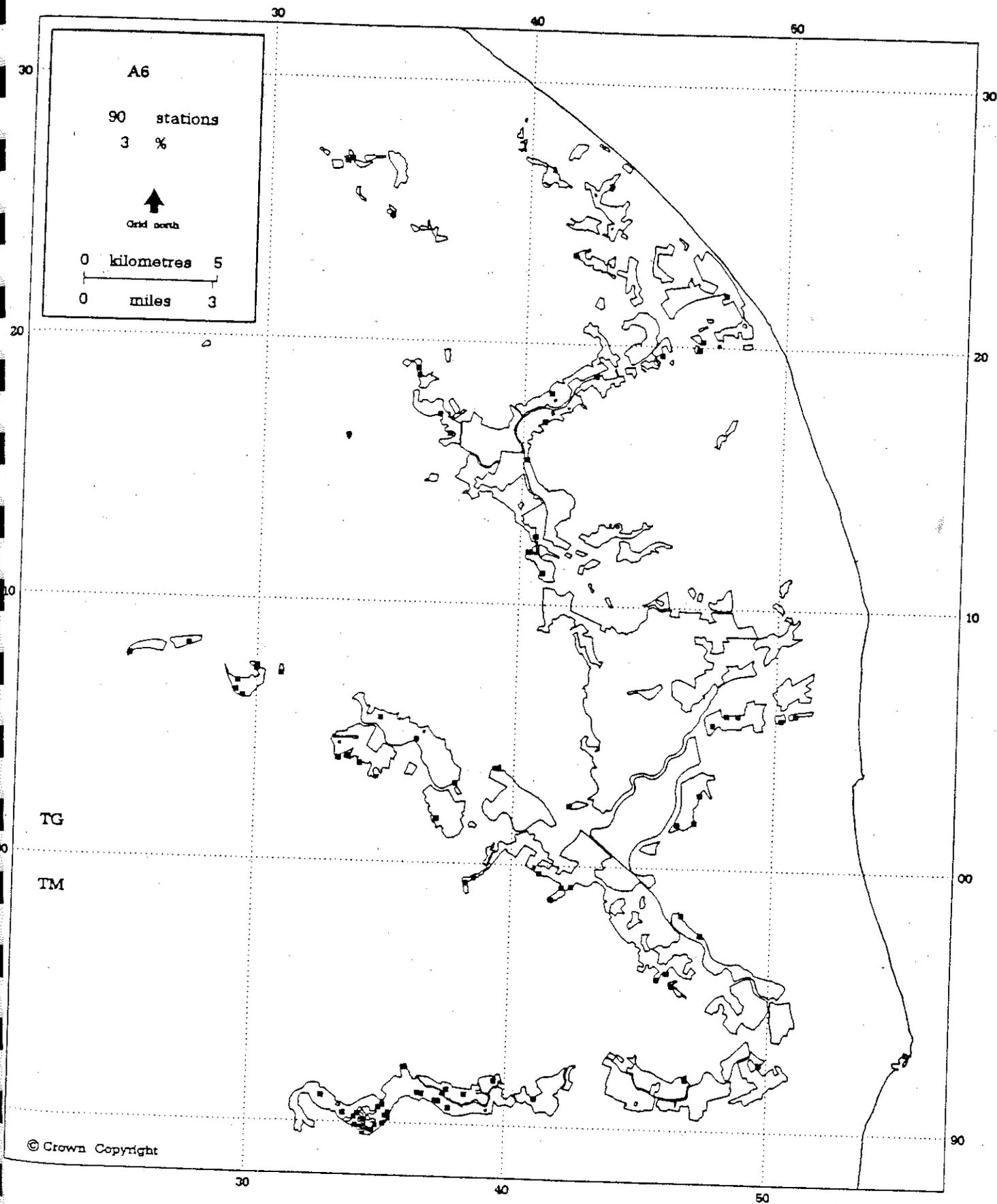


Fig. 8 The distribution of the A6 endgroup in Broadland

### 3.12 The Potamogeton pectinatus-Myriophyllum spicatum (A7b) endgroup

#### Constant species

Myriophyllum spicatum, Potamogeton pectinatus, Lemna trisulca

#### Nationally scarce species

Ceratophyllum submersum, Myriophyllum verticillatum,  
Potamogeton coloratus, Potamogeton friesii, Potamogeton  
trichoides, Ranunculus baudotii, Stratiotes aloides, Chara  
aspera var. aspera.

#### Regionally rare species

Myriophyllum alterniflorum

#### Physiognomy

Stands within this endgroup were generally of low species diversity, possessing a mean of 4.3 aquatic species per sample, with a range of 1-11.

The most important floating species within this endgroup was Lemna trisulca, with both Enteromorpha spp. and Lemna minor at lower frequency and rarely present in any quantity. Stands were therefore relatively clear of surface vegetation, especially when much of the Lemna trisulca was growing submerged. The submerged macrophyte flora was usually dominated by mixtures of Potamogeton pectinatus and Myriophyllum spicatum, although in some stands one species was dominant in the absence of the other. Interestingly, Zannichellia palustris was rare within this endgroup (c.f. A7a). The bottom of the ditch frequently had variable amounts of filamentous algae (Cladophora spp.) while in some stands the bottom was dominated by the aquatic moss Drepanocladus sp.

The nationally scarce Ceratophyllum submersum occurred at its highest frequency (1.4%) within this endgroup, as did Ranunculus baudotii (4.4%). One of only two sites for the regionally important Myriophyllum alterniflorum was encountered within this endgroup (although note that the specimen collected could have been depauperate Myriophyllum spicatum).

Like A7a, this endgroup was found with all six emergent endgroups, although it was strongly associated with the brackish E4, E5 and E6 endgroups (all at  $p < 0.001$ ).

#### Habitat

The A7b endgroup was found widely dispersed throughout the oligohaline marsh levels while within freshwater grazing marsh it was usually associated with the soak dyke and adjoining ditches. Most ditches in this endgroup were brackish, 58% of the samples being oligohaline (2,001-10,000 uS/cm) ( $p < 0.001$ ), and 28% being mesohaline (10,001-20,000 uS/cm) ( $p < 0.001$ ). Like A7a, a high proportion (88%) of samples were situated on clay soils ( $p < 0.001$ ) and were found in ditches covering the whole

range of water widths and depths. However, unlike A7a it showed a strong preference for wider ditches (greater than 3 metres) ( $p < 0.001$ ) containing a greater depth of water; the 81-99cm ( $p < 0.01$ ) and the 100+cm ( $P < 0.05$ ) depth categories were preferred by this endgroup.

This endgroup is more closely associated with brackish conditions than A7a. Within the freshwater marshes, A7b ditches were often confined to the soak dyke while adjoining ditches further away from the river wall were A7a. Its affinity for soak dykes may explain its apparent preference for deep, wide ditches. Material extracted from the soak dyke is used in the maintenance of the river walls and, as a consequence of this, the soak dyke is usually the deepest and widest ditch on the marsh level. Also, many oligohaline marsh levels contained ditches that were wider and deeper than those found on comparable areas of freshwater grazing marsh.

#### Succession

Myriophyllum spicatum was found within all the aquatic endgroups with the exception of A6 (Callitriche spp.), while Potamogeton pectinatus was present within seven of the ten aquatic endgroups. Despite both species occurring in a wide range of endgroups, occasionally at high cover, they are best represented both in terms of constancy and cover within the oligohaline A7a and A7b endgroups.

Due to the tolerance of Myriophyllum spicatum and Potamogeton pectinatus to nutrient enrichment it is possible to envisage A7b occurring under eutrophic freshwater conditions. However this would be exceptional, as generally other species with a more freshwater bias would also be present, thus producing an A5b or perhaps A5a. Where A7b did occur in freshwater situations it was considered to be a modified form of the A5b endgroup.

There are many similarities between A7b and A7a and, as already noted, a change in endgroup could occur merely by a shift in the relative abundance of Potamogeton pectinatus, Myriophyllum spicatum, Zannichellia palustris and Lemna trisulca.

#### Distribution

A7b occurred at a moderate/high frequency within the Broadland grazing marshes, representing 15% of the ditches sampled. It was almost exclusively found within the most saline levels of Haddiscoe Island (LCT), Lower Bure and Halvergate (LBH) and the upper Thurne (HW). Over the rest of Broadland it occurred at very low frequency, often associated with soak dykes and river water seepage.

#### Affinities

The A7b endgroup is most closely related to the Potamogeton pectinatus - Myriophyllum spicatum (A11) community. This endgroup appears to be a fusion of Groups F and G in the preliminary classification of Broadland dyke vegetation (Driscoll 1983).

Table 10. Constancy table for the Potamogeton pectinatus - Myriophyllum spicatum (A7b) endgroup

Species Name	Constancy %	DAFOR Value
MYRISPIC	87	2-5
POTAPECT	83	1-5
LEMNTRIS	61	1-4
FILAALGA	57	1-5
ENTESPP.	30	1-5
AQUAMOSS	24	1-5
POTABERC	22	1-4
LEMNMINO	13	1-3
CERADEME	13	1-4
CALLSPP.	9	1-4
RANUBAUD	7	1-2
ZANNPALU	5	1
AZOLFILI	5	1-4
RANUCIRC	4	1-2
POTANATA	2	2-5
MYRIVERT	2	3
CHARHISP	1	4
POTACRIS	1	1
STRAALOI	1	2
CHARSPP.	1	3
UTRIVULG	1	4

Average species per sample = 4.3 (1-11)  
 Number of samples = 82  
 Total number of species = 21

The first four letters of the Species Name code refers to the genus, while the last four letters the species. Species not obvious from their codes can be identified against the full list of aquatic species encountered during this survey, Appendix 5.

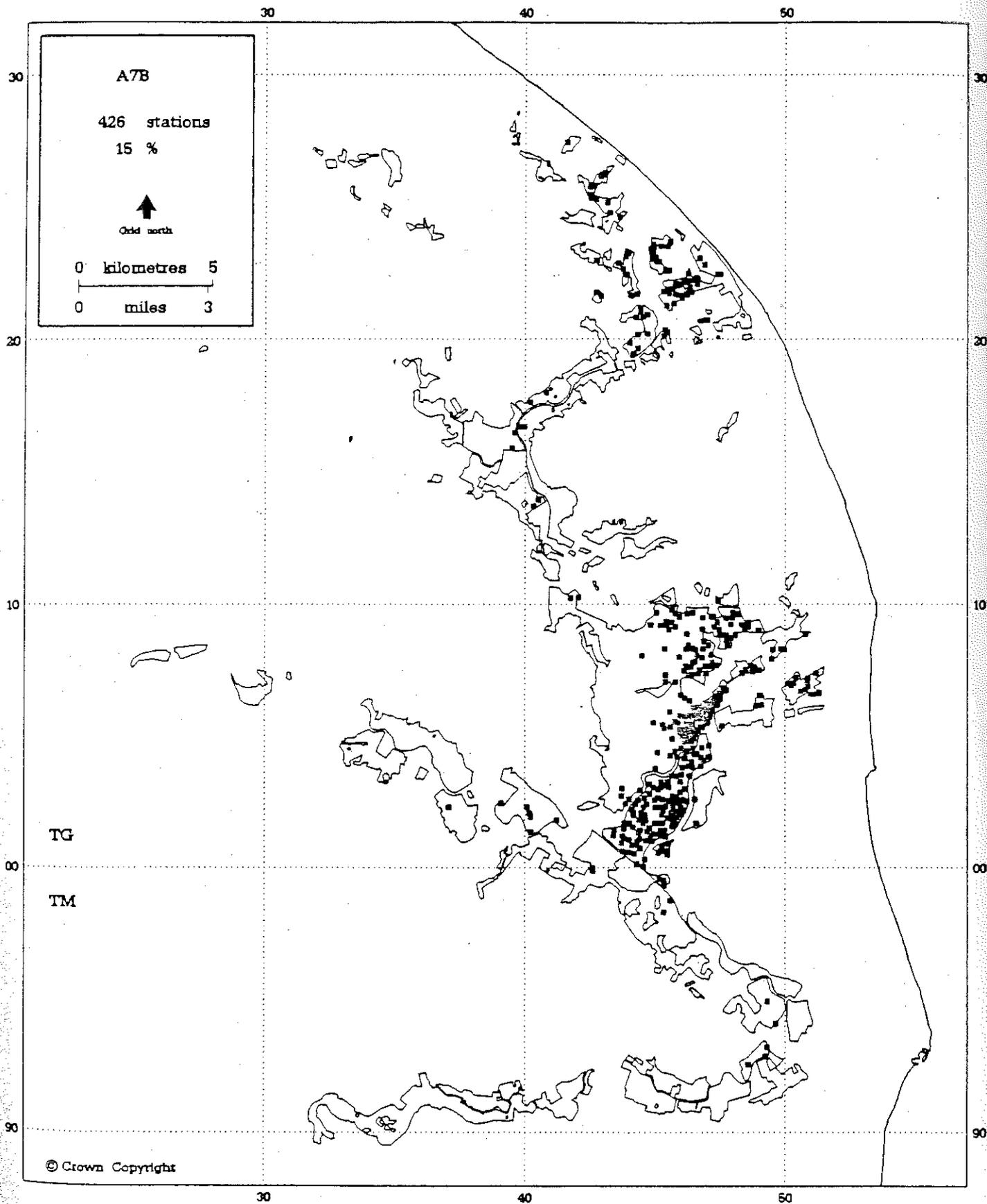


Fig. 10 The distribution of the A7b endgroup in Broadland

3.13 The Carex riparia/acutiformis - Phragmites australis (E1) endgroup

Constant species

Carex riparia/acutiformis, Phragmites australis.

Nationally scarce species

Eleocharis acicularis, Sium latifolium.

Regionally rare species

Baldellia ranunculoides, Ranunculus lingua.

Physiognomy

The E1 endgroup was of moderate species diversity, having a mean of 6.1 emergent species per sample, with a range of 1-13. The endgroup had Carex riparia/acutiformis and Phragmites australis at high constancy and, although usually present as co-dominants, in some stands one species was dominant in the absence of the other. A range of other species were frequently encountered, including Sparganium erectum, Glyceria maxima, Berula erecta, Nasturtium officinale, Mentha aquatica and Myosotis scorpioides, and a great number of other species were present at low constancy and generally low cover.

The vegetation tended to be dominated by tall perennial emergent species capable of invasive vegetative growth. Phragmites australis and Sparganium erectum often grew throughout the aquatic zone, while other species such as Carex riparia, Glyceria maxima, Berula erecta and Nasturtium officinale formed floating 'rafts' extending out from the ditch banks.

Together with E2 this endgroup possessed the greatest concentration of the nationally scarce Sium latifolium, with a frequency of 1.9%, while the only site encountered in Broadland for Eleocharis acicularis was present within this endgroup.

E1 was found in association with all ten aquatic endgroups, and showed a strong preference for the freshwater endgroups, A3a ( $p < 0.001$ ) and A3b ( $p < 0.001$ ), A4 ( $p < 0.01$ ), A2 ( $p < 0.05$ ) and A5a ( $p < 0.05$ ); while the brackish endgroups A7a and A7b were very poorly represented ( $p < 0.001$ ).

Habitat

E1 was found throughout the freshwater marsh levels, associated with upland margins, the open marsh and ditches close to the soak dyke that were often associated with enriched conditions. It was however only very rarely found within brackish grazing marsh levels. This distribution was reflected in the endgroup's preference for low conductivities, with only 20% of samples having conductivities greater than 2,001  $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$  ( $p < 0.001$ ).

This endgroup was found within ditches covering the whole range of water widths and depths, on both peaty and clay substrates (no significant correlations). It was the least grazed of the emergent endgroups ( $p < 0.001$ ) and had the lowest occurrence of poached and shelved bank edges ( $p < 0.001$ ); both Carex riparia, Carex acutiformis and Phragmites australis are tough and unpalatable, and are usually ignored by domestic grazing animals, although they may be eaten by geese and other wild animals such as the water vole Aruicola terrestris amphibus. During late March and April these species are at their most palatable, but this also coincides with the spring flush of grass which is preferentially grazed.

Their litter is also persistent, with this vegetation often appearing as a fringe of tall fresh growth intermixed with the previous year's litter, and forming a relatively dense barrier. Although not stock proof, cattle appear to avoid it, gaining access to the ditch for drinking water where there is a break in the vegetation. E1 was frequently associated with marshes cut for silage, where the ditch edge was not mown, where ditches had been fenced and those bordering ungrazed marsh tracks, fen and carr woodland. It was also found with the E4 endgroup along soak dyke banksides adjoining the river wall.

#### Succession

Many factors could cause a shift in the competitive balance between the dominant species. However an increase in Phragmites australis at the expense of Carex riparia/acutiformis would lead to E1 changing to E4; this could happen as a result of increasing salinities, as Phragmites australis is more tolerant of such conditions. Stands in which Carex riparia/acutiformis is dominant, and in which Phragmites australis is absent (or only present at low cover) would be classified as either E1 or E2 depending on the other associated species. The presence of Agrostis stolonifera, Glyceria fluitans/plicata, Eleocharis palustris and Ranunculus repens would cause the stand to be classified as E2, whereas an absence of such species would indicate E1. It appears likely that increased grazing and trampling pressure would cause an E1 bankside sward to change to an E2 as the vigour of both Carex riparia/acutiformis and Phragmites australis would be reduced; at the same time a bare mud habitat would be created giving an opportunity for grazing-tolerant species indicative of E2 (Glyceria maxima, Glyceria fluitans/plicata and Agrostis stolonifera) to become established.

#### Distribution

E1 occurred at high frequency in Broadland, being found in 29% of the ditches sampled. It was common throughout the freshwater levels of the upper and middle reaches of the Broadland river valleys, and was also encountered within slightly saline levels such as Halvergate (LBH), but at a much lower frequency. On the more saline grazing marshes it was rare, and on some was absent altogether, eg. Haddiscoe Island (LCT).

### **Affinities**

In NVC terms the E1 endgroup most closely resembles a transition between Phragmites australis (S4) and Carex riparia (S6) swamp communities, frequently with Sparganium erectum swamp (S14) in deeper water; a few stands of Carex acutiformis (S7) and Glyceria maxima (S5) are also included in this endgroup.

Table 11. Constancy table for the Carex riparia/acutiformis - Phragmites australis (E1) endgroup

Species Name	Constancy	DAFOR Values	Species Name	Constancy	DAFOR Values
CARERIPA	85	1-5	CAREDIST	2	1-3
PHRAAUST	74	1-5	SCIRTABE	2	1-2
SPAREREC	48	1-5	LYTHSALI	2	1-2
GLYCMAXI	44	1-5	DUPACANN	2	1-3
BERUEREC	42	1-5	ALOPGENI	2	1-2
NASTOFFFI	39	1-5	CAREOTRU	2	1-2
MENTAQUA	21	1-4	EPILPARV	2	1-3
ALISPLAN	20	1-3	SCIRMARI	2	1-2
MYOSSCOR	20	1-4	GALIPALU	2	1-3
EQUIFLUV	14	1-4	CARECUTA	1	2-5
APIUNODI	13	1-5	HOLCLANA	1	2-4
OENAFIST	13	1-4	RANUREPE	1	3
JUNCSUBN	12	1-5	HIPPVULG	1	2-4
AGROSTOL	11	1-4	CALTPALU	1	1-2
GLYCSPF.	9	1-4	BIDECERN	1	2-3
JUNCEFFU	9	1-5	SAMOVALE	1	2
RUMEHYDR	8	1-3	HYPETETR	0.5	2
ELEOPALU	8	1-4	AGROREPE	0.5	3
MYOSLAXA	8	1-2	IMPACAPE	0.5	2
POLYAMPH	8	1-3	ELEOUNIG	0.5	3
CAREPSEU	7	1-4	LOLIPERE	0.5	2
EPILHIRS	6	1-3	TYPHLATI	0.5	3
EQUIPALU	6	1-2	GALIAPAR	0.5	2
IRISPSEU	6	1-4	FESTRUBR	0.5	4
PHALARUN	5	1-4	PULIDYSE	0.5	1
URTIDIOI	5	1-3	SALICINE	0.5	4
JUNCINFL	4	1-4	ARRHELAT	0.5	2
LYCOEURO	4	1-2	MOLICAER	0.5	4
VEROCATE	4	1-3	CAREELAT	0.5	2
BUTOUMBE	4	1-2	HORDSECA	0.5	1
JUNCARTI	3	1-5	TRIGPALU	0.5	2
SOLADULC	3	1-4	LYCHFLOS	0.5	2
VEROBECC	3	1-4	RANUSCEL	0.5	1
RUMECONG	3	1-2	ACORCALA	0.5	2
POLYHYDR	3	1-2	RUBUFRUT	0.5	2
SIUMLATI	3	1-3	CIRSARVE	0.5	1
CAREROST	3	1-3	STACPALU	0.5	4
CARDPRAT	3	1-3			
SCROAURI	3	2-4			

Average species in sample = 6.1 (1-13)  
 Number of samples = 182  
 Total number of species = 76

The first four letters of the Species Name code refers to the genus, while the last four letters the species. Species not obvious from their codes can be identified against the full list of emergent species encountered during this survey, Appendix 6.

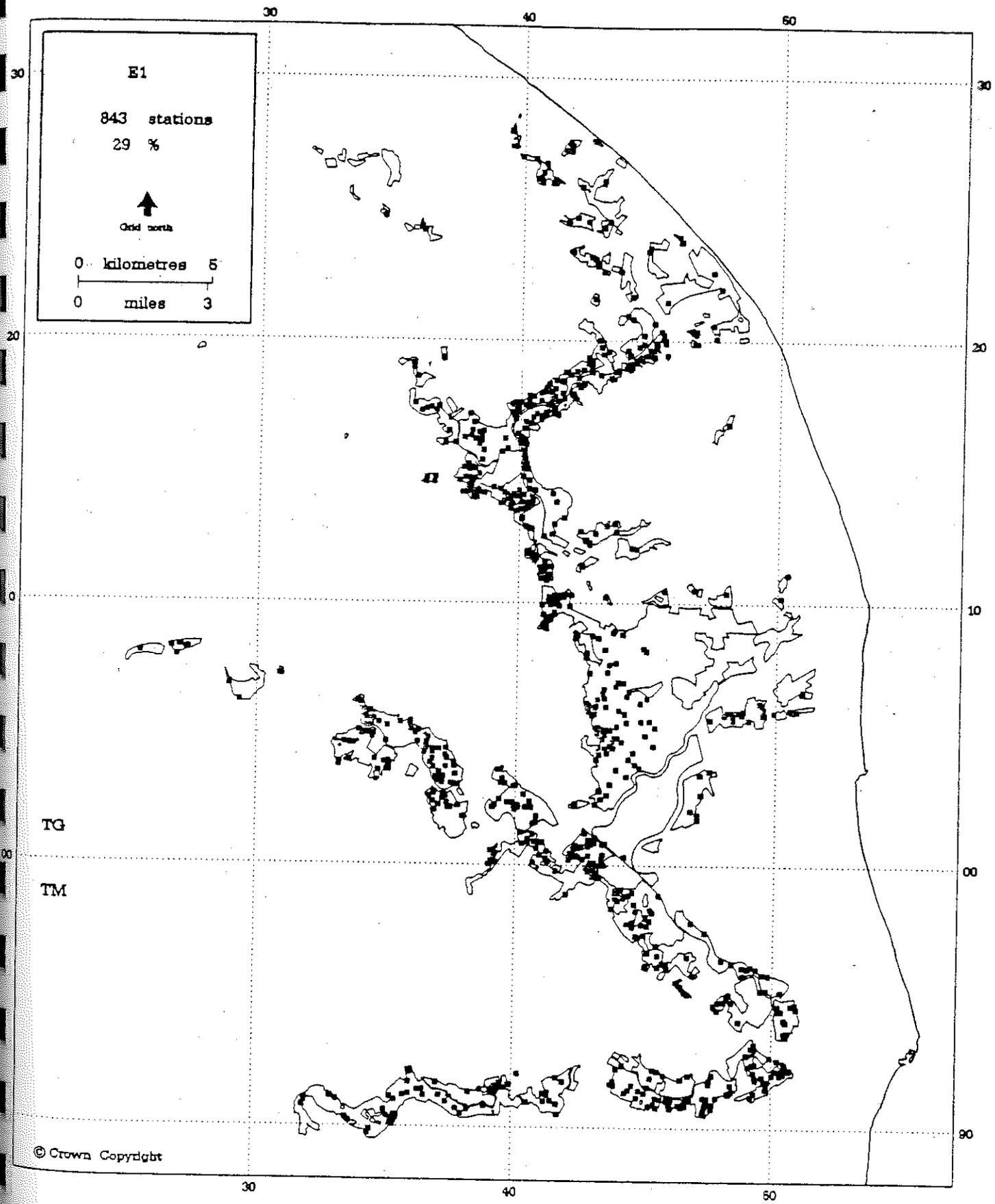


Fig. 11 The distribution of the E1 endgroup in Broadland

### 3.14 The Glyceria maxima - Berula erecta (E2) endgroup

#### Constant species

Glyceria maxima, Berula erecta, Agrostis stolonifera

#### Nationally scarce species

Rumex palustris, Sium latifolium

#### Regionally rare species

Baldellia ranunculoides, Hypericum elodes, Ranunculus lingua

#### Physiognomy

Stands within the E2 endgroup were of high species diversity, having a mean of 10.3 emergent species per sample, with a range of 1-27. Unlike E1 and E4, Phragmites australis was poorly represented within this endgroup, occurring in one-third of the ditches, and usually present at low cover. Unlike E3, Juncus effusus was not well represented, found within only 16% of the ditches and never as a dominant component of the flora. Conversely, species that were frequent and often at high cover included Glyceria maxima, Berula erecta, Agrostis stolonifera, Carex riparia, Nasturtium officinale, Glyceria fluitans/plicata, Sparganium erectum and Oenanthe fistulosa. E2 thus comprises all those species-rich stands in which a number of the species listed above are present as co-dominants, together with a varied array of other species at low cover. The species-poor stands found within this endgroup were frequently dominated by floating 'rafts' Glyceria maxima and or Glyceria fluitans/plicata.

As with E1, this endgroup contains an important concentration of the nationally scarce Sium latifolium, which was encountered at a frequency of 1.6%.

The endgroup was found in association with every aquatic endgroup, but tended to avoid the acid mesotrophic A1 ( $p < 0.05$ ), and the oligohaline A7a ( $p < 0.01$ ) and A7b ( $p < 0.001$ ). Many species found in this endgroup are typical of eutrophic freshwater having a high base status, eg Glyceria maxima and Berula erecta, and it is therefore not surprising that these aquatic endgroups tend not to be associated with E2. Conversely, the A5a and A5b and A6 endgroups are all positively associated with this endgroup ( $p < 0.001$ ).

#### Habitat

Conductivities were very similar to those recorded for E1, with 86% of stands found in freshwater ditches within the conductivity ranges of  $< 1,000$   $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$  ( $p < 0.01$ ) and  $1,001-2,000$   $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$  ( $p < 0.05$ ). E2 was found on both clayey and peaty soils although there was a preference for the latter ( $p < 0.001$ ). In common with E1, it was found within ditches covering the whole range of water widths and depths (no significant correlations).

However, unlike E1, this endgroup was frequently subjected to a higher level of grazing pressure. Some species found at high constancy and cover within this endgroup, notably Glyceria maxima, Glyceria fluitans/plicata and Agrostis stolonifera, are much favoured by grazing animals. Increased grazing pressure was also responsible for the moderate amounts of bankside poaching and shelf formation recorded. The constant disturbance caused by poaching and the shallow shelf it produces creates a range of microhabitats favouring development of a more diverse flora, with new species able to get established, particularly those germinating from seed and broken stem fragments. Species such as Berula erecta, Nasturtium officinale, Oenanthe fistulosa, Mentha aquatica and Alisma plantago-aquatica were frequently well represented in these disturbed areas. It is interesting to note that none of the grazing and bank poaching categories were significantly related to this endgroup. However, moderately shelved banks were more frequently encountered ( $p < 0.001$ ).

#### Succession

Reduction or cessation of grazing would probably cause some E2 stands, especially those with a moderate representation of Phragmites australis, Carex acutiformis and Carex riparia, to change to E1. Under such conditions these tall densely growing species would increase and shade out many of the lower growing grasses and herbs, while the persistent litter layer they produce would further inhibit the growth of species such as Agrostis stolonifera, Glyceria fluitans/plicata and Ranunculus repens.

There are many similarities between the E2 endgroup and some E3 stands, although the conditions under which the Juncus effusus and/or Juncus articulatus become dominant is not known. However they do appear to favour a more mesotrophic organic substrate.

#### Distribution

The E2 endgroup occurred at a high frequency within the Broadland grazing marshes, representing 32% of the ditches sampled. It is found throughout the freshwater levels of the upper and middle reaches of the Broadland river valleys. It was also encountered within the slightly saline levels of Halvergate (LBH), but at a much reduced frequency. It is rare in the more saline levels of Haddiscoe Island (LCT), the lower reaches of the River Bure and Halvergate (LBH) and the upper Thurne (HW).

#### Affinities

In NVC terms the E2 endgroup is mainly Glyceria maxima swamp (S5), although frequently forming mixed stands with Phragmites australis (S4) or Carex riparia (S6); ditches in this endgroup often having fringing Eleocharis palustris swamp (S19) and water-margin vegetation dominated by such species as Glyceria fluitans, Apium nodiflorum and Nasturtium officinale (S22, S23). As with E1, stands of Sparganium erectum (S14) are frequent in deeper water.

Table 12. Constancy table for the Glyceria maxima-Berula erecta (E2) endgroup

Species Name	Constancy %	DAFOR Values	Species Name	Constancy %	DAFOR Values
GLYCMAXI	78	1-5	SOLADULC	2	1-2
BERUERIC	62	1-4	LOTUULIG	2	1-3
AGROSTOL	60	1-5	PULIDYSE	2	1-4
CARERIPA	55	1-5	SAMOVALC	2	1
NASTOFFI	54	1-5	STACPALU	2	1-3
GLYCSPP.	50	1-5	ACORCALA	2	1-4
SPAREREC	46	1-5	HIPPVULG	2	1-4
ELEOPALU	37	1-5	CAREHIRI	1	1-4
OENAFIST	35	1-5	SIUMLATI	1	1-4
PHRAAUST	34	1-5	POTEANSE	1	1
MENTAQUA	34	1-4	SCROAURI	1	1-3
ALISPLAN	33	1-3	SCUTGALE	1	1-2
MYOSSCOR	32	1-4	CALIPALU	1	1-2
RANUREPE	27	1-4	SENEAQUA	1	3
EQUIFLUV	27	1-4	HYPETETR	1	1-2
PHALARUN	21	1-5	FESTRUER	1	2-3
APIUNDOI	18	1-5	GALIULIS	1	1-2
ALOPGENI	17	1-5	AGROREPE	1	1-2
MYOSLAXA	17	1-3	CAREACUT	1	2
JUNCINFL	17	1-5	STELPALU	1	1-2
JUNCARII	16	1-4	BALDRANU	1	1-2
JUNCEFFU	16	1-5	CAREPANI	1	2-4
GALIPALU	15	1-4	VALEOFFI	1	1
IRISPSEU	13	1-3	TYPHANGU	1	1-2
EQUIPALU	11	1-4	RANUFLAM	0.5	1
POLYAMPH	11	1-3	THALFLAV	0.5	1
VEROCATE	10	1-4	RANUSARD	0.5	1
EPIHIRS	9	1-2	RUMECRIS	0.5	1
CAREDIST	8	1-4	JUNCACUT	0.5	2
POLYHYDR	8	1-5	PHLEPRAT	0.5	2
URTIDIOI	8	1-2	EPILOBSC	0.5	1
HOLCLANA	7	2-4	CERAFONT	0.5	1
SCIRTABE	7	1-4	JUNCGERA	0.5	2
CAREOTRU	7	1-3	RANUACRI	0.5	2
LYTHSALI	6	1-2	POA. TRIV	0.5	2
LYCOEURO	6	1-3	CATAAQUA	0.5	5
VEROBECC	5	1-5	GLECHEDE	0.5	2
JUNCSUBN	5	1-5	SALICINE	0.5	1
CARDPRAT	5	2-3	FESTARUN	0.5	1
RUMEHYDR	5	1-3	CAREELAT	0.5	2
EPILPARV	5	1-3	RUMEPALU	0.5	1
RANUSCEL	5	1-3	PEUCPALU	0.5	2
RUMECONG	4	1-2	EQUIARVE	0.5	2
CIRSARVE	4	1-2	MYRIGALE	0.5	1
ELEOUNIG	4	1-4	LYSIVULG	0.5	1
BIDECERN	4	1-2	EPILPALU	0.5	2
FILIULMA	4	1-2	RUMEOBTU	0.5	1
BUTOUMBE	4	1	GERADISS	0.5	1
CAREPSEU	3	1-4	HYDRVULG	0.5	1
SCIRMARI	3	1-5	EUPACANN	0.5	1
TYPHLATI	3	1-4	MENYTRIF	0.5	1
CAREROST	3	1-5	FESTPRAT	0.5	3
LOLIPERE	3	1-4	POTEREPT	0.5	2
TRIFREPE	3	1-3			

Average species per sample = 10.3 (1-27)  
 Number of samples = 224  
 Total number of species = 107

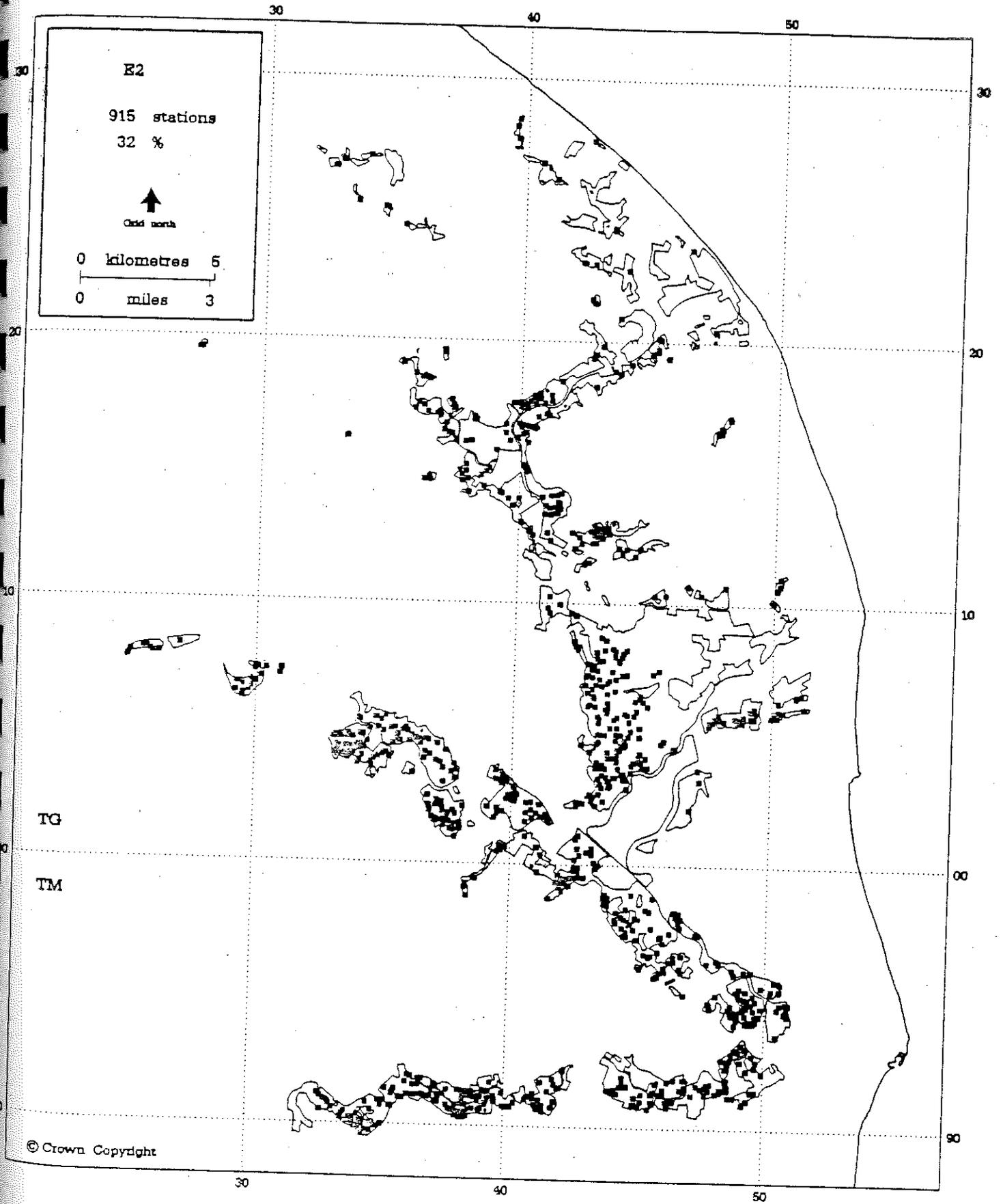


Fig. 12 The distribution of the E2 endgroup in Broadland

### 3.15 The Juncus effusus (E3) endgroup

#### Constant species

Juncus effusus

#### Nationally scarce species

Rumex palustris, Sium latifolium

#### Regionally rare species

Baldellia ranunculoides, Ranunculus lingua

#### Physiognomy

This endgroup had the highest species diversity of any of the emergent endgroups, with a mean of 12.0 emergent species per sample, with the range of 2-28.

Many E3 stands resembled those of E2, with Glyceria maxima, Berula erecta, Agrostis stolonifera and Glyceria fluitans/plicata well represented, however these were joined by Juncus effusus and/or Juncus articulatus at high constancy and cover. E3 was the major locus for a number of species typical of organic soils of more mesotrophic status including Cardamine pratensis, Juncus subnodulosus, Hydrocotyle vulgaris, Ranunculus flammula, Carex rostrata, Carex disticha and Lotus uliginosus.

Nationally scarce species were poorly represented, although the regionally rare Baldellia ranunculoides and Ranunculus lingua were most frequently recorded within E3, at 2.4% and 2.1% respectively.

Although E3 was found in association with every aquatic endgroup, the mesotrophic A1 and A2, and meso-eutrophic A3a and A3b were best represented (all at  $p < 0.001$ ). The only other positively correlated aquatic endgroup was the species-rich A5a ( $p < 0.05$ ). E3 tended not to occur with the species-poor A5b ( $p < 0.05$ ) and the oligohaline A7a and A7b ( $p < 0.001$ ) endgroups.

#### Habitat

The E3 endgroup was found throughout the freshwater marsh levels, although frequently associated with the more mesotrophic margin that abuts the uplands. This is reflected in the conductivities, with 69% of samples being less than 1,000  $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$  ( $p < 0.001$ ), and 91% less than 2,000  $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ . This endgroup, although being found on both clay and peaty soils, showed a very clear preference for the latter ( $p < 0.001$ ). In common with the previous freshwater endgroups, it was found within ditches covering the whole range of water widths and depths. However it did show a preference for narrow ditches 1-2 metres wide ( $p < 0.01$ ).

This endgroup predominantly contained stands associated with peaty mesotrophic and meso-eutrophic conditions. Base-poor

stands were highlighted by its association with the acid mesotrophic endgroup (A1) and the incidence of Juncus articulatus, Hydrocotyle vulgaris and Juncus bulbosus (Clapham, Tutin & Warburg 1962, Nature Conservancy Council 1989), species indicative/tolerant of base-poor conditions. Conversely base-rich stands were associated with the meso-eutrophic base-rich endgroups (A3a and A3b) and plants typical of base-rich organic soils were well represented, eg Juncus subnodulosus (Clapham, Tutin and Warburg 1962).

E3 was subjected to moderate grazing pressure, although often slightly less than that experienced by the E2 endgroup. Several of the species found as frequent components of this endgroup are highly palatable to grazing animals, eg Agrostis stolonifera and Glyceria fluitans/plicata. However, these are interspersed by the fibrous and much less palatable Juncus component. The bankside zone often appeared as a well grazed sward interspersed by large Juncus effusus tussocks, although these sometimes formed an unbroken line along the ditch edge. Associated with the grazing pressure, the banks were often moderately poached, however an extensive bankside shelf was less frequently noted in E3 than in E2. This was probably due to the presence of the Juncus effusus tussocks along the ditch edge preventing its formation. The bare soil habitat created by poaching provides ideal opportunities for the establishment of new species, particularly those germinating from seed or broken stem fragments. Species exploiting this niche included Cardamine pratensis, Alisma plantago - aquatica, Lycopus europaeus, Galium palustre, Ranunculus flammula, Ranunculus sceleratus and Myosotis laxa. The E3 endgroup did not show any significant relationship with the three factors of bank grazing, poaching and bankside shelf.

### Succession

There are floristic similarities between some stands of E3 and E2. However the exact conditions under which the Juncus effusus and/or Juncus articulatus become a dominant component of the sward are not known. However it is known that Juncus effusus produces formidable quantities of seed (Chippindale and Milton 1934, Milton 1936, 1948, Moore & Burr 1948), and that two factors have to be fulfilled for germination, these being light and a permanently moist soil surface (Moore & Burr 1948, Lazenby 1955 and Agnew 1961). Therefore successful invasion of Juncus effusus is most readily achieved on grazed, poached ditch margins. Once established a Juncus dominated sward is inherently stable, being relatively resistant to the effects of grazing and mowing. Indeed there is some evidence that the tussock form of Juncus effusus is a response to pasturing (Agnew 1961). The E3 endgroup also demonstrated the greatest affinity to mesotrophic conditions and an organic substrate than any other endgroup.

### Distribution

E3 occurred at a moderate frequency within the Broadland grazing marshes, representing 11% of the ditches sampled. The majority of the samples were situated within the upper and

middle reaches of the Broadland river valleys. The endgroup was also recorded at a very low frequency within a few of the slightly saline grazing marshes, eg. Halvergate (LBH).

#### **Affinities**

The E3 endgroup is difficult to place within the NVC, although it has distinctive fringing vegetation that bears some resemblance to Juncus subnodulosus - Cirsium palustre fen-meadow (M22), Filipendula ulmaria - Angelica sylvestris (M27) mire and Holcus lanatus - Juncus effusus rush-pasture (MG10); otherwise, this endgroup contains a similar range of communities to those occurring in E1 and E2, although it sometimes has fragmentary stands of Carex pseudocyperus swamp (S17).

Table 13. Constancy table for the Juncus effusus (E3) endgroup

Species Name	Constancy %	DAFOR Values	Species Name	Constancy %	DAFOR Values
JUNCEFFU	69	3-5	CAREOTRU	7	1-2
AGROSTOL	54	1-5	SCIRTABE	7	1-2
ALISPLAN	53	1-3	EPILPARV	5	1
SPAREREC	49	1-4	MYOSSCOR	5	1-3
GLYCSPP.	49	1-4	CARENIGR	5	1-3
BERUERE	47	1-4	CIRSPALU	5	1-2
JUNCARTI	44	1-4	SCUTGALE	5	2
ELEOPALU	42	1-4	SOLADULC	5	1-2
CARERIPA	39	1-5	SALICINE	3	1
CAREPSEU	39	1-4	LYTHSALI	3	3
MENTAQUA	39	1-3	TRIFREPE	3	2
PHRAAUST	37	1-4	POLYPERS	3	1-2
GLYCMAXI	36	1-5	TRIGPALU	3	1-2
EQUIFLUV	36	1-2	CALTPALU	3	1-2
CARDPRAT	32	1-3	TYPHANGU	3	2-3
RANUREPE	32	2-4	BIDECERN	3	1
HOLCLANA	29	3-4	ERIOANGU	3	1-3
LYCOEURO	27	1-2	LOLIPERE	3	2
JUNCSUBN	24	1-4	SALICAPR	3	1
HYDRVULG	22	1-4	CAREHIRT	3	1
PHALARUN	22	1-3	CAREECHI	3	2
OENAFIST	20	1-3	SENEAQUA	2	2
IRISPSEU	19	1-3	SAMOVALE	2	1
GALIPALU	19	1-3	PHLEPRAT	2	2
RANUFLAM	19	1-3	RANUSARO	2	1
MYOSLAXA	17	1-3	BALDRANU	2	3
NASTOFFI	17	1-2	CIRSARVE	2	1
POLYAMPH	14	1-3	ALNUGLUT	2	1
CAREROST	14	2-5	MENYTRIF	2	2
CAREDIST	14	1-3	FILIULMA	2	2
TYPHLATI	12	1-5	EUPACANN	2	2
EPILHIRS	12	1-2	HIPPVULG	2	1
RANUSCEL	10	1-2	LYCHFLOS	2	2
JUNCINFL	10	2-4	FESTARUN	2	2
LOTUULIG	10	1-4	POA. ANNU	2	2
POLYHYDR	8	1-4	POLYMITE	2	1
RUMEHYDR	8	1-2	ATRIPATU	2	1
FESTRUBR	7	2-4	RUMECONG	2	2
EQUIPALU	7	1-4	HYPETETR	2	1
APIUNODI	7	1-2	SCIRMARI	2	3
ALOPGENI	7	1-4	STELPALU	2	1
URTIDIOI	7				

Average species per sample = 12.0 (2-28)  
 Number of samples = 59  
 Total number of species = 83

The first four letters of the Species Name code refers to the genus, while the last four letters the species. Species not obvious from their codes can be identified against the full list of emergent species encountered during this survey, Appendix 6.

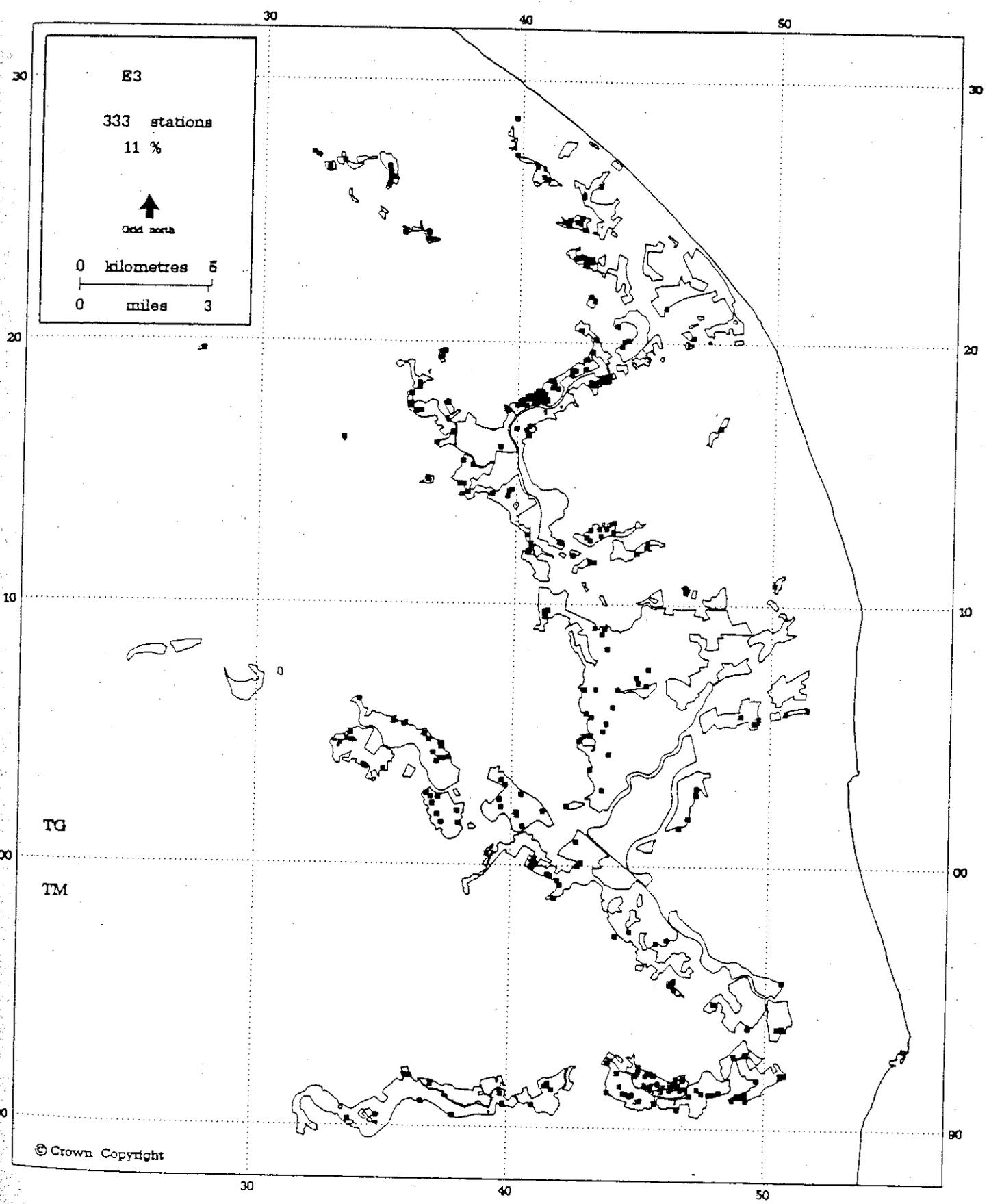
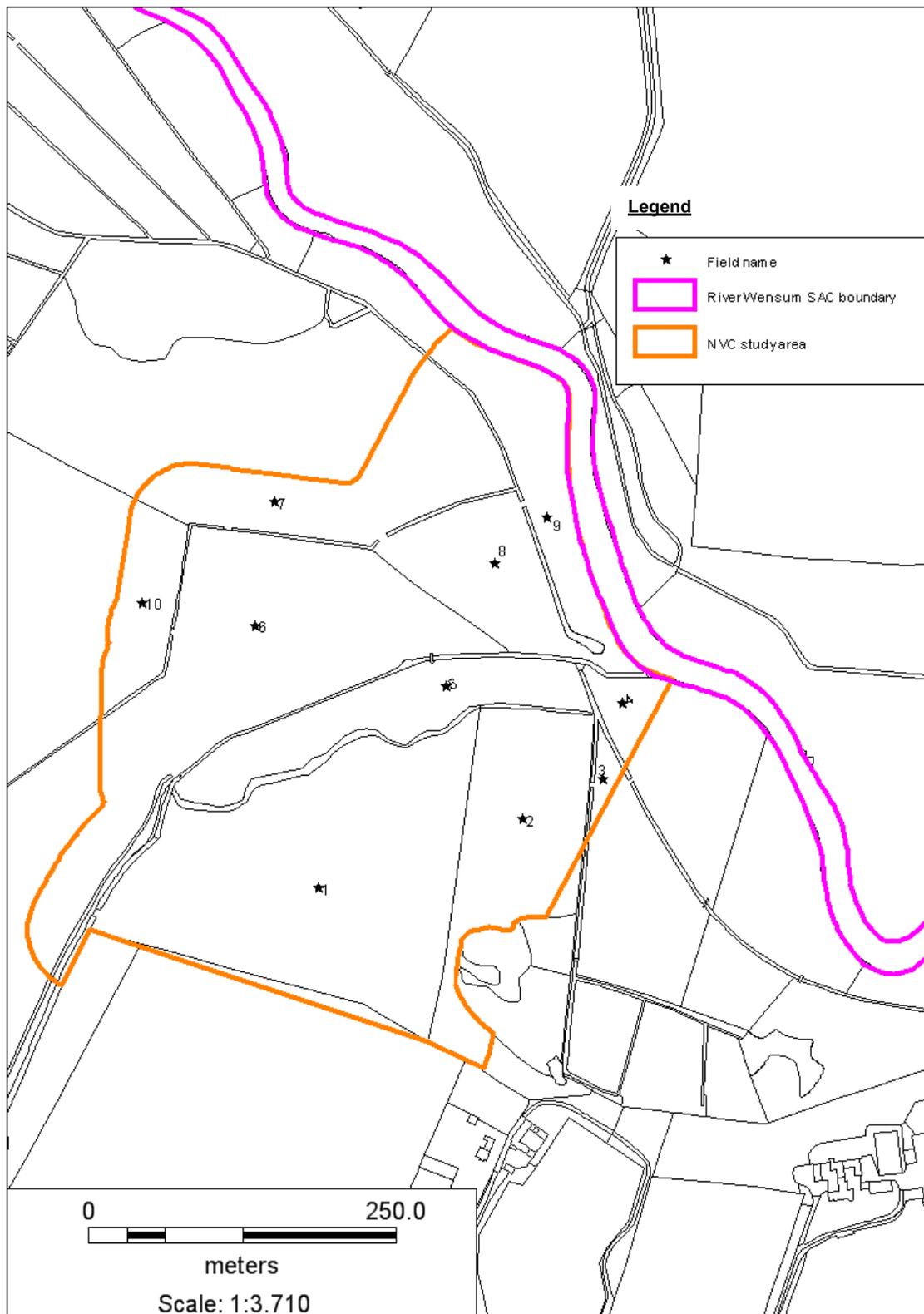


Fig. 13 The distribution of the E3 endgroup in Broadland

### 13. Appendix 6 – Field Name Map



## 14. Appendix 7 – NVC/End Group Map

