

County Wildlife Site Citations

CWS Number Waveney 31

Site Name NEW REACH RIVER AND MARSH

Parish HALESWORTH

District Waveney

NGR TM392773

Description

A small stretch of a tributary of the River Blyth known as New Reach, as it flows south out of Halesworth supports a particularly diverse aquatic plant and animal community. A footpath runs adjacent to the river and from this well used route a wide range of plants can be seen. On the edges of the water course yellow iris, water forget-me-not and watercress grow as emergent plants.

In the water itself starwort, broad-leaved pondweed and hornwort are abundant.

Breeding moorhen and mallard are frequently seen amongst the vegetation. A small patch (approx.20 sq.m.) of low lying marsh situated close to the river has not been affected by agricultural chemicals and is colonised by a flower-rich flora including ragged robin, hairy sedge and skullcap. Despite its close proximity to Halesworth, this area retains its wildlife interest and conservation value.

RNR Number 0

Area 1.55

County Wildlife Site Citations

CWS Number Waveney 32

Site Name BIRDS FOLLY

Parish HALESWORTH

District Waveney

NGR TM393774

Description

This site, situated close to the centre of Halesworth consists of a number of mounds and hollows colonised by a mosaic of woodland, scrub and acidic grassland. It is of local historic interest as the Southwold railway used to run through the Folly and the little bridge still remains.

The areas of dense scrub provide an important refuge for nesting birds in an otherwise urban environment. Intensive visitor pressure from local people and heavy grazing of rabbits have prevented the encroachment of scrub into grassland areas.

Indeed, the well-used acidic grassland areas support a particular diverse flora including some uncommon Spring annuals which thrive in the trampled, sandy conditions. The site is also of considerable importance for reptile conservation; grass snake, common lizard and slow-worm have been recorded here. The site is managed by a local conservation group. Work on the site has included tree planting, removal of dead elm and clearing of rubbish.

RNR Number 0

Area 1.8

County Wildlife Site Citations

CWS Number Waveney 33

Site Name HALESWORTH CEMETERY

Parish HALESWORTH

District Waveney

NGR TM393777

Description

The northern part of Halesworth Cemetery is a good example herb-rich grassland (BAP). The species found are typical of an unimproved neutral grassland on Boulder clay and include cowslip, primrose, red clover, ox-eye daisies, knapweed and quaking-grass.

The cemetery is also important for reptile conservation with grass snake, common lizard and slow-worm (BAP) all recorded.

The retaining wall of the Cemetery drive is important for two rare species of fern - maidenhair fern and black spleenwort.

RNR Number 0

Area 1.12

County Wildlife Site Citations

CWS Number Waveney 110

Site Name FAIRVIEW FARM MEADOW

Parish HALESWORTH

District Waveney

NGR TM393789

Description

This County Wildlife Site forms part of a complex of meadows belonging to Fairview Farm. The site in question supports a species rich plant community which is more diverse than the other meadows on the holding. The flora of the meadow is dominated by herbs, mainly fleabane, prickly ox-tongue, self-heal, hoary ragwort, bee orchid and common spotted orchid. Of particular interest is a large population (about 100 plants) of yellow-wort, a scarce plant which is restricted largely to the chalky boulder clays in the west of the county. The heavy soils over a large proportion of the farm are poorly drained. Parts of the meadow where drainage is impeded are colonised by species associated with wetland plant communities, for example hard rush and marsh woundwort. Barn owl (Schedule I Species Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981) regularly hunt over the meadow.

RNR Number 0

Area 1.54