



Suffolk
Wildlife Trust

ANNUAL RESERVE REPORT

Bromeswell Green



April 2024 to April 2025

Rachel Norman
SE Suffolk Warden

Summary of Annual Management

- The pub meadow and the Common Lane meadow were grazed by 30 Hebridean sheep between 10th July and 28th August. The sheep were moved off early due to an Orf outbreak.
- All of pub meadow was cut and collected with the Soft Track, a cut and collect machine, in early October.
- UK Power Networks contractor coppiced under the power lines in November. The material was not chipped as in previous years but will be used to create a dead hedge.
- The trail was mown twice in summer (using a Kubota compact tractor and flail mower) and kept clear by trust staff, volunteers and the volunteer wardens.
- The patch of bracken at the top of the pub meadow was cut in July with a tractor and swipe.
- Litter was collected from the road verges and car park on several occasions.
- Site safety checks were carried out in December.



The soft trak machine cutting reed in the Pub Meadow

Key Habitats Appraisal

The species rich grassland appears to be stable with no loss of area to scrub or bracken encroachment. The whole of compartment 5 (see map at the end of this report for compartment numbers) was cut and collected in October. This area should be monitored to judge the effectiveness of this.

The saline grassland and reedbed is stable and requires no intervention.

The areas of blackthorn scrub in compartment 1 have developed well following previous coppicing. The level of deer browsing on the reserve appears to have increased and this is possibly having an impact on the most recently coppiced areas.

The woodland requires no intervention and is stable. The impact of deer browsing is now becoming more evident on the ground cover in the woodland areas. There are now obvious deer paths through the area and reduced cover of bramble.

The pond is now starting to silt up following the last time it was cleared out in 2020. Growth of reedmace is just starting to cover the pond. Recommend that de-silting is carried out in 2026.

Species reports

Barn owl - No barn owl seen on the reserve. Branches need to be trimmed back from the box to clear the entry flight path.

Nightingale – Two territories. One in the blackthorn scrub and one next to road on the eastern side. There was a further territory in scrub just off the reserve on the southern boundary of compartment 1 and possibly another on the other side of the Deben, in the willow plantation.

Nightingale territories by year

Year	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Count	2	2	2	2	n/c

Otter – several signs of otter using the reserve (spraint).

Kingfisher – seen by the pond as well as on the Deben.

Badger – the badger sett to the south of compartment 5 is very active.

Monitoring and Survey work

Site condition checks such as sward height etc are observed by warden throughout the year.

Several early morning visits are made to estimate Nightingale territory numbers.

Mink raft now on site (only one capture – another brown rat).

Annual fixed-point photography to monitor erosion on Deben.

Site safety checks are carried out annually.

Volunteer Input

Heaths and Meadows volunteer team - fence repairs, scrub management.

Livestock checking.

Walking wardens – Three walking wardens have now been recruited.

External Factors

Occasionally the discharge from the sewage treatment plant into the ditch beside compartment 5 smells and looks awful. Clearly the new sewage plant they had installed still hasn't alleviated this problem

There have been complaints from local residents regarding overnight camping in the car park. This is one individual who lives in a van, and it has no impact on the reserve. This is being handled by the Parish Council.

Publicity and Events

Woodbridge wildlife group held their Nightingale walk in May. In line with other events this is now ticketed and bookable via the SWT website.

Health and Safety Issues

Some trees identified on the tree safety check require monitoring.

Summary of Challenges to Resolve

Sewage discharge from the 'Unruly Pig' - Previous investigation by the Environment Agency found that this was within acceptable limits, but it might be worth re-visiting this.

The fencing in compartment 5 is now nearing the end of its life. Plans to replace the fence are complicated by the presence of the badger sett.

Map showing Bromeswell Green Compartment Numbers

