



Suffolk **Wildlife Trust**

ANNUAL RESERVE REPORT

Bromeswell Green



April 2025 to April 2026

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SE Suffolk Warden

Summary of Annual Management

- All of pub meadow was cut and collected with the Soft Track, a cut and collect machine, mid-October.
- A new 12ft gate was installed on the western fen meadow, this allowed access for the softrak this year for cut and collect. It was a success and we hope to see the wildflowers benefit from this management.
- UK Power Networks contractor coppiced under the power lines in November 2024. The material was not chipped as in previous years but was used to create a dead hedge within the reserve this year (an environmentally friendly way to reuse the material).
- 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 cut again in October with the softrak.
- Branches were cut away from the barn owl box for ease of access.
- Site safety checks were carried out in December.
- Blackthorn, hawthorn, hazel and rowan tree saplings were planted in November by volunteers on the reserve (in the non-SSSI designated areas). This is so we can future proof nightingale habitat within the reserve.



Tree planting by volunteers. Tree guards were installed around the saplings to protect them from deer foraging.

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 and 2 (see map at the end of this report for compartment numbers) were cut and collected in October. These areas should be monitored to judge the effectiveness of this. It may take a few years to notice a change in the vegetation.

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. This is why tree guards were put on the newly planted tree saplings.

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 reed-mace 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 have been trimmed back this year 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 off the reserve down Common Lane.

Nightingale territories by year

Year	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Count	2	2	2	2	2	n/c

Woodcock – regular sightings of overwintering woodcock have been seen in the wooded areas by the volunteer warden.

Kingfisher – regularly seen by the pond as well as on the Deben by the volunteer warden.

Otter – otter spraint regularly spotted within the reserve.

Monitoring and Survey work

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

Bird survey was undertaken this year by the volunteer warden. These were early morning visits to estimate nightingale territory numbers and other breeding bird territories.

Mink raft now on site (didn't capture anything in 2025).

Annual fixed-point photography to monitor erosion on Deben.

Site safety checks are carried out annually.

Volunteer Input

Heaths and Meadows volunteer team – tree planting, scrub clearance and footpath vegetation clearance.

Walking wardens – Three walking wardens were recruited in a previous year and continue to visit the site and report back to the warden.

External Factors

Occasionally the discharge from the sewage treatment plant into the ditch beside compartment 5 smells and has looked awful. Unsure at this stage whether the new sewage plant they had installed has alleviated the problem.

Publicity and Events

No events to record this year.

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

