



**EB 103E**



**CHELMSFORD CITY COUNCIL**  
**LOCAL WILDLIFE SITE REVIEW**  
**2016**

**POTENTIAL LOCAL WILDLIFE SITES (PLoWS)**



# **CHELMSFORD CITY COUNCIL**

## **LOCAL WILDLIFE SITE REVIEW 2016**

### **POTENTIAL LOCAL WILDLIFE SITES**

*April 2016*

Prepared by Essex Ecology Services Ltd.  
EECOS

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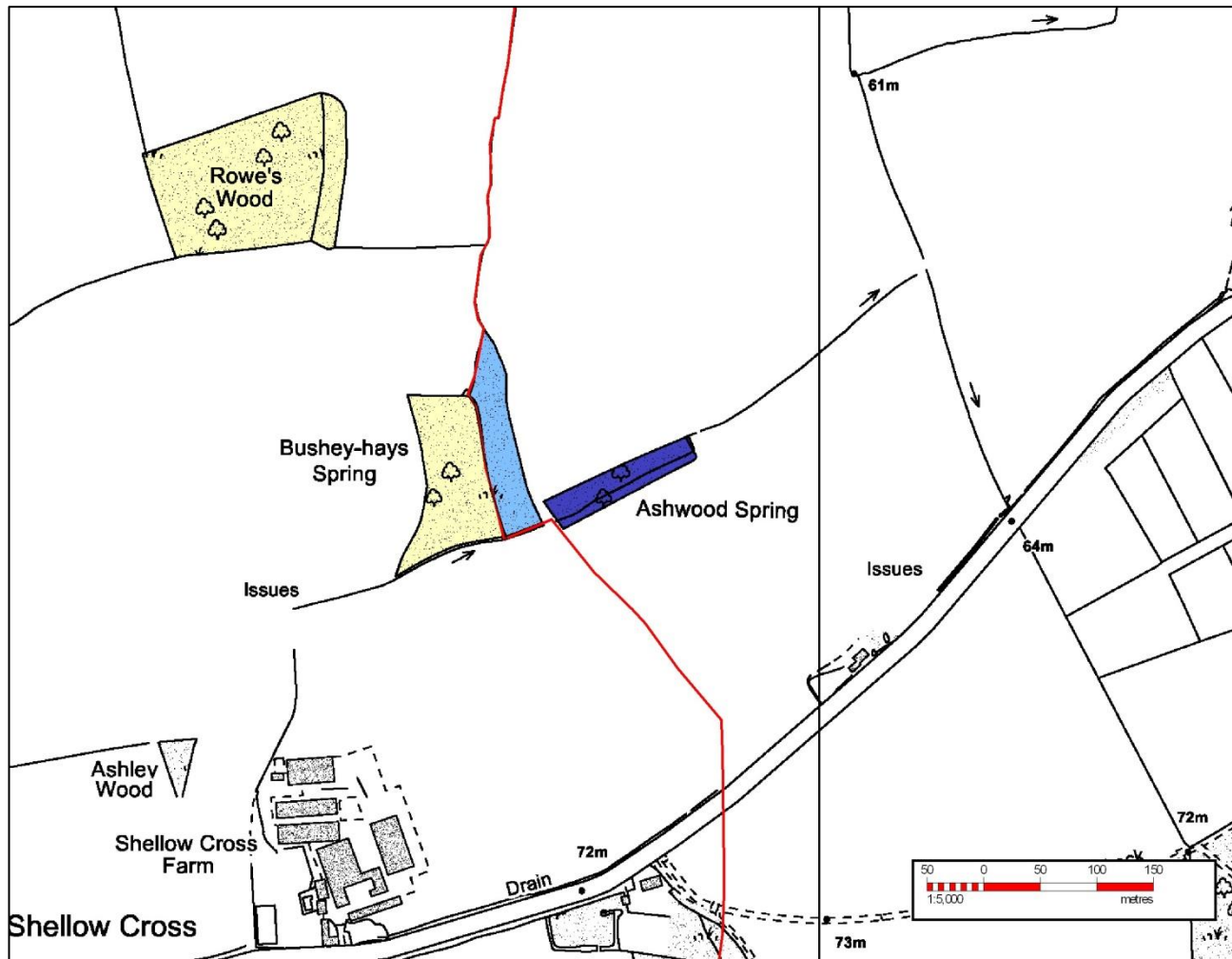
## **REGISTER OF POTENTIAL LOCAL WILDLIFE SITES**

ChPLoWS1	Ashwood Spring, Roxwell	0.35 ha	TL 61830844
ChPLoWS2	Road Verge 2, Roxwell	0.04 ha	TL 62610677
ChPLoWS3	Skreens Park, Roxwell	20.73 ha	TL 62700782
ChPLoWS4	Newland Osiers, Roxwell	6.27 ha	TL 64150933
ChPLoWS5	Canterburys Meadows, Margaretting	2.91 ha	TL 66540123
ChPLoWS6	Chignall Smealy Meadow	5.04 ha	TL 66511187
ChPLoWS7	Wellhope Meadow, Ford End	1.40 ha	TL 66841691
ChPLoWS8	Seven Ash Green Brownfield, Chelmsford	8.24 ha	TL 71220790
ChPLoWS9	Channels Golf Course, Chelmsford	75.00 ha	TL 72201119
ChPLoWS10	Vicarage Lane Grasslands, Chelmsford	4.95 ha	TL 72660417
ChPLoWS11	Airfield Apron, Boreham	1.74 ha	TL 73981260
ChPLoWS12	Sandon Riverside, Chelmsford	13.44 ha	TL 74380668
ChPLoWS13	New Lodge, Little Baddow	0.42 ha	TL 76630671
ChPLoWS14	St Mary's Churchyard, Woodham Ferrers	0.80 ha	TQ 79759940
ChPLoWS15	Bushy Hill East, South Woodham Ferrers	2.45 ha	TQ 81649872

### **KEY**

	PLoWS
	Chelmsford LoWS
	SSSI
	LoWS - other LA area

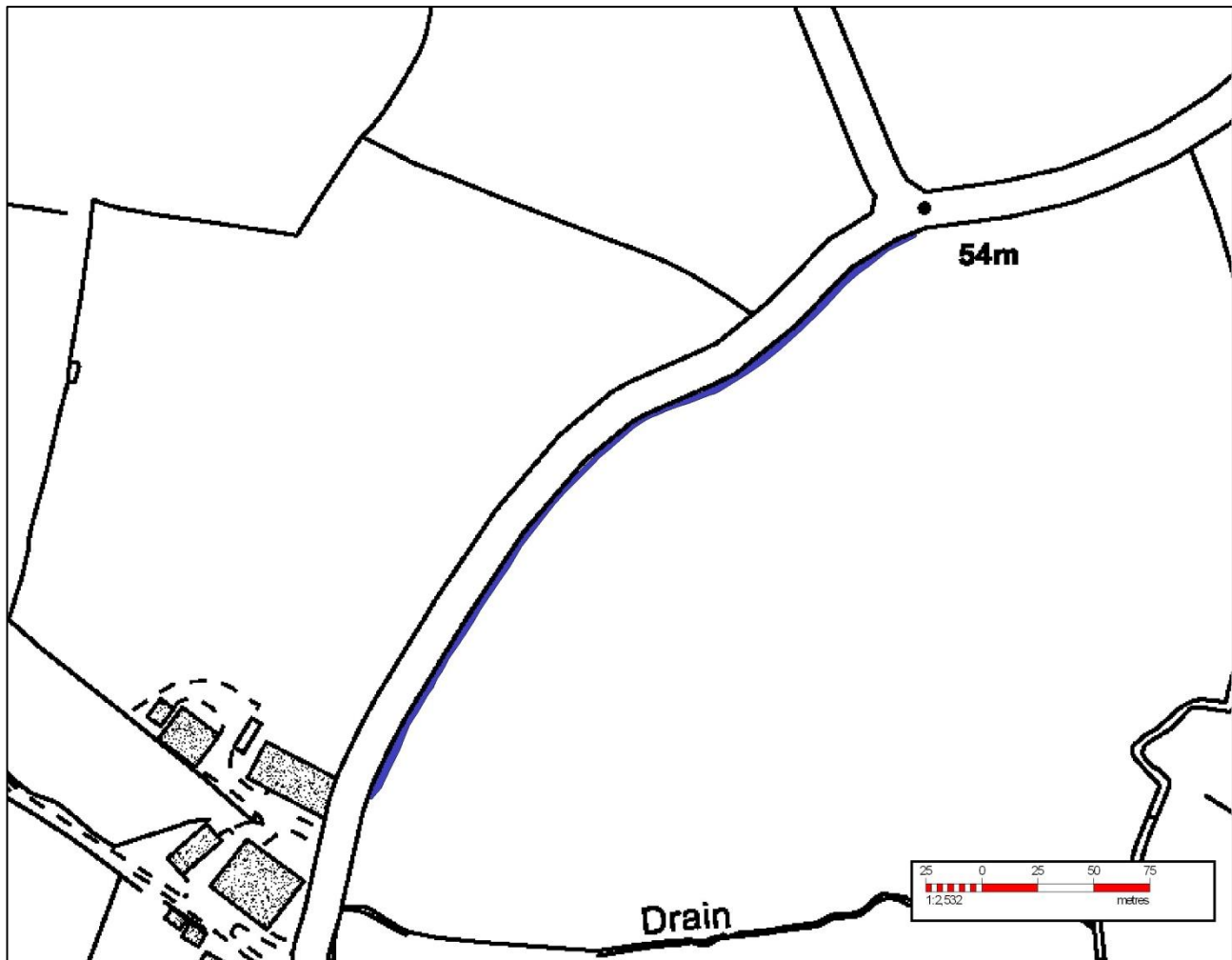
## ChPLoWS1 Ashwood Spring, Roxwell (0.35 ha) TL 61830844



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This piece of woodland was formerly identified as part of LoWS Ch2. However, most of the trees have been felled recently, rendering much of the site open with only a very sparse canopy. The clearance of trees from this small woodland block has resulted in no significant woodland structure remaining. The underlying woodland soil has not necessarily been affected, and as such the site could regenerate a diverse woodland structure in time. However, because of the current uncertainty over its future management and the duration of this recovery process, it is demoted to a Potential LoWS.

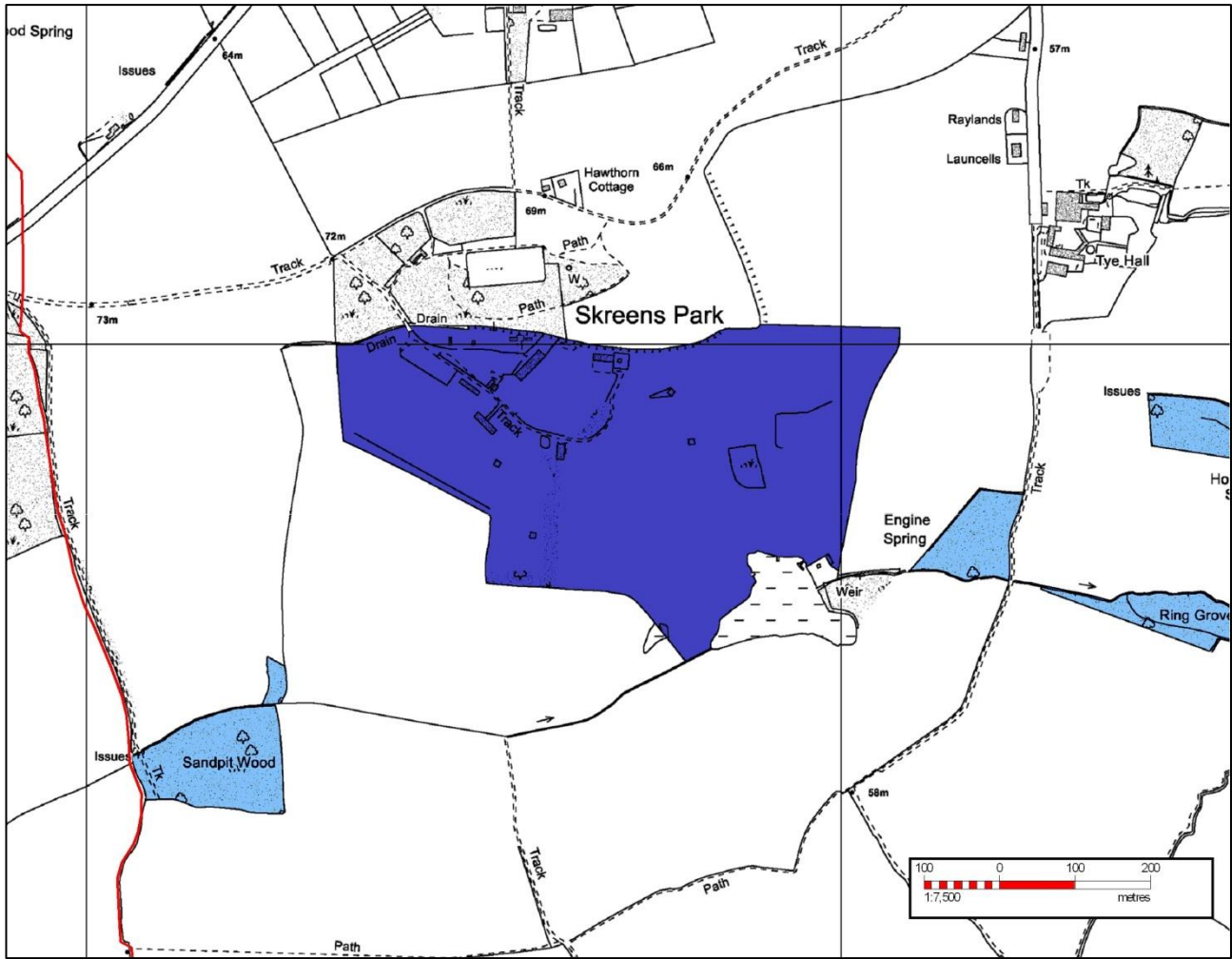
## ChPLOWS2 Road Verge 2, Roxwell (0.04 ha) TL 62500660



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This road verge was formerly LoWS Ch8. There is only a very small area of grassland towards the southern end of this verge site where any floristic diversity seems to remain. The remainder is a very narrow strip of habitat between the hedgerow and road. It is considered that this site is too small to remain as a LoWS, although with appropriate management the remainder of the verge might be brought back into good condition.

## ChPLoWS3 Skreens Park, Roxwell (20.73 ha) TL 62700782

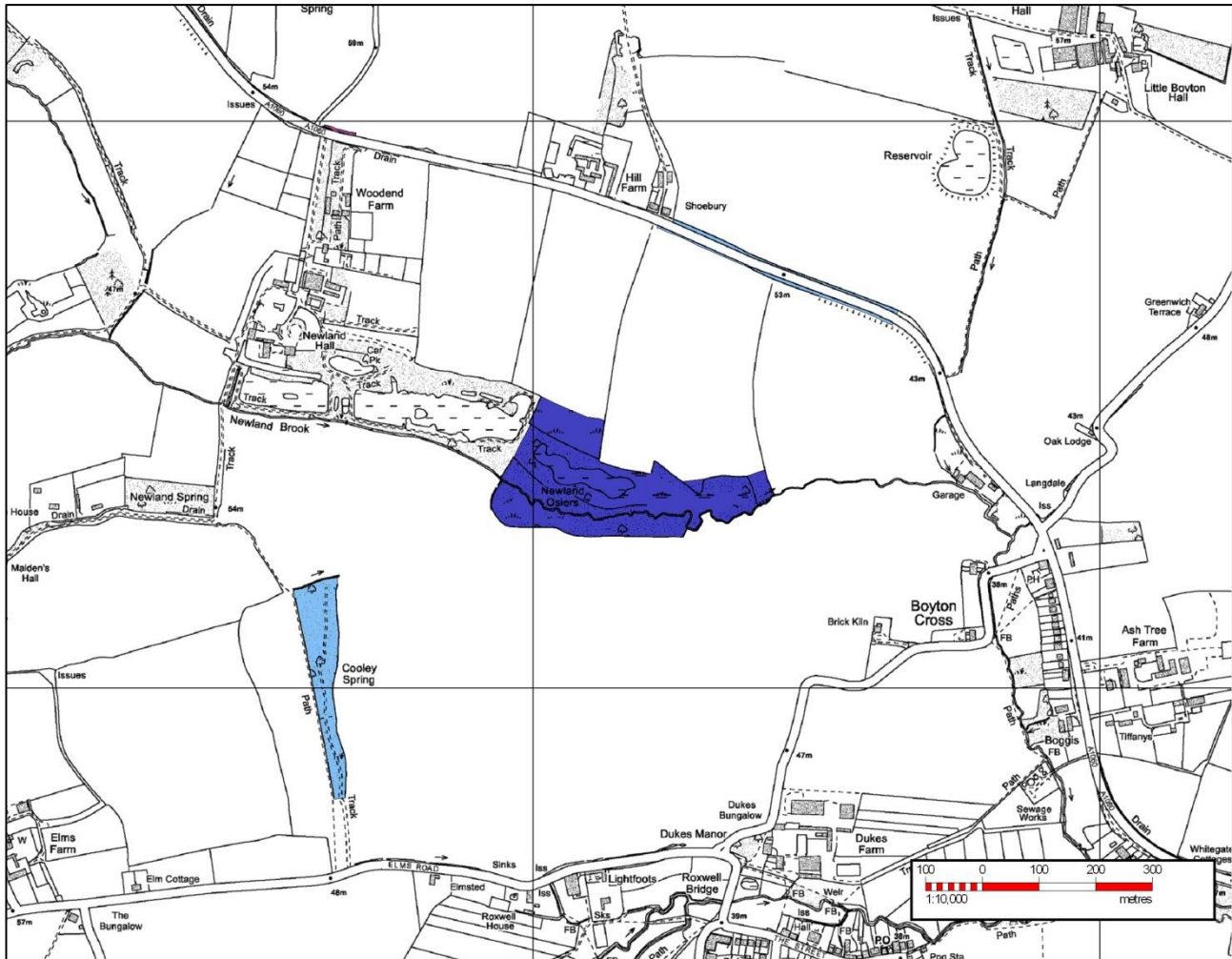


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To the south of Skreens Park activity centre is a scatter of large parkland trees which are the survivors of a once much larger area of ornamental parkland covering over one square kilometre. Such veteran trees can be important habitat for a range of scarce invertebrates, lichens and fungi but further survey work is required in order to quantify the value of these trees.



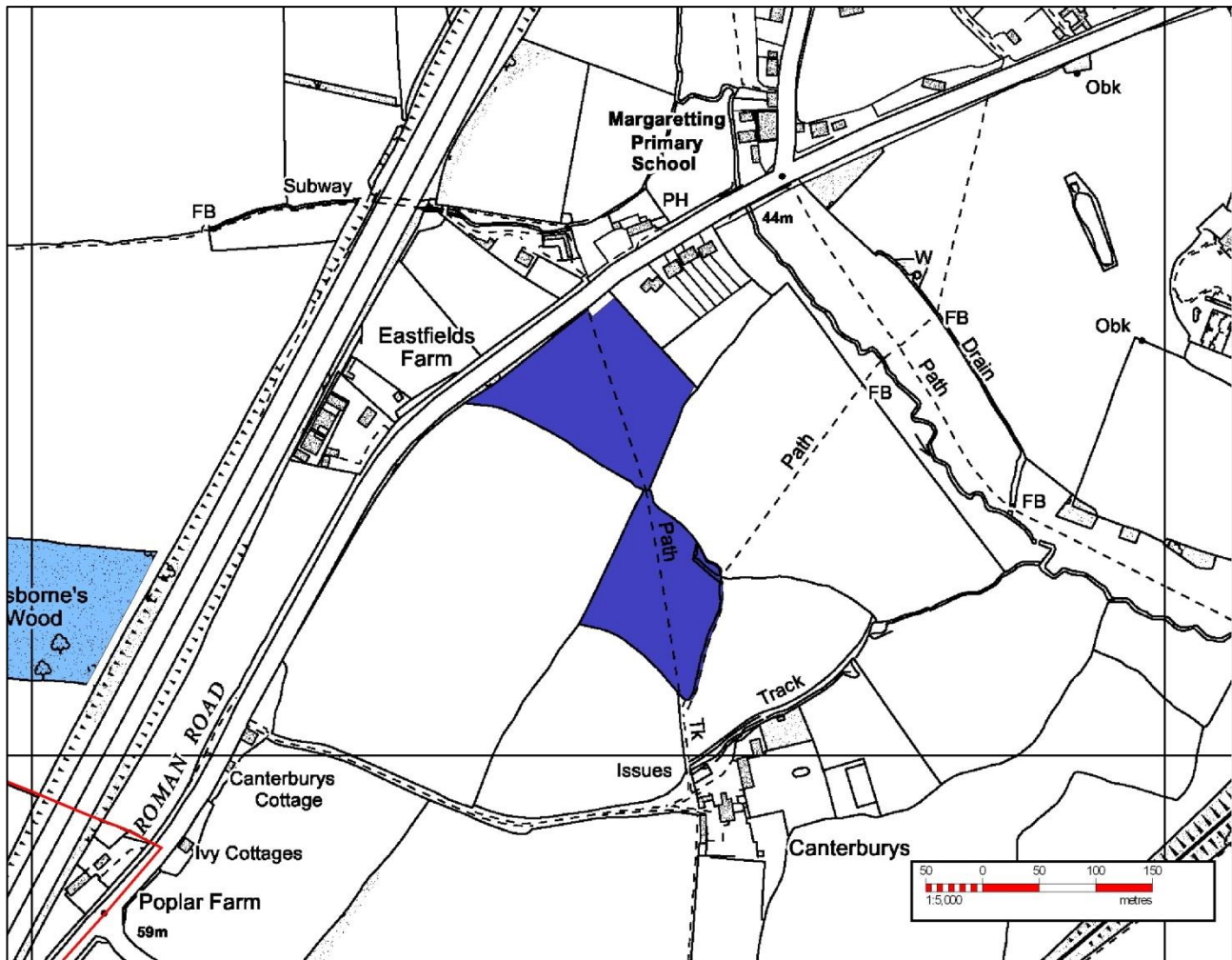
## ChPLoWS4 Newland Osiers, Roxwell (6.27 ha) TL 64150933



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Originally designated as LoWS Ch15, this site has undergone considerable change since being identified, including heavy machinery work in association with the central fishing lake. As such, there is some doubt as to whether or not the wetland habitats (the key features of this site) still support the primary species of interest. The amount of sedge bed habitat is thought to have significantly reduced over time.

## ChPLoWS5 Canterburys Meadows, Margaretting (2.91 ha) TL 665013

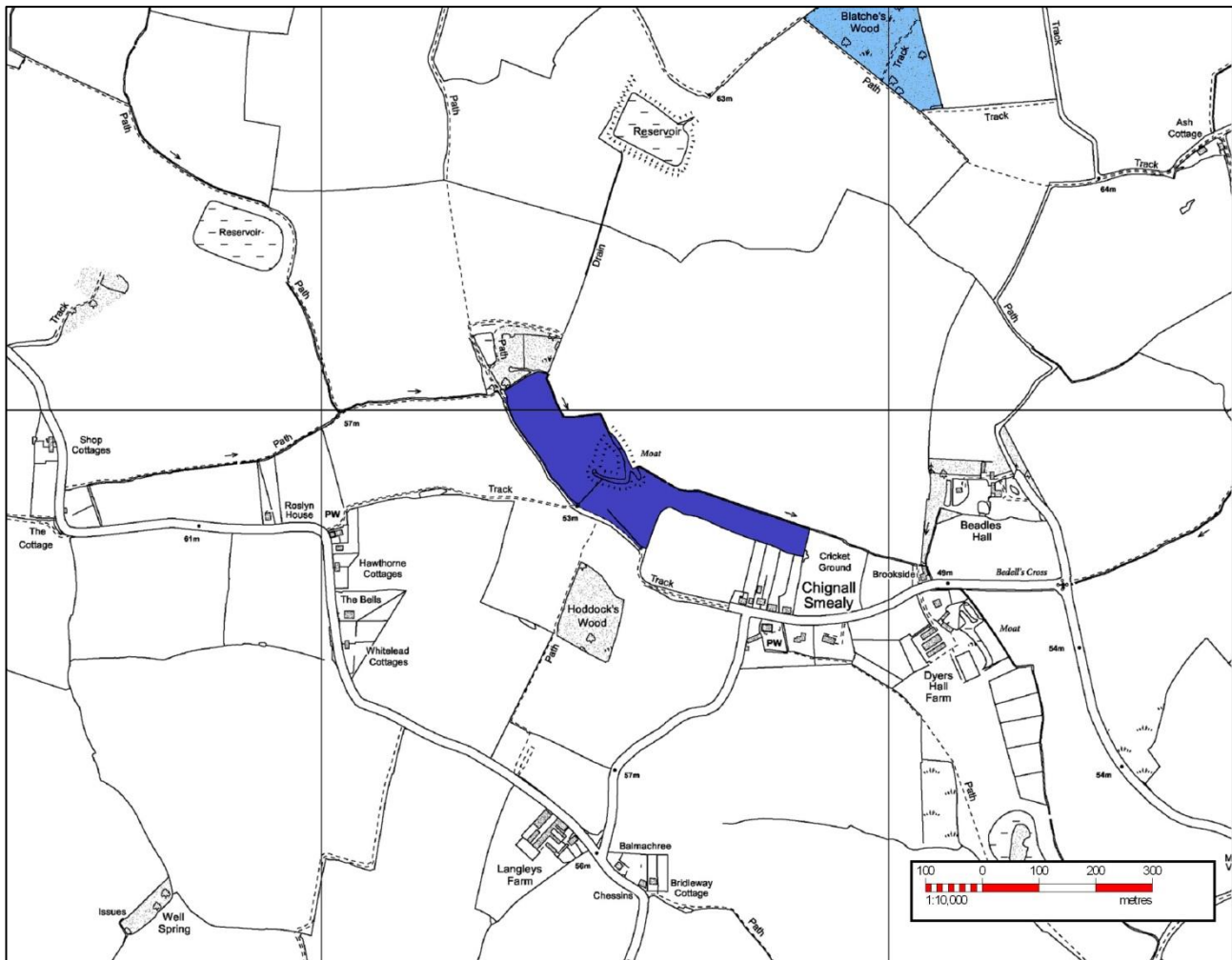


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This site, formerly LoWS Ch25, is no longer a herb-rich, diverse grassland. The site may have been subject to chemical treatment that has resulted in a decline in the herb diversity, in order to “improve” the grass content for grazing animals. If so, such changes might be effectively irreversible and the site may have little prospect of improvement in nature conservation terms.



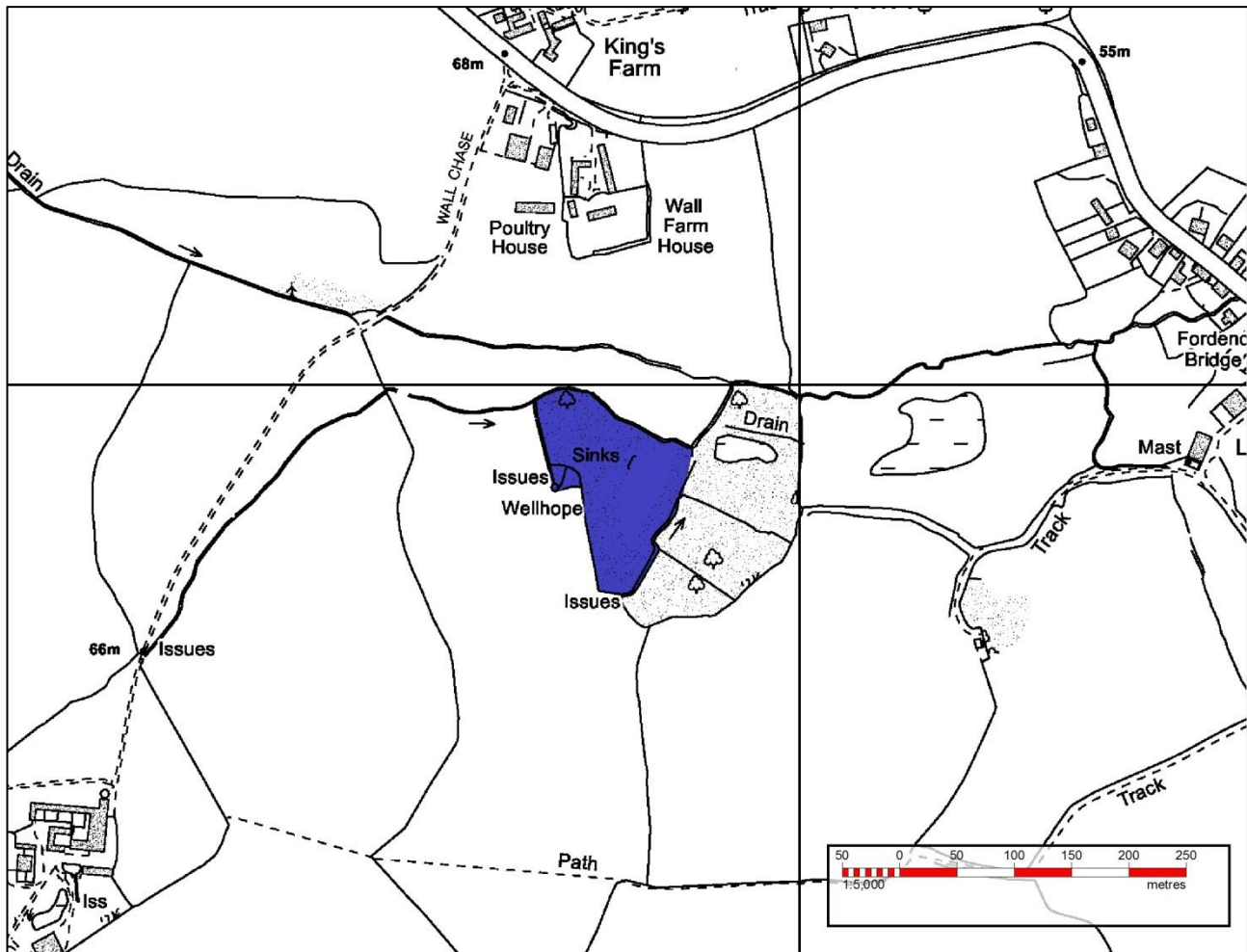
## ChPLoWS6 Chignall Smealy Meadow (5.04 ha) TL 665118



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These meadows were formerly LoWS Ch27. The species of interest were primarily to be found in the vicinity of the old moat. In this locality, planted trees have shaded out most of the ground flora, and much of the site has been neglected such that tall rank grassland and ruderal now dominate. Some ploughing and cultivation has also occurred. With appropriate management it may be possible to improve the condition of this site.

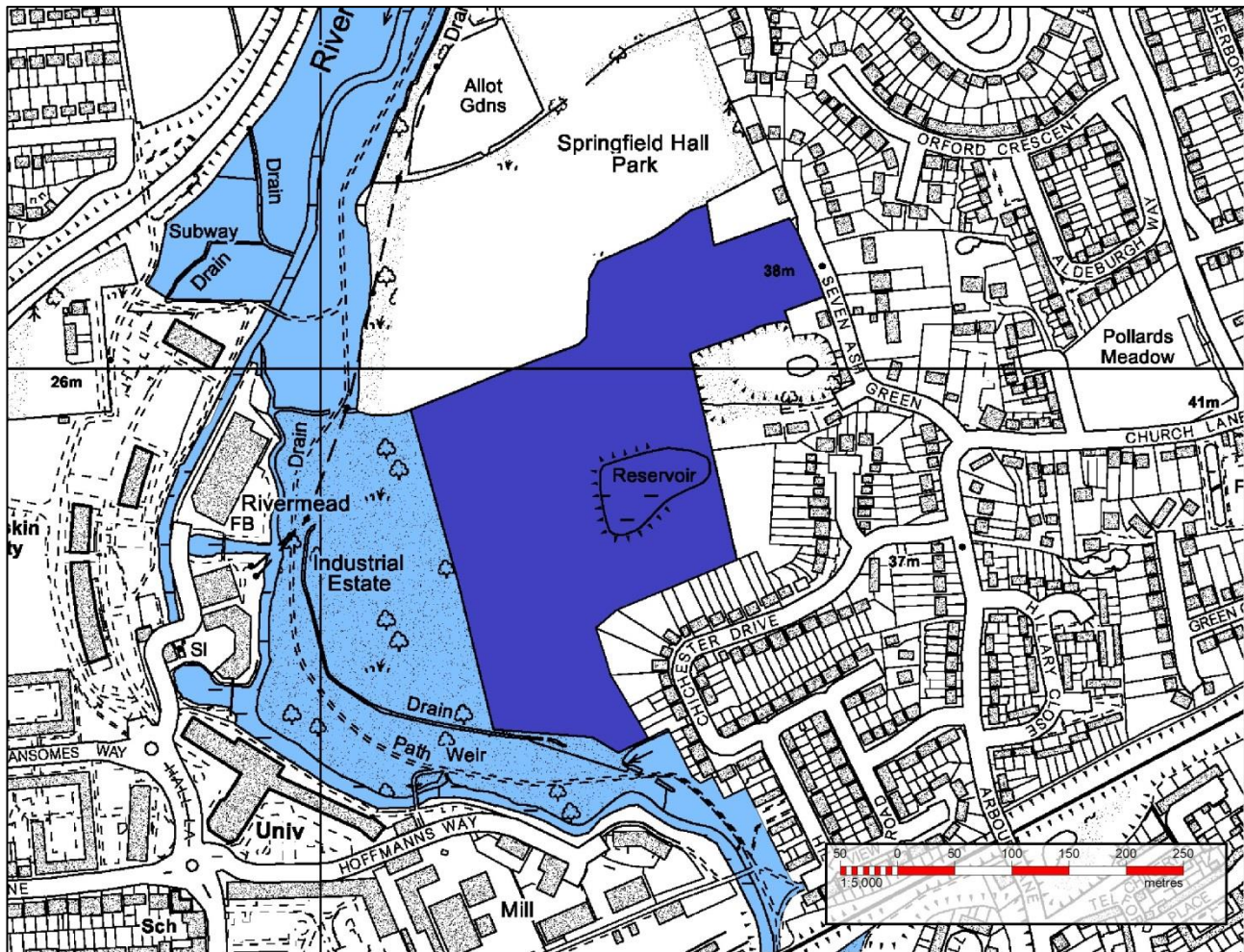
## ChPLoWS7 Wellhope Meadow, Ford End (1.40 ha) TL 668169



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This site was formerly LoWS Ch32. The central area of this site has been planted with closely spaced willows in a fenced enclosure. This plantation is located in the damp part of the site where Adder's-tongue Fern was found. Therefore it is feared the main species of interest has been lost and the remainder of the site does not warrant continual inclusion as a LoWS. Removal of planted trees and appropriate management might allow for the restoration of the site.

## ChPLoWS8 Seven Ash Green Brownfield, Chelmsford (8.24 ha) TL 71220790

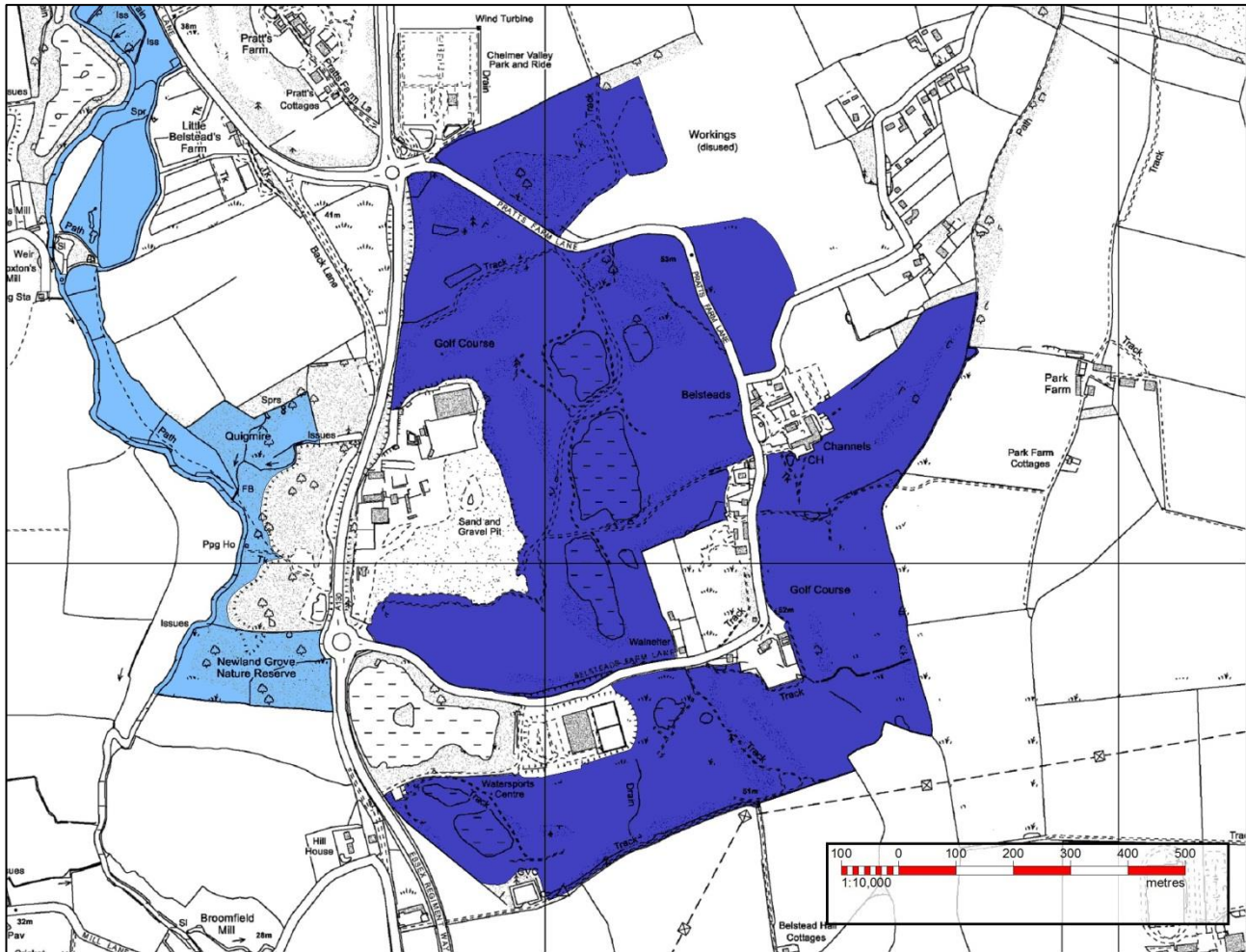


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The primary feature of this site is an abandoned lined reservoir that now comprises a broad, shallow pit. The sandy south-facing banks have attracted numerous solitary bees and wasps and doubtless many other invertebrates, which are a key component of brownfield ecology. Thus far, three Nationally Scarce species have been recorded (the bees *Hylaeus signatus*, *Lasioglossum pauxillum* and *Lasioglossum malachurum*) but these are relatively widespread species in the county. Hence, the species assemblage has not yet attained a particularly significant level. The surrounding fields (not strictly “brownfield” land, but abandoned rough grassland) are included as foraging habitat for the invertebrates. Whilst the abundance of Ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*) can cause concern in agricultural settings, it is an excellent pollen and nectar resource for a large number of insects.



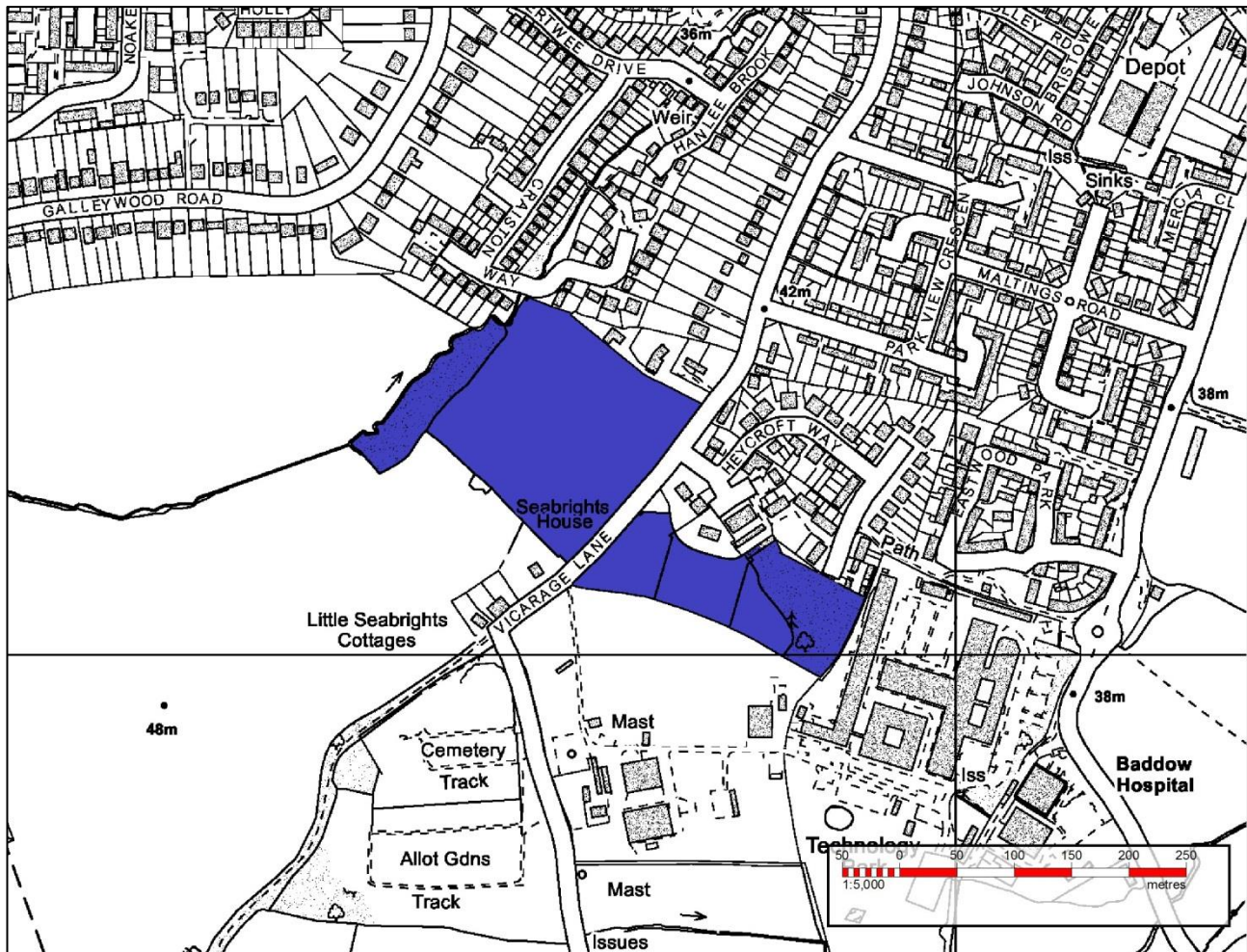
## ChPLoWS9 Channels Golf Course, Chelmsford (75.00 ha) TL 72201119



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Parts of the Channels Golf Course were formerly identified as LoWS Ch83, on the basis of a very significant population of Great Crested Newts (*Triturus cristatus*). At present, the golf course and its surroundings are undergoing considerable changes through developments. Coupled with an uncertainty over the current status of the key breeding ponds, the whole area is in a state of flux. As such, it was not felt possible to define a stable LoWS based on Great Crested Newt conservation. Regardless of this, this species' status as a European Protected Species should ensure its conservation during this period of upheaval.

## ChPLoWS10 Vicarage Lane Grasslands, Chelmsford (4.95 ha) TL 72660417

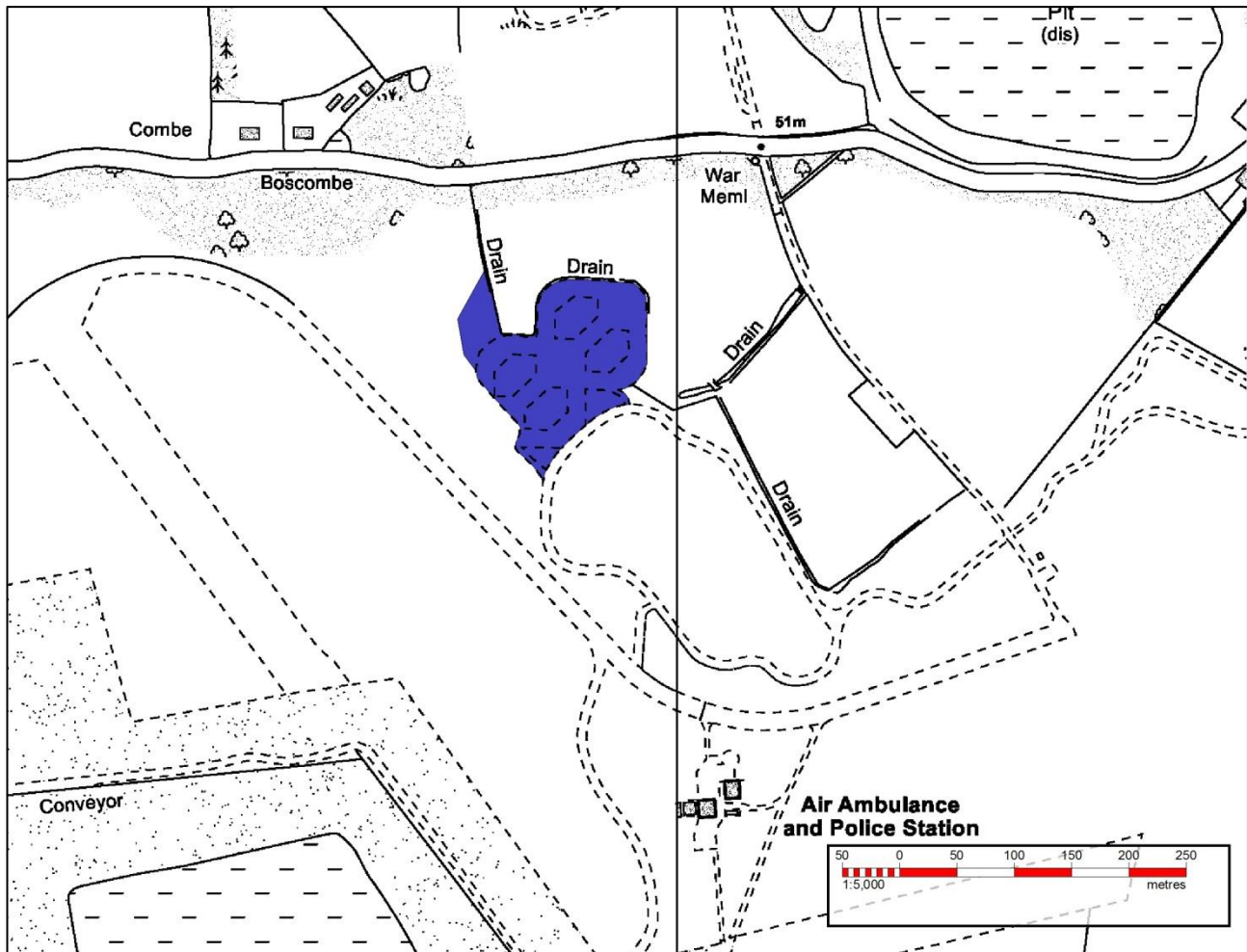


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This site comprises a series of scrubby grasslands plus a small area of woodland adjacent to a stream on the western boundary. Further research is required to determine whether or not the grassland is of any great age. There are no distinguishing plants that would suggest so, but there may yet be other interesting aspects to this site's ecology. The extent of scrub invasion points to a lack of recent management, but the scrub growth is so extensive that there is a danger of the grassland component being lost in any case. Remedial management to control, but not completely remove, the scrub would be desirable. The small plot of woodland is mature but its antiquity is, again, not known.



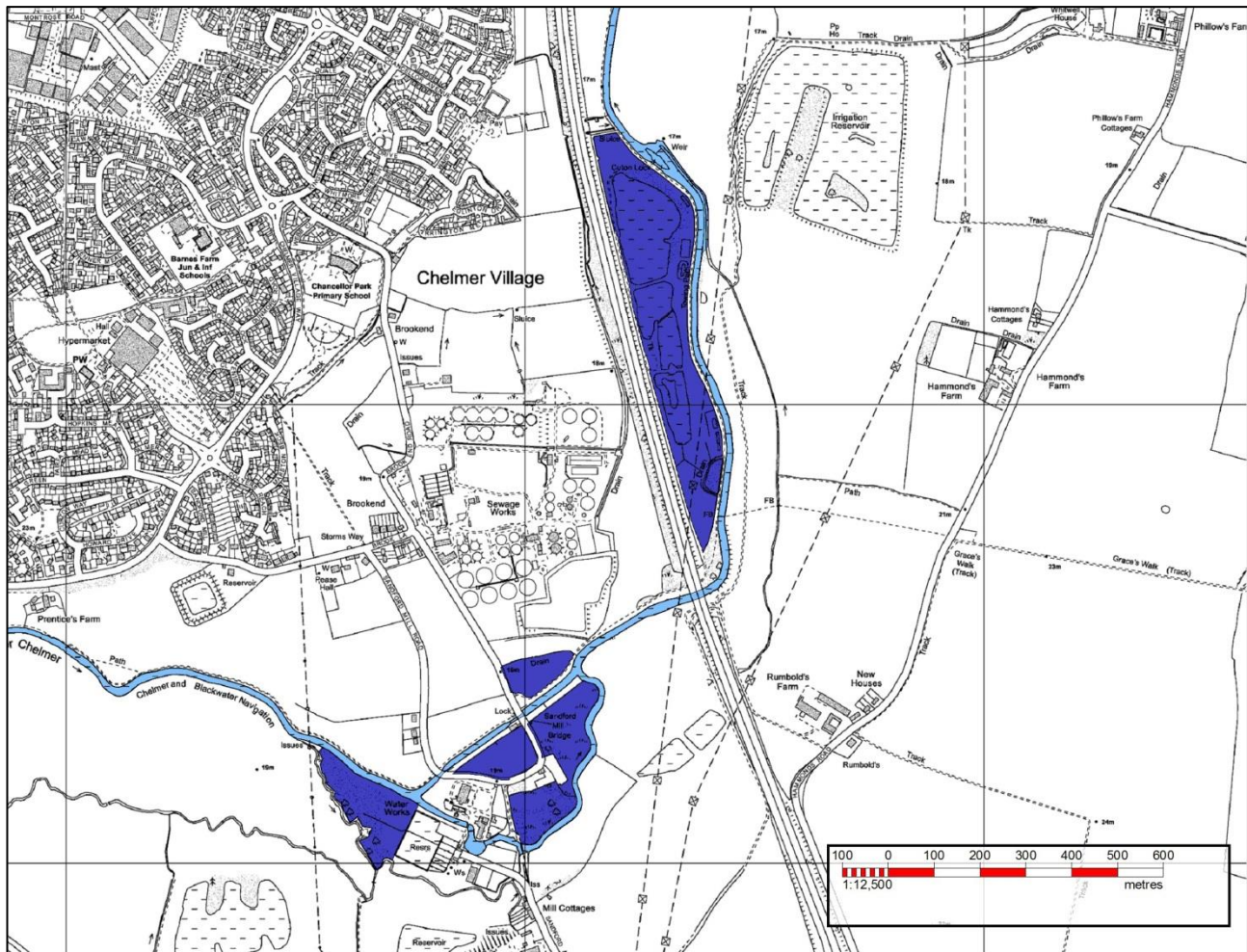
**ChPLoWS11 Airfield Apron, Boreham (1.74 ha) TL 73981260**



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This area of rough grassland is assumed to date back to before the Second world War, when the airfield was built (opened in 1944). It is unlikely to have received any agricultural improvement since that date. Security issues associated with it being within the rounds of the Air Ambulance and Police Station have prevented the site from being surveyed.

## ChPLoWS12 Sandon Riverside, Chelmsford (13.44 ha) TL 74380668

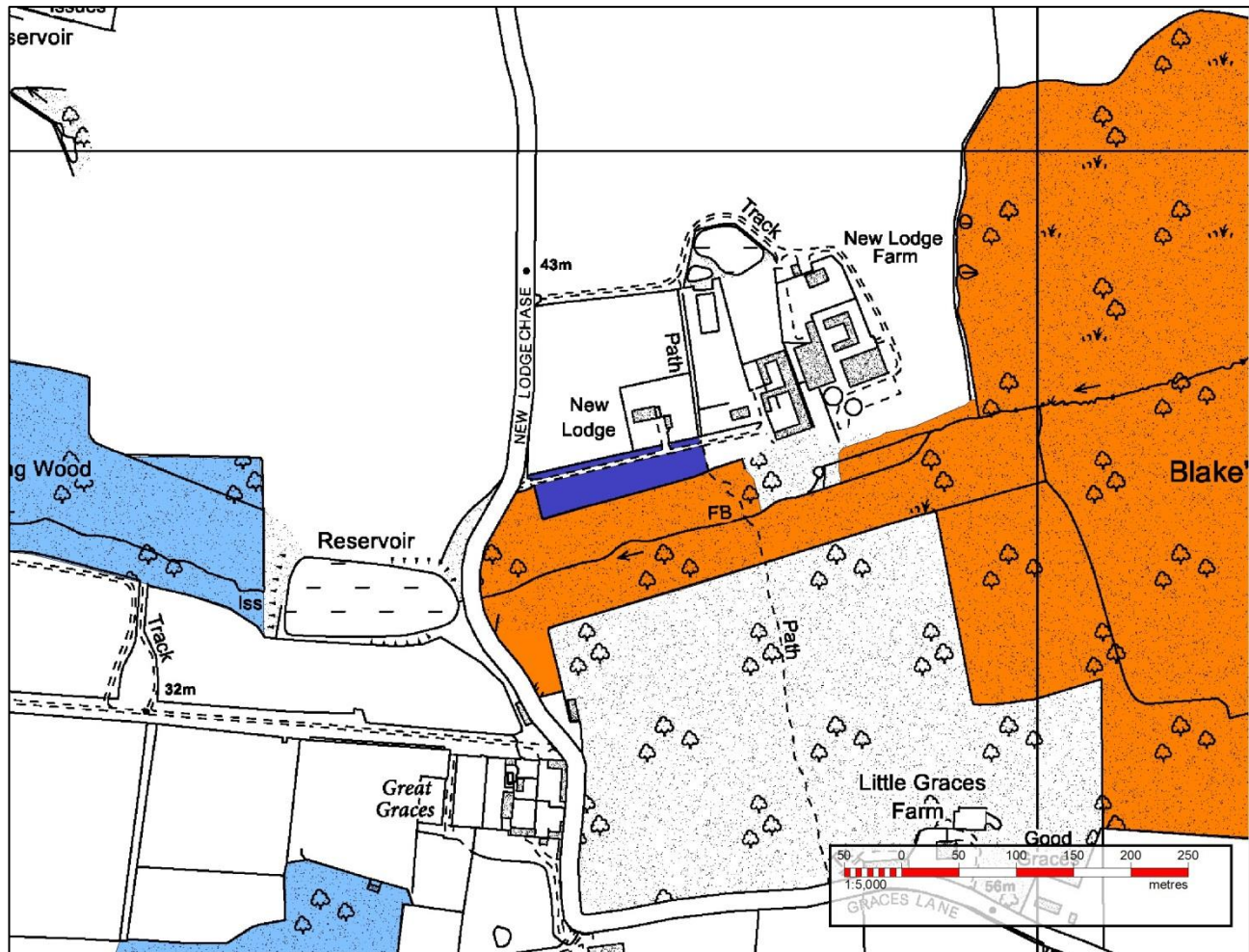


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This site formerly comprised LoWS Ch101. Over the last few years, the lake has undergone a transformation from a low-level managed habitat to a highly managed fishing lake now with may platforms around the lake. Other site improvement works have seen a deterioration in the quality of the marginal vegetation and the intensive fish management is likely to be having a negative impact upon the aquatic life in general.

To the south-west are four smaller fragments of riverside habitat, partly derived from flood plain grassland but now presenting a variety of habitats, including some scrub woodland. Parts of the site appear to be annexed as part of the curtilage of a private residence, whilst other sections no longer support high quality habitat. Appropriate management of these southern section might allow them to be re-adopted as LoWS, but it is unlikely to be feasible to improve the northern fishing lake within the foreseeable future.

## ChPLoWS13 New Lodge, Little Baddow (0.42 ha) TL 76630671

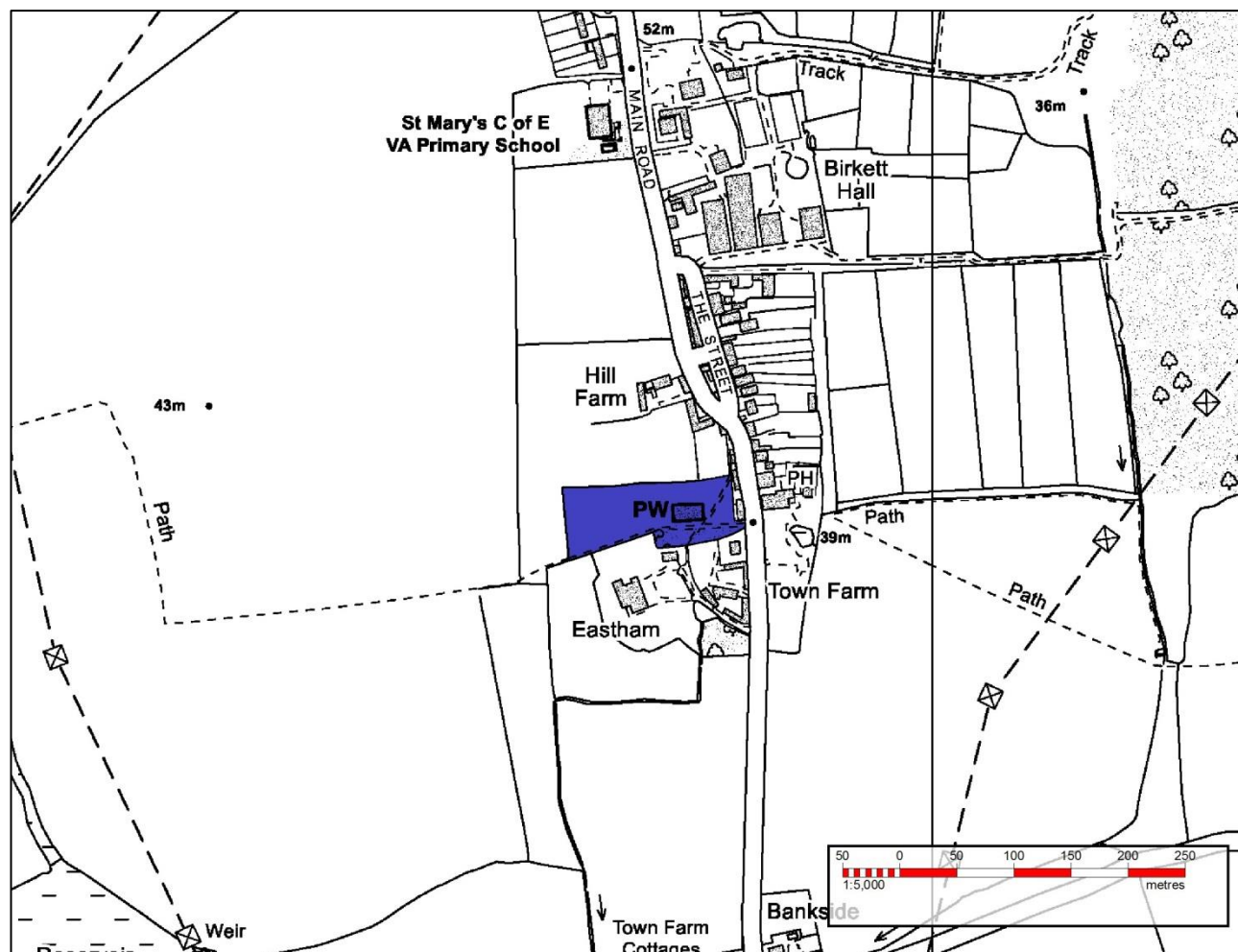


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This strip of grassland was formerly part of LoWS Ch122. The eastern tip of the old LoWS has been incorporated into amenity grassland adjacent to New Lodge Farm. The remaining section, identified here, also appears to be in the process of becoming part of the landscaped grounds, with concerns that the species of interest may no longer be present and the ecological value of the sward as a whole may no longer merit LoWS status. A shift in grassland management may allow for this site to recover.



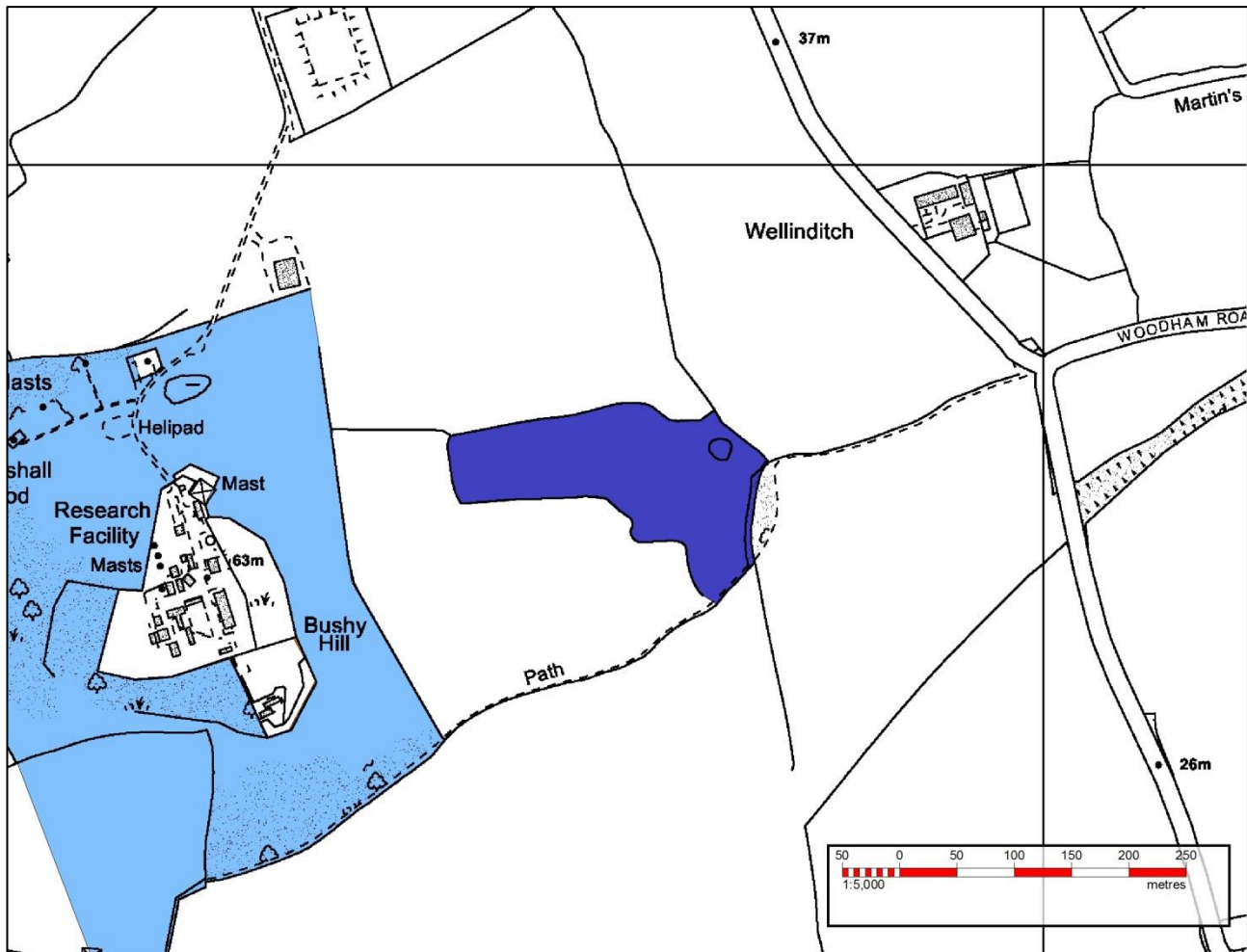
## ChPLoWS14 St Mary's Churchyard, Woodham Ferrers (0.80 ha) TQ 79759940



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This is a new site, not previously considered for LoWS status. It appears to support old grassland, present on a series of small terraces at the western end. Repeated cutting during 2015 prevented the sward from being properly assessed during 2015 and this intensive management may be an ongoing issue that limits the ecological value of the site. However, in keeping with other churchyards, this is likely to be ancient grassland that is worthy of conservation.

## ChPLoWS15 Bushy Hill East, South Woodham Ferrers (2.45 ha) TQ 81649872



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The Bushy Hill Lows formerly comprised the current site (Ch150), this PLoWS and the field in between. This central field has been destroyed by ploughing and remains under arable cultivation. This eastern end formerly comprised short marshy grassland, but following a long period of neglect, a tall rank grass and herb flora has developed. The current ecological value of this site is uncertain. Additional survey work and appropriate management may allow for its re-adoption into the LoWS network.