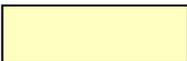


APPENDIX 2

REGISTER OF SOUTHEND BOROUGH LOCAL WILDLIFE SITES

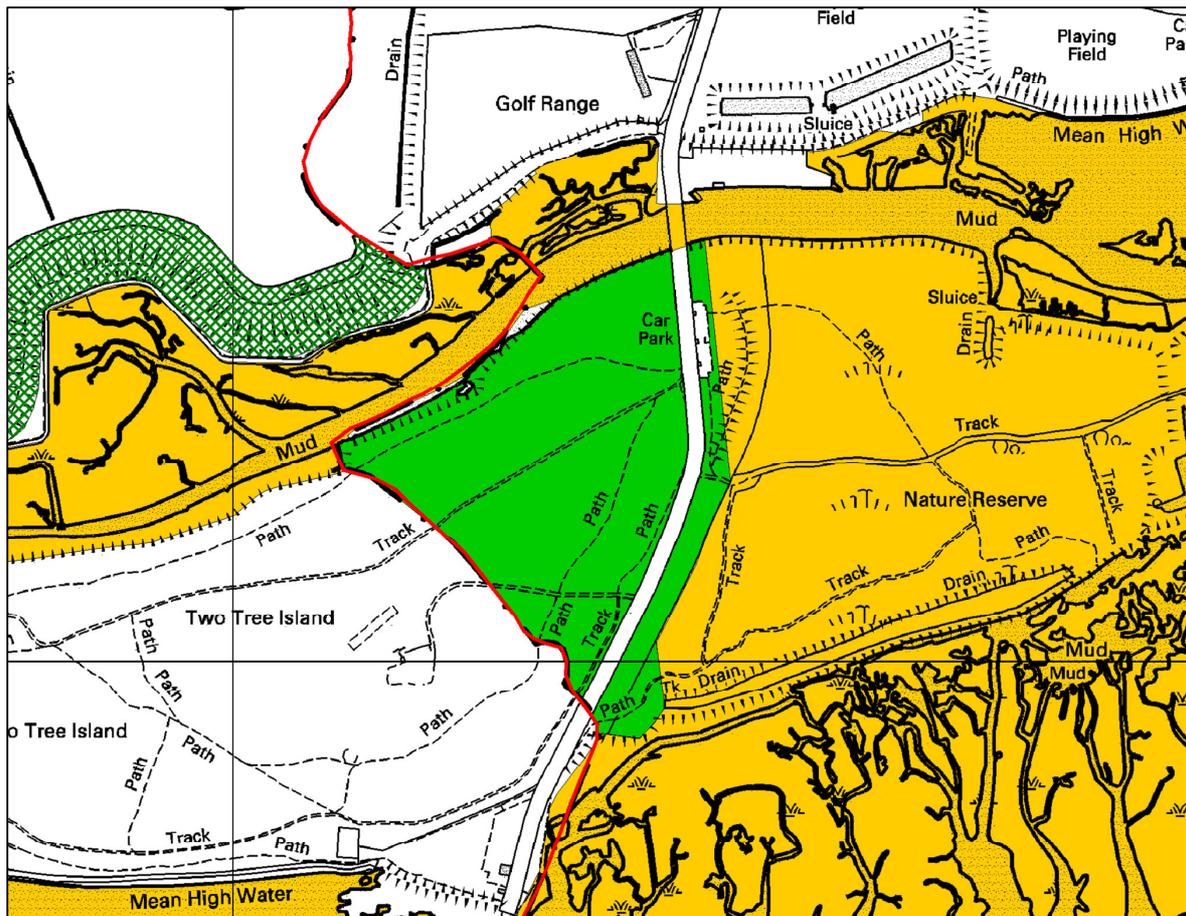
KEY

	Highlighted LoWS
	Other adjacent LoWS
	Potential LoWS
	SSSIs
	Borough boundary

N.B. Where Sites lie close to the Borough boundary, LoWS and Potential LoWS in neighbouring Local Authority areas are also shown, to better illustrate the context in which the site under discussion lies.

The representation of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) boundaries have been derived from Natural England and may show small-scale discrepancies in mapping on account of the different base maps used.

See Section 2.2 for an explanation of the information provided within each Site citation.



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 110020327

So1 Two Tree Island West (9.1 ha) TQ 823851

The site is part of a former landfill now restored to rough grassland and managed by Essex Wildlife Trust (EWT) as a reserve covering most of the island. It should be noted that whilst the remainder of the western half of Two Tree Island is not currently listed as a LoWS for Castle Point District, it would be adopted as such when this Local Authority's LoWS are next reviewed.

Following restoration, this site has developed as a mosaic of grassland and scrub habitat. Grass species recorded include False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), Meadow-grasses (*Poa* spp.), Timothy (*Phleum pratense*), Soft-brome (*Bromus hordeaceus*) and Barren Brome (*Anisantha sterilis*). Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) is the most widespread scrub species, but Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and roses (*Rosa* spp.) are also found. The herb flora site include Red Bartsia (*Odontites vernus*), Wild Carrot (*Daucus carota*), Narrow-leaved Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus tenuis*) and the non-native Salsify (*Tragopogon porrifolius*). The island is known to support three reptile species; Common Lizard, Adder and Slow-worm – all UK BAP Priority Species. The site is also used by Linnet and Skylark both of which are included within the Birds of Conservation Concern Red List and National BAP Priority Species. Invertebrate interest includes the Shril Carder Bee (another UK BAP Priority Species), the Nationally Scarce Bombardier Beetle (*Brachinus crepitans*) and Marbled White Butterfly (*Melanargia galathea*), a scarce butterfly in Essex and included within the Essex Red Data List of threatened species in the county.

BAP Habitats

None

UK BAP Species

Shrill Carder Bee

Skylark

Linnet

Common Lizard

Slow-worm

Adder

Living Landscape Area

Part of Hadleigh Castle and Marshes

Selection Criteria

SC16 – Hotspots for Reptile Diversity

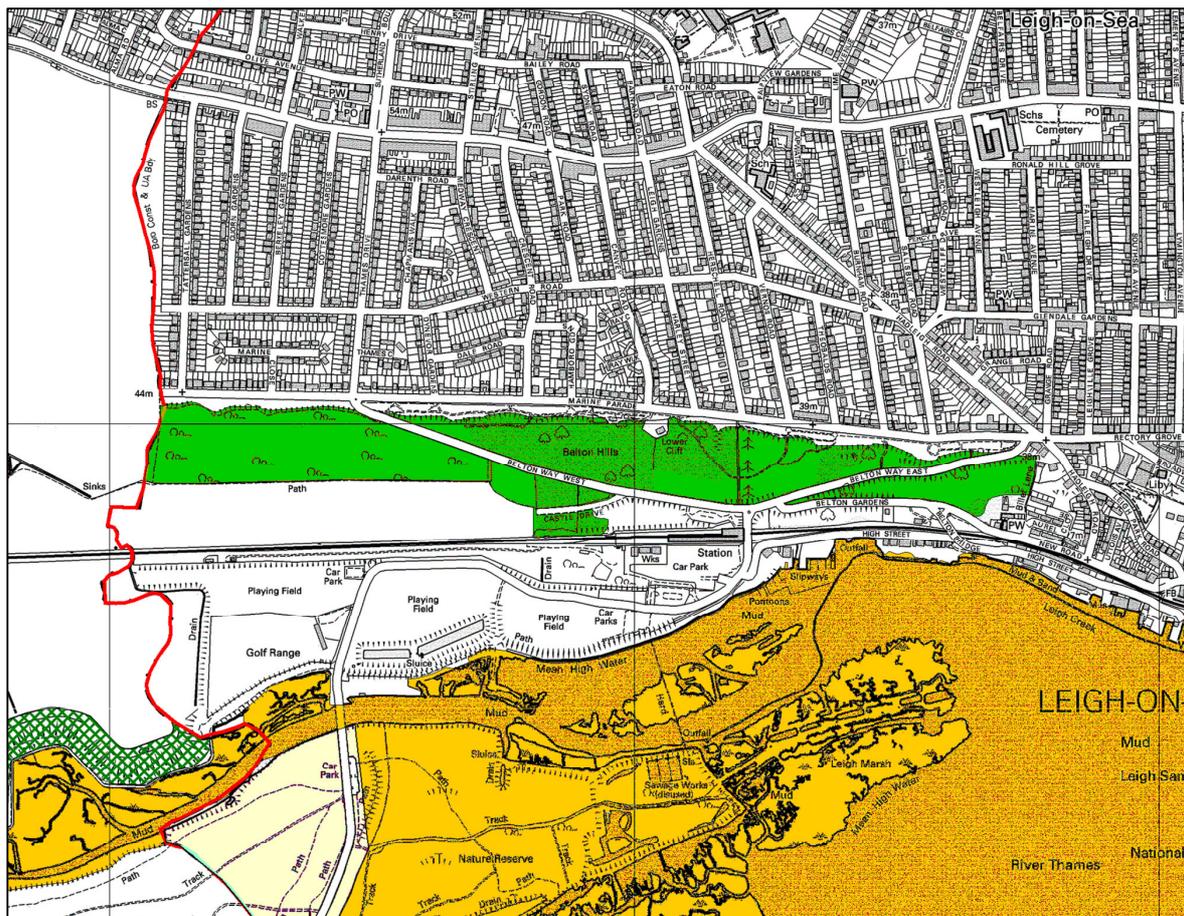
Rationale

All native reptiles found in Essex are UK BAP Priority Species. Areas supporting at least three species are therefore key nature conservation sites for reptiles and should be managed accordingly.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2011 (EECOS)

Reviewed: -



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 110020327

So2 Belton Hills (20.7 ha) TQ 830859

This Site incorporates the Belton Hills Local Nature Reserve and has a very similar boundary, but the LoWS includes a relatively new area of rough grassland south of Belton Way West that is now known to support an important assemblage of reptiles (Adder, Slow-worm and Common Lizard) all of which are UK BAP Priority Species. These reptiles are likely to have colonised this part of the site from the surrounding LNR and it is likely that these species occur across the site.

Overall, Belton Hills is a steep, undulating mosaic of grassland, scrub and developing woodland formed on a slumping river terrace slope that runs along much of the Southend sea front, including Cliff Gardens further to the east. The main areas of botanical interest are the species-rich grasslands which contain a number of plant species of restricted distribution, such as Grass Vetchling (*Lathyrus nissolia*), Narrow-leaved Bird's-foot Trefoil (*Lotus tenuis*) and Bithynian Vetch (*Vicia bithynica*), the latter being a Nationally Scarce species. Of particular note is the presence of Deptford Pink (*Dianthus armeria*), a very rare and declining Essex plant. It is a UK BAP Priority Species and listed in Schedule 8 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), classified as Vulnerable. Other species of interest include Pepper-saxifrage (*Silau silaus*), Corn Parsley (*Petroselinum segetum*) and Stone Parsley (*Sison amomum*).

The areas of scrub - mainly Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) - add to the habitat diversity and species richness of the site by attracting bird and invertebrate species normally associated with woodland habitats and may, with time, be colonised by woodland flora. An area of particularly dense scrub occurs in the extreme west of the site, which forms part of the Hadleigh Castle Country Park. A network of grassy glades exhibit a tall, moderately species-rich sward which includes Spiny

Rest-harrow (*Ononis spinosa*), Red Bartsia (*Odontites vernus*), Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Stone Parsley and Corn Parsley.

The invertebrate fauna is known to include several nationally significant species, including the UK BAP Priority Species bumblebees *Bombus sylvarum* (Shrill Carder Bee) and *Bombus humilis* (Brown-banded Carder Bee). In all, four UK Red Data Book species, 10 Nationally Scarce (Notable A), 38 Nationally Scarce (Notable B), 14 Nationally Scarce (Notable) and 150 Nationally Local species have been recorded here, making it a very significant site for invertebrates along the outer Thames corridor.

BAP Habitats

Parts have an affinity with the Lowland Meadows BAP habitat definition used at a UK and Essex level.

UK BAP Species

Shrill Carder Bee (*Bombus sylvarum*)

Brown-banded Carder Bee (*Bombus humilis*)

Living Landscape Area

Part of Hadleigh Castle and Marshes

Selection Criteria

HC11 – Other Neutral Grasslands

HC31 – Accessible Natural Greenspace

SC16 – Hotspots for Reptile Diversity

SC19 – Important Invertebrate Assemblages

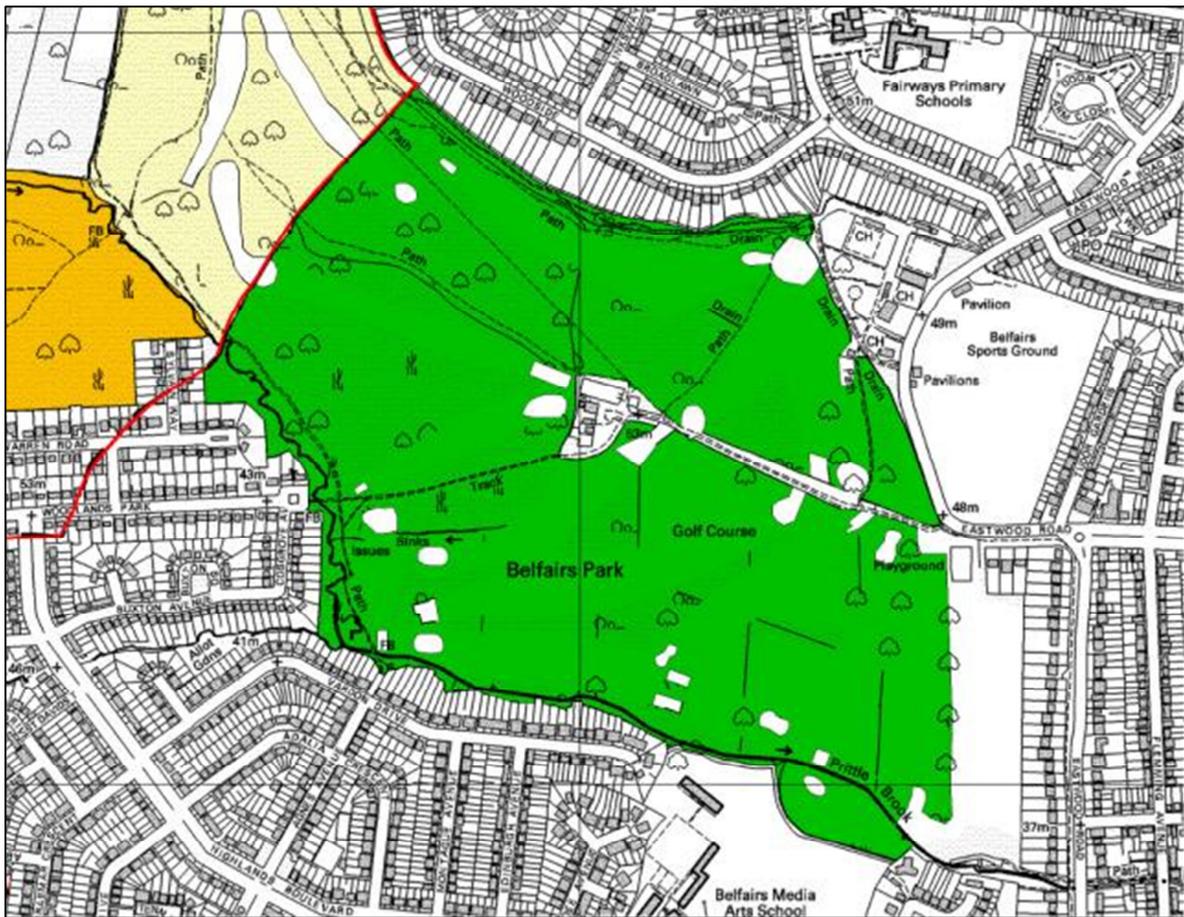
Rationale

This site is undoubtedly old grassland that has evolved on an old river terrace/coastal cliff slope. The presence of Deptford Pink is nationally important. The whole site is an important accessible natural greenspace for local residents, hence its designation as a Local Nature Reserve. Large coastal grasslands throughout the outer Thames Estuary have been shown to support nationally significant assemblages of invertebrates and Belton Hills is an important component of this suite of sites.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1991 (Essex Wildlife Trust)

Reviewed: 2011 (EECOS) – minor boundary amendments



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 110020327

So3 Belfairs Golf Course (56.1 ha) TQ 830873

This site links directly with CP34 Belfairs Park Wood in Castle Point District. Discrepancies with boundaries between the two sites will be resolved when Castle Point's LoWS are next reviewed.

The western part of the golf course has been formed within ancient wood. The surviving woodland retains a rich ground flora and considerable general wildlife interest, despite localised heavy trampling and public pressure in general. Here, the golf course playing surfaces, including the fairways, have been created from the cleared woodland ground, but have nevertheless developed an acid grassland sward in places, albeit generally species-poor. Whilst many of the fairway grasslands in the more open parts of the course have also been artificially created (ultimately from former arable land), they have acquired a greater species richness despite their regular mowing and so show closer ecological connectivity with the more interesting areas of rough to be found bordering the managed course.

The woodland tree canopy is dominated by Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), Sessile Oak (*Quercus petraea*) and, locally, Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) and Wild Service-tree (*Sorbus torminalis*). The ground flora includes Wood Melick (*Melica uniflora*), Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*), Wood Spurge (*Euphorbia amygdaloides*), Hairy Wood-rush (*Luzula pilosa*) and Common Cow-wheat (*Melampyrum pratense*) an Essex Red Data List (ERDL) species.

A separate fragment of the wood (centred on TQ 832875) is of interest for a distinctive ground flora characteristic of more acidic soil conditions. Of particular note is the presence of Purple Moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea*) which is very rare in south-east Essex and uncommon in the county as a whole. Also of

note are Common Bent-grass (*Agrostis capillaris*), Wavy Hair-grass (*Deschampsia flexuosa*) and Alder Buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*). English Elm is invading this Oak/Hornbeam/Birch wood from the east.

The eastern part of the site comprises open grassland and recent woodland habitat. A good range of grasses have been recorded throughout and include Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Meadow Barley (*Hordeum secalinum*), Common Bent, Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Early Hair-grass (*Aira praecox*) and Heath-grass (*Danthonia decumbens*). The most species-rich areas are generally confined to the unmown and secluded glade areas with the generally acidic nature of the grassland borne out by the presence of herb species such as Common Stork's-bill (*Erodium cicutarium* agg), Mouse-ear-hawkweed (*Pilosella officinarum*), Heath Speedwell (*Veronica officinalis*), Lesser Hawkbit (*Leontodon saxatilis*) and Wood sage (*Teucrium scorodonia*). Damper areas of the grassland have interesting species including Purple Moor-grass and Devil's-bit Scabious (*Succisa pratensis*) an ERDL species that has seen a drastic decline throughout the county in recent decades.

Within Belfairs Park Wood, the Prittle Brook flows within a natural stream profile with variably steep banks and a gravelly bed. No aquatic vegetation was recorded but the bankside vegetation included many interesting woodland plants such as Great Wood-rush (*Luzula sylvatica*) (ERDL), Wood Melick, Male-fern (*Dryopteris filix-mas*) and Broad Buckler-fern (*Dryopteris dilatata*), which were not recorded elsewhere within the wood. On shady stream banks the minute moss *Epipterygium tozeri* is of great interest as a largely south-western species in the UK that is very rare in Essex.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK, Essex)

Lowland Dry Acid Grassland (UK, Essex)

UK BAP Species

None

Living Landscape Area

Part of Hadleigh and Daws Heath Complex

Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

HC13 – Heathland and Acid Grassland

HC31 – Accessible Natural Greenspace

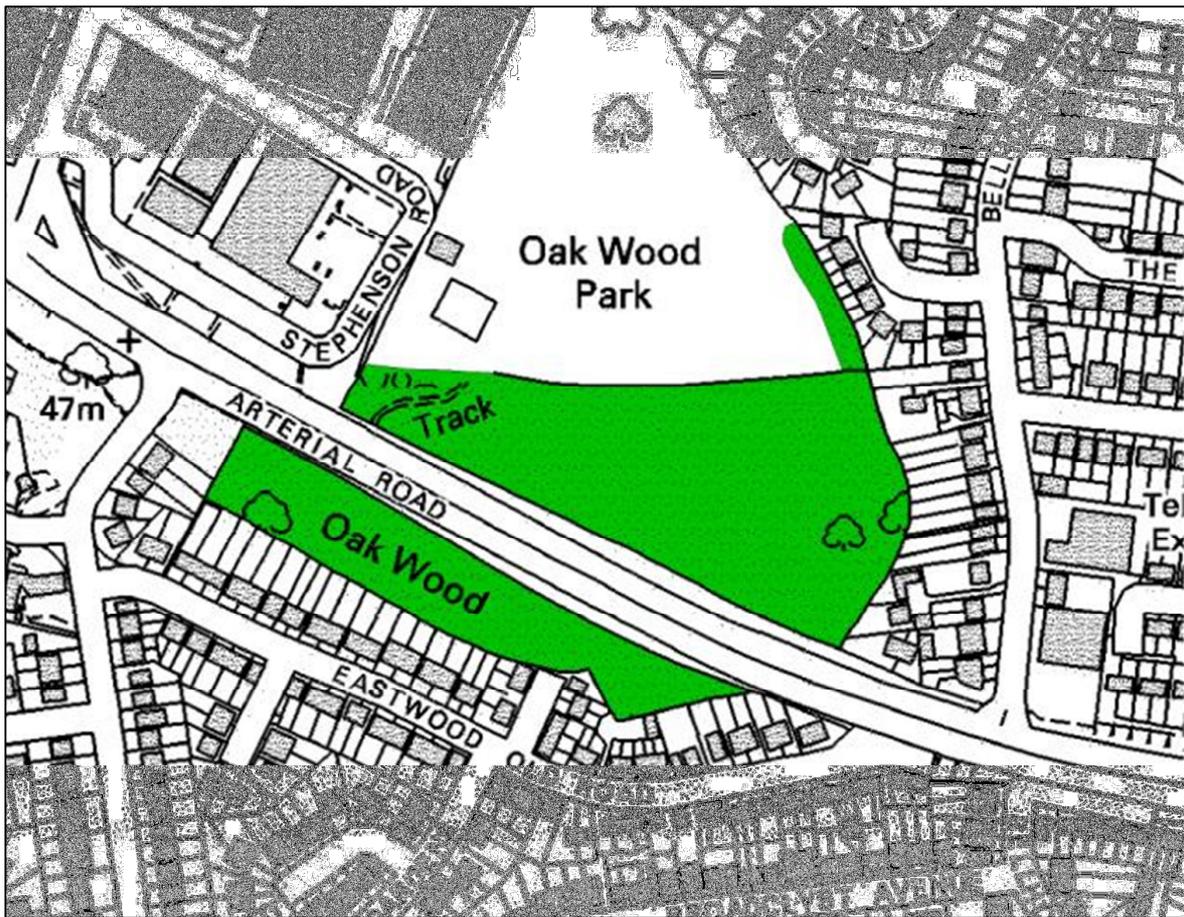
Rationale

It is the intention that this site comprises all land within the golf course except for the intensively managed greens and tees. Whilst the fairways are admittedly of varying quality, they nevertheless contribute to the overall ecology of the site, with the woodland sections effectively forming rides or glades within the woodland matrix. Even the course sand bunkers are not without wildlife interest, providing steeply sloping sparsely vegetated ground that is favoured nesting and hunting habitat for many insects. Within the more open parts of the course are some areas of old grassland, where scarce Essex species have survived the urban expansion surrounding them. All remnants of ancient woodland are of high conservation value. The Park as a whole is a key site within the Borough where local residents can experience wildlife and open countryside.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1991 (Essex Wildlife Trust)

Reviewed: 2011 (EECOS)



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 110020327

So4 Oak Wood (3.7 ha) TQ 835884

Oak Wood is an ancient wood, now bisected by the A127. The larger section to the north is dominated by old Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) coppice with both Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Sessile Oak (*Quercus petraea*) standards which form a very dense canopy and therefore cast a deep shade. Species found in a very scattered shrub layer include Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*). A narrow band of trees extending northwards is included within the Site as a natural habitat extension. As a popular wood for recreation, the heavy degree of trampling which the ground layer endures limits the extent and richness of the ground flora although a good selection of ancient woodland plants occur in the more open areas. These include Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*) and Wood Melick (*Melica uniflora*). The southern bank of this section of the wood supports three important Essex Red Data List (ERDL) species: Great Wood-rush (*Luzula sylvatica*), Common Cow-wheat (*Melampyrum pratense*) and Golden Rod (*Solidago virgaurea*).

The southern fragment also has Hornbeam coppice and interspersed Oaks, however, it is very different in character, being far less trampled. Much of the wood has bare ground areas, but Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg) and Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*) dominate localised patches. Common Cow-wheat and Wood Melick are also frequent in this section, and found where the light penetrates to the ground in the northern margins bordering the A127.

BAP Habitats

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK, Essex)

UK BAP Species

None

Living Landscape Area

None, although it is not far displaced from the Hadleigh and Daws Heath Complex

Selection Criteria

HC1 – Ancient Woodland Sites

HC2 – Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland on Non-ancient Sites

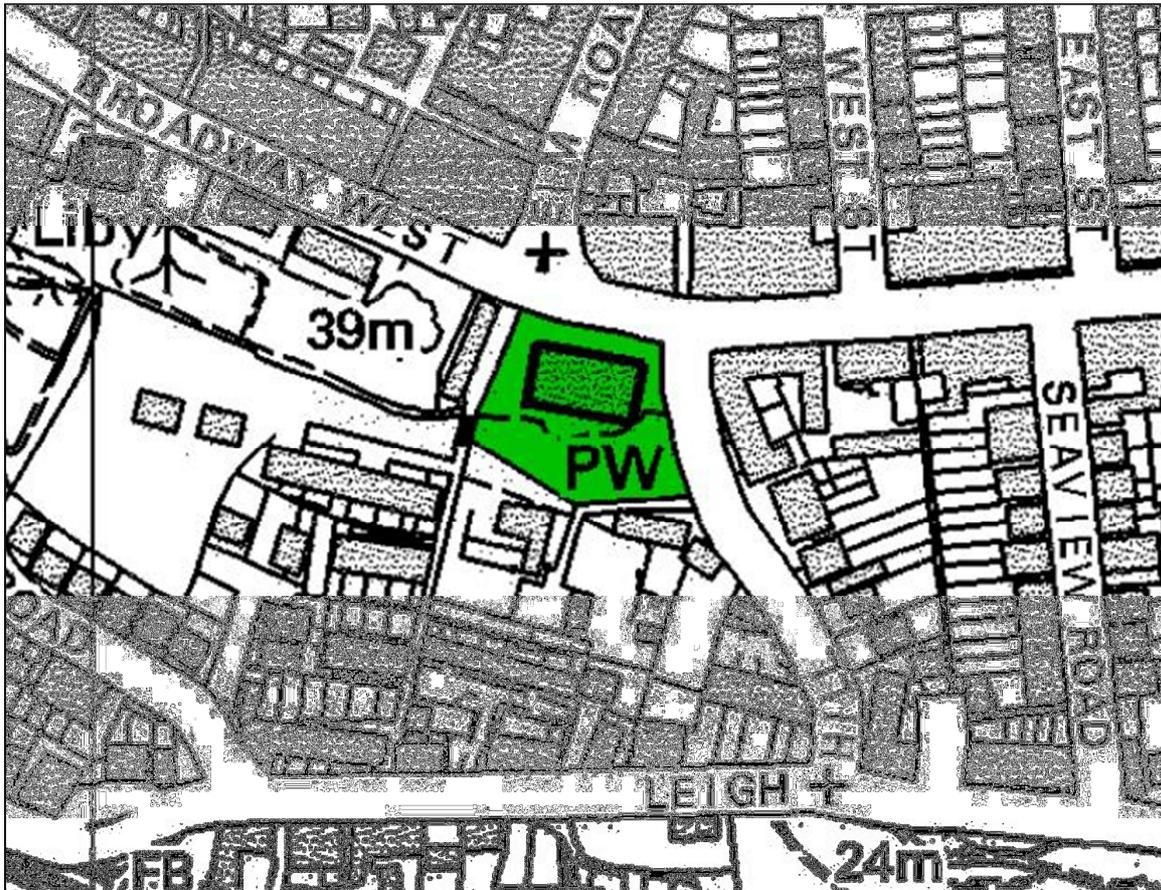
Rationale

This is one of the only two ancient woodland sites in the Borough. It is therefore a very important refuge for woodland flora and fauna, particularly with it supporting three ERDL species. The small, more recent woodland extensions supplement the ancient woodland habitat, creating an integral woodland unit.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1991 (Essex Wildlife Trust)

Reviewed: 2011 (EECOS) – minor addition



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 110020327

So5 St Clements Church, Leigh-on-Sea (0.3 ha) TQ 841858

The grassland of this small churchyard in Leigh-on-Sea is mostly kept as a short mown turf. However, three areas have been left for wildlife. Amongst the grasses recorded is Yellow Oat-grass (*Trisetum flavescens*), a species usually associated with old, species-rich grasslands. The site supports a range of common herb species including Musk Mallow (*Malva moschata*) and Cowslip (*Primula veris*), but two important Essex Red Data List (ERDL) species, Wild Clary (*Salvia verbenaca*) and Betony (*Betonica officinalis*), are also present in the grassland. In addition the wall forming the western boundary of the churchyard supports a third ERDL species: Black Spleenwort (*Asplenium adiantum-nigrum*).

BAP Habitats

None

UK BAP Species

None

Living Landscape Area

None

Selection Criteria

HC11 – Other Neutral Grasslands

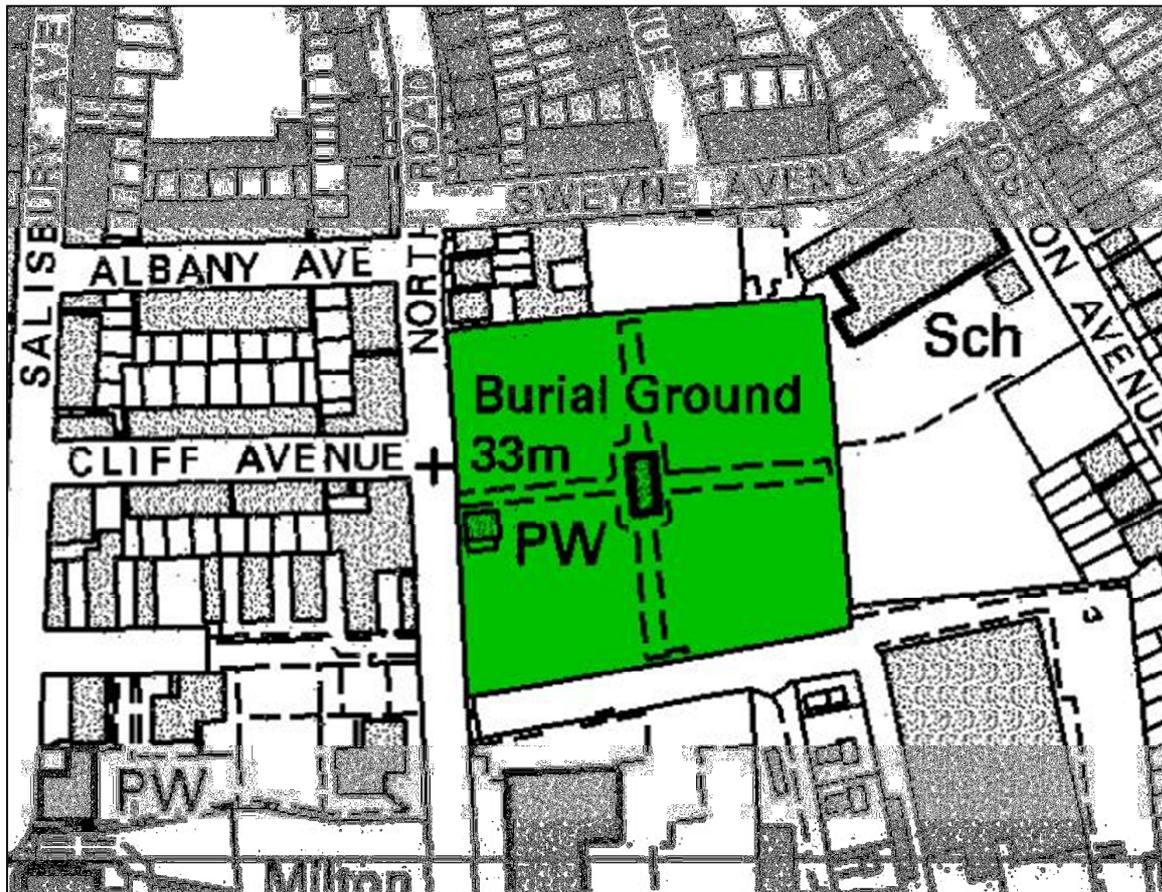
Rationale

The sward may be allied to the Lowland Meadow BAP habitat, but more detailed survey work would be required in order to clarify this. Nevertheless, this churchyard is an isolated remnant of old grassland supporting important plant species that have suffered considerable decline throughout the county.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2011

Reviewed: -



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 110020327

So6 North Road Burial Ground (1.6 ha) TQ 875861

This site is located to the west of the central Southend and is something of a green oasis in an otherwise highly developed part of the borough. The cemetery was built near the end of the nineteenth century and although is not of great age its floral assemblage exhibits characteristics associated with older pieces of grassland. The site has a broad mix of grass species, including Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Yellow Oat-grass (*Trisetum flavescens*), Meadow Barley (*Hordeum secalinum*), Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*) and Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*). Field Wood-rush (*Luzula campestris*) forms localised patches in spring, whilst other herbs recorded throughout the year include Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra* agg.), Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), Lesser Stitchwort (*Stellaria graminea*), Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*) and Meadow Buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*).

BAP Habitats

The site has developed a sward akin to the Lowland Meadows BAP habitat definition used at a UK and Essex level.

UK BAP Species

None

Living Landscape Area

None

Selection Criteria

HC9 – Lowland Meadows; and/or
 HC11 – Other Neutral Grasslands

Rationale

This burial ground appears to have helped preserve a piece of old grassland in much the same way that many old churchyards have done when constructed, by encapsulating a section of grassland from the surrounding landscape and largely preserving it from urban development.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 2011

Reviewed: -



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 110020327

So7 Thorpe Hall Golf Course (32.5 ha) TQ 909854

Thorpe Hall golf course supports a complex mosaic of grassland, scrub, woodland strips, ditches and ponds which together constitute a large and valuable wildlife habitat within eastern Southend-on-Sea. All of the hedgerows and associated ditches can be traced back to pre-1880 farmland field boundaries and are probably a good deal older than this date. The mature standard trees and scrubby hedgerows, augmented by more recent landscape planting, provide diverse small-scale wood and scrub habitats for birds and invertebrates.

The numerous ponds display a wide diversity of vegetation types with some being dominated by Bulrush (*Typha latifolia*) and Sea Club-rush (*Bolboschoenus maritimus*), another dominated by Branched Bur-reed (*Sparganium erectum*) and others with additional species such as Celery-leaved Buttercup (*Ranunculus sceleratus*), Lesser Bulrush (*Typha angustifolia*), Sharp-flowered Rush (*Juncus acutiflorus*), Jointed Rush (*Juncus articulatus*) and Common Spike-rush (*Eleocharis palustris*). Two of the ponds have been colonised by a species of Stonewort *Chara vulgaris*, an uncommon alga in Essex and one that is largely restricted to clean, low-nutrient water. Areas of open grassland support Strawberry Clover (*Trifolium fragiferum*), a plant that is typical of coastal grasslands. The many ditches on the course are bordered by scrub and woodland strips which form good invertebrate habitat and provides feeding and nesting areas for many song-birds.

The varied invertebrate fauna includes dragonflies and damselflies (including Blue-tailed damselfly, Black-tailed Skimmer, Emperor, Southern Hawker, Ruddy Darter – the latter being Nationally Scarce), butterflies (Red Admiral, Gatekeeper, Speckled Wood) and several species of bumblebee. Other species of interest include the Bee Wolf wasp (*Philanthus triangulum*), currently listed in the UK Red Data Book, and the nationally scarce bees *Nomada fucata*, *Andrena pilipes* and *Andrena trimmerana*. These bees are all typical components of good quality, diverse coastal grassland habitats with warm, dry ground as nesting habitat.

BAP Habitats

None – although selected as parkland, the site does not conform to that UK BAP habitat, being too recent in origin.

UK BAP Species

None

Living Landscape Area

None

Selection Criteria

HC4 – Wood-pasture and Parkland

Rationale

This site is selected under criterion HC4, being one of the “more recent parkland sites that support inherent ecological interest...”. Its value is enhanced by its distinctly suburban environs, it being the largest area of greenspace in this part of the borough. Although with limited public access, a right of way does cross the course, giving visitors some opportunity to engage with the wildlife present. Furthermore, it is likely that wildlife drawn to the course habitats will also pervade the surrounding gardens, thereby enriching the suburban environment in general and the lives of those living there. Most of the invertebrates listed above would not be present in this part of the borough were it not for the course preserving this open space, whilst all open land around it has been lost to urban development.

It is the intention that this site comprises all land within the golf course except for the intensively managed greens and tees. Whilst the fairways are admittedly of varying quality, they nevertheless contribute to the overall ecology of the site. It is in such places that the interesting Strawberry Clover grows and this, in turn, provides a nectar forage resource for bumblebees and other insects. Even the course sand bunkers are not without wildlife interest, providing steeply sloping sparsely vegetated ground that is favoured nesting and hunting habitat for many insects.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1991 (Essex Wildlife Trust)

Reviewed: 2011 (EECOS) – minor amendments



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 110020327

So8 Shoebury Common Grasslands (3.5 ha) TQ 925841

This site comprises a series of coastal grassland habitats that formerly comprised South Shoebury Common in association with the Shoebury Old Ranges to the east (now part of Foulness SSSI). All the sections of this Local Wildlife Site support the main Essex population of Bulbous Meadow-grass (*Poa bulbosa*), an Essex Red Data List ERDL species and one that is Nationally Scarce. This grass favours short, sparsely vegetated ground and so can thrive where trampling pressure is present but not too extreme in this environment. Equally, it cannot survive in the more lush, improved parts of the sward.

A large number of notable plant ERDL species have been recorded from the short, sparse turf of the coastguard look out grounds, including Crested Hair-grass (*Koeleria macrantha*), Rough Clover (*Trifolium scabrum*), Meadow Saxifrage (*Saxifraga granulata*) Small-flowered Sweet-briar (*Rosa micrantha*), Sheep's-bit (*Jasione montana*), Spring Vetch (*Vicia lathyroides*) and Sea Mouse-ear (*Cerastium diffusum*). Another species of particular interest recorded from this area is Small Medick (*Medicago minima*), a nationally rare species.

To the west is a similar band of coastal grassland that is partly used as a car parking area and also contains a number of beach huts. The species assemblage has Spring Vetch and additional species such as Suffocated Clover (*Trifolium suffocatum*, an ERDL and Nationally Scarce plant with its only known Essex location at Shoebury), Rough Clover (*Trifolium scabrum*, ERDL at its only known Essex location), Sea Mouse-ear, Fiddle Dock (*Rumex pulcher*, ERDL) and Sand Sedge (*Carex arenaria*). The narrow strip of coastal grassland north of Shoebury Common Road, used as a seasonal car-park also provides habitat for species with a preference for open, short sward grassland.

It is probable that the maintenance of a short, open, sandy sward by regular mowing and light use as a car-park is advantageous to the survival of many of the species present since they would be lost if the sward was allowed to grow long or sprayed with fertilizers. Excessive usage, causing widespread de-vegetation would, however, have a deleterious effect.

BAP Habitats

None, although several of the plant species present are typically associated with stabilised grassland of Coastal Sand Dunes and the site as a whole has probably been derived from a sand dune-like habitat. Dune formations are preserved in the adjacent Shoebury Old Ranges nature reserve (part of a SSSI).

UK BAP Species

None

Living Landscape Area

The site falls within the Southend Seafront and Maplin Sands Living Landscape Area.

Selection Criteria

HC25 – Sand Dune and Shingle Beach Vegetation

SC1 – Vascular Plants

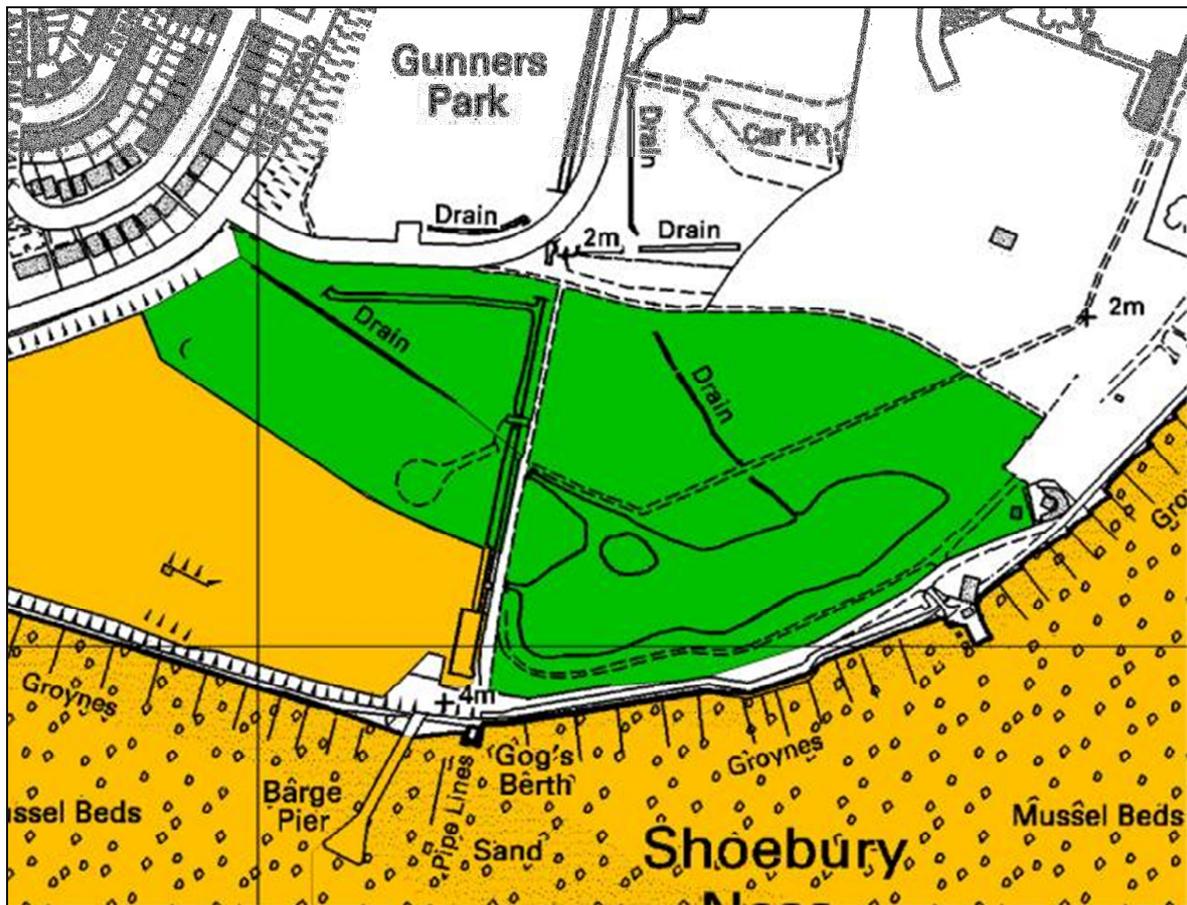
Rationale

This open, dry, coastal grassland habitat is extremely important in the county context and supports many plants now rare along the Essex coast.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1991

Reviewed: 2011- sites amalgamated and boundary amended.



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey® mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number AL 110020327

So9 Shoebury Lake and Grasslands (10.9 ha) TQ 931841

This site lies partly within the extent of the former South Shoebury Common and has been derived from coastal sand dune and grazing marsh habitats, albeit greatly modified by later use within the local military establishment. The large lake was excavated around 2005/2006. The margins of this lake are now gradually developing a flora indicative of brackish lagoon conditions with species recorded including Sea-spurrey (*Spergularia* spp.) and the Nationally Scarce Golden Samphire (*Inula crithmoides*). The drains within the site also exhibit species typical of coastal brackish water habitat, including Sea Club-rush (*Bolboschoenus maritimus*), Wild Celery (*Apium graveolens*), Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) and Brackish Water-crowfoot (*Ranunculus baudotii*).

The western section supports a flora and fauna similar to that of the protected Shoebury Old Ranges nature reserve to the south and this LoWS allows the general public to experience this habitat and its wildlife without having to trample the more fragile SSSI habitat of the Old Ranges itself. Elsewhere, the grasslands contain a wide range of grass species including Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), Yellow Oat-grass (*Trisetum flavescens*), Crested Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*) and Sea Barley (*Hordeum marinum*), another Nationally Scarce species. Herbs of interest present include Narrow-leaved Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus tenuis*), Restharrow (*Ononis repens*), Grass Vetchling (*Lathyrus nissolia*) and Sea Wormwood (*Artemisia maritima*).

Common Lizards are known to occur here and other reptile species may also be present.

BAP Habitats

None, although several of the plant species present are typically associated with stabilised grassland of Coastal Sand Dunes and the site as a whole has probably been derived from a sand dune-like habitat. Dune formations are preserved in the adjacent Shoebury Old Ranges nature reserve (part of a SSSI).

The flora and fauna of the newly formed lake may have some affinities with Saline Lagoons, although there is not sufficient exchange of water through tidal action for it to be considered as such.

UK BAP Species

None

Living Landscape Area

The site falls within the Southend Seafront and Maplin Sands Living Landscape Area.

Selection Criteria

HC31 – Accessible Natural Greenspace

Rationale

The flora and fauna found here have associations with sand dune, grazing marsh and saline lagoon habitats, all of which have been modified by probably centuries of human use. As such, this site allows the general public to experience this range of habitats without causing damage to more fragile areas, such as the Shoebury Old Ranges dune formation just to the south.

Review Schedule

Site Selected: 1991, in part (Essex Wildlife Trust)

Reviewed: 2011 (EECOS), significant additions