

## Wildlife Site Survey Report for: Ecosite 65/098 Former Halsey Playing Fields

<b>Site Ref:</b>	Former ecosite 65/098	<b>Site size (ha):</b>	Surveyed area approx 5.4ha		
<b>District:</b>	Dacorum	<b>Central Grid Ref:</b>	TL042089		
<b>Surveyors:</b>	A. Harris, M. Harris, J. Cox, A. Burton				
<b>Spp list by:</b>	A. Burton	<b>Form by:</b>	J. Cox	<b>Map by:</b>	A. Harris
<b>Date of survey:</b>	08/07/14	<b>Weather:</b>	Mainly overcast with sunny spells	<b>Duration on site:</b>	4.5 hrs

<b>Geology:</b>	<b>Bedrock:</b>	Chalk
	<b>Superficial Deposits:</b>	Clay with flints formation – clay, silt, sand and gravel

<b>Original criteria:</b>	N/a – former ecosite. (Originally a species site for Roman snails)	<b>Habitat:</b>	Grassland-scrub mosaic
<b>Recommended changes to boundary (with justification)</b>	Eco-site consists of an amenity playing field. A species list for the amenity area was not taken as permission was not granted for this area. On walking through it typical amenity species were present only. It is suggested that the area from the slope onwards be considered for Wildlife Site status given the number of indicator species found, excluding the amenity area.		
<b>Original Site Description:</b>	N/a – not a current Wildlife Site		
<b>Overall General Site Description:</b>	Disturbed neutral grassland and scrub mosaic on the Eastern edge of an amenity field, bordered mainly by woodland and arable fields but also urban residencies. There is a slope running from its far Western border downwards in a North-easterly direction where the land then remains lower throughout the site. Much of the site has a small amount of bare ground, numerous anthills and a rich diversity of herbs and grasses. There is a large amount of well established hawthorn ( <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> ), Dogwood ( <i>Cornus sanguinea</i> ) scrub and Ash ( <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> ) saplings growing throughout the site. Species of interest recorded include native Red clover ( <i>Trifolium pratense</i> ), Meadow Vetchling ( <i>Lathyrus pratensis</i> ), Grass vetchling ( <i>Lathyrus nissolia</i> ), Pyramidal orchids ( <i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i> ), Cowslip ( <i>Primulara veris</i> ), and Agrimony ( <i>Agrimonia eupatoria</i> )		

<b>Compartments: an ecological description of each:</b>	
Compartment 1: Grid Ref: TL043089  Grass : Herb ratio = 60:40	<p>Neutral grassland (with ten neutral indicator species recorded) and scrub mosaic edged by woodland and an amenity playing field. There is a gated fenced footpath just outside the site, and also one within the site boundary running along its far Eastern edge. Dog walkers were frequent but mostly stayed on the outside or far edges of the site possibly due to scrub and thick/tall vegetation throughout. On the compartments far Western side is a grassland &amp; scrub slope and the rest of the site remains low and relatively flat.</p> <p>The site has a disturbed appearance with small amounts of bare earth visible in most areas except the far western end. Anthills are frequent throughout with yellow meadow ants inhabiting those Westwards from the centre. The Western end has much denser scrub, many ruderal plants, less herbs and more grass, though still holds herbs of interest including orchids in localised patches.</p> <p>The majority of the site has intermittent scrub including some large dense</p>

	<p>patches of bramble (<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>), Dogwood (<i>Cornus sanguineus</i>) and young hawthorn (<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>). There are frequent tree saplings (Ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>), Oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>), and Field maple (<i>Acer campestre</i>) and ruderal species such as Teasal (<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>), Greater willowherb (<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>), Hedge woundwort (<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>), Dock (<i>Rumex</i>) and Thistles (<i>Cirsium arvense</i>). There are also several areas with numerous pyramidal orchids (<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>). Large clumps of Meadow vetchling (<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>), large amounts of Red clover (<i>Trifolium pratense</i>) and also Yorkshire fog (<i>Holcus lanata</i>), False broome (<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>), Red fescue (<i>Festuca rubra</i>), Hoary ragwort (<i>Senecio erucifolius</i>), Agrimony (<i>Agrimonia eupatoria</i>), Red bartsia (<i>Odontites vernus</i>), Yarrow (<i>Achillea millefolium</i>) Wild carrot (<i>Daucus carota</i>), Goatsbeard (<i>Tragopogon pratensis</i>) and Smooth hawks-beard (<i>Crepis capillaris</i>) are among the most frequent species.</p> <p>Other herbs and grasses either scattered throughout or in localised patches include: Common bent (<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>), False oat-grass (<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>), Hairy sedge (<i>Carex hirta</i>), Birds foot trefoil (<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>), Chalk knapweed (<i>Centaurea debeauxii</i>), Cocksfoot (<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>), Black medic (<i>Medicago lupulina</i>), Coltsfoot (<i>Tussilago farfara</i>), Tall melilot (<i>Melilotus altissimus</i>), Ladies bedstraw (<i>Galium mollugo</i>), Perforate St Johns wort (<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>), Ox-eye daisy (<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>), Meadow &amp; Creeping buttercup (<i>Ranunculus acris &amp; repens</i>), Cowslip (<i>Primula veris</i>), Yellow oat grass (<i>Trisetum flavescens</i>), Hop trefoil (<i>Trifolium campestre</i>) and several vetch (<i>Vicia</i>) species. A total of 95 species were recorded overall with 11 grassland indicator species. Also recorded were nine Lepidopteran species.</p>
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<b>Fauna:</b>	<b>Birds:</b>	Goldfinches, 3x Green woodpecker, Red kite, Crow
	<b>Mammals:</b>	Vole or Shrew
	<b>Invertebrates:</b>	Hairy shieldbug, 6 spot ladybird, Roman snail, Oedemera nobilis (male), Speckled bush cricket, Crysotoxum bicinctum (Hoverfly), Yellow meadow ants, Black ants, Common carder bee, White tailed bumblebee, 6 spot burnet moth, Cinnabar moth caterpillar, Marmalade fly, Common cardinal beetle, Small/large skipper butterfly, Marbled white butterfly, Gatekeeper butterfly, Ringlet butterfly, Small tortoiseshell butterfly, Red admiral butterfly,
	<b>Other:</b>	Paltigera hymenina (Lichen)
<b>Invasive species:</b>	Please mark the position of any invasive spp on the map.	
<b>Current Management:</b>	Some quite old but small stumps indicate some young trees have been felled in the past. No other management was seen	
<b>Recommended Management:</b>		
Compartment 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The scrub and patchy nature is currently a good feature of the site providing micro-climates and shelter for small fauna and flora and preventing dog walkers possibly nitrifying and trampling the site. It is thus recommended that the scrub be cut right back on a rotational basis (3/15<sup>th</sup>s of compartment 1 cut every 3<sup>rd</sup> year). Different species and life stages of various fauna require differing maturities of scrub. Also removing only small amounts at a time leaves suitable habitat in tact elsewhere on</li> </ul>	

	<p>site. Late September to February is the best time of year for scrub cutting due to fauna nesting etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leave stumps and dead wood from the site on site as these benefit invertebrates.</li> <li>• Continuing people being able to walk around the site will maintain its disturbed nature</li> <li>• There are a large number of Ash saplings which if not controlled/removed will revert the grassland to secondary woodland. If these are removed their movement should be restricted to within site due to Ash die-back. It is recommended that they either be left as a log pile of dead wood or if safe to do so, be burnt somewhere suitable on site.</li> </ul>
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<b>Surrounding landuse</b>	Woodland, Arable and residential
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<b>TABLE 2: Grassland habitat condition assessment – for information</b>	
This is broadly based on Natural England's Common Standards Monitoring 2005 which has been used to assess the condition of the main habitats present on Sites of Special Scientific Interest.	
To help with the identification of grassland-type habitats and their condition, please use the following list of Negative Condition Indicators (species) for the typical open habitats found in Hertfordshire. They are divided in to three different ecological groups as below:	
<p><b>Agricultural weeds (indicating increased soil nutrient levels in previously low-nutrient swards, and high levels of disturbance)</b></p> <p>These species are particularly negative from both the agricultural and ecological perspectives, and usually indicate both disturbance and increased nutrient levels.</p>	<p><u>Including these herbs:</u> Creeping and Spear Thistle, Broad-leaved and Curled Dock, Common Ragwort, Nettle, Greater Plantain, Cleavers, Cow Parsley and Field Horsetail, Daisy, Common Mouse-ear, Rosebay Willowherb, Sow Thistles.</p>
<p><b>Agriculturally favoured species (indicating increased eutrophication)</b></p> <p>These species are positive from the agricultural perspective. Ecologically however these species represent high soil nutrient levels, but not disturbance. While a few of these species are a normal component of ecologically valuable communities, a high frequency of these species indicates negative condition.</p>	<p><u>Including herbs:</u> White Clover, Creeping Buttercup;</p> <p><u>Grasses:</u> Perennial Rye-grass, Yorkshire Fog, Soft Brome, Timothy, Floating Sweet-grass, Rough Meadow-grass</p>
<p><b>Rank grasses, rushes and sedges</b></p> <p>if very abundant, these species indicate lack of appropriate management and/or waterlogging.</p>	<p>Including False Oat-grass, Cock's-foot, Tufted Hair-grass, Perennial Rye-grass, large-leaved sedge species, Reed Sweet-grass</p>

<b>ECO65/098, 08/07/14, AB</b>		WS inds (* / a / n / c / w / f) & neg inds ('-')	Comp1	all inds	no of comps total
<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Common Name</b>		DAFOR		
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Maple, Field	*	R+	X	1
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore		R		1
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow		R+		1
<i>Agrimonia eupatoria</i>	Agrimony	c/n	R	X	1
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Bent, Common	a/n	R+	X	1
<i>Agrostis gigantea</i>	Bent, Black		R		1
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	Bent, Creeping		R		1
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Alder, Common		R		1
<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>	Orchid, Pyramidal	c	R	X	1
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	Pimpernel, Scarlet		R-		1
<i>Anisantha sterilis</i>	Brome, Barren		R		1
<i>Armoracia rusticana</i>	Horse-radish*		R		1
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	Oat-grass, False	- a/c/n/w	O		1
<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	Mugwort		R+		1
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy	- a/c	R-		1
<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>	Brome, False		O		1
<i>Bromus hordeaceus</i>	Brome, Soft	- n	R+		1
<i>Calystegia silvatica</i>	Bindweed, Large		R		1
<i>Carex divulsa</i>	Sedge, Grey		R		1
<i>Carex hirta</i>	Sedge, Hairy		R+		1
<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	Hornbeam	*	R-	X	1
<i>Centaurea debeauxii</i>	Knapweed, Chalk~	c/n	R	X	1
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Mouse-ear, Common	- a	R		1
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Thistle, Creeping	- a/c/n/w	R+		1
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Thistle, Spear	- a/c/n/w	R-		1
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Bindweed, Field		R		1
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	Dogwood		R+		1
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn		R+		1
<i>Crepis capillaris</i>	Hawk's-beard, Smooth		R+		1
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cocksfoot	- a/c/n/w	R+		1
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Carrot, Wild		R+		1
<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Teasel, Wild		R+		1
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Willowherb, Great		R+		1
<i>Epilobium parviflorum</i>	Willowherb, Hoary		R		1
<i>Epilobium tetragonum</i>	Willowherb, Sq-stemmed		R		1
<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	Horsetail, Field	- n	R		1
<i>Erigeron acris</i>	Fleabane, Blue		R		1
<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	Spindle		R		1
<i>Festuca rubra agg.</i>	Fescue, Red (family)		O-		1
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash		O-		1
<i>Galium mollugo</i>	Bedstraw, Hedge		R		1
<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	Cranesbill, Cut-leaved		R		1
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Wood Avens		R		1
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed		R		1

ECO65/098, 08/07/14, AB		WS inds (* /a/n/c/w/f) & neg inds (-)	Comp1	all inds	no of comps total
Scientific Name	Common Name		DAFOR		
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire Fog	- a/c/n/w	O		1
<i>Hypericum hirsutum</i>	St John's-wort, Hairy		R		1
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	St John's-wort, Perforate		R		1
<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Cat's-ear, Common		R		1
<i>Juncus inflexus</i>	Rush, Hard		R		1
<i>Lathyrus nissolia</i>	Vetchling, Grass	n	R	x	1
<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	Vetchling, Meadow	n	R+	x	1
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Daisy, Oxeye	c/n	R	x	1
<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>	Toadflax, Common		R		1
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Rye-grass, Perennial	- a/c/n/w	R		1
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Bird's-foot-trefoil, Com'n	c/n	R	x	1
<i>Malva moschata</i>	Mallow, Musk		R		1
<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	Medick, Black		R+		1
<i>Melilotus altissimus</i>	Melilot, Tall		R		1
<i>Myosotis arvensis</i>	Forget-me-not, Field		R		1
<i>Odontites vernus</i>	Bartsia, Red		R+		1
<i>Phleum bertolonii</i>	Catstail, Smaller		R		1
<i>(Picris) Helminthotheca echioides</i>	Oxtongue, Bristly		R		1
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Plantain, Ribwort		O-		1
<i>Plantago major</i>	Plantain, Greater	- a/c/n	R		1
<i>Poa trivialis</i>	Meadow-grass, Rough	- w	R		1
<i>Primula veris</i>	Cowslip	c/n	R	x	1
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Selfheal		R		1
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn		R		1
<i>Quercus robur</i>	Oak, Pedunculate		R		1
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Buttercup, Meadow	n	R	x	1
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Buttercup, Creeping	- w	R+		1
<i>Rosa arvensis</i>	Rose, Field	*	R+	x	1
<i>Rosa canina</i> agg.	Rose, Dog, agg.		R-		1
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	Bramble		R+		1
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Dock, Curled	- c/n/w	R		1
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Dock, Broad-leaved	- c/n/w	R		1
<i>Rumex sanguineus</i>	Dock, Wood		R		1
<i>Senecio erucifolius</i>	Ragwort, Hoary		R		1
<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Ragwort, Common	- a/c/n	R		1
<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	Woundwort, Hedge		R		1
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg.	Dandelion family		R		1
<i>Torilis japonica</i>	Parsley, Upright Hedge		R		1
<i>Tragopogon pratensis</i>	Goat's-beard		R		1
<i>Trifolium campestre</i>	Trefoil, Hop		R		1
<i>Trifolium hybridum</i>	Alsike, Clover		R		1
<i>Trifolium pratense</i> var. <i>pratense</i>	Clover, Red (native)	c/n	R+	x	1
<i>Trifolium pratense</i> var. <i>sativum</i>	Clover, Red (cultivar)*		R		1

<b>ECO65/098, 08/07/14, AB</b>		WS inds (* /a/n/c/w/f) & neg inds (-)	Comp1	all inds	no of comps total
<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Common Name</b>		DAFOR		
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	Clover, White	- a/c/n/w	R		1
<i>Trisetum flavescens</i>	Oat-grass, Yellow		R		1
<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	Colt's-foot		R		1
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Nettle, Stinging	- a/c/n/w	R		1
<i>Vicia hirsuta</i>	Tare, Hairy		R		1
<i>Vicia sativa agg.</i>	Vetch, Common		R		1
<i>Vicia sepium</i>	Vetch, Bush		R		1
<i>Vicia tetrasperma</i>	Tare, Smooth		R		1

\*=planted/introduced/escape      **per compartment totals:**

^=note whether planted      <sup>GR1</sup>=8 fig grid ref required

~=check specimen requirements

<b>Total species (all comp.s)</b>		<b>total indicators</b>					
	<b>95</b>	<b>14</b>					
<b>Comp1</b>	<b>AWI (H.1)</b>	<b>Neut (H.2.2b)</b>	<b>Acid (H.2.2c)</b>	<b>Calc (H.2.2a)</b>	<b>Wet (H.2.2d)</b>	<b>Fen (H.5.3)</b>	<b>c/a/n/w (H.2.2e)</b>
		<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>All Compartments:</b>	<b>AWI</b>	<b>Neut</b>	<b>Acid</b>	<b>Calc</b>	<b>Wet</b>	<b>Fen</b>	<b>c/a/n/w</b>
	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Thresholds:</b>	<b>AWI</b>	<b>Neut</b>	<b>Acid</b>	<b>Calc</b>	<b>Wet</b>	<b>Fen</b>	<b>c/a/n/w</b>
	min size (ha)	1	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25
	min indicators	10	8	5	8	5	5
<b>Criteria met</b>		<b>Met</b>					

#### DAFOR scale:

D	Dominant	>75% cover
A	Abundant	51-75% cover
F	Frequent	26-50% cover
O	Occasional (high)	11-25% cover
O-	Occasional (low)	6-10% cover
R+	Rare (high)	1-5% cover
R	Rare	>5 individual plants up to 1% cover
R-	Very Rare	<5 individual plants



27/06/2014

**District Boundary**  
 District Boundary

**HCC Wildlife Sites**  
 HCC Wildlife Sites

**Specified site**  
 Specified site

**Boundary of access permission**  
 Boundary of access permission

**Surveyed area**  
 Surveyed area



Wood False-Brome with Hedge Bedstraw and Cowslip

Former Halsey School Playing Fields  
 Map by  
 Surveyor Name: **Andrew Harris**  
 Survey Date: **08/08/2014**

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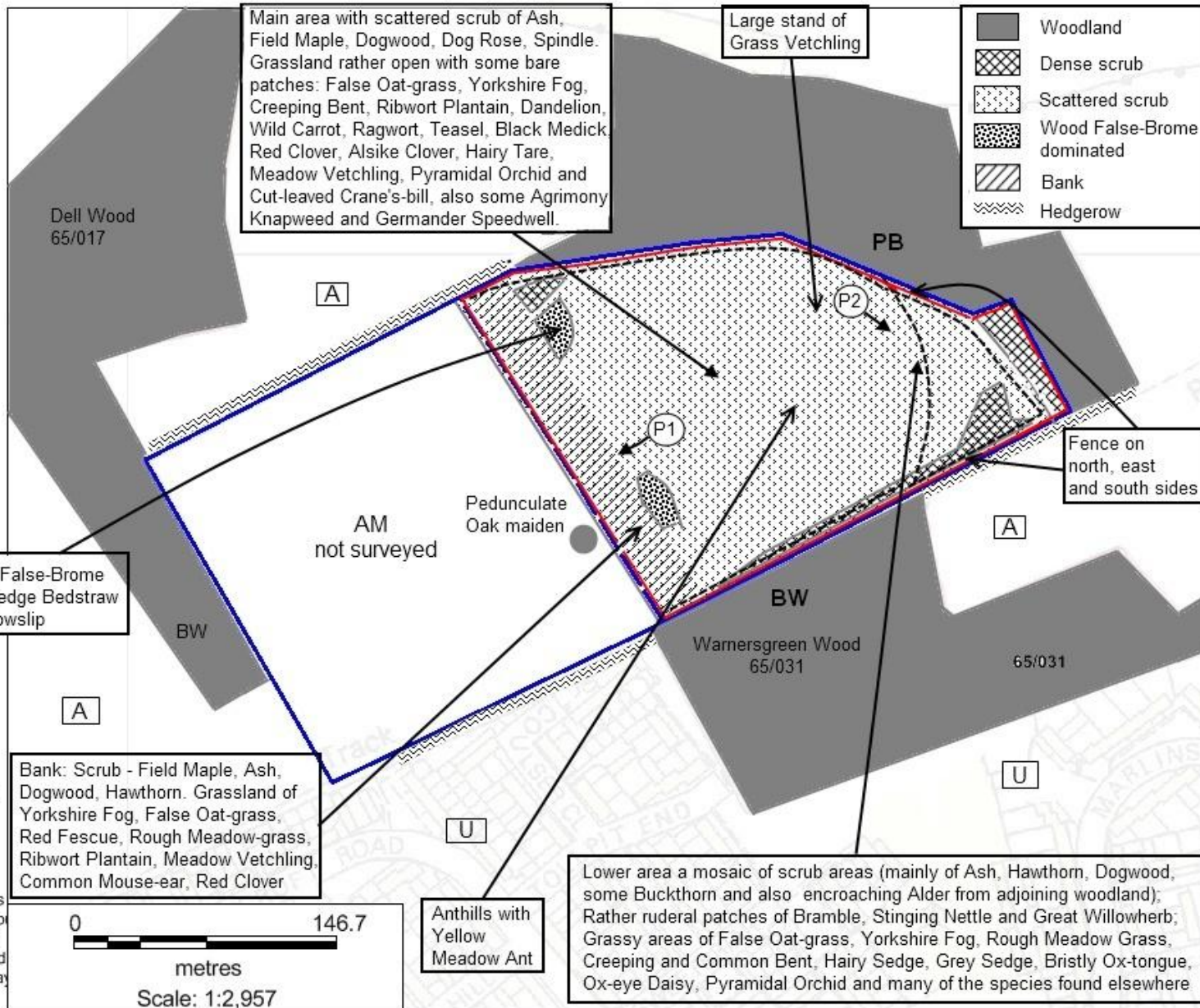




Photo 1 – Below the slope, long sward species rich grassland



Photo 2 Looking towards the more densely scrubbed area



Photo 3 taken from the top of the slope looking over the whole site.