Management Plan

for

Coddenham Parish Council
Mid Suffolk

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CONTENTS

Location

Site name	Coddenham green spaces
Parish(es)	Coddenham and Hemingstone (Broom Hill meadow)
District (s)/planning authority	Babergh Mid Suffolk District Council
County	Suffolk
Nearest postcode and postal address	Centre of Coddenham IP6 9PR Three Cocked Hat IP6 9QA Burial Ground IP6 9QA Mill Hill IP6 9PR Nucleus Plantation IP6 9SR Broom Hill grassland IP6 9PN
National Grid Reference (centre of sites)	TM133543
Area	Three Cocked Hat 0.1 ha Burial Ground 0.45 ha Mill Hill 0.22 ha Nucleus Plantation 1.2 ha Broom Hill 0.27 ha

1.2 Tenure

Owner	Nucleus Plantation – The Day Foundation Remaining sites - Coddenham Parish Council

Access	Open over permissive footpaths Public footpaths though Mill Hill, south edge of Broom Hill grassland and east boundary of burial ground.

Legal agreements	None of these parcels of land are in stewardship schemes. (Source DEFRA Map) A felling licence is shown to have been issued for Nucleus plantation this ties in with felling of sycamore trees in 2013 - information supplied by the Parish. (Source DEFRA Maps) Broom Hill wood including the grassland surveyed for this report, Three Cocked Hat and the southern block of Nucleus Plantation are designated as Open Access Land under the CRoW Act 2000.

1.3 Site Status
Legal designations affecting the site

	✓ or ✗	
SAC	x	
SPA	x	
NNR	x	
SSSI	x	
CWS	✓	St Mary's churchyard and Manor Farm meadows are CWS, Priority Habitat -good quality semi-improved grassland
TPO	x	
Conservation Area	✓	Centre of village, including the Burial ground, Three cocked hat and Mill hill
Special Landscape Area	✓	
AONB	x	
EA consent area	x	
IDB/Local Authority consent area	x	
Cross Compliance	x	
NVZ	x	
SM	x	
Presence of protected species	x	
Registered Park and Garden	✓	Shrubland estate adjacent to Three cocked hat and Burial ground.
Monument	✓	Mill Hill, site of medieval post mill, although shown on DEFRA Maps as a scheduled monument it is marked in the Conservation Area appraisal.

1.4 Physical Features and evaluation

Soils and Geology

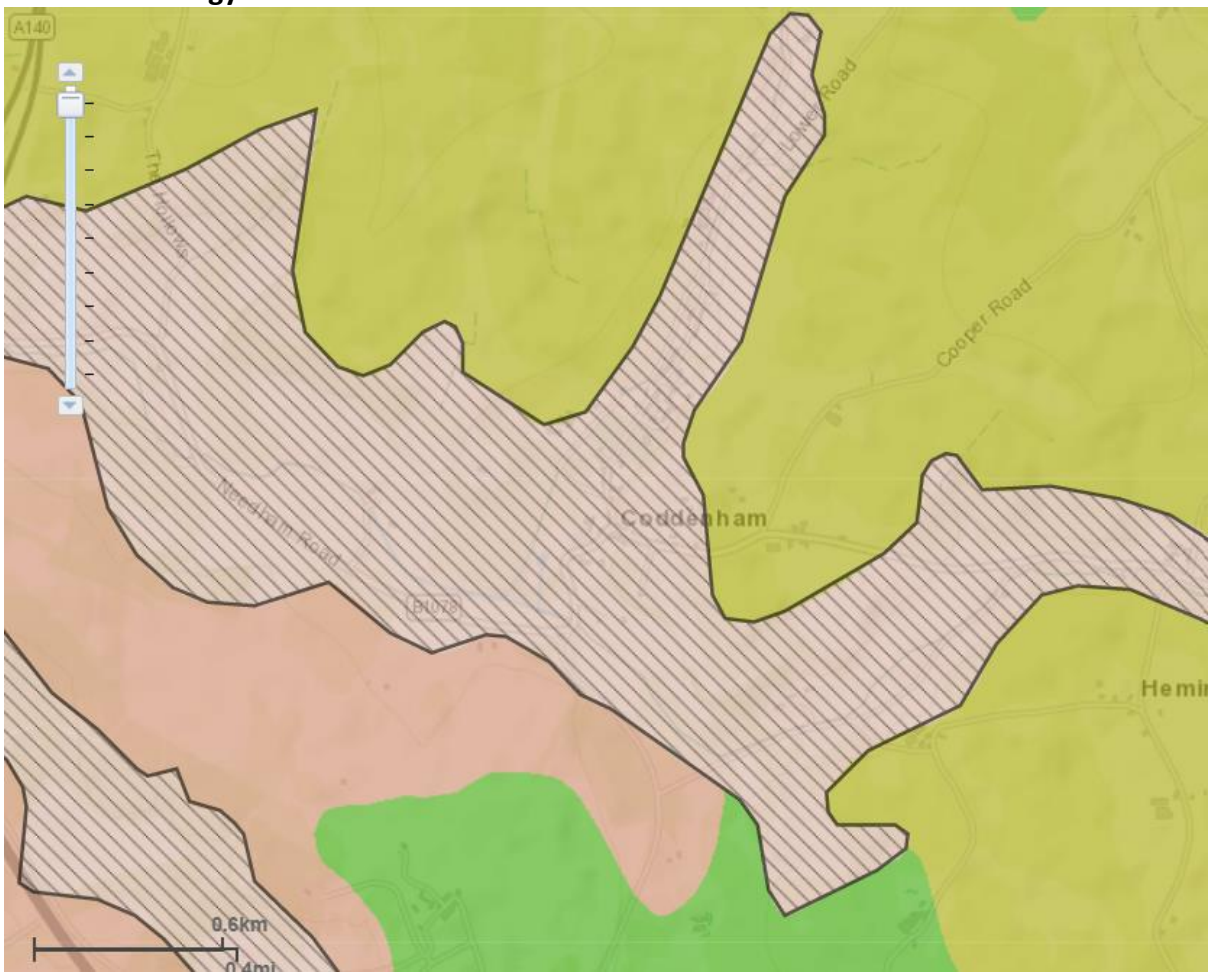


Figure 1 Map taken from Soilscapes Viewer online. Source: Soilscapes

- Soilscape 5 Freely draining lime-rich loamy soils
- Soilscape 6 Freely draining slightly acid loamy soils
- Soilscape 9 Lime-rich loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage
- Soilscape 18 Slowly permeable seasonally wet slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils

All sites surveyed, Broom Hill grassland, Three Cocked Hat, Coddenham Burial Ground, Mill Hill and Nucleus Plantation are over Soilscape 5, freely draining lime-rich loamy soils, a soil type associated with herb rich chalk and limestone pastures and lime-rich woodlands.

However, it should be noted that the large-scale data freely available will have some local discrepancy when interpreting at the site level. This means that sites such as Nucleus Plantation and Mill Hill could overlie the adjacent geology of Soilscapes 9 lime-rich loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage. The burial ground could be influenced by Soilscape 6, freely draining slightly acid loamy soils. So, whilst the sites are all in close proximity the mosaic of different soils found in close proximity may mean that they naturally support very different habitat types.

1.5 Biological Features and evaluation

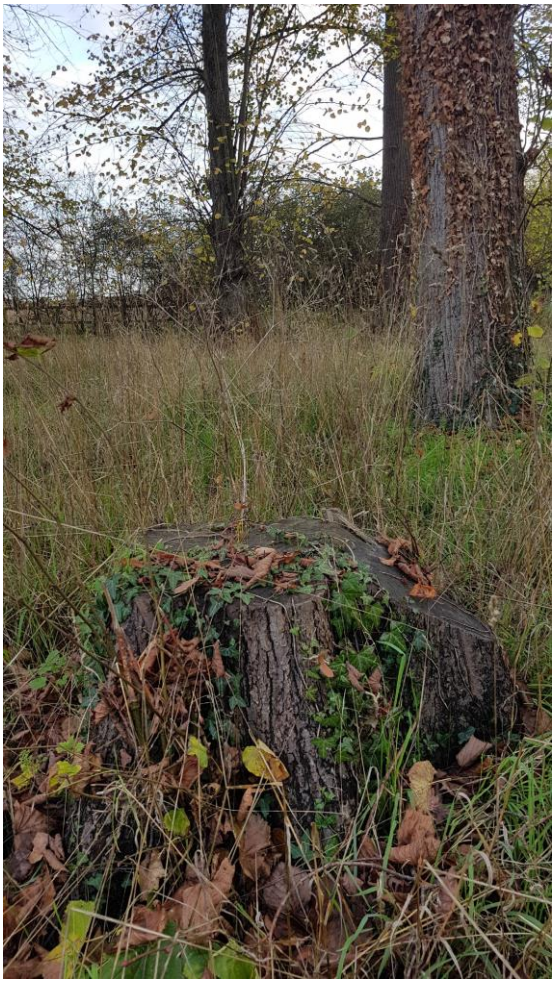
1.5.1 Habitats

Three Cocked Hat
Area: 0.1ha

The open crowned-lime trees are a prominent landscape feature and within the village conservation area.

Lime trees found grown in close proximity such as these tend to have a considerably smaller girth size so aging can be difficult. Whilst of mature height, veteran features were not recorded. Evidence of large tree stumps suggests continuity of a tree stand here for some considerable time, and the community report that the trees are a relic of a more extensive landscape predating reconfiguration of the roads.

These tree stumps along the northern edge provide a good resource for saproxylic invertebrates and fungi.



Canopy cover is not closed allowing some daylight to reach the ground flora. The only representative in the scrub layer is from the regrowth of a coppiced tree.

There is a variety of wildflowers and grasses with one woodland specialist, wood anemone. Meadow saxifrage and pyramidal orchids are most often associated with low fertility grassland, less typical of these conditions. As the canopy closes it is likely that woodland specialists will be favoured over meadow flowers.

There are no significant signs of browsing damage nor invasive plant species and tree health appears good. However, Three Cocked Hat is a small triangle within the junction of three roads and is likely to be subject to salt deposition and potential littering. A small indent along the north boundary has become a pull in place and location for the deposition of road materials. Through conversations with Suffolk Country Council highways and road maintenance teams, ensure this doesn't further encroach into Three Cocked Hat

Newly planted small leaved lime trees and a single beech tree are showing evidence of stress, with brown shrivelled leaves. This is almost certainly due to a combination of factors including the dry spring and summer combined with extreme heat. Small leaved lime and beech are relatively shade tolerant but will have been additionally challenged to establish under the stand of mature trees.

Planting for succession can be seen as a positive action to secure the future for this stand of trees. Conversely veteran trees can be compromised by competitive new growth of younger trees. The biggest gap available for replacement trees is along the northern edge where previous trees have been felled. If recent plantings have been unsuccessful, consider planting a replacement in this gap and ensure ground preparation and aftercare, such as mulching promotes establishment.

Subject to permission, you could consider crown thinning to promote establishment of a new tree and retention of wildflower interest. If tree surgery is required, this should happen outside of the bird breeding season (For guidance the bird breeding season is 1st March – 31st August). Tree health is least likely to be compromised by cutting branches less than 10cm diameter and as close to the growing season as possible.

The grassland is likely to need little management as growth is limited by the stand of trees. To maintain grassland, prevent succession to scrub, mowing on a two- or three-year basis.

In most woodland, a scrub layer would be seen as an important wildlife element. The small area and traffic visibility may preclude this option. Lime trees are prone to epicormic growth and in the absence of scrub can provide valuable shelter and nesting opportunity for small birds when retained.

For tree safety, follow the guidance given by The National Tree Safety Group.

Three Cocked Hat, approach from the east.

Burial Ground
Area: 0.45 ha

The burial ground is relatively recent, post 1904 and currently open to internments.

A small component, 0.1ha at the east of the burial ground is identified as Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland, a habitat of principal importance under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 – also known as a Priority habitat.

The greater extent of the cemetery is grassland with scattered trees, bordered by mixed hedge and with scrub along a length of north boundary.

Some of the mature broadleaved and coniferous trees making are significant components of the habitat mosaic.

The mature trees should be retained for their ecological benefits, but some of the recently established trees and saplings should be thinned to retain a sunnier aspect to favour grassland specialists. Wildflowers such as nettle leaved bell flower and rough chervil persist in long grass but are likely to be lost as the canopy closes.

To provide access to memorials and to favour grassland flora, the numerous saplings are best removed. If not, too established tree saplings could be offered out to a Tree Council nursery. Cotoneaster is known to be invasive and should be removed before it becomes more widespread.

The central path and east-west path appears to be mown on a regular basis. The upper burial ground is also short mown lawn, and the grassland sward is less flower rich than the lower burial ground. This is a more formal area with clipped yew hedging and management could continue in its current form. Short swards are preferred by starlings for foraging and can offer basking opportunities for beetles and reptile species. Inclusion adds to the overall habitat mosaic of the burial ground.

The western end of the churchyard is dominated by tussocky grass and tall herbs such as nettles and cow parsley suggesting undermanagement or a pause in management. Plants described as nuisance weeds include creeping thistle, *Cirsium arvense* and ragwort *Senecio jacobaea*. Both these plants can spread rapidly and dominate however they are beneficial plants to many invertebrate species.

Where desirable to reduce creeping thistle, top in June – July, just before the flower bud turns purple, as this is when the maximum reserves from the thistle roots are being used to produce seed.

Ragwort supports a wide variety of insects, including several which are entirely reliant on ragwort. It is an extremely important source of nectar and pollen for many species including butterflies and bees. Ragwort, *Senecio jacobaea* is currently only occasional and there is little bare ground for it to seed in to, unless a hay crop is proposed, it not a cause for concern.

Where there are no memorials, retaining some tussocky grass and tall herbs will support overwintering insects such as the common carder bee, *Bombus pascuorum*. Cut back these areas on a 2–3-year rotational basis to prevent succession to scrub.

The remainder of the lower burial ground has a wider range of flowering plants. Grassland specialists identified include moth mullien, *Verbascum blattaria,* a plant with a scattered distribution and limited number of local records. Field scabious, *Knautia arvensis* is an indicator of low fertility soils and whilst fairly widespread in lowland Britain its distribution is declining. It's sugar rich nectar and long flowering period make it especially attractive to pollinating insects.

To support wildflowers, manage by taking a single cut and rake in September. This is working well at the Parish Church of St Mary's.

Removal of arisings reduces soil nutrient levels and prevents the build-up of thatch, which tends to favour vigorous grass growth and nuisance weeds over more delicate wildflowers. The majority of arisings will need to be removed off site, but some could be used to create a habitat pile in a less botanically rich area or could be added to the small open sided enclosure. Habitat piles can benefit a range of species in particular slow worms and hedgehogs.

Conditions are close enough to that of the St Mary's churchyard to consider introducing green hay to enhance the botanical interest of the cemetery. Green Hay needs to be collected and spread soon after it cut for maximum seed viability. St Mary's is cut in September, subject to agreement from the PCC, for a greater collection of wildflower seeds a small area would need to be cut earlier, mid to late July. You will need to scarify some areas of the recipient site to create some small patches of bare ground. This is best done in a small sunny area and then allow the wildflowers to populate a wider area over time.

The roadside hedge for around a third of its' length is holly. At the western end there is a small length of hawthorn and large gaps. There are several mature trees along the length including Lime and hazel. As this is a roadside hedge the outer face will need to be kept clipped. The inner face could be managed on a biennial basis to promote flowering and berrying. To prevent disturbance, trim the inner face outside of the bird breeding season.

The hedge along the northern boundary has been allowed to billow out, providing a rich environment for wildlife. Rotational management by coppicing on a 15-year rotation will retain this scrub habitat and prevent succession to woodland.

Left: Burial Ground July 2022

Left: Moth mullien and field scabious.

Below: Burial Ground, looking east. October 2022

Mill Hill
Area 0.22 ha

Mill Hill is identified as Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland, a habitat of principal importance under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 – also known as a Priority habitat. Mill Hill is within the conservation area which will have a bearing on tree management. Mill Hill is contiguous with Nucleus Plantation.

Mill Hill is the site of a former medieval post mill and open land until at least 1905. The land then fell into the ownership of an inn but upon closure in the 1960's management is believed to have ceased and it became dominated by scrub. In 2000 the village acquired the land and planted mixed native trees.

Any future tree planting should take account of the electricity transformer at the boundary with Nucleus plantation.

Tree canopy cover is around 80%. Deer grazing is evident but not extensive allowing sapling establishment leading to two age classes of trees and the development of a scrub layer.

Ash is present but as yet appears unaffected by ash die back and no other signs of tree disease or mortality were observed. Ash die back appears to be present in Nucleus wood, as this is a site with public access, tree health should be monitored.

As this is a young wood, there is little standing dead wood or tree stumps. This resource can be found in adjacent Nucleus wood. There is however a mature 'landmark' oak tree beside the bench.

Perhaps not unexpected for a recent woodland, no ancient woodland indicator species were observed. This could be re-assessed by residents in late spring, April – May when woodland wildflowers are more evident.

A garden escape, green alkanet *Pentaglottis sempervirens,* is a beneficial to pollinating insects but has a tendency to dominate. This is one to monitor and control by frequent cutting if it encroaches on woodland ground flora.

Nucleus Plantation
Area 1.2 ha

Above: Nucleus Plantation

Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland, a habitat of principal importance under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 – also known as a Priority habitat.

Nucleus Plantation is shown as wooded in its current extent as far back as the historic maps are available online, 1884.

The woodland follows the valley contours, gently sloping down to the west and the village below. The bank and ditch along the east boundary could be a historic feature. Most of the canopy trees are ash and sycamore some with girths of 2-3m. There are no ancient trees, but veteran features such as callused scars and hollows are apparent in some trees.

There is some natural regeneration of elm and sycamore but at the northern end, the scrub layer is thin. This could be a consequence of deer browsing together with high canopy cover.

At the south end of Nucleus Plantation there has been some tree felling operations in recent years (2013). The scrub layer here is denser with holly and bramble together with suckering elm and coppice re-growth.

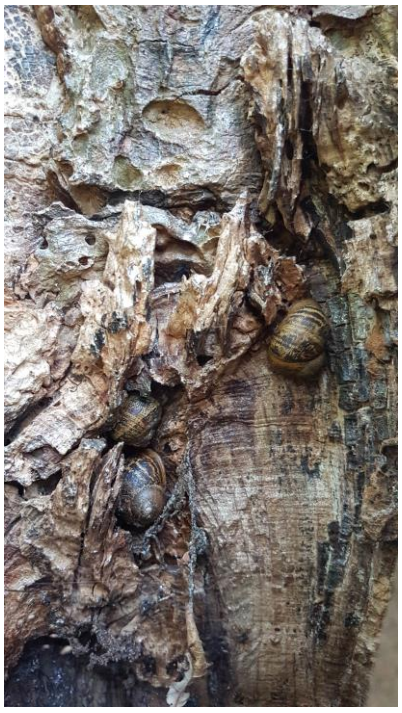
Above: Bank, west boundary Nucleus Plantation.

Whilst holly is a native plant, over time it can spread within a woodland and shade out woodland flora such as English bluebells, so it is worthwhile monitoring its extent.

Within the felled area there has been some tree planting. Tree guards can now safely be removed and given the successful coppice regrowth; replacement planting of any losses should not be needed in the near future.

Some trees have been affected by ash die back, *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* which may lead to a more open canopy and favour ground flora. Coppicing of veteran and ancient ash trees is not recommended as research as shown that recently coppiced ash trees are especially susceptible to ash die back. Although guidance acknowledges that in certain circumstances some young ash trees might be felled to benefit ground flora. As there is public access you may wish to consider regular tree safety inspections by a qualified arboriculturist. It would be good practice to monitor general tree health in the wood through 'Observe a tree'. This is a citizen science project is encouraging people to report signs of tree disease.

There is some standing deadwood, this is valuable resource to wildlife such as bats, fungi, cavity nesting birds and many invertebrates. Some of the ash trees and sycamore coppice stools have developed rot hollows, a veteran tree feature of great value in woodland. There is a group of small monolith tree trunks mid-way along the north boundary.


Where felling has taken place, there are several large tree trunks left on the ground, this is a good resource for invertebrates of decaying wood. It is a scarce at the north of the wood which could be remedied if there is any future tree surgery.

There are small areas of fallen dead wood mid-way along the east boundary and also close to Mill Hill. Where there is no conflict with woodland ground flora small brash and log piles should be retained. This is good habitat for hibernating hedgehogs as well as birds such as dunnock especially if brambles are allowed to cover the habitat piles.

Small hole nesting birds such as great and blue tits readily take to bird boxes. These could be put on some of the mature trees in the woodland.

Bat boxes can be used to supplement tree features which bats would naturally use to roost and breed in although bats can take longer to take up residence.

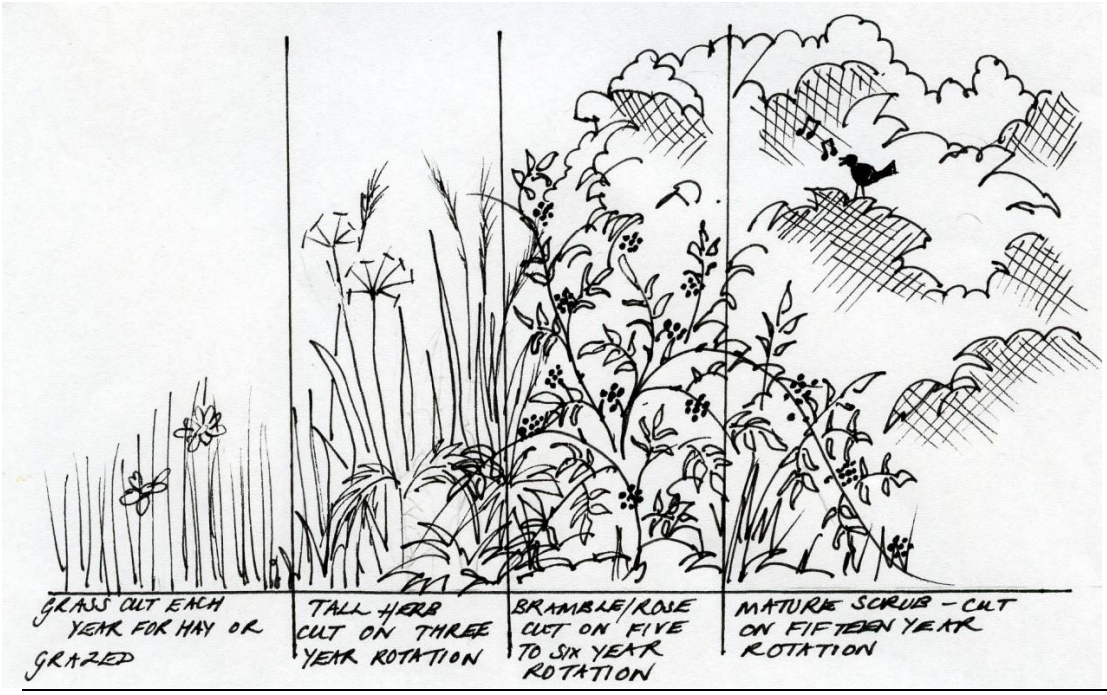
Ivy, *Hedera helix* is growing on a few trees, in one case it has been severed at the base. Ivy is a native plant and valuable for wildlife. It provides evergreen winter refuge and early nesting site, late winter berries and late summer sugar rich nectar for pollinating insects. It should be left on healthy trees and only cut back where there is a risk that it might topple standing deadwood.

Edge habitats, referred to as ecotones, in woodlands are valuable to many butterfly species. The white-letter hairstreak butterfly spends most of its time high up in the canopy of elms (*Ulmus* spp.), on which its larvae are wholly reliant as a food plant. It lays eggs on flower or leaf buds or the base of a twig in July-August and overwinters as an egg. Caterpillars feed on elm leaves and buds between late February – end of May, adults can be seen on the wing between late June- August. This species declined with the arrival of Dutch elm disease in the

1970's and as it forms small, localised colonies. Elm suckers usually become infected with Dutch Elm Disease at about 12 years, when it reaches 5-10m tall, so coppicing elm on a 10-year cycle will help retain elm on site. Note there are a few large elm trees in the wood which should be left if unaffected by disease. Field maple, ash and lime trees, all present in the wood or nearby are also believed to be important for this species.

The west boundary borders land above the Community Centre. The edge has a well-developed bramble and scrub layer this can be managed by cutting on a 5-6 year rotational basis. There is little tall herb layer, to accommodate this, the depth of the scrub layer can be extended outwards by a meter by simply reducing mowing frequency to rotationally cut once in 3 years along the outer edge of the mown area. The east boundary is adjacent to an arable field so options for grading the woodland edge are limited.

West boundary of Nucleus wood



On the whole there is little evidence of human impact, but at the time of a visit in October, there was worn path to the remains of a fire together with discarded litter. Whilst woodland play has known benefits, woodland ground flora is vulnerable to trampling especially in the spring and open fires damage soils and ground flora.

Broom Hill grassland
Area 0.27 ha

The grassland at Broom Hill was wooded on the map of 1884 but thereafter as open ground. Broom Hill grassland forms part of Broom Hill pocket park which was bought by the village in 1988. It lies outside the parish boundary, falling within Hemmingstone Parish.

This is a small area of steep south facing grassland, approximately 60 metres from at St Mary's churchyard with the woodland of Broom Hill forming the linking land in-between. Coddenham churchyard as one of the best examples of unimproved species rich grassland in Suffolk is a County Wildlife Site. The flora is influenced by the underlying chalk geology.

There is structural diversity with ant hills and a small amount of scattered scrub. There are small areas of bare ground from rabbit digging and an absence of non-native and undesirable plant species. Overall, the grassland is in good condition.

On the day of the visit in August 2021 the wildflowers looked stunning with abundant small scabious, *Scabiosa columbaria,* harebell and other meadow flowers. *Scabiosa columbaria* is a perennial herb, usually found on dry, relatively infertile soils and is a positive indicator species for lowland calcareous grassland.

In July 2022 *Scabiosa columbaria* was not recorded, there was less noticeable wildflowers and a shorter sward. It is difficult to be sure whether this is due to natural fluctuations perhaps exacerbated by the drought of 2022 or a change of management, maybe a pause in management during lockdown or the height or timing of the cut in 2021. There never-the-less was still a good variety of wildflowers recorded and much insect life was evident including the sighting of a great green bush cricket, *Tettigonia viridissima,* a species scarce for Suffolk.

It is understood that cutting has been by Norse followed by a volunteer raking up and using a wheeled strimmer. In autumn 2021, the Norse operative is believed to have been particularly thorough taking three short days to cut the meadow.

On a freely draining south facing site, and in line with the management of St Mary's churchyard which is in favourable condition, a single late summer, September cut and rake is advised. For this drought prone site, it seems plausible that a little lighter management than the through cutting in autumn 2021 may be beneficial. This will also help retain a varied sward height which creates microclimates for invertebrates rather than a sward of uniform height. Cut from the middle outwards so animals such as slow worms or lizards can escape.

It is important that arisings are removed to prevent a thatch forming and to reduce soil nutrient levels which favour more competitive weeds and grasses. If possible, cuttings can be left to dry for a couple of days before removing to allow any ripe seed to be shed and insects to make their escape.

It would be worth monitoring the wildflowers in May-July to get a better understanding of the impacts of management. If identification is a barrier, this could be done simply by counting the different number of wildflower species within a 1m square.

There is an area used for burning brash in a clearing as you enter Broom Hill wood, if not realistic to remove excess brash off site, minimise the impact by keeping the fire small and keeping to one location.

There are two barn owl boxes at the woodland edge. In one instance a tree branch needs cutting back to make a clear flightpath favoured by barn owls.

Photo above, Broom Hill meadow July 2022

Photo above, Broom Hill meadow August 2021

1.5.2 Key Species/Assemblages

The underlying geology of free draining lime-rich loamy soils can be associated with herb rich pastures. Nearby Manor Farm meadows and St Mary's churchyards are designated as County Wildlife Sites. The sites surveyed for this report together with Broom Hill woodland are important for habitat connectivity and the overall habitat mosaic adding resilience to the County Wildlife Sites. Small scabious found both at Broom Hill grassland, is a calcareous grassland indicator, the survey recorded Great Green bush cricket, *Tettigonia viridissima,* a scarce species for Suffolk, and SBIS records reveal small heath butterfly, there is also potential for further invertebrate interest. Whilst Broom Hill grassland is a small area, these supporting factors may warrant consideration as candidate County Wildlife Site, see resources.

1.5.3 Summary of Habitats and Key species

Botanical surveys

Date**:** 05/07/2022

Weather: Dry, scattered cloud, light winds

Surveyors: Cathy Smith, Graham Hart, Dorothy Casey, Meg Miller, Marie Lagerberg, Emma Buckmaster

Three Cocked Hat

Common Name	Scientific Name
Lime	*Tilia x europaea*
Pyramidal orchid	*Anacamptis pyramidalis*
Ragwort	*Senecio jacobaea*
Ivy	*Hedera helix*
Cow parsley	*Anthriscus sylvestris*
Wood avens	*Geum urbanum*
Rough chervil	*Chaerophyllum temulum*
Dandelion agg.	*Taraxacum officinale*
Hemlock	*Conium maculatum*
Violet sp	*Viola spp*
Knotgrass	*Polygonum aviculare*
Garlic mustard	*Alliaria petiolata*
Cock's foot	*Dactylis glomerata*
Yellow oat grass	*Trisetum flavescens*
Timothy	*Phleum pratense*
Additional wildflowers recorded April 2022	
Wood anemone	*Anemone nemerosa*
Meadow saxifrage	*Saxifraga granulataHolly*

Burial Ground

Common Name	Scientific Name
Oak	*Quercus robur*
Purging buckthorn	*Rhamnus cathartica*
Holly	*Ilex aquifolium*
Hawthorn	*Crataegus monogyna*
Hazel	*Corylus avellanais*
Common Lime	*Tilia x europaea*
Yew	*Taxus baccata*
Field rose	*Rosa arvensis*
Cotoneaster	*Cotoneaster horizontalis*
Pyramidal orchid	*Anacamptis pyramidalis*
Ragwort	*Senecio jacobaea*
Creeping thistle	*Cirsium arvense*

Ivy	*Hedera helix*
Cow parsley	*Anthriscus sylvestris*
Wood avens	*Geum urbanum*
Cowslip	*Primula veris*
Wood avens	*Geum urbanum*
Germander speedwell	*Veronica chamaedrys*
Field scabious	*Knautia arvensis*
Ox eye daisy	*Leucanthemum vulgare*
Moth mullien	*Verbascum blattaria*
Knapweed	*Centaurea nigra*
Ground ivy	*Glechoma hederacea*
Hogweed	*Heracleum sphondylium*
Ribwort plantain	*Plantago lanceolata*
Creeping thistle	*Cirsium arvense*
Common cats ear	*Hypochaeris radicata*
Creeping cinquefoil	*Potentilla reptans*
Meadow buttercup	*Ranunculus acris*
Dog's mercury	*Mercurialis perennis*
Herb robert	*Geranium robertianum*
Comfrey	*Symphytum officinale*
Yarrow	*Achillea millefolium*
Field bindweed	*Convolvulus arvensis*
Ground ivy	*Glechoma hederacea*
Nettle leaved bell-flower	*Campanula trachelium*
Mouse ear hawkweed	*Pilosella officinarum*
Self-heal	*Prunella vulgaris*
White clover	*Trifolium repens*
Red clover	*Trifolium pratense*
Common mouse ear	*Cerastium fontanum*
Lesser stitchwort	*Stellaria graminea*
Lady's bedstraw	*Galium verum*
Cock's foot	*Dactylis glomerata*
Yellow oat grass	*Trisetum flavescens*
Sweet vernal grass	*Anthoxanthum odoratum*
Wood brome	*Brachypodium sylvaticum*
Red fescue	*Festuca rubra*
Rough stalked meadow grass	*Poa trivialis*
Common bent	*Agrostis capillaris*

Common Name	Scientific Name
Meadow brown butterfly	*Maniola jurtina*

Mill Hill – Botanical survey

Common Name	Scientific Name
Holly	*Ilex aquifolium*
Oak	*Quercus robur*
Sycamore	*Acer pseudoplatanus*
Hazel	*Corylus avellana*
Birch	*Betula pendula*
Hawthorn	*Crataegus monogyna*
Ash	*Fraxinus excelsior*
Blackthorn	*Prunus spinosa*
Bluebell	*Hyacinthoides sp*
Nettle	*Urtica dioica*
Ivy	*Hedera helix*
Hedge mustard	*Sisybrium officinale*
Bramble	*Rubus fruticosus*
Cleavers	*Galium aparine*
Ground ivy	*Glechoma hederifolia*
Cow parsley	*Anthriscus sylvestris*
Wood avens	*Geum urbanum*
Hedge cransebill	*Geranium pyrenaicum*
Greater plantain	*Plantago major*
Yarrow	*Achillea millefolium*
Black horehound	*Ballota nigra*
Lady's bedstraw	*Galium verum*
White bryony	*Bryonia dioica*
Musk mallow	*Malva moschata*
Small hawks' beard	*Crepis capillaris*
Common sorrel	Rumex acetosa
Green alkanet	*Pentaglottis sempervirens*
Barren brome	*Anisantha sterilis*
Annual Meadow grass	*Poa annua*
False oat grass	*Arrhenatherum elatius*
Yorkshire fog	*Holcus lanatus*

Common Name	Scientific Name
Blackcap	*Sylvia atricapilla*
Dunnock	*Prunella modularis*

Nucleus Plantation – Botanical survey

Common Name	Scientific Name
Sycamore	*Acer pseudoplantatus*
Holly	*Ilex aquifolium*
Oak	*Quercus robur*
Ash	*Fraxinus excelsior*
Hornbeam	*Carpinus betulus*
Elm	*Ulmus sp*
Field Maple	*Acer campestre*
Spindle	*Euonymus europaeus*
Blackthorn	*Prunus spinosa*
Elder	*Sambucus nigra*
Crab apple	*Malus sylvestris*
Gooseberry	*Ribes uva-crispa sp*
Field rose	*Rosa arvensis*
Dewberry	*Rubus caesius*
Broom sp.	*Cytisus scoparius*
Bluebell	*Hyacinthoides sp*
Nettle	*Urtica dioica*
Ivy	*Hedera helix*
Greater stitchwort	*Rabelera holostea*
Garlic mustard	*Alliaria petiolata*
Bramble	*Rubus fruticosus*
Honeysuckle	*Lonicera periclymenum*
Chickweed	*Stellaria media*
Cleavers	*Galium aparine*
Wood dock	*Rumex sanguineus*
Dog's mercury	*Mercurialis perennis*
Ground ivy	*Glechoma hederifolia*
Cow parsely	*Anthriscus sylvestris*
Herb robert	*Geranium robertianum*
Lesser burdock	*Arctium minus*
Foxglove	*Digitalis purpurea*
Red campion	*Silene dioica*
Wood avens	*Geum urbanum*
Greater plantain	*Plantago major*
Upright hedge parsley	*Torilis japonica*
Green alkanet	*Pentaglottis sempervirens*
Meadow grass sp.	*Poa sp.*
Barren brome	*Anisantha sterilis*
Creeping bent grass	*Agrostis stolonifera*
False wood brome	*Brachypodium sylvaticum*
Cock's foot	*Dactylis glomerata*

Broom Hill grassland – Botanical survey

Common Name	Scientific Name
Hawthorn	*Crataegus monogyna*
Elder	*Sambucus nigra*
Dogwood	*Cornus sanguineus*
Bramble	*Rubus fruticosus*
Gorse	*Ulex europaeus*
Broom	*Cytisus scoparius*
Honeysuckle	*Lonicera periclymenum*
Cowslip	*Primula veris*
Wood avens	*Geum urbanum*
Nipplewort	*Lapsana communis*
Hogweed	*Heracleum sphondylium*
Ribwort plantain	*Plantago lanceolata*
Wild basil	*Clinopodium vulgare*
Yarrow	*Achillea millefolium*
Centaury	*Centaurium erythraea*
Sorrel	*Rumex acetosa*
Pyramidal orchid	*Anacamptis pyramidalis*
Wild strawberry	*Fragaria vesca*
Smooth tare	*Vicia tetrasperma*
Common vetch	*Vicia sativa*
Smooth hawk's beard	*Crepis capillaris*
Primrose	*Primula vulgaris*
Greater plantain	*Plantago major*
Lesser trefoil	*Trifolium dubium*
Ragwort	*Senecio jacobaea*
Perforate St John's wort	*Hypericum perforatum*
Barren Strawberry	*Potentilla sterilis*
Hedge bedstraw	*Galium mollugo*
Nettle	*Urtica dioica*
White campion	*Silene alba*
Dove's foot cranesbill	*Geranium molle*
Hedge cranesbill	*Geranium pyrenaicum*
Rough chervil	*Chaerophyllum temulum*
Mugwort	*Artemisia vulgaris*
Black horehound	*Ballota nigra*
Wood dock	*Rumex sanguineus*
Hedge garlic	*Alliaria petiolata*
Burdock	*Arctium lappaBi*
Field woodrush	*Luzuka campestris*
Prickly sedge	*Carex muricata*
Sterile brome	*Anisantha sterilis*

False wood brome	*Brachypodium sylvaticum*
Bracken	*Pteridium aquilinum*
Field bindweed	*Convolvulus arvensis*
White clover	*Trifolium repens*
Common mouse ear	*Cerastium fontanum*
Lesser stitchwort	*Stellaria graminea*
Greater stitchwort	*Stellaria holostea*
Birds foot trefoil	*Lotus corniculatus*
Cock's foot	*Dactylis glomerata*
Red fescue	*Festuca rubra*
False oat grass	*Arrhenatherum elatius*
Rye grass	*Lolium perenne*
Rough stalked meadow grass	*Poa trivialis*
Quaking grass	*Briza media*
Common bent	*Agrostis capillaris*
Records from 2021	
Common knapweed	*Centaurea nigra*
Small scabious	*Scabiosa columbaria*
Harebell	*Campanula rotundifolia*
Nettle leaved bellflower	*Campanula trachelium*

Common Name	Scientific Name
Great green bush cricket	*Tettigonia viridissima*
Ringlet butterfly	*Aphantopus hyperantus*
Meadow brown butterfly	*Maniola jurtina*

Protected species

Known within 1km of Coddenham Green Spaces, from Suffolk Biodiversity Records Priority Species.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Taxon group	Location
Great Crested Newt	*Triturus cristatus*	Amphibian	Within 1Km
Slow worm	*Anguis fragilis*	Reptile	Within 1Km
Western Barn Owl	*Tyto alba*	Bird, Schedule 1	Within 1Km
Brown Hare	*Lepus europaeus*	Mammal	Within 1Km
Brown long-eared bat	*Plecotus auritus*	Mammal	Within 1Km
White letter hairstreak	*Satyrium w-album*	Butterfly, schedule 5	Within 1Km

Other protected species of note in the locality that may use the site 2Km radius, first hand evidence.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Taxon group	Location
European Badger	*Meles meles*	Mammal	Within 2Km

Priority species
Known within 1Km of Coddenham green spaces (central point)

Common Name	Scientific Name	Taxon group	Location
Swift	*Apus apus*	Bird	Within 1Km
Common Toad	*Bufo bufo*	Amphibian	Within 1Km
House Sparrow	*Passer domesticus*	Bird	Within 1Km
Dunnock	*Prunella modularis*	Bird	Within 1Km
Spotted flycatcher	*Muscicapa striata*	Bird	Within 1Km
Starling	*Sturnus vulgaris*	Bird	Within 1Km
Harvest Mouse	*Micromys minutus*	Mammal	Within 1Km
West European Hedgehog	*Erinaceus europaeus*	Mammal	within 1km
Small Heath	*Coenonympha pamphilus*	Butterfly	Within 1Km
White admiral	*Limenitis camilla*	Butterfly	Within 1Km
Black Poplar	*Populus nigra subsp. betulifolia*	Tree	Within 1Km
Chalk Screw-moss	*Tortula vahliana*	Moss	Within 1Km

Full list of species search returns for 1km available in the appendix. 2km returns available by request.

1.5.3 Summary of Habitats and Key species

Features	**Importance**
Grassland	Proximity to CWS grassland. Potential for grassland enhancement. A valuable part of the habitat mosaic. Potential species associations include barn owl, starling, hedgehog, slow worm, harvest mouse, small heath butterfly and other invertebrates such as the Great green bush cricket.
Hedgerows	Landscape connectivity, BAP habitat, ecotone (between habitats) and important habitat buffering functionality (protecting grassland). Important for house sparrow and spotted flycatcher. Also valuable for hedgehog, brown hare and bat spp.
Broadleaved woodland	A habitat of principal importance under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006, BAP habitat. Important association with bat species, great crested newt, spotted flycatcher, white letter hair streak and white admiral butterflies.

Scrub	Valuable nesting and shelter habitat for range of species including several priority species, can provide an early nectar source.
White letter hair-streak butterfly	Protected species. Section 41 species. Priority species for conservation in Suffolk Wholly reliant on elm trees.
Bat species	Protected species, utilise grassland and woodland for foraging. Roost spaces can include rot holes and crevices in trees
Western Barn Owl	Protected species, hunts within grassland and along hedgerows
Brown Hare	Potential to use grassland for foraging, hedgerows and woodland edge for shelter.
Swift	Red Listed bird of Conservation Concern. Foraging potential across grassland– nesting under roof spaces in buildings in the village.
House sparrow	Use of hedgerow and scrub layer for foraging.
Dunnock	Use of hedgerow and scrub layer for nesting and foraging
Starling	Foraging potential in grassland, nesting opportunities in tree hollows.
Hedgehog	These sites provide important connectivity for this species within the village centre. Potential hibernation and breeding sites in woodland edge and scrub. Woodland edge and hedgerows as well as grassland offer foraging opportunities.

1.6 Cultural Features and evaluation

1.6.1 Landscape Character

The Suffolk Landscape Character Appraisal shows the centre of Coddenham as rolling estate farmlands with ancient estate claylands beyond.

Rolling estate farmland character type is found in the gently sloping valley sides of tributaries to the river Gipping. In Coddenham soils are chalky loams of the Swaffham Prior series, which are prone to drought. Rolling estate farmlands typically have components of woodland and parkland and were an important focus for early settlement.

Ancient estate claylands are typified by gently rolling clay plateaux, with ancient woodlands and parklands. This character type follows the indented edge of a central clay plateau where rivers (in this case tributaries of the river Gipping) have divided the plateau. Woodland species in this woodland include oak, ash, field maple, hornbeam and small-leaved lime.

1.6.2 Archaeological and Historical Features

Mill Hill is the site of a medieval post mill which was demolished in 1909. Coddenham heartland has several historic listed buildings and is designated as a Conservation area.

1.6.3 Land Use History

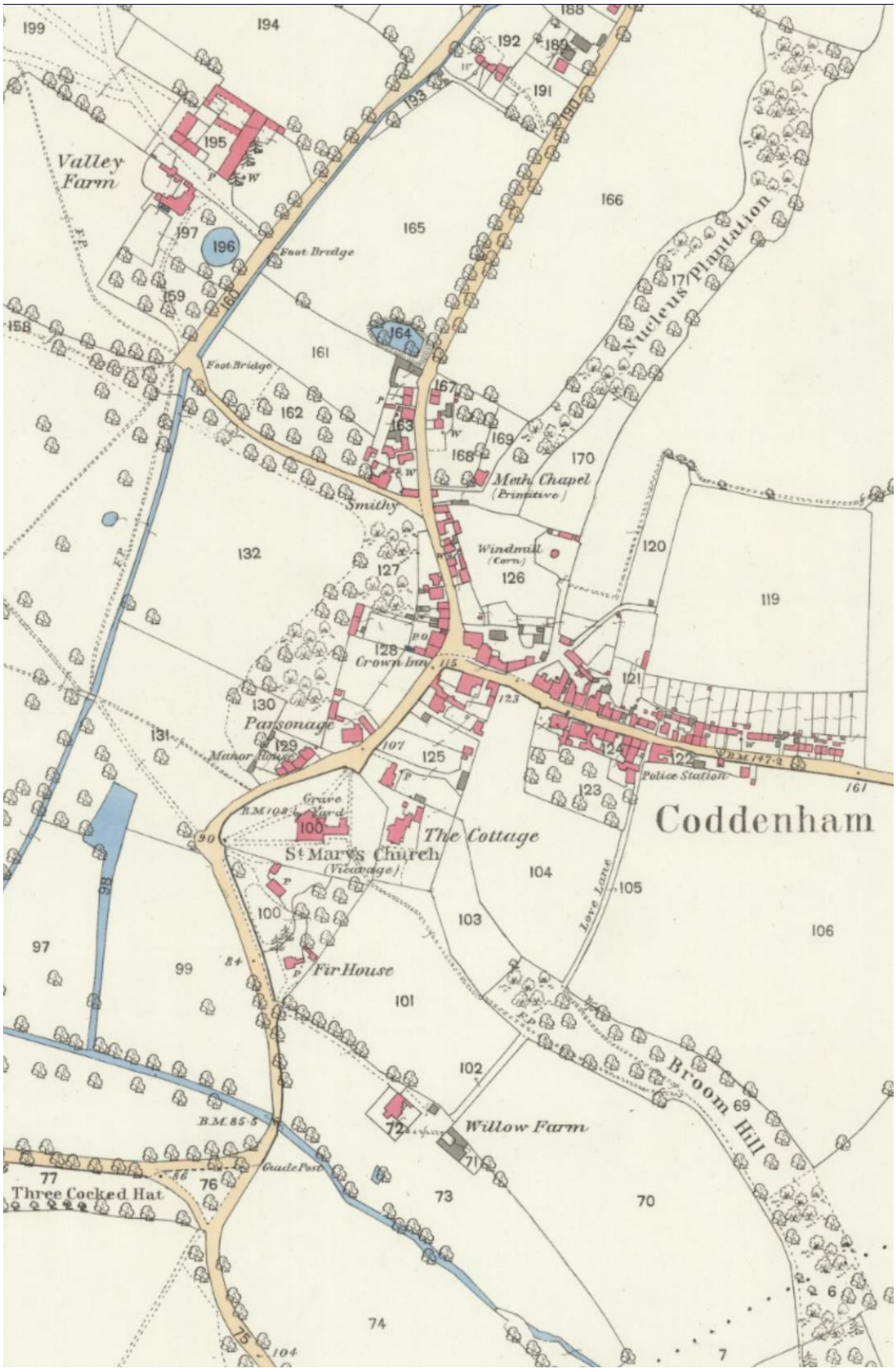
Three Cocked Hat is believed to be a fragment of a previous woodland, split off when the road to the A140 was diverted although this must pre-date the oldest map (1884) available on the National Library of Scotland.

The corn mill on Mill Hill is shown on the OS maps available until 1905 but is not indicated on the OS map of 1927 this would tie in with the date of demolition given as 1909 on Suffolk Heritage Explorer. The map of 1958 indicates the Inn which owned the land at that time. On all maps available the land is shown as open ground. It is understood that it was in the 2000 that the village bought the land and planted mixed native trees.

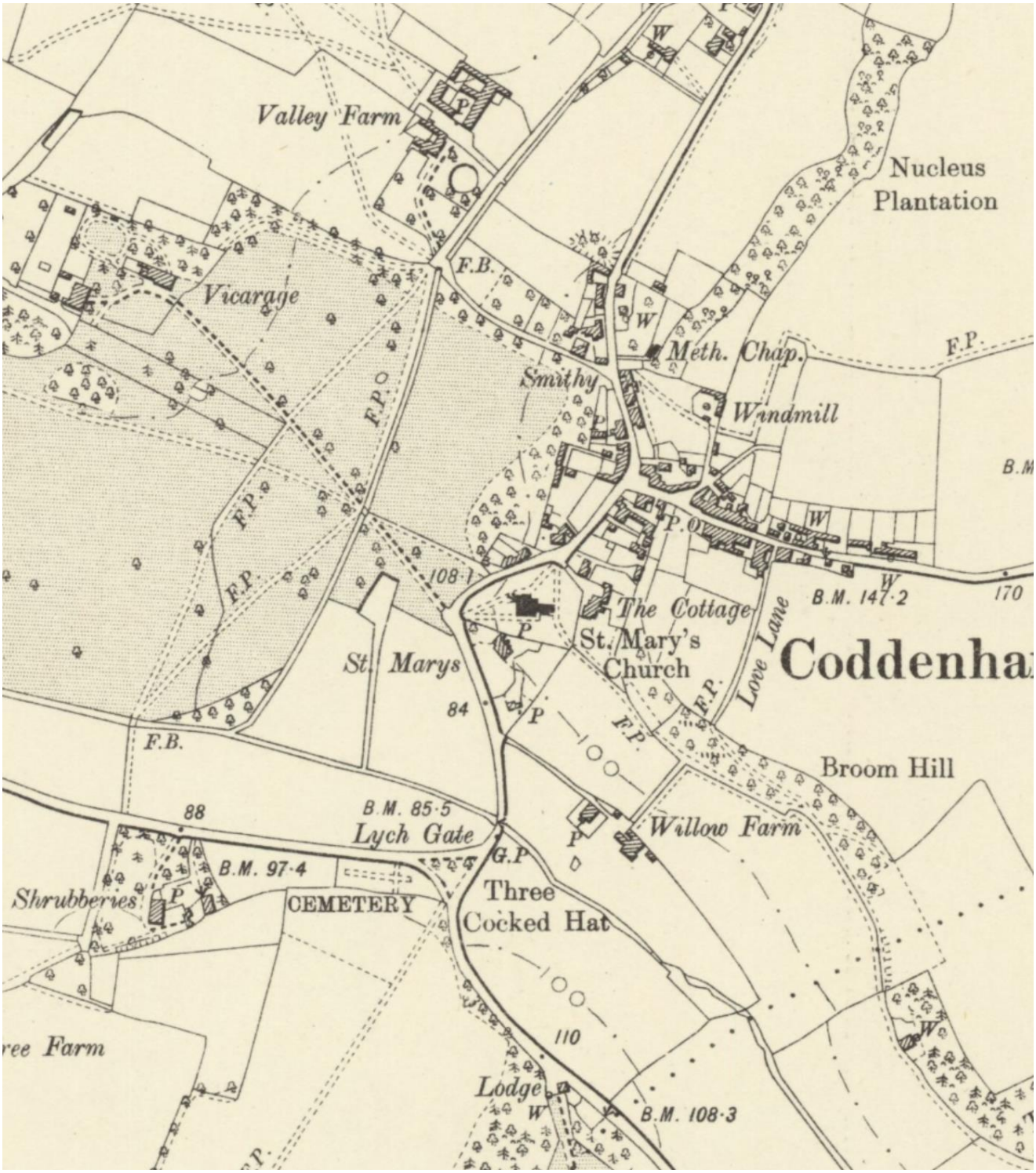
Nucleus Plantation is shown as wooded in its current extent as far back as the historic maps are available online, 1884.

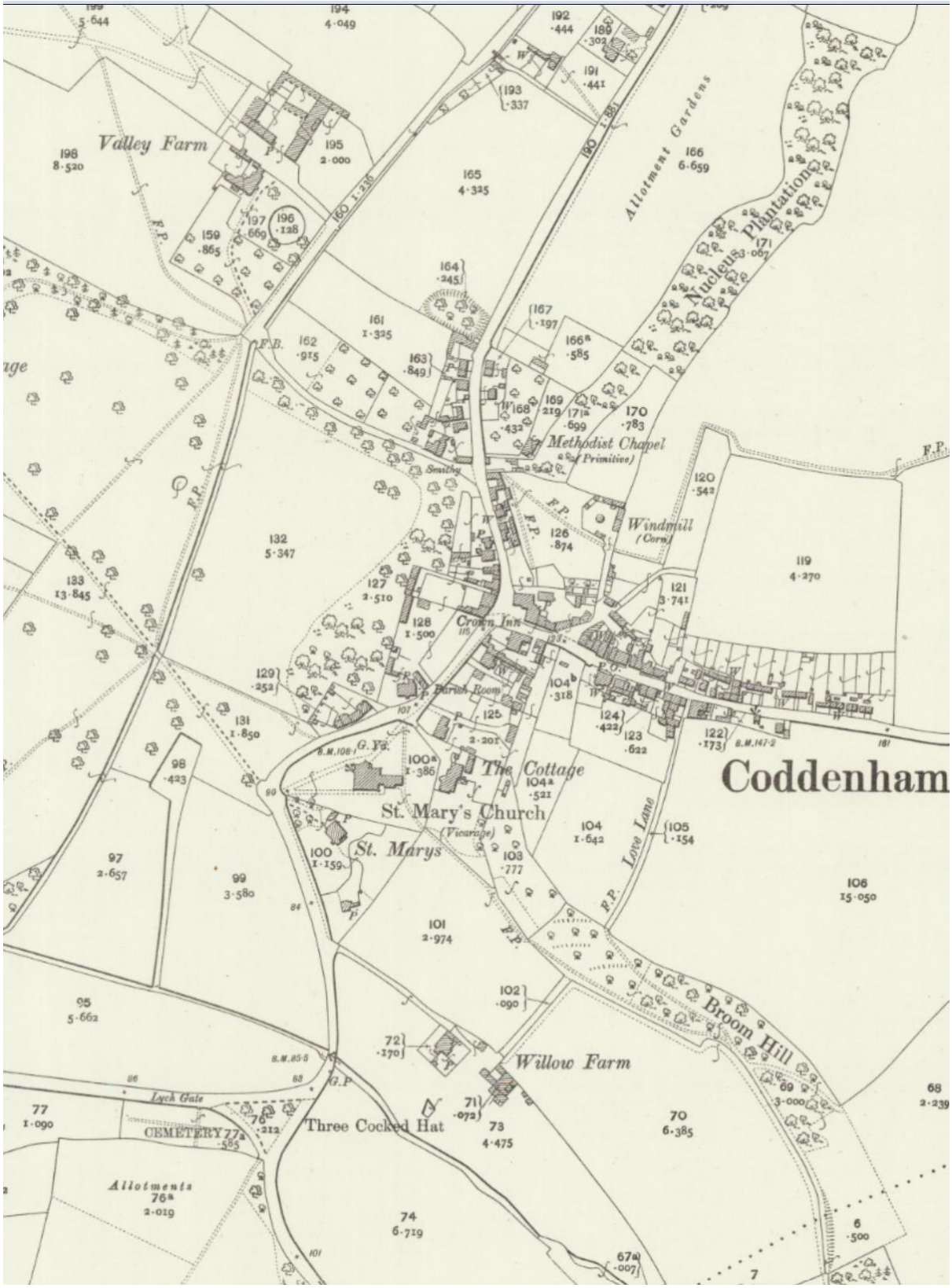
The grassland at Broom Hill was wooded on the map of 1884 but thereafter as open ground. Broom Hill grassland forms part of Broom Hill pocket park which was bought by the village in 1988 and celebrated in The Times newspaper as Britain’s first official pocket park.

The burial ground is not shown on maps earlier than 1904. Prior to this date it is indicated as open ground with a row of trees on the south boundary.



©National Library of Scotland 1884





© National Library of Scotland 1927

1.6.4 Socio-economic Use

The burial ground is open to new internments.

1.7 Access and visitor facilities and evaluation

1.7.1 Visitor Appeal and Suitability for Access

Three cocked hat is a landscape feature on the approach to the village from the south and west and may assist those crossing the road from the village centre to the burial ground.

Mill Hill, Nucleus plantation and Three Cocked Hat form a network of green spaces connected by rights of way and permissive paths which provide access to the natural environment for local people.

The burial ground is a place for quiet reflection, pedestrian access from the centre of the village is somewhat hazardous without a continuous verge or pavement.

1.7.2 Access Provision

Permissive paths are maintained to connect with public rights of way.

1.7.3 Visitor facilities

These green spaces are all a short walk from the village centre where there is a community shop, and occasional coffee mornings at the church. The Community Centre runs regular events and has free car parking for users of the facility including electric charging points.

There is a bench in Mill Hill with views over High Street, a bench within the burial ground and a bench above Broom Hill meadow with fine view of the grassland and surrounding countryside.

2.EVALUTION, FORMULATION OF VISION AND STE OBJECTIVES

2.1 Site Analysis			
Site Strengths	**Site Weaknesses**	**External Opportunities**	**External Challenges**
Three Cocked Hat Mature lime trees. Replacement planting has occurred. Proximity to County Wildlife Sites and Parkland priority habitat. **Burial Ground** Mature trees Proximity to County Wildlife Sites. **Mill Hill** Planted mixed native woodland. Contiguous with Nucleus plantation. **Nucleus plantation** Long standing broadleaved woodland – Priority habitat	Small site surrounded by roads Scrub and tree saplings establishment over time could impact grassland ground flora. Some large mature trees are non-native Lack of scrub layer – north end.	Potential negotiation with highways to reinstate land used for surfacing materials Green hay from local sites to enhance the grassland flora. Conservation management of east scrub boundary.	Air pollution, salt from road dressings and road debris. Incursion from road maintenance operations. Communicating conservation management of grassland to visitors and balancing use as a burial ground. Proximity to housing and the risk of non-native plant arrivals Potential tree loss from ash dieback Unknown deer browsing pressure

2.1 Site Analysis			
Site Strengths	**Site Weaknesses**	**External Opportunities**	**External Challenges**
Broom Hill Proximity to County Wildlife Site unimproved species rich grassland and deciduous woodland. Steep south facing bank with invertebrate and wildflower interest	Small area	Candidate CWS	on scrub establishment. Proximity to arable field. Technically partially in Hemmingstone Parish.

2.2 The Vision

Collectively these sites together with Broom Hill woodland, Manor Farm Meadows and St Mary's churchyard are a valuable mosaic of wildlife habitats.

The Parish Council sites are a community asset which are valued by the local community. They are at least in part within a special scenic landscape area, framing the centre of the village and reflecting the wider landscape character of rolling estate farmland. These open spaces provide cultural services such as space for reflection and quiet recreation. Wildlife encounters provide interest and the enjoyment to residents close to where they live.

Ongoing good management will be required for the sites to reach their biodiversity potential, to build climate resilience and to secure the long-term future of this network of wildlife habitats.

2.3 Future Projects and Management Proposals

Where you have floristically rich grassland, the arisings can be a valuable resource to enhance nearby grasslands. Enhancing meadows through the use of green hay is preferrable to seeding as the plants will be of local provenance which increases the chance of colonisation, and a greater number of flower species are contained.

Subject to permission from the PCC, there is a good possibility for enhancement of the burial ground using green hay from St Mary's churchyard. For a greater collection of wildflower seeds a small area would need to be cut mid to late July, this is earlier than the usual September cut.

To be successful, the technique of spreading green hay the receptor site must be ready to receive the hay when the donor site is cut. This means cut and scarified to create gaps in the sward. In the instance of the burial ground, creeping thistle will first need controlling. Green hay cannot be stored for more than a few hours before it heats up which reduces seed viability. Once collected the green hay must be immediately transported to and spread on the receptor site. The hay is left for between 1-3 three weeks to allow the seeds to fall.

ACTION PLAN

To bring the grassland in burial ground into conservation management and to continue to monitor the effects of management on the grassland at Broom Hill.

To manage the woodlands and edge habitats for biodiversity. Monitor ground flora and tree health in particular ash die back.

Engage with the community to promote sustainable, low impact use of the sites, help with management and monitoring and to communicate the role their gardens play in supporting priority species such as hedgehogs.

4 CALENDER OF ACTIONS

Action	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Notes
All Sites													
Tree Safety checks									■				Qualified arboriculturist
Three Cocked Hat													
Monitor newly planted trees				■	■	■	■						Replant 1 – 2 if necessary
Mow every 2-3 years, two thirds every year									■				If necessary
Burial Ground													
Mow & rake									■				Leave an edge uncut every year, rotate between areas
Green hay							■	■					From St Mary's churchyard
Remove cotoneaster										■	■	■	
Reduce tree saplings										■	■	■	Could be offered to tree nursery
Hedge	■	■								■	■	■	Trim biennially
Nucleus plantation & Mill Hill													
Remove tree guards	■	■	■								■	■	
Communication re bonfires		■		■							■	■	Once may be sufficient, time with school holidays
Rotationally coppice elm	■	■								■	■	■	When over 5m tall or every 10 years.
Put up bird and bat boxes	■	■											Clean out & check bird boxes annually. (leave bat boxes)
Edge habitat management									■	■			5-6 year rotational cut of bramble. 3 year rotational mow of long grass
Broom Hill meadow													
Annual cut and rake									■				Retain structural diversity
Low impact removal of brash	■	■									■	■	Potential fire sled
Barn owl box	■	■								■	■	■	Clear obstructing branch

Key Projects in Plan Period	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Relevant Year(s) and funding stream(s)
Investigate road encroachment													

5 MONITORING AND SURVEYS

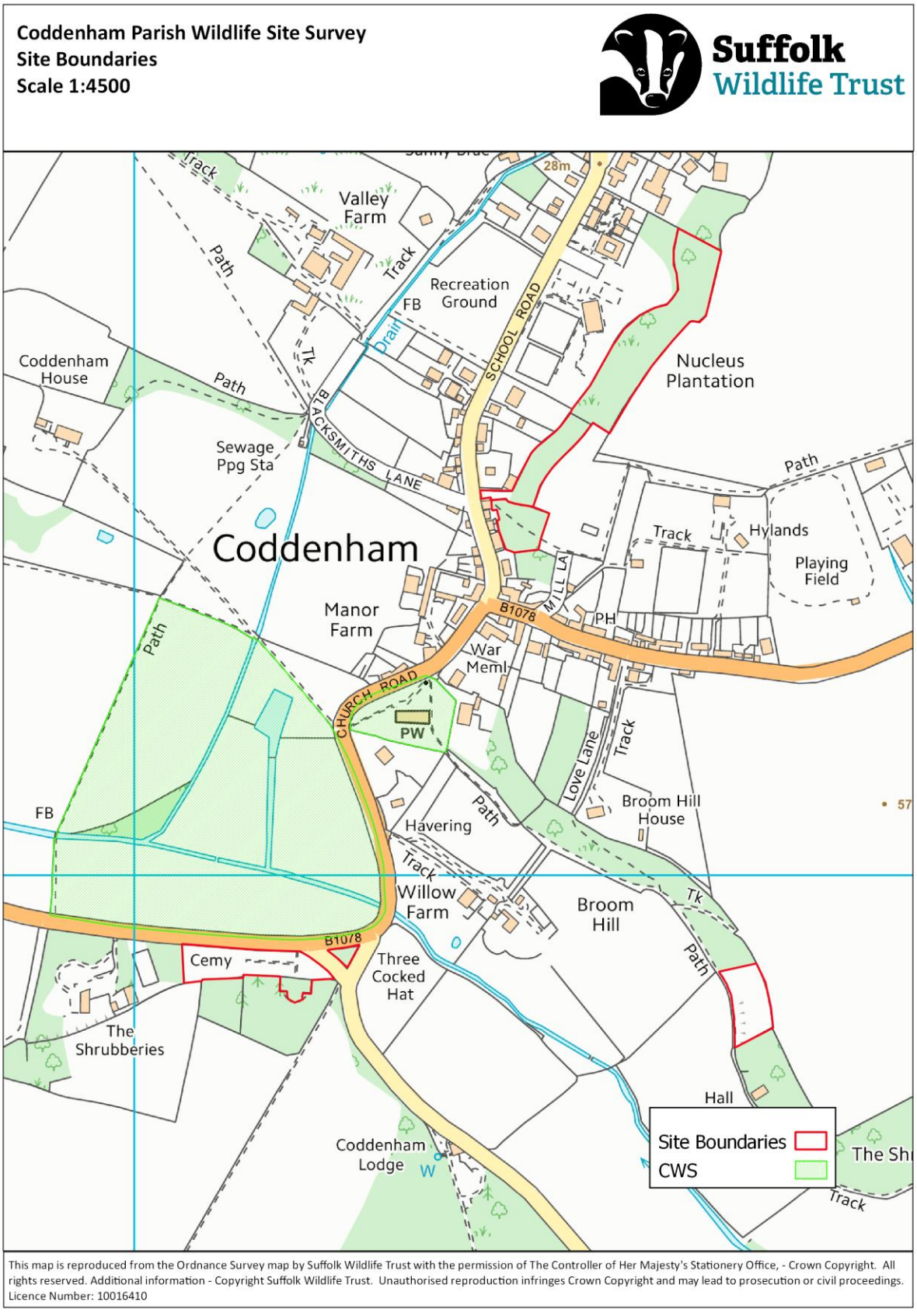
5.1 Monitoring

Feature Number	Features	Monitoring requirements	Time of year	Repeat Frequency
All	Trees	Tree safety Tree health		Annual
1	Encroachment	Photograph	Any	Annual
2	Sapling re-growth & non-native plants	Observation	Autumn	Annual
3	Human impact	Observation	School holidays	Ongoing
3	Holly - extent	Observation, fixed point photography	Winter	Annual
2 & 5	Meadow flora	Number of forb species stable or increasing. Forb: grass ratio stable or increasing. Injurious weeds and non-native invasive plants no more than 5%. Small scabious, stable or increasing.	May-July	Annual

5.2. Surveys

Survey Type	Year	Months	Repeat Frequency
Wildflower	2023	May-July	Annually in meadows
Wildflower	2023	March-May	Annually in woodlands

6 MAP



7 RESOURCES

Coddenham Parish Conservation Area
Introduction (babergh.gov.uk)

Guidance Open Access Land
www.gov.uk/guidance/open-access-land-management-rights-and-responsibilities

Babergh & Mid Suffolk Interactive Mapping service
Cadcorp SIS WebMap 9

Habitat data, MAGIC Magic Map Application (defra.gov.uk)
Magic Map Application (defra.gov.uk)

National Library of Scotland National Library of Scotland - Map Images (nls.uk)
National Library of Scotland - Map Images (nls.uk)

Suffolk Heritage Explorer
Home - Suffolk Heritage Explorer

Soilscapes
Soilscapes soil types viewer - National Soil Resources Institute. Cranfield University (landis.org.uk)

Suffolk Biological Records Office
front | Suffolk Biodiversity Information Service (suffolkbis.org.uk)

County Wildlife Site Proposal
Proposing a County Wildlife Site | Suffolk Biodiversity Information Service (suffolkbis.org.uk)

Bat Conservation Trust
Roosts in trees - Bat roosts - Bat Conservation Trust (bats.org.uk)

Tree health citizen science project
An early warning system for tree health and tree disease - Observatree

Common Sense risk management of Trees, National Tree Safety Group.
FCMS024.pdf (ntsgroup.org.uk)

Forest research tree diseases
pests and diseases resources and advice - Forest Research

Ash die back
Main Title (publishing.service.gov.uk)
Tree-Council-Ash-dieback-tree-owners-guide-FINAL.pdf (treecouncil.org.uk)

Wildlife recording
Suffolk Biological Recording Online | Suffolk Biodiversity Information Service (suffolkbis.org.uk)
iRecord | Manage and share your wildlife records (brc.ac.uk)
Setting up an iRecord activities for local groups - YouTube

iNaturalist

A Community for Naturalists · iNaturalist United Kingdom

Bird box monitoring

Nest Record Scheme | BTO - British Trust for Ornithology