Northamptonshire Biodiversity Records Centre

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Our Reference: 25-078

12th March 2025

Dear Lorraine,

Re: Ecological data search, Little Addington Parish

Thank you for approaching the NBRC with this enquiry. All the information that you have requested is contained within this report. This includes a map of the search area, statutory and non-statutory site details a list of protected and notable species records and a list of schedule 9 species records from your specified search area. For definitions of these sites please refer to the document at the end of this report.

Statutory sites

The following statutory site is located within your specified search area. This site has been labelled on the accompanying map.

Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SSSI (SPA/RAMSAR)

Further details, such as SSSI status and citations, can be accessed through the Natural England website using the following links;

https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/
https://jncc.gov.uk/jncc-assets/SPA-N2K/UK9020296.pdf
https://jncc.gov.uk/jncc-assets/RIS/UK11083.pdf

Non-statutory sites

Following the Natural Environment White Paper (2011), twelve Nature Improvement Areas (NIA's) were designated and granted government funding in February 2012. They should aim to achieve significant and demonstrable enhancements of the ecological network over large areas by undertaking the actions prioritised in the review.

Further information regarding the Nene Valley Nature Improvement Area can be found on the Wildlife Trust BCN website using the following link: https://www.wildlifebcn.org/sites/default/files/2019-01/Nene-Valley-A4-16PP-MAR-2015-web.pdf

The following non-statutory sites are located within your specified search area. These sites have been labelled on the accompanying map.

Site Name	Status
Great Addington Gravel Pits	Local Wildlife Site/NIA/SSSI/SPA
Stanwick Lakes	Local Wildlife Site/NIA/SSSI/SPA

Descriptions for these non-statutory sites are attached to this report.

We do not currently hold any information for the following non-statutory sites located within your specified search area.

Site Name	Status
898	Potential Wildlife Site (Category 1)/NIA
902	Potential Wildlife Site (Category 1)/NIA
940	Potential Wildlife Site (Category 1)

Potential Wildlife Site Category 1 definition is; sites never fully surveyed and assessed against LWS criteria.

For full definitions of Northamptonshire non-statutory sites please refer to the section "Sites of wildlife and geological importance in Northamptonshire" below.

Species records

Please note that we do not provide data for bats. This information can be obtained directly from the Northants Bat Group/County Recorder for Mammals using the contact details already provided.

18361 protected and notable species records and 1089 Schedule 9 species records fall within your specified search boundaries. A list of these species records is attached to this report.

This report contains sensitive information about the location of protected species and has been provided in confidence to assist you in your work. Because of this OS Grid References must be withheld from documents destined for public consumption.

I would remind you that these data are limited spatially and temporally and I would strongly recommend that follow-up surveys be carried out to support the baseline provided. I would also like to draw your attention to our terms and conditions once again.

Northamptonshire Biodiversity Records Centre
Terms and conditions

1. All rights to the data are reserved and ownership is not transferred with it. Data held by the Northamptonshire Biodiversity Record Centre (NBRC) remains the intellectual property, and in the ownership and copyright, of the originator(s).

2. Whilst every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of all the data provided, the NBRC can accept no responsibility for any costs, damages or liabilities whatsoever arising from the use of the data or for any omissions or inaccuracies within it.

3. The data held by the NBRC may not be comprehensive and the absence of data, in response to a data search, does not imply that a species, important habitat or designation does not exist within that search area. Recorded presence does not imply current presence and the date for all records will be provided.

4. Data is provided solely for the use of the enquirer (and their client) and only for the purpose(s) specified by the enquirer at the time of its request. Data must not be reused or stored beyond the life of the project for which they were acquired.

5. Data may be used as required in support of the planning process but OS grid references must be removed from documents destined for public consumption due to sensitive data concerning protected species.

6. The NBRC will provide access to data subject to any conditions imposed on its use by the General Data Protection Regulation 2018, Data Protection Act, Environmental Information Regulations 2004, Copyright and Intellectual Property Right Law or the data owner. Restrictions on the release of information may therefore apply.

7. The NBRC will only release un-interpreted data and will not usually comment upon its significance.

8. The NBRC will release as soon as possible, and within twenty working days of receipt, the request unless an extension of time is necessary. In this event the enquirer will be informed within ten working days.

9. All charges made by the NBRC relate to the provision of administration, data handling and search services.

10. Personal details submitted will be kept securely for the time needed to process your request and for up to 7 years, as required for HMRC. Following this time, these records will be responsibly destroyed. If you would like to know more about how we manage your data please view our privacy policy.

As agreed, the total charge for the time taken to extract this information and put together the report is £145 plus VAT (£174 including VAT). An invoice will be sent under different cover from our Cambridgeshire office.

Should you have any enquiries please feel free to contact me at the above address.

Yours sincerely,

James Skinner
Biodiversity Data Officer

Sites of wildlife and geological importance in Northamptonshire

Statutory Sites:

Special Protected Area (SPA)
SPAs are strictly protected sites classified in accordance with Article 4 of the EC Directive on the conservation of wild birds (79/409/EEC), the Birds Directive.

Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
The SSSI series provide statutory protection for the best examples of the natural environment. SSSI were originally notified under the National Park and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 and they were renotified under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Improved provisions for their protection and management were introduced in the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

National Nature Reserve (NNR)
NNRs are declared by the statutory country conservation agency (English Nature) under the National Park and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. NNR contain the most important examples of natural and semi-natural ecosystems within Great Britain. NNR conserve the habitats within them and offer opportunities for research.

Local Nature Reserve (LNR)
LNRs are declared under the National Park and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 by local authorities. LNR are declared and managed for nature conservation, education and research or opportunities for public access to nature.

Non-statutory sites:

Nature Improvement Area (NIA)
Following the Natural Environment White Paper (2011), twelve NIAs were designated and granted government funding in February 2012. They should aim to achieve significant and demonstrable enhancements of the ecological network over large areas by undertaking the actions prioritised in the review:

- Improving the management of existing wildlife sites
- Increasing the size of existing wildlife sites
- Increasing the number of wildlife sites
- Improving connectivity between sites
- Creating wildlife corridors

Local Wildlife Site (LWS)
Local Wildlife Sites are areas of land which are rich in wildlife and are the equivalent to Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation. Criteria for selection take in threats and declines in certain species, national priorities and local distinctiveness. The LWS system is managed, in partnership, by The Wildlife Trust, local authorities, statutory nature conservation agencies, local naturalists and landowners. Local Wildlife Sites were previously known as County Wildlife Site (CWS) in the past.

Protected Wildflower Verge (PWV)
Protected Wildflower Verges are roadside verges rich in wildlife and are crucial to the success of the local Biodiversity Action Plan. Criteria for selection take in threats and declines in certain species, national priorities and local distinctiveness. The PWV system is managed, in partnership, by The Wildlife Trust, local authorities, statutory nature conservation agencies, local naturalists and landowners.

Pocket Park
The Pocket Park vision is to develop easy public access to the countryside, bringing the countryside to the people and providing opportunities for enjoyment and understanding of 'Countryside on the Doorstep'. Over the past 18 years, the county council has worked in partnership with many organisations and other local authorities to help create 80 Pocket Parks. For more information on this scheme please refer to the website at www.pocketparks.com.

Local Geological Site (LGS)
Local Geological Sites (LGS) are the most important places for geology and geomorphology outside the statutory SSSI. The sites are designated using locally developed criteria and are assessed by the local geological group.

Potential Local Geological Site (PLGS)
Potential Local Geological Sites (PLGS) are sites that were identified and considered to be important geological exposures. These sites have not yet been formally notified as Local Geological Sites by the local geological group. Currently these sites can only be located by a grid reference, as they do not have a formal site boundary and there is no descriptive survey information.

Potential Wildlife Site (PWS)
Potential Wildlife Sites (PWS) are sites that are either known or thought to be of higher biodiversity value than the average countryside but have not been confirmed to be of Local Wildlife Site (LWS) standard.

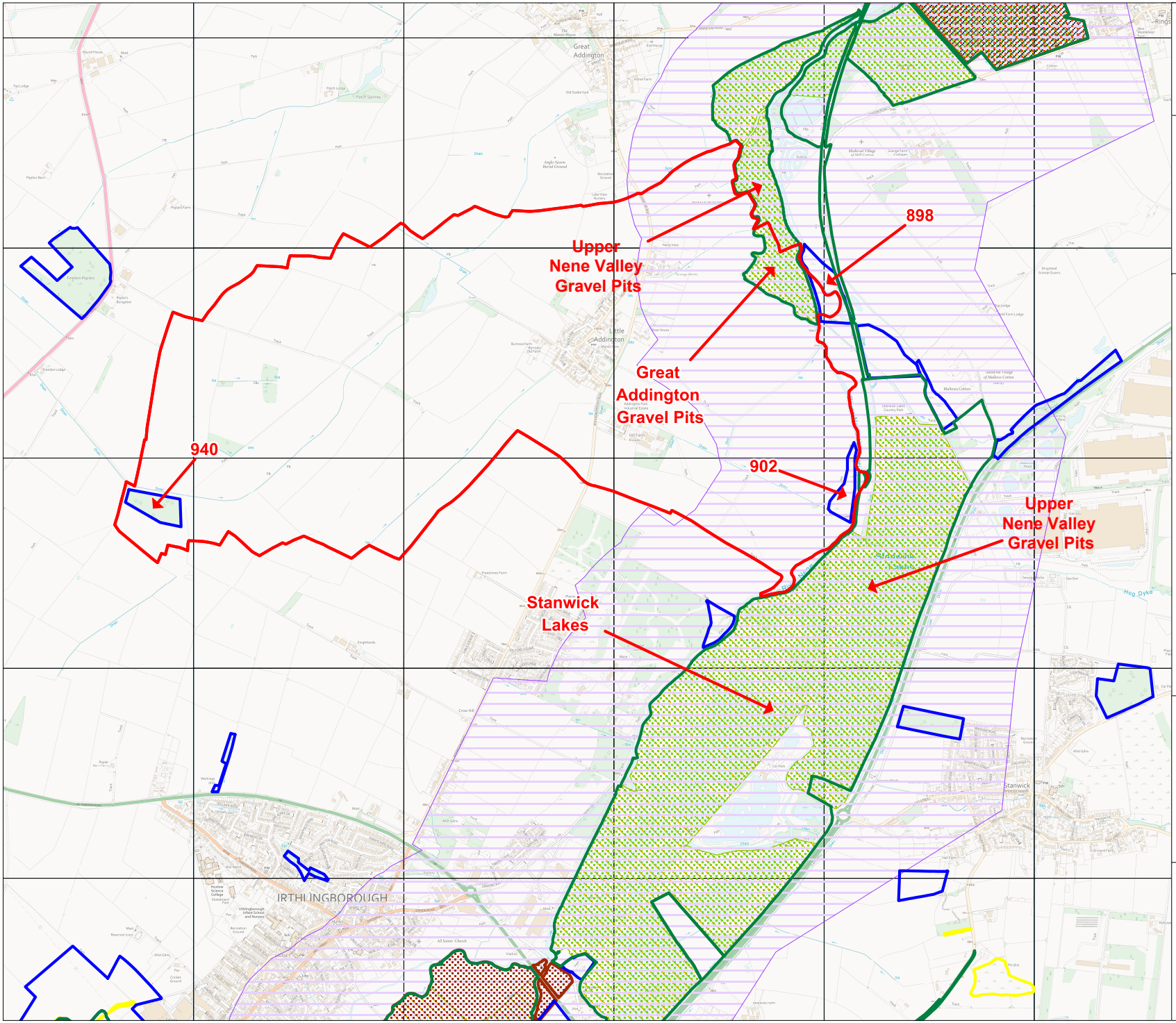
PWS can belong to one of three categories: 1. Sites never fully surveyed and assessed against LWS criteria. 2. Sites surveyed and assessed against the LWS criteria but not currently reaching the standard. 3. Sites previously recognised as LWS but not currently meeting the latest LWS criteria.

PWS were originally outlined using a combination of local knowledge and looking at aerial photographs for evidence of biodiverse habitats. All PWS are likely to be important for the County's biodiversity, either in their own right, or through buffering

and linking current LWS and contributing to Green Infrastructure. Many of these sites could potentially be of LWS standard once surveyed.

Important Invertebrate Areas (IIAs)

IAAs are nationally or internationally significant places for the conservation of invertebrates and the habitats upon which they rely. IIAs have been selected where they support a nationally significant assemblage of species or support a single globally endangered, European endangered or national Critically Endangered species



NBRC
Northamptonshire Biodiversity Records Centre

Area around Little Addington Parish

- Local Geological Site
- Site of Special Scientific Interest
- Local Nature Reserve
- Protected Wildflower Verge
- Pocket Park
- Special Protection Area
- Nature Improvement Area
- Local Wildlife Site
- Potential Wildlife Site
- Wildlife Trust Reserve

N

1km

Published 12/03/2025

Site Name: **Great Addington Gravel Pits**

Site Code: E747

Status: LWS

Other Designations: Site of Special Scientific Interest, Special Protection Area (SPA), Nene Valley NIA

Grid Reference: SP967744

Area (ha): 28.6

District: East Northamptonshire

Site History:
20/12/2006 LWS
03/04/2009 LWS

Habitats present
Broad Habitat: Grassland, Wetland
BAP Habitat: Eutrophic Standing Waters, Floodplain Grazing Marsh

Reason for Designation:
Two large gravel pits surrounded by grassland. The site qualifies as a Local Wildlife Site with with 16 wetland indicator species recorded.

Site Description:

18/09/2008
Northern Pit

The North Pit had a narrow, informal path around it and there were a very small number of fishing platforms at its edge. This gravel pit seemed much less disturbed than many of the others in this area. Plants on the path included abundant Perennial Rye-grass Lolium perenne, White Clover Trifolium repens and Creeping Buttercup Ranunculus repens, as well as particularly abundant Greater Plantain Plantago major, and locally frequent Red Bartsia Odontites vernus.

Away from the paths there was tall, apparently unmanaged vegetation with MG1 False Oat-grass Arrhenatherum elatius grassland abundant in drier parts, as well as locally abundant Common Nettle Urtica dioica. MG9 Holcus lanatus-Deschampsia cespitosa grassland occupied the damper areas, where Common Fleabane Pulicaria dysenterica was locally frequent. The presence of locally frequent Bristly Ox-tongue Picris echioides, and other plants typical of disturbed ground, formed a link to the past vegetation from which these communities were developing. In these areas there were often a few planted trees and shrubs, including Horse Chestnut Aesculus hippocastanum, Sycamore Acer campestre and Dogwood Cornus sanguineus; but there was also locally abundant small Hawthorn Crataegus monogyna, which may well have colonised naturally. Also present were a few small plantations of young trees, which included Alder Alnus glutinosa, Italian Alder Alnus incana, Sycamore and Crack Willow Salix fragilis.

This gravel pit was not heavily shaded overall, but tall White Willow Salix alba trees were frequent, along with often quite large Grey Sallow Salix cinerea and Osier S. viminalis. There was a mostly quite narrow fringe of emergent swamp vegetation around the lake, being patchy due to the varying shade and sometimes widening to about 2 metres or so, where there were shallow shelves running out into the pit.

The presence of plants such as greater plantain below water in some of these places though, suggested that the water level was a little higher than normal. Swamp plants here included locally abundant Bulrush Typha latifolia and Reed Sweet-grass Glyceria maxima, much less frequent Branched Bur-reed Sparganium erectum, very locally frequent Lesser Pond-sedge Carex acutiformis

and more scattered Schoenoplectus tabernaemontanii. In more open parts where the swamp vegetation had been reduced, such as at the occasional fishing platform or where wave action had eroded the bank, there were patches of water-margin vegetation, including Fool's Water Cress Apium nodiflorum and Water Forget-me-not Myosotis scorpioides, as well as occasional Nodding Bur-marigold Bidens cernua and locally frequent Great Yellow Cress Rorippa amphibia. On the terrestrial boundary of the swamp vegetation there was occasional to locally abundant Brown Sedge Carex disticha, False Fox Sedge C. otrubae, Amphibious Bistort Persicaria amphibia, Meadowsweet Filipendula ulmaria, Hard Rush Juncus inflexus and particularly frequent Wild Angelica Angelica sylvestris.

The island near the south-western corner was low-lying and had abundant sedge and other wetland plants such as Gypsywort Lycopus europaeus and Water Mint Mentha aquatica below small alder and willow trees/shrubs. In the shelter of the island, between it and the shore, there was a large patch of Fringed Water-lily Nymphaea alba and locally abundant Ivy-leaved Duckweed Lemna trisulca, while, between the northern end of the island and the mainland, there was a quite large stand of Branched Bur-reed. Apart from the Lemna mentioned above, the lake was overwhelmingly dominated by Nuttall's Waterweed Elodea nuttallii, with frequently abundant algae, and no other aquatic plants were found.

In the vicinity of the island there was only a very narrow strip of ground between the water's edge and the arable field to the west, but moving toward the north-east this strip of ground widened and was occupied by areas of MG1 grassland with patches of rarer MG9 grassland. There were scattered small trees of alder and small hawthorn scrub here and a mixture of plants from dry and wet grassland, including Yarrow Achillea millefolium, Common Fleabane Pulicaria dysenterica, Perennial Sow-thistle Sonchus arvensis, Marsh Woundwort Stachys palustris, Hoary Ragwort Senecio erucifolius, Brown Sedge Carex disticha and Tufted Vetch Vicia cracca.

At the north-eastern corner of the lake there was a quite large stand of Typha latifolia with a damp hollow dominated by Glyceria maxima with abundant Reed Canary-grass Phalaris arundinacea at the edges that extended out from the pit into the grassland. Common Reed Phragmites australis was also very locally abundant in this area, with the drier grassland having plants such as Hemlock Conium maculatum, Mugwort Artemisia vulgaris and a small patch of Greater Burdock Arctium lappa. The willow shrubs here became more abundant toward the north-east to form a small, dense stand of Grey Sallow Salix cinerea woodland with occasional taller Salix fragilis, below which there was abundant bare ground and a scattering of Phragmites.

On the south-eastern side of the lake, the strip of ground between it and the river held some similar grassland to that on the north-western side but was often much wetter. Overall, the grassland here alternated between MG1 grassland on the drier ground, MG9 on the damper, with Glyceria maxima occasionally spreading out from the edge of the lake into the most wet parts, and with these areas of tall grassland being occasionally punctuated by patches of much shorter turf with locally dominant Creeping Bent Agrostis stolonifera or Marsh Foxtail Alopecurus geniculatus. A little Water Chickweed Myosoton aquaticum was found here, and Brooklime Veronica beccabunga was locally abundant in wetter areas. Some of the drier parts here were being invaded by Hawthorn and there was a small plantation of taller trees, which included Ash Fraxinus excelsior, Sessile Oak Quercus robur, alder and White Poplar Populus alba.

Southern Pit

South Pit had many similarities with the above, but also some significant differences, the main one being that the water in this lake was very clear and there was no algae, and no aquatic plants were found. This lake had abundant fishing platforms, especially on the western side, with a dirt track allowing vehicle access, and with frequent mown areas for parking. The mown grasslands and paths held abundant Annual Meadow-grass Poa annua, Perennial Rye-grass Lolium perenne, Knotweed Polygonum aviculare and White Clover Trifolium repens but, perhaps rather oddly, Greater Plantain Plantago major, which was abundant all the way round the North Pit, was here restricted to rare damper areas, the ground around the pit here being much drier than at North Pit.

In places a hawthorn hedge had been planted beside the track and there were still some patches of taller grassland, mostly MG1 with abundant False Oat-grass Arrhenatherum elatius, even more

abundant Cock's Foot Dactylis glomerata Cow Parsley Anthriscus sylvestris, Upright Hedge Parsley Torilis japonica and Hogweed Heracleum sphondylium were also often abundant indicating no regular management and probably no cutting for some time, probably several years at least. There were also areas dominated by nettle and some dense Bramble Rubus fruticosus. Very occasionally the grassland was a little richer though, with a shorter turf from rabbit grazing, where there was locally more abundant Red Fescue Festuca rubra, Yarrow Achillea millefolium, Cat's-ear Hypochoeris radicata, Smooth Hawk's-Beard Crepis capillaris and a little Common Knapweed Centaurea nigra.

South Pit was also much more open than North Pit, the fewer trees and shrubs here tending to be much smaller than those to the north. In addition, Crack Willow Salix fragilis was the most abundant tall tree here. At the northern end of the lake, a drain took overflow water from the lake to the river and this had a strong flow at the time of survey. This drain was dominated by Glyceria maxima.

The lake here had a mostly narrow fringe of swamp vegetation, which was frequently interrupted by fishing platforms. Typha latifolia swamp was most abundant, with locally abundant Glyceria maxima and Carex riparia. The swamp understorey and water-margin vegetation was much as that of North Pit, with locally frequent Rorippa amphibia and particularly abundant Angelica sylvestris No Bidens was found here though.

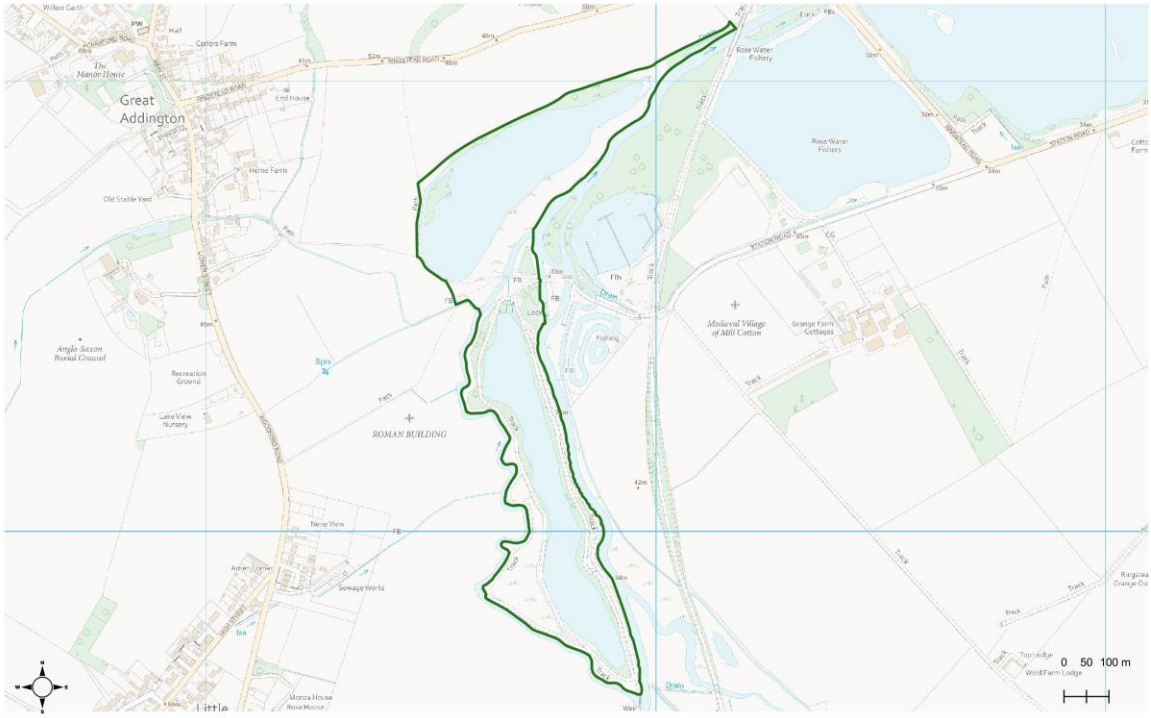
At the southern end of the pit there was an area of scattered small hawthorn and osier in a tall MG1 sward. Then, on the eastern side, the vehicle track and path were on higher ground with a fairly steep bank running down to the water's edge, which made this side of the pit less popular for fishing. There were several small plantations of young trees here, the species present including Horse Chestnut Aesculus hippocastanum, Dogwood Cornus sanguineus and Alder Alnus glutinosa.

River

South Pit had branches of the river Nene on both sides, these coming together in the north, near the southern end of North Pit. The river was mostly wide and deep with a slow flow. There was a narrow swamp fringe with Glyceria maxima most abundant with rarer Sparganium erectum and Brooklime Veronica beccabunga occasional at more open edges. Common Nettle Urtica dioica was abundant on the banks and there was occasional Purple Loosestrife Lythrum salicaria, Marsh Woundwort Stachys palustris, Water Chickweed Myosoton aquaticum and Perennial Sow-thistle Sonchus arvensis. Arrowhead Sagittaria sagittifolia was locally frequent in the channel, with rare Spiked Water Milfoil Myriophyllum spicatum

Near the northern end of this site, river flow was a little faster and there was locally abundant Common Reed Phragmites australis swamp at the edges.

Map:



Site Name: **Stanwick Lakes**

Site Code: E1330

Status: LWS

Other Designations: Site of Special Scientific Interest, Special Protection Area (SPA), Nene Valley NIA

Grid Reference: SP967721

Area (ha): 237.7

District: East Northamptonshire

Site History:
04/11/2009 LWS

Habitats present
Broad Habitat: Grassland, Wetland, Woodland
BAP Habitat: Eutrophic Standing Waters, Floodplain Grazing Marsh, Lowland Fen, Lowland Meadow, Ponds, Reedbed, Wet Woodland

Reason for Designation:
A large country park style reserve with a series of gravel pit lakes and surrounding grassland. Stanwick lakes provides an excellent mosiac of wetland habitats for wildlife. It easily qualifies as an LWS under the grassland, fen and wet woodland criteria.

Site Description:

05/08/2009
A large wetland complex, managed in part for wildlife and consisting of a good mosaic of habitats inlcuding wet woodland, reed bed, species rich grassland and marsh.

The Stanwicks Lakes LWS was created in 2009 by merging a number of former sites. Full previous site descriptions can be found in the survey reports for each of the 6 LWS and 4 PWS that formerly made up the site. The 2009 survey covered the north part of the site, known as Mallows Cotton Lakes and Stanwick Weir Lake, from SP964712 in the west and SP968714 in the east. For this survey the main lakes are distinguished by a letter with some of the smaller lakes nearby given an alpha-numeric designation.

Most of the area surveyed consisted of flooded gravel pits with one branch of the river Nene running along the western edge, and a second branch cutting across the site along the northern edge of Lake F (SP965716). Aquatic vegetation was rather disappointing in the larger lakes, tending to be of more interest in some of the smaller bodies of water. Fringes of swamp vegetation were often present at the lake edges, but it was mostly rather narrow because of steep edges to the pits. Some of the nicer areas of swamp were found around the smaller lakes.

The large Lake F (SP965716) differed from most of the others. It was only accessible to the public along its eastern edge, which was heavily screened by willow and other trees and shrubs. This formed a refuge for birds and other wildlife. It was grazed around its edges by cattle and geese and had muddy and poached shores where there was no scrub or trees and only occasional scraps of swamp vegetation. It was very good for birds though, especially waders. The smaller Lake G (SP964714) to the south had a similar open character. Sometimes fen vegetation occurred here where the water-table was close to the surface, and at the interface between swamp and drier grasslands, sometimes this was replaced by rush-pasture. A larger area of fen where Common Reed Phragmites australis was dominant occurred in Area E (SP970723).

Between the lakes there was abundant bare and disturbed ground where new plant communities were developing. Often here it was possible to see ruderal and pioneer species growing alongside plants of fen and swamp.

Plant Communities

It was not possible to accurately map all the plant communities of the site in the time allowed, but the distribution of the main NVC communities of the site followed the same basic pattern, and the maps give a rough overview of this.

Aquatic vegetation

The lakes are reported to have had abundant stonewort species in the past, but frequent sampling of the vegetation in the larger lakes during this survey produced only abundant Nuttall's Pondweed Elodea nuttallii. This was in contrast to the river Nene along the northern edge of Lake F, where a single sample produced River Water-crowfoot Ranunculus fluitans, Rigid Hornwort Ceratophyllum demersum, Unbranched Bur-reed Sparganium emersum, a Stonewort Callitriche species and Yellow Water-lily Nuphar lutea. The smaller lakes were a little better for aquatic and swamp plants, with Broad-leaved Pondweed Potamogeton natans being found in some.

Swamp

Vegetation fringing the larger lakes consisted mainly of S4 Common Reed swamp, indicating a fairly stable water-level, with lesser amounts of S5 Reed Sweet-grass swamp, S6 Greater Pond-sedge swamp, S12 Reedmace swamp and S14 Branched Bur-reed swamp. The smaller lakes in Area D (SP974729) also had some small patches of S20 Grey Clubrush swamp. The swamp fringe was mostly rather narrow, due to the steepness of the edges of the pits. Swamp was often suppressed or absent due to scrub and/or taller trees at the lake edges, or it was just difficult to check because of dense scrub.

On most of the edges of Lakes F and G, where there was grazing by cattle, emergent swamp was largely replaced by patchy water margin/swamp understorey plants. Swamp was relatively more abundant in the smaller lakes, where Reed Sweet-grass Glyceria maxima and Reedmace Typha latifolia swamp were frequent, and where a few other swamp communities were also present. Alongside the river Nene as it flowed across this site there was also locally frequent Flowering Rush Butomus umbellatus and Indian Balsam Impatiens glandulifera, two plants found in none of the gravel pits. Where river dredgings had been dumped on the banks though, Nettle was locally dominant.

Fen

Designated as fen rather than swamp because summer water-level was at or below ground level, most fen areas held a jumble of plants from various fen and wetland habitats. The most recognisable community was M27 Meadowsweet-Wild Angelica mire. Smaller areas of S28 Reed Canary-grass tall-herb-fen, which usually marks out the high winter water levels, were present as well as fragments of other vegetation, such as OV26, the Epilobium hirsutum community.

Woodland

Trees and shrubs at the lake edges were mainly White willow Salix alba, Grey Willow S. cinerea, locally abundant Osier S. viminalis, and much less frequent Goat Willow S. caprea. In Area E (SP971725) there was a larger area of wet woodland that has been classified as W1 Grey Willow-Marsh Bedstraw woodland, although the ground wasn't particularly wet at the time of survey and the scrub was so dense that there was virtually no vegetation on the ground.

Around the area surveyed there were frequent blocks of planted dry woodland as well as some more natural areas of dry woodland and scrub.

Grasslands

The main grassland communities on the surveyed areas were developing examples of MG1a, the Red Fescue sub-community of False Oat-grass grassland; MG1b, the Nettle sub-community of the same vegetation; MG9, Yorkshire Fog-Tufted Hair-grass and MG10b, the Hard Rush sub-community of Yorkshire Fog-Soft Rush rush-pasture. MG1a usually graded to MG9a, the Rough Meadow-grass sub-community through MG9b, the False Oat-grass sub-community. Much smaller amounts of MG13 Creeping Bent-Marsh Fox-tail grassland and fragments of OV28 Creeping Bent-Creeping Buttercup and OV29 Marsh Foxtail-Marsh Yellow-cress vegetation were also present.

Areas of amenity grassland on the surveyed areas ranged from the closely and regularly mown to the taller and occasionally mown. A good guide to the frequency of mowing was the coarseness of the sward. Most frequently mown grassland here came close to an MG6 Crested Dog's-tail-Perennial Rye-grass sward with only occasional False Oat-grass and Cock's-foot and no tall umbellifers. In less frequently mown swards False Oat-grass and Cock's-foot were much more abundant, while in the coarsest swards there was abundant Cow Parsley and Hogweed. Amenity grasslands here usually sat somewhere between MG6 and MG1a.

The plant communities identified on the surveyed areas were not the best examples of their type, but they were developing communities and the NVC classifications give a good indication of what the composition of the various communities might become over time with the correct management. Of course, plant communities often changed from one to another more gradually than can be shown on a map.

Scattered around the surveyed areas, but especially alongside the main north-south path on the site, there were frequent areas of short vegetation with locally abundant Yarrow Achillea millefolium, Creeping Cinquefoil Potentilla reptans, Black Medick Medicago lupulina, Greater Plantain Plantago major, Ribwort Plantain P. lanceolata, Broad-leaved Dock Rumex obtusifolius, Red Clover Trifolium pratense, White Clover T. repens and others. It was in this vegetation that Lucerne Medicago sativa, was found.

The principal areas of swamp, fen, wet woodland and dry woodland are shown on the maps, together with the main grassland types.

Extra information

For ease of description, the site was split into Areas, largely based on the distribution of the main lakes and paths.

Lake A Area

On the ground dense scrub and old drains made it difficult to be sure whether Lake A (SP971718) and Lake A1 (SP970715) were two separate lakes or a single larger one. Along the eastern edge of Lake A there was very locally abundant Cyperus Sedge Carex Pseudocyperus.

Lake C Area

In Lake C1 (SP974725) there was abundant Broad-leaved Pondweed Potamogeton natans.

Lake C2 (SP975725) was alongside the A45, to the east of Lake C (SP973723). There was a small hollow here, which may have once been a pond. At the time of this survey there was abundant short MG13 Agrostis stolonifera-Alopecurus geniculatus grassland with occasional Creeping Jenny Lysimachia nummularia and Creeping Buttercup Ranunculus repens. Among this were a few stands of taller Hard Rush Juncus inflexus, Wild Angelica Angelica sylvestris, Water Mint Mentha aquatica and False fox-sedge Carex otrubae. To the north of this hollow, there was a small pond, perhaps a remnant of the larger one shown on the base-map. This was occupied by Common Reed Phragmites australis and Reedmace Typha latifolia. Below the taller plants there was locally abundant Gypsywort Lycopus europaeus and Water Forget-me-not Myosotis scorpioides.

Lake D Area (SP974729)

In Lake D1 (SP973731)there was abundant Reed Sweet-grass Glyceria maxima swamp with locally frequent Common Spike-rush Eleocharis palustris. There was some open water with abundant Broad-leaved Pondweed.

In Lake D2 (SP973729) there was wide Glyceria maxima swamp with a little less Grey Club-rush swamp Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani. Locally abundant were Water Mint Mentha aquatica, Common Spike-rush Eleocharis palustris and Wood Small-reed Calamagrostis epigejos. The little open water was dominated by Broad-leaved Pondweed.

In Lake D3 (SP973728) there was a patchwork of Reed Sweet-grass Glyceria maxima swamp, Reedmace Typha latifolia swamp and Grey Club-rush swamp.

In Field D (SP973730) there was a mosaic of MG9, MG10b, MG13 and OV28, grazed by geese closer to the lake edge. Tussocky grassland was locally abundant.

Lake E Area

Lake E1 (SP969720) and the small pool to the south-east were heavily shaded by trees and dense scrub and held no aquatic or emergent vegetation.

To the north of Lake E1 there was an area of wet willow woodland which might be considered a species-poor example of W1Salix cinerea-Galium palustre woodland. The ground below was mostly bare, although there was occasional non-flowering sedge, at least some of which was Lesser Pond-sedge Carex acutiformis. Nearer to the edges plants such as Water Mint Mentha aquatica, Wood Small-reed Calamagrostis epigejos and Gypsywort Lycopus europaeus were found.

To the north-west of that woodland there was a quite large area of Common Reed Phragmites australis. There was a good population of Reed Warblers here and to avoid disturbance it was not entered. At the edges there was occasional Water Mint, Hemp-nettle Galeopsis tetrahit and Soft Rush Juncus effusus. This area was classified as fen rather than swamp because the summer water-level at least was below the level of the substrate. From what could be seen of the vegetation though, its composition was closer to species-poor swamp than species-rich fen.

Near the extreme western end of Lake E (SP970730 - error), between the path and the river, there was a small area of coarse vegetation with locally abundant Borage Borago officinalis, Hogweed Heracleum sphondylium, Mugwort Artemisia vulgaris and Field Pennycress Thlaspi arvense.

To the north of Lake E, Area E (SP971725) held a mixed tall vegetation, most of which can also been classified as fen. Near the edges of the path on the eastern edge there was drier MG1a Arrhenatherum elatius grassland, while further from the paths there was a mixture of plants from M27 Filipendula ulmaria-Angelica sylvestris mire as well as plants from other wetland communities, including OV26 Epilobium hirsutum Vegetation. There were also some small areas of much shorter MG13 grassland.

Lake F Area

Swamp vegetation here was only at all abundant on the eastern edge of Lake F (SP965716), where there was also abundant scrub and tall trees. Most of the rest of the lake was grazed by cattle and had open edges with only fragments of swamp vegetation.

Away from the lake edge there was a fairly well developed grassland community, especially in Area F (SP961715) in the south-west corner, with locally frequent Common Knapweed Centaurea nigra, Hoary Ragwort Senecio erucifolius, Tufted Vetch Vicia cracca, Meadow Barley Hordeum secalinum, Creeping Jenny Lysimachia nummularia and others. There were also frequent poached areas though, mostly toward the north, with abundant bare ground and locally abundant Redshank Persicaria maculosa, Creeping Cinquefoil Potentilla reptans and Water Pepper Persicaria hydropiper. Other patches of short vegetation had areas of abundant Creeping Bent Agrostis stolonifera, Silverweed Potentilla anserina and Creeping buttercup Ranunculus repens, much of which could be classified as NVC community OV28, the Agrostis stolonifera-Ranunculus repens community.

With its occasional to very locally frequent Common Knapweed, Meadow Vetchling Lathyrus pratensis and Great Burnet Sanguisorba officinalis, grassland in Area F, near the south-west corner of this lake was some of the richest on the site. Over time it could develop into a good example MG4 Alopecurus pratensis-Sanguisorba officinalis grassland, although that type of grassland develops best when treated as hay meadow rather than pasture. Beside the main river Nene in the north-west there was very rare Pennyroyal Mentha pulegium.

Lake G Area (SP964714)

Also grazed by cattle in the west, the edge of the lake held occasional swamp and more frequent water margin and other water plants, including False Fox-sedge Carex otrubae, Common Spike-rush Eleocharis palustris, Water Mint, Gypsywort Lycopus europaeus, Toad Rush Juncus bufonius, Greater Bird's-foot Trefoil Lotus uliginosus and several others. On higher ground alongside the green lane that marked the boundary of the CWS, there was locally abundant Glaucous sedge.

Indicator Species

The aquatic and swamp vegetation of the lakes held nine plants from the Fen, Swamp and Marsh indicator list, including the strong indicators Cyperus Sedge Carex pseudocyperus and Grey Clubrush. Also found in this habitat were three plants from the Neutral Grassland indicator list and a further twenty plants from the list of Submerged, Floating and Emergent Plant list.

In the dry grassland over the surveyed areas three neutral grassland indicator species were found, including the strong indicators Spiked Sedge Carex spicata and Great Burnet Sanguisorba officinalis. A further seven neutral to calcareous indicators were recorded, and these included the strong indicators Quaking Grass Briza media and Glaucous Sedge Carex flacca. None of these was at all abundant overall at this time, but they do provide a good source for future spread.

In the wet grassland of the surveyed areas eleven plants from the Fen, Swamp and Marsh indicator list were recorded, along with a further nine neutral grassland indicators, including the strong indicators Spiked Sedge Carex spicata and Great Burnet Sanguisorba officinalis. A further five plants from the Submerged, Floating and Emergent plant list were also found in the wet grassland.

From the areas classified as fen, thirteen plants from the Fen, Swamp and Marsh indicator list were recorded, along with a further six indicators from the Neutral indicator list, including the strong indicator Greater Burnet Sanguisorba officinalis, and nine more species from the Submerged, Floating and Emergent plant list.

The surveyed areas were good for birds, a good variety of which were using all the lakes. The open character of Lake F was especially valuable for wading birds, ranging at the time of this survey from Common Sandpipers to Little Egrets. Cetti's Warblers were frequently heard singing from the swamp and fen edge.

Related Site Information

Stanwick New Lake, Historical
Mallows Cotton Lakes, Historical
Stanwick New Marsh, Historical
Stanwick Old Lakes, Historical
Stanwick Osier Bed, Historical
Irthlingborough Old Pond, Historical
Stanwick Weir Lake, Historical
Marsh Lane Ponds, Historical
Mallows Cotton South Field, Historical
Mallows Cotton West Field, Historical

Stanwick New Lake (SP966713)

27/06/2006
This is a new lake created a year before the survey was carried out. The marginal vegetation was therefore very scarce and not yet established. However there was a good number of wetland species recorded which indicates that it is probably going to become a very good wetland habitat. There are two small islands in the middle of the lake which could provide a good breeding site for birds. A Grey Heron (Ardea cinerea) was seen on one of the island at the time of survey and a pair of Mute Swan (Cygnus olor) was swimming around with signets.

The banks of the lake were dominated by Scentless May-weed (Tripleurospermum inodorum) and Crested Dog's-tail (Cynosurus cristatus), with occasional Welted Thistle (Carduus crispus), Perforate St John's Wort (Hypericum perforatum), Bristly Oxtongue (Picris echioides), Hemlock (Conium maculatum) and Musk Thistle (Carduus nutans). Amongst the marginal vegetation species such as Gipsywort (Lycopus europaeus), Water Forget-me-not (Myosotis scorpioides), Bittersweet (Solanum dulcamara), Hard Rush (Juncus inflexus), Great Willowherb (Epilobium hirsutum), Tufted Hair Grass (Deschampsia cespitosa), Colt's Foot (Tussilago farfara), Celery-leaved Buttercup (Ranunculus sceleratus), Water Mint (Mentha aquatica) and Marsh Horsetail (Equisetum palustre) were recorded.

There is a small linear pond on the south east of the disused railway line which was created before the lake. The marginal vegetation is more established and also includes Common Reedmace (Typha latifolia), Jointed Rush (Juncus articulatus), Water Plantain (Alisma plantago-aquatica), and Hairy Sedge (Carex hirta). The water was dominated by Nutall's Waterweed (Elodea nuttallii), and Chara vulgaris papillata.

A good number of Common Blue Damselflies (Enallagma cyathigerum) and a few Black-tailed Skimmer (Orthetrum cancellatum) were seen flying on the water edge. The water itself was very clear with very few algae growth. The aquatic vegetation was rich and interesting including Lesser Pondweed (Potamogeton pusillus), Fennel Pondweed (Potamogeton pectinatus), Spike Water-milfoil (Myriophyllum spicatum), and four species of stoneworts three of which are very rare in the county: Chara curta, Chara globularis and Chara aspera. There was also very few Nutall's Waterweed (Elodea nuttallii) but Chara vulgaris papillata was by far dominant.

This site is fairly new but is already promising, with 51 species recorded in total. The marginal vegetation is not established yet but there is already three species from the Fen, Swamp and Marsh Indicator Species list and fifteen native submerged, floating and emergent plants. The most interesting feature lies with the aquatic vegetation: four species of stonewort were recorded including three species rare in Northamptonshire, Fragile Stonewort (Chara globularis), Rough Stonewort (Chara aspera) and Lesser Bearded Stonewort (Chara curta).

Mallows Cotton Lakes (SP972724)
01/10/1996
A newly-formed complex of flooded gravel pits which have started to colonize with a variety of willows and emergent vegetation. The lakes form part of a habitat corridor along the Nene Valley which includes other nearby gravel pit lakes. They offer a valuable habitat for breeding and wintering birds, and also support increasingly good dragonfly populations. As with the other lakes in the area, this site is likely to improve in wildlife value as the plant communities increase in abundance. Several kestrels were seen hunting in the rough grassland next to the water in 1996. All of these lakes are becoming popular fishing lakes. Parts of the dismantled railway line still have hedges and/or ditches which may be of some use as a habitat corridor between the lakes.

Stanwick New Marsh (SP960710)
01/01/1996
This stretch of the old Stanwick/Irthlingborough Disused Railway Line now has a broad expanse of marshy, flooded land to the northwest - the New Marsh - and another County Wildlife Site, Stanwick Lakes, to the southeast. In the summer the New Marsh is cattle grazed; it becomes completely flooded in winter. The railway line has a tall mixed hedge on either side with unusual colonizing vegetation on the disturbed edges to the track, whilst the marsh provides excellent dragonfly and damselfly habitat, extending the habitat value of the adjacent River Nene. This shallow area complements the deeper surrounding pits and is likely to gradually change, probably increasing in

wildlife value, as willows encroach onto the site. To the north of the marsh, the land is in the process of regrading with the aim of wildlife and quiet recreation; a new, linear lake has been constructed with a small island, but no vegetation has had time to colonize it yet. A surprisingly good but probably very vulnerable site.

07/06/2006
The site is broadly linear and is delimited by the river Nene on the North West and by the dismantled railway line on the South East. There is a ditch running across the middle (North - South) which divides the site into two parts. The site is very open without any mature trees apart from a few scattered small willows. Most of the site was covered by two lakes: one on each side of the ditch. Some areas especially along the river Nene were not accessible for surveying.

There is a marsh area at the far North of the site with a good variety a emergent and riparian plants including Yellow Iris (Iris pseudacorus), Water Mint (Mentha aquatica), Gipsywort (Lycopus europaeus), Water Forget-me-not (Myosotis scorpioides), Reed sweeet Grass (Glyceria maxima), Reed Canary-Grass (Phalaris arundinacea), Hairy Sedge (Carex hirta), False Fox-sedge (Carex otrubae), Common Spike Rush (Eleocharis palustris) and Hard Rush (Juncus inflexus). Some areas of shallow water were drying out at the time of survey but supported a Stonewort species (Chara vulgaris).

The lake at the North part of the site was shallow in some areas with abundant Amphibious Bistort (Persicaria amphibian). A Great Crested Grebe (Podiceps cristatus) was seen nesting on those shallow parts. The margins were dominated by some Reed Sweet-grass (Glyceria maxima) and Tufted Hair Grass (Deschampsia cespitosa) with some more uncommon Tufted Forget-me-not (Myosotis laxa) and Marsh Bedstraw (Galium palustre subsp. elongatum).

The Lake at the South part of the site was deeper with more species rich margins including Flowering Rush (Butomus umbellatus), Water Plantain (Alisma plantago-aquatica), Water Mint (Mentha aquatica), Jointed Rush (Juncus articulatus), Angelica (Angelica sylvestris) and the less common Grey Club-rush (Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani). The area between the lake and the ditch also supported Pink-flowered Water-speedwell (Veronica catenata) and a good number of Grass Vetchling (Lathyrus nissolia).

At the far South of the site there is another marsh area ending by a wet meadow dominated by Meadow Foxtail (Alopecurus pratensis), False Oat Grass (Arrhenatherum elatius), Hard Rush (Juncus inflexus), Reed Canary-grass (Phalaris arundinacea), Creeping Thistle (Cirsium arvense) and Nettles (Urtica Dioica).

The water was very clear and the submerged species for both lakes were very similar, dominated by Nuttall's Waterweed (Elodea nuttallii) and some algae. Lesser pondweed (Potamogeton pusillus) was also very frequent.

The area along the dismantled railway line just before the path was a lot drier and supported a variety of more ruderal species including Small-flowered Crane's-bill (Geranium pusillum), Wall Speedwell (Veronica arvensis), Scentless Mayweed (Tripleurospermum inodorun), Perforate St John-wort (Hypericum perforatum), Fern Grass (Catapodium rigidum), Rat's-tail Fescue (Vulpia myuros), Common Cornsalad (Valerianella locusta) and Round-leaved Crane's-bill (Geranium rotundifolium).

This is a very good site for dragonflies and four species were seen flying in abundance at the time of survey: Blue-tailed Damselfly (Ischnura elegans), Common Blue Damselfly (Enallagma cyathigerum), Banded Demoiselle (Calopteryx splendens) and Black-tailed Skimmer (Orthetrum cancellatum). Also a Grass Snake (Natrix natrix) was disturbed while sunbathing between the ditch and the south lake.

This site supports a good diversity of plants as a hundred species were recorded in total including six species from the Fen, Swamp and Marsh Indicator Species list and a strong indicator, Grey Club-rush (Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani). During this survey nineteen submerged, floating and emergent plants were found. Although Nuttall's Waterweed (Elodea nuttallii) was dominant in the water the marginal plants were very rich and diverse. This site provides a very good habitat for damselflies and dragonflies as they were very abundant at the time of the survey.

Stanwick Old Lakes (SP964708)
04/11/1996
A flooded gravel pit now used for angling, with fairly well-established vegetation, with several smaller, more recent pits and scrapes. The north section of the main pit is also more recently abandoned. The surrounding ground is recently regraded and planted with trees, all broadleaved. Around the water the emergent vegetation is colonizing well and includes Phalaris arundinacea, Alisma plantago-aquatica, Angelica sylvestris, Eleocharis palustris, Typha latifolia, Phragmites australis, Carex acutiformis, Sparganium sp. and several Salix spp. Trees (some may have been planted) include alder, poplar, dogrose and birch. Dragonflies and damselflies are very frequent, including blue-tailed damselflies, broad bodied chaser and common darter. Little grebes, coots and mute swans were present, and other wildfowl are common. This site is an important part of a much larger area of gravel pit lakes of varying age, and the area as a whole is the subject of a proposal for a national environmental centre scheme. A very nice site. It should improve, as should the surrounding vegetation.

Stanwick Osier Bed (SP969713)
06/11/1996
This area was marked as arable at the time of the 1979 Phase 1 survey; since then it has been quarried, left to form a small gravel pit lake, and subsequently filled up with a variety of willow and osier species plus an area of reedbed. It is not known if any standing water remains. The site has been well-fenced and appears to be undisturbed. Species present include hawthorn, hazel, crack and white willows, osier, blackthorn, field maple and ash. It seems likely that the site has had some deliberate planting. The area is popular with songbirds and offers a valuable warbler habitat next to the river. It is also one of the few areas nearby that offers much in the way of mammal habitat.

27/06/2006
This site is undisturbed and represents a very good mosaic of woodland, grassland and reed beds. Although only four species were found from the Fen, Swamp and Marsh Indicator Species list, there is a large area of reed bed in the middle (Phragmites australis) and the grassland especially by the margins with the wetter area supports a good variety of species (61 in total).

This area was marked as arable at the time of the 1979 Phase 1 survey. Since then it has been quarried and left to form a small gravel pit lake. It has now dried out and it is covered with a variety of willow and osier species. There is still a large area of reed bed (Phragmites australis) in the middle where it is damp but with no standing water at the time of survey. This site is undisturbed as there is no footpath going through it and could provide a good habitat for small birds. A Green Woodpecker (Picris viridis) was recorded flying around.

The north and east edges are very wooded with species such as Alder (Alnus glutinosa), Ash (Fraxinus excelsior), Oak (Quercus robur), Silver Birch (Betula pendula). The south and west edges are much more open with some grassland dominated by long grasses such as False Oat Grass (Arrhenatherum elatius), Yorkshire Fog (Holcus lanatus), Rough Meadow Grass (Poa trivialis), Cock's Foot (Dactylis glomerata), and Tufted Hair Grass (Deschampsia cespitosa). Part of the grassland is grazed by rabbits.

The open edges of the marsh area supports a range of typical marginal species like Hard Rush (Juncus inflexus), Soft Rush (Juncus effusus), False Fox-sedge (Carex otrubae), Water Figwort (Scrophularia auriculata), Gipsywort (Lycopus europaeus), Water Forget-me-not (Myosotis scorpioides), Wild Angelica (Angelica sylvestris), Tufted Vetch (Vicia cracca), Colt's-foot (Tussilago farfara), Jointed Rush (Juncus articulatus) and Skullcap (Scutellaria galericulata).

The east of the marsh area is covered by Osier (Salix viminalis) and White Willow (Salix alba) with a ground flora dominated by Field Horsetail (Equisetum arvense), Yorkshire Fog (Holcus lanatus), Colt's-foot (Tussilago farfara) and Self Heal (Prunella vulgaris). A common spotted orchid (Dactylorhiza fuchsii) was also recorded from this area.

Irthlingborough Old Pond (SP964712)
04/11/1996

An old pool which has now become surrounded by very old, often fallen willows and scrub. These appear to be the only overmature willow trees for a large surrounding area. Having fallen, they now allow light into the small remaining area of standing water that may once have been a deliberate pond (as opposed to an abandoned gravel working). Emergent species include Iris pseudoacorus, Typha latifolia, Veronica catenata, V. beccabunga, Equisetum fluviatile and Lemna minor. Other species are likely to be present earlier in the year. The water is completely undisturbed and the impenetrable surround of old willow trunks offers unique bird and mammal habitat for the area. The well-established nature of the site suggests the invertebrate records may also be of interest. This therefore offers an important complementary habitat to the surrounding complex of much newer aquatic sites, and may also provide the only remaining link with older use of the land. This may have been confused in the past with a previous SNCV reference; in fact the site still remains from the 1979 survey, although a small corner has been damaged.

27/06/2006
This small pond is completely covered by thick mature scrubs indicating that it was present a long time before the surrounding lakes were created. There is very little light penetrating the thick cover of Hawthorn (Crataegus monogyna), Blackthorn (Prunus spinosa), and Ash (Fraxinus excelsior) on the north edge and Willows (Salix alba , Salix viminalis and Salix cinerea) on the south edge. Therefore the emergent and marginal vegetation is almost entirely restricted to the outside margins of the pond except for Common Duckweed (Lemna minor) which is abundant and is almost covering the entire surface of the pond.

The north marginal corner of the pond is particularly rich in species including Yellow Iris (Iris pseudacorus), Water Forget-me-not (Myosotis scorpioides), Reed Canary Grass (Phalaris arundinacea), Reed Sweet Grass (Glyceria maxima), Gipsywort (Lycopus europaeus), Water Mint (Mentha aquatica), Celery-leaved Buttercup (Ranunculus sceleratus), Marsh Bedstraw (Galium palustre elongatum), Water Plantain (Alisma plantago-aquatica), Jointed Rush (Juncus articulatus), Marsh Woundwort (Stachys palustris) and Creeping Jenny (Lysimachia nummularia). A Grass Snake (Natrix natrix) was also disturbed in this corner at the time of survey.

The main part of this small pond is completely covered by scrubs and is species poor except for the north corner which accounts for most of the species (38 in total). Only five species were found from the Fen, Swamp and Marsh Indicator Species list and eleven submerged, floating and emergent plants. Considered on its own, this site is very small and of limited interest but it is playing an important role amongst the more open habitat of the surrounding lakes.

Stanwick Weir Lake (SP964717)
04/11/1996
A large and very recently-finished gravel workings which has now flooded to form a large lake with minimal marginal vegetation. This lake complements the surrounding gravel pits by providing an open feeding habitat for the thousands of birds visiting and/or breeding in this part of Nene Valley. Like other lakes in the area, this site is already starting to change with increased plant growth, and is likely to increase in wildlife value with time. Already there are young, mixed scrub species around parts of the edge of the lake, including grey sallow and white willow. The rest of the surrounding ground has bare, rocky spoil with sparse vegetation such as Rumex spp, Reseda lutea etc. This lake is part of the Stanwick Lakes complex, and is earmarked for water sports in connection with the nearby activity centre.

Marsh Lane Ponds (SP968712)
06/11/1996
A small, overgrown pond surrounded by scrub and bounded by Marsh Lane (now just a footpath, but occasionally used as a byway) and by the broad section of the River Nene below the double weir at Stanwick. The river at this point is included in the site. The pond is heavily shaded but still has standing water, including a small open area. Most however has a bed of Phalaris arundinacea and Glyceria maxima, with frequent Solanum dulcamara. Lemna minor is abundant on the open area of water. The main habitat value of the site probably depends upon the trees and scrub, which include hawthorn, blackthorn, dogrose, osier, grey sallow and some taller ash, crack willows and white willows. The oldest trees are a row of beautiful mature white willows alongside this stretch of the river.

NB. The widened river below the double wier may have been a millpool at some point. It is now a shallow, fast-flowing, riffly water with lots of small fish and beds of Ranunculus ?fluitans. A good kingfisher site, and probably also popular with warblers. The river here is likely to be of importance for the fishery. This site was identified during the 1996 Nene Survey.

27/06/2006
This site is linear and the river Nene is running through the middle. Both parts either side of the river are looking very similar and are shaded by mature Willows, mainly White Willow (Salix alba) and Crack Willow (Salix fragilis). The west part of the site starts along the drain south of Stanwick New Lake, while the East part extends up to the path south east of Stanwick Osier Bed. There are some ponds in the east part of the lake with abundant Common Duckweed (Lemna minor) but most of the site was not accessible and remains undisturbed.

Most of the open areas of the site were dominated by Nettles (Urtica dioica) and Great Willowherb (Epilobbium hirsutum) with some occasional Indian Balsam (Impatiens glandulifera), Hogweed (Heracleum sphondylium), Hemlock (Conium maculatum) and Tufted Vetch (Vicia cracca). Along the drain on the west part of the site there are some wetland and marginal species such as Water Forget-me-not (Myosotis scorpioides), Reed Sweet Grass (Glyceria maxima), Water Chickweed (Myosoton aquaticum) and Water Figwort (Scrophularia auriculata). More wetland and marginal plants are to be found along the river: Common Club-rush (Schoenoplectus lacustris), Arrowhead (Sagittaria sagittifolia), Yellow Water-lilly (Nuphar lutea) and Starwort (Callitriche sp.).

Although only one species were found from the Fen, Swamp and Marsh Indicator Species list, this site is undisturbed and could provide a good habitat for birds, amphibians and invertebrates. The mature willows are an important feature especially as part as the more open surroundings habitats.

Mallows Cotton South Field (SP977731)
27/06/2006
This field is part of Stanwick Lakes complex and is situated south of Mallows Cotton Medieval Village. There is a dyke (Hog Dyke) running along the west boundary and a hedge along the east side. The north and south boundaries are fenced. There is a public footpath going through the field. The south part of the field supports a large marsh area while the north part of the field is more elevated and drier. There is also another marsh area on the north west corner which is partially shaded by some mature scrub.

The marsh area south of the field is mostly covered by Hard Rush, Creeping Thistle and Nettles with occasional Great Willowherb (Epilobium hirsutum), Reed Canary Grass (Phalaris arundinacea), Tufted Hair Grass (Deschampsia cespitosa), Spike Rush (Eleocharis palustris), Hairy Sedge (Carex hirta), False Fox-sedge (Carex otrubae) and the less common Slender Tufted Sedge (Carex acuta). This provide a good habitat for invertebrates as many damselflies (common Blue) and butterflies were seen at the time of survey. The area under the scattered willows and Hawthorns is wetter and support wetland species such as Water Forget-me-not (Myosotis scorpioides), Gipsywort (Lycopus europaeus), Brooklime (Veronica beccabunga), Water Figwort (Scrophularia auriculata) and Meadow-sweet (Filipendula ulmaria). There is also a reed bed partly of Reed Sweet Grass (Glyceria maxima) and parlty of Reed Canary Grass (Phalaris arundinacea). The North part of the site is drier and dominated by False Oat Grass (Arrhenatherum elatius) and Cow Parsley (Anthriscus sylvestris).

This field is an interesting mosaic of habitats with some wet meadows south of the field and a drier area on the north. It also has some mature Willows and shrub with some reed bed north west of the field. Only three species were found from the Fen, Swamp and Marsh Indicator Species list but one of them was a strong indicator: Slender Tufted Sedge (Carex acuta). This field appears to be a good site for invertebrates as a good variety of them were seen at the time of survey.

Mallows Cotton West Field (SP973733)
27/06/2006
This field is part of Stanwick Lakes complex and is situated West of Mallows Cotton Medieval Village. There is a dyke (Hog Dyke) running along the east boundary and a disused railway line along the west side. The site was heavily grazed by sheep at the time of survey. This is a neutral grassland

dominated by Creeping Thistle (Cirsium arvense) and Tufted Hair Grass (Deschampsia caespitosa). There are two main drains going through the site which were dry at the time of survey. The drains supports a number of wetland species such as Water Mint (Mentha aquatica), False Fox-sedge (Carex otrubae), Spike Sedge (Carex spicata), Hard Rush (Juncus inflexus) and Reed Sweet Grass (Glyceria maxima).

This meadow is heavily grazed by sheep and is dominated by Creeping Thistle (Cirsium arvense) and Tufted Hair Grass (Deschampsia caespitosa). The two ditches represent the only interest but they are heavily disturbed by the sheep.

Map: