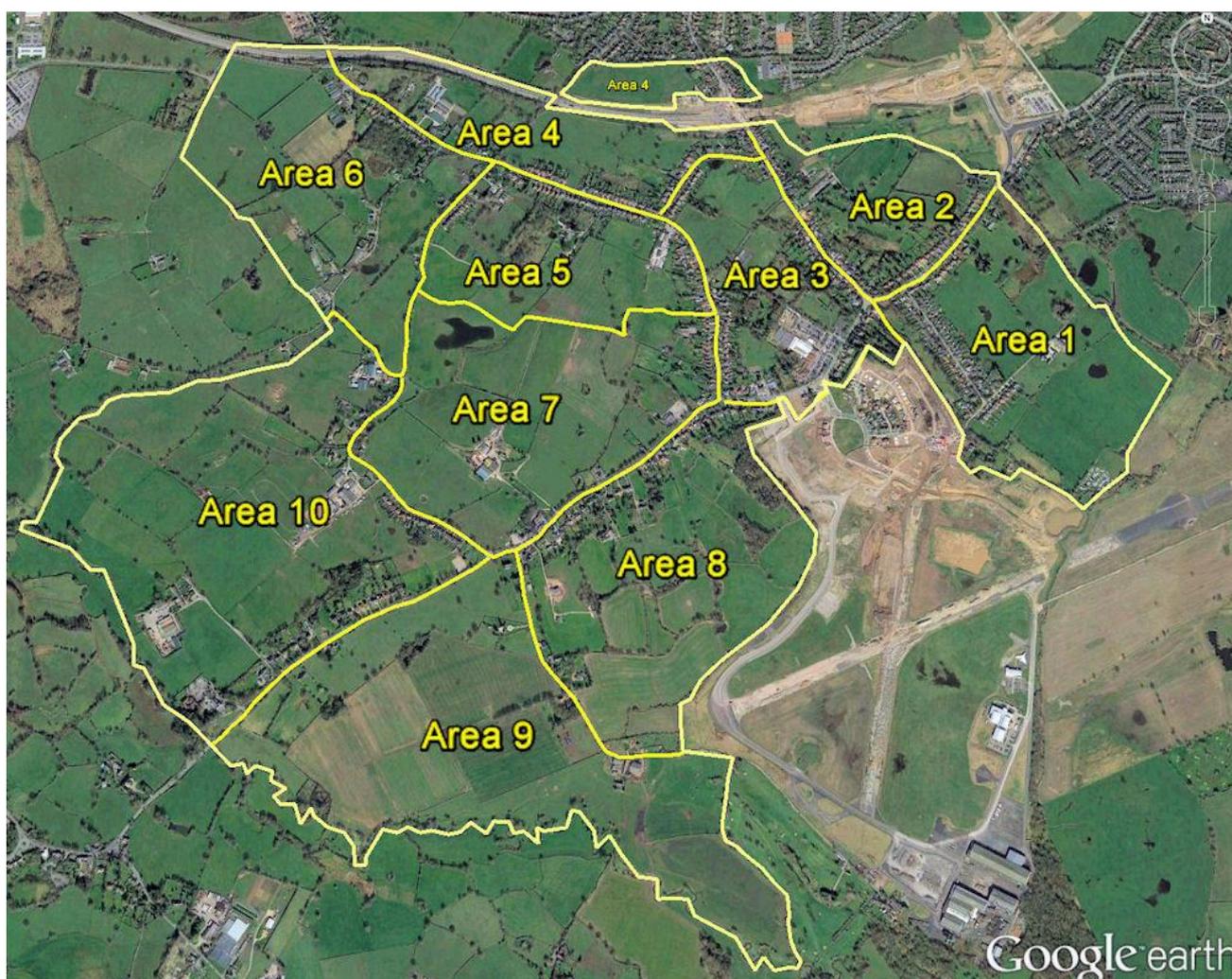


# Habitat Survey

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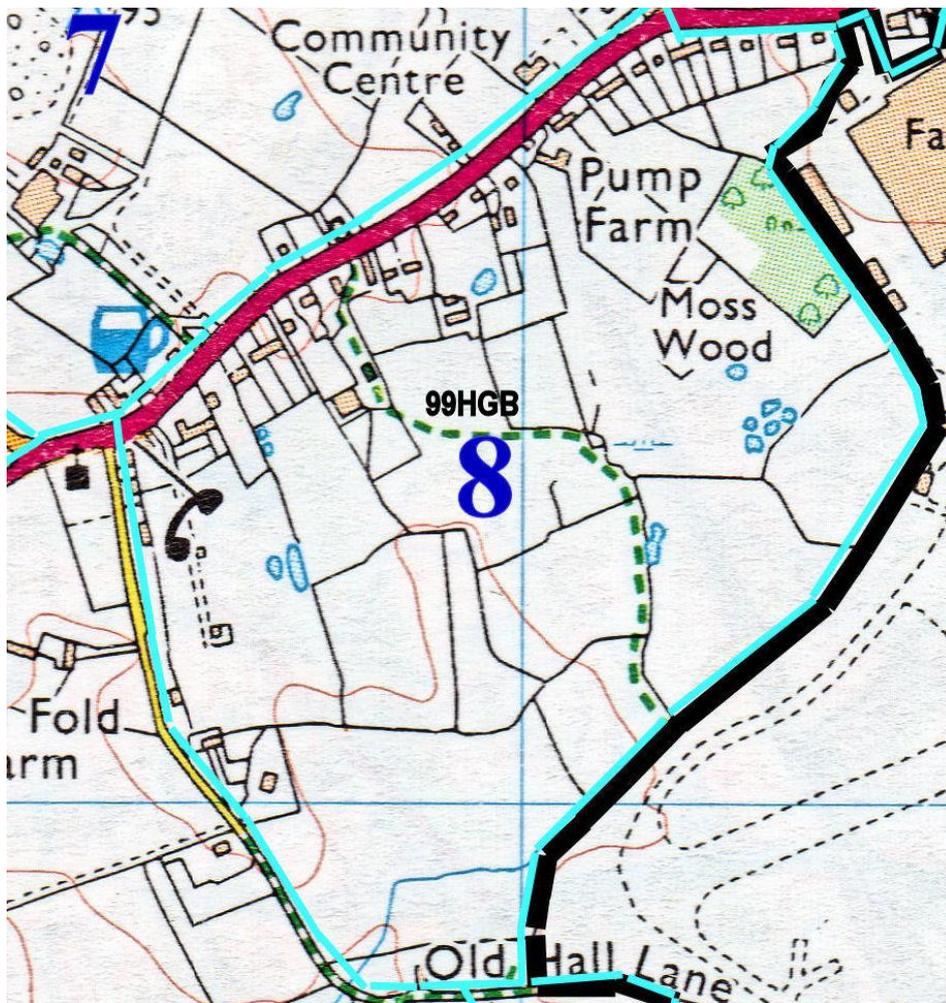
## South Woodford, Area 8 (surveyed in November 2015, May 2016 and August 2016)

For the purposes of the habitat surveys, the designated Woodford Neighbourhood Area was divided into ten areas, as shown in the satellite image below. This provided manageable sized portions for on the ground surveys.



The survey results for Area 8 are reported here.

Area 8 forms the south east of the Neighbourhood Area, lying between Old Hall Lane, Chester Road and the former aerodrome site, as shown in the satellite image above and the OS image below, bounded by the turquoise line. Large houses with large gardens line the eastern side of Chester Road and back on to agricultural land. There is an area of mixed deciduous woodland on the northern border with the former aerodrome site. Footpath 99HGB crosses the area and stops at the boundary of the aerodrome site. The conditions associated with the planning permission of the aerodrome site state that footpaths, such as this one, which were truncated by the BAE site, will be reconnected.



View over 8F8 to Croker Hill from footpath 99HGB



View to Pennines from Old Hall Lane over 8F20



Satellite image showing Area 8 adjacent to aerodrome site with new housing development



### Land use

Area 8 is largely agricultural land, belonging to landowners on Chester Road. The majority of the land is improved grassland. At the time of the surveys, no grazing animals were observed and some fields appeared to have been cleared with total herbicide in autumn, and then re-sown with grass for the following summer. There are areas of woodland adjacent to the part of the former aerodrome site, which is near Chester Road and patches of woodland around ponds. Many fields are divided by tall native hedgerows, which are very frequent and luxuriant in this area, containing numerous mature trees. The area is wet with numerous ponds. The land slopes gently down to the aerodrome site with ditches/streams that run in that direction towards a ditch/stream at the eastern border. 8F11 and 8F23 were not accessed, but hedges and trees were viewed from the adjacent fields using binoculars and using satellite imagery.

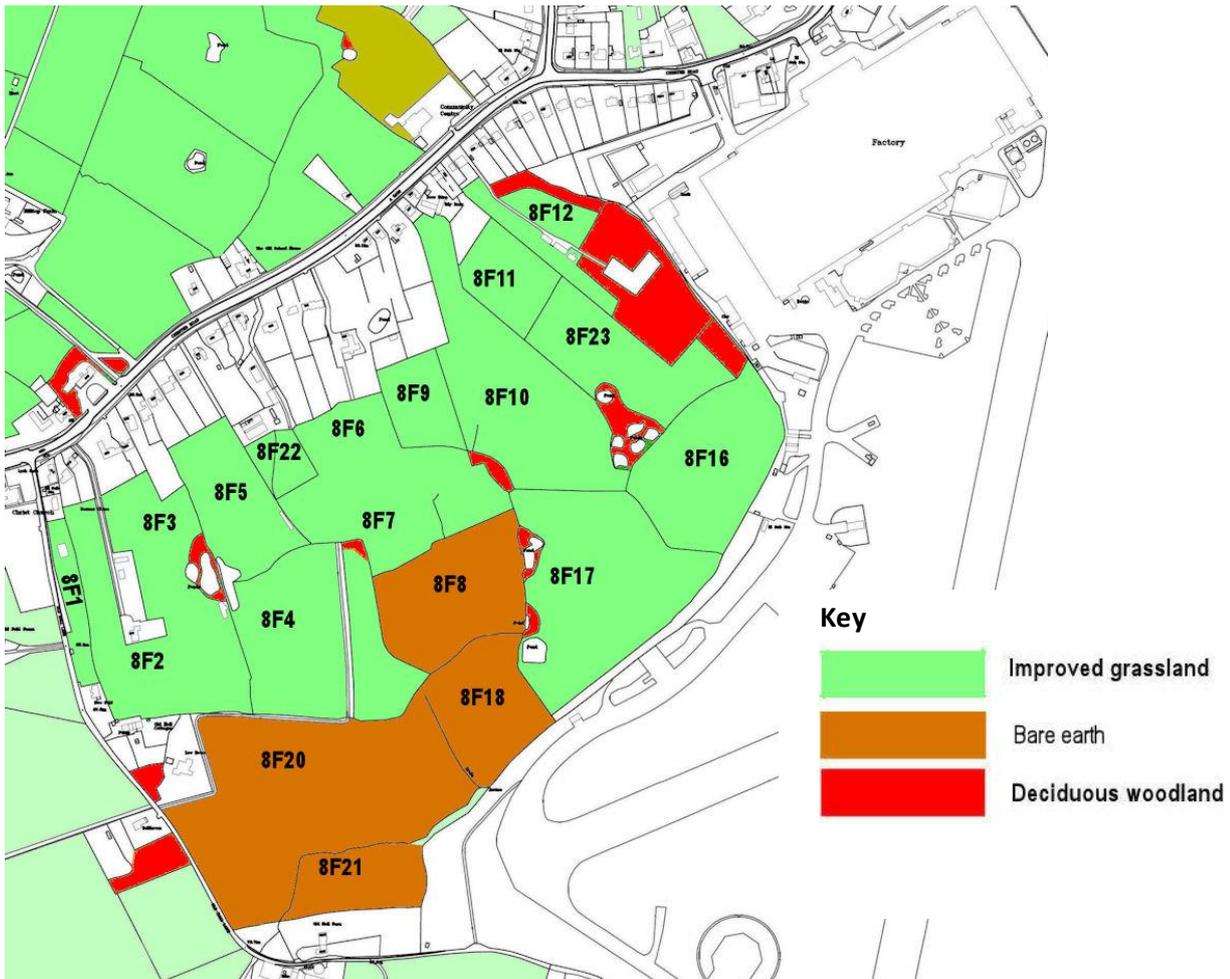
Grassland in 8F17



Bare field 8F18 in autumn



Map showing land use in Area 8



## Hedgerows

Species-rich hedgerows are frequent, many with mature trees, and are a notable feature of this area. They include 8H1 and 8H19 plus the following, which are species-rich with trees: 8H3, 8H5, 8H10, 8H11, 8H16, 8H21, 8H23, 8H24, 8H25, 8H26, 8H28, 8H35, 8H39, 8H40, 8H48, 8H64, 8H66, 8H67, 8H68, 8H69, 8H72. Species found here include alder, ash, aspen, blackthorn, briar, elder, hawthorn, hazel, holly, hornbeam, ivy, maple, oak, plum, sycamore and willow.

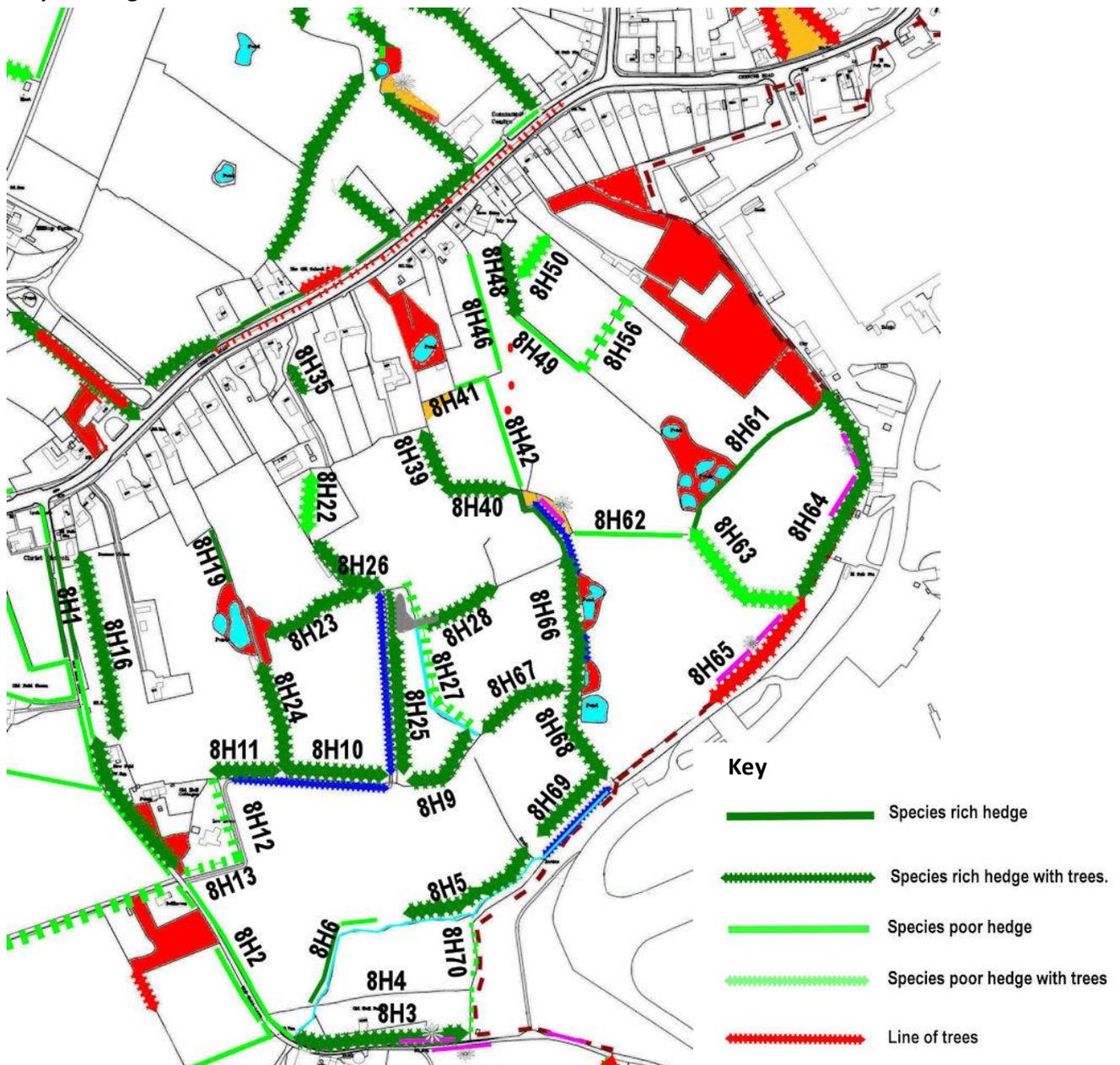
8F7 and 8H26



8F7 and 8H39 and 8H40



Map of hedgerows in Area 8



8H23 from 8F4



8F4 and 8H10



8H11 from 8F2



8H66 from 8F8



8H1 bordering Old Hall Lane



8H5 at aerodrome perimeter from 8F20

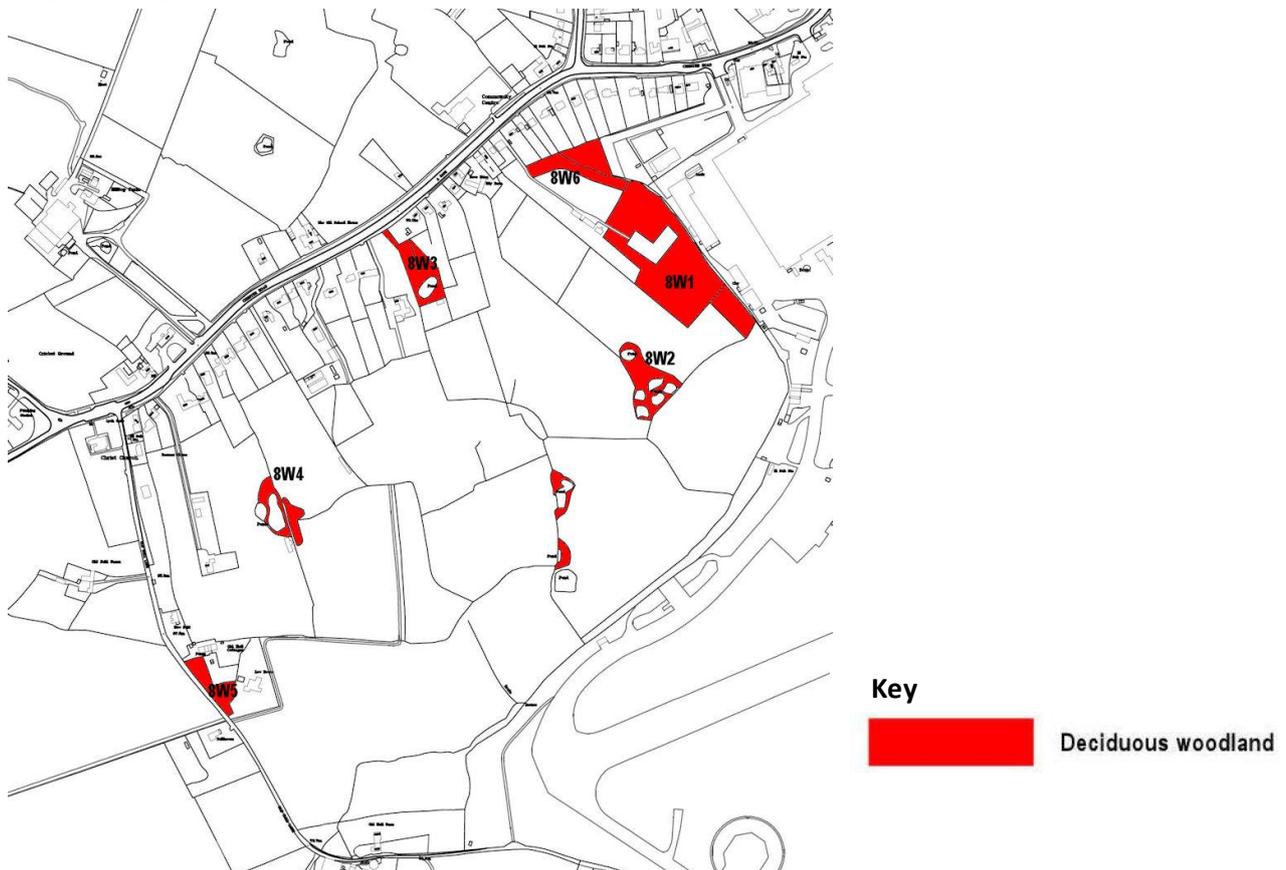


## Woodland

There are small areas of mixed deciduous woodland in area 8. 8W1 is the largest of these is adjacent to the eastern border with the former aerodrome site, and includes birch, hawthorn, holly, oak and conifers. 8W6

is an area of trees/woodland in the north eastern corner of the site behind the curtilages of houses on Chester Road adjacent to the aerodrome site. The owner of one these houses permitted access. The survey revealed that the trees include elder, hawthorn, holly, ivy and oak. 8W2, 8W3, and 8W4 are small fragments of mixed deciduous woodland surrounding ponds between fields. Species found here include alder, ash, briar, chestnut, elder, holly, maple, oak, rowan, scots pine and willow. 8W5 is within the curtilage of the Old Hall Barn on Old Hall Lane and includes lime and willow.

**Map showing woodland in Area 8**



8W1



8W2 from 8F9



8W5 from 8F20



8W1



### Mature trees

Mature trees are mostly found in the hedgerows. There are very few which stand alone. Mature trees are also found in the pavement on the eastern side of Chester Road, including oak, copper beech and lime.

### Satellite image showing stand-alone trees



Oak trees S1 and S2 on footpath 99HGB in 8F7



Memorial to a pet on one of these trees



Copper beech tree in grass verge by Chester Road



Birch tree in grass verge by Chester Road



### Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs)

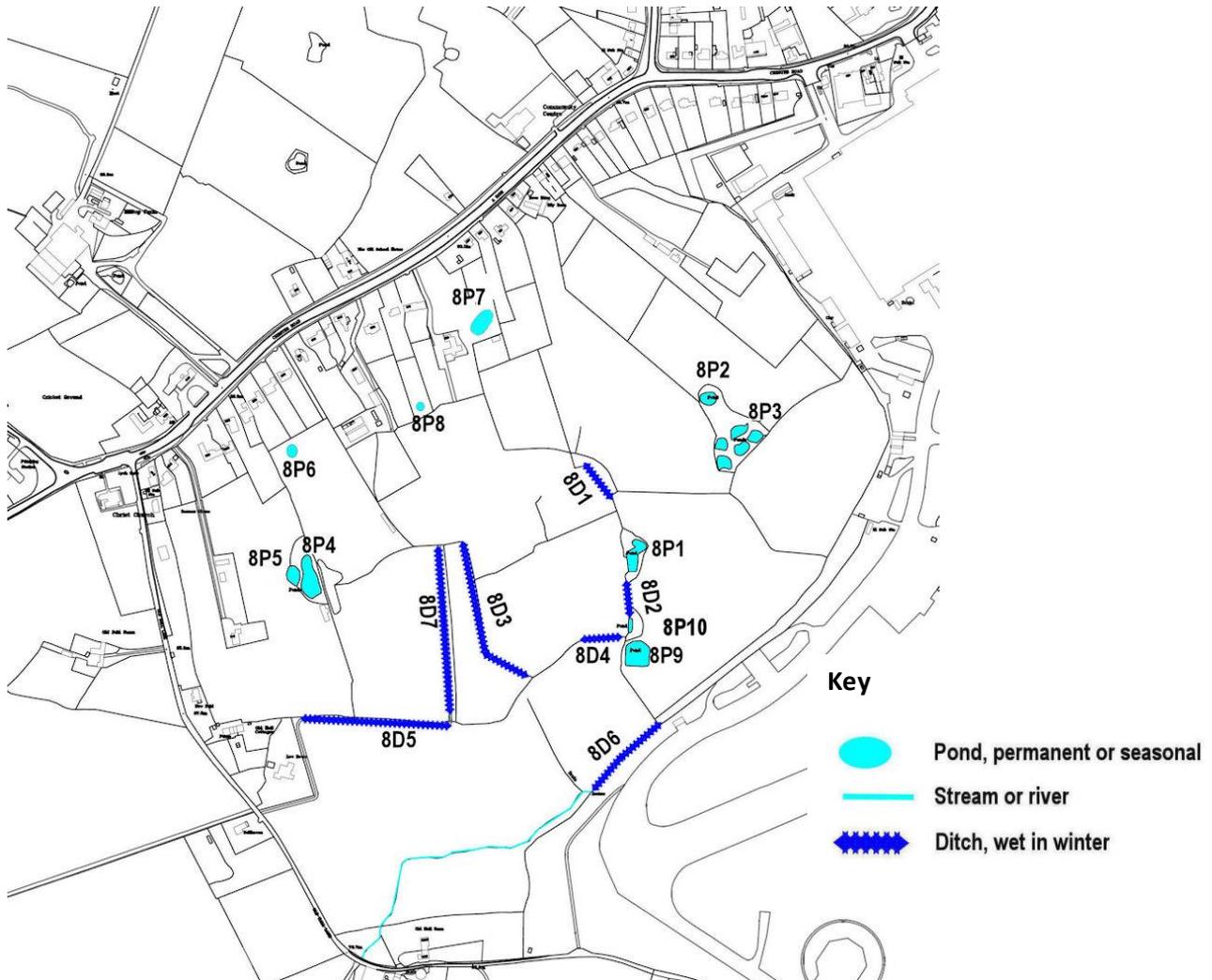
There is one TPO in area 8 as shown below:



## Ponds, streams and ditches

There are ten ponds and at least seven ditches/streams in Area 8, which will provide good wildlife habitats. Most of these are surrounded by tall native hedges and mature trees, apart from 8P9 which is open.

### Map of ponds, streams and ditches in Area 8



8P1



8P9



8P10



8P4



8P1 is surrounded by large trees and scrub, 8P5 is surrounded by trees including ash, oak, willow, hawthorn, elder. There are sedges and irises around the edges. 8P4 is within a domestic curtilage.

### Grass verges and field boundaries

There is a narrow mown grass verge on the eastern side of the southern end of Chester Road. At the top end of Old Hall Lane an unmown grass verge supports herbaceous species. In the verge by Old Hall Lane near the end of the former runway, white campion, cow parsley and meadow cranesbill were found in May. Some of the field boundaries had been affected by total herbicide during the autumn survey, but when surveyed again during August some of the grassland fields boundaries supported herbaceous species. Marsh woundwort was found near 8H65 at the border with the former aerodrome site. Areas where wildflowers were found are marked with a pink line on the map of hedges.

Grass verge on Old Hall Lane



Marsh woundwort near 8H65



## Bird sightings

The following bird sightings in or near Area 8 have been reported.

Bullfinch	Hobby	Redwing
Chiffchaff	House Sparrow	Skylark
Collard Dove	Jay	Song Thrush
Common Buzzard	Kestrel	Sparrowhawk
Curlew	Lapwing	Starling
Fieldfare	Linnet	Swallow
Goldcrest	Mistle Thrush	Swift
Goldfinch	Nuthatch	Tree Sparrow
Green Woodpecker	Oystercatcher	Wheatear
Grey Heron	Peregrine	
Gulls various	Pied Wagtail	

## Invasive or undesirable species

None observed.

## Proximity to other areas rich in habitats for wildlife

The area adjoins Area 9 and countryside in Cheshire East on the other side of Old Hall Lane, providing good connectivity with habitats outside of the neighbourhood area. It is also adjacent to the former aerodrome site, where reported bird sightings include oystercatchers, curlews and buzzards.

## Landscape and character

To be completed later.



