

Nonsense of SPA designated for annex 1 species birds in 2001 and hence plantations making up Sandlings had to be covered in sssi

BLAXHALL HEATH  
SUTTON & HOLLESLEY HEATHS  
LEISTON-ALDEBURGH  
Tunstall Common  
sandlings SSSI = rendlesham forest and tunstall forest

On some sites there are plantations of introduced species and our aim is to restore these to semi-natural broadleaves. In this case the extent of the wood against which the assessment is made includes the conifers; it is not just the area of existing semi-natural woodland. The restoration process is recorded (in condition assessment terms) through the reduction in the extent of non-natives under the 'Tree and shrub composition' attribute. Loss of area does not normally include the conversion of areas to plantation or dense rhododendron: these should however be picked up as a shift towards an unfavourable state under the 'Tree and shrub composition' attribute

Signs that introduced conifers are being removed (stumps and recently cut stems), recently coppiced areas, or opened out rides in woods otherwise lacking in open space, point to recovery

[http://www.jncc.gov.uk/pdf/CSM\\_woodland.pdf](http://www.jncc.gov.uk/pdf/CSM_woodland.pdf)

Sutton Heath tree felling questioned by locals, 5 May 2011  
[www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-suffolk-13298812](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-suffolk-13298812)

Sutton and hollesly heaths SSSI 1955

Sutton and Hollesley Heaths form one of the largest remaining fragments of the once extensive Sandlings heaths of the Suffolk coast. They consist of characteristic dry acidic grass and heather-dominated heathland with much scrub, bracken and self-sown pine and birch.

There are large areas of semi-natural woodland most of which has originated from selfset Scots pine, birch and some oak. Most of this is less than 60 years old. Heathland elements can be found beneath the younger stands. There are also small areas of broadleaved high forest composed chiefly of oak, birch, sweet chestnut, sycamore and beech. Beneath this the ground layer is chiefly bracken but patches of heather and acid grassland also occur. There is a small plantation of pine on Hollesley Common and Parsnip Plantation contains a mixture of planted oak, beech, birch and pine.

The site has a subsidiary ornithological interest and forms a regular winter roost for Hen Harrier. Long-eared Owls breed together with a variety of other heathland species

All 483ha is dwarf shrub heath - lowland

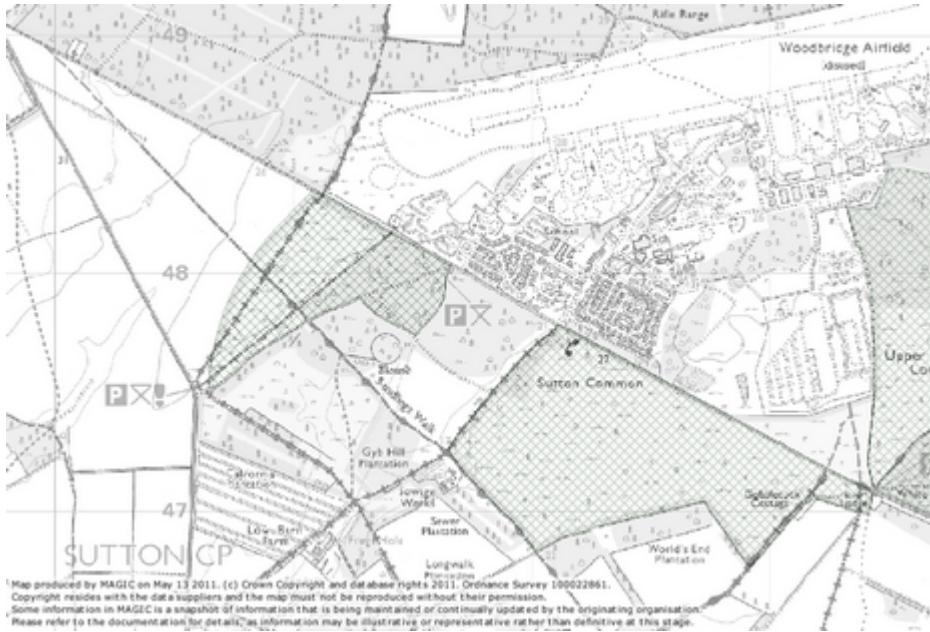


#### Unit 9

59.41 17 Aug 2010 Unfavourable recovering Assessment carried out by Monica O'Donnell and Emma Quick on 29 July with a return visit by Emma on 5 August. This site is undergoing a tree clearance programme at the current time and the area that has already been clear felled is showing signs of recovery with heather re-establishment. An area towards the north (the bottom part) of the site is being grazed by hebridean sheep owned by the Suffolk Wildlife Trust. Heather has been cut (in one block) in some areas to create a diversity in the structure of the vegetation (allow natural regeneration). The current management is successfully improving the biodiversity of the site.

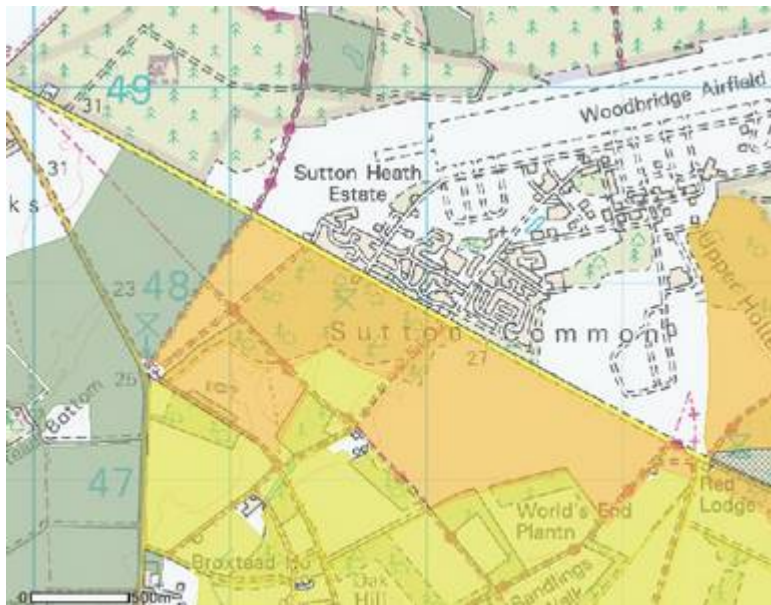
**Suffolk Council own Unit 9 plus the woodland in the top of Unit 10.**

Registered common land – part of woodland, but only part of unconditional felling licence is on registered common (see below)

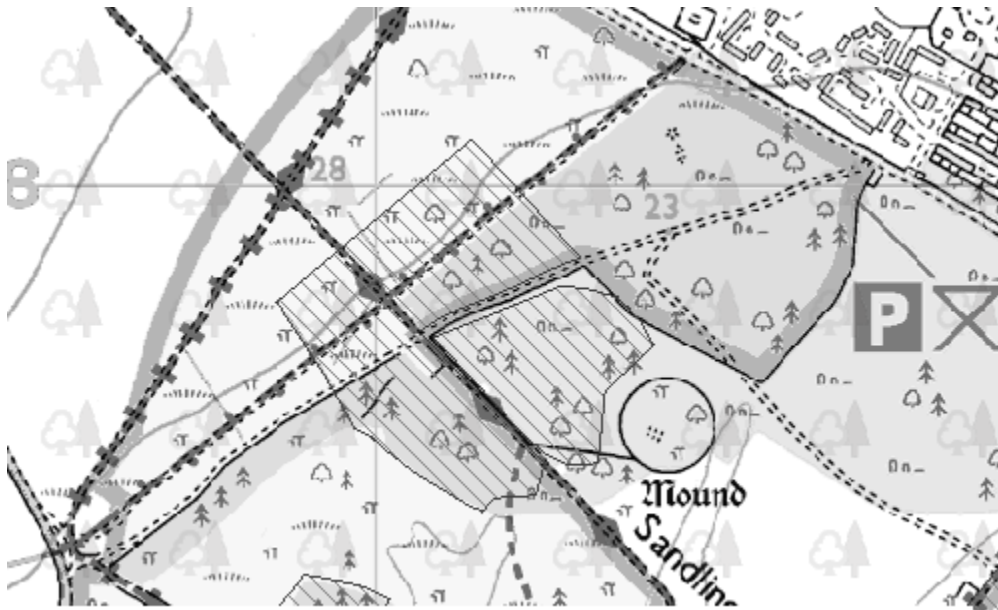


HLS

AG00282238  
 Suffolk Coastal District Council WOODBRIDGE  
 Higher Level Stewardship total over 10 years 133889.32  
 to date 32611  
 62.78ha  
 This for Unit 9



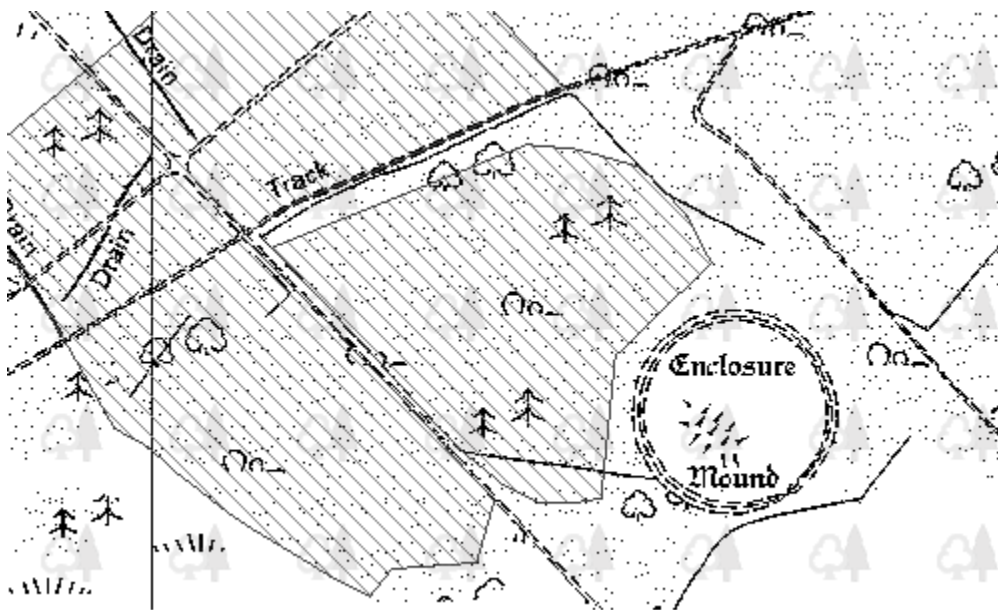
Felling licences



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**Felling Licence Applications ( Forestry Commission )**

- Clear Fell (Conditional); 017/206/09-10;
- Sel Fell/Thin (Unconditional); 017/206/09-10;

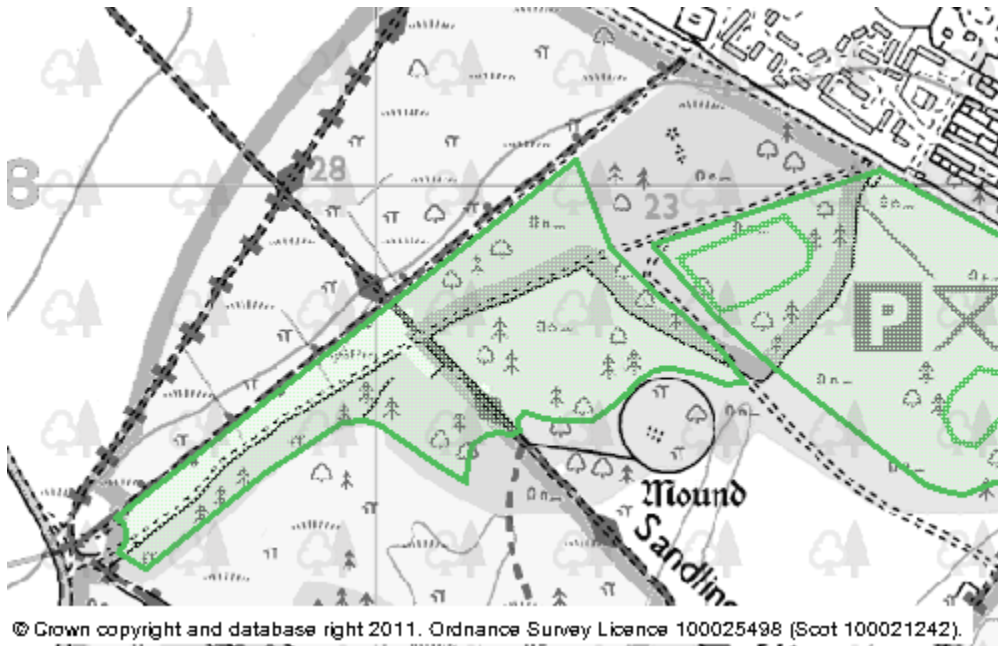


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The area next to the mound is conditional

Woodland Grant Schemes

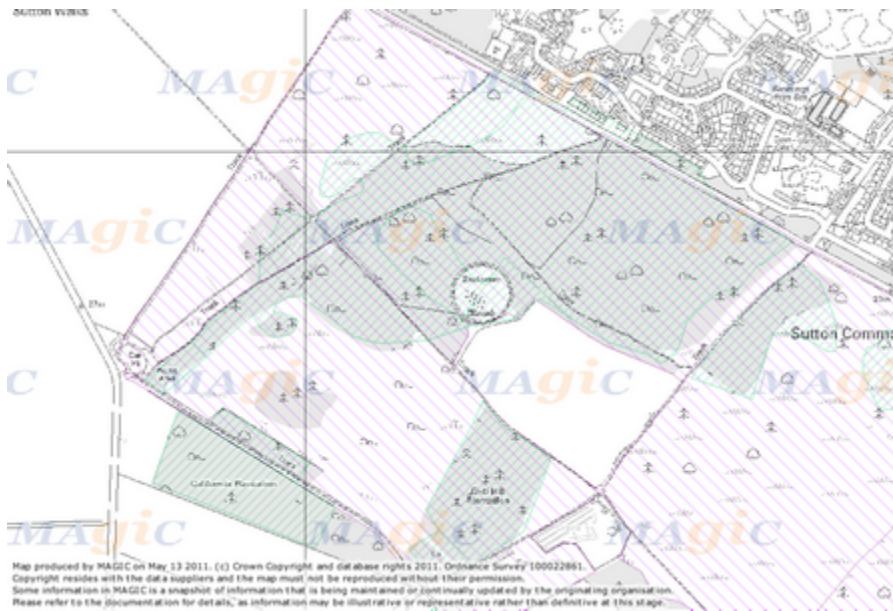




Woodland Grant Scheme Mk3 ( Forestry Commission )

- Sutton Heath; 17000965; 2;
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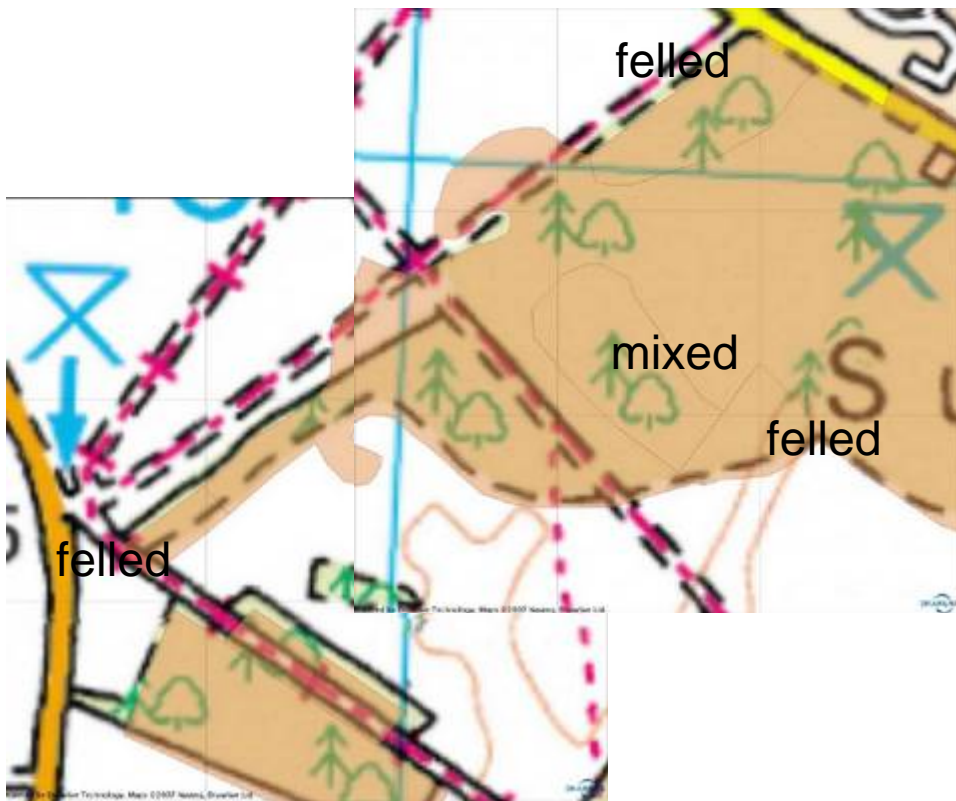
Proportion of Unit 9 in NIWT = 66%



There is an area of mixed woodland – see WT map. Part of it is in the fell and replant area of the felling licence.  
 WT map also shows areas that have already been felled.

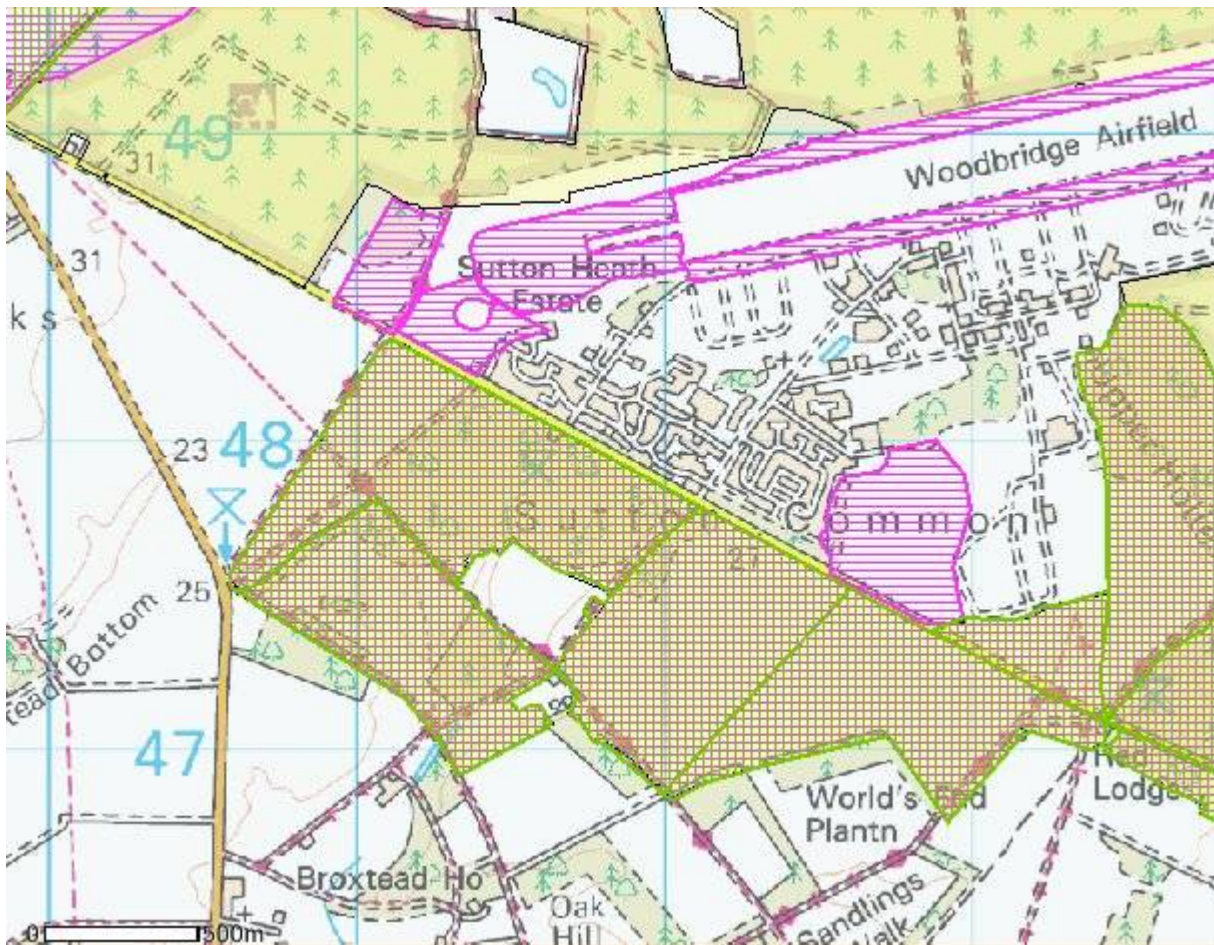


Area of mixed woodland.



BAP priority habitat – only lowland heathland and acid dry grassland!!!! Woodland not recognised.





**Common Standards Monitoring Guidance for Lowland Heath 2009**

Dry heath

<15% trees and scrub

[http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/0902\\_CSM\\_lowland\\_heathlandv2.pdf](http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/0902_CSM_lowland_heathlandv2.pdf)

Sandlings SPA 2001  
3391.8ha  
nightjar and woodlark

Comprises six SSSIs. Sandlings Forest SSSI, the largest of these, is dominated by commercial forestry. Within the forest, large areas of open ground suitable for woodlark and nightjar were created by storm damage in 1987. Maintenance of open areas in the future relies on clear felling as the main silvicultural practice and the maintenance of some areas earmarked for woodlark and nightjar habitat. These objectives are

included in the East Anglia Forest District Strategic Plan.

On the heathland SSSIs, lack of traditional management has resulted in the heathland being subjected to successional changes with the consequent spread of bracken, shrubs and trees. This is being addressed through

habitat management work under the Countryside Stewardship Scheme and Tomorrows Heathland Heritage, and is resulting in the restoration of more typical heathland habitat favourable to both nightjar and woodlark.

Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. *Phygrana* 14.6

Dry grassland. Steppes 11.5

Broad-leaved deciduous woodland 10.6

Coniferous woodland 57.6