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Bra117. Hedingham Station Marsh (28.6 ha) TL 783346

Located either side of the River Colne at Castle Hedingham and Sible Hedingham are two large blocks of habitat. To the north, on to the east of the River Colne is an area of woodland dominated by willow (*Salix* spp.) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*). Beneath this canopy is a Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) shrub layer and a dense tangled undergrowth and marshy ground flora. To the east the wood grades into a sedge/ruderal community where False Fox Sedge (*Carex otrubae*), Hard Rush (*Juncus inflexus*), Wild Angelica (*Angelica sylvestris*) and Rosebay Willowherb (*Chamaenerion angustifolium*) are found. West of the river is an extremely valuable river valley marsh, swamp and plantation running between Castle Hedingham and Sible Hedingham. Species recorded include the rare Early Marsh Orchid (*Dactylorhiza incarnata*) and Lady's Smock (*Cardamine pratensis*).

The southern block of habitat comprises an area of Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*)/Willow (*Salix* spp.) carr, with associated sedge (*Carex* sp.) and Reed (*Phragmites australis*) beds, and lies between the River Colne and Colne Valley disused railway. This species rich habitat includes Marsh Marigold (*Caltha palustris*), Cuckooflower (*Cardamine pratensis*), Blunt-flowered Rush (*Juncus subnodulosus*), a species critically endangered in the county and Large Bittercress (*Cardamine amara*), a species in decline.

Selection Criteria: HCr2(d), HCr5