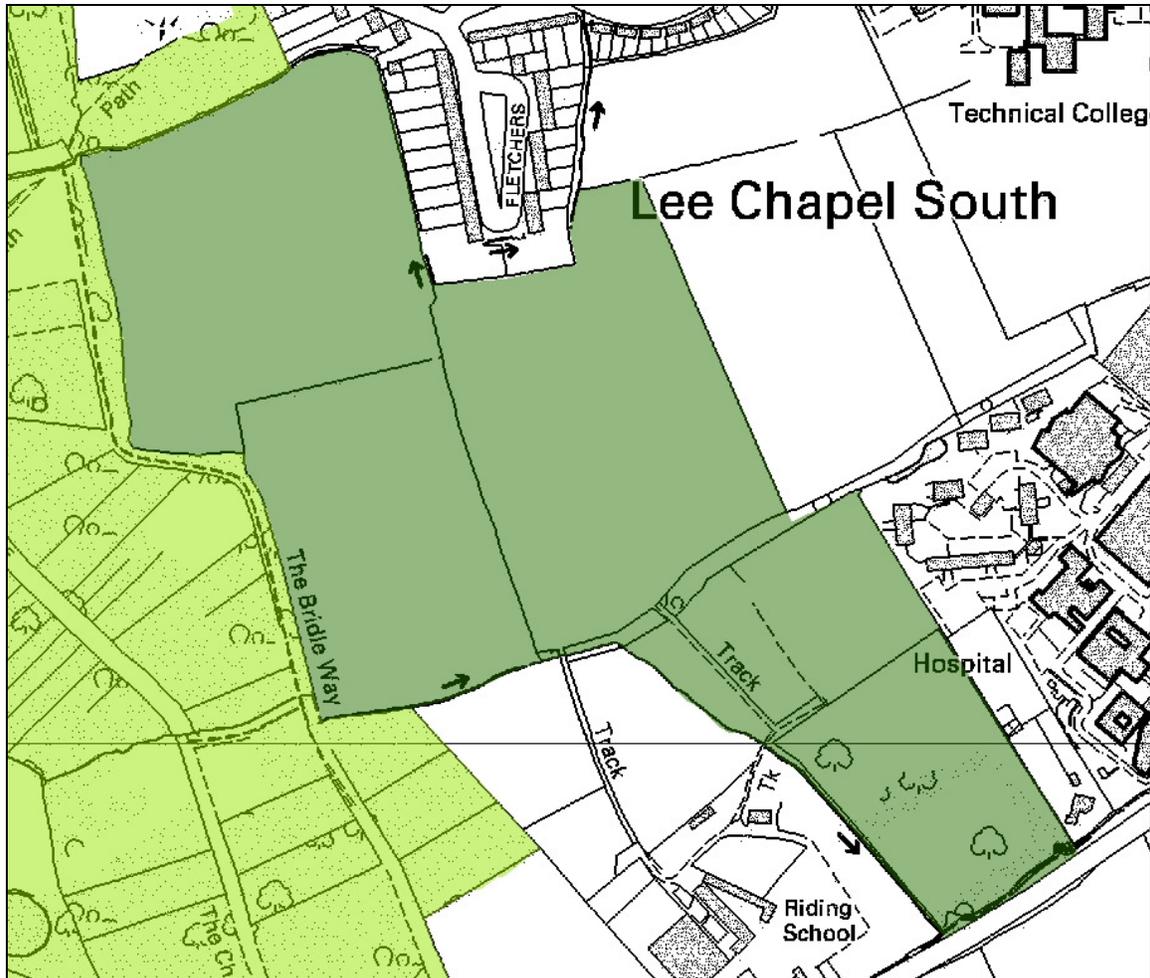


**LOCAL WILDLIFE SITES
BASILDON DISTRICT
Ba24 Dry Street Pastures**



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Ba24. Dry Street Pastures (27.7 ha) TQ 693874

This site represents a series of flower-rich pastures and other grassland habitats stretching from The Chase south-eastwards to Basildon Hospital. Pyramidal Orchid (*Anacamptis pyramidalis*), Adder's-tongue Fern (*Ophioglossum vulgatum*), Green-winged Orchid (*Orchis morio*) and Yellow Rattle (*Rhinanthus minor*) have been recorded here. The invertebrate fauna includes several Nationally Scarce and at least one Nationally Rare (RDB) (and Essex Red Data List) invertebrates, including the Adonis Ladybird (*Hippodamia variegata*), the weevil *Ceutorhynchus campestris*, the flower-beetle *Olibrus millefolii*, the dung fly *Scathophaga scybalaria* and the Red Data Book fly *Myopites inulaedyssentericae*. Also present is the Grizzled Skipper – a scarce Essex butterfly, but one which forms a meta-population of some significance within the grasslands of this Site and the Langdon Complex (Ba21). Adder, Slow-worm, Common Lizard and Grass

Snakes have been recorded. In addition, the sections immediately adjacent to the Langdon Complex Site are likely to provide additional terrestrial habitat for the Great Crested Newts known to breed in several nearby ponds.

The washland habitat at the southern end of the site is flower rich with scattered willow scrub. Species present include Narrow-leaved Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus glaber*), Wild Carrot (*Daucus carota*), Jointed Rush (*Juncus articulatus*), Glaucous Sedge (*Carex flacca*), Tufted Hair-grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*), Grass Vetchling (*Lathyrus nissolia*) and Black Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*). The vegetation present suggests that it could be an important area for invertebrates.

The site includes a good network of hedgerows, some of which are of considerable age. Breeding bird records, some of which are directly related to these hedgerows, indicate an interesting and diverse community including significant species such as Turtle Dove, Reed Bunting, Song Thrush, Bullfinch, Skylark, Linnet, Yellowhammer and Lesser Spotted Woodpecker.

Selection Criteria: HCr9, HCr10, SCr4, SCr11, SCr14

UK BAP Priority Habitats: Lowland Meadows, Hedgerows