

Kings Field Nature Reserve



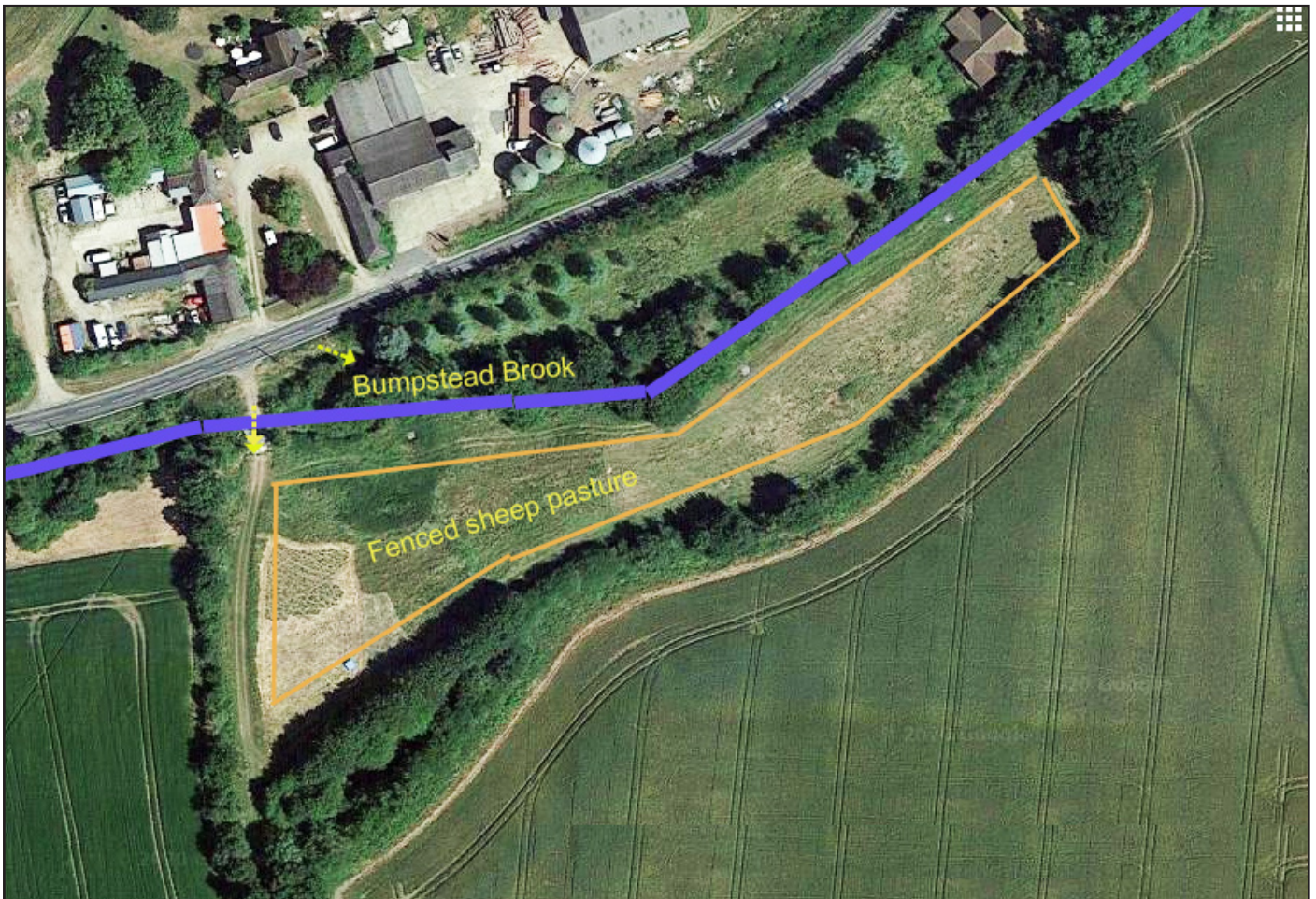
Open to the public on foot only and in the hours of daylight

Parking

It is very important not to block the access track and gate: farm vehicles need access at any time. Please park on the grass verge indicated by the sign board.

Kings Field North

This is now a hay meadow with a number of planted cricket-bat willows. At the eastern end of the field one tree has a barn-owl nest box.



Entrances

There is a separate entrance gate (usually locked) for each of the two fields. The pedestrian access is on the right of each gate.

Kings Field South

This is the main field and has a large stock-proof fenced area of grazing for the sheep. When sheep are present, please do not enter the fenced area. The main visitor track runs between the stock-fencing and the ancient hedges that surround the field.

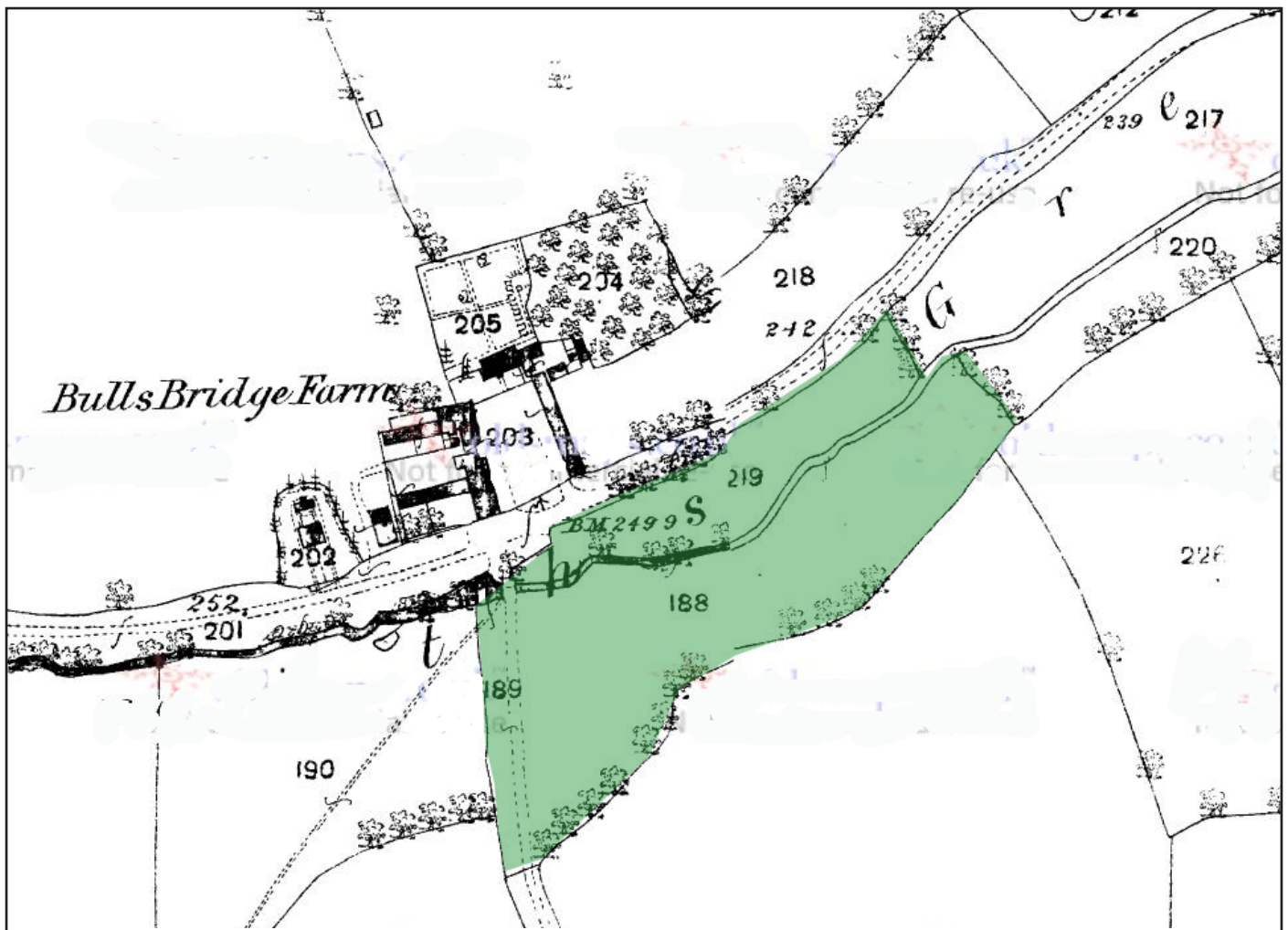
The hedges

Those at the east and west ends are the oldest and have the greatest variety of trees and shrubs. Elsewhere ash, maple and blackthorn are the commonest.

The row of maples that separate a small glade at the south-west tip of the reserve were planted sometime between 1980 and 2000.

Wild Flowers

Lost when the fields were arable, wild flowers are making a comeback. In 2020, thanks to the Essex Wildlife Trust, we have scattered extra wild flower seed, from a local EWT reserve.



The map above is the first edition Ordnance Survey (1877). It shows clearly that the main boundary hedges and field shapes were exactly the same then as now.

In 1844 the Tithe Map records that Kings Field & Chase measured 5 acres 3 roods and 37 poles. The land owner was Robert George Cecil Fane (a successful lawyer) and farmed by William Samuel Bacon of Bulls Bridge farm as pasture land.

The photograph below (in 2000) shows the land was then arable but it was returned to grassland land in about 2005 by the present owners,

Bumpstead Brook

This a short tributary of the Stour. Our bit is marked in red. When there is heavy rain the brook flows very fast and may flood areas downstream. Be very careful at these times.

The whole length of the book suffers from pollution. mainly from agricultural chemicals, and so has a limited amount of aquatic life. Minnows and sticklebacks are probably the only fish to get this far upstream.

There is no agricultural runoff from our land and we hope the Environment Agency's efforts will lead to improved biodiversity in our brook

