

Little Ouse Headwaters Project

www.lohp.org.uk



What makes this special landscape?

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**What is
landscape?**

It's not just mountains
and dramatic scenery



Landscape is also this . .



What can you see in these pictures?

They are all places along the Little Ouse river



*Open water, trees, reeds and
Thelnetham windmill from Parkers Piece*



*Dry grassland, trees, nettles on
Broomscot Common*



*Wet woodland, trees and
a boardwalk on Blo'Norton Fen*



*Cows, grass, trees and
a gate on The Lows*

.. looked after by the Little Ouse Headwaters Project

A major feature in
this landscape is
the river



Where is the
Little Ouse?

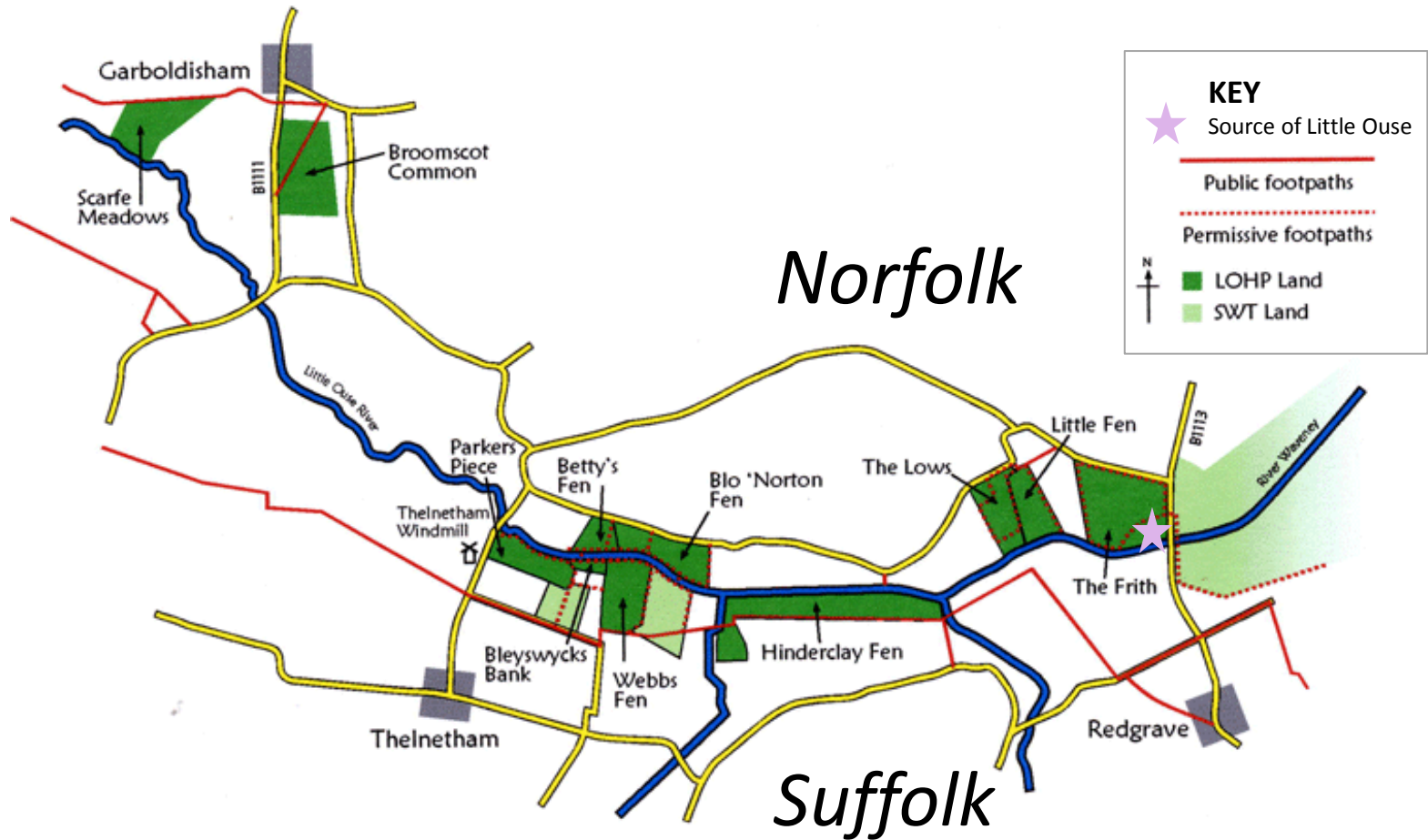


in East Anglia

This map isn't to scale



The Little Ouse river is a county boundary



In this area, the Little Ouse river divides Norfolk and Suffolk

- *Is Garboldisham in Norfolk or Suffolk?*
- *Is Thelnetham in Norfolk or Suffolk?*
- *Can you see where the Little Ouse starts?*

The Little Ouse River - very near its source



The water forms pools in
the woods on The Frith
then starts to flow downhill



The river flows down the valley
It is a very shallow slope



A bird's view of the river at Thelnetham. **Can you see where it flows?**

It flows from right to left in this picture.

It drops less than 30 cm in 1 km in this stretch.



Thelnetham windmill is just off the picture

This is a detailed historical map of the Lopham area in Norfolk, England. The map shows the River Great Ouse flowing through the center, with several villages and hamlets situated along its banks. Key locations include Lopham, Hopton, Thetford, and Barningham. The map is characterized by its intricate depiction of fields, roads, and waterways. The River Great Ouse is shown in a light blue color, while the surrounding land is divided into numerous small plots and fields, many of which are labeled with names such as 'Gasthorpe Com. Field', 'Riddlesworth Com. Field', and 'Hopton Com. Field'. The map also shows various roads and bridges, including the 'Black Water Ford' and the 'Black Bridge'. The overall style of the map is that of a traditional cadastral or topographical map, with a focus on land ownership and local geography. The map is oriented with North at the top, and the River Great Ouse flows from the top left towards the bottom right. The map is a black and white reproduction of a historical document, with some areas highlighted in red ink.

- Can you find the valleys?
- Do you think this is a good way to show them?

The river is
wider when it
flows past
Scarfe Meadows

Can you think why?



After it leaves our area
the river gets even bigger



At Knettishall ...



... at Thetford

(see the last slide for where the river is eNORMous)

Back in
our area

When you walk towards the river, the valley sides get wetter as you go downhill

Broomscot Common lies on the high land at the edge of the valley. It is a dry, sandy heathland - like a desert in summer.



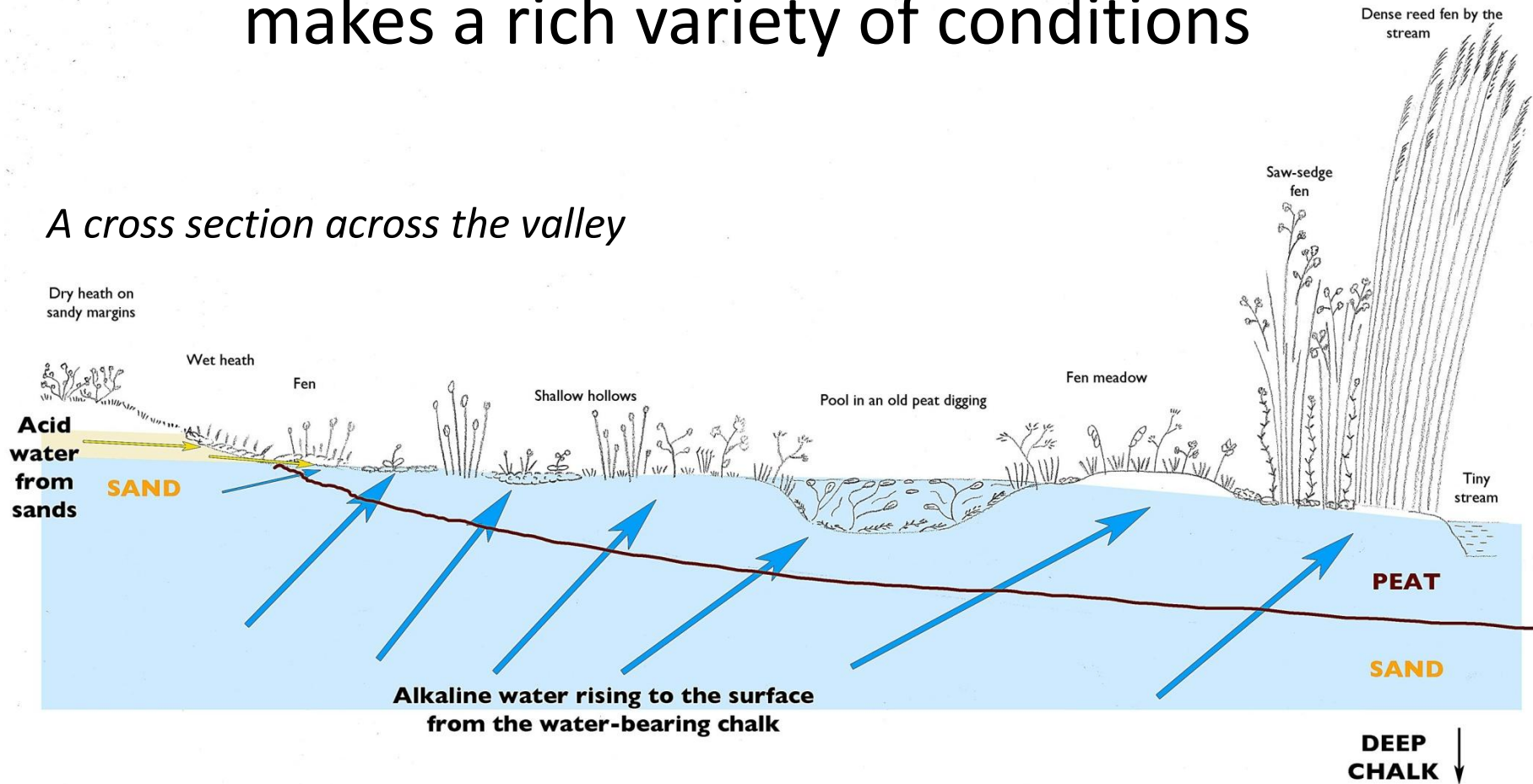
Along the river, the soil is always wet. Reeds and willow trees love it.



Which sort of place do you think a rabbit might prefer?

Water from below makes a rich variety of conditions

A cross section across the valley



Where on this diagram would Broomscot Common be?

Different plants like different amounts of water. Where do reeds like to grow?

Landscape is not just about nature

People have made their living in this valley for 1000s of years and made big changes.



They used to dig out peat from the fens for fuel. The holes became pools.



People have built things too.

What kind of building is this?

We used to get many things we needed from our local wetlands



Which part of this house is made from something you would find on a fen?



We used to get many things we needed from our local wetlands

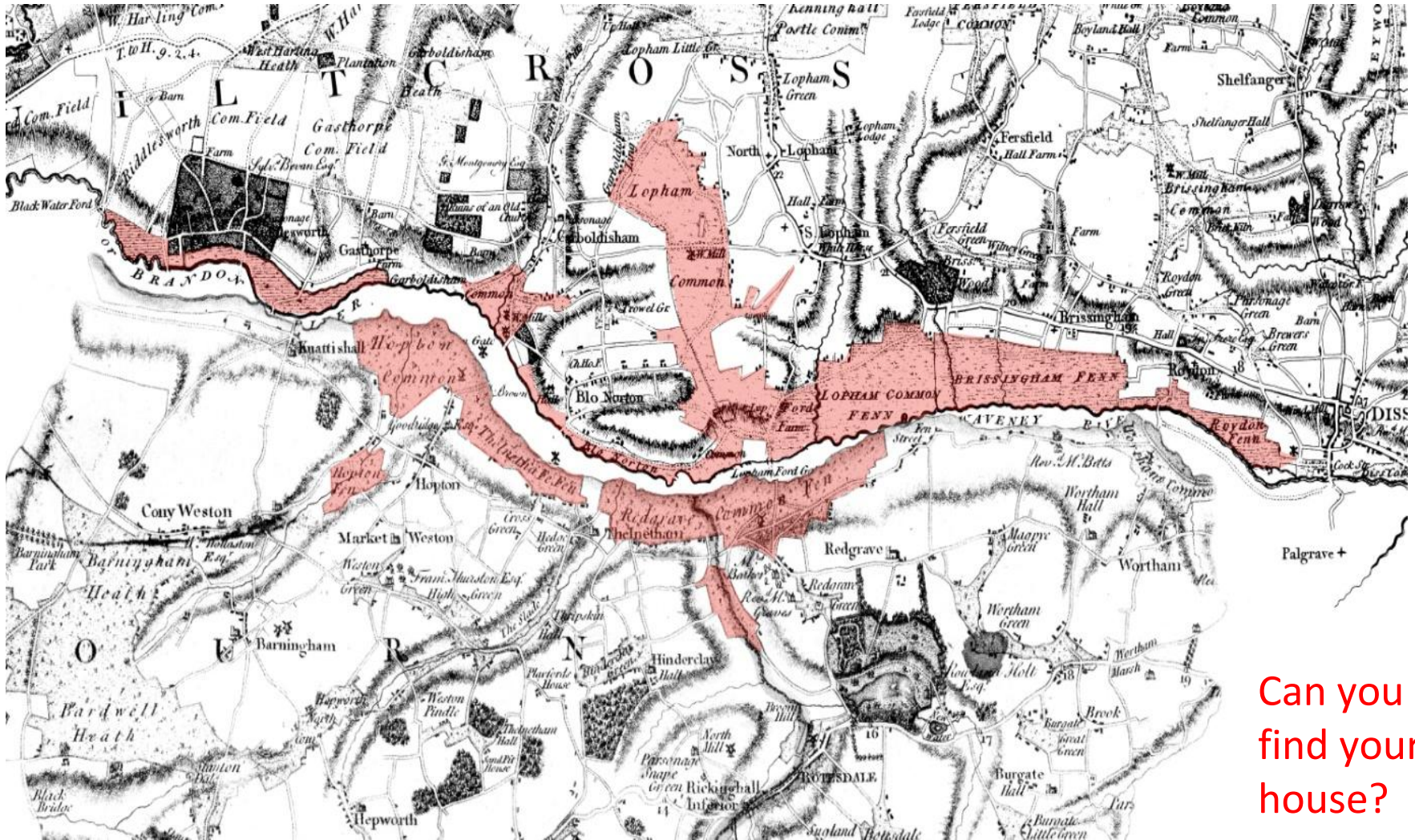


Local people used to cut reeds and sedge from the fen for thatching and for animal bedding. This kept the fen free of trees.



The main slope of the roof is reed, the top bit is sedge (it bends without breaking)

200 years ago when this map was drawn
all the red area was fen



Can you find your house?

In the valley bottom this sort of landscape
used to stretch for miles and miles



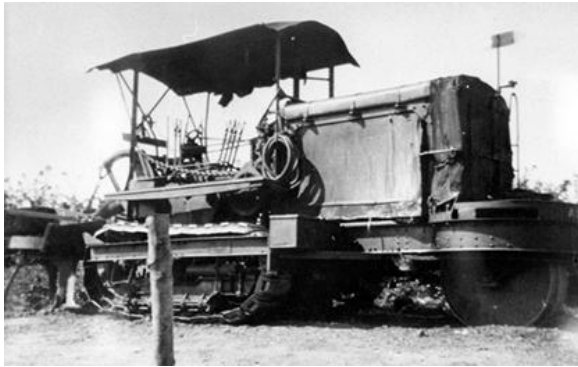
It was the biggest valley fen in East Anglia.

Imagine what that would be like . . .

During the 20th century the wetlands shrank

Some fens became woodland and dried out...

...other wet areas were drained and ploughed up for crops



This machine ploughed up many rough wet fields beside the river in the 1940s. But they never grew very good crops.



Some areas have now been given back to wildlife and wildlife-friendly farming



The LOHP is working to restore some wild, wet places and link them up . . .

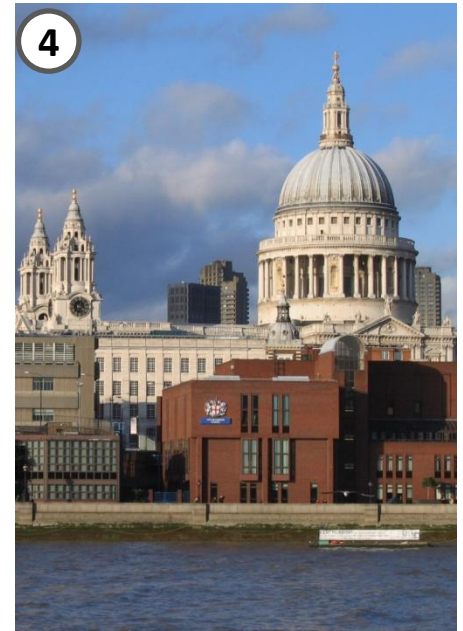


. . . making them better for wildlife and for people





Which might you see in
the LOHP landscape?





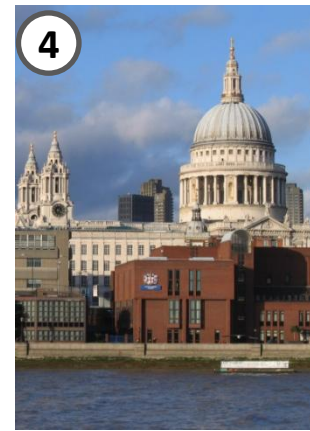
**Yes. It's
Thelnetham
Windmill**



**Yes. Sheep graze various
LOHP sites – to keep the
rough grasses short**



**No. European
bison don't live
here**



**No. St Paul's
Cathedral is
in London**



No. This is a narrowboat on a canal



**No. This crab is on a
beach**



**Yes. Grass snakes
live on several
LOHP sites**



**Yes. The LOHP sometimes uses
a digger to make better wildlife
habitats**

LAST WORD ON THE OUSE

When it gets near the sea, the river is very big.

Its name has
changed to
the Great Ouse

- Can you see the double decker bus?
- What is the name of the town where the Great Ouse reaches the sea?
- Can you find online pictures of that town?

