



DACORAR SOUTHERN LIMITED

PLUMPTON GREEN,
EAST SUSSEX

Ecological Assessment

October 2011
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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

- 1.1.1. Ecology Solutions were commissioned by Dacorar Southern Limited to carry out an Ecological Assessment of land at Plumpton Green, East Sussex (see Plan ECO1) in August 2011.

1.2. Site Characteristics

- 1.2.1. The site is located to the west of the village of Plumpton Green in East Sussex. Agricultural land in the form of grazing pasture lies to the north, west and south of the site, with existing residential properties to the east.
- 1.2.2. The Site largely comprises semi-improved grassland, with small areas of scrub and ruderal vegetation. An area of woodland is present in the southern part of the site. A number of ponds are located within the site, principally within the woodland habitat in the south with an additional pond at the northern part of the site.

1.3. Ecological Assessment

- 1.3.1. This document assesses the ecological interest of the site as a whole. The importance of the habitats present is evaluated with regard to current guidance published by the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (IEEM)¹.
- 1.3.2. The report also sets out the existing baseline conditions for the site, setting these in the correct planning policy and legal framework and assessing the need for any further survey work. It also highlights any potential impacts from development at the site. Appropriate mitigation is identified that will offset any negative impacts and where possible provide suggestions for ecological enhancement of the site, in accordance with national, regional and local planning policy.

¹ Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (2006) *Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the United Kingdom* (version 7 July 2006). <http://www.ieem.org.uk/ecia/index.html>.

2. SURVEY METHODOLOGY

2.1. The methodology utilised for the survey work can be split into three areas, namely desk study, habitat survey and faunal survey. These are discussed in more detail below.

2.2. Desk Study

2.2.1. In order to compile background information on the site and its immediate surroundings Ecology Solutions contacted Sussex Biodiversity Records Centre (SxBRC). SxBRC collate records from the biological recording community in Sussex.

2.2.2. Information received from the data search is included at Appendix 1 and shown where appropriate on Plan ECO1.

2.2.3. Further information on designated sites was obtained from the online Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC)² database, and Natural England's Nature On The Map³. This information is reproduced at Appendix 2 and where appropriate on Plan ECO1.

2.3. Habitat Survey Methodology

2.3.1. A survey was carried out in August 2011 to ascertain the general ecological value of the land contained within the boundaries of the site and to identify the main habitats and associated plant species, with notes on fauna utilising the site.

2.3.2. The site was surveyed based around extended Phase 1 survey methodology⁴, as recommended by Natural England, whereby the habitat types present are identified and mapped, together with an assessment of the species composition of each habitat. This technique provides an inventory of the basic habitat types present and allows identification of areas of greater potential which require further survey. Any such areas identified can then be examined in more detail.

2.3.3. All of the species that occur in each habitat would not necessarily be detectable during survey work carried out at any given time of the year, since different species are apparent at different seasons. However the survey was sufficient to assess the general ecological value of the habitats, given the limited botanical interest of the site.

2.4. Faunal Survey

2.4.1. General faunal activity observed during the course of the survey was recorded, whether visually or by call. Specific attention was paid to the potential presence of any protected, rare, notable or

² <http://www.magic.gov.uk/>

³ <http://www.natureonthemap.gov.uk/>

⁴ Joint Nature Conservation Committee (2010). *Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey – a Technique for Environmental Audit*. JNCC, Peterborough.

Biodiversity Action Plan species. In addition, specific surveys were undertaken for Badgers *Meles meles* and bats.

2.4.2. **Bats.** All buildings and trees present within the site were assessed for their potential to support roosting bats in October 2011. External and internal surveys of buildings were undertaken. Ladders and binoculars were used where necessary during surveys.

2.4.3. The probability of a building being used by bats as a summer roost site increases if it:

- is largely undisturbed;
- dates from pre 20th Century;
- has a large roof void with unobstructed flying spaces;
- has access points for bats (though not too draughty);
- has wooden cladding or hanging tiles; and
- is in a rural setting and close to woodland or water.

2.4.4. Conversely, the probability decreases if a building is of a modern or pre-fabricated design / construction, is in an urban setting, has small or cluttered roof voids, has few gaps at the eaves or is a heavily disturbed premises.

2.4.5. For a tree to be classed as having some potential for roosting bats it must usually have one or more of the following characteristics:

- obvious holes, e.g. rot holes and old woodpecker holes;
- dark staining on the tree below a hole;
- tiny scratch marks around a hole from bats' claws;
- cavities, splits and / or loose bark from broken or fallen branches, lightning strikes etc; and / or
- very dense covering of mature Ivy over trunk.

2.4.6. **Badgers.** Specific surveys were undertaken to search for evidence of Badgers in October 2011, and comprised two main elements. The first of these was a thorough search for evidence of Badger setts. For any setts that were encountered each sett entrance was noted and plotted even if the entrance appeared disused. The following information was recorded:

- i) The number and location of well used or very active entrances; these are clear from any debris or vegetation and are obviously in regular use and may, or may not, have been excavated recently.
- ii) The number and location of inactive entrances; these are not in regular use and have debris such as leaves and twigs in the entrance or have plants growing in or around the edge of the entrance.
- iii) The number of disused entrances; these have not been in use for some time, are partly or completely blocked and

cannot be used without considerable clearance. If the entrance has been disused for some time all that may be visible is a depression in the ground where the hole used to be and the remains of the spoil heap.

- 2.4.7. Secondly, Badger activity such as well-worn paths and run-throughs, snagged hair, footprints, latrines and foraging signs was recorded so as to build up a picture of the use of the site, if any, by Badgers.

3. ECOLOGICAL FEATURES

3.1. The site was subject to an ecological survey in August 2011. The vegetation present enabled the habitat types to be satisfactorily identified and an accurate assessment of the ecological interest of the habitats to be undertaken.

3.2. The following main habitat / vegetation types were identified:

- Semi-Improved Grassland;
- Woodland;
- Scrub;
- Tall Ruderal Vegetation;
- Hedgerows and Trees;
- Ponds;
- Dry Ditch / Pond;
- Building; and
- Hardstanding.

3.3. The location of these habitats is shown on Plan ECO2.

3.4. Each habitat present is described below with an account of the representative plant species present.

3.5. Semi-Improved Grassland

3.5.1. The majority of the site comprises semi-improved grassland. The semi-improved grassland had been grazed very short by sheep at the time of the survey. Species present include Perennial Ryegrass *Lolium perenne*, Cock's-foot *Dactylis glomerata*, Crested Dogstail *Cynosurus cristatus*, Common Bent *Agrostis capillaris*, Red Fescue *Festuca rubra*, White Clover *Trifolium repens*, Dandelion *Taraxacum officinale* agg., Ribwort Plantain *Plantago lanceolata* and Creeping Thistle *Cirsium arvense*. There were a few areas that supported Hard Rush *Juncus inflexus*, Hairy Sedge *Carex capillaries* and other species associated with damper conditions.

3.6. Woodland

3.6.1. The southern part of the site comprises an area of woodland. The woodland is mostly dominated by Sessile Oak *Quercus petraea*, but there are areas of Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, Elm *Ulmus procera*, Crack Willow *Salix fragilis* and Sallow *Salix caprea*. The ground flora is dominated by Ivy *Hedera helix*, but there was evidence of other woodland flora such as Cow Parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris*, Red Campion *Silene dioica*, Wood Avens *Geum urbanum* and Greater Stitchwort *Stellaria holostea*.

3.7. Scrub

3.7.1. Small areas of scrub are present within the site in the north-eastern corner and adjacent to the northern pond. Species recorded

include Bramble *Rubus fruticosus*, Hawthorn, Sallow, and Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*.

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3.8. Tall Ruderal Vegetation

- 3.8.1. Areas of this habitat are present in the north-eastern corner of the site and adjacent to the northern pond. Species present include Nettle *Urtica dioica*, Creeping Thistle, False Oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius*, Broad-leaved Dock *Rumex obtusifolius*, Rosebay Willowherb *Chamerion angustifolium* and Great Willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum*.

3.9. Hedgerows and Trees

- 3.9.1. There are a number of hedgerows along field boundaries within the site as shown on Plan ECO2. The hedgerows on the whole are well maintained and cut regularly. Species recorded within the hedgerows include Sessile Oak, Ash, Hazel *Corylus avellana*, Blackthorn, Hawthorn, Elder *Sambucus nigra*, Field Maple *Acer campestre* and Dog-rose *Rosa canina*. There are a number of standard trees within the hedgerows, many of which have potential for roosting bats.

3.10. Ponds

- 3.10.1. There are a number of ponds present within the site, as shown on Plan ECO2. The majority of the ponds are located within the woodland in the south, with an additional pond present in the northern part of the site. The ponds within the woodland to the south had relatively shaded banks being surrounded by trees and shrubs. There was evidence that some of these ponds may contain fish as fishing line was present in the tree, but no fish were observed. The pond to the north of the site support marginal vegetation such as rushes and sedges and supported a small amount of Greater Reedmace *Typha latifolia*.

3.11. Dry Ditch / Pond

- 3.11.1. A dry ditch and pond are located in the central part of the site, crossing from east to west. These features are associated with hedgerows and trees, and are seasonally wet. At the time of the survey no water was present.

3.12. Building

- 3.12.1. A farm building is present in the northern part of the site. It was associated with sheep handling facilities and is believed to be used as wintering shed for sheep. It was a steel framed barn with corrugated tin roof and walls. There were no internal voids and was open at one end.

3.13. **Hardstanding**

- 3.13.1. Small areas of hardstanding in the form of tracks are present along part of the northern boundary of the site and crossing the site to the north of the woodland.

4. WILDLIFE USE OF THE SITE

4.1. During the survey general observations were made of any faunal use of the site with specific attention paid to the potential presence of protected or notable species. Specific surveys were also undertaken with regard to bats and Badgers.

4.2. Bats

4.2.1. The building on the site was not suitable to support roosting bats. There are a number of trees on site that have some potential to support roosting bats. These were mainly within the hedgerows, although there were some within the woodland that also had some potential. There were no obvious signs of use around these features in the form of staining or droppings, but a thorough search was not always possible.

4.2.2. Some of the hedgerows on site offer the potential as commuting and foraging resources for bats. Other features such as the ponds and the woodland may act as a foraging resource for this group.

4.2.3. The data search has provided records of a number of bat species within the local area. These include a number of recorded roost sites. The nearest roost sites are located to the south of the site on Riddens Lane, and to the east on Station Road where properties are recorded as supporting both Brown Long-eared *Plecotus auritus* bats and Pipistrelle bats. These are both adjacent to the site.

4.3. Badgers

4.3.1. No Badger setts were observed during the survey undertaken at the site. A number of mammal paths were observed within the site boundary which could have been attributed to Badger movement through the site.

4.3.2. The semi-improved grassland offers suitable foraging habitat for Badgers, and there is the potential that the site is used. However, no obvious foraging signs were recorded at the site.

4.3.3. Badger Records were not returned as part of the data search as SxBRC keep them confidential in order to prevent persecution to this species.

4.4. Birds

4.4.1. The hedgerows, trees and woodland within the site offer suitable foraging and nesting habitats for bird species.

4.4.2. Species noted on site during the habitat survey were Wood Pigeon *Columba palumbus*, Blackbird *Turdus merula*, Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus*, Great Tit *Parus major*, Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopus major*, Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*, Dunnock *Prunella modularis*, Robin *Erithacus rubecula*, Carrion Crow

Corvus corone, Jackdaw *Corvus monedula* and Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*.

- 4.4.3. A number of bird species were returned by the SxBRC no specific locations were provided for the records, but it is unlikely that any of the specially protected birds would be reliant solely on the application site.

4.5. Reptiles

- 4.5.1. As a result of the intensively grazed nature of the semi-improved grassland fields, there are limited opportunities for reptiles within the site. These are principally confined to the field margins and areas of scrub and tall ruderal vegetation.
- 4.5.2. A number of reptile records were returned by SxBRC. The closest record was that of a Slow Worm *Anguis fragilis* located to the immediate south of the site.

4.6. Amphibians

- 4.6.1. The ponds on site have the potential to support amphibians, including Great Crested Newts *Triturus cristatus*. There are also a number of ponds beyond the site boundary to the north-west as shown on Plan ECO1. It is known that Great Crested Newts can travel up to 500m from their breeding ponds during their terrestrial stage.
- 4.6.2. The data search provided by SxBRC show records of Great Crested Newts from the local area. The closest record is located to the east of station road approximately 300m from the site.

4.7. Hazel Dormice

- 4.7.1. The site offers some opportunities for Hazel Dormouse *Muscardinus avellanarius* within the hedgerows and woodland. The hedgerows also offer good connectivity between the site and woodlands to the west and north-west of the site.
- 4.7.2. No records of Hazel Dormice were returned by SxBRC as part of the data search exercise.

4.8. Invertebrates

- 4.8.1. The habitats at the site are likely to support a range of common invertebrate species, but there is no evidence to suggest that any protected or notable species would be present due to an intensive agricultural management regime.
- 4.9. It is considered that the site is unlikely to support any other protected species.

5. ECOLOGICAL EVALUATION

5.1. The Principles of Site Evaluation

- 5.1.1. The latest guidelines for ecological evaluation produced by IEEM proposes an approach that involves professional judgement, but makes use of available guidance and information, such as the distribution and status of the species or features within the locality of the project.
- 5.1.2. The methods and standards for site evaluation within the British Isles have remained those defined by Ratcliffe⁵. These are broadly used across the United Kingdom to rank sites, so priorities for nature conservation can be attained. For example, current Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) designation maintains a system of data analysis that is roughly tested against Ratcliffe's criteria.
- 5.1.3. In general terms, these criteria are size, diversity, naturalness, rarity and fragility, while additional secondary criteria of typicalness, potential value, intrinsic appeal, recorded history and the position within the ecological / geographical units are also incorporated into the ranking procedure.
- 5.1.4. Any assessment should not judge sites in isolation from others, since several habitats may combine to make it worthy of importance to nature conservation.
- 5.1.5. Further, relying on the national criteria would undoubtedly distort the local variation in assessment and therefore additional factors need to be taken into account, e.g. a woodland type with a comparatively poor species diversity, common in the south of England may be of importance at its northern limits, say in the border country.
- 5.1.6. In addition, habitats of local importance are often highlighted within a local Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP). The Sussex BAP highlights a number of habitats and species. These are referred to below where relevant.
- 5.1.7. Levels of importance can be determined within a defined geographical context from the immediate site or locality through to the International level.
- 5.1.8. The legislative and planning policy context are also important considerations and have been given due regard throughout this assessment.

⁵ Ratcliffe, D A (1977). *A Nature Conservation Review: the Selection of sites of Biological National Importance to Nature Conservation in Britain*. Two Volumes. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

5.2. Habitat Evaluation

Designated sites

- 5.2.1. **Statutory sites.** There are no statutory designated sites of nature conservation interest within or adjacent to the site, or within close proximity to the site. The nearest statutory designated site is Ditchling Common Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) which is situated approximately 2.4km to the north-west of the site.
- 5.2.2. Due to this distance and the separation of the site by agricultural land it is not considered that any development at the site would affect the statutory site.
- 5.2.3. **Non-statutory sites.** There are no non-statutory designated sites within the site itself. There are a number of Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCIs) located within close proximity of the site. The nearest non-statutory sites are Blackbrook Wood & The Plantation SNCI, situated approximately 1km to the west of the site, and Great Home Wood, Hattons Wood SNCI, situated approximately 1.2km to the north-east of the site (see Plan ECO1).
- 5.2.4. Whilst there is an existing public right of way that passes from the site to Blackbrook Wood & The Plantation SNCI, there is nothing to suggest that public access into the woodland beyond the footpath is permitted.
- 5.2.5. Due to distance between this site and the two SNCIs, and that they are separated by agricultural land it is not considered that any development at the site would affect any non-statutory sites.

Ancient woodland

- 5.2.6. The nearest ancient woodland to the site is Riddens Wood, which is situated to the west approximately 200m away at the nearest point (see Plan ECO1).
- 5.2.7. A public right of way currently passes through the site and along the northern boundary of the woodland. However there are no rights of way passing through the woodland and there is nothing to suggest that public access into the woodland is permitted.
- 5.2.8. As such, it is not considered that any development of the site will have an impact on ancient woodland.

Habitats within the site

- 5.2.9. The habitats within the site on the whole hold low ecological value, being species poor and intensively managed for agricultural purposes.
- 5.2.10. The features that hold relatively higher value within the site are the woodland, hedgerows and ponds.

- 5.2.11. The woodland in the southern part of the site has some ecological interest at present, and is likely to be of importance for nesting birds. Any development proposal of the site should retain the woodland where possible. A management plan for the woodland to improve its ecological value would further enhance the habitat for wildlife.
- 5.2.12. It is unlikely that the hedgerows within the site would qualify as important under the Hedgerow Regulations 1997. It is recommended that these hedgerows undergo further assessment if a planning application for the site comes forward. It is recommended that where possible these hedgerows be maintained within any development proposal.
- 5.2.13. Where a hedgerow is found to be important under the regulations, this does not preclude its removal. An application for the removal in whole or in part can be made to the LPA. Furthermore, such actions would be a material consideration as part of a planning application, and as such a planning consent would in effect consent to its removal.
- 5.2.14. If significant lengths of hedgerow do require removal then it may be necessary to undertake compensatory planting using native species of local provenance wherever possible. Replacement planting would also contribute towards targets in the Sussex Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) for Hedgerows. It is considered that this will be wholly deliverable within any emerging proposals that are formed for the site.
- 5.2.15. It is considered that with the adoption of the above recommendations there would be no significant adverse impacts on hedgerows within the site.
- 5.2.16. A number of ponds within the site remain wet throughout the year, as therefore have some ecological value. All existing ponds should be retained within any development proposals where possible, and managed to ensure that they continue to function as a viable ecological resource. In addition, there is ample scope to create additional pond or ditch habitats in open space within the site which may improve linkages between ponds in the northern and southern parts of the site.
- 5.2.17. Creation of new habitats of conservation importance within the site in areas of open space will enhance the ecological value and biodiversity of the site in accordance with guidance set out by PPS9 (see policy section 6 below). It is recommended that new planting utilises native species of local provenance to maximise benefits to wildlife. The creation of wildflower grassland within the open space would increase the biodiversity of the site and will contribute to the aims of the Sussex BAP.

5.3. Faunal Evaluation

Bats

- 5.3.1. All bats are protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and included on Schedule 2 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (“the Habitats Regulations”). These include provisions making it an offence to:
- Deliberately to kill, injure or take (capture) bats;
 - Deliberately to disturb bats in such a way as to:-
 - Be likely to impair their ability to survive, to breed or reproduce, or to rear or nurture their young, or to hibernate or migrate; or
 - Affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of the species to which they belong;
 - To damage or destroy any breeding or resting place used by bats;
 - Intentionally or recklessly to obstruct access to any place used by bats for shelter or protection (even if bats are not in residence).
- 5.3.2. If proposed work is likely to destroy or disturb bats or their roosts Natural England should be consulted, and if necessary any works carried out under a licence.
- 5.3.3. There are a number of trees within the site that have potential to support roosting bats. If any of these trees were to be lost to a development then these trees would need to be surveyed further to establish the presence or absence of a roost. Should a roost be recorded appropriate mitigation would need to be put forward.
- 5.3.4. The woodland edge and the hedgerows within the site offer potential commuting and foraging opportunities for bats and it is recommended that activity surveys be carried out across the site to establish important areas for bats (effective from May to September). With appropriate design and management of existing features, including the retention and enhancement of woodland and features of potential value to bats in strategic open space, it is thought that a development on this site would have negligible effects on any existing foraging or commuting resources for bat populations within the local area.
- 5.3.5. The provision of new landscape planting, in the form of hedgerows, trees and species-rich grassland within any proposals, and of additional roosting opportunities such as bat boxes would provide an enhancement over the current situation. These measures may contribute to the national BAPs for bat species.
- 5.3.6. It is recommended that any development proposed use a lighting scheme designed and engineered to produce low light spillage, in order to avoid disturbance to bats while foraging or commuting around the site.

- 5.3.7. It is considered that with the adoption of the above recommendations, which would be easily deliverable within a development, there would be no significant adverse impacts on bats within the site.

Badgers

- 5.3.8. The Protection of Badgers Act 1992 consolidates the previous Badgers Acts of 1973 and 1991. The legislation aims to protect the species from persecution, rather than being a response to an unfavourable conservation status, as the species is in fact common over most of Britain, with particularly high populations in the south.
- 5.3.9. As well as protecting the animal itself, the 1992 Act also makes the intentional or reckless destruction, damage or obstruction of a Badger sett an offence. A sett is defined as “any structure or place which displays signs indicating current use by a Badger”. ‘Current use’ is defined by Natural England as any use within the preceding 12 months.
- 5.3.10. In addition, the intentional elimination of sufficient foraging area to support a known social group of Badgers may, in certain circumstances, be construed as an offence by constituting ‘cruel ill treatment’ of a Badger.
- 5.3.11. Previous guidelines were issued by Natural England on the types of activity that it considers should be licensed within certain distances of sett entrances. They stated that works that may require a licence include using heavy machinery within 30m of any entrance to an active sett, using lighter machinery within 20m, and light work such as hand digging within 10m. However new guidance published in September 2007 states that
- “It is not illegal, and therefore a licence is not required, to carry out disturbing activities in the vicinity of a sett if no Badger is disturbed and the sett is not damaged or obstructed.”*
- 5.3.12. Thus this revised guidance allows a professional judgement to be made on individual cases as to whether a sett will be damaged or obstructed or a Badger will be disturbed, and therefore whether a licence will be required.
- 5.3.13. No Badger setts were found within the site and no specific evidence of activity was observed. A mammal path was present within the site and it is possibly used by Badgers. The semi-improved grassland would offer suitable foraging opportunities for Badgers.
- 5.3.14. It is considered that with provision of species-rich grassland within areas of public open space and through the maintenance of connectivity through the site along existing hedgerows and new landscape features, opportunities for Badgers could be retained within the site.

- 5.3.15. It is considered that with the adoption of the above recommendations, which would be easily deliverable within a development, there would be no significant adverse impacts on Badgers within the site.

Birds

- 5.3.16. Section 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act is concerned with the protection of wild birds, whilst Schedule 1 lists species are protected by special penalties. No Schedule 1 species were recorded within the site itself during the survey.
- 5.3.17. There are opportunities for nesting birds, in terms of the trees, woodland, hedgerows and scrub within the site. As all species of birds receive general protection whilst nesting, to avoid a possible offence, it is recommended that any clearance of suitable nesting vegetation (including tree felling) be undertaken outside of the breeding season (March to July inclusive) or that checks be made for nesting birds by an ecologist immediately prior to removal.
- 5.3.18. New planting within any development proposal will provide additional nesting and foraging habitats. Nest boxes could be erected as part of any development proposals to increase nesting opportunities for birds within the site. All nest boxes should be situated out of direct sunlight and out of the reach of predators, particularly cats.
- 5.3.19. It is considered that with the adoption of the above recommendations, which would be easily deliverable within a development, there would be no significant adverse impacts on birds within the site.

Hazel Dormice

- 5.3.20. The Hazel or Common Dormouse is a scarce UK species that is protected under European and UK law by virtue of its inclusion on:
- Appendix 3 of the Bonn Convention;
 - Annex IVa of the EC Habitats Directive;
 - Schedule 2 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010; and
 - Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)
- 5.3.21. The legislation includes provisions making it an offence to:
- Deliberately to kill, injure or take (capture) Dormice;
 - Deliberately to disturb Dormice in such a way as to:-
 - (i) be likely to impair their ability to survive, to breed or reproduce, or to rear or nurture their young, or to hibernate or migrate; or
 - (ii) affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of the species to which they belong;

- To damage or destroy any breeding or resting place used by Dormice;
- Intentionally or recklessly to obstruct access to any place used by Dormice for shelter or protection (even if Dormice are not in residence).

5.3.22. The hedgerows and woodland within the site have potential to support Dormice on account of their level of connectivity with the wider landscape. It is recommended that Dormouse surveys are undertaken to ascertain the presence or absence of the species within the site. Surveys should be undertaken within the optimal period between May and September.

5.3.23. In any case, hedgerow links will be retained and enhanced, where possible, as part of any proposed development. Additional planting would provide more suitable habitat for Dormice, and could include species favoured by Dormice as a nesting and foraging resource, such as Hazel, Honeysuckle, Oak, Yew *Taxus baccata*, Hornbeam, Blackthorn and Sweet Chestnut *Castanea sativa*.

5.3.24. The establishment of a management regime for the woodland in the southern part of the site could include coppicing management, which would provide beneficial habitats for Dormice.

5.3.25. As such, it is not considered that any detrimental impact would occur to Dormice, even if the presence of the species within the site was confirmed through survey.

Reptiles

5.3.26. All six British reptile species receive a degree of legislative protection that varies depending on their conservation importance.

5.3.27. Rare, endangered or declining species receive 'full protection' under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) as well as protection under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 ("The Habitats Regulations"). Species that are fully protected include Smooth Snake and Sand Lizard. These receive protection from:

- killing, injuring, taking;
- possession or control (of live or dead animals, their parts or derivatives);
- damage to, destruction of, obstruction of access to any structure or place used for shelter or protection;
- disturbance of any animal occupying such a structure or place;
- selling, offering for sale, possession or transport for purposes of sale (live or dead animal, part or derivative).

5.3.28. By contrast, due to their abundance and more cosmopolitan habitat requirements in Britain, Common Lizard, Slow Worm, Grass Snake and Adder are only 'partially protected' under the Wildlife and

Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and as such only receive protection from:

- deliberate killing and injuring;
- being sold or other forms of trading

- 5.3.29. Due to the habitats present at the site it is considered highly unlikely that either Smooth Snake or Sand Lizard would be present.
- 5.3.30. The field margins and areas of ruderal vegetation offer some opportunities for common reptiles. It is recommended that reptile surveys are undertaken to ascertain the presence of absence of reptiles within the site. Surveys should be undertaken during the optimal period between April and September.
- 5.3.31. In any case, strategic open space within any development could include areas of meadow grassland as part of a planting scheme. By excluding some areas of meadow grassland habitat and managing these areas appropriately (such as winter mowing only, or permitting scattered scrub cover), the area and quality of suitable habitat for reptiles within the site could be increased.
- 5.3.32. There is also scope to improve the value of the woodland in the southern part of the site for reptiles, as part of the management plan. This may be of particular value for Grass Snakes, if present, given the pond habitats present in this part of the site.
- 5.3.33. It is considered that with the adoption of the above recommendations, which would be easily deliverable within a development, there would be no significant adverse impacts on reptiles within the site, if their presence within the site was confirmed by survey work.

Amphibians

- 5.3.34. All British amphibian species receive a degree of protection under the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended). The level of protection varies from protection from sale or trade only, as is the case with species such as Smooth Newt and Common Toad, to the more rigorous protection afforded to Great Crested Newts, which is protected at the European level.
- 5.3.35. Although Great Crested Newts are regularly encountered locally and throughout much of England, the UK holds a large percentage of the world population of the species. As such the UK has an international obligation to conserve the species and they receive full protection under domestic and European legislation and are a material consideration under PPS9.
- 5.3.36. Great Crested Newts are also listed in Annex IV(a) of the European Community Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora, more commonly known as the Habitats Directive. The Habitats Directive was transposed into

UK law by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, which lists Great Crested Newts under Schedule 2.

- 5.3.37. The legislation includes provisions making it an offence to:
- Deliberately to kill, injure or take (capture) Great Crested Newts;
 - Deliberately to disturb Great Crested Newts in such a way as to:-
 - (i) be likely to impair their ability to survive, to breed or reproduce, or to rear or nurture their young, or to hibernate or migrate; or
 - (ii) affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of the species to which they belong;
 - Deliberately takes or destroys the Great Crested Newts eggs;
 - To damage or destroy any breeding or resting place used by Great Crested Newts;
 - Intentionally or recklessly to obstruct access to any place used by Great Crested Newts for shelter or protection (even if individuals are not in residence).
- 5.3.38. Licences can be granted that would permit otherwise unlawful activities. In every case, a licence cannot be granted unless:
- (i) There is no satisfactory alternative; and
 - (ii) The action authorised would not be detrimental to the maintenance of the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in their natural range.
- 5.3.39. It should be noted that a licence could only be granted following the receipt of a full valid planning permission.
- 5.3.40. A number of ponds within the site, including in the northern and southern parts of the site, are potential suitable breeding ponds for Great Crested Newts. The dry ditch and ponds are less suitable due to its seasonality, but may offer some opportunities for newts.
- 5.3.41. To confirm the presence of this species, and the size of the population, and thus the level of mitigation that would be required, further survey work would be required. All on site ponds should be surveyed where possible, and off site pond if access can be arranged. Such survey work is seasonally constrained and can only be undertaken between mid-March and mid-June with a proportion of these visits necessary between mid-April and mid-May to accord with current survey guidelines issued by Natural England.
- 5.3.42. If Great Crested Newts were recorded then mitigation measures would likely require the retention of breeding ponds (and others if appropriate), and suitable terrestrial habitat associated with the ponds, including areas of scrub, grassland and hedgerows. In addition, an area of open space linked to the above habitats may

need to be set aside in order to provide additional aquatic and terrestrial habitats for this species and to offset any losses of suitable habitat that are unavoidable. It is considered that there is ample scope in any strategic open space along the western boundary of the site to accommodate suitable mitigation habitat, should this be necessary.

- 5.3.43. It is considered that with the adoption of the above recommendations, which would be easily deliverable within a development, there would be no significant adverse impacts on Great Crested Newts within the site, if the presence of the species within the site was confirmed by survey work.

6. PLANNING POLICY CONTEXT

- 6.1. The planning policy framework that relates to nature conservation for Plumpton Green, East Sussex is issued nationally through Planning Policy Statement 9 (PPS9); at the regional level through the South East Plan; and locally through the saved policies of the Lewes District Local Plan (adopted March 2003) and emerging Local Development Framework (LDF).
- 6.2. Government Circular 06/2005 accompanies PPS9 and provides administrative guidance to planning authorities on the application of law relating to planning and nature conservation in England.

6.3. National Policy

Planning Policy Statement 9

- 6.3.1. Current guidance on national policy for biodiversity and geological conservation is provided within Planning Policy Statement 9 (PPS9), published in August 2005. PPS9 confirms the Government's commitment to the protection of biodiversity and geological conservation through the planning system.
- 6.3.2. PPS9 requires Local Authorities to fully consider the effect of planning decisions on biodiversity and geological conservation, and ensure that appropriate weight is attached to statutory nature conservation designations, protected species and biodiversity and geological interests within the wider environment.
- 6.3.3. It also considers the potential biodiversity and geological conservation gains which can be secured within developments, including the use of planning obligations.
- 6.3.4. National policy therefore implicitly recognises the importance of biodiversity and that with sensitive planning and design, development and conservation of the natural heritage can co-exist and benefits can, in certain circumstances, be obtained.
- 6.3.5. As part of the Government's objectives to simplify the planning system the Draft National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)^[1] has been produced and circulated for consultation.
- 6.3.6. A draft consultation document entitled PPS: Planning for Natural and Healthy Environment was published by the Department for Communities and Local Government in March 2010. Whilst the current consultation Draft NPPF brings about some alterations to the original document, essentially there is no significant material change to the guidance given in PPS9. The document was to eventually replace PPS9 subject to changes made by the Coalition Government; however both PPS9 and the draft PPS are to be

[1] Department for Communities and Local Government (July 2011) Draft National Planning Policy Framework, London

replaced by the National Planning Policy Framework once adopted.

- 6.3.7. The Draft NPPF's objective, in respect of ecology and nature conservation, is to conserve and enhance the natural and local environment.

6.4. Regional Policy

South East Plan

- 6.4.1. Policies providing guidance on the relationship between development and nature conservation in the south-east are currently provided in the South East Plan (also known as the Regional Spatial Strategy for the South East), published by the Secretary of State in May 2009.
- 6.4.2. There are four policies within the South East Plan (**NRM5**, **NRM6**, **NRM7** and **NRM8**) which refer to the protection and enhancement of designated sites and the maintenance and enhancement of the region's biodiversity resources.
- 6.4.3. Policy **NRM5** is concerned with all designated sites and biodiversity, and stresses that both the conservation and improvement of biodiversity should be considered. Policy **NRM7** is specifically concerned with the protection and enhancement of woodlands.
- 6.4.4. Policy **NRM6** is concerned specifically with the Thames Basin Heaths SPA, while policy **NRM8** is concerned with coastal management. As such, neither policy is relevant to any proposed development at the site.
- 6.4.5. On 6 July 2010, the Coalition Government revoked all regional strategies under section 79(6) of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009. This action was successfully challenged in the High Court by developer Cala Homes, and the decision concluded that Section 79 powers could not be used to revoke all regional strategies in their entirety. Draft legislation to abolish the regional tier of planning as part of wider Localism Bill is before Parliament and is expected to receive Royal Assent at the end of 2011. Following this and the completion of the necessary Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) the South East Plan will no longer form part of the Development Plan for the area.

6.5. Local Policy

Lewes District Local Plan (adopted March 2003)

- 6.5.1. The current document for planning control purposes at Plumpton Green is the Lewis District Local Plan, adopted on 31st March 2003. There are four policies within the Local Plan (policies **ST3**, **ST9**, **ST10** and **ST12**) that are of relevance to nature conservation.

- 6.5.2. Policy **ST3** is concerned with the design, form and setting of development, and states that the design of soft landscaping should maximise wildlife potential by the use of native species and appropriate design in accordance with policies ST11 and ST12.
- 6.5.3. Policies **ST9** and **ST10** are concerned with the protection of natural features. Policy **ST9** states that the Council will seek to safeguard, and where possible enhance, qualities of sites which are of importance for their nature conservation interest, with regard to: the quality of the features on the site (including rarity value and any factors giving rise to international, national or local designations); the extent of any adverse effects on these features arising from the proposed development, and; the extent and effectiveness of any proposed mitigation or compensation measures. The policy also states that proposals within or near to Sites of Special Scientific Interest will be subject to special scrutiny.
- 6.5.4. Policy **ST10** states that proposals which may have an adverse effect on Badgers and species listed on Schedules 1, 5 and 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) cannot be permitted unless it can be reasonably demonstrated that harm to the species will be avoided. The policy states that the Council may consider the use of conditions and obligations which seek to facilitate the survival of individuals, reduce the disturbance to a satisfactory minimum and provide adequate alternative habitats to at least sustain the current level of population.
- 6.5.5. Policy **ST12** is concerned with the landscaping of development, and states that trees and woodland of importance should be retained in association with development. The policy states that the Council will apply landscaping conditions to preserve existing trees and hedgerows, ensure replacement planting, and require new planting of trees, hedgerows and other features.
- 6.5.6. Following a direction issued by the Secretary of State, as of 27th September 2007 a number of policies within the Lewes District Local Plan were not 'saved' and have effectively expired. These policies therefore no longer form part of the development plan.
- 6.5.7. Policies **ST9**, **ST10** and **ST12** were not saved (covered under PPS9 and statutory protection) and are no longer relevant.

Lewis District Local Development Framework

- 6.5.8. The Lewis District Core Strategy is in preparation as part of the emerging LDF, and will replace saved policies in the Lewes District Local Plan, once adopted. This draft document is currently in preparation.
- 6.5.9. A Core Strategy consultation document, entitled 'Emerging Core Strategy' is currently subject to a period of public consultation, which will inform the policies in the Core Strategy. It is currently

envisaged that the Core Strategy will be submitted in Summer 2012, for adoption in early 2013.

- 6.5.10. Whilst the Core Strategy has not been formally adopted, proposed policies should still be considered.
- 6.5.11. **Strategic Objective 5** is concerned with the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area.
- 6.5.12. **Core Policy 8** is concerned with green infrastructure, and states that development should protect existing green infrastructure, and contribute towards the creation of new green spaces and network linkages.
- 6.5.13. **Core Policy 10** is concerned with the natural environment and landscape character. The policy states that the highest priority will be given to the integrity of European designated sites in and around the Lewes District. It states that this will be achieved by ensuring that development causes no significant adverse effects on the integrity of sites, in combination with other plans, projects and proposals.
- 6.5.14. The policy also states that biodiversity resources will be conserved and enhanced by seeking the conservation, enhancement and net gain in local biodiversity resources, in addition to seeking to maintain ecological corridors and avoiding habitat fragmentation.

6.6. Discussion

- 6.6.1. Any development at the site will avoid any significant impacts on any designated sites for nature conservation. The potential presence of protected species is acknowledged in this report and measures to safeguard these put forward, where necessary. Habitats of ecological importance have been identified and measures recommended to ensure their protection.
- 6.6.2. As such it is considered that any development, following the recommendations in this report, would fully accord with national, regional and local policy.

7. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1. Ecology Solutions were commissioned by Dacorar Southern Limited to carry out an Ecological Assessment of land at Plumpton Green, East Sussex in August 2011.

Statutory Sites

- 7.2. There are no statutory designated sites of nature conservation interest within or adjacent to the site, or within close proximity to the site. The nearest statutory designated site is Ditchling Common Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) which is situated approximately 2.4km to the north-west of the site.
- 7.3. Due to this distance and the separation of the site by agricultural land it is not considered that any development at the site would affect the statutory site.

Non-statutory sites

- 7.4. There are no non-statutory designated sites within the site itself. There are a number of Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCIs) located within close proximity of the site. The nearest non-statutory sites are Blackbrook Wood & The Plantation SNCI, situated approximately 1km to the west of the site, and Great Home Wood, Hattons Wood SNCI, situated approximately 1.2km to the north-east of the site.
- 7.5. Whilst there is an existing public right of way that passes from the site to Blackbrook Wood & The Plantation SNCI, there is nothing to suggest that public access into the woodland beyond the footpath is permitted.
- 7.6. Due to distance between this site and the two SNCIs, and that they are separated by agricultural land it is not considered that any development at the site would affect any non-statutory sites.

Ancient Woodland

- 7.7. The nearest ancient woodland to the site is Riddens Wood, which is situated to the west approximately 200m away at the nearest point.
- 7.8. A public right of way currently passes through the site and along the northern boundary of the woodland. However there are no rights of way passing through the woodland and there is nothing to suggest that public access into the woodland is permitted.
- 7.9. As such, it is not considered that any development of the site will have an impact on ancient woodland.

Habitats

- 7.10. The habitats within the site on the whole hold low ecological value, being species poor and intensively managed for agricultural purposes.

- 7.11. The features that hold relatively higher value within the site are the woodland, hedgerows and ponds
- 7.12. The woodland in the southern part of the site has some ecological interest at present, and is likely to be of importance for nesting birds. Any development proposal of the site will retain the woodland within an area of strategic open space. A management plan for the woodland to improve its ecological value would further enhance the habitat for wildlife.
- 7.13. It is recommended that where possible that hedgerows be maintained within a development proposal.
- 7.14. Should it be necessary to remove any hedgerows in whole or in part, it will be possible to provide compensatory planting using native species of local provenance wherever possible. Replacement planting would also contribute towards targets in the Sussex Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) for Hedgerows. It is considered that this will be wholly deliverable within any emerging proposals that are formed for the site.
- 7.15. It is considered that with the adoption of the above recommendations there would be no significant adverse impacts on hedgerows within the site.
- 7.16. A number of ponds within the site remain wet throughout the year, as therefore have some ecological value. All existing ponds should be retained within any development proposals where possible, and managed to ensure that they continue to function as a viable ecological resource. In addition, there is ample scope to create additional pond or ditch habitats in open space within the site which may improve linkages between ponds in the northern and southern parts of the site.
- 7.17. Creation of new habitats of conservation importance within the site in areas of open space will enhance the ecological value and biodiversity of the site in accordance with guidance set out by PPS9 (see policy section 6 below). It is recommended that new planting utilises native species of local provenance to maximise benefits to wildlife. The creation of wildflower grassland within the open space would increase the biodiversity of the site and will contribute to the aims of the Sussex BAP.

Protected Species

- 7.18. Bats. There are a number of trees within the site that have potential to support roosting bats. If any of these trees were to be lost to a development then these trees would need to be surveyed further to establish the presence or absence of a roost. Should a roost be recorded appropriate mitigation would need to be put forward.
- 7.19. The woodland edge and the hedgerows within the site offer potential commuting and foraging opportunities for bats and it is recommended that activity surveys be carried out across the site to establish important areas for bats (effective from May to September). With appropriate design and management of existing features, including the retention

and enhancement of woodland and features of potential value to bats in strategic open space, it is thought that a development on this site would have negligible effects on any existing foraging or commuting resources for bat populations within the local area.

- 7.20. The provision of new landscape planting, in the form of hedgerows, trees and species-rich grassland within any proposals, and of additional roosting opportunities such as bat boxes would provide an enhancement over the current situation. These measures may contribute to the national BAPs for bat species.
- 7.21. It is recommended that any development proposed use a lighting scheme designed and engineered to produce low light spillage, in order to avoid disturbance to bats while foraging or commuting around the site.
- 7.22. It is considered that with the adoption of the above recommendations, which would be easily deliverable within a development, there would be no significant adverse impacts on bats within the site.
- 7.23. Badgers. No Badger setts were found within the site and no specific evidence of activity was observed. A mammal path was present within the site and it is possibly used by Badgers. The semi-improved grassland would offer suitable foraging opportunities for Badgers.
- 7.24. It is considered that with provision of species-rich grassland within areas of public open space and through the maintenance of connectivity through the site along existing hedgerows and new landscape features, opportunities for Badgers could be retained within the site.
- 7.25. Birds. No Schedule 1 species were recorded within the site itself during the survey.
- 7.26. There are opportunities for nesting birds, in terms of the trees, woodland and hedges, within the site. As all species of birds receive general protection whilst nesting, to avoid a possible offence, it is recommended that any clearance of suitable nesting vegetation (including tree felling) be undertaken outside of the breeding season (March to July inclusive) or that checks be made for nesting birds by an ecologist immediately prior to removal.
- 7.27. New planting within a development proposal may provide additional nesting and foraging habitats. Nest boxes could be erected as part of any development proposals to increase the nesting opportunity within the site. All nest boxes should be situated out of direct sunlight and out of the reach of predators, particularly cats.
- 7.28. It is considered that with the adoption of the above recommendations, which would be easily deliverable within a development, there would be no significant adverse impacts on birds within the site.
- 7.29. Hazel Dormouse. The hedgerows and woodland within the site have potential to support Dormice on account of their level of connectivity with the wider landscape. It is recommended that Dormouse surveys

are undertaken to ascertain the presence or absence of the species within the site. Surveys should be undertaken within the optimal period between May and September.

- 7.30. In any case, hedgerow links between the woodlands will be retained and enhanced, where possible, as part of any proposed development. Additional planting would provide more suitable habitat for Dormice, and could include species favoured by Dormice as a nesting and foraging resource.
- 7.31. The establishment of a management regime for the woodland in the southern part of the site could include coppicing management, which would provide beneficial habitats for Dormice.
- 7.32. As such, it is not considered that any detrimental impact would occur to Dormice, even if the presence of the species within the site was confirmed through survey.
- 7.33. Reptiles. The field margins and areas of ruderal vegetation offer some opportunities for common reptiles. It is recommended that reptile surveys are undertaken to ascertain the presence or absence of reptiles within the site. Surveys should be undertaken during the optimal period between April and September.
- 7.34. In any case, strategic open space within any development will include areas of meadow grassland as part of a planting scheme. Through appropriate management, the area and quality of suitable habitat for reptiles within the site will be increased.
- 7.35. There is also scope to improve the value of the woodland in the southern part of the site for reptiles, as part of the management plan. This may be of particular value for Grass Snakes, if present, given the pond habitats present in this part of the site.
- 7.36. It is considered that with the adoption of the above recommendations, which would be easily deliverable within a development, there would be no significant adverse impacts on reptiles within the site, if their presence within the site was confirmed by survey work
- 7.37. Great Crested Newts. To confirm the presence of this species, and the size of the population, and thus the level of mitigation that would be required, further survey work would be required. All on site ponds should be surveyed where possible, and off site pond if access can be arranged. Such survey work is seasonally constrained and can only be undertaken between mid-March and mid-June with a proportion of these visits necessary between mid-April and mid-May to accord with current survey guidelines issued by Natural England.
- 7.38. If Great Crested Newts were recorded then mitigation measures would likely require the retention of breeding ponds (and others if appropriate), and suitable terrestrial habitat associated with the ponds, including areas of scrub, grassland and hedgerows. In addition, an area of open space linked to the above habitats may need to be set aside in order to provide additional aquatic and terrestrial habitats for this species and to

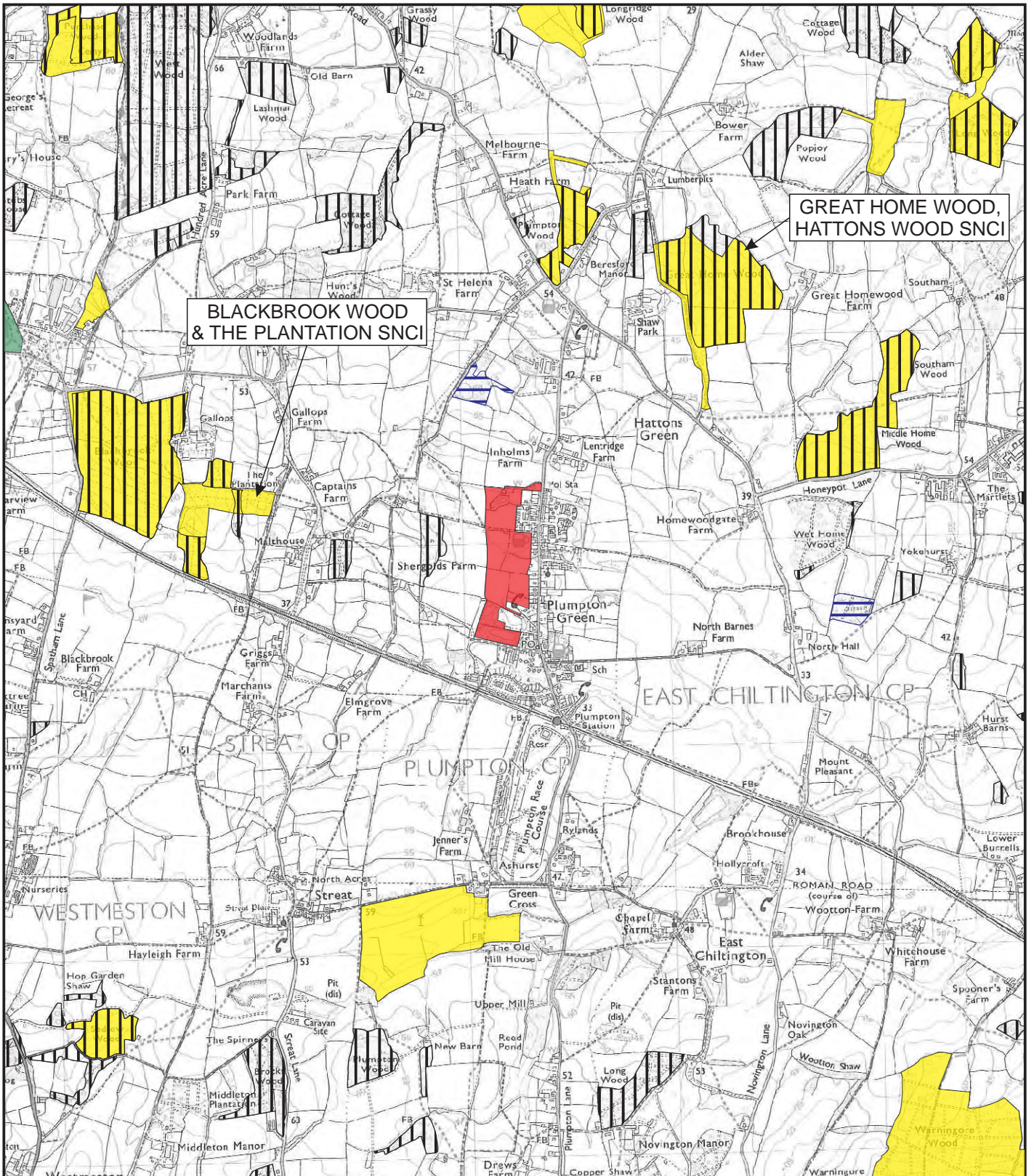
offset any losses of suitable habitat that are unavoidable. It is considered that there is ample scope in any strategic open space along the western boundary of the site to accommodate suitable mitigation habitat, should this be necessary.

- 7.39. It is considered that with the adoption of the above recommendations, which would be easily deliverable within a development, there would be no significant adverse impacts on Great Crested Newts within the site, if the presence of the species within the site was confirmed by survey work.
- 7.40. In conclusion, all relevant ecological issues have been addressed and any further survey work required has been recommended. It is also concluded that, even if the protected species surveys confirm the presence of such species, with the implementation of the mitigation and recommendations set out in this report, there is no evidence to suggest that there would be any overriding ecological constraints in relation to a development of the site.






PLANS

PLAN ECO1

Site Location and Ecological Designations



KEY:

-  SITE LOCATION
-  SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST (SSSI)
-  SITE OF NATURE CONSERVATION INTEREST (SNCI)
-  ANCIENT AND SEMI-NATURAL WOODLAND
-  ANCIENT REPLANTED WOODLAND



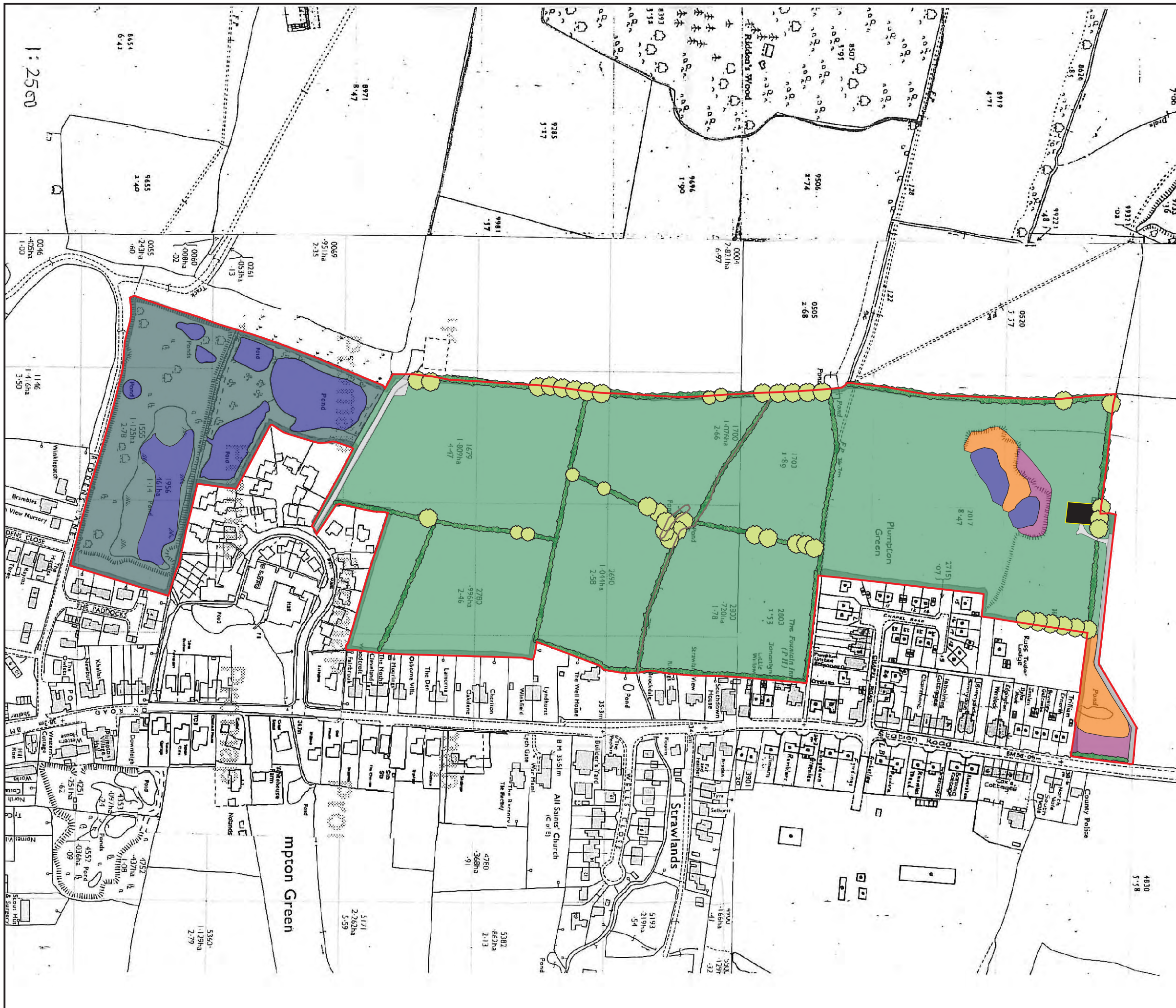
ecology solutions ltd

**5312: PLUMPTON GREEN,
EAST SUSSEX**


**PLAN ECO1: SITE LOCATION &
ECOLOGICAL DESIGNATIONS**

PLAN ECO2

Ecological Features



KEY:

-  SITE BOUNDARY
-  SEMI-IMPROVED GRASSLAND
-  WOODLAND
-  SCRUB
-  TALL RUDERAL VEGETATION
-  POND
-  DRY DITCH / POND
-  TREE
-  HEDGEROW
-  BUILDING
-  HARDSTANDING



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5312: PLUMPTON GREEN,
EAST SUSSEX

PLAN ECO2:
ECOLOGICAL FEATURES

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1





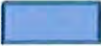


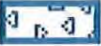





Information received from Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre

MAPS








There are three maps included in a standard desktop biodiversity report which show designated sites (statutory and non-statutory); habitats and natural features; and ownership and management.







The key on a map only shows those layers which are located within the enquiry area. Below are the details of all layers which we currently use in our maps.

Designated sites










	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Dataset downloaded from NE website.
	Country Park Dataset downloaded from NE website.
	Local Nature Reserve (LNR) Dataset downloaded from NE website.
	Marine Site of Nature Conservation Importance (MSNCI) Supplied by ESCC in 2005.
	National Nature Reserve (NNR) Dataset downloaded from NE website.
	National Park Dataset downloaded from NE website.
	Notable Road Verge Owned and provided by ESCC and WSCC.
	Ramsar Dataset downloaded from NE website.
	Regionally Important Geological/Geomorphological Site (RIGS) Data supplied by the Booth Museum, Brighton and digitised by SxBRC in April 2009.
	Site of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI) Data supplied by WSCC, ESCC & BHCC.
	Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) Dataset downloaded from NE website.
	Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Dataset downloaded from NE website.
	Special Protection Area (SPA) Dataset downloaded from NE website.

Habitats and natural features

	Ancient/veteran tree Merged dataset created in July 2009. Data from Ancient Tree Hunt (national survey carried out in 2007/2008) and Tree Register of the British Isles (a charity which collates and updates data on notable trees).
	Ancient woodland Dataset downloaded from NE website.
	Black poplar Dataset created by SxBRC based upon species records arising from Sussex Otters and Rivers Partnership.
	Coastal & floodplain grazing marsh Dataset downloaded from NE website.
	Coastal vegetated shingle Dataset downloaded from NE website.
	Fen Created by SxBRC in June 2011. Layer is an amalgamation of all the fen data currently available to SxBRC.
	Ghyll woodland Boundaries drawn on paper maps by Dr Francis Rose which were then digitised by SxBRC. Not ground-truthed.

	Lowland calcareous grassland Merged dataset from NE and SDJC created in 2005.
	Lowland heathland High Weald Heathland data created by the High Weald Unit in 2006. The rest of Sussex Heathland data was created by SxBRC, with funding from WSCC and RSPB in 2007.
	Open water Data extracted from Ordnance Survey Mastermap real world objects layers. This includes inland and tidal, running and standing water.
	Reedbed Created by SxBRC in June 2011. Layer is an amalgamation of all the reedbed data currently available to SxBRC.
	Saline lagoon Dataset downloaded from NE website.
	Traditional orchard Dataset downloaded from NE website.

Ownership and management

	National Trust property Owned and provided by National Trust.
	RSPB reserve Owned and provided by RSPB.
	Sussex Wildlife Trust reserve Created and maintained by SxBRC on behalf of SWT.
	Woodland Trust site Owned and provided by the Woodland Trust.
	Environmental Stewardship Agreement Dataset downloaded from NE website.
	Higher Level Stewardship (HLS)
	Entry Level Stewardship (ELS)
	Organic ELS
	Organic HLS plus ELS
	ELS plus HLS

Abbreviations

BHCC	Brighton and Hove City Council
EA	Environment Agency
ESCC	East Sussex County Council
NE	Natural England
PTES	People's Trust for Endangered Species
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SDJC	South Downs Joint Committee
SWT	Sussex Wildlife Trust
SxBRC	Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre
WSCC	West Sussex County Council

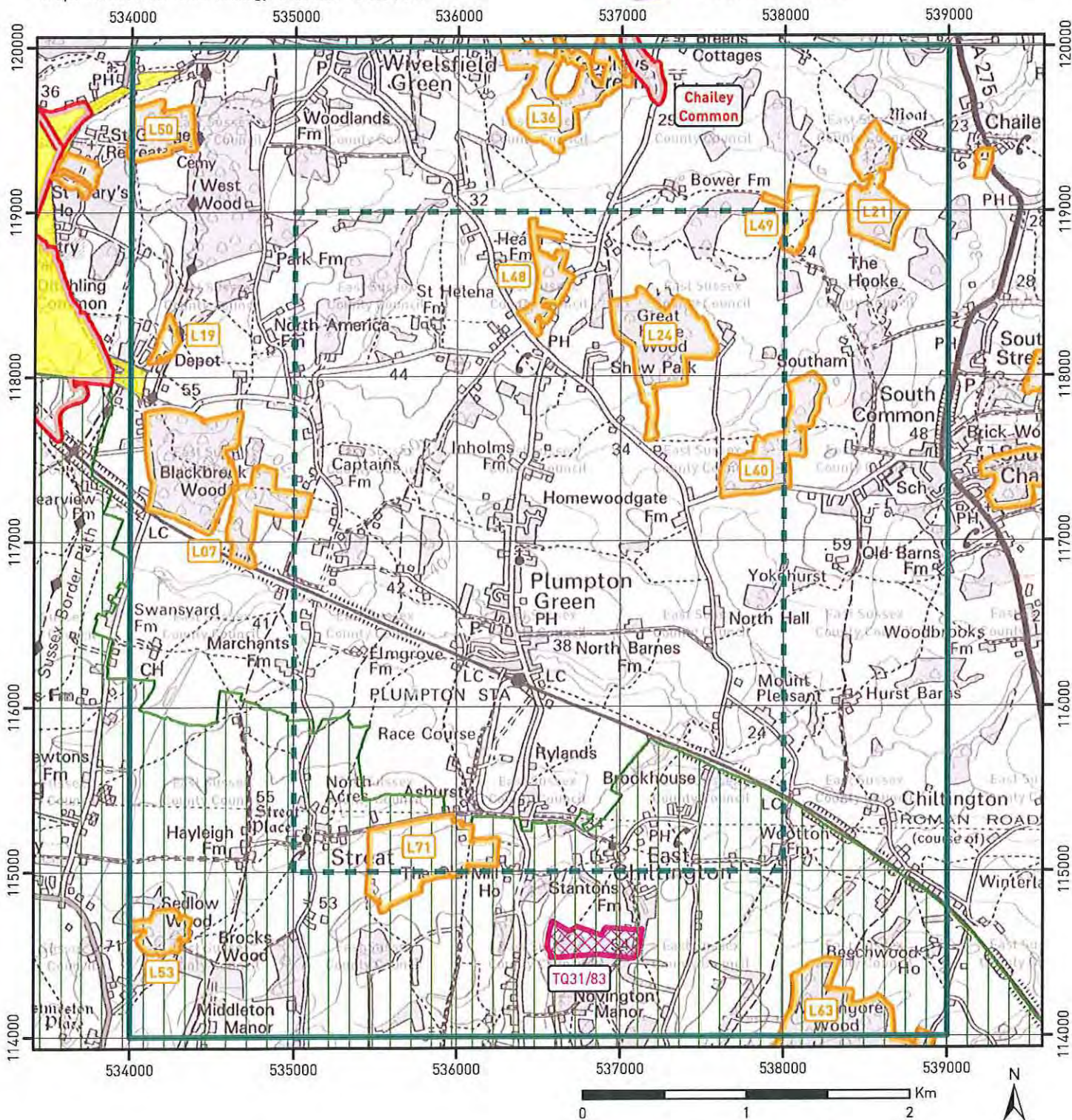
Designated Site Map (ESD/11/441): Land at Plumpton Green

Prepared for Simon Taber (Ecology Solutions) - 17/10/2011



**Sussex
Biodiversity
Record Centre**

Woods Mill, Henfield, W Sussex BN5 9SD
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Email: sxbrcc@sussexwt.org.uk
Website: www.sxbrcc.org.uk



Key to Map:

- Enquiry Area
- Species Search Area
- National Park
- SSSI
- SNCI
- Country Park
- RIGS

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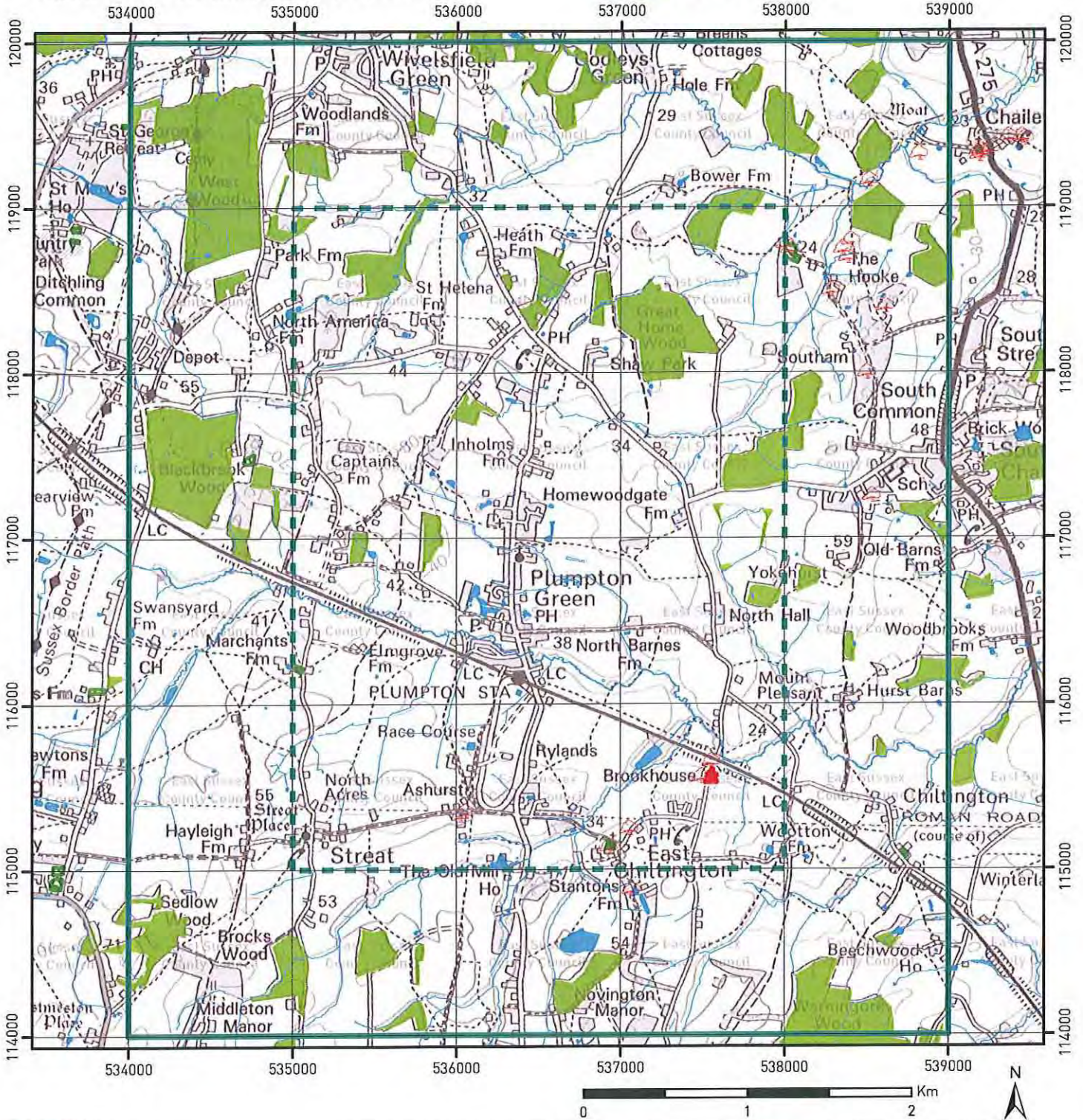
RAMSAR, Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA), National Park, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), National Nature Reserve (NNR), Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Local Nature Reserve (LNR) and Country Park data reproduced with permission of Natural England. Site of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI) data provided by East and West Sussex County Councils, and Brighton & Hove City Council. Notable Road Verge data supplied by East and West Sussex County Councils. Regionally Important Geological/Geomorphological Sites (RIGS) data provided by Booth Museum of Natural History (on behalf of Sussex RIGS Group). © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved 2011.

Habitat Map (ESD/11/441): Land at Plumpton Green

Prepared for Simon Taber [Ecology Solutions] - 17/10/2011



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Website: www.sxbrcc.org.uk



Key to Map:

- Enquiry Area
- Species Search Area
- Ancient/Veteran Tree
- Ancient woodland
- Black poplar
- Open Water
- Traditional orchard

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This map contains ancient woodland data revised under the Weald and Downs Ancient Woodland Program (2010) on behalf of Natural England. Whilst every effort has been made to make this revision as accurate as possible, the inventories contain limitations and remain provisional. Further revisions are also pending within East Sussex. Habitat data held by Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre (SxBRCC) are created in-house or obtained from a variety of dataset providers. SxBRCC continually strive to further improve and update these data wherever possible. However, this map should be treated as indicative rather than definitive: data may be generated from a range of field survey and/or predictive methods, each of which may have its own inherent limitations. In some situations a recent ground survey may be required to establish definitively the current status of a particular habitat at a specific location.

SUSSEX PROTECTED SPECIES REGISTER REPORT

Please note that bat, bird and otter records are not included in this report

Land at Plumpton Green

17 October 2011 ESD/11/441 Search Area: TQ3515 to TQ3718
Simon Taber (Ecology Solutions)

Triturus cristatus

Great Crested Newt

The largest British newt. It is black or dark brown and the males have a crest along the back and an orange underside spotted with black. Frequently confused with male smooth newts, which also have a crest. The great crested newt prefers larger, open ponds that are free of fish and waterfowl and has declined substantially in Britain and across Europe, mainly due to habitat loss. The species is fully legally protected and Britain has special responsibility for its conservation as some of the best European populations occur here. Scattered across East and Central Sussex but scarce in the west.

amphibian

Bern Convention Appendix 2; European Protected Species; Habitats Directive Annex 2 - non-priority species; Habitats Directive Annex 4; Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 - Species of Principal Importance in England; Sussex Biodiversity Action Plan Species; Sussex Protected Species Register Species; UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species; Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Schedule 5 Sections {9.4b; 9.5a; 9.5b; Schedule 5}

Grid Reference	Recorder	Date	Locality
TQ363167	SARG Sussex Amphibian & Reptile Grp	17/03/1990	Station Road, Plumpton Green, East Sussex (VC14)
TQ363175	SARG Sussex Amphibian & Reptile Grp	01/01/1993	Plumpton Green, East Sussex (VC14)
TQ364154	Jonathan Wood	12/07/2009	Plumpton, Plumpton, Pond S17
TQ364165	Jonathan Wood	25/04/2010	Plumpton, Plumpton, Pond C7
TQ364170	SARG Sussex Amphibian & Reptile Grp	01/01/1990	Plumpton Green, East Sussex (VC14)

Anguis fragilis

Slow-worm

A legally protected legless lizard resembling a small snake. Slow-worms are widespread in southern England and found in open habitats such as rough grassland, heath and on road and railway embankments. They are often common in urban and suburban areas. Like most reptiles and amphibians they have declined considerably and need protection wherever they occur.

reptile

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 - Species of Principal Importance in England; Sussex Biodiversity Action Plan Species; Sussex Protected Species Register Species; UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species; Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Schedule 5 Sections {9.1 killing/injuring; 9.5a; 9.5b}

Grid Reference	Recorder	Date	Locality
TQ35211536	Richard Black;Ruth Eastwood	15/08/2009	North Acres, Streat
TQ361164	Anon Bioblitz Card	2010	Riddens Lane, Plumpton Green
TQ363167	SARG Sussex Amphibian & Reptile Grp	17/05/1985	Winkfield, Station Road, Plumpton Green, East Sussex (VC14)
TQ364161	Jonathan Wood	12/09/2010	Plumpton, Plumpton Green
TQ365162	SARG Sussex Amphibian & Reptile Grp;Dennis Dey	11/04/1995	Stream Cottage, Plumpton Green, East Sussex (VC14)
TQ366168	Jonathan Wood	02/08/2009	PlumptonPond C25

Zootoca vivipara**Common Lizard**

The most abundant British lizard and widespread in Sussex in the Weald and along the coast. Probably under-recorded and increasingly confined to small areas of open sunny habitat. A legally protected species due to concern about its overall decline.

reptile

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 - Species of Principal Importance in England; Sussex Biodiversity Action Plan Species; Sussex Protected Species Register Species; UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species; Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Schedule 5 Sections (9.1 killing/injuring; 9.5a; 9.5b)

Grid Reference	Recorder	Date	Locality
TQ354153	SARG Sussex Amphibian & Reptile Grp; Dennis Dey	01/04/1990	Ashurst Farm Lane, Streat, East Sussex (VC14)

Natrix natrix**Grass Snake**

A widespread, but legally protected, snake with a normally olive body flecked with black and a distinctive yellow collar. Frequent in Sussex near places where its food, largely frogs, is readily available. Like most reptiles and amphibians, grass snakes have declined considerably and need protection wherever they occur.

reptile

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 - Species of Principal Importance in England; Sussex Biodiversity Action Plan Species; Sussex Protected Species Register Species; UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species; Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Schedule 5 Sections (9.1 killing/injuring; 9.5a; 9.5b)

Grid Reference	Recorder	Date	Locality
TQ3515	SARG recorder	28/08/2001	Bunkers Hill Farm, Streat, Streat
TQ354153	SARG Sussex Amphibian & Reptile Grp	01/04/1990	Ashurst Farm Lane, Streat, East Sussex (VC14)
TQ358165	Jonathan Wood	24/07/2010	Field of Riddens lane, Plumpton Green
TQ3616	SARG Sussex Amphibian & Reptile Grp; Dennis Dey	28/07/1999	7 Station Close, Plumpton Green, East Sussex (VC14)
TQ363175	SARG Sussex Amphibian & Reptile Grp; Dennis Dey	01/01/1993	Sanctuary, Plumpton Green, East Sussex (VC14)
TQ364154	SARG Sussex Amphibian & Reptile Grp; Dennis Dey	01/03/1990	Chiltington Ferrings Nursing Home, Plumpton, East Sussex (VC14)
TQ364170	SARG Sussex Amphibian & Reptile Grp	01/01/1990	Plumpton Green, East Sussex (VC14)
TQ365162	SARG Sussex Amphibian & Reptile Grp; Dennis Dey	11/04/1995	Stream Cottage, Plumpton Green, East Sussex (VC14)

Vipera berus**Adder**

Britain's only venomous snake, though incidences of snakebite involving man or domestic animals are relatively uncommon. Adders have a distinctive zig zag pattern of black or brown and white. They occur in open areas on downs, heaths and in heathy woods. Grass snakes and slow-worms are often misidentified as adders. Though widespread in Britain and found in suitable areas across Sussex, the adder, like all our native reptiles has declined substantially through habitat loss and other factors. The adder is a protected species and it is illegal intentionally to kill or injure them.

reptile

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 - Species of Principal Importance in England; Sussex Biodiversity Action Plan Species; Sussex Protected Species Register Species; UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species; Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Schedule 5 Sections (9.1 killing/injuring; 9.5a; 9.5b)

Grid Reference	Recorder	Date	Locality
TQ35211557	Richard Black	06/08/2009	Streat

0 Confidential records exist for this enquiry area. Please contact the record centre if you require further information.

Bat species

There are 18 species of bat in the UK (17 of which are known to be breeding here), all of which have been recorded in Sussex, although some more frequently than others and at different times of the year:

Barbastella barbastellus **Barbastelle**

Eptesicus serotinus **Serotine**

Myotis alcaethoe **Alcaethoe**

Myotis bechsteinii **Bechstein's**

Myotis brandtii **Brandt's**

Myotis daubentonii **Daubenton's**

Myotis myotis **Greater mouse-eared**

Myotis mystacinus **Whiskered**

Myotis nattereri **Natterer's**

Nyctalus leisleri **Leisler's**

Nyctalus noctula **Noctule**

Pipistrellus nathusii **Nathusius's pipistrelle**

Pipistrellus pipistrellus **Common pipistrelle**

Pipistrellus pygmaeus **Soprano pipistrelle**

Plecotus auritus **Brown long-eared**

Plecotus austriacus **Grey long-eared**

Rhinolophus ferrumequinum **Greater horseshoe**

Rhinolophus hipposideros **Lesser horseshoe**

Three other bat species have been recorded in Sussex as migrants or vagrants: Savi's pipistrelle (*Hypsugo savii*), Kuhl's pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus kuhlii*) and parti-coloured bat (*Vespertilio murinus*).

Five species are included in Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive: Barbastelle, Bechstein's, greater mouse-eared, greater horseshoe and lesser horseshoe. All 18 species are included in Annex IV.

Seven species are included in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan: Barbastelle, Bechstein's, brown long-eared, greater horseshoe, lesser horseshoe, noctule and soprano pipistrelle.

Background

Bats are the only mammals capable of true flight. Those found in the UK feed exclusively on insects and use a sophisticated form of sonar to navigate and catch their prey at night. In late spring and summer, female bats form maternity colonies to raise their young. This is when they are most obvious to us, as they leave the roost at or after sunset in search of food. Bats hibernate during the winter when insects are scarce, usually at a different site to the maternity roost where a constant cool temperature can be found i.e. in underground sites or within deep crevices in trees or buildings. **Bats return to the same roost sites every year, so even if the animals themselves are not present, the roost is still legally protected.**

Unfortunately there are many misconceptions about bats. They are in fact sociable, intelligent, clean animals that rarely come into contact with humans. They do not build nests and very rarely cause structural damage to buildings.

Current status and threats

Bat populations have suffered huge declines in the last century. The common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) and soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*) remain the most abundant and widespread species of bat, but are thought to have suffered from a huge reduction in numbers. Estimates from a National Bat Colony Survey suggest a population decline of around 70% between 1978 and 1993.

This reduction in bat numbers is largely due to their roosts being disturbed or destroyed, a loss of suitable feeding and flightline habitat (e.g. hedgerows) and a reduction in insect numbers (e.g. through farming intensification and the use of pesticides). A number of species are now included in the National Bat Monitoring Programme, run by the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT), which gives up-to-date information on population trends.

Bats are also particularly vulnerable to human interference for the following reasons:

- They have a low reproductive rate; generally one baby a year.
- They require specific conditions for each of their roost types.
- They are very secretive and often go unnoticed until discovered by building works or home improvements.

Consequently, bats and their roosts receive some of the highest levels of legal protection.

Bats and the law

All species of bat and their roosts are protected by UK and European law; under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (WCA) in the UK (to implement the Berne Convention) and the Habitats Directive in the EU, which is implemented in the UK through the The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. Bats and their roosts may also be protected by site designations, for example if their roost site or feeding grounds are notified as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) or a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

You could be committing a criminal offence if you:

1. Deliberately capture, injure or kill a bat
2. Intentionally or recklessly disturb a bat in its roost or deliberately disturb a group of bats
3. Damage or destroy a bat roosting place (even if bats are not occupying the roost at the time)
4. Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to a bat roost
5. Possess or advertise/sell/exchange a bat (dead or alive) or any part of a bat

It is **not** illegal to:

Tend/care for a bat solely for the purpose of restoring it to health and subsequent release. (This should always be done by an experienced bat handler, contact details of which can be found through the Sussex Bat Group.)

Licensing

If you have a bat roost in your property, it does not necessarily mean that building work cannot take place. Work can be planned so as not to interfere with the roost and at a time that bats may be absent. If you are planning any sort of work that may interfere with bats, advice must be sought first from Natural England (see contact details below). Similarly, if you discover bats after work has begun, you must stop and contact Natural England for their advice before continuing.

Licences to permit illegal activities relating to bats and their roost sites can be issued for specific purposes. It is an offence not to comply with the terms and conditions of such a licence. If you carry out work affecting bats or roosts without a licence, you will be breaking the law.

Further advice and information:

Bat Conservation Trust

The national charity working for bat conservation.

Website: www.bats.org.uk

Bat helpline: 0845 1300 228

Email: enquiries@bats.org.uk

Natural England

The government body responsible for issuing licences for work that may affect bats or their roosts.

Website: www.naturalengland.org.uk

General and licensing enquiries. Tel: 0845 601 4523 (local rate).

Sussex Bat Group

A local voluntary group working for the conservation of bats in Sussex.

Website: www.sussexbatgroup.org.uk

Tel: 01903 816298

Email: contact@sussexbatgroup.org.uk

SUSSEX BAT INVENTORY REPORT SUMMARY

Please note that all species of bat and their roosts are protected by UK and European law, under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (WCA) in the UK and the Habitats Directive in the EU. Bats and their roosts may also be protected by site designations, for example if their roost site or feeding grounds are notified as Special Area of Conservation (SAC) or a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

You could be committing a criminal offence if you :

1. Deliberately capture, injure or kill a bat. 2. Intentionally or recklessly disturb a bat in the roost or deliberately disturb a group of bats. 3. Damage or destroy a bat roosting place (even if bats are not occupying the roost at the time). 4. Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to a bat roost. 5. Possess or advertise/sell/exchange a bat (dead or alive) or any part of a bat.

Key to Indicators

M/S	Mating/Swarming
H	Hibernaculum
FR	Feeding Roost
MR	Maternity Roost
UR	Unspecified Roost
D	Droppings

Land at Plumpton Green

17 October 2011

ESD/11/441

Search Area: TQ3515 to TQ3718

Simon Taber (Ecology Solutions)

Common Name	Latin Name	No of Records	Key to Indicators					
			M/S	H	FR	MR	UR	D
Bat sp.	<i>Chiroptera</i>	5	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Brown Long-eared Bat	<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	14	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Daubenton's Bat	<i>Myotis daubentonii</i>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Long-eared sp.	<i>Plecotus</i>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Natterer's Bat	<i>Myotis nattereri</i>	2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Pipistrelle sp.	<i>Pipistrellus</i>	8	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Serotine	<i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>	3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

SUSSEX BIRD INVENTORY



The SxBRC holds approximately one million bird records provided by the Sussex Ornithological Society (SOS). These records range from 1990 to 2009. We are confident that this information will aid developers, consultants and members of the public to make informed decisions as birds are important indicator species of key habitats and can be more easily monitored than many other species groups.

N.B. The SxBRC does not hold all SOS bird data. Records within the breeding season of 15 Schedule 1 birds and three other species which are classed as sensitive in Sussex are not included in our biodiversity reports. Any breeding season records of these species within your search area will be flagged up at the top of the Sussex Bird Inventory. It is critical that you contact the SOS directly for further information as the birds in question will be protected by law and may be affected if you are carrying out potentially damaging operations. (Email: conservation@sos.org.uk)

The list of Schedule 1 and other sensitive birds for which only the SOS holds breeding data for is available on our website: www.sxbrc.org.uk/enquiries/SOS-excluded-data.pdf

Birds, their statuses and the law

Wildlife and Countryside Act

All British birds, their nests and eggs are protected by UK Law. It is an offence to take, kill or injure any wild bird or to take, damage, destroy any nest or egg of any wild bird under Part 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Details of Schedule 2 and Schedule 3 can be found on:

www.rspb.org.uk/ourwork/policy/wildbirdslaw/birdsandlaw/wca/schedules.asp

! Schedule 1 birds

Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 provides an additional tier of protection so that rare species are specially protected by increased penalties and cannot be intentionally or recklessly disturbed when nesting. **Schedule 1 status also infers a right of arrest** by a police officer if someone is suspected of committing certain offences against one of these species.

Nesting birds

It is an offence under Section 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1981 to intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built.

Hedgerow removal and birds

It is advisable not to trim, cut or remove hedgerows during the bird nesting season. You will be violating the Wildlife and Countryside Act if there are birds nesting within it due to the disturbance or destruction of their habitat whilst nesting (see **nesting birds** section above). The Hedgerows Regulations were introduced in 1997 to protect important hedgerows in the countryside. The regulations state that it is a criminal offence, unless an exception applies, to deliberately remove or otherwise destroy a hedgerow without permission. Please apply to your local planning authority for a Hedgerow Removal Application. Domestic hedges are not included in this regulation, however it is still illegal to cut or remove any hedges if birds are suspected to be nesting in it.

Birds in roofs

There are various species that may nest in roofs. Unless they are causing a health hazard, the nests, eggs and chicks are protected by law. The parent birds must not be prevented from gaining access to their nest. Many of the birds that use roof spaces are now species of conservation concern because of their population decline over the past 25 years. Starlings and House Sparrows are Red listed, and Barn Owls, House Martins and Swallows are Amber listed (see overleaf for details). Roofs are also important for Swifts.

For further information about birds and the law contact the RSPB: www.rspb.org.uk or phone 01767 680551.

Environmental Stewardship Target Species

Farmland birds are one of the key targets of which a landowner can be awarded points through the Higher Level Stewardship scheme. Each Joint Character Area (e.g. High Weald, South Downs, South Coast Plain etc.) has specific key bird species whose populations must be maintained or enhanced to gain points as part of the land owner's 'Farm Environment Plan'. This can be done through a combination of management practices which should provide year round habitat requirements, in locations where these birds are known to be present or within 2km of such sites. If a key farmland bird species appears in your report, it will show to which Joint Character Area it is linked.

For more information about agri-environment schemes visit:

www.defra.gov.uk/erdp/schemes/es or www.rspb.org.uk/ourwork/farming/policy/index.asp

BAP Biodiversity Action Plan Species (UK BAP)

Twenty-six species of bird are identified as Priority Species in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP), each the subject of a dedicated action plan which seeks to reverse their declines and protect vulnerable populations. Any Priority Species recorded within your enquiry area will be indicated in the species information of the bird report. Visit www.ukbap.org.uk for more information.

Sussex Biodiversity Action Plan Species

Barn Owl is the only bird to have a Sussex Biodiversity Action Plan, however Skylark, Song Thrush and Swift each have a Species Statement for Sussex. These can be viewed on the Sussex Biodiversity Partnership website: www.biodiversitiesussex.org

N Natural Environment & Rural Communities (NERC) Act

There are 49 bird species on the England Biodiversity List which was drawn up to meet the requirements of Section 41 of the Act. Further details of the NERC Act can be found at: www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2006/ukpga_20060016_en_1

Birds of Conservation Concern 3 (2009)

Every five years the leading governmental and non-governmental conservation organisations in the UK review the population status of the 247 species of bird that are regularly found in the UK. There are three lists – Red, Green and Amber into which each of the species has been placed. Forty species are Red-listed, 121 are Amber-listed and 86 are Green-listed. You will see an icon next to a species within the bird report indicating which category it is in. The status decisions are based on several factors which include: the species' global and European conservation status; recent and historical decline; whether it is a rare breeder; if it is only confined to a few sites in the UK; and if the species is of international importance (if we get over 20% of a European species' population breeding in the UK for example).

R **Red List** species are those that are **Globally Threatened** according to IUCN criteria; those whose population or range has decline rapidly in recent years; and those that have declined historically and not shown a substantial recent recovery.

A **Amber List** species are those with **Unfavourable Conservation Status** in Europe; those whose population or range has declined moderately in recent years; those whose population has declined historically but made a substantial recent recovery; rare breeders; and those with internationally important or localised populations.

Green List species are those that do not fulfil any of the above criteria. Some of these species are however protected by law and the list includes some Schedule 1 species which have the highest level of protection. Please see the Schedule 1 birds section on page 1. A green icon will not appear in our reports but the status will be listed with any bird records.

This information has been obtained from '*Birds of Conservation Concern 3*' (**BoCC3**) which can be downloaded from the RSPB website: www.rspb.org.uk/wildlife/birdguide/status_explained.asp

EU Birds Directive

The Birds Directive addresses the conservation of all wild birds throughout the European Union, including marine areas, and covers their protection, management, control and exploitation. It applies to the birds, their eggs, nests and habitats. It places a broad requirement on Member States to take necessary measures to maintain the populations of all wild birds at levels determined by ecological, scientific and cultural needs. In doing so, Member States must also consider economic and recreational needs. For more information about the EU Birds Directive and its annexes please visit: www.birdlife.org/action/awareness/eu_birds_directive/what

The Directive divides into two main parts: **habitat conservation** and **species protection**. In summary, it requires Member States to preserve, maintain and re-establish sufficient diversity and area of habitats for all wild birds.

Annex 1:

Species listed in Annex 1 of the Birds Directive are the subject of special conservation measures concerning their habitat to ensure their survival and reproduction. This includes the designation of areas as Special Protection Areas (SPAs).

Annex 2:

Annex 2 of the Birds Directive lists birds that can be hunted under the legislation of the Member States. The Directive bans certain non-selective methods of hunting and defines the limits within which Member States can set the hunting season.

IUCN Red List

The World Conservation Union (IUCN) has been assessing the conservation status of species, subspecies, varieties and even selected sub-populations on a global scale in order to highlight taxa threatened with extinction, and therefore promote their conservation. The IUCN Red List (different from the previously mentioned Red List) is the world's most comprehensive inventory of the global conservation status of plant and animal species. It uses a set of criteria to evaluate the extinction risk of thousands of species and subspecies. These criteria are relevant to all species and all regions of the world. With its strong scientific base, the IUCN Red List is recognized as the most authoritative guide to the status of biological diversity.

For more information about the Red List visit: www.redlist.org

SUSSEX BIRD INVENTORY REPORT SUMMARY

Please note that this is a summary page. Full details of these records are on the following pages.

N.B. The breeding season records of 15 Schedule 1 birds and three other species which are classed as sensitive in Sussex are not included in our biodiversity reports (see www.sxbrcc.org.uk/enquiries/SOS-excluded-data.pdf for the list of excluded species). 21 such records have been flagged up in this search. It is critical that the Sussex Ornithological Society (SOS) is contacted directly for more information on these records if potentially damaging operations are to occur in the enquiry area. Email: conservation@sos.org.uk

Land at Plumpton Green

17 October 2011 ESD/11/441 Search Area: TQ3515 to TQ3718

Simon Taber (Ecology Solutions)

Common Name	Latin Name	First Date	Last Date	No. of Rec's	Abundance	Max. Abundance
Ducks, geese, swans	<i>Anatidae</i>	17/07/2009	07/08/2009	3	0	0
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	15/01/2003	-	1	3	3
Greater Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	15/01/2003	31/07/2009	9	21	2
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	15/01/2003	12/08/2009	27	62	6
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	24/03/2007	20/10/2007	4	16	9
Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>	01/06/1997	-	1	8	8
Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>	15/08/1992	01/06/1997	2	6	4
Common Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	21/05/1992	23/03/2011	25	48	3
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	11/09/2004	20/10/2007	7	15	4
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	05/02/2006	24/10/2007	2	2	1
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	15/01/2003	15/04/2009	7	8	2
Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	10/03/2003	-	1	1	1
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	01/04/1993	14/02/2011	27	29	2
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	16/03/1998	19/09/2009	34	61	6
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	30/09/1993	19/09/2009	17	29	5
Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	05/09/2004	18/09/2009	3	4	2
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	26/11/2008	-	1	1	1
Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	23/03/2009	-	1	1	1
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	28/01/2006	19/09/2009	45	33	6

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Common Name	Latin Name	First Date	Last Date	No. of Rec's	Abundance	Max. Abundance
Common Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	24/03/2007	13/07/2009	10	55	9
Little Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	06/04/2007	23/06/2007	2	4	2
European Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	20/03/1993	-	1	50	50
Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	26/01/1992	03/05/2009	13	498	50
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	31/12/2000	02/10/2007	4	8	3
Eurasian Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	15/11/2008	-	1	1	1
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	23/07/1993	05/03/2001	3	3	1
Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	28/01/2006	20/10/2007	2	67	50
Mew Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	20/10/2007	07/05/2008	3	9	6
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	07/05/2008	15/04/2009	3	3	1
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	28/01/2006	19/09/2009	7	69	50
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	15/03/2009	-	1	1	1
Stock Pigeon	<i>Columba oenas</i>	01/06/1998	21/03/2008	3	7	4
Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	24/03/2007	19/09/2009	32	229	9
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	13/05/2007	19/09/2009	26	52	4
European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	21/06/2003	15/07/2008	8	8	1
Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	20/05/1992	02/08/2009	21	20	1
Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	15/10/2000	09/01/2007	5	5	1
Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>	30/09/1993	07/08/2009	15	26	5
Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>	01/01/1993	20/03/2011	6	14	7
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	28/05/2000	18/08/2008	10	62	6
Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	16/03/2002	29/05/2004	11	19	3
Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	16/06/1986	25/04/2009	23	38	6
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	16/06/1986	19/09/2009	48	62	8
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>	15/07/1993	23/04/2008	6	7	2
Sky Lark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	24/03/2007	03/05/2009	16	38	8
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	28/05/1997	12/07/2009	41	254	7
House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	20/04/2002	21/04/2009	30	291	8
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	24/03/2007	01/01/2008	5	12	6
Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	08/09/2002	-	1	7	7
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	01/06/1993	14/02/2011	17	18	2
Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	30/09/1993	15/03/2009	11	17	3
Winter Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	16/06/1986	12/07/2009	21	37	7
Hedge Accentor	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	24/03/2007	10/05/2009	20	41	5
European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	16/06/1986	19/09/2009	35	146	8
Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	21/04/1993	07/04/2011	55	86	8
Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	13/10/1998	14/09/2003	2	2	1
Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	16/06/1986	19/09/2009	36	125	8

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Common Name	Latin Name	First Date	Last Date	No. of Rec's	Abundance	Max. Abundance
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	05/11/1997	20/10/2007	6	298	250
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	16/06/1986	12/07/2009	43	82	5
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	27/10/1997	02/03/2008	5	138	7
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	16/06/1986	03/05/2009	13	15	2
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	03/05/1996	05/07/1997	3	3	1
Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	24/10/2001	-	1	1	1
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	15/05/1997	07/12/2009	27	102	54
Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>	01/06/1998	-	1	4	4
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	04/05/2002	21/04/2009	13	14	2
Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	20/05/1992	10/05/2009	19	41	4
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	21/05/1992	19/09/2009	44	150	9
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	01/06/1998	03/05/2009	2	11	10
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	20/10/1997	06/02/2011	21	78	6
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	20/09/2000	27/08/2009	11	17	3
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	15/05/1997	09/01/2010	13	99	60
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	30/09/1993	19/09/2009	36	316	8
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	20/05/1992	19/09/2009	35	163	9
Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>	15/05/2001	04/07/2009	31	36	2
Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>	14/09/2002	-	1	1	1
Wood Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	16/06/1986	19/09/2009	30	33	2
Eurasian Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	16/06/1986	05/08/2009	6	5	1
Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	16/06/1986	03/05/2009	15	17	3
Black-billed Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	27/04/1999	19/09/2009	22	52	4
Eurasian Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	24/03/2007	19/09/2009	25	160	9
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	01/04/1993	19/09/2009	63	775	9
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	28/01/2006	19/09/2009	26	76	6
Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	16/09/2007	-	1	2	2
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	18/03/2007	31/12/2010	36	619	9
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	26/07/2001	19/09/2009	34	208	9
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	16/06/1986	19/09/2009	35	137	8
Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	16/04/2006	08/10/2007	2	3	2
European Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	10/05/1997	19/09/2009	37	122	6
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	10/05/1997	10/05/2009	49	193	7
Eurasian Siskin	<i>Carduelis spinus</i>	14/09/2008	-	1	12	12
Common Linnnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	10/05/1997	20/10/2007	10	169	7
Common Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	30/09/1993	28/06/2008	11	57	40
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	15/05/1997	12/07/2009	16	54	31
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	27/04/1999	-	1	1	1

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Common Name	Latin Name	First Date	Last Date	No. of Rec's	Abundance	Max. Abundance
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone agg.</i>	21/05/1992	-	1	0	0

BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN SPECIES INVENTORY

The BAP Species Inventory does not include bat, bird or otter records.
Bat and bird records are included in separate inventories, while otter records are not included in SxBRC reports.

The background

In 1992 the UK and 159 other governments signed the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. The CBD called for signatories to develop national strategies and action plans to conserve biodiversity, and the UK responded with the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP). This was first published in 1994 and included specific plans for species and habitats afforded priority conservation action. These plans set out the threats faced by species and habitats as well as the actions being taken or to be taken to help tackle the threats.

The UKBAP list was updated in 2007 and now contains **1,149 species** and **65 habitats**. The new list replaces the previous one, with the majority of original species being reselected. 123 species did not meet the new criteria (at least 13 have met their UK BAP targets).

Further information on the UKBAP and details of the species and habitat action plans can be found at: www.ukbap.org.uk

Given the importance of the UK BAP in stimulating action and mobilising resources, it is important that the list is reviewed periodically. The 2007 list was a result of such a review made by the Biodiversity Reporting and Information Group (BRIG), with JNCC as chair and secretariat. The aim was to ensure a focus on the correct priorities for action by considering emerging priorities, conservation successes, new drivers and the large amount of new information.

At the local level

An important aspect to the success of the UK BAP is the translation of the national strategy into effective action at the local level. To achieve this, Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAP) have been established and there are currently over 160 at some stage of development in the UK. In Sussex, the LBAP is co-ordinated by the Sussex Biodiversity Partnership and contains 473 species, 39 of which are birds. Details of the species and habitats included in the local plan can be found at www.biodiversitysussex.org

[Contact: Laurie Jackson, Conservation Officer. 01273 497551 or email biodiversityofficer@sussexwt.org.uk]

BAP species within this report

- **BAP records are labelled so that only one record per species per grid reference is included in a SxBRC report. This will usually be the most up to date record.**
- **Species which appear in the 'England Biodiversity List' to meet the requirements of Section 41 of the NERC Act (2006) * are labelled with the symbol N.**

* Natural Environment & Rural Communities (NERC) Act

The NERC Act (2006) was established with the intention to help ensure that biodiversity becomes an integral consideration in the development of policies, and that decisions of public bodies work with nature and not against it.

The England Biodiversity List has been drawn up to meet the requirements of Section 41 of the Act. The S41 list consists of **943 species** and **56 habitats** of principal importance in England and will be used to guide decision-makers such as public bodies, including local and regional authorities, in implementing their duty under Section 40 of the NERC Act.

Further details of the NERC Act can be found at: www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2006/ukpga_20060016_en_1

UK BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN SPECIES INVENTORY REPORT

Please note that bat, bird and otter records are not included in this report

Land at Plumpton Green

17 October 2011 ESD/11/441 Search Area: TQ3515 to TQ3718
Simon Taber [Ecology Solutions]

Opegrapha prosodea

N

A lichen which occurs on dry bark of old oak and yew trees in southern England and the Channel Islands. It has been recorded from several parklands and churchyards in West Sussex.

lichen

IUCN [2001] - Lower risk - near threatened; Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 - Species of Principal Importance in England; Sussex Biodiversity Action Plan Species; UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species

Grid Reference	Recorder	Date	Locality
TQ369152	David Streeter;Francis Rose	14/12/1972	East Chilmington Churchyard
TQ370151	Simon Davey	08/04/1993	East Chilmington Churchyard

Pisidium tenuilineatum

Freshwater pea mussel

N

A declining mussel of canals, rivers and ponds in central and southern England and thought to be sensitive to some forms of pollution. Recorded in our area only from Harting, West Sussex in 1969 and 1970.

mollusc

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 - Species of Principal Importance in England; Sussex Biodiversity Action Plan Species; Sussex Rare Species Inventory Species; UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species

Grid Reference	Recorder	Date	Locality
TQ364165	Jonathan Wood	23/07/2009	PlumptonPond C7

Orthosia gracilis

Powdered Quaker

N

An early-flying noctuid moth attracted to willow blossom and other flowers in April and May. Larvae usually on willow in southern Britain. Widespread in Sussex.

insect - moth

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 - Species of Principal Importance in England; Sussex Biodiversity Action Plan Species; UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species

Grid Reference	Recorder	Date	Locality
TQ35211536	Richard Black;Ruth Eastwood	16/05/2010	Streat

Caradrina morpheus**Mottled Rustic****N**

A common noctuid moth whose larvae feed on nettle, dandelion and other low-growing plants. It is in marked decline in the UK, but has been very widely recorded in Sussex.

insect - moth

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 - Species of Principal Importance in England; Sussex Biodiversity Action Plan Species; UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species

Grid Reference	Recorder	Date	Locality
TQ35211536	Richard Black;Ruth Eastwood	27/07/2010	Streat

Anguilla anguilla**European Eel****N**

Eels breed in the sea and migrate to freshwater to grow before returning to the sea to spawn. This unusual fish is in sharp decline, though the reasons are not fully understood. However, it is generally thought that habitat degradation is a major factor. It has been found across the British Isles and very widely in Sussex.

bony fish (Actinopterygii)

IUCN (2001) - Critically endangered; Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 - Species of Principal Importance in England; Sussex Biodiversity Action Plan Species; UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species

Grid Reference	Recorder	Date	Locality
TQ363150	Jonathan Wood	13/07/2009	Plumpton Mill, Plumpton, Pond S14

Salmo trutta**Brown/Sea Trout****N**

This fish has three British forms: the Sea Trout, *Salmo trutta trutta*, and two forms of the Brown Trout, one that lives in rivers, *Salmo trutta fario* and one in lakes, *Salmo trutta lacustris*. Sea trout and brown trout occur widely in Sussex both as native and introduced fish. The riverine form of the brown trout is now highly threatened or extinct in many European countries as a result of habitat loss, barriers to migration, pollution and over-fishing.

bony fish (Actinopterygii)

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 - Species of Principal Importance in England; Sussex Biodiversity Action Plan Species; UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species

Grid Reference	Recorder	Date	Locality
TQ360188	Jonathan Wood	17/07/2009	PlumptonPond N5
TQ362150	Jonathan Wood	13/07/2009	Plumpton, Plumpton, Pond S12
TQ363150	Jonathan Wood	13/07/2009	Plumpton, Plumpton, Pond S15
TQ37411586	Neil Pringle	20/01/2006	Plumpton Mill Stream
TQ37431585	Neil Pringle	20/01/2006	Plumpton Mill Stream
TQ37451585	Neil Pringle	20/01/2006	Plumpton Mill Stream
TQ37451590	Neil Pringle	20/01/2006	Plumpton Mill Stream

Triturus cristatus**Great Crested Newt****N**

The largest British newt. It is black or dark brown and the males have a crest along the back and an orange underside spotted with black. Frequently confused with male smooth newts, which also have a crest. The great crested newt prefers larger, open ponds that are free of fish and waterfowl and has declined substantially in Britain and across Europe, mainly due to habitat loss. The species is fully legally protected and Britain has special responsibility for its conservation as some of the best European populations occur here. Scattered across East and Central Sussex but scarce in the west.

amphibian

Bern Convention Appendix 2; European Protected Species; Habitats Directive Annex 2 - non-priority species; Habitats Directive Annex 4; Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 - Species of Principal Importance in England; Sussex Biodiversity Action Plan Species; Sussex Protected Species Register Species; UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species; Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Schedule 5 Sections (9.4b; 9.5a; 9.5b; Schedule 5)

Grid Reference	Recorder	Date	Locality
TQ363167	SARG Sussex Amphibian & Reptile Grp	17/03/1990	Station Road, Plumpton Green, East Sussex (VC14)
TQ363175	SARG Sussex Amphibian & Reptile Grp	01/01/1993	Plumpton Green, East Sussex (VC14)
TQ364154	Jonathan Wood	12/07/2009	Plumpton, Plumpton, Pond S17
TQ364165	Jonathan Wood	25/04/2010	Plumpton, Plumpton, Pond C7
TQ364170	SARG Sussex Amphibian & Reptile Grp	01/01/1990	Plumpton Green, East Sussex (VC14)

Bufo bufo**Common Toad****N**

Still a widespread species in Sussex but declining due to loss of habitat and other factors. Toads tend to have large populations centred on particular breeding sites and they may become locally extinct if these are damaged or destroyed. Common toads are legally protected against sale.

amphibian

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 - Species of Principal Importance in England; Sussex Biodiversity Action Plan Species; UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species; Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Schedule 5 Sections (9.5a; 9.5b)

Grid Reference	Recorder	Date	Locality
TQ35211536	Richard Black;Ruth Eastwood	08/06/2010	Streat
TQ363175	SARG Sussex Amphibian & Reptile Grp	01/01/1993	Plumpton Green, East Sussex (VC14)
TQ364170	SARG Sussex Amphibian & Reptile Grp	01/01/1990	Plumpton Green, East Sussex (VC14)

Anguis fragilis**Slow-worm****N**

A legally protected legless lizard resembling a small snake. Slow-worms are widespread in southern England and found in open habitats such as rough grassland, heath and on road and railway embankments. They are often common in urban and suburban areas. Like most reptiles and amphibians they have declined considerably and need protection wherever they occur.

reptile

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 - Species of Principal Importance in England; Sussex Biodiversity Action Plan Species; Sussex Protected Species Register Species; UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species; Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Schedule 5 Sections (9.1 killing/injuring; 9.5a; 9.5b)

Grid Reference	Recorder	Date	Locality
TQ35211536	Richard Black;Ruth Eastwood	15/08/2009	North Acres, Streat
TQ361164	Anon Bioblitz Card	2010	Riddens Lane, Plumpton Green
TQ363167	SARG Sussex Amphibian & Reptile Grp	17/05/1985	Winkfield, Station Road, Plumpton Green, East Sussex (VC14)
TQ364161	Jonathan Wood	12/09/2010	Plumpton, Plumpton Green
TQ365162	SARG Sussex Amphibian & Reptile Grp;Dennis Dey	11/04/1995	Stream Cottage, Plumpton Green, East Sussex (VC14)
TQ366168	Jonathan Wood	02/08/2009	PlumptonPond C25

Zootoca vivipara**Common Lizard****N**

The most abundant British lizard and widespread in Sussex in the Weald and along the coast. Probably under-recorded and increasingly confined to small areas of open sunny habitat. A legally protected species due to concern about its overall decline.

reptile

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 - Species of Principal Importance in England; Sussex Biodiversity Action Plan Species; Sussex Protected Species Register Species; UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species; Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Schedule 5 Sections [9.1 killing/injuring; 9.5a; 9.5b]

Grid Reference	Recorder	Date	Locality
TQ354153	SARG Sussex Amphibian & Reptile Grp; Dennis Dey	01/04/1990	Ashurst Farm Lane, Streat, East Sussex (VC14)

Natrix natrix**Grass Snake****N**

A widespread, but legally protected, snake with a normally olive body flecked with black and a distinctive yellow collar. Frequent in Sussex near places where its food, largely frogs, is readily available. Like most reptiles and amphibians, grass snakes have declined considerably and need protection wherever they occur.

reptile

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 - Species of Principal Importance in England; Sussex Biodiversity Action Plan Species; Sussex Protected Species Register Species; UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species; Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Schedule 5 Sections [9.1 killing/injuring; 9.5a; 9.5b]

Grid Reference	Recorder	Date	Locality
TQ3515	SARG recorder	28/08/2001	Bunkers Hill Farm, Streat, Streat
TQ354153	SARG Sussex Amphibian & Reptile Grp	01/04/1990	Ashurst Farm Lane, Streat, East Sussex (VC14)
TQ358165	Jonathan Wood	24/07/2010	Field of Riddens lane, Plumpton Green
TQ3616	SARG Sussex Amphibian & Reptile Grp; Dennis Dey	28/07/1999	7 Station Close, Plumpton Green, East Sussex (VC14)
TQ363175	SARG Sussex Amphibian & Reptile Grp; Dennis Dey	01/01/1993	Sanctuary, Plumpton Green, East Sussex (VC14)
TQ364154	SARG Sussex Amphibian & Reptile Grp; Dennis Dey	01/03/1990	Chiltington Ferrings Nursing Home, Plumpton, East Sussex (VC14)
TQ364170	SARG Sussex Amphibian & Reptile Grp	01/01/1990	Plumpton Green, East Sussex (VC14)
TQ365162	SARG Sussex Amphibian & Reptile Grp; Dennis Dey	11/04/1995	Stream Cottage, Plumpton Green, East Sussex (VC14)

Vipera berus**Adder****N**

Britain's only venomous snake, though incidences of snakebite involving man or domestic animals are relatively uncommon. Adders have a distinctive zig zag pattern of black or brown and white. They occur in open areas on downs, heaths and in heathy woods. Grass snakes and slow-worms are often misidentified as adders. Though widespread in Britain and found in suitable areas across Sussex, the adder, like all our native reptiles has declined substantially through habitat loss and other factors. The adder is a protected species and it is illegal intentionally to kill or injure them.

reptile

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 - Species of Principal Importance in England; Sussex Biodiversity Action Plan Species; Sussex Protected Species Register Species; UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species; Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Schedule 5 Sections [9.1 killing/injuring; 9.5a; 9.5b]

Grid Reference	Recorder	Date	Locality
TQ35211557	Richard Black	06/08/2009	Streat

Erinaceus europaeus**West European Hedgehog****N**

The hedgehog is one of our most familiar and endearing small mammals and it is still widespread in Sussex and Britain. However, hedgehog numbers have been adversely affected by changes in agriculture with less permanent pasture and fewer hedgerows. Climate change may also affect the availability of earthworms, one of their main foods, during hot, dry summers. There is some survey evidence that hedgehogs are most common where badgers are rarer and badgers do, of course, prey on them.

terrestrial mammal

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 - Species of Principal Importance in England; Sussex Biodiversity Action Plan Species; UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species

Grid Reference	Recorder	Date	Locality
TQ35121516	Richard Black;Ruth Eastwood	02/08/2009	Streat Lane, Streat
TQ35211536	Richard Black;Ruth Eastwood	11/06/2008	Streat
TQ361164	Anon Bioblitz Card	2010	Riddens Lane, Plumpton Green

Lepus europaeus**Brown Hare****N**

Widely distributed throughout England and Wales and probably an ancient introduction. Hares occur on a wide range of mainly open farmland and nationally the species is thought to be undergoing a steady decline. Much less common in Sussex than it used to be, but widely recorded.

terrestrial mammal

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 - Species of Principal Importance in England; Sussex Biodiversity Action Plan Species; UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species

Grid Reference	Recorder	Date	Locality
TQ35211557	Ruth Eastwood	04/02/2011	North Acres, Streat
TQ3718	Unknown	1966	Hooke Estate, south Chailey, East Sussex (VC14)

0 Confidential records exist for this enquiry area. Please contact the record centre if you require further information.

SUSSEX RARE SPECIES INVENTORY

The Rare Species Inventory does not include bat, bird or otter records.
Bat and bird records are included in separate inventories, while otter records are not included in SxBRC reports.

The Sussex Rare Species Inventory (RSI) contains over 3,400 species. These species are selected according to strict criteria of rarity associated with their occurrence in Sussex.

The criteria for selection of species are listed below:

- **All species in the British Red Data Books including all Notable fauna and Nationally Scarce flora and British endemic taxa which have ever occurred in Sussex whether extinct or not.**
- **Species included in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP species).**
- **Internationally rare taxa cited in the Bern Convention, IUCN Red Data lists, or EU Habitats Directive which are not covered by any of the above.**
- **County rarities.**

The Inventory forms part of a larger database of Sussex records (over 3 million records). No attempt is made to include every record for every rare species. The RSI has been designed to be comprehensive for species but representative for records. This is managed in several ways:

- RSI records are labelled so that only one record per species per grid reference gets flagged up. This will usually be the most up to date record.
- Some species are protected and rare and therefore show up in reports on both these categories.
- SxBRC does not hold marine information other than coastal species and cetaceans.
- The following species are relatively common in Sussex but are in the RSI because they are Notable or Nationally Scarce. Only *one* record of these species is labelled per 2km tetrad:

Round-headed Rampion	<i>Phyteuma orbiculare</i>
Frogbit	<i>Hydrocharis morus-ranae</i>
Adonis Blue	<i>Lysandra bellargus</i>
Long-winged Conehead	<i>Conocephalus discolor</i>
Door snail	<i>Macrogastra rolphii</i>
Variable Damselfly	<i>Coenagrion pulchellum</i>
Downy Emerald	<i>Cordulea aenea</i>

RSI records are updated weekly with advice and records provided by taxonomic experts.

A full RSI species list is available on request.

Confidential Records

The SxBRC holds a few records that are confidential. Confidentiality can be for a variety of reasons but usually to benefit the site or the species. Full details of these records are not disclosed but the enquirer is referred back to the SxBRC if further information is needed. Please see the end of your RSI report for any reference to confidential records found within your enquiry area.

For records of rare vascular plants, bryophytes and lichens the Record Centre recommends the Sussex Rare Plant Register, compiled by the Sussex Botanical Recording Society. This gives up to date (2001) information on the distribution and status of over 400 Sussex Rare Plants, putting data from RSI reports into a Sussex-wide context. Please look on the publication page of our website for more information:
www.sxbrc.org.uk/biodiversity/publications

IUCN Categories of Rarity

The following is a summary of the IUCN categories of rarity. For a full listing and explanation see www.iucnredlist.org/info/categories_criteria2001

Extinct (EX)

A taxon is Extinct when there is no reasonable doubt that the last individual has died.

Extinct in the Wild (EW)

A taxon is Extinct in the Wild when it is known only to survive in cultivation, in captivity or as a naturalized population (or populations) well outside the past range.

Critically Endangered (CR)

A taxon is Critically Endangered when it is considered to be facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild.

Endangered (EN)

A taxon is Endangered when it is considered to be facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild.

Vulnerable (VU)

A taxon is Vulnerable when it is considered to be facing a high risk of extinction in the wild.

Near Threatened (NT)

A taxon is Near Threatened when it is close to qualifying for or is likely to qualify for a threatened category in the near future.

Least Concern (LC)

A taxon is Least Concern when it has been evaluated against the criteria and does not qualify for Critically Endangered, Endangered, Vulnerable or Near Threatened.

Data Deficient (DD)

A taxon is Data Deficient when there is inadequate information to make a direct, or indirect, assessment of its risk of extinction based on its distribution and/or population status.

Not Evaluated (NE)

A taxon is Not Evaluated when it has not yet been evaluated against the criteria.

Regionally Scarce (NR)

Occurs in 5 or fewer 10km squares in a particular region of Britain. Locally determined.

Codes and abbreviations used in RSI

VC 13	West Sussex (with the Watsonian boundaries of 1852)
VC 14	East Sussex (with the Watsonian boundaries of 1852)
BBCSSB	British Butterfly Conservation Society, Sussex Branch
SAMLL	Sussex Atlas of Mosses, Liverworts, and Lichens
SPASU	Sussex Plant Atlas and Supplement
SBRS	Sussex Botanical Recording Society

SUSSEX RARE SPECIES INVENTORY REPORT

Please note that bat, bird and otter records are not included in this report

Land at Plumpton Green

17 October 2011 ESD/11/441

Simon Taber (Ecology Solutions)

Search Area: TQ3515 to TQ3718

Psoroglaena stigonemoides

A lichen of shaded bark among mosses, mainly of elder and elm, in humid places. Frequent throughout the British Isles. Recorded in our area from Streat and Ashburnham Park in East Sussex and Ebernoe Common, West Dean, Parham Park and Pagham Harbour in West Sussex. 1983-2003.

lichen

Sussex Rare Species Inventory Species

Grid Reference	Recorder	Date	Locality
TQ3515	SAMLL	1988	East Sussex (VC14)

Callitriche truncata

Short-leaved Water-starwort

A plant of rivers, canals, ditches, lakes and gravel-pits. Last seen in Sussex in 1966 from a ditch in Westdean, East Sussex.

flowering plant

Sussex Rare Species Inventory Species

Grid Reference	Recorder	Date	Locality
TQ364168	Jonathan Wood	30/07/2009	Plumpton, Pond C19
TQ365168	Jonathan Wood	02/08/2009	Plumpton, Pond C24

Helleborus viridis

Green Hellebore

Always rare in Sussex, this species of damp woodlands usually occurs on the chalk or beside streams fed by chalk springs. It is much reduced in both counties, although persistent at Lordington and near Sutton, where it has been known for many years.

flowering plant

Sussex Rare Species Inventory Species

Grid Reference	Recorder	Date	Locality
TQ365185	Robin Lang	16/06/1986	Plumpton Wood, North (CL48)

Populus nigra subsp. betulifolia

flowering plant

Sussex Rare Species Inventory Species

Grid Reference	Recorder	Date	Locality
TQ375155	Frank Penfold; Frances Abraham	01/04/1998	East Sussex (VC14)
TQ375156	Frank Penfold	1998	East Chilmington CP

Pisidium tenuilineatum

Freshwater pea mussel

A declining mussel of canals, rivers and ponds in central and southern England and thought to be sensitive to some forms of pollution. Recorded in our area only from Harting, West Sussex in 1969 and 1970.

mollusc

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 - Species of Principal Importance in England; Sussex Biodiversity Action Plan Species; Sussex Rare Species Inventory Species; UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species

Grid Reference	Recorder	Date	Locality
TQ364165	Jonathan Wood	23/07/2009	Plumpton, Pond C7

Conocephalus fuscus

insect - orthopteran

Sussex Rare Species Inventory Species

Grid Reference	Recorder	Date	Locality
TQ352168	Tony Hutson;Jacqui Morris	08/09/2009	Streat
TQ363169	Tony Hutson;Jacqui Morris	08/09/2009	Plumpton Green

Limnebius papposus

insect - beetle (Coleoptera)

IUCN (2001) - Lower risk - near threatened; Sussex Rare Species Inventory Species

Grid Reference	Recorder	Date	Locality
TQ3616	W A Balfour-Browne	1940	East Sussex (VC14)

Metoecus paradoxus

insect - beetle (Coleoptera)

Sussex Rare Species Inventory Species

Grid Reference	Recorder	Date	Locality
TQ363168	Tony Hutson	19/09/2008	East Sussex (VC14)

Trichophaga tapetzella

Tapestry Moth

insect - moth

Sussex Rare Species Inventory Species

Grid Reference	Recorder	Date	Locality
TQ357182	Derek Pritty;Karen Pritty	18/06/1994	Garden

Hypomecis roboraria

Great Oak Beauty

This nationally scarce [b] species occurs in ancient woodlands in central southern England. In Sussex it occurs in many of the mature woodlands, but is only regularly found in the mature woods around Petworth. Caterpillars feed on Oak.

insect - moth

Sussex Rare Species Inventory Species

Grid Reference	Recorder	Date	Locality
TQ35211536	John Eastwood;Valerie Eastwood	31/07/2009	Streat

Cottus gobio**Bullhead****bony fish (Actinopterygii)**

Habitats Directive Annex 2 - non-priority species; Sussex Rare Species Inventory Species

Grid Reference	Recorder	Date	Locality
TQ35171663	John Luck;Robin Pepper	22/09/2006	River Ouse
TQ36441512	Robin Pepper	10/08/2005	River Ouse

0 Confidential records exist for this enquiry area. Please contact the record centre if you require further information.

SITE OF NATURE CONSERVATION IMPORTANCE (SNCI)

East Sussex

Site Name: Ditchling Common Meadow
Site Ref: L19
District: Lewes
Parish: Westmeston
National Grid Ref: TQ343183
Size (ha): 1.6
Date: 1992
Surveyors: Marion Finch & Louise Clark
Further Info: SOS records.

SUMMARY

This small meadow is the only example of unimproved chalk grassland in the area. It is species rich, but has been allowed to grow rough due to only minimal grazing by donkeys. Consequentially scrub is invading. It is bisected by a stream which has been recently dug out, leading to a small pond, recently cleared.

SITE NOTES

1. A species-poor meadow, cut for hay. Species present include Creeping Bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*), Rye Grass (*Lolium perenne*), White Clover (*Trifolium repens*) and Creeping Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*). There is a small amount of Bird's-foot trefoil, Scarlet Pimpernel (*Anagallis arvensis*), Hop Trefoil (*Trifolium campestre*) and Dock (*Rumex spp.*). In the corner of the field there is an area of scrub consisting of Gorse, Elder, Goat Willow, Grey Willow, Ash and Oak saplings. In the more open areas amongst the scrub are Yorkshire Fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Tufted Hair-grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*), False Oat Grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), Marsh Thistle (*Cirsium palustre*), Greater Bird's-foot Trefoil (*Lotus uliginosus*), Fleabane (*Pulicaria dysenterica*), Sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*) and Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*).

2. This meadow is also species-poor and is dominated by Timothy (*Phleum pratense*), Rye Grass, Creeping Bent, Yorkshire Fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Creeping Thistle and other coarse plants.

3. A species-rich meadow, but grown long and rough. Three donkeys have access to it, but they have had little impact on the sward. Plants found include Black Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Fleabane (*Pulicaria dysenterica*), Ribwort Plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), Bird's-foot Trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), Clover (*Trifolium Spp.*), Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*) and Self-heal (*Prunella vulgaris*). Grasses include Yorkshire Fog, Bents, Fescues and Upright Brome (*Bromus erectus*). Scrub (including Blackthorn) is invading from the edges in many areas. There are Bracken and Bramble patches throughout. There is one large oak and numerous oak seedlings amongst the grass.

The field boundary has good examples of coppiced Ash, Field Maple and Hornbeam.

The stream has been recently cleared out and so has no aquatic or marginal vegetation. A small pond has also been created but this was unvegetated at the time of the survey. However, a wet area adjacent to the pond contains Angelica (*Angelica sylvestris*), Pepper Saxifrage (*Silaum silaus*) and Water Mint (*Mentha aquatica*), with a clump of Grey Willow.

3a. A small drain flowing into the wet area (above). This is completely overgrown by Water Mint, Fleabane and Soft Rush (*Juncus effusus*). At it's other end is another clump of Willow, Great Willowherb (*Epilobium hirsutum*) and Angelica.

4. This area is dominated by Red Bartsia (*Odontites verna*) and stands of tall herbs such as Nettle, Dock and Hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium*).

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Bracken, Blackthorn, tree saplings and Bramble all urgently need to be cut back. The grassland should be mowed in late summer to prevent coarse species from taking over.

SITE OF NATURE CONSERVATION IMPORTANCE (SNCI)

East Sussex

Site Name: Eels Ash Wood & Long Wood
Site Ref: L21
District: Lewes
Parish: Chailey
National Grid Ref: TQ385193
Size (ha): 13.2
Date: May 1992
Surveyors: Marion Finch & Louise Clark
Further Info: SOS records.

SUMMARY

Eels Ash Wood and Long Wood form a block of ancient woodland which is part of a complex of small woods. Both woods have been storm-damaged, with Eels Ash Wood, to the north, being more severely affected. As a result, much its original structure has been lost, and a large area has been cleared and replanted with native Oak and Cherry. The remaining woodland is mainly Birch coppice under Oak standards, with some areas of Hazel coppice and occasional Hornbeam. Some Alder and Copper Beech have been planted in the past, and a few mature Pine trees remain from a much earlier planting.

Long Wood is more intact, and is dominated by Hazel coppice under large Oak standards, with over-shot Hornbeam and Birch stools and an area of Ash coppice. Ash and Birch standards are occasional.

The ground flora of both woods is dominated by Bluebell and Wood Anemone, although grasses, Brambles and Rushes are common in the storm clearings, and other species, including a wide variety of ancient woodland indicators are present at low frequencies.

Other habitats include wide, grassy rides and a small pond.

SITE NOTES

1. Eels Ash Wood is very open, due to storm damage and subsequent clearance. Virtually all the dead wood and stumps have been removed from the storm-damaged areas, and the cleared ground replanted with a mixture of mostly Oak and some Cherry in tubes. A few mature Oak and Pine trees remain, and Birch seedlings, saplings and young trees are frequent. Soft Rush (*Juncus effusus*) dominates the ground between the tree tubes, with abundant Creeping Buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), Bugle (*Ajuga reptans*), Heath Speedwell (*Veronica officinalis*), Creeping Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) and some Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*).

More intact areas are predominately large Oak standards over Birch coppice and young, single-stemmed Birch. Hazel coppice also occurs, and there are small amounts of Alder and Copper Beech which have probably been planted in the past. In general, the woodland canopy is very open, with abundant Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scriptus*), Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), Yorkshire Fog (*Holcus lanatus*), some Bramble (*Rubus spp.*) and Birch seedlings forming the ground flora. However, there are also areas of very dense Birch coppice with Bluebells and some fern under. Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*) is frequent, growing both as a climber and on the ground.

With the exception of Bluebell and Wood Anemone, all the ancient woodland indicator species occur at very low frequencies, but a good range of them are present, including Hard Fern (*Blechnum spicant*), Wood Sedge (*Carex sylvatica*), Pignut (*Conopodium majus*), Wood Spurge (*Euphorbia amygdaloides*), Yellow Archangel (*Galeobdolon luteum*), Hairy Woodrush (*Luzula pilosa*), Yellow Pimpernel (*Lysimachia nemorum*), Three-veined Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*), Wood Sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*), Barren Strawberry (*Potentilla sterilis*), Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*), Red Current (*Ribes sylvestri*), Wood

Speedwell (*Veronica montana*) and the trees Hornbeam and Holly.

The wood has some wide, grassy rides.

2. Long Wood is very different from Eels Ash Wood, although it too shows signs of severe storm-damage. The main open areas caused by the storm have some mature Oak and Birch trees and patches of Hazel coppice remaining, but are mostly carpeted with Yorkshire Fog, Bluebells, Foxgloves (*Digitalis purpurea*), Wood Sage (*Teucrium scorodonia*), Red Campion (*Silene dioica*) and Bramble, with abundant Birch and Sycamore seedlings. There are many root-plates remaining.

The more intact parts of the woodland are predominately dense Hazel coppice with very large old Hornbeam stools and over-shot Birch coppice, under occasional, but unusually large Oak standards. The ground flora is dominated by Wood Anemone and Bluebell, with frequent patches of Yellow Pimpernel and Common Dog-violet (*Viola riviniana*). Young Sycamores are frequent throughout the wood, and Spindle dominates the shrub layer in one small part. Ash standards are very occasional and there is one area of over-shot Ash coppice with dense Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) beneath and Hazel coppice forming the shrub layer. Some clearing has been carried out on the edge of this area, leaving standard Ash trees between the Ash coppice and the woodland boundary. The brushings have been left in piles. The more open ground here has frequent Box, as well as grasses, Brambles and Creeping Thistle.

The woodland is crossed by several wide, grassy rides which have patches of Bluebells, Wood Anemone, Heath Speedwell, Creeping Buttercup, Thyme-leaved Speedwell (*Veronica serpyllifolia*) and Procumbent Pearlwort (*Sagina procumbens*).

There is a tiny pool which has some open water and is full of Floating Sweet-grass (*Glyceria fluitans*) and Duckweed (*Lemna spp.*).

The stream which runs along the north-west boundary has steep banks which are covered in Cow Parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*), Nettle and Dog's Mercury. The stream is shaded by Hazel, Cherry and Ash which grow on the banks. It has no aquatic flora, but some Hemlock Water-dropwort grows on the edges and on a pile of stones which are raised above water level.

There is an unconfirmed report of the presence of Southern Woodrush (*Luzula forsteri*).

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Both woods have been storm-damaged, but only Eels Ash Wood had its clearings replanted. Native Oak and Cherry have been used, and have been planted in tubes. In Long Wood, the root-plates and dead wood have been left in place, and the clearings are regenerating naturally. Both areas have had Pine planted in the past, and Alder and Copper Beech have been planted in Eels Ash wood more recently. Long Wood has not been replanted, but the area of Ash in the south-east corner has been thinned out.

Both woods have been managed in the past by coppicing Hazel, Birch, Ash and Hornbeam, and leaving Oak, Ash and Birch standards to grow on. In both woods, the Oak standards are large and mature, and coppicing has not been carried out for some time. This has resulted in a closed canopy, to the detriment of the ground flora. It would be beneficial to either reinstate the coppice cycle or thin areas of coppice to single-stemmed stools, thereby allowing more light to reach the ground and encouraging ground flora species and natural regeneration of trees and shrubs.

Open rides are often important for insects, and the tracks through Eels Ash Wood and Long Wood are kept open and well maintained. Dead wood, which is an essential component of the woodland habitat, is abundant in both woods, and we would recommend that it is not cleared away, and that any dead standing wood is left in place if possible.

COMMENTS

The two woods are part of a complex of ancient woodland. Eels Ash Wood has been badly storm-damaged, thereby losing much of its original structure, and areas have been cleared and replanted. Long Wood is more intact, and is a good example of coppice-with-standards woodland. Both woods would benefit from sympathetic management, such as reinstating a coppice rotation. Despite being rather over-grown, both woods have reasonable species lists, with ancient woodland indicator species well-represented.

SITE OF NATURE CONSERVATION IMPORTANCE (SNCI)

East Sussex

Site Name: Great Home Wood, Hattons Wood
Site Ref: L24
District: Lewes
Parish: Chailey & East Chilmington
National Grid Ref: TQ373183
Size (ha): 23.1
Date: May 1992
Surveyors: Marion Finch & Louise Clark
Further Info: -

SUMMARY

This ancient wood is a coppice Oak woodland, an uncommon type in the region. The wood is being worked and so there are coppice compartments of varying ages. Some are quite large and overshot, whilst others have been cut in very recent years. Generally beneath the coppiced Oak, the ground flora is sparse.

The wood includes areas where there are more frequent mature Oak standards forming a high forest structure. An ancient boundary bank separates another area of woodland which consists of mixed Hornbeam and Oak coppice, and a large deep pit wooded by young Birch, Aspen, Willow and Oak, etc. One corner of the woodland has been cleared and planted up with Pine.

There are numerous large open rides/tracks throughout the Oak woodland, many of which have been used in the recent past by heavy machinery and so have disturbed ground. However, many grasses and herbs occur along the less disturbed ones.

On the edge, there are a number of small ponds, some of which have been recently cleared out.

The wood also includes a large pheasant rearing pen.

SITE NOTES

1. This wooded shaw appears ancient. Along its length there are occasional mature Oaks, young Oaks, frequent Hornbeam coppice, some coppiced Ash and occasional coppiced Field Maple. Hawthorn, Midland Hawthorn, young Hornbeam Privet and Elder form a sparse shrub layer. There is a dense and species-rich ground flora, including Butcher's Broom (*Ruscus aculeatus*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scriptus*), Common Chickweed (*Stellaria media*), Cleavers (*Galium aparine*), clumps of Nettle (*Urtica dioica*), Red Campion (*Silene dioica*), Violets (*Viola spp.*), Ground Ivy (*Glechoma hederacea*), Bugle (*Ajuga reptans*) and Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*). A small stream runs beside the stream and supports Hemlock Water-dropwort (*Oenanthe crocata*) and Wavy Bitter-cress (*Cardamine flexuosa*), and there are also patches of Blackthorn and Grey Willow scrub. On damp pocked areas of the path, there is abundant Creeping Buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*).

2. Here there is a small derelict shallow pond which has some stagnant water in it supporting Lesser Pond Sedge (*Carex acutiformis*). Its edges are boggy and support some Lesser Spearwort (*Ranunculus flammula*), Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*), Hemlock Water-dropwort, Wavy Bitter-cress, Forget-Me-Not (*Myosotis spp.*) and Water Mint (*Mentha aquatica*). Around its edges is boggy water-logged ground with abundant Creeping Buttercup and algae on the surface. This wet area is surrounded and over-hung by coppiced Oak and Ash and Blackthorn scrub and there is a fallen coppiced Field Maple.

3. This pond is situated in a steep-sided dell. There is some stagnant water in the bottom which is mostly full of leaf litter. A few Grey Willow are growing in the pond and a number have fallen across it. On the pond banks a number of Elder and Grey Willow occur together with patches of Nettle and in places, patches of

Creeping Buttercup, Wavy Bitter-cress, Marsh Thistle (*Cirsium palustre*), Sweet-grass (*Glyceria spp.*), Lesser Spearwort and Soft Rush (*Juncus effusus*). On top of the pond banks, are single stem Oaks rising from old coppice stools and occasional Hornbeam. Recent clearance work which has felled many surrounding Oaks, has left plenty of dead wood and logs lying around.

4. This pond is again situated in a steep sided dell. It had been recently cleared out and some surrounding trees felled. There is a little water at the bottom, which appears dark and scummy with a small amount of Pond weed (*Lemna spp.*) on the surface. Growing in the water, are big clumps of Soft Rush (*Juncus effusus*), Pond Sedge (*Carex riparia*) and Bittersweet (*Solanum dulcamara*), and in the middle is a Grey Willow. On the lower shallow banks, Soft Rush, Pond Sedge, Remote Sedge and Bittersweet occur whilst on the steeper drier banks, Bramble (*Rubus spp.*), Marsh Thistle and Nettle also grow. Surrounding the pond are occasional Oak, Hawthorn and Elder.

5. This corner of the wood has been felled and planted with Pine trees. These are now mature and widely spaced due to thinning. Brushings and dead wood have been left in place in between the lines of trees. Bluebell, Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*) and Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) form a dense ground cover. A wide swath of original woodland has been left along the woodland boundary. It consists mainly of Hornbeam coppice and is rich in tree, shrub and ground flora species. Mature Oak occurs along the field edge.

6. Here there is a large depression in the wood. It is wooded by young Aspen, Field Maple, young Oak, Goat Willow, young Birch and occasional older Oak standards.

7. The majority of this woodland consists of Oak coppice. In some areas, there are frequent butts (3' high). Some areas have not been coppiced for years and the poles are consequently thick and have grown tall. Usually there is deep leaf litter beneath and so very little ground flora. Other areas have been coppiced more recently and are at shrub height, whilst others appear to have been cut the previous winter. In the recently coppiced areas, standards have been left and on the ground, there is abundant Bramble, Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*), Heath Speedwell (*Veronica officinalis*) and Rosebay Willow-herb (*Chamaenerion angustifolium*).

The coppicing is divided into small compartments, with many different stages of growth in evidence. Generally, the ground flora is quite poor, but in some areas there is Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), Bluebell and in places abundant Birch seedlings.

8. Here the ground is very uneven. The wood consists of old Oak and Hornbeam coppice which has grown to canopy height. There are occasional mature Oak standards and beneath the coppice, there is a very sparse shrub layer of Midland Hawthorn. The trees cast dense shade and so the ground flora is poor, mainly Bluebell in places. Generally there is deep leaf litter and there is plenty of dead wood about in the form of wind-thrown dead trees.

There are a number of small areas of old Ash coppice, with multi-stemmed Hazel beneath. These areas are more open and have a richer ground flora with Wood Avens (*Geum urbanum*), Lesser Celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*), Common Chickweed, Ground Ivy, Common Twayblade (*Listera ovata*), Common spotted Orchid (*Dactylorhiza fuchsii*), Early Purple Orchid (*Orchis mascula*), Bugle (*Ajuga reptans*) and Bluebell. In small clearings created by storm damage, there is abundant young Aspen.

9. This small stream has some very slow-moving water. It has steep banks which in places are covered in moss and Wavy Bitter-cress, and there are occasional clumps of Male Fern (*Dryopteris felix-mas*). It is mostly shaded by old Ash and Hazel coppice.

10. Near the woodland edge/boundary there tends to be much more Hornbeam coppice mixed with the Oak coppice as in 8 /above/.

11. In this area, there are more frequent fine old Oak standards. They generally have spreading branches and huge crowns and the woodland has a more high forest structure. There is a pheasant rearing pen, within which some clearance work may have taken place. It is more open with some young Birch, coppiced Hornbeam and occasional Laurel bushes.

12. Many of these tracks are deeply rutted from heavy machinery usage. Some are quite wide and grassy with Sweet Vernal Grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Meadow Grass (*Poa spp.*), Yorkshire Fog (*Holcus lanatus*) and Bent (*Agrostis spp.*) with Creeping Cinquefoil (*Potentilla reptans*), Foxglove, Bramble, Anemone, Heath Wood-rush (*Luzula multiflora*), Cleavers and Common Mouse-ear (*Cerastium holosteoides*) and tall herbs on the edges including Bramble, Rosebay Willowherb and young Birch. Others are quite wet and boggy and support Bulbous Rush (*Juncus bulbosus*), Water Plantain (*Alisma plantago-*

aquatica), Lesser Spearwort and Sweet Grass.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Continuation of the coppicing regime is recommended. The Hornbeam/Oak coppice near the pit would also benefit from such management.

Tracks/rides throughout should be managed to keep them open, and the clearance of the ponds should be continued and trees and shrubs kept clear of them.

When the Pine from the plantation is harvested, Oak and other indigenous species could be planted in its place.

SITE OF NATURE CONSERVATION IMPORTANCE (SNCI)

East Sussex

Site Name:	Longridge Wood & Sedgebrook Marsh
Site Ref:	L36
District:	Lewes
Parish:	Chailey, Plumpton & Wivelsfield
National Grid Ref:	TQ367197
Size (ha):	24.1
Date:	1990 & May 1992
Surveyors:	Louise Clark, Marion Finch & Graham Steven
Further Info:	Grassland information from the English Nature publication: 'A Botanical Survey of Unimproved Neutral Grassland in East Sussex' by G Steven, 1990.

SUMMARY

This ancient woodland complex was badly damaged in the '87 storm. The intact areas consist of scattered mature oak over Hazel and Hornbeam overshot coppice. Birch is also frequent throughout, often occurring grown from coppice. The ground flora is generally dominated by Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scriptus*), with Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) found in small storm damaged clearings.

There is one large storm damaged area which had been virtually clear-felled. Only very occasional Oaks remain amongst a sea of young regenerating Aspen and Birch with Alder, Hornbeam and Hazel regrowing from stumps, and large clumps of Bramble (*Rubus spp.*). This area was frequented by a large number of butterflies and dragonflies.

Immediately to the south-west of the woodland is a wet meadow with a fen community of interest.

SITE NOTES

1. This is an area of dense woodland consisting of scattered mature Oak over mainly overshot Hornbeam coppice. Oak frequently also occurs grown from coppice. Hazel coppice is a common component of the dense shrub layer and Birch is frequent both as young trees and grown from coppice. Many Oaks have been blown over and these are still in place on the ground, creating small clearings. The ground flora is generally dominated by Bluebells (*Hyacinthoides non-scriptus*), with Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*), Bramble (*Rubus spp.*) and Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*) frequent in the clearings.
2. This area was badly storm damaged and had been cleared. Only very occasional Oaks (thin and straggly) are left. This open area is being taken over by young Aspen and Birch with some Alder, Hornbeam and Hazel regenerating from stumps. Some dead wood and piles of logs have been left lying around. Large clumps of Brambles are frequent amongst the shrubs and young trees and there are open grassy areas where Rushes (*Juncus spp.*) and Bluebells (*Hyacinthoides non-scriptus*) are frequent. Butterflies and Dragonflies were numerous in this area.
3. The stream here is muddy with only a small trickle of water in it. Along its length are banks of Brambles, with frequent Marsh Thistle (*Cirsium palustre*), Soft Rush (*Juncus effusus*) and occasional Alders.
4. The rides through the open storm damaged area are species-rich and quite damp in many places. Soft Rush (*Juncus effusus*), Greater Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus uliginosus*), Lesser Spearwort (*Ranunculus flammula*), Yellow Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*) and Water Mint (*Mentha aquatica*) are common along its length, and it is frequently lined by young Aspen.
5. Here the wood is more intact. Again, mature Oaks occur over Hazel and Hornbeam coppice. Oak and Birch frequently occur grown from coppice, and there is a small area of overshot Ash coppice with dense Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scriptus*) under. Generally however the wood is dense so that there is little

ground flora due to lack of light. Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*) occurs in places as does Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scriptus*), especially in clearings created by fallen trees. Elder is frequently found regenerating in these clearings. Generally there is plenty of dead wood about.

6. This block of woodland is also more intact. It consists of very overshot Hornbeam coppice with occasional Oak standards, occasional young thin, tall Oaks and frequent Birch grown tall and thin. There is very little ground flora due to the dense shade. Bluebell occurs in patches and forms carpets in places. Generally there is deep leaf litter and plenty of dead wood about. There is very little in the way of a shrub layer. Towards the southern end there is storm damage with the fallen trees still lying in place. These clearings are dominated by Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scriptus*) and Bracken.

7. This is a thick and dense woodland of mainly overshot Hornbeam, Birch and Oak coppice. There is some storm damage. There are many areas of deep leaf litter and abundant Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scriptus*) with frequent Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) in storm damaged clearings. Additionally, Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*) occurs frequently as a climber.

8. In this area, small patches of mainly young, thin Birch have been recently coppiced.

9. This area (surveyed from the boundary) appears to be mainly Birch and Hornbeam overshot coppice with occasional old Sweet Chestnut grown from coppice. There are dense Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scriptus*) on the ground with Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*). There is some storm damage and thus dead wood lying about. Some areas near the southern boundary have young spindly growth.

10. This pond was mostly mud, with only a small amount of standing, stagnant water in it. There was a small amount of Reed Sweet-grass (*Glyceria maxima*), hemlock Water-dropwort (*Oenanthe crocata*), Nettle (*Urtica dioica*), Creeping Buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*) and Ragged Robin (*Lychnis flos-cuculi*). Guelder Rose and Nettle occurs on the edges and is generally overhung by Alder, Hazel and Willow.

11. The stream here is very shallow with a small amount of water in it. The bordering woodland consists of occasional mature Oak over Hazel, Birch and Goat Willow, with Guelder Rose, Hawthorn, Blackthorn and Elder on the edges. Additionally, there are occasional old Ash trees grown from coppice.

12. A low lying marshy meadow with frequent *Molinia* and an area of *Juncus*-dominated fen (NVC type M23), a very rare habitat in the county. The drier grassland areas have signs of disturbance and are in need of better management but the wet areas have several species of interest including *Cirsium dissectum*, *Galium uliginosum*, *Potentilla palustris*, *Dryopteris carthusiana* and *Veronica scutellata*. *Succisa* is abundant in places. *Stellaria palustris* and *Dactylorhiza maculata* have been recorded previously and the site is said to have breeding nightingales.

The fen community is co-dominated by *Juncus acutiflorus* and *Agrostis canina* but *Potentilla palustris*, *Galium palustre*, *Lotus uliginosus*, *Hydrocotyle* and *Epilobium obscurum* are also quite frequent. *Dryopteris carthusiana* occurs along the margins of an area of birch woodland. This whole area is very wet underfoot ('quaking') and appears to have only occasional light grazing by deer.

The drier part has higher cover of grasses, mainly *Agrostis* spp., but also *Molinia* which is abundant in places but very patchy. *Succisa*, *Achillea ptarmica*, *Angelica*, *Ranunculus repens* and *Stellaria graminea* are all frequent and there is occasional *Potentilla erecta*. Recent disturbance of some kind is indicated by an abundance of *Cirsium palustre* in many areas. The wet margins of the community have a wide range of marsh species such as *Ranunculus flammula*, *Mentha aquatica*, *Scutellaria galericulata*, *Lychnis flos-cuculi* and *Hydrocotyle*. *Cirsium dissectum* appears to be restricted to one small part of the site.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The reintroduction of a coppicing regime might be considered, as much of the coppice stools are very overgrown. Tracks and rides throughout should be managed to keep them open and allow light in. Replanting of standards in the large cleared area might be considered.

In the wet meadow there are no indications of grazing, other than by rabbits, and scrub invasion is likely to be a problem.

SITE OF NATURE CONSERVATION IMPORTANCE (SNCI)

East Sussex

Site Name: Middle Home Wood & Southam Wood
Site Ref: L40
District: Lewes
Parish: Chailey & East Chiltington
National Grid Ref: TQ379174
Size (ha): 16.6
Date: May 1992
Surveyors: Louise Clark & Marion Finch
Further Info: -

SUMMARY

Middle Home and Southam Woods form a block of ancient woodland, most of which has been a typical coppice-with-standards structure conforming to NVC stand type W10b.

Southam Wood is predominately over-shot Hornbeam coppice growing under well spaced Oak standards. Part of it has been thinned to make a pheasant pen and the area around the stream, which appears to have been Hornbeam and Hazel coppice under Oak, has been cleared completely. The clearing supports a remnant woodland flora amongst recently established grasses and Nettles. The stream is very dry and appears to be polluted.

Middle Home Wood is predominately overgrown Hornbeam and Oak coppice under large Oak standards, but has some coppiced and standard Silver and Downy Birch. The stream is lined by multi-stemmed Alders and has Hazel coppice on its banks. A large area has been cleared. The ground flora of the wood is patchy, due to dense shade, but is predominately Wood Anemone and Bluebell, with Bracken abundant in clearings.

The site is one of a complex of woods, all ancient in origin and fairly similar in species and structure. Its value is increased when considered as part of this group of woodlands.

SITE NOTES

1. Southam Wood is predominately overgrown Hornbeam coppice with occasional large Oak standards. The shrub layer is composed of Midland Hawthorn and Elder. There is an area of over-shot Oak coppice within the Hornbeam. The ground flora is dominated by Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scriptus*). Part of the woodland has been thinned and fenced to make a pheasant pen, and another has been cleared and brushings piled amongst the stools and along the edge of the track.

2. This area has been cleared, leaving occasional Oak standards. It appears that this was Oak over Hornbeam and Hazel coppice prior to clearance, and some of the remaining stools are resprouting. Young Birch is becoming established. The ground flora is a mixture of the original woodland flora, such as Bluebell and Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), and the grasses and Nettles (*Urtica dioica*) which must have spread after clearance.

The stream has pools of water but these are separated by wet mud; there is no running water. Some Hemlock Water-dropwort (*Oenanthe crocata*), Celery-leaved Buttercup (*Ranunculus sceleratus*) and Wavy Bitter-cress (*Cardamine flexuosa*) occur, but the stream is mostly overgrown with grasses and lined by dense banks of Nettle. The pools of water are very dark and contain algae which, combined with the smell and abundance of Nettles, implies that the stream is polluted.

3. This area has a less obvious coppice-with-standards structure. Much of it is dominated by standard Oak trees, growing quite close together, with patchy Birch and Hornbeam coppice below and a rather sparse

shrub layer. Within this are stands of a more typical structure, with Hornbeam and Hazel coppice occurring under over-shot Birch coppice and Oak standards. The ground flora is the usual mixture of Wood Anemone, Bluebell and some Bracken.

4. The stream is narrow and very slow flowing. It is lined by tall, multi-stemmed Alders with huge old Hazel coppice stools occurring higher up the banks. These stools are the largest seen in the District. Wavy Bittercress (*Cardamine flexuosa*), Yellow Pimpernel (*Lysimachia nemorum*) and abundant Nettles grow by the stream.

5. The majority of Middle Home Wood is dominated by over-shot Hornbeam and Oak coppice with occasional large Oak standards. The canopy casts a dense shade, which means that the ground flora of Bluebell, Wood Anemone and Bramble (*Rubus spp.*) is rather patchy. Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*) is frequent as a climber. Mosses are abundant on dry track ruts, and Nettle also occurs on the tracks and rides. The shrub layer is poorly developed and mostly consists of young Hornbeam.

Some areas appear to have been coppiced more recently and these have multi-stemmed and standard Silver Birch and Downy Birch present. The ground flora is more extensive in these areas and includes scattered Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*).

There are small areas of Birch coppice but the stools are close together and the poles very spindly as a result.

There is a large clearing in the wood near the stream, with abundant Wood Anemone, Bluebell and Bracken, but no young trees have become established. Some young Elder bushes are present, but there is little scrub.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The woodland was originally managed by coppicing, but there is no evidence that the coppice cycle has been maintained. Most of the stools are now very overgrown, resulting in dense shade and a correspondingly patchy ground flora. However, some clearance work has been carried out recently, and small areas have been thinned and the brushings left on site.

The most obvious way of managing the woodland would be to reinstate the coppice cycle. This would require small areas to be cut in rotation, leaving the standard trees to grow on. Unfortunately, coppicing is labour-intensive, skilled work and the market for Hazel and Birch poles is small. Hornbeam poles are a valuable crop, however, and their sale would help to finance this management.

If coppicing is not feasible, a useful compromise would be to thin some of the stools to single poles, and promote part of the woodland to high forest. This has the advantages of opening up the canopy and allowing more light to reach the ground, which should encourage a better ground flora, but is not as expensive as coppicing. It also means the trees are can still be managed for timber if the market should improve.

Parts of the woodland have dead wood lying around. Dead branches and dead standing and fallen wood provide an essential habitat for a variety of fungi, invertebrates and hole-nesting species. Therefore, dead wood should be left in place wherever possible.

Open areas are important for species of plant which require more light, and for invertebrates to feed, display and 'sun' themselves. Ideally, rides and clearings should be kept open by periodic cutting back of the vegetation.

COMMENTS

The site is ancient in origin and is part of a complex of small woods of similar type and structure. It is a good example of Hornbeam coppice, with the added interest of some coppiced Oak. Although the species list is rather short, 12 of the 51 species recorded are 'ancient woodland indicators'. The lack of species diversity is due in part to the fact that the coppice is overgrown, and partly to the fact that Hornbeam woods often are associated with a limited flora. The woodland would benefit from sympathetic, well planned management.

SITE OF NATURE CONSERVATION IMPORTANCE (SNCI)

East Sussex

Site Name:	Plumpton Wood (North)
Site Ref:	L48
District:	Lewes
Parish:	Plumpton
National Grid Ref:	TQ365185
Size (ha):	6.9
Date:	June 1986
Surveyors:	Robin Lang
Further Info:	Notes from 'A Pilot Survey of Woods in the Parishes of Plumpton & Buxted'

SITUATION

Wealden plain, on a slight hill. Slope 0-5. Most of the surrounding land is pasture and minor roads run along the SE and SW boundaries. There are several private residencies in peripheral clearance and the wood edge (see map).

One drainage course runs north and drains from a small pond. It crosses another at right angles in the centre of the wood. The nearest neighbouring wood (22.5 ha) is 600m away.

GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Weald clay. Poorly drained clayey soil - drainage prepared by two artificial courses.

LAND USE AND MANAGEMENT

1. The south part (veg. type (1)) is currently little managed but is a private amenity. A small block of *Picea* was planted about 5 years ago but may soon be cleared and some wood taken for firewood. The owners are eager to preserve the wildlife of which orchids and fungi are the most notable elements.
2. A central portion has recently been cleared of dead wood and partly coppiced (1985-86).
3. A plantation of young spruce and larch in the north has been used for timber and possibly firewood but not extensively felled.
4. The remaining wood (one shaw) north of the conifer plantation is again a private amenity and some wood has been taken. The owner here is also interested in the wildlife of the wood.

VEGETATION STRUCTURE AND HABITATS

Vegetation Type

(i) Trees and Shrubs

Most of the wood is composed of *Carpinus* (grown from coppice) with mature *Quercus robur* and *Fraxinus*. The trees are 25 - 30 m high with moderately full canopies covering about 75% of the wood. There are few gaps in the canopy except where artificially cleared and near the edge.

Fraxinus and some younger *Quercus* are particularly prone to basal rotting and many are leaning or have fallen as a consequence. The area north of the large coniferous plantation has the most dead wood starting and lying. Elsewhere dead wood is not abundant. It has probably been cleared in the past from the south part and has recently been cleared in the centre.

The scrub layer is 2-5 m high and covers 20% of the wood in an even scattering except the central cleared area where it covers 5% of the ground. Decayed *Corylus* coppice is the most frequent component but there is a variety of other species such as *Crataegus*, *Ilex*, *Sambucus*.

(ii) Herbs

Herbs only cover 60% of the floor overall, 40% being covered with a thick leaf litter. Despite the wide range of species most of these are local or rare and the dominant species are *Hedera*, *Rubus fruticosus* and *Endymion* (30-50cm tall). *Anemone* and *Urtica* are frequent in the more open parts. *Carpinus* and *Fraxinus* seedlings are frequent in the barer parts.

Herb cover is thickest in the north part and sparsest in the recently cleared centre (20%).

Species of particular interest: *Dactylorhiza fuchsii*, *Helleborus viridis*, *Listera ovata*, *Neottia nidus-avis*, *Orchis mascula*, *Platanthera chlorantha*.

Glades

(a) South-west edge abundant *Urtica* attracts butterflies, e.g. Red Admiral. Semi-shaded.

(b) S.E. edge grassy clearing shaded along edges. veg. 10-25 cm. Much *Ajuga reptans* and *Dactylorhiza fuchsii*.

(c) Centre, east. Rectangular glade (30 x 15m) felled for cables. Herbs up to 1.5m tall with much *Acer pseudoplatanus* saplings, *Anemone* and *Endymion*.

(d) Coniferous plantation Narrow felled area, a wide range of small herbs recently established, including *L. ovata* and *D. fuchsii* and *O. mascula*. Dragonfly. Flat-bodied labellia.

Pools

South west margin A healthy pool with much *Potamogeton natans* and *Lemna minor*. Some planted aquatic species and a variety of herbs including *Sorbus torminalis*.

North corners Two stagnant silted ponds with much leaf and twig litter - of little biological interest. Both well shaded.

Birds

Green Woodpecker, Great Spotted Woodpecker (2 pairs), Nuthatch, Treecreeper, Wren, Robin, Blackbird, Song Thrush, Mistle Thrush, Jay, Chaffinch.

Fungi

Amanita spp, *Agaricus* spp, *Boletus* spp, *Cantharella cibarius*, *Clavaria* sp, *Clithocybe* spp, *Collybia Caprinus*, *Cortinarius* spp, *Dacrymyces veliquescons*, *Diderma rugosum* (November 1974 - New to Britain), *Exidia granulosa*, *Fistulina haptica*, *Hygrophorus* sp, *Hypolana* spp, *Inocybe geophylla*, *Laccaria amethystine*, *Lactarius* spp, *Lepiota* spp, *Lycoperdon* spp, *Marasmius* spp, *Mycona* spp, *Paxillus involutus*, *Phallus impudicus*, *Phlebia radicata*, *Psathyrella lacrymabunda*, *Rusula* spp, *Sterei rigpsi*, *Tremella meseuterica*, *Tricholana* spp.

SUMMARY

Plumpton Wood (North) has the largest vascular plant list of the parish (100+) including 22 Hornby ancient woodland indicator species. These numbers are twice those for most other woods and are probably related to three factors:

- (1) Larger wood size (7 ha)
- (2) Open nature of wood due to present and past management
- (3) Care and interest from the owners

SITE OF NATURE CONSERVATION IMPORTANCE (SNCI)

East Sussex

Site Name: Popjoy Meadow & Shaw
Site Ref: L49
District: Lewes
Parish: Chailey
National Grid Ref: TQ381190
Size (ha): 5.1
Date: May 1992
Surveyors: Louise Clark & Marion Finch
Further Info: -

SUMMARY

A small wooded shaw and a damp meadow. Together they boast a wide range of interesting plants.

SITE NOTES

1. This ancient shaw consists of huge old Oak standards over over-shot Hornbeam coppice, with some Birch, Field Maple and Ash coppice, Holly and Hazel. On the field edge, Grey Willow, Elder, Guelder Rose and Field Rose also occur. The ground flora is very shaded, and consists of grasses mixed in amongst Dogs Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), Cleavers (*Galium aparine*), Bluebell, Greater Stitchwort (*Stellaria graminea*) and others.

2. Most of this area is very damp, although there was no running water about at the time of survey. There were bare mud areas however, so it must flood regularly. Scattered throughout were Willow, Hawthorn and Blackthorn bushes, especially on the edges. Mostly however, the area was vegetated by big clumps of Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*), Soft Rush (*Juncus effusus*), Hemlock Water-dropwort (*Oenanthe crocata*) and Thistles (*Cirsium spp.*) with Yorkshire Fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Creeping Buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), Cuckoo flower (*Cardamine pratensis*), Water Mint (*Mentha aquatica*), Narrow-leaved Water-dropwort (*Oenanthe silaifolia*), Lesser Spearwort (*Ranunculus flammula*), Bittersweet (*Solarium dulcamara*), Sweet Vernal Grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*) and Foxtail (*Alopecurus spp.*) mixed in. At the northern end, there is a drier area which is rabbit grazed and has huge old derelict Anthills. It is more meadow-like and supports Germander Speedwell (*Veronica chamaedrys*), Betony (*Betonica officinalis*), Black Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Common Sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*), Agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*), Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*), Crosswort (*Galium cruciata*), Marsh Thistle (*Cirsium palustre*), Tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*), and Bugle (*Ajuga reptans*), amongst Cocksfoot (*Dactylus glomerata*), Fescue (*Festuca spp.*) and Bents (*Agrostis spp.*).

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The meadow would benefit from being cut as with a meadow periodically, and invading bushes/shrubs removed.

SITE OF NATURE CONSERVATION IMPORTANCE (SNCI)

East Sussex

Site Name: Purchase Wood
Site Ref: L50
District: Lewes
Parish: Ditchling
National Grid Ref: TQ342195
Size (ha): 9.5
Date: May 1992
Surveyors: Louise Clark & Marion Finch
Further Info: -

SUMMARY

The site consists of an area of ancient Oak and Hornbeam woodland which has been managed in the past as coppice, but is now very overgrown. As a result of this, the ground flora is patchy, especially where Hornbeam dominates the canopy, but ancient woodland indicator species are well represented. The coppice stools are often very large, indicating considerable age, and there are several fine old Beech and Wild Service trees. Storm damaged areas have been replanted with native species and there is abundant dead wood. Part of the wood by the cemetery has been thinned to scattered clumps of trees.

The woodland forms part of the grounds of St George's Retreat on the eastern edge of Ditchling Common.

SITE NOTES

1. This area has been thinned to give a parkland effect, with occasional clumps of Oak, Birch and Pine over short-mown grassland. Some young trees have been planted and there are Rhododendron bushes.

2. The rest of the woodland is a mosaic of overgrown Oak and Hornbeam coppice with some standard trees and a patchy shrub layer. The old coppice stools are generally very large, indicating considerable age, and obviously predate the standard trees which are scattered amongst them. Where Oak dominates the canopy on the edges of the woodland, the shrub layer includes tall, multi-stemmed Hawthorn and Midland Hawthorn, Yew and young Hornbeam. The ground flora is dominated by Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), with abundant Bramble (*Rubus spp.*) and Cleavers (*Galium aparine*). Where Hornbeam is abundant, the ground flora tends to be very sparse, due to deep leaf litter and shade. In addition to Oak and Hornbeam, the wood contains a number of large Beech trees, and several Wild Service Trees of exceptional size. There are also areas of rather spindly young Oak trees with some young Aspen.

Part of the wood was severely damaged in the 1987 storm and there are at least two areas which have been cleared and replanted as a result. Some mature Oak and Hornbeam trees have been left standing and young Ash, Cherry and Oak planted in tubes. The open ground between the tubes is dominated by Bramble, with abundant Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*), Rosebay Willowherb (*Chamaenerion angustifolium*) and Birch seedlings growing over the original Anemone and Bluebell ground flora.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

An area of open parkland has been created by removing most of the trees by the cemetery. This area is mown regularly and trees and shrubs have been planted. The parts of the main wood damaged in the storm have been cleared and replanted, using native tree species. Standing and fallen dead wood has been left, thereby providing a valuable habitat for a variety of fungi, insects and hole-nesting birds.

In the past, the woodland was managed by coppicing. Areas would have been cut in rotation, leaving some standard trees to grow on for timber. This system of management favours a variety of herbs, as it creates a continuum of habitats, from open, sunny ground in newly coppiced areas to the dense shade of a closed canopy in areas due for re-coppicing. It is therefore generally recommended that the coppice cycle should be reinstated where possible. Unfortunately, the work involved is both labour-intensive and fairly skilled, and there is no longer a reliable market for the coppice poles; factors which tend to discourage such traditional management. A compromise would be to create a more open canopy by thinning selected coppice stools to promote one pole only. This will eventually create areas of high forest, and should encourage the regeneration of young trees and shrubs, as well as a more varied ground flora.

COMMENTS

Purchase Wood is a good example of ancient Oak and Hornbeam woodland which has been managed as coppice, and it also adjoins a large area of similar habitat. Although the dense canopy has resulted in a poor ground flora, this could be improved by either reinstating the coppice cycle, or by selective thinning. Recent management, in the form of clearing and replanting areas of storm damage, has been sympathetic, so the owners might be interested in managing the rest of the woodland to maximise its wildlife interest.

SITE OF NATURE CONSERVATION IMPORTANCE (SNCI)

East Sussex

Site Name: Sedlow Wood
Site Ref: L53
District: Lewes
Parish: Westmeston
National Grid Ref: TQ342146
Size (ha): 5.0
Date: June 1992
Surveyors: Louise Clark & Marion Finch
Further Info: SOS Records

SUMMARY

This small ancient wood is situated on Gault Clay. It is a very dense and impenetrable woodland, consisting mainly of coppiced Ash grown to canopy height over coppiced Hazel. Ash standards and Goat Willow also occur frequently throughout and there is a mixed and varied shrub layer which includes Privet, Field Rose, Field Maple and Hawthorn. The dense canopy throws dappled shade and has allowed a rich ground flora to develop, typically Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*), Bugle (*Ajuga reptans*), Common Spotted Orchid (*Dactylorhiza fuchsii*), Violets (*Viola spp.*) and Dogs Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) can be found.

Wind-thrown coppice stools are frequent, and there is much dead wood lying about.

This wood is renowned /by F. Rose/ to be excellent for sedges!

SITE NOTES

This woodland was surveyed from the public footpath, as ownership information and permission was not obtained.

1. This is generally a very dense woodland. It consists mainly of coppiced Ash grown to canopy height over coppiced Hazel. Ash also occurs occasionally as standards and Goat Willow occurs frequently throughout, sometimes as coppice. The shrub layer also includes frequent Privet, Field Rose, Field Maple and Hawthorn. On the track edge, Aspen, Spindle, Goat Willow, Field Maple, Dog Wood and Wayfaring Tree frequently occur. The wood is thick and impenetrable and the dense canopy throws dappled shade allowing a rich ground flora. Ivy (*Hedera helix*) is abundant, sometimes creeping up coppice stools and mosses often form carpets, especially over rotting dead wood. Typical herbs include Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*), Violets (*Viola spp.*), Bugle (*Ajuga reptans*), Ground Ivy (*Glechoma hederacea*), Common Spotted Orchid (*Dactylorhiza fuchsii*), Black Bryony (*Tamus communis*), Dogs Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) in patches, and sparse Bramble (*Rubus spp.*). Ash, Field Maple and Hawthorn seedlings and saplings are frequent.

There are some wind-thrown coppice stools lying about and much dead wood in the form of old logs, branches, twigs and fallen trees.

2. The track, which is a public footpath, had been recently bulldozed. Shrubs on the edges have been cleared, and spoil/mud has been piled along here. The track was bare earth at the time of survey, dead and disturbed vegetation indicated that Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*) used to be abundant. However, it is now wide and open and so has much potential.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The re-institution of a coppicing regime might be considered for this woodland.

SITE OF NATURE CONSERVATION IMPORTANCE (SNCI)

East Sussex

Site Name: Warningore Wood
Site Ref: L63
District: Lewes
Parish: East Chiltington & St John
National Grid Ref: TQ384140
Size (ha): 35.0
Date: July 1982 (Whelon) & October 1986 (Lang)
Surveyors: D J Whelon & Robin Lang
Further Info: -

SUMMARY

This area of ancient woodland has stands of the birch-hazel variant of pedunculate oak-hornbeam. Warningore Wood is the only known location of this nationally uncommon woodland type on the Gault Clay of East Sussex.

The wood grows on clay loam soils developed on Gault Clay. pH is rather varied, probably because calcium rich water drains from the nearby chalk of the South Downs.

Local variation in drainage and in past management of the wood have led to a range of woodland types. The two variants of the pedunculate oak-hornbeam woodland type dominate: the ash-field maple variant on poorly drained soils and the birch-hazel variant on better drained soils. The two sub-types are rarely distinctly separated, however, and tend to grade into each other. Other woodland types are associated with two poorly drained, based rich areas; with a dried up pond and bordered by scrub, dissect the site.

The pedunculate oak-hornbeam woodland is managed as coppice-with-standards. Hornbeam *Carpinus betulus* is the dominant coppice tree below standards of pedunculate oak *Quercus robur*. Hazel *Corylus avellana* coppice is locally abundant. Other woodland trees present include ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, field maple *Acer campestre*, birch *Betula pendula*, and sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*. The field layer of these coppice woodlands varies with the current state of management but bramble *Rubus spp.*, dog's mercury *Mercurialis perennis* and enchanter's nightshade *Circaea lutetiana* are dominant.

The two poorly drained, based-rich areas are dominated by ash, field maple and hazel and are characterised by a rich shrub layer which includes hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, elder *Sambucus nigra*, guelder rose *Viburnum opulus*, wild privet *Ligustrum vulgare* and spindle *Euonymus europaeus*. Alder *Alnus glutinosa* lines the seasonally dry stream and also occurs with ash, elder, hawthorn, goat willow *Salix caprea* and English elm *Ulmus procera* on the sit of the dried up pond.

The woodland rides support on a rich and varied flora which includes pendulous sedge *Carex pendula*, ragged robin *Lychnis flos-cuculi*, meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria* and common spotted orchid *Dactylorhiza fuchsii*. Scrub of birch, hawthorn, elder, wild privet, spindle, guelder rose and aspen *Populus tremula* borders some of the wider rides.

The wood is actively coppiced, consequently the extensive ride network is well maintained. It is also used for rearing game birds.

TARGET NOTES

1. Suckers of *Ulmus procera*

HABITAT DIVISIONS /5 Divisions/

A. Pedunculate Oak-Hornbeam woods: Birch-Hazel variant /stand type 9Aa/

Dominant species: *Carpinus betulus*, *Quercus robur*, *Corylus avellana*

Ground flora - *Rubus* spp.

Description:

To the north and west of the wood *Carpinus betulus* is dominant with only mature standards of *Quercus robur*, poles of *Betula pubescens*/*B. pendula* and coppiced *Corylus avellana* locally significant. A stand of virtually pure mature hornbeam occurs at 386142. Ground cover tends to be fairly light and is chiefly composed of *Rubus* spp., *Mercurialis perennis* and *Glechoma hederacea*.

B. Pedunculate Oak-Hornbeam woods: Ash-Maple variant /sub-type 9Ab/

Dominant species : *Carpinus betulus*, *Quercus robur*, *Acer campestre*.

Ground flora - *Rubus* spp., *Circaea lutetiana*, *Mercurialis perennis*

Description:

The boundary between this and stand type 9Aa is not a sharp one but generally type 9Ab is marked by greater species diversity. Thus although coppiced *Carpinus betulus* is dominant throughout, standards of *Quercus robur*, *Fraxinus excelsior* and *Populus tremula* and coppiced *Castanea sativa* and *Corylus avellana* are locally common - particularly on the borders with *hippocastanum* is prominent and seedlings of *Acer pseudoplatanus* are *monogyna* and *Sambucus nigra* the typical species. The ground flora is variable but tends to be denser than that under stand type 9Aa. *Rubus* spp., *Glechoma hederacea*, *Circaea lutetiana*, *Mercurialis perennis* and bryophytes are the dominant species.

The use of the wood for the rearing of pheasants has meant the maintenance of wooded rides. These display a good diversity of common species with *Carex paniculata*, *Lychnis flos-cuculi*, *Filipendula ulmaria*, and *Sonchus asper* in the wetter southern rides and *Poa pratensis* in the drier northern rides in addition of a variety of species that are common to both. The more open rides exhibit diverse shrub borders with *Viburnum opulus*, *Thelycrania sanguinea*, *Rosa canina* and *Sambucus nigra* present.

C. Wet Ash-Maple woods /Stand type 2Aa/

Dominant species: *Acer campestre*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Corylus avellana*

Ground flora - *Rubus* spp., *Mercurialis perennis*

Description:

This stand type borders both sides of the road at 388139. East of the road *Acer campestre* and *Fraxinus excelsior* standards dominate with *Corylus avellana* coppice. *Crataegus monogyna* is the dominant shrub above a dense ground flora of *Rubus* spp. and *Mercurialis perennis*. To the west of the road some *Carpinus betula* and *Quercus robur* from stand type 9Ab appear and the shrub canopy is much more diverse with *Sambucus nigra*, *Viburnum opulus*, *Ligustrum vulgare*, and *Euonymus europaeus* in addition to the *Crataegus*.

D. Valley Alderwoods /Stand type 7A/

Dominant species: *Alnus glutinosa*, *Corylus avellana*,

Ground flora - *Ranunculus repens*, *Rubus* spp.

Description:

Due to the seasonal nature of the stream *Alnus glutinosa* occurs only discontinuously along its banks and grades rapidly back into stand type 9Ab. Coppiced *Corylus avellana* and *Carpinus betulus* are present with occasional *Fraxinus excelsior* and *Salix caprea* above a light ground flora of *Ranunculus repens*, *Rubus* spp. and *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*.

Closely connected to this stand type is the habitat which has developed around a now dried up pond at 381137. Here suckers of *Ulmus procera* may replace the dying trees. *Salix caprea*, *Fraxinus excelsior* and *Alnus glutinosa* are also found above a dense shrub canopy of *Thelycrania sanguinea*, *Sambucus nigra*, *Crataegus monogyna*. *Carex pendula*, *Juncus* spp, *Lotus corniculatus* and *Dipsacus fullonum* are the dominant ground flora. *Helleborus viridis* has been recorded here.

E. Running water

Dominant species: *Polygonum hydropiper*, *Veronica beccabunga*

Description:

The stream is seasonally dry or at best very low. *Polygonum hydropiper*, *Veronica beccabunga* and *Juncus spp* are found but generally species composition is atypical due to the seasonal variation in water land.

Finally, of particular note, is that a male Emperor Butterfly was recorded in this wood on 10.7.94 by Frank Penfold.

COMMENTS

Warningore Wood is principally a hornbeam coppice woodland with standards of oak, ash and field maple plus some hazel coppice. Alder, elm and willow occur in the wetter areas. Its interest lies in the maintenance of the age old coppice system and the habitat it has created.

SITE OF NATURE CONSERVATION IMPORTANCE (SNCI)

East Sussex

Site Name: Ashurst Farm Meadows
Site Ref: L71
District: Lewes
Parish: Plumpton
National Grid Ref: TQ357151
Size (ha): 24.9
Date: July 1994
Surveyors: Marion Finch & Louise Clark

SUMMARY

This site consists of a series of fields; the majority being short, closely sheep grazed pastures. The grassy sward generally contains only a small number of commonly occurring plants, and must have been 'improved' at some time in the past. Some areas however are rich and of botanical interest. The site also contains two very narrow wet pastures which have remained unmanaged for years. They now consist of tall vegetation, typical of this habitat, which is rarely found as so many potentially similar pastures have been drained. Species such as Tufted Hair-grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*), Pepper Saxifrage (*Silaum silaus*), Common Fleabane (*Pulicaria dysenterica*) and Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*) are common constituents. They are both in dire need of cutting or grazing to maintain their diversity.

SITE NOTES

1. This is now a large field which is cattle grazed. Numerous old hedges have been grubbed up in the past which once divided it up into at least five smaller ones. Now, only occasional Hawthorn bushes remain along these lengths (and Hard Rush (*Juncus inflexus*) in places) and they are also rarely dotted about in the fields on the sloping ground. The top, northern half of the field, slopes down from the adjoining track, whilst the lower half is much flatter. Generally speaking, the grassland of the field is quite herb poor, and must have been improved in some way in the past. The sloping ground is coarser and less species rich than the flatter ground which tends to have more herbs present, in patches, and is much closer grazed. The main grasses are Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), Creeping Bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*) and Yorkshire Fog (*Holcus lanatus*) with some Rye Grass (*Lolium perenne*) and Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*) and occasional clumps of Cock's Foot (*Dactylis glomerata*). The most commonly occurring herbs are Sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*), Meadow Buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), White Clover (*Trifolium repens*), Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), Black Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*) and Self-heal (*Prunella vulgaris*). Also, there are mats of Bird's Foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*) and some Creeping Cinquefoil (*Potentilla reptans*) and Lesser Stitchwort (*Stellaria graminea*). Hairy Sedge (*Carex hirta*) is frequent throughout, as is Creeping Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) which is quite a problem. On the upper slopes, especially to the east, Hairy Sedge (*Carex hirta*), Creeping Buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), Ribwort Plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*) and Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*) are the most frequent herbs.

2. This hedge is thin and sparse with occasional mature Oaks and straggly Hazel and Hawthorn bushes in between in places. It needs thickening up.

3. This area of grassland is fenced off from the rest. Along the fence, occasional Hawthorn bushes occur.

4. This stream had running water at the time of survey. It flows over pebbles in places and there are also deep pools of water. The stream has created a gully 1 - 2 m. wide and 0.3 m. deep, with steep/vertical sides. It is lined, overhung and completely shaded by over mature Oaks and Ash trees and densely growing Field Maple, Hazel, Willow, Elder, Blackthorn and Dog Rose. These trees and shrubs are extending into the adjoining, long, thin, wet meadow. The ground flora beneath these trees and along the stream banks include Yorkshire Fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Ground Ivy (*Glechoma hederacea*), Nettles (*Urtica dioica*), Bramble

(*Rubus fruticosus*), Common Figwort (*Scrophularia nodosa*), Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*), Cleavers (*Gallium aparine*), False Brome (*Brachypodium sylvatica*), Ramsons (*Allium ursinum*), Dogs Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*), Ivy (*Hedera helix*) and Hart's-tongue Fern (*Phyllitis scolopendrium*).

5. This is a thin strip of land, an old field quite wet in places. It appears to have been left unmanaged (perhaps for a number of years) and consequently the vegetation has grown tall. Occasional Ash and Oak trees occur along the field boundaries but mainly there are hedges of Hazel, Dog Rose, Willow, Blackthorn and Hawthorn. The Willow and Blackthorn are spreading into the field in places. The stream is completely overhung and shaded by these shrubs and has become virtually inaccessible from the field. The eastern end is quite grassy, dominated by Yorkshire Fog and Timothy (*Phleum sp.*). However, the central area and western end must be much wetter. In these areas, there are large clumps of Hairy Willowherb and Meadowsweet, and lots of Tufted Hair-grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*), Hard Rush (*Juncus inflexus*), Fleabane (*Pulicaria dysenterica*), Pepper Saxifrage (*Silaum silaus*) and Meadow Vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*) in places. Also, there was great big clumps of Tall Fescue (*Festuca arundinacea*) in one or two places, Hogweed scattered about and occasional Lesser Stitchwort (*Stellaria graminea*) and Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*). Of particular note are the huge old ant hills that can be found dotted about. The field is very sheltered and was very hot and steamy at the time of survey. It may well be good for invertebrates and perhaps warrants a survey).

6. This is a narrow strip of grassland, which appears to have been abandoned and has grown very tall and rank. Along the boundary with the adjoining field, is a thin straggly hedge of Hawthorn, Dog Rose and young Ash trees which are invading into the field in places and at the eastern end, Blackthorn is dominant. In between and on the edges of these are large banks of nettles and bramble which are also spreading unchecked. Blackthorn and Hazel also grow along the stream bank boundary and are invading into the meadow. The grassland of the narrower western end, is dominated by Yorkshire Fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Timothy (*Phleum pratense*), Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), Cocksfoot (*Dactylis glomerata*). The main herbs are Hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium*), Hedge Parsley (*Torilis japonica*), Silverweed (*Potentilla anserina*) with lots of Hedge Bindweed (*Calystegia sepium*) in places.

The eastern end is wetter and becomes dominated by Hairy Willowherb (*Epilobium hirsutum*), Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*) and areas of Tall Fescue (*Festuca arundinacea*), with frequent Hedge Bindweed growing over everything. Within this area there is a large damp depression (marked on the map). Hairy Willowherb occurs here in clumps and big patches and there is lots of Meadowsweet, Rush, Pepper Saxifrage (*Silaum silaus*), Water Forget-me-not (*Myosotis scorpioides*) and False Fox Sedge (*Carex otrubae*). Immediately adjacent to this damp depression, there is a sloping bank, and this higher, drier ground is more grassy. Yorkshire Fog and Bent Grasses dominate, and there are herbs such as Black Knapweed and Agrimony (*Agrimony raspatory*).

Right at the very eastern end, there is a small bank with a few mature Oaks growing on it, also occasional Field Maple, Elder and Blackthorn. Beneath these are Yorkshire Fog (*Holcus lanatus*), nettle (*Urtica dioica*), Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*), Ground Ivy (*Glechoma hederacea*), Cow Parsley (*Anthriscus sylvatica*) and Hedge Woundwort (*Stachys sylvatica*).

7. This field is similar to the others. At the time of survey, it had been cut and then cattle had been in to graze. Grasses such as Yorkshire Fog, Common Bent Grass, Sweet Vernal Grass and Crested Dog's Tail dominate. Generally it is quite herb-poor, but common species such as Creeping Buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), Meadow Buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*), White Glover (*Trifolium repens*), Red Clover (*Trifolium pratense*), Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), Bird's Foot Trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), Sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*), Lesser Stitchwort (*Stellaria graminea*), Hop Trefoil (*Trifolium campestre*), Field Bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*), Ox-eye Daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*), Self-heal (*Prunella vulgaris*) and clumps of Black Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*) occur.

8. This is a large derelict pond. Around the edges and overhanging the water are Alder trees and occasional shrubs such as Elder, Hawthorn and Dog Rose. However, light is still able to penetrate and reach the water surface in places. The water was shallow and full of leaf litter, with dead branches in places. Floating on the water surface are huge mats of Starwort (*Callitriche sp.*) but very little else. The bankside vegetation is also very poor, and limited to Meadowsweet, Nettles and Hedge Bindweed (*Calystegia sepium*) at the time of survey.

9. This small stream leads from the pond. It is lined and overhung by Alder, Ash and Hawthorn, and there are nettles and grasses in places on the ground.

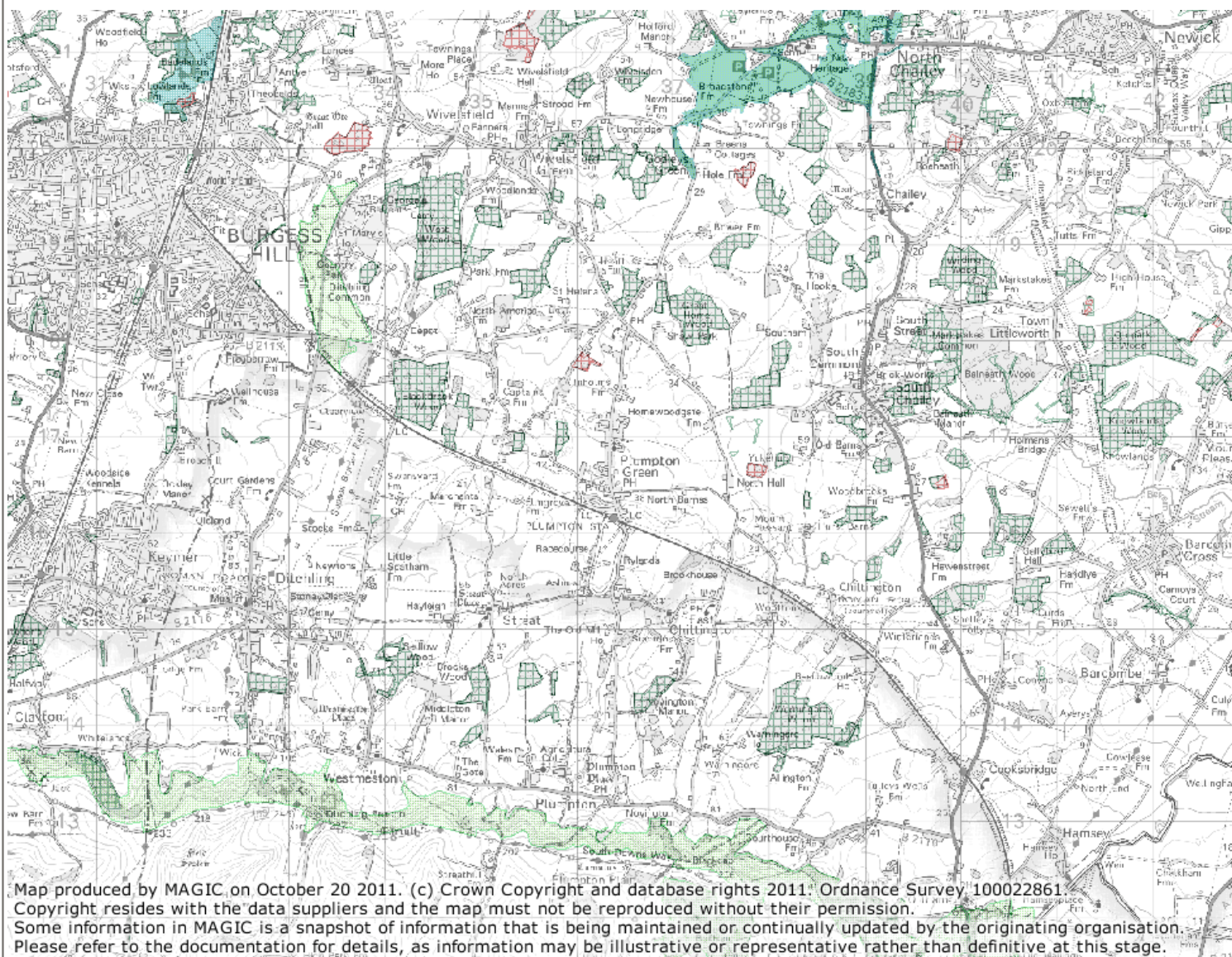
10. This small field has been ploughed up and was being used as a vegetable garden at the time of survey.

MANGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Most of the meadows in this complex i.e. /1/ and /7/ are presently sheep grazed. This is ideal, but if possible, animals should be removed during the summer months to allow plants to flower and set seed. A hay cut might then be possible/necessary in late summer which could then be followed by light grazing. The narrow wet meadows /5/ and /6/ have been sadly neglected for many years, and as a consequence, many rank plant species are becoming dominant. It is most important that these fields are brought into a management regime. They need to be cut or grazed. At present, access into them is not easy and this problem needs to be addressed.

APPENDIX 2

Information obtained from MAGIC and Nature on the Map



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 Please refer to the documentation for details, as information may be illustrative or representative rather than definitive at this stage.

MAGIC



5312 Plumpton Green

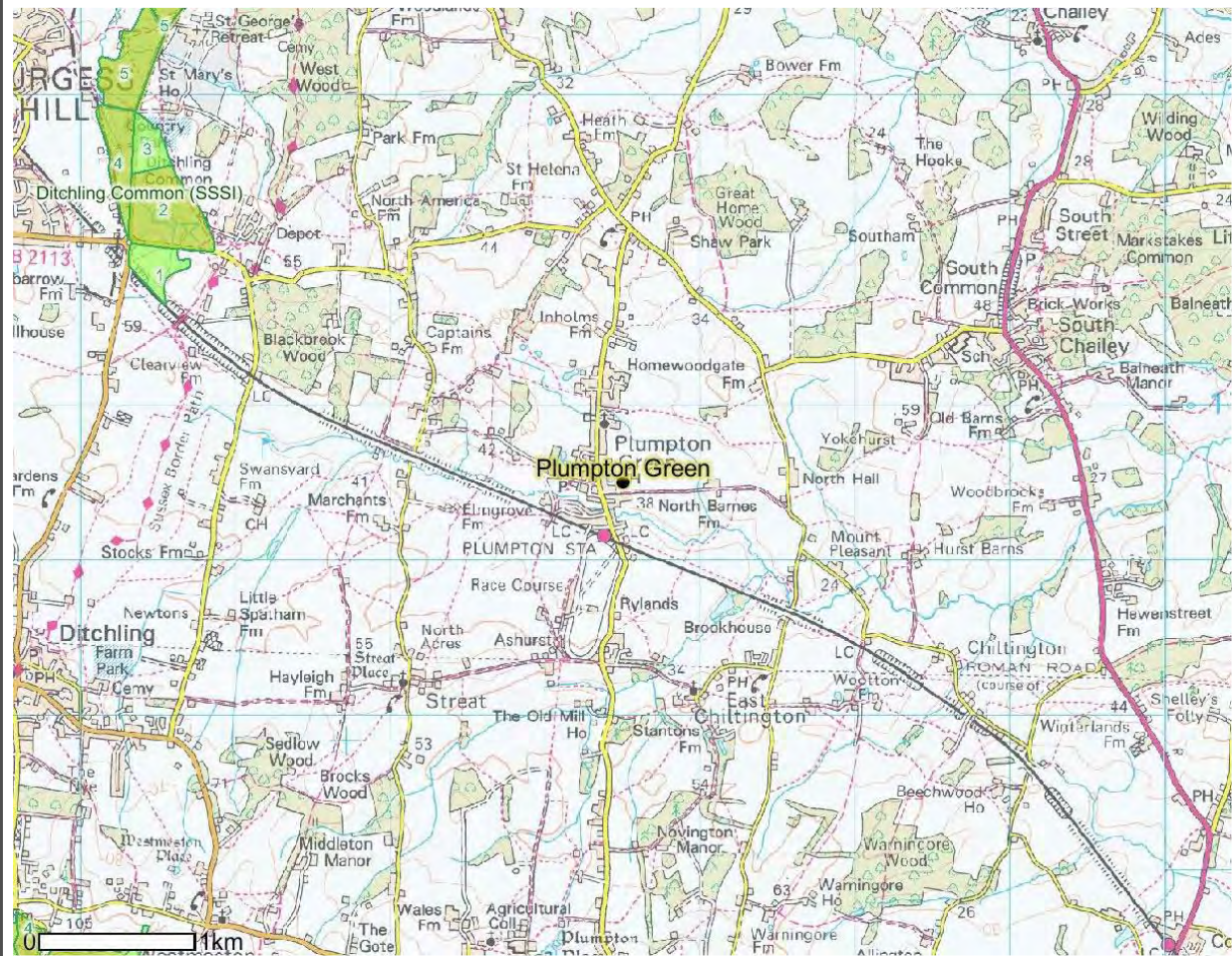
Ancient Woodland (England)

-  Ancient & Semi-Natural
-  Ancient Replanted
-  Local Nature Reserves (England)
-  National Nature Reserves (England)
-  Special Protection Areas (England)
-  Special Areas of Conservation (England)
-  Sites of Special Scientific Interest (England)
-  Protected Wreck Sites (England)



Nature on the Map

5312 - Plumpton Green, East Sussex



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|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| ★ Natural England Offices | ■ Sites of Special Scientific Interest |
| ■ SSSI Live Management Agreements | ■ Natural England Regions |
| ■ SSSI Unit condition - last updated 20 Sep 2011 | ■ Natural England Area Teams |
| | ■ Scotland, Wales and Ireland |
| | ■ Ordnance Survey background mapping |
| ■ Favourable Condition | ■ England |
| ■ Unfavourable Recovering | |
| ■ Unfavourable no change | |
| ■ Unfavourable Declining | |
| ■ Part Destroyed | |
| ■ Destroyed | |
| ■ Not Assessed | |