# Ecological Management Plan

Homewood Park, Ottershaw
2014-2018

**March 2014**

Written by:
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Prepared for:
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# Quality Control

The information and data which has been prepared and provided is true and has been prepared and provided in accordance with the '*Code of Professional Conduct'* issued by the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM). We confirm that the opinions expressed are our true and professional bona fide opinions.

| | | Date |
|---|---|---|
| Ecologist | Isobel Girvan BSc (Hons) PGCert MCIEEM | Site visit date: 13/11/2013 |
| Report Author | Isobel Girvan BSc (Hons) PGCert MCIEEM | Date passed on for authorisation 11/01/14 |
| Approved by | Nicky Williamson BSc (Hons) MSc MCIEEM | Date authorised as complete 18/03/2014 |

The contents of this report were correct at the time of the site visit. The report is provided for the sole use of the named client and is confidential.

# Contents

# 1.0 Introduction

1.1 Surrey Wildlife Trust (SWT) Consultancy has been commissioned by Runnymede Borough Council to produce management plans for six sites which have been allocated as Suitable Alternative (or Accessible) Natural Greenspace Sites (SANGS). This management plan covers Homewood Park, see Appendix 1 for site photographs. This report draws on previous work undertaken by SWT including an Extended Phase 1 survey (Gibbs, 2013), an Access Assessment (Anckorn, 2009) and an Ecological Data Search (Kirk, 2013), see Appendices 2-4.

1.2 The history of the site is very interesting and the Chertsey Museum and Exploring Surreys Past websites provide detailed accounts.

1.3 This report is based on the information gained at the time of the site visits from the surveyors, drawn from the findings of the suite of ecological surveys and knowledge of the site. The management plan is to be seen as a work in progress that can evolve as more information is gathered.

1.4 Additional bird and bat surveys are to be undertaken in spring / summer 2014. The recommendations from these surveys should be incorporated into the management plan.

1.5 Within the management plan the site has been evaluated for important features, for which an objective is given along with a description of the management required in order to meet that objective. Detailed prescriptions of the work to be undertaken are then listed and targets where relevant. This is summerised in a five year work programme (see section 5.0)

# 2.0 Description

2.1 Homewood Park is located approximately 1km north of Ottershaw, with a central grid reference of TQ022649 and covers 23.4 hectares. It has officially been owned and managed by Runnymede Borough Council since 1999. Within the context of the surrounding landscape Homewood Park has a large ancient woodland to the north, across Longcross Road. To the north east is the Bournewood NHS complex. To the east is a large residential estate. There are farms and agricultural fields to the south east. Hillswood Business Park is to the south and beyond that are tree nurseries. Finally Fox Hills Golf Course is to the west.

2.2 Homewood Park is a SANGS and there are multi-access points over the site often using existing network of paths, none of which are Public Rights of Way. It is accessed from the main public car park off Stonehill Road to the west. There is a pedestrian access off the Guildford Road to the east of the site, where there is also some limited residential parking. The majority of visitors are from the surrounding area of Chertsey, nearby residential areas supply dog walkers and walkers, as well as visitors from St Peters Hospital and offices from the business park (RBC, 2012). See Figure 1.

2.3 There is a lot of interesting and detailed information on the history of this site, available on the Chertsey Museum website. Homewood Park has had a variety of interesting owners since its construction in 1763, when it was part of a large sprawling estate, see Photograph 1. Its association with the health industry began during the Second World War. It has been reported that '*ammunition dumps in the woods close to the edge of the estate were hit by incendiaries and blew up. The blast broke all the windows in Botleys Mansion*.' The mansion on the site functioned as a hospital for the mentally ill until the 1990's, after which it was owned by P & O (see Photograph 2) and then ownership and management fell to Runnymede Borough Council.

2.4 Homewood Park appears to have retained its mansion landscape character, depicted by the wealth of mature and over-mature trees. Current habitats include a central core of meadow, amenity semi-improved grassland and on the northern periphery there is a band of scrub and planted shrubs. Whilst at either end of this elongated park are parcels of broad-leaved and mixed semi-natural woodland. There are five bodies of water, one to the north east of the site, close to the car park. With another small overgrown pond close to the eastern edge of the site. The remaining two ponds and a lake are also tucked in the east side of the site.

2.5 The current management of the site centres on the grassland with regular mowing of the amenity grassland and an annual mow of the meadow area. Trees are visited when health and safety requires it. It would appear that

currently there is largely non-intervention in the woodlands, scrub and pond areas.

# 3.0 Evaluation

## 3.1 Mixed semi-natural woodland (including mature and ancient trees)

Homewood Park supports areas of mixed and broad-leaved woodland in the west and east ends of the site. There are a number of impressive sub-mature and mature native and exotic trees over the grassland which is typical of this type of formal landscape from the C18th and C19th and have survived the subsequent building of hospital space. These mature trees are valuable for their wildlife and visual value as well as their historical and aesthetic importance.

The even aged secondary woodland that covers the largest area in the western corner of the site is a common place habitat. Here there is a variety of wildlife using the woodlands and trees particularly birds and invertebrates, probably bats and possibly amphibians and reptiles. However it is lacking diversity of structure and there is potential to enhance it by creating glades, opening existing glades and producing a more varied mosaic of habitats.

Part of the suite of mosaic habitats would include the enhancement of the grassland habitat by increasing the area of meadow long grassland and mixing up the cutting regimes in places to create buffer zones of long connecting grassland with surrounding scrub and wood interface. This ecotone of long uncut grass is very important for a host of invertebrates, as well as small mammals and reptiles.

## 3.2 Semi-improved grassland

The majority of the open grassland area was created during the late 1990's whilst the site was being redesigned and landscaped, which incorporated beautiful views and mature trees. It is managed as amenity grassland and therefore cut frequently throughout the growing season. The round area of grassland to the north west of Botley Mansion has been in existence for decades, but has only been managed as meadow grassland since 2013. The grassland habitat is a valuable part of the mosaic of habitats that the site supports.

## 3.3 Non-native, Invasive Plants

The woodland and planted scrub areas have been degraded from the quantity of non-native, invasive species. The main culprit is Cherry Laurel, which is often planted in gardens, used for its evergreen status and ability to grow tall quickly. There are a variety of other exotic species present, almost exclusively in the wooded areas, which are detailed below.

Rhododendron is present on the site and is listed on the Schedule 9 list from The Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981 as amended) as a problem invasive species in the UK. It is widespread on acid soils throughout Surrey. Its dense

thickets shade out indigenous plants, preventing regeneration of trees in woods and obliterating the ground vegetation (Waite, 2013).

- Rhododendron

The following have been recorded on the site and are listed on the Plantlife list (Thomas, 2010) where research has shown that they are likely to be invasive in the future.

- Butterfly-bush
- False-acacia
- Lawson's Cypress
- Turkey Oak
- Snowberry

Three recorded plant species are also on the draft Surrey Invasive Species (Waite, 2010) list and are listed below:

- Cherry Laurel
- Turkey Oak
- Sycamore

## 3.4 Indicator Plants

No rarities are present on the site. However, whilst Mistletoe has no designation it can be considered rare in South East England.

The survey of the woodlands only recorded seven Ancient Woodland Indicators (AWI). To put it in context a site with at least ten AWI would suggest that it is ancient in origin. The history of the site is well known and it is not designated as ancient woodland in the Surrey Inventory (Davis, 2010).

From the Phase I data only seven grassland indicators or 'Species Typical of Grassland of Conservation Interest in Surrey' (Gibbs, 2008) have been recorded on the site, the majority of which were seen in the eastern end of the grassland close to the business park road entrance perhaps suggesting a difference in soil and/or grassland age. To put it into context, in order to be considered as a Site of Conservation Importance (SNCI), at least 15 grassland indicators need to have been recorded.

## 3.5 Water Features

There are three types of water feature on the site, namely four ponds, one lake named Hillside Lake and ditches. The ponds and Hillside Lake are interesting ecological features for the site and should be enhanced with viewpoints included. There is a ditch to the south of an off-site large lake that requires some maintenance. Once the issues have been resolved these

areas will benefit from increased marginal and emergent vegetation as well as invertebrates such as dragonflies, damselflies and potentially newts.

### 3.6 Birds

All wild birds are protected from damage or destruction of their nest whilst in use or construction. In addition some birds receive additional protection from disturbance whilst nesting under schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended. No official bird records are available for the site, however a list of birds was made available via the data search of birds recorded within 500m of Homewood Park including species such as Kestrel, Green Woodpecker, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Grey Wagtail, Pied Wagtail, Wren, Dunnock, Robin, Goldcrest, Blue Tit, Great Tit and Nuthatch. Therefore a bird survey has been recommended for 2014. The recommendations of which should be incorporated into the management plan at a later date. It is unlikely that any minor management work on the sites would affect these bird species. Any work affecting trees or scrub should avoid the bird nesting season (March-August).

### 3.7 Invertebrates

A number of notable and local invertebrate species have been recorded from a search area of 500m from Homewood Park and include several bees which are now thought to be relatively common, two butterfly species which are unlikely to be present on the site as well as a deadwood fly specialist and Stag Beetle, which could be on the site. In order to manage for the deadwood fly which is nationally notable b (Nb), a suitable amount of decaying wood needs to be provided, and further invertebrate surveys. The Stag Beetle is a UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) priority species and a nationally notable b (Nb) species. It is protected under appendix 3 of the Bern Convention. Stag Beetle larvae rely on rotting dead wood for their survival therefore it is important to ensure that the dead wood habitat on the site does not decline.

### 3.8 Reptiles

All native British reptiles are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) from killing and injury. In addition they are a UK BAP Priority species and SPI. Reptiles including Grass Snakes have been reported to the north of the site. There are areas of suitable habitat present such as rough grassland, scrub, open woodland and ponds in which to support reptiles. In general the recommendations suggested in this document will help to enhance this site for these species.

### 3.9 Amphibians

The data search did not reveal any records for Great Crested Newts within 1km of the site. However there is potential for this species to be using the water bodies on site for breeding. If present within the ponds they may use the woodland for foraging or hibernation.

Great Crested Newts are protected under schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and of the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) Regulations 2010 from intentional killing and injury and from intentional damage, destruction or obstruction of access to a place of shelter. In addition they are a UK BAP Priority species and SPI.

An assessment of the likelihood of the ponds to support Great Crested Newts should be undertaken prior to any major work on the site.

### 3.10 Badgers

Badgers are protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992, which makes it illegal to kill, injure or take a badger or to interfere with their setts for example by the use of heavy machinery nearby. A Badger sett is known to be present to the north of the site, but its current status is unknown. It is possible that if they are still present that they could make their way onto the site to forage. In general the recommendations suggested in this management plan will enhance the site for these species.

### 3.11 Bats

All species of British bats are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act and under Regulation 38 (Schedule 2) of the Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) Regulations 1994. Together this legislation makes it an offence to kill, capture or disturb the animal, or to damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of such an animal. Some species are BAP Priority species and SPIs. Bats are likely to forage on the site and to be roosting in mature trees with suitable features such as holes, cracks and loose bark. Brown Long-eared bats have been recorded within the local area.

A bat survey has been prioritised for 2014 and will provide details of species present and management recommendations which should be incorporated into this plan. It is important to take the above species into account when planning any future work on the site.

### 3.12 Position Within Living Landscape

The position of Homewood Park within the surrounding landscape is important from an ecological point of view and should be taken into account when establishing management priorities for the site. Homewood Park is an area of open formal landscape that reflects a small part of the wide and sprawling country estate to which it used to belong.

In addition the following was reported in the Ottershaw Chase Preliminary Invertebrate Assessment (Dodd, 2013) and therefore could also be true of Homewood Park:

'*In a local context the site has the potential to be an important reservoir for saproxylic invertebrates (i.e. wood decay specialists) at a landscape scale as there is an established geographic link via nearby sites with significant*

*veteran tree interest, such as Queenwood Golf Club to the immediate north-west linking with Chobham, Wentworth and Virginia Water, to the internationally important Windsor Great Park ~9km (5-6 miles) to the north-west.*'

**3.13 Site of Nature Conservation Importance**

Homewood Park is not a Site of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI), however this does not diminish its importance of semi-natural habitat in Surrey and it is recognised that all semi-natural habitat is important for wildlife and of potential education value.

**3.14 Access and Recreation**

The site is heavily used by the public for recreation, using the network of informal paths. It was made a SANGS in 2008, which means it is used to provide alternative green space to divert visitors from vising the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (SPA), this use is reflected though the management plan.

The majority of visitors to Homewood Park are local to the area and are walkers or dog walkers (RBC 2012), some of which are using the car parking facilities. Car parking facilities are essential for sites over 10ha. The existing network of paths on site should be suitable for SANGS use with relatively minor amendments to provide a more circular route and further points of interest. The existing network of paths is quite extensive and a pathway of appropriate SANGS length (at least 2.3km) would be easily incorporated into this network (Anckorn, 2014).

As well as natural history, there is very interesting and detailed human history for the site. Providing information on this history will make the site more appealing. There is extensive material on this provided by the Chertsey Museum, The Ottershaw Society and Exploring Surreys Past.

# 4.0 Features

## 4.1 Feature 1: Mixed semi-natural woodland

**Objectives**

The woodland will continue to be present on the site, covering a similar area to the current size. There will be some glade creation, glade enhancement, path widening and general thinning as well as non-intervention in strategic areas to create and enhance the habitat. The woodland will have a diverse structure of at least 95% native species, with open space (both temporary and permanent), early growth, diverse field layer, understorey, maturing woodland, old growth and deadwood habitat all represented. There will be thinning and ride/path opening system in the western woodland to ensure that up to 20% off the woodland canopy in the western block will be open at any time to allow more light onto the woodland floor and to encourage a varied woodland flora and better structural diversity. Therefore the habitat quality will continue to support populations of plants, bryophytes, lichens, fungi, mammals, bats, birds, amphibians and reptiles, to thrive on the site. There will be no non-native, invasive shrub species or litter. See Photographs 3 to 6.

**Targets**

- There will be a 20% open glade/path system over 5 strategic areas.
- There will be a 25% increase in scrub interface/grading into woodland or long grassland.
- Thinning will create improved structural diversity and an understorey to represent 20-30% of the stand area.
- There will of native seedlings growing through to young trees of sufficient density to maintain a canopy for the future.
- There will be a full range of decaying lying wood.
- A minimum of 4 trees per ha allowed to die standing where compatible with health and safety, or retained as dead standing wood.
- Veteran trees, future veteran trees and open grown trees are to be retained and positively managed.
- As least 95% of native (or acceptable naturalised) species cover in any one woodland layer.
- Problem species have been controlled and are at a level where they are not adversely affecting the site, ideally less than 5%.
- Invasive, non-native plants will not be introduced onto the site.
- Homewood Park to have no garden waste or rubbish.

**Management rationale**

The management required to meet the objectives and targets above is outlined below. The location of the prescriptions is shown on Figure 1.

In general, thinning should avoid mature trees, if this becomes unavoidable, all trees older than 100 years, or with obvious cavities, or with a girth greater than 1m at chest height should be surveyed for bats by a licensed bat worker before any work takes place.

### 4.1.1 Rides & glades

Rides and glades provide a central zone of shorter grass and vegetation will tall herbs and grasses on the edge and then a scrub zone grading back into woodland. The wider they are the better with uneven edges and even some scalloped edges. This will create valuable variety of habitat types, whilst also giving plenty of shelter and warmth to wildlife.

More open spaces in the western block of woodland will be created as much of the woodland is currently very dark which is limiting its biodiversity value. Dark closed paths will be opened up by cutting back undergrowth and young trees. The existing glade in this woodland is being closed in by the surrounding trees and will also be opened up.

**Prescription W1**: The small glade in the small young planted woodland to the east of the car park should be maintained by cutting back encroaching branches.

**Prescription W2**: Retain open woodland track/ride located between the off-site large lake and the two ponds in the east of the site. It creates dappled sun and is pleasant for people to walk through. Management will include cutting back over hanging branches.

**Prescription W3**: There is an existing glade in the western block of woodland, that is being encroached by the trees and not enough light is getting in. Despite the fact that the only field layer during the site visit was Bracken, it is likely that other early flowering grasses and plants are present earlier in the year besides, Bracken is valuable in its own right for sheltering birds and for invertebrates. Therefore it is recommended that the trees along the edge are cut back by at least 5m and the Sweet Chestnut coppiced to expand this valuable woodland feature.

**Prescription W4**: The western block of woodland currently only has one small glade and the northern part of this woodland would benefit from another open glade. Not only would it enhance the woodland, by encouraging a different field layer it would also create a more appealing walk for visitors.

**Prescription W5**: Preferentially thin back from paths to open them out and create an east/west ride and tie in with the new glade described in **W4**.

### 4.1.2 Thinning

Tree thinning will be undertaken, centred on the western block of woodland. As much of the wood stock is relatively young and densely packed, periodic

thinning of spindly, less healthy trees will boost woody growth and given retained trees spaces to develop, whilst ensuring light penetrates the woodland floor for the field layer to flourish and will promote a more structured understorey. Removing younger, competing trees may also bring advantages to the mature trees underground mycorrhizal fungi and other supporting micro organisms. It also provides a structural diversity to increase the niches for different flora and fauna.

In general, thinning should avoid mature trees, if this becomes unavoidable, all trees older than 100 years, or with obvious cavities, or with a girth greater than 1m at chest height should be surveyed for bats by a licensed bat worker before any work takes place.

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As a general principle for every mature parkland native tree present, there should be at least one young, maturing native tree (of the same species).

**Prescription W6**: Thin out Pedunculate Oak, Beech and Silver Birch trees as well as dense Holly shrubs from the northern half of the western block of woodland. It may be appropriate to coppice some of the Sweet Chestnut.

**Prescription W7**: There is a small coup of Hazel in the west of the western block of woodland that should be re-coppiced.

**Prescription W8**: Just north of the Hazel described above there is a dense grove of Holly which should be thinned out. It forms an underwood which is almost as effective as Rhododendron in shading out ground vegetation including regenerating trees.

**Prescription W9**: Consider thinning some of the trees out around the car park, a lot are small and thinning regime would open up the more mature trees and expose them as feature trees such as the mature Common Lime (with plenty of Mistletoe in the crown) and Sweet Chestnut.

**Prescription W10**: Along the northern edge of the car park there is a small group of overshot Hazel, once the Cherry Laurel has been removed this will provide them with some extra light and they could be coppiced.

### 4.1.3 Brash Habitat Piles/Decaying Wood

Decaying wood is an invaluable resource. The aim for the site should be to have a variety of different types from decaying standing wood including hollowed cavities to different ages of decaying lying wood in the form of trunks, branches and smaller types. The title page shows one tree that had

been blown over and is rotting *in situ* and enhancing the biodiversity of the site, also shown as Photograph 6. In addition there are some large piles of decaying Sweet Chestnut to the south west of the car park. It is vital to continue to think about the next generation of mature and decaying wood and to ensure there is a succession for the future.

When thinning some of the sub-mature trees could be ring-barked, pollarded or stripped of branches and crown to create decaying wood sticks.

When felling trees, some of the resulting brash (finer branches) and trunks will be ideally strewn randomly around the site to create a more natural feel. Or they can be used to create log habitat piles in a variety of different situations i.e. shady, sunny and damp. Although too many can surpress ground flora, they do create habitat for a range of invertebrates, reptiles and amphibians. Some brash can be tied into tight bundles and then stacked so as to be to be more valuable for invertebrates (eg. Stag Beetles) and occupy less space. A succession of piles of different ages will aid diversity. Half burying some of the logs in a vertical position will be particularly beneficial to Stag Beetles and other invertebrates.

**Prescription W11**: [There are nine W11s mapped on Figure 1] Brash from clearance operations can be used to create 9+ reptile habitat piles along the woodland/grassland ecotone. Decaying wood refugia habitat for reptiles and other wildlife can be created by digging a 1m wide hole to a depth of about 50cm and infilling with logs horizontally or vertically (and perhaps some rubble), sticks and soil and then overtopping with the original soil and vegetation.

### 4.1.4 Non-intervention

Not all areas of the woodland will require or have work recommended and non-intervention is a valid woodland practice.

**Prescription W12**: There is one area of young planted woodland to the south east of the car park for which non-intervention is recommended at this stage.

### 4.1.5 Bird & Bat Enhancement

The woodland management of the site will create a well developed woodland structure by encouraging early successional scrub through woodland thinning and ride and glade management. The majority of trees within this site are relatively young and lack features often exhibited by mature trees such as holes and peeling bark which are utilised by bats and birds. However, bird/bat boxes are not always the best solution as they many cause issues with competing species.

Follow recommendations from bird and bat reports.

### 4.1.6 Invasive Non-native Species

As a matter of priority Cherry Laurel should be removed where possible. It is far too prevalent in the woodland. It is a large invasive shrub that shades out the field layer and prevents recruitment trees coming through. The stumps should be cut down to the ground and treated and also monitored to prevent regrowth. Preferentially thin out Turkey Oak. Removal of the remaining listed invasive species is also important.

**Prescription W13**: There is a wide expanse of Cherry Laurel to the north and south of the car park, acting as a screen/barrier. However, this parkland has plenty of native mature trees that could be made as features by removing the Cherry Laurel.

**Prescription W14**: Cutting back and removing the Cherry Laurel between the north of the car park and Stonehill Road, will help to expose an existing, if darkened existing grassy bridleway ride. If wholesale removal cannot be achieved, then consideration should go into cutting it back to create wide bays along the ride. At the western end of this ride it is already more open and Ash recruitment seedlings and saplings are quick to colonise.

**Prescription W15**: There are several young False Acacia trees to the west of the car park at the end of the ride that should be removed.

**Prescription W16**: False Acacia was also noted in the Phase I survey to the south of the car park and this should also be removed.

**Prescription W17**: On the eastern end of the car park, close to the entrance there is a small area of exotic planted shrubs, these should be removed as there are enough Hawthorn, Ash and Hazel in the immediate area to replace them.

**Prescription W18**: Another site to the east of the car park where the removal of Cherry Laurel is suggested.

**Prescription W19**: Consider removal of Cherry Laurel along the lane on the north east edge of the site and replant with a variety of shrubs such as Hazel, Field, Hawthorn and Holly. There is a lot of decaying wood on the floor here and this should be retained. At the very least there should be a drastic cutting back.

**Prescription W20**: Remove Rhododendron and other exotics from this central northern corner of the site, there are plenty of well established native species present to take over.

**Prescription W21**: Retreat the removed Rhododendron just north of Botleys Mansion to prevent further regrowth and continue monitoring.

**Prescription W22**: Remove Cherry Laurel present on the north eastern woodland edge (by the C12th /13th moated farmhouse and present day hospital car parks).

**Prescription W23**: Just a little further down the path from the above prescription there is another patch of Cherry Laurel to be removed. This stretches from along the southern edge of the hospital car park and also along the eastern edge of the same car park.

**Prescription W24**: Along the northern edge of the entrance road in the east of the site there is an unslightly 'hedge' of Cherry Laurel. Ideally this would be removed and a new native species hedge planted up. At the least, it should be dramatically cut back and its encroachment curtailed.

**Prescription W25**: Remove Cherry Laurel from the northern edge of the grassland located in the south east of the site.

**Prescription W26**: Remove Cherry Laurel and Rhododendron shrubs located on the land bridge between the large lake and the two small ponds.

**Prescription W27**: Remove Butterfly-bush located on the grassland close to the offices. Despite its popularity with butterflies, this invasive shrub quickly crowds out more important plants creating dense shade and nutrient-rich soil from its fallen and decomposing leaves.

**Prescription W28**: Either remove or do not let spread the non-native planted species, located close to the Butterfly-bush, including Bridewort.

**Prescription W29**: Remove Cherry Laurel, retain Creeping Thistle and Bramble patch to the north of the offices.

**Prescription W30**: Remove or stop spread of exotics along the main driveway to Botleys Mansion.

**Prescription W31**: Remove Cherry Laurel and Rhododendron from the northern end of the western block of woodland.

**Prescription W32**: Remove Cherry Laurel from the south eastern end of the western block of woodland.

**Prescription W33**: Remove Rhododendron from the south west corner of this block of woodland.

**Prescription W34**: Preferentially thin out Turkey Oak.

## 4.2 Feature 2: Grassland

**Objectives**
Within the habitat mosaic the sward should exhibit a varied structure including patches of short grass, small areas of bare ground and taller vegetation with seed heads. See Photographs 7 & 8.

There should be an increase in the number of herbs present over the grassland area. The open grassland area will link into ride corridors.

Homewood Park will continue to support a variety of scattered sub-mature, mature and recruitment trees on the grassland as they provide continuity of habitat for wildlife and increase landscape value. There will be no non-native, invasive shrubs species or litter. Bund habitats will be a feature.

**Targets**
- Increase the ratio of herbs in the sward to up to double to the number of grasses.
- Enhance structural diversity of grassland.
- Create at least 8 hand made scrapes on bunds.
- Retain sandy exposed banks.
- Create 3-5 piles of grass on woodland edge.

**Management rationale**
The management required to meet the objectives and targets above is outlined below. The location of the prescriptions is shown on Figure 1.

The grassland is an integral part of the mosaic of habitats present at Homewood Park. Management is designed to improve the overall biodiversity of this habitat.

The grassland edges, next to the scrub interface will be left long to enhance the site for invertebrates including grasshoppers and butterflies. The ratio of grasses to herbs provides a rough indication of how valuable grassland is. In general, semi-natural swards in good condition have a much higher number of herbs compared to grasses. A range of heights over the grassland will be more beneficial to wildlife. Leave a buffer zone around the edges to ensure there is invertebrate refuge and encourage a scrub and underscrub ecotone. An annual cut in late summer will help to diversify the sward composition. Clippings must be removed and taken off site or they will cause enrichment and prevent seeds from reaching the soil surface and germinating and can make cutting the following year difficult to get through the resulting 'thatch'.

As a general rule, leave grass under trees uncut, up to the circumference of the crown. Leave 3-5 small piles of arisings in scrub/woodland margins to provide refugia for reptiles and small mammals.

**Prescription G1**: There is a small area of grassland immediately west of the car park entrance, which appears to be mown along the road edge to keep it neat and tidy for visitor first impressions. The rest of the grassland by the Cherry Laurel and trees is either long and uncut or given an annual cut. Current management is creating a useful buffer zone and should remain in place.

**Prescription G2**: Annually cut central strip of grass down the ride (parallel to Stonehill Road).

**Prescription G3**: The grassy glade in the young planted woodland to the east of the car park should be cut annually.

**Prescription G4**: The meadow area to the north west of Botleys Mansion should continue to be managed as a meadow, with an annual late summer cut. The height of the cut should be around 5cm. Arisings should be taken off.

**Prescription G5**: Generally a wide buffer zone of long grass is recommended (ideally between between 2-5m) along the northern scrub/grassland edge and along the southern edge of the site to the east of Botleys Mansion. Ideally up to ⅓ would then be strimmed every three years to ensure that it remains long grass and is not encroached by scrub. Either side of the path by around 0.5m can be cut to retain a 'neat' appearance. Or it should be cut annually with the rest of the meadow grassland. This may not be popular with visitors and a compromise is discussed below in **G6**.

**Prescription G6**: In conservation terms, the main body of amenity grassland would be cut annually along with the meadow area. However this is a parkland habitat with plenty of walkers and it is likely that this idea would come up against opposition. Therefore consideration should go to reducing the number of cuts and/or increasing the cut height to around 5cm with the arisings removed.

**Prescription G7**: This area of grassland in the south east of the site should be managed as a meadow and given an annual cut.

**Prescription G8**: The edges (2-5m) of the meadow grassland described above should be left uncut and cut on a three year rotation.

**Prescription G9**: In the south western corner of the site there is a small bund feature, located just north of the footpath entrance. It is recommended that two 1m² bare soil patches are exposed by hand scraping the vegetation away. They will expose soil, which will be warmed up quickly and have less competition from vegetation that may prove a potential habitat for invertebrates such as solitary bees and wasps.

**Prescription G10**: There are two long south to south-east facing bunds along the northern edge of the business park road (Hillswood Drive). Thought should be given to creating at least six handmade scrapes of between 0.5 m² to 1m² (as in **G9**).

**Prescription G11**: Retain sandy exposed banks either side of the driveway in the north west of the site, as they are likely to good for solitary bees and wasps.

## 4.3 Feature 3: Scrub

**Objectives**
Homewood Park will have a variety of scrub species and mosaic of patches over the site including Bramble/Bracken underscrub in the western woodland block, shrub thickets along widened paths and glade edges, as well as scrub along grassland edges and additional plants scrub to connect and link to other habitats.

**Targets**
- Scrub will account for up to 10% of the site.

**Management Rationale**
The management required to meet the objectives and targets above is outlined below. The location of the prescriptions is shown on Figure 1.

Scrub is an important component of the landscape, it is a successional habitat providing a range of structure to woodlands and a buffer zone to grasslands. It brings benefits to invertebrates, birds and reptiles as well as a host of other wildlife. Scrub can be a few isolated trees or a dense thicket. The intermediate scrub habitat found between woodland edge and tall grasses is of great importance to a site. This provides valuable shelter for small mammals, food and warmth for invertebrates and creates a graduated gentle profile from woodland to grassland which looks more natural. See Photograph 9, showing area S11 as an example of scrub management.

**Prescription S1**: Retain Bramble and scrub edge on the southern edge of the car park.

**Prescription S2**: Along the edge of a young planted woodland a scrub edge is developing, by leaving 2-3m of uncut grass in front, more developing scrub will be encouraged to produce a dense thicket of scrub/grassland interface.

**Prescription S3**: Retain Bramble thicket scrub to the south of the pond in the north of the site. Some judicial strimming occasionally will help to curtail too much encroachment and create a desired uneven line.

**Prescription S4**: Leave a wide buffer zone of uncut grassland on the edge of the planted scrub edge in north western part of the site to further encourage scrub growth including Hawthorn.

**Prescription S5**: This is an area just north east of Botley Mansion where there is a patch of post Rhododendron removal and should be left to scrub up naturally. There are already a couple of young Pedunculate Oak trees getting started.

**Prescription S6**: In roughly the same are as above there is also a Creeping Thistle and Hairy Sedge patch, Broad-leaved Dock and some Bramble, by leaving all of the individual areas of scrub/young trees copse and tall ruderal vegetation to grow they will become connected to form a large area of scrub. During the winter site visit this was the only place where a grasshopper was seen.

**Prescription S7**: Retain Dog Rose scrub pocket located in the central northern edge of the site just above the main path. Prune some of the Hawthorn and then leave to regrow thicker. Plant additional scrub around the edges such as Dog Rose, Hawthorn, Blackthorn and Dogwood. Connect to other Hazel scrub patch, which could be coppiced.

**Prescription S8**: Retain Bramble and scrub edge and allow to develop further around deadwood along northern edge by Moat. Leave uncut grassland buffer zone and annually cut grass immediately by path. There is opportunity to coppice Hazel on southern edge of path here.

**Prescription S9**: There is some scrub lining the edge of the woodland path in the north east corner of the site, close to the roundabout. This should be cut back intermittently in thirds to ensure it is remains a dense scrubby margin, whilst also opening it out for people to walk through.

**Prescription S10**: To the south of Hillside Lake there is a thicket of Bramble by the path, to be strimmed back intermittently towards the tree line to create an uneven edge. View points towards the lake would also be advantageous.

**Prescription S11**: There is a well used footpath on the south eastern boundary edge of the site, which because it is kept open has developed a good scrub edge. This should be retained with intermittent strimming back of the scrub edge using an uneven pattern.

**Prescription S12**: There is a small strip of grassland and tall ruderal species which is relatively species rich perhaps influenced by an acidic soil in the south western corner of the site. Perforate St. John's-wort, Evening Primrose, Gorse and Bramble are present. It should be retained as an open area with light scrub, and so small trees should be removed and encroaching Bramble cut back.

**Prescription S13**: The Bramble scrub on the western edge of the meadow in the south east of the site should be retain and intermittently strimmed into to create an uneven edge.

**Prescription S14**: Retain Gorse bush on the eastern edge of the southern pond in the south east of the site.

**Prescription S15**: Retain existing scrub and Gorse bushes in the western block of woodland.

**Prescription S16**: By cutting back and creating new glades and widening out paths there will be additional scrub creation.

## 4.4 Feature 4: Water Feature

**Objectives**
The water bodies will not be shaded by more than 50% of the area so that enough sunlight reaches the water surface to allow native vegetation to flourish. No invasive species will be present within the pond. Invertebrates such as dragonflies will flourish and this will indicate the general wellbeing of the water body. See Photographs 10-11.

**Targets**
- Thin, clear and pollard around all three ponds by 50% and the southern edge of Hillside Lake.
- Ponds will have up to 30% open water.
- Ditch habitat will be retained.

**Management rationale**
The management required to meet the objectives and targets above is outlined below. The location of the prescriptions is shown on Figure 1.

The relatively small footprint of water bodies compared to the amount of wildlife and plant life that they can hold make them a valuable addition to any site. They can be a valuable link between people and wildlife, provide a focal point for visitors and be used as an educational tool.

**Prescription P1**: Pollard Grey Willow on edge of pond to re-open and allow light into the water and hopefully rejuvenate marginal and emergent vegetation. As this pond is close to the car park and is likely to be visited by many dog walkers, care should be taken not to allow undue access to the water via dogs, hence the option of pollarding has been suggested.

**Prescription P2**: There are some overhanging branches dipping into the water in the small pond in the north east of the site, which should be left as they will provide egg laying opportunities for aquatic wildlife.

**Prescription P3**: This pond in the eastern edge of the site is very overgrown with trees and scrub overhanging it. The water is also quite choked up with vegetation and up to a third should be pulled out. The trees and shrubs on the edge of the western half of the pond could do with some thinning or pollarding to get some light back onto the water.

**Prescription P4**: Pollard willow and Alder trees along southern edge of Hillside Lake. This will help encourage marginal vegetation such as Common Reed and sedge beds and create a view point for visitors onto the lake water.

**Prescription P5**: Retain Alder scrub, tall ruderal vegetation and Creeping Thistle along the southern edge of Hillside Lake.

**Prescription P6**: Along the southern edge of the off-site large lake (i.e. not on the Homewood Park site), there is a silted up ditch that requires leaf litter clearance, to allow better water movement. Thinning groups of trees would allow light onto the ditch, but it is not a priority at this stage.

**Prescription P7**: Also along the edge of this large lake, there should be a co-ordinated approach with the neighbouring landowners to pollarding the bank side trees and removal of Cherry Laurel.

**Prescription P8**: Pollard and coppice around pond in the south east to ensure that between 40-60% of the water is opened up and enough light gets in to encourage marginal and emergent vegetation.

**Prescription P9**: The southern pond should have up to third of the Common Reed pulled out to allow other marginal vegetation a chance to thrive.

## 4.5 Feature 5: Access

**Objectives**
The site will be a welcoming, safe and attractive place for local people to visit. A network of informal will provide a route through a variety of habitats. Parking facilities will be readily available and information will be provided about the site and routes available, so visitors can get the most from their visit as well as an understanding of the history of the site.

**Targets**
- There will be increased opportunities for the public to visit and walk around the woodland.
- Install a bench in pond area.
- Provide interpretation material on the history of the site.
- Engage with visitors and locals to achieve sense of ownership.
- Overall management of the site will improve the visitor experience.
- Understand who uses the site and why.

**Management rationale**
The management required to meet the objectives and targets above is outlined below. The location of the prescriptions is shown on Figure 1.

The mosaic of habitats, history and proximity to local housing estates gives the site potential for local schools to use it as an educational resource.

The grassland areas will be used for recreational purposed whilst also enhancing the sward composition with varied heights and mowing regimes.

Thinning and glade clearance in the woodland adds interest for walkers. Positive conservation management will show that the site is being cared for. The woodland areas will continue to be accessible for the use of the public via a network of informal paths that are well maintained whilst not leading to a decrease in biodiversity.

The ponds and Hillside Lake in the south east of the site are considered significant features and could be enhanced for public leisure whilst also benefiting biodiversity.

In general thinning and glade management in the woodland will open up the paths, add interest and create a lighter woodland habitat for people to enjoy.

Footpaths should incorporate natural surfaces wherever possible dependent upon site conditions. Areas which are known to become wet, the surface of the paths may need to be raised, or the drainage of that part of the site adjusted. Care should be taken however to avoid changing water movement

across the site significantly. No material should be used which could result in a change of chemical or pH composition of the soil.

The local community and other interested parties should be able to help self-police the site and encourage people to be more sensitive towards the site. An annual clearance or more frequently, may be required. This could be part of the national campaign such as '*Make a difference day*'.

SANGS information panels, notice boards and way markers should be provided on the site, particularly at entrances, ponds and existing nature trail to provide information on the natural history, human history and the purpose of a SANGS. A SANGS leaflet could also be provided to help visitors find their way around the site and to promote its use as an alternative to the Thames Basin Heat SPA.

Visitor opinion can be gauged via visitor survey.

**Prescription A1**: This corner of the site is regularly used by workers to have a break, leaving a legacy of untidy and unsightly rubbish in their wake. A cigarette/litter bin installation may help to alleviate this.

**Prescription A2**: The ponds and Hillside Lake should be made a focal point by installing benches and creating view points.

**Prescription A3**: The creation of another open glade in the western block of woodland will be more appealing for visitors to walk around.

## 4.6 Feature 6: Monitoring

**Objective**
Monitoring the site will help establish changes over time, will be a valuable record, help establish if the project is a success and provide a guide to the on-going management programme.

**Targets**
- Regularly review work programme.
- Gather regular information on biodiversity of the site to guide on-going management.
- Produce before and after management photographs.

**Prescription M1**: The work programme should be reviewed annually.

**Prescription M2**: The management plan should be reviewed in its entirely in 2018.

**Prescription M3**: It is suggested that the recommendations from the 2014 surveys are carried out.

**Prescription M4**: Monitoring of the woodland should take the form of a repeat Phase 1 SNCI style survey in 5 and 10 years time. This should be undertaken at optimal times of the year i.e. May. It will be useful to measure the following aspects:

- The % of open space
- The % of canopy cover
- The % of shrub cover
- The % of field layer
- The presence and abundance of invasive non-native species
- The abundance of standing and fallen dead wood
- Review of before and after management photographs.

**Prescription M5**: Use simple or detailed monitoring/surveys to ascertain if the current management is increasing the herb to grass ratio.

## 4.5 Legal Considerations

All wild birds are protected from damage or destruction of their nest whilst in use or construction. All tree and scrub clearance should avoid the bird nesting season which is between the beginning of March and the end of August.

Any thinning or felling operations greater than $5m^3$ will require a felling licence from the Forestry Commission.

All species of British bats are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act and under Regulation 38 (Schedule 2) of the Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) Regulations 1994. It should not be necessary to fell any mature trees as part of the work advised in this plan. However should it be necessary to fell any trees older than 100 years, or with obvious cavities, or with a girth greater than 1m at chest height, these should be surveyed for bats by a licenced bat worker before any work takes place.

The recommended thinning operations could potentially have an impact on bat roosts. A bat survey is to be undertaken on the site in the summer of 2014. It is recommended that no thinning of trees takes place until advice has been received from a bat expert.

Great Crested Newts are protected under schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and Regulation 39 of the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) Regulations 1994. No newts have been recorded within 1km of the site and therefore the likelihood of it supporting a population of Great Crested Newts is low. However, it would be good practice to carry out any management work on the pond during the winter months when the effects on pond life are minimised. An assessment of the likelihood of the ponds to support Great Crested Newts should be undertaken prior to any major work on the site.

All native British reptiles are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) from killing and injury. A reptile survey will be undertaken in spring/summer 2014 and any recommendations from this survey should be undertaken when undertaking management on the site.

# 5.0 5 Year Work Programme

All the prescriptions detailed in the plan are summarised in the table below. It is understood that the amount of work that RBC can undertake on this site each year will depend on funding which may vary from year to year and is currently unknown. Therefore the year suggested to undertake the work, which has aimed to spread the work out evenly over the 5 years, is given only as a guide. The priority given for each action can be used to prioritise work depending on funding available.

1 High priority 2 Medium priority 3 Low priority

**Table 1 Full Prescription list with priorities**

| Prescription list | Year with priority | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
| **Woodland Feature** | | | | | |
| **W1**: Small glade in young planted woodland to east of car park to be maintained by cutting back encroaching branches. | 2 | | | | |
| **W2**: Retain open woodland track/ride between off-site lake and two ponds in east by cutting back over hanging branches. | | 2 | | | |
| **W3**: Cut back existing glade in western woodland block by 5m on the edges. | 2 | | | 2 | |
| **W4**: Create new glade in the northern half of the western block. | | | 2 | | |
| **W5**: Preferentially thin from paths, e.g. east/west path tie in with new glade (**W4**). | | | 2 | | |
| **W6**: Thin out trees from northern half of western block. Coppice where appropriate. | | | | 2 | |
| **W7**: Re-coppice Hazel coup in west of western block. | | | | | 2 |
| **W8**: Thin out grove of dense Holly to the north of Hazel. | | | | | 2 |
| **W9**: Consider thinning around Car Park. | | 3 | | | |
| **W10**: Once invasive Cherry Laurel removed, coppice small Hazel shrubs along northern edge of car park. | | | 3 | | |
| **W11**: Create 9+ habitat piles using brash. | | 2 | | 2 | |
| **W12**: Non-intervention for young planted woodland to south east of car park. | | | | | |
| **W13**: Remove Cherry Laurel from the north and south of the car park. | 2 | | | | |
| **W14**: Cut back and remove Cherry Laurel between north of car park and Stonehill Road. | 2 | | | | |
| **W15**: Remove False Acacia to the west of the car park. | | | 2 | | |
| **W16**; Remove False Acacia to the south of the car park. | | | 2 | | |
| **W17**: Remove exotic shrubs on eastern end of car park. | | | | | 2 |
| **W18**: Remove Cherry Laurel to east of car park. | 2 | | | | |
| **W19**: Remove Cherry Laurel along land on north east edge. Replant with native shrubs and trees. If impractical then cut back. | | | 2 | | |
| **W20**: Remove Rhododendron and exotics from central northern corner of site. | 2 | | | | |
| **W21**: Retreat cleared Rhododendron north of Botleys Mansion. Monitor. | 2 | | | | |
| **W22**: Remove Cherry Laurel on north eastern woodland edge. | | 2 | | | |
| **W23**: Remove Cherry Laurel from southern edge of hospital car park and eastern edge of the same car park. | | 2 | | | |
| **W24**: Ideally remove Cherry Laurel hedge by northern edge of road entrance in east. At the lease cut back. | | | | 3 | |

| Prescription list | Year with priority | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
| **W25**: Remove Cherry Laurel from northern edge of grassland in the south east of the site. | | 2 | | | |
| **W26**: Remove Cherry Laurel and Rhododendron on land bridge between off-site lake and two small ponds. | | | 2 | | |
| **W27**: Remove Butterfly-bush on grassland close to offices. | | | 2 | | |
| **W28**: Remove or do not let spread non-native species e.g. Bridlewort close to the offices. | **2** | | | | |
| **W29**: Remove Cherry Laurel to the north of the offices. | **2** | | | | |
| **W30**: Remove or stop spread of exotics along the main driveway to Botleys Mansion. | **2** | | | | |
| **W31**: Remove Cherry Laurel and Rhododendron from northern end of the western woodland block. | **2** | | | | |
| **W32**: Remove Cherry Laurel from the south eastern end of the western block. | **2** | | | | |
| **W33**: Remove Rhododendron from the south west corner of the woodland block. | **2** | | | | |
| **W34**: Preferentially thin out Turkey Oak | **2** | | | | |
| **Grassland Feature** | | | | | |
| **G1**: Retain amenity grassland around entrance of car park, with long/uncut grass as buffer zone to ride (**G2**). | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| **G2**: Annual late summer cut ventral strip of grass down ride, parallel to Stonehill Road. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| **G3**: Annual late summer cut grass in glade east of car park. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| **G4**: Annual late summer cut for Botleys Mansion meadow. Height to 5cm. Arisings taken off. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| **G5**: Consider wide buffer zone of 2-5m along northern grassland edge and southern edge to east of Botley Mansion. Ideally strim ⅓ every three years or cut anually with rest of meadow. Either side of path cut regularly. OR see compromise in G6. | 1 | | | 1 | |
| **G6**: Consider reducing number of cuts and/or increasing cut height to 5cm with arisings removed for amenity grassland. | | | | | |
| **G7**: Annual cut for grassland in south east. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| **G8**: Edges of south east grassland left uncut and strimmed on three year rotation. | 1 | | | 1 | |
| **G9** Create 2 hand scraped patches on small bund in south west corner of site. | | | 2 | | |
| **G10**: Create 6 handmade scrapes on two long bunds along northern edge of Hillswood Drive in east of site. | | | 2 | | |
| **G11**: Retain sandy exposed banks either side of Botleys Mansion driveway in north west of site. | | | | | |
| **Scrub** | | | | | |
| **S1**: Retain Bramble/scrub edge on southern edge of car park. | | | | | |
| **S2**: Leave 2-3m uncut grass in front of developing scrub along edge of planted woodland by car park. | | | | | |
| **S3**: Retain Bramble scrub to south of pond in the north of the site. Intermittently strim sections back. | 1 | | | 1 | |
| **S4**: Leave wide buffer zone on uncut grass on edge of planted scrub along north western edge of site. | | | | | |
| **S5**: Leave patch of post Rhododendron removal just north of Botleys Mansion to scrub up. | | | | | |
| **S6**: Leave north of Botleys Mansion and allow tall ruderal vegetation and areas of scrub to connect and form large scrub patch. | | | | | |
| **S7**: Retain Dog Rose scrub in central northern edge, prune back some Hawthorn, | | | | | |

| Prescription list | Year with priority | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
| plant up additional scrub. | | | | | |
| **S8**: Retain Bramble/scrub edge along northern edge by Moat. Give grass buffer zone annual cut and consider coppicing of Hazel. | | | | | |
| **S9**: Intermittently cut back scrub on woodland path edge in north east corner of site by ⅓. | 2 | | | 2 | |
| **S10**: South of Hillside Lake intermittently strim back Bramble scrub. | 2 | | 2 | | 2 |
| **S11**: Intermittently strim back scrub on footpath on south eastern boundary. | 1 | | 1 | | 1 |
| **S12**: In south western corner retain small strip of grassland and light scrub, remove small trees, cut back Bramble. | | | 2 | | |
| **S13**: Intermittently strim Bramble scrub on western edge of meadow in south east. | | | 2 | | |
| **S14**: Retain Gorse bush on eastern edge of southern pond in south east of site | | | | | |
| **S15**: Retain existing scrub and Gorse in western woodland block. | | | | | |
| **S16**: Retain scrub to be created along glades and widened paths. | | | | | |
| **Water Feature** | | | | | |
| **P1**: Pollard willow on edge of pond east of car park. | 1 | | | | |
| **P2**: Retain overhanging branches in water. | | | | | |
| **P3**: Remove ⅓ vegetation from eastern pond. Thin out trees on western half of pond. | 1 | | | | |
| **P4**: Pollard bankside tree on southern edge of Hillside Lake. | 1 | | | | |
| **P5**: Retain scrub vegetation on southern edge of Hillside Lake. | | | | | |
| **P6**: Clear out leaf litter from ditch in south east of site. | | | | | 3 |
| **P7**: Investigate co-ordinated thinning/pollarding along off-site lake in south east of site. | 1 | | | | |
| **P8**: Pollard/coppice around south east pond (the northern one). | 1 | | | | |
| **P9**: Remove up to ⅓ vegetation around the southern south east pond. | 1 | | | | |
| **Access Feature** | | | | | |
| **A1**: Install cigarette/litter bin. | 1 | | | | |
| **A2**: Install benches around ponds/lake. | | 2 | | | |
| **A3**: The creation of a new glade in western woodland block will be more appealing to visitors. | | | | | |
| **Monitoring Feature** | | | | | |
| **M1**: The work programme should be reviewed annually. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| **M2**: Management plan to be reviewed in 2018. | | | | | 1 |
| **M3**: Recommendations from 2014 to be carried out. | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| **M4**: Survey of woodland in 5 and 10 years time. | | | | | 1 |
| **M5**: Use surveys to ascertain if management is improving grassland quality. | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |

# 6.0 References

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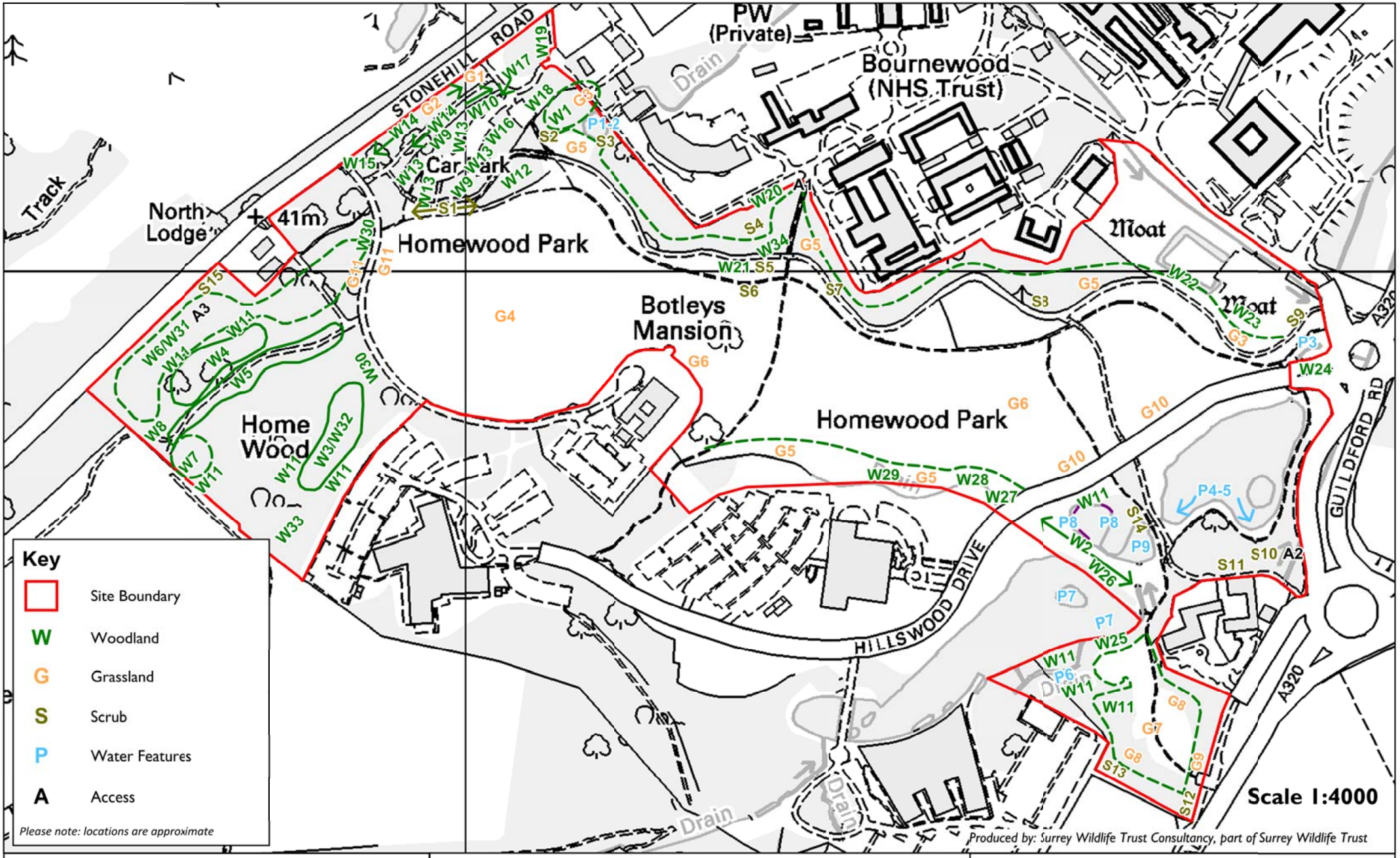
**Gibbs, C** (2013) *Phase I SNCI Survey*. Unpublished SWT
**RBC** (2012) *Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space Surveys*. Runnymede Borough Council
**Thomas S (2010)** *Here today, gone tomorrow – Horizon scanning for invasive non-native plants*. Plantlife
**Waite M** (updated 2013) *Surrey Invasive Species (Draft).* Unpublished SWT

**Chertsey Museum website** - http://chertseymuseum.org/sph
**Exploring Surreys Past -** http://www.exploringsurreyspast.org.uk/

# Figure 1 Management Prescriptions






# Figure 1
# Homewood Park
# Management Prescriptions

SURREY wildlife TRUST

# Appendices

## Appendix 1: Photographs

**Photograph 1: Old photograph of Botleys Mansion circa late 1820's**

**Photograph 2: Aerial photograph of Homewood Park from the eastern end looking west, dated around 1995.**

**Photograph 3: Woodland around main car park, showing Common Lime with Mistletoe**

**Photograph 4: Western woodland block**

**Photograph 5: Western woodland block**

**Photograph 6: Decaying standing and lying wood**

**Photograph 7: Meadow area**

**Photograph 7: Meadow area**

**Photograph 8: Meadow and scattered trees**

**Photograph 9: Scrub edge**

**Photograph 10: Heavily shaded pond, close to car park**

**Photograph 11: View of the lake**

# Appendix 2: Phase 1 survey of Homewood Park 2013

**Claire Gibbs BSc MSc MCIEEM**

## Methodology

Phase 1 habitat survey is a standardised system for classifying and mapping semi-natural vegetation and wildlife habitats in Great Britain. Vegetation is mapped in terms of standard habitat types as defined in the JNCC Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey (1990). This methodology was extended to include an assessment of the suitability of the habitats recorded to support protected species.

Where the abundances of species are mentioned, these are based on the DAFOR scale and usually refer to the specific section of the site under discussion in the site notes. The DAFOR scale is a way of describing the abundance of a species using the following key:-

(**L**ocally) **D**ominant **A**bundant **F**requent **O**ccasional **R**are

Please note that plants described as "*rare*" means that they were not found often over this site or location and does not necessarily indicate a county or national rarity.

Throughout the descriptions, plants are referred to by their common names. For reference the full species list at the end of each report section offers both common and scientific names.

## Habitat description and target notes

A full National Vegetation Classification (NVC) survey was not carried out, however where NVC communities are described these are those that, in the surveyor's opinion, best fit the habitats present at the site visit.

Throughout the descriptions, plants are referred to by their English names. For reference the full species list at the end of the report lists both English and Latin names.

*Semi-improved Neutral Grassland*
Shown in orange and labelled SI on Figure 1.

Homewood Park is predominantly a parkland site. Neutral semi-improved grassland covers most of the area with a scattering of trees of various ages (described in more detail under the mixed scattered trees section below.)

SI1: The grassland in the west of the site is left to grow long with an annual cut (see photo below). It is a grass dominated sward. Yorkshire Fog is abundant with frequent Sweet Vernal-grass, Common Bent and Red Fescue. False Oat-grass is

occasional. There is a diversity of herbs the most frequent of which are Bird's-foot Trefoil, Creeping Buttercup, Common Sorrel, Red Clover and Ribwort Plantain. Other occasionals include Common Mouse-ear, Mouse-ear Hawkweed, Germander Speedwell, Common Ragwort, Meadow Buttercup, Selfheal, Common Cat's-ear and Curled Dock.

SI2: Most of the rest of the grassland on the site is kept short by regular mowing (15 times a year) and rabbit grazing (see photo below). It appears to support similar species to those in SI1. The main grasses appear to be Common Bent, Yorkshire Fog and Red Fescue. Perennial Rye-grass is locally frequent for example just to the west of Botleys Mansion. Common Sorrel, Ribwort Plantain and Creeping Buttercup are the most frequent herbs. Other occasional species include Creeping Thistle, Common Mouse-ear, Common Ragwort, Small-flowered Crane's-bill, Germander Speedwell, Thyme-leaved Speedwell, Selfheal, Creeping Cinquefoil and White Clover.

Towards the east of the site, the grassland shows more of an acidic character with an increase in Red Fescue. Lesser Hawkbit, Sheep's Sorrel and a Wood-rush species are frequent here and mosses are more noticeable.

SI3: This is an area of grassland in the far south-east of the site. It is a short sward maintained by regular mowing and rabbit grazing. Common Bent and Red Fescue dominate the grasses with occasional Yorkshire Fog. Moss is frequent. Self-heal and Creeping Thistle are the most common herbs with occasional Common Ragwort, Dove's-foot Cranesbill, White Clover, Lesser Hawkbit, Spear Thistle and Creeping Buttercup.

SI4: This is an area of grassland with scattered scrub on a north facing slope near SW2 (see below). It differs from the other areas of grassland on the site in that False Oat-grass is frequent. Other frequent grasses include Yorkshire Fog, Common Bent and Red Fescue. Hairy Sedge is locally frequent and Field Wood-rush is occasional. Creeping Thistle is frequent and other herbs include Rose-bay Willowherb, Oxeye Daisy, Yarrow, Creeping Cinquefoil, Broad-leaved Dock, Common Ragwort, Ribwort Plantain, Germander Speedwell and Bird's-foot Trefoil. Scattered scrub includes Hawthorn, Sweet Chestnut, Alder and Silver Birch.

*Broad-leaved Semi-natural Woodland*
Shown in green on Figure 1

BW1: The largest section of broad-leaved woodland on site is in the west. This is mature woodland with Sweet Chestnut dominating the canopy in the north. Pedunculate Oak is frequent and Silver Birch and Beech occasional. In the east and far north there is a dense shrub layer dominated by Cherry Laurel with Holly also present. Further south and west, Cherry Laurel is less dominant and Hazel coppice is occasional. Rhododendron is present in the south east. The ground is bare over much of the area, however Bracken is locally frequent. Bramble, Common Nettle and Small Balsam are occasional. Other species in the more open

areas include occasional Broad-leaved Willowherb, Bugle, Ground Ivy, Self-heal, Wood Dock and rare Male Fern, Lady Fern and Common Figwort.

BW2: The woodland in the north west of the site surrounding the car park is quite varied. North of the car park there are scattered mature trees including Beech, Pedunculate Oak and Lime in the canopy with Sweet Chestnut and Yew rare. There is a sub-canopy of Silver Birch, Ash and False Acacia and a dense shrub layer of abundant Cherry Laurel with occasional Holly, Hazel and Hawthorn. The ground is quite bare under the dense shrub layer although Common Nettle is occasional.

South of the car park, the woodland is younger with Ash and Goat Willow most frequent in the canopy. Hazel and Hawthorn are occasional. Bramble and Germander Speedwell are occasional and Common Nettle locally frequent. Beech is locally frequent.

In the northern corner, is young woodland with a few mature trees, mainly Ash. The area is mostly young trees and scrub including Common Lime, Ash, Elder, Holly, Cherry Laurel, Norway Maple and an exotic conifer species. Nettel and Bramble are occasional below.

BW3: This woodland surrounding the small pond has a canopy dominated by mature Ash with occasional Pedunculate Oak and Sweet Chestnut. Ivy is a common climber. Hazel, Holly and Hawthorn are occasional in the shrub layer. Common Nettle is frequent on the ground with occasional Ivy, Bramble and Ground Ivy. A few Cricket Bat Willows are present near the pond and Grey Willow surrounds the pond edge.
BW4: This woodland in the north east of the site has a canopy dominated by Pedunculate Oak and Silver Birch. Rhododendron is abundant in the shrub layer and Bracken, Bramble and common Nettle occasional.

BW5: This is a small strip of woodland in the far east of the site with a footpath through the middle. Here Grey Willow is frequent with occasional Ash. Hazel, Hawthorn, Dogwood, Dog Rose and Cherry Laurel are present in the shrub layer with Bramble and Common Nettle below.

BW6: This woodland surrounding a pond (SW2) has a dense canopy of Goat Willow and Alder. Downy and Silver Birch and Crack Willow are also occasional. Hazel and Hawthorn are occasional in the shrub layer. The ground is bare in parts, but Bramble and Common Nettle are frequent with occasional Wood Dock.

BW7: This is a small block of woodland south of a fishing lake. Semi-mature Pedunculate Oak is frequent in the canopy with locally frequent Silver birch and sparse Hazel and Holly below. Alder is frequent near the lake edge. The ground is bare over much of the area with occasional Bramble and Common Nettle.

*Mixed Semi-natural Woodland*

*Shown as light green background with green dots on Figure 1.*

This area of woodland in the south west corner of the site has frequent Scots Pine in the canopy. Beech, Sweet Chestnut and Silver Birch are also occasional. Rhododendron and Cherry Laurel are occasional in the shrub layer. Bracken is abundant below with occasional Wood Sage.

*Dense/continuous Scrub*.
Shown as cross hatched green lines on Figure 1.

Dense scrub is present particularly along the northern boundary of the site probably as a result of past planting. Young trees and scrub are tightly packed. Pedunculate Oak and Hawthorn are the most frequent species. Other species include Alder, Silver Birch, Beech, Ash, Holly, Hazel, a Whitebeam species and Dog Rose. The ground is very shaded below the dense trees and scrub but Ground Ivy, Bramble, Common Nettle and Creeping Thistle are occasional.

*Mixed Scattered Trees*
Shown as green and light green dots on Figure 1.

Native and exotic trees are scattered across the park. Pedunculate Oak is the most frequent tree and there are some impressive mature specimens some of which are displaying die back (Staghorn Oaks). Other trees include native species such as Beech, Holly, Ash, Sycamore and Sweet Chestnut as well as exotic specimens which have not all been identified. Examples include Deodar Cedar, Lawsons Cypress, Wellingtonia, Red Oak, Turkey Oak and Scots Pine. Many of the trees are impressive mature specimens. There are also clusters of much younger trees, mainly Pedunculate Oak and Silver Birch.

A moderate amount of standing and fallen dead wood is present across the park.

*Continuous Bracken*
Shown in terracotta on Figure 1.

Just to the north of the mixed semi-natural woodland is an open area dominated by Bracken.

*Tall Ruderal*
Shown as terracotta diagonal lines on Figure 1

A couple of areas of tall ruderal vegetation have been marked on figure 1, however there are further small areas of this habitat across the site which were too small to map individually.

The tall ruderal vegetation mainly occurs in areas not mown regularly at the edges of the site or surrounding large trees or clumps of trees. Common Nettle and Creeping Thistle are frequent components of the tall ruderal vegetation along with

Bramble, Curled and Broad-leaved Dock and Ground Ivy. Hairy Sedge is locally frequent.

*Standing Water*
Shown in blue on Figure 1.

There are 3 ponds on the site which are described below;

SW1: This is a small pond in the north west of the site (approximately 5 x 5m). Grey Willow is present around the banks causing significant shading. As a result there is no emergent or floating vegetation.

SW2: This is really 2 small ponds connected in the middle. The banks are quite shaded by surrounding woodland. The southern section is almost entirely filled with Common Reed, more open water is present in the northern section although Common reed remains abundant. Other species observed on the pond edge include Remote and Pendulous Sedges.

SW3: This is a large pond / small lake in the south east of the site. The edges are shaded by trees including frequent Alder and occasional Grey Willow and Crack Willow. Dogwood is also locally frequent. On the southern bank, Greater Pond-sedge forms significant stands beneath the Alder. Elsewhere the sedge is replaced by Common Reed which also forms a narrow band along much of the lake edge. Other associated species include Great Willowherb, Yellow Iris, Gipsywort, Common Fleabane, Remote Sedge, Self-heal, Creeping Thistle and Creeping Buttercup. The north and east sides of the water body are steeper and more shaded and consequently support much less emergent vegetation.

There is a small island within the lake which supports Alder, Silver Birch and Crack Willow.

*Hedgerow*
*Shown as a green line with zig zags on Figure 1.*

A hedgerow is present in the south east corner with frequent Elder and Hawthorn and occasional Apple.

*Dry ditch*
Shown as a dashed wavy blue line on Figure 1.

A dry ditch is present just south of Hillswood Drive.

*Hard Standing*
Shown in grey on Figure 1.

A car park is present in the north of the site.

*Target Notes*
Shown as a red circle on Figure 1.

TN1: Seats and shelter

**Ecological value of site / possible ecological constraints**

Homewood Park was surveyed by Surrey Wildlife Trust in 1999 as part of a project to identify Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCIs) in Surrey. At that time it was felt that the site was not of sufficient ecological value to warrant selection as an SNCI.

This survey found a number of habitats and features of ecological value. This information combined with the information within the data search carried out by the Surrey Biodiversity Information Centre has been used to determine the list of ecological features of particular note below.

It is important that any work on the site protects and maintains these features.

**Semi-improved grassland**
The grassland on the site is moderately species rich. Only 7 species typical of grassland of conservation interest in Surrey were recorded which is a fairly low number. However species richness is being encouraged in the west of the site by leaving the grassland to grow long with an annual meadow cut.

**Mature / ancient trees**
The mature trees on site, particularly the Pedunculate Oaks which are displaying die back (Staghorn Oaks) are of particular value. These will support a wide range of species particularly invertebrates and could support roosting bats.

**Woodland**
Although not ancient, the woodland on the site will be valuable to a range of wildlife.

**Ponds**
The 3 ponds vary in terms of size and shading. The ponds themselves and their marginal flora provide valuable additional habitats for wildlife on the site.

**Potential for rare and/or protected species**

Invertebrates

- White Admiral, *Limenitis camilla*

  The data search revealed that the White Admiral has been recorded on the site in 2000. The IUCN Red List classifies this species as Vulnerable. This is a species of mixed deciduous woodland. The Butterfly Conservation website states that management to encourage this species should “aim to produce

dappled shaded conditions in woodlands supporting spindly, trailing growths of Honeysuckle within a few metres of flower-rich, open, sunny rides and glades".

- Solitary Bees

The data search revealed that a couple of notable solitary bees have been recorded on the site. The Nationally Notable A, *Adrena labiate,* recorded as common in Surrey, is found in open grassland, the edges of scrub and woodland. *Lasioglossum leucopus,* is classified as rare by the IUCN, however according to the Bees, Wasps and Ants Recording Society (BWARS) is currently not regarded as being scarce or threatened in Britain. Maintaining and enhancing the species richness of the grassland areas to increase pollen sources should benefit both of these species.

- Ants

The Nationally Notable A Brown Ant, *Lasius brunneus* has been recorded in the local area. This is a tree dwelling ant which typically nests in old Oak trees in parkland. Due to the number of mature Oaks on the site and the parkland habitat there is a good potential for this species to be present on the site. The Red Wood Ant, *Formica rufa* has also been recorded in the local area. The IUCN has classified this species as Near Threatened although it is described as frequent in open woodland within Surrey.

- Stag beetle, *Lucanus cervus*

The data search revealed that Stag Beetles have been recorded in the local area. This species is a UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) priority species, a Species of Principle Importance (SPI) under section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 and a nationally notable b species. It is protected under appendix 3 of the Bern Convention. Stag Beetle larvae rely on rotting dead wood for their survival. Encouraging the amount of dead wood on the site will help to encourage this species.

Bats

The data search revealed that the Brown Long-eared bat has been recorded in the local area. Other bat species are also likely to use the site. Foraging and roosting within the more mature trees.

All species of British bats are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act and under Regulation 38 (Schedule 2) of the Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) Regulations 1994. Together this legislation makes it an offence to kill, capture or disturb the animal, or to damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of such an animal.

Any work on the site should avoid damaging the mature trees. If this is unavoidable, all trees older than 100 years, or with obvious cavities, or with a girth greater than 1m at chest height should be surveyed for bats by a licensed bat worker before any work takes place.

Birds

The data search revealed that a number of birds included on Appendix II of the Bern Convention and classified as Amber species on the Birds of Conservation Concern (3) list have been recorded in the local area. Many of these are also likely to use Homewood Park.

All wild birds are protected from damage or destruction of their nest whilst in use or construction. In addition some birds receive additional protection from disturbance whilst nesting under schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended. Birds will be breeding within the site. Any work affecting trees or scrub should avoid the bird nesting season (March-August).

Reptiles

Reptiles such as Grass Snakes, Common Lizards and Slow Worms may be present on the site. Areas with the highest potential for these species are at the edges of the woodland and scrub areas and within the taller grassland and tall ruderal areas.

All native British reptiles are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) from killing and injury. Sand Lizards and Smooth Snakes also receive additional protection.

If any major work were to take place in any of the areas likely to support reptiles, it is advised that they are surveyed for reptiles and that appropriate mitigation be undertaken to avoid harming these species.

Great Crested Newts, *Triturus cristatus*

The data search did not reveal any records for Great Crested Newts within 1km of the site. However there is potential for this species to be using the water bodies on site for breeding. If present within the ponds they may use the woodland for foraging or hibernation.

Great Crested Newts are protected under schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and of the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) Regulations 2010 from intentional killing and injury and from intentional damage, destruction or obstruction of access to a place of shelter. In addition they are a UK BAP Priority species and SPI.

An assessment of the likelihood of the ponds to support Great Crested Newts should be undertaken prior to any major work on the site.

## Species List

Abundance uses the DAFOR system;

(**L**ocally) **D**ominant, **A**bundant, **F**requent, **O**ccasional, **R**are

[Please note that plants ranked are 'rare' means that they were not found often over this site and does not necessarily indicate that they are a County rarity]:

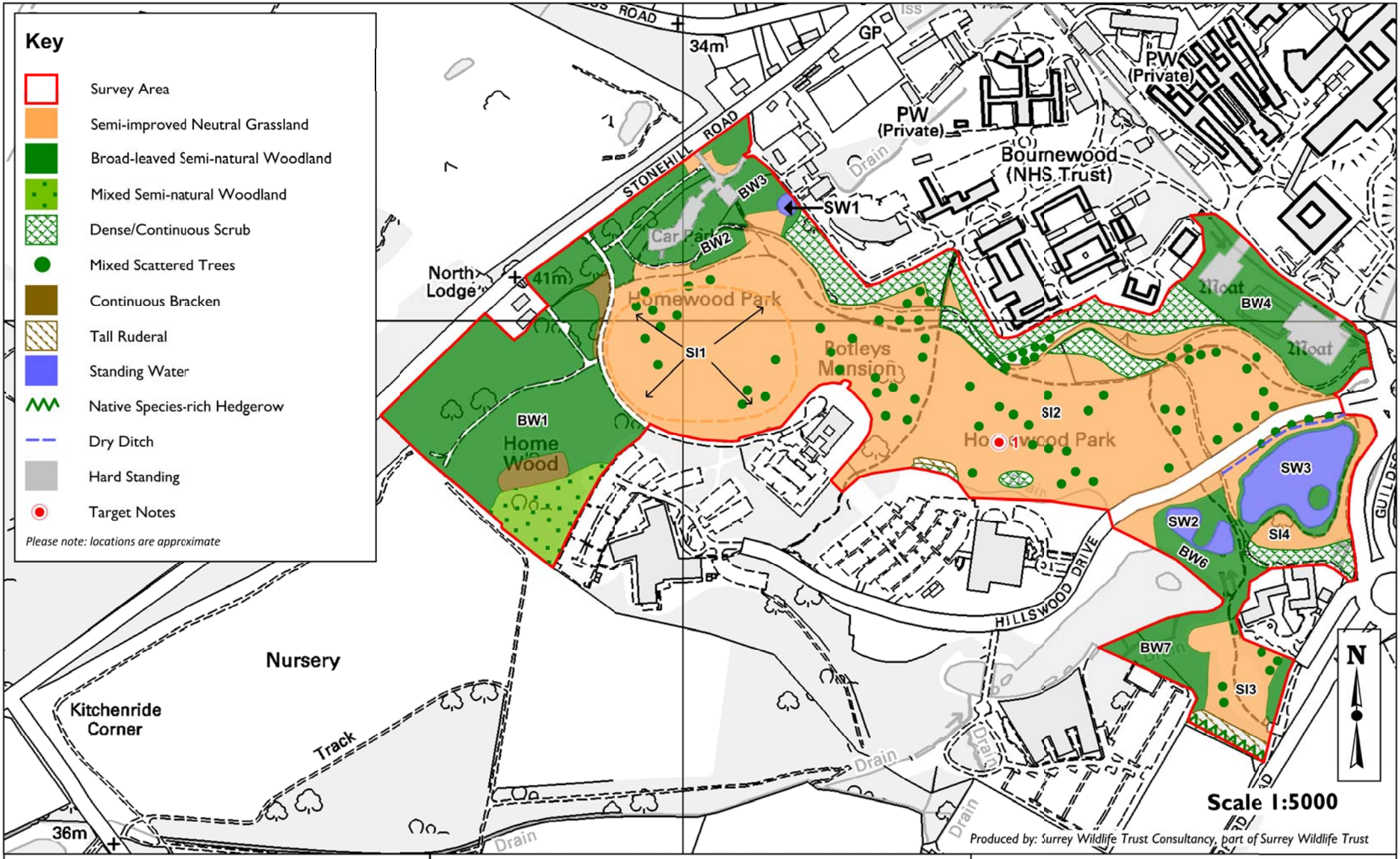
| Scientific name | Common name | Abundance | *Indicator Species | **Ancient Woodland Indicators |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Acer pseudoplatanus* | Sycamore | O | | |
| *Achillea millefolium* | Yarrow | O | | |
| *Agrimonia eupatoria* | Agrimony | R | | |
| *Agrostis capillaris* | Common Bent | A | | |
| *Ajuga reptans* | Bugle | R | | |
| *Alnus glutinosa* | Alder | O | | |
| *Arctium minus* | Lesser Burdock | R | | |
| *Artemisia vulgaris* | Mugwort | R | | |
| *Arum maculatum* | Lords-and-ladies | R | | |
| *Athyrium filix-femina* | Lady Fern | R | | |
| *Bellis perennis* | Daisy | R | | |
| *Betula pendula* | Silver Birch | O | | |
| *Betula pubescens* | Downy Birch | R | | |
| *Bryonia dioica* | White Bryony | R | | |
| *Carex hirta* | Hairy Sedge | O | | |
| *Carex pendula* | Pendulus Sedge | R | | √ |
| *Carex remota* | Remote Sedge | R | | √ |
| *Carex riparia* | Great Pond-sedge | LF | √ | |
| *Carpinus betulus* | Hornbeam | R | | √ |
| *Castanea sativa* | Sweet Chestnut | F | | |
| *Centaurea nigra* | Common Knapweed | R | | |
| *Cerastium fontanum* | Common Mouse-ear | O | | |
| *Chamaecyparis lawsoniana* | Lawson's Cypress | O | | |
| *Chamerion angustifolium* | Rosebay Willowherb | R | | |
| *Cirsium arvense* | Creeping Thistle | O | | |
| *Cirsium vulgare* | Spear Thistle | R | | |
| *Conium maculatum* | Hemlock | R | | |
| *Cornus sanguinea* | Dogwood | O | | |
| *Corylus avellana* | Hazel | F | | |
| *Crataegus monogyna* | Hawthorn | F | | |
| *Crepis capillaris* | Smooth Hawk's-beard | O | | |
| *Dryopteris filix-mas agg.* | Male Fern | R | | |
| *Epilobium hirsutum* | Great Willowherb | R | | |
| *Epilobium montanum* | Broad-leaved Willowherb | O | | |
| *Euphorbia peplus* | Petty Spurge | R | | |
| *Fagus sylvatica* | Beech | O | | |
| *Festuca rubra sens.str.* | Red Fescue | F | | |
| *Fraxinus excelsior* | Ash | F | | |
| *Geranium molle* | Dove's-foot Crane's-bill | O | | |
| *Geranium pusillum* | Small-flowered Crane's- | R | | |

| Scientific name | Common name | Abundance | *Indicator Species | **Ancient Woodland Indicators |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | bill | | | |
| *Geum urbanum* | Herb Bennet | R | | |
| *Glechoma hederacea* | Ground-ivy | O | | |
| *Holcus lanatus* | Yorkshire-fog | F | | |
| *Hypochaeris radicata* | Cat's-ear | R | | |
| *Ilex aquifolium* | Holly | O | | √ |
| *Impatiens parviflora* | Small Balsam | R | | |
| *Iris pseudacorus* | Yellow Iris | R | | |
| *Juncus effusus* | Soft Rush | R | | |
| *Lamium album* | White Dead-nettle | R | | |
| *Larix decidua* | Larch | R | | |
| *Leontodon saxatilis* | Lesser Hawkbit | O | √ | |
| *Leucanthemum vulgare* | Oxeye Daisy | R | √ | |
| *Lotus corniculatus* | Common Bird's-foot-trefoil | F | √ | |
| *Luzula campestris* | Field Wood-rush | O | | |
| *Lycopus europaeus* | Gipsywort | R | | |
| *Malva sylvestris* | Common Mallow | R | | |
| *Myosotis sp.* | a forget-me-not | R | | |
| *Phragmites australis* | Common Reed | LA | | |
| *Pilosella officinarum* | Mouse-ear-hawkweed | R | √ | |
| *Pinus sylvestris* | Scots Pine | O | | |
| *Plantago lanceolata* | Ribwort Plantain | F | | |
| *Polygonum aviculare sens.str.* | Knotgrass | R | | |
| *Populus tremula* | Aspen | R | | √ |
| *Populus x canadensis* | Hybrid Black Poplar | R | | |
| *Potentilla anserina* | Silverweed | R | | |
| *Potentilla reptans* | Creeping Cinquefoil | O | | |
| *Prunella vulgaris* | Selfheal | R | | |
| *Prunus avium* | Wild Cherry | R | | √ |
| *Prunus laurocerasus* | Cherry Laurel | O | | |
| *Prunus spinosa* | Blackthorn | R | | |
| *Pseudotsuga menziesii* | Douglas Fir | R | | |
| *Pteridium aquilinum* | Bracken | R | | |
| *Pulicaria dysenterica* | Common Fleabane | R | | |
| *Quercus cerris* | Turkey Oak | R | | |
| *Quercus robur* | Pedunculate Oak | F | | |
| *Quercus rubra* | Red Oak | O | | |
| *Ranunculus acris* | Meadow Buttercup | R | | |
| *Ranunculus repens* | Creeping Buttercup | F | | |
| *Rhododendron ponticum* | Rhododendron | R | | |
| *Robinia pseudoacacia* | False Acacia | R | | |
| *Rosa canina agg.* | Dog Rose | O | | |
| *Rubus fruticosus agg.* | Bramble | O | | |
| *Rumex acetosa* | Common Sorrel | F | √ | |
| *Rumex acetosella* | Sheep's Sorrel | O | √ | |
| *Rumex obtusifolius* | Broad-leaved Dock | R | | |
| *Rumex sanguineus* | Wood Dock | R | | |
| *Salix caprea* | Goat Willow | O | | |
| *Salix fragilis* | Crack Willow | R | | |

| Scientific name | Common name | Abundance | *Indicator Species | **Ancient Woodland Indicators |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Sambucus nigra* | Elder | O | | |
| *Scrophularia nodosa* | Common Figwort | R | | |
| *Senecio jacobaea* | Common Ragwort | O | | |
| *Sequoiadendron giganteum* | Wellingtonia | R | | |
| *Sorbus aucuparia* | Rowan | R | | |
| *Symphoricarpos albus* | Snowberry | R | | |
| *Tamus communis* | Black Bryony | R | | √ |
| *Taraxacum officinale agg.* | Dandelion | R | | |
| *Taxus baccata* | Yew | R | | |
| *Teucrium scorodonia* | Wood Sage | R | | |
| *Tilia cordata x platyphyllos* | Lime | O | | |
| *Ulex europaeus* | Gorse | R | | |
| *Ulmus procera* | English Elm | R | | |
| *Urtica dioica* | Common Nettle | O | | |
| *Veronica chamaedrys* | Germander Speedwell | O | | |
| *Veronica serpyllifolia* | Thyme-leaved Speedwell | O | | |
| **Total** | | **103** | **7** | **7** |

***Species typical of grassland of conservation interest in Surrey (as listed in Guidance for the Selection of SNCIs in Surrey, May 2008)**
****Ancient Woodland Indicator species (as listed for the Nature Conservancy Council South-East Region, see Rose 2006)**

## Figure 1 Homework Park Phase 1 Survey Map






# Figure 1
# Homewood Park
# Phase 1 Survey Results

SURREY wildlife TRUST

# Appendix 3: Access Survey of Homewood Park 2009

**Ken Anckorn BSc (Hons) DipMus DipEnv**

## 1. Introduction

Runnymede Borough Council (RBC) has commissioned Surrey Wildlife Trust (SWT) Consultancy to undertake an access assessment of land at Homewood Park. The site is being considered for a proposed Suitable Accessible Natural Greenspace (SANGS) site. The objective of the survey was to assess the site by walkover survey for its ability to satisfy Natural England's public access criteria for such sites.

The purpose of a SANGS site is to attract the public to use these sites for dog walking and quiet recreation instead of using the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (SPA) for such purposes, thus reducing human and dog disturbance on the SPA. The site proposed as a SANGS by RBC is intended to reduce human and dog pressure on the SPA resulting from new housing development in Runnymede Borough.

This assessment has taken into account the ecological information contained in a Phase 1 Survey, also conducted by SWT Consultancy in 2013, to identify important ecological features. This information was used to influence pathway selection and to help ensure that visitor access management works, recommended by this assessment, do not have a detrimental effect on any ecologically sensitive habitats or important and legally protected species. The site was assessed on its current condition and general accessibility with regard to vegetation type and density in addition to current visitor facilities including, car parks, pathways, signage, 'furniture' (bins, benches) and general accessibility.

Following the site survey visit, recommendations have been made regarding alterations to current access facilities designed to make the site better fitted to fulfil its function as a SANGS, while still retaining and where possible enhancing its biodiversity value.

## 2. Methodology

The site was visited by the surveyor Ken Anckorn and a walk-over survey conducted on Thursday 31st October. The routes of the existing main pathways were noted, together with other existing visitor facilities. The location of each major habitat type was noted and any significant ecological feature taken into account. Any particularly sensitive ecological areas were carefully identified.

Man made features on the site, reflecting the current human usage of the site was also considered, to be incorporated where relevant into the recommendations for improving public access and enjoyment of the site. Key features on the site were selected to be used as focus points for visitor interest, to emphasise the site's unique qualities and add to its attractiveness as alternative recreation space to the SPA.

Linkages to the network of existing pathways around the proposed SANGS site were considered to add interest and variety to the SANGS potential walking routes, without impacting on the SPA.

### 2.1 Species Survey Work

When preparing detailed plans for the SANGS site, including future Management Plans, full protected species information must be available in order that legally protected and important species are not adversely affected by any SANGS works.

Data searches have been made to help ascertain the presence of other important species, so that any SANGS work such as path improvements and vegetation thinning avoids sensitive areas, the findings of these are given in the Phase 1 Survey Report, SWT Consultancy 2013.

### 2.2 SANG Requirements

Homewood Park is approximately 24 hectares of public open space just north of Ottershaw between Stonehill Road and Guildford Road. It has a central grid reference of TQ022 649.

The site is predominantly a parkland managed to echo the original landscape surrounding the Botley Manor Mansion of the late 1700s. Short grassland and scattered trees cover most of the site with the grassland allowed to grow longer in the west. Woodland or scrub is present along the northern eastern and western edges and five ponds of varying sizes are also present.

A large public car park is located in the northwest of the site and the site is currently well used by the public, mainly dog walkers. Local office workers also use the site, particularly at lunch times, and many seem to park in the public car park and walk through the parkland to their offices.

We would advise that with some limited enhancements Homewood Park should prove of sufficient interest to satisfy Natural England's SANGS criteria. The existing

network of paths on site should be suitable for SANGS use with relatively minor amendments to provide a more circular route and further points of interest. The existing network of paths is quite extensive and a pathway of appropriate SANGS length (2.3km) would be easily incorporated into this network. A limited amount of 'glade' creation in less ecologically sensitive sections of the larger areas of woodland would add interest to a walk and if managed correctly could improve woodland biodiversity value.

The larger ponds in the south east sector are significant 'features' on the site and could be supplied with additional benches and viewpoints. The ponds would benefit from careful clearance of surrounding trees and scrub to open up view points and enhance their aquatic ecosystems.

We therefore provide a main recommendation for a SANGS route but other existing paths are available to add variety and length to a walk.

The SANGS route indicated on Figure A provides a circular route of at least 3.0km length and should be easily and safely accessible for most users. Further features of interest can be added to improve the site for the typical user to improve its attractiveness as a destination for dog walkers, thus removing some pressure from the SPA.

The route proposed for SANGS use should only be confirmed after protected and important species survey information is available and it can be suitably demonstrated that no adverse effect is likely to occur to protected and important species from the use of the site as a SANGS.

### 2.3 Public Information

SANGS Information panels, notice boards and way markers should be provided on the site, particularly at entrances to the SANGS. A SANGS leaflet could also be provided to help visitors find their way around the site and to promote its use as an alternative to the SPA. These leaflets should be made available as hard copy at off-site information points downloadable from a website and given to new home buyers.

The Park is already provided with on-site notice boards providing information to visitors concerning points of interest and of historical significance. A limited number of boards could be added in appropriate places such as the ponds and existing nature trail to provide information on the natural history of the site and the purpose of a SANGS site.

# 3 Land around Homewood Park

## 3.1 Site Description

The area around the proposed Homewood Park is already served by a network of footpaths, bridle ways and vehicular routes, all 'unofficial' with no recognised public rights of way (ROW). Footpath surfacing is a mixture of natural and man-made surfacing. The use of the area as a SANGS should follow a natural approach, with the introduction of as few man-made structures/surfaces as possible. Footpaths should incorporate natural surfaces wherever possible dependent upon site conditions. This is in line with Natural England's SANGS Guidelines and provides a more natural appearance together with habitat which can support species such as invertebrates which prefer bare or disturbed ground.

Natural England will require a Visitor Survey to establish current visitor usage of the site, to help determine the sites capacity to act as an SANGS. It is likely that the current visitor usage of the park would require a considerable 'discount' applied to its capacity to act as part of the SANGS.

The proposed SANGS footpaths have been selected as following existing footpaths on the site, most of which are relatively well surfaced. Some pathways have hard surfacing, particularly on the north side of the site but pathways through woodlands and adjacent to Botley House have a natural surface which should be retained as this more accurately reflects Natural England's SANGS guidelines. Some limited widening would benefit some woodland paths and we recommend the creation of a short section of new path to help provide a more circular route in the area of the Park leading to Guildford Road.

Various pedestrian access points are available to the Park from Guildford Road, off the Hospital roundabout and directly from St Peters Hospital grounds.

A certain amount of vegetation clearance would be required to open up the woodland canopy in some areas to make the route less enclosed. These works should be guided by ecological considerations.
The Park is already provided with a reasonable number of benches at various viewpoints but there is scope to add to these features with a view point at the top of the artificial mound to the south of the largest pond.

All access points should be furnished with SANGS notice boards to inform visitors of the SANGS existence and its importance in protecting the Thames Basin Heath SPA. Dog bins at these points should also be provided if they are not already present.

## 3.2 Current Facilities

a) Car Parking

There is currently a 71 space car park on the west side of the Park off Stonehill Road. It is well signed and has spaces for 7 less abled visitor's cars, dog and

general waste bins, a public lavatory block and good access onto the Park's footpath network. All these features will help meet Natural England's SANGS requirements, although car park signage will need amendment to inform visitors of the Parks use as a SANGS, its benefit to the SPA and show the SANGS route available with features of interest.

b) Pathways

The site has no Public Right of Way but is furnished with many unofficial pathways running through it, creating a sufficient existing network to easily fulfil Natural England's footpath length requirements for SANGS sites. The existing path surfaces are both natural soil and grass surfaced and also provided with a compacted gravel surface. The site is gently undulating, well supplied with bridges over ditches and water courses and suitably signposted. A reasonably fit person should be able to access the site without too much difficulty. All-terrain buggy's could also manage most of the site but some of the grass paths around Botley House may be difficult for push chairs in prolonged wet conditions.

c) Furniture

Various bridges span the ditches and waterways on site. Part of the site's path network in the south west sector incorporates a waymarked 'Nature Trail'.
Benches are provided and noticeboards with maps and historical feature interpretation.

d) Special Features.

The ponds on site provide several points of interest, which could be sensitively developed to provide focal points, including the provision of information boards and rustic benches. Care would be required to address any drowning risk from deep water.
Two of the existing ponds on site are overgrown and partially filled by decaying vegetation. These would benefit from ecologically sensitive opening up and partial dredging.

### 3.3 Ecological value of the site and constraints

While the site has no statutory designation and has not been selected by the Local Authority as a Site of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI), it does include habitat recognised as of Principle Importance to biodiversity value under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006, including lowland broadleaf woodland and open standing fresh water.

The site is also likely to support a number of legally protected species including bats, reptiles, badgers and amphibians and we would strongly advise that the site is surveyed for legally protected and important species as part of the SANGS project to help ensure that the SANGS can be delivered without adverse effect to legally protected species.

The final route proposal for the SANGS footpath must be guided by species survey and take into account any recommendations for habitat enhancements

recommended in a Site Management Plan. Ecological improvements to woodland by opening up canopies and creating 'glades' and 'rides' and reducing scrub around pond edges can add value to a SANGS visitor route by introducing more light and consequently more species.

### 3.4 Potential for ecological enhancement

This section discusses the potential for ecological enhancement for the site as part of its management for a SANGS site.

We would advise that an Ecological Site Management Plan is provided and implemented to ensure that species and habitats are correctly managed for optimum biodiversity value.

Limited tree and scrub cutting could be introduced which would encourage botanic diversity. While a SANGS requires the majority of a site to be freely accessible to dogs, parts of it can be given 'dogs on leads' control. Dog walkers would however require clear notice of where the dog control zones were.

Ditches on site should be maintained to provide optimum conditions for important plant and animal species. It may be possible to recreate suitable ditch conditions to attract Water Voles.

Any foreign invasive species should be controlled to allow native species to flourish. Water body conditions should be managed for plant species which support aquatic animals and semi aquatic animals such as odonata.

Overgrown and heavily shaded ponds should be 'opened up' with selective tree shrub and scrub removal.

The provision of artificial animal shelters should be made in suitable locations for birds and bats. There are numerous mature trees on site which could take bird and bat boxes.

### 3.5 Recommendations.

The object of the SANGS is to provide as natural a walking experience as possible, whilst ensuring that the site has sufficient 'structure' to attract the average dog walker into an environment they will be comfortable to visit at all times of the year.

- A Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) should be produced for the site detailing how the SANGS will be constructed, how existing ecologically sensitive areas will be protected and what ecological enhancements will be provided to help off-set adverse effect from increased visitor pressure and help maintain the biodiversity value of the site.
- Figures A shows possible footpath routes for SANGS users around this site. Fig A is largely a circular path following the boundaries of the site but many alternatives to make a walk longer or shorter are available. The surface of the path should be mostly left untouched other than for regular maintenance. The

width of the path should be no more than one-two- meters in most places with occasional glades.

- Waymarker posts may be required in one or two locations to confirm the route to walkers. These should be no more than one meter in height and marked in some way to indicate route direction.
- In areas which are known to become wet, the surface of the path may need to be raised, or the drainage of that part of the site adjusted. Care should be taken however to avoid changing water movement across the site significantly. No materials should be used which could result in a change of chemical or pH composition of the soil.
- Short sections of boardwalk to act as bridges over wet areas and also to allow water flow across the site could be used.
- Notice boards should be provided at the entrances to the site giving information on the ecology of the site, what can be seen and what to avoid doing (Countryside Code). The notice board should provide a map of the site to help visitors orientate themselves. The map can show links to the off-site pathways which walkers can use without potential detriment to the SPA. Space should be left for seasonal information or events.
- Bins for dog waste should be provided at site entry and/or exit points.
- Rustic benches can be provided at suitable spots on site, such as the weirs and in loops on the river where views open out.

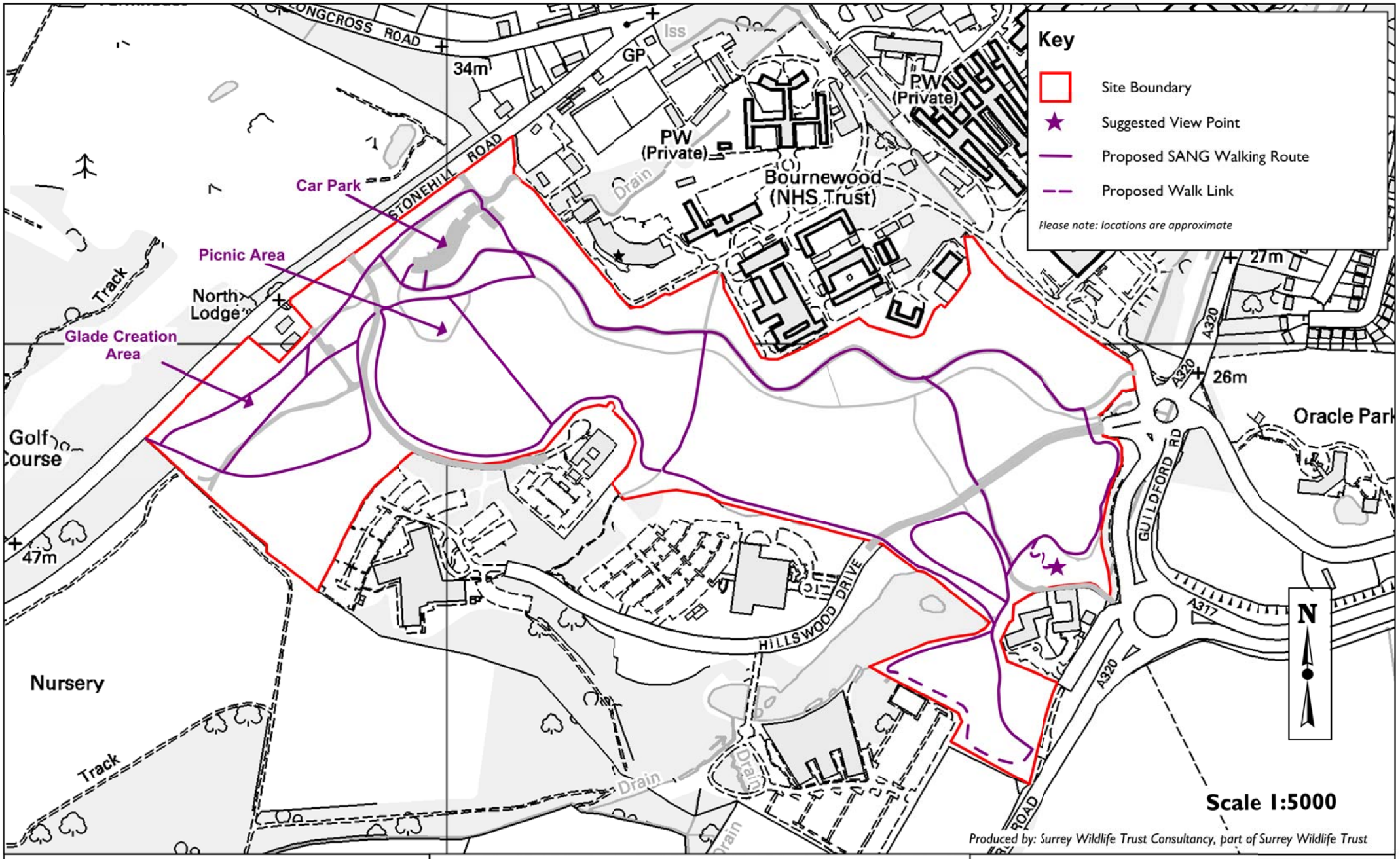
### 3.6 Conclusions

The Trust recommends that the above SANGS provision is given full consideration by Runnymede Borough Council should they wish to proceed with their proposal to turn this site into a SANGS.

We would advise early discussion with Natural England with regard to their opinion regarding the suitability for the site to provide a SANGS.

The Trust would be pleased to provide a Management Plan for Homewood Park if it is selected for SANGS use.

## Figure 4 Possible SANG route within Homewood Park






# Figure A
# Homewood Park
# Proposed SANG Walking Route

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# Appendix 4: Data Search for Homewood Park 2013

## Alistair Kirk BSc MCIIEM

# Background Ecological Data Search; Homewood Park, Ottershaw, Near Chertsey, Surrey

# Runnymede Borough Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace Site Assessment

**Produced by**
**Alistair Kirk**
**Surrey Biodiversity Information Centre Manager**

**Surrey Biodiversity Information Centre**
**October 2013**

**for**
**Surrey Wildlife Trust Consultancy**


**C/O Surrey Wildlife Trust, School Lane, Pirbright Woking, Surrey, GU24 0JN**

## Contents

# Background Ecological Data Search; Homewood Park, Ottershaw, Near Chertsey, Surrey

## 1.0 Introduction

The following report has been compiled by the Surrey Biodiversity Information Centre (SBIC) on behalf of Surrey Wildlife Trust Consultancy as part of a desktop ecological assessment of candidate Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) land near Ottershaw, Surrey. Based on our standard data search service it includes information on a) all protected species, b) all rare/notable species and c) all Priority Species as identified in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan recorded from one kilometre squares falling within a 500 metre search area centred on land at Homewood Park, Ottershaw (shown highlighted in red on the map attached to your email of the 29th August, approximate site centre Ordnance Survey grid reference TQ022649). The report is completed by a map of the search area (Annex A). Throught the report species recorded from sites which make up the candidate SANG are shown highlighted in red, species recorded from sites falling within the wider search area are shown in black.

## 2.0 Protected Species

SBIC currently holds information on a number of species protected either by national or international legislation which have been recorded from one kilometre squares falling within the 500 metre search area. This list should not be regarded as definitive and it is likely that further detailed survey work would be necessary prior to any development to ascertain the full extent of any activity. Furthermore, it should also be noted that although SBIC currently has data sharing agreements with many of Surrey's specialist recording societies we may only hold limited information for a number of important taxonomic groups. Similarly, although data transfers take place on a regular basis, we may not always hold the most upto date records for a particular area.

The following table lists species in taxonomic order by each one kilometre square of the search area. Information on the protected status of each species is taken from the Recorder 6 species database and *Checklist of Legally Protected British Species* (Betts 2008) [1] and in each case, the relevant Schedule or Annex which describes the nature and level of protection is shown. For more information please see Annex B. Please note, Appendix III of the Bern Convention includes all species of birds not listed in Appendix II with the exception of 11 abundant /perceived pest species. Species included in this list have are omitted from the following table but readers should nonetheless take note of its existence. Similarly, where a site straddles the edge of the search area all relevant records recorded from that site have been included in this report. Species records for a site are commonly assigned a locational reference based on the Ordnance Survey grid reference for the centre of that site. On occasions although part of a site may legitimately fall inside a search area, its geographical centre may lie outside. As a result the following tables may include species apparently recorded from one kilometre squares falling outside your original search area. (N.B Throughout this report, where this occurs, the relevant one kilometre squares are enclosed by brackets).

| 1Km Grid Square | Taxon Common Name | Recommended Taxon Name | UK Protected Species | European Protected Species | Date Last Recorded | Source of Record |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **TQ0164** | Bluebell | *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* | W&C Act 1981 (Sch. 8) | | 2004 | SBIC – Other Records |
| | Silver-Studded Blue | *Plebejus argus* | W&C Act 1981 (Sch. 5 Sec. 9.5a), W&C Act 1981 (Sch. 5 Sec. 9.5b) | | 2003 | SBIC – Other Records |
| | Kestrel | *Falco tinnunculus* | | Bern Convention Appendix 2 | 2003 | SBIC – Other Records |
| | Little Ringed Plover | *Charadrius dubius* | W&C Act 1981 (Sch. 1 Part 1) | Bern Convention Appendix 2 | 2002 | SBIC – Other Records |
| | Green Woodpecker | *Picus viridis* | | Bern Convention Appendix 2 | 2003 | SBIC – Other Records |
| | Great Spotted Woodpecker | *Dendrocopos major* | | Bern Convention Appendix 2 | 2003 | SBIC – Other Records |
| | House Martin | *Delichon urbicum* | | Bern Convention Appendix 2 | 2003 | SBIC – Other Records |
| | Grey Wagtail | *Motacilla cinerea* | | Bern Convention Appendix 2 | 2003 | SBIC – Other Records |
| | Pied Wagtail | *Motacilla alba subsp. Yarrellii* | | Bern Convention Appendix 2 | 2003 | SBIC – Other Records |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Wren | *Troglodytes troglodytes* | | Bern Convention Appendix 2 | 2003 | SBIC – Other Records |
| | Dunnock | *Prunella modularis* | | Bern Convention Appendix 2 | 2003 | SBIC – Other Records |
| | Robin | *Erithacus rubecula* | | Bern Convention Appendix 2 | 2003 | SBIC – Other Records |
| | Goldcrest | *Regulus regulus* | | Bern Convention Appendix 2 | 2003 | SBIC – Other Records |
| | Blue Tit | *Cyanistes caeruleus* | | Bern Convention Appendix 2 | 2003 | SBIC – Other Records |
| | Great Tit | *Parus major* | | Bern Convention Appendix 2 | 2003 | SBIC – Other Records |
| | Nuthatch | *Sitta europaea* | | Bern Convention Appendix 2 | 2003 | SBIC – Other Records |
| | Short-Toed Treecreeper | *Certhia brachydactyla* | W&C Act 1981 (Sch. 1 Part 1) | Bern Convention Appendix 2 | 2003 | SBIC – Other Records |
| | Greenfinch | *Carduelis chloris* | | Bern Convention Appendix 2 | 2003 | SBIC – Other Records |
| | Goldfinch | *Carduelis carduelis* | | Bern Convention Appendix 2 | 2003 | SBIC – Other Records |
| | Roe Deer | *Capreolus capreolus* | | Bern Convention Appendix 3 | 2003 | Mammals – General |
| **TQ0165** | Stoat | *Mustela erminea* | | Bern Convention Appendix 3 | 1999 | Surrey Mammal Group |
| **TQ0264** | Roe Deer | *Capreolus capreolus* | | Bern Convention Appendix 3 | 2005 | Mammals – General |
| **TQ0265** | White Letter Hairstreak | *Satyrium w-album* | W&C Act 1981 (Sch. 5 Sec. 9.5a), W&C Act 1981 (Sch. 5 Sec. 9.5b) | | 1994 | Butterfly Conservation VC17 |
| **TQ0364** | Stag Beetle | *Lucanus cervus* | W&C Act 1981 (Sch. 5 Sec. 9.5a), W&C Act 1981 (Sch. 5 Sec. 9.5b) | Bern Convention Appendix 3, Habitats Directive Annex 2 - non-priority species | 1998 | PTES National Stag Beetle Survey |
| | White-letter Hairstreak | *Satyrium w-album* | W&C Act 1981 (Sch. 5 Sec. 9.5a), W&C Act 1981 (Sch. 5 Sec. 9.5b) | | 2006 | Butterfly Conservation VC17 |
| **TQ0365** | Stag Beetle | *Lucanus cervus* | W&C Act 1981 (Sch. 5 Sec. 9.5a), W&C Act 1981 (Sch. 5 Sec. 9.5b) | Bern Convention Appendix 3, Habitats Directive Annex 2 - non-priority species | 1998 | PTES National Stag Beetle Survey |
| | White Letter Hairstreak | *Satyrium w-album* | W&C Act 1981 (Sch. 5 Sec. 9.5a), W&C Act 1981 (Sch. 5 Sec. 9.5b) | | 1994 | Butterfly Conservation VC17 |

In addition to the information presented above, SBIC currently holds information on the following species recorded from the ten kilometre squares which cover the 500 metre search area. These records are not currently held in a format which allows analysis at the same level of detail as other species records, however these records are included in this report as they provide a guide to the species which may be present within the wider search area.

| 1Km Grid Square | Common Name | Scientific Name | Wildlife & Countryside Act Schedule | International Status | Date Last Recorded | Source of Record |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **TQ06** | Brown Long-eared Bat | *Plecotus auritus* | The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2010 (Sch. 2), W&C Act 1981 (Sch. 5 All Sections) | Bern Convention Appendix 2, Habitats Directive Annex 4 | 2008 | BCT Bechstein's Bat Project |
| | Roe Deer | *Capreolus capreolus* | | Bern Convention Appendix 3 | 1982 | Surrey Mammal Group |

Any work or activity likely to affect any species covered by a relevant Schedule of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, must first be referred to the local office of Natural England. For more information please contact;

Natural England
South-East Region (Worthing Office)
Guildbourne House
Chatsworth Road
Worthing
BN11 1LD

Tel: 0300 060 0300

## 3.0 Notable / Rare Species

SBIC currently holds information on the following species recorded from one kilometre squares falling within the 500 metre search area which are thought to be rare or notable at either a national or a regional level. In each case, the known distribution of all populations (both native and non-native) as shown in the relevant County atlas is also shown where available.

Once again, the following table lists species by one kilometre square and then by taxonomic order. Information on the national status of each species is taken from the Recorder 6 species database. For more information please see Annex B.

| 1Km Grid Square | Taxon Common Name | Recommended Taxon Name | National Species Status | Surrey Status | Date Last Recorded | Source of Record |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **TQ0164** | Corn Spurrey | *Spergula arvensis* | IUCN (2001) - Vulnerable | Common "a weed in arable fields, waste ground, and sandy tracksides" [2], 1987; 23 ten kilometre squares [3] | 1989 | SBIC - Other Records |
| | Dodder | *Cuscuta epithymum* | IUCN (2001) - Vulnerable | Frequent, 82 tetrads, "Parasitic on ling, gorse, clovers, time and many other species, 1987; 19 ten kilometre squares | 2001 | SBIC - Other Records |
| | Field Woundwort | *Stachys arvensis* | IUCN (2001) - Lower Risk - Near Threatened | Locally Frequent, 67 tetrads, "Weed in cultivated fields especially on sandy soils", 1987; 21 ten kilometre squares | 1989 | SBIC - Other Records |
| | Wild Pansy | *Viola tricolor* | IUCN (2001) - Lower Risk - Near Threatened | Frequent on the chalk, 1987; 5 ten kilometre squares "apparently more restricted in its distribution than was thought" | 2004 | SBIC - Other Records |
| | Silver-studded Blue | *Plebejus argus* | IUCN (2001) - Vulnerable | Restricted but Common [4] , 2000; 37 tetrads, Regional Conservation Priority; High [5] | 2003 | SBIC - Other Records |
| | Grayling | *Hipparchia semele* | IUCN (2001) - Vulnerable | Local but Fairly Common, 2000; 48 tetrads, Regional Conservation Priority; Medium | 2003 | SBIC - Other Records |
| | a fly | *Sapromyza quadricincta* | Nationally Notable B | | 2006 | SBIC - Other Records |
| | Red Wood Ant | *Formica rufa* | IUCN (1994) - Lower Risk - Near Threatened | Frequent in Open Woodland [6] | 2003 | BWARS VC17 |
| | Brown Ant | *Lasius brunneus* | Nationally Notable A | Local in woodland and parkland | 2003 | SBIC - Other Records |
| | a solitary bee | *Andrena florea* | IUCN (pre 1994) - Rare | Locally Very Common [7] | 2003 | BWARS VC17 |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Mallard | *Anas platyrhynchos* | BOCC3 - Amber | Abundant breeding resident [8] | 2003 | SBIC - Other Records |
| | Tufted Duck | *Aythya fuligula* | BOCC3 - Amber | Common breeding resident and winter visitor | 2003 | SBIC - Other Records |
| | Little Grebe | *Tachybaptus ruficollis* | BOCC3 - Amber | Moderately common breeding resident | 2003 | SBIC - Other Records |
| | Kestrel | *Falco tinnunculus* | BOCC3 - Amber | Moderately common breeding resident | 2003 | SBIC - Other Records |
| | Stock Dove | *Columba oenas* | BOCC3 - Amber | Moderately common breeding resident | 2003 | SBIC - Other Records |
| | Swift | *Apus apus* | BOCC3 - Amber | Common summer visitor, breeding annually | 2003 | SBIC - Other Records |
| | Green Woodpecker | *Picus viridis* | BOCC3 - Amber | Common breeding resident | 2003 | SBIC - Other Records |
| | House Martin | *Delichon urbicum* | BOCC3 - Amber | Common summer visitor, breeding annually | 2003 | SBIC - Other Records |
| | Grey Wagtail | *Motacilla cinerea* | BOCC3 - Amber | Moderately common breeding resident | 2003 | SBIC - Other Records |
| | Dunnock | *Prunella modularis* | BOCC3 - Amber | Common breeding resident | 2003 | SBIC - Other Records |
| | Song Thrush | *Turdus philomelos* | BOCC3 - Red | Common breeding resident | 2003 | SBIC - Other Records |
| | Mistle Thrush | *Turdus viscivorus* | BOCC3 - Amber | Moderately common breeding resident | 2003 | SBIC - Other Records |
| | Whitethroat | *Sylvia communis* | BOCC3 - Amber | Common summer visitor, breeding annually | 2003 | SBIC - Other Records |
| | Willow Warbler | *Phylloscopus trochilus* | BOCC3 - Amber | Common summer visitor, breeding annually | 2003 | SBIC - Other Records |
| | Short-Toed Treecreeper | *Certhia brachydactyla* | BOCC3 - Amber | Moderately common breeding resident | 2003 | SBIC - Other Records |
| | Bullfinch | *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* | BOCC3 - Amber | Common breeding resident | 2003 | SBIC - Other Records |
| **TQ0165** | Summer Snowflake | *Leucojum aestivum subsp. aestivum* | Nationally Scarce | 1987; 8 ten kilometre squares (Leucojum aestivium agg). Specimens of Leucojum aestivum subsp. aestivum "may have represented native populations" | 2006 | BSBI VC17 |
| | White Admiral | *Limenitis camilla* | IUCN (2001) - Vulnerable | Fairly Widespread and Fairly Common, 2000; 102 tetrads | 2000 | Butterfly Conservation VC17 |
| | Red Wood Ant | *Formica rufa* | IUCN (1994) - Lower Risk - Near Threatened | Frequent in open woodland | 2003 | SBIC - Other Records |
| **TQ0264** | Sainfoin | *Onobrychis viciifolia* | IUCN (2001) - Lower Risk - Near Threatened | Frequent on the chalk, 1987; 5 ten kilometre squares "apparently more restricted in its distribution than was thought" | 1997 | BSBI VC17 |
| | a solitary bee | *Andrena labiata* | Nationally Notable A | Common | 2008 | BWARS VC17 |
| | a solitary bee | *Lasioglossum leucopus* | IUCN (pre 1994) - Rare | Locally Common | 2008 | BWARS VC17 |
| **TQ0265** | White Letter Hairstreak | *Satyrium w-album* | IUCN (2001) - Endangered | Widespread and Fairly Common, 2000; 70 tetrads, Regional Conservation Priority; Medium | 1994 | Butterfly Conservation VC17 |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **TQ0364** | Stag Beetle | *Lucanus cervus* | Nationally Notable B | Local, avoiding clay (and chalky) soils but can be common in London suburbs, especially in gardens | 1998 | PTES National Stag Beetle Survey |
| | White-letter Hairstreak | *Satyrium w-album* | IUCN (2001) - Endangered | Widespread and Fairly Common, 2000; 70 tetrads, Regional Conservation Priority; Medium | 2006 | Butterfly Conservation VC17 |
| **TQ0365** | Wild Pansy | *Viola tricolor* | IUCN (2001) - Lower Risk - Near Threatened | Frequent on the chalk, 1987; 5 ten kilometre squares "apparently more restricted in its distribution than was thought" | 2009 | BSBI VC17 |
| | Stag Beetle | *Lucanus cervus* | Nationally Notable B | Local, avoiding clay (and chalky) soils but can be common in London suburbs, especially in gardens [9] | 1998 | PTES National Stag Beetle Survey |
| | White Letter Hairstreak | *Satyrium w-album* | IUCN (2001) - Endangered | Widespread and Fairly Common, 2000; 70 tetrads, Regional Conservation Priority; Medium | 1994 | Butterfly Conservation VC17 |

In addition to the information presented above, SBIC currently holds information on the following species recorded from the ten kilometre squares which cover the 500 metre search area. These records are not currently held in a format which allows analysis at the same level of detail as other species records, however these records are included in this report as they provide a guide to the species which may be present within the wider search area.

| 1Km Grid Square | Taxon Common Name | Recommended Taxon Name | National Species Status | Surrey Status | Date Last Recorded | Source of Record |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **SU95** | Red Kite | *Milvus milvus* | BOCC3 - Amber | Lost resident, now a scarce but increasing passage migrant | 2005 | SBIC - Other Records |

## 4.0 UK Biodiversity Action Plan - Priority Species

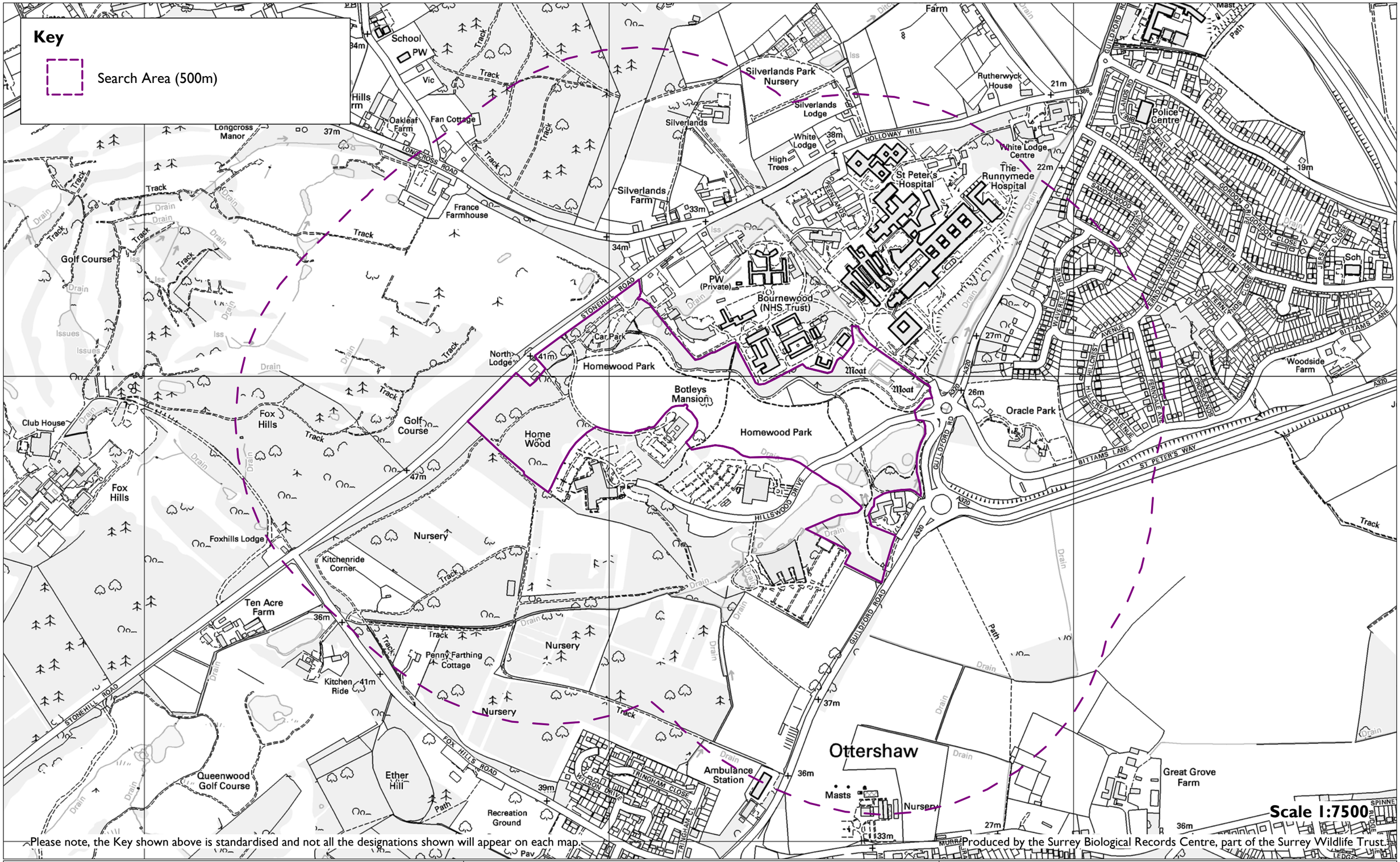
The following species which appear on the revised list of UKBAP Priority species have been recorded from the one kilometre squares falling within the 500 metre search area. Once again, the following table lists species by one kilometre square and then by taxonomic order. For more information please see Annex B.

| 1Km Grid Square | Taxon Common Name | Recommended Taxon Name | Biodiversity Action Plan Species (2007) | Date Last Recorded | Source of Record |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **TQ0164** | Silver-Studded Blue | *Plebejus argus* | UK BAP Priority Species | 2003 | SBIC - Other Records |
| | Grayling | *Hipparchia semele* | UK BAP Priority Species | 2003 | SBIC - Other Records |
| | Cinnabar | *Tyria jacobaeae* | UK BAP Priority Species | 2003 | SBIC - Other Records |
| **TQ0165** | White Admiral | *Limenitis camilla* | UK BAP Priority Species | 2000 | Butterfly Conservation VC17 |
| **TQ0265** | White Letter Hairstreak | *Satyrium w-album* | UK BAP Priority Species | 1994 | Butterfly Conservation VC17 |
| **TQ0364** | Stag Beetle | *Lucanus cervus* | UK BAP Priority Species | 1998 | PTES National Stag Beetle Survey |
| | White-letter Hairstreak | *Satyrium w-album* | UK BAP Priority Species | 2006 | Butterfly Conservation VC17 |
| | Cinnabar | *Tyria jacobaeae* | UK BAP Priority Species | 2003 | SBIC - Other Records |
| **TQ0365** | Stag Beetle | *Lucanus cervus* | UK BAP Priority Species | 1998 | PTES National Stag Beetle Survey |
| | White Letter Hairstreak | *Satyrium w-album* | UK BAP Priority Species | 1994 | Butterfly Conservation VC17 |

In addition to the information presented above, SBIC currently holds information on the following species recorded from the ten kilometre squares which cover the 500 metre search area. These records are not currently held in a format which allows analysis at the same level of detail as other species records, however these records are included in this report as they provide a guide to the species which may be present within the wider search area.

| 1Km Grid Square | Taxon Common Name | Recommended Taxon Name | Biodiversity Action Plan Species (2007) | Date Last Recorded | Source of Record |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **TQ06** | Brown Long-eared Bat | *Plecotus auritus* | UK BAP Priority Species | 2008 | BCT Bechstein's Bat Project |

## Annex A – Site Maps




Please note, the Key shown above is standardised and not all the designations shown will appear on each map.

Produced by the Surrey Biological Records Centre, part of the Surrey Wildlife Trust.



**Background Ecological Data Search;**
**Homewood Park**
**Search Area**

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## Annex B – Protected and Rare/Notable Species Statuses (as at July 2011)

The following summary of national legislation, international agreements and conservation statuses is designed purely as a basic guide to the statuses displayed within Surrey Biodiversity Information Centre's Enquiry Service reports to aid developers, consultants and members of the public to make informed decisions. It is imperative that full details of all relevant legislation and definitions be consulted for all species when reviewing the list and before any action is taken.

## Protected Species

### Birds Directive 1979 (EC Directive 79/409 on the Conservation of Wild Birds)

The 'Birds Directive' was adopted in response to the 1979 Bern Convention on the conservation of European habitats and species. The Directive provides a framework for the conservation and management of, and human interactions with, wild birds in Europe. In England the provisions of the Birds Directive are implemented through the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (the "Habitats Regulations") which in turn consolidate and update the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994, and are supported by a wide range of other statutory and non-statutory activities including the UK Biodiversity Action Plan which involves action for a number of bird species and the habitats which support them. See http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-1373 for more information.

Annex I - Birds which are the subject of special conservation measures concerning their habitat in order to ensure their survival and reproduction in their area of distribution. Species include those in danger of extinction; species vulnerable to specific changes in their habitat; species considered rare because of small populations or restricted local distribution; other species requiring particular attention for reasons of the specific nature of their habitat.

### Habitats and Species Directive 1992 (Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora)

The 'Habitats Directive' aims to protect the wild plants, animals and habitats that make up the diverse natural environment of the European Community. It requires Member States to introduce a range of measures for the protection of habitats and species listed in its Annexes. Currently implemented within the UK by The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (the "Habitats Regulations") which in turn consolidate and update the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994. It provides for the protection of 'European protected species' by making it an offence to deliberately kill, capture, or disturb them, or to damage or destroy their breeding sites or resting places. See http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-1374 for more information.

Annex II - Non-priority - Endangered animal and plant species that are of Community interest (i.e. endangered, vulnerable, rare or endemic in the European Community) requiring the designation of special areas of conservation.

Annex II - Priority - Endangered animal and plant species requiring the designation of special areas of conservation (SAC) for which the European Community has a particular responsibility for conservation in view of the proportion of their natural range which falls within the territory of the Community.

Annex IV - Animal and plant species of Community interest (i.e. endangered, vulnerable, rare or endemic in the European Community) in need of strict protection. They are protected from killing, disturbance or the destruction of them or their habitat.

Annex V - Animal and plant species of community interest whose taking in the wild and exploitation may be subject to management measures.

**Berne Convention 1979 (Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats)**
Designed to protect important population of listed species and their habitats. The Berne Convention places particular emphasis on migratory specis and their breeding and resting sites.

Appendix 1 - Lists flora which are required to be specifically protected against deliberate picking, cutting, collecting, uprooting, possession, sale etc.

Appendix 2 - Lists strictly protected fauna. Listed fauna are required to be strickly protected against deliberate killing, capture, damage / destruction of breeding and nesting sites, disturbance, taking of eggs, trading (Including parts or derivatives), etc.

Appendix 3 - Listed in this Appendix are all animals not in Appendix 2 whos populations are required to be protected from exploitation (indiscriminate mass killing, trading and any means capable of causing local disappearance or serious disturbance to a species) and managed to keep them out of danger. The Appendix includes nearly all birds, and all other reptiles and amphibians and many other mammals.

**Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)**
The Wildlife and Countryside Act (WACA) 1981 (as amended) is the principle mechanism for the legislative protection of wildlife in Britain. It is the means by which the Bern Convention and the Birds Directive and Habitats Directive are implemented in Britain. Protected birds, animals

and plants are listed in Schedules 1, 5 and 8 respectively of the Wildlife and Countryside Act. See http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-3614 for more information.

Schedule 1 Part 1 - Birds which are protected by special penalties at all times from being intentionally killed, injured, or taken and whose eggs, nests or dependent young are also protected from being disturbed.

Schedule 5 Section 9 Part 1 (killing/injuring) - Animals which are protected from being intentionally killed or injured.

Schedule 5 Section 9 Part 1 (taking) - Animals which are protected from being taken.

Schedule 5 Section 9 Part 4a - Animals which are protected from intentional damage to, destruction of, or obstruction of access to any structure or place used for shelter or protection.

Schedule 5 Section 9 Part 4b - Animals which are protected from intentional disturbance while occupying a structure or place used for shelter or protection.

Schedule 5 Section 9 Part 4c - Animals which are protected from their access to any structure or place which they use for shelter or protection being obstructed.

Schedule 8 - Plants and fungi which, subject to exceptions, are protected from: intentional picking, uprooting or destruction; selling, offering for sale, possessing or transporting for the purpose of sale; advertising for buying or selling.

**Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010**

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (the principal means by which the Habitats Directive is transposed in England) update the legislation and consolidate all the amendments which have been made to the Regulations since they were first made in 1994. Animals and plants that receive protection under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 are commonly referred to as 'European Protected Species'.

On 21 August 2007 an amendment to the Habitats Regulations 1994 came into force which removed many of the legal defences surrounding these species, including acts which were the incidental result of a lawful operation and could not have been reasonably avoided (commonly known as the 'incidental result defence'). It is no longer a reasonable defence to show that the killing, capture or disturbance of a European

Protected Species, or the destruction or damage to their breeding sites or resting places, was the incidental or unavoidable result of an otherwise lawful activity.

Best practice guidance are available from Natural England to minimise the risks of committing an offence under the Regulations. Licences are also available from Natural England to allow persons to carry out activities that would otherwise be prohibited, without committing an offence in circumstances where best practice guidance either cannot be followed or is not applicable. See http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/regulation/wildlife/default.aspx for more information.

Schedule 2 – European protected species of animals. It is an offence (subject to exceptions) to deliberately capture, kill, disturb, or trade in the animals listed in Schedule 2.

Schedule 5 – European protected species of plants. It is an offence (subject to exceptions) to pick, collect, cut, uproot, destroy, or trade in the plants listed in Schedule 5.

## Rare / Notable Species

### IUCN Red List

The World Conservation Union (IUCN) has been assessing the conservation status of species, subspecies, varieties and even selected subpopulations on a global scale in order to highlight taxa threatened with extinction, and therefore promote their conservation. The IUCN Red List, previously known as the Red Data Book (RDB), uses a set of criteria relevant to all species and all regions of the world to evaluate the extinction risk of thousands of species and subspecies. The IUCN Red List is recognized as the most authoritative guide to the status of biological diversity. See http://www.iucnredlist.org/ for more information.

### IUCN 2001

The IUCN Red List categories and criteria have undergone an extensive review in recent years. The revised categories and criteria (version 3.1) were adopted in 2000 and all new assessments and reassessments of taxa follow this revised system. Taxa using this classification currently consist only of subsets of higher and lower plants.

Extinct - Taxa where there is no reasonable doubt that the last individual has died. A taxon is presumed Extinct when exhaustive surveys (over a time frame appropriate to the taxon's life cycles and life form) in known and/or expected habitat, at appropriate times (diurnal, seasonal, annual), throughout its historic range have failed to record an individual.

Extinct In The Wild - Taxa known only to survive in cultivation, in captivity or as a naturalised population (or populations) well outside the past range. A taxon is presumed Extinct in the Wild when exhaustive surveys (over a time frame appropriate to it's life cycles and life form) in known and/or expected habitat, at appropriate times (diurnal, seasonal, annual), throughout its historic range have failed to record an individual.

Critically Endangered - Taxa where the best available evidence indicates that it meets any of the IUCN criteria for Critically Endangered, and it is therefore considered to be facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild (see http://www.iucnredlist.org/info/categories_criteria2001 for a full explanation).

Endangered - Taxa where the best available evidence indicates that it meets any of the IUCN criteria for Endangered, and it is therefore considered to be facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild (see http://www.iucnredlist.org/info/categories_criteria2001 for a full explanation).

Vulnerable - Taxa where the best available evidence indicates that it meets any of the IUCN criteria for Vulnerable, and it is therefore considered to be facing a high risk of extinction in the wild (see http://www.iucnredlist.org/info/categories_criteria2001 for a full explanation).

Taxa categorised as either 'Critically Endangered', 'Endangered' or 'Vulnerable' are described as 'Threatened'.

Near Threatened - Taxa where it has been evaluated against the criteria but does not qualify for Critically Endangered, Endangered or Vulnerable now, but is close to qualifying for or is likely to qualify for a threatened category in the near future.

Data Deficient - Taxa where there is inadequate information to make a direct, or indirect, assessment of its risk of extinction based on its distribution and/or population status. Data Deficient is therefore not a category of threat, but it may be appropriate to give them the same degree of attention as threatened taxa, at least until their status can be assessed.

**IUCN 1994**

Assessments from 1996-2000 that have not been converted over to the revised system use the 1994 categories and criteria (version 2.3). Taxa using this classification currently only consist of a subset of Diptera (True Flies).

See IUCN 2001 for descriptions of the following categories:

- Extinct (EX)
- Extinct In The Wild (EW)
- Critically Endangered (CR)
- Endangered (EN)
- Vulnerable (VU)
- Data Deficient (DD)

Taxa categorised as either 'Critically Endangered', 'Endangered' or 'Vulnerable' are described as 'Threatened'.

Conservation Dependent - Taxa which are the focus of a continuing taxon-specific or habitat-specific conservation programme targeted towards the taxon in question, the cessation of which would result in the taxon qualifying for one of the threatened categories above within a period of five years.

Near Threatened - Taxa which do not qualify for Lower Risk (conservation dependent), but which are close to qualifying for Vulnerable. In Britain, this category includes species which occur in 15 or fewer hectads but do not qualify as Critically Endangered, Endangered or Vulnerable.

Taxa categorised as 'Conservation Dependent' or 'Near Threatened', i.e. do not satisfy the criteria for any of the threatened categories, are known as 'Lower Risk'.

**IUCN Pre 1994**

Superseded by new IUCN categories in 1994, but still applicable to lists that have not been reviewed since 1994. Taxa using this classification currently consist largely of invertebrates including many Coleoptera (Beetles), Trichoptera (Caddis Flies), Hymenoptera (Bees, Ants, Wasps and Sawflies), Hemiptera (True Bugs), Araneae (Spiders) and Mollusca (Molluscs).

Extinct - Taxa which are no longer known to exist in the wild after repeated searches of their localities and other known likely places.

Endangered - Taxa in danger of extinction and whose survival is unlikely if the causal factors continue operating.

Vulnerable - Taxa believed likely to move into the Endangered category in the near future if the causal factors continue operating.

Nationally Rare - Taxa with small populations that are not at present Endangered or Vulnerable, but are at risk. In Britain this was interpreted as species which exist in fifteen or fewer 10km squares.

Indeterminate - Taxa not seen since 1970 but require further survey before they can be declared Extinct, Endangered, Vulnerable or Rare, but where there is not enough information to say which of these categories is appropriate.

Insufficiently known - Taxa that are suspected but not definitely known to belong to any of the above categories (i.e. Endangered, Vulnerable, Rare), because of the lack of information.

Threatened endemic - Taxa which are not known to occur naturally outside Britain. Taxa within this category may also be in any of the other RDB categories or not threatened at all.

**Rare and scarce species (not based on IUCN criteria)**
Taxa which do not fall within the IUCN Red List categories but which are still uncommon in Great Britain. See http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-3425 for more information.

Nationally Rare - Taxa occurring in 15 or fewer 10km squares in Britain.

Nationally Scarce - Taxa occurring in 16-100 10km squares in Britain.

Nationally Notable - Taxa thought to occur within the range of 16 to 100 10km squares or, for less-well recorded groups less than twenty vice-counties. Superseded by Nationally Scarce, but may still be in use for some taxonomic groups.

Nationally Notable A - Taxa estimated to occur within 16-30 10-kilometre squares of the National Grid system.

Nationally Notable B - Taxa estimated to occur within 31-100 10 kilometre squares of the National Grid system.

**Birds of Conservation Concern 3**

Every five years the leading governmental and non-governmental conservation organisations in the UK, chaired by the RSPB, review the population status of the birds that are regularly found here to keep track of changes in abundance and range. For a more complete explanation of this listing see Eaton M.A., Brown A.F., Noble D.G., Musgrove A.J., Hearn R., Aebischer N.J., Gibbons D.W., Evans A. and Gregory R.D. (2009); Birds of Conservation Concern 3: The Population Status of Birds in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. *British Birds* 102: 296-341.

Red - High Conservation Concern. Red list species are those that meet any of the following criteria. A) Global Conservation Status. Species listed by BirdLife International as being Globally Threatened using IUCN criteria. B) Historical Decline. A severe decline in the UK between 1800 and 1995, without substantial recent recovery. C) Breeding Population Decline. Severe decline in the UK breeding population size, of more than 50%, over 25 years or the entire period used for assessments since the first BOCC review, starting in 1969 ("longer-term"). D) Non-breeding Population Decline. Severe decline in the UK non-breeding population size, of more than 50%, over 25 years or the longer-term. E) Breeding Range Decline. Severe decline in the UK range, of more than 50%, as measured by number of 10 km squares occupied by breeding birds, over 25 years or the longer-term.

Amber - Medium Conservation Concern. Species meet any of the following criteria, but none of the red list criteria, are amber listed: A) European Conservation status. Categorised as a Species of European Conservation Concern (SPEC 1, 2 or 3). B) Historical Decline – Recovery. Red listed for Historical Decline in a previous review but with substantial recent recovery (more than doubled in the last 25 years). C) Breeding Population Decline. As for red list criteria but with moderate decline (by more than 25% but less than 50%). D) Non-breeding Population Decline. As for red list criteria but with moderate decline (by more than 25% but less than 50%). E) Breeding Range Decline. As for red list criteria but with moderate decline (by more than 25% but less than 50%). E) UK breeding population of less than 300 pairs or non-breeding population of less than 900 individuals. F) Localisation. At least 50% of the UK breeding or non-breeding population found in 10 or fewer sites. G) International Importance. At least 20% of the European breeding or non-breeding population found in the UK.

## Biodiversity Action Plans

The UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP) is the Government's response to the Rio Convention on Biological Diversity signed in 1992. It describes the UK's biological resources and commits a detailed plan for the protection of these resources. Action plans have been developed which set priorities for important wildlife species both nationally and locally within Surrey. The potential effects of any development on species listed as priorities in the UK BAP and by Local Biodiversity Partnerships are capable of being a material consideration in the preparation of regional spatial strategies and local development documents and the making of planning decisions. See http://www.ukbap.org.uk/ for more information.

UK BAP Priority Species - Revised June 2007, this list describes the priority species that require urgent conservation action under the UK BAP as a result of being either globally threatened or rapidly declining in the UK (by more than 25% in the last 25 years). This list is an important reference source and will be the focus for conservation action across the UK over the next decade. For more information see Biodiversity Reporting and Information Group (2007), Report on the Species and Habitat Review – Report to the UK Biodiversity Partnership.

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