

APPENDIX C
SITES OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST

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1. **Basingstoke Canal, Woodham**

The Canal joins the River Wey Navigation at Woodham having begun its journey in Hampshire. The Basingstoke Canal is botanically the most species-rich aquatic system in England, and is nationally important for aquatic plants and invertebrates. The SSSI designation relates to the water course only.

2. **Langham Pond, Runnymede**

Langham Pond and its surrounding alluvial meadows lie on the Thames flood plain and represent a habitat of a type and quality unknown elsewhere in Southern England. The pond is the remnant of an old ox-bow lake and supports several nationally scarce invertebrates. The combination of alluvial soils and the calcareous influence of the chalk parent rock has led to the development of rich aquatic, marginal and meadow floras. Woodland on higher ground above the flood plain supports a rich community of breeding birds.

3. **Windsor Forest and Great Park**

A range of habitats is represented from coniferous and mixed plantations through mature and ultra mature broad-leaved woodland (some trees reputedly up to 800 years old) to open parkland. As well as providing good bird habitat, the site supports a great diversity of invertebrates and fungi, many of which are very rare. The site has been proposed as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) as a habitat of international importance.

4. **Thorpe Hay Meadow**

This is a small, five-sided meadow, owned and managed by Surrey Wildlife Trust, lying on the alluvial gravels of the Thames flood plain, surrounded by ditches and high hedges. Much of the surrounding land has been used for gravel extraction. The site is thought to be the last remaining example of a Thames Valley hay meadow in Surrey and is of particular interest because it has not been treated with fertiliser and consequently it retains a rich variety of plants and insects.

5. **Thorpe Gravel Pit 1**

A wildlife habitat noted for its bird population.

Fuller details on the SSSI's are available on request.