Winchester BAP

a local biodiversity action plan
for the district of Winchester

November 2005

Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The protection and enhancement of wildlife in the district of Winchester depends upon the continuing efforts of a wide range of partners. These partnerships are formed between statutory agencies, conservation organisations, charities, landowners, community groups, and individuals living and working in the district. A list of what each partner does and useful contacts is included in Section 7.4.

The following organisations and individuals deserve special thanks for providing data and advice for the production of *Winchester BAP: a local biodiversity action plan for the district of Winchester*:

- Botanical Society of the British Isles
- British Trust for Ornithology
- Butterfly Conservation
- English Nature
- South Downs Joint Committee
- Environment Agency
- Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group
- Forestry Commision
- Forest of Bere Project Officer
- Game Conservancy Trust
- Hampshire Amphibian and Reptile Group
- Hampshire Bat Group
- Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre
- Hampshire Biodiversity Partnership
- Hampshire County Council
- Hampshire Mammal Group
- Hampshire Ornithological Society
- Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
- SE Otters & Rivers Project Officer
- Test & Itchen Landcare Officer
- Winchester City Council

Continued support and collaboration will be required to ensure that the actions for this plan are implemented. Contact between organisations and individuals on the progress of this plan will be made possible through the Hampshire Biodiversity Partnership, and the Winchester District Natural Environment Forum.

Particular recognition must go to Winchester City Council who funded Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust for the production this plan. They have acknowledged the wealth of biodiversity in their district, and the need to produce a Local Biodiversity Action Plan to ensure its continued survival.

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Published in 2005 by: Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust,
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Company limited by guarantee and registered in England, no. 676313. Registered charity no. 201081.

PREFACE

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INTRODUCTION

"Biodiversity is a quality of life issue. It is an integral part of our surroundings, giving us pleasure, interest, knowledge and understanding. It is an aspect of the overall aim of sustainable development to ensure a decent quality of life for all, now and for generations to come, and will be one key test of the success of this aim."
(UK Sustainable Development Strategy)

Biodiversity

Biodiversity, or biological diversity, is a word that has become familiar to many. It is widely accepted that we need to live in a healthy environment and that we are responsible for its protection and maintenance. All levels of society, including government and business, non-government organisations, health and educational institutions and community groups, must have due regard for biodiversity in setting their objectives to achieve a sustainable future.

> ***What is Biodiversity?***
> *"Biodiversity includes all species of plants and animals, and the complex ecosystems that sustain them."*
> (Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan, 1998)

Biodiversity is under threat from human activities both locally and globally. In the UK we have lost over 100 species during the last century (DEFRA http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/biodiversity/ukbap/index.htm), and there is a continued threat of losing many more species and wildlife habitats, even from our own district.

What is a Local Biodiversity Action Plan?

Global

In 1992 the UK was one of 150 countries that signed the Convention on Biological Diversity at the United Nations Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. Each country agreed that they must take action to prevent the loss of habitats and species that was occurring at an unprecedented rate world-wide.

UK Biodiversity Action Plan

In response the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) was published in January 1994 and forms the national strategy for the conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable use of biological resources. It took an audit of wildlife and how to protect it in the UK:

- It identified those habitats and species that were most at risk.
- It committed a detailed plan for the protection of the UK's wildlife.
- It identified which agencies would take the lead for each action.
- It put in place reporting deadlines to monitor progress on the plans.

The UK BAP is a detailed plan comprising 391 Species Action Plans (SAPs), 45 Habitat Action Plans (HAPs) and 162 Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs) with targeted actions.

Local Biodiversity Action Plans
Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs) were introduced as a means of delivering the national Species and Habitat Action Plan targets. They work on the basis of partnerships and identify local priorities and actions. Initially they conformed to county boundaries, as in the case of the Hampshire BAP, but recently have become more localised to district level.

Biodiversity Action Plan for Hampshire
The Hampshire BAP reviews the status of wildlife in Hampshire and sets detailed conservation targets for the most important habitats and species. The achievement of these targets is important both locally and for delivering national conservation goals.

The Hampshire BAP is divided into 2 separate volumes:

> *Volume 1* sets out the objectives of the Hampshire Biodiversity Partnership and the aims of the BAP. It also describes Hampshire's biodiversity and identifies habitats and species of priority concern.
>
> *Volume 2* contains the individual action plans for priority habitats, species and Topics in Hampshire.

More information about the Biodiversity Action Plan for Hampshire can be found at: www.hampshirebiodiversity.org.uk.

Winchester Biodiversity Action Plan
Strategies and policies are instrumental in driving forward legislation, but everyone has a vital role to play to help meet these objectives. This can be through the way we garden, providing food and shelter for wildlife, volunteering for a wildlife organisation, assisting with wildlife surveys, managing natural areas, farming in an environmentally sensitive way or making decisions and policies that affect biodiversity.

A Local Biodiversity Action Plan for Winchester is a way of implementing such action and achieving national biodiversity objectives using local knowledge and experience.

How to make the most of *Winchester BAP*
This document is for everyone. Residents and landowners in Winchester district will be able to use this document to further their own understanding of the local wildlife, and to find out how they can get involved. Professionals working in conservation, planning and environmental management will also consult this document, so a map-based approach with accompanying technical language has been used to provide an overview of the district's biodiversity and its management.

A copy of Winchester BAP *would interest*:

- A local resident who wants to know about the wildlife on their doorstep.
- A landowner interested in the wildlife they are helping to protect.
- A conservation advisor who wants to know where to concentrate effort, in order to achieve the greatest gains for biodiversity.
- A statutory agency who is trying to maintain habitats in a favourable condition.
- A policymaker or planner, who needs to know about the biodiversity value of the landscape.

SECTION 1: A Local Biodiversity Action Plan for Winchester

Winchester City Council has commissioned Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust to produce a review of the biodiversity within Winchester district and to identify how that biodiversity can be protected, enhanced and maintained in the future.

This document embodies Winchester district's unique position as an important link in the political and biological landscape. We need to create links between organisations and between areas of high wildlife value in the landscape, hence the vision which is set out in this plan. *Winchester BAP* aims to help achieve sustainable biodiversity across Winchester district and beyond, through local level action.

1.1 What will an LBAP for Winchester district achieve?

Conservation and monitoring of biodiversity at a local level has been recommended at all levels of the BAP process. A Local Biodiversity Action Plan for Winchester district can help to identify local priorities within the district where projects can achieve Hampshire's biodiversity targets, with visible results on the ground. This will be achieved in cooperation with other organisations in the Hampshire Biodiversity Partnership and Winchester District Natural Environment Forum.

Winchester BAP will also be instrumental in identifying opportunities to protect, enhance and restore biodiversity in planning policies through the Regional Spatial Strategy and Local Development Framework. For more information about local planning and biodiversity, see Section 2.

Achievements for biodiversity can be quantified and reported back to regional and national bodies, because we can determine the amount of habitat that has been restored and whether the populations of our most endangered species are increasing. We can also highlight local concerns about habitats and species which might be stable at a national level but declining in our area; the converse is true for successes.

This approach can also provide opportunities for the local community to take part in the global process of ensuring sustainable biodiversity.

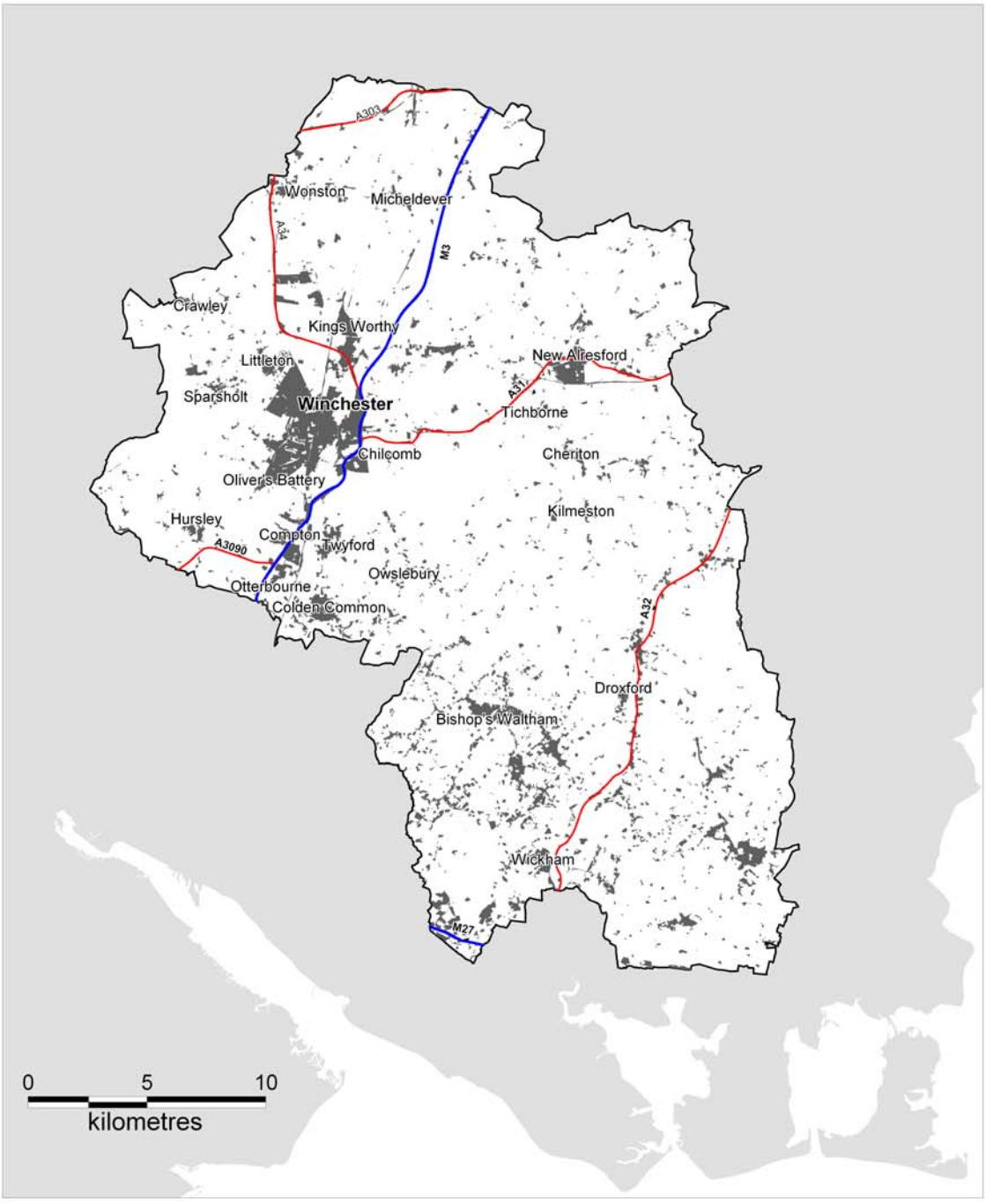
The extent of the district can be seen on the following map on the following page.

Winchester BAP

Winchester District

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
Beechcroft House, Vicarage Lane
Curdridge, Hampshire
SO32 2DP

Hampshire & Isle of Wight



SINC and habitat data provided by the HBIC Partnership

1.2 How can you get involved?

Looking after wildlife is not only up to landowners and land managers: everyone can help to protect and enhance the environment in which we live, work and play. Each of us can choose to do our bit for conservation, even in our own gardens. There are many organisations which you can join to support the work they do in your district. Alternatively, you may be a community group with an idea who needs some advice about how to proceed and where to get grant aid.

Community groups

Joining a local community group provides the perfect opportunity to voice your opinions on conservation issues. Contact your local parish council for further details or the e.volve website (http://www.e.volve.org.uk) which provides an online directory of environmental voluntary and community organisations within Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

The Winchester District Natural Environment Forum is a partnership which aims to:

- Raise awareness and help two way communication about the natural environment
- Support links into community planning and advise on new policies and initiatives
- Act as a catalyst to facilitate and support projects

The organisations currently involved are Winchester City Council, Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre, Winchester District Association of Parish and Town Councils, British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust and English Nature but more organisations will be invited to develop the forum in the future.

There are also several organisations which offer practical volunteer opportunities on local nature reserves. These include the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV), Hampshire County Council and Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust. Tasks vary but include tree planting, scrub clearance and hedge-laying. Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust is represented locally by its District Groups in Winchester, Alresford and Bishops Waltham: walks and talks with a local flavour are just some of the various activities organised.

Pond wardens

The British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) provide training in all aspects of pond management, species identification and pond creation. This is a great opportunity for those that have a community area suitable for making a pond but are not sure where to start, or who want to maintain a pond in their area by becoming a pond warden.

Gardening for wildlife

We are becoming increasingly aware of the importance of gardens as habitats for wildlife. Gardening with wildlife in mind can be practised whatever the garden size. Choosing flowers that provide a source of nectar and pollen to butterflies and bees can bring even a window box to life! The only thing to remember is that wildlife needs four things to survive - shelter, food, water and places to breed. Providing these essential elements will be the winning formula.

Schools

A sustainable environment is an integral part of the National Curriculum. Many organisations within the Winchester district give children the opportunity to explore and enjoy the countryside, understand its importance and realise that they have a role in caring for its future. Activities

include creating outdoor classrooms, visits to outdoor education centres, talks from experts and visits to the countryside.

Hampshire County Council's Countryside Service offers a wide range of programmes offering an environmental experience for schools along with other organisations such as Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, Learning Through Landscapes, Sparsholt Schools Centre for Environmental Education and the Countryside Education Trust.

Species groups

There are many species groups active in Hampshire covering almost all specialist interests. Examples include:

- Hampshire Ornithological Society
- Hampshire Bat Group
- Butterfly Conservation
- British Dragonfly Society
- Hampshire Amphibian and Reptile Group
- Hampshire Mammal Group
- Hampshire Network for Invertebrate Conservation
- Hampshire Flora Group
- Hampshire Fungus Recording Group

Full contact details of these groups is given in Section 7.4.

Becoming a member is a great way to get involved with local conservation projects and to meet like-minded people. Newsletters keep you informed of all the latest developments and there are opportunities to take part in training days, surveys and practical habitat management.

Business support

Businesses can play their part by sponsoring a local conservation project or a species group which may be able to undertake research into a threatened local species. These measures positively contribute to the local environment and can enhance business reputation. Businesses can also contribute to the wider environment by recycling paper and implementing green transport plans. Local government and industry should aim to use local produce, to encourage economic growth in sustainable markets.

SECTION 2: Local Planning & Biodiversity

2.1 Planning Policy & Biodiversity

The Government has set out its national planning policy on the protection of biodiversity in its Planning Policy Statement 9 (PPS9). The planning system has a significant role to play in protecting the natural environment and PPS9 sets out the key principles that local planning authorities such as Winchester City Council should adhere to (see Planning Policy Statement 9, 2005 from the Office of the Deputy Prime-Minister).

PPS9 states that development should be sustainable, having a minimal impact on biodiversity and enhancing it wherever possible. This is to be achieved through development plan policies and planning decisions which aim to prevent harm to biodiversity as well as maintaining, enhancing, restoring or adding to existing biodiversity. Appropriate weight should be attached to designated sites and protected species by planning authorities when making planning decisions. PPS9 also states that if significant harm to biodiversity cannot be avoided, an alternative site cannot be found or adequate mitigation provided, then planning permission should be refused.

2.2 Local Plans

England operates a plan-led system of development control which has very recently been revised by the Government. Local Plans have now been replaced with the Local Development Framework (LDF) (see Planning Policy Statement 12, 2005 from the Office of the Deputy Prime-Minister) The key documents forming the LDF are:

Core strategy: the core policies and vision for the area including a policy which aims to conserve, restore and enhance BAP habitats and species. This section could include a map showing the location of designated nature conservation sites and potential areas for enhancement.

Site specific allocations: site specific policies and proposals based on the “key principles” in PPS9 such as the allocation of development in locations which would not harm nature conservation. The map will show existing and revised designations for areas of land, such as conservation areas and define sites for particular development.

Area action plans for key areas of change or conservation: containing detailed site-specific policies, proposals or guidance for areas of change or conservation. Area action plans could be developed for areas that are ecologically sensitive to change or development. They could also identify areas appropriate for biodiversity enhancement.

Proposals map: must be prepared to accompany all Development Plan Documents it will illustrate the spatial extent of policies. It could identify internationally, nationally and locally designated nature conservation areas as well as areas where biodiversity could be enhanced. Areas of green infrastructure which meet social as well as biodiversity objectives can also be expressed graphically.

The Winchester District Local Development Scheme, produced in March 2005, covers three years and sets out the Council's programme for the production of documents that will form part of Winchester District's Local Development Framework.

2.3 Sites of Biodiversity Conservation Value

(for definitions see Section 3.2)

Internationally important sites: SAC, SPA, Ramsar

These are the most important sites for biodiversity and have statutory protection and are not included in local development plans.

Nationally important sites: SSSI

Those that are not also designated as international sites should be given a high degree of protection by the planning authority. If a proposed development within or outside a SSSI is likely to have an adverse effect on the SSSI, planning permission should not normally be granted. Local authorities should use planning conditions and obligations to mitigate any harm that may be caused by development.

Locally important sites: SINC and LNR

These sites have an important role to play in achieving national biodiversity targets and the criteria against which any proposed development affecting the site will be judged should be included in the local development plan.

Ancient woodland

This is a very important biodiversity resource and once lost cannot be recreated. Local planning authorities should not grant planning permission for any development that would result in loss unless the benefits of the development outweigh the loss of the habitat.

Other important habitats and species listed in the Countryside & Rights of Way Act (2000) Section 74.

These should be conserved and enhanced through policies in local development plans and are listed for Winchester district in Sections 3.3 (habitats) and 7.3 (species).

Networks of natural habitats* (including river valley floodplains, chalk ridges, hedgerows and field margins)

These link sites of biodiversity importance. Local authorities should aim to maintain these networks, avoid and repair fragmentation and protect them from development.

2.4 Local Planning & Winchester BAP

The current planning system provides Winchester City Council the opportunity to enhance and protect biodiversity and to engage the community in shaping the future of their environment. The LDF should promote sustainable development ensuring that biodiversity conservation and enhancement forms an integral part of local planning and in this respect Winchester BAP will form an important part of the planning process.

**Maps showing such networks are increasingly being produced, for example by Hampshire Wildlife Trust and Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre.*

SECTION 3: An Audit of Biodiversity in Winchester District

3.1 Winchester District: Character and Features of the Landscape

The Winchester district is a large area extending from Micheldever in the north to Portsdown Hill in the south. The district has a varied landscape with a great diversity of habitats including chalk downland, arable farmland, river valleys, woodland and clay lowland pastures.

The most valuable wildlife habitats in the area are designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) of which there are 20 in the area. Other sites of particular importance to the district have been designated as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) but much of the area outside of these recognised areas, including urban areas, are also rich in biodiversity.

Human Influences
Biodiversity, and the landscape in which it exists, has been shaped by the activities and interventions of humans for millennia.

Chalk downs were first cleared by humans for the grazing of animals around 6000 years ago. This paved the way for colonisation by species which are specific to these habitats, increasing the biodiversity in the area by creating rich chalk grasslands such as those found at St. Catherine's Hill and Old Winchester Hill.

Through time, subtly different agricultural practices throughout the district yielded a range of environments and so called 'semi-natural' habitats, allowing biodiversity to flourish. With the advent of the Agricultural Revolution in the 18th Century, land became increasingly enclosed, with the creation of the field system still largely evident today. New, distinctively agricultural habitats became established in the district, such as planted hedgerows and water meadows.

Agricultural intensification arising from the post-war Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) led to enlargement of fields, increased utilisation of marginal land such as wetlands through drainage, the destruction of many semi-natural habitats for food production and the widespread application of fertilisers and pesticides meaning that habitats lost their species diversity. Such an intensive system of agriculture coupled with unprecedented levels of urbanisation, have degraded and fragmented semi-natural habitats to the present day. Reform of CAP subsidies and new planning policies will potentially define the future of biodiversity across the landscape.

Physical Influences
The geology of the district has had an important influence on the biodiversity of the area. The bedrock of Winchester district is predominantly chalk with a combination of sands, silts and clay in the Hampshire Basin to the south of the district ending with an outcrop of chalk at Portsdown Hill.

The northern part of the district is dominated by chalk, forming part of the Hampshire Downs. The soils here tend to be shallow and well drained and the area is characterised by an open arable, gently rolling landscape with few hedgerows or trees.

Other significant areas of chalk occur to the west and east of Winchester. This area contains some dramatic landforms with steep scarp slopes where the chalk is often exposed. Examples such as St.

Catherines Hill, Cheesefoot Head and Old Winchester Hill are characterised by unenclosed downland and woodland. The calcareous soils in these areas are very shallow and free draining.

Much of the rest of the area as far south as Hursley, Colden Common and Swanmore consist of a chalk and clay farmed landscape, with woodland and a reasonably intact hedgerow network. Here the land is undulating, with ridge and valley formations associated with the scarp hills. The soils are more variable with shallow well drained calcareous and silty soils on the valley sides and a mix of well drained calcareous and clay soils in the valley bottoms.

The southern part of the district is characterised by sand, silt and clay deposits giving rise to a mixed farmland and woodland landscape with some isolated, remnant areas of heathland particularly around Shedfield Common and Wickham Common.

This area borders the chalk to the north forming a spring line. The fields tend to be small to medium in size with areas of ancient semi-natural woodlands and hedgerows. Other habitats in this area include streams, meadows, commons, ancient field systems and pasture on clay.

The other major landscape feature in the Winchester district are the rivers which run through chalk and have aquifer-fed springs. The Itchen, Meon, Dever, Hamble and Wallington and their tributaries all flow through the Winchester district. These rivers and the river valleys have significant nature conservation value. Rivers such as the Hamble and the lower Itchen are in flat low lying areas with flat, grazed valley bottoms.

For a more detailed account of the landscape character of the district, refer to the *2004 Landscape Character Assessment (Winchester District).*

3.2 Designated Sites

Value and Enhancement of Designated Sites

Designated sites currently represent the most important areas for biodiversity in the Winchester district. These key areas form a reservoir for biodiversity whereby habitats and the species within them are preserved. Wildlife can colonise the wider countryside from these sites when the environmental conditions are favourable but it is essential that they are themselves maintained in a favourable condition ('favourable condition' status). This requires sustained and sometimes drastic management such as removing scrub and trees from grasslands or clearing ponds. Many sites require grazing for conservation purposes; in order to make this sustainable there must be a sound pastoral economy to provide grazing stock and adequate layback land for the area of land being managed.

It is also important that these sites are managed as part of the wider countryside and not as isolated islands for wildlife. In order to achieve sustainable biodiversity, a network of wildlife corridors between conservation sites needs to exist. Such corridors facilitate the free movement of wildlife between sites, and the maintenance of stable populations through migration and recolonisation.

Sites need to be of an adequate size to be sustainable and should be buffered from adverse effects. Small sites, or those long and thin in shape, have proportionally more of their edge exposed to outside influences such as agricultural pollution. A strip of sympathetically managed land around wildlife sites will help buffer them from these outside influences. In summary, a series of sites joined by wildlife corridors and protected by suitable buffer strips, is preferable to

a number of isolated sites. Better still, however, is where suitable habitats are created in the landscape over larger areas between sites.

In Winchester district nearly 8000 hectares of land is designated for its conservation value, representing about 12% of the land area. This is less than the Hampshire average of approximately 14% (although this figure is influenced by large protected areas in the New Forest and along the coast). Many of Winchester's protected areas are not statutorily protected i.e. they are not protected by law but are taken into account during planning proposals.

Special Protection Areas & Special Areas for Conservation

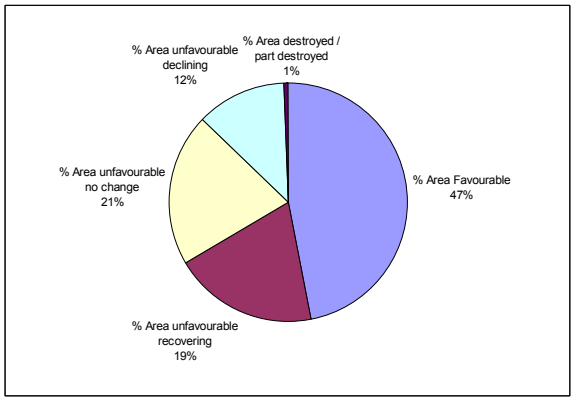
In Winchester district there are a small number of internationally important wildlife areas.

- Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) e.g. River Itchen - are designated under the Habitats Directive because of their assemblages of plant and animal species which have been given "priority" status by the EU.
- Special Protection Areas (SPAs) e.g. Upper Hamble Estuary - are designated because of their importance for rare or vulnerable bird species listed in Annex I of the Birds Directive.
- Ramsar sites - are designated on the basis of their internationally important wetlands and correspond with Winchester's SPA area

All sites designated under European law are protected by strict legislation and are identified within the Local Plan. These sites also demonstrate the importance of working beyond administrative boundaries, as almost all these sites extend past the district and county boundaries.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest

There are 20 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in the district. They cover a range of habitat types including chalk downland, chalk rivers and associated wetlands, and ancient woodland and represent the best examples of each habitat type based on national criteria. The government has set a Public Service Agreement (PSA) target, to ensure that 95% of SSSIs are in favourable condition by 2010. The condition status of SSSIs in Winchester district is summarised in the graph below (full details on the condition of each SSSI are given in Section 7.2). Clearly, there is much work to be done to ensure that these key sites are improved: only 46% are considered to be in favourable condition.



Condition status of SSSIs in Winchester district. *On average, two-thirds of the district's 20 SSSIs meet the favourable or unfavourable (recovering) status criteria. The remaining one-third have no evidence of improvement, are declining, or have been partially lost.*

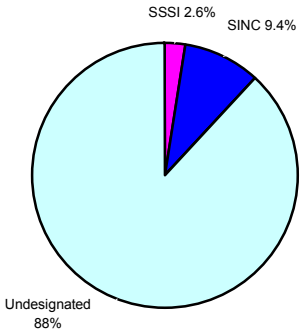
Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation
Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) are non-statutory designations identified because of their importance to wildlife on a county scale - many also contain UKBAP Priority Habitats. There are nearly 600 SINCs within the district, including 369 woodland sites, 170 grassland sites, 4 sites with heathland, 17 sites with wetland habitats and 25 sites designated solely for priority species. These sites represent a major proportion of the key biodiversity areas and are recognised as such in the Local Plan process.

Provision of management advice is important to ensure favourable management of SINCs and has been recognised as such by the Hampshire Biodiversity Partnership who have set SINC advice as a 'Headline Indicator' for monitoring success (see Section 6). In tandem with the need for advice and management comes the need for SINC monitoring, coordinated by HBIC. Some BAP priority habitat lies outside of a designated site, and another priority is to survey these sites to determine if they qualify for designation as SINCs.

Other Designations
There are two further designations which seek to conserve the wider countryside for its landscape character and wildlife. The east of the district forms part of the proposed South Downs National Park, originally an extensive chalk downland landscape but currently dominated by agriculture. Much of this area is designated as the East Hampshire Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), offering a certain level of protection to 17,617ha of landscape in the district. Both designations provide a major focus for landscape scale habitat restoration projects, promoting Winchester district as being of national importance. The South Downs Joint Committee will oversee the AONB and its proposed transition to a National Park. Agri-Environment opportunities that are pertinent to these areas are outlined in Section 3.6.

Nature Reserves
Local nature reserves have conservation importance and whose management is secured through ownership or a management agreement with the local authority or by a conservation organisation. Winchester City Council owns a number of such sites and is committed to developing and promoting the biodiversity value of these sites to the community. Conservation partners also own and / or manage several nature reserves and country parks in the district, for example Magdalen Hill Down, Farley Mount Country Park, Crab Wood, Winnall Moors, St. Catherine's Hill, St. Faith's Meadow, Hoe Road Meadow.

All of these sites are protected by either national or European designation and are therefore a priority for conservation management. The surrounding areas are also a focus for management advice, to increase the area of land under positive management. There are two National Nature Reserves in the district: Old Winchester Hill, and Beacon Hill.

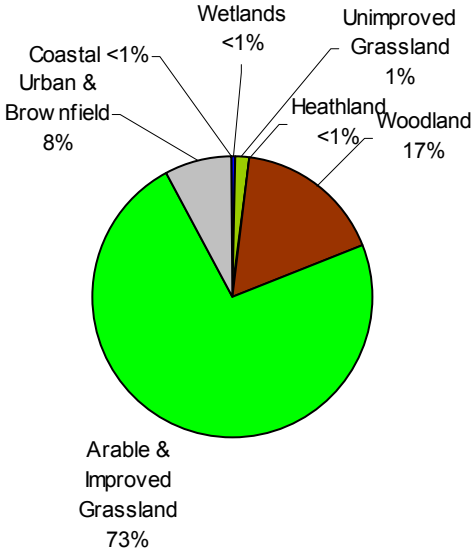


Proportion of Winchester district designated for conservation. *About 12% Winchester district is designated for its conservation value, and less than 3% has statutory protection for conserved habitats.*

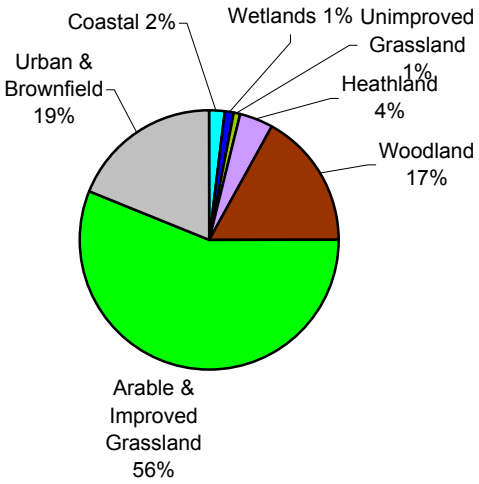
3.3 Priority Habitats for Biodiversity

As part of the UKBAP and Hampshire BAP process, habitats have been identified as priority or non-priority: priority habitats are those which are rare, declining in area or host to priority species e.g. ancient semi natural woodland; non-priority habitats are those which are not threatened and have a lower biodiversity interest e.g. arable farmland.

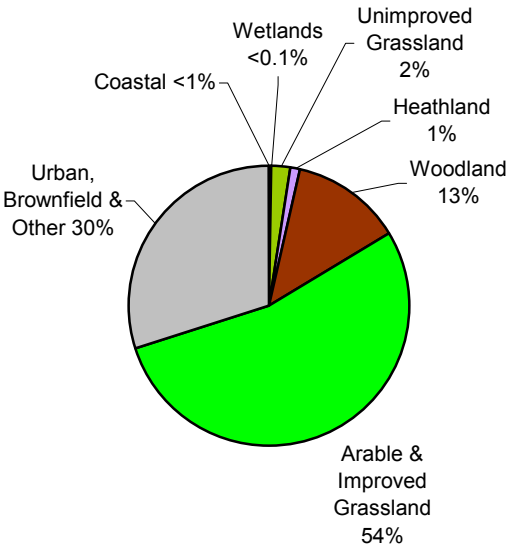
The BAP priority habitats in the Winchester district have been classified using data from Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC), and their extent has been quantified and mapped (see section 4.2). BAP Priority habitats form 14% of Winchester district's area, slightly more than the area designated for conservation (12%). A significant proportion of BAP priority habitat receives legal protection through Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, whether designated or not.



Proportion of Winchester district containing the broad habitat types. *The district is primarily an agricultural area, with significant areas of woodland and built-up areas. Non-woodland priority habitats constitute less than 3% of the area.*



Proportion of Hampshire containing the broad habitat types. *Hampshire as a whole has proportionally more urban, coastal and heathland habitats, and proportionally less agricultural land compared to Winchester district. Otherwise, the cover of habitats is comparable.*



Proportion of South East England containing the broad habitat types. *Compared to both Winchester district and Hampshire as a whole, the South East of England contains proportionally more urban area and less woodland and agricultural land.*

Hampshire BAP Habitats in Winchester District

(* = priority BAP habitats – note that all of these priority habitats are also listed under Section 74 of the Countryside & Rights of Way Act – see Section 2)

Habitat type	Area in Winchester District (hectares)
Rivers, Streams & Canals*	81
Standing Open Water*	81
Fen, Marsh, Carr Swamp & Reedbed*	277
Lowland Wet Grassland*	62
Coastal Grazing Marsh*	1
Unimproved Neutral Grassland*	451
Unimproved Calcareous Grassland*	338
Unimproved Acid Grassland*	7
Arable & Horticulture	37304
Improved & Semi-Improved Grassland	13389
Dwarf Shrub Heath*	22
Pasture Woodland & Parkland*	385
Broadleaved Woodland*	7444
Ancient Hedgerows*	(not available)
Urban	3922

This information reinforces the fact that the predominant habitat in the district is agricultural land use, the greatest majority of which is arable. Only a small proportion of broadleaved woodland is open pasture woodland or parkland. Of the unimproved grassland types, the majority is either neutral, (typified by river valley grassland) or calcareous (such as chalk downland). In terms of area, only the minority of wetland habitats consist of open water such as rivers and lakes (the rest is vegetated wet habitat such as carr woodland and reedbed). The only coastal habitat in the district, on the River Hamble, covers only a very small proportion of the land. Given climate change and predicted sea-level rises, it could be that the area of coastal habitat in the district increases in due course. Despite this scenario, Winchester district is essentially an inland district.

- ***Refer to Section 4.2 for the distributions of the various habitats across the district.***
- ***Refer to Section 4.3 for links to the Hampshire Habitat Action Plans and advice on management.***

3.4 Priority Species for Biodiversity

Species which are declining rapidly, or are confined to a limited area are likely to meet the criteria for designation as a BAP priority species. Plants, insects, molluscs, amphibians, birds and mammals are all represented (for the list of priority species, see the table in Section 7.3). In the Winchester district, there are records of at least 159 out of 444 Hampshire BAP priority species; representing 36% of the county's priority species list.

These species records have been collated from the HBIC Partnership's species database and other recording schemes as provided by the county's species groups and recorders. Many of the records are from recent years, indicating recent presence of a certain species in an area. Other records are historical, not necessarily indicating the current presence of a given species. In the case of localised extinctions, it is hoped that the recommendations made in this document will improve the likelihood of these priority species re-establishing themselves once again.

- ***Refer to Section 4.3 for links to the Hampshire Species Action Plans and information on specific Winchester species.***

3.5 Threats

Over the past hundred years or so in the Winchester district there has been a large loss of biodiversity which has been caused by a range of factors, mostly human in origin. Where these factors persist or increase, they represent a major threat to the biodiversity of the district, and must be carefully managed so as to minimise their adverse effects. The following summarises the actual and potential threats to biodiversity in the Winchester district.

Fragmentation

Over the centuries, large tracts of semi-natural habitat have been broken up into small disconnected fragments due to a variety of reasons including agricultural improvement and urbanisation. This breaking-up of habitats results in small isolated populations of species that are more susceptible to external influences and which are more likely to become extinct in the locality. Where these threats or their legacies persist, the re-establishment of biodiversity at a landscape scale is uncertain. Opportunities do exist to minimise these threats, however, through agri-environment schemes, careful planning, creation of wildlife corridors and wildlife-friendly gardening.

Intensive Agriculture

After World War II, the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) led to increased agricultural intensification to ensure a continued food supply. Sensitive wildlife areas such as wetlands were drained and enriched to improve their productivity, while hedgerows and woodlands were grubbed-out to increase field size. Pesticides and fertilisers were liberally used to increase productivity of land but this led to a variety of problems:

- runoff - threatened delicate river ecosystems
- pesticides - as well as controlling pests resulted in the loss of many other species
- use of fertilisers - to enrich the soil resulted in the loss of rare plants which thrive in poor soils.

Where intensive agriculture persists, a threat remains to the remaining wildlife sites. Reform of the CAP and agri-environment schemes such as Environmental Stewardship represent opportunities to reverse these threats to biodiversity.

Lack of Management

Many important wildlife habitats in the region are suffering from a lack of sustained management. Recent changes in the rural economy have meant that fewer livestock are available to provide grazing for the many important habitats that depend upon it for their continuity. Open habitats which are ungrazed soon become invaded by scrub; this smothers the vegetation which is often host to many specialised wildlife species. If scrub has invaded, the mechanical removal tees and shrubs or burning the area is necessary to restore the habitat. Unfortunately both of

these methods often bring objections from members of the public as they appear to be damaging the habitat. Mechanised management of hedgerows and open spaces leads to a uniform and inadequate habitat, the timing of the cutting is often detrimental to many wildlife species. Intensive grazing by domestic horses or ponies in sensitive areas is often inappropriate. Whilst the lack of appropriate management remains, biodiversity will continue to decline. However, wildlife is favoured where traditional methods of management persist, such as coppicing, which may yield marketable products ensuring management is sustained.

Urbanisation
The huge planned expansion of housing in the South East of England will lead to the establishment of Major Development Areas in the district, where housing and the associated infrastructure can have far-reaching impacts on biodiversity. Planning constraints limit the destruction of priority habitats to a large extent, but non-priority habitats are still important to large numbers of more common species and development of these areas will have far-reaching consequences on biodiversity. As well as the fragmentation and loss of natural habitats, there is increased pressure on wildlife sites due to recreational pressure: public access to the countryside is often on land designated for conservation - it is therefore important that this access is managed to ensure compatibility of activities such as dog-walking and wildlife conservation. In addition, increased abstraction of water for these developments may diminish water supplies in the district's chalk aquifers, having knock-on effects for wetland habitats which may dry out for some or all of the time. Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies (CAMS) and Water Level Management Plans (WLMPs) are put into place to prevent over-abstraction on environmental grounds.

Pollution
In places where agricultural land extends to the edges of streams and rivers, runoff threatens these watercourses with pollutants such as nutrients, pesticides and silt. The trend towards increased planting of maize, for example, can lead to soil erosion and siltation if situated next to watercourses. Leaching of fertilisers into groundwater jeopardises plant communities in wetlands as more competitive species are favoured. This leads to choking of waterways with weed and the loss of the natural vegetation. Leaching of fertilisers can also result in the eutrophication of ponds creating algal blooms which suffocate much of the pondlife. Silt can also choke the waterways and lead to the loss of the natural base material of the river which provides an important habitat to many species. If simple methods are employed to reduce or manage pollution, its threat is diminished.

Introduced Species
Many species of plants and animals exist in the wider countryside because they have been introduced, deliberately or inadvertently. This represents a growing threat in many habitats as these species are often highly competitive or predatory, smothering or destroying native species. The spread of Himalayan balsam along riparian habitats serves as an example; due to its high reproductive rate, this alien species out-competes native plants, resulting in losses of a host of other species which depend upon them. The alien American mink is a voracious and opportunist predator of native wildlife such as water voles and ground-nesting birds, while the introduced signal crayfish has spread disease to the native species of crayfish which has declined dramatically from our chalk rivers.

Climate Change
The global temperature is increasing at an unprecedented rate, as are the incidences of uncharacteristic weather events such as floods, droughts and storms. While the debate continues

as to the causes of climate change, the threats to biodiversity are very real. The delicate balance of a species metabolism is dependent on temperature to a large extent and unseasonable or extreme temperatures may cause a species to become locally extinct. An increase in annual temperatures may result in colonisation by species from southern Europe and the loss of our native species from the district. Drought has serious implications for wetland habitats, many of which depend on a constant supply of freshwater. Coupled to this is the predicted rise in sea-level, leading to freshwater habitats becoming saline and a shift in the composition of species.

3.6 Opportunities

Land Management Schemes

Agri-environment schemes offer payments to farmers to promote farming compatible with the protection of the environment and the maintenance of the countryside. The Environmental Stewardship scheme has been launched in England in 2005 to replace the existing Environmentally Sensitive Areas, Countryside Stewardship and Organic Farming Schemes. The aim is to encourage a large number of farmers and land managers across wide areas of land to deliver effective environmental management addressing issues such as conservation of biodiversity, protection of landscape quality and character, and protection of natural resources.

Environmental Stewardship will comprise of three elements:

Entry Level Stewardship; delivering a basic level of environmental management
Higher Level Stewardship; concentrating on more complex types of environmental management
Organic Entry Level Stewardship; aimed at farmers registered with an organic inspection body

An Environmentally Sensitive Area covers much of the area around Old Winchester Hill and the Meon Valley, and a significant proportion of farmland in the district has been under Countryside Stewardship and Woodland Grant Schemes. Data is not available on the benefits of the current schemes in terms of achieving BAP targets for habitats and species, but Higher Level Stewardship, when implemented, should deliver opportunities for biodiversity. The government website, www.magic.gov.uk gives information on the current schemes.

Landscape-Scale Projects

The Itchen Navigation Heritage Project and the Forest of Bere Project are examples of projects which offer opportunities in the district to enhance biodiversity at a landscape scale, by restoring, enhancing, and increasing the connectivity of habitats.

SECTION 4: Planning for Sustainable Biodiversity

4.1 A Vision for the future of biodiversity in Winchester District

Natural dispersal and colonisation by plants and animals often takes place over large swathes of landscape. Populations can better maintain themselves if neighbouring populations are linked in some way, allowing migration between them. Hence why it is important to think at a large scale, a 'landscape scale', when considering biodiversity. Winchester district contains perhaps the only large mass of land relatively free from urbanisation between South Hampshire and the outskirts of London. This mass of land can be seen potentially as an extensive 'link' between the South East and the South West of England. Winchester district's position for biodiversity is also evident because a significant part lies between the internationally important rivers and wetlands of the Itchen and Test valleys, linking these areas to some extent.

The sites in the district with the highest biodiversity are generally designated sites such as SSSIs and SINCs with recognised habitats or populations of priority species. These designated sites should form the backbone of landscape scale conservation initiatives, being managed to maximise their wildlife potential by attaining favourable condition. Other areas have the potential to link up and enhance the network of prime sites which should be managed so as to maximise their biodiversity. Creation of new habitats on non-designated areas such as agricultural land has the potential to benefit biodiversity on a landscape scale by reinforcing these habitat networks and creating new areas from areas of relatively low biodiversity value.

This holistic vision is compatible with a landscape rich in character, as many practices such as grazing, coppicing and hedgerow planting are essentially traditional methods.

4.2 Mapping Biodiversity

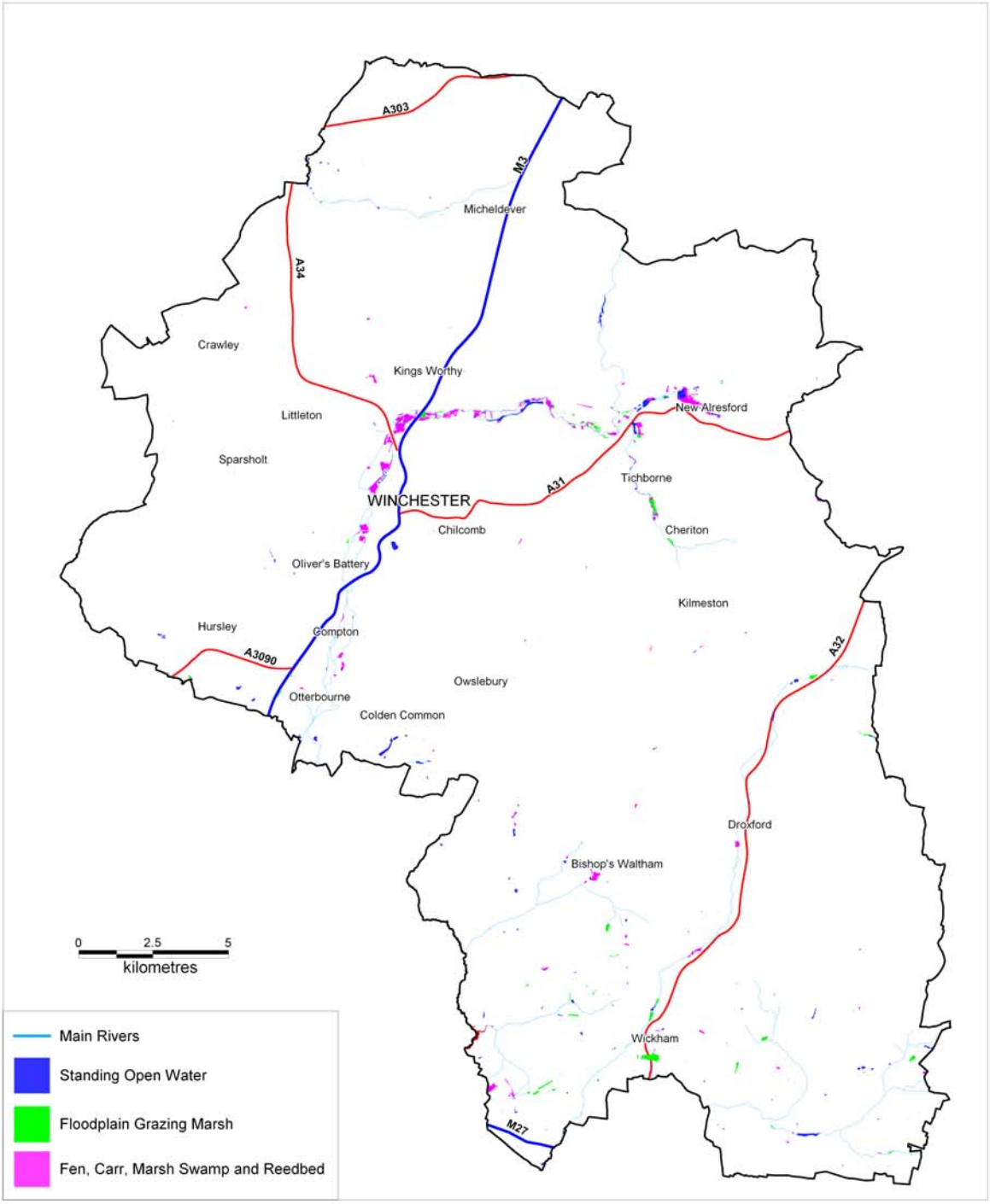
The extent of each of the BAP habitats and sites designated for their biodiversity value have been mapped for the Winchester district, and their distribution can be seen in the following maps. All mapped habitats are BAP priority habitats, with the following exceptions: arable, pasture, coniferous woodland and urban habitats.

Winchester BAP

Wetland Habitats

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
Beechcroft House, Vicarage Lane
Curdridge, Hampshire
SO32 2DP

Hampshire & Isle of Wight



Produced by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust on 12 August 2005 by Deborah King - template C:\program Files\mapinfo\xgapps\template\hwt_map_a3p.wor
For enquiries relating to the Wildlife Trust's GIS data contact Deborah King, email Debbiek@hwt.org.uk, tel. 01489 774420.

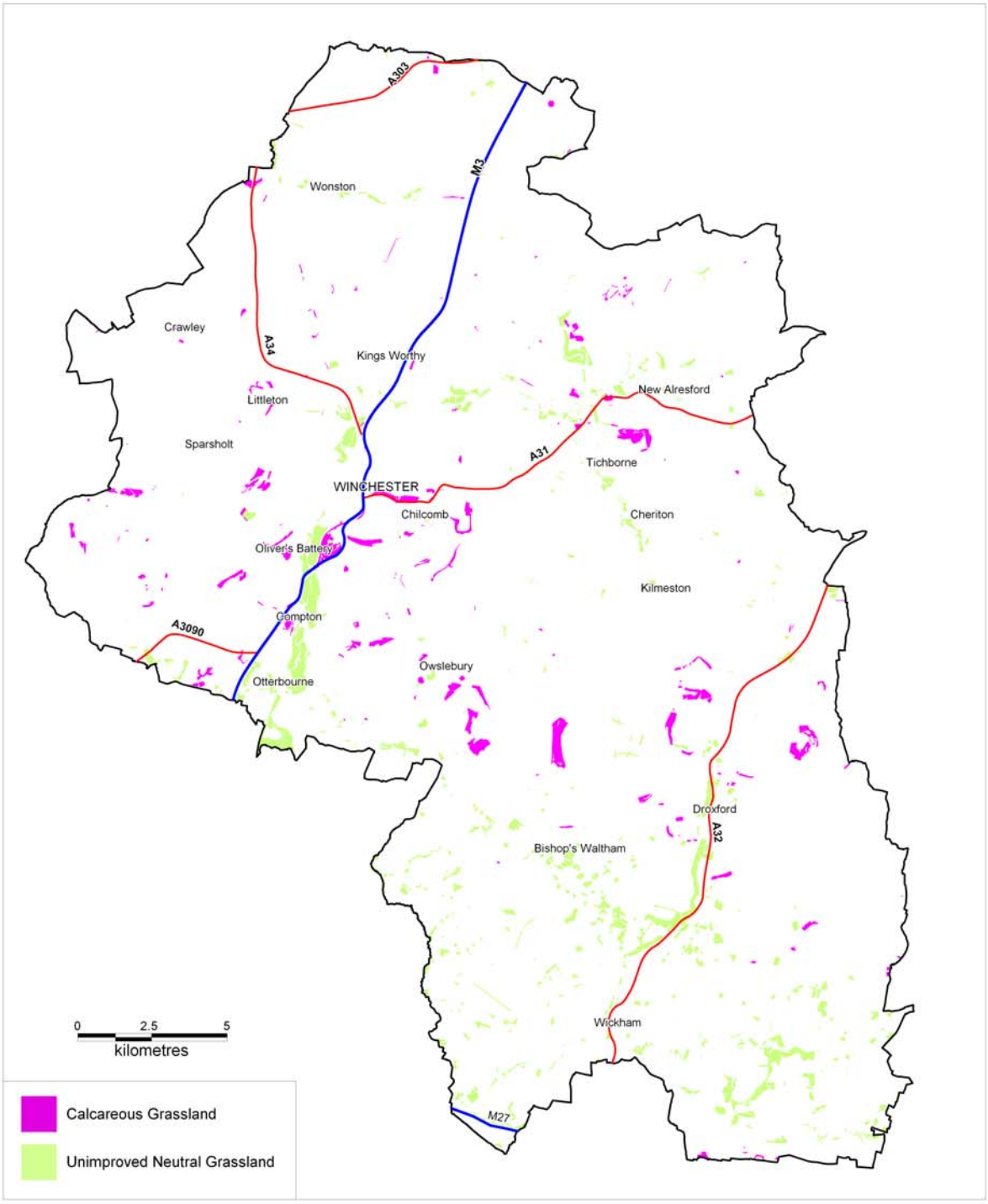
SINC and habitat data provided by the HBIC Partnership

Winchester BAP

Grassland Habitats

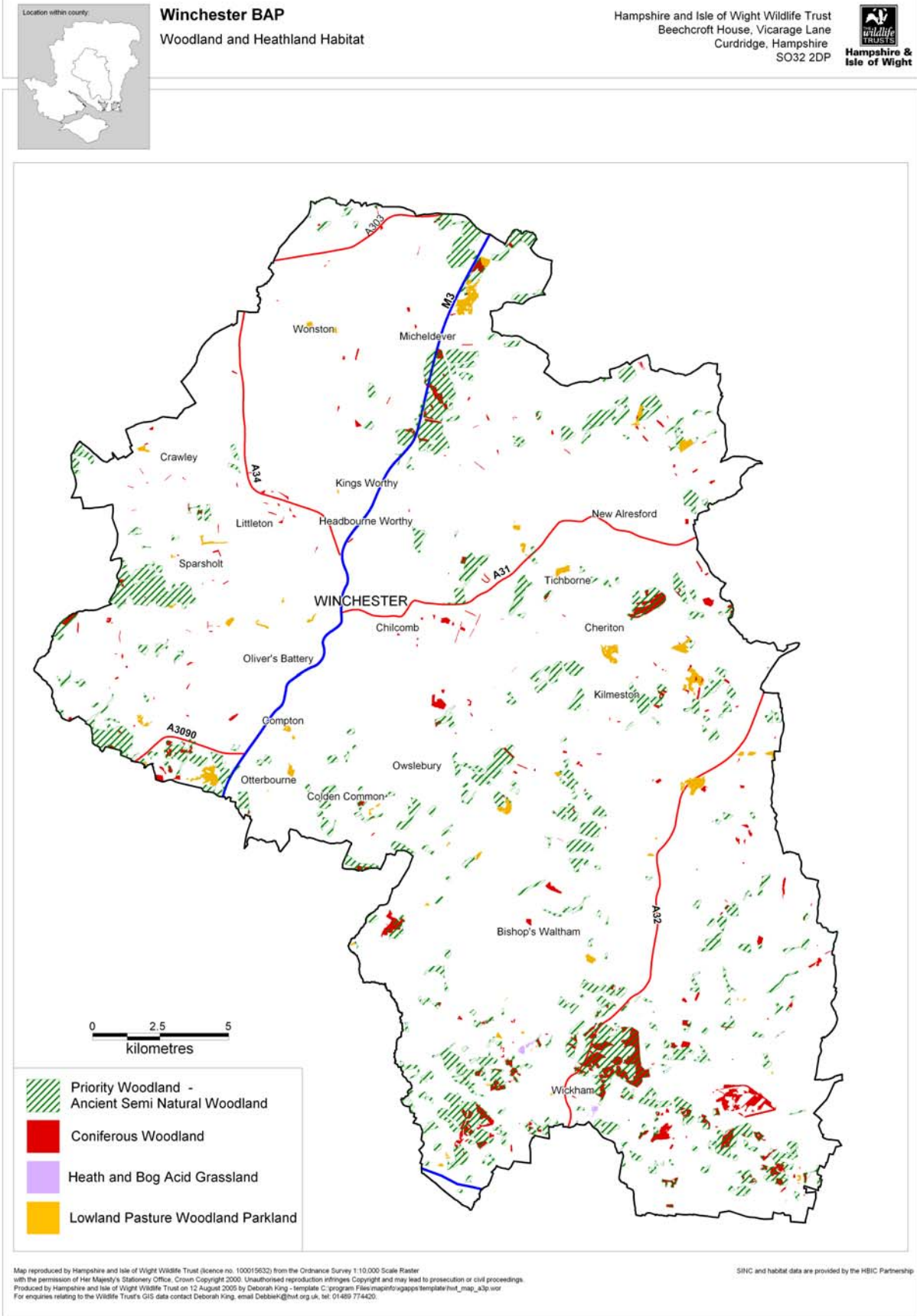
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
Beechcroft House, Vicarage Lane
Curdridge, Hampshire
SO32 2DP

Hampshire & Isle of Wight



Produced by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust on 12 August 2005 by Deborah King - template C:\program Files\mapinfo\xgapps\template\hwt_map_a3p.wor
For enquiries relating to the Wildlife Trust's GIS data contact Deborah King, email DebbieK@hwt.org.uk, tel: 01489 774420.

SINC and habitat data are provided by the HBIC Partnership

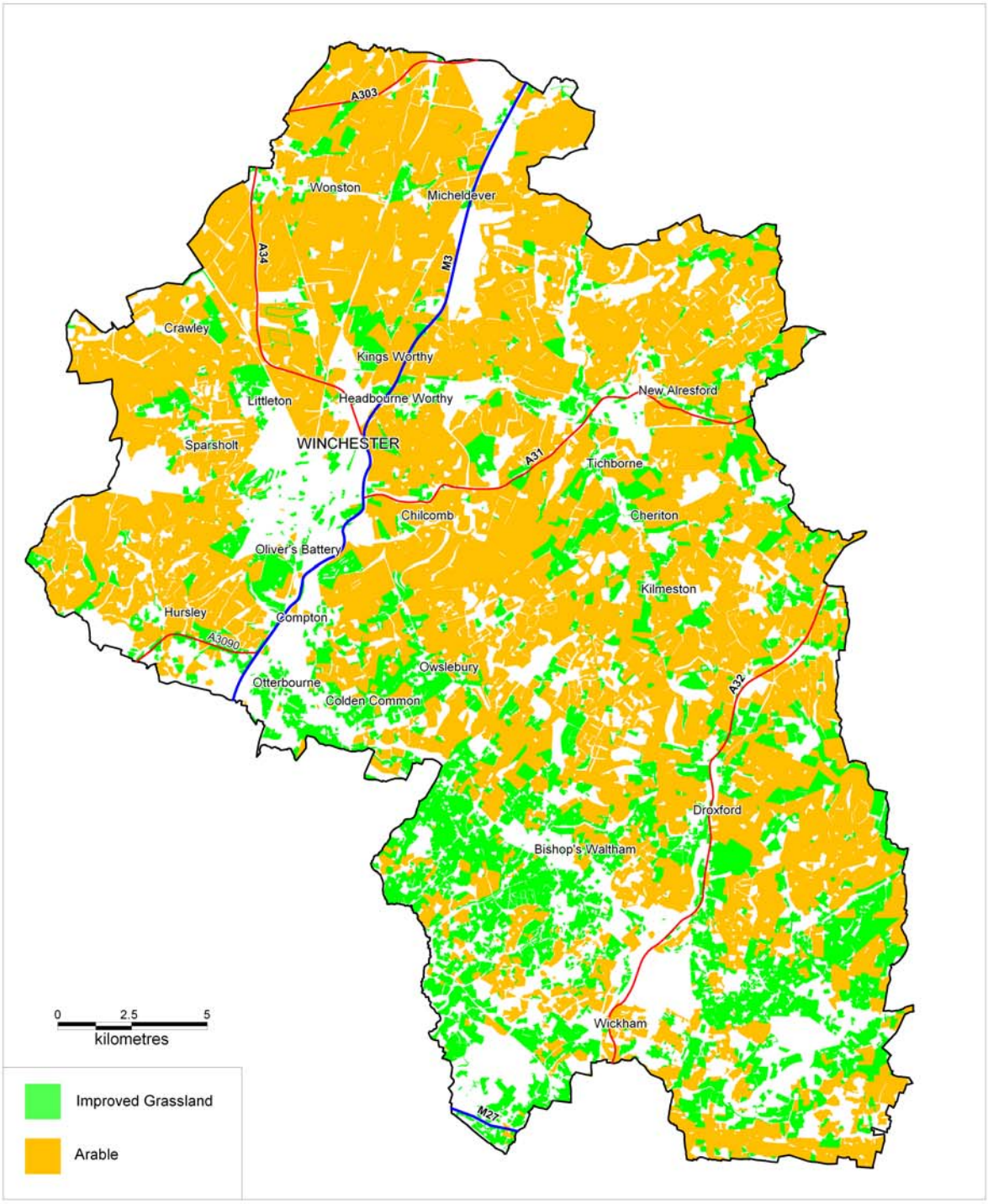


Winchester BAP

Farmland Habitat

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
Beechcroft House, Vicarage Lane
Curdridge, Hampshire
SO32 2DP

Hampshire & Isle of Wight



Produced by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust on 12 August 2005 by Deborah King - template C:\program Files\mapinfo\vgapps\template\hwt_map_a3p.wor
For enquiries relating to the Wildlife Trust's GIS data contact Deborah King, email DebbieK@hwt.org.uk, tel: 01489 774420.

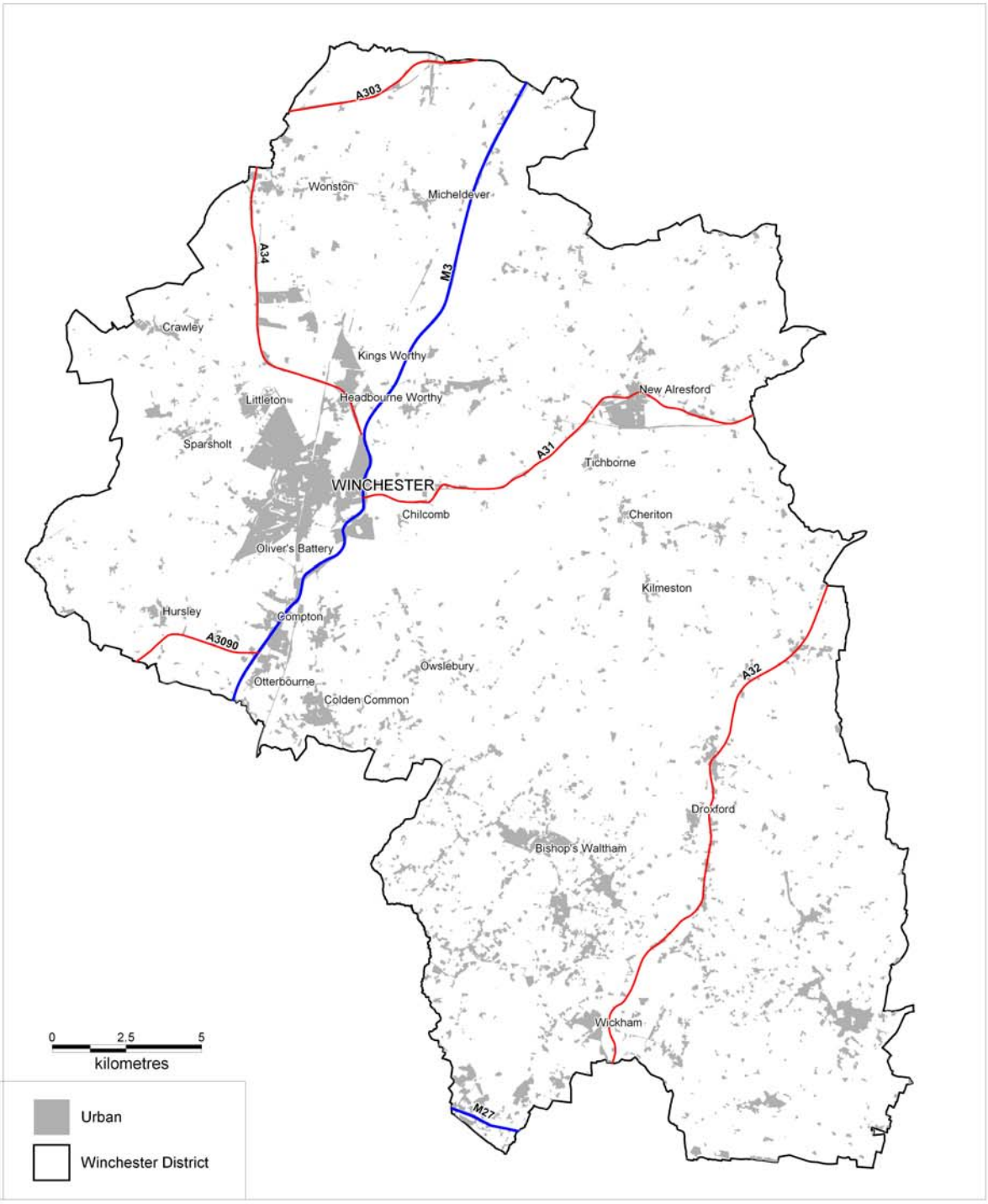
SINC and habitat data provided by the HBIC Partnership

Winchester BAP

Urban Habitat

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
Beechcroft House, Vicarage Lane
Curdridge, Hampshire
SO32 2DP

Hampshire & Isle of Wight



Produced by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust on 12 August 2005 by Deborah King - template C:\program Files\mapinfo\xgapps\template\hwt_map_a3p.wor
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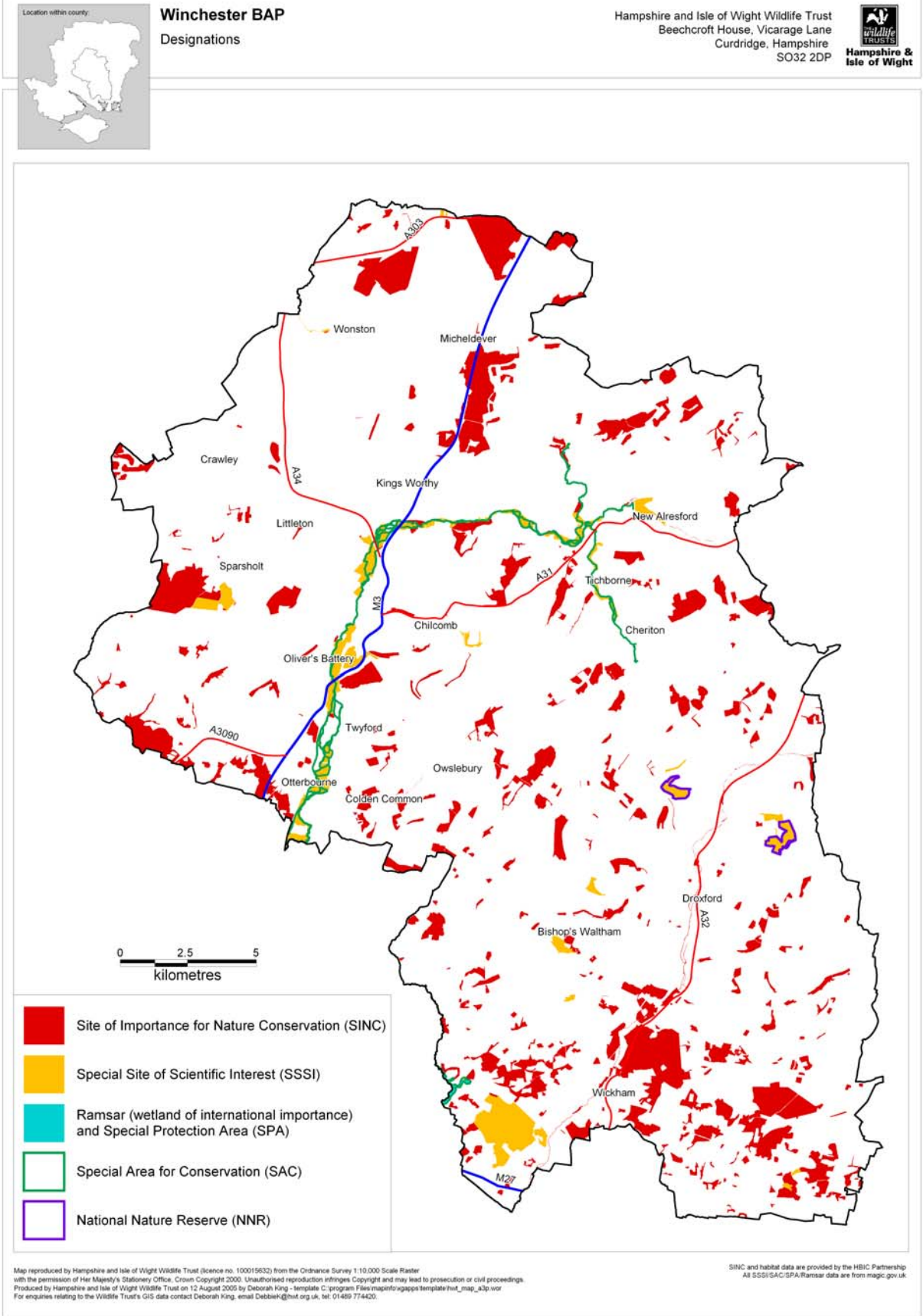
SINC and habitat data provided by the HBIC Partnership


Location within county:
Winchester BAP
Designations
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
Beechcroft House, Vicarage Lane
Curdridge, Hampshire
SO32 2DP
Hampshire & Isle of Wight
A303
Wonston
Micheldever
Crawley
A34
Kings Worthy
Littleton
New Alresford
Sparsholt
A31
Tichborne
M3
Chilcomb
Cheriton
Oliver's Battery
A3090
Twyford
Owslebury
Otterbourne
Colden Common
Droxford
A32
Bishop's Waltham
Wickham
M27
0
2.5
5
kilometres
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)
Special Site of Scientific Interest (SSSI)
Ramsar (wetland of international importance) and Special Protection Area (SPA)
Special Area for Conservation (SAC)
National Nature Reserve (NNR)
Map reproduced by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (licence no. 100015632) from the Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 Scale Raster
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Produced by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust on 12 August 2005 by Deborah King - template C:\program Files\mapinfo\xgapps\template\hwt_map_a3p.wor
For enquiries relating to the Wildlife Trust's GIS data contact Deborah King, email DebbieK@hwt.org.uk, tel: 01489 774420.
SINC and habitat data are provided by the HBIC Partnership
All SSSI/SAC/SPA/Ramsar data are from magic.gov.uk

4.3 Biodiversity Action Across the District

A series of information pages are given in this section outlining the Winchester context and background to the following aspects of biodiversity:

- **habitats (corresponding to the habitats mapped in Section 4.2)**
- **features such as wildlife corridors**
- **species (according to habitat and in general terms)**
- **engaging people with biodiversity**

Links are made with the relevant Hampshire BAP initiatives: Habitat Action Plans, Species Action Plans, and Topic Action Plans which should be consulted for specific guidelines where not covered by the locally tailored action plans in Section 5. This information is relevant wherever opportunities for action exist in the district.

Information boxes are included for notable species found in the district, outlining their conservation status, population trends and known distribution in the district within the last 15 years). Hampshire Biodiversity Centre's forthcoming *State of Biodiversity* report will give similar information for other Winchester species.

Wetland Habitats

Wetland habitats are those which are dependent on high water levels for all or part of the year such as fens, marsh, wet woodland, swamp and reedbeds. They also include ponds and lakes which were once a feature of natural river valleys. For the purposes of this document the main river channel has been included in this generic habitat type. Much of the unimproved grassland along the river valleys in the district is of a wet meadow or grazing marsh type. Wetland habitats are under particular pressure from the demand for water resources, and the need to maintain water levels is crucial for their biodiversity.

At one time, the district's river valleys would have been a continuous mosaic of wetland types grading from the river itself, through reedbeds and fens to wet 'carr' woodland. Wetlands are now one of the rarest and most threatened habitats in the UK. They have been lost through a lack of management, too severe management, or they have been intentionally drained and improved for agriculture. The Itchen Valley in particular has a significant area of these habitat types, including sites such as Winnall Moors Nature Reserve, although much has been lost.

Winchester District's Wetlands

Chalk Rivers: Itchen, Meon & Dever

- some of the most species-rich chalk rivers in the UK
- support many aquatic plants including water-crowfoot – a key species in this habitat
- support many invertebrates and mammals such as the otter
- the upper reaches of these rivers have gravels providing important spawning areas for fish, making them notable game fisheries
- parts of these chalk rivers have been modified by sluices and drains, creating a system of water meadows such as at Twyford Meads
- in the past, the Itchen Navigation allowed a canal link between Winchester and Southampton – currently it is a key habitat for aquatic wildlife
- water-cress beds are a long-standing feature of these chalk rivers, creating a unique man-made habitat if suitably managed
- the remaining areas of fen in the district exist near springs and streams and are rich in biodiversity – particularly plants and insects – for example at Winnall Moors nature reserve

The Rivers Hamble & Wallington

- the lower reaches of the Hamble flow into Southampton Water where the wetland habitats are under the influence of the sea
- these areas need room for coastal habitats and species to move inland in response to the rising sea level caused by climate change
- the drains and streams feeding these rivers represent a network allowing wetland species to disperse between them
- stretches of the River Wallington qualify as chalk-stream habitat, hosting sea-trout
- the River Wallington runs close to the urban fringe and potential major housing areas: the relevant local plans should acknowledge its value and hydrological sensitivity

Ponds & Lakes

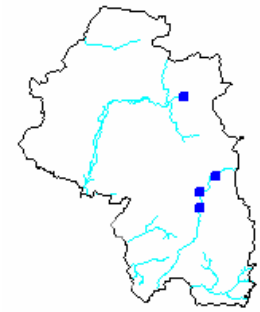
- Alresford Pond SSSI contains open water and reedbeds in the floodplain of the River Itchen
- larger ponds and lakes such as the one at the sewage works near St. Catherine's hill attract high numbers of wildfowl in winter
- numerous smaller ponds exist in areas with clay soils in the Forest of Bere, inhabited by species such as great crested newt and emperor dragonfly
- many ponds have been traditionally maintained in chalk areas as 'dew ponds' for watering livestock
- other lakes have been created by damming streams for fisheries, often to the detriment of the stream and its wildlife
- privately owned gardens in the district contain a wealth of ponds, attracting species which naturally colonise ponds

Conditions for Species

A river in good condition will have a transition of vegetation, from partially submerged species such as stream water-crowfoot and starwort, to emergent species such as fool's watercress and forget-me-not, grading into grasses, sedges and rushes along the riverbank and the adjoining fens and wet grasslands. It is essential that vegetation structure be maintained because species such as water vole and adult fish rely on year round vegetation cover. This vegetation will support many invertebrate species, which in turn provide food for species such as the pipistrelle bat, Daubenton's bat, grey wagtail, and brown trout. Streamside trees like willow and alder can increase diversity, by providing shelter for species in the form of bat roosts and otter holts.

Name: Stream water-crowfoot *Ranunculus penicillatus*

Conservation status:
Listed as part of the aquatic plant species assemblage for the River Itchen SAC under the EC Habitats Directive
HBAP: priority species



Population status: there are different species of water crowfoot in the district and identification can be difficult. Stream water crowfoot is declining, probably due to inappropriate management of water courses

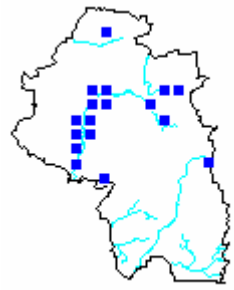
Distribution in the Winchester district:
Stream water-crowfoot can be found in fast-flowing chalk streams. In Winchester it can be seen on the River Itchen SAC (for which the water-crowfoots are a notable feature) and the River Meon (see map opposite).

Name: Water vole, *Arvicola terrestris*

Conservation status:
UKBAP: Priority species
HBAP: Priority species
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981: under Schedule 5, being considered for addition to parts of schedule 9

© Darin Smith

Population Trends: the water vole is Britain's fastest declining mammal due to habitat loss, fragmentation and predation by American mink.



Distribution in the Winchester district:
Water voles inhabit densely vegetated banks of slow flowing rivers. They can be seen on the district's chalk rivers - see map opposite - notably the River Itchen e.g. Winnall Moors, nature reserve.

For more information about the water vole's Species Action Plan:
Links: http://www.ukbap.org.uk/UKPlans.aspx?ID=115#1

Name: Otter, *Lutra lutra*

Conservation Status:
UKBAP: Priority species, SAP produced
HBAP: Priority species
IUCN Red List: Classified as Near Threatened 2004
EC Habitats Directive: Annex II and IV
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981: Schedule 5 and 6

Population Trends: Following serious declines in 1960s otters are increasing in their range and numbers. Exeter University is running a DNA project looking at distribution and gene pool of the otter

© Darin Smith

Distribution in Winchester District:
Otters inhabit rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands and coastal creeks. The map opposite shows confirmed records for the species in Winchester. Otters are hard to see but records indicate presence at Winnall Moors SSSI Nature Reserve and along the upper parts of the River Itchen.

For more information regarding the Species Action Plan for Otter:
Links: www.ukbap.org.uk/UKPlans.aspx?ID=428

HAMPSHIRE BAP LINKS FOR WETLANDS
Published Habitat Action Plans

- Lowland Wet Grassland:
http://www.hampshirebiodiversity.org.uk/pdf/PublishedPlans/LowlandWetGrassland.pdf
- Standing Open Water:
http://www.hampshirebiodiversity.org.uk/pdf/PublishedPlans/StandingOpenWater-final.pdf
- Chalk Streams:
http://www.hampshirebiodiversity.org.uk/pdf/PublishedPlans/ChalkStreamsHAPjjDTP2.pdf
- Canals:
http://www.hampshirebiodiversity.org.uk/pdf/PublishedPlans/CanalsHAP.pdf

Habitat Action Plans awaiting publication include:

- Fen, Carr, Marsh, Swamp and Reedbed
- Ephemeral Ponds

Published Topic Action Plans:

- Water & Biodiversity
http://www.hampshirebiodiversity.org.uk/pdf/PublishedPlans/Water_BAP.pdf

Chalk Grassland

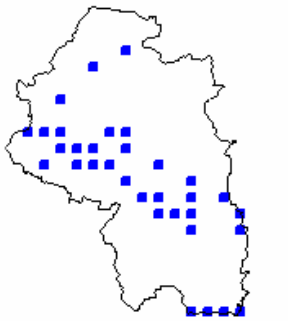
Chalk grasslands exist on the dry 'calcareous' soils of downland areas less suitable for cultivation and thus traditionally used for grazing livestock. They have not been 'improved' by modern agricultural practices such as applying fertilisers and sowing with rye-grass which out-competes rich flora including nationally rare orchids. Over 40 different plant species have been recorded in one square metre of chalk grassland turf, in turn supporting a rich invertebrate community and a food resource for breeding and migratory bird species. In Winchester district, the majority of this habitat type has been lost: any remaining habitat is therefore a priority for conservation.

Name: Pyramidal Orchid, *Anacamptis pyramidalis*

Conservation Status:
An indicator species for a number of BAP priority species (chalk downland plants).

© HWT

Population trends: The pyramidal orchid is a species of chalk grassland. Due to chalk grassland being lost or neglected, the distribution of the pyramidal orchid has shrunk in recent decades, but the population has stabilised due to renewed chalk grassland management. The population depends on continuation of management such as grazing.



Distribution in Winchester district:
The pyramidal orchid is a fairly widespread on the district's chalk downlands such as St Catherine's Hill SSSI Nature Reserve (see map opposite).

Chalk grassland requires low intensity grazing to maintain its biodiversity. Land also needs to be available adjacent to conservation sites so that stock can be moved in rotation throughout the year, taking stock off the grasslands when the weather is too wet and so that their dung doesn't fertilise the grassland. These sites also need to be protected from external pressures including spray drifting from agricultural and recreational land

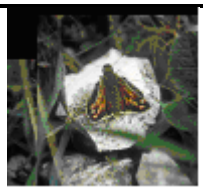
Winchester District's Chalk Grasslands

- Old Winchester Hill was cleared and grazed in ancient times and persists today as an excellent area for biodiversity
- the South Downs Way passes through scattered chalk grassland sites such as Cheesefoot Head SSSI and Beacon Hill SSSI
- arable land on chalk soil can successfully be reverted to species-rich chalk grassland - Magdalen Hill Down, a haven for butterflies such as the Duke of Burgundy, has been successfully expanded in this way
- a number of chalk grassland sites, such as parts of Cheesefoot Head SSSI, suffer from a lack of management over a period of years, indicated by increased scrub invasion – this indicates unfavourable condition
- orchids indicate well-managed chalk grasslands – some sites with records for the rare musk orchid, for example, no longer host the species due to a lack of grazing

Structural Diversity

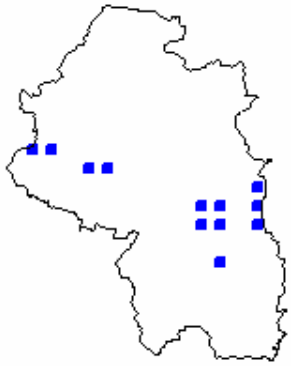
Having a range of vegetation heights within chalk grassland provides it with structural diversity, important for many species which require a variety of habitat types in their life cycle. In particular, many of the butterfly species found on chalk downland such as adonis blue, brown argus, silver-spotted skipper and chalkhill blue, require specific species of plant as caterpillars. Grazing enhances structural diversity and introduces small quantities of dung, broken down by specialist invertebrates such as dung flies. Other features such as anthills and small patches of downland scrub further enhance the structural diversity, also encouraging birds such as green woodpecker and yellowhammer.

Name: Silver Spotted Skipper, *Hesperia comma*



Conservation Status:
UK BAP: Priority species
HBAP: Priority species
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981: Schedule 5 (sale only)

Population Trends: the silver spotted skipper population declined rapidly over the last 50 years, although there has recently been a recovery in Winchester district. The decline was probably due to loss of sheep grazing, but the reasons for the recent local expansion are less certain.



Distribution in Winchester District:

The silver spotted skipper prefers warm summers and it can be found on short grazed chalk downland. In Winchester it occurs at St. Catherine's Hill Nature Reserve (SSSI), and Old Winchester Hill SSSI / National Nature Reserve.

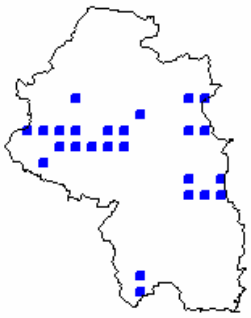
For more information about the Silver Spotted Skipper:
Links:http://www.hampshirebiodiversity.org.uk/pdf/PublishedPlans/ButterfliesandMoths-final.pdf

Name: Duke of Burgundy, *Hamearis lucina*

© HWT

Conservation status:
HBAP: priority species
SAP to be prepared
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981: Schedule 5 (sale only)

Population Trends: the range of the Duke of Burgundy has diminished mainly due to a reduction in suitable habitat management. As a result, the species has undergone something of a shift in habitat.



Distribution in Winchester district:
This species inhabits chalk grassland and it especially favours areas with scrub edges - it is also found in woodland clearings. Duke of Burgundy has a relatively wide distribution in Winchester district (see map opposite). It can be found at Magdalen Hill Down nature reserve.

For more information about the Duke of Burgundy:
Links: http://www.butterfly-conservation.org/species/action_plans/duke_burgundy/dofb_action_plan.pdf

HAMPSHIRE BAP LINKS FOR CHALK GRASSLAND
Published Habitat Action Plans

- Lowland Calcareous Grassland:

www.hampshirebiodiversity.org.uk/pdf/PublishedPlans/ChalkgrasslandHAPjjdTP2.pdf

Neutral Unimproved Grassland

Neutral unimproved grasslands exist on the wetter, neutral soils of river valleys and the ancient pastures in the south of the district. The habitat type is characterised by rushes and rough grasses in wetter grazed areas, and colourful, wildflower-rich hay meadows. Like chalk grassland, this habitat type requires grazing of suitable timing and intensity to maintain its biodiversity – typically cattle graze this habitat type. Alternatively, cutting and removal of hay will sufficiently favour a diverse range of plant species.

Sites which are larger or well-connected, and have been suitably managed for a long time are havens for wildlife: ancient pastures are especially rich in wildflowers like the declining green-winged orchid, and brightly coloured waxcap fungi. Much of the district's neutral grassland has become agriculturally improved or semi-improved pasture – restoration of the latter is feasible if the soil has not been made too fertile.

Winchester District's Neutral Unimproved Grasslands

- The River Hamble rises at the Moors SSSI near Bishops Waltham: together with the nearby Waltham Chase SSSI meadows, this area contains a significant mosaic of neutral grassland
- The Forest of Bere contains a scattered mosaic of small neutral grassland sites
- The valleys of the River Meon and the River Itchen contain larger, more continuous swathes of this grassland type

HAMPSHIRE BAP LINKS FOR UNIMPROVED NEUTRAL GRASSLAND
Published Habitat Action Plans

- Neutral Grassland:

www.hampshirebiodiversity.org.uk/pdf/PublishedPlans/NeutralGrassHAP4DTP-040701.pdf

Heathland

Small areas of heathland remain on the sandy, free draining soils of the Forest of Bere. Within this landscape there is a scattered mosaic of a small number of heather-dominated sites grading into open commons, dominated by acid grasslands. Wetter areas and bare ground both add to the biodiversity of heathland by providing extra 'microhabitats' for species. Heathland soils are nutrient poor and support species such as heathers, gorse, bracken and specialist lichens. Heathland would have been more prevalent in the district in past centuries but has declined drastically in recent years.

Traditionally, heathland has been grazed by cattle or ponies, but where this has stopped, scrub and trees have taken over. In Winchester district there are only a few remaining fragments of heathland, much of which is not grazed and has therefore become colonised or planted with scrub and trees. The habitat can be restored if conifers and scrub are cleared, and if grazing, cutting or even controlled burning are implemented.

Winchester District's Heaths and Acid Grasslands

- The Heathland SINCs of Wickham Common and Shedfield Common are habitats for a number of heathland specialist insects and plants.
- Former heathlands in the West Walk SINC area have been planted with conifer trees, though there are some heathland restoration projects taking place in this area.

HAMPSHIRE BAP LINKS FOR HEATHS AND ACID GRASSLAND
Published Habitat Action Plans

- Heathland:

www.hampshirebiodiversity.org.uk/pdf/PublishedPlans/Hampshire%20Heathland.pdf

Woodland

Ancient Semi-Natural Woodlands (ASNW) are priority woodlands which are known to have been in existence since at least 1600. In Winchester district, these habitats are typically dominated by oak in the low-lying areas and beech on the chalk ridges, other tree species lending a particular character to a woodland. They are important for their rich assemblages of ground flora, lichen, fern and fungal communities, and reflect the character of the 'wildwood' which covered the district in ancient times.

A large proportion of ASNW has been replanted in Winchester over recent decades (Planted Ancient Woodlands – PAWs). These woodlands are ideal for restoration as they often still hold ancient woodland species: for example, old individual trees are often havens for biodiversity and should be protected wherever they occur. The biodiversity of woodlands is under threat from a lack of traditional management such as coppicing, pollarding and ride or glade management. Many woodlands have been converted to agriculture or commercial timber plantations.

Some woodlands have traditionally been managed as pasture woodland, where grazing pasture and wood production coexist. These areas have a relatively poor ground flora because of grazing pressure, but are likely to have pollarded trees. Pollarding is similar to coppicing, but the trees are managed so that they produce wood from a single point so that new growth is beyond the reach of browsing animals. These trees can be very old and are important for rare lichens and fungi. They also host many invertebrates, which provide food for birds such as lesser-spotted woodpecker.

As with other habitats, a uniform structure is not what is best for woodland bioviversity. Grazed areas of wood pasture and parkland have a distinctive mosaic of grazed, wooded and open habitats. Traditionally coppiced woodland introduces a transition between darker areas with an enclosed canopy, and lighter patches – ideal for flowers like primrose and violet, which provide food for specialist butterflies. Dead wood provides a habitat for rare fungi and insects, including the distinctive stag beetle.

Winchester District's Woodlands

Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

- Crab Wood SSSI is traditionally managed as a coppiced woodland with ancient 'standard' trees such as oak: the site forms part of a Country Park in which dormice and the purple emperor butterfly exist.
- Botley Wood SSSI has been a stronghold for butterflies and moths, though in recent years many species have been lost due to a lack of appropriate management and planting with conifers. Opportunities to enhance the woodland through appropriate management could help to reverse these losses.
- Large blocks of conifer and mixed woodland exist in the district, for example West Wood and West Walk SINCs: both of these sites contain remnants of ancient woodland and have features such as rides and ponds. They are therefore prime locations for restoring a mosaic of woodland habitats.
- Continuation of woodland management is often dependent on a saleable product: Hampshire County Council's Woodland Officer works with woodland owners to ensure woodlands are both economically viable and wildlife-rich
- Most ASNW sites over 2 hectares in the district have been designated as SINCs

Pasture Woodland & Parkland

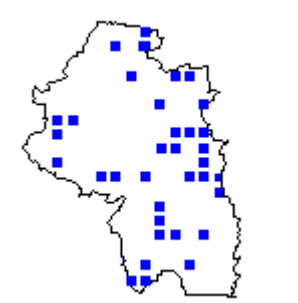
- Fragments of wood pasture remain in the Forest of Bere: even if still grazed, the underlying grassland may have lost its biodiversity through agricultural improvement.
- Parkland trees often contain bat roosts. Bats forage for their insect prey in the more open areas frequented by livestock and with dead wood.
- Stratton Park near Micheldever and Cranbury Park near Hursley are larger formal parklands with potential for biodiversity enhancement.

Name: Hazel Dormouse, *Muscardinus avellanarius*

Conservation status:
IUCN Red list: Lower Risk-near threatened
UKBAP: Priority species, SAP produced
HBAP: Priority species
Bern Convention: Appendix III
Bonn Convention: Appendix 3
European Habitats & Species Directive: Annex IV
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981: Schedule 5

© Phil McLean

Population trends: Currently there is no evidence of dormice declining in Hampshire (Hampshire Dormouse Survey 2004), although nationally they have declined.



Distribution in Winchester district:
The map opposite indicates the distribution of dormouse in the Winchester district. The dormouse is difficult to see as it is nocturnal, arboreal and elusive. It is possible to see field signs such as distinctively chewed hazelnuts. The species inhabits deciduous woodland (especially hazel coppice) and ancient hedgerows.

Dormice can be found in Crab Wood SSSI and at nearby Ham Green.

For more information regarding the species:
Links: http://www.ukbap.org.uk/UKPlans.aspx?ID=462

HAMPSHIRE BAP LINKS FOR Woodland
Published Habitat Action Plans

- Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland:

http://www.hampshirebiodiversity.org.uk/pdf/PublishedPlans/ASNWoodHAPjjDTP2.pdf

- Pasture Woodland

www.hampshirebiodiversity.org.uk/pdf/PublishedPlans/WOODPASTURE.pdf

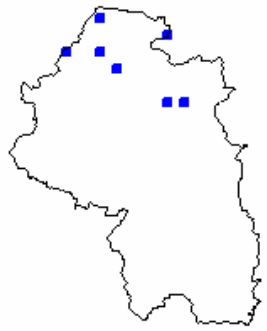
Farmland

Around 73% of the land in Winchester district is farmed, predominantly as arable land on the chalk soils of the north of the district and on the downland and as pasture in the south of the district and along the river valleys. Many priority habitats originally arose from farming – it is the scale and intensity of modern agriculture which has caused losses in biodiversity. The shift in government subsidy towards stewardship of the land through CAP reform has resulted in real opportunities for reversing these declines by creating habitats within the farmed landscape.

Around the edge of arable fields and pastures, the creation of grass or wildflower margins creates a new habitat, also acting as a buffer to other sensitive habitats such as hedgerows and rivers, protecting them from agricultural spray drift and fertiliser run-off. The tussocky grasses provide ideal cover for ground nesting birds such as the grey partridge. Small mammals such as the harvest mouse also benefit, which in turn support species like the barn owl. "Beetle banks" can be introduced across larger arable fields, increasing the biodiversity value of the centre of the field, and adding a corridor across (though they were originally intended as refuges for natural enemies of crop pests).

Conservation headlands can be created in the edges and corners of irregularly shaped fields by not spraying fertilisers or pesticides: several BAP priority species in Winchester district can be considered rare arable plants. These include red hemp nettle, ground pine, and spreading hedge-parsley. These species tend to do best on the edges of crops and within conservation headlands where chemical inputs are reduced; however they do require cultivation of the soil annually.

<table>
<tr><td>Name: Pheasant's Eye, Adonis annua</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Conservation Status:
An indicator species for a number of BAP priority species (rare arable flora).

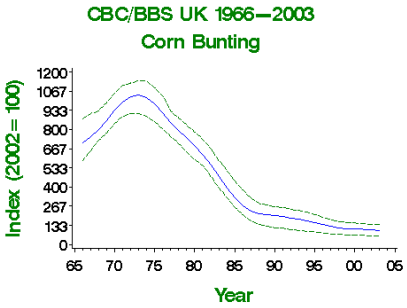
Population Trends: The species was introduced to the UK hundreds of years ago but like other rare arable plants, it has declined dramatically over the last 50 years due to agricultural intensification.</td><td> 
© HWT</td></tr>
<tr><td>  </td><td>Distribution in Winchester district:
It is found in arable field margins, or those areas that escape the most intensive spraying regimes. In Winchester district Pheasants' Eye can be seen at Fob Down, near Alresford and in scattered locations in the north.</td></tr>
</table>

As part of normal farm practice, "set-aside" can be managed to benefit biodiversity. These temporarily uncultivated areas can be sited next to wildlife habitats such as hedgerows to increase diversity and to act as a buffer. Alternatively, they can be rotated around the farm, even as plots within crops, to benefit species such as the brown hare or seed-eating birds. Tree sparrows and

corn buntings, once widespread in the district, are now only rarely inhabit the arable areas of the east and north of the district.

Name: Corn Bunting, *Miliaria calandra*

Conservation status:
UKBAP: Priority
HBAP: Priority
Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981): as amended
Schedule 1 EC Birds Directive
RSPB: Red list species – high conservation concern



Source: British Trust for Ornithology

Population trends: the corn bunting has declined rapidly in the UK. This is mainly due to the reduction of mixed farming and a lack of winter stubbles due to widespread planting of winter wheat (see BTO graph opposite). A recent survey conducted by Hampshire Ornithological Society will reveal an up-to-date picture on the species.

Distribution in Winchester district:
The species can be found on arable farmland on the downs particularly between the headwaters of the River Meon and Winchester. Winchester district is an important area for this species in Hampshire.

Where mature trees and old farm buildings are absent, artificial nesting and roosting sites provide homes for many important species, such as pipistrelle bats, barn owls, swallows and over-wintering insects.

Name: Barn owl, *Tyto alba*	
Conservation status: UKBAP: Species of Conservation Concern Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981: Schedules 1 and 9	 © HWT
Population status: Barn owls have declined moderately (25–49%) in the UK over last 25 years (BTO), making it an amber list species of medium conservation concern (RSPB).	
Distribution in Winchester district: Barn owl habitat includes grasslands, field margins, hedgerows, farmyards and woodland edges. Barn owls are often observed hunting at dusk over the wet grassland alongside the district's rivers.	

Grants are available to help increase farmland biodiversity, but even small changes in management can have huge benefits for biodiversity. The Countryside Stewardship and

Environmentally Sensitive Area schemes, offering payments for a variety of conservation works over a number of years, are being replaced by the new Entry Level Stewardship (ELS) and Higher Level Stewardship (HLS). From 2005 the ELS will give payments for environmental features across the farm, based on awarding points. HLS will provide payments for management and creation of additional wildlife habitats. In addition to these schemes, the more widespread Single Payment Scheme encourages environmental stewardship. The DEFRA website (see section 7.4) gives more up-to-date information.

Advice on species, management and grants is available from organisations such as Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group and the Game Conservancy Trust. For more information see section 7.4.

HAMPSHIRE BAP LINKS FOR FARMLAND

Habitat Action Plans:

- Arable Land
  http://www.hampshirebiodiversity.org.uk/pdf/PublishedPlans/ArableHAPjjDTP2.pdf

Corridors

Wildlife corridors come in various forms, but have one function: to support wildlife populations at a landscape scale by linking-up existing habitats. The need for corridors has been recognised because urbanisation and agricultural intensification has fragmented wildlife habitats so that species are unable to disperse between them. Corridors themselves act as significant habitats, often providing an important transition between one habitat and another.

Hedgerows, and the field margins adjacent to them, provide important wildlife corridors in agricultural landscapes. Hedgerows underwent a decline in the last century due to the intensification of agriculture, though this was halted though the Hedgerow Regulations 1997, which requires notification before hedgerows are removed. Agri-environment schemes since the 1990s have promoted hedgerow planting schemes, so that there is now a net gain. The greatest threat to hedges today is lack of appropriate management: a uniform hedge, mechanically cut once a year or more, will have lost much of its value as a wildlife corridor.

Ancient hedgerows are not just corridors, they are a valuable habitat in their own right. In Winchester district ancient hedgerows are still found, particularly within the East Hampshire AONB, and are often remnants of ancient woodlands or parklands hosting a greater diversity of woody species and associated plants than younger hedgerows. Hedgerow species like dormouse eat different types of food throughout the year, and rely on honeysuckle, bramble and hazel. Hedges also support large numbers of insects which are important an important food for the nestlings of birds like yellowhammer and whitethroat.

Opportunities for creating corridors also exist in the built-up environment: parks and gardens act as corridors and "stepping-stones" for wildlife populations, and are significant habitats in their own right. Road verges, if infrequently and appropriately cut, provide an unexpected corridor for wildlife across the landscape. Verges can be seeded with wildflowers and planted with shrubs; this can create an attractive verge quickly, but if done, should use local seed and saplings of native species. In many areas, allowing plants to colonise naturally is sufficient. A number of road verges in the district have been designated as SINCs on account of their plant assemblages.

The River Itchen represents a corridor for aquatic species passing through the city of Winchester: the city is not a barrier for otters and trout, but is more of a barrier for water voles and insects which require bankside vegetation during migration – where feasible, removal of engineered banks on rivers and streams helps to create a corridor for such species. The Itchen Navigation acts as a corridor for wildlife, and this value could be enhanced if bankside and riparian vegetation was restored and managed for wildlife.

HAMPSHIRE BAP OBJECTIVES FOR WILDLIFE CORRIDORS

Hampshire BAP Habitat Action Plans awaiting publication include:

- Hedgerows

www.hampshirebiodiversity.org.uk/pdf/PublishedPlans/HedgerowsHAPjjDTP.pdf

Hampshire BAP Habitat Action Plans awaiting publication include:

- Road Verges

For more details on how to set up a local hedgerow group, conduct a survey and what to do with the data contact the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (see Section 7.4 for details).

Urban Habitats

It is important to consider the built environment alongside the habitats of the wider countryside: this is particularly so in the city of Winchester through which the River Itchen passes. The city is also in close proximity to important grassland nature reserves such as St. Catherine's Hill and Winnall Moors. Urban areas should not be overlooked as having the potential to enhance the wider countryside: allotments, open spaces, gardens, brownfield sites and churchyards can all provide important habitats for species which are adapted for sharing our living space. Simply having a pond in the garden or a wildlife area within a local park or school can provide an important resource for butterflies, birds, amphibians and bats.

Developments within urban areas should consider the potential for integrating wildlife into the design brief, for example retaining roof designs that can be used by birds such as swifts and house sparrows. Developers should also consider the opportunities for supporting the local economy when sourcing materials such as timber, to provide a market for traditional management practices.

Parks

Urban parks and other public open spaces can be creatively enhanced for wildlife, adding a feature of public interest as well as enhancing biodiversity. Flower meadows provide a colourful and low-maintenance feature to an edge or corner – they also provide cover for small mammals and nectar for butterflies and bumblebees. Mature trees should be maintained carefully so that they are safe, but retain holes for bats and birds. Any branches removed can be stacked as a supply of dead-wood for fungi and invertebrates. Where ponds and lakes exist, areas fenced-off from dogs or islands created accommodate breeding water-birds such as moorhens. Creating a reedbed or marsh area will help maintain water quality, also providing a sheltered transition between the bank and the water – ideal for dragonflies and nesting water-birds.

Gardens

Gardening for wildlife can be cheap, simple and fun: a wildlife garden does not have to be complex or large, and even for those who like to have a well-manicured lawn or patio, there are still many ways that will make a garden full of life. In order to have a wildlife-friendly garden four things are needed:

1. food
2. water
3. shelter
4. breeding places

A mix of native and non-native wild flowers, including species such as primrose, forget-me-not, lavender, devil's bit scabius and goldenrod, will provide nectar. It is important to provide a selection of plants that will flower throughout the year. Such borders attract butterflies like the orange-tip, meadow brown, red admiral and large white, and should be complemented by a mix of grasses such as cocksfoot, timothy and Yorkshire fog, which are essential food plants for certain caterpillars. The wealth of commercially available bird feeders and food will supplement shrubs and trees with berries or fruits, and seed-bearing plants such as sunflowers and teasels. If pesticides are avoided, there will be more invertebrate food available for birds, hedgehogs and even badgers.

Even the smallest pond will add an important dimension to the garden habitat, offering a habitat for frogs, newts, dragonflies and a variety of aquatic invertebrates, and water for drinking and bathing for other species. The sides of a pond should be gentle enough to allow aquatic plants to grow and animals to climb in and out. Edges should be planted with native species such as marsh

marigold, water mint, purple loosestrife and flowering rush. A pond which is connected to a marshy area will have an even greater wildlife potential.

Artificial homes are commercially available for birds, mammals and insects. A wealth of invertebrates, including spiders, millipedes, beetles and woodlice inhabit the space under stones and logs: toads and slow worms may also colonise these hiding places. Creating an undisturbed log pile in a sheltered area of the garden can help these species, and provide winter hibernating sites for newts, and butterflies such as the small tortoiseshell. Ivy provides food and shelter for a host of garden species, from birds to bumblebees.

Wildlife Recording

As members of the public encounter wildlife on their doorstep, they can also provide useful information about the status of species. There are many national and local surveys that gather information about garden wildlife and species which have been abundant in the past, but are now declining in some areas – for example the once widespread house sparrow. Many towns and villages in Winchester district are surrounded by countryside, offering even more potential for getting involved in such surveys.

Hampshire BAP Topic Action Plans awaiting publication include:

- Urban Areas

www.hampshirebiodiversity.org.uk/pdf/PublishedPlans/Urban.pdf

More information on Wildlife Gardening is available from Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust's 'Wildline' service. For information on wildlife recording, contact Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (see Section 7.4 for details).

Species

The habitats in Winchester district support a multitude of species. In total, records have been collated for 159 BAP priority species, from all the major taxonomic groups (see Section 7.3 for a full list). Collation of data on the distribution of BAP priority species within the district is essential in determining the success of conservation initiatives. Species recording groups need support from volunteers to effectively monitor species population trends.

To review all species individually is beyond the scope of this document, and many species will maintain a healthy self-sustaining population if the habitat they depend on is sufficient in quality. However, there are certain species which have been identified for action because they meet one or more of the following criteria:

1. They have statutory protection
2. They have been identified as an indicator of sustainable development
3. They are a priority species in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan
4. They are a flagship species for a habitat type
5. They are an invasive alien species which is threatening native biodiversity

Species are described throughout this document where they are relevant to a particular area or habitat type; each of the habitats described in this section have an information box for notable species of conservation interest which occur in the district. A full list of all BAP priority species recorded in the district is included in Section 7.3: also indicated in this list are those species under Section 74 of the Countryside & Rights of Way Act and which should be protected as part of the planning process. In more general terms, groups of species are outlined below, and links given to relevant Hampshire BAP Species Action Plans:

Mammals

The district is important for a wide range of other mammal species: small mammals, such as the yellow-necked mouse, inhabit woodland; larger aquatic species such as the water vole and otter inhabit the district's rivers; grasslands are often abundant with voles which are prey for predators like kestrels and stoats. The district's river valleys and woodland areas are important habitats for bats, an important group of the district's mammal fauna.

All species of bats are fully protected under Schedule 5 of The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981, The Habitats Regulations 1994 (Schedule 2), the Bern Convention 1982, and the Bonn Convention 1992. It is illegal to disturb bats or places where they roost. Bat populations are threatened not only by loss of habitat (affecting roosting sites and feeding grounds), but also by deliberate and accidental killing during building work.

Birds

The status of populations of wild birds has been identified as a biodiversity indicator in the Sustainable Development Framework. Birds have been recorded systematically for a relatively long time and we have good information about whether their populations are increasing or declining. They are a good indicator of the health of our environment because if the numbers of a particular species are declining, it is likely that its habitat quantity and quality is also declining. Bird populations feature in many national and international site designations, but are equally important in the wider countryside and in our towns.

The river valleys in the district are important for different bird species which breed, over-winter and stop as migrants. Open farmland species include lapwing, stone curlew and corn bunting.

Woodland species include lesser spotted woodpecker and nightingale, and in the river valleys, reed bunting and barn owl and winter lapwing are found.

Data on bird species is collected in the district by local Hampshire Ornithological Society and local recorders for the British Trust for Ornithology. It is important that this data is also provided to local conservation organisations to inform management decisions: this is made possible by collation and dissemination of data by HBIC

Hampshire BAP Species Action Plans include:

- Seed-Eating Farmland Birds

www.hampshirebiodiversity.org.uk/pdf/PublishedPlans/Seed-eatingFarmlandBirds.pdf

- Birds of Wet Grassland

www.hampshirebiodiversity.org.uk/pdf/PublishedPlans/BirdsofWetGrassland-final.pdf

Name: Snipe, *Gallinago gallinago*	 © Bob Chapman
Conservation status: UKBAP: Priority species HBAP: Priority species EC Birds Directive: Annex II RSPB: Amber list species – medium conservation concern	
Population status: there has been **a** moderate (25–49%) decline in the UK breeding population over last 25 years (RSPB). This is due to loss of lowland wet grassland and unfavourable habitat management.	
Distribution in Winchester district: Snipe have bred on the district's wet river valleys in the past, but breeding birds are almost certainly absent now. During winter they can be found seen in the water meadows of the River Itchen e.g. at Twyford Meads. For more information regarding the Species Action Plan for Snipe (Wet Grassland Birds): **Links**: www.hampshirebiodiversity.org.uk/pdf/PublishedPlans/BirdsofWetGrassland-final.pdf	

Amphibians

The Forest of Bere area contains ponds hosting populations of the district's only priority species of amphibian, the protected great-crested newt. This species will inhabit newly created ponds if they are close to an existing population, but the species is largely absent from the free-draining chalk areas.

Hampshire BAP Species Action Plans:

- Great Crested Newt

www.hampshirebiodiversity.org.uk/pdf/PublishedPlans/GCNewtSAPfinal.pdf

Butterflies & Other Invertebrates

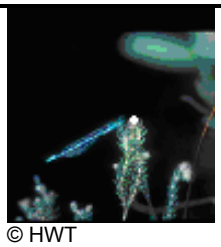
Butterflies are good indicators of the health of a habitat. If a habitat is in favourable condition it should have a good complement of associated butterfly species. Different habitat types in the district are occupied by different species of butterfly, for example:

- Hedgerows - the gatekeeper
- Woodlands - purple emperor and silver-washed fritillary
- Damp meadows - marsh fritillary (probably now extinct in the district)
- Chalk downland - silver-spotted skipper and chalkhill blue

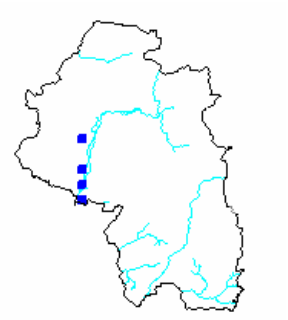
In Winchester district some 57 BAP priority species of butterflies and moths have been recorded over recent years. Populations are vulnerable to local extinctions and require a network of habitats to allow individuals to move back into areas where populations have been lost. Butterfly Conservation is involved in monitoring sites in the district, building up a picture of the area and distribution of suitable habitat, and long-term environmental changes, such as climate change.

Areas on the River Itchen are a stronghold for the UK population of the southern damselfly, a globally threatened species. The UK has 25% of the world's population and the species is known to have declined by 30% in the last 50 years making it a priority BAP species. The southern damselfly requires slow flowing, shallow, 'base-rich' waters, with emergent aquatic vegetation from which the eggs are laid, and adult damselflies emerge. The ditches of water meadows within the floodplain of the River Itchen provide ideal conditions, although these sites need to be managed so that the ditches are not over or under grazed.

Conservation status:
IUCN Red List: Vulnerable
UKBAP: Priority species
HBAP: Priority species
EC Habitats Directive: Appendix II
Bern Convention: Annex II
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981: Schedule 5


© HWT

Population trends: This damselfly has declined by 30% in its UK distribution since 1960. Hampshire is the main stronghold for the species due to suitable habitat.



Distribution in Winchester district:
The southern damselfly can be found on the River Itchen south of Winchester – especially the water meadow systems around Tywford and Shawford (see map opposite).

For more information on the southern damselfly Species Action Plan:
Links: www.hampshirebiodiversity.org.uk/pdf/PublishedPlans/SouthernDamselflyjjDTP.pdf

Name: White-clawed crayfish, *Austropotamobius pallipes*

Conservation Status:
UKBAP: Priority species
HBAP: Priority species
IUCN Red List: Vulnerable
Bern Convention: Appendix III
EC Habitats Directive: Annexes II and V
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981: Schedule 5
Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985: Proposed schedule 5

Population trends: the native crayfish population has declined in range and numbers due to disease and competition from the non-native American signal crayfish.

Distribution in Winchester district:
This species inhabits small streams, lakes, rivers and reservoirs. White-clawed crayfish can still be found in the north tributary of the River Itchen, the Candover stream at Alresford.

For more information on the white clawed crayfish Species Action Plan:
Links: http://www.ukbap.org.uk/UKPlans.aspx?ID=124

Hampshire BAP Species Action Plans:

- Butterflies & Moths

www.hampshirebiodiversity.org.uk/pdf/PublishedPlans/ButterfliesandMoths-final.pdf

- Southern Damselfly

www.hampshirebiodiversity.org.uk/pdf/PublishedPlans/SouthernDamselflyjjDTP.pdf

- Hornet Robberfly

www.hampshirebiodiversity.org.uk/pdf/PublishedPlans/hornetRobberflyfinaldraftforpdf.pdf

- Bumblebees

www.hampshirebiodiversity.org.uk/pdf/PublishedPlans/BumblebeefINALDraftAug01.pdf

Flowering Plants

The district has recent records of over 40 BAP priority species of flowering plants, ranging from orchids, helleborines and other woodland specialities, through to arable and neutral grassland species including sedges and mallows.

The diversity and distinctiveness of the district's flora mean that Species Action Plans have not been produced for Hampshire. Instead, the appropriate Habitat Action Plan should be consulted, in conjunction with a floral atlas. BSBI's Rare Plant Register contains a list of notable rarities including BAP priority species (see www.hantsplants.org.uk/hrprhome.php), and HBIC has an extensive database of the district's floral rarities.

Engaging People

It is essential that peoples' awareness and appreciation of biodiversity increases in-line with its conservation. Successive governments have acknowledged the importance of biodiversity for our 'quality of life', and have placed it on the agenda in our schools and public places. Individuals and communities are often united in their fascination for animals and plants – where better to foster this than in their local area?

Outlined below are ways in which people can become more aware of biodiversity, and have a greater appreciation for it:

Schools

The school curriculum contains many opportunities for children to learn about biodiversity. The following tools can help achieve this:

- Guided field trips
- Visits to field-studies centres
- Printed and interactive resources
- Pond-dipping
- Mini-beast safaris
- Science projects

Nature Reserves and Parks

When members of the public visit open spaces such as parks and nature reserves, their understanding, appreciation and enjoyment is enhanced through the following:

- Conservation areas such as wildflower meadows and ponds in parks
- 'Interpretation' in the form of information points, display boards and signs
- Guided walks and nature trails
- Provision of hides, bird- and bat boxes

Events & Talks

Organising events which expose members of the public to wildlife in their locality are excellent ways of engaging people for biodiversity – illustrated talks provide a good alternative, particularly during the winter months. Themed events centred around a group of species require an expert, but are effective. Popular themed events include:

- Bat walks
- Fungus forays
- Butterfly walks
- Moth-trapping

Volunteering

Physical interaction with nature brings about greater appreciation for it, but also enhanced awareness of conservation management. Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, British Trust for Conservation Volunteers and Parish groups organise:

- Green-gyms
- Practical conservation work e.g. coppicing, scrub-bashing
- Surveys

Community groups

Community groups and parish councils can impact biodiversity in their locality by becoming involved in

- Village Design Statements
- Parish Plans
- Conservation areas
- Wildlife surveys
- Winchester District Natural Environment Forum

Hampshire BAP Topic Action Plans include:

- Formal Education

www.hampshirebiodiversity.org.uk/pdf/PublishedPlans/educplanJan.pdf

SECTION 5: Action Plans

5.1 A Framework for Action

Biodiversity **protection** is crucial to delivering the vision for biodiversity outlined in Section 4.1. The local action needed to protect biodiversity through the planning system has been outlined in Section 2, and it is principally in the hands of Winchester City Council who make planning decisions. Most of the actions in this BAP, given in the following pages, are based on a partnership delivery once biodiversity protection has been ensured by Winchester City Council.

The vision set-out above underpins the following approach for partnership action: **maintaining, enhancing** and **restoring** habitats for the benefit of species; addressing **opportunities** such as habitat **creation;** and enabling the public to **engage** with biodiversity. This forms the basis for a simple 'traffic-light' system as a framework for the action plans listed in Sections 5.2 (for the whole district) and Section 5.3 (for specific Local Project Areas). The system is summarised in the table below.

A Traffic-Light System for Action

Action	Description
ATTAIN & MAINTAIN FAVOURABLE CONDITION	**Priority habitat in designated sites managed:** • **so as to promote recovery to favourable condition where not already favourable** • **to maintain favourable condition where favourable**
RESTORE TO & MAINTAIN FAVOURABLE CONDITION	**Priority habitat outside of designated sites managed to:** • **restore to / attain favourable condition** • **qualify for conservation designation**
OPPORTUNITIES FOR HABITATS / SPECIES / PEOPLE	**Opportunities for habitats, species, and people**

5.2 Action Table for the Whole District

The table below lists proposed district-wide actions for biodiversity and people's appreciation of it. The traffic-light system for action has been used (see previous section), and desired outcomes are listed alongside the proposed activities. Potential partners to progress the action in conjunction with landowners are listed (see Section 7.4 for abbreviations and contact details), as well as a suitable timescale for delivering the action.

Action Table for the Whole District

	ACTION (including traffic-light colour system)	• ACTIVITIES →OUTCOMES	PARTNER (S)	TIME SCALE
ATTAIN & MAINTAIN FAVOURABLE CONDITION	Ensure SSSI land is in favourable condition	• Owners of sites in unfavourable condition receive specialist advice and assistance in managing SSSI land • Owners of sites in favourable condition receive ongoing advice and support in managing SSSI land →SSSIs maximised as reservoirs of biodiversity →SSSIs sustainably managed	EN	*▶ *▶
	Ensure SINC land is in favourable condition	• SINC – owners notified; visited and advised by a conservation advisor • Site condition monitored →Site managed suitably and sustainably for biodiversity →Site in favourable condition	HCC HBIC HWT FWAG	* *▶
	Create buffer areas around designated BAP habitat	• Fragmented sites containing priority habitat protected by set-aside schemes or similar → Reduced edge effects on BAP habitat → Reduced effects of diffuse pollution in river habitats → Potential enlargement of fragments through restoration	HWT HCC EA FWAG	*▶`
	Ensure land management protects the water ecosystem	• Encourage sensitive cultivation, especially on slopes and near lanes and drains • Watercress beds managed sensitively to reduce water pollution →Runoff and soil erosion reduced →Diffuse pollution and siltation reduced →Water quality maintained and enhanced	EA HWT	**▶ **▶
	Ensure water-levels are managed so as to support wetland biodiversity	• Water Level Management Plans implemented • Biodiversity targets monitored →Water level needs of river and wetland species and habitats are given consideration	EA	*▶ *▶
RESTORETO & MAINTAIN FAVOURABLE CONDITION	Protect BAP habitat outside of designated sites	• Sites surveyed and designated as SINC where appropriate →Important habitats and species protected →Landowners offered advice on conservation management	HBIC HCC HWT	**▶ **
	Maximise land under Environmental Stewardship Schemes	• Advice given to landowners on appropriate hedgerow and field margin options • Options implemented which introduce corridors, buffers and margins to farmland → Isolated habitat patches linked → Wildlife and character of farmland improved at a landscape scale • Advice given to landowners on appropriate habitat reversion options • Options implemented which restore / re-create wildlife habitats → Wildlife value of farmland increased	DEFRA HWT HCC FWAG SDJC	*▶ **▶ *▶ **▶
	Restore priority habitats using sensitive management	• Coppicing regime in ASNW woodland revived • Standing and fallen dead wood left *in situ* → Populations of woodland species maintained • Suitable grazing reinstated on grasslands / heathland following scrub clearance → Habitat structure maximises biodiversity	HCC FC WCC	**▶ *▶ **▶
OPPORTUNITIES FOR HABITATS / SPECIES / PEOPLE	Protect ancient trees in the district	• Ancient trees in the district surveyed (e.g. by tree wardens) • Inventory is produced and circulated • Ancient trees protected through planning and during forestry operations →Ancient woodland biodiversity maintained	HBIC FC WCC	* ** **▶
	Promote biodiversity and its conservation to the public	• Signs placed in project areas open to access • Local schools visited by officers who present a wildlife message →Appreciation and understanding of biodiversity and its conservation increased	HCC SDJC WCC HWT	**▶ *▶
	Organise events which are open to the local community	• Local communities are aware of why management takes place → Projects supported by community • Local community involved in species monitoring →Biodiversity data supply increased	HCC HWT HBIC	**▶ **▶
	Promote wildlife gardening in settlements	• Local community made aware of how they can enhance their gardens for wildlife. →Appreciation and understanding of biodiversity and its conservation are increased →Wildlife populations supported	HCC HWT WCC	*▶
	Create wildlife habitats in urban & suburban areas	• Road verges are seeded with local seed and managed for floral diversity • Habitat creation schemes and management for wildlife promoted to owners of recreational land and gardens →Aesthetic appeal for communities increased →Wildlife populations supported	WCC HCC	*▶ *

* within 1 year, ** within next 3 years, *** within next 5 years, **** within next 10 years, ▸ then ongoing

5.3 Local Project Areas

In many cases, opportunities for enhancing biodiversity are not on sites with national or international significance, as these sites have relatively high levels of protection and attention. Perhaps the greatest opportunities for local-level action lie in particular 'hotspots' for biodiversity, e.g. on land surrounding SSSIs: hence the rationale for focusing on a series of Local Project Areas.

During the consultation for *Winchester BAP*, partners helped identify Local Project Areas where opportunities for action existed; these areas were further expanded or refined in the light of the biodiversity data available for the location. These Local Project Areas do not necessarily cover the sites with maximum biodiversity such as those designated as SSSI or SAC for the reasons given above.

Local Project Areas have been selected because they represent:

- areas with potential for linking sites of high biodiversity at a local landscape scale
- areas with current action or with the potential for action under various relevant schemes
- areas with a cluster of opportunities for enhancement of biodiversity through creation and / or restoration of habitats
- areas with concentrations of undesignated sites containing BAP priority habitats
- areas with designated sites in unfavourable condition for wildlife

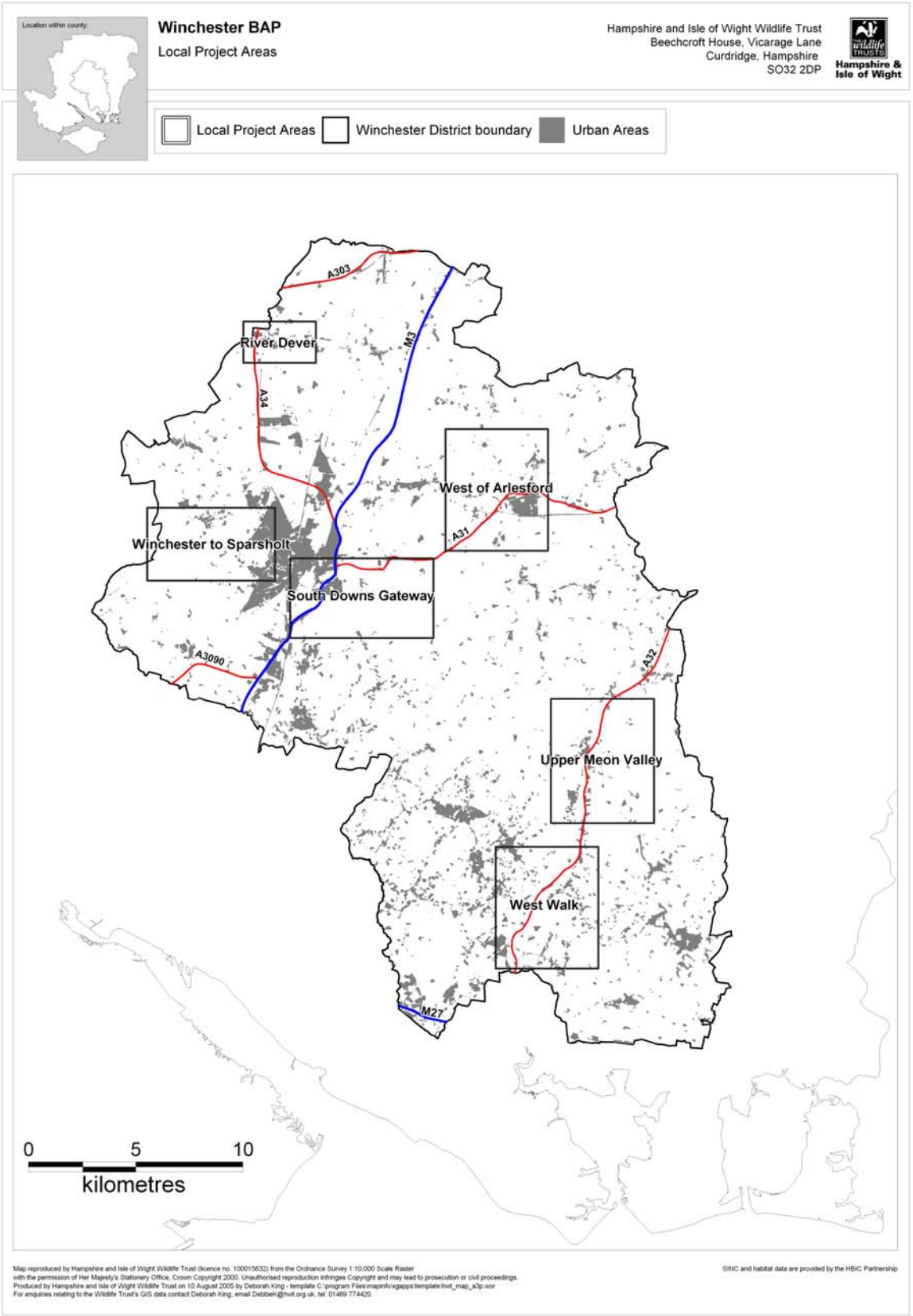
Actions such as habitat management, advice, and monitoring have been prescribed because:

- recommendations were made by partners with relevant or site-specific expertise
- specific actions apply to them, as listed in relevant Habitat Action Plans or Species Action Plans published as part of Hampshire BAP or the UKBAP
- they have proximity to local communities

The Local Project Areas are spread across the district, and it is hoped that more Local Project Areas will be identified and added to this BAP in due course. Actions within the Local Project Areas complement current initiatives such as the Forest of Bere Project, and the East Hampshire AONB which forms the major part of the proposed South Downs National Park. See the map below for the locations of the Local Project Areas in the district.

For each Local Project Area, the following is included:

- a profile of the area context, including rationale for area selection and issues affecting biodiversity in the area
- summary of existing biodiversity value: including a list of BAP priority habitats and a selection of notable species (recent records of UKBAP, HBAP, nationally scarce and otherwise noteworthy species in the area)
- Joint Character Area (Environmental Stewardship) and Landscape Character Area (Landscape Character Assessment)
- a map showing action areas on the ground using the traffic-light system, with numbered target notes cross-referencing to the accompanying action table
- an action table detailing specific actions using the traffic-light system; potential partners to progress the action in conjunction with landowners (see Section 7.4), and a suitable timescale for delivery


Location within county:
Winchester BAP
Local Project Areas
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
Beechcroft House, Vicarage Lane
Curdridge, Hampshire
SO32 2DP
Hampshire & Isle of Wight
Local Project Areas
Winchester District boundary
Urban Areas
A303
M3
River Dever
A34
West of Arlesford
A31
Winchester to Sparsholt
South Downs Gateway
A3090
A32
Upper Meon Valley
West Walk
M27
0
5
10
kilometres
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SINC and habitat data are provided by the HBIC Partnership

Local Project Area: West Walk

Profile of the Area

The West Walk area is strategically placed for biodiversity as it lies on the Meon Valley between the Rivers Hamble and Wallington, forming a link between a range of landscapes and their associated habitats at sites such as East Walk and Botley Wood. Although many of the sites in the area are designated, none have statutory protection. There are a number of settlements which offer opportunities for community activities and garden-based actions. Much of the land in the area is farmed or managed as smallholdings.

West Walk itself is a SINC of over 360 hectares at the heart of the Forest of Bere, containing a mixture of mature and coppiced native trees, conifers, and ponds. Other fragments of designated priority woodland exist around West Walk, notably those containing small-leaved lime. Records exist of BAP priority species, such as dormouse, stag beetle and purple emperor in the woodlands, and great crested newt in its ponds.

The area lies on the River Meon but is also close to streams feeding the Rivers Hamble and Wallington, potentially linking the biodiversity of these wetland systems. There are areas of undesignated unimproved grassland alongside the River Meon and farmland around Soberton Heath and the area south of Hillpound. There is great potential for these areas to be enhanced by establishing water meadows, and wet grasslands. Sections of the River Meon would benefit greatly from restoration of bank-side vegetation, increasing the biodiversity of the river channel and acting as a conduit for wildlife on a landscape scale.

Fragments of heathland remain in the area, associated with Wickham Common and West Walk, but these suffer from a lack of grazing, and isolation. Efforts to create a network of heathland sites require both restoration and creation at sites with suitable soils, starting with buffer areas surrounding each fragment.

BAP priority habitats in the area:

unimproved neutral grassland
standing open water
lowland pasture woodland parkland
heath, bog, and acid grassland
fen/carr/marsh/swamp/reedbeds
ancient semi-natural woodland

Notable species in the area:

small-leaved lime
silver-washed fritillary
purple emperor
stag beetle
great crested newt
nightjar
dormouse
brown hare

Environmental Stewardship Joint Character Areas covered by this Local Project Area

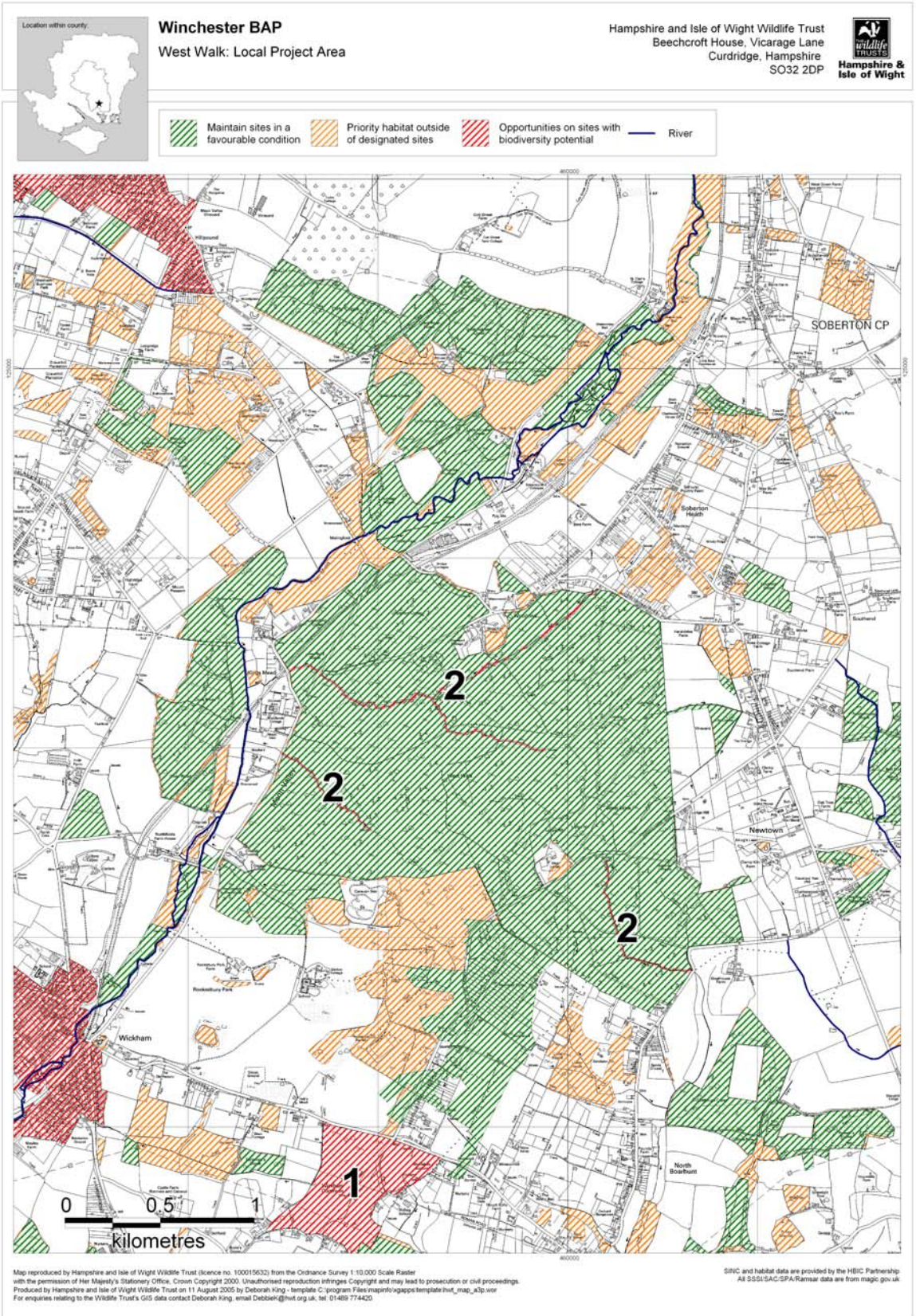
- South Hampshire Lowlands

Landscape Character Areas covered by this Local Project Area

- Lower Meon Valley
- Forest of Bere Lowlands
- Shedfield Heathlands

➢ **Refer to the map entitled West Walk: Local Project Area for specific areas with opportunities for biodiversity.**

➢ **Refer to the Action Table in Section 5.2 and the Action Table for West Walk Local Project Area for specific actions for biodiversity.**


Location within county:
Winchester BAP
West Walk: Local Project Area
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
Beechcroft House, Vicarage Lane
Curdridge, Hampshire
SO32 2DP
Hampshire & Isle of Wight
Maintain sites in a favourable condition
Priority habitat outside of designated sites
Opportunities on sites with biodiversity potential
River
SOBERTON CP
Soberton Heath
Newtown
Wickham
North Boarhunt
Rookesbury Park
2
2
2
1
0
0.5
1
kilometres
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SINC and habitat data are provided by the HBIC Partnership
All SSSI/SAC/SPA/Ramsar data are from magic.gov.uk

Action Table for West Walk Local Project Area

ACTION (Including traffic-light colour / number from map)		• **ACTIVITIES** → **OUTCOMES**	**PARTNER (S)**	**TIME SCALE**
	Manage and monitor ponds in West Walk area	• Advice given on managing ponds for biodiversity • Pond quality and quantity maintained • Ponds monitored for notable species → Populations of notable species maintained	HWT BTCV FC EN	* **▶ **▶
	Restore ancient woodlands of West Walk	• Dead wood left as microhabitat for dead-wood species • Phased removal of conifers • Coppicing of traditional coups and stools on rotation • Regeneration / planting of native trees encouraged → ASNW species maintained	FC HCC	*▶ **** **▶
	Restore river valley habitats along River Meon	• Advice given to landowners with river valley holdings • Water meadow sluices and channels restored under agri-environment schemes • Grazing management plan in place which is sensitive to bank-side vegetation and ground nesting birds → Sites recolonised by ground nesting birds, wet meadow plants and water voles	HWT FWAG EA	* ** **▶
	1 Restore heathland and mosaic of pasture woodland at Wickham Common.	• Scrub cleared from heathland areas • Dead wood and mature trees left in pasture woodland • Grazing reinstated if feasible; otherwise controlled heathland burning → Condition of heath / pasture woodland improved → Nightjar and other heath / pasture woodland species increase	HCC BTCV	** *** ***▶
	2 Restore drains in West Walk to create a linkage between wetland systems	• Drains restored and bank-side vegetation managed for a range of species • Trees removed to provide clearings where appropriate → Healthy populations of wetland species maintained through dispersal	BTCV EA FC	**▶ **▶
	Monitor wetland birds along River Meon	• Existing and restored wetland habitats along River Meon monitored on a rolling basis for breeding wading birds • Data provided to HBIC → Progress monitored and management informed	HOS HBIC	***▶ ***▶
	Produce inventory of small-leaved lime around West Walk	• Survey of small-leaved lime in West Walk conducted • Inventory used during forestry operations → Population protected and enhanced	BSBI HBIC FC	** **▶
	Maintain great crested newt population in West Walk	• Great crested newt population monitored • Pond management informed by results → Population protected and enhanced	HARG EN FC	*▶ *▶
	Maintain dormouse population in and around West Walk	• Dormice monitored through a nest box scheme • Ongoing management of woodland informed by results → Population protected and enhanced	HMG FC	** **▶

* within 1 year, ** within next 3 years, *** within next 5 years, **** within next 10 years, ▶ then ongoing

Local Project Area: South Downs Gateway

Profile of the Area

The area is predominantly a chalk downland landscape, rising to the east from the wetlands of the River Itchen. The calcareous grasslands have become very fragmented by arable farmland and the M3 motorway, but are part of a system extending westwards past Winchester and eastwards towards West Sussex, forming the East Hampshire AONB and proposed South Downs National Park. There is scope for connecting chalk grasslands by the reversion of arable land to pasture and the creation of cereal field margins with appropriate seed mixtures.

Notable calcareous grassland sites in the area include St. Catherine's Hill and Cheesefoot Head SSSIs; Deacon Hill, Magdalen Hill Down, Morestead and Fawley Downs, Chilcomb Wood & Downland SINCs. The SSSIs are currently in unfavourable condition due to scrub and ragwort, though what remains of St. Catherine's Hill is recovering its favourable condition. Species of orchid and butterfly are present in the area, including the pyramidal and green-winged orchids, and small blue butterfly. Skylarks also benefit from the grassland habitat for feeding and nesting.

The River Itchen SAC and the wetland habitats associated with it also represent tremendous biodiversity value and potential. The Winchester Meadows SSSI contains unimproved neutral grassland and wet meadow habitats, which are threatened from a low water-table and inadequate grazing in places. Water voles thrive where there is a good cover of bank-side vegetation, and otters utilise this stretch of the Itchen even though it is close to human habitation. Structures near the river such as bridges and old trees provide roosting sites for the several species of bat which patrol the river.

In addition to its biodiversity potential, the area has significance in terms of its recreational value and public access, including a number of long-distance footpaths: the South Downs Way, the Pilgrim's Trail, the King's Way and the Itchen Way all criss-cross the landscape. This brings certain pressures such as path erosion and dog-fouling, both of which can disrupt sensitive habitats. The suburbs of Winchester contain recreational areas and gardens in close proximity to the wildlife havens also found in the area. If wildlife is encouraged in these privately-owned pockets of land, the whole area will benefit from a more stable wealth of biodiversity.

BAP priority habitats in the area:	**Notable species in the area:**	
unimproved neutral grassland	green-winged orchid	corn bunting
calcareous grassland	hornet robberfly	skylark
fen/carr/marsh/swamp/reedbeds	brown argus	water vole
standing open water	small blue	otter
lowland pasture woodland / parkland		

Environmental Stewardship Joint Character Area covered by this Local Project Area

- South Downs

Landscape Character Areas

- East Winchester Downs
- Lower Itchen Valley

- **Refer to the map entitled South Downs Gateway: Local Project Area for specific areas with opportunities for biodiversity.**

- **Refer to the Action Table in Section 5.2 and the Action Table for South Downs Gateway: Local Project Area for specific actions for biodiversity**

Location within county:

Winchester BAP

South Downs Gateway: Local Project Area

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
Beechcroft House, Vicarage Lane
Curdridge, Hampshire
SO32 2DP

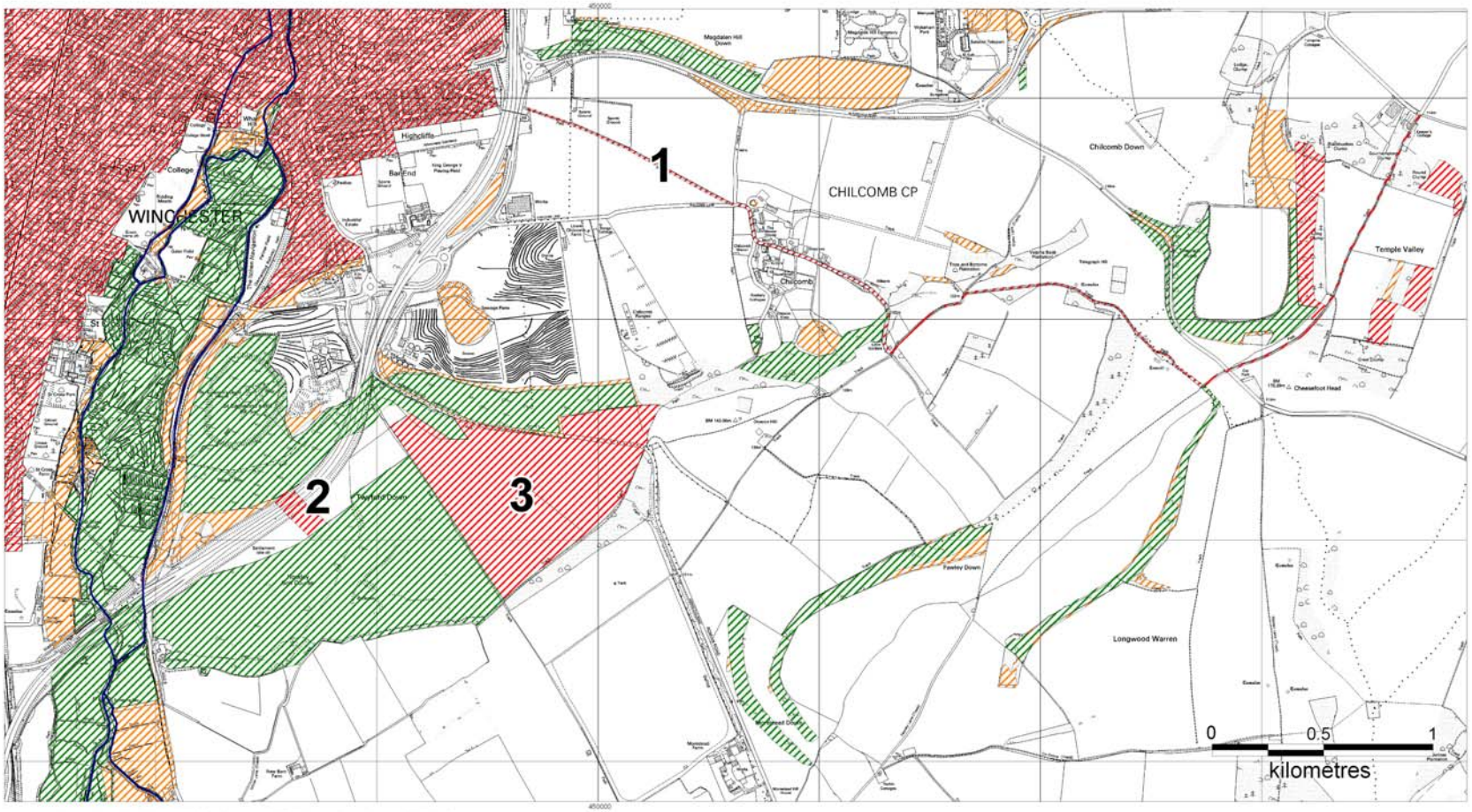
Hampshire & Isle of Wight

Maintain sites in a favourable condition

Priority habitat outside of designated sites

Opportunities on sites with biodiversity potential

River



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All SSSI/SAC/SPA/Ramsar data are from magic.gov.uk

Action Table for South Downs Gateway Local Project Area

ACTION (Including traffic-light colour / number from map)		• **ACTIVITIES** → **OUTCOMES**	**PARTNER (S)**	**TIME SCALE**
	Maintain diverse grassland structure, especially on SSSI land	• Scrub cleared from Deacon Hill and adjacent downland sites • Appropriate grazing regimes ensured on downland and meadows → Downland butterflies and ground-nesting birds recolonise	EN HWT WCC BTCV	* *▶
	River valley habitats restored along River Itchen	• Advice given to landowners with river holdings • Water-meadow sluices and ditches restored under agri-environment schemes • Grazing management plan in place which is sensitive to bank-side vegetation and ground nesting birds → Recolonisation of ground nesting birds and wet meadow plants	HWT FWAG EA	* ** **▶
	Restore Itchen Navigation for biodiversity	• Diversity and quantity of river habitat increased • Intact network maintained → populations of river species connected and maintained	INHP EA HWT	** ***▶
	Create chalk grassland around existing areas	• Marginal land taken out of arable production • Grazing regimes encouraged to maintain and enhance nature conservation value • Gradual ecotone created between chalk grassland and adjacent habitats → Edge effects of narrow chalk grasslands reduced → increased range of microhabitats for species	FWAG HWT BC	* **▶ **▶
	1 Create a wild flower and grass margin of six metres on either side of the South Downs Way	• Margins created following advice on seed mix and management → Fragmented chalk grasslands reconnected for birds, butterflies and flora → Landscape character of AONB enhanced	SDJC FWAG HWT	**
	2 Create wildlife bridge across M3 between Twyford Down and St Catherine's Hill	• Potential for the creation of an ecological bridge scoped • Bridge wide enough to sustain habitat for species dispersal and constructed → Fragmented sites linked	SDJC HCC WCC	** ****
	3 Create large swathe of grassland habitat to protect and enlarge area for wildlife	• Land taken out of arable production • Advice given on habitat creation under Environmental Stewardship → Large reservoir wildlife area created → Existing populations of grassland species increased	FWAG HWT SDJC	**▶ *
	Manage field margins for rare arable flora	• Landowners enter Environmental Stewardship Scheme option for rare arable flora, guided by advisors in consultation with HBIC • Field corners and margins managed for arable flora → Plant populations increased	FWAG HWT HBIC	* **▶ **▶
	Promote sympathetic management of farmland for skylark and corn bunting	• Spring-sown crops used to provide suitable nesting habitat • Winter stubbles kept as a food resource • Silage cutting delayed until after nesting • Beetle banks and grass margins created in large fields for food and nesting habitat • Reduced use of pesticides to increase chick survival →Skylark and corn bunting populations recolonise the area / increase	HOS FWAG	*▶ *▶ *▶ ** *▶

* within year 1, ** within next 3 years, *** within next 5 years, **** within next 10 years, ▶ then ongoing

Chilcomb Down area showing large arable fields surrounding a narrow strip of chalk downland on a scarp.
HWT

Local Project Area: Upper Meon Valley

Profile of the Area

The area is centred on the junction between the River Meon valley wetland system running north-south and the South Downs chalk downland extending east-west. The entire area is within the East Hampshire AONB and the proposed South Downs National Park. Although it is predominantly an agricultural landscape, Old Winchester Hill, Beacon Hill and the Punchbowl are prominent features, linked by the South Downs Way.

Old Winchester Hill SSSI / NNR and Beacon Hill SSSI are prime-condition chalk grassland and woodland habitats, with species such as chalk eyebright, narrow-leaved helleborine and duke of burgundy fritillary. Despite their importance, both sites remain relatively isolated from each other and from adjacent sites such as the Punchbowl SINC with its chalk grassland. They also exist in a matrix of farmland with huge arable monocultures and dairy pastures allowing very little scope for wildlife to disperse across the landscape, as well as problems such as diffuse pollution and siltation of the river. Despite this, arable species such as red hemp-nettle and the brown hare exist in areas where the habitat is suitably managed.

The River Meon itself is a SINC, but much of the associated unimproved neutral grassland and wet meadow is undesignated: expanding and upgrading the designated area represents a priority. Stretches of the River Meon in the area have been engineered through dredging and straightening, reducing the provision of habitats for brown trout and other river species. There is much scope for restoring the river channel and the associated habitats, thus enhancing its biodiversity. Mink represent a threat to water voles and breeding birds along the river, and control measures are necessary before these species can re-establish themselves.

Although there are no large settlements in the area, high numbers of visitors use the long-distance footpaths and nature reserves. The River Meon has a long history of watercress cultivation with its potential benefits and threats to wildlife. The location of the village of Exton means that it needs flood-defence measures. In many cases, such measures are good for biodiversity and can be integrated into Environmental Stewardship schemes.

BAP priority habitats in the area:	**Notable species in the area:**	
unimproved neutral grassland	red hemp-nettle	duke of burgundy fritillary
standing open water	chalk eyebright	lapwing
lowland pasture woodland / parkland	narrow-leaved helleborine	long-eared bat species
fen/carr/marsh/swamp/reedbeds	juniper	brown hare
calcereous grassland		

Environmental Stewardship Joint Character Area covered by this Local Project Area

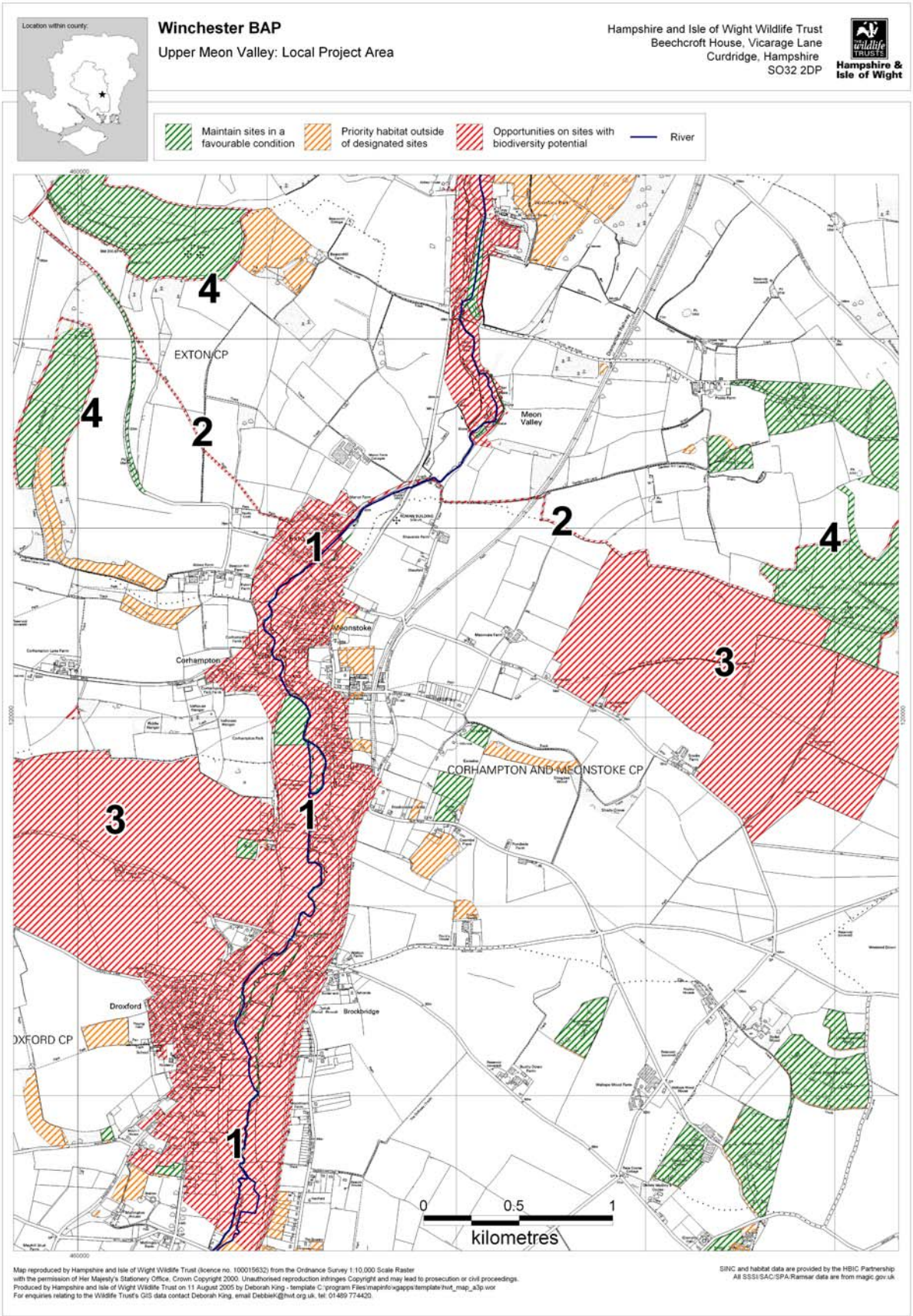
- South Downs

Landscape Character Area covered by this Local Project Area

- Upper Meon Valley

- **Refer to the map entitled Upper Meon Valley: Local Project Area for specific areas with opportunities for biodiversity.**

- **Refer to the Action Table in Section 5.2 and the Action Table for Upper Meon Valley: Local Project Area for specific actions for biodiversity.**


Location within county:
Winchester BAP
Upper Meon Valley: Local Project Area
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
Beechcroft House, Vicarage Lane
Curdridge, Hampshire
SO32 2DP
Hampshire & Isle of Wight
Maintain sites in a favourable condition
Priority habitat outside of designated sites
Opportunities on sites with biodiversity potential
River
EXTON CP
Meon Valley
Meonstoke
Corhampton
CORHAMPTON AND MEONSTOKE CP
Droxford
Brockbridge
OXFORD CP
0
0.5
1
kilometres
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SINC and habitat data are provided by the HBIC Partnership
All SSSI/SAC/SPA/Ramsar data are from magic.gov.uk

Action Table for Upper Meon Valley Local Project Area

ACTION (Including traffic-light colour / number from map)		• **ACTIVITIES** → **OUTCOMES**	**PARTNER (S)**	**TIME SCALE**
	Maintain height and structure of chalk grassland on designated sites	• Sustained grazing regimes at Old Winchester Hill and Beacon Hill • Reversion to chalk grassland at Punchbowl → Habitat supports healthy populations of downland butterflies and rare flora	EN SDJC FWAG	*► *►
	1 Restore wet grasslands and water meadows along the River Meon	• Scrub cleared from grassland areas • Water meadow sluices and ditches restored under agri-environment schemes → Marginal vegetation alongside ditches established → Water voles recolonise • Restored areas surveyed and designated as SINC where appropriate • Grazing management plan in place which is sensitive to bank-side and wet-meadow vegetation and ground nesting birds → Surface water run-off and soil erosion reduced → Water quality improved	EA DEFRA FWAG HWT HBIC	** *** ** **
	2 Create a wild flower and grass margin of six metres on either side of the South Downs Way	• Margins created following advice on seed mix and management • Fragmented chalk grasslands reconnected for birds, butterflies and flora → Landscape character of AONB enhanced	SDJC FWAG HWT	* **
	3 Reduce field size north of Droxford and east of Meonstoke	• Hedgerows and field margins re-created and managed • Beetle-banks established for birds and agriculturally beneficial insects • Existing hedgerows managed for wildlife → Soil erosion reduced → Wildlife habitats reconnected	FWAG GCT HWT	**► ** *►
	4 Create buffer areas around Beacon Hill, Punchbowl and Old Winchester Hill	• Marginal land taken out of arable production • Grazing regimes encouraged to maintain and enhance nature conservation value • Gradual ecotone created between chalk grassland and adjacent habitats → Edge effects on chalk grasslands reduced → Transitional microhabitat created for insects and plants	FWAG HWT	* **► **►
	Survey and monitor local otter population and promote sympathetic habitat management	• Advice given to landowners on managing river banks for otters • Banks managed to provide secluded sites for holts • River channel restored to more natural flow and new habitat created → Otters recolonise new stretches	HWT EA	* ***► ***
	Allow water voles to recolonise the River Meon following mink control	• The feasibility of mink rafts as an effective control method scoped • Control measures implemented → Recolonisation of water vole into areas where previously absent	GCT EA	* **
	Monitoring of wetland birds along River Meon	• Existing and restored wetland habitats along River Meon monitored on a rolling basis for breeding wading birds • Data provided to HBIC	HOS HBIC	**► **►
	Advise landowners on managing land for lapwings	• Advice received on managing farmland in area for breeding lapwings under Environmental Stewardship schemes • Lapwing nests marked without attracting predators to avoid destruction during farm operations • Permanent pasture retained and increased; spring-sown crops used → Lapwings breed successfully	DEFRA FWAG HWT HOS	* ** **►
	Manage field margins for rare arable flora	• Landowners enter Environmental Stewardship Scheme option for rare arable flora, guided by advisors in consultation with HBIC • Field corners and margins managed for arable flora → Plant populations increased	DEFRA FWAG HWT HBIC	* **►

* within year 1, ** within next 3 years, *** within next 5 years, **** within next 10 years, ‣ then ongoing

Local Project Area: West of Alresford

Profile of the Area

In this area, spring-fed streams converge to form the River Itchen and its associated wetlands, rising to chalk downland and scattered woodland; much of the area beyond the river valley is arable land. The quality and connectedness of its wetlands means that this area is of prime importance for biodiversity at a landscape scale - there are also a range of transitions with other types of habitat such that high biodiversity is concentrated into a relatively small area.

Much of the River Itchen SAC and its tributaries within the area are in good condition, and a number of its associated fens and meadows in the area are designated as SINCs. A significant amount of BAP priority habitat in the area is unsurveyed and undesignated, representing an opportunity for biodiversity enhancement. Alresford Pond is perhaps the largest body of standing open water in the district and holds SSSI status (though currently in unfavourable condition). Watercress-beds are a feature of the area, and the river channels follow a natural course which favours populations of notable species such as stream water crowfoot and white-clawed crayfish, whose population nationally has been decimated by a virus spread by the introduced signal crayfish. There are wet woodlands in the area, offering cover for otters and various species of bat.

Tichborne Down SINC, currently a golf course, contains an extensive area of chalk grassland in relatively close proximity to other sites containing this habitat in a matrix of predominantly arable agricultural land. A number of small sites containing ancient semi-natural woodland are scattered throughout the agricultural landscape, but many of these are small and narrow and are thus subject to adverse 'edge-effects'.

New Alresford and Alresford are the main settlements in the area, both in close proximity to sites rich in biodiversity. Areas of intensive agriculture and cultivation in the area pose a threat to the very sensitive chalk streams: soil erosion from sloping fields, eutrophication and pesticides threaten both Alresford Pond and the chalk streams in the area. There is scope for a sustainable wild brown trout fishery if water and habitat quality are maintained so as to benefit the whole ecosystem.

BAP priority habitats in the area:	**Notable species in the area:**	
unimproved neutral grassland	stream water crowfoot	cetti's warbler
standing open water	pheasant's eye	water shrew
lowland pasture woodland / parkland	white-clawed crayfish	otter
fen/carr/marsh/swamp/reedbeds	striped lychnis	
calcareous grassland		
ancient semi-natural woodland		

Environmental Stewardship Joint Character Area covered by this Local Project Area

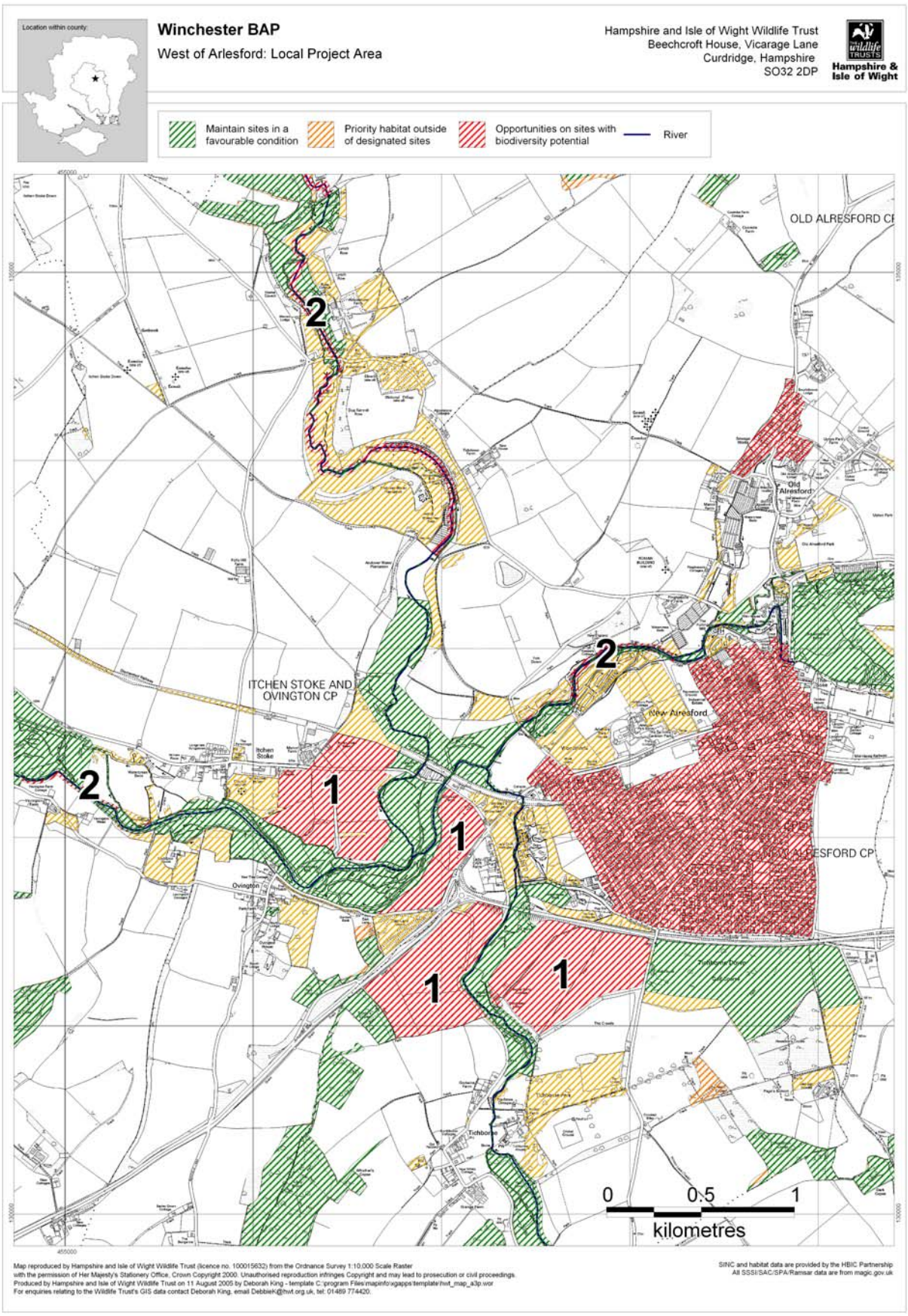
- Hampshire Downs

Landscape Character Area covered by this Local Project Area

- Upper Itchen Valley
- Bramdean Woodlands

- **Refer to the map entitled West of Alresford Local Project Area for specific areas with opportunities for biodiversity.**

- **Refer to the Action Table in Section 5.2 and the Action Table for West of Alresford Local Project Area for specific actions for biodiversity.**


Location within county:
Winchester BAP
West of Arlesford: Local Project Area
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
Beechcroft House, Vicarage Lane
Curdridge, Hampshire
SO32 2DP
Hampshire & Isle of Wight
Maintain sites in a favourable condition
Priority habitat outside of designated sites
Opportunities on sites with biodiversity potential
River
OLD ALRESFORD CP
Old Alresford
New Alresford
ITCHEN STOKE AND OVINGTON CP
Itchen Stoke
Ovington
Tichborne
1
2
0
0.5
1
kilometres
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For enquiries relating to the Wildlife Trust's GIS data contact Deborah King, email DebbieK@hwt.org.uk, tel: 01489 774420.
SINC and habitat data are provided by the HBIC Partnership
All SSSI/SAC/SPA/Ramsar data are from magic.gov.uk

Action Table for West of Alresford Local Project Area

ACTION (Including traffic-light colour / number from map)		• **ACTIVITIES** → **OUTCOMES**	**PARTNER (S)**	**TIME SCALE**
	Restore river bank habitats along Rivers Itchen, Alre and the Candover	• Advice given to landowners with river holdings • Grazing management plan in place which is sensitive to bank-side vegetation and ground nesting birds → Recolonisation of ground nesting birds and wet meadow plants	HWT FWAG EA	* **
	1 Create an unbroken mosaic of valuable wildlife habitat on agricultural land between Tichborne Down and Itchen Stoke	• Promote Higher Level Stewardship through advice • Sympathetic, low intensity farming practices introduced and maintained • Valuable mosaic of habitats with ecotones between sites created → Existing fragments of priority habitat reconnected	DEFRA HWT FWAG	* **▶ ***▶
	2 Survey and restore areas of wet grassland and wet woodland along Rivers Itchen and Arle	• Scrub cleared from grassland areas • Water meadow sluices and ditches restored under agri-environment schemes • Management plan in place which is sensitive to wet-meadow vegetation ground nesting birds and wet woodland → Marginal vegetation alongside ditches established → Surface water run-off and soil erosion reduced • Areas surveyed and designated as SINC	EA DEFRA FWAG HWT HBIC	** *** **▶ **
	Ensure water quality and habitat quality maintained in and around watercress-beds	• Advice targeted to landowners with watercress beds • Environmentally sensitive management without chemicals ensured → Impacts on sensitive wetland ecosystem reduced	EA HWT	* **▶
	Increase populations of downland butterflies around Tichborne Down	• Advice given on management of chalk grasslands and surrounding areas for butterflies • Butterfly populations monitored • Management implemented in feasible sections of the golf course and in the light of monitoring → Butterfly species recolonise	BC HWT	* **▶ ***▶
	Monitoring of wetland birds along Rivers Itchen and Alre	• Existing and restored wetland habitats along Rivers Itchen & Alre monitored on a rolling basis for breeding wading birds • Data supplied to HBIC	HOS HBIC	***▶ ***▶
	Manage strategic parts of the Itchen and its tributaries for White-Clawed Crayfish	• Appropriate action plans for white-clawed crayfish consulted by landowners and river keepers • Core populations supported by adding flint and maintaining riparian trees in appropriate stretches → Range of species expanded along river	EA	* **▶
	Increase populations of river-valley bat species	• Relevant action plans and guidelines consulted for river-valley bat species • Existing roost sites and hunting areas preserved and managed sympathetically • Boxes placed in where roost sites are insufficient → Populations increase and expand	HBG	* ** **

* within 1year, ** within next 3 years, *** within next 5 years, **** within next 10 years, ▶ then ongoing

Chalk stream habitat near Alresford showing characteristic vegetation structure for the area.
HWT

Local Project Area: River Dever

Profile of the Area

The area is in the catchment of the River Test, the River Dever being a major tributary running through a predominantly arable agricultural landscape. The area contains a broken mosaic of sites with priority habitats, which are particularly dependent on sufficient water from the underlying chalk aquifer. Chalk streams, carr woodland, unimproved grassland and wet meadow designated sites are a feature of the Dever valley, but a notably low proportion of the area's priority habitat is designated and therefore protected.

The number of species records in the area is also very low, possibly reflecting a lack of community involvement in biodiversity recording. Stone curlew, a notable BAP priority species, is known to breed in the area, which is also a hotspot for other bird species in the river valley and on adjacent farmland. The wet grasslands will undoubtedly host a distinctive flora, while the wet woodlands offer potential for otters and bats.

Human settlements in the area are small, but there are opportunities at parish and farm estate levels to impact much of the area for biodiversity, especially in terms of biological recording and through Environmental Stewardship. The wetland habitats are particularly sensitive to water levels, and biological monitoring is a good way of ensuring there is sufficient water to ensure they remain.

BAP priority habitats in the area:	**Notable species in the area:**
unimproved neutral grassland	narrow-leaved marsh orchid
fen/carr/marsh/swamp/reedbeds	striped lychnis
standing open water	stone curlew

Environmental Stewardship Joint Character Area covered by this Local Project Area

- Hampshire Downs

Landscape Character Area covered by this Local Project Area

- Wonston Downs
- Dever Valley
- North Dever Downs

- **Refer to the map entitled River Dever Local Project Area for specific areas with opportunities for biodiversity.**

- **Refer to the Action Table in Section 5.2 and the Action Table for River Dever Local Project Area for specific actions for biodiversity.**

Winchester BAP

River Dever: Local Project Area

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
Beechcroft House, Vicarage Lane
Curdridge, Hampshire
SO32 2DP

Hampshire & Isle of Wight

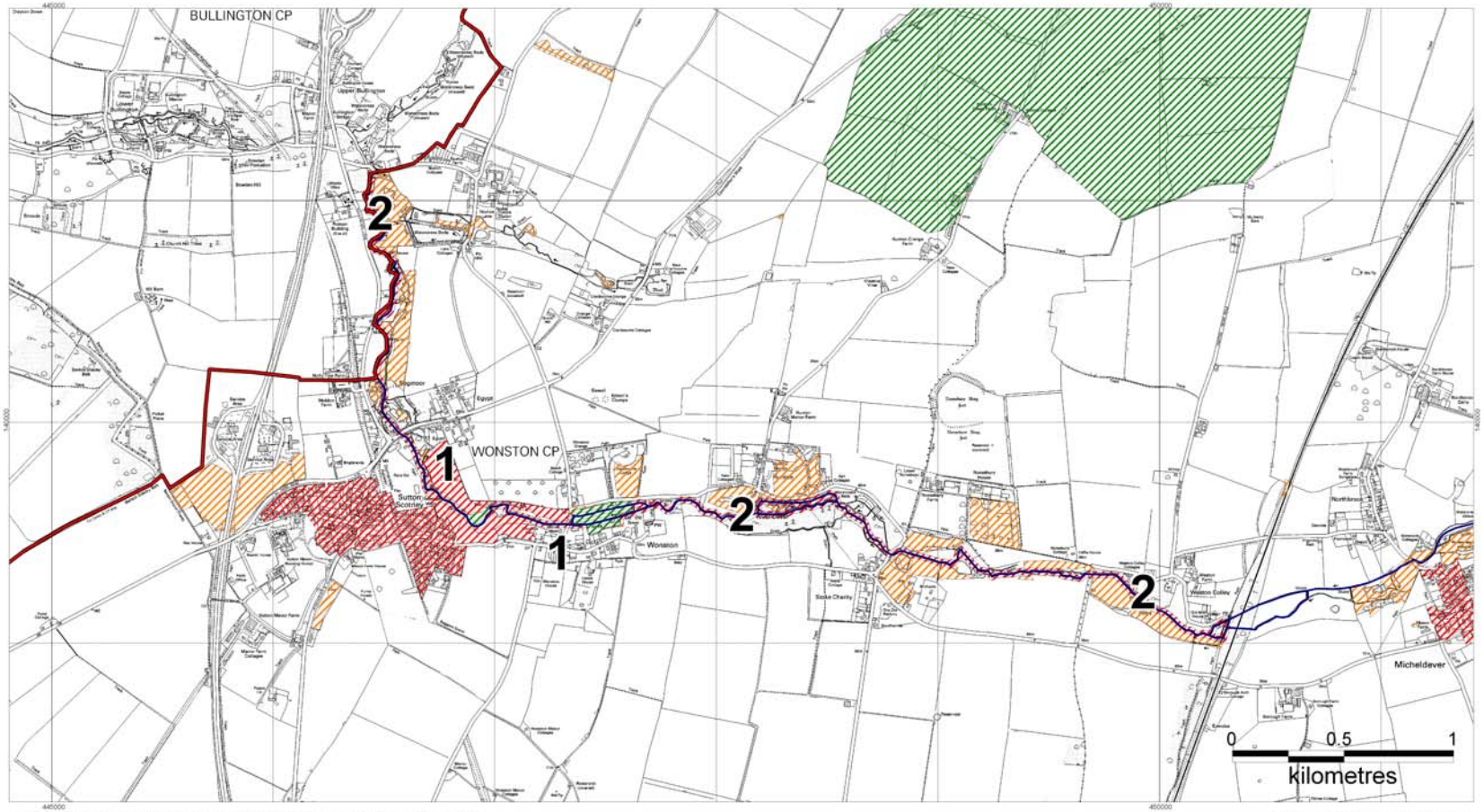
Maintain sites in a favourable condition

Priority habitat outside of designated sites

Opportunities on sites with biodiversity potential

River

Winchester district boundary



Produced by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust on 11 August 2005 by Deborah King - template C:\program Files\mapinfo\wgapps\template\hwt_map_a3l.wor
For enquiries relating to the Wildlife Trust's GIS data contact Deborah King email DebbieK@hwt.org.uk, tel. 01489 774420.

SINC and habitat data are provided by the HBIC Partnership
All SSSI/SAC/SPA/Ramsar data are from magic.gov.uk

Action Table for River Dever Local Project Area

ACTION (Including traffic-light colour / number from map)		• **ACTIVITIES** → **OUTCOMES**	**PARTNER (S)**	**TIME SCALE**
	Maintain height and structure of wet and unimproved grasslands on designated sites	• Sustained grazing regimes on SSSI land → Habitat supports healthy populations of flora	EN	*▶
	Identify, survey and designate areas of wet woodland	• Important habitat identified through survey • Eligible sites designated as SINCs and advice offered → Wildlife value enhanced	HBIC	** **
	Encourage introduction of pasture pumps for livestock	• Advice given on utilisation of pasture pumps • River corridor fenced, improving and protecting bankside habitat → River banks protected from poaching allowing growth of vegetation → River pollution from dung and silt reduced	EA HWT FWAG	* **
	1 Restore and create a connected mosaic of habitats from Egypt to Wonston	• Scrub removed from grassland • Low intensity grazing introduced to maintain habitat structure • Buffer created around existing designated sites → Wildlife link established and maintained between existing designated habitat fragments	HWT FWAG	* **▶ **▶
	Undertake surveys to provide sufficient data to establish biodiversity value of area	• Notable species and habitats identified • Conservation management based on sufficient relevant data → Adequate protection given to rare species and habitats	HBIC	**▶ **▶
	Survey and advise landowners on managing land for stone curlews and lapwings	• Increased area of farmland under Environmental Stewardship • Nests identified without attracting predators to avoid destruction during farm operations • Permanent pasture retained and increased • Increased use of spring-sown crops to provide suitable nesting habitat • Set-aside managed sympathetically for ground nesting birds → Bird populations increase	DEFRA HBIC HWT HOS	** **▶ **▶ **▶ **▶
	2 Create a habitat along the river for Barn owls	• Wet grassland and woodland restored and created along river border • A six metre margin of taller neutral grassland created along length of river as part of Environmental Stewardship → Linear hunting ground provided for owls • Suitable nesting sites for Barn owls provided along river corridor → Barn owl populations enhanced	DEFRA HWT FWAG HOS	** ** *
	Encourage conservation management of St Michaels churchyard, Stoke Charity	• Local community involved in wildlife conservation on their doorstep → Community awareness and appreciation of biodiversity increased	HWT Parish Council	*▶ *▶

* within 1year, ** within next 3 years, *** within next 5 years, **** within next 10 years, ▸ then ongoing

The River Dever running through wet woodland near Wonston.

Local Project Area: Winchester to Sparsholt

Profile of the Area

This area extends from the suburbs of Winchester across fragments of chalk grassland, mixed and broadleaved woodland, and extensive farmland. The area is accessible from Winchester, and is popular with the public. The remnants of calcareous grassland in the area characterise the Hampshire Downs, while the woodlands are larger and perhaps better connected. There is scope for reconnecting this matrix of habitats and ecotones west of Winchester towards the River Test.

Calcareous grasslands such as Teg Down SINC and Pitt Down East SINC are not currently grazed by stock, and are almost certainly maintained through cutting and rabbit grazing. They therefore offer potential for restoration and reconnection. West Wood SINC and Crab Wood SSSI are designated blocks of woodland, the former with large coniferous stands, the latter with ancient woodland and working coppice, earning the site favourable condition status. Both woodlands adjoin or form part of Farley Mount Country Park and have great potential for exposing the local community to biodiversity as they are relatively robust and are in close proximity to the inhabitants of Winchester.

Notable species in Crab Wood include the popular but elusive dormouse, as well as specialist woodland species of butterfly and impressive stands of bluebells. Chalk grassland butterflies are found at Teg Down and Pitt Down, including the rare silver-spotted skipper and chalk-hill blue butterflies, both BAP priority species.

As well as being strategic for biodiversity, the area also has considerable opportunities for people: visitors not only visit Farley Mount Country Park and Crab Wood, but Teg Down itself exists as part of the Royal Winchester Golf Club. Sparsholt College is a centre of expertise in agriculture and wildlife, and consequently is active in the management of the area. A significant part of the city of Winchester exists in the area – its parks and gardens have scope for supporting the biodiversity of the wider countryside and acting as a link between large swathes of land important for biodiversity.

BAP priority habitats in the area:	**Notable species in the area:**	
calcareous grassland	bluebell	silver-spotted skipper
lowland pasture woodland/parkland	silver-washed fritillary	stag beetle
ancient semi-natural woodland	purple emperor	dormouse

Environmental Stewardship Joint Character Area covered by this Local Project Area

- Hampshire Downs

Landscape Character Area covered by this Local Project Area

- Crawley Downs
- Sparsholt Woodlands

- **Refer to the map entitled Winchester to Sparsholt Local Project Area for specific areas with opportunities for biodiversity.**

- **Refer to the Action Table in Section 5.2 and the Action Table for Winchester to Sparsholt Local Project Area for specific actions for biodiversity.**

Winchester BAP

Winchester to Sparsholt: Local Project Area

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
Beechcroft House, Vicarage Lane
Curdridge, Hampshire
SO32 2DP

Hampshire & Isle of Wight

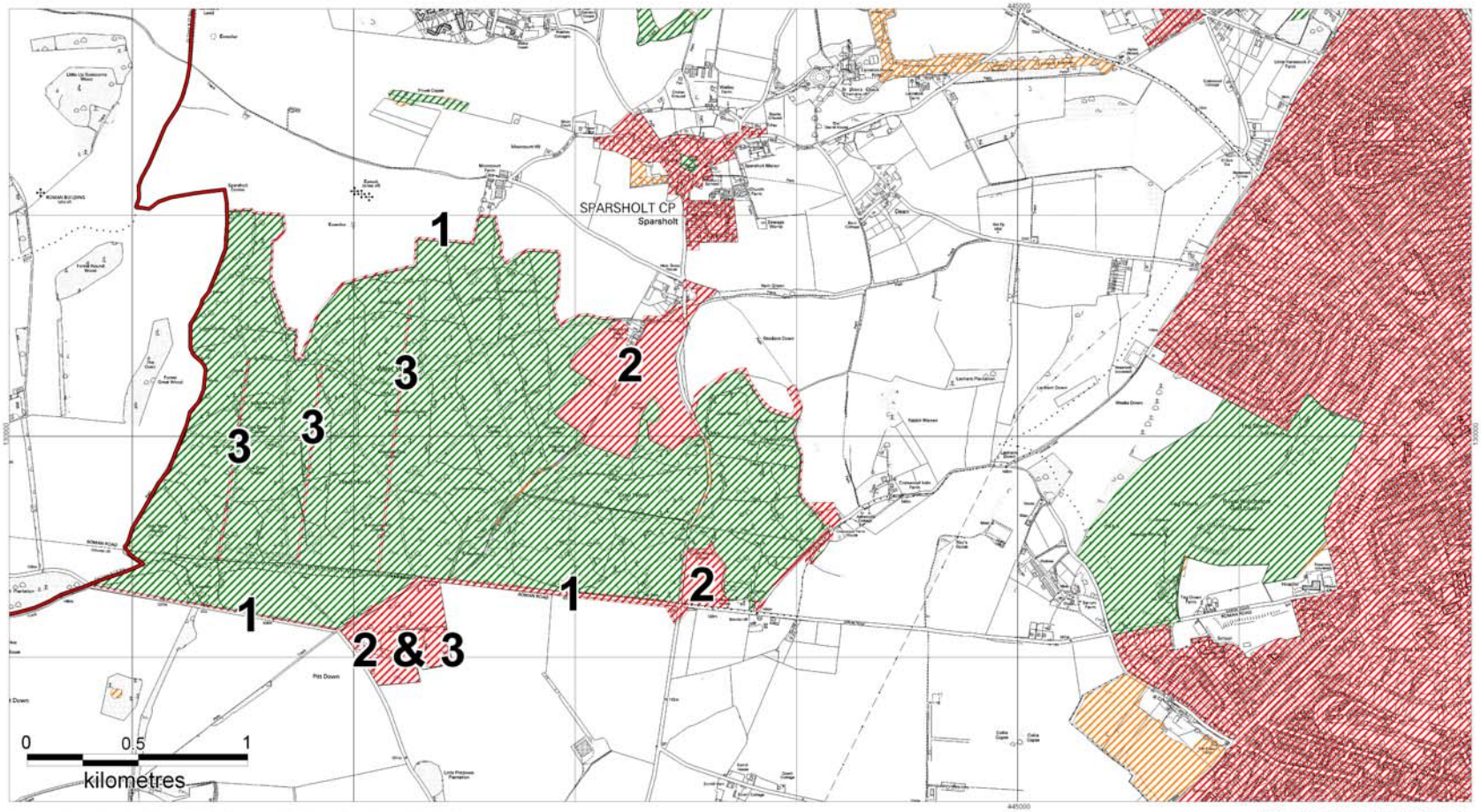
Maintain sites in a favourable condition

Priority habitat outside of designated sites

Opportunities on sites with biodiversity potential

River

Winchester district boundary



SINC and habitat data are provided by the HBIC Partnership
All SSSI/SAC/SPA/Ramsar data are from magic.gov.uk

Action Table for Winchester to Sparsholt Local Project Area

ACTION (Including target colour / number from map)		• **ACTIVITIES** → **OUTCOMES**	**PARTNER (S)**	**TIME SCALE**
	Manage Teg Down sympathetically to restore valuable chalk grassland habitat	• Advice given to landowner • Management plan produced and implemented with reference to published guidelines on managing golf turf for wildlife • Scrub managed and cutting regimes introduced to maintain and enhance wildlife value → Key link in the chalk grassland landscape in-place	HCC HWT	* **▶ **▶
	Restore chalk downland on Pitt Down / Farley Mount Country Park	• Scrub managed on a rotational basis • Grazing encouraged to maintain and enhance nature conservation value • Gradual transition created between grassland and woodland by clearing areas of conifer / dense shrubs → Orchid and butterfly populations enhanced	HCC FC	**▶ **▶ ***▶
	1 Buffer and protect inner core of woodland	• Buffer / graded edge extended on agricultural land adjacent to woodland under Environmental Stewardship scheme • Habitat created for woodland edge species • 'Edge effect' on BAP habitat reduced • Woodland microclimate maintained → Increased woodland available for inner woodland species	DEFRA HWT FWAG FC	** *** ***▶ ***▶
	2 Increase size of Crab Wood	• Areas of farmland adjoining Crab Wood planted with native broadleaved trees through farm woodland schemes → Edge effects reduced → Populations of priority species stabilised	HCC FC	**
	3 Restore woodland biodiversity to PAWs conifer plantation	• Rides created in West Wood • Ecotones and corridors created • Coniferous trees thinned and clearings developed in West Wood and Pitt Down Plantation → Mosaic of habitats created → Woodland butterfly populations expanded	HCC FC	** *** **
	Enhance and monitor populations of silver-spotted skipper on chalk grassland	• Silver-spotted skipper surveyed and monitored in the area • Chalk grassland habitat managed to provide short turf with small patches of bare ground e.g. through rabbit grazing • Long term continuity of management maintained → Population stabilised	BC HCC	*▶ **▶ **▶
	Increase local population distribution of dormice	• Management for dormice championed in West Wood and local woodlands • Systematic monitoring of dormice through nest boxes • Results inform ongoing management of woodland → Core population disperse to neighbouring sites	HMG HCC FC	* **▶ **▶
	Promote Environmental Stewardship to local landowners through Sparsholt College	• Sparsholt College farm used as demonstration site for Environmental Stewardship options → Good-practice shared with landowners	DEFRA (RDS) FWAG	**

* within 1 year, ** within next 3 years, *** within next 5 years, **** within next 10 years, ▶ then ongoing

View of conifers in West Wood across an area of chalk grassland at Farley Mount Country Park.

SECTION 6: Monitoring and Review of the LBAP for Winchester District

Progress on the actions listed in this BAP should be monitored and reviewed by the partners involved, and by the Winchester District Natural Environment Forum. It is suggested that Hampshire Biodiversity Partnership's system for reporting Key Objectives and quantitative Headline Indicators be applied to the actions arising from this BAP. The Winchester BAP generic Actions and the corresponding Objectives and Indicators are listed in the table below. For actions in Local Project Areas, the traffic-light system can be used to cross-reference with these Objectives and Indicators.

Hampshire Biodiversity Partnership Key Objectives & Headline Indicators (use for district-Wide Actions - Section 5.2)

ACTION (including traffic-light colour system)		**HBP Key Objective (Code & Objective)**	**HBP Headline Indicator**
ATTAIN & MAINTAIN FAVOURABLE CONDITION	Ensure SSSI land is in favourable condition	1b Ensure favourable condition of Hampshire's Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)	% of SSSI land in favourable or recovering condition
	Ensure SINC land is in favourable condition	1c Ensure favourable management of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs)	No. of SINCs receiving advice and / or in management schemes
	Create buffer areas around designated BAP habitat	1e Promote management of land at 'landscape scale'	No. of landscape scale initiatives in district
	Ensure land management protects the water ecosystem	1g restore / recreate priority habitats or create new habitats (includes land within or outside SSSIs)	Biological quality of chalk river habitat in the district
	Ensure water-levels are managed so as to support wetland biodiversity	1b (above)	
RESTORE TO & MAINTAIN FAVOURABLE CONDITION	Protect BAP habitat outside of designated sites	2b Ensure all priority habitat and species assemblages that meets SINC or SSSI criteria are designated	% of Hampshire priority habitat designated
	Maximise land under Environmental Stewardship Schemes	1a Maximise the extent of land covered by incentive schemes and land management projects (see also 1g below.	Area of land under incentive schemes or under active management for nature conservation.
	Restore priority habitats using sensitive management	1g Restore / recreate priority habitats or create new habitats (includes land within or outside SSSIs)	Hectares of land in priority habitat restoration / creation schemes
OPPORTUNITIES FOR HABITATS / SPECIES / PEOPLE	Protect ancient trees in the district	1b, 1c, 2b (above)	
	Promote biodiversity and its conservation to the public	4c Raise general awareness and commitment to biodiversity in the following 6 sectors: public sector, farmers, landowners and other land managers, business and industry, education community / user groups general public.	Number of school visits to a selection of study centres
	Organise events which are open to the local community	4c (above)	
	Promote wildlife gardening in settlements	4c (above)	
	Create wildlife habitats in urban & suburban areas	1g (above)	

Hampshire Biodiversity Partnership Key Objectives & Headline Indicators (other than those listed above - to be used for specific actions listed for Local Project Areas in Section 5.3)

ACTION TYPE (traffic-light colour system)	HBP Key Objective (Code & Objective)	HBP Headline Indicator
	1f Ensure appropriate action for priority species	Status of priority species in Hampshire
	3b Encourage and support a voluntary network of recorders and recording groups	No. of recorders providing data
	Survey / monitor extent and condition of key habitats and species	Amount of priority habitat surveyed annually No. of species records held by the Partnership
	4b Promote biodiversity as beneficial to quality of life (health, wellbeing etc) and key to sustainable development	

Translating Hampshire BAP Targets into Estimates for Winchester District

For those Hampshire BAP actions with a quantitative target, reporting can be estimated *pro rata* for Winchester District by using the following formula:

Winchester district target = Hampshire target ÷ 5.7

e.g. if the Hampshire BAP suggests creating 85 hectares chalk grassland across Hampshire, then:

Winchester district target = 85 / 5.7

= 14.9 hectares chalk grassland to be created in Winchester District

This formula only estimates a pro-rata value, and does not adjust the estimate based on existing amounts of habitat in Hampshire versus Winchester District.

SECTION 7: Additional Information

7.1 BAP Targets for Project Areas

The following table provides an estimate of the potential area (hectares) within each Local Project Area according the traffic light system in Section 5.1:

Project Area			
West Walk	704	629	1447
Gateway to the South Downs	293	326	1595
Upper Meon Valley	223	390	2335
West of Alresford	1422	484	2012
River Dever	118	108	779
Winchester to Sparsholt	430	224	1092

7.2 SSSI condition in the district

SSSI Name	% Area Favourable	% Area unfavourable recovering	% Area unfavourable no change	% Area unfavourable declining	% Area destroyed / part destroyed
River Itchen	27.53	0.00	43.94	28.53	0.00
Alresford Pond	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
Old Winchester Hill	97.05	2.95	0.00	0.00	0.00
Beacon Hill, Warnford	85.55	12.27	2.17	0.00	0.00
Peake Wood	76.00	0.00	0.00	24.00	0.00
Lye Heath Marsh	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hook Heath Meadows	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
Waltham Chase Meadows	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Botley Wood & Everett's & Mushes Copses	85.42	1.97	0.00	8.91	3.70
Crab Wood	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
The Moors, Bishop's Waltham	2.93	22.34	0.00	74.10	0.63
Galley Down Wood	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Micheldever Spoil Heaps	31.85	23.07	26.88	18.20	0.00
Cheesefoot Head	0.00	77.88	0.00	22.12	0.00
St Catherine's Hill	0.00	95.47	0.00	0.00	4.53
River Test	27.53	0.00	43.94	28.53	0.00
Ratlake Meadows	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
The Moors, Bishop's Waltham	6.82	52.11	0.00	39.60	1.47
Hook Heath Meadows	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
Upper Hamble and Estuary Woods	97.25	0.00	0.00	2.75	0.00

Source: English Nature (http://www.english-nature.gov.uk/Special/sssi/) 22/08/05.

7.3 Hampshire BAP Species: Records from Winchester District (post 1985)

Countryside & Rights of Way Act Section 74 species are indicated in red (see Section 3)

Scientific Name	Common Name (If Available)	Group
Triturus cristatus	Warty Newt / Great Crested Newt	Amphibians
Bombus ruderatus	Large Garden Bumble Bee	Bees
Badister peltatus	A Ground Beetle	Beetles
Hylis olexai	A Click Beetle	Beetles
Lucanus cervus	Stag Beetle	Beetles
Tomoxia bucephala	A Flower Beetle	Beetles

Acrocephalus scirpaceus	Eurasian Reed Warbler	Birds
Alauda arvensis	Skylark	Birds
Anas strepera	Gadwall	Birds
Aythya ferina	Common Pochard	Birds
Calidris alpina	Dunlin	Birds
Calidris canutus	Red Knot	Birds
Carduelis cannabina	Common Linnet	Birds
Cettia cetti	Cetti's Warbler	Birds
Emberiza calandra	Corn Bunting	Birds
Emberiza schoeniclus	Reed Bunting	Birds
Gallinago gallinago	Common Snipe	Birds
Limosa lapponica	Bar-Tailed Godwit	Birds
Locustella naevia	Common Grasshopper Warbler	Birds
Luscinia megarhynchos	Common Nightingale	Birds
Milvus milvus	Red Kite	Birds
Motacilla flava	Yellow Wagtail	Birds
Muscicapa striata	Spotted Flycatcher	Birds
Passer montanus	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	Birds
Pluvialis squatarola	Grey Plover	Birds
Pyrrhula pyrrhula	Common Bullfinch	Birds
Streptopelia turtur	European Turtle Dove	Birds
Tringa totanus	Common Redshank	Birds
Turdus philomelos	Song Thrush	Birds
Vanellus vanellus	Northern Lapwing	Birds
Apatura iris	Purple Emperor	Butterflies
Argynnis paphia	Silver-Washed Fritillary	Butterflies
Boloria euphrosyne	Pearl Bordered Fritillary	Butterflies
Boloria selene	Small Pearl-Bordered Fritillary	Butterflies
Cupido minimus	Small Blue	Butterflies
Euphydryas aurinia	Marsh Fritillary	Butterflies
Hamearis lucina	Duke Of Burgundy Fritillary	Butterflies
Hesperia comma	Silver-Spotted Skipper	Butterflies
Leptidea sinapis	Wood White	Butterflies
Lysandra bellargus	Adonis Blue	Butterflies
Lysandra coridon	Chalk-Hill Blue	Butterflies
Plebejus argus	Silver-Studded Blue	Butterflies
Satyrium w-album	White Letter Hairstreak	Butterflies
Thecla betulae	Brown Hairstreak	Butterflies
Coenagrion mercuriale	Southern Damselfly	Dragonflies
Cordulia aenea	Downy Emerald	Dragonflies
Platycnemis pennipes	White-Legged Damselfly	Dragonflies
Lycopodium clavatum	Stag's-Horn Clubmoss	Ferns
Asilus crabroniformis	A Fly	Flies
Cheilosia nigripes	A Hoverfly	Flies
Dorycera graminum	A Fly	Flies
Eumerus ornatus	A Hoverfly	Flies
Syneches muscarius	A Fly	Flies
Urophora quadrifasciata	A Fly	Flies
Aceras anthropophorum	Man Orchid	Flowering plants
Ajuga chamaepitys	Ground-Pine	Flowering plants
Althaea hirsuta	Rough Marsh-Mallow / Rough Mallow	Flowering plants
Althaea officinalis	Marsh-Mallow	Flowering plants
Carex divisa	Divided Sedge	Flowering plants
Carex humilis	Dwarf Sedge	Flowering plants

Centaurea cyanus	Cornflower	Flowering plants
Cephalanthera longifolia	Narrow-Leaved Helleborine	Flowering plants
Cerastium pumilum	Dwarf Mouse-Ear	Flowering plants
Chamaemelum nobile	Chamomile / Common Chamomile	Flowering plants
Dactylorhiza traunsteineri	Narrow-Leaved Marsh Orchid	Flowering plants
Deschampsia setacea	Bog Hair-Grass	Flowering plants
Dianthus armeria	Deptford Pink	Flowering plants
Epipactis phyllanthes	Green-Flowered Helleborine	Flowering plants
Euphorbia platyphyllos	Broad-Leaved Spurge	Flowering plants
Euphrasia pseudokerneri	Chalk Eyebright	Flowering plants
Galeopsis angustifolia	Red Hemp-Nettle	Flowering plants
Galium pumilum	Slender Bedstraw	Flowering plants
Gnaphalium sylvaticum	Heath Cudweed	Flowering plants
Helleborus foetidus	Stinking Hellebore	Flowering plants
Herminium monorchis	Musk Orchid	Flowering plants
Hordelymus europaeus	Wood Barley	Flowering plants
Iberis amara	Wild Candytuft	Flowering plants
Juniperus communis	Common Juniper	Flowering plants
Lathyrus aphaca	Yellow Vetchling	Flowering plants
Leucojum aestivum	Summer Snowflake / Loddon Lily	Flowering plants
Lithospermum arvense	Field Gromwell / Corn Gromwell	Flowering plants
Lotus angustissimus	Slender Bird's-Foot Trefoil	Flowering plants
Melittis melissophyllum	Bastard Balm	Flowering plants
Minuartia hybrida	Fine-Leaved Sandwort	Flowering plants
Oenanthe fluviatilis	River Water-Dropwort	Flowering plants
Orchis morio	Green-Winged Orchid	Flowering plants
Orobanche purpurea	Yarrow Broomrape	Flowering plants
Orobanche rapum-genistae	Greater Broomrape	Flowering plants
Poa bulbosa	Bulbous Meadow-Grass	Flowering plants
Polypogon monspeliensis	Annual Beard-Grass	Flowering plants
Ranunculus arvensis	Corn Buttercup	Flowering plants
Ranunculus penicillatus	Stream Water-Crowfoot	Flowering plants
Scandix pecten-veneris	Shepherd's-Needle	Flowering plants
Thesium humifusum	Bastard Toadflax	Flowering plants
Torilis arvensis	Spreading Hedge-Parsley	Flowering plants
Valerianella rimosa	Broad-Fruited Cornsalad	Flowering plants
Vulpia unilateralis	Mat-Grass Fescue	Flowering plants
Apodemus flavicollis	Yellow-Necked Mouse	Mammals
Arvicola terrestris	Northern Water Vole	Mammals
Eptesicus serotinus	Serotine Bat	Mammals
Lepus europaeus	Brown Hare	Mammals
Lutra lutra	Otter	Mammals
Micromys minutus	Harvest Mouse	Mammals
Muscardinus avellanarius	Hazel Dormouse	Mammals
Neomys fodiens	Water Shrew	Mammals
Pipistrellus pipistrellus / P. pygmaeus	Pipistrelle Bat (Both Species)	Mammals
Ashfordia granulata	Silky Snail	Molluscs
Helicella itala	Heath Snail	Molluscs
Helicodonta obvoluta	Cheese Snail	Molluscs
Pisidium tenuilineatum	Fine-Lined Pea-Mussel	Molluscs
Vertigo moulinsiana	Desmoulin's Whorl Snail	Molluscs
Ctenidium molluscum	Chalk Comb-Moss	Mosses
Seligeria calycina	English Rock-Bristle	Mosses
Agrotis cinerea	Light Feathered Rustic	Moths

Apoda limacodes	Festoon	Moths
Catocala promissa	Light Crimson Underwing	Moths
Chesias rufata	Broom-Tip	Moths
Chlorissa viridata	Small Grass Emerald	Moths
Cleora cinctaria	Ringed Carpet	Moths
Cossus cossus	Goat Moth	Moths
Cucullia asteris	Star-Wort	Moths
Cyclophora pendularia	Dingy Mocha	Moths
Dicycla oo	Heart Moth	Moths
Dyscia fagaria	Grey Scalloped Bar	Moths
Elegia similella	A Pyralid Moth	Moths
Heliophobus reticulata	Bordered Gothic	Moths
Heliothis viriplaca	Marbled Clover	Moths
Hemaris fuciformis	Broad-Bordered Bee Hawk	Moths
Hemaris tityus	Narrow-Bordered Bee Hawk	Moths
Heterogenea asella	Triangle	Moths
Hydrelia sylvata	Waved Carpet	Moths
Hypena rostralis	Buttoned Snout	Moths
Jodia croceago	Orange Upperwing	Moths
Mecyna flavalis flaviculalis	A Pyralid Moth	Moths
Meganola strigula	Small Black Arches	Moths
Minoa murinata	Drab Looper	Moths
Moma alpium	Scarce Merveille Du Jour	Moths
Mythimna favicolor	Mathew's Wainscot	Moths
Mythimna turca	Double Line	Moths
Noctua orbona	Lunar Yellow Underwing	Moths
Oria musculosa	Brighton Wainscot	Moths
Paracolax tristalis	Clay Fan-Foot	Moths
Pareulype berberata	Barberry Carpet	Moths
Pechipogo strigilata	Common Fan-Foot	Moths
Pempelia genistella	A Pyralid Moth	Moths
Polia bombycina	Pale Shining Brown	Moths
Rheumaptera hastata	Argent & Sable	Moths
Schrankia taenialis	White Lined Snout	Moths
Scotopteryx bipunctaria cretata	Chalk Carpet	Moths
Shargacucullia lychnitis	Striped Lychnis	Moths
Trichopteryx polycommata	Barred Tooth-Striped	Moths
Xanthorhoe biriviata	Balsam Carpet	Moths

7.4 Who Does What? & Useful Contacts

Who Does What?

Abbreviation	Organisation	Status	Roles
SDJC	South Downs Joint Committee	Partnership	Landscape, heritage, conservation in East Hampshire
BC	Butterfly Conservation	Charity	Butterfly & moth conservation, survey, nature reserves
BSBI	Botanical Society of the British Isles	Charity	Plant recording, survey, conservation
BTCV	British Trust for Conservation Volunteers	Charity	Volunteer coordinators for conservation & survey
DEFRA	Department for the Environment, Food & Rural Affairs	Government Department	Includes RDS* (Rural Development Service) for advising farmers on Environmental Stewardship and agronomy
EA	Environment Agency	Government Agency	River quality, biodiversity, water abstraction control, fisheries
EN*	English Nature	Government Agency	SSSI monitoring and advice, protected species, planning
FC	Forestry Commission	Government Agency	Forestry, forest amenity, conservation
FOBP	Forest of Bere Project	Partnership	Heritage conservation, interpretation in the Forest of Bere
FWAG	Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group	Subsidised Consultants	Farm conservation advice
GCT	Game Conservancy Trust	Charity	Conservation of game species, advice, research
HARG	Hampshire Amphibian & Reptile Group	Species group	Amphibian & reptile recording, conservation
HBG	Hampshire Bat Goup	Species group	Bat conservation, survey, recording
HBIC	Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre	Partnership	Coordinate biological records and recorders, survey data, SINC designation
HCC	Hampshire County Council	Local Government	Planning, conservation advice, countryside service
HMG	Hampshire Mammal Group	Species group	Mammal recording, conservation
HOS	Hampshire Ornithological Society	Species Group	Bird survey, recording, conservation
HWT	Hampshire Wildlife Trust	Charity	Conservation advice, nature reserves, education, survey
INHP	Itchen Navigation Heritage Project	Partnership Project	Restore heritage and wildlife value of the Itchen Navigation
WCC	Winchester City Council	Local Government	Planning, landscape, countryside service

***Note**: English Nature, DEFRA's Rural Development Service, and elements of the Countryside Agency are scheduled to be combined into an integrated government agency named 'Natural England'. The details, including timescale, are not known at the time of publication, but this change will have impacts on the delivery of the services related to biodiversity and rural affairs.

Useful Contacts (*every effort has been made to ensure these details are up-to-date, but changes to personnel and websites are inevitable*)

***For advice on management for biodiversity, including available grants*:**

Alex Cruickshank - Hampshire Heathlands Project
Environment Group, Planning Department, Hampshire County Council, The Castle, Winchester, Hants SO23 8UE
TEL: 01962 845788
EMAIL: alex.cruickshank@hants.gov.uk

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Rural Development Service, Government Offices, Coley Park, Reading, Berks RG1 6DT
TEL: 01189 581222
EMAIL:helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk
WEBSITE: www.defra.gov.uk

Debbie Miller–Farm Conservation Advisor
Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group
Hampshire FWAG, Sparsholt, Winchester, Hants SO21 2NF
TEL: 01483 404255

Hampshire Grazing Project
Project Officer, Environment Group, Hampshire County Council, The Castle, Winchester, Hants SO23 8UE
TEL: 01962 846521

EMAIL:Debbie.miller@fwag.org.uk
WEBSITE: www.fwag.org.uk

Game Conservancy Trust
Fordingbridge, Hants SP6 1EF
TEL: 01425 652381
EMAIL: info@gct.org.uk
WEBSITE: www.gct.org.uk

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
Beechcroft, Vicarage Lane, Curdridge, Hants SO32 2DP
TEL: 01489 774400
EMAIL: feedback@hwt.org.uk
WEBSITE: www.hwt.org.uk

Liz Allinson - Conservation Advisor (Test Valley)
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
Beechcroft, Vicarage Lane, Curdridge, Hants SO32 2DP
TEL: 01489 774427
EMAIL: elizabetha@hwt.org.uk

Louise Stratton- Farm Conservation Adviser
Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group
Hampshire FWAG, Sparsholt, Winchester, Hants SO21 2NF
TEL: 01483 404255
EMAIL: lousie.stratton@fwag.org.uk
WEBSITE: www.fwag.org.uk

EMAIL: ecology.group@hants.gov.uk

Ben Underwood – Farm Conservation Advisor
Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group
Hampshire FWAG, Sparsholt, Winchester, Hants SO21 2NF
TEL: 01483 404255
EMAIL: ben.underwood@fwag.org.uk
WEBSITE: www.fwag.org.uk

Bob Chapman – Land Advisor (South Downs)
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
Beechcroft, Vicarage Lane, Curdridge, Hants SO32 2DP
TEL: 01489 774426
EMAIL: robertc@hwt.org.uk
WEBSITE: www.hwt.org.uk

Jonathan Rau, Woodlands Project Officer,
Environment Group, Planning Department, Hampshire County Council, The Castle, Winchester, Hants SO23 8UE
TEL: 01962 845788
EMAIL: ecology.group@hants.gov.uk

***If you want information on water quality, resources and river biodiversity*:**

Environment Agency
Colvedene Court, Wessex Business Park, Wessex Way,
Colden Common, near Winchester, Hants SO21 1WP
TEL: 01962 713267
EMAIL: enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk
WEBSITE: www.environment-agency.gov.uk/regions/southern

Graham Roberts - South East Otters and Rivers Project
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust,
Beechcroft, Vicarage Lane, Curdridge, Hants SO32 2DP
TEL: 01489 774428
EMAIL: grahamr@hwt.org.uk
WEBSITE: www.hwt.org.uk

***If you want to know about protected sites and protected species*:**

English Nature
1 Southampton Road, Lyndhurst, Hants SO43 7BU
TEL: 02380 283944
EMAIL: iwight@english-nature.org.uk
WEBSITE: www.english-nature.org.uk

Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (SINCs)
Ashburton Court West, The Castle, Winchester SO23 8UE
TEL: (01962) 846741
EMAIL: enquiries.hbic@hants.gov.uk
WEBSITE: www.hants.gov.uk/biodiversity/hbic

Hampshire SINC Project
Environment Department, Hampshire County Council, The Castle, Winchester SO23 8UE
TEL: 01962 846802
EMAIL: ecology.group@hants.gov.uk

***If you want to know about biodiversity or have a wildlife enquiry*:**

Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre
Ashburton Court West, The Castle, Winchester SO23 8UE
TEL: (01962) 846741
EMAIL: enquiries.hbic@hants.gov.uk
WEBSITE: www.hants.gov.uk/biodiversity/hbic

Wildline, (Wildlife Information Service) Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
Beechcroft, Vicarage Lane, Curdridge, Hants SO32 2DP
TEL: 01489 774446
EMAIL: Wildline@hwt.org.uk

Jacklyn Johnston - Biodiversity Officer / Hampshire Biodiversity Partnership
Environment Department, Hampshire County Council, The Castle, Winchester SO23 8UE
TEL: 01962 846802
EMAIL: ecology.group@hants.gov.uk
WEBSITE: www.hampshirebiodiversity.org.uk

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Business Advisory Forum
Regional Business Centre
Harts Farm Way, Havant, Hants PO9 1HR
TEL: 023 9244 9404
EMAIL: bef@chamber.org.uk

WEBSITE: www.hwt.org.uk

WEBSITE: www.egeneration.co.uk/hants

***If you want to know about rural issues*:**

Campaign to Protect Rural England
Beaconsfield House, Andover Road, Winchester, Hants SO22 6AT
TEL: 01962 843655
EMAIL: director@cprehampshire.org
WEBSITE: www.cpre.org.uk

Country Landowners Association
Highclere Office, Brookfields, Westridge, Highclere, Newbury, Berks
RG20 9RX
TEL: 01635 255412
EMAIL: info.southeast@cla.org.uk
WEBSITE: www.cla.org.uk

National Trust
Polesden Lacey, Dorking, Surrey
RH5 6BD
TEL: 01372 45340
EMAIL: enquiries@thenationaltrust.org.uk
WEBSITE: www.nationaltrust.org.uk

East Hampshire AONB
Project Office, Queen Elizabeth Country Park, Gravel Hill, Horndean, Hampshire PO8 0QE
TEL: 023 9257 1381
EMAIL: hampshire@southdowns-aonb.gov.uk
WEBSITE: www.vic.org.uk

Countryside Agency
South East Region, Dacre House, 19 Dacre Street, London SW1H 0DH
TEL: 0207 340 2900
EMAIL: info.southeast@countryside.gov.uk
WEBSITE: www.countryside.gov.uk

National Farmers Union
Agriculture House, Station Road, Liss, Hants GU33 7AR
TEL: 01730 408 000
EMAIL: South.East@nfuonline.com
WEBSITE: www.nfuonline.com

***If you want information about planning and your administrative area*:**

Government Office for the South East
Bridge House, 1 Walnut Tree Close, Guildford GU1 4GA
TEL: 01483 882255
EMAIL: reception.gose@go-regions.gov.uk
WEBSITE: www.go-se.gov.uk

Hampshire Association of Parish and Town Councils
St. Thomas' Centre, 20 Southgate Street, Winchester, Hants SO23 9EF
TEL: 01962 841699
EMAIL: hantsparish@classicfm.net
WEBSITE: www.haptc.parish.hants.gov.uk

Winchester City Council
Avalon House, Chesil Street, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 0HU
TEL: 01962 848177
E-MAIL: info@winchester.gov.uk
WEBSITE: www.winchester.gov.uk

Lorna Maclean – Conservation Officer (Planning)
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
Beechcroft, Vicarage Lane, Curdridge, Hants SO32 2DP
TEL: 01489 774432
EMAIL: lornam@hwt.org.uk
WEBSITE: www.hwt.org.uk

Hampshire County Council
The Castle, Winchester, Hants
SO23 8UE
TEL: 01962 870500
EMAIL: info.centres@hants.gov.uk
WEBSITE: www.hants.gov.uk

If you want to know about species events and recording:

Botanical Society of the British Isles (Hampshire Branch)
Contact for the North of the District: Tony Mundell
EMAIL: vc12Recorder@hantsplants.org.uk

Contact for the South of the District: Martin Rand
EMAIL: vc11Recorder@hantsplants.org.uk

Hampshire Amphibian and Reptile Group
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, Beechcroft, Vicarage Lane, Curdridge, Hants SO32 2DP
TEL: 01489 774400
EMAIL: feedback@hwt.org.uk
WEBSITE: www.hwt.org.uk

Butterfly Conservation (Hampshire Branch)
13 Ashdown Close, Chandler's Ford, Eastleigh, Hampshire SO53 5QF
TEL: (023) 80 270042
EMAIL: lindajane@tcp.co.uk
WEBSITE: www.butterfly-conservation.org

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, Beechcroft, Vicarage Lane, Curdridge, Hants SO32 2DP
TEL: 01489 774400
EMAIL: feedback@hwt.org.uk
WEBSITE: www.hwt.org.uk

Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre
Ashburton Court West
The Castle, Winchester SO23 8UE
TEL: 01962 846858
EMAIL: enquiries.hbic@hants.gov.uk
WEBSITE: www.hants.gov.uk/biodiversity/hbic

Hampshire Flora Group
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, Beechcroft, Vicarage Lane, Curdridge, Hants SO32 2DP
TEL: 01489 774400
EMAIL: feedback@hwt.org.uk
WEBSITE: www.hwt.org.uk

Hampshire Mammal Group
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, Beechcroft, Vicarage Lane, Curdridge, Hants SO32 2DP
TEL: 01489 774400
EMAIL: feedback@hwt.org.uk
WEBSITE: www.hwt.org.uk

Hampshire Ornithological Society
The Membership Secretary, 11 Waterloo Avenue, Winklebury, Basingstoke RG23 8DL TEL: 01489 571486
EMAIL: a.wall@tesco.net
WEBSITE: www.hos.org.uk

Hampshire Bat Group
TEL: 023 8061 7551
EMAIL: michael.pawling@btintermet.com
WEBSITE: www.hants.gov.uk/bats

Hampshire Fungus Recording Group
16 Gordon Avenue, Winchester, Hants SO23 0QQ
TEL: 01962 869725
EMAIL: graham.mattock@talk21.com

Hampshire Network for Invertebrate Conservation
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, Beechcroft, Vicarage Lane, Curdridge, Hants SO32 2DP
TEL: 01489 774400
EMAIL: feedback@hwt.org.uk
WEBSITE: www.hwt.org.uk

National Conchological Society
Conservation Officer, 14 Goodwood Close, Midhurst, West Sussex
GU29 9JG
TEL: 01483 411217 (work)
EMAIL: conservation@conchsoc.org
WEBSITE: www.conchsoc.org

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
South East England Office, 2nd Floor, 42 Frederick Place, Brighton, East Sussex BN1 4EA
TEL: 01273 775333
WEBSITE: www.rspb.org.uk

If you want to volunteer:

British Trust for Conservation Volunteers
BTCV, Conservation Centre, Micheldever Wood, Micheldever, Hants SO21 3BP.
TEL: 01962 774714
EMAIL: btcvhampshire@btcv.org.uk
WEBSITE: www.btcv.org.uk

Pond Warden Scheme
BTCV, Conservation Centre, Micheldever Wood, Micheldever, Hants SO21 3BP.
TEL: 01962 774714
EMAIL: btcvhampshire@btcv.org.uk
WEBSITE: www.btcv.org.uk

Sara Kilby, Training & Volunteering Manager, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust,
Beechcroft, Vicarage Lane, Curdridge, Hants SO32 2DP
TEL: 01489 774400
EMAIL: feedback@hwt.org.uk
WEBITE: www.hwt.org.uk

Visit the following website, hosted by Hampshire County Council, which gives links to volunteer opportunities in Hampshire.
http://www.e.volve.org.uk

If you want more information about wildlife education resources:

Di Smith - Senior Education Officer, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
Beechcroft, Vicarage Lane, Curdridge, Hants SO32 2DP
TEL: 01489 774400
EMAIL: feedback@hwt.org.uk
WEBSITE: www.hwt.org.uk

Learning Through Landscapes
3rd Floor, Southside Offices, The Law Courts, Winchester, Hants SO23 9DL
TEL: 01962 846258
WEBSITE: www.ltl.org.uk

7.5 Links to Other Strategies and Initiatives

Birds Directive - The Birds Directive requires EU member states to take special measures to conserve some vulnerable bird species and all migratory birds. Sites designated under the Birds Directive are known as Special Protection Areas.

Local Biodiversity Action Plans – Local plans produced by each county to implement the UK Biodiversity Action Plan, part of the government's response to signing the Convention on Biological Diversity during the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio.

Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies – produced by the Environment Agency in response to the government publication " taking water responsibly" (1999). The principle aim is to allow balance between the needs of abstractors and with those of the aquatic environment. To be determined in consultation with the local community and interested parties.

Catchment Flood Management Plans – This is an Environment Agency initiative which will provide a Project planning framework for integrated management of flood risks to people and the developed and natural environment in a sustainable manner.

Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 - This states that any Government department has a general duty to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity, which is defined as including restoration and enhancement.

Community Strategies – Winchester City Council has drafted a Community Strategy for promoting and improving the economic, social and environmental well-being of the district. This will contribute to the achievement of sustainable development in the area through waste management, for example, reducing the need for landfill sites.

Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC - The Habitats Directive requires Member States to endeavour to encourage the management of features of the landscape which are of major importance for wild flora and fauna. These features are those, which because of their linear and continuous structure or their function as stepping stones, are essential for migration, dispersal and genetic exchange. Examples given in the Directive are rivers and their banks, traditional field boundary systems, ponds and small woods. The Directive is also the mechanism that enables the designation of SACs which will form part of the Natura 2000 Network.

The Hampshire Landscape Strategy - A Strategy for the Future (Hampshire County Council, 2000) – sets out a broad framework for district-level strategies. A mechanism through which the Council contributes to the delivery of the Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan.

LEAPs and Local Contributions – LEAPs are plans that help the Environment Agency identify, assess and address environmental problems in the River Catchment whilst taking into account the views of the local community. The LEAP process has recently been superseded by a new strategy called "Local Contributions". This is an over-arching document covering all the LEAP catchments and identifies the key environmental targets and outcomes that the Agency will be delivering over the next 5 years.

Local Sites Systems (DETR Local Sites Review Group Report, 2000) - "The series of non-statutory Local Sites seek to ensure, in the public interest, the conservation, maintenance and enhancement of species, habitats, geological and geomorphological features of substantive nature conservation value. Local Site systems should select all areas of substantive value including both the most important and the most distinctive species, habitats, geological and geomorphological features within a national, regional and local context. Sites within the series may also have an important role in contributing to the public enjoyment of nature conservation." In Hampshire these sites are called Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs).

Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation (2005) outlines government policy regarding biodiversity conservation in Regional Spatial Strategies (RSS) and Local Development Frameworks (LDF's), stating that: 'Local Authorities should take an integrated approach to planning for biodiversity…when preparing local development documents. They should ensure that policies in local development documents reflect, and are consistent with, national, regional and local biodiversity priorities and objectives.'

Regional Forestry Framework - identifies what is special about forestry and woodlands in an area. It charts a route to maintain and enhance the tree, woodland and forestry assets that can bring social, environmental and economic benefits to the region and to all who live, work and visit there.

Regional Sustainable Development Framework 2001 - A better quality of life in the South East – produced by regional government - sets out a vision for the region with four themes including effective protection of the environment and prudent use of natural resources. The objectives of the framework will be measured using indicators such as the extent and condition of key BAP habitats.

Water Level Management Plans – many SSSIs have a water level management plan which investigates the hydrological regime of each site and ensures that they remain in favourable condition.

Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC - Article 1 of the water framework directive states that signatories must "Prevent further deterioration, protect and enhance aquatic ecosystems and, with regard to their water needs, terrestrial ecosystems and wetlands".

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 - the presence of a protected species is a material consideration when a local planning authority is considering a development proposal, which, if carried out, would be likely to result in harm to that species, or its habitat.

Working with the grain of nature: A biodiversity strategy for England (DEFRA, 2002) – Government strategy with partnership of stakeholders in the public, voluntary and private sectors. The document sets out a series of actions to make biodiversity a fundamental consideration in agricultural, water, woodland, marine and urban policies and initiatives.

NB: This is not an exhaustive list of policies and initiatives relevant to Winchester district, but acts as a flavour of supporting work for the Biodiversity Action Plan for Winchester district.

7.6 Glossary

Agri-environment schemes - schemes offering payments to farmers to promote farming compatible with the protection of the environment and the maintenance of the countryside as part of the Rural Development Regulation. Schemes applicable in all countries of the UK are Environmentally Sensitive Areas, Countryside Access Scheme, Organic Aid Scheme and Habitat Scheme.

ASNW – Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland

Biodiversity – the diversity of life in an area.

Buffer zone - a strip that partially or fully encloses an area to protect the inner section from ecological disturbance by outside pressures.

Carr - woodland, usually comprising alder and willow, naturally occurring in marshy conditions.

Coppice - trees which are cut back to near ground level every few years and which grow again from the stump or stool. The many straight stems which grow from each stool are used for firewood, tools and other purposes.

Coniferisation – the planting of any habitat with conifers.

Environmental Stewardship - an agri-environment scheme which enables farmers and land managers in England to enter management agreements to maintain or enhance certain landscapes and features: it consists of two tiers: Entry Level Stewardship (ELS) and Higher Level Stewardship (HLS)

Corridor - the principle of connections between wildlife habitats. Closely related to the theory of fragmentation, ecological corridors aim to provide a corridor for migration of all species between suitable habitat areas

Ecosystem - the interactions of animals, plants, fungi, and micro organisms with each other and the non-living world.

Ecotone – the transition between one habitat and the next. Certain species prefer sharp or gradual ecotones for all or part of their life-cycle.

Edge-effects – where much of the biodiversity in small or narrow sites is under the influence of factors from outside the site. Larger blocks of habitat have an inner core which is buffered from these influences

Eutrophication – the enrichment by nutrients of waterbodies leading to algal blooms which disrupt the ecosystem

Fragmentation - the disruption of large areas of habitat into smaller, separate units. Involves both a total loss of habitat area and the isolation of remaining habitat patches, which prevents interaction between some organisms located in the fragments, and renders them effectively separate populations.

Habitat - a place where animals, plants, fungi, and micro organisms live.

Improved land – land that has been improved for the purposes of agricultural production by the application of fertilisers.

Invasive alien species - species from other countries not naturally found growing in Britain, with a tendency to dominate communities to the detriment of native species.

Local Biodiversity Action Plan – plans produced at county, district, parish or similar level to interpret the actions of the UK BAP.

PAWs – Planted Ancient Woodlands

Priority species - those species on the short and medium lists of the UK Biodiversity Steering Group Report (1995).

Ride - open track-ways cut through woods originally for the extraction of timber. Now important conservation areas for butterflies, other invertebrates and wildflowers growing there due to the increased sunlight along the woodland edge.

Riparian – living or growing along the banks of a river.

Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) - an area of land notified under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as being of special nature conservation interest. The SSSI designation applies in England, Wales and Scotland. In Northern Ireland sites are known as ASSIs. Sites are notified by the appropriate country conservation agency, in England this is English Nature.

South East England Biodiversity Forum – forum attended by leading voluntary and statutory nature conservation organisations, with a remit to provide advice to regional government and co-ordinate biodiversity activity across the region.

Special Area for Conservation (SAC) - a site designated by the UK Government under EC Directive 92/43 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.

Special Protection Area (SPA) - a site designated under Article 4 of EC Directive 79/409 on the conservation of wild birds. Together SACs and SPAs form a network of European sites known as Natura 2000.

Local Project Area – area selected for the purposes of this strategy. Identified because of the potential to implement actions in the area to enhance biodiversity.

UK Biodiversity Action Plan - the UK's priorities in biodiversity conservation, formulate a series of focused action plans designed to achieve these objectives.

Woodland Grant Schemes (WGS) - grants from the Forestry Commission to create new woodlands and to encourage the good management and regeneration of existing woodlands.
Whole farm management plan – management plan to incorporate the conservation of species and habitats across a whole farm as part of sustainable farming practice.

Winterbourne – a chalk stream which only exists during winter when the aquifers are replenished with rain