



# Winchfield

## Neighbourhood Plan

### 2022 - 2037



Reg. 16 Consultation Version

Appendix D

# The Evidence Base

## Appendix D.

### Evidence Base. Compendium of Baseline Studies and Additional Information

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## Introduction.

**The Neighbourhood Plan Working Group and Steering Group assisted by members of the Winchfield Parish Council have spent many hours over the last three years researching information to provide evidence in support of the Plan text and policies. In addition to their significant efforts we are very grateful for the advice, information and photographic contributions we have received from many other Winchfield residents and local enthusiasts who have shared their knowledge with us.**

**Thank you to all who have contributed to the Plan and to this Evidence Base and Compendium of Additional Information and Baseline Studies.**

'Winchfield has a rich and diverse history albeit only two books have been written about its history. Local author Anne Pitcher researched and wrote more than 25 books about the local area. *'Illustrated History of Winchfield and the Hospital'* was written in 1985 and has long been out of print and regrettably is not digitised. Anne does not list all her sources or evidence and not all of the information contains sufficient detail to assign a correct date but it contains a great deal of very interesting information about the village and the area. Some of the information below has been taken from her book and supported by other reference searches.

The Rev. C.F. Seymour, MA and C.F. Trower Esq, MA. Barrister at Law wrote *'Winchfield Past and Present, the Records of Winchfield, Hants* in 1891. This contains a lot of information about the Church and the Manorial history – quite likely a source for some of Anne Pitcher's book.

In 2020 Mr David Evans, Treasurer for St Mary's had the Seymour & Trower book reprinted to raise funds for the Church and copies might still be available.

### **Some additional notes about Winchfield which supplement the notes in the Listed Buildings chart and other papers.**

Dr Andrew Bradley, son of Rev. Kenneth Bradley (Rector Winchfield 1953 – 1972) wrote a paper in 1969, entitled *'Population and Social Factors: A case study of changes in Winchfield and Dogmersfield 1660-1918'*, which was sadly, badly damaged by termites. Dr Bradley kindly reviewed a few facts from what remains of his paper for our use and the Bradley family still maintain contact with friends in Winchfield.

The Rev. Kenneth Bradley was well loved in Winchfield and he was the last Rector of Winchfield and Dogmersfield. Winchfield was 'transferred' to Odiham when he retired in 1972. Rev. Bradley had also been chaplain at Winchfield hospital and remembered it at the end of its days as a workhouse too.

1348-49: Black Death. There are very few houses in the vicinity of the parish church. Winchfield is very likely, therefore, to have been a plague village or shrunken village, whereby an early settlement around the church was abandoned after the pestilence and survivors settled elsewhere in the village. In a 19th century painting of the exterior of St Mary's there is a small mound to the west of the tower. Could this have been a mass grave from plague times?

By the 17th century, settlement seems to have been concentrated in the area around the Hurst and north towards Shapley Heath.

**St Mary's Church (see page 89) Grade I 1244705**

1642-51: Civil War. It is believed that Cromwell billeted men and horses at Winchfield Church. There are bullet holes in the north door which are believed to date from this period. There is also the legend of a tunnel between the church and Court House Farm nearby, although this has never been located. If it did exist, it could possibly date from these turbulent mid-17th century times, or possibly from Reformation times, or even earlier.

Winchfield has a notable history and is fortunate to benefit from a rich built heritage, with 29 listed buildings which are recognised nationally by their inclusion on the National Heritage List for England. An opportunity has been taken through the preparation of the New Neighbourhood Plan to identify further buildings and other artefacts that are locally important and define a list of Non-designated Heritage Assets'. Full details are in Sections 15 and 16.

# 1. Winchfield Parish: Flora and Haven for Biodiversity

*"It cannot be said too often that it is as much the conservationist's job to keep common species common as it is to ensure the survival of rare species".....Moore, N.W. (1987)<sup>1</sup>*

*"All organisms can be viewed as resources capable of conferring benefits on society - sometimes just by their presence - and so conservation is a strategy for the wise, considered, planned and deliberate use of resources over time".....Spedding, C.R.W. (1996)<sup>2</sup>*

*"It is critically important for those with responsibility for "Development" are fully aware of the biodiversity they have and where they have it in order to prevent further losses in the County [of Hampshire]".....Rand, M. and Mundell, T. (2011)<sup>3</sup>*

## Acknowledgements

I am grateful for the expert advice I received from Mr Tony Mundell, Botanical Society of Britain & Ireland (BSBI) Recorder for North Hampshire and from Ms Lizzy Peat MCIEEM, Ecologist at The Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre [HBIC] which, together, provided me with the guidance required for the foundations of this report. The "building blocks" I then distilled from the comprehensive in-depth information and extensive data sets they each made available on the flora [TM; e.g. See Section [I] below] and overall biodiversity [LP] within both Hampshire and the Parish of Winchfield in particular.

## Disclaimer

To the inexpert lay-person and non-specialist, the numerous regulations, definitions, criteria, codes and contrasting interpretations used by experts for classifying and locating species within a spectrum of "biodiversity" internationally, nationally, regionally and locally are dauntingly complex. I have attempted to counter that intimidation throughout the writing of this report, whilst also avoiding any extravagant claims and in all cases being careful to ensure underpinning by a formal, credible and wherever possible a quantitative Evidence Base.

*Emeritus Professor R.J. Summerfield DSc*

*10 January 2022*

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<sup>1</sup> **Moore, N.W. (1987).** The bird of time: the science and politics of nature conservation: a personal account. Cambridge University Press. Pp. 290. ISBN 9780521338714.

<sup>2</sup> **Spedding, C.R.W. (1996).** Agriculture and the citizen. Chapman & Hall. Pp.282. ISBN 0 412 71520 1.

<sup>3</sup> **Rand, M. and Mundell, T. (2011).** Hampshire rare plant register: rare, scarce and threatened vascular plants of Hampshire. Troililius Publications. Pp. 437. ISBN 978-0-9539718-4-8.

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## WINCHFIELD: FLORA

### A. Preamble

- (i) The large political County of Hampshire measures 3,800 square km [380,000ha] within which, at the North-East corner, the Hart District covers 215 square km [21,500 ha] of which, and centrally, nestles the Parish of Winchfield - 7 square km [705ha] - bordered to the North by the edge of Hartley Wintney and to the East and West by the valleys of the Rivers Hart and Whitewater. By coincidence, the border to the South marks a change in landscape character between a mosaic of predominantly "heathy" pasture and woodland into the "non-heathy" farmland and woodland which feature towards Dogmersfield [9] [23].
- (ii) The Hart District has an overall population density [2011 Census] of 4.2 persons per ha whereas the population density of Winchfield is just 0.9 persons per ha - reflecting that the Parish is indeed the "rural heart" of the District.

### B. National "Nature"

- (i) The Natural History Museum [NHM] has recently highlighted and discussed the alarming findings by the National Biodiversity Network [NBN] that the UK has become one of the most "nature-depleted" countries in Europe. The loss of national biodiversity has occurred at an ever-increasing pace since the Second World War [19].
- (ii) Two examples illustrate the scale of destruction as natural habitats have been lost or have become fragmented or have declined in quality: (a) an estimated 97% of the nation's wildlife meadows [circa three million ha] have been destroyed and (b) an estimated 120,000km of hedgerows have been bulldozed and burned - in both cases often so that farmers can meet the various demands by an increasing population.
- (iii) **The NHM-NBN have concluded that the key pressures on our national flora and wildlife biodiversity have come from agricultural management, urbanization, pollution, hydrological degradation, woodland management, invasive non-native species and climate change (and for Hampshire see [D] (ix) below).**

### C. Floristic Scene-Setting

- (i) Notwithstanding these decades of decline in "***The State of Nature***", the NHM-NBN have also concluded that England still contains a range of internationally-important habitats - including lowland heath lands and ancient woodlands, i.e. precious habitats examples of which are found in Hampshire.
- (ii) **Hampshire is botanically the richest county in the British Isles, with more than 1,400 species of Established Vascular Plants (EVP)** [i.e. flowering plants, conifers, ferns and their relatives and club mosses] found in the natural and semi-natural lowland habitats within the political administrative boundary [2]. In lay terms, vascular plants are those species which have different and specialised tissues for the transport of water and nutrients from roots to shoots and the products of photosynthesis (i.e. 'food') from leaves to other plant parts both below and above ground.

- (iii) Three examples described by Brewis *et al.* [2] serve to illustrate the County's botanical treasure-trove: (a) Ancient Woodland; (b) Arable Flora; and (c) Nationally Rare and Threatened Species.
- (a) Approximately 30,000ha of woodland of ancient origin and of very diverse size are found throughout the County and have been categorized into nine "types" based on soil and topographical situations. Brewis *et al.* [Page 53] have reproduced a 1984 list of the 100 vascular plant species that, in the south of England including Hampshire, are typical components of ancient woodland communities. These **Ancient Woodland Vascular Plants [AWVP]** are listed in **Table 1**. They often also occur beside sunken lanes and in hedge banks which are themselves relics of ancient woods **[and for modern-day Winchfield see [H] below]**.
- (b) In spite of agricultural intensification nationally since the 1940s, **Hampshire also probably possesses the richest and most diverse arable flora of any county in Britain [2]** - having escaped some of the worst examples of "prairie farming", allowing wild species to survive in field margins and alongside hedges.
- (c) The diversity and extent of the lowland habitats within Hampshire underpins the fact that **the County is outstanding for the range of nationally rare and threatened species**, including those which are located on private land with no right of public access **[22]**.
- (iv) It is these national trends and county features which provide the backdrop to the following consideration of our parochial flora - both inherited and envisioned for the challenging years ahead.

**Table 1. The Flora of Hampshire**

South Region Ancient Woodland Vascular Plants. The 100 species which in The English Nature South Region are the most strongly associated with ancient woodland and are typical components of botanically rich ancient woodland communities

	A	B		A	B		A	B
Acer campestro			Festuca gigantea			Polygonatum multitorum		
Adoxo moschatellina			Frangula alnus			Polypodium vulgare (s. lato)		
Agropyron caninum (1)			Galium odoratum			Polystichum aculeatum		
Allium ursinum			Geum rivale			Polystichum setiferum		
Anemone nemorosa			Helleborus viridis			Populus tremula		
Aquilegia vulgaris			Holcus mollis			Potentilla sterilis		
Blechnum spicant			Hordelymus europaeus			Primula vulgaris		
Bromus ramosus (2)			Hyacinthoides non-scripta			Prunus avium		
Calamagrostis epigejos			Hypericum androsaemum			Pulmonaria longifolia		
Campanula trachelium			Hypericum pulchrum			Quercus petraea		
Cardamine amara			Ilex aquifolium			Ranunculus auricomus		
Carex laevigata			Iris foetidissima			Ribes nigrum		
Carex pallescens			Lamium galeobdolon			Ribes sylvestris		
Carex pendula			Lathraea squamaria			Rosa arvensis		
Carex remota			Lathyrus montanus (4)			Ruscus aculeatus		
Carex strigosa			Lathyrus sylvestris			Sanicula europaea		
Carex sylvatica			Luzula Forsteri			Scirpus sylvaticus		
Carpinus betulus			Luzula pilosa			Sedum telephium		
Cephalanthera longifolia			Luzula sylvatica			Serratula tinctoria		
Chrysosplenium oppositifolium			Lysimachia nemorum			Solidago virgaurea		
Colchicum autumnale			Malus sylvestris			Sorbus torminalis		
Conopodium majus			Melampyrum pratense			Stachys officinalis		
Convallaria majalis			Melica uniflora			Tamus communis		
Corydalis claviculata (3)			Milium effusum			Thelypteris oreopteris (5)		
Cratogeomys laevigata			Moehringia trinervia			Tilia cordata*		
Daphne laureola			Narcissus pseudonarcissus			Ulmus glabra		
Dipsacus pilosus			Neottia nidus-avis			Vaccinium myrtillus		
Dryopteris affinis			Orchis mascula			Veronica montana		
Dryopteris carthusiana			Oxalis acetosella			Viburnum opulus		
Epipactis helleborine			Paris quadrifolia			Vicia sylvatica		
Epipactis leptochila			Phyllitis scolopendrium			Viola palustris		
Epipactis purpurata			Platanthera chlorantha			Viola reichenbachiana		
Equisetum sylvaticum			Poa nemoralis					
Euphorbia amygdaloides								

1. Elymus caninus
2. Bromopsis ramosa
3. Ceratocarpus claviculata

4. Lathyrus linifolius

5. Oreopteris limbosperma

For explanation of the shading see paragraph H (ii) on page 14

## D. Botanical Whereabouts: What is What and Where is it?

- (i) Many current biological recording schemes, including regional and local flora, use the **Vice-County [VC] System** established by H. C. Watson in the 1850s [see 7]. Watson sought to reduce the inequalities in area resulting from the use of political county boundaries by dividing the larger counties into two or more units, as was and remains the case in Hampshire [1] and is illustrated in **Figure 1 on Page 10**
- (ii) The 112 Vice-Counties of England, Scotland and Wales are now well-accepted; they are not affected by political boundary changes and so provide stable reference points for biological archives and accounts of natural history, including floras [22].

### **(+) [Legends to all three Figures are given at Page 24]**

- (iii) The political county of Hampshire comprises the Watsonian Vice-Counties of South-Hampshire and North-Hampshire [i.e. VC11 and VC12, respectively], with the total area of the political county divided more-or-less equally between the two. **The Hart District and Winchfield Parish are in VC12 [Figure 2 on Page 10].**
- (iv) From 1945, Ordnance Survey maps divided the whole country into a grid of 100 km squares each of which, in turn, are divided into one hundred 10km squares (*centrads*) which are, in turn, subdivided again into one-hundred 1 km squares. Each of the 10km squares was given a numerical reference and, subsequently, prefix letters were added. The whole of Hampshire falls into just two of the 100km squares of the National Grid - those designated SZ, covering the South Coast, and those designated SU, covering the remainder of the County [2].
- (v) The four-figure SU grid references for individual 1km squares are arrived at by reading the grid lines eastward from the SW corner of each square (*eastings*) and then northwards from the same point (*northings*). For example: Odiham Common and Odiham Wood at the SW corner of **Figure 3 on Page 11** are within the 1km square identified as SU7552 whereas Pale Lane passes north-eastwards and alongside the sewage works in square SU7854. These prefix letters and four figure grid references are unambiguous and so allow these two locations as well as all others to be identified and cited precisely.
- (vi) Winchfield Parish occupies part or all of 12 of the 1 km squares within that SU 10 km grid square which is located within the NE corner of VC12 [Figures 1 and 2]. The coordinates of these 1km grid squares and the estimated proportions (%) of the Parish political area which fall into each square are given in **Table 2 on Page 11**
- (vii) After careful scrutiny, the twelve 1km squares [Figure 3] which cover the Parish give a visually estimated total area of 7.25 square km compared with the actual value of 7.05 square km. This tiny over-estimate equates to just 2.8% and so the subjective approach has proved to be reassuringly reliable. The case for exclusion or inclusion of any small or tiny fragment border areas on considerations of the flora or overall biodiversity within the Parish will be addressed on an individual basis (for example, see [E] below).

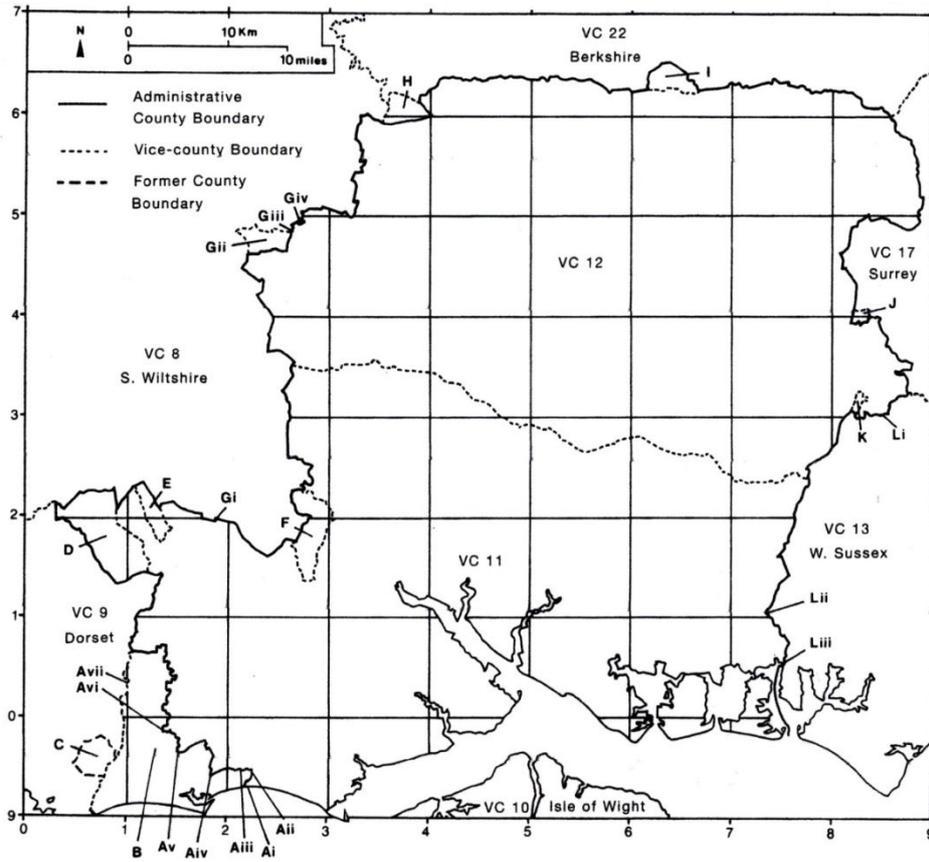


Figure 1

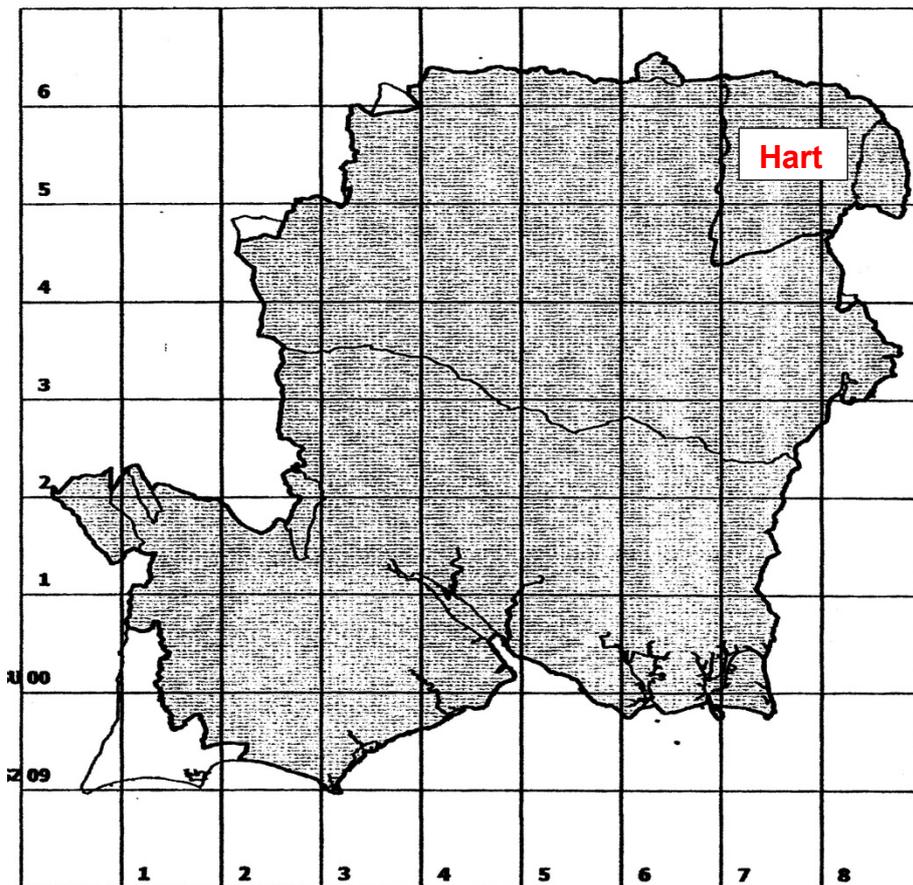


Figure 2

Figure 3

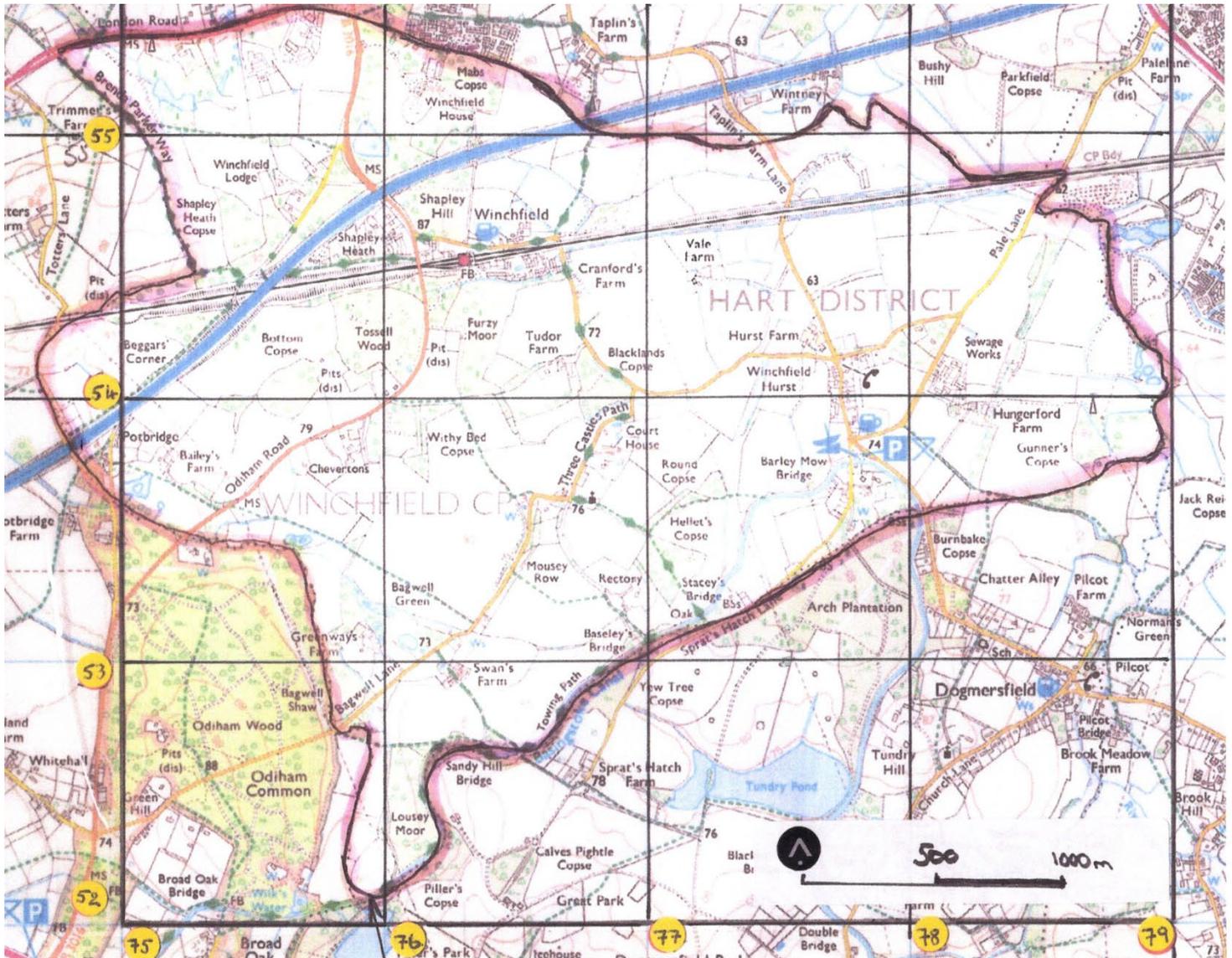


Table 2. National Grid Coverage (grid size 1km x 1km) of Winchfield Parish

Grid Square Coordinate	Proportion (%) of Winchfield Coverage*	Grid Square Coordinate	Proportion (%) of Winchfield Coverage*
SU 7552	10	SU 7654	100
SU 7553	60	SU 7655	20
SU 7554	90	SU 7753	80
SU 7555	45	SU 7754	100
SU 7652	30	SU 7853	20
SU 7653	100	SU7854	70

\* Visual estimates based on the enlarged OS Map shown in Figure 3

- (viii) The revised Winchfield Neighbourhood Plan [WNP] is looking to the future and so it is not simply concerned with the current "modern-day" floral map of the Parish but also with those environmental and man-made factors that have caused historically more common plant species to decline, or invasive species to colonize. The Plan seeks to circumvent or at least to mitigate these and other challenges anticipated in the future. For example, if residential and industrial development continues locally with little remission then it is inevitable that land for natural flora to survive, let alone to thrive, will be lost and habitats will be altered and degraded. Further losses in biodiversity would then be inevitable.
- (ix) **There is no doubt that habitat loss and degradation for whatever reasons are the most significant threats to Hampshire's wild plants - and to both their survival and abundance and for both those species that are or were once more common as well as the botanical rarities [22].**

## E. Grid Squares (SU) Bordering the Parish Boundary

- (i) Unless otherwise stated hereinafter, in instances where the Parish administrative-political boundary crosses through a particular SU Grid Square [ i.e. only part of those squares are within-Parish] the records for the entire 1km x 1km area have nevertheless been recorded as "in-Parish" - for two reasons: (a) If any "development" was planned adjacent to or near to that Square then the direct and indirect extra "people-pressures" within the vicinity would undoubtedly threaten the plants growing there; and (b) any plants sited just outside the Parish would be, by definition, within 1km of the boundary which is reassuringly close. The examples at **[E](ii)** and **[E](iii)** below illustrate the point.
- (ii) Grid Square SU7553 towards the SW corner of the Parish also part-covers the NW corner of Odiham Common and Odiham Wood **[Figure 3]**. A total of 249 Established Vascular Plant species have been recorded within this Grid Square **[see Table 3]** of which 95% are within-Parish and have been listed formally as such since 1970 [or thereabouts].
- (iii) Elsewhere [T. Mundell, Personal Communication 2021], several rare and uncommon species, including at least one Nationally Threatened and Endangered [NTE] specie **(see [G](ii) and Section [I] below)**, are thriving alongside Pale Lane within the Edenbrook Country Park and barely 100- 300m beyond the Parish boundary in Grid Square SU7854. A little further North, Parkfield Copse in SU7855 is well-known to local botanists for its splendid displays of genuine Wild Daffodil (*Narcissus pseudonarcissus*).
- (iv) Three other species identified on the **Hampshire Biodiversity and Information Centre's [HBIC] "Notable and Protected Species"** list are found in arable field margins close to Pale Lane and within 100m of the Parish border in Grid Squares SU7854 for (a) and /or SU7855 for (b) and (c) immediately below:
- (a) Loose silky bent grass ( *Apera spica-venti*) - which has declined in recent years, probably due to herbicide use;
  - (b) (b) Slender tufted sedge (*Carex acuta*) - which does not tolerate desiccation and has declined in many areas following drainage involving the canalisation of ditches and streams; and
  - (c) (c) Small teasel (*Dipsacus pilosus*) - [the epithet refers to the flower heads not to the stature of the plant] which requires periodic disturbance in order to stimulate germination.

## F. Threat and Rarity Status of [Hampshire] Plant Species: Recording Schemes

- (i) A Neighbourhood Plan is primarily concerned about the man-made and environmental factors that have caused or are causing formerly more common plants to decline and also with those plants that man through his activities has enabled or is encouraging to become more common and often troublesome and a threat to other plant species.
- (ii) Amongst the numerous plant species which are found within Hampshire, there are those species which are "**Notable**" because they are rare and/or are in some way under threat. The status of each of these Notable Species has been classified formally based on criteria agreed either or both nationally or locally. **National Threat Status** is based on criteria developed by the **International Union for the Conservation of Plants [IUCN]**, the details of which are published in the "*Vascular Plant Red Data List (2005)*". **County Rarity Status** for plants in Great Britain from 1987 onwards is based on criteria developed by the **Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland [BSBI] in partnership with the HBIC**. Comprehensive details are described in what is the admirable and encyclopaedic "tome" co-authored by Rand and Mundell [22].
- (iii) The **Hampshire Notable Species** are ranked and designated in decreasing severity in one of seven **National Threat categories** or in one of three **Hampshire Rarity classes** as shown below:

Nationally Threatened Endangered	NTE	Nationally Rare	NR
Nationally Threatened Vulnerable	NTV	Nationally Scarce	NS
Nationally Near-Threatened	NNT	County Rare	CR
Nationally Vulnerable	NV	County Scarce	CS
Nationally Other Interest	NOI	County Responsibility	CResp

Further details of these "Threat" (a) and "Rarity" (b) classifications as they apply to those Hampshire Notable Species which are mentioned as having been recorded within the Parish in this review are held in Section 9 of this Evidence Base and are given in full at:

- (a) <https://www.bsbi.org.uk/england.html> and in (b) <https://www.hantsplants.uk/hrprintro.php>

## G. Nationally Threatened Endangered Species [NTE] (and also see Section [I] Below)

- (i) Out of **close to 700 Established Vascular Plant Species** recorded since circa 1970 in those National Grid SU-designated 1km x 1km squares which cover the Parish of Winchfield, **about 100 (See Section [I] below)** have been formally recorded as being in some way threatened nationally - **and therefore in need of conservation** - or having some degree of rarity within the County flora [Table 5 on Page 17]. Within that cohort, just three have at some time been

designated as **NTE - Nationally Threatened Endangered**. The trio were recorded at very different times and in very different parts of the Parish - in SU7655 [northern boundary], SU7854 [eastern edge] and SU 7552 [south-western corner].

- (ii) The listings for two of those species are "old" or indeed "ancient" - for the Small-flowered Catchfly (*Silene gallica*) in 1939 and for Heath Cudweed (*Gnaphalium sylvaticum*) as long ago as 1890, respectively. Sadly, it is probable that these two species may well by now have been lost. **Far more encouraging is the fact that the Annual Knawel (*Scleranthus annuus*), first found in 2021, is thriving in Grid Square SU7654** where it is growing in larger numbers than at any other site for it in VC12. Elsewhere nationally, it has declined substantially since the 1950s, with the increased use by farmers of broad-spectrum herbicides being suspected, albeit hitherto not proven, as a serious threat [20] [21].

## H. Winchfield's Ancient Woodland Vascular Plants [AWVP]

- (i) As briefly mentioned earlier in [C] (iii) (a), the 100 EVP species listed in Table 1 were identified back in 1984 to be those species most strongly associated in the Southern Counties with woodlands of ancient origin and were designated AWVP. **This albeit somewhat arbitrary figure of 100 "indicator species" nevertheless proves convenient for arithmetical comparisons between sites and Brewis *et al.* [2] are confident that "it works quite well".**
- (ii) Historical maps dating back to 1886 have been shown for Winchfield to be "*..... useful in identifying potential remnant ancient woodland, old areas of heath land, mires, marsh and down land*" [17]. These maps, together with a scrutiny of the current intra-Parish distribution of 32 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation [SINCs] and two Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), guided the initial focus on Grid Square coordinates for the presence of AWVP.

Based on recordings since 2000 [i.e. about forty years later] within those 12 SU Grid Squares which cover Winchfield [Figure 3 and Table 3], approximately two-thirds of the AWVP [i.e. 65] are present in the Parish [and these are shaded in Table 1].

- (iii) With the exception of Grid Square SU7552, which covers just an estimated 10% of the Parish [Table 2], the number of AWVP recorded within each Grid Square varies between 3 [SU7754] and 42 species [SU7654] [Table 3]. However, almost all of the within-Parish AWVP species [i.e. 50/65] can be found in just four Grid Squares [SU7654, 7553, 7652 and 7653] and the remaining 15 species are all included when the aforementioned fractional areas of Odiham Common and Odiham Wood which fall within Grid Square SU7552 are added to the list.
- (iv) In addition, the HBIC list of "**Notable and Protected Species**" in the County includes one other species on the AWVP list - found in Yew Tree Copse [Grid Square SU7652] alongside and within 100m of the Parish border. Classified as NTV, the Bird's Nest Orchid (*Neottia nidus-avis*) has been in significant decline in Southwest England since 1945 due to the replacement of old beech woodlands with conifer plantations.
- (v) Ideally, the AWVP approach needs to be applied to a single wood in order to assess the quality of that habitat. That said, **the modern-day persistence and within-Parish distribution of these "indicator" species lends strong support to the significance of the Parish for the survival of this nationally important and cherished woodland habitat.**

**Table 3. Post-2000 Presence of AWVP within Winchfield and their intra-Parish distribution (data extracted from the BSBI-EVP Species Lists for VC12 under the Hampshire Rare Plants Register project)**

Grid Square Coordinate	Number of Recordings Post 2000	
	EVP*	AWVP**
SU 7654	238	42 (42)
SU 7652	185	46 (35)
SU 7653	220	48 (32)
SU 7553	249	50 (33)
SU 7554	248	50 (34)
SU 7555	122	50 (10)
SU 7655	144	50 (17)
SU 7753	274	50 (25)
SU 7754	148	50 (3)
SU 7853	137	50 (17)
SU 7854	374	50 (21)
SU7552	376	65 (52)
For explanations of * and ** see below <sup>4</sup>		

## I. Botanical Diversity Across the Parish (with an Expert Commentary by Mr Tony Mundell)

### COMMENTARY

*" In all, 682 different vascular plant taxa have ever been recorded within the twelve 1km squares that [RJS has identified] is a reasonable approximation to the Winchfield Parish boundary. Of these, 32 only have old records; so a total of 650 different wildflowers have been recorded there since 1970. Ignoring the old records, there are 82 Hampshire Notable Vascular Plants, which increases to 103 when the old records are included. [For further details see Section [I] (iv) below]*

*In addition to the Hampshire Notables there are 46 species with post-1970 records that do not qualify for that Register but are regarded by Tony Mundell as relatively uncommon in North Hampshire. These are mainly plants that require acidic sandy soils so many of them are absent in the central band of chalk across Hampshire.*

\* The numbers of EVPs recorded within each Grid Square are inclusive of any species which are also listed in any other of the Grid Squares listed within the column [i.e. all species found within each of the individual Squares are recorded]

\*\* The numbers of AWVPs recorded within each Grid Square are sequentially cumulative within the column, excluding any between-Square duplication of species [i.e. only those species which are not found in SU7654 are added to the running-total list]. The adjacent numbers in parentheses are the actual recordings per Square, inclusive of any duplicates. For example, of the 35 AWVP species which are recorded in SU7652 only four have not already been recorded as present in SU7654, and so on downwards.

In addition to the trio of Nationally Threatened-Endangered [NTE] Species mentioned in Section [G] earlier, *The Red-tipped Cudweed (Filago lutescens)* has been allocated to a block of four 1km squares (called a tetrad). My guess is that it was at Shapley Heath within SU 7554. This is a very rare plant, Nationally Threatened-Endangered and on Schedule 8 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act. There are only two remaining sites for it in Hampshire.....I want to search for it in 2022.

*I suspect that the HBIC are using a slightly different list of Hampshire Notables to me. So, apart from the different boundary they are using, there could be differences in interpretation". (\*)*

(\*) [In passing, recall the “Disclaimer” at the outset of this Report!]

(i) The twelve botanical inventories of EVPs recorded since 1970 in the SU 1km x 1km Grid Squares which cover Winchfield embody the remarkable total in excess of 2,700 recordings, inclusive of those species which have been recorded in more than a single Square. The number of recordings per Square varies by a factor of X3 over the Parish, i.e. from relatively species-poor to relatively species-enriched areas [Table 4]. It is the “global” Parish total which reduces to 682 once each between-square duplication of species records has been deleted as a separate entity.

**Table 4. Number of EVP species recorded post-1970 in the twelve SU 1km x 1km Grid Squares shown in Figure 3 and identified in Table 2**

Grid Square Coordinate	Number of EVP Species	Grid Square Coordinate	Number of EVP Species	Grid Square Coordinate	Number of EVP Species
SU 7555	122	SU 7652	185	SU 7854	374
SU 7853	137	SU 7653	220	SU 7552	376
SU 7655	144	SU 7654	238	<b>Average</b>	<b>375</b>
SU 7754	148	SU 7554	248		
<b>Average</b>	<b>138</b>	SU 7553	249		
		SU 7753	274		
		<b>Average</b>	<b>236</b>		

- (ii) The Relatively species-poor areas border on or include housing settlements whereas the most relatively species-enriched parts of the Parish lie alongside the more rural Pale Lane route as it bisects the NE corner in Grid Square SU7854 or they grade into Odiham Copse and Odiham Wood in the SW of the Parish [Grid Squares 7552/3].
- (iii) **The soils, climate and ancestral and current farming practices and land management, alongside an historically-constrained population density, provides a mosaic of conditions wherein the tiny Parish of Winchfield affords the current habitats for approximately 682/1,400, i.e. almost 50%, of the EVP recorded in the County of Hampshire.**
- (iv) **A total of 102 EVP species [i.e. 102/682 = 15% of the Parish botanical heritage] are listed in the “BSBI Hampshire Notable Rare Plants Register” [HNRPR] as being in some way “Nationally Threatened or Vulnerable” or “Having Restricted Distribution” or they are “Rare or Scarce Within Hampshire” [Table 5].**

**Table 5. Numbers of “Hampshire Notable Species” within each BSBI Classification Category as described in Section [F](iii) above and recorded in the twelve 1km x 1km Grid Squares as listed in Table 4**

National Status		County Status	
Severity	Number of Species	Severity	Number of Species
NTE (*)	3	CR (*)	27
NTV	20	I	14
NNT	24	Cresp	2
NV	1	HD	1
NOI	1	<b>Total</b>	<b>44</b>
NR	3		
NS	6		
<b>Total</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>102</b>

**(\*) As described in [F] (iii) earlier**

- (v) The HBIC holds two data sets on EVP species and habitats which, together, complement and supplement the BSBI listings: the **Hampshire Notable and Threatened Species [HNTS]** and the **Hampshire Responsible Declining and Near-Threatened Species [HRDNTS]** records.

The **HNTS** list records species that are legally protected or otherwise notable within Hampshire, including species with National or County Rarity or Scarcity status. Specimens which have obviously been planted into natural habitats, such as Box, are excluded. Others may have National status ( e.g. the native Daffodil, Bluebell, Scots Pine and Butcher’s Broom) but, because they are relatively common in the County, they too are excluded from the HNTS list.

*[Again, recall the author’s “Disclaimer” alert at the outset!].*

Species on the **HRDNTS** list may or may not have other protections but are notable because either Hampshire holds at least 10% of the tetrads for which the taxon is recorded in England since 1986 OR there has been at least a 50% decline in the distribution of the Hampshire population between 1986 and 2019.

**There are currently [January 2022] 38 EVP species on the HNTS list of which 31 are included in the BSBI Hampshire Notable Rare Plant Register and out of the 32 EVP species on the HRDNTS list, 30 of those are also on the BSBI Register, i.e. a total of 70 species. The three lists are in the Winchfield Neighbourhood Plan Evidence Base.**

**Given the many challenges involved in species identification, habitat site designation, partnership-specific boundary limits, historical sophistication in data recording and so on, the remarkable fact is that the tiny Parish of Winchfield, just less than 0.5% of the area of VC12 [North Hampshire], provides the diverse natural and semi- natural habitats for close to 700 EVP species of which in the range of 70 – 102 are recognised to be in some way Threatened, Vulnerable, Rare or Scarce not just within the County but also within the National flora and so are in need of urgent and ongoing protection and conservation.**

- (vi) And finally. What the flora of Winchfield is not all about is what the general public can often believe it to be - seasonal and colourful favourites involving swathes of wild native daffodil, carpets of English bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), clumps of snowdrops (*Galanthus nivalis*) and primroses (*Primula vulgaris*) amid different coloured violets (*Viola spp.*), all within a vivid "green-scape" background. To a trained observer, however, this ephemeral pallet may well be more monotonous in terms of ecological health and floral diversity than one that looks rough and scruffy and is brown(ish) throughout a lot of the year! [22]

## J. Invasive Non-Native EVP Species

- (i) It is an established fact nationally that many examples of the non-native plants which have spread rapidly at an individual site and then often into adjacent areas are largely the result of repeated human intervention to get those plants into new areas. Experience elsewhere highlights that it is not good practice deliberately to introduce "garden plants" into the wild, either to dispose of them or with some miss-guided intention to "beautify" the countryside - and especially so in the case of aquatic species [22].
- (ii) **The HBIC list of the "Invasive Non-Native Species" [IN-NS]** reported formally from the twelve SU Grid Square which include Winchfield **includes 18 EVP species recorded in a total of close to one-hundred reports over the twenty-year period to 2020**. All of those species are also included in the BSBI list of EVPs within the Parish.
- (iii) Three species taken together represent just over 50% of the **IN-NS** list: (a) the Turkey Oak (*Quercus cerris*), (b) Rhododendron (*Rhododendron ponticum*) and (c) Himalayan [Indian] Balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*); they *contribute* 11, 22 and 23% of the records, respectively.
- a) **Turkey Oak**. Probably the fastest growing oak (*Quercus spp.*) in the U.K. A deciduous tree favouring acidic, sandy soil and known in cultivation since 1735 and then recorded in the wild since at least 1905, with a dramatic increase in area since 1962. Regenerates rapidly and this capacity threatens the natural flora in several locations. A tendency for "splitting" renders the wood to be of little commercial value other than for burning. The trees harbour the gall wasp (*Andricus quercuscalicis*) whose larvae seriously damage the acorns of native British oaks [6].
- b) **Rhododendron**. Originally introduced into the U.K. in 1763 as a horticultural woody perennial well-suited for cultivation on acid soils. Highly aggressive growth rate and habit soon restrict the numbers of birds, other EVPs and earthworms and eventually human access to colonised sites. Seeds heavily and soon invades adjacent areas, eradicating ground-cover plants and preventing regeneration of other tree species. A major threat to native U.K. woodlands requiring long-overdue eradication on "a landscape scale" [5].
- c) **Himalayan [Indian] Balsam**. Introduced into the U.K. in 1839 and is the largest annual plant species in Britain, reaching up to 2.5 meters from seed in a single season. Now a massively troublesome invasive weed of waterside banks and ditches. Seeds rapidly and out-competes the natural flora for light, mineral nutrients, pollinators and space; many natives soon decline and are lost. Die-back of vegetation in the autumn results in waterside banks becoming bare, and so vulnerable to erosion, whilst the debris reduces water quality and also leads to blockages which can aggravate the risk of flooding [27].

**In mentioning these threats to biodiversity, the Winchfield Neighbourhood Plan will encourage Parish land-owners to adopt remedial measures and those enlightened**

cultural practices and habitat stewardship measures so as to eradicate the historical problems and minimise the need for similar interventions in the future.

## WINCHFIELD BIODIVERSITY

### K. Winchfield's Other Invasive Non-Native Species [IN-NS]

(References cited within Section [K] are merely introductions to the extensive information available on each species)

- (i) A total of 53 "live" records of **IN-NS** in the HBIC list for Winchfield Parish encompass 16 species other than plants [Table 6].

**Table 6. Invasive Non-Native Species [IN-NS] other than plants recorded for Winchfield by the HBIC**

Taxonomic Group	Number of Records	Number of Species	Target Examples
Birds	38	10	Mandarin Duck
Coleoptera	1	1	Harlequin Ladybird
Crustacea	1	1	Signal Crayfish
Lepidoptera	5	2	Horse Chestnut Leaf Miner
Mammals	8	2	Fallow Deer / Grey Squirrel
<i>Mammal</i>	<i>Not listed</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Humans (Homo sapiens)</i>

- (ii) **The no more than "snap-shot" examples below are chosen to illustrate the diversity of the wildlife which has arrived in and become adapted to and adopted as a haven various of the diverse natural and semi-natural habitats within Winchfield Parish. [How ironic that human beings have not been formally listed!]**
- (iii) About 5,000 years ago, farming people arrived in Southern England from Europe and over the coming centuries they cut down indigenous woods to provide grazing areas for livestock and the growing of crops. More recently, these now-naturalised invasive non-native people have created completely new habitats using durable materials such as asphalt, cement, metals, glass and plastics; they have also filled the air with exhaust fumes and the soils and water with other by-products....as they continue to do so today, often with unforeseen and disastrous consequences and not just locally but also globally!

#### **Onto the examples .....**

- (iv) Slightly more than 25% of the HBIC records for Winchfield's resident albeit non-native bird species involve the **Mandarin Duck (*Aix galericulata*)**. The males have the most elaborate and ornate plumage, prompting many observers to proclaim them to be "*one of the most beautiful birds in the world*". Mandarins were introduced into the UK from China in the mid-18th Century

and have now become "naturalised" following escapes from captivity in the 1930s. They are monogamous and often nest in trees for protection from on-ground predation [15].

- (v) The **Harlequin ladybird (*Harmonia axyridis*)** is one of 26 types of ladybird in the UK. It was introduced into the USA from Asia in the 1980s as a "bio-control" of aphids on crops but it moved accidentally into the UK in 2004. The adults are relatively large and voracious predators; they soon out-compete other ladybirds for aphid prey and then also devour the eggs and larvae of the other smaller variants, hence the modern day scarcity of the "two-spot" natives [4].
- (vi) **Signal crayfish (*Pacifastacus leniusculus*)** were introduced from the USA by HMG in the 1970s to replenish commercially-farmed populations of the native species which had been ravaged by the "crayfish plague" virus throughout Europe. The larger non-natives are immune to the virus (but can still carry it) and these voracious predators soon began to out-compete natives for both food (e.g. fish eggs) and habitat. They also burrow into bank-sides which hastens erosion. Populations within some stretches of the rivers and Basingstoke Canal within the Hart District are proving perennially problematic to the detriment of fish populations in those waterways [14] [24].
- (vii) The larvae of the moth ***Cameraria ohridella*** are the pest known as **Horse chestnut leaf miner**; they bore within leaves causing them to brown, dry and drop prematurely. First detected in England in 2002, the moth has spread rapidly into Wales and Scotland. Trees may not be killed, but severe or repeated infestations can leave even mature specimens weakened and so vulnerable to other pests and disease infestations and also to environmental stresses [30].
- (viii) Browsing of tree shoots and agricultural crops can cause high levels of local damage which often puts **fallow deer (*Dama dama*)** into conflict with foresters and farmers. That said, fallow deer have lived in the U.K. for centuries and a lesson repeatedly learned throughout that time is that populations require careful management so as to maintain animal health and ensure a sustainable balance with their environment [3].
- (ix) **Grey squirrels (*Sciurus carolinensis*)** were introduced into the U.K. in the 19th Century and spread rapidly with disastrous impact on the native Red squirrel population; the **IN-NS** competes for food and carries a virus known as "squirrel pox", which is fatal for Reds but to which the Greys are immune. The numbers of Grey squirrels in the UK now approaches "plague proportions", with negative impacts not only on natural woodlands by the selective stripping of bark and preferential eating of the seeds of beech, sycamore and oak but also by damage to maize and fruit crops. Annual financial losses to producers of timber and food, and also to the U.K. tax-payer, are estimated to be in the "tens of £ millions" [28] [29].
- (x) The diverse examples which feature as representatives of the **IN-NS** within the Biodiversity now found in Winchfield Parish and described in Sections [J] and [K] highlight the fact that:

***"The management of invasive species often raises considerable public interest, both in favour and opposition, depending on the organism. Robust, reliable, science-based systems are needed to ensure that risks are assessed in a consistent manner at reasonable cost in order to guide relevant, effective and efficient management"*** [18].

**The WNP will seek to engage stakeholders - from producers to politicians - in fostering dialogue and enlightened decision-making towards sustainable practical outcomes for the wildlife within the Parish.**

## L. Other Biodiversity Heritage Across the Parish

- (i) The Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre [HBIC] have emphasised, with justification, just how much a rich biodiversity underpins economic development and prosperity [8]. It enriches peoples' lives by giving them relaxation, enjoyment and aspiration. There are benefits to human health and wellbeing - people are more active when they live close to or regularly visit "green" spaces. Contact with "nature" reduces stress and promotes recovery from illness; nature helps to promote and sustain healthy lifestyles.
- (ii) At the ecosystem level, **a rich biodiversity is essential for not only** soil formation, nutrient and water cycling and plant productivity (i.e. the precursors and foundations for the production of food and feed), but also raw materials, genetic resources and medicines, the quality and quantity of water (including flooding and flood control), erosion, pests and pollination and, ultimately, for human reflection, recreation and spiritual enhancement.
- (iii) After 150 heads of government had signed the "**Convention on Biological Diversity**" in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, there has been a "tsunami" over the following three decades in the numbers of international, national and within-country pledges to halt the decline in biodiversity globally, regionally and locally.
- (iv) The current WNP was adopted in 2017 [26] and so pre-dates the "Conservation" policies of the "**National Planning Policy Framework**" [11], the "**Hampshire Action Plan for Biodiversity**" [12] [13] and those "Saved Policies" which target Conservation [CON] objectives and which are encapsulated in the "**Biodiversity Action Plan for Hart**" [10]. In revising the WNP the intention is: "**To conserve biodiversity in Winchfield for all those who live in and visit the Parish - and to include not just the rare and endangered species but also the security of the biodiversity within our everyday travelling and working environments (e.g. roadside hedgerows, ditches and verges and within-settlement areas)**". We are, then, in complete harmony with the principal aim of the District's biodiversity planning goals to: "**Continue protecting habitats and species within the District and to enhance existing areas for wildlife through development mitigation, positive management of designated sites and by working with local groups to deliver enhancement projects**".
- (v) The HBIC has provided documentation which lists and maps the statutory and non-statutory designated sites within their search area for the Parish of Winchfield. **The Parish includes 32 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) and two Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) which, together, cover 149.3ha which equates to 20.5% of the total Parish area of 725ha as estimated from the 12 SU 1km x 1km Grid Squares identified in Table 2.** There is also the Conservation Area alongside the SSSI Basingstoke Canal which meanders along the southern border of the Parish [24] - all combining to provide what is a mosaic of havens for wildlife within the rural countryside and farmed areas which separate various small hamlets and settlements. The HBIC records also list an extensive biodiversity comprising numerous "**Notable and Protected Species [NPS]**" which have been documented by hundreds of recordings with representatives from every habitat type within the Parish and which can be summarized only briefly here - see below.
- (vi) In addition to their in-house data sets relating to "Biodiversity", the HBIC also has copies of the listings supplied by 15 specialist partner organisations. A number of the species recorded in the Parish are considered as "**SENSITIVE**" by the relevant specialist groups and prescriptive locations of those sites are not routinely disclosed. **Twenty species have this special classification: 6 species of birds, 12 species of bats, the otter and the badger [Table 7] - further illustrating the haven of Winchfield for wildlife.**

**Table 7. Species on the HBIC - "Notable and Protected Species [NPS]" list which are rated as "Sensitive" by their respective expert specialist groups**

Common name	Taxon	Recently Recorded
Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	2016
Little Ringer Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	2019
Peregrine	<i>Falco columbarus</i>	2019
Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	2019
European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	2010
Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montanus</i>	2008
European Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>	2003
Eurasian Badger	<i>Meles meles</i>	2015
Western Barbastelle Bat	<i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>	2017
Chiropera Bat	"Unspecified"	2014
Serotine Bat	<i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>	2017
Myotis Bat	"Unspecified"	2019
Daubenton's Bat	<i>Myotis daubentonii</i>	2017
Whiskered Bat	<i>Myotis mystacinus</i>	2017
Natterer's Bat	<i>Myotis nattereri</i>	2017
Noctule Bat	<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	2019
Common Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellis pipistrellus</i>	2019
Soprano Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellis pygmaeus</i>	2019
Long-Eared Bat	<i>Plecotus spp.</i>	2017
Brown Long-Eared Bat	<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	2017

- (vii) The diverse and in so many ways remarkable flora of Winchfield has been "distilled" quantitatively in **Sections [I](iv) and [I](v)** which, together, describe the numbers and proportions of the BSBI list of the close to 700 EVP recorded in the Parish since 1970 and which are designated as being in some way "Endangered or Threatened or Vulnerable or Notable or Rare or Scarce" within the County. However, **the HBIC-designated "Notable and Protected Species" status extends far beyond that flora and, in addition, encapsulates representatives from the wider "biodiversity" heritage within the Parish [Table 8].**

**Table 8. Species recorded in Winchfield Parish and designated by the HBIC\* as "Notable and Protected"**

(\*Interpreted/Interpolated and /or calculated by the author from the original HBIC listings)

Numbers and groups of Species*	Number of Records*
96 species of <b>Birds</b>	<b>852</b>
54 species of <b>Higher Flowering Plants</b>	<b>139</b>
4 species of <b>Lower Plants</b> ( Liverworts; Hornworts; Mosses)	<b>14</b>
4 species of <b>Amphibians/Reptiles</b> ( Slow Worm; Common Toad; Grass Snake; Common Lizard)	<b>17</b>
<b>INVERTEBRATES (see footnotes)</b>	
84 species of <b>Lepidoptera</b> ( Butterflies; Moths)	<b>160</b>
37 species of <b>Coleoptera</b> ( Beetles; Bugs)	<b>40</b>
4 species of <b>Odonata</b> ( Dragonflies; Damselflies)	<b>23</b>
6 species of <b>Hymenoptera</b> ( Sawflies; Wasps; Bees; Ants)	<b>7</b>
1 species of <b>Diptera</b> ( All true Flies; Mosquitoes; Midges; Blow Flies; House Flies)	<b>1</b>
<b>BATS</b>	
<b>12 Species (see Table 7)</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>MAMMALS</b>	
<b>Western European Hedgehog</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Euro Otter</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Eurasian Badger</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Polecat</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Total number of Species = 306</b>	<b>Total number of Records = 1351</b>

#### Footnotes to Table 8

**Lepidoptera:** More than 180,000 species globally including butterflies and moths. The former fly mainly in the daytime and are often brightly coloured. The latter are night-flying and dull-coloured and are the more varied and abundant.

**Coleoptera:** Approximately 360 species globally including the largest and most conspicuous insects. Beetles and weevils having the first pair of wings hardened into wing cases and which are not used for flying.

**Odonata:** Large insects with two pairs of narrow lanceolate wings. Particularly active fliers by day and especially the dragonflies and damselflies in habitats which are close to water.

**Hymenoptera:** More than 150,000 species globally, including wasps bees and ants. Collectively the most important to humans as pollinators of wild and cultivated plants, as parasites of destructive insects and as makers of honey.

**Diptera:** Winged insects with sucking mouth parts, including all true flies. Only one pair of wings is used for flying the second pair are each reduced to vestiges and used for balance.

- (viii) **In summary, it is quite remarkable that the biodiversity within the Parish which in some way or another is considered by experts at the HBIC and BSBI to be "special" has been catalogued over recent decades by at least 4,000 formal records devoted to at least 1,000 species.** These data sets deliberately exclude, for example, numerous other common garden birds and native wild mammals, freshwater "coarse" fish and non-migratory trout, all micro-organisms (including symbiotic nitrogen-fixing bacteria and fungi important in plant phosphate nutrition), species and breeds of farm and companion animals, other common reptiles and amphibians, rodents and countless insect species, stag beetles and spiders galore.
- (ix) With such a varied flora and rich biodiversity it is hardly surprising that many visitors are attracted to the Parish to share in the "natural", "rural" and "wildlife" experiences of residents - taking advantage of convenient road access and an integrated network of rural footpaths. The challenge set by Natural England is to foster public access and enjoyment of the countryside whilst not damaging those habitats and species which are already subjected to footfall pressures and the risk of accidental and even "wanton" damage. Well-resourced and effective rural policing across the County and also in-Parish will be especially challenging in order to safeguard our biodiversity over the time-scale targeted by the Winchfield Neighbourhood Plan. **[25].**

## And Finally

- (x) An acute awareness of our biodiversity heritage will underpin and inform decision-making on the future development of Winchfield. In-keeping with National **[16]** and County objectives **[12] [13]**:
- (a) We have ambitions to monitor targets for species and habitats;
- (b) Identify those targets which are most appropriate locally and reflect the values of residents;
- (c) Continue to support and develop partnerships with local groups and Councils - action on biodiversity must be built on consensus;
- (d) Raise local awareness of the need for biodiversity conservation;
- (e) Grasp opportunities for habitat enhancement and restoration;
- (f) Seek financial and human resources sufficient to implement our objectives; and
- (g) Refine those objectives and expectations over the duration of the Plan.

## Legends to Figures

### Figure 1.

Map of Hampshire showing the political-administrative County boundary, the Vice-County boundary and the 10km x 10km squares of the National Grid which cover the County (from [1]).

### Figure 2.

Map showing the political-administrative divisions of Hampshire with the Hart District located at the NE corner of the County.

### Figure 3.

Ordnance Survey Explorer Map 144 showing the Parish of Winchfield with the 1km x 1km National Grid lines indicated [enlargement has given a scale of 5.5cm to 1,000m (1km)].



26. Winchfield Parish Council (2017). *Winchfield Neighbourhood Development Plan (2015 - 2032)*, Pp. 64.
27. Winks, R. (2020). CABI. Controlling Himalayan balsam. [cabi.blog/invasive-species.org/2020/05/07/](https://cabi.blog/invasive-species.org/2020/05/07/).
28. Wiseman, A. (2016). The Grey Menace. Squirrel Magazine No. 32. [www.europeansquirrelinitiative.org](http://www.europeansquirrelinitiative.org).
29. Woodland Trust (2020). [woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/animals/mammals/grey-squirrels](http://woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/animals/mammals/grey-squirrels).
30. Woodland Trust (2021). [woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/tree-pests-and-diseases/key-tree-pests-and-diseases/horse-chestnut-leaf-miner](http://woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/tree-pests-and-diseases/key-tree-pests-and-diseases/horse-chestnut-leaf-miner).

***Biodiversity includes not just plants and animals but all species of all living organisms, including the habitats and complex ecosystems that sustain them - from city sparrows and weeds and "bugs" in public spaces to rare creatures in remote areas and also those which are numerous and ubiquitous but invisible to the naked human eye.....***

*Emeritus Professor R.J. Summerfield DSc*

*20th August 2020*

## 2. Winchfield Landscape Character: TPOs and SINCs

### 1 Preamble

- (i) The Hart Landscape Capacity Study undertaken as part of the Evidence Base for the Hart District Council [HDC] Local Plan [2016] describes the overriding feature of Winchfield Parish to be "*The presence of a mosaic or patchwork of woodlands which provide structure to arable fields and the natural countryside*" and that "*the landscape has retained a rural character despite fragmentation by the M3 and railway and the proximity of populated areas*". It is the woodlands, farmland and parkland, taken together, which define our rural heritage and which all need to be cherished, managed and conserved.
- (ii) Two national schemes, administered regionally and locally, contribute to the above-mentioned ambition:
  - (a) The **Tree Preservation Orders [TPOs]** imposed by the HDC Planning Committee are intended to protect specific trees, groups of trees or woodlands in the interests of amenity;
  - (b) Those areas which are considered to be of particular importance for nature conservation within Hampshire are designated by the County Council [HCC] as **Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation [SINCs]**.
- (iii) It is important to ensure that the "official" details and records of the current TPOs and SINCs which are "in force" within the Parish are accurate and that the information and those data held by the HDC and the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre [HBIC] are consistent with the details presented in the Landscape Character Assessment [LCA] drafted for the Parish Council by Mr John Jeffcock at Michelle Bolger-Expert Landscape Consultant in March 2021.
- (iv) As a contribution to (iii) above, and on behalf of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group (NPWG) Cllr Kate Stewart has asked me "*To compare the HBIC information and data with the LCA and to alert the Group if I discover any anomalies*". This report is the outcome of that endeavour.

### 2 TPOs

- (i) I have previously included background information on the Parish TPOs in a 6pp. report entitled "**Winchfield Trees and the NALC Tree Charter**" which was submitted in August 2020. More recently, in February 2021, I have shared with Cllr Stewart hard copies of the audit trails of my email conversations concerning TPOs with HDC staff members - Ms Emma Whittaker [EW; Planning Manager] and Mr Adam Maskill [AM; then the Council Tree Officer but who has now moved elsewhere].
- (ii) Between them, EW and AM have confirmed that in August 2020 there were "*Between 800 - 1000 current TPOs [of which] there were 21 which reference Winchfield within their address*". Before then, neither the **Winchfield Neighbourhood Development Plan (WNDP) [2015 - 2032]** which was adopted by the HDC in March 2017, nor the **Evidence Base** which supported the Plan, had made hardly any mention of nor had included any data on the TPO status of the Parish.
- (iii) Four years later, the 63pp. LCA, with 17 supporting figures as Appendix 1, contains just seven references to TPOs, all but one of which are to localised areas rather than to individual trees.

Supplementary information shown in Figure 12 locates [but does not identify] the eleven most sizeable of the TPO areas designated by the HDC within or bordering on the Parish boundary. These often Ancient Woodlands are described at (iv) below.

(iv) The first LCA reference to TPOs is at Page 10, the last is at Page 63:

\* **At Para. 4.10 Page 10:** *"A cluster of TPOs which extends from the South of Winchfield Station to Winchfield House in the North of the Parish".*

\* **At Para.7.1 on Page 20:** *"The Winchfield House Estate is covered by a TPO and is a locally listed park and garden".*

\* **At Para. 7.3 on Page 22:** *"(Sheet Lane Copse) which is an area TPO" [ North of the B3016].*

\* **At Para. 7.6 on Page 24:** *"Existing mature trees within the grounds of Winchfield Lodge [which is now integral with the new Winchfield Crescent development] include [as many as 18] individual trees of lime, ash, oak and yew which are all subject to TPOs". This TPO "hot-spot" has not been identified in Figure 12.*

\* **At Para. 9.5 on Page 36 :** *"An area of woodland at Beggars' Corner is protected by a TPO".*

\* **At Para 10.3 on Page 40:** *"...a small woodland at the corner of The Hurst and Pale Lane is protected by a TPO".*

\***At Para. 13.18 on Page 63:** *" Large cedar tree on car park of Winchfield Station"(subject to a TPO)".*

**This review prompts the following Recommendation:**

***Given the importance of woodlands, ancient and otherwise, to the rural heritage and present-day character of the Parish, all 21 TPOs identified on the HDC data-base should at least be mentioned in the LCA text and also numbered or otherwise identified in Figure 12 and tabulated in the updated Evidence Base which will support the updated Plan.***

### **3 SINCs**

[As an aside.....No publications from the HBIC are listed in the Key Documents which were studied as part of a Desktop Review Exercise during the preparation of the LCA (see Para. 2.7 on Page 4) and neither are any referred to elsewhere in the Assessment].

- (i) Sites which are considered to be of particular importance for nature conservation within Hampshire are given designated SINC status based on one or more of 18 criteria adopted by the HCC in October 1996 [see Annexe 1]. **The current HBIC data-base includes 32 SINC locations within the search area for Winchfield Parish; these are numbered and tabulated in the Neighbourhood Plan**
- (ii) Individually and when taken together, these Sites identify those areas which are of particular importance for the natural heritage of the Parish - information which will assist the better planning and management of the countryside. Many of the Sites contain habitats or features that cannot be recreated: they represent a legacy of good management to be cherished and protected by enlightened stewardship.
- (iii) The criteria given in Annexe 1 encompass vegetation type, hydrology and soil classification, species composition, social value and geology/geomorphologic importance. Eight of the 18 SINC criteria, individually or in combination, are represented in the Parish. Individual SINC

vary in area from just 0.46ha [No. 24; Small Copse] to 22.49ha [No.12; Hartley Wintney Wooded Greens], with an average area of 4.1ha and a Parish coverage of 130.57 ha, which equates to ~ 18% of the overall Parish total land area of 706ha.

- (iv) A total of 23 of the 32 Parish SINC locations are based either exclusively [14] or in part [9] on **Category 1A** - i.e. they are Ancient semi-natural woodlands. In those Sites where the designation includes additional criteria, these are also variants of "woodland", i.e. they are other woodlands which are ancient in part [**Category 1B**] or pasture woodlands or wooded commons [**Category 1D**] or community types rare in the County such as yew woods or alder swamps [**Category 1C(ii)**].
- (v) Two Parish SINCS involve either semi-improved grasslands or impoverished grasslands with a capacity for recovery given good management [**Categories 2B and 2D, respectively**]. Four other sites are unimproved wetlands which are seasonally or permanently waterlogged [**Category 5B**]. The remaining three sites, between them, support five notable species [**Category 6A**], i.e. species which are at least Nationally Scarce or County Scarce or County Rare as defined in Annexe 1. These are briefly described below:

\* At Site No. 12: The Great Crested Newt, a European threatened species, and the Hazel Dormouse, the smallest European species. Populations of both have been declining nationally due to habitat destruction and urban sprawl;

\*At Site No. 22: The Bird's Nest Orchid, which will only flourish when in symbiotic partnership with a specific mycorrhiza fungus; and

\* At Site No. 30: A species of Carex sedge which is intolerant of prolonged desiccation and a Dipsacus ("small") teasel which can in fact grow as tall as 1.5m [ It is the flowers which are "small", not the stature of the plants; not all "common-name" descriptors are reliable!].

- (vi) Although they are included within the HBIC area of search for Winchfield, only a tiny portion of each of two SINCS - No. 12 Hartley Wintney Wooded Greens and No. 22, Yew Tree Copse - are within the Parish boundary. Together, they represent 20% of the SINC area within the Parish. However, it would be unwise to exclude them from our focus - as two examples will illustrate: (a) the directional meandering and feeding habits of Great Crested Newts and Hazel Dormice are highly unlikely to be intimidated or hampered by inter-Parish map lines and (b) at Para.12.4 on Page 52 it is made clear that whereas "Lousey Moor [No. 14] *is the largest woodland within that area, woodlands outside the Parish, including Piller's Copse* [No. 16] *and Yew Tree Copse, also contribute to its character and all three are SINCS*".
- (vii) An over-view of Winchfield's Ancient Woodlands and SINCS is not given in the LCA until Para. 4.21 on Page 13: "***The Parish includes a network of Ancient Woodlands and 26 designated Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)***". This statement is at variance with the information tabulated in Annexe 2 and shown in Annexe 3 and prompts the following **ALERT** before reviewing the references to SINCS elsewhere in the Assessment.

#### **ALERT: A note of caution**

The **Evidence Base** for the **WNP** which was adopted by the HDC on 30th March 2017 shows on Page 43 the HBIC Map [Reference 5848] for 26 registered SINCS within the Parish. The individually numbered Sites are then tabulated on Page 44. However, without comment or explanation, those Sites numbered 10, 13 and 18 on the Map are omitted from the table. By careful interpolation of more recent data [see below] I have identified these omissions to be No. 12 [Hartley Wintney Wooded Greens], No. 16 [Piller's Copse] and No. 22 [Yew Tree Copse],

respectively - i.e. they are all SINC sites which border on the Parish boundary [and see (3) (iv) above].

The more recent HBIC Map [Reference 9683] for the Winchfield search area provided on 9th March 2021 (i.e. four years later) by HBIC Ecologist Ms Nicole Hawkings includes 32 individually numbered SINC sites. Other than No. 1 Beggars' Corner, none of the other Site numbers correspond between the two tabulations. Furthermore, Figure 13 in the LCA includes only broad outlines for the SINC sites, none of which are numbered.

**The nine 2021 HBIC SINC sites which are additional to those tabulated in 2017 are as follows:**

- No. 2 Wood adjacent to Bailey's Farm
- No. 6 Winchfield Court Farm Marsh
- No.12 Hartley Wintney Wooded Greens
- No. 13 Winchfield Court Farm South
- No. 16 Piller's Copse
- No. 17 Mabs Copse
- No. 22 Yew Tree Copse
- No. 28 Winchfield Hurst Grassland South
- No. 29 Pale Lane Marsh

Given that we are updating the March 2017 WNDP then it is the cohort of 32 SINC sites tabulated in Annexe 2 and illustrated in HBIC Map Ref. No. 9683 [Annexe 3] which need to feature in the LCA and the updated WNP and the supporting Evidence Base.

- (viii) Within the LCA the first reference to SINC sites is at Para. 4.9 on Page 10 which begins "*Woodland cover is one of the prevailing and distinguishing characteristics of the Parish.....[and goes on to list] ....a sequence of small - medium sized Ancient Woodland blocks [which are] a highly valuable habitat for local wildlife*". Six SINC sites are listed - they are:  
  
No.11 Tossell Wood, No.17 Mabs Copse, No.19 Furzy Moor, No.23 Blacklands Copse, Winchfield,  
No.26 Round Copse and Shaw and No.27 Hellet's Copse.
- (ix) **The "threats" of any new settlement within the Parish on our treasured network of SINC sites is not mentioned in the list of "significant issues" at Para. 5.2 on Page 16!** [Also, at Para. 4.21 on Page 13 there is no indication at first mention that Bagwell Shaw is a designated SINC (No.10)].
- (x) With a focus on **LCA1 Winchfield House & Shapley Heath**, Para. 7.1 on Page 19 highlights "*A robust framework of historic woodlands, some ancient, which provide enclosure to the landscape and valuable habitat, as recognised through numerous SINC designations*". Later, At Para. 7.2 on Page 21, two specific Sites are identified: "*Shapley Heath is a SINC [No. 8] and Shapley Heath Copse [No.5] is an Ancient Woodland and a separate SINC*". Then again, at Para. 23 on Page 22, "*Mabs Copse [No. 17], immediately NE of Winchfield House, is also a SINC having an ancient character with mature oak trees...*"

- (xi) Within **LCA2 Winchfield Northern Corner** Para. 8.2 on Page 28 describes "*A small, unnamed copse located east of Fp3 and shown on the 1897 mapping (Figure 6) is a SINC*". I identify this location to be SINC No.24 in the updated tabulation.
- (xii) The more elevated areas of **LCA3 Potbridge to Tossell Wood** "*Feature a network of Ancient Woodlands and SINC*s" [Para. 9.1 on Page 31] of which, listed at Para. 9.2 on Page 32, are Oldman's Copse, Gravelly Copse, Bottom Copse and Tossell Wood [Nos 4, 3, 7 and 11, respectively]. Later, at Paras 9.7 and 9.8 on Page 36, there is further reference to Sites numbered 3, 7 and 11 as well as additional reference to Nos 1 and 19 [Beggars' Corner and Furzy Moor] without embellishment of their previously-mentioned SINC designations.
- (xiii) Within **LCA4 Winchfield Hurst & Winchfield Court Setting** Para 10.1 on Page 38 describes "*Substantial belts of woodland, notably alongside the drain east of Hungerford Farm, the northern part of which is a SINC* [No.31]. *Other woodland includes Gunners Copse* [No.32] *which is a SINC and the areas only Ancient Woodland*". [This information is repeated virtually verbatim in Para. 10.2 on Page 39].
- (xiv) The area designated **LCA5 St Mary's Church and Wooded Farmland** is highlighted as "*The rural heart of Winchfield*"....." *This is an important and tranquil area for wildlife, with large parts designated as SINC*s", and all delightfully described in the LCA at Paras 11.1 on Page 44 and 11.3 on Page 45. The SINC
- s are not individually identified but, by interpolation, they are Withy Bed Copse [No. 15], Furzy Moor [No.19], Blacklands Copse [No. 23], Round Copse [No. 26], Hellet's Copse [No. 27] and Bagwell Shaw (South) [No. 10]. Those SINCs Numbered 23, 26 and 27 "
- are habitat for common buzzards and a number of owl species*
- " [Para. 11.4 on Page 46].
- (xv) At Para. 12.1 on Page 49 **LCA 6 Basingstoke Canal & Dogmersfield Edge** there are "*Trees and historic woodland* [which] *make a significant contribution to the canal and its towpath. Lousey Moor, Piller's Copse and Yew Tree Copse* [Nos 14, 16 and 22, respectively] *are all Ancient Woodlands and SINC*s" [and see Para. 3.6 on Page 4].
- (xvi) Finally, there are brief [background] mentions of Lousey Moor, Tossell Wood and Furzy Moor at Paras 12.10, 13.7 and 13.15 on Pages 54, 58 and 62, respectively.

## 4 SINC Summary

- (i) The LCA places emphasis at Para. 4.9 on Page 10 that: "***Woodland cover is one of the prevailing and distinguishing characteristics of the Parish. It provides a framework to the landscape, creating a mosaic of farmland and woodland and flanking rural lanes, connecting overhead to create attractive tunnels of vegetation. Within this woodland framework is a high occurrence of Ancient Woodland and Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)***". It is essential therefore that proposals for the future development of the Parish are in sympathy with this unique rural wonderland.
- (ii) We have 32 locations which are considered by HCC to be of particular importance for nature conservation in the County - representing close to 20% of the total Winchfield Parish land area. My repeated scrutiny **within the body of the LCA** confirms the following:

\* Two-thirds [22] of the locations are mentioned along with their SINC status identified;

\* Four locations which are additional to those which were identified in the **2017 WNP and Evidence Base** are not mentioned - they are: the Wood adjacent to Bailey OCOs Farm,

Winchfield Court Farm Marsh, Winchfield Court Farm South and Winchfield Hurst Grassland South [Nos 2, 6, 13 and 18, respectively]; and

\* Six other locations which have SINC status are not mentioned - they are the Fields West of Lousey Moor [No. 9], Tudor Farm Shaws [No. 20], Mousey Row [No. 21], Yew Tree Copse North [No. 25], Winchfield Hurst Grassland South [No. 28] and Pale Lane Marsh [No. 29];

\* The list of significant negative issues associated with any new settlement or large development within the Parish [Para. 5.2 Page16] does not specifically mention SINC's; and

\* The five "Notable Species" recorded in SINC's Nos 12, 22 and 30 are not mentioned.

And finally - the "Vision and Objectives" for Conservation within the Parish remain at least as equally if not more important today as they were in 2017 [see Page 10 in the **WNP 2015 - 2032**]. We need to "*Sound the clarion and fight the good fight*" in favour of our TPOs and SINC's at every opportunity - spoken and written alike. Amen!

**Annexes 1, 2 and 3 follow**

*Emeritus Professor R.J. Summerfield DSc*

*30 March 2021*

## Annex 1



# Criteria for selecting Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Hampshire

The criteria below define those sites which are considered to be of particular importance for nature conservation within Hampshire. These sites are in addition to the statutorily designated sites and are referred to as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs).

### Woodland

**1A** Ancient<sup>1</sup> semi-natural<sup>2</sup> woodlands.

**1B** Other woodland where there is a significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland surviving.

**1C** Other semi-natural woodland if;

(ii) they comprise important community types of restricted distribution in the County, such as yew woods and alder swamp woods

**1D** Pasture woodland and wooded commons, not included in any of the above, which are of considerable biological and historical interest.

<sup>1</sup> *Ancient - refers to woodlands which have developed particular ecological characteristics as a result of their long continuity. Those identified to date which are over 2ha are included on the Hampshire Inventory of Ancient Woodlands (Provisional).*

<sup>2</sup> *Semi-natural - modified types of vegetation in which the dominant and constant species are accepted natives to Britain and that locality, and the structure of the community conforms to the range of natural vegetation types.*

### Neutral/acid/calcareous grassland

**2A** Agriculturally unimproved grasslands<sup>3</sup>

**2B** Semi-improved grasslands which retain a significant element of unimproved grassland.

**2D** Grasslands which have become impoverished through inappropriate management but which retain sufficient elements of relic unimproved grassland to enable recovery.

<sup>3</sup> *Agriculturally unimproved grassland - grassland that is composed of a mixed assemblage of indigenous species in essentially semi-natural communities which has been allowed to develop without the major use of herbicides or inorganic fertilisers.*

### Heathland

**3A** Areas of heathland vegetation; including matrices of dwarf shrub, acid grassland, valley mires and scrub.

**3B** Areas of heathland which are afforested or have succeeded to woodland if;

(i) they retain significant remnants of heathland vegetation which would enable their recovery, or

(ii) they are contiguous with, or form an integral part of an open area of heathland,

### Coastal habitats

**4A** Semi-natural coastal and estuarine habitats, including saltmarsh, intertidal mudflats, sand dunes, shingle, brackish ponds, grazing marsh and maritime grasslands.

### **Wetlands**

**5A** Areas of open freshwater (e.g. lakes, ponds, canals, rivers, streams and ditches) which support outstanding assemblages of floating/submerged/ emergent plant species, invertebrates, birds or amphibians.

**5B** Fens, flushes, seepages, springs, inundation grasslands etc. that support a flora and fauna characteristic of unimproved and waterlogged (seasonal or permanent) conditions.

### **Species**

**6A** Sites which support one or more notable species<sup>4</sup>.

**6B** Sites which regularly support a significant population of a species which has a restricted distribution or has substantially declined in population or range. Such sites may be used seasonally or for only one part of a species life-cycle.

**6C** Sites which support an outstanding assemblage of species.

<sup>4</sup> *Notable species include Red Data Book species, Nationally Scarce species, species covered under Schedules 1, 5 and 8 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981, Annex 1 of the EC Bird Directive 79/409 and Annex II & 1V of the EC Directive 92/43/EEC 'The Habitats Directive', and those covered by the Bern, Bonn and Ramsar Conventions. Notable species will also include species which are considered 'County Rare' or 'County Scarce'. County Rare = those species recorded in 1% or less tetrads in Hampshire or either of the two vice-counties (11 & 12) separately. County Scarce = 4% or less tetrads.*

### **Social value**

**7A** Sites of nature conservation interest which occur in areas otherwise deficient in such interest, and/or are known to be of particularly high value to local communities e.g. community wildlife sites.

*Sites selected under this criteria will be rigorously confined to those which, if lost, would result in a considerable and demonstrable loss to the local community which would be very difficult/impossible to replace. Because of the widespread distribution of sites of nature conservation interest in Hampshire, and the high threshold used to define critical importance, only a limited number of sites are likely to meet this criteria.*

### **Geology and geomorphology**

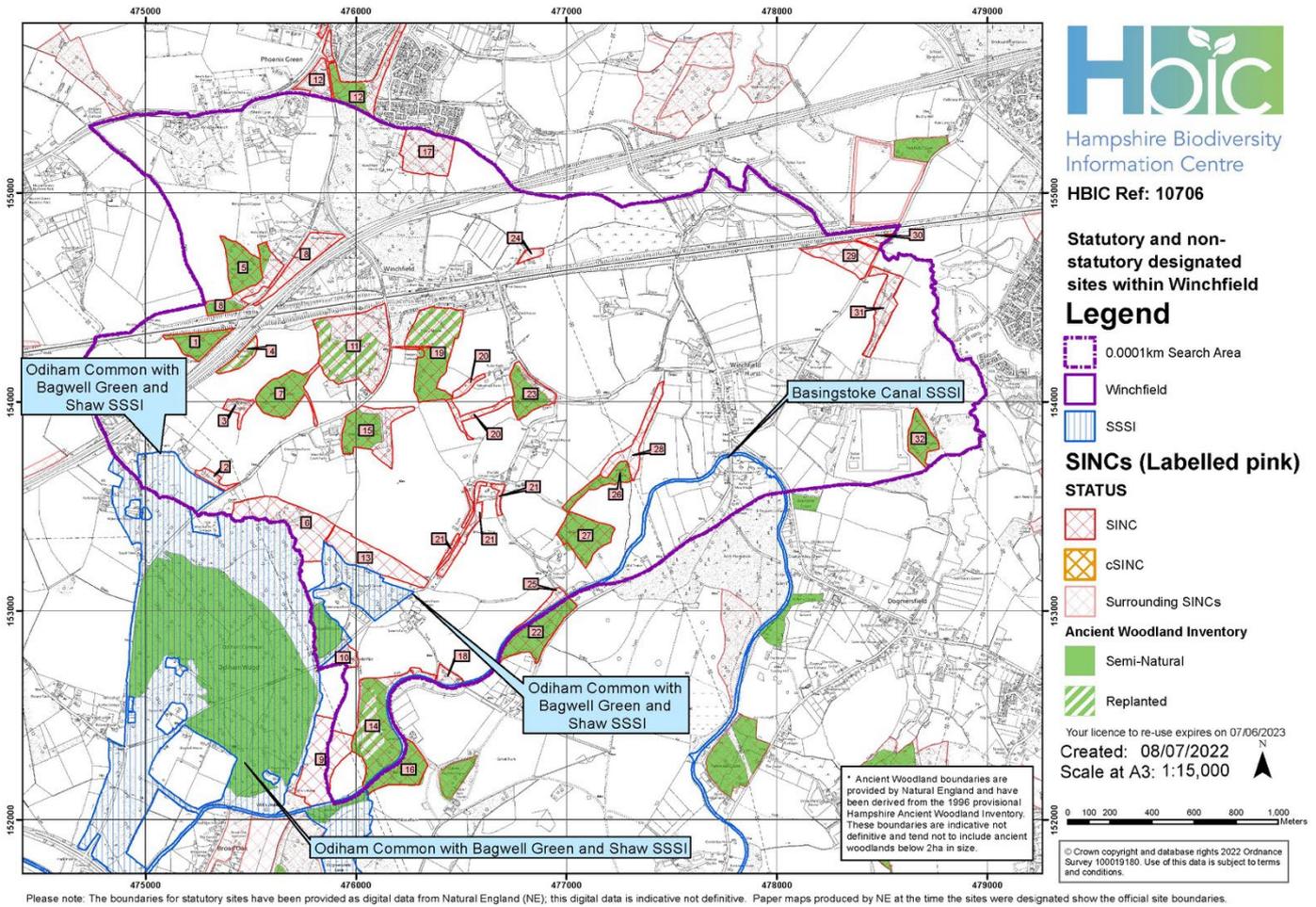
**8A** Sites which have been designated as Regionally Important Geological/Geomorphological Sites (RIGS)

*Regionally Important Geological/Geomorphological Sites are sites of regional importance excluding SSSIs. RIGS are analogous to biological non-statutory sites.*

## Annex 2.

## Details of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) within the search area:

Map Label	Status	SINC Ref	SINC Name	Central Grid Ref.	SINC Criteria	Species supported that meet Section 6 of SINC Selection Criteria	Area (ha)
1	SINC	HA0076	Beggars Corner	SU75305430	1A		2.31
2	SINC	HA0283	Wood adjacent to Bailey's Farm	SU75315364	1A		0.68
3	SINC	HA0078	Gravelly Copse, Winchfield	SU75405398	1A		0.87
4	SINC	HA0079	Oldman's Copse	SU75455420	1A/1B		1.16
5	SINC	HA0083	Shapley Heath Copse	SU75505470	1B		3.16
6	SINC	HA0282	Winchfield Court Farm Marsh	SU75705345	5B		6.40
7	SINC	HA0086	Bottom Copse, Winchfield	SU75705400	1A		3.98
8	SINC	HA0087	Shapley Heath	SU75705460	1A/1B/1D		6.17
9	SINC	HA0091	Fields West of Lousey Moor	SU75905240	2B		6.55
10	SINC	HA0092	Bagwell Shaw (South)	SU75905276	1A/1Cii/1D		1.11
11	SINC	HA0094	Tossell Wood	SU76005430	1B		10.97
12	SINC	HA0095	Hartley Wintney Wooded Greens	SU76005600	1B/1D/6A	Triturus cristatus, Muscardinus avellanarius	22.49
13	SINC	HA0281	Winchfield Court Farm South	SU76045326	5B		4.85
14	SINC	HA0096	Lousey Moor	SU76105250	1A/1B		7.92
15	SINC	HA0097	Withy Bed Copse	SU76105390	1A		5.46
16	SINC	HA0100	Piller's Copse	SU76255230	1A		3.04
17	SINC	HA0280	Mabs Copse	SU76305518	1B		4.78
18	SINC	HA0106	Lousey Moor North-East	SU76405270	1A		1.08
19	SINC	HA0107	Furzy Moor	SU76405430	1A/1D		7.82
20	SINC	HA0111	Tudor Farm Shaws	SU76505393	1A		1.67
21	SINC	HA0253	Mousey Row	SU76535341	1A		2.37
22	SINC	HA0119	Yew Tree Copse	SU76805290	1A/1B/6A	Neottia nidus-avis	4.11
23	SINC	HA0120	Blacklands Copse	SU76805400	1A		3.22
24	SINC	HA0262	Small Copse	SU76855470	1Cii		0.46
25	SINC	HA0121	Yew Tree Copse North	SU76905303	1A		0.86
26	SINC	HA0125	Round Copse and Shaw	SU77105360	1A		1.75
27	SINC	HA0126	Hellet's Copse	SU77205340	1A		3.88
28	SINC	HA0284	Winchfield Hurst Grassland South	SU77325381	5B		2.53
29	SINC	HA0285	Pale Lane Marsh	SU78335469	5B		3.31
30	SINC	HA0146	Pale Lane Field	SU78455476	6A	Carex acuta, Dipsacus pilosus	0.56
31	SINC	HA0147	Hungerford Farm Meadow & Copse	SU78505450	1A/2D		2.84
32	SINC	HA0154	Gunner's Copse	SU78705380	1A		2.21



### 3. Brenda Parker Way Landscape report

*Paper from Michelle Bolger Expert Landscape Consultancy*

**Project: Winchfield**

**Date: 27<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

**Purpose:** Assessment of Landscape Value of Land Around & Including Brenda Parker Way

**Reference:** 1064 Brenda Parker Way.docx

#### ***Introduction***

1. Winchfield Parish Council (WPC) have commissioned Michelle Bolger Expert Landscape Consultancy (MBELC) to assess the value of the landscape comprising the path on the western boundary of Winchfield Parish and its setting (study site) (see **Figure 1**, below). The path, which is highlighted by a dashed yellow line in Figure 1, is a restricted Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT), and almost all of it is part of the Brenda Parker Way (BPW) promoted route. Red shading on Figure 1 represents the visible setting to the path. This area is approximate as it varies depending on the season (density of foliage), and the height of people using the path, which is sunken in places. For the same reasons, visibility of the red area varies along the course of the path, with views from some parts being entirely restricted by topography.



**Figure 1: Location of Study Site. The locations of photographs 1-5 are shown, and other public rights of ways are shown with a green hatch.**

2. This assessment has been prepared following the completion of two other evidence base studies, previously prepared on behalf of WPC by MBELC:
  - Winchfield Landscape Character Assessment, 2021, which provides a detailed description of the character of the Parish landscape; and,
  - A Description of Winchfield's Key Views, 2021, which identifies landscape qualities at a Parish level and the views which allow these qualities to be most easily appreciated.
3. As a result of those studies, it was determined that the landscape qualities were such that the study site warranted its own landscape policy in WPC's emerging Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) Review. This policy is currently being drafted and will be informed by this Note.
4. This Note consolidates findings from the above studies in order to describe landscape qualities specific to the study site, and to assess its overall value. This Note has been informed by Technical Guidance Note 02/21 Assessing Landscape Value Outside National Designations prepared by the Landscape Institute (TGN 02/21) which provides recognised factors for the identification of landscape qualities and an assessment of landscape value. Key definitions from TGN 02/21 used in this Note are<sup>5</sup>:
  - *'Landscape qualities = characteristics/ features of a landscape that are valued*
  - *Landscape value = the relative value or importance attached to different landscapes by society on account of their landscape qualities'*
5. This assessment has been undertaken by Chartered Members of the Landscape Institute (CMLI) who have visited the study site on several occasions between 2018 and 2021.

### **Landscape Context**

6. The path which aligns broadly north south for approximately 1km through the study site is the route of the BPW<sup>6</sup> and the boundary between the Parishes of Winchfield and Hook. The path has a distinctive character. It is sometimes sunken – increasingly so, travelling southwards - and it features an avenue of mature trees along either side, which in places merge with other vegetation to create a strong sense of enclosure (see **Photographs 1 & 2**, below). These characteristics contribute to the path's ancient look and feel. Within the Parish, this section of the BPW is also distinctive because it is rural in character, whereas other sections of the BPW, including the preceding section between Winchfield Station and Shapley Heath Copse, are more influenced by development, such as the railway and M3 motorway.

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<sup>5</sup> TGN 02/21 Page 3

<sup>6</sup> The northern 100m of the path is not part of BPW. See Figure 14 in Winchfield Landscape Character Assessment, 2021.



**Photograph 1: Looking north along the path in winter, illustrating its sunken and treed character.**



**Photograph 2: Looking south along the path in summer, illustrating its sunken and treed character.**



**Photograph 3: Looking north along the path at the end of summer, illustrating gaps in vegetation where views across the adjacent landscape are possible.**

7. **Photograph 3** above illustrates one location where gaps in vegetation alongside the path enable views out across the adjacent rural landscape. Although the character of the landscape is different east and west of the path both sides contribute positively to its rural

character. Land east of the path is within Landscape Character Area (LCA) 1 Winchfield House & Shapley Heath, in the Winchfield Landscape Character Assessment, 2021. The majority of this area was once part of the Winchfield House Estate. Remnant features and patterns associated with this historic land use are integral to the character of the area. This includes fields enclosed by a prominent framework of former coppices, notably Shapley Heath Copse and Ringwood Copse (see **Photograph 4**, below).

8. Land west of the path is within Hook Parish and was therefore not included in the Winchfield Landscape Character Assessment, 2021. It lacks the woodland framework found in LCA 1 and consequently has a more open character. Productive and equestrian uses are also more prominent, particularly around Trimmer's Farm where equipment and activity are visible from the path. In places, the irregular historic field pattern has been replaced with a geometric pattern of small grazing / equestrian paddocks defined by fencing. This fencing, and the visibility of a high voltage transmission corridor in the distance, detract from the path's sense of antiquity (see **Photograph 5**, below).



**Photograph 4: Looking east from the path across LCA 1 Winchfield House & Shapley Heath.**



**Photograph 5: Looking west from the path across the more open and equestrian landscape within Hook.**

### ***Landscape Value***

9. Table 1 considers the landscape qualities and value of the study site when assessed against the Factors and Definitions provided in TGN 2/21 (Table 1).

**Table 1: Assessment of landscape value**

<b>Factor</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Landscape Qualities</b>	<b>Value</b>
Natural heritage	Landscape with clear evidence of ecological, geological, geomorphological or physiographic interest which contribute positively to the landscape.	<p>Vegetation along the path functions as a linear link between woodland habitats to the north and south. To the south is Shapley Heath Copse, which is an Ancient Woodland and a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC). To the north is an area of woodland that includes a series of ponds (referred to as 'Shapley Ponds Copse', on Figure 16 in the Winchfield Landscape Character Assessment, 2021).</p> <p>In springtime, bluebells are found along the banks of the path, and these contribute positively to its natural heritage.</p>	<b>Medium / High</b>
Cultural heritage	Landscape with clear evidence of archaeological, historical or cultural interest which contribute positively to the landscape.	<p>The study site contains features that provide connections with different periods in time, and which allow an understanding of how the landscape has evolved over time.</p> <p>The path itself is likely to have been used for centuries, and possibly longer, by people travelling through the countryside. The path is shown on the first edition OS (1800s), but its use as a route is expected to significantly predate that.</p> <p>Views east from the path take in former parkland which was once part of the Winchfield House Estate. Historic features include former coppices, and what appear to be remnant parkland trees.</p> <p>A pillbox is located immediately alongside</p>	<b>High</b>

Factor	Definition	Landscape Qualities	Value
		the path. This is a remnant of the Second World War General Headquarters (GHQ) Line. See Key View 6 in A Description of Winchfield's Key Views, 2021.	
Landscape condition	Landscape which is in a good physical state both with regard to individual elements and overall landscape structure.	The path itself is in a good physical state, both in terms of individual elements such as the mature oak, beech and ash trees, and the overall structure of the path. Land management practices west of the path have impacted on the condition of the wider landscape to a degree, including the removal of historic field patterns.	<b>Medium</b>
Associations	Landscape which is connected with notable people, events and the arts.	The BPW is a memorial to the life of Brenda Parker. It was devised in recognition of her work for the Ramblers and Hampshire's rights of way network <sup>7</sup> .	<b>Medium / High</b>
Distinctiveness	Landscape that has a strong sense of identity.	Where it passes through the study site, the path has a distinctive character. It is a narrow, sometimes sunken pathway, which is enclosed by an avenue of mature trees. These characteristics give the path an ancient look and feel which is distinctive within the Parish.	<b>High</b>
Recreational	Landscape offering recreational opportunities where experience of landscape is important.	The BPW is a 78-mile-long distance walk. The experience of the landscape is important to the BPW, which is advertised as crossing <i>'the rich and diverse north Hampshire countryside between the towns of Aldershot and Andover ... the walk takes in heathland, forest, tiny fields and small farms, then climbs to the highest villages in Hampshire,</i>	<b>High</b>

<sup>7</sup> <https://brendaparkerway.northhampshiredownsrabblers.org.uk/aboutbrenda.html>

Factor	Definition	Landscape Qualities	Value
		<p><i>offering spectacular views, rolling downland and clear chalk streams</i><sup>8</sup>. Fields and trees within the study site contribute positively to the impression of the Hampshire countryside described above.</p> <p>The path joins a number of other public rights of ways, connecting it with the wider countryside (see Figure 1 above)</p>	
Perceptual (Scenic)	Landscape that appeals to the senses, primarily the visual sense.	<p>Key View 6 within A Description of Winchfield's Key Views, 2022 is located along the path. The description states that '<i>Although the route is sunken there are occasional views out to the countryside west and east. These views illustrate the change in character that occurs between land east of the route (parkland character within Winchfield Parish) and west of the route (farmland character in Hook Parish)</i>'.<sup>9</sup></p> <p>Occasional visibility of transmission lines to the west of the study site are a detractor.</p>	<b>High</b>
Perceptual (Wildness & tranquillity)	Landscape with a strong perceptual value notably wildness, tranquillity and/or dark skies.	Noise from the M3 and A30, occasional passing trains, and transmission lines visible to the west detract from a sense of wildness or tranquillity. Both senses are more pronounced along the more sunken sections of the path.	<b>Low / Medium</b>
Functional	Landscape which performs a clearly identifiable and valuable function, particularly in the healthy functioning of the landscape.	<p>As a link between woodland habitats, and a recreational route, the pathway is a multifunctional green infrastructure corridor.</p> <p>The path also functions as a clear physical boundary between the Parishes of Hook and Winchfield.</p>	<b>Low / Medium</b>

<sup>8</sup> <https://brendaparkerway.northhampshiredownsrampers.org.uk/index.html>

<sup>9</sup> A Description of Winchfield's Key Views, 2022, Paragraph 3.32

### ***Conclusion & Recommendation***

10. Based on an assessment against the factors in TGN 02/21, it is considered that the overall landscape value or importance of the study site is **high**. This is due to the presence of landscape qualities, particularly those relating to heritage, scenic, recreational, and distinctive factors. The emerging policy to conserve and enhance the character of the study site, or more specifically, the character of the section of BPW that runs through it, should reference the landscape qualities identified in this assessment, as it is on account of these qualities that the landscape is considered to have high value.

### Foot notes

- 5 TGN 02/21 Page 3
- 6 The northern 100m of the path is not part of BPW. See Figure 14 in Winchfield Landscape Character Assessment, 2021.
- 7 <https://brendaparkerway.northhampshiredownsrampblers.org.uk/aboutbrenda.html>
- 8 <https://brendaparkerway.northhampshiredownsrampblers.org.uk/index.html>
- 9 A Description of Winchfield's Key Views, 2022, Paragraph 3.32

## 4. Winchfield Parish: Basingstoke Canal: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

### Preamble on ‘Diversity’

**Sir David Attenborough**

*Compilation from "The Living Planet" [1984]*

*"Ten thousand years ago the British Isles were covered almost entirely by woodland. Human beings lived sustainably as hunter-gatherers and so altered the woodlands hardly at all. Later, about 5,000 years ago, farming people from Europe arrived in Southern England. They began to cut down the woods for shelter, to provide grazing areas for livestock and fields for crops. Later still, man created completely new environments. He built towns using durable materials such as asphalt, cement, metals, glass and plastics and filled the air with exhaust fumes and other by-products. It is hardly possible to imagine any environment more divorced from the natural world. Within time-scales of just a few months man was able to transform not merely a stretch of a stream or a corner of a wood but a whole river system, an entire forest. There is an ever increasing urgent need to decide what are our management objectives for the natural world? We must respect, maintain and preserve the biodiversity of plants and animals expressed at the genetic, species and ecosystem level - and we must do so globally, nationally, regionally and locally".*

### **The Wildlife Trusts**

*Different Types of Protected Wildlife Sites in the UK [2020]*

*"The UK SSSIs are designated and protected under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981. They support habitats of national and often international importance. They are the UK's best sites for natural wildlife and geological features which are irreplaceable parts of our national heritage. They are protected in order to preserve their importance for biodiversity and to prevent damage and development".*

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## Winchfield Parish: Basingstoke Canal: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

### A Preamble: Historical and National Perspective

- i. Britain is largely a cultural landscape within which human actions have had a pervasive influence on almost all of our ecosystems, habitats and species. Given the unrelenting threats to our natural landscapes and rural heritage, so often as a result of creeping development and unrelenting urban sprawl, we need to especially value and conserve those habitats that continue to exhibit a high degree of "naturalness" and biodiversity - neither of which reflect or respect our internal political boundaries (1).
- ii. There are three principal Conservation Designations for areas within the UK based on their relative importance for "**Biodiversity**" [see (iii) below] including:
  - [a] Special Protection Areas (SPA) - which are Important Internationally
  - [b] Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) - which are Nationally Important
  - [c] Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) - which are Locally Important at the County Level.

Areas in [a] and [b] are usually referred to as "Statutory Designated Sites" whereas those in [c] may not have current statutory protection even though they may often meet SSSI or even International criteria! Within Hampshire, SINC's are administered by the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre [HBIC]; they seek to include all habitats and important sites for particular species above prescribed quality thresholds and following national guidelines in order to inform decision-making by an Advisory Panel (8).

- iii. **Biological Biodiversity** was given global emphasis by the United Nations at the "Earth Summit" Rio Conference held in 1992. The term embraces the genetic differences within and between individuals of the same species and also between different species of plants, animals and living organisms and also within or between entire habitats and ecosystems. As emphasised by the Hart District Council's "Biodiversity Action Plan" (13) - "**Biodiversity is not simply the number of species in a given habitat or environment**".
- iii. The concept of protecting our nationally most valuable species and habitats through the formal designation of **Sites of Special Scientific Interest [SSSI]** traces back more than seventy years - albeit that the formal **Guidelines for the Selection of Biological SSSIs** were originally published in 1989 (27). Legislation since then has been amended, improved and devolved. The SSSI network remains a cornerstone of Britain's conservation policy and practice for the protection of threatened habitats and species, and of a habitat network approach to conservation and, more recently, as part of a landscape-scale ecosystem approach to the sustainable management of the environment - rural and urban alike.
- iv. There are now close to 4,100 [wildlife and geological] SSSIs in England; taken together, they cover just over 8% of the Country's land area (20). They are the nation's finest Sites for wildlife and geological features - often standing out as the last remaining areas of natural habitat in our modern countryside. It is vital that this natural heritage is saved for future generations in the face of unrelenting pressures from development, pollution, climate change, unsympathetic land

management and even from "eco-vandalism" by uncaring groups and irresponsible individuals within the general public.

- v. Each SSSI is the area of land, including aquatic habitats, which is designated as such under the "Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981), as amended" (11). They support many characteristic, rare and endangered species [flora and fauna], habitats and natural features. **These Sites are unique and very special places.**

National Guidelines dictate that SSSIs are designated by the relevant statutory agencies under a prescribed "Notification Procedure". There are legal duties on owners and occupiers concerning how the Sites should be managed and protected (31).

- vi. **It is an offence to intentionally or recklessly disturb or destroy an area designated as an SSSI or to intentionally or recklessly disturb the wildlife within an SSSI.**

## **B SSSIs in Hampshire and the Hart District**

- i. **The UK National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) stipulates that Local Planning Authorities need to have strategic policies for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks for biodiversity and green infrastructure (24) with the primary aim "To prevent urban sprawl by keeping green belt land permanently open".**
- ii. *Despite (i), "There is no doubt that habitat alteration and degradation are the most significant threats to Hampshire's wild plants: affecting the abundance of many familiar and once widespread plants as well as the rarities. There is also ample evidence to show the negative impacts of invasive non-native plants in the decline of the County's natural heritage. **Both threats are especially so for aquatic habitats**" (26).*
- iii. There are 118 SSSIs in Hampshire of which 107 are designated by Natural England for their biological interest, five for their geological interest and six for both of these interests combined (22). Only a dozen or so of the County's SSSIs are focussed primarily on rivers, lakes and ponds along with just one other freshwater asset - The **Basingstoke Canal** - which, together with a corridor of associated habitats, covers an area of 101ha [250ac] (22). The Canal's SSSI designation was most recently revised in 1995 (5).
- iv. In addition to and often ecologically associated with and bordering on the County's SSSIs there are 4,093 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation [SINCs] which represent a vital component of the biodiversity of Hampshire. These areas provide important wildlife refuges for flora and fauna through their roles as ecological stepping stones, buffering zones and connecting [corridor] qualities (4). They reflect a legacy of good management and their wellbeing relies on enlightened stewardship by landowners. Taken together, the SINCs represent 9% of the County's land area (10) and they raise awareness of the importance of wildlife - **particularly with regard to planning and land management decisions.**

- v. In comparison with some other locations within Hampshire, the District Council [HDC] highlights (13) that the Hart District is *"particularly rural in character....it is a mosaic of farmland, ancient woodland, lowland heaths and water courses.....giving an extremely diverse range of environments rich in different habitats and species....a remarkable range of Biodiversity"*.
- vi. **The HDC Corporate Plan (2017 - 2022) and Biodiversity Action Plan (2018 - 2023) are committed to "protecting and enhancing biodiversity, managing designated sites positively and working with local groups to deliver those ambitions [and in so doing] to delivering national biodiversity targets locally and to Hart meeting its statutory biodiversity obligations. In short, to protect habitats and species within the District and enhance existing areas for wildlife".**
- vii. There are 16 SSSIs that fall entirely or partially within the Hart District boundary, covering 2,696ha [6,659ac] which equates to 12.5% of the District's land area. Approximately 95% of these nationally important wildlife resources within the Hart District are either already classified to be, or are approaching classification to be, in a "Favourable Condition" (13).
- viii. In addition to the SSSIs, there are 281 SINC's within Hart covering 1,986ha [4,905ac], i.e. 9.2% of the District's area. Overall then, in the region of 25 - 30% of the Hart District is designated or in other ways recognised to be critically important for the protection and conservation of biological biodiversity (13; 14).
- ix. And finally....**The SSSI-designated Basingstoke Canal**, together with its corridor of associated aquatic habitats and terrestrial flashes, Conservation Areas and SINC's, passes through Fleet and through seven parishes as it crosses the District to the South of Odiham and on to Winchfield and beyond. **Within the District, the Canal SSSI**, which includes Dogmersfield Lake and Pondtail Heath [see (5)], **covers 38ha [94ac]** which is close to 40% of the County's total Canal SSSI area. For comparison, the Local Nature Reserve [LNR] and SSSI at Fleet Pond, which includes the County's largest lake, cover just 21ha [52ac].

## C Canals and their SSSI Designations

- i. The condition and wellbeing of SSSIs is most often monitored by a focus on the quality of the habitat and the presence and/or abundance or otherwise of certain "indicator" species, but of all the habitat types "open freshwater water", which includes canals, has proved to be the most difficult to monitor and improve (21). These SSSIs are especially vulnerable to environmental impacts from outside their designated boundaries, e.g. agricultural practices and agrochemical usage in the catchment/drainage/runoff area, industrialisation and extraction of water, pollution by heavy metals and nutrients such as phosphates and nitrates and colonization by non-native invasive species (20).
- ii. "Ecological coherence", i.e. the integrity and diversity of the aquatic habitat and its connections to the surrounding landscape and terrestrial habitats, is one of the "Key Selection Criteria" for designating freshwater habitats as an SSSI - along with "Typicalness", Rarity, "Naturalness" and Diversity (19).
- iii. Canals are often relatively isolated hydrologically from the surrounding land although surface runoff water and seepage can jeopardise the integrity of any specific location. Their SSSI

boundaries therefore extend to include the limit of the canal corridor - i.e. the open water, the banks, riparian zone and any near-natural vegetation associated with the corridor, as well as the towpath together with the natural vegetation, including hedges, extending alongside the canal's route.

- iv. Many species, including invertebrates with aquatic life-stages, bird species and mammals such as water voles, require both the open water and adjacent terrestrial habitats and associated plant species in order to thrive. These adjacent habitats need to be included within the SSSI because they often sustain the fauna associated with the waterway. Opportunities should be taken to connect the site boundary of the canal to other notified sites such as woodland, heath, grassland and meadow and marshy areas in general in order to encourage their integrated management (19; 30).
- v. These challenging pre-conditions are needed in order to cover and regulate the entire drainage catchment - in the case of canals those areas which are located alongside their route but where outcomes of any interventions or conservation strategy cannot be evaluated solely on a "per unit area" basis because the extent of the SSSI is measured not only by area but also by length! What may well be a rich array of biological assemblages containing rare or threatened fish, invertebrates, plants and many other species within mosaics of aquatic and bank-side habitats can be spread over different sections of the designated Site (19).

## **D Hart Local Plan 2032: Strategy and Sites: Policy NBE 4: Biodiversity**

- i. The Hart District has many areas which are noted for their biodiversity value - these areas support a wide variety of species, including those which are threatened or rare, as well as habitats which are irreplaceable [14]. The importance of these areas is recognised by statutory protection through European Directives, UK legislation and local designations such as SINCS and LNRs - all to be maintained with opportunities for enhancement encouraged.
- ii. In order to conserve and enhance biodiversity within the District, it is expected that new development will be permitted provided: (a) **it will not** have an effect on the integrity of any internationally, nationally or locally designated site; (b) **it does not** result in the loss or destruction of irreplaceable habitats [e.g. ancient woodlands]; (c) **it takes opportunities** to protect and enhance biodiversity and contribute to wildlife and habitat connectivity; (d) **it avoids** negative impacts on existing biodiversity and provides a net gain where possible; and (e) **it protects** designated sites throughout the hierarchy outlined in [A](ii) earlier.
- iii. And finally: (a) **Proposed developments on land within or outside an SSSI which are likely to have adverse effects either individually or in combination with other developments should not normally be permitted;** (b) **River corridors [and see [E] (v) below] are key features within Hart that should be protected for their biodiversity and green infrastructure benefits;** and (c) **The overall aim is to achieve a net gain in biodiversity not merely to avoid a net loss [ 12; 13; 14].**

## E The Basingstoke Canal: Overview

- i. The Basingstoke Canal is one of those inland waterways which were constructed in England during the late 18th Century to provide for the transport of fuels and agricultural produce to Metropolitan markets. The Canal is recognised nationally to be **"an engineering achievement of great historical significance and an important example of human impact on the environment"** Construction was completed in 1794 but the Canal was never a commercial success and so it fell into disrepair. Restoration began in 1977 and a fully navigable 51km (32 mile) channel was reopened in 1991 [see E (v)].
- ii. The modern-day Canal is also a very special waterway of national importance given its unique profile of water chemistry [see [E] (xiv) (xv) below], relative lack of pollution and the diverse range of plants and invertebrates this combination supports along the route, both aquatic and the associated bank side species, communities and habitats **"which has no parallel elsewhere in Britain. Overall, it is a waterway of exceptional value to nature conservation"** (5). The SSSI designation [see B (iii)] was reinforced when Hampshire County Council designated the **"Basingstoke Canal Conservation Area"** [CCA] in 1977 and again, in 1987, when the Hart District Council extended the boundary to include not only the land but also the buildings within the setting of the Conservation Area.
- iii. The descriptor **"Conservation Area"** adopted within the Hart District is defined as *"An area of special architectural or historic interest the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance"*. The Hart Local Plan [14] protects SSSIs and the associated Conservation Areas within the District and, **in the case of the Basingstoke Canal [12], it contains provisions to ensure that:** (a) Development that would adversely affect the landscape, architectural or ecological character or setting of the Canal or important views in the vicinity of the Canal will **not be permitted**; (b) Various "Local Gaps" are defined along the Canal's route where development is controlled to preserve the separate identities of settlements, protect their settings and **prevent coalescence**; and (c) Views from public rights of way [e.g. the towpath] are **protected** to prevent development that would "suburbanize" their surroundings.
- iv. The Canal is owned jointly by Hampshire County Council and Surrey County Council and is managed on their behalf by the Basingstoke Canal Authority [BCA] which was created in 1992 (9). In addition, the Canal Partnership also involves six local Borough and District Councils, including Hart, who provide revenue funding for the BCA. Hart District is in turn supported by a number of local Parishes who also contribute revenue funding to help maintain the Canal [9]. The Canal partnership has adopted a Conservation Plan [2] which sets out policies and programmes for the management of the Conservation Area to provide a firm basis on which applications for development within the Conservation Area can be assessed. In so doing, it aims to *"identify the issues which threaten the special qualities of the CCA [in the form of Character Appraisal] and to provide guidelines to prevent harm and achieve enhancement [in the form of Management Proposals]*.
- v. The navigable Canal begins in the vicinity of the Greywell Tunnel in Hampshire. The route then dissects the headwaters of the River Loddon catchment wherein a slight topographical West - East gradient gives rise to water movement which is in fact characteristic of a sluggish river. The Canal then flows eastward into the Wey catchment where it connects with the Wey Navigation Channel - an overall distance of approximately 51km [roughly 32 miles]

- vi. Our in-house calculations and interpolations from published factual information (6) give the estimated total length of the canal SSSIs in England to be 228km [143 miles]. The Basingstoke Canal therefore represents about one-fifth [22%] of the total national resource. Of that, approximately 21km [13 miles] are within the Hart District and approximately 5km [3 miles] are the sinuous route along which the Canal follows the South-East border of Winchfield Parish.
- vii. There is unequivocal evidence that fragmentation of habitats is a significant cause of species decline and loss of biodiversity throughout England [18] - and recall B (ii) above - and so ecological networks of groups of habitat patches are essential as refuges for wildlife so that species can move and be dispersed easily between them and in so doing help to conserve biodiversity. These ecological networks form a basic natural infrastructure nationally [18] and regionally [7]. They need to be addressed in Planning Practice Guidance [cited by (7)] in order to reflect: (a) the key natural systems within the target area; (b) the location and extent of designated sites [see A (ii) above]; (c) the distribution of protected and priority habitats and species; (d) the main landscape features which, due to their linear or continuous nature, are important for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchanges of plants and animals; (e) areas with potential to help biodiversity adapt to climate change ; and (e) green spaces within urban areas. **The Basingstoke Canal and the associated Conservation [corridor] Area reflects all of these criteria as a coherent and resilient ecological network both regionally and locally.**
- viii. Notwithstanding the national importance of the Canal as an SSSI it is also an important "leisure asset" for public recreation as a linear park. That said, the narrowness of the "green/blue" corridor increases both the tensions between user groups and, critically important, the threats from the impacts of users on wildlife. Even so, **Natural England seeks to enhance the public enjoyment and access to the natural environment whilst not damaging the SSSI features of interest** - a challenging remit [see (x) below].
- ix. Noisy human intrusions into natural habitats are exacerbated by footfall damage - either repeatedly over the same trail or when straying off established [i.e. already well-worn] paths. Vegetation is bruised and broken, plant vigour, regeneration and ground cover are reduced and biodiversity is often lost when intolerant species die-out. Simultaneously, soil organic matter and porosity are reduced, permeability to air and water decrease, run-off is exaggerated and erosion is accelerated.
- x. **Estimates give pre-Covid pandemic visitor numbers to the Basingstoke Canal towpath or open-water in excess of 1.5 million [25] or even 1.75 million [29] per annum (sampling protocols and locations are not specified). Ignoring any inevitable "honey-pot" clumping or seasonal bias, these data equate to annual visitor numbers in the region of 3,900 - 4,500 visitors per SSSI mile per month! They represent intense pressures on wildlife and natural habitats even at existing population densities within the County and Hart District. The daunting challenges are to manage the nationally and locally precious SSSI so as to achieve the conservation objectives [2] whilst maintaining recreational and amenity functions - and funding both of these competing undertakings.**
- xi. There are currently no commercial cargo or roving or fixed trading vessel licences on the Canal. It is commercial, passenger-carrying vessels which contribute circa two-thirds of the annual power boat movements even though they represent only 14% of the boats registered on the waterway. The inference is that private boats move relatively little [3]. The BCA Joint Management Committee have set an upper (maximum) limit of 1,300 such movements per year

at any given site and a maximum speed of 4 mph for all powered craft on the waterway. These limits are accepted by Natural England to be in-keeping with the SSSI status of the Canal together with the area of the channel and seasonal variations in depth of water. In light of these restrictions, any large increase in powered vessel movements are predicted to be unlikely [3].

- xii. One of the District's "non-bio" Key (positive) Characteristics is the architectural value of the buildings along the Canal's course, 26 of which are "nationally listed", as well as other structures of historic significance [2]. There are several pillboxes and anti-tank obstacles reflecting the use of the Canal as part of the GHQ "stop-line" during the Second World War and illustrating the impact of the war on the British landscape. Also of note are the 18thC red-brick cambered arch bridges which span the Canal and towpath.
- xiii. The Basingstoke Canal Conservation Area [see (E) (iii)] is divided **from West to East** by the HDC into nine **Character Location Areas** (CLA) each with key characteristics, views and vistas and according to historical development, activity and setting. Character Location Areas 1 and 2 are at and in the vicinity of the Greywell Tunnel and North Warnborough. **The length from the Odiham Wharf to the Barley Mow Bridge (the Canal's most northerly point within the District) is designated as Character Location Area 3 wherein the course of the Canal passes through Winchfield Parish.** In so doing, the District's Character Appraisal subsumes one of the six recently designated **Landscape Character Areas** [ i.e. LCA 6 : Basingstoke Canal & Dogmersfield Edge] which have been adopted by the Winchfield Parish Council for the forthcoming revision of the Neighbourhood Plan [17] - and see Section [F] below.
- xiv. At the Western limits, the Canal is fed by super-saturated alkaline calcareous spring water from the underlying chalk and clays and is enriched with nitrates from the underlying aquifers. This base-rich water quality changes gradually eastwards as the Canal receives side-drainage from heath land and woodland and their underlying acidic sands and gravels; the water becomes less charged with calcium and so more acidic. The transition is gradual [see [F] (i)] as the water quality adjusts only slowly to the surrounding landscape. This chemical gradient favours different plant species, associated fauna and other species over different Location Areas (2) (5) (12). The slow but definite East-West water movement [see E (v) above] and chemical gradient combination is a rare feature of canal waterways in Britain [5].
- xv. The vegetation associated with the Canal reflects the water chemistry coupled with the relative lack of pollution. This, in turn, provides habitats, shelter and food for a rich and varied invertebrate fauna which gives rise to an enormous range of biodiversity [including Nationally Scarce and Rare species] that has no parallel elsewhere in Britain making the Canal a waterway of exceptional value to nature conservation. The most recent (1995) SSSI Designation records these details **for the length of the Canal overall** [5]. The water quality gradient has probably been historically the single most important factor shaping the overall biodiversity, albeit the Canal is not particularly species-rich on an individual site basis (2).

## **F. Basingstoke Canal Landscape Character Location Areas: Winchfield Parish**

***Given [C] (i)-(v) and [E] (vii) - (xi), what SSSI - designated features, County and District conservation targets and Natural England's access-recreational-leisure ambitions***

***characterise the 5km [3 mile] route of the Canal as its course meanders through the rural Parish landscape which is Winchfield?***

- i. As emphasised in [E] (ii) (xiv) (xv) above, the *raison d'etre* for the Canal's SSSI designation is the historical **"ecocline"** in which the water chemistry and associated aquatic and marginal vegetation composition at sites along the route **vary gradually from West to East but without any abrupt changes between successive sites** [16]. That said, summer survey data from 14 sites collected over 11 consecutive years [1988 - 1998] **clearly identify the tight cluster of data from Character Location Area 3, and especially from Barley Mow, to be an important transition in the ecological ecocline** along the Canal's channel [16]. Here, the calcareous vegetation features (indicators of base-rich water) recorded at the two shallower sites further West are replaced (but not yet as extensively so) by the base-poor indicator species recorded mainly or wholly at the more acidic eastern parts. The Character Location Areas from Barley Mow eastward to Chequers Bridge Wharf [CLA 5] and further beyond [i.e. the downstream lengths] become progressively more distinct from the "tipping- point" which is the Winchfield sector.
- ii. **The within-Parish Canal [LCA 6] runs through undisturbed ecological havens for wildlife** - a mosaic of woodland, **including irreplaceable ancient SINC-designated woodland and areas with TPOs**, well managed coppice, mixed-species hedgerows, unimproved meadows, open countryside and arable fields. Many of the wild animals, amphibians and reptiles, 59 species of birds, tens of aquatics and 28 species of flowering plants, 56 species of butterflies, dragonflies, damselflies and moths and five species of bats recorded by HBIC for the Winchfield Search Area find shelter and food within the Canal's surroundings [and see F (xiii)].
- iii. Where the Canal passes through cuttings or is surrounded by woodland there is a greater sense of isolation and tranquillity than where panoramic views across countryside provide connections with the rural surroundings [17]. Between them, the District Council's Canal Conservation Area [12] and the Winchfield Neighbourhood Plan [33] **highlight at least 20 Key Views and Vistas from the towpath** which can be appreciated and admired year-round and without charge by the general public.
- iv. The significance of the Canal as an SSSI is enriched by the historical significance and architectural value of various buildings and structures along the Parish route (17) (33) (34): Sarsen Stones, pillboxes (which are relics of the role played by the Canal within the GHQ Line during the Second World War), the 16thC "Old Thatch" Grade 2-listed Cottage and several fine examples of red brick cambered arch bridges which have spanned the Canal and towpath since the 18thC. The bridges are Grade 2-listed and so they too are considered by Historic England to be **"of outstanding regional interest"**.
- v. There are barely a handful of domestic houses bordering the Canal as it passes throughout the Parish, which plays well with the SSSI ambitions set out by Natural England (19) for **"naturalness"** [see A (i)] and **"ecological coherence"** [see C (ii)] and also with local aspirations to avoid noise and light pollution and so to remain an area of **"dark sky"** in order to retain the rural look and tranquillity of the Parish (33). The advantages include: (a) Threats from garden waste and the accidental or deliberate release of horticultural "invasive" species into the natural vegetation corridor (6) are minimal; (b) Private moorings are rare; and (c) The [well-intending] seasonal feeding of birds and wildlife with unnatural diets is more-or-less avoided.
- vi. The Woodland Trust have recently emphasised (28) the astonishing array of benefits which people gain from the Nation's wooded landscapes - from reducing the global impacts of "climate

change" to improving our mental and physical health and wellbeing and our education. **Trees and historic woodland make an important contribution to the setting of the Canal and its towpath within the Parish.** The Trust highlight the loss of woodland biodiversity as a result of invasive species such as rhododendron and include as a major objective "*the removal of rhododendron at a landscape scale*" as a prelude to widespread recovery. There can be fewer more extreme examples of this loss in biodiversity than within Character Location Area 5 [Barley Mow Bridge to Chequers Bridge Wharf] where the scruffy, tangled invasive mass tumbles into the Canal alongside the badly managed Arch Plantation. In sharp contrast, Character Location Area 3 is largely free from such severe invasions and so the natural vegetation is allowed to flourish accordingly.

- vii. Pressures from recreational fishing are slight along the CLA 3 towpath and involve most often individual anglers enjoying "informal", day-time only sessions. Match fishing organised by the BCA or, rarely, by clubs affiliated to the Association, are confined to a Winter League fished over just a few hours on one day each weekend from November to February. Disturbance to the natural world is further avoided by a "blanket" closed-season for fishing from 15th March through to 15th June each year. Overall, then, this mixed-species, mature fishery is well protected and any "threats" to the SSSI are minimised.
- viii. Wash from boats is a major cause of canal bank erosion and damages bank-side vegetation - hence the maximum speed limit of 4mph for powered craft on the Canal [3]. The BCA describe this rate of progress as "Walking Pace" whereas other experts suggest that a more realistic rate averaged over age groups and sex should be 3mph, and that 4mph is "Brisk"! The NHS says (23) that "*A brisk walk is about 3mph*". The local providers of passenger craft based at Odiham Wharf - i.e. the launch site for the powered craft most often seen within the Parish - are conscious of the SSSI status of the Canal as well as the competing user groups; they emphasise to their customers that "**An average speed of 2 - 3 mph should be your ideal target**" - which gives a leisurely journey time of 90 minutes or thereabouts to the Barley Mow.
- ix. It is not only invasive species above-ground which threaten the biodiversity within the Canal SSSI and Conservation Area; the aquatic Signal Crayfish (*Pacifastacus leniusculus*) is also a serious threat over many sections of the Canal. Introduced from the USA by HMG in the 1970s to diversify commercial fisheries, the aquatic immigrant soon escaped into natural waters. It aggressively out-competes the native white-clawed species (*Austropotamobius pallipes*) for both habitat and food; it carries a plague not tolerated by the native species and also burrows into banks and hastens erosion (15). The BCA issue permits for commercial trapping but is struggling to control the pest over large sections of the Canal. However, consistent albeit anecdotal evidence from anglers is that the invader whilst it is "present" within CLA 3 - LCA 6 water it is not a serious nuisance - a further example, then, which illustrates the "Quality" of the SSSI within the Parish.
- x. Heavy shade whereby the tree canopy overhangs the Canal may well create a sense of "rural tranquillity" for people but it does not at all suite aquatic life. Clear water is essential for an abundance of submerged aquatic species and only the most resilient are tolerant of opaque water (16). Leaf fall in the autumn at a time when boat traffic is reduced can also stagnate the water course. However, the Canal is either "open", i.e. un-shaded, or is only partly shaded [estimated @ <30% or so] throughout large segments of the route through Winchfield Parish which enhances the standing as an SSSI.
- xi. The towpath facilitates connectivity with the integrated network of well-used footpaths and "Winchfield Walks and Bridleways" which are maintained by the Parish Council and dedicated

parishioner volunteers (34). For example, a circular route involving the towpath allows visitors to enjoy a comfortable walk to the Church of St Mary's which is an outstanding example of Norman architecture and which, dating from 1150, is the oldest listed building in the whole of Hart District (33). The Church is recognised to be **"of exceptional national interest"** and so it is Grade-1 listed. This circular detour from the Canal SSSI and through the Conservation Area represents a "connectivity" which fits well with the emphasis given to "public access" by Natural England [and see E (viii) above and F (xii) below].

- xii. Free-of-Charge towpath access points for pedestrians, cyclists and all other visitors to the Hart District Character Location Area 3 and so into the Winchfield Parish Landscape Character Area 6 are located at the Odiham Wharf and at the Barley Mow and which, between them, provide: parking areas, public seating and tables, information displays, provisions for slip and direct launching, passenger vessel turning, assorted water craft hire, wheelchair convenience and nearby refreshment sales. In short, these are two convenient and visitor-friendly access venues for memorable rural escapes into and within what are very special refuges for natural biodiversity and opportunities for public recreation.

## **Biodiversity and Public Enjoyment**

- xiii. The most recent national SSSI designation of the Canal together with the County and District designations of the related Conservation Areas, along with the HBIC and other data for the County, District and Parish, respectively, combine to catalogue a **remarkable range of biodiversity**: at least 80 native aquatic plants (including nationally-scarce species), 24 species of dragonflies and damselflies, numerous insect species (including nationally-rare species), a rich and varied invertebrate fauna, tens of plant species (including those in irreplaceable ancient woods), bees, birds, moths, five species of bats.....the list goes on!
- xiv. The visitors' "Winchfield Biodiversity and Conservation Experience" - sights, sounds, colours, aromas - will depend on the season [ e.g. carpets of snowdrops and primroses, swathes of native Narcissus and "English" bluebells, bud-burst in beech woodland, wild garlic, broods of water fowl, vivid autumnal colours...the list goes on!]. That experience will also depend on the previous and prevailing weather, time of day and/or night, visitors' noise disturbance, luck and chance, patience and dedication. Stimulating interest. Evoking anticipation, excitement and contentment.

**Hark the "clarion call" from Natural England at E (viii) above!**

- xv. The conviction is that these opportunities and experiences and the emotions they evoke should be unfettered for everyone, even though capabilities and abilities will vary between individuals and everyone cannot study or experience everything. They too fuel those aspirations which underpin the examples of the rural heritage of Winchfield which are the subjects of this report - and which are based (after an evolution of 200 years and more) on the now seemingly "fully naturalised" SSSI Basingstoke Canal and on those Conservation Areas which embellish its passage through the historic landscape which is Winchfield Parish.

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*20 May 2021*

## 5. Winchfield Trees and the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) Tree Charter

### A On Trees

- i. The presence of trees contributes markedly and both directly and indirectly to the health and wellbeing of humans. They are vital in helping to ensure that our atmosphere remains oxygen-rich whilst combating the concentrations of carbon dioxide which are increasing relentlessly at an alarming rate as a consequence of human activities.
- ii. Trees in urban settings can be particularly resistant to air pollution by trapping harmful pollutants on their leaves and bark. Elsewhere, they provide a wide range of shelter, shade, food and feed for humans and all forms of wildlife. When sited near rivers and streams they can massively reduce the volume of precipitation entering those watercourses, reducing the likelihood of flooding, bank-side erosion and pollution in run-off.
- iii. Individually and collectively, trees provide important habitats and ecological corridors for wildlife. They have many benefits for human health and well-being - providing space for people to relax and exercise which helps to cast off mental fatigue and improve memory and cognitive function. They often have an important amenity value, creating a varied, interesting and attractive landscape. In so doing, they help to define the character of an area, to create a sense of place and to screen and integrate "development".
- iv. Humans need to see both the woods and the trees and to respect, conserve and enhance the benefits derived from each of these finite resources which cannot be taken for granted.

### B Tree Protection Orders [TPOs]

- There are circumstances when trees require a little help from humans in order to thrive; they can then be protected individually or collectively by Tree Protection Orders [TPOs] administered by UK Local Planning Authorities [LPAs]. In general, TPOs are made to protect those trees (but not hedges, bushes or shrubs) that bring significant amenity benefits to an area and especially so when the trees are under threat [e.g. from development]. Individual trees taller than 3.5 meters can be considered for a TPO whereas a woodland TPO protects all trees within a defined area, including naturally regenerating seedlings and saplings - i.e. trees smaller than 3.5 meters are not excluded.
- Six important criteria are used by LPAs when assessing the merits of a potential TPO:
  - i. **Potential Threat:** Priority is given to protect those trees deemed to be at immediate risk from felling or damage from development on site.
  - ii. **Visibility:** The extent to which the trees or woodland can be seen by the general public will inform the assessment of the significance of their impact on the local environment.
  - iii. **Individual Impact:** Notwithstanding (ii) above, the fact that trees are publicly visible is not itself sufficient to warrant a TPO. What is assessed is the particular individual or collective importance of the tree(s) by reference to their size, form, future potential as an amenity, screening value or contribution to the character of an area or landscape.

- iv. **Wider Impact:** The significance of the trees in their local surroundings will also be assessed; are they suitable in that area and are there other trees present in the vicinity?
- v. **Historical Importance:** Certain trees because of their age, association with listed buildings or their contribution to the special character of a conservation area may require consideration.
- vi. **Rarity:** Trees can be considered for TPO protection solely on the grounds of rarity. The priority given will then reflect the rarity of the subject(s).

TPOs may be made for protecting trees considered to be of special value in terms of amenity, history or rarity and which, in each case, may or may not be immediately under threat. The number of TPOs should be carefully monitored and Neighbourhood Plans should highlight a commitment to the conservation of important trees and wooded areas.

## C Winchfield Trees

- i. The total area within the predominantly rural Parish of Winchfield is close to 700 hectares [ha]. Back in 1905, historical records tell us that the Parish had 243ha of arable land devoted to cereals and root crops, 228ha of permanent grassland and 64ha of woodland - i.e. 35, 33 and 9% of the land area, respectively. More than 100 years later, we have calculated from data provided by the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre that the Parish area under (semi-natural and replanted) "ancient woodland" of oak, beech and chestnut totals just over 61ha - a proportional presence and importance more-or-less identical to that recorded more than a century ago. Quite remarkable!
- ii. There have been major changes in UK agriculture over the aforementioned time-span. The move towards larger fields, the wholesale grubbing-out of trees and hedgerows and the introduction of new crops [e.g. oil seed rape] have altered the national rural landscapes considerably. Nevertheless, it is self-evident from these national comparisons that successive generations of Winchfield landowners, residents and their local councils must have valued, conserved and managed the natural and historically "permanent" trees-based features of the Parish landscape with skilful care supported by a sustained commitment of resources. The benefits today are that the Winchfield landscapes have a rich diversity of trees, hedgerows and woods which are not only full of opportunities for people but which also provide the habitats, food and safe routes to support the Parish wildlife.
- iii. The first TPO in the Hart District was made in September 1949. The District total now stands at approximately 900 of which Winchfield Parish has 21 covering both individual trees and wooded areas. This relatively modest TPO cover for the Parish reflects the "modern" emphasis of protecting trees under actual or potential threat from "building development" within the Hart District. The fact that Winchfield represents just 3.6% of the area and 0.3% of the District's population has hitherto limited the demand for development-related TPOs. To illustrate the point. Over the two-year period ending June 2020, the Winchfield Parish Council scrutinised 88 planning applications - mostly for extensions to or other "salami" modifications to existing structures rather than for "new-builds" - and just 14 of those applications involved "trees" [i.e. 7 applications each year].

## D Tree Charter

- i. The National Association of Local Councils [NALC] in partnership with the Woodland Trust, the National Union of Students [NUS] and the Tree Council has embedded in a "**Tree Charter**" the

**ten principles** for a society in which people and trees can stand stronger together. The Charter was launched in November 2017 and now enjoys the support of more than seventy other organisations. The NALC believe that town and parish councils have a key role in protecting trees and woodlands by embodying the Charter's principles into their everyday practice and helping residents to understand and appreciate the values of trees in their neighbourhood. Local councils are encouraged to become "Charter Branches" committed to delivering the Tree Charter to their communities; more than 240 local councils throughout the UK have now achieved that status.

- ii. In a recent survey undertaken by NALC, 98% of the local councils who were canvassed nationwide agreed that the wildlife habitats trees provide were of benefit to the community and 87% said that issues around trees were discussed either "frequently" or "sometimes" during council meetings. However, only about one in four respondents have guiding policies concerning trees. Disappointing!
- iii. The flexibility of Neighbourhood Planning, NALC believes, provides an ideal strategy for councils to enact the Tree Charter. To do so effectively, an essential pre-requisite is that councils understand the tree cover within their jurisdiction.

### **The Principles of the Charter for local councils are as follows:**

1. **Sustain Landscapes Rich in Wildlife.** Councils have a "Biodiversity duty" and through planting projects and good management they can support tree diversity in the environments under their care. In addition, old and decaying standing and fallen dead wood also provide important wildlife habitats and stores of carbon, nutrients and water for a wide range of fungi, lichens, insects [especially beetles] birds and bats.
2. **Plant for the Future.** Aspire to replace every tree which is felled or lost each year throughout the area under the council's control and involve the community in replanting activities.
3. **Celebrate the Power of Trees to Inspire.** Trees are integral with human experiences and memories; they inspire art and poetry and evoke mystery and folk law. These associations need to be fostered into adoption by the upcoming generations.
4. **Grow Forests of Opportunity and Innovation.** Forests, woods and trees flourish under the stewardship of skilled professionals. Communities should chose the sourcing of wooden products and wherever possible select those which are grown locally.
5. **Protect Irreplaceable Trees and Woods:** A tree may often be the oldest inhabitant of a village or parish. Thorn bushes and hedgerows harbour human activity. Old orchards are remarkable reserves for genetic diversity and habitats for wildlife.
6. **Plan Greener Local Landscapes:** Landscapes of the future depend on care of trees today. A key responsibility of councils is to ensure that the value of trees is recognised in the planning system. Guidance on planting, felling and re-planting of both trees and hedgerows from skilled professionals is essential, along with surveys conducted by a competent arborist.

7. **Recover Health, Hope and Wellbeing with the Help of Trees.** Healthcare and tree care go hand-in-hand. The therapeutic value of trees to human physical, emotional and mental wellbeing are proven and cannot be overestimated.
8. **Make Trees Accessible to All.** Every person in society should be able to enjoy the benefits of trees regardless of age, wealth, ethnicity or disability. Clear information about local accessible woods and green spaces with trees should be available to them all.
9. **Combat Threats to Habitats.** Climate change, pests, diseases, the malpractices of landowners, developers or contractors and aggressive invasive species [such as rhododendron] pose serious threats to trees. Councils should take the lead in monitoring these threats and highlighting them to the wider community.
10. **Improve and Strengthen the Landscape with Trees.** The right species of trees in the places to which they are best adapted earn their keep over and over for humans and wildlife alike. Councils should learn about the benefits of trees and hedgerows and work to promote and champion their positive impacts in the landscape and on human wellbeing.

## E "Mighty Oaks from Little Acorns Grow": Modest Beginnings for Winchfield

If trees are as important to human lives and nature in Winchfield Parish today as they have been for centuries then the Tree Charter is important to residents and their elected local Council representatives. Our Neighbourhood Development Plan [NDP] contains more than sixty references to the importance of trees, wooded areas and hedgerows to the Parish landscapes, biodiversity, the wellbeing of residents and visitors and to our responsibility to contribute towards the battle of mankind with global warming. However, the Plan was adopted in March 2017 and so pre-dated the launch of the Tree Charter eight months later.

### Thoughts and Suggestions

- i. **Acorn No. 1:** Members of the Winchfield Parish Council [WPC] to become updated and familiar with the Principles enshrined in the Tree Charter. Conveniently, these are described in a "*Tree Charter and Tool Kit for Local Councils*" - comprising 34pp. with a concise 4pp. Summary: see [www.nalc.gov.uk](http://www.nalc.gov.uk) [www.treeCharter.uk](http://www.treeCharter.uk) [www.woodlandtrust.org.uk](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk)
- ii. **Acorn No. 2:** The WPC to agree to "sign-up" as a supporter of the Tree Charter and to apply for Charter Branch status. A monthly newsletter will then keep the Council updated on developments and events under the Tree Charter umbrella.
- iii. **Acorn No. 3:** The Woodland Trust gives away free tree saplings each year for local councils and communities to plant. For rural communal settings, there are packs of 30, 105, 240 and 420 trees comprised of between three and six species selected, respectively, for hedges, copse, wild woods and wildlife. Applications open on 24th August 2020 for delivery in March 2021. The WPC to consider the logistics of taking advantage of what is on offer - an application targeting 2021 for delivery in 2022 may be a realistic goal? Details are found in: [www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/schools-and-communities](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/schools-and-communities)
- iv. **Acorn No. 4:** The tight coupling within the Hart DC jurisdiction of the granting of TPOs to those trees and wooded areas which are threatened by development or change makes it critical for the Parish Council to fully recognise and appreciate the importance of the planning application

process for the preservation of the Winchfield tree cover. To help disseminate this message, an empathetic and well-informed speaker from the HDC could be invited by the WPC to talk to residents at a public lecture in the Village Hall - with wine and nibbles provided afterwards to fuel a Q&A forum! The HDC Tree Officer, Mr Adam Maskill (MArborA), is suggested as a candidate for invitation.

- v. **Acorn No. 5:** The National Tree Warden Scheme administered by the UK Tree Council enables residents to play an active role in conserving and enhancing local trees and woods. Enthusiastic residents who volunteer as "local-champion" Tree Wardens are asked to gather information, identify threats, raise awareness and foster dialogue between the community and the elected parish representatives. The WPC to consider co-opting such an individual into the Parish team : [www.treecouncil.org.uk/take-action/tree-wardens/](http://www.treecouncil.org.uk/take-action/tree-wardens/)
- vi. **Acorn No. 6:** An annual Parish-wide "Tree-Spotting Day" organised under the auspices of the WPC along similar lines to our twice-yearly successful "Litter Picks" might be introduced into the Parish calendar - to take place each autumn on a date during the Tree Council's "National Tree Week". That celebration in 2020 begins on 30th November and lasts until 6th December. Participants would survey the Parish trees, old orchards and hedgerows following an agreed template of "watch points", reporting back over brunch in the Village Hall: [www.treecouncil.org.uk/take-action/seasonal-campaigns/national-tree-week](http://www.treecouncil.org.uk/take-action/seasonal-campaigns/national-tree-week)
- vii. **Acorn No. 7:** A tree or length of hedgerow may take decades to mature but just a few months or days to deteriorate and die or even a few minutes to be felled and killed by malpractice or otherwise. The WPC to consider a replanting policy of at least 1: 1 so as to compensate for such losses. The following example provides a vivid illustration.
- viii. **Acorn No. 8:** The recent and ongoing development at Winchfield Crescent [formerly Winchfield Lodge] involves just twelve new-build dwellings. During the prolonged gestation period of the development, five mature and statuesque trees have died. They remain as sad and stark silhouettes alongside the access to the development whilst the developers and others wrangle about their removal - as the residents have repeatedly requested. The WPC to request that the developer replaces the dead trees with at least the same number of saplings and without further delay.

The contact details are: Mr David Pownceby, Managing Director, Sunningdale House Developments Ltd, Office 31 Innovation House, Innovation Way, Discovery Park, Sandwich, Kent. CT13 9FF

The Council are encouraged to remain perennially alert for opportunities for similar interventions with all developers working in the Parish in the future.

- ix. **Acorn No. 9:** The WPC to carefully consider becoming the pioneering Local Authority within the Hart District in "signing-up" to the sustainability ambitions and opportunities which are embodied within the Principles of the Tree Charter. The Council are encouraged to make our Parish trees, wooded areas and hedgerows an important matter to all residents so that more are planted, they get better care and enjoy well-informed respect. Our trees must flourish in their rural Parish landscapes without compromising the ability of future generations to experience similarly uplifting benefits as those we enjoy today.

*Emeritus Professor R.J. Summerfield DSc*

*20th August 2020*

## 6. Summary of Post Brexit Agricultural – Rural policy from HMG

On Wednesday 1st December 2021, the UK government, through the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), made the first payments of subsidies to farmers and landowners under the post-Brexit National Agricultural Policy.

Whilst Britain was a member of the EU, the UK farmers received annual subsidies from the Basic Payments Scheme administered under the single market Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). Post-Brexit, these subsidies are being phased-out and will end completely in 2028. In their place, HMG is launching a new environmental land management scheme (ELMS) to allocate alternative [albeit probably less-generous!] subsidies to successful applicants and which are funded by British taxpayers. The Scheme focusses far less on agricultural output [i.e. the product of area and productivity per unit area] and more on reducing carbon emissions and protecting "nature".

Payments under the ELMS will be made to those farmers and landowners who are delivering at least one of six "public goods" under one, two or three Categories: (i) Sustainable Farming Incentive; (ii) Local Nature Recovery; and/or (iii) Landscape Recovery. Most of the money will go to Category (i) to support those farmers who, as judged by Defra, are working the land in an environmentally-friendly way. Category (ii) funds will target farmers who create, restore and manage woodlands, wetlands, peatlands and other specified habitats. The third Category will involve clusters of farmers who work together on large projects such as peatland restoration or planting forests.

The six "public goods" identified by Defra and which overarch all three Categories are:

- \* Clean Air
- \* Clean and Plentiful Water
- \* Thriving Plants and Wildlife
- \* Reduction in and Protection from Environmental Hazards
- \* Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change
- \* Enhanced Beauty, Heritage and Engagement with the Natural Environment

It is striking that food production per se [i.e. agricultural output at any (environmental) cost] is no longer targeted as one of the nation's priority "public goods".

This new emphasis reinforces the case for the protection/conservation/preservation and sustainable land management of the biologically and ecologically diverse Parish of Winchfield.

*Emeritus Professor R.J. Summerfield*

*December 2021*

## 7. Hart District Council's Carbon Neutrality Target

The publication of the following encyclopaedic and outstanding reference work is timely:

**Gregg, Ruth et al. [5 others] (2021). Carbon storage and sequestration by habitat: a review of the evidence (second edition). Natural England Research Report NERR094, pp. 221. ISBN 978-1-78354-732-6**

1. They say that: *"The largest carbon sequestration rates in semi-natural UK habitats are in native broadleaf woodlands"* and that *"Natural woodland managed with a minimum intervention approach can be an effective climate change mitigation measure"*. From their tabulated data, I have calculated: *"The overall estimated carbon storage by 30 and 100-year-old mixed broadleaf native UK woodlands on soils of 15 and 100 cm depth to be an average of 260 [range 110 - 300] tonnes of carbon per ha"*.

A Winchfield Neighbourhood Plan Working Group member has reminded us that 'the policies of the Neighbourhood Plan should focus on our contributions towards the goal of the District Council for Hart to become a Carbon-neutral Authority by 2040. The Group agree that whilst this is not a particularly ambitious objective, they are reminded that it is essential for Neighbourhood Plans to be compliant with and support the policies enshrined in the planning ambitions and targets of the parent District and County as well as with the NPPF (revised).

2. Winchfield covers only 3% of the area of Hart and has just under a tiny 1% of the District's population. BUT, quantitative data on the diverse Biodiversity within the Parish tell us that **extrapolations based on mathematically strict "proportionality" can sometimes be wildly inaccurate** [no pun intended!]
3. There are now "Carbon Emissions Footprints" within any specified geographical boundary which are **independent estimates based on models produced by experts** at the Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE) - University of Exeter following their analyses of >30 data sets several of which themselves are based on multiple further data sets. The scientific bases of models are widely respected as to their credibility in the "real world", given the caveats on their interrogation and interpretation. We should make this clear in the wording of our Policy and in so doing we shall avoid any extravagant claims.
4. The CSE models tell us that **Winchfield's CO2 emissions** [associated with housing, food and diet, travel, waste and our consumption of goods and services] **total 6,865 tonnes per year** which, given that the Parish area is 705ha, equates to an estimated emission of **9.74 tonnes of CO2 per ha per year**.
5. Following a comprehensive review [ Gregg et al. 2021], with a primary focus on the evidence base from researchers in England, the UK and Northern Europe, **Natural England have concluded that: (i) "The largest carbon sequestration rates in semi-natural UK habitats are in native broadleaf woodlands"** and that **(ii) "Natural woodland managed with a minimum intervention approach can be an effective climate change mitigation measure"**.
6. Historical records and maps tell us that **back in 1905 the Winchfield Parish semi-natural woodlands totalled 64ha. Today, 61ha remain - primarily ancient and semi-ancient woods comprising native species of Oak, Beech and Horse Chestnut. The Woodland Trust say that "These three species, especially Oak, are particularly effective in CO2 capture due to their large canopies, dense wood and long life-spans"**.

7. The Woodland Trust have also publicised the fact that **"An estimated 400+ tonnes of carbon per hectare can be "locked-up" in the living and dead wood and leaves, roots, soil and understory vegetation by a young UK wood with mixed native species"**.
8. The Woodland Trust estimate of 400 tonnes+ compares with [what I believe to be] the more compelling values of 260 (range 110 - 300) tonnes of carbon per ha given by Gregg *et al.* [2021] following their exhaustive review which was published during the gestation of the Neighbourhood Plan.
9. The Trust also estimate the current sequestration of carbon [i.e. the increase in trees biomass minus any removals of biomass] by UK broadleaf woodlands to be 3.9 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per ha per year.
10. Elsewhere, "Trees in Trust" [a Canadian website] say that **"Mature trees in UK can capture an average of 0.64 kg CO<sub>2</sub> per square meter per year"** [which equates to 6.4 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per ha per year] but does not cite the source of that information.
11. Given the remarkable longevity and stable historical persistence [area] of mixed broadleaf native UK species woodland in the Parish, and the absence of commercial logging or any other wood-based cottage industry, or any significant removal of standing or fallen dead wood, **I estimate that Winchfield has, what in effect is, a perennial deposit in the Parish's woodland carbon budget which is at least equivalent to (61 x 110) = 6,710 tonnes [a pessimistic minimum] and (61 x 300) = 18,300 tonnes, or perhaps even as much as (61 x 400) = 24,400 tonnes, with an overall [and cautious] arithmetic mean of 16,218 tonnes.**
12. I say **"at least"** because Greg *et al.* emphasise that hedgerows, orchards, individual trees outside of woodland, heathland and semi-natural grassland can also make smaller but nevertheless important contributions to carbon capture within rural landscapes.
13. **The estimates given in [9] and [10] above are that the "woodland carbon budget interest rate" is between (61 x 3.9) = 238 and (61 x 6.4) = 390 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year [i.e. between 1.5 and 2.4% of the overall mean]. This level of re-investment into the Parish's woodland carbon storage pot has the hallmark of "equilibrium, maintenance and stability" as is commensurate with this ancient and enduring habitat.**

If, however, the annual sequestration of carbon back from the atmosphere is not as small and close to zero as suggested in (13) above and, **in light of the nation-wide comprehensive data provided by Gregg *et al.* (2021), then the estimated value increases to within the range 671 – 1556 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per ha per year. These annual sequestration rates then equate to between about 9 and 23% of the annual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions footprint estimated for the Parish by the CSE-University of Exeter researchers.**

**Taken together, these expert data, summarised overleaf, leave no doubts that the tiny Parish of Winchfield with its botanical heritage continues to play a disproportionality significant role in contributing towards the 'carbon neutrality' ambitions of the parent District Council.**

*Emeritus Professor R.J. Summerfield DSc*

15 April 2022

## Global Warming, Climate Change and Winchfield Weather

### A. Background Facts: Global - National - Regional - Local

- (i) The world today is an average of 1.2°C warmer than at the end of the 19th Century as a result of ever-increasing, man-made greenhouse gas emissions, notably of CO<sub>2</sub> and other hydrocarbons coming primarily from industry, transport and agriculture.
- (ii) Since 2016, the major global emitters - China, USA, the EU and others - have promised to reach net zero carbon emissions by about 2050. The UK shares in this undertaking. Major cuts in global emissions will be essential and if those interventions are not taken, global average temperatures could rise by 4°C by 2100.
- (iii) Scientists predict that if these CO<sub>2</sub> emissions pledges are kept then the average global temperature could still be 2.1°C warmer by the end of the century than it is today [5]. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [IPCC] predicts that even this lower level would lead to major changes in weather and climate, with devastating consequences through flooding wide swathes of the natural world, jeopardizing food security, driving millions of people into extreme poverty and increasing heat-related mortality [1] [5].
- (iv) "Weather" refers to short-term atmospheric conditions whereas "Climate" is the weather experienced at a specific location averaged over a long period of time. Both would undoubtedly be affected.
- (v) These alarming prospects led the United Nations to set a target to limit global warming to <1.5°C, a value which requires the UK to reach net-zero emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> by about 2050 in order to achieve HMG's commitment to play a leadership role in climate change mitigation. Emissions of other greenhouse gasses would also need to be reduced or completely removed. Decarbonisation on this scale will require major emissions reductions from all sectors of the economy [5] [6].
- (vi) In the UK, the Council for the Protection of Rural England [CPRE] estimates that housing, transport, industry and business, together, generate about two-thirds of our national greenhouse gas emissions each year [2].
- (vii) Hart District Council has ambitions to become a carbon-neutral Authority by 2035 and a carbon-neutral District by 2040 - time horizons which are in the region of 15 -20 years hence. These ambitions are quite remarkable given the time-scales targeted in those predictions made by international experts.
- (viii) The target time-span for the Winchfield Neighbourhood Plan is from 2022 to 2037, i.e. 15 years or so.
- (ix) The tiny, rural Parish of Winchfield (705ha) has a population of close to 700 persons and 294 dwellings.
- (x) The CPRE are adamant that the only way for the UK to achieve carbon-neutrality [irrespective of time-span] is for each of the four key sectors mentioned in (vi) (above) to measurably reduce their greenhouse gas emissions year-on-year.
- (xi) The CPRE are equally adamant that with current NPPF legislation then it will be impossible to decarbonise the national economy to achieve the scale of climate change mitigation being targeted.

## B. Winchfield's Future Climate and Weather: "Worse-Case" Scenario?

- (i) Scientists from the UK Met. Office in collaboration with the BBC have analysed data from 12 different versions of their major Climate Modelling Project [UKCP] to predict the implications for the UK's climate and weather in the future given increases in global average temperature of either +2°C or +4°C [3].
- (ii) Predictions for the future are then compared with actual average values of temperature and rainfall over the past thirty years [1991 - 2019]. The question here, then, is:

**"What are the predicted consequences for Winchfield's climate and weather given an increase in global average temperature of + 2°C?"**

It is important to note that the Met. Office-BBC calculated data do not represent a specific time period; instead, they show what conditions could be like locally given this level of global warming.

- (iii) The UK has been divided into a grid of squares each 12km x 12km [7.5 mile x 7.5 mile] in area and the Met. Office models have been used to predict values of temperature and rainfall in each square. By nominating Post-Codes it is possible to locate specific areas to a given grid square. The values of the matching grid and its neighbouring 8 grids are then averaged and these are the data tabulated overleaf.

**For Winchfield, the Post-Codes RG27 8FH and RG27 8DD have been used (and give identical results).**

<b>Climate /Weather Statistic</b>	<b>30-Year Average</b>	<b>Predicted Value Given</b>
<b>Temp. (*C) Rainfall (mm)</b>	<b>[1991 - 2019]</b>	<b>Global Warming of +2°C</b>
Hottest Summer Day	35.2	37.3
Warmest Winter Day	18.7	19.1
No. Summer Days >25°C/month	4	9
Wettest Summer Day	44	54
Wettest Winter Day	45	44
No. Rain-days/Month in Summer <i>Defined as Rainfall &gt; 1mm/day</i>	8	7
No. Rain-days/ Month in Winter <i>Defined as Rainfall &gt; 1mm/day</i>	11	11

- (iv) The summer months of 2022 are clearly a portent of prospects for the future compared with historical averages, i.e. the new "norms" are likely to be longer periods of very warm days punctuated with more frequent and more intense spells of extremely hot weather ("heat waves") leading to droughts BUT with torrential rainfall events concentrating seasonal totals into fewer days thereby leading to downpours and local flooding. Winters are likely to continue relatively mild and wet, with less-frequent cold snaps involving snowfall and frosts, and so soils will probably be wetter in the spring.
- (v) These changes will impact on what crops farmers can grow and where and their likely yields. Wet soils in spring can delay the sowing of crops; hotter temperatures hasten crop development and advance ripening; droughts reduce yields and will need to be avoided [agronomy] or tolerated [plant breeding].
- (vi) Heat-dried and crusted soils have very poor water infiltration rates leading to increased localised "flash" flooding; drains, culverts and ditches will need to be kept debris-free to mitigate these changes.
- (vii) Temperatures above 30°C when prolonged over a few days can have serious implications for public health, particularly for the elderly. Females older than 75 years are especially vulnerable to heat exhaustion and heat stroke.

**No predictions of changes in climate and weather can be wholly accurate and reliable but there is no doubting in the well-informed Winchfield community that individually and collectively we must do all that we can to decarbonise our Parish and thereby support the findings of scientific experts and the objectives of politicians which is for the UK to reach net-zero emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> by about 2050 and in so doing to help limit global warming to <+1.5°C [rather than +2°C] by that same date.**

### **C. How can we contribute?**

- (i) Relative to Hart District and Hampshire County, the area of Winchfield is small or very small [equivalent to 3.2% and 0.2%, respectively] and the population is tiny or minute [equivalent to 0.7% and 0.05%, respectively]. Examples of where our realistic and proportional contributions to decarbonise the Parish can come from based on potential interventions and initiatives include:
  - **Transport:** Behavioural changes to walk and cycle; greater use of electrified vehicles and public transport.
  - **Power:** Further development of renewable energy generation and storage.
  - **Business:** Greater emphasis on home-based working.
  - **Construction:** Using more carbon-negative building materials [e.g. wood and carbonated aggregates].
  - **Agriculture, Forestry & Land use:** Reduced livestock numbers; carbon dioxide removal by forestation, re-hedging and the restoration of natural carbon-rich ecosystems such as boggy wetlands; removal of invasive non-native weeds and shrubs; agronomic rotations keeping ground covered; decreased use of nitrogen fertilizers with increased use of nitrogen-fixing grain and fodder legumes; water storage lagoons.
  - **Residential:** Improved insulation and use of heat pumps.

- **Life-Style:** Diet change towards less meat consumption.
  - **Waste:** Increased collection, reuse and recycling of household waste including food waste.
- (>>) **These actions may often incur short-term costs but they provide for long-term economic benefits and health improvements.**
- (>>) **Any plans concerning the ability to reduce carbon emissions, sequester carbon and store it, and improve the natural systems and biodiversity that sustain it all must heavily rely on farmers, landowners and country folk [4].**
- (>>) **Policies and Aspirations embodied in the Winchfield Development Plan encompass the examples and opportunities listed above within realistic frameworks given the human and natural resource base and heritage across our rural Parish.**

#### **D. Further Reading**

- [1] Attenborough, David (2020). A Life on Our Planet. Penguin. ISBN 9781529108279. Pp. 266.
- [2] CPRE (March 2022). Climate emergency: Time for planning to get on the case. Pp. 17.  
<https://www.cpre.org.uk/resources/Climate-emergency...../>
- [3] Dale, B. and Stylianou, N. [with Analysis by Matt McGrath] (August 2022). What will climate change look like near me? [metoffice.gov.uk/weather/climate-change/effects-of-climate-change](https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/climate-change/effects-of-climate-change). Pp. 8.
- [4] Fiennes, Jake (2022). Land Healer. Penguin. ISBN 9781785947308. Pp. 261.
- [5] IPCC (April 2022). Sixth Assessment Report. Mitigating Climate Change.  
<https://www.ipcc.ch/reports>.
- [6] The Royal Society (2018). Keeping global warming to 1.5°C: Challenges and Objectives for the UK. Briefing Paper. Pp. 6. [royalsociety.org/-/media/policy/Publications/2018/keeping](https://royalsociety.org/-/media/policy/Publications/2018/keeping)

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*19<sup>th</sup> August 2022*

## 8. Carbon Sequestration: Summary

The Natural England encyclopaedic review (2021) concludes that: "The largest carbon sequestration rates in semi-natural UK habitats are in native broadleaf woodlands" (comprising largely of oak, beech and horse chestnut) and that "Natural Woodland managed with a minimum intervention approach can be an effective climate change mitigation measure".

There are numerous fine, mature, specimen trees of each of these three native species scattered within the hedgerows throughout the Parish as well as in small groups and coppices **in addition to** 61ha of ancient woodland – remnants of the 64ha recorded in historical records and maps dating back to 1905.

### **(A) Absolute amount of biomass (carbon) stored: Early Estimates**

Early (1960s) estimates of the carbon storage by mixed native species in UK woodlands vary between 110-300 tonnes of carbon per ha, with an average close to 260 tonnes carbon per ha in the living and dead wood and leaves, roots, soil and understory vegetation. Extrapolation gives the estimated carbon storage **in our Parish ancient woodlands alone** to be in the region of 16,000 tonnes. **But see (C) below.**

### **(B) Annual change in biomass (carbon) storage**

The annual sequestration of carbon back from the atmosphere into the vegetation and soil of 61ha of mixed, ancient natural UK woodland is estimated in the Natural England review to be either close to zero (i.e. the habitat has reached an equilibrium) or within the range of 671 - 1556 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> per ha per year (depending on site location and on the depth and composition of soil). Given the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions footprint estimated by the Centre for Sustainable Energy at Bristol to be 6865 tonnes per year for the 705ha Parish, then these annual sequestration rates would vary between about 9 and 23%.

### **(C) Biomass Carbon Storage in Temperate Woodlands: Historically Substantially Under-estimated**

The original estimates of carbon storage by UK deciduous broadleaved woodlands depend heavily on data generated in the 1960s from just 200 trees destructively sampled across five species and four locations. These data are biased towards smaller, younger trees (which are easier to fell, cut and weigh) and they do not encompass anywhere near the size range of larger, older trees in other locations and nor do they reflect the state of trees that have grown for decades under changing climatic influences.

Fifty years on, trans-European, multi-disciplinary research has used laser-scanning and three-dimensional analyses across the full range of tree size and shape in UK temperate woodlands to derive tree volumes non-destructively and then to further convert those data to Above-Ground Biomass [AGB] and carbon. It is now strikingly evident that the 1960s data had drastically underestimated the carbon storage by older trees in the deciduous mixed-species woodlands in the UK and beyond (Calders, K. with nine others in *Ecological Solutions and Evidence* 2022; 3: e 12197, pp.14). We now know that across the full range of tree size and shape in a typical UK temperate wood the AGB and carbon trapped are almost double the amounts originally calculated. Interviewed by the BBC [[bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-64028694](http://bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-64028694)], Lead Researcher Professor Mat Disney explained just how..... ***"for every square km of UK woodland lost, we potentially lose almost twice the carbon sink capacity we thought.....the value in large mature trees is almost incalculable and so you should avoid losing that at***

***any cost.....those large trees are incredibly important.....their role is very difficult to replace by simply planting more trees.....regardless of how many trees you think about planting".*** The heritage of mature trees ensures that the tiny Parish of Winchfield (just 3% the area of Hart) will undoubtedly continue to make important contributions to the ambitions of Hart to combat climate change and become a carbon-neutral District by 2040.

*Emeritus Professor R.J. Summerfield DSc  
December 2022*

1 hectare (ha) = 2.47 acres

## 9. Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre. Protected and Notable Species Lists within Winchfield Parish. March 2021

<b>Taxon</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Taxon</b>	<b>Common Name</b>
1	Anguis fragilis	51	Oenanthe oenanthe
2	Bufo bufo	52	Pandion haliaetus
3	Natrix helvetica	53	Pandion haliaetus
4	Acanthis cabaret	54	Passer domesticus
5	Accipiter gentilis	55	Passer domesticus
6	Alauda arvensis	56	Passer domesticus
7	Alcedo atthis	57	Passer domesticus
8	Anser albifrons	58	Passer domesticus
9	Anthus trivialis	59	Passer domesticus
10	Ardea cinerea	60	Passer montanus
11	Asio flammeus	61	Perdix perdix
12	Aythya ferina	62	Pernis apivorus
13	Branta leucopsis	63	Phoenicurus phoenicurus
14	Calidris pugnax	64	Phylloscopus sibilatrix
15	Cettia cetti	65	Plectrophenax nivalis
16	Charadrius dubius	66	Pluvialis apricaria
17	Charadrius hiaticula	67	Podiceps cristatus
18	Chroicocephalus ridibundus	68	Poecile montanus
19	Circus	69	Poecile palustris
20	Circus cyaneus	70	Rallus aquaticus
21	Coccothraustes coccothraustes	71	Regulus ignicapilla
22	Cuculus canorus	72	Riparia riparia
23	Dryobates minor	73	Saxicola rubetra
24	Egretta garzetta	74	Scolopax rusticola
25	Emberiza calandra	75	Spatula clypeata
26	Emberiza citrinella	76	Spatula querquedula
27	Emberiza schoeniclus	77	Spinus spinus
28	Falco columbarius	78	Spinus spinus
29	Falco peregrinus	79	Sterna hirundo
30	Falco subbuteo	80	Streptopelia turtur
31	Fringilla montifringilla	81	Sturnus vulgaris
32	Gallinago gallinago	82	Tadorna tadorna
33	Hydrocoloeus minutus	83	Tringa glareola
34	Ichthyaelus melanocephalus	84	Tringa nebularia
35	Larus argentatus	85	Tringa ochropus
36	Larus fuscus	86	Turdus iliacus
37	Limosa lapponica	87	Turdus philomelos
38	Limosa limosa	88	Turdus pilaris
39	Linaria cannabina	89	Turdus torquatus
40	Locustella luscinioides	90	Turdus viscivorus
41	Locustella naevia	91	Tyto alba
42	Lullula arborea	92	Upupa epops
43	Mergus merganser	93	Vanellus vanellus
44	Milvus migrans	94	Alisma lanceolatum
45	Milvus milvus	95	Alopecurus aequalis
46	Motacilla cinerea	96	Anthemis cotula
47	Motacilla flava	97	Apera spica-venti
48	Motacilla flava flava	98	Apium inundatum
49	Muscicapa striata	99	Callitriche hamulata
50	Numenius arquata	100	Carex acuta
			Wheatear
			Western Osprey
			Western Osprey
			House Sparrow
			Tree Sparrow
			Grey Partridge
			European Honey Buzzard
			Redstart
			Wood Warbler
			Snow Bunting
			Golden Plover
			Great Crested Grebe
			Willow Tit
			Marsh Tit
			Water Rail
			Common Firecrest
			Sand Martin
			Whinchat
			Woodcock
			Shoveler
			Garganey
			Siskin
			Siskin
			Common Tern
			Turtle Dove
			Starling
			Shelduck
			Wood Sandpiper
			Greenshank
			Green Sandpiper
			Redwing
			Song Thrush
			Fieldfare
			Ring Ouzel
			Mistle Thrush
			Western Barn Owl
			Eurasian Hoopoe
			Lapwing
			Narrow-leaved Water-plantain
			Orange Foxtail
			Stinking Chamomile
			Loose Silky-bent
			Lesser Marshwort
			Intermediate Water-starwort
			Slender Tufted-sedge

<b>Taxon</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Taxon</b>	<b>Common Name</b>
101	<i>Carex vesicaria</i>	151	<i>Ernoporicus fagi</i>
102	<i>Chamaemelum nobile</i>	152	<i>Euryusa sinuata</i>
103	<i>Crepis biennis</i>	153	<i>Gonioctena decemnotata</i>
104	<i>Dipsacus pilosus</i>	154	<i>Gonioctena viminalis</i>
105	<i>Eleocharis acicularis</i>	155	<i>Gymnetron veronicae</i>
106	<i>Eleocharis quinqueflora</i>	156	<i>Gymnetron villosulum</i>
107	<i>Epipactis phyllanthes</i>	157	<i>Gyrophaena manca</i>
108	<i>Erica vagans</i>	158	<i>Hedobia imperialis</i>
109	<i>Eriophorum vaginatum</i>	159	<i>Hylesinus wachtli</i>
110	<i>Euphorbia exigua</i>	160	<i>Longitarsus parvulus</i>
111	<i>Genista anglica</i>	161	<i>Luperus flavipes</i>
112	<i>Glebionis segetum</i>	162	<i>Magdalis carbonaria</i>
113	<i>Gnaphalium sylvaticum</i>	163	<i>Magdalis cerasi</i>
114	<i>Hottonia palustris</i>	164	<i>Neocoenorrhinus interpunctatus</i>
115	<i>Hydrocharis morsus-ranae</i>	165	<i>Peltodytes caesus</i>
116	<i>Hypochaeris glabra</i>	166	<i>Platypus cylindrus</i>
117	<i>Jasione montana</i>	167	<i>Platystomos albinus</i>
118	<i>Lepidium campestre</i>	168	<i>Prionychus ater</i>
119	<i>Moenchia erecta</i>	169	<i>Pyrochroa coccinea</i>
120	<i>Oenanthe fistulosa</i>	170	<i>Rhagonycha lutea</i>
121	<i>Persicaria minor</i>	171	<i>Rhinocyllus conicus</i>
122	<i>Potamogeton alpinus</i>	172	<i>Sepedophilus testaceus</i>
123	<i>Potamogeton friesii</i>	173	<i>Teredus cylindricus</i>
124	<i>Potamogeton obtusifolius</i>	174	<i>Thamiaraea hospita</i>
125	<i>Potamogeton pectinatus</i>	175	<i>Tillus elongatus</i>
126	<i>Radiola linoides</i>	176	<i>Xylota abiens</i>
127	<i>Ranunculus flammula</i>	177	<i>Andrena tarsata</i>
128	<i>Ranunculus flammula</i>	178	<i>Ceratina cyanea</i>
129	<i>Ranunculus hederaceus</i>	179	<i>Cleptes nitidulus</i>
130	<i>Ranunculus hederaceus</i>	180	<i>Crabro scutellatus</i>
131	<i>Ruscus aculeatus</i>	181	<i>Ectemnius ruficornis</i>
132	<i>Sagittaria sagittifolia</i>	182	<i>Nomada flavopicta</i>
133	<i>Silene gallica</i>	183	<i>Achlya flavicornis</i>
134	<i>Smyrnum olusatrum</i>	184	<i>Adscita statices</i>
135	<i>Spergula arvensis</i>	185	<i>Aethalura punctulata</i>
136	<i>Spergula arvensis</i>	186	<i>Ancylis diminutana</i>
137	<i>Veronica catenata</i>	187	<i>Angerona prunaria</i>
138	<i>Equisetum sylvaticum</i>	188	<i>Apatura iris</i>
139	<i>Abdera biflexuosa</i>	189	<i>Apocheima hispidaria</i>
140	<i>Attactagenus plumbeus</i>	190	<i>Apoda limacodes</i>
141	<i>Colydium elongatum</i>	191	<i>Aporophyla lutulenta</i>
142	<i>Conopalpus testaceus</i>	192	<i>Archiearis parthenias</i>
143	<i>Cryptocephalus nitidulus</i>	193	<i>Archips crataegana</i>
144	<i>Ctesias serra</i>	194	<i>Arctia caja</i>
145	<i>Diplocoelus fagi</i>	195	<i>Argynnis paphia</i>
146	<i>Donacia crassipes</i>	196	<i>Argyresthia curvella</i>
147	<i>Eledona agricola</i>	197	<i>Bena bicolorana</i>
148	<i>Ellescus bipunctatus</i>	198	<i>Brachylochia viminalis</i>
149	<i>Elodes elongata</i>	199	<i>Bucculatrix albedinella</i>
150	<i>Enicmus brevicornis</i>	200	<i>Bucculatrix cristatella</i>
			<i>Ernoporicus fagi</i>
			<i>Euryusa sinuata</i>
			<i>Gonioctena decemnotata</i>
			<i>Gonioctena viminalis</i>
			<i>Brooklime Gall Weevil</i>
			<i>Gymnetron villosulum</i>
			<i>Gyrophaena manca</i>
			<i>Hedobia imperialis</i>
			<i>Hylesinus wachtli</i>
			<i>Flax Flea Beetle</i>
			<i>Luperus flavipes</i>
			<i>Magdalis carbonaria</i>
			<i>Magdalis cerasi</i>
			<i>Neocoenorrhinus interpunctatus</i>
			<i>Peltodytes caesus</i>
			<i>Pinhole Borer</i>
			<i>Platystomos albinus</i>
			<i>Prionychus ater</i>
			<i>Black-headed Cardinal Beetle</i>
			<i>Rhagonycha lutea</i>
			<i>Rhinocyllus conicus</i>
			<i>Sepedophilus testaceus</i>
			<i>Teredus cylindricus</i>
			<i>Thamiaraea hospita</i>
			<i>Tillus elongatus</i>
			<i>Xylota abiens</i>
			<i>Tormentil Mining Bee</i>
			<i>Little Carpenter Bee</i>
			<i>Cleptes nitidulus</i>
			<i>Crabro scutellatus</i>
			<i>Ectemnius ruficornis</i>
			<i>Blunthorn Nomad Bee</i>
			<i>Yellow Horned</i>
			<i>Forester</i>
			<i>Grey Birch</i>
			<i>Small Festooned Roller</i>
			<i>Orange Moth</i>
			<i>Purple Emperor</i>
			<i>Small Brindled Beauty</i>
			<i>Festoon</i>
			<i>Deep-brown Dart</i>
			<i>Orange Underwing</i>
			<i>Brown Oak Tortrix</i>
			<i>Garden Tiger</i>
			<i>Silver-washed Fritillary</i>
			<i>Brindled Argent</i>
			<i>Scarce Silver-lines</i>
			<i>Minor Shoulder-knot</i>
			<i>Elm Bent-wing</i>
			<i>Crested Bent-wing</i>



<b>Taxon</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Taxon</b>	<b>Common Name</b>
301	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		Starling
302	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>		Shelduck
303	<i>Tringa glareola</i>		Wood Sandpiper
304	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>		Greenshank
305	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>		Greenshank
306	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>		Green Sandpiper
307	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>		Redwing
308	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		Song Thrush
309	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>		Fieldfare
310	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>		Ring Ouzel
311	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>		Mistle Thrush
312	<i>Tyto alba</i>		Western Barn Owl
313	<i>Upupa epops</i>		Eurasian Hoopoe
314	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>		Lapwing
315	<i>Alisma lanceolatum</i>		Narrow-leaved Water-plantain
316	<i>Alopecurus aequalis</i>		Orange Foxtail
317	<i>Anthemis cotula</i>		Stinking Chamomile
318	<i>Apera spica-venti</i>		Loose Silky-bent
319	<i>Apium inundatum</i>		Lesser Marshwort
320	<i>Callitriche hamulata</i>		Intermediate Water-starwort
321	<i>Carex acuta</i>		Slender Tufted-sedge
322	<i>Carex vesicaria</i>		Bladder-sedge
323	<i>Chamaemelum nobile</i>		Chamomile
324	<i>Crepis biennis</i>		Rough Hawk's-beard
325	<i>Dipsacus pilosus</i>		Small Teasel
326	<i>Eleocharis acicularis</i>		Needle Spike-rush
327	<i>Eleocharis quinqueflora</i>		Few-flowered Spike-rush
328	<i>Epipactis phyllanthes</i>		Green-flowered Helleborine
329	<i>Erica vagans</i>		Cornish Heath
330	<i>Eriophorum vaginatum</i>		Hare's-tail Cottongrass
331	<i>Euphorbia exigua</i>		Dwarf Spurge
332	<i>Genista anglica</i>		Petty Whin
333	<i>Glebionis segetum</i>		Corn Marigold
334	<i>Gnaphalium sylvaticum</i>		Heath Cudweed
335	<i>Hottonia palustris</i>		Water-violet
336	<i>Hydrocharis morsus-ranae</i>		Frogbit
337	<i>Hydrocharis morsus-ranae</i>		Frogbit
338	<i>Hypochaeris glabra</i>		Smooth Cat's-ear
339	<i>Jasione montana</i>		Sheep's-bit
340	<i>Lepidium campestre</i>		Field Pepperwort
341	<i>Moenchia erecta</i>		Upright Chickweed
342	<i>Oenanthe fistulosa</i>		Tubular Water-dropwort
343	<i>Persicaria minor</i>		Small Water-pepper
344	<i>Potamogeton alpinus</i>		Red Pondweed
345	<i>Potamogeton friesii</i>		Flat-stalked Pondweed
346	<i>Potamogeton obtusifolius</i>		Blunt-leaved Pondweed
347	<i>Potamogeton pectinatus</i>		Fennel Pondweed
348	<i>Radiola linoides</i>		Allseed
349	<i>Radiola linoides</i>		Allseed
350	<i>Ranunculus flammula</i>		Lesser Spearwort
351	<i>Ranunculus hederaceus</i>		Ivy-leaved Crowfoot
352	<i>Ruscus aculeatus</i>		Butcher's-broom
353	<i>Sagittaria sagittifolia</i>		Arrowhead
354	<i>Sagittaria sagittifolia</i>		Arrowhead
355	<i>Silene gallica</i>		Small-flowered Catchfly
356	<i>Smyrniolum olusatrum</i>		Alexanders
357	<i>Spergula arvensis</i>		Corn Spurrey
358	<i>Spergula arvensis</i>		Corn Spurrey
359	<i>Veronica catenata</i>		Pink Water-Speedwell
360	<i>Equisetum sylvaticum</i>		Wood Horsetail
361	<i>Abdera biflexuosa</i>		Abdera biflexuosa
362	<i>Attactagenus plumbeus</i>		Attactagenus plumbeus
363	<i>Colydium elongatum</i>		Colydium elongatum
364	<i>Conopalpus testaceus</i>		Conopalpus testaceus
365	<i>Cryptocephalus nitidulus</i>		Shining Pot Beetle
366	<i>Ctesias serra</i>		Cobweb Beetle
367	<i>Diplocoelus fagi</i>		Diplocoelus fagi
368	<i>Donacia crassipes</i>		Water-Lily Reed Beetle
369	<i>Eledona agricola</i>		Eledona agricola
370	<i>Ellescus bipunctatus</i>		Ellescus bipunctatus
371	<i>Elodes elongata</i>		Elodes elongata
372	<i>Enicmus brevicornis</i>		Enicmus brevicornis
373	<i>Ernoporicus fagi</i>		Ernoporicus fagi
374	<i>Ernoporicus fagi</i>		Ernoporicus fagi
375	<i>Euryusa sinuata</i>		Euryusa sinuata
376	<i>Gonioctena decemnotata</i>		Gonioctena decemnotata
377	<i>Gonioctena viminalis</i>		Gonioctena viminalis
378	<i>Gymnetron veronicae</i>		Brooklime Gall Weevil
379	<i>Gymnetron villosulum</i>		Gymnetron villosulum
380	<i>Gyrophaena manca</i>		Gyrophaena manca
381	<i>Hedobia imperialis</i>		Hedobia imperialis
382	<i>Hylesinus wachtli</i>		Hylesinus wachtli
383	<i>Longitarsus parvulus</i>		Flax Flea Beetle
384	<i>Luperus flavipes</i>		Luperus flavipes
385	<i>Magdalis carbonaria</i>		Magdalis carbonaria
386	<i>Magdalis cerasi</i>		Magdalis cerasi
387	<i>Neocoenorrhinus interpunctatus</i>		Neocoenorrhinus interpunctatus
388	<i>Peltodytes caesus</i>		Peltodytes caesus
389	<i>Platypus cylindrus</i>		Pinhole Borer
390	<i>Platystomos albinus</i>		Platystomos albinus
391	<i>Prionychus ater</i>		Prionychus ater
392	<i>Pyrochroa coccinea</i>		Black-headed Cardinal Beetle
393	<i>Rhagonycha lutea</i>		Rhagonycha lutea
394	<i>Rhinocyllus conicus</i>		Rhinocyllus conicus
395	<i>Sepedophilus testaceus</i>		Sepedophilus testaceus
396	<i>Teredus cylindricus</i>		Teredus cylindricus
397	<i>Thamiaraea hospita</i>		Thamiaraea hospita
398	<i>Tillus elongatus</i>		Tillus elongatus
399	<i>Xylota abiens</i>		Xylota abiens
400			

<b>Taxon</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Taxon</b>	<b>Common Name</b>
401	<i>Andrena tarsata</i>	440	<i>Ipimorpha retusa</i>
402	<i>Ceratina cyanea</i>	441	<i>Hellinsia lienigianus</i>
403	<i>Cleptes nitidulus</i>	442	<i>Homoeosoma nebulella</i>
404	<i>Crabro scutellatus</i>	443	<i>Leucania comma</i>
405	<i>Ectemnius ruficornis</i>	444	<i>Limenitis camilla</i>
406	<i>Nomada flavopicta</i>	445	<i>Litoligia literosa</i>
407	<i>Achlya flavicornis</i>	446	<i>Melanchra persicariae</i>
408	<i>Adscita statices</i>	447	<i>Monopis obviella</i>
409	<i>Aethalura punctulata</i>	448	<i>Mythimna pudorina</i>
410	<i>Ancylis diminutana</i>	449	<i>Ortholepis betulae</i>
411	<i>Angerona prunaria</i>	450	<i>Panemeria tenebrata</i>
412	<i>Apatura iris</i>	451	<i>Parastichtis suspecta</i>
413	<i>Apocheima hispidaria</i>	452	<i>Perizoma albulata</i>
414	<i>Apoda limacodes</i>	453	<i>Phyllonorycter tenerella</i>
415	<i>Aporophyla lutulenta</i>	454	<i>Plutella porrectella</i>
416	<i>Archiearis parthenias</i>	455	<i>Pseudoterpna pruinata</i>
417	<i>Archips crataegana</i>	456	<i>Pyrgus malvae</i>
418	<i>Arctia caja</i>	457	<i>Rheumaptera hastata</i>
419	<i>Argynnis paphia</i>	458	<i>Satyrium w-album</i>
420	<i>Argyresthia curvella</i>	459	<i>Scotopteryx chenopodiata</i>
421	<i>Bena bicolorana</i>	460	<i>Spilosoma lubricipeda</i>
422	<i>Brachylochia viminalis</i>	461	<i>Spilosoma lutea</i>
423	<i>Bucculatrix albedinella</i>	462	<i>Stenolechia gemmella</i>
424	<i>Bucculatrix cristatella</i>	463	<i>Thumatha senex</i>
425	<i>Bupalus piniaria</i>	464	<i>Timandra comae</i>
426	<i>Caradrina morpheus</i>	465	<i>Trichiura crataegi</i>
427	<i>Carpatolechia alburnella</i>	466	<i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>
428	<i>Cataclysta lemnata</i>	467	<i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>
429	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	468	<i>Watsonalla binaria</i>
430	<i>Diarsia rubi</i>	469	<i>Xanthorhoe ferrugata</i>
431	<i>Ectoedemia louisella</i>	470	<i>Xanthorhoe quadrifasiata</i>
432	<i>Elegia similella</i>	471	<i>Platycnemis pennipes</i>
433	<i>Ennomos erosaria</i>	472	<i>Somatochlora metallica</i>
434	<i>Ennomos fuscantaria</i>	473	<i>Sympetrum striolatum</i>
435	<i>Epinotia tetraquetra</i>	474	<i>Riccia fluitans</i>
436	<i>Epinotia trigonella</i>	475	<i>Ricciocarpos natans</i>
437	<i>Euphyia unangulata</i>	476	<i>Chara globularis</i>
438	<i>Eupithecia tantillaria</i>	477	<i>Chara virgata</i> var. <i>virgata</i>
439	<i>Hoplodrina blanda</i>	478	<i>Chara vulgaris</i>
			Double Kidney
			Mugwort Plume
			Large Clouded Knot-horn
			Shoulder-striped Wainscot
			White Admiral
			Rosy Minor
			Dot Moth
			Yellow-backed Clothes
			Striped Wainscot
			Birch Knot-horn
			Small Yellow Underwing
			Suspected
			Grass Rivulet
			Hornbeam Midget
			Grey-streaked Smudge
			Grass Emerald
			Grizzled Skipper
			Argent & Sable
			White-letter Hairstreak
			Shaded Broad-bar
			White Ermine
			Buff Ermine
			Black-dotted Groundling
			Round-winged Muslin
			Blood-vein
			Pale Eggar
			Cinnabar
			Cinnabar
			Oak Hook-tip
			Dark-barred Twin-spot Carpet
			Large Twin-spot Carpet
			White-legged Damselfly
			Brilliant Emerald
			Common Darter
			Floating Crystalwort
			Fringed Heartwort
			Fragile Stonewort
			<i>Chara virgata</i> var. <i>virgata</i>
			Common Stonewort

**Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre.  
Declining Near Threatened Species List within Winchfield Parish.  
March 2021**

<b>Taxon</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Taxon</b>	<b>Common Name</b>
1 Agrimonia procera	Fragrant Agrimony	29 Lythrum portula	Water-purslane
2 Apera spica-venti	Loose Silky-bent	30 Mentha arvensis	Corn Mint
3 Calluna vulgaris	Heather	31 Moenchia erecta	Upright Chickweed
4 Campanula trachelium	Nettle-leaved Bellflower	32 Oenanthe fluviatilis	River Water-dropwort
5 Carex echinata	Star Sedge	33 Oxalis acetosella	Wood-sorrel
6 Chamaemelum nobile	Chamomile	34 Persicaria minor	Small Water-pepper
7 Cirsium dissectum	Meadow Thistle	35 Polygala serpyllifolia	Heath Milkwort
8 Eleocharis acicularis	Needle Spike-rush	36 Polygonatum multiflorum	Solomon's-seal
9 Eleogiton fluitans	Floating Club-rush	37 Potamogeton alpinus	Red Pondweed
10 Epipactis helleborine	Broad-leaved Helleborine	38 Potamogeton friesii	Flat-stalked Pondweed
11 Epipactis phyllanthes	Green-flowered Helleborine	39 Potentilla erecta	Tormentil
12 Epipactis purpurata	Violet Helleborine	40 Radiola linoides	Allseed
13 Erica cinerea	Bell Heather	41 Ruscus aculeatus	Butcher's-broom
14 Erica tetralix	Cross-leaved Heath	42 Sanicula europaea	Sanicle
15 Erica vagans	Cornish Heath	43 Sedum telephium	Orpine
16 Eriophorum vaginatum	Hare's-tail Cottongrass	44 Silene flos-cuculi	Ragged-Robin
17 Filago minima	Small Cudweed	45 Solidago virgaurea	Goldenrod
18 Filago vulgaris	Common Cudweed	46 Sorbus aria	Common Whitebeam
19 Fragaria vesca	Wild Strawberry	47 Succisa pratensis	Devil's-bit Scabious
20 Genista anglica	Petty Whin	48 Trifolium micranthum	Slender Trefoil
21 Gnaphalium sylvaticum	Heath Cudweed	49 Ulex minor	Dwarf Gorse
22 Hydrocotyle vulgaris	Marsh Pennywort	50 Valeriana officinalis	Common Valerian
23 Hydrocotyle vulgaris	Marsh Pennywort	51 Verbena officinalis	Vervain
24 Hypericum elodes	Marsh St John's-wort	52 Veronica officinalis	Heath Speedwell
25 Knautia arvensis	Field Scabious	53 Veronica scutellata	Marsh Speedwell
26 Lathyrus linifolius	Bitter-vetch	54 Apatura iris	Purple Emperor
27 Lepidium campestre	Field Pepperwort	55 Coenonympha pamphilus	Small Heath
28 Lysimachia vulgaris	Yellow Loosestrife	56 Chara globularis	Fragile Stonewort
		57 Pipistrellus	Pipistrelle Bat species

**It is important that these species recording groups (where relevant to the data provided) are acknowledged in any document produced by the data requester where data are incorporated into the document, as a matter of course.**

### **Protected and Notable Species Records**

Search Area: Within Winchfield Parish

Date: 08/03/2021

HBIC ref: 9683

[See this Legislation Explanatory Document for a document explaining notable species statuses and legislation.](#)

HBIC has its own extensive database of habitat and higher plant data for the County. In addition, HBIC hold copies of datasets belonging to partner organisations. Through data exchange agreements with these organisations HBIC is provided with regular database updates and can supply species information on their behalf. HBIC currently holds copies of the following datasets:

Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland (BSBI) vascular plant database for Hampshire  
 British Bryological Society (Mosses, Liverworts, Hornworts)  
 Butterfly Conservation butterfly and moth database for Hampshire  
 Hampshire Ornithological Society (HOS) bird records  
 Hampshire Bat Group (HBG) Records of bat roost visits and sightings  
 Survey data administered by the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (HIWWT):
 

- Monitoring Survey for the Nail Fungus *Poronia punctata*
- Alien and Native Crayfish

 Data administered by the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust on behalf of:
 

- Hampshire Amphibian and Reptile Recording Network (HARRN)
- Hampshire Mammal Group (HMG)

 Hampshire records from The Bees, Wasps and Ants Recording Society (BWARS)  
 Hampshire records from National Stag Beetle Surveys and 'Great Stag Hunts' run by the Peoples Trust for Endangered Species (PTES)  
 Hampshire Odonata records from The Dragonfly Recording Network, maintained by the British Dragonfly Society (BDS)  
 Spider and Fungi records gleaned from collections housed and curated by the Hampshire Cultural Trust (HCT)  
  
 Independent Hampshire Entomologist's records  
 Earthworm Society of Britain's records

It is important that these species recording groups (where relevant to the data provided) are acknowledged in any document produced by the data requester where data is incorporated into the document, as a matter of course.

## **Hampshire responsible and declining and near threatened Species Records**

Search Area: Within Winchfield Parish  
 Date: 08/03/2021  
 HBIC Ref: 9683

[See this Legislation Explanatory Document for a document explaining notable species statuses and legislation.](#)

HBIC has its own extensive database of habitat and higher plant data for the County. In addition, HBIC hold copies of datasets belonging to partner organisations. Through data exchange agreements with these organisations HBIC is provided with regular database updates and can supply species information on their behalf. HBIC currently holds copies of the following datasets:

Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland (BSBI) vascular plant database for Hampshire  
 British Bryological Society (Mosses, Liverworts, Hornworts)  
 Butterfly Conservation butterfly and moth database for Hampshire  
 Hampshire Ornithological Society (HOS) bird records  
 Hampshire Bat Group (HBG) Records of bat roost visits and sightings  
 Data administered by the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust on behalf of:
 

- Hampshire Amphibian and Reptile Recording Network (HARRN)
- Hampshire Mammal Group (HMG)

 Hampshire records from The Bees, Wasps and Ants Recording Society (BWARS)  
 Hampshire Odonata records from The Dragonfly Recording Network, maintained by the British Dragonfly Society (BDS)  
  
 Fungi records gleaned from collections housed and curated by the Hampshire Cultural Trust (HCT)  
  
 Independent Hampshire Entomologist's records

It is important that these species recording groups (where relevant to the data provided) are acknowledged in any document produced by the data requester where data are incorporated into the document, as a matter of course.

## 10. Ornithology in Winchfield

Thank you to Keith Betton, Chair and County Recorder for the Hampshire Ornithological Society for compiling the following chart which includes resident and visiting birds to our Parish. Whilst the list includes some rare and threatened species these are not, for their protection, highlighted here. In addition to local information, data from the British Trust for Ornithology Breeding Atlas are included.

This list, of more than one hundred species, indicates how the ecological biodiversity of Winchfield supports such a variety of resident and visiting birds.

The Hampshire Ornithological Society (HOS) records and publishes information about wild birds in the county of Hampshire. New members are always welcomed and the [goingbirding](https://www.hos.org.uk/) website has bird sightings in Hampshire posted to it throughout the day. <https://www.hos.org.uk/>

### Resident and Visiting Birds

<b>RESIDENT</b>		
Canada Goose Barnacle Goose Greylag Goose Mute Swan Egyptian Goose (feral) Mandarin Duck Gadwall Mallard Pheasant Red-legged Partridge Rock Dove (feral) Stock Dove Woodpigeon Collared Dove Moorhen Coot Great Crested Grebe Lapwing Grey Heron Sparrow hawk Red Kite	Buzzard Barn Owl Little Owl Tawny Owl Kingfisher Great Spotted Woodpecker Green Woodpecker Kestrel Jay Magpie Jackdaw Rook Carrion Crow Raven Coal Tit Marsh Tit Blue Tit Great Tit Skylark Long-tailed Tit Firecrest	Goldcrest Wren Nuthatch Treecreeper Starling Song Thrush Mistle Thrush Blackbird Robin House Sparrow Dunnock Grey Wagtail Pied Wagtail Chaffinch Bullfinch Greenfinch Linnet Goldfinch Yellowhammer Reed Bunting
<b>SUMMER-ONLY</b>		
Swift Cuckoo Hobby Swallow	House Martin Willow Warbler Chiffchaff Blackcap	Garden Warbler Lesser Whitethroat Whitethroat Spotted Flycatcher

<b>WINTER-ONLY</b>		
Shoveler Teal Pochard Tufted Duck Goosander Water Rail Woodcock	Snipe Black-headed Gull Common Gull Herring Gull Lesser Black-backed Gull Little Egret Peregrine	Redwing Fieldfare Meadow Pipit Brambling Lesser Redpoll Siskin
<b>PASSAGE / RARE VISITORS (based on Hampshire Ornithological Society and Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre data)</b>		
Turtle Dove Little Ringed Plover Ruff Green Sandpiper Redshank Greenshank Great Black-backed Gull Common Tern	Osprey Hen Harrier Short-eared Owl Hoopoe Lesser Spotted Woodpecker Merlin Woodlark	Sand Martin Cetti's Warbler Reed Warbler Grasshopper Warbler Whinchat Wheatear Yellow Wagtail Hawfinch

## 11. Bats in Winchfield and the surrounding area

At least 13 species of bats have been recorded within 3km of Winchfield Station. Currently, our database contains 623 records, dating from 1985 to 2020, including Brandt's, **Bechstein's**, brown long-eared, common pipistrelle, Daubenton's, Leisler's, Nathusius' pipistrelle, Natterer's, noctule, serotine, soprano pipistrelle, whiskered and **western barbastelle** bats. That is a very high proportion of our 17 UK breeding species.

The Greywell tunnel is one of the most important sites in Europe for the hibernation of the Natterer's species of bat. Very significant research has been conducted into them there in recent years. Other bats recorded there include Brandt's, **Bechstein's**, brown long-eared, Daubenton's, **greater horseshoe** and whiskered.

The species in red are rarities that have the highest level of conservation protection, being listed in Annex II of the Habitats Regulations. That implies that the authorities have responsibilities to offer protection, such as SAC and SSSI designations.

All bats need undisturbed foraging and commuting areas near their roosts, with different habitat and food preferences for each species. Loss of habitat or interruption of commuting routes will inevitably lead to decline in all these bat species. Threats include loss of roost sites (old trees, buildings), light pollution, disturbance from people and pets such as cats. Anything that causes loss of the diversity of our native plants and the insects that depend on them will also affect bats.

There are specific woodlands in Winchfield which provide a 'core sustenance zone' for many species which are becoming rare in North Hampshire. Although the species and roosts are carefully monitored and protected the areas for foraging and commuting are not and these are vital to meet all their needs and ensure survival. These areas are considered to be of 'extreme sensitivity'.

Records generated by the Hampshire Bat Group, Bat Conservation Trust National Bat Monitoring Programme Surveys, Natural England roost visits and specialist Consultants who have shared commercial surveys have contributed to this information.

Hampshire Bat Group <https://www.hampshirebatgroup.org.uk/>  
Bat Conservation Trust <https://www.bats.org.uk/>

*Nik Knight  
Chairman and County Bat Recorder  
Hampshire Bat Group. March  
2022*

## 12. Winchfield – from an Amateur Archaeologist

Winchfield is probably a deserted medieval village. The road layout to the west of the church indicates a crossroads and village green, and there are remnants of ponds to the north of the church on the east side of Bagwell Lane. The historic settlement of Pilcot, to the east, shares a similar layout. The pound is still visible opposite Court House on the west side of the Lane. A number of houses date to at least the seventeenth century and it is possible that they were built on the sites of earlier structures since the church would have been built to serve a community at that time. Chevertons, although seventeenth century, is on the site of a much earlier house. Records show that John deCheverdon and his wife held a freehold tenement in 1285 (Placitorium Abbrev. P. 209, Mich, 13, E. 1., in Seymour, 1891, p. 14) which was probably the same. Although Winchfield is now polyfocal it is likely to have consisted of two settlement centres from the 14<sup>th</sup> century onwards. It is likely that a population shift and clearance at The Hurst occurred after the Black Death (1348/9) linked to an appropriation of new land in an attempt to recover losses in revenue following the plague ([Evidence for the Black Death in Hampshire.docx \(hants.gov.uk\)](#)).

The road to the south of the church leading to The Old Rectory is now truncated but probably continued in some form south eastwards towards Odiham as suggested by the Tithe Map of 1837 which shows the adjoining field as 'Hither Odiham'. The route will have avoided the substantial swathe of Odiham Common and possibly passed south west through Broad Oak. To the west of the church a path remains and continues west towards Chevertons. To the east of the church there is an existing footpath which was probably a direct route through to Dogmersfield. There is also evidence on the lidar image to indicate a trackway heading off eastwards where Bagwell Lane bends at the Blacklands Copse end. The route appears to be headed towards Winchfield Hurst. It crosses damp ground which could explain a diversion and why the road has its unusual shape although this is unproven. A driftway (or droveway) is still visible travelling westwards from Court House towards Odiham Common on which the livestock could have continued on to market. The lidar shows this clearly and it is still visible in the field adjacent to the pound.

The Tithe Map of 1837 gives an excellent suggestion of historical land use although it is, of course, a snapshot of that particular time. The map shows substantial arable use which is confirmed by the obvious areas of ridge and furrow on the lidar image in the fields radiating out from the crossroads in each direction. A couple of coins from the reigns of John (1199-1216), Henry 111 (1216-1272) and Edward 1 (1272-1307), have been found in these fields indicating their early use. These are pennies, less than a day's wages at the time. Also found, a half Ryal coin weight from the 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> centuries (Portable Antiquities Scheme) represents the equivalent of eight days wages for a skilled tradesman ([www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](#)). The Tithe Map also shows significant areas of water meadow (mead) which would have been important for early spring/summer grazing, and a great deal of woodland (copse) and waste (common) ground. It may have been an advantage to a freeholder or freesuiter to live close to the common as this would allow rights of pasture and hedgebote to graze animals and collect material for the repair of boundary hedges and fencing (Bennett, M., October 2009, p. 4). It seems likely, therefore, that some settlement was established between the church and Odiham Common although evidence has not yet been found. There are interesting marks in the paddock between Court House and the church which may suggest previous buildings although this is speculative. A recently discovered lead seal matrix, dated to the late thirteenth century (Portable Antiquities Scheme) potentially relates to a Winchfield resident of that time. It was the property of Peter (Petri) ata (of the) More (moor). Peter is recorded in a writ of 1297 as one of seven debtors in a case heard in Winchester. The record usefully lists other residents, John de Springwell, of Winchfield [Odiham Hundred], Robert Wales, of Winchfield, Richard Amuers, of Winchfield, John Attwood the younger, of Winchfield, and also the place Peter lives, namely Moor Cottages, perhaps sited at Lousy Moor, or close to the water meadows at Bagwell Lane Green Farm.

Evidence from taxation records shows that the local agricultural economy was managed by the Cistercian Order in 1340 ([www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk)) since the record states that an exemption, only enjoyed by the Order, was procured on 18<sup>th</sup> July that year from paying 'one ninth' (ninth lamb, ninth fleece, ninth sheaf) and allowing them to pay, instead, one tenth of their income. This was obviously better for them. Although this could indicate that the village was poor it is equally likely that the order saw the valuing of the ninth as unfair. Unfortunately the tax doesn't give any details of population at that time. However, the more detailed 1665 records show that there were forty one houses occupied in Winchfield (The Hampshire Hearth Tax Assessment, 1665, p. 201) although there are no particulars of where they were or the total population. Interestingly, the majority (twenty seven) are only charged for one hearth which indicates the poor level of subsistence for most in the village at that time. A recent find of a silver spur buckle, dated 1660-1720, however, is evidence for a more privileged existence for at least one member of local society.

Contributed by a local amateur archaeologist responsible for some of the 'finds' in Winchfield.

## 13. Winchfield History

### **Cllr Tim Davies MA, LIB.**

Tim is a Winchfield resident whose family have lived in Hampshire for over three centuries; he has been researching various aspects of Winchfield history for many years.

Responding to the statement displayed at one of our Neighbourhood Plan Community Engagement events '*There is reference in manorial history records of Wynchefelde as belonging to the Monastery of Chertsey in AD727,*' Tim shared some of his knowledge as you will read below.

British History Online supports the same theory that this statement is probably untrue.

<https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/hants/vol4/pp109-112>

Like many villages in England our earliest reliable record of this settlement is found in the Domesday Inquest of 1086. A very early reference to it in the cartulary of Chertsey Abbey is almost certainly a forgery and the villagers who are questioned by the Domesday inquisitors make it clear that the Abbey's claim that its tenure of Winchfield dates from a grant by a Saxon sub-king is false. It is unfortunate that historic records of Hampshire have been largely under researched and that the Hampshire Record Society had only a very brief existence in the nineteenth century before fading into silence. In more recent times Hampshire County Council have been more active in publishing historical documents and a number of other national organisations have also published documents which have a local interest.

The compilation of The Domesday Book of 1086 was a surprisingly rapid process aided by the fact that the incoming Normans inherited a highly sophisticated bureaucracy that was, for example, capable of rapidly revising the taxation values of manors across the country. A number of such documents were consulted in the compilation process and, for the South Western Circuit (Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Somerset, and Wiltshire) a compendium of these documents has survived known as 'The Exon Domesday'. Unfortunately for the South Eastern circuit (Berkshire, Hampshire, Kent, Surrey, and Sussex) we do not have any such documentary evidence. One should note that under the Normans, freehold tenure (called allodial tenure) was abolished and all landlords ultimately held land as tenants of the Crown.

The process of compiling Domesday seems to have consisted of three main stages - Stage One was a return for each landlord of his tenure by manor by county, and who held that land prior to the Conquest of 1066. A lot of other data were also collected including livestock, what was directly held by the landlord (called 'in demesne'), how many plough teams there were and what valuable assets were in the manor (so, for example, the number of churches, mills, and so on). At this point a team of clerics was sent around each circuit and audited this information largely by summoning a jury who were required to swear to the truth of the data submitted by the landlord. The audited data were then sent to, probably Winchester, where the Royal Treasury was located, they were then written up in draft form. (The draft for both the South Western Circuit and the East Anglian Circuit - Essex, Norfolk, and Suffolk survive). A great deal of the raw data were then omitted when the final edition, known as the Exchequer text was written by a single cleric during 1086, even at this stage there were occasional questions unanswered and one sees in the text the irritated interjections by this cleric when that happened.

In the particular instance of the East Anglian Circuit this final redaction was not carried out; it is unclear why. Two hypotheses have been advanced: One is that this area had a very complex landholding structure and the Winchester cleric was unsure how to redact the data into a usable form; the second is that the entire process of compilation came to a halt when William I died. The second explanation seems the more plausible simply because the final version of Domesday does not contain entries for the two largest towns in England at that time - London and Winchester, and one can presume that these entries would have been very complex and required further detailed auditing and redaction and that the impetus for this passed with the death of William I. (Although one should note that the complex landownership in Southwark is documented in Domesday).

### **The Domesday entry for Winchfield**

It seems that the Benedictines of Chertsey Abbey stated that they had always held Winchfield and seemingly produced a charter of 727 AD, a copy of which they had conveniently copied into their cartulary, indicating that a sub-regulus (often translated as sub-king, but better translated as royal governor), of the province of Surrey called Frithuwald had granted it and much other land across Western Surrey to the Abbey in that year. The first problem with this charter is that it is supposedly witnessed by Erkenwald (afterwards canonised) - this would be difficult since St Erkenwald had died in 693! The second problem is the evidence of the men of the manor of Winchfield is in flat contradiction to that of the Abbey. And this contradiction is found in the text of The Domesday Book itself. Whilst Chertsey Abbey has obtained tenancy of the manor, and sub-let it to a Norman knight - Walter fitzOther, the men of the manor say, on oath remember, that in 1066 it was held as freehold by Alwin (an Anglo-Saxon about which we know no more - possibly killed at Hastings, perhaps he fled abroad as so many of the surviving Saxon aristocracy did. We simply have no knowledge).

What seems probable is that the purported charter of 727 was a pious fraud, sadly this is not uncommon, at a time when the literate elite were generally clerics and other landlords were better known for their prowess with the sword than with the pen. If this suspicion is correct, and the evidence strongly suggest so, it does however have another very important evidential strength. Whereas in Domesday itself Winchfield is called 'Winesflet' and this obviously poses all sorts of difficulties for toponomists, in the charter which, if a forgery, is probably written after 1066 and before 1086 the manor is called 'Winchfeld' obviously a lot less problematic. The cleric who compiled Domesday has obviously made a transcription error. (I note that Richard Coates the general editor of the *English Place Name Society* also gives no credibility to the 723 charter).

### **Toponymy (the study of place names)**

The English Place Name Society has, as yet, not started publishing a series of volumes covering Hampshire. However Richard Coates, now Emeritus Professor of Linguistics at the University of the West of England, and Quondam Director of the Survey of English Place Names (2003-2019) has published what might be considered a very rough outline draft of any such volume as *The Place-Names of Hampshire* (Batsford 1989). He derives it as AS *wince*+*feld* noting that the loss of the 'l' when adjacent to a 'ch' is common. *Feld* which mutates to *field* simply means 'open land', *wince* means a 'nook'. Now Coates notes that there is an indentation in the 250' contour line by Court Farm (SU768536). This seems rather unpersuasive and Coates here seems to have been overly reliant on the vagaries of the Ordnance Surveyors in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, a much more obvious nook in the landscape is that earlier noted at Rectory Cottage (SU763532). One might note that had Coates examined the current OS map he might have made the same comment about the 85 metre contour in

respect of Rectory Cottage. I do however think that the coincidence of the location of the Iron Age village and the nook is just that – a coincidence, any suggestion that there was a continuous history of settlement at that point over a period of over a millennium and a half can only be, at best, highly speculative.

The two standard place name (PN) dictionaries are *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names* (Eilert Ekwall OUP 4<sup>th</sup> edition 1960) and *The Cambridge Dictionary of English Place-Names* (Victor Watts CUP 2010), the intervening *Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names* (A.D. Mills OUP 1991) is a grossly inferior text. Ekwall agrees with Coates saying the 'l' would be lost by dissimilation and says the first element is the AS *wincel* which he translates as 'corner'. Elsewhere he discusses *feld* which he indicates is a common PN element meaning 'open country, land free from wood, or plain'. He goes on to suggest that this is a very common element in old forest districts but it probably would normally have indicated a larger area than a *lēah* (i.e. modern place names ending in 'ley'). Watts largely agrees with Coates translating it as 'open land by the nook', but it is apparent that both Coates and Watts are reliant on an unpublished 1958 typescript volume, for the EPNS, by J.E.B. Grover. Mills gives us no useful additional information but is in accord with Eilert and Watts.

A very exhaustive study of the element *feld* is to be found in Margaret Gelling's *Place-names in the Landscape* (1984 Dent). This is simply the AS word for 'open country', as opposed to either wooded country or marsh, and Gelling makes it clear that there is no necessary implication that this was arable land, although it did come to mean that. Gelling comes to the conclusion that *feld* probably normally meant 'open land previously used for pasture'. She notes that the first element – *wincel* – refers to a topographical feature, in this instance a nook. Gelling's analysis of the element *feld* is exhaustive and largely précised by Kenneth Cameron in *English Place Names* (Batsford 1996), Cameron makes the interesting comment that, although there is evidence that the element was still being used in PN formation as late as the 10<sup>th</sup> century generally it was used in PN formation in the period immediately after the settlement.

We might note that the oldest written record is, as detailed above, the 1086 Domesday entry which is as *Winesflet*. Now this is a very strange entry, since it might suggest that the conventional toponymy is completely wrong. If it was of *Wines+flet* then the first element may be a personal name and possibly the same as that found in the denomic *Winta* as in Hartley Wintney. *Flēot*, *flēote* is AS for an estuary, inlet of the sea, or small stream. Gelling notes that whilst the maritime meaning is common toponymists had tended to ignore the abundant examples of inland occurrences. She thinks therefore that the meaning 'small stream' was current at an early date but the maritime meaning survived longer. In respect of the meaning 'small stream' she notes, for example, the town of *Fleet* which she considers referred to the small streams which were subsequently damned to form Fleet Pond – the streams being the Gelvert and Brookly streams. Kenneth Cameron in his small but comprehensive study – *English Place Names* (Revised edition – 1996) thinks that this meaning, of 'small stream' was common in the West Saxon dialectal version of AS. However given the weight of opinion suggesting that the second element is *feld* I am reluctant to advance this as a serious alternative, and in any case where is such a small stream now in Winchfield? However the Domesday entry remains a linguistic puzzle.

Ekwall notes a number of early variants of the name as *Winchelefeld* (1229 Feet of Fines), *Wynchefeld* (1291 Tax rolls – presumably the Lay Subsidy for that year), *Wynchesfelde* (1327 Lay Subsidy – Ekwall erroneously suggests this was a Feudal Aid), and *Wynceffeld* (1337 Charter Rolls). Most of these early variants are repeated by Watts. We can add other and often later variants – *Winesflet* (1086 Domesday), *Wynchefelde* (1334 Lay Subsidy), *Winchfelde* (1603 – Whiggitt's Inquiry), and the modern change of *ie* for *ei* in the second element has still not been adopted in *Winchfeild* (1665 hearth tax returns and the 1686 Compton Census). It is *Winchfield* in the 1725

episcopal visitation and by the time of the first Ordnance Survey map (ca 1800) the spelling has settled as the modern form.

I think that the consensus amongst toponymists is that this is *winchel+feld*. My comment about *floet* merely indicates that there is a possible alternative explanation - but far less likely note how Coates, Ekwall, and Watts are all of one mind in this respect, and whilst I have not seen the Chertsey Abbey cartulary I am quite clear that the entry in it supposedly from the eighth century is certainly a forgery - but equally it is probably a forgery dating from the period between 1066 and 1086. How is the name for Winchfield spelt in that entry? If the second element is rendered as *feld* or something similar then it is persuasive that the Domesday spelling is a scribal error. Bear in mind that the process of compilation of Domesday Book involved at least three stages in which the information was slowly redacted to the final Exchequer version, at each point there will have been ample opportunity for errors to creep into the text. If one compares, for example, entries for the South West Peninsula where we have both preliminary and final versions of the Domesday Survey can show quite big differences between the two.

**Stone Age or Iron Age settlement? There are various references to a Stone Age (before 3000BC) settlement in Winchfield but it is more likely that it was an Iron Age (1200BC- 600BC) village?**

In terms of archaeological work I am unfamiliar with any local surveys. We do know that an Iron Age village was located roughly speaking where Bagwell Lane drops over a very slight escarpment (SU763532) as it emerges from the extended linear copse known as Mousey Row, approximately where Rectory Cottage is now located. Whilst there is no particular reason to believe that this Iron Age site was continuously occupied until Saxon times it is suggestive that the parish church is located in the near vicinity. Large scale OS maps of Winchfield indicate such a settlement.

There is also a strong hint that a secondary Roman road passed across the parish – this represented the direct route from Pontes (Staines) to Venta Belgarum (Winchester) and is indicated in the Antonine Itinerary where two such routes are indicated – one via Calleva Arrebatum (Silchester) and a shorter direct route. The direct route passed through North Warnborough where it is now the line of The Street, and it is suggestive that North Warnborough contains the site of a Roman villa at Lodge Farm, at SU746526, whilst evidence of a Roman tile-making site is to be found in Odiham at SU751507. Despite the fact that this direct route will have traversed the parish no indications of the road seem to have survived in Winchfield itself. For what it is worth the line would pass along the present course of the B3016 from its junction with the Potbridge Road to Chevertons. Chevertons is probably relatively modern but it occupies a site which was identified as the home of Bending family in the 13th century - I have no idea how old the present structure is but it is almost certainly the oldest secular building in the parish, indeed given that the church has had substantial rebuilds over the centuries it may claim to be the joint oldest building in the parish. (Chevertons is Grade 2 listed as shown in the chart of listed buildings).

**The Milestones**

The milestones (listed as Grade 2) are alongside the B3016 from Phoenix Green to Odiham and I think were laid out when that road became a turnpike in 1737 - the act set up a turnpike trust for "repairing the Road from Hartfordbridge Hill to the town of Basingstoke, and also the Road from Hartfordbridge Hill aforesaid to the Town of Odiham in the County of Southampton".<sup>10</sup> I think there was a toll gate close to the site of the Phoenix Inn. The milestones were placed by the side of the

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<sup>10</sup> The Turnpikes of Reading and East Berkshire. Alan Rosevear 2004

road pursuant to a subsequent Act of 1755. Once I thought that the stretch of the B3016 from its junction with Old Potbridge Road to the Potbridge Road (inter alia across the railway line to the West of Winchfield Station) was a new road. However, given that there is a milestone on the road after the Old Potbridge Road corresponding to another close to Frenchman's Oak on Odiham Common this is obviously incorrect and whilst the railway bridge is clearly 20th century the road is probably laid out, in part, along the old Roman Road.

## Landscape and farming

I think that Winchfield is an example of 'Ancient Landscape' that is to say there is no evidence of open field farming in the parish and if it ever was enclosed that took place so far back in history that the field system shows no such indication and even a study of the aerial photographs have no evidence of strip farming. (For an explanation of the distinction between 'Ancient Landscape' and 'Planned Landscape' may I suggest a reading of *The History of the Countryside* by Oliver Rackham.) I am in the process of reconstructing the demographic history of Winchfield pre-census which I will provide when I have finished it.

I am surprised by the LIDAR<sup>11</sup> evidence of strip farming in Winchfield (this refers to the paper by Cathy Wolwebber, amateur archaeologist). Are we sure that this is not an indication of much older Celtic lynchets? Or are they square shaped fields indicative of Roman agricultural practices? What we certainly know is that IF Winchfield was open-field strip farming then enclosure was very early - there is no evidence of any enclosure having taken place after, say, 1650. Other possibilities suggest themselves, and here is one: My grandfather, who read agriculture at Oxford in the early 1920s, pointed out to me that land drainage was largely an 18th century innovation and he went on to observe that when you look at a modern field what may appear to be the characteristic ridge and furrow of strip farming can be the consequence of modern land drainage (I am using the term 'modern' in a very typical historian's way meaning anything post 1500). The distinction may be difficult to distinguish but if the lines have a characteristic reverse S shape this would, normally be indicative of open-field strip farming whereas completely straight lines will normally be characteristic of much later land drainage (but note that these drains must, of necessity, be perpendicular to the prevailing slope). One of the reasons why I am surprised is simply that - although very close by we have Odiham which very definitely was open field, this is definitely on the boundary between planned and ancient landscape, and my view is that this is ancient and not planned.

If you would like to look at more detailed maps and history about Winchfield settlements:

<https://documents.hants.gov.uk/landscape/historic-settlement/WinchfieldHistoricRuralSettlementpublication.pdf>

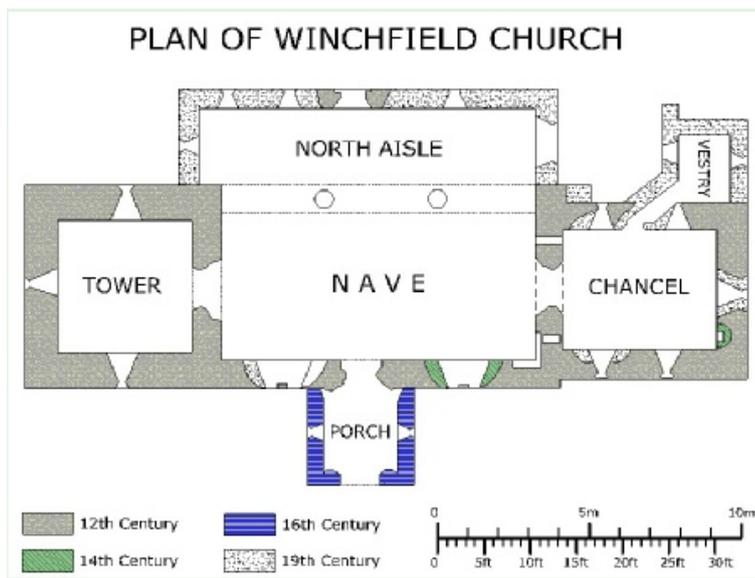
<https://documents.hants.gov.uk/landscape/historic-settlement/WinchfieldHurstHistoricRuralSettlementpublication.pdf>

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<sup>11</sup> LIDAR light detection and ranging. Pulsed laser beams measure ranges (variable distances) to the Earth

## 14. St Mary's Church

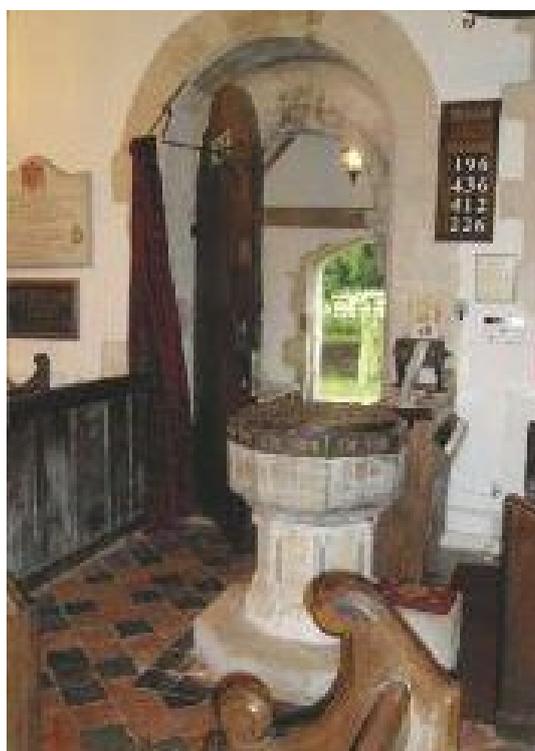
The church of St Mary's is an outstanding example of Norman architecture. English Heritage lists the church as one of only nine Grade I listed buildings in Hart, and it is indeed the oldest listed building in the whole District.



St Mary's is unusual in having survived the age of Victorian restoration with much of its fabric – all except the modern north aisle, the 16th-century south porch and the 19th-century renewal of the top of the tower – virtually as it was when the medieval masons finished it eight centuries ago.

Dating from about 1150 St Mary's has stood in the village of Winchfield for more than 850 years. It was originally built by the monks of Chertsey Abbey. Many of the original Norman features remain to this day. Notable features are the Norman Tower Arch, the Norman Chancel Arch, the Font, the Pulpit and a few ancient oak pews.

There were two frescoes painted on the church walls dating from the 13C, they were discovered in 1849 when major restoration of the church revealed the two large frescoes beneath many coats of whitewash. It was not possible to save them but a Mr Baigent made accurate drawings of them which you can see in the book by Anne Pitcher<sup>12</sup>.



<sup>12</sup> *Illustrated History of Winchfield and the Hospital*. Anne Pitcher 1985

The Chancel Arch consists of a group of semi-circular arches carved with chevron (dog's tooth) and other Norman ornamentation. At each side of the Chancel Arch are two square 'squints' or hagioscopes which have been restored. The Church and Chancel Arch feature in the book *'Parish Church Treasures'* (2015). The Porch is late perpendicular work (1400-1500) and was added before the Reformation in place of an Early English one which had fallen into ruin. Two Early English windows are preserved. The doorway is a fine example of Norman work with some interesting decorations, such as the lotus leaf in the capital of the easternmost pillar. The Tower is very large in proportion to the rest of the building and the walls are up to five feet (1.5m) thick.

The Belfry is a later addition (1849) with its imitation Norman windows and hipped roof with weather cock. The entrance in the north wall is an Early English door and was originally in the north wall of the Nave itself before the extension. The roof was restored and rebuilt in 1905-7. The Pulpit is a fine example of the art of the wood carver. It dates from 1634. On the South side of the nave are two ancient oak pews, thought to be 400-500 years old. The Organ was built in 1902 by the famous firm of William Hill and Son. There are three bells in the Belfry, two from the 15th century, which were re-hung in the 1980s. The Nave was extended in 1849.

Extensive renovation and repairs took place in 1906 carried out by Pool and Son and paid for by Mr Spencer Charrington, recently moved to Winchfield House and also a Church Warden.

The local charity 'Friends of St Mary's Winchfield', (Registered charity number 1124379) is a secular organisation created for local residents to support the fabric of the Grade I listed building St Mary's Church and its Churchyard. Fundraising activities to date have raised around £25,000.



St Mary's from a painting before restoration in 1849

More information:

<https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/hants/vol4/pp109-112#fnn5>

<https://www.stmaryswinchfield.org.uk/page2.html>

## 15. Summary of listings from Hampshire County Council (HCC) Archaeology and Historic Buildings Record for Winchfield Parish, listings by Historic England and HCC Hampshire Treasures listings for Local Heritage Assets

Site number HCC & Historic England	Name	Summary	Period	Grade and listing date	Record Type
728  1244705	Church of St Mary	A church built in the C12 with alterations in the C15 and restored in 1850.	1100	Grade 1  1961	Historic Building
<p>C12, C15, and mid C19. Norman church of nave, chancel and western tower (of same width as the nave), with an added north aisle together with a small vestry on the north east corner (restoration of 1850 by Woodyer). The chancel has on each side 2 deeply splayed windows with zigzag ornament surrounds; the nave windows have plate tracery above coupled cusped lights to the aisles (1850). The nave arcade has pointed arches resting on 2 massive octagonal piers with simply decorated caps. The main feature comprises 3 exceptionally decorated Norman arches: the narrow chancel arch has a series of decorative motifs, including zigzags, and rests on attached columns: the tower arch has mouldings and a plainer treatment of attached columns: the south doorway is very ornate, with zigzag stages and acanthus motifs, again resting on attached columns. A small north door has been re-used in the later aisle. The south porch is C15. furniture includes a Norman font, a Jacobean pulpit, C18 altar rails, and several wall monuments. Externally, there is a red tile roof, flint walling with stone quoins, a cement finish to the lower part of the massive tower, which is surmounted by a restoration rubble stone bell stage having round arched coupled openings and a pyramid roof.</p>					
1525 & 55463  1244709	Brickfields (Kiln)	A brick kiln, of the bottle kiln type, which dates to c.1860 and is currently used as a pet crematorium.  Site of Winchfield Brickfield	1855	Grade 2  1987	Historic Building
<p>Circa 1860. Single kiln with cone top above square base. Red brickwork in English bond (headers to cone), tall narrow access, plinth; spandrels within to meet curved base of cone. 3 later corner buttresses.</p>					
3760  1244754	Old Thatch	House (1600 AD-1987 AD)	1600	Grade 2  1987	Historic Building
<p>Cottage. C17 or earlier with C19 lean to addition to left and C20 1 bay addition lean to right. Original part is a timber framed lobby entrance house with exposed square framing to 1st floor with painted brick infill and modern brick to ground floor. Hipped thatched roof with brick stack (in central position before the addition was built) with flat slab on top. 2 eyebrow dormers with C20 wooden casements and 2 C20 casements to ground floor, the left side one 5 light. Doorcase has C20 4 plank studded door with large iron hinges and large C20 gabled weather porch with tiled roof and brick and timber walls. C10 painted brick lean to left hand side. Left side elevation has an original casement window with pegged wooden architrave and pintle hinges. C20 addition of 1 bay to right in matching style reusing old timbers and with painted brick infill. To the extreme right is a C20 weather boarded lean to with wavy edge boards. Rear elevation is similar with a hoisting notch in one upright beam. Lounge has brick fireplace narrow chamfered axial and brick paving. Upper floor not seen but smoke blackening and wattle and daub reported.</p>					

3762 1261855	Baseley's Bridge	Cambered arch across canal and towpath	1792	Grade 2 1987	Historic Building
1792. Cambered arch across canal and towpath; also curved on plan, with straight cutwaters. Red brickwork, projecting band below parapet, which ends in square pillars with white stone plain caps. Oval metal plaque above the arch states:- Baseley's Bridge: built 1792: restored 1975: HCC.					
3763 1092353	Sprats Hatch Bridge	1792. Red brick cambered arch above canal and towpath;	1792	Grade 2 1987	Historic Building
1792. Red brick cambered arch above canal and towpath; plan widens on curve from the centre, splayed straight cutwaters. Parapet, projecting band, ending in square piers with stone cap. Oval metal plaque states:-Sprats Hatch Bridge: built 1792: restored 1975: HCC.					
3764 1261820	Sandy Hill Bridge	1792. tall red brick arch, above canal and towpath;	1792	Grade 2 1987	Historic Building
1792. Tall red brick arch, above canal and towpath; of cambered form. Parapet and projecting band ends in square piers and capped in stone. Oval metal plaque states:- built 1792, restored 1975, HCC					
3791 1092327	Dairy Cottage	C18 2 storeys, 3 windows, red tiled roof gabled; central stack.	1700 – 1799	Grade 2 1987	Historic Building
C18. 2 storeys, 3 windows. Red tile roof, gabled; central stack. Red brick walling; projecting first floor band, rubbers to ground floor flat arches, exposed timber frame within gables, central upper window now blocked. Casements with square leaded lights. Later porch					
3792 1339834	Barn SW of Swans Farm	C18 Massive 3 bay timber frame	1700 – 1799	Grade 2 1987	Historic Building
C18 Massive 3 bay timber frame with diagonal struts, queen post truss. Red tile roof, gabled, two ends brick nogged					
3794 1339835	Granary SW of Swans Farmhouse	C18 square boarded frame on brick saddles,	1700 – 1799	Grade 2 1987	Historic Building
C18 square boarded frame on brick saddles, red tile roof, half hipped. Boarded walls					
3795 1261687	Barn S of Swans Farmhouse	C18 timber framed structure of six bays with full height outshot on the NW side	1700 – 1799	Grade 2 1987	Historic Building
C18. Timber framed structure of 6 bays, with full height outshot on the north west side. Frame rests on a low brick wall; verticals carry tie beams, with curved struts to purlins. Red tile roof, half hipped but with full hip to outshot/entrance. Boarded walls. Later 1st floor inserted, except for outshot bay.					
3796 1092329	Cartshed SE of Swans Farm	C18 open timber frame of five bays,	1700 – 1799	Grade 2 1987	Historic Building
Open timber frame of 5 bays, with aisle on the north east side, and projected eaves along the front (south west). Queen post section. The north east and south east walls are in brickwork. Red tile roof, hipped at one end.					

4087 109228	Milestone	1826. Standard white stone, of square section set diagonally, with chamfered top containing the letters 'Parish of Odiham'.	1826	Grade 2 1987	Historic Building
1826. Standard white stone, of square section set diagonally, with chamfered top containing the letters 'Parish of Odiham'. Below is a curved front with large incised letters 'London', above a triangular chamfer with the number '38' (i.e. miles to London). The eastern face has Basingstoke 7 1/2, the western Hartford Bridge 2 1/4.					
4560 1244719	Barley Mow Bridge	Late C18. Of standard pattern; cambered arch spanning waterway and towpath	1765 – 1799	Grade 2 1987	Historic Building
Late C18. Of standard pattern; cambered arch spanning waterway and towpath, above this is a projecting band marking the slightly cambered roadway. Parapet walls end in square piers, having plain stone caps. Red brickwork (English bond) to bridge and cutwaters. 5 cast iron discs exposed at the ends of metal ties.					
4561 1244706	Stacey's Bridge	Cambered arch form, with curved plan opening outwards from the centre.	1792	Grade 2 1987	Historic Building
1792. Cambered arch form, with curved plan opening outwards from the centre. The arch spans the waterway and towpath; there is a projecting band at road level and parapet walls ending in square piers having plain stone caps. An oval metal plaque states: built in 1792, restored 1975, H.C.C. the bridge was made narrower at the time of restoration.					
4562 1244720	Bailey's Farmhouse	Farmhouse (1600 AD-1799 AD). previously known as Bridge Farmhouse	1600 - 1799	Grade 2 1984	Historic Building
Previously known as Bridge Farmhouse. C17, C18. L-shaped 2 storeyed house with the angle filled later. Red tile roof with gables and valleys; large central brick stack. Most of the walling is an exposed timber frame, mainly to the first floor and in the gables; red brick infilling, also some brick walling (in Flemish bond). Casements; one old window. Projecting gabled porch.					
4563 1244707	Chevertons	C17 house with C18 alterations. See also 41518 'Name'	1600 - 1699	Grade 2 1987	Historic Building
C17, C18 and modern. A small 2 storeyed timber framed house, with the frame mostly intact but hidden by later brickwork and modern extensions. Red tile roof. Gable to front has C18 brickwork (Flemish bond) and a cambered opening on the ground floor. Stacks of several periods. Modern walling in brickwork and some weather boarding. Casements; one good C17 metal casement with square leaded lights.					
4564 1244708	Court House Farmhouse	A farmhouse built in the C17 with C18 alterations.	1600 - 1699	Grade 2 1987	Historic Building
C17, C18. 2 storeys and attic. West front is an C18 symmetrical design of 3 windows. Red tile roof, brick dentil eaves. Painted brickwork; cambered ground floor openings. Sashes in exposed frames. Doorcase has an open pediment on pilasters, enclosing a round headed doorway with fanlight. Other elevations exposed the double gates at the side enclosing earlier work and having irregularly placed casement windows, and chimney stacks at the south end.					
4565 1244736	Cranford's Barn Farmhouse	C18. 5 bay structure with extension in middle of north side.	1700 -1799	Grade 2 1981	Historic Building
C18. 5 bay structure with extension in middle of north side. Timber frame has a queen post truss and braced tie beam, and all resting on a low red brick base wall. Weather boarded walling. Red tile roof, half hipped ends, fully					

hipped to extension. Recently repaired.					
4566 1244710	Milestone	Mid C19. Square stone pillar with rounded top	1835	Grade 2 1987	Historic Building
Mid C19. Square stone pillar with rounded top and markings on two faces: London 39 miles, and bench mark: to Odiham 1 1/2 miles.					
4567 1244737	Milestone	Mid C19. Square stone pillar with rounded top	1835	Grade 2 1987	Historic Building
Mid C19. Square stone pillar with rounded top and markings on two faces: London 28 miles: Odiham 2 1/2 miles.					
4568 1244738	The Old Rectory	Vicarage (1730 AD-1830 AD)	1730 - 1830	Grade 2 1987	Historic Building
1830, core about 1730. Gothick 2 storeyed house with asymmetrical facades of complex design. Steep roofing in red tile; 2 parallel ridges (one higher than the other) and in a cross ridge. Walling is in ragstone rubble, with ashlar quoins and other features (in Caen stone, from Odiham Priory). The south front has a 2 storeyed gabled porch with 2 steps and plinth; while the sides have a slightly recessed lower wall containing a small light: the west side is a gable with (uniquely in the house) a redbrick wall having a pattern of curving joints with flush stonework to openings, topped by an ashlar chimney stack with coupled octagonal flues separated from a plain base by a projecting stack, with irregular set-offs; 2 small ground floor lancets and a single storeyed projecting unit with a large triangular arched window. The long west elevation has a centre piece of small projection containing a group of 4 lancets above 4 mullion and transomed lights; on each side irregular fenestration of 1, 2, and 3 light lancets, 2 groups on the ground floor having cusped heads: the roof contains 2 gabled dormers at different levels and without cheeks, tile faced, with 2 and 3 square wooden windows, 3 stacks (2 with octagonal grouped flues). The east (rear) elevation has a ground floor outshot for most of its width (with 2 dormers lacking cheeks in its roof), a gable, a massive projecting stack. The north elevation has 2 gables, one set back, with a varied window treatment and a painted doorway. Most openings are chamfered, most windows have diagonal leaded lights; in some places a redbrick plinth is exposed.					
4569 1244740	Valley End House	House (1600 AD-1987 AD)	1600 - 1987	Grade 2 1987	Historic Building
C17, C18 and modern. 2 storeyed house with irregular fenestration. Red tile roof, hipped at south west end and gabled at the north east where it covers the small C18 extension. Central tall brick chimney stack, with central projections. Walling is a timber frame with painted brick infilling, the later extension also painted brickwork (Flemish bond in north east). Modern casements. Projecting from each long elevation is a small flat roofed modern extension (being a porch to the south east), in painted brickwork.					
4570 1244740	Winchfield House	Country house	1765 - 1799	Grade 2 1952	Historic Building
Late C18. 2 storeys, with semi-basement (in a narrow well on three sides) and part attic. Large, almost square, mansion with neat symmetrical treatment. The east (symmetrical) elevations has 1.5.1 windows, with a half octagon projecting slightly centre: a high parapet has a coping stone, a moulded and dentil cornice, slightly cambered openings, stone cills, and plinth: the slate hipped roof has 2 plain stacks, but on either side to the rear are square attic blocks with pyramid roof. Sashes (all windows) in reveals. The west front, 1.3.1 windows, has a half octagon centrepiece of small projection, a lower parapet (hiding a flat roof), no basement, and on the ground floor of the south part a window together with an entrance next to the corner: this doorway has a segmental pediment supported on 1/2 columns, the order having inverted bell caps with low relief floral decoration, a flight of 5 steps with curving balustrades leads to a pavement in front of the door. The south elevation has 3 windows, and a higher nearly central square attic, which separates the lower parapet (of the west side) from the higher one to the east: one French door at the 2nd floor level leads to a curved balcony on 2 large brackets and with a delicate bow shaped wrought iron rail. The north front has windows on the west side, at irregular heights, and a large chimney					

breast which narrows at the top to join with the attic block. Walling is white painted brickwork in stretcher bond. Good interiors, with an Adam fireplace, panelling, folding shutters.					
4572 1244741	Stable Block to N of Winchfield House	Stable	1765 - 1799	Grade 2 1987	Historic Building
Late C18. Linked to the house by a high and low wall, this is a 2 storeyed block originally of symmetrical form, with, on the south face, a slightly projecting higher centre, having a pediment gable, a clock, and a full height arched window. On the ground floor are 3 windows to the west and 2 to the east; above them are modern dormers (to the west) and two small windows (to the east) below the eaves. The red tile roof is hipped at each end but drops to ground floor eaves at the rear (north side). Above the flatter roof of the centre is wooden (bell) turret, with a domical cap. Associated with the building are 2 C18 lead cisterns, one dated 1788. Also a white stone wellhead of hexagonal plan, with high relief carving, including putti (probably Italian).					
4573 1244742	North Lodge to Winchfield House	Early C19, mid C19. Single storeyed octagonal building with (later) rectangular extension.	1800 - 1899	Grade 2 1987	Historic Building
Slate hipped roofing throughout; tall chimneys have bands and base, octagonal in the centre of the old block and rectangular above. The roof ridge of the extension doorway has a flat pediment on brackets above plain opening windows a pediment and architrave, later openings being plain. White painted rendered walls, plinth. Recent casements and small block set in angle.					
4574 1244743	South Lodge to Winchfield House	Early C19, mid C19. Single storeyed rectangular block with a 1/2 hexagon east end,	1800 - 1899	Grade 2 1987	Historic Building
Early C19, mid C19. Single storeyed rectangular block with a 1/2 hexagon east end, and a later plain wing to the north. Hipped slate roofing. Painted rendered walls, architraves, plinth. Entrance porch on 2 columns, with flat pediment and plain details. Red brick stack of c1890, with bands, straps. Plinth, and chamfered corners. Casements.					
4575 1272231	Hurst Farm, Barn	C18. 6 bay structure	1700 - 1799	Grade 2 1987	Historic Building
C18. 6 bay structure with doorway extension to 2nd bay from the north, on the east side; aisle on the east side of the northernmost bay. Timber frame, with queen post, arch braced tie beam, cill resting on red brick base. Red tile roof, 1/2 hipped at south end, full hip at north end and to projection. Weather boarded walls. Barn converted to domestic use, now known as 'The Barn'					
4576 1244744	Vale Farm Barn	C18. 5 bay structure with projection in the centre of the south side.	1700 - 1799	Grade 2 1980	Historic Building
C18. 5 bay structure with projection in the centre of the south side. Queen post, braced tie beam, cill rests on red brick base. Weather boarded walls. Red tile roof, half hipped at ends, full hip over doorway extension.					
4577 1244745	Rose Cottage	Early C19. 2 storeys, 3 windows.	1800- 1835	Grade 2 1987	Historic Building
Early C19. 2 storeys, 3 windows. Red tile roof, with low eaves at rear. Red brick walling, 1st floor projecting band, cambered openings, stone cills. Casements. Later door.					

50384	Stable at Ashley Lodge	Unlisted stable converted to home for the handicapped	1890- 1899		
50387	Dairy at Hurst Farm	Unlisted dairy converted to blacksmiths forge	1800 -1995		
55370	Hartley Wintney Workhouse	The workhouse was built in 1871 to house 120 inmates. It was converted into housing in 1985.	1871		
Hartley Wintney workhouse was built in 1871 by Edmund Woodthorpe to accommodate 120 inmates. It had moved from a previous site. Lodges on either side of the entrance housed female and male vagrants respectively. Children were not housed here but were sent instead to the Wimble Hill Pauper School.					
68492	Winchfield Railway Station	Winchfield Station. Originally constructed 1838	1838 - 1840		
68493	Railway Bridge		1838 - 1900s		
A footbridge is present linking both sides of the platform. It is unclear as to the age of the footbridge and whether it is the original or it has been replaced. The London and South Western Railway (then London and Southampton railway) constructed a line from London to Southampton. The railway first arrived at Winchfield in September 1838, and Winchfield station was opened as Shapley Heath. It was soon renamed as Winchfield after the village; the precise date of this is unknown, but it occurred by November 1840. A mural was added in 1988, designed by Susan Ferraby of Winchfield Pottery, to commemorate the stations history. It is not clear whether the current construction of the station is 'as it was' or whether substantial alterations have taken place. By the initial appearance of the station it could probably be assumed that alterations have been minor.					
41518	Chevertons	First documented in AD 1256 as CHEVER(E)DON	1256		Name
52110	The Old Rectory	Garden. No information available	1540 -1939		Parks and Gardens
52117	Winchfield House	C18 house on high ground with views; well wooded park, pond, walled garden, lodges and gardens. The natural topography and historic development of the landscape give the park and its surroundings a strong character and unity that transcends the impact of the motorway	1759		Parks and Gardens  Shown on Map of Hampshire (Taylor 1759) and Map of Hampshire (Milne 1791)
Lady Margaret Beauclerk built Winchfield House in the late C18. In 1839 the main railway from Winchfield to Basingstoke was opened and skirted the most southerly section of the parkland. It may have been during its construction that the road, which had separated the large fishpond to the SW of the house, was now diverted S At the time of the 1st ed O.S. map of 1870s the house is set in a Capability Brown type landscape. It was built on an embankment with parkland and the large pond to the S, a walled garden set at a little distance N of the house; stable block; approach drive with lodge from the NW; Mabs Copse to the NE, and Pigeon House Farm to the SE.  The S lodge was built a little later, shown on the 1911 O.S. map but not noted as a lodge until the 1932 O.S. map. The construction of the M3 motorway, in the mid 1980s, cut through the southerly section of the parkland near Pigeon House Farm. Within in the park there was a fish pond, belts and clumps of trees, a pond with boat house, and a thatched summerhouse. Within the walled garden there were greenhouses. An ice house has been noted but the location is not known. Visit made in June 1997.					

<p>Large house set in Capability Brown type landscape with extensive views; views are particularly good even with M3 motorway being relatively near, and are an important part of the landscape; large Cedar tree on lawn; thatched Summer House; Carp lake with water lilies; herbaceous borders to front and rear of house; bluebell/Oak woodland bounded on 1 side with ditch/old footpath/dry stream bed; Woodland species include large Oak, Hazel coppice stools, Sweet Chestnut and interesting stand of Old Beech Pollards; Rhododendrons, heathers and other acid loving plants; old Yews within the site.</p>					
68494	Site of Winchfield Morgue	Mortuary. Part of former Winchfield Hospital	1871		
<p>Site of Winchfield Morgue, part of the former Winchfield Hospital. Originally built as a workhouse in 1871 (see 55370), Winchfield Hospital also had an adjacent morgue. The former morgue is a simple, aesthetically harmonious building, with elements that clearly show its family relationship to Winchfield Hospital. Like the main buildings, it is built of red brick with stone quoins and door surround, and a hipped slate roof. It is an attractive and interesting building in its own right, and is made more significant by its relationship to the complex. Recently restored by current land owners (2022).</p>					
24306,24321, 24322, 24323, 24324,24325, 24326, 24327, 24336, 26072, 69531, 69533, 69532, 65934, 71287, 71066, 71065, 71064, 71058, 71050,	Pillboxes of various types including Type 22 and Type 24.	More detail from The Pillbox Study Group.  Remnants of the GHQ Line	1939 - 1945		West of Beggars Corner, Mousey Row, Bagwell Lane, Withy Bed Copse, near Chevertons Farm, Hungerford Farm, Swans Farm, The Old Rectory, Pale Lane, Gunners Copse, Shapley Heath Copse
28394, 33211, 33212, 35240, 41518, 42483, 70256, 70402,	Archaeological finds	Indicators of medieval Winchfield, part of the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (RCHME) . Medieval Settlement Project, find spots, pottery flint, coins and bronze age items. Sites of former buildings and earth works. that			The area around St Mary's Church and Court House, Bagwell Lane noted as area of high archaeological potential. Also Furzy Moor, areas south of Withy Bed Copse and Chevertons Farm.
42487, 42489, 42485, 42486, 42484, 42491	Records of former buildings and ponds	From Tithe map of 1843 and OS map of 1873			The area around the Hurst and Sprats Hatch Lane is noted as an area of high archaeological potential.
68398	Cropmark, possibly an enclosure, possibly a number of trackways.				South of The Old Rectory

**In addition to the listed buildings and archaeological information there are 'local listings' known as Hampshire Treasures. Below is an edited list as some of them have designated listing and have been shown above**

Description and Date	Remarks	Protection	Grid Ref. Punchcard No.
<b>Group A - Natural Features</b>			
Area of Biological Interest	Bagwell Green. Old flooded gravel pits with interesting flora and fauna.		SU761 531 2016 16
Trees	One cedar and one robinia within the curtilage of the car park at Winchfield Station.	H.D.C. T.P.O. No. 64	SU 763 545 2016 22
Tree	Rare specimen known as Aesculus Octandra standing in the garden of Court House.		SU 768 537 2016 08
Tree	Rare specimen known as Tilia Playphyllos Laciniata standing in the garden of Court House.		SU 768 537 2016 09
Fishponds	Court House Farm. Remains of two ponds and site of one other, May be natural features rather than constructed fishponds. O.S.A. No. SU75 SE3.		SU 768 537 2016 07A
Fish Pond	Winchfield House. Habitat of birds including a number of Canada geese.		SU 759 549 2016 03
Sarsen Stones No. 70A, 70B, 70C, 70D, 70E, 70F	<p>Between the canal and the Barley Mow. Within or close to Basingstoke Canal conservation area. Track side, boundary stone.</p> <p>Since the book 'Hampshire Treasures' was published more stones have been found, now 16. See separate text about the Sarsen Stones in a later section of this Evidence Base</p>	C.A.	
<b>Group B - Archaeological Sites and Remains</b>			

<b>Stone Age</b>			
Settlement (Site)	Bagwell Green. Remains found when ponds were dug.		SU 761 531 2016 17
<b>Post Norman</b>			
Ancient Site	Winchfield. Site of deserted mediaeval village. Isolated Church of St. Mary. Hundred = Odiham. Ref: 1. V.C.H., Vol. 1, pp.472, 480, 504. Ref: 2. V.C.H., Vol. 4, pp.66-7, 109-12. Ref: 3. Deserted Mediaeval Villages, (Beresford and Hurst).		SU 768 538 2016 21
<b>Group D - Buildings, Monuments and Engineering Works</b>			
Cottage C.16	Orchard Cottage. C.19 additions. Brick with evidence of timber-framing. Extensive cellars. Formerly gardener's cottage to Winchfield Lodge		SU 757 548 2016 04
Inn C.18	The Beauclerk Arms. Stucco and slate structure. Contains painted coat-of arms of Beauclerk family whose land it originally adjoined. Shown on 1842 O.S. map as Railway Tavern.		SU 764 545 2016 06
Farmhouse C.18	Hurst Farm. Brick structure. Date 1768 carved on chimney stack. Later additions.		SU 776 542 2016 13
House	Pepper Box. Turreted miniature tower with cottage attached. Appears on 1750 map. Stands near former entrance to Dogmersfield Park.		SU 777 535 2016 15
Farmhouse	Barley Mow Farm. Formerly Barlow Mow Inn on 1842 O.S. map. Walls pebble-dashed, to protect brickwork from sparrows who pecked mortar to obtain salt impregnated in walls from bacon curing.	C.A.	SU 778 537 2016 14
Monuments	St. Mary's Church. Various Beauclerk family monuments. The Bar Sinister shown on coat-of-arms denotes descent from first Duke of St. Albans - natural son of King Charles II and Nell Gwynne.	T. & C.P. Act	SU 767 536 2016 12

## 16. Non-designated Heritage Assets

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) recognises that heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource and should be conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance.

Non-designated Heritage Assets are locally-identified 'buildings, monuments, sites, places, areas or landscapes identified by plan-making bodies as having a degree of heritage significance meriting consideration in planning decisions but which do not meet the criteria for designated heritage assets'.

Although such [heritage assets](#) may not be nationally [designated](#) or even located within the boundaries of a [conservation area](#), they may be offered some level of protection by identifying them on a formally adopted list of non-designated heritage assets.

The [significance](#) of any building or site on the list (in its own right and as a contributor to the local planning authority's wider strategic planning objectives), can be better taken into account in planning applications affecting the building or site or its setting. Whilst no additional planning controls are added, the fact that a building or site is on a local list means that its conservation as a heritage asset fulfils the objectives of the NPPF and is a material consideration when determining the outcome of a planning application.

A list of Non-designated Heritage Assets has been formally compiled for Winchfield to identify and celebrate those assets of local importance, in a form that is accessible and informative to the local community, developers and planning officers. The list should be used to inform future development proposals in line with national and local planning policies relating to the historic environment, including the requirements of the Neighbourhood Plan.

This list of Non-designated Heritage Assets aims to identify and record these heritage assets, clarify what is significant about them and how they positively contribute to the distinctive historic and architectural character of the locality with the purpose of providing accurate, current, and clear advice regarding their significance to ensure that they are given due consideration during the planning process.

The asset must meet at least two of the criteria to be included in the list. The criteria are based on those detailed in Historic England's 'Local Heritage Listing Advice Note 7' (second edition) 2021<sup>13</sup>. This is to ensure that all entries on the Local Heritage List are of sufficient special interest to ensure that the principle of this list is not de-valued by the inclusion of below-standard buildings, structures, or other assets and that it can be used as a valuable and robust resource to assist the District Council in determining applications in an informed and constructive manner.

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<sup>13</sup> <https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/hpg/has/locallylistedhas/>

The table below sets out the selection criteria which are in line with the Historic England guidance on 'Local Heritage Listing'

Ref	Criterion	Description
<b>WH</b>	<b>Rarity</b> Directly associated with <b>Winchfield History</b>	Is it a rare surviving, or substantially unaltered example of a particular type, form or style of building or materials within the context of the local area?
<b>AC</b>	<b>Aesthetic Value</b> Especially striking aesthetic value or <b>Architectural Connection</b>	How does the aesthetic or design merit relate to the local character and distinctiveness of the district, including the form or architectural style of the asset, choice of materials and quality of workmanship?
<b>AH</b> <b>WS</b> <b>PO</b> <b>BC</b> <b>WW</b>	<b>Group Value</b> Directly associated with the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Agricultural Heritage</b> of Winchfield,</li> <li>• History of <b>Winchfield Station</b> and /or railway,</li> <li>• <b>Post Office</b> / mail service,</li> <li>• History of the <b>Basingstoke Canal</b></li> <li>• History of <b>Winchfield Workhouse</b> or the hospital.</li> </ul>	Does the asset form part of a grouping of assets which contribute positively to local character and distinctiveness?
<b>AV</b>	<b>Archaeological Value</b>	Does the site possess archaeological value which informs our understanding of the historic development and past human activity in the district?
<b>HA</b>	<b>Historical Associations</b>	Is the asset associated to any locally or historically significant figures including architects or builders or perhaps historic trades?
<b>LS</b>	<b>Landmark Status</b>	Does the asset represent an important landmark within the district either because of its communal or historical value, or its aesthetic value?
<b>SH</b>	<b>Social and Communal Value</b> Directly associated with the <b>Social History</b> of Winchfield. Directly associated with a specific area of the village / defines the historic activity of that area	Does the asset contribute to the social and communal history of the area due to its location, form or use, or better inform our understanding of the social and communal progression of the locality and how this has shaped its local distinctive character?

### Non-Designated Heritage Assets List

Each entry includes the name or address of the structure or group, a photograph and a brief description. This is intended as an aid for identification and is not an exhaustive list of the elements of significance.

In gathering evidence for this Neighbourhood Plan, information about some of Winchfield's nationally designated listed buildings has been compiled and is for 'local history' use but it does, in some cases, inform the setting of non-designated heritage assets.

***Where the sites below already have national designation that listing is shown and the information here should be read in conjunction with the full details shown on the 'listed buildings' chart in Section 14.***

### Near the Church in the centre of the village

#### **The Old School and The Old School House.**

#### **WH, HA, AC, SH**

**The Old School and Old School House** sit opposite the oldest Grade 1 listed building in Hart and make a significant contribution to the setting of St Mary's Church and the listed buildings nearby which are in the oldest part of this historic village. The importance of this setting has been recognised in the recent studies prepared for Hart District Council by Environmental Dimension Partnership as the 'historic medieval parish of Winchfield' and confirms The Hampshire Historic Environment Record (HHER) which defines "Winchfield and Winchfield Hurst as Historic Rural Settlements".

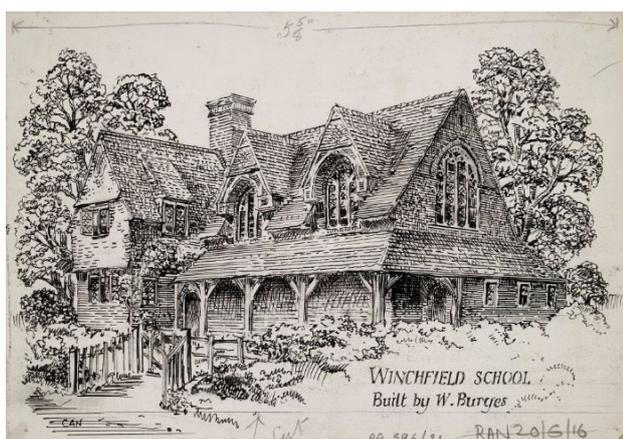
The Old School was built in 1860–61 by William Burges, a famous Victorian architect specialising in Gothic Revival style and well known for the ornate and very ornamental details of his illustrious works. The building is of brick, in the gothic style, with a patterned tiled roof. Its most striking feature is the pair of "full height windows with open timberwork gables marking the former schoolroom."

The land for the school, 2 roods (half an acre) was given by Lady Charlotte Beauclerk who was a great campaigner for local education; the school at Winchfield was in use almost ten years before education was recognised as important and taken over by the state in 1870 when Forsters Act in Parliament meant that all Parishes had to have a school.

Census records from 1881 - Charles Mayhew is shown living in Church Road with his wife Mary and at The School where his occupation is given as a National School master.

Census records from 1901 - Charles Mayhew is still the Headmaster at the school now age 60 and where he lives is called "The School".

**This picture is dated 1880.**



At the height of its importance in the village more than 100 children attended the school which closed around 1935 as changes to education were introduced.

Opposite the school is **The Church of St Mary**, the oldest Grade I listed building in the district of Hart. Built about 1150 and positioned almost centrally in the Parish it was originally built by the monks of Chertsey Abbey.



*Winchfield school, taken in 1902.*

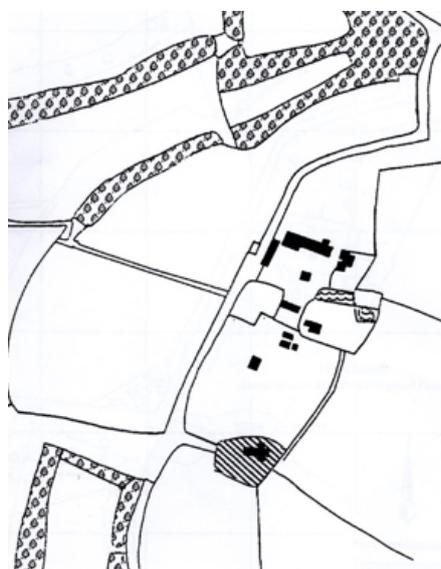
Winchfield School 1902



The Old School and The Old School House today, taken from the Churchyard

We do not know why, when so many buildings in Winchfield were designated by English Heritage with listed status in 1987, the Old School was not included. We can only assume that the division of the school into two separate residences after the closure of the school in the mid 1930s and the addition of extensions excluded it from the list. The Old School is very much part of the historic heart of the village.

**Court House Farm**, listed Grade 2 1244708 was the original manor house of Winchfield, built on the site of a nunnery. Near it are the remains of old fish-ponds. A charter of Chertsey Abbey claims that Winchfield formed part of the endowment of the abbey by Frithwald in 675, but this is contradicted in the Domesday Book. Probably the manor was granted to the abbey by William I. The major part of Court House Farm is of C16/17th possibly incorporating earlier material.



The Tithe map of 1843 showing Court House Farm buildings.



Court House Farm in 1952.



**The Oast House** – was part of Court House Farm, there is evidence that hops were grown in this area.



The Oast House

**AH, SH**



The Grange

**AH, SH**

**The Grange** may well be positioned where a grange, designed to store food or feed for livestock, was sited in much earlier times, possibly by the monks, providing food for the monastic community or later as part of Court House Farm. **AH, SH**

**The Village Pound** is (now) a triangular piece of land opposite the current driveway to Court House. This is where livestock were impounded; animals were kept in a dedicated enclosure, until claimed by their owners, or sold to cover the costs of impounding. It can be seen on the Tithe map of 1843 (above) **AH, SH**

**Triangle Cottage** at the top of Mousey Row is interesting, was once owned by the Charrington family and has many details which are similar to the Old School. It was originally two cottages. **WH, AC, HA.**

**Glebe House** was designed by the renowned local architect Herbert Pool.

**These buildings contribute to the setting of St Mary's in the most historic part of the village.**

'Derrydown' at the Odiham end of Bagwell Lane was designed by Herbert Pool for his own occupation around 1935 and extended in the 1950s. 'Pool' houses are very sought after in the local area, Barley Mow House was designed for Mr Longey in 1935.

## Shapley and near the station

(There are separate papers about the station and the railway elsewhere in this Appendix)

### **The Chase, Station Hill**

#### **WH, PO, WS**

**The Chase** was formerly the Post Office which was of great importance to Winchfield from early in the 1840s. At its peak the Post Office employed 12 postmen and continued to be an important distribution point for the Royal Mail for many years. It was always very busy carrying mail from the south up to London and mail from London to all points south of Winchfield.

The census in 1851 tells us that Thomas Hopkins is the Post Master and living with his wife Sarah and three daughters plus a servant.

In 1861 the Post Office is still occupied by Sarah Ann Hopkins who had 6 children and a servant, her husband is not present but she is shown as the wife of a coal merchant but he is no longer post master since this is now Catherine Stone – also living at the Post Office. Also in the village at this time is William Stroud whose occupation is given as 'Post'.

1871. Catherine Stone is still the Post Mistress but she is now lodging with her brother in law Thomas Dance and his wife (her own sister) presumably at the Post Office. Charles Dance's occupation is given as a brick & tile maker (there was a brick yard was just up the road where Dignity is now). William Hulford was the Postman.

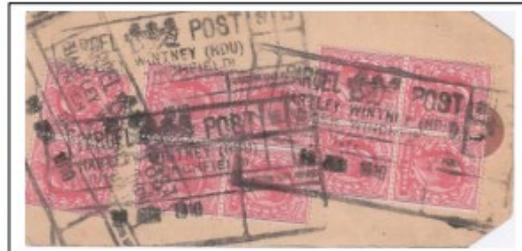
1881. Catherine Stone is still the Post Mistress living in Station Road (presumably at the post office building) in the house of her brother in law Thomas Dance. A Jesse Trimmer is employed as a Post Messenger.

1891. The Post Mistress is now Mary Dance age 30 and therefore presumably the daughter of Thomas Dance. Living with her in the same house (Post Office) are two assistants (Mr E. Bidmead and his wife S. Bidmead). Also living there is the rural postman, Neville Eades.

1901. The Postmaster is now a John David Jones who is living at the Post Office with his wife, two sons and two daughters. There is a postman in the village called Jerold Trimmer (presumably a relative of the previous postman in the 1881 census).



## Parcel Label.



1910 PARCEL POST LABEL, WINCHFIELD (HANTS) TO NOTTINGHAM. Fine parcel tag from Hartley Nurseries, Winchfield, Hants to Long Eaton near Nottingham with KE VII 1d scarlet (SG219) x 10 cancelled PARCEL POST/HARTLEY WINTNEY/WINCHFIELD hand stamps, tag dated 29 JUN 1910

Thank you to "The Hampshire Postal History Society" for allowing us to use this picture and to Andy Morris, Hartley Wintney Heritage Society for Census information.

In 1870-72, John Marius Wilson's *Imperial Gazetteer of England and Wales* described **Winchfield** like this: *WINCHFIELD, a parish, with a village, in Hartley-Wintney district, Hants; on the Basingstoke canal and the Southwestern railway, 9 miles E by N of Basingstoke. It has a head post-office, ‡ a wharf, and a r. station with telegraph. Acres, 1,543. Real property, £1,877. Pop., 329. Houses, 65. W. house is the seat of G. Barnbridge, Esq. The living is a rectory in the diocese of Winchester. Value, £247.\* Patron, Lady St. John Mildmay-The church is Norman and early English, in good condition.*

The Post Office finally closed in 1923 and later became the home of Susan and Lyn Ferraby, Susan was a potter; her work is quite distinctive and often seen locally.

The Old Post Office was later named 'The Chase' which we believe is a reference to historic times when Winchfield was a very popular hunting ground for royalty when the land was mostly forest and heathland and later for wealthy landowners, as we can speculate from some of the large estates and houses in the area.



A 'thrower' at work. Susan Ferraby in her Pottery at Winchfield.



Susan Ferraby also made the mural which is in the Station Waiting Room to celebrate 150 years of the railway in 1988



WH, WS, SH



With the railway came wealth as can be seen from the number of large Victorian houses around Shapley Hill, Shapley Heath and also south of Station Hill. Some of these large houses have been subdivided into flats and cottages over time but still add to the sense of importance in the vicinity of the station. They sit quite comfortably next to old cottages which were homes to farm and railway workers, all have their part in Winchfield's history.

**Cranford Cottages.** Originally the dairy and cow barn for Cranford Farm then converted to three cottages, and later to two cottages, probably homes to workers at the farm which is no longer there. Cranford Barn is the only remaining original farm building and is listed Grade II, 1244736.



## Cranford Cottages

**WH, AH**

**The Winchfield Inn** dates back to the C17, formerly the Railway Tavern (OS map of 1842), renamed the Beauclerk Arms in memory of Lord Frederick de-Vere Beauclerk. In later years it was called 'Woody's Inn' and is now The Winchfield Inn. **WH, WS, PO, HA.** The Winchfield Inn is also listed as a 'Hampshire Treasure'

The Railway Tavern would have been the place to change horses for the mail carts and where visitors arriving from the station could hire a 'handsome cab'.



## The Winchfield Inn

**WH, WS, PO, HA.**

## Dignity Pet Crematorium

The Kiln is Grade II listed 1244709 (HCC 1525 & 55463). The Brick yard was owned by the Charrington family and many homes in the village along with the station and Winchfield Court (the old workhouse / hospital) have bricks and tiles which were made there. It was a major employer and the brick kiln, which dates from around 1830, is now part of 'Dignity' Pet Crematorium. The Kiln is the largest remaining bottle kiln in Hampshire and was used to make bricks until 1939.



## The brickfield or brickyard and Kiln

### WH, AH, HA,

During the Second World War the site was turned into a small prisoner-of-war camp for Germans and Italians and the Kiln was used as a Chapel. In 1990 Barry and Carole Spurgeon had the Kiln renovated and re-pointed using traditional methods in-keeping with the Kiln's listed building status. Dignity was started by Barry and Carole in 1992 and permission was granted to house a purpose built pet cremator within the Kiln. The first individual cremation took place on 29th June 1992. [www.dignitypetcrem.co.uk](http://www.dignitypetcrem.co.uk) The brick kiln was renovated again in 2021

## Winchfield House. Grade II. 1244740

Very little is known about the predecessor of the present house, known as Winchfield Court, except that it possessed a deer park in the 17th century and was 'suffered to fall into decay' during the early 18th century. It is not clear whether it stood on the present site or not. After Lord George Beauclerk purchased the estate in 1767, it was demolished and replaced by the present house. The new house was commissioned by his widow, Lady Margaret Beauclerk. It is a compact and severe Palladian villa, built about 1770 to the designs of an unknown architect and externally at least, little altered since.

Winchfield House continued to be in the Beauclerk family for several generations, Admiral Lord Amelius Beauclerk (1771 – 1846), Lord Frederick de-Vere Beauclerk (1773 – 1850, buried at Winchfield), Charles Beauclerk (1816 – 1863) and lastly Frederick Edward Beauclerk (1852 – 1919) who sold the estate in 1908 to Spencer Charrington.<sup>14</sup>

Spencer Calmeyer Charrington (1854 – 1930) whose family owned the Charringtons Brewery, a major employer in the east end of London. His father bought him the title 'Lord of the Manor of Winchfield' and he held a commission in the Hampshire Carabineers Yeomanry and was Deputy Lieutenant for the County; he died at Winchfield Lodge and is buried in St Mary's churchyard.

<sup>14</sup> [www.landedfamilies.blogspot.com/2022/03/513-beauclerk-of-winchfield-house](http://www.landedfamilies.blogspot.com/2022/03/513-beauclerk-of-winchfield-house) this site names principal sources

Succeeded by his son, Harold Vincent Spencer Charrington (1886-1965) who pursued a career in the army rising to the rank of Brigadier. He saw active service in both world wars and was also a renowned polo player. Brig. Charrington was responsible for the gift and installation of the organ at St Mary's in 1902 to replace the harmonium. With no floor space available the William Hill organ was fitted on brackets above the tower arch and this unusual, but successful, arrangement was noted in text books of the time. Five years later the bells of St Mary's were rehung to celebrate his 21st birthday. Brigadier Harold Charrington (known as 'Rollie') was awarded WW1 MC and DSO (Military Cross and Distinguished Service Order)<sup>15</sup> and is buried at St Mary's .



OS Map 1932

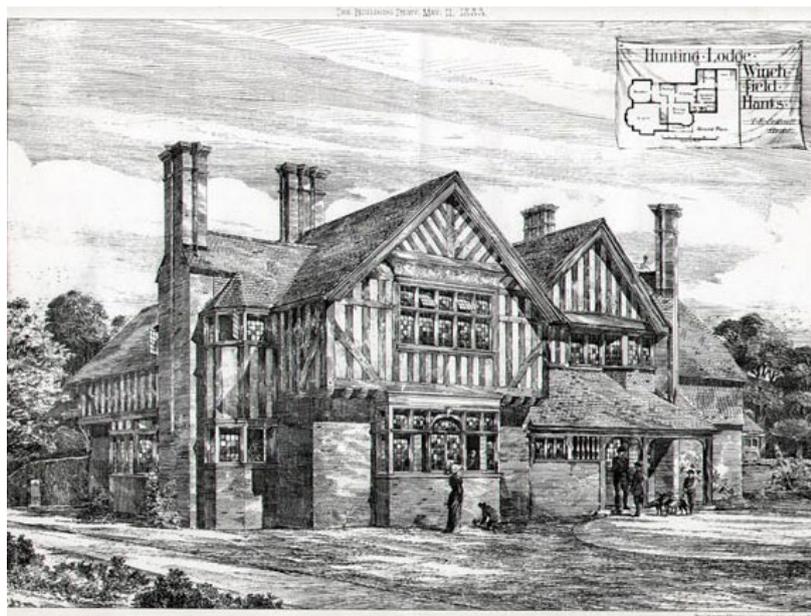
<sup>15</sup> More about Brig. Harold Charrington. <https://www.pipelinepress.com/the-birthday-present.html>



This memorial tablet is in the church. Details of every man from Winchfield who lost their lives in WW1 are detailed on the link shown below: **WH, SH**

<https://www.stmaryswinchfield.org.uk/Winchfield's%20WW1%20memorial.pdf>

### Winchfield Lodge. WH, AC, HA



Thomas Edward Collcutt (1840-1924) was one of the most important late-Victorian and Edwardian architects and later to be President of the RIBA (Royal Institute of British Architects) and noted for his design of the Wigmore Hall, Palace Theatre and Savoy Hotel. The original south-facing wing was built as a hunting lodge for Frederick Edward Beauclerk (1852 – 1919). Later purchased by the Charrington family which instructed Collcutt to design and extend the property by the addition of a further wing. It became an elegant country house favoured by Spencer Charrington who died there in 1930.

In 1944 – 1946 it became a convalescent home.



In the late 1990s the building was granted 'change of use' to commercial and in 2001, to address the needs of local business, Winchfield Lodge was turned into a business centre to offer serviced offices to local businesses and proprietors (above left).

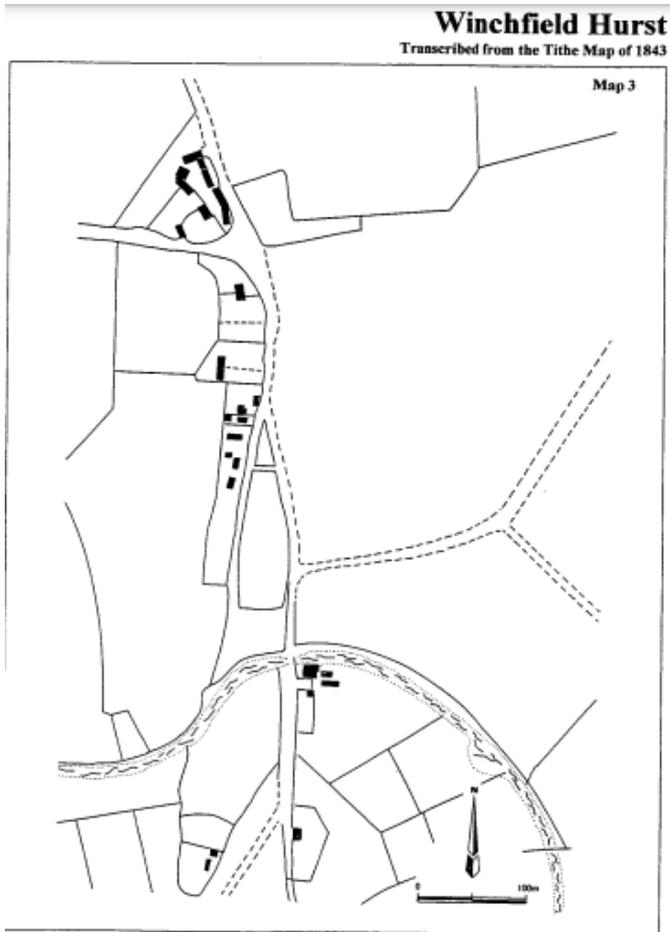
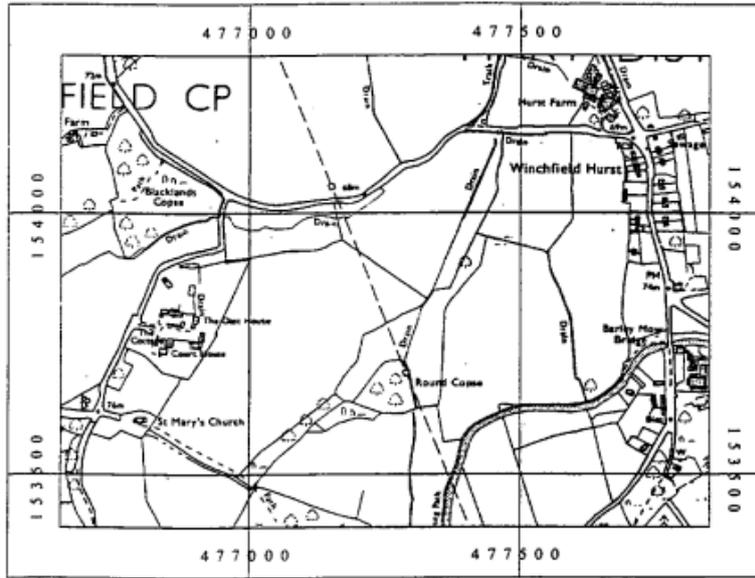
In 2020 it was converted to four luxury apartments as part of the development of Winchfield Crescent and is now at the entrance of the development of twelve new homes (above right).

**Orchard Cottage** nearby was formerly the cottage for the gardener for Winchfield Lodge and is listed as a 'Hampshire Treasure'

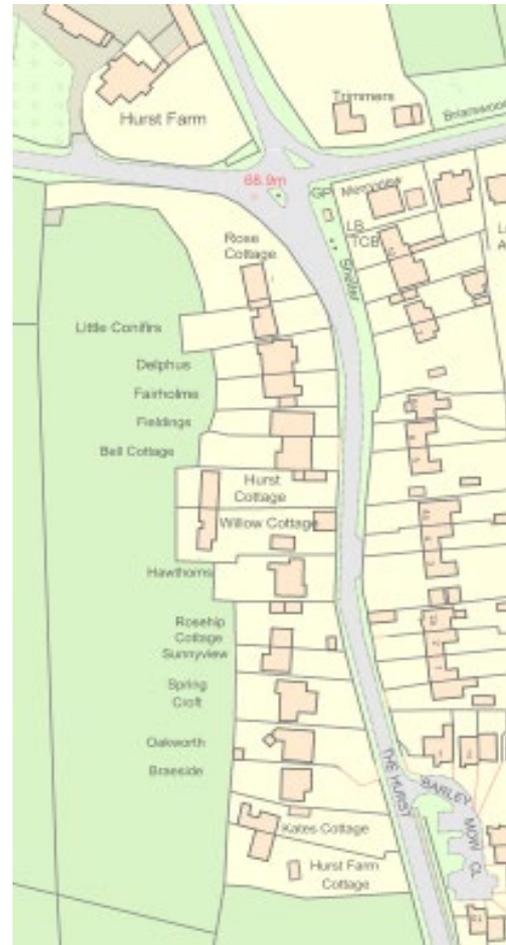
## Around The Hurst

Rose Cottage originally had 'Vine Cottage' next door according to 1952 sale details. There are other cottages in the Hurst which appear on old maps and these probably include Kates Cottage, Hurst Farm Cottage, Hurst Cottage and Willow Cottage; only Rose Cottage is listed as Grade II 1244745.

(iv)



1843



The Hurst 2020

Ten council houses on the opposite side of the road were built in the mid-1960s and, with large gardens, are now very 'desirable' homes. The land they were built on had been common land with a pond and a favourite play area for children.

The ten houses in Barley Mow Close were built in the 1980s.



Rose Cottage (left) and Willow Cottage (right)

**The Barley Mow, Public House. WH, BC, SH**



It is believed that the original 'pub' was at Barley Mow Farm on the opposite side of the canal where a 'tea garden' was run by Mrs Fisk for the benefit of visitors using the canal and the cellars were used for beer. Exactly when the existing public house was built is not documented.



**Barley Mow Farmhouse. Listed as a 'Hampshire Treasure'**



**Old Barley Mow Farmhouse 2022**

**There is a Q&A section with helpful advice for owners of Non-designated Heritage Assets**

**<https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/hpg/has/locallylistedhas/>**

## 17. Summary of The Hartley Wintney Union Workhouse – Winchfield Hospital – Winchfield Court History

Listed as Hampshire County Council Historic Buildings site 55370

The two books referred to (Anne Pitcher and Rev Seymour) have a lot of information on other aspects of the Parish and St Mary's generally which I have not covered here but one mention from Anne Pitcher, pp 22/23 is of interest for the WPC.

"It was the railway that put Winchfield on the map, but in those far off days when it was a crime to be poor, it was the Workhouse that made Winchfield infamous. As the years went by and attitudes changed, the whole image of the Workhouse was swept away forever and it became a much loved hospital/home. Now it's being converted into much sought after exclusive luxury homes, which only goes to show how times have changed."

*Preface: Anne Pitcher "Illustrated History of Winchfield and the Hospital" 1985*

Towards the end of the 19th century the basic agricultural economy of the Winchfield area was profoundly affected by the growing mechanisation of farming, which reduced the number of farm labourers required and led to extreme poverty for some. There was no state funded scheme to help and in old age no state pension. The family was the only support, and in the absence of that, begging or theft were the last resort. Work was forthcoming from the building of 1) the Basingstoke canal (1787-94) and 2) the railway line from Nine Elms to Shapley Heath (1834-38) but this abruptly terminated when the railway was extended in 1839 and 1840 to Basingstoke and Southampton respectively.

To address the problem of poverty, it being considered a crime in Tudor times, a "House of Correction" was established in Odiham and another in Winchester - the only two in Hampshire. These had their origin when a statute in 1575 required each county to provide two or more such houses. These were used to put inmates to work and punish them for their crimes, attested to by the stocks and whipping post still seen in Odiham.

In 1782 Gilbert's Act extended the idea of amalgamating parishes to the whole country, but on a voluntary basis requiring consent of two thirds of rate payers. In Hampshire some use of the act was made at Alverstoke, Farnborough, Headley, Winchester and Hartley Wintney. An elected Board of Guardians was empowered to employ paid overseers and erect and maintain a joint workhouse. This, however, required money for the construction and land for the building.

The main landowners in the area were the Mildmays. Dogmersfield Park, now the Four Seasons Hotel, was the seat of Sir Henry Paulet St John, who in 1786 married Jane, daughter of Carew Mildmay and assumed her name. As Lord and Lady of the Manor of Hartley Wintney they recognised the need for a suitable place to accommodate the poor there and Jane took it upon herself to find one. She offered a parcel of waste land near More Hill, in Hartley Wintney, which left only the requirement to raise funds.

In 1798 an "Act for the better relief and employment of the poor" was passed, by which William Hellear of Hartley Westpool, paid £50 for the erection of "a convenient house, buildings and offices for the reception, accommodation and employment of the poor of the said Parishes" (Hartley Wintney, Tythings of Farnborough, Yateley and Cove). In consideration for which "the poor rates to be hereafter made, and the several sums of money to be raised thereupon within the said Parish of Hartley Wintney...".

“The Union Workhouse was established in Hartley Wintney on 8th April 1835 and its operation was overseen by a Board of Guardians elected from the constituent parishes that contributed to its running. These parishes were Bramshill, Crondall, Dogmersfield, Elvetham, Eversley, Greywell, Hartley Wintney, Heckfield, Mattingley, Odiham, Rotherwick, south Warnborough and Winchfield. The union was later extended to include Cove, Farnborough, Hawley, Long Sutton and Yateley in 1860 and Fleet in 1894.”

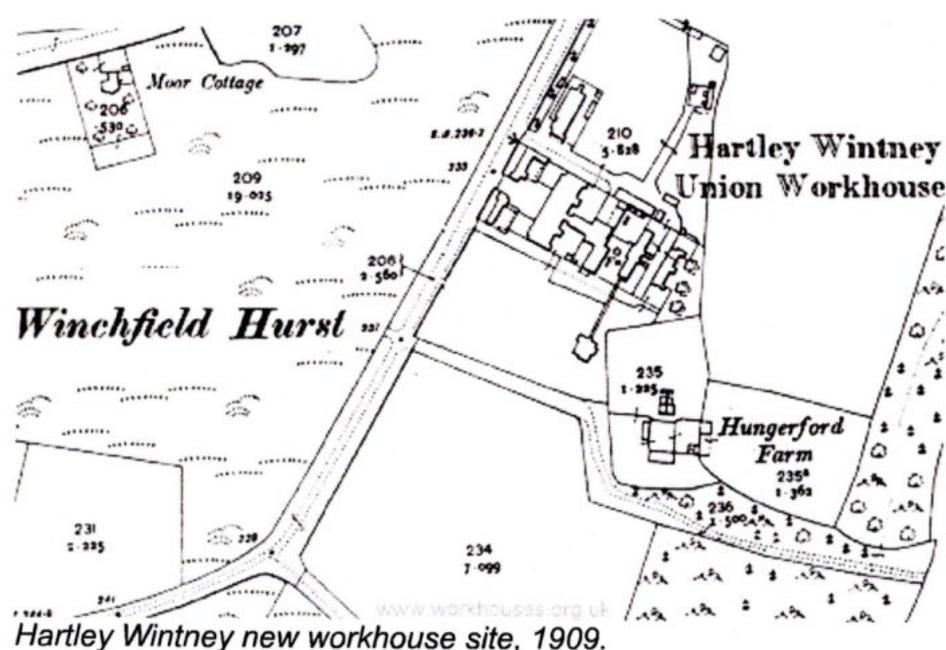
Work for the able-bodied in the workhouse was provided and this included repairing turnpike roads, at a weekly wage of five shillings versus seven paid to a regular worker. The construction of the Basingstoke canal (1787-1794) provided a welcome alternative that the workhouse overseers during that time were quick to take up.

1834-1838 saw construction of the railway from Nine Elms in London to Shapley Heath, Winchfield. This was welcomed by the Poor Law officers, since they could set the unemployed to work and hire out the inmates of the workhouse.

During this time the Basingstoke canal was at its busiest transporting material for the railway, transporting 40,000 tons in 1835.

However, the construction of the railway ironically led to the declining use of the canal as well as road carriers. In 1839 the line was extended to Basingstoke and in 1840 to Southampton, which brought a halt to the increased activity in Winchfield with an attendant increase in unemployment.

In 1871 the old workhouse in Hartley Wintney was closed and then sold and later demolished. The proceeds were put towards the new Union Workhouse which was designed by Edmund Woodthorpe of London and built by Joseph Bull and Sons, (contemporary press release quoted in [workhouses.org.uk](http://workhouses.org.uk)). It cost £11,739 and was designed to accommodate 120 inmates.



The new building was described in a press report of the time:

### **THE NEW HARTLEY WINTNEY UNION WORKHOUSE, ODIHAM.**

The new Hartley Wintney Union Workhouse is now in course of erection at Winchfield Hurst by Messrs. Joseph Bull & Sons, of Southampton, contractors (who have carried out various works in Hampshire and the adjoining counties), from designs by Mr. Edmund Woodthorpe, of London, architect. The members of the Board lately visited the new edifice in procession to complete a tablet which has been erected there containing a list of their names. They were met at the entrance of the building by Mr. Woodthorpe, Mr. H. W. Bull (the senior partner in the firm of Bull & Sons), the clerk of the works (Mr. H. Sanders), two of the architect's staff, the foreman of the works, and others, and the large party were then conducted over the new workhouse. In the main entrance are the male and female tramp wards, and then comes the courtyard, which brings one to the entrance of the main block, where are the boardrooms, dining-hall, kitchen, offices, &c. On the left are work-sheds and laundries, with spacious courtyards leading to the infirmary, which is very nearly completed, as are also the fever wards, the latter being in a forward state. The building is in five blocks, somewhat similar to those at the Southampton Workhouse, and the three in the rear are rapidly approaching completion. The main block and other parts are also roofed in and slated. The house is designed to meet every requirement and regulation of the Poor-law Board. The contract is 10,000l. The chairman called the workmen around him, and ordered that they should be supplied with refreshment. The party afterwards partook of a *déjeûner* at the George Hotel, at the invitation of Messrs. Bull & Sons.

"It was so much better to build the new Union at Winchfield, for it was out of sight, which in many ways was how people viewed the plight of the poor. As long as they were out of sight, they were out of mind."

"Surrounded by high iron railings, the place had a forbidding appearance, and yet within its walls, the

aged and infirm, the destitute, the widows and the bastard children could find shelter.” Around 1894 Winchfield Hospital was founded in the same building.

1909 saw the start of the move towards state-funded social security with the introduction of the old age pension, and limited unemployment and sickness benefits in 1911. By 1911 it had been enlarged to house 140 people. The chapel was built in 1912.

Up to 1948 the hospital was run by the Local Authority under the Poor Law. Subsequently by the NHS. In 1962 the hospital was closed for economic reasons, leading to a public outcry. It was ironic - times and opinions had changed.

Under North Hampshire District Health Authority it was in use as a hospital for geriatric care from 1974 to 1982, possibly until 1984. In 1986 the hospital was converted into the current privately owned residential houses and apartments.

*We have not been able to find out what, if anything, the buildings were used for from 1962 to 1974 – any information to complete the records to Winchfield Parish Council please!*

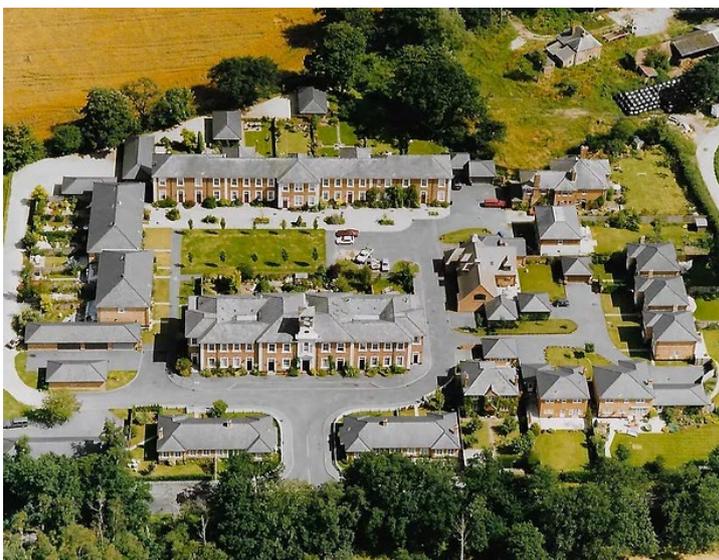
At the front, two entrance blocks included male and female tramp wards, with a courtyard behind. The main block included the board-room, offices, dining hall, kitchen etc.



Behind the main block were various workshops, the laundry, and courtyards. An infirmary and fever wards stood at the rear.



(c) www.workhouses.org.uk  
Hartley Wintney infirmary from the south-west, 2001



Source material:

Winchfield and the Hospital – Anne Pitcher

The Records of Winchfield – Rev Seymour

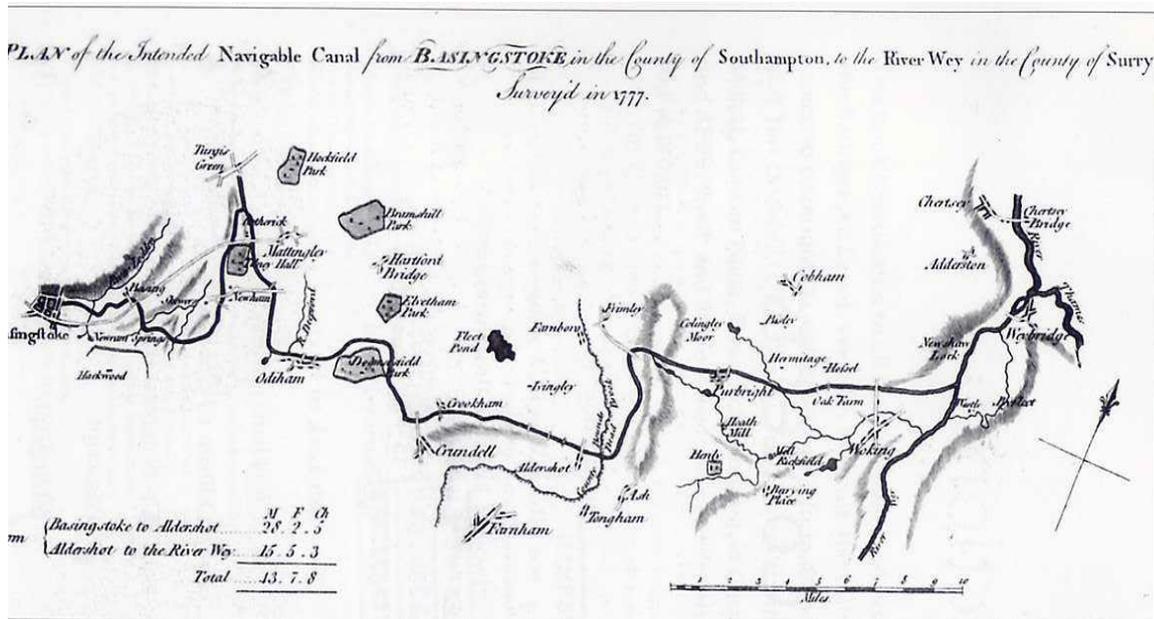
[www.workhouses.org.uk](http://www.workhouses.org.uk)

[www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk)

<https://www.winchfieldcourt.org/>

## 18. A Brief History of The Basingstoke Canal

The Basingstoke Canal was conceived to transport agricultural produce from central Hampshire to London and its markets via the river Thames. The original 71km (44 miles) route included a loop around Greywell Hill that took the canal up to Rotherwick, with a short arm going to Turgis Green, but this met with opposition from the owner of nearby Tylney Hall. As a result, a decision was made to tunnel through Greywell Hill rather than go round it, and this route, reduced to 60km (37 miles), was approved by an Act of Parliament in 1778. However, work did not commence until ten years later owing to financial restraints as a result of the costly War of American Independence.



Original Route Plan

The Canal was completed on 4 September 1794 at a cost of £154,463 – almost twice the estimated cost. A series of 29 locks cover the 59m (195ft) rise in the canal to Aldershot. The 1.6km (1mile) -long cutting at Deepcut, the 1,000 yard long embankment crossing the Blackwater Valley on the Surrey/Hampshire border, and Greywell Tunnel 1.1km (1,230 yards) long, are the major engineering features.

The Canal was moderately successful in its early years during the Napoleonic wars, as coastal traffic was disrupted in the Channel due to French naval action and therefore most goods which originally were taken by coastal sailing ship were being transported by land means. Competition with the railways in the 1840's meant that the Canal lost most of its lucrative small goods traffic which was attracted to the faster, more modern railway. The building of Aldershot Camp in the late 1850's gave the Canal a brief boost but once the Camp was up and running the Canal Company became insolvent and the Canal was run for some years by the Official Receiver.

The wharf for shipment of goods to and from Winchfield was adjacent to the Barley Mow Bridge. The cost of shipping a ton of goods from Winchfield to London was 9 shillings and 8 pence (47p in new money). There is no indication as to how long the shipment took.



**A Canal Society barge being launched at Barley Mow Bridge.**

**Dogmersfield school children spectate from the bridge.**

The canal was never a commercial success and fell into disuse even before the construction of the London and South Western Railway, which runs parallel to the canal along much of its length. Commercial use ended in 1910 but low-level use of the canal continued.

In 1913 Mr A.J.Harmsworth tried to navigate the canal, motivated by a desire to keep the canal open - the Canal Act of 1778 specified that if the canal was not used for 5 years then the land the canal was built on would be returned to the original owners. It is thought that it proved impossible to navigate the entire canal but despite this the canal was not abandoned. Mr Harmsworth purchased the canal in 1922 and ran a number of boats on it for a mix of limited commercial carrying and pleasure cruising.



**A Sunday outing in the 1950s**

During the Second World War the canal formed part of the GHQ Line designed to put the country into a state of defence. This was the last line after the coastal defences and was designed to block the progress of armoured columns, setting them up for a counterattack. There is still evidence of "tiger teeth" and other tank traps as well as five pillboxes between Baseley's Bridge and the Sandy Hill embankment.

The Canal was sold upon Mr Harmsworth's death in 1947 and by 1950 was in the hands of the New Basingstoke Canal Co. Ltd. This company did not maintain the Canal and by 1964 the Canal was almost totally derelict. The Canal was perceived to be an eyesore in the late 1960's. In 1966, the Surrey and Hampshire Canal Society was formed by a group of local canal enthusiasts, with a view to reopening the derelict Canal as a public amenity as the towing path was still almost continuous for 52km (thirty two miles) of the Canal's length.

The section from Greywell Tunnel to Basingstoke had been abandoned and partially filled in many years before and it was only considered possible to restore the towpath and possibly the Canal to navigation from Greywell Tunnel to the River Wey.



The Surrey and Hampshire Canal Society purchased a floating steam dredger and set about restoring it to use for dredging from Odiham to Fleet, taking some nineteen years to complete the task.

Its distinctive noise was discernible throughout most of the village. After about 18 years of restoration, 32 miles of the Canal was officially re-opened by His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent on 10 May 1991.

### **Dredger “Perseverance” built in 1934**

Boat numbers are limited because most of the canal has been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) for its unique water chemistry, range of aquatic plants and odonata (dragon and damsel flies).

The western section from North Warnborough to Basingstoke remains un-navigable from the point at which it enters the Greywell Tunnel. The tunnel partially collapsed in 1932 where it passes from chalk into clay geology and is now inhabited by a protected bat colony making it unlikely that the tunnel will ever be restored.



The canal used to start from the centre of Basingstoke, but the last 8km (5 miles) of the canal route have now been lost. The old canal route passes under the perimeter ring road and then follows a long loop partly on an embankment to pass over small streams and water meadows towards Old Basing, where the route goes around the now ruined palace of Basing House and then through and around the eastern edge of Old Basing. A lot of this section was built over when constructing the M3. The section of the canal from Up

Nately to the western entrance of the Greywell Tunnel still exists and is a nature reserve; there is water in the canal and the canal towpath can be walked.

Many visitors to Winchfield arrive by the John Pinkerton 2, the Canal Society's canal boat. Many trips take 50 visitors. Several narrow boats for hire and smaller boats also visit from Odiham, and less frequently from Fleet. Two boats for disabled people are also based at Odiham and often come to Winchfield.

Sources: Hantsweb, Basingstoke Canal Society and local enthusiast knowledge.

<http://www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk/> <https://basingstoke-canal.org.uk/about/the-canal/canal-restoration-re-opening/>

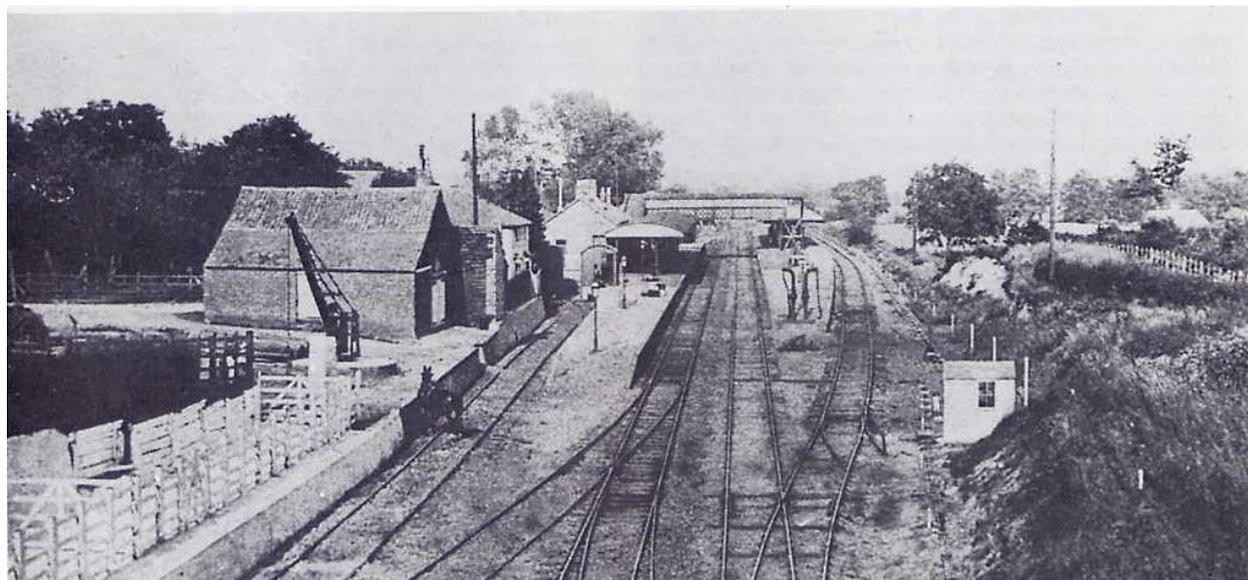
## 19. The arrival of the Railway to Winchfield in 1838

The Enabling Bill for the *London and Southampton Railway* received Royal Assent on 25<sup>th</sup> July 1834. Construction is believed to have started on 6<sup>th</sup> October 1834 using a number of small contractors working concurrently. The line was opened in sections from the London terminus at Nine Elms, first to Woking Common and then on the 24<sup>th</sup> September 1838 to Shapely Heath (renamed Winchfield when the line was fully opened). The majority of coaches running to and from the South West and West of England arrived at Winchfield. Onward journeys to Basingstoke and Southampton were by coach until 10<sup>th</sup> June 1839 and 11<sup>th</sup> May 1840 respectively when the line was fully opened. The company name was the *London and South Western Railway* and remained as such until becoming part of *Southern* in the 1923 amalgamations.

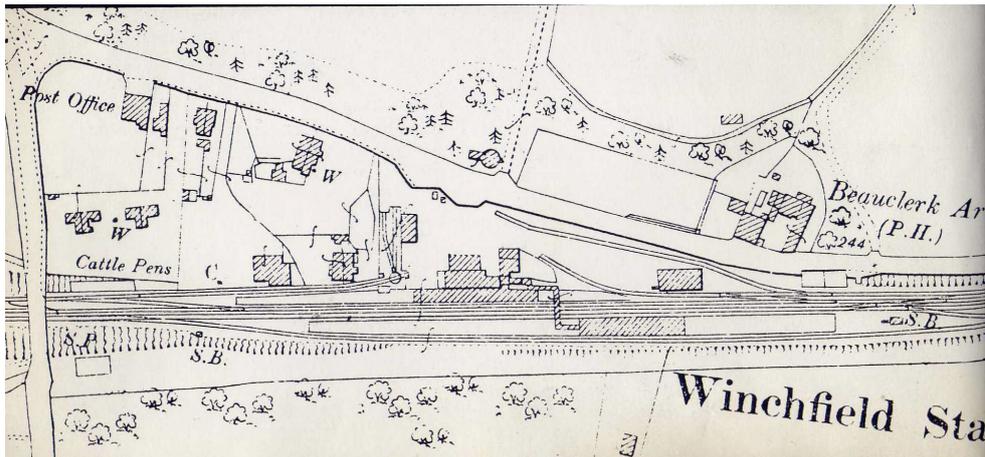
The station made a big difference to Winchfield. The adjacent stations at Fleet Pond and Hook were not opened until 1847 and 1883 respectively and neither had any goods-yard facilities. As well as the coach and passenger services there was a goods-yard on the “Up” side with cattle pens. (In railway parlance the track to London is always “Up” no matter the direction of travel).

As the only station in a large area, Winchfield became the focus for all the local and West Country mail on its way to and from London. Cattle were driven from the market on Hartford Flats for onward shipping to the abattoirs in London. A lot of hops were grown in the Alton area and until the opening of the Aldershot and Alton extensions these hops were transported by horse-and-cart to Winchfield for onward transport by rail to the breweries in London.

*Early Photograph - Pre 1904 showing the cattle pens*



## 1896 Survey View



The large building on the left at the top of Station Hill was the Post Office. This employed at least 12 postmen at its peak, and continued to be an important distribution point for the Royal Mail for many years.

The increase in freight and the rise of commuter services lead to the quadrupling of the tracks in 1904. At the same time the tunnel through Shapley Heath (now Winchfield) was replaced by the cutting we see today and the "Down" side goods-yard was opened. The "Down" lines had to kink to avoid the old platform which now formed an island and there were two signal boxes. The new downside building is distinguishable from the upside original as it has a different roof shape and structure.

Southern Railway commenced electrifying its suburban services in 1913 and neglected the main line until 1967 when the island platform and signal boxes were removed and coloured light signalling installed. Regular steam services ceased in the same year, although they were often called upon to assist failed electric and diesel services.

## Winchfield Station August 1965



In 1840 the first class fair to London was 10 shillings (50p in 'new' money). Servants in livery could travel with you for 6 shillings and 6 pence and your horse and carriage would cost 35 shillings. The journey, which did not stop between Woking and London, took 1 hour and 40 minutes (not a great improvement in the next 175 years). Third class passengers were taken by the Day Goods Train only, stopping at every station and so journey times were very much longer and far less comfortable.

There is no preservation society for the railway itself, but the station is very important for the Locomotive Preservation Societies who run steam hauled excursions. When the infrastructure for steam locomotives was in place, before electrification, they would run from Waterloo to Salisbury or Southampton without the need to take on water. Steam locomotives on current day excursions have gone from Ropley to overnight at Willesden and then via Olympia to Waterloo before they even start their excursion. They have thus used half of their water before they even leave Waterloo.

Winchfield is one of the few places where a water tanker can be manoeuvred close to the down platform. We therefore have the spectacle of these giants of a bygone age which once graced our station filling up with water before they go on their way. They normally take on board between 4000 and 4500 gallons, about 20,000 litres. The photographic opportunities are tremendous and it can be difficult to get a place on the footbridge. In 2014 there were 24 such occasions with 9 different locomotives from a variety of societies and ranging from mixed traffic "Black Fives" through to express locomotives such as the LNER's A4 "Bittern" (sister to the record holder "Mallard") and Southern Region's Merchant Navy class "Clan Line" and Battle of Britain class "Tangmere".



***Merchant Navy Class 'Clan Line' restarts her journey west.***

During their stop the platforms are not closed and it is a wonderful opportunity to get up close to these giants of yesterday in their original environment and smell the steam, smoke and hot oil. To see and hear these tremendous machines starting from a standstill and pulling 12 fully laden coaches up the hill through Shapely Heath cutting presents a memorable experience for old and young alike.

The Station Buildings and bridge in Winchfield are now recorded as Protected Assets in the Hampshire Archaeology and Historic Buildings Record (HAHBR), 68492 and 68493



## 20. The Sarsen Stones

Distinctive standing stones, known as Sarsen Stones, are to be seen mostly on the Southern boundary of Winchfield. It is believed that they might have originally been collected by Sir Henry Mildmay of Dogmersfield from local sandpits in the area or that they came from along the Chobham Ridge in Surrey and were discovered as the deep cutting for the Basingstoke Canal was dug between 1787 and 1794. It is likely that they were situated as markers along the private carriage way from Chatter Alley to Dogmersfield Park (now the Four Seasons Hotel) and later moved to mark the boundary between Dogmersfield and Winchfield.

Sarsen is a type of sandstone, extremely hard and dense, estimated to be at least 40million years old. The Stones are similar to the inner circle at Stonehenge and bear marks to the action of the Glacial period. The oddly shaped blocks appear all over Hampshire. A survey in 1974 reported over 700 Stones at 300 sites. Sarsen stone is also seen as coping or capping stones on many of the bridges along the canal. Some standing Sarsen Stones were used as bounds markers and some are marked BCN (Basingstoke Canal Navigation).

The 1974 survey references 18 Sarsen Stones in Winchfield. A recent local manual search confirmed the location of 16 of those. Stone number two is thought to be buried in undergrowth at the corner of Burnbake Copse, but is too inaccessible to confirm. The other missing stone, number 17, is thought to be buried under rubble in the copse between Stacey's Bridge and Baseley's Bridge.



*Examples of our Sarsen Stones*



**Sarsen Stones – location across Winchfield**

Stone	Location	Map reference
1	In the copse near a pond on the footpath which runs from Pale Lane to Pilcot Farm.	78301 53622
2	Not confirmed. Possibly in undergrowth at the inner corner of Burnbake Copse - not found.	78225 53612
3	Half way along the boundary line of Burnbake Copse	78223 53600
4	LH side of Chatter Alley towards Winchfield, at the end of Towpath Cottage	78186 53599
5	In the grounds of Barley Mow House, near the canal	78023 53573
6	In the grounds of Barley Mow House, on the boundary with the Arch Plantation	77955 53565
7	In the grounds of Barley Mow House, on the boundary with the Arch Plantation	77888 53534
8	In the grounds of Pepper Box , on the boundary with the Arch Plantation	77806 53487
9	In the Arch Plantation, LH side of track towards Dogmersfield Park	77745 53436
10	In the Arch Plantation, RH side of track towards Dogmersfield Park	77673 53393
11	In the Arch Plantation, LH side of track towards Dogmersfield Park	77678 53325
12	In the Arch Plantation, LH side of track towards Dogmersfield Park	77635 53245
13	In the old wood yard, between The Meads and the pylons in Sprats Hatch Lane	77552 53334
14	RH side of Sprats Hatch Lane (near pylons)	77472 53277
15	LH side of Sprats Hatch Lane (opposite Old Thatch)	77380 53204
16	In the grounds of Old Thatch towards footpath leading to Stacey's Bridge	77267 53147
17	Not confirmed. Possibly in the copse between Stacey's Bridge and Baseley's Bridge – not found.	
18	Over Baseley's Bridge towards The Old Rectory, lifted back into its original position in 2021, near the field gate.	76948 53119

## 21. Wartime Defences – Pillboxes in Winchfield

Along the canal towpath from Crookham Wharf to Winchfield there are surviving relics of World War 2 Pillboxes positioned at the edge of the woods. Most do not give them a second glance, but they were an important back-up plan to the Battle of Britain. Over 18,000 were constructed across the British Isles to resist Hitler's proposed 'Operation Sealion', the planned German Invasion of England set for 1940. They formed part of the General Headquarters (GHQ) Defence Line, connecting natural obstacles, such as the canal from the North Somerset coast and Bristol Channel through Wiltshire, Hampshire and into Berkshire.

Many remain in existence to this day, including eleven in Winchfield and a further five pillboxes close to the Winchfield Parish Boundary. A chart below gives the locations of these and other defences such as cylinders and 'dragons teeth'. Most are visible from public footpaths or roads but others are on private land and permission must be obtained from the land owner if you wish to visit.

All Pillboxes in Winchfield Parish are now recorded as protected assets in the Hampshire Archaeology and Historic Buildings Record (HAHBR). The listings in section 14 provide reference numbers and some of the locations.

We are very grateful to Tim Denton for sharing his knowledge and assistance with us. More information at <http://www.pillbox-study-group.org.uk>

### WW2 Pillboxes and Defences within Winchfield Parish

Type	Map reference	Type	Map reference
FW3/22 SP Pillbox,	SU75806 53894	FW3/25 Armco Pillbox	SU76024 53784
Loopholed Bull Pen	SU76271 52952	FW3/22 SP Pillbox	SU75960 53809,
FW3/22 SP Pillbox	SU76593 53050	FW3/22 SP Pillbox	SU75141 53770,
FW3/22 SP Pillbox	SU76301 52714	FW3/22 BP Pillbox	SU78637 53769
FW3/22 SP Pillbox	SU76699 52797	FW3/22 BP Pillbox	SU78645 54027
FW3/22 SP Pillbox	SU76170 53686		

#### On or close to the Parish Boundary

FW3/22 SP Pillbox	SU76744 52520,	Section Post	SU78732 54703,
FW3/22 SP Pillbox	SU76744 52520,	8 Sided SP Pillbox	SU78531 54765,
FW3/22 BP Pillbox	SU78680 54171,	8 Sided SP Pillbox	SU78520 54806
FW3/22 BP Pillbox	SU78745 54573,	Dragons Teeth	SU78532 54804

#### Other defences

Road Block Cylinders x 2	SU78107 53310	Road Block Cylinder x 1	SU78055 540204,
Road Block Cylinders x 4	SU78012 53635,	Road Block Remains	SU75635 53774,

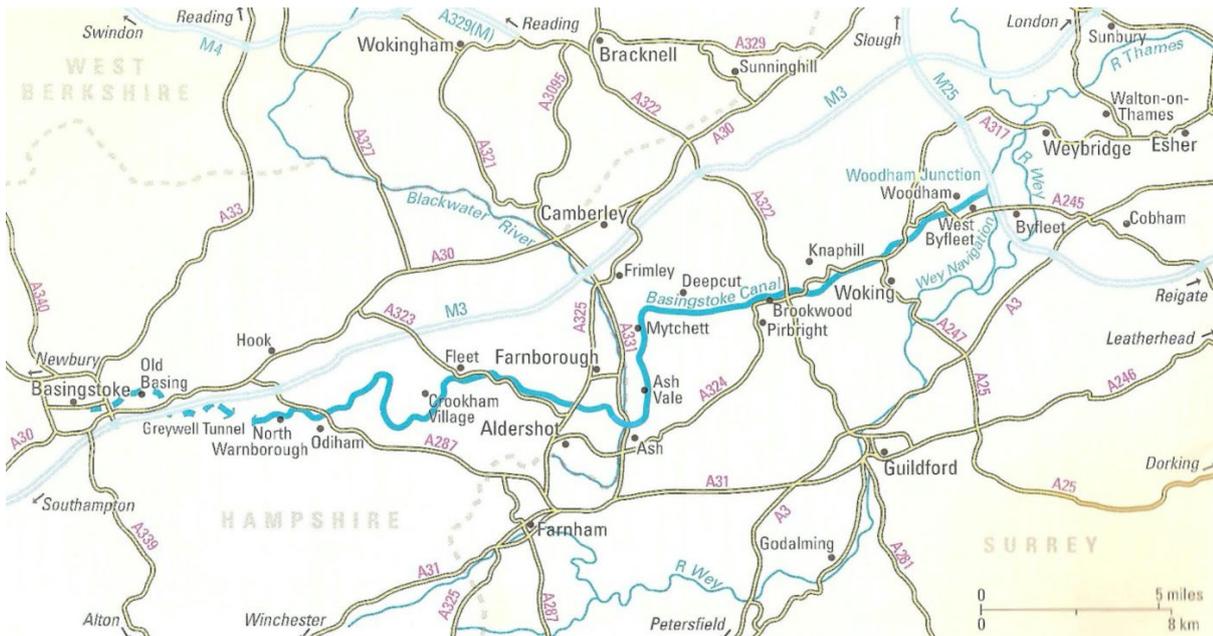
**SP = Shellproof build walls between 42 and 54 inches thick.**

**BP= Bulletproof build walls between 18 and 24 inches thick.**

**Some of the Winchfield pillboxes**



## 22. The Basingstoke Canal for Recreation



### Boating

If you have your own boat and would like to use it on the canal you'll need to purchase a licence. Simply print the information off our website [www.basingstoke-canal.co.uk](http://www.basingstoke-canal.co.uk) or contact us at the Canal Visitor Centre. Licences for unpowered boats can also be purchased online at [www.basingstoke-canal.co.uk](http://www.basingstoke-canal.co.uk).

Public boat trips are available on select weekends and during school holidays between April-September at the Canal Centre in Mytchett. For more information on public trips please contact the Canal Centre on 01252 370073. You can also hire pedalos, rowing boats and canoes. For more information on hiring the unpowered boats please contact the Canal Centre on 01252 370073.

2 1/2 hour public trips and private party cruises aboard the 'John Pinkerton' narrow boat are also available from Odiham. Trips operate regularly from April to October and further information is available by contacting the operator on 01256 765889. Galleon Marine in Odiham has a fleet of narrow boats available to hire for a single day, a short break or a longer holiday. Also on offer are rowing boats, kayaks and canoes. For more information call 01256 703691 or visit [www.galleonmarine.co.uk](http://www.galleonmarine.co.uk).



Accessible boating offer a day hire boat 'Dawn' which takes 12 passengers (6 of which can be wheelchair users). There is also a seven berth luxury holiday boat 'Madam Butterfly' specially designed for disabled use. Both boats operate from Odiham and the contact number for more information is 01252 622520 or you can visit the website [www.accessibleboating.org.uk](http://www.accessibleboating.org.uk).

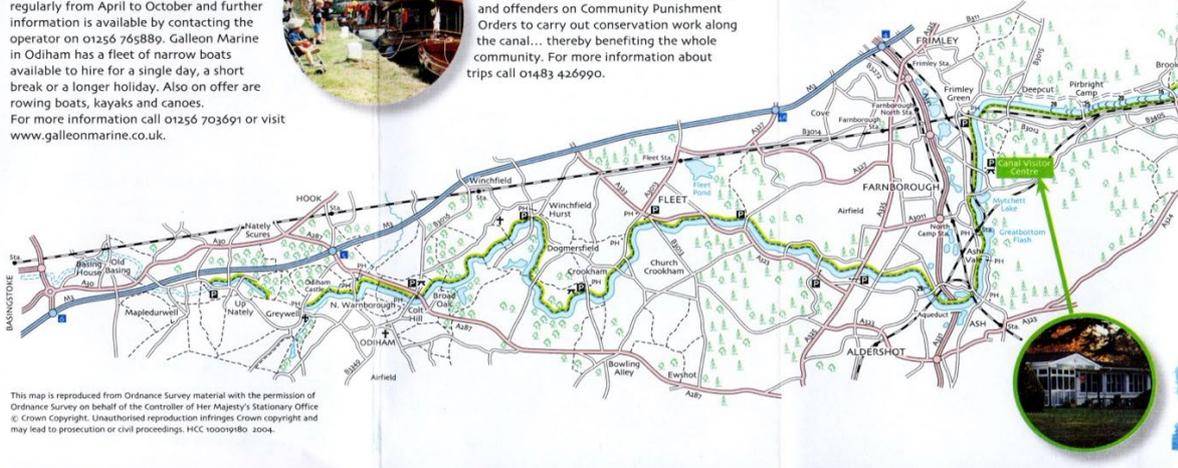
Free trips are offered for small groups aboard 'Maggie G' a special boat designed for wheelchair users. Trips operate April to October from Woking and can be arranged by calling 01483 761499.

From Easter to the end of September trips are also offered near Woking for disadvantaged community groups on a specially designed boat called 'Swingbridge'. The boat, which is wheelchair accessible, is operated by the Surrey Care Trust who work with volunteers and offenders on Community Punishment Orders to carry out conservation work along the canal... thereby benefiting the whole community... For more information about trips call 01483 426990.

### Canoeing

The Canal is perfect for Canoeing. The calm waters offer the ideal environment for a relaxing paddle or doing a spot of distance training. Two clubs use the canal, The Basingstoke & Deane Canoe Club meet regularly at Colt Hill wharf in Odiham May-August, for more information email [hello@badpaddlers.org](mailto:hello@badpaddlers.org) and the Basingstoke Canal Canoe Club who meet regularly at the Canal Visitor Centre tel. 01276 514766 or visit [www.bcc.org.uk](http://www.bcc.org.uk).

Both clubs welcome new members, run canoeing courses and arrange regular trips and social events. Based at Court Moor School in Fleet the North East Hants Water Activities Centre Association takes groups of all ages and abilities canoeing on the canal. All kinds of courses are offered including 'try a canoe' and Duke of Edinburgh Awards. For more information call 0750558399.



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More information:

<https://documents.hants.gov.uk/ccbs/basingstoke-canal/Canal-Boating-Informationpack.pdf>

<https://www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk/bcs/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Circular-Rambles-on-the-Basingstoke-Canal.pdf>

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/thingstodo/countryparks/basingstokecanal>

<https://documents.hants.gov.uk/ccbs/basingstoke-canal/BCAVolhandbook.pdf>

## 23. Recreation: Angling Within Winchfield Parish

The Parish provides opportunities for coarse anglers to enjoy their pastime in tranquil rural countryside settings either bank-side around the **Winchfield Court Farm Pond** or from the towpath which meanders along the **Basingstoke Canal**. Both venues are covered by the National Annual Rod Licence Scheme administered by the UK Environment Agency and also require permits which are purchased locally each year - for the Pond, from the Farnham Angling Society and for the Canal, from the Basingstoke Canal Angling Association [BCAA]. Fishing is permitted throughout the year except for a "closed season" between 15th March and 15th June, inclusive.

The Pond is located just off the Odiham Road [B3016] at OS Map Ref. SU 754536. It has an area close to 0.2ha [0.5 acre] and was designed, created, dug and stocked by the landowner-farmer Mr Chris Glynn. The design incorporates two small and heavily vegetated islands. There are 14 designated fishing "pegs"; water depth varies between close to 1.0 - 2.5m [ about 3 - 8ft] and is heavily weeded with Canadian Pondweed and a proliferation of water-lilies. Carp species dominate (Koi, Ghost and Mirror) with "leviathans" as large as 13 - 18kg [30 - 40lb]. Roach, rudd, perch and, occasionally, bream and tench also feature.

The Basingstoke Canal runs for 52km [32 miles] between Greywell Village in Hampshire and Woodham in Surrey; 26km [16 miles] are within Hampshire. The Canal skirts the SE boundary of Winchfield Parish between Sandy Hill Bridge and the Barley Mow Bridge. It was silted-up and completely derelict until the 1960s but had been restored to a navigable waterway by the mid-1990s when it was also stocked with fish.

Working in tandem with and given financial help from the Hampshire and Surrey County Councils, the Basingstoke Canal Society [BCS] together with an "army" of volunteers have played a key role in the restoration programme throughout. So much so, that the Society received the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in 2018 in recognition of five decades of sustained effort. The waterway is now a haven for wildlife "biodiversity" and is recognised nationally as a Site of Special Scientific Interest [SSSI].

Within - Parish, the Canal varies between about 10 - 12m in width [30 - 40ft] with a central "channel" created by boat traffic which is typically 1.0 - 1.5m [3 - 5ft] deep. The marginal "shelves" alongside each bank are much shallower. Fishing by rod and line is permitted only from the towpath and not from any watercraft or in the vicinity of any public wharf. Most anglers are "pleasure" fishermen, either individuals, pairs or small groups, rather than those larger numbers which are often involved in "match fishing" events organised either by the BCAA or by affiliated clubs. There is access and "fishing stations" catering for the wellbeing of disabled anglers at the Barley Mow Bridge. Anglers, wildlife and SSSI status in harmony!

The Winchfield stretch is very much a "mixed fishery" with predominately roach, rudd and "skimmer" bream [collectively referred to as "silver fish"] as well as perch and gudgeon. Larger but far fewer tench, chub, bream and perch in the range 0.5 - 1.5kg [about 1 - 3lb] are "bonus" fish. Even larger and correspondingly rarer carp and pike feature over the summer and winter months, respectively.

Invasion of the Canal by the American Signal Crayfish is a perennial threat and a serious "bio-hazard" for the native white-clawed crayfish. This voracious predator "excavates" tunnels into the bank which hastens erosion and has a diet which includes small fish and fish eggs. The BCS is vigilant in ongoing efforts to control the alien menace and administers a programme of permitted trapping and removal.

## 24. Winchfield in Perspective (Landscapes and Views)

### Agriculture - Rural Environment - Development - The Citizen

1. "Agriculture" is a human activity carried out primarily to produce food, feed, fibre, fuel and other materials by the deliberate and controlled use of mainly terrestrial plants and animals [and see **Footnote 1** on p. 133]. As citizens [see **Footnote 2**], we share common concerns for the safe, responsible and sustainable use in agriculture of resources such as water and energy and for the impact of agricultural activities on ourselves and the environment.
2. There have been major changes in UK agriculture over the years. The move towards larger fields, the wholesale grubbing-out of trees and hedges and the introduction of new crops [e.g. oil-seed rape] have altered the national natural landscape considerably. These changes have had and will continue to have huge implications for wildlife, conservation and biodiversity. The impacts are local and many are also felt well beyond the farm gate.
3. The fundamental requirements for citizens' physical and mental wellbeing are a healthy diet and lifestyle, a healthy environment and appropriate care. Not surprisingly, then, the citizens' perceptions and concerns about agriculture include not only the quality, price and safety of their food and other products but also the acceptability of its methods in relation to animal welfare and the impact on the environment and (predominantly) rural landscape.
4. Most plants occur not as individuals but as communities - including crops - which harbour their own characteristic animal, insect and microbial populations. Natural plant communities often comprise several species occupying different layers of the vegetation - from below ground [for example, often >50% of a hay meadow biomass is below-ground], mosses and wild flowers at or near ground level, shrubs and bushes as an understory, creepers, climbers and vines, and trees with most of their leaves at or close to the canopy.
5. All animals spend substantial parts of their lives either feeding or seeking food. Their concern is what do they eat and what eats them? How do they find the first and avoid the second? Almost every part of every kind of plant provides food for some animal and virtually every wild animal is eaten by another. Agricultural and rural landscapes are ecological backdrops to a dynamic interdependence of shared time and space and of reaction and interaction (short- and longer-term). Sustainable or ecological armageddon?
6. All components of our rural landscape and farming systems are linked and they affect each other. It is not sensible to look at one component of the landscape or system by itself without recognising that what it does and what happens to it will affect the other parts of both. Planning for sustainable development of our landscape must meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
7. "Development" must seek to provide real improvements in the quality of life for all citizens and to sustainably conserve the vitality and diversity of their landscapes. It is therefore "people-centred" and concentrated on improving the human condition (e.g. housing, health and recreation) and "conservation-based", focussed mainly on the variety, diversity and productivity of nature. Development and conservation are inseparable.
8. Citizens' concerns and worries about any particular issue depend on where they live, how they live and what else it is they have to worry about. The relatively affluent, well-fed and well-informed Hart residents are free to worry or at least to be concerned about issues such as their environment, conservation of flora and fauna, landscape sustainability, animal welfare, the use of

agrochemicals and, most recently, the immediate and longer-term impacts of the Coronavirus pandemic. However, experience everywhere shows us that individual views may carry little weight with decision-makers and that individuals, especially well-behaved ones or "moderates", can easily be ignored. There have to be channels therefore for ordinary citizens to make their views known - the *raison d'être* for your Winchfield Neighbourhood Plan [WNP].

### **The Winchfield Landscape**

9. Winchfield today remains as it has been for centuries - a small, low-lying, tranquil, rural Parish within the Hart District of North Hampshire. With a sparse population of close to 700 residents and an area of 706 ha, the Parish represents just 0.7 and 3.3% of the District totals, respectively. These "bare" statistics, however, belie the vital importance of the Parish as a readily accessible "green lung" at the centre of the Hart District and close to much larger and more urban settlements.

10. Areas of natural woodland and small pockets of ancient copse together represent about 12% of the Parish area and are linked by corridors of equally ancient mixed-species hedgerows. Together, they punctuate the Parish's rural patch-worked landscape of permanent grassland and floristic meadows [about 43%] and low-intensity mixed arable cropping in the light surface soil horizons above the clay sub-soil [the remaining 45%].

11. Our vision for 2037 is that Winchfield is a thriving and inspirational Parish where the natural beauty, wildlife biodiversity, cultural heritage and farming systems are conserved, sustained and enhanced. Many of these fascinating ranges of habitats and species are fragile and rare. Several of them are adjacent to or accessed through privately-owned land. Owners, residents and visitors alike will enjoy, support and help share an unswerving commitment to look after them. Care and respect will be essential. Consensus rules - OK?

### **Winchfield in Perspective: Landscape Characteristics and Views**

12. "What a beautiful rural village"....."The canal contributes so much to the tranquil amenity of the Parish"....."What a simply pleasant place this is". These are just a tiny sample of the innumerable generously-worded descriptions of what makes the village and wider Parish of Winchfield such a special place to live and work - the "Heart of Hart", the "Green lung" at the centre of the Hart District. Splendid stuff!

13. Unfortunately, there are neither legal definitions nor mathematical formulae to help us quantify, explain or even to agree between ourselves let alone to others what it is we mean by "beauty", "amenity" or "pleasant". These are impressions which have to be experienced, seen and felt and will evoke different emotions in different citizens.

14. In effect, the personal perceptions or values or choice of adjectives which are used to celebrate Winchfield are all in one way or another all about "Landscapes" and their "Characteristics", and for these terms there are fortunately widely accepted descriptions which are used to ensure consistency and so to avoid ambiguity.

15. Landscapes. The Council of Europe in October 2000 defined "Landscape" as ..... "An area, perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors. The term applies equally to natural, rural and urban areas".

16. Citizens' perceptions and experiences of landscape vary through their responses to visual stimuli, hearing, smell, touch, taste and their associations and memories. Citizens' social,

economic and environmental needs are heavily influenced by their surrounding landscape which therefore contributes markedly to their quality of life.

17. Characteristics. Landscape characteristics are those elements [individual components] or combination of elements which make a particular contribution to an overall distinctive character. Key characteristics are those elements individually or in combination which are particularly important to the current character of the landscape and so help to give an area a particularly distinctive sense of place [e.g. within the Parish or the Parish itself].

18. Key characteristics are particularly important in the development of planning and management policies. If these characteristics change or are lost there would be significant and often negative or detrimental consequences for the current character of the landscape. They are highly valued characteristics which should be conserved and enhanced.

19. Key landscape characteristics usually include short statements about land cover, (semi) natural vegetation, field pattern, aspects of settlement and aesthetics [e.g. open skies; rolling meadows; meandering streams; strong sense of enclosure].

20. How best, then, to encapsulate, share and communicate to others the diversity and importance of these valued characteristics which are so highly prized by Winchfield residents? We have chosen to do this by way of a portfolio of "Key Views" of our village and Parish. These Views allow Winchfield's valued characteristics to be most easily appreciated, all from readily accessible public locations. Individually and collectively, the Views contribute positively to Winchfield's unique character and sense of place.

21. Each of our selection of Views is represented by a single-frame picture. That said, each View represents an experience not a static snap-shot. For example, a view from a specific location on a public footpath [or towpath] can often represent a similar view from the immediately preceding or subsequent sections of that path. What matters is the contribution of that View to the experience of Winchfield, be it when walking or cycling or riding or driving.

22. For each selected View there needs to be alongside clearly legible, "core", crisp bullet-point information on various of the following:

- location and accessibility
- orientation [e.g. looking towards; away from; up to]
- nature of view [e.g. habitation; ancient woodland; tree-lined lane]
- valued characteristics [e.g. historical/scientific merit; rural tranquillity; wildlife sanctuary]
- detractions or risks due to change or development [e.g. noise; smell; harm; visual impact; degradation; loss of land, habitat, historic building/architecture/wartime relic].

23. Those Key Views which emphasise the agro-ecological landscape and which are selected for inclusion in the WNDP(R) will feature at least one of the Key [Valued] Characteristics of the Winchfield Parish. The following list is a summary of those characteristics that contribute most prominently to the landscapes and sense of place of the Parish overall.

(i) Attractive areas of countryside containing small and medium-sized fields bounded by mixed-species hedges, copse and (ancient) woodland and with very few if any buildings [other than farm buildings] so as to provide a highly rural and mature setting.

(ii) An extensive network of narrow, tree-lined rural lanes based on historic routes providing not only access within the Parish and to and from our unusually dispersed settlement pattern but also serving as important habitats and corridors for wildlife.

(iii) A mosaic of PRow, including promoted routes, providing a high level of amenity through the sense of "escape" opportunities they present to the public.

(iv) The tree curtilage throughout the Parish which softens the transition between settlements and open countryside and so fosters an appreciation of the village's agricultural setting [and see (ix)].

(v) The nationally important and SSSI-designated Basingstoke Canal and associated picturesque conservation areas providing access to a very local countryside landscape for folk from urban areas [such as Fleet and Hook]. Experience everywhere, however, tells us that increased recreational usage will threaten wildlife and biodiversity and hasten environmental degradation. How best to manage access and minimise the many negatives?

(vi) The countryside setting for other heritage assets, listed buildings and wartime relics. For example, the iconic St Mary's church still stands alone surrounded tree-lined fields much as it did when it was built in 1150.

(vii) Examples of green infrastructure protecting against coalescence within the Parish [variously between Winchfield Station - Winchfield Hurst - Winchfield Court] and beyond [variously between Dogmersfield - Hartley Wintney - Fleet - Hook].

(viii) **Negatives!** Corridors of intrusion [M3, railway, high voltage transmission pylons] with associated noise, loss of amenity, barriers to the intra-parish movement of people and animals; harsh boundary post-and-rail fencing [e.g. paddocks] - all have negative and often severe visual impacts on landscape character.

[Slow moving agricultural vehicles leaving mud all over the road can annoy citizens too!]

(ix) Trees. Important amenity value; screen and integrate developments; wildlife habitats; positive contribution to feeling of "wellbeing" of humans; variations in age, size and canopy form, evergreen and seasonally deciduous are all added attractions to the landscape year.

(x) Educate and inform the public. Composite of walkers, cyclists, boaters, riders and vehicles.

\* **Footnote 1** : Hart District Council Planners say that *"Agriculture includes horticulture, fruit growing, seed growing, dairy farming, the breeding and keeping of livestock (including any creature kept for the production of food, wool, skins or fur, or for the purpose of its use in the farming of land), the use of land as grazing land, meadow land, osier land, market gardens and nursery grounds, and the use of land for woodlands where that use is ancillary to the farming of land for other agricultural purposes"*.

\* **Footnote 2** : The word "citizen" has sometimes been used [at the risk of sounding pompous or pretentious] because it expresses the combination of rights and responsibilities involved in discussing the "development" of our common and shared landscapes.

*Emeritus Professor R.J. Summerfield DSc*

*1<sup>st</sup> August 2020*

## 25. Rural Crime and Rural Policing

### A Rural, Wildlife and Heritage Crime in the UK

(i) Rural Criminality, the Crown Prosecution Service [CPS] says, has no set definition but is broadly classified as *"Any crime and anti-social behaviour occurring in rural areas"*. Nationally, Rural Criminality is often linked to Organised Crime Groups who target rural communities across a range of crime types - for example, organised theft and burglary or poaching and hare coursing - see Selected Further Reading (b).

(ii) **The Rural Crime Types** most often prioritised by police forces throughout the UK are: (a) **Burglary and Theft** of farm machinery, plant and vehicles [including quad bikes and tractors], tools and equipment - often taken from barns and outbuildings; (b) **Livestock Offences** - including animal worrying, livestock attacks and fly grazing; (c) **Fuel Theft** - heating oil, diesel and petrol; (d) **Equine Crimes** - theft of trailers, boxes and tack and animal neglect; (e) **Fly-tipping** - household and commercial waste; and (f) **Poaching** - notably of deer and fish – see Selected Further Reading (a).

(iii) **Wildlife Crimes**, as defined by the CPS, are *"Any actions which contravene current legislation governing the protection of wild animals and plants"*. Those which pose the greatest threats to the conservation status of a species and/ or have the highest volume of trade are: (a) **Bat Persecution**; (b) **Bird of Prey Persecution** through poisoning, trapping, shooting, disturbance and/or theft of nests and eggs; (c) **Badger Persecution**; (d) **Poaching**, including hare coursing; and (e) **Trade** in ivory and any species listed as "Endangered" by International Convention.

(iv) **Heritage Crimes** are defined as *" Any offence which harms the value of heritage assets and their settings to this and future generations and includes all offences involving cultural property - i.e. moveable or immovable property of great importance to the cultural heritage of every people [ includes objects such as paintings, jewellery, literature, sculpture and ceramics]*. The Heritage and Cultural Property crimes prioritised in National Threat Assessments are: (a) **Architectural Theft** - especially of metals and stone; (b) **Criminal Damage** - in particular that caused by arson; (c) **Unlawful Metal Detecting**; (d) **Fly-tipping** and off-road driving; (e) **Unauthorised Works** to or on heritage sites; and (f) **Illicit Trade** in cultural objects.

(v) Taken together under the umbrella of "Rural Criminality", the crimes described in (ii), (iii) and (iv) above often have a significant impact on victims and communities - including vandalism of property, loss of income, intimidation and a raft of traffic issues both on- and off-road. The National Farmers Union (NFU) have emphasised that *"Rural crimes are seasonal and very different to urban crimes and require specialist police attention"*.

(vi) If a remote barn or outbuilding is burgled and high-value kit or equipment is stolen - an increasingly common scenario - it is not simply the cost and logistics delay in replacing those items which bedevil the victims but also the fact that agronomic operations at critical times of the agricultural or horticultural calendar can be seriously disrupted or prevented, leading to poor crop yields or losses in quality and value.

(vii) Rural crimes often involve trespass and significant criminal damage; rural businesses and sites, including equine enterprises and "protected" ecological reserves, are often very difficult to secure.

(viii) Perpetrators often use threatening behaviour if confronted in isolated or remote locations, putting individuals and communities at risk. In those situations, already limited resources for rural policing are further stretched so that response times are lengthened, further eroding the confidence of

rural communities in the Hampshire Constabulary-see Selected Further Reading (c) and summary in [C] (viii).

## B Hampshire County and Hart District Criminality: By way of perspective

(i) The total recorded crime figure [excluding fraud] for Hampshire in 2020 was 144,121 cases. The Hart District's total for that year was 5,252 - representing just 3.6% of the County's crime-load, which equates to 54 crimes per 1,000 people and numerically, pro-rata, to 35 crimes for Winchfield's population of 650.

(ii) The major feature of the District-wide pattern of types of crime was repeated across all four Police Wards including locally in both Hart Rural North [the Police Ward which includes Hartley Wintney and Hook] and again in Hart Rural South [which includes Winchfield, Dogmersfield, Odiham and North Warnborough plus several other smaller villages and hamlets]. Domestic Violence/Sexual Offences plus incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour accounted for almost exactly 50% of reported crime throughout the entire District.

(iii) For the twelve-month period ending in December 2020, these data are given in Table 1 below [within-column proportions (%) are given in parentheses]:

**Table 1. Principal Crime Types throughout The Hart District in 2020**

Type of Crime	Hart District	Fleet	Yateley / Blackwater / Hawley	Hart Rural North	Hart Rural South
Domestic Violence / sexual offences	1,604 (31)	671 (30)	383 (30)	295 (30)	255 (33)
Anti-social Behaviour	1,201 (23)	532 (24)	329 (26)	222 (23)	118 (15)
<b>Total crimes</b>	<b>5,252</b>	<b>2,202</b>	<b>1,286</b>	<b>982</b>	<b>782*</b>

(iv) Whilst the **Hart Rural South figure (\*) was the smallest total across all four Police Wards over the Hart District, i.e. the Ward is a relatively safe place to live**, what is nevertheless much less reassuring is that the number of burglaries (73) was the second highest within Hart and that 87 criminal damage and arson incidents were also recorded. These categories of crime feature prominently in Rural Areas nationally and are illustrated by the **set of recent Hampshire Constabulary data given in Table 2** - see [C] (ii) below].

(v) In an interview with the *Basingstoke Gazette* [ 5th August 2020], Strategic Rural Inspector Korine Bishop of the Hampshire Constabulary explained " *We have set up County Watch Teams, Neighbourhood Police Teams, Response and Patrol Officers and linkages with bordering police forces. Criminals in the countryside are being robustly targeted. We will relentlessly pursue them to prevent them from using our road network*". All well and good, then? Sadly, not so, it seems - see [C] (vi) and [C] (vii) below.

(vi) **Notwithstanding (v) above**, the findings of the **Rural Crime Survey** conducted in 2020 by the Countryside Alliance in collaboration with Hampshire Police has revealed alarming public scepticism and dissatisfaction with the attitude of the police to rural crime and with the ability of the police to tackle rural criminality within the County and also to bring culprits to justice. No wonder, then, that a common opinion in the County's rural communities is that the incidence of rural crimes has increased throughout the last decade and the ability of the Hampshire police to tackle rural criminality has not improved throughout that time-span. To emphasise the point - see [B] (vii) below.

(vii) Data gathered by NFU Mutual reveal that Rural Crime in Hampshire increased year-on-year by 21% in 2020 at an estimated cost to residents of £1.3 million. Indeed, the Hampshire Constabulary itself have also highlighted the adverse impact of these losses on insurance premiums and food prices as well as on anxiety, stress and the quality of life in the rural community.

### C Criminology in the Police Ward of Hart Rural South

The Hampshire Constabulary have followed CPS Guidelines in classifying Rural Criminality in the County.

(i) Other than Domestic Violence/ Sexual crimes and incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour [see Table 1 above and Table 2 below], the crimes in Hart Rural South tend to fall into those four basic categories identified and summarised by the Constabulary as follows:

a) **Agricultural Thefts:** loss of machinery, physical plant, fuel, livestock and quad-bikes - items which are often taken from farm barns and outbuildings which are themselves damaged by the miscreants. The costs of dealing with fly-tipping, which are the responsibility of landowners, have also escalated.

b) **Equine:** notably theft of tack and animal worrying.

c) **Heritage:** offences which harm the value of (national) heritage assets and their settings to the detriment of the current and future generations - e.g. theft of lead from church buildings, disfigurement of ancient monuments and illegal metal detecting.

d) **Wildlife:** notably poaching, disturbance to protected species or habitats and a "raft" of eco-vandalism.

e) *As an aside. In a joint report to the Henley Standard newspaper on 26th June 2020, a trio of Senior Land Managers described how in under six months during 2020, an astounding 25 out of 73 Nature Reserves in the cluster of three near-neighbouring counties (Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire) were "trashed" (i.e. suffered serious damage) from episodes of: vandalism, graffiti, fly-tipping and littering, heath fires and bbq scorching, out-of-control dogs worrying wild animals, disturbance of nesting sites, illegal use of water craft on sites set aside for wildlife, trespass, illegal fishing, drone flying, trampling of vegetation and theft of wild orchids and other botanicals, damage to waterside banks, gates, fences and buildings [including waste bins and public toilets], cycling on narrow permissive paths, speeding traffic, nuisance parking and the blocking of access gates and hindering the progress of emergency service vehicles, excessive drinking, noise and light pollution, loutish behaviour and insults to National Trust staff.*

(ii) Closer still to home. Hampshire Constabulary crime figures for Hart Rural South over the past three years and for the twelve-month period from July 2020 to June 2021 are given in Table 2 below.

**Table 2. Criminology throughout the Hart Rural South Police Ward**

Category of crime	Total number reported		Proportion (%) of Ward Total	
	Last three years	2020 – 2021*	Last three years	2020 - 2021*
Domestic violence / sexual offences	689	247	33.2	34.0
Anti-social behaviour	264	120	12.7	16.5
Criminal damage and arson	229	76	11.0	10.5
Burglary	217	66	10.5	9.1
Other Theft	218	63	10.3	8.7
Public Order	156	58	7.5	8.0
Vehicle Crime	137	40	6.6	5.5
Shoplifting	46	16	2.2	2.2
Drugs	39	20	1.9	2.8
'Other Crime'	37	11	1.8	1.5
Bicycle Theft	25	4	1.2	0.6
Possession of Weapons	10	2	0.5	0.3
Robbery	6	4	0.3	0.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,073</b>	<b>727</b>	<b>100**</b>	<b>100**</b>

\* July 2020 - June 2021

\*\* Including Rounding

(iii) In the absence of any formal statistical analyses it is impossible to attribute with confidence the significance of any differences in the twelve month data for 2020-2021 compared with calculated average annual values over the past three years. Given this reservation, what are striking in Table 2 are the increases in reported Anti-Social Behaviour and in the proportion (%) of total crime load attributed to those events [up from a (calculated) value of about 90 to 120 events and from 12.7 to 16.5%, respectively]. Indeed, those differences are not at all incompatible with the loutish behaviour and nuisance conduct reported in 2020 from rural situations across three nearby counties - see [C] (i) (e) above.

(iv) By ironic coincidence, at the time of writing this Paper, Mr Andy Walker, the Neighbourhood Watch Officer for Hartley Wintney, chose to highlight in the September issue of the "CONTACT Parish Magazine" [p. 21] the often "hidden" and insidious crimes of "Domestic Abuse" - aka "Domestic Violence/Sexual Abuse". Taken together, these crimes - when they are in fact reported -

whilst they dominate the data shown in Table 2 are outside the remit of the current work on our Neighbourhood Plan.

(v) Aside from Domestic Violence/Sexual incidents, it is the trio of what are often inter-related and very highly "visible" crimes which co-dominate the criminality picture for Hart Rural South - i.e. theft, burglary and criminal damage including arson. Their combined totals of 664 [three-year] and 205 [2020-2021] represent about one-third of reported crimes over both the longer- and shorter-term time-spans, respectively.

(vi) It is sobering that over that most recent twelve months, the Hampshire Constabulary Report for Hart Rural South reveals that the police failed to identify any suspects in 243 of the cases reported to them and were also unable - for unspecified reasons - to prosecute 140 suspects once identified. These data - 383 cases - represent 53% of the yearly total crime load of 727 cases [Table 2].

(vii) Paradoxically, and difficult to reconcile with these failings, the NFU National Survey [see p.9 in Selected Further Reading (a)] includes as a "*Highlight*" the initiatives of the County Watch Team [CWT] created to combat Rural Crime in Hampshire [see [B] (v) above]! Furthermore, in outlining that initiative, SRI Bishop made no mention when interviewed of the numbers of police officers per 1,000 people who are to be devoted to the CWT or where in the vicinity of our rural neighbourhoods they are being located?

(viii) The Rural Crime Survey undertaken by the Countryside Alliance in tandem with Hampshire Police [see Selected Further Reading (c)] canvassed over 8,000 people who live and work in the County's countryside and of whom:

- \* 98% think crime is significant in their community;
- \* 77% think crime has increased in the last 12 months;
- \* 46% of those who reported crimes were dissatisfied with the police response;
- \* 45% don't think the police take rural crime seriously; and just
- \* 53% rate the police as "good" or "excellent" in their area.

## **D Planning Nationally and Locally and (Rural) Criminality**

(i) **Do the rubrics of either the NPPF (2021) or of any Hart Local Planning Policy Documents specifically exclude consideration of rural criminality when it comes to making decisions on planning applications?**

(ii) **The NPPF (2021) says that in achieving sustainable development there is the overarching Social Objective "*To support strong, vibrant and healthy communities.....by fostering the development of well-designed, beautiful and safe places with accessible services and open spaces.....to support communities' health, social and cultural wellbeing*".**

(iii) In re-reading the following Neighbourhood Plans I can find no reference in any one of them to any Vision or Objectives which focus on community or neighbourhood safety or security - either at present or into the future: Dogmersfield Parish NP [2016 - 2032] June 2019; Odiham and North Warnborough NP [2014 - 2032] June 2017; Hook NP [2018 - 2032] February 2020; Hartley Wintney NP [2017 - 2032] August 2019; and the Winchfield Neighbourhood Development Plan [2015 - 2032] March 2017.

(iv) Do these omissions reflect complete confidence throughout Hart Rural North and Hart Rural South in the ability of the Hampshire Constabulary to effectively police rural criminality over the target time-spans? If not, what should our Neighbourhood Plan say about those concerns as we look to our future wellbeing?

## E Selected Further Reading

The literature devoted to Rural Criminality in the UK is extensive and, increasingly, is not primarily available in hard-copy print format. I have selected just four items which are intended to combine to give a well-informed and reader-friendly coverage of the subject-matter in order to supplement the reading of this Discussion Paper.

- (a) A comprehensive 24pp. document entitled "**Combating Rural Crime**" produced by the English and Welsh NFUs: <https://www.nfuonline.com/assets/97937combatruralcrime>
- (b) A 6pp. overview produced by the Crown Prosecution Service [CPS] giving the legal framework associated with "**Wildlife, Rural and Heritage Crime**" : <https://www.cps.gov.uk/crime-info/wildlife-rural-and-heritage-crime>
- (c) A 2pp. summary of the data generated from the "**2020 Rural Crime Survey**" undertaken by the Countryside Alliance in collaboration with the Hampshire onstabulary: <https://www.countryside-alliance/our-work/campaigns/rural-crime-survey-2020>
- (d) The 7 pp. "**Report from the Hampshire Constabulary which gives an overview of criminality in Hart Rural South for the twelve-month period from July 2020 to June 2021**" <https://www.police.uk/your-area/hampshire-constabulary/hart-rural-south/?tab=statistics>

Emeritus Professor R.J. Summerfield DSc

30th August 2021

## Combating Rural Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour in Winchfield

[Supplement to WNP(R) Discussion Paper "Rural Crime and Rural Policing", August 2021, Pp. 6] [4]

(i) The UK's NPPF (2021) has the overarching social objective .....*"To support strong, vibrant and healthy communities....by fostering the development of well-designed, beautiful **and safe places** for people to live and work..... with the benefits of accessible services and open spaces....."*

(ii) The Rural Crime Survey undertaken by the Countryside Alliance in 2020 in collaboration with the Hampshire Constabulary canvassed more than 8,000 people who live and work in the County's rural countryside. Of those residents surveyed: 98% said that crime is a significant concern in their neighbourhood; 78% were convinced that crime is increasing year-on-year; 46% of those who had reported a crime were dissatisfied with the police response; and 45% believe that the Hampshire police see the countryside as "remote" and do not take rural crime and anti-social behaviour [ASB] sufficiently seriously.

- (iii) Natural England has the prime ambition.....*"To enhance public access to and enjoyment of the natural environment whilst not damaging the features of interest"*.
- (iv) During the Covid pandemic in 2020, a total of 25 out of the 73 Nature Reserves across Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire were "trashed" (i.e. suffered serious damage) as a result of ASB, acts of vandalism and a wide range of other criminal activity by the visiting general public.
- (v) We calculate from independent estimates that pre-Covid pandemic visitor numbers to the Basingstoke Canal towpath and open water were in the region of 3,900 - 4,500 people per SSSI mile per month - and we have a "honey-pot" access point at the Barley Mow car park. These visitors, albeit transient, effectively increase the population of the Parish by a factor of about x5 - x6. What threats do they bring with them?
- (vi) After a diligent search of published sources locally, regionally and nationally, there is no doubting that those Neighbourhood Plans which are now in the public domain make virtually no reference to any Aspiration or Policy on rural policing or ASB; most do not even mention community safety in rural areas - other than for issues which concern road safety for both people and animals.
- (vii) Hampshire has an area of 96,293ha of which an estimated 75% are classified as "Rural". These areas [about 72,200ha] are homes for approximately 323,000 predominantly [>90%] "White-British" people [2022 estimated], which equates to about one-quarter of the County's population of circa 1.4 million [1].
- (viii) The population of the Hart District is close to 370,000 of which an estimated 9,000 [2.4%] live in 25 rural villages and about 4,500 [1.2%] live in 14 rural hamlets. [What traditionally distinguishes a "Village" from a "Hamlet" is the presence of a church].
- (ix) As of July 2022, the Hampshire mainland "Rural and Wildlife Country Watch Policing Team" which has been set up by the Hampshire Constabulary to support Local Neighbourhood Teams **over the entire County** comprised just: one police sergeant, nine police constables, three police staff investigators, five special constables plus (vaguely) *"a number of volunteers and access to a number of drones"*. This gives a human resource base totalling 18 staff who are delegated with the responsibility of preventing, disrupting and solving rural and wildlife crimes and incidents involving ASB [3]. **Daunting!**
- (x) The resources which are made available to police the County's rural areas will inevitably impact on what can be achieved. The ratios of numbers of police professionals relative to (a) the area of coverage and (b) the size and dispersal of the rural population are daunting statistics for those who have the dedicated responsibility for safety and the quality of life in Hampshire's rural areas.
- (xi) Prospects for success will be all the more likely if locally-dedicated police officers and staff have specialist training and local knowledge and if they interact proactively with PCSOs, volunteer groups, Neighbourhood Watch and Rural Warden Schemes, elected local public representatives and so on. Details of "Barn Meetings" and the annual calendar of Parish Council meetings which can foster these sorts of interactions are published on the WPC website. [The Hampshire Constabulary have a standing invitation to send a representative to meetings of the WPC but have not done so for several years!].
- (xii) Residents need to play their part too and need to remain alert to suspicious behaviour and take responsibility for prompt action [but not in so doing to jeopardize personal safety] and to inform the police as soon as possible. Sadly, calling 101 is widely recognised locally as a fruitless or even hopeless undertaking given that telephone responses are seldom prompt and then they involve a

voice from some remote urban centre rather than from someone who is familiar with the area and its problems. A more rewarding route is via: <https://www.hampshire.police.uk/ro/report/>

(xiii) **Entitlement and expectations:** We are told by HMG [2] that UK citizens who are the victim of a crime:

- \* **Have** the legal right to contact the police and be kept informed about the investigation; and
- \* **That** the police must provide a written confirmation of the crime reported, a crime reference number and details of the police officer dealing with the case; and that they should
- \* **Explain** clearly what will happen next and how often they will provide updates on progress with the investigation; and then
- \* **Carry** out a "needs assessment" to find out the support which may be needed; and
- \* **Arrange** for a Victim Support Organisation to make contact within two days. Finally.
- \* **The** police must tell the victim within five days when a suspect is arrested or charged or released on bail or given a non-custodial penalty. If they decide to drop the case they must also tell the victim within five days.

(xiv) **Aspiration for the Winchfield Neighbourhood Plan**

**To introduce, promote and monitor measures to improve traffic management and road safety and also other initiatives to mitigate rural criminality and ASB by informing police and political focus, improving Constabulary resources, promoting residents' crime awareness and fostering dialogue between the public and the Hampshire Constabulary in order to improve levels of detection and conviction along with outcomes for the treatment and wellbeing of victims to the standards of entitlement expected by HMG.**

## References

- [1] Quarendon, G. (2016). Socio-economic profile of rural Hampshire: demography and area. *Hampshire County Council Research and Intelligence Report*, Pp. 27.
- [2] HMG (2022). After a crime: your rights. <https://www.gov.uk/your-rights-after-crime>, Pp. 3.
- [3] Bishop, K. (2022). In *Hampshire Constabulary Rural Times Issue 10, July 2022*, p. 3.
- [4] Summerfield, R.J. (2021). Rural crime and rural policing. *Discussion Paper for WPC*, Pp.6.

*Emeritus Professor R.J.Summerfield DSc*

*24<sup>th</sup> August 2022*

## 26. Neighbourhood Policing Team – Barn Meeting Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2022

Summary Notes from Cllr Louise Hodgetts

Christine Strudwick and I attended the Barn Meet over in Rotherwick on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb. It must be said, not only was there a great turn out by the public (I'd say between 50 – 60 people), but also from the Neighbourhood Policing Team, the Crown Prosecution Service, and the Rural Volunteer Mounted Patrol.

Key takeaways which we may want to consider how to share with the residents of Winchfield.

Neighbourhood Policing Team

- The session was facilitated by Sergeant Martyn Evans of Hart North Police.
- The Neighbourhood Policing Team is very keen to work with the rural community to understand better the gaps in current engagement.

I asked how communities can access information about rural crimes as unfortunately the data available to the public does not give that level of detail. Chief Inspector Kirsten Troman acknowledged this limitation and suggested it was something Sgt. Martyn Evans and his team could look into.

- The work of the Neighbourhood Policing Team focuses heavily on intelligence and so encouraged the community to report all crime and suspicious activity. There was acknowledgement from the police that rural communities have a perception that rural crime is not prioritised by the police force and therefore individuals are either likely to report crime via 101 or not at all. There was a very clear message from the District Commander for Hart & Rushmoor, Kirsten Troman, for people to report **'crime in progress' via 999**. All suspicious activity to be reported either via 101 or via a new online reporting portal – more detail & QR code below.
- Rural crime is big business. As long as a market exists the organised criminal groups will continue to target rural communities such as those in Hart.
- Martyn and his team spend considerable time analysing data which helps to build a picture of potential org crime groups targeting rural communities in Hart. Not only are the community being encouraged to report suspicious activity, as well as crime in progress, they are being encouraged to take whatever measure they can to prevent the area being targeted by organised criminal groups.
- It may look to some that the police are not actively following up on reported rural crime, however much of what they do is intelligence gathering and analysis, which may lead to planning complex policing operations, which can take time and involve undercover surveillance.

Rural Volunteer Mounted Patrol (RVMP) & Hampshire Horse Watch (HHW)

- Did you know we had a Rural Volunteer Mounted Patrol team? Rachael Terry provided an overview of the RVMP team, which is currently a small team of 15 volunteers, with limited budget but are looking to expand covering Hampshire & IOW. David Colins set up the HHW and provided an overview of how it works with the RVMP, Police & national networks of horse watch organisations.
- RVMP & HHW were keen to promote several initiatives available to the rural and equine communities to help prevent crime.
  - The 'Paint it Pink' campaign is an initiative directed at cracking down on battery thefts. The rural community are being encouraged to etch their unique postcode onto any high-value batteries and paint them pink. Batteries such as those used in vehicles and for electric fences can be a popular choice for thieves, who sell them at scrapyards for their lead content.

- Clear Waste is a free app which allows the public to report fly tipping using what3words directly to their local authority. It also provides chargeable waste removal services by approved & licenced businesses. <https://clearwaste.com>
- RVMP provides a free tack marking service – marking of trailers, tack, farm machinery.
- Whilst HHW covers Hampshire, they liaise with other horse watch schemes across the country as an alliance to share intelligence.

#### Crown Prosecution Service

- Angharad Thomas (Senior Crown Prosecutor for Rural Crime) and Beth Sparks (Engagement Officer from Wessex CPS) provided a briefing on the role of the CPS, the stages they take to evaluate if a case will progress to criminal proceedings, working with witnesses & victims of crime, and working with the Police Force.
- The CPS has a 2-stage process in deciding if a criminal charge will be pursued:
  1. Evidential Stage – assessing if there a realistic chance of prosecution based on the evidence available.
  2. Is it in the best interests of the public - That means asking questions including how serious the offence is, the harm caused to the victim(s), the impact on communities and whether prosecution is a proportionate response.
- The community were reminded to check their CCTV on a regular basis to ensure it is working correctly and has clear visibility. Check recordings to ensure they have not missed suspicious activity, or people on their land/property without permission.
- The community were asked to help the Police and the CPS build strong evidence for criminal activity by reporting suspicious behaviour, coming forward as witnesses, taking photos/video.
- Landowners were specifically asked to record when they have given permission to others to use their land. Record dates/times/names/exact purpose so this can be corroborated with the police should it be required.

The public are encouraged to report all crime and or suspicious activity.

**If a crime is in progress dial 999.**

To report a crime has taken place or provide evidence dial 101 or report via the Hampshire website. The site has been updated to provide an easier way for rural crime to be reported.

<https://www.hampshire.police.uk/ro/report/rwc/rural/report-rural-crime/>

