

**HART BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN**  
**2012 - 2017**

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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 What is “biodiversity”?

“Biodiversity” is now a familiar term but, in fact; the origins of the word and the scientific meaning are relatively recent. The phrase “natural diversity” was more commonly used but during the 1980’s this was gradually replaced by the term “biodiversity”.

Biodiversity is more than just the number of species in a given geographic area. The term is now used to include:

- Species diversity
- Genetic diversity
- Ecosystem diversity
- Molecular diversity

Biodiversity is not evenly distributed across geographic areas. As an extreme example, the biodiversity of a hectare of ancient woodland is much higher than for a similar area of concrete hardstanding.

In the United Kingdom the most biodiverse habitats include ancient woodland, unimproved (especially chalk) grassland, grazing marsh, the marine environment, sand dunes, coastal saltmarsh, heathland and aquatic environments such as ponds and chalk streams.

To simply use the number of species in a particular habitat or geographic area as a measure of the overall “richness” can give a false impression. For example, lowland heathland is relatively impoverished in terms of fauna compared to an area of ancient oak woodland. However, many of the plants and animals found on lowland heathlands in the UK are restricted to this habitat.

Given these differences in species diversity and biodiversity itself, it is more productive to look at the conservation of biodiversity over a larger area – such as the district of Hart – being achieved by the preservation and enhancement of the individual habitats which make it up.

## 1.2 Why is biodiversity important?

The natural environment around us enriches our lives and is also an important part of both the national character and the character of local areas, such as Hart district. Maintaining the diversity of habitats and protecting the species they support is

beneficial to us in a variety of different ways. The vast array of benefits and products that both habitats and species provide are sometimes known collectively as “Ecosystem services”. These services can loosely be divided into four categories; Provisioning, regulating, cultural and supporting.

### **Provisioning**

Provisioning services relate to products which we obtain from ecosystems. These include:

- Food (fish, crops, fruit)
- Fibres and fuels
- Ornamental resources (flowers, etc)
- Genetic material (for the breeding and production of livestock etc)

### **Regulation**

Regulatory ecosystem services are benefits gained from the regulation of ecological processes.

- Air quality maintenance
- Climate regulation (tree cover can affect local climate and precipitation and ecosystems regulate emissions and greenhouse gases)
- Flood alleviation
- Erosion control
- Water purification and detoxification
- Remediation of environmental pollutants

### **Cultural/social**

Cultural or social services are non-material gains that ecosystems provide for people.

- Health and wellbeing (access to the natural environment can keep people healthy and also aid recovery from illness)
- Recreation and ecotourism
- Cultural heritage
- Aesthetic value

### **Supporting**

These are services which are required for all the other services that ecosystems provide.

- Nutrient cycling
- Soil formation
- Water cycling
- Provision of habitat

In June 2011 the Government published “The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature” White Paper. The paper outlines the vision for the next 50 years for biodiversity in the UK and makes reference to the National Ecosystem Assessment. It makes it clear that government and society need to account better for the value of nature.

### **1.3 Conserving Biodiversity – the bigger picture**

In 1992 the first international “Convention on Biological Diversity” took place in Rio de Janeiro in Brazil. The convention recognised that the conservation of biodiversity was essential to “humankind” and it covers all ecosystems, species and genetic resources.

Most of the parties which signed up to the convention have produced national biodiversity strategies and action plans. Many, such as the UK, have been detailed and far reaching with several layers making up the overall strategy.

The UK’s initial response to signing the 1992 convention was the publication of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP) in 1994. This led to the production of 436 action plans between 1995 and 1999 which began the process of protecting and enhancing biodiversity in the UK. A further update in 2007 identified 1, 150 species and 65 habitat types that were deemed worthy of action plans. The UKBAP progress is monitored every three years.

In 2010 at the Nagoya Biodiversity Summit in Japan environment ministers from almost 200 nations signed up to a new commitment to reduce global biodiversity loss. These are known as the “Aichi targets”. The delegates agreed to at least half the loss of natural habitats and expand the area covered by nature reserves to 17% of global land area by 2020. Marine habitats are also set to gain greater protection with a target to designate at least 10% of global seas as marine conservation areas.

### **1.4 Conserving Biodiversity - the local view**

International and national biodiversity targets can only be achieved with effective action at a local level. The 1995 UKBAP steering group report was published in two parts, making a series of recommendations. One of these was to encourage the production of local biodiversity action plans to bring those species and habitats identified nationally into a more regionally-based focus.

In response to this, the Hampshire Biodiversity Partnership was formed and in 1998 the Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan (HBAP) was produced. Hampshire is very rich in biodiversity resources. Approximately 13% of the county is covered by the national Site for Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) designation and much more is covered by non-statutory Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) designations.

Hampshire has a mosaic of habitats, which includes heathlands, woodlands, river valleys, unimproved grassland, ancient hedgerows and coastal habitats in the south of the County. Initially, the HBAP identified 455 priority species and 21 habitats worthy of conservation action. A theme of local biodiversity action plans, including in

Hampshire, is to ensure that widespread and common species continue to thrive while also ensuring the rare do not become locally extinct.

Subsequently, many of the districts that make up Hampshire have developed their own specific action plans, targeting local sites and species for conservation over designated time periods. Local Biodiversity Action Plans are important as species and habitat conservation priorities may differ from district to county level. Biodiversity enhancements on a district scale may seem small, but as we have seen they are integral to the overall protection and enhancement of biodiversity on a much greater scale.

**This action plan aims to:**

- Conserve and enhance the current resource
- Identify new areas for biodiversity improvement
- Raise awareness of biodiversity in the council and local community
- Monitor and review biodiversity and the progress of this plan

## **2. Hart Action Plan – background information**

### **2.1 The Biodiversity Resource – an overview**

In comparison to some other districts of Hampshire, Hart is particularly rural in character. There are five major urban areas; Fleet, Hook, Yateley, Blackwater and Hartley Wintney. Urban areas can be rich in biodiversity in comparison to areas such as intensive farmland with gardens, parks, railways and road corridors all providing opportunities for species. Hartley Wintney also has series of commons that contain many mature trees which are an excellent habitat for specialist deadwood invertebrates and in turn provide food for

foraging bats and birds. Urban areas should be considered as places with substantial opportunities for biodiversity enhancement.

A landscape character assessment based initially on a county-wide assessment identified two broad groupings of rural landscape types:

- Chalklands (open arable and chalk and clay)
- Lowland mosaic (heathland and forest, pasture and woodland, mixed farmland and woodland and river valleys)

On a local scale within Hart district these landscape types can be further subdivided to give a more detailed local assessment of the landscape character.

Landscape types associated with chalk occur in the southern part of the district in a broad sweeping band south of Odiham and Crondall. The chalk landscapes are typified by rolling hills, large mainly arable fields and scattered blocks of woodland. In the very southern part of the district the chalk landscape becomes more complex with increased woodland blocks and two areas of enclosed mixed farming where the field sizes are smaller and the hedgerow structure is stronger.

Aside from the chalklands in the south of the district, the remainder of the landscape is made up of a patchwork of other habitat types which reflect the underlying geology. Large areas in the north and east of the district are covered by heathland and forest. Most of the heathland areas in the district occur as part of a mosaic of heathland, grassland, scrub and woodland. These habitat types occur at Hazeley Heath, Eversley, Yateley and Hawley Commons and in the area to the east of Fleet. More open heathland habitats are found on Yateley Common. The woodland comprises a number of species but a distinction can be made between the predominantly coniferous woodland plantations and broad-leaved woodland, some of which may be semi-natural and ancient in origin. There are also some areas of farmed landscape associated with the unenclosed woodland and heathland and this retains a “heathy” character.

Three main river systems pass through Hart District: the Blackwater, Hart and Whitewater. The habitats and landscape associated with the river corridors is typically flat, low-lying pasture criss-crossed with drainage ditches which commonly floods. There has also been extensive gravel extraction along the Blackwater Valley which has created a series of wetlands. Tree species such as willow and alder are frequent along the ditches.

The Basingstoke Canal and its associated habitats passes through Fleet and across the district to the south of Odiham. The canal itself is an important site

for biodiversity and it also has features such as the Greywell Tunnel which is a nationally important site for biodiversity.

The variety of landscape types within the district help to create an impressive biodiversity resource. The specially designated conservation sites in the district are described in more detail in the following section.

## **2.2 Designated Sites Overview**

There are effectively three tiers of conservation designations for sites in Hampshire, based on their relative importance for biodiversity. International and European designated sites include Ramsar sites, Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SAC). Nationally designated sites include Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and National Nature Reserves (NNRs), while local sites include Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) and Local Nature Reserves (LNRs).

## **2.3 Internationally important sites**

### **Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection area**

The Thames Basin Heaths SPA was designated in 2005 under the EC Birds Directive and represents the best remaining areas of heathland in north Hampshire, Berkshire and Surrey. SPAs are comprised of nationally designated Sites of Special Scientific interest in the UK.

The areas of heathland included in the SPA within the district (figure ?) cover 2, 099 ha and are designated due to their breeding populations of woodlark, Dartford warbler and nightjar.

## **2.4 Nationally important sites**

### **Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)**

The district contains a number of sites designated as SSSIs. These are regarded as being important for conservation at a national level. Several of the heathland SSSIs are also designated as part of the SPA.

There are 16 SSSIs that fall entirely or partially within the district boundary (figure??). Together they cover 2,696 ha which equates to approximately 12.5 % of the district.

The SSSIs cover a variety of habitat types including a variety of heathland types, meadows, woodland, river valleys, lakes and the Basingstoke Canal.

### **National Nature Reserves (NNRs)**

Castle Bottom NNR is an important valley mire located in the north of the district. The reserve also includes supporting heathland and woodland. The nature reserve is also part of the SPA and Castle Bottom to Yateley and Hawley Commons SSSI.

The site is owned and managed by Hampshire County Council.

Appendix one provides a list of all the SSSIs located in Hart District.

## 2.5 Locally important sites

### **Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)**

Habitats and species which are regarded as important at a county level are designated as SINCs. The Council works in partnership with the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC) to identify, designate and monitor the sites. Sites are designated using a series of criteria created by Hampshire County Council, The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust and Natural England. SINCs are reviewed annually on a rotational basis and boundaries can change while new SINCs can also be designated. Occasionally SINCs can also be deleted if they no longer hold the interest for which they were originally designated.

There are 254 SINCs in the District at present which cover a total of 1,935 ha. SINCs comprise a wide range of habitat types ranging from woodland to lakes. A complete list of SINCs currently designated in Hart is provided in appendix one.

### **Local Nature Reserves (LNR)**

LNRs are designated by the Council with approval from Natural England. LNRs have an emphasis on being sites which can be enjoyed by the public for recreation and education while also being managed for nature conservation.

There are three LNRs within the District:

- Elvetham Heath
- Fleet Pond
- Zebon Copse

Appendix two provides a list of all of the SINCs found in Hart District.

## 2.6 Biodiversity Opportunity Areas

Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAs) are regional priority areas with high opportunities for habitat restoration and associated biodiversity enhancement. They are comprised to a large extent of areas identified as UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Priority habitats although BOAs do not include all of the BAP habitat in any given area. A range of semi-natural habitat types are listed as BAP habitats all of which are regarded as having high biodiversity value.

Of the 43 BOAs identified in the Southeast, four fall within the district boundary. These are the Blackwater Valley, the Thames Basin Heaths, the Loddon and Whitewater and the Herriard Wooded Downland Plateau. The following paragraphs outline these areas in more detail. Figure ?? shows the geographic location of each of the BOAs within the district.

### **Thames Basin Heaths**

This BOA includes a number of SSSIs and in general is comprised of heathland, woodland, mire and grassland habitats. Opportunities in this BOA include the restoration and enhancement of lowland grasslands, heathland and rushy pasture.

### **Blackwater Valley**

This BOA is centred on the Blackwater River Valley and its tributaries. The river itself contains a diverse range of marginal and aquatic habitats supporting a wide range of species. There are also a number of gravel extraction sites along the north of the valley. Important habitats for enhancement and restoration include wet woodland, grazing marsh, rushy pasture and reedbeds.

### **Rivers Loddon/Lyde/Whitewater Catchment & Headwaters**

These rivers rise on the chalk escarpment to the east of Basingstoke and from there flow north across the clays and sands of the Thames basin. The valleys are mainly shallow and fairly wide and many areas are prone to flooding. Although much of the land is agricultural there are opportunities to restore and enhance areas of wet grassland and fen along with other areas of woodland and heathland.

### **Herriard Wooded Plateau**

A small portion of this BOA falls within the south east of the district, including Sheephouse Copse. The majority is located to the south of Hart on the mid Hampshire downland plateau. The BOA features many areas of semi-natural woodland, many of which still have coppice rotations as part of the management regimes.

## **2.7 Threats to biodiversity in Hart**

There are a number of potential threats to biodiversity globally but there are some which are more appropriate within Hart District. These are:

- **Development**
  - **Disturbance**
  - **Fragmentation**
- **Inappropriate management**

- **Invasive species**
- **Climate Change**
- **Pollution**

None of these threats are specific to Hart and a number are linked. The next paragraphs look at the potential threats in more detail.

### Development

Inappropriate development is potentially damaging to biodiversity in a number of ways. This could be *via* direct habitat loss due to development in sensitive areas. In these cases there are potential issues in both the construction and operational phases of the development. The construction phase can cause disturbance through noise or pollution while the operational phase can continue to have negative impacts such as changes in demand on water resources, increased artificial lighting and related infrastructural changes.

Development which appears to have minimal direct ecological impacts may have detrimental effects by increasing the fragmentation of habitats. Particularly in urban areas but also in intensive farmland, corridors of habitat such as railway lines, waterways, patches of woodland and even hedgerows and gardens can provide links between otherwise isolated habitats. While some species are highly mobile and are able to travel large distances some species are far less mobile and rely on these links. It is important that these links are maintained and where possible, enhanced.

An increase in the recreational use of heathland areas can result from new developments. Increased recreational use of heathland habitats has implications for the associated designating species and the habitats themselves. Nightjar and woodlark are ground-nesting birds while Dartford warblers nest low down in scrub and are effectively ground-nesting from the perspective of disturbance. During the breeding season they are sensitive to the presence of walkers and cyclists and, in particular, uncontrolled dogs. Dogs are perceived by the birds as predators and they will readily desert an active nest if disturbed. Where the urban fringe encroaches to the edge of the heathland domestic cats can also be a major predatory threat to ground-nesting birds and also reptiles.

Measures to reduce disturbance are required where new developments have the potential to cause disturbance to heathland habitats. These measures include providing alternative greenspaces in proximity to the new developments to encourage residents to use these rather than the heathland. Educating people who use the SPA about the impacts of their visits and

explaining how following paths and keeping dogs on leads during sensitive times of the year can also have positive effects.

### Inappropriate Management

Changes in the way a site is managed can be positive for biodiversity where active conservation is the aim. However, changes to the management of a site can also be detrimental to the conservation value when the management does not support the biodiversity interest.

Inappropriate land management of valuable sites can include increases or decreases in grazing levels, drainage of wet heath or bogs, afforestation of heathland or the ploughing or cutting of grasslands.

In the past large areas of Hart were covered by common land and woodland pasture where commoners would graze their stock at intensities which allowed a rich and varied ground flora to become established and controlled the growth of tree seedlings. The situation on heathlands was similar, with grazing preventing scrub and woodland developing on the sites.

Sites within the district which are currently managed favourably for conservation should be maintained and sites where the management is neutral or detrimental should be changed to positive management where opportunities exist.

### Invasive species

New species can colonise areas naturally as a result of range expansions and changes in climate. However, some of the most damaging invasive species for our native wildlife have been deliberately or accidentally introduced by the actions of man.

Plants such as rhododendron, laurel, Japanese knotweed, Himalayan balsam, giant hogweed and bamboo were deliberately introduced as ornamental plants in gardens and plant collections and have subsequently become naturalised in the English countryside.

These plants can be highly aggressive and can crowd out native flora and fauna or, in the case of rhododendron, can also use chemical inhibitors in the soil to limit the growth of other plants.

Invasive plant species need to be controlled and prevented from spreading any further. In many cases and in many habitats they need to be eradicated to allow native flora to re-establish, although this can be a long and time consuming process.

As well as plants there are examples of invasive animals. The American mink was introduced to the UK in the 1920s for fur farming. Many escaped or were

deliberately released into the wild where they quickly spread and began to have negative impacts on native mammals. One of the most devastating impacts has been the dramatic reduction the water vole as a result of direct predation by mink. Water voles are now very rare in Hart.

### Climate change

The effects of climate change over the next century will be one of the biggest issues facing biodiversity globally, nationally and locally. Biodiversity is affected by climate change in a number of ways, such as changes in abundance and distribution which leads to new ecological communities developing.

The timing of seasonal events such as insect breeding and plant-flowering can also change which will have consequences for other species which depend on the timing of these events for breeding. Also, greater fluctuations in the weather and rainfall events are likely to lead to changes in water levels in some habitats. The wet heath and mire communities which are some of Hart's most valuable habitats could potentially be at risk.

Predicting exactly which species will flourish and which will decline under various climate scenarios is not straightforward. Because of these uncertainties, adaptations to future climate scenarios need to be put in place to allow biodiversity to adapt and flourish. It is essential that biodiversity is provided with the space to adapt in the future.

### Pollution

Pollution that affects biodiversity occurs in a number of forms; air, water, soil, noise and light. Light pollution, for example, can affect the localised distribution of nocturnal insects which can have a knock-on effect on the foraging of bats. Similarly, traffic noise is known to influence the territorial singing of some bird species with a subsequent impact on breeding. As well as these less obvious impacts the direct pollution of water courses and soil can be very damaging.

## 3 Planning Policy and Biodiversity

### 3.1 Introduction

This section will describe the existing nature conservation legislation around which this Biodiversity Action Plan will fit. Current planning policy allows Hart District Council to protect and enhance the biodiversity within the district. The Biodiversity Action Plan will be an important document that supports these aims and provides specific biodiversity enhancement targets.

### 3.2 National Policy

The government has outlined its commitment to the protection and enhancement on biodiversity in the **National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)**. This replaced all previous planning policy documents in April 2012. The “natural environment” section in the document effectively replaces **PPS 9**.

**The NPPF states that the planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:**

- protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, geological conservation interests and soils;
  - recognising the wider benefits of ecosystem services;
  - minimising impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains in biodiversity where possible, contributing to the Government’s commitment to halt the overall decline in biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures;
  - preventing both new and existing development from contributing to or being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability;
- and
- remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate.

The document states that planning policies should consider the need to conserve biodiversity at a landscape scale, identify existing national and local sites of importance for biodiversity as well as areas with the potential for enhancement and promote the restoration of priority habitats and recovery of priority species.

The document also outlines the requirement for local planning authorities to conserve and enhance biodiversity when determining planning applications. Proposed developments from which significant harm cannot be avoided, adequately mitigated or compensated for should be refused planning permission. Development proposals where the primary objective is conservation related should be permitted.

The NPPF also states that planning permission should be refused for developments which will result in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats such as ancient woodland.

The **Countryside Rights of Way Act 2000** (CRoW Act 2000) places a duty on public bodies (including Local Authorities) to improve the condition of SSSIs. It also strengthens some of the legislation associated with protected species.

Under the **Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006** (NERC Act 2006) every public authority must have regard to the purpose of conserving biodiversity.

### 3.3 Regional Policy

The **South East Plan** was issued in May 2009 and is the Regional Spatial Strategy for planning in the South East of England. However, following the Localism Bill (November 2010) regional planning strategies are due to be revoked. The South East Plan includes policies relating to sustainable development and green infrastructure. It also includes a specific policy relating to biodiversity. This document re-emphasises many of the themes and aims of the national policies at a regional level.

**South East Plan Policy NRM5** states that *“local planning authorities and other bodies shall avoid a net loss of biodiversity and actively pursue opportunities to achieve a net gain across the region”*.

The plan outlines a hierarchical approach to conservation with the appropriate emphasis being given to those sites of highest importance such as international and nationally important designations.

The plan also sets biodiversity targets in the form of habitat restoration projects to be achieved by 2026.

The Hart Biodiversity Action Plan will be a key document in implementing many of the restoration targets outlined in the South east plan.

### 3.4 Local Policy within Hart

A plan-led system of development control is run at a local level in England. Local Plans have now been replaced by **Local Development Frameworks (LDF)**. The emerging core strategy which forms part of Hart's LDF includes a conservation policy.

**Core Policy 7: Biodiversity.** This policy focuses on the protection and enhancement of designated sites, including SINCs, and other biodiversity resources. New development should protect and enhance existing biodiversity but where damage cannot be reasonably avoided, suitable mitigation or compensation strategies will need to be agreed.

**Core Policy 8: Thames Basin Heaths Special protection area.** This policy ensures that any development that is likely to have a detrimental effect on the SPA, either alone or in combination with other projects, will have to demonstrate that suitable mitigation and compensation is in place to negate any potentially detrimental effects.

The BAP will work in conjunction with the broad conservation aims of the core strategy and also a green infrastructure plan to deliver the biodiversity targets in Hart.

The **Local Plan** includes eight policies directly relating to nature conservation and the local environment.

### **Local Plan biodiversity Policies**

**Con 1.** Nature Conservation: European designations

**Con 2.** Nature Conservation: National designations

**Con 3.** Nature Conservation: Local designations

**Con 4.** Nature Conservation: Replacement and habitats

**Con 5.** Nature Conservation: Species protected by law

**Con 6.** Heathlands

**Con 7.** Riverine environments

**Con 8.** Trees, woodland and hedgerows: Amenity value

**Con 10.** Basingstoke Canal (General Policy)

In combination, these policies protect designated sites, protected species and other features of nature conservation value against the detrimental effects of inappropriate development. The policies aim to ensure that where development is permitted, it will not have a negative effect on biodiversity and will provide suitable mitigation and compensation.

Hart District Council also has a **Leisure Strategy** which covers the period from 2007-2017. As part of this strategy there is a commitment to protect and maintain areas of open heathland and commons as natural habitats with informal public access.

### 3.5 Other conservation legislation

The **Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)** is still the major legislative mechanism for the protection of wildlife in the UK. There have been a number of significant amendments, including the previously mentioned CRow Act (2000). The act is divided into four parts:

- The protection of wildlife
- Countryside and national parks
- Public rights of way
- Miscellaneous provisions of the act

The act protects wild animals against deliberate injury or killing and for some species it provides special protection. The act also prohibits the release of non-native species into the wild and also implements the control of invasive species such as Japanese knotweed.

The **European Habitats Directive** is transposed into UK law *via* The **Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010** (commonly known as the Habitats Regulations). These consolidate and update the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994. These regulations, along with the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), also implement the European Birds Directive.

These regulations allow for the designation and protection of “European sites” and protection of “European protected species”. A register of European sites which include Special Conservation Areas (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) is maintained, forming a network of sites termed “Natura 2000”.

The regulations require an appropriate assessment to be undertaken by a competent authority (including Local Authorities) where a proposal may include potentially damaging operations on or near one of these sites. Consent for such a proposal may only be granted once it has been shown that the proposed operation will not adversely affect the integrity of the site. In instances where damage could occur permission may be granted where there is no alternative solution AND there are imperative economic, social or environmental reasons of overriding public interest.

The regulations also afford extended protection to EPS (European Protected Species), making it an offence to deliberately capture, kill, disturb or trade in animals listed in Schedule 2. This includes species such as great-crested newt, dormouse, otter and all UK bats. However, these actions can be made lawful through the granting of licences for certain activities such as Science and education, conservation and health and safety, providing there are no

satisfactory alternatives and that such actions will not have an overall detrimental effect on the wild population.

### **3.6 Thames Basin Heaths SPA - avoidance Measures**

The Thames Basin Heaths SPA is subject to specific regulations relating to development which may have either direct or indirect effects on the site and its designating species. A 400m buffer – known as the “inner exclusion zone” – surrounds the edge of the SPA. There is a presumption against residential development in this zone as it would be very difficult to avoid adverse effects. A further “zone of influence” stretches 5 km beyond the SPA boundary. In this area residential development can be permitted but still has the potential to have adverse effects on the SPA through indirect effects such as increased recreational pressure.

As such, the council has developed mechanisms to ensure that development in this zone does not adversely affect the SPA. These form the basis for the “avoidance measures” strategy. These measures only apply to residential developments.

There are two mechanisms – which work together - through which adverse effects are avoided:

- The provision of Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspaces (SANGs)
- Implementing Strategic Access Management and Monitoring measures (SAMMs)

SANGs are green spaces which can be developed on existing public open space or in new areas. They are not intended to recreate the biological characteristics of the designated heathland and their primary function is to act as an alternative greenspace for recreation (e.g. dog-walking and cycling). If residents of new developments can be encouraged to use the SANGs rather than the SPA heathland the potential adverse effects resulting from disturbance can be reduced to acceptable levels. SAMMs are the mechanism by which residents are educated about the SPA and encouraged to use SANGs.

Residential developments that meet the requirements for SANG provision are therefore required to make the necessary financial contributions. The potential capacity of a SANG is calculated using guidelines developed by Natural England. There are currently two SANGs available to developers in Hart:

- Hitches Lane, Fleet

- Hawley Meadows and Blackwater Park

Hitches Lane is a proposed 24 hectare Country Park located approximately 1 mile to the west of Fleet. Using the Natural England guidelines it is calculated that Hitches Lane has capacity for 3000 people.

Hawley Meadows and Blackwater Park SANG is shared between Hart District Council, Rushmoor Borough Council and Surrey Heath Borough Council. Hawley Meadows covers an area of 27.5 ha and Blackwater Park, which lies entirely within Hart's administrative authority, covers an additional 4 ha.

The combined 31.4 ha SANG has capacity for 3417 people of which Hart has one third – equivalent to 1139 people.

## **4 Sites and species (an audit)**

### **4.1 Woodland**

There are a number of broad types of woodland found in the UK which include broadleaved, coniferous and wet woodland. Some woodland can be described as "ancient", the Natural England definition of which is that the area must have had continuous tree cover since 1600 AD.

Nearly 70% of SINC's in the district feature at least some element of woodland as a designating feature. Hart district has approximately 3,057 hectares of lowland mixed deciduous woodland, 124 hectares of wet woodland and 216 hectares of wood-pasture and parkland.

#### *Ancient woodland*

Ancient woodland can be further divided into semi-natural woodland and plantation woodland on ancient woodland sites. Ancient woodland is regarded as irreplaceable and is one of the most biodiverse habitat types in the UK. Ancient woods also contain a very high proportion of protected species compared with other habitat types.

#### *Coniferous woodland*

Coniferous woodland in England has been planted for the purpose of forestry. Conifers are preferred for timber production because they grow quickly and will produce timber up to six times faster than slow-growing, native deciduous species.

Because of the dense nature of conifer plantations they are often lacking in sunlight and as result of this ground flora and understory growth are limited. Species diversity in coniferous woodland can also be reduced although some species have adapted to this habitat.

#### *Wet woodland*

Wet woodland is often found on floodplains where small patches are often located within larger areas of woodland. It can occur on a variety of soil types and is extremely rich in invertebrate diversity.

#### **Some priority species associated with woodland in Hart**

- Stag beetle
- Various bat species
- Sliver-washed fritillary
- Dormouse
- Nightingale

## **4.2 Grassland**

Lowland grassland is one of the most evocative and beautiful habitats in the UK. However, it is also one of the most threatened. While lowland grassland is still widespread in southern England much of it has been agriculturally improved and has become less biodiverse.

Flower-rich grassland supports a high diversity of invertebrate fauna, especially insects. Agriculturally improved grasslands support far less flower species which in turn support fewer insects.

Approximately 22% of the SINC's in the district are designated because they contain grassland features worthy of conservation.

Within Hart district there are approximately 3 hectares of lowland calcareous grassland, 211 hectares lowland dry acidic grassland, 163 hectares of lowland meadow and 55 hectares of purple moor grass and rush pastures.

**Some priority species associated with lowland grassland in Hart**

- Skylark
- Brown hare
- Orchids
- Grey Partridge
- Corn bunting

### **4.3 Heathland**

Lowland heathland is a rare and protected habitat. Only 6% of the heathland that was present in the 1800's is still present today. In the past heathland was lost to agriculture, forestry, mineral extraction and development. The current threats facing heathlands include uncontrolled burning, encroachment of trees and scrubs, nutrient enrichment, disturbance and fragmentation. The heathland in lowland England represents approximately 20% of the entire world's resource of this habitat.

Heathland soil is usually acidic and poor in nutrients and therefore develops a distinctive floral community.

There is approximately ??? hectares of heathland in Hart district, the majority of which is managed by the council's rangers.

Heathlands are also of interest in terms of their microclimatic conditions which includes microhabitats such as bare ground. These can be very warm in comparison to surrounding areas of habitat such as vegetation. Because of these characteristics heathlands can also support a diverse array of specialised invertebrate fauna.

Lowland heathland also supports a number of characteristic bird species including nightjar, woodlark and Dartford warbler. All of these species are present on the heathlands in the District and they are important designating species for the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area.

Heathland can be further divided into **wet heath** and **dry heath**, both of which are found within the district.

**Some priority species associated with heathlands in Hart**

- Dartford warbler
- Woodlark
- Nightjar
- Adder
- Silver studded blue butterfly
- Marsh clubmoss
- Marsh gentian

#### **4.4 Wetlands**

There are a variety of habitats which can be included within the broad category of wetlands. These include rivers, canals, lakes, ditches, streams and ponds. There are a number of terrestrial habitats associated with the aquatic habitats which include reedbeds, wet flushes and marginal features. A number of these habitats are listed as priority habitats in the National Biodiversity Action Plan.

##### Lakes

Fleet Pond Local Nature Reserve covers 21 hectares and is Hampshire's largest freshwater lake. Much of the lake is designated as SSSI. As well as the open water of the lake there are associated reedbeds, woodland and small areas of heathland. Much of the woodland associated with the reserve is regarded as wet and is dominated by alder and willow.

##### Ponds

Ponds have been lost in the wider countryside and are now far less common than they used to be. Ponds in the urban environment including garden ponds and ornamental park ponds now play an important role in the conservation of species such as common frog, smooth newt and common toad.

## Basingstoke Canal

The Basingstoke Canal is nationally important for its aquatic plant species and invertebrate assemblage. The diversity of species is related to the unique water chemistry of the canal which progresses from calcareous spring water to slightly acidic conditions.

The canal crosses the district, passing east to west through Fleet, Odiham and North Warnborough.

### **Some priority species associated with Wetlands in Hart**

- Water vole
- River water-dropwort
- Great-crested newt
- Dragonflies and damselflies

## Rivers

There are three major rivers in the district: The Blackwater, Whitewater and Hart. These arise on the downs to the south of the district and flow north towards the Thames valley. The former Eversley Hunting Forest through which these rivers flow is biologically diverse in terms of the wetland habitats and sites that are present.

The wet heaths and valley mires of Bourley and Long Valley SSSI are good examples of these habitats which are rare nationally. Spring fed fens which develop over calcareous soils are also of very high biological value such as Greywell Fen SSSI.

## **4.5 Urban environments**

The urban environment is increasingly recognised as being a potentially rich source of biodiversity. Urban greenspaces such as gardens, allotments, parks and linear features such as railway lines and roads can all be rich in biodiversity. In one long term study a wildlife-friendly urban garden was found

to have more than 2200 species of plants and animals while another garden was found to support 95 species of wild plant.

While the urban environment does not have any specific conservation designations there are many protected and priority conservation species which are found in the towns and villages of Hart.

**Some priority Species Associated with urban areas in Hart**

- Stag beetle
- Bats (several species)
- Hedgehog
- Common amphibians
- House sparrow
- Song thrush
- Chamomile

The urban centres of Fleet, Yateley and Hartley Wintney are relatively small compared to other towns and cities in Hampshire but they still comprise a significant amount of the district.

Although parks and other greenspaces are often intensively managed and frequently planted with ornamental species they still provide important resources for biodiversity, particularly given the urban location. They can still provide valuable foraging and nesting sites for a number of species. Some plant species, such as chamomile, thrive on intensively mown grassland in northeast Hampshire.

## 5. Biodiversity Action Plan

### 5 Year Action Plan 2012 – 2017

#### 5.1 Development Control and Policy Documents

No.	Action	partners	timescale
5.1.1	Respond to consultations on planning applications as received to ensure biodiversity in the district is protected and enhanced where opportunities exist	HBIC, HDC Planning	Ongoing  Responses to be made within the allotted number of days for each consultation
5.1.2	<b>Management of former extraction sites</b> – engagement with the Hants Minerals and Waste Plan – Policy 8 sets targets for habitat restoration agreed with districts at and early stage in the planning process	HCC, HDC Planning and Policy	Ongoing as consultations and discussions are required
5.1.3	Input into developing Policy documents e.g. GI strategy	HDC policy	Ongoing as documents are developed.

## 5.2 Monitoring and survey work

No.	Action	Partners	Timescale
5.2.1	Help organise the HBIC SINC survey programme (allocation of 20 days)	HBIC, Policy	Annually in February
5.2.2	Attendance at HBIC meetings as Hart representative		Two meetings Annually
5.2.3	Organise “ <b>bioblitz</b> ” surveys on non-HDC sites to establish ecological interest and collect baseline data	HDC countryside service, various volunteers	1 per year
5.2.4	Support and develop small survey projects which contribute towards the Hart “Top 10” or BAP aims	HDC countryside service	2 per year

### 5.3 Land management and Enhancement

No.	Action	Partners	Timescale
5.3.1	Develop wildflower planting schemes where opportunities exist to enhance biodiversity	Parishes and other interested land-owning parties	3 schemes per year
5.3.2	Develop and support a pond creation scheme across the district	Land owners, Parishes and schools	2 schemes per year

#### 5.4 Education and awareness

No.	Action	Partners	Timescale
5.4.1	Establish “top 10” list of important habitats/species in Hart which can be used as “flagships” for projects and conservation efforts in the BAP	HDC countryside service	To be completed 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2013
5.4.2	Establish a BAP webpage and logo	Various HDC officers	To be completed 24 <sup>th</sup> December 2012
5.4.3	Include BAP related articles in each issue of Hart news	-	2 per year. Dates TBC
5.4.4	Undertake school visits to promote biodiversity within Hart through obligations of the National Curriculum (i.e. Life Processes and Living things, Key stages 1 and 2)	Schools in Hart	2 per year. Dates TBC
5.4.5	Create a map of the SINCs in each parish	GIS technician	28 <sup>th</sup> February 2013

## 5.5 Monitoring and review

No.	Action	Partners	Timescale
5.1	Produce internal four monthly updates to feed into an annual report highlighting the biodiversity action achievements. Use the outcomes to inform the action plan for the following year		Annually September 2013 - 2017
5.2	Full <b>Five year</b> review of whole Biodiversity Action Plan to assess progress and future targets		September 2017

# **Appendices**

## **Appendix 1.**

### **List of Sites of Special Scientific Interest in Hart District**

<b>SSSI Name</b>	<b>Parish</b>	<b>Grid reference</b>	<b>Area within district (ha)</b>	<b>Designating features</b>
Basingstoke Canal	Fleet/Church Crookham/Crookham Village/Dogmersfield/Winchfield/Odiham/Greywell	SU71955145 to SU83565313	38.86	Aquatic habitats and associated terrestrial habitat i.e. flushes
Blackwater Valley	Blackwater and Hawley/Yateley	SU84906040	14.61	Unimproved meadows, swamps and woodland
Bourley and Long Valley	Ewshot/Church Crookham	SU83505150	381.52	Heathland, woodland, mire and grasslands
Bramshill	Bramshill/Hartley Wintney/Eversley	SU77405960	673.27	Acid ponds and associated mire
Butter wood	Greywell/Odiham	SU72005250	87.67	Ancient wood pasture
Castle Bottom to Yateley and Hawley Common	Eversley/Yateley/Blackwater and Hawley	SU83405880	897.83	Heathland and associated fauna such as Dartford warbler
Fleet Pond	Fleet	SU82205510	48.34	Extensive shallow lake with diverse flora and fauna
Foxlease and Ancells	Fleet/Blackwater and Hawley	SU83105680	67.39	Acid grassland

Meadows				
Greywell Fen	Greywell/South Warnborough	SU71905090	38.04	Calcareous valley mire
Greywell Tunnel (Basingstoke Canal)	Greywell	SU70805180 to SU71905150	38.34	Nationally important bat roost
Hazeley Heath	Hartley Wintney/Mattingley	SU75305830	180.52	Heathland habitats
Heath Brow	Ewshot	SU82304940	1.90	Geological interest
Hook Common and Bartley Heath	Hook	SU72505340	122.85	Heathland and woodland habitats and diverse faunal assemblage
Odiham Common with Bagwell Green and Shaw	Odiham/Dogmersfield/Winchfield	SU75505200	133.77	Wood pasture, meadow and common land
Warnborough Green	Odiham	SU73005200	4.36	Unimproved wetland meadows
West Minley Meadow	Hartley Wintney/Blackwater and Hawley	SU81205800	4.33	Wet, grazed acid grassland

## **Appendix 2.**

### **List of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) by Parish in Hart District**

Parish	SINC name	Grid Reference	Size (ha)	Designating Criteria*
Blackwater and Hawley	Brook House Meadow	SU81305653	0.59	2A
	Foxlease Meadow 1	SU81905720	2.07	2B
	Foxlease Meadow 2	SU82605720	2.71	2A
	Foxlease Meadow 3	SU82305690	1.46	2B/6A
	Foxlease Meadow 4	SU82805680	3.11	2B
	Foxlease Meadow 5	SU82805670	2.03	2B
	Foxlease Meadow 6	SU82905660	1.72	2B/6A
	Foxlease Meadow 7	SU83505695	1.56	2A
	Foxlease Meadow 8	SU83305660	3.04	2B/5B/6A
	Hawley Common	SU83905740	57.16	3A/3Bi/5A/6A
	Mallards Copse	SU82305670	3.75	1A
	Minley Wood South	SU81705700	20.66	3A/3Bi
	Prior's Meadow	SU86205860	4.40	2A/6A
	Upper Meadow & Pond	SU85705940	3.98	2A/6A
Bramshill	Bramshill Landfill	SU75806085	9.71	3A/6A
	Hatchgate Farm Meadows	SU74306090	4.24	2A/6A

	Netherclifts Copse	SU74806030	5.16	1A
	Old Chapel Farm Meadow	SU75766296	0.89	2A/6A
	Peatmoor Copse	SU75205980	10.56	1A/6A
	Playing Field Heath Track	SU76336033	3.28	6A
	Springwater Farm Meadow	SU74456210	1.54	2D/6A
Church Crookham	Meadow Near Soanes Copse	SU81605130	2.61	2D
	Soanes Copse/Wood Copse	SU81505150	8.54	1A/1D
	Velmead Road Heath	SU82205350	4.28	3Bi/3Bii
	Wakefords Copse, Crondall	SU81905140	5.80	1A/1D
	Barley Pound Copse	SU79604670	3.67	1A
	Bigdown Copse	SU78904990	5.39	1A
	Clare Park Meadow	SU80744772	3.57	2B
	Dick's Wood	SU79204670	3.03	1A
Crondall	Downsland Copse	SU79405016	4.92	1A
	Gravelly Wood	SU77504627	7.33	1A
	Hannam's Copse	SU79404970	8.61	1A
	Hilyours Copse	SU81154730	1.07	1A
	Horsedown Copse (South)	SU76954780	0.97	1A

	Itchell Springs Wood	SU78404990	3.01	1A/5B/6A
	Land at Bowling Alley, Crondall	SU79205018	1.43	2B/5B
	Lawn Copse	SU80804850	5.37	1A
	Lee Wood, Crondall	SU78704740	6.79	1A
	Long Copse, Crondall	SU77904890	6.41	1A
	New Copse, Crondall	SU77604940	5.48	1A
	Oakes Copse	SU78635070	2.10	1A
	Swanthorpe Lane	SU77304769	0.51	1A
	The Mount, Crondall	SU80754800	1.92	1B
	The Warren, Crondall	SU81304880	12.72	1B
	The Withys/Pond Copse	SU81604810	12.70	1A
	Withy Copse (Remnant)	SU80284910	0.69	1A
Crondall/Crookham Village	Fusney Copse & roadside strip	SU79505080	5.65	1A
	Leeches Copse	SU79005080	4.57	1A/1B
	Redfield Rows (South-East Remnant)	SU80005030	0.33	1A
	Redfields Cottage Farm Meadow	SU79605060	3.57	2B/5B
Crookham Village	Netherhouse Copse, Grove Farm	SU79555290	2.05	1A
	Poulter's Bridge Meadow	SU79505170	3.82	2A/5B

	Poulter's Lane Meadows	SU79605140	2.78	2B
	Redfield Rows	SU79805080	18.02	1A/1B
	Zebon Copse	SU80005190	8.63	1A/3A/6A
Dogmersfield	Arch Plantation (South)	SU77805280	5.79	1A/1B
	Calves Pightle Copse	SU76505220	1.81	1A
	Coxmoor Wood	SU78405100	52.56	1A/2A
	Dogmersfield/Forest Park East, & Park Wall Copse	SU75805140	30.39	1A/1D
	Parsonage Copse	SU77805230	6.79	1A
	Piller's Copse	SU76255230	3.04	1A
	Swing Bridge Copse	SU77865147	2.28	1A
	Yew Tree Copse	SU76805290	3.36	1A
Dogmersfield/Crookham Village	Stroud Wood/Peatmoor Copse/Whitlow Alders	SU78605220	13.99	1A
Dogmersfield/Odiham/Crondall	Brown's Row & Rye Common East	SU78005030	20.14	1A/1D
Elvetham Heath	Elvetham Heath	SU80405573	20.67	3A/3Bi/6A
Eversley	Castle Bottom Meadow	SU79605990	2.27	2A/6A
	Coombes Wood	SU77806020	9.58	1B
	Firgrove Meadow	SU79666050	2.50	2B

	Fleethill Farm Meadows	SU78306190	18.23	2A/2B/2D/5B
	Great Copse, Eversley	SU78606060	5.47	1A/1B
	Kiln Close Copse Meadow	SU79106030	0.63	2A
	Kits Croft West	SU79556014	0.98	2B
	Lower Eversley Copse (North)	SU78806120	8.09	1A
	Lower Eversley Copse (South)	SU78906100	8.40	1A
	St. Neotts School Playing Field	SU76186135	0.44	6A
	Warren Heath - C	SU77426030	10.97	3Bi
Ewshot	Beacon Hill/Parkhurst Hill	SU82505050	94.84	1B/3Bi/5A/6A
	Ewshot Meadows	SU81605040	6.89	2A/5B/6A
	Ewshot Wood	SU80854969	11.35	1A
	Greendane Copse	SU82205140	7.67	1B/2B/3A
	Long Gut Copse	SU82005070	6.59	1A/6A
	Pilriden Copse	SU81905040	1.72	1A
	Riddings Copse and Shaw	SU81005060	5.34	1A
	Sandpit Hill Covered Reservoir	SU83405040	0.40	3A
	Skains Copse/Combe Wood/Turners Copse	SU81304970	21.27	1A/2B/6A
	Upper Bourley Reservoir	SU82704980	3.50	5A/6A

	Woodlands A, B & D Meadows	SU81205010	4.96	2B/2D/5B/6A
Fleet	Basingbourne Road Heath	SU80805260	7.19	3A/3Bi
	Bramshot Common	SU83405530	30.40	3A/3Bii
	Brookly Wood	SU81805470	1.93	1Cii
	Fleet Pond Woods (East)	SU82705530	9.39	3A/3Bi
	Foxlease Meadows (field 10)	SU83205613	1.49	2B
	Foxlease Meadows (field 8)	SU82925613	2.50	2A/5B
	Foxlease Meadows, Field 11 (T)	SU83455641	3.67	6A
	Oakley Wood	SU81565420	3.07	1Cii/1D/6A/7A
	Pyestock (Fairway)	SU83385413	2.61	2A/6A
	Pyestock (North Grasslands)	SU83435457	5.06	2A/6A
	Pyestock (Playing Field)	SU83605400	1.26	2A/6A
	Pyestock Hill/Pondtail Heath	SU83005400	64.79	3A/3Bi/6A
	Railroad Copse Meadow	SU79205488	0.97	2A
	Sankey Lane Meadow	SU82675550	1.16	2A
	Southwood (Kennels Lane)	SU83905480	10.56	2A/3A/3Bi/6A
	Whitehouse Farm Meadow	SU83805630	0.78	2B
	Fleet/Blackwater and Hawley	Ancels Copse	SU82655630	4.39

	Bramshot Copse	SU83305640	2.67	1A
Fleet/Crookham Village	Jack Reid's Copse	SU79305360	2.04	1A
Greywell/South Warnborough	Bidden Water	SU71304980	4.21	2B/5B
Hartley Wintney	Alder Copse	SU78155739	1.16	1Cii
	B3013 Minley Road	SU81265632	0.44	6A
	Cricketer's Green	SU76905680	1.08	6A
	Dipley Common	SU74155740	1.79	1D
	Dipley Copse (Remnants)	SU74275740	4.66	1A
	Elvetham Farm Trackway	SU78295729	0.29	6A
	Elvetham Old Rectory Hedgerow	SU79195638	0.27	6A
	Elvetham Old Rectory Short Drain	SU78945636	0.06	6A
	Hartley Wintney Common West	SU76235677	1.10	1D
	Hartley Wintney Village Green	SU76605670	5.21	2A
	Hartley Wintney Wooded Greens	SU76005600	23.29	1B/1D/6A
	Hulford's Copse	SU76605860	6.99	1B/1Cii
	Hunts Common	SU77045735	3.03	1D
	Pale Lane Arable Field Margins	SU78555517	1.64	6A
	Parkfield Copse	SU78705520	2.25	1B

	River Hart	SU78605700	1.81	5A/6A
	Stoken Green & Peatmoor Copse	SU74705760	2.09	1A/1D
	The Heronry	SU77635548	5.13	1Cii
	Tobridge Copse	SU81105650	2.76	1A
	Turner's Green Farm Arable Field Margins	SU79635633	2.44	6A
	Wallmead Copse	SU78005550	2.92	1B
	West Green Common	SU74705650	16.85	1D/6A
	Wintney Farm	SU77405550	9.03	2A
	Wintney Moor Meadow (South)	SU77695568	2.91	2B
	Word Hill Farm Arable Field Margins 1	SU79945664	1.02	6A
	Word Hill Farm Arable Field Margins 2	SU79275689	1.02	6A
	Word Hill Farm Arable Field Margins 3	SU79425681	0.50	6A
Hartley Wintney/Bramshill	Hulford's Ponds	SU76705890	1.49	1A/1Cii/5A
Hartley Wintney/Hook	Dogtails Copse	SU74505600	11.96	1A
Heckfield	Birchen Copse & Mill Wood	SU73306240	34.76	1A/1B
	Brick Kiln Copse, Heckfield	SU72505940	4.13	1A
	Coldharbour Wood	SU71906280	2.15	1A/1B
	Cunningham's Copse	SU72706040	6.80	1A

	Great Danmoor Copse	SU73406030	27.64	1A/1B/6A
	Lower Pitham Copse (East)	SU71205990	11.97	1A/1B
	New Inn Copse, Heckfield	SU71906245	2.31	1A
	Park Farm Site 1	SU73836160	0.86	1A
	Park Pitham Copse	SU70706070	17.18	1A/1B
	South of Birchen Copse	SU73006210	4.29	2A/6A
	The Plantation, Heckfield	SU71506140	37.24	6A
	Timber Copse	SU71105966	1.75	1A
	Turnpike Copse, Heckfield	SU72605970	2.33	1A
	U241 Laundry Lane	SU73016058	0.03	6A
	Wellington Country Park Lakes	SU73306280	26.64	5A/2A/6A
	Wiggins Copse & Heckfield Place Park (East)	SU73606100	18.94	1A/1B/2A/6A
Heckfield/Bramshill/Odiham/Hook/ Mattingley/Hartley Wintney	River Whitewater	SU73986107	12.71	5A
Hook	Ashwells Copse	SU73155438	0.59	1A/7A
	Bassetts Mead Meadow	SU73825455	3.33	2D/5B/6A
	Borough Court Common	SU74125573	2.93	1D
	Borough Court Copse	SU73805630	4.16	1A

	Carleton's Gorse	SU71705270	29.33	1B/2D/3Bi/5A/6A
	College Copse	SU71405470	8.35	1A
	Hill Copse, Hook	SU71605470	3.41	1A
	Holt Copse	SU73865426	1.58	1A
	Land Adjacent to Bartley Heath (Scotland Farm)	SU73975352	8.08	5B/6A
	Owen's Farm Meadow	SU71705450	2.03	2B
	Shirlens Copse	SU72005480	6.57	1A
	Totter Copse	SU74305430	0.81	1A
	Wooded hedgerows, Hook	SU73035515	0.52	1A
Long Sutton	Andrew's Copse, Long Sutton	SU75104760	2.88	1A
	Ham Copse, Long Sutton	SU75754730	6.85	1A/6A
	Hayley Copse	SU73004770	4.70	1A
	Little Withy Copse	SU76414660	0.39	1A
	Sheephouse Copse	SU75504570	34.64	1A/6A
	Sheephouse Copse West	SU74704560	6.22	1A
	Shrub Copse	SU76404610	2.87	1A
	Stroud Wood, Long Sutton	SU76784678	1.51	1A
	Well Pond	SU76214660	0.29	5A/5B

	Wellfield Copse	SU76304733	0.97	1A
Mattingley	Alder Moor Copse	SU73605920	11.67	1A
	Caesar's Copse	SU71105860	7.05	1A
	Chandlers Copse	SU70805870	3.29	1A
	Chases Copse	SU72105870	6.27	1A
	Eight Acre Copse	SU71705820	9.96	1A
	Garstones Wood	SU73305970	5.01	1A
	Gully Copse, Mattingley	SU73005850	3.31	1A
	Hound Green	SU73005910	1.47	2A/6A
	Hound Green Copse	SU72905880	3.79	1B
	Mattingley Common	SU73305770	10.53	1D
	Thorne's Copse	SU71505850	5.03	1A
	Upper & Lower Home Copses	SU70905750	6.30	1A
	Mattingley/Bramshill	Crabtree Copse Complex	SU75905880	15.07
Vinall's Copse		SU74306050	10.07	1A/1B
Mattingley/Hartley Wintney	Purdies Farm	SU76405850	10.12	2A
Odiham	Bartley Heath (South)	SU72905280	20.60	3Bi/6A
	Broad Oak Meadow	SU75505190	6.72	2B

	Clay's and Fincham's Copses	SU76804906	2.08	1A
	Hillside Common Meadow	SU75705070	1.50	2A
	Hillside Farm	SU74905090	10.32	2A/6A
	Hilly Close, Lyons & Stapely Copses	SU76304810	11.93	1A
	Horsepond Copse	SU76604860	4.01	1A
	Odiham Castle Woodland	SU72605189	0.24	1Cii
	Payne's Peak Copse	SU75404870	2.18	1A/6A
	Readon Copse	SU74904930	3.66	1A
	Roke Copse	SU75504930	3.09	1A
	Rye Common	SU77005040	12.55	1D/2A
	Twelve Acre Copse (Odiham)	SU76404850	3.08	1A
	Varndell's Copse	SU76605060	4.15	1A
	Wassels Copse	SU75204980	3.05	1A
	Wilk's Water	SU75705210	0.83	1A/1D/5A
Odiham/Winchfield	Fields West of Lousey Moor	SU75905240	14.77	2B
Rotherwick	Black Wood, Rotherwick	SU72005700	50.18	1B
	Great Nightingale's Copse	SU72205530	11.15	1A
	Icehouse Copse	SU70605510	2.43	1A

	Kernots Copse	SU71355730	2.05	1A
	Little Nightingale's Copse	SU72405550	1.00	1A
	Lyde Green	SU71005710	1.35	1D/6A
	North Runten's Copse	SU71805510	3.11	1A/1B
	River Lyde Fen (site 286)	SU69805530	0.36	2A/5B
	Street End Copse	SU72305650	32.02	1A/1B/1Cii/1D
	Street End Copse (Old Readon Common)	SU72055610	2.90	1D
	Stroud's Green Common	SU70305580	2.93	1D
	Winnell's Copse, Rotherwick	SU70705670	6.23	1A
Rotherwick/Hook	Twelve Acre Copse (Rotherwick)	SU72405510	3.13	1A/1B
South Warnborough	Bayman's Wood, South Warnborough	SU71004460	1.14	1A
	Gaston Copse, South Warnborough	SU71704870	17.29	1A
	Pickaxe Copse	SU72004540	0.98	1A
	Saxon Boundary, South Warnborough	SU72564437	0.29	1A/6A
	Swanshett Copse	SU72604730	1.49	1A
	Vinney Copse	SU73304550	25.97	1B
South Warnborough/Long Sutton	Hesters Copse	SU73304650	33.01	1B
Winchfield	Bagwell Shaw (South)	SU75905276	1.11	1A/1Cii/1D

Beggars Corner	SU75305430	2.04	1A
Blacklands Copse, Winchfield	SU76805400	3.07	1A
Bottom Copse, Winchfield	SU75705400	3.98	1A
Furzy Moor	SU76405430	7.23	1A/1B
Gravelly Copse, Winchfield	SU75405398	0.87	1A
Gunner's Copse	SU78705380	2.21	1A
Hellet's Copse	SU77205340	3.73	1A
Hungerford Farm Meadow & Copse	SU78505450	2.84	1A/2A
Lousey Moor	SU76105250	7.92	1A/1B
Lousey Moor North-East	SU76405270	1.08	1A
Mousey Row	SU76535341	2.37	1A
Oldman's Copse	SU75455420	1.16	1A/1B
Pale Lane Field	SU78455476	0.56	6A
Round Copse and Shaw	SU77105360	1.75	1A
Shapley Heath	SU75705460	6.77	1A/1B/1D
Shapley Heath Copse	SU75505470	3.21	1B
Small Copse, Winchfield	SU76855470	0.46	1Cii
Tossell Wood	SU76005430	10.97	1B

	Tudor Farm Shaws	SU76505393	1.70	1A
	Withy Bed Copse	SU76105390	5.46	1A
	Yew Tree Copse North	SU76905303	0.86	1A
Yateley	Blackbushe Airfield	SU80605940	40.73	3A/6C
	Cricket Hill	SU82156000	0.94	2B
	Cricket Hill Meadows (North)	SU82326024	0.76	2A/5B
	Cricket Hill Meadows (South)	SU82306000	2.73	2A/5B
	Darby Green	SU83606030	5.16	3A
	Darby Green Lakes	SU83406080	16.72	6A/6B
	Darby Green Meadows	SU83806080	6.60	2A
	Eversley Lakes	SU81006200	26.51	2D/6A/6B
	Royal Oak Valley Wood	SU82096040	2.89	1Cii/5B
	Vigo Lane Heath	SU81605940	7.90	1Cii/3A/3Bi
	Yateley Bridge Lake & Copse	SU82606130	2.27	1A/5A
	Yateley Green	SU80906110	1.99	2A/3Bi
	Yateley Lakes	SU82306150	34.37	2D/6A/6B

**\* SINC criteria for Hampshire, relevant to Hart district**

**Woodland**

1A – Ancient semi-natural woodland

1B – other woodland where there is a significant element of ancient semi-natural woodland remaining

1C – other semi-natural woodland if;

ii). They comprise important community types of restricted distribution, such as yew woods and alder swamp woods

1D – pasture woodland and wooded commons

**Neutral/acid/calcareous grassland**

2A – Agriculturally unimproved pastures

2B – Semi-improved grassland that retains a significant element of unimproved grassland

2D – grassland that have become impoverished through inappropriate management but which retain significant elements of unimproved grassland to enable recovery

**Heathland**

3A – Areas of heathland vegetation including matrices of dwarf shrub, acid grasslands, valley mires and scrub.

3B – Areas of heathland which have succeeded to woodland if:

i). they retain significant remnants of heathland vegetation that would enable recovery

ii). They are contiguous with, or form an integral part of open heathland

**Wetland habitats**

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

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 species life-cycle

6C – sites which support an outstanding assemblage of species

## **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 local communities e.g. community wildlife areas